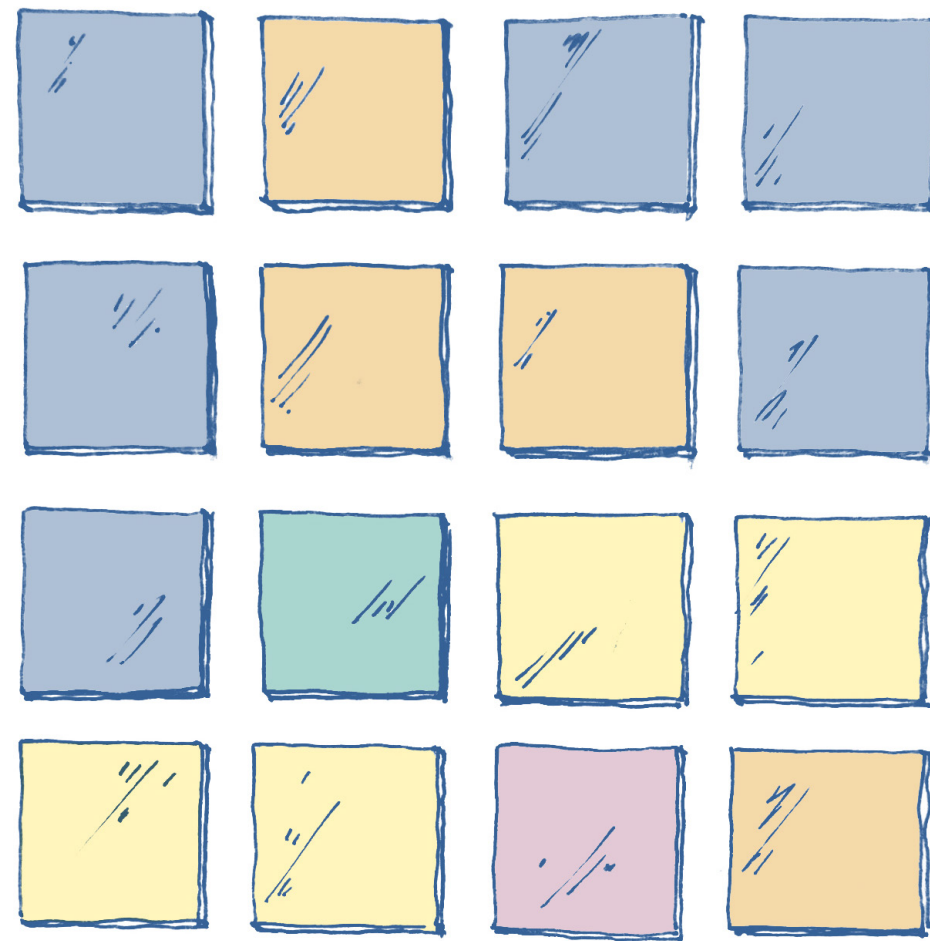
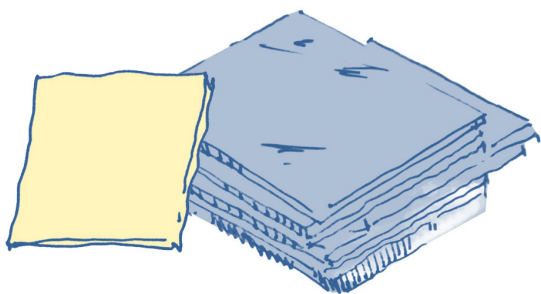


