

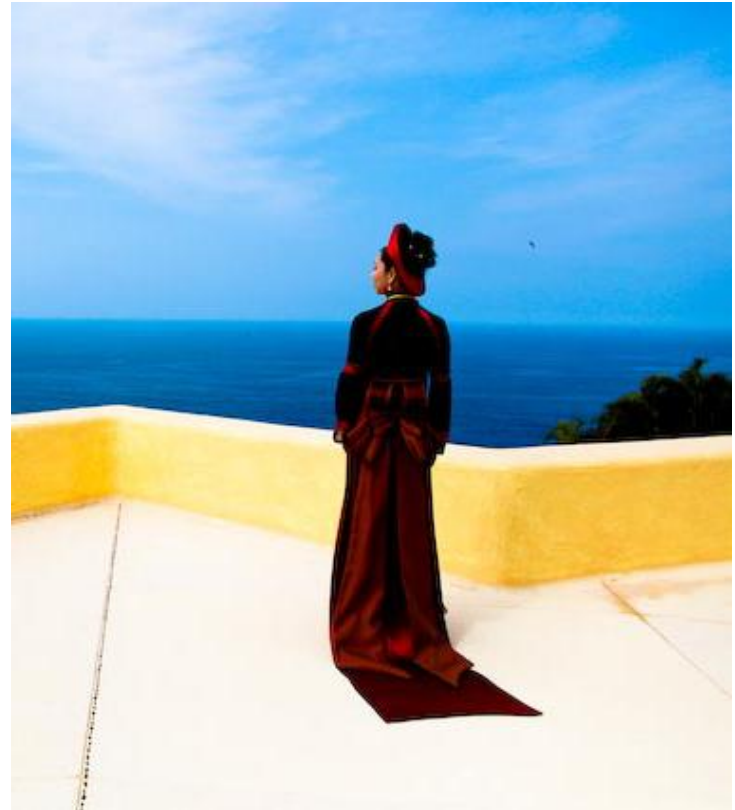
**THE PAINTED WALLS
OF THE
PONDOROSI**



The concrete retaining walls we constructed to cut pathways through our steep landscape were looking a bit too industrial, and the mirador looked like a parapet from below. So we decided to spice them up with tropical colors matched to the colors of our flora.



