

The Incredible Story of the “Big Poop” of Ponta Grossa

"Cocoção" ("Big Poop") was the affectionate nickname, among the residents of Ponta Grossa, for the "Campos Gerais Monument", built in 2004 as a tribute to the city's rock formations, and at a cost of R\$90,000. The monument consisted of an 8m pole supporting a sculpture inspired by the sandstone of Vila Velha. These sandstone rocks are shaped by wind and water. The overall shape was intended to resemble an Araucaria tree, but in most peoples' perception, it resembled a big poop!



The light display didn't detract from the resemblance to a big poop. A local radio host once said that it looked like a big poop, then in everybody's mind, that's what it was.

The five years of its existence fueled curiosity and mystery among the residents of Ponta Grossa. One of the unanswered questions was: "Who was the artist responsible for the work?" There were no formal records of the construction on the city's official website, and rumors around town were that the artist wasn't from the region and wanted to remain anonymous. Not surprising, really!



The popularity of the monument grew until some celebrities became interested in what the "Ponta Grossa cocoção" really was. Sabrina Sato was once interviewed by a local radio host, and she said that she wanted to go to Ponta Grossa because she wanted to see the cocoção in person. In time, others came to visit, and the monument became famous; many people wanted to see the cocoção.

Some people wanted to leave some real poop in the area. In one case, a man was returning from a bar when he decided to leave his own poop close to the monument. "But there was a doghouse there at the time, and one of the dogs attacked him" said a resident who preferred to remain anonymous. The situation couldn't have been more embarrassing; the man ran away with his pants down. The local residents found it extremely funny.

Every poop has its end

In 2009, someone from the city council went to remove bees and wasps from the site and they accidentally set the monument on fire. The city council subsequently ordered the removal of the work.

In a statement at the time, the council said that "it had already received other requests for the removal of the monument, which claimed that it was a negative symbol of the municipality." Students from a local school said that they missed seeing the monument on their way to school.

It had become a laughing stock, according to some residents. Despite its bizarre appearance (or perhaps because of it), the internet kept its memory. Since it had been one of the most strange monuments that Brazil has ever seen, a fan page preserves its memory on Facebook.

The big poop wasn't the only curious thing to catch the public's attention. Ponta Grossa also had a public bathroom with transparent walls! (see next page)

Seven years after the monument's removal, the Ponta Grossa city council made a request to Google to remove all images of the monument from the internet. Despite the formal request, very little has been removed. A quick search reveals that the term "cocoção de Ponta Grossa" remains firmly in the internet's memory!

Source:

<https://www.vice.com/pt/article/a-incrivel-historia-do-cocozaio-de-ponta-grossa/>



Bathroom with glass walls generates controversy

The bathrooms of a music school, opened in December 2012 in Ponta Grossa, generated considerable controversy. The R\$3 million public building was built with glass facades, including the bathrooms on the ground floor, allowing an outside view of everything going on inside!



So much exposure and transparency resulted in a lawsuit against the former mayor of Ponta Grossa, Pedro Wosgrau Filho. The work was not even questioned by other members of the Ponta Grossa city council.

To remedy the problem, the next mayor of Ponta Grossa, Marcelo Rangel, installed a dark film on the bathroom facades to provide privacy for users.

The former mayor, however, when interviewed by local news, said that the work was of good quality. He is a civil engineer and he said that there are only "a few details" that need to be adjusted after the construction.

Besides the transparent bathrooms, another factor that became a target for the Public Prosecutor's Office is the existence of emergency doors on the upper floors that lead nowhere. Emergency stairs were not installed!

The lack of curtains, blinds, or window film was simply a "decorative detail," the former mayor said with a smile. For him, the lack of emergency stairs at emergency exits is also a "mere detail."

The music school serves around 1000 students.

Source:

<https://vidrado.com/noticias/curiosidades/banheiro-com-paredes-de-vidro-gera-polemica-em-escola-de-musica-no-parana/>