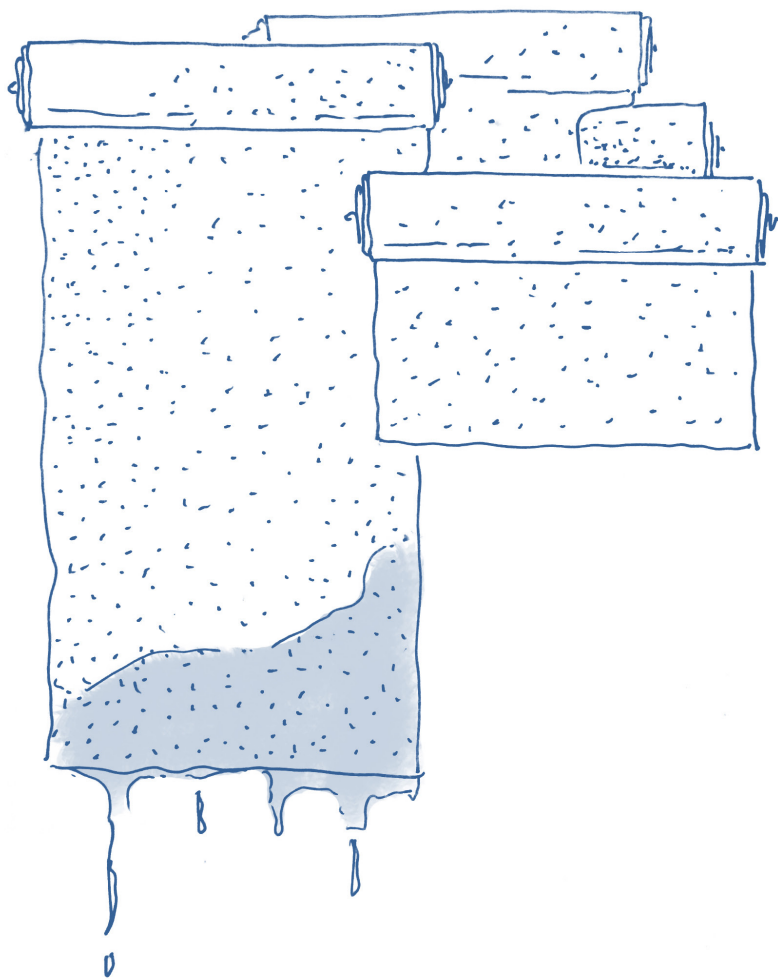
**OUR ТРАКІУА / НАШАТА ТРАКІУА**

**E:** He (her husband) knew how to install tiles - my dad taught him. When we moved in this apartment, the wallpaper from 1 LEV was everywhere. My god, that paper.. so grey! No, no, no. So I bought a new one, again from 1 LEV, but green! My kitchen is facing South-West, that's why I knew it would be a warm atmosphere. Therefore in the kitchen we installed the green wallpaper. The bathroom was painted with exterior paint. My dad said "No, no, we'll put tiles". However, there were no tiles to be found on the market. Back then I had a colleague from Tervel, so he brought some tiles from there. However, they weren't enough... So in my toilet there are 5 different types of tiles. 5 types, 5 colours! Two of the walls are orange, the other two walls are blue. The floor is 3 colours - as many tiles as there were. At the end we even ran out of 1 tile for the floor.

**I:** Beauty! (Laughs)



**E:** However, I really insisted on getting a colourful toilet. So my husband brought me a blue toilet from the Tervel factory. So we have a blue toilet! Additionally, I wanted the tiles to have a wide fugue because I had seen it in the magazines back then! (...) I wanted a red fugue on the blue tiles (laughs). My dad shouted "There is no red grout!" So I used the water paint of my daughter. But it would just wash off. So my dad went to Elhovo, got some oxide paint, and made the red joints on my blue tiles. In a nutshell, it was all do-it-yourself and it was a great pleasure.



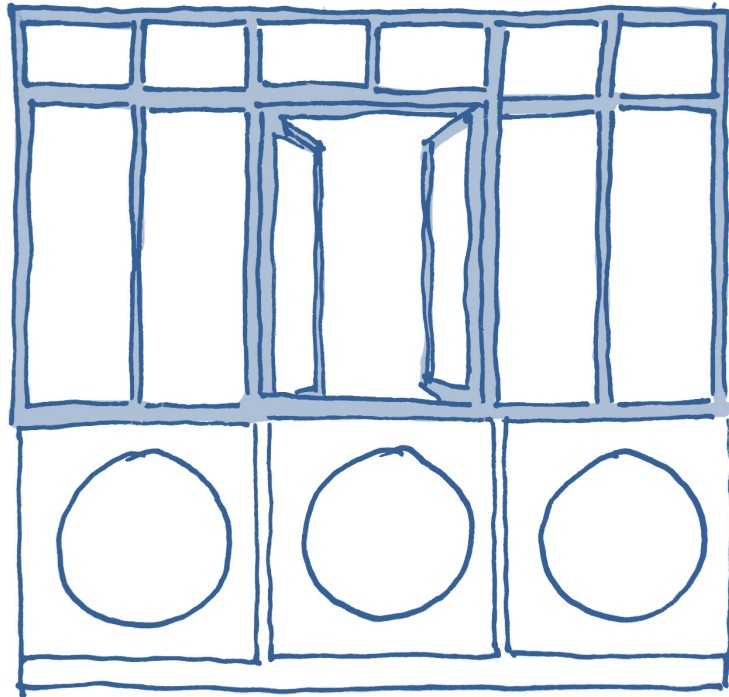
**G:** I remember, I wanted to change the original wallpaper because I saw how beautiful my neighbours' apartment was. Their wallpaper was beautifully embossed, but it was a bathroom one. They had painted it over with latex paint, so the whole wall looked embossed... very beautiful. Ever since I saw it, I went crazy for it. I drove all over town but there was none to buy. Wherever I went, I would search for it. Finally, I went to Assenovgrad and found it in a shop. When I said "I want 11 rolls!", the woman squinted her eyes and asked "Excuse me?! How big is your bathroom?!" So I answered "As big as a living room and a kitchen!". She said "But the wallpaper is for a bathroom! How are you going to install it in a living room and kitchen?!" I said "Just like that!" (Laughs)