Brightly painted concrete is popular throughout Latin America

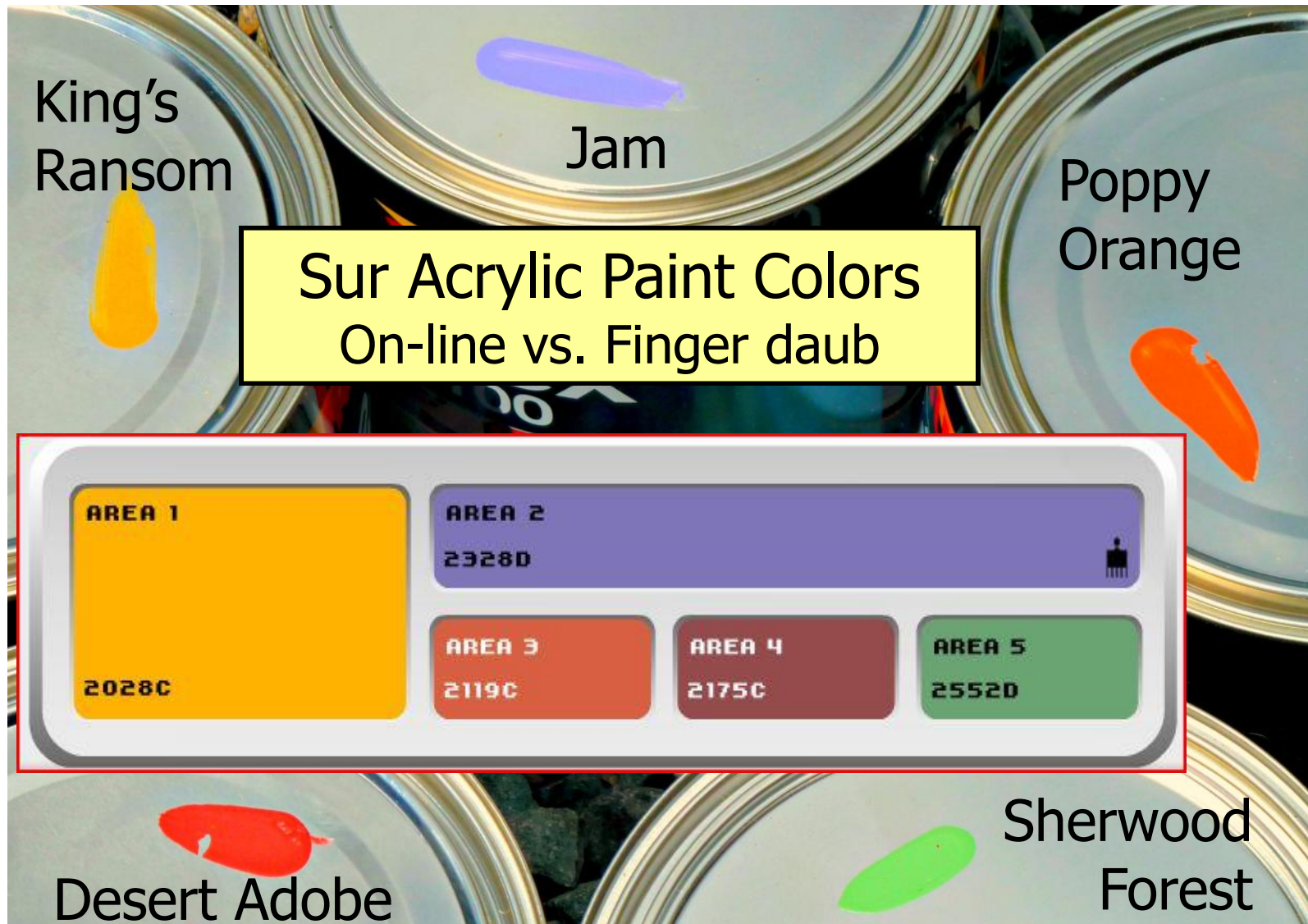




We were influenced by the verve of the painted walls of Costa Careyes, a jetset hideaway on the Pacific coast of Mexico

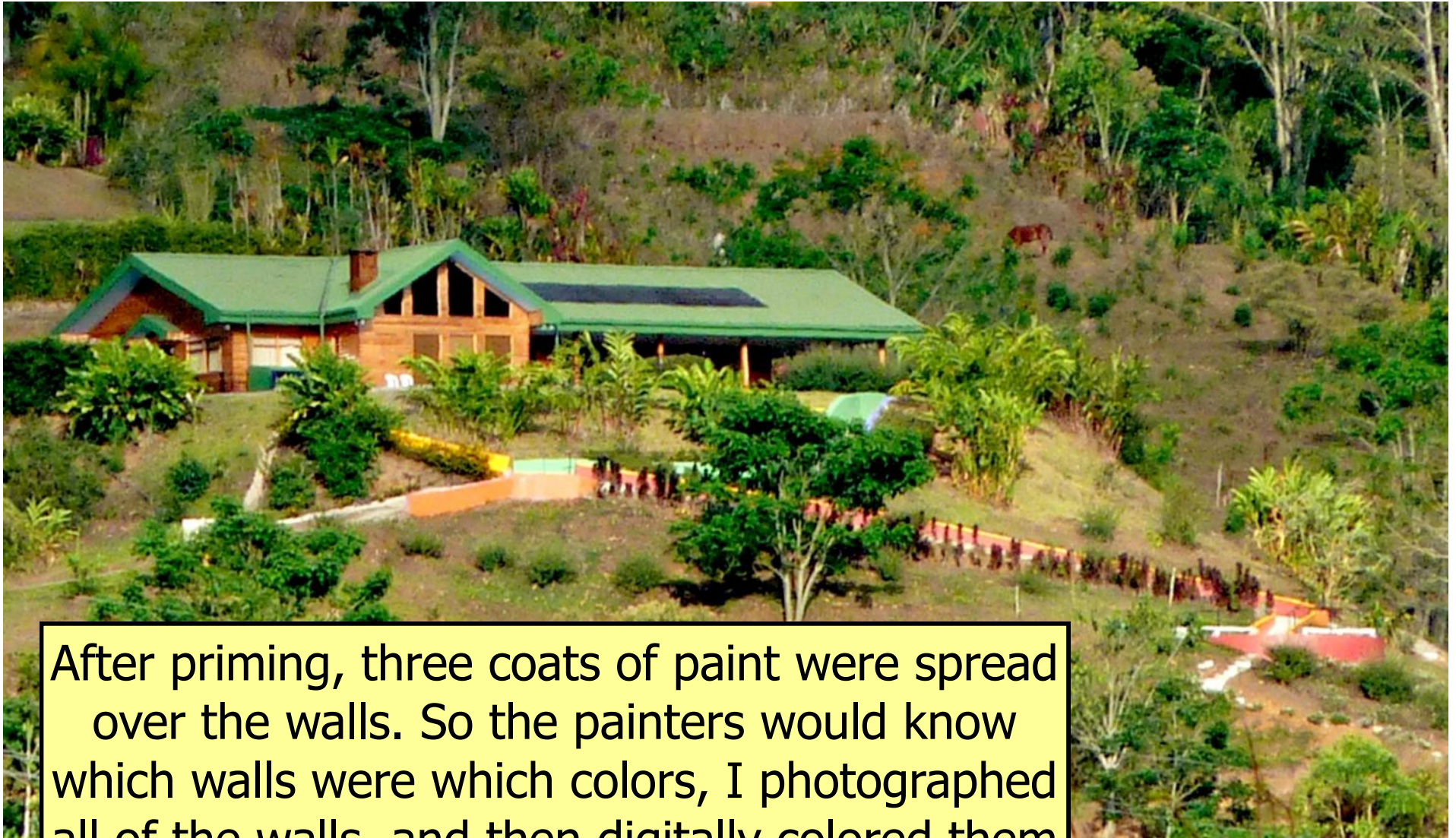


We somehow selected five different colors and hoped that the locally available paint would match their chips and on-line samples. Most did, but we were looking for an oxblood and thought we might be getting mauve.

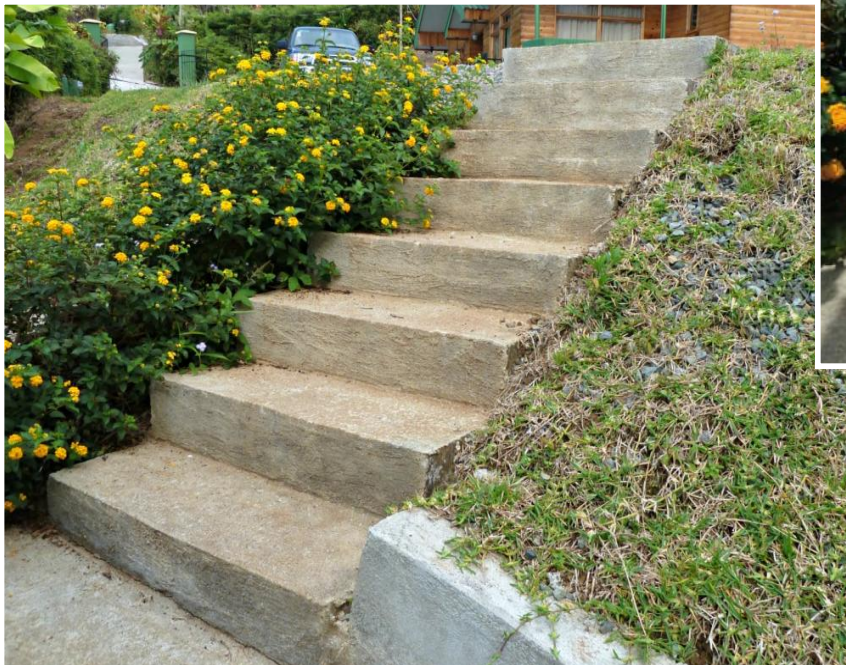


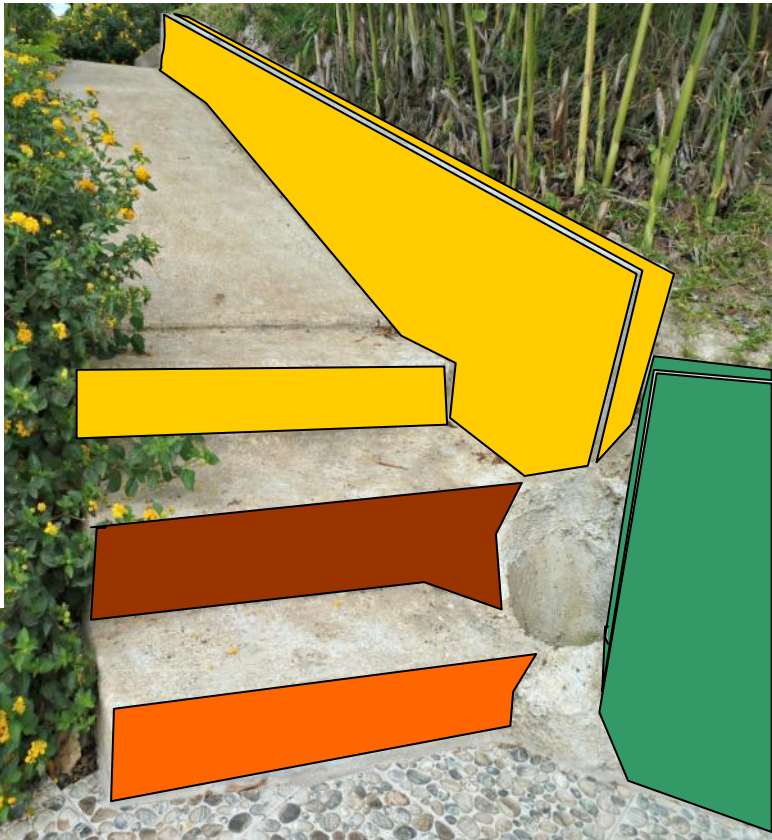
First step was power-washing, then a four person crew applied two coats of primer to all of the surfaces to be painted.





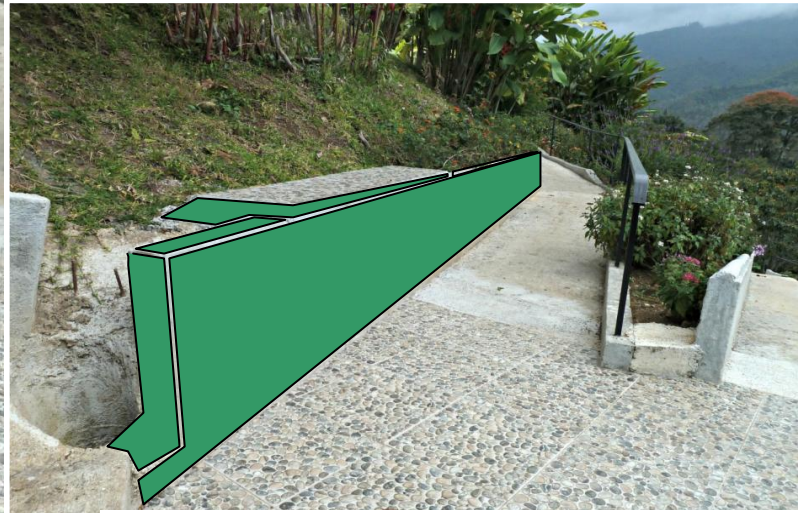
After priming, three coats of paint were spread over the walls. So the painters would know which walls were which colors, I photographed all of the walls, and then digitally colored them as we wanted them painted. The photos that follow show the original, the digitally recolored and the final result for each wall.



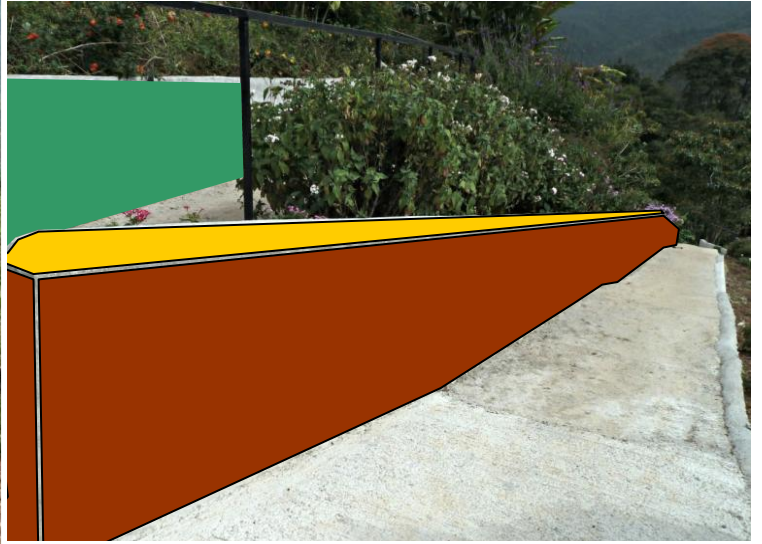


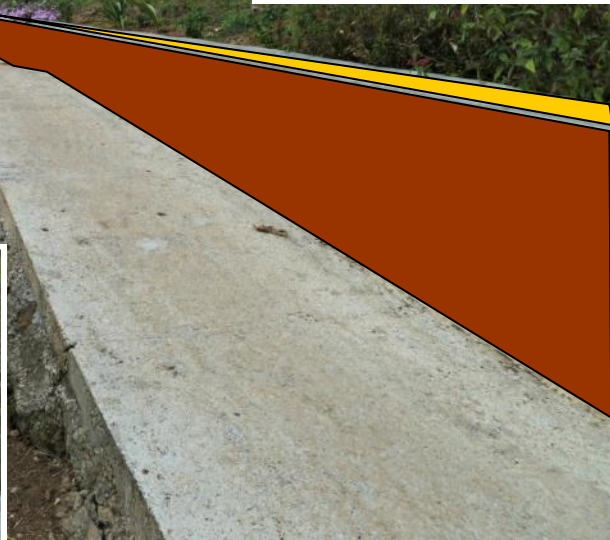


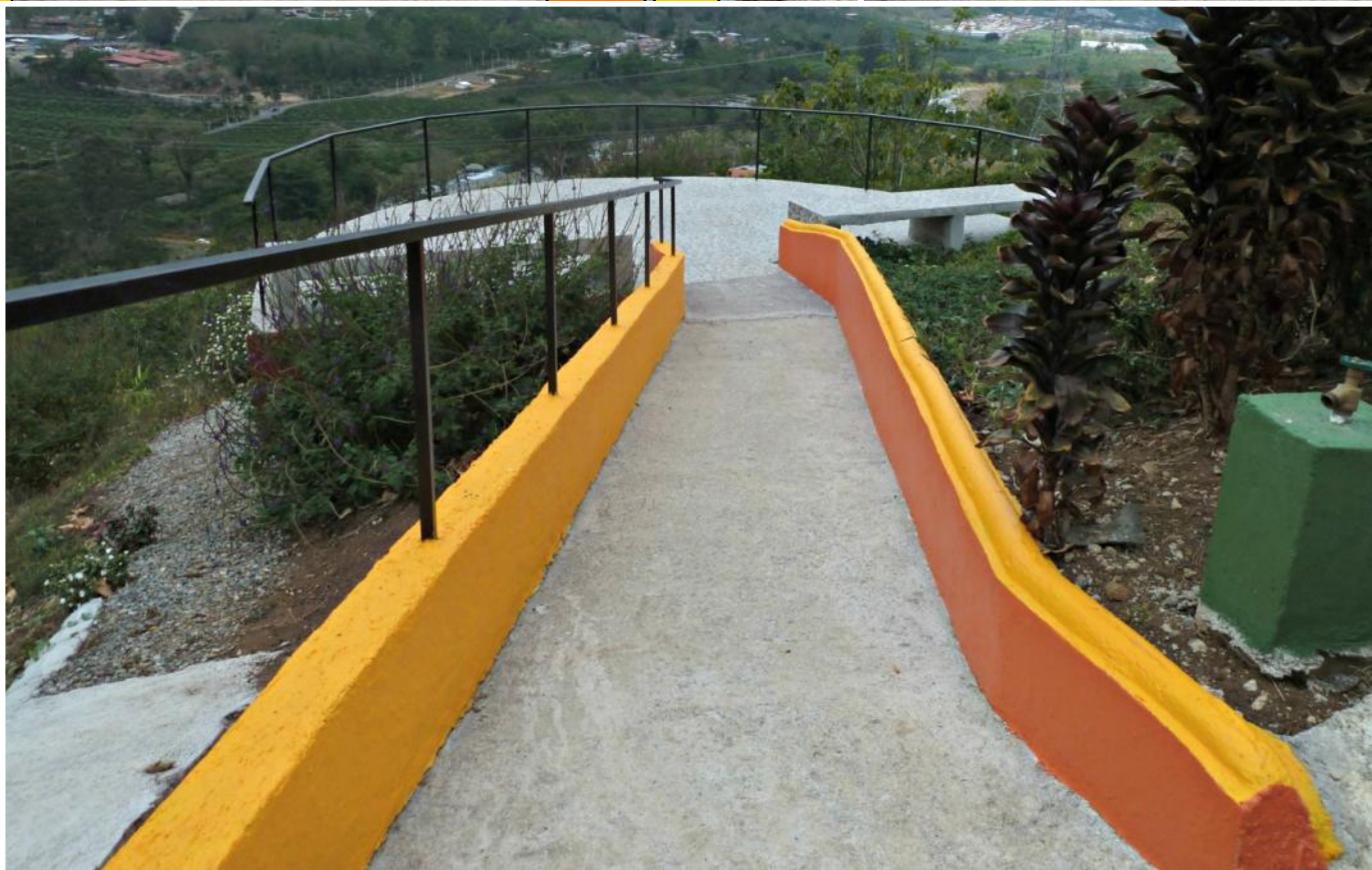
I switched out the Jam color for Poppy Orange on the retaining wall below the scissors landing because I didn't think it popped enough from a distance.







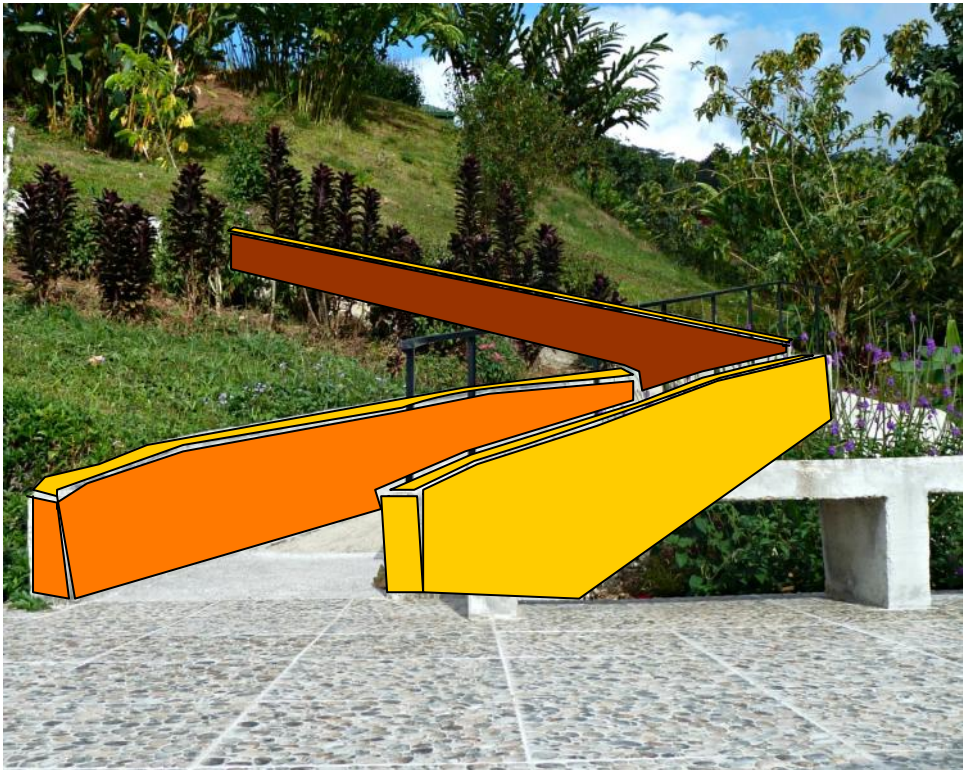


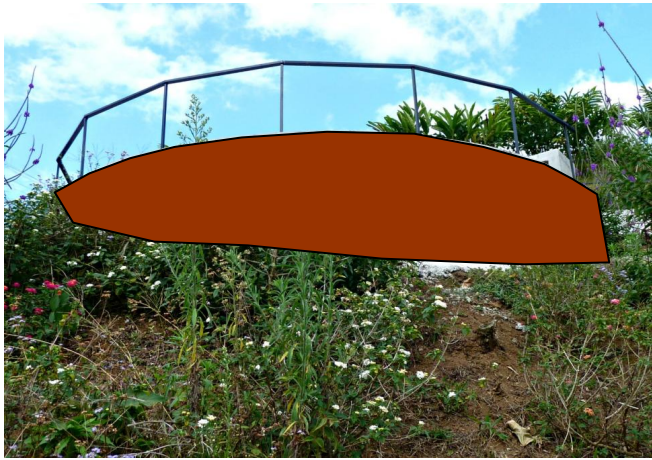






Because the King's Ransom gold paint looked more like safety yellow and was overly visible and eye catching from down the hill, we repainted it poppy orange to blend in with the adjacent poro trees







It took the workers only four days to complete the job and the cost was well under a thousand dollars. I don't know why we didn't think of it sooner. We are happy with the new look and hope it lasts through Costa Rican sun and rain.