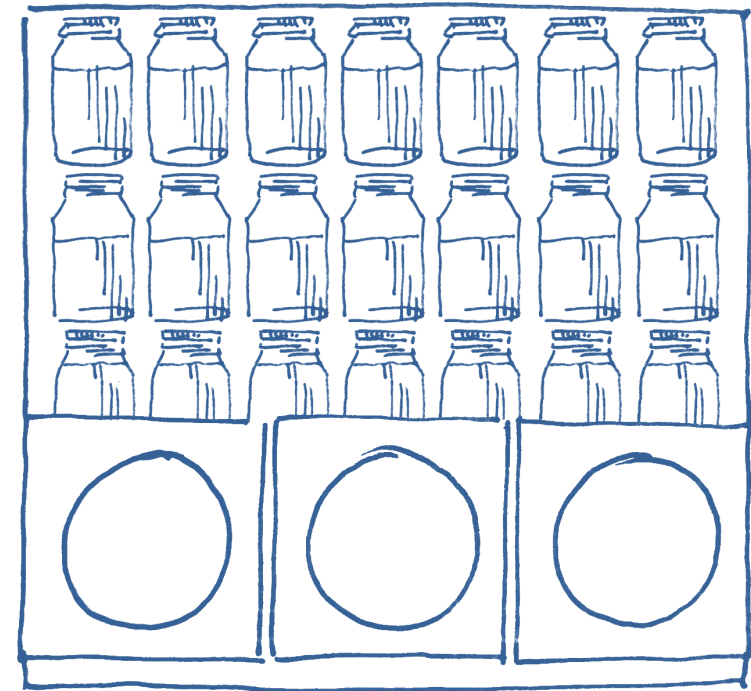
A: Well, generally the people who live around here took care of the vegetation. Reforestation days were announced (...) We planted the trees according to a scheme. The person in charge came, takes out the scheme and said "through so-and-so meters you do so-and-so." They were marking, we were digging holes and planting. We planted them ourselves. There were a lot of curious events. And now its the same. Here south-west of our block - we planted them , we watered them , they grew up, the heating company came and started digging for the heating pipes (laughs) and all the trees were gone. And then we did everything once all over again.



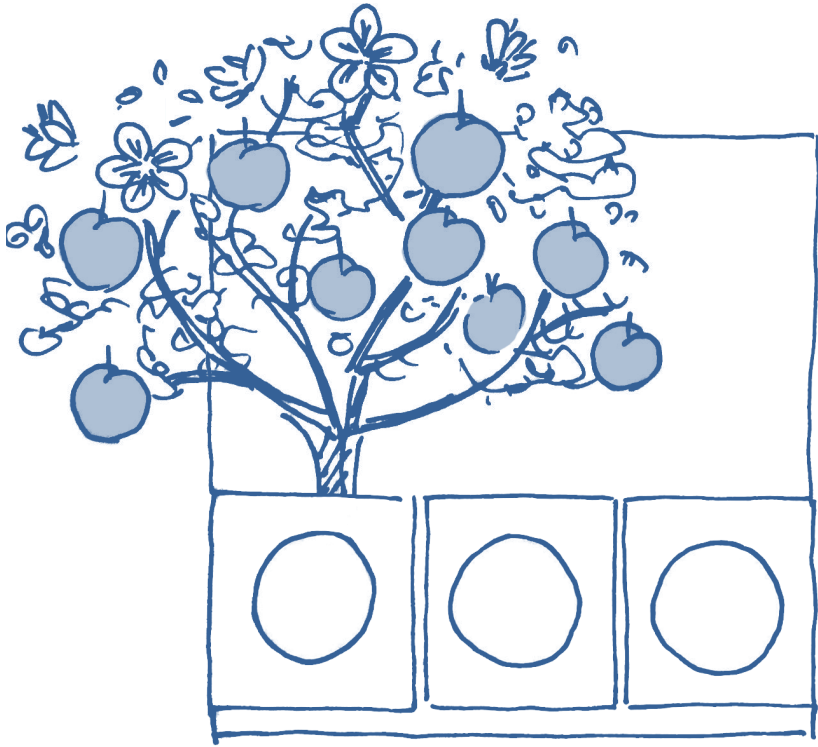
A: We built the gazebo ourselves! We built it just like that and then the young people pimped it up.  
I: Now they use it every night, the young people from the neighbourhouring entrance gather every evening- they talk, they drink, they eat, they even have a barbecue in the front.



I: Were we allowed to enclose the balcony?  
A: Well, it was ambiguous (Laughs)  
I: We weren't allowed to, but we enclosed it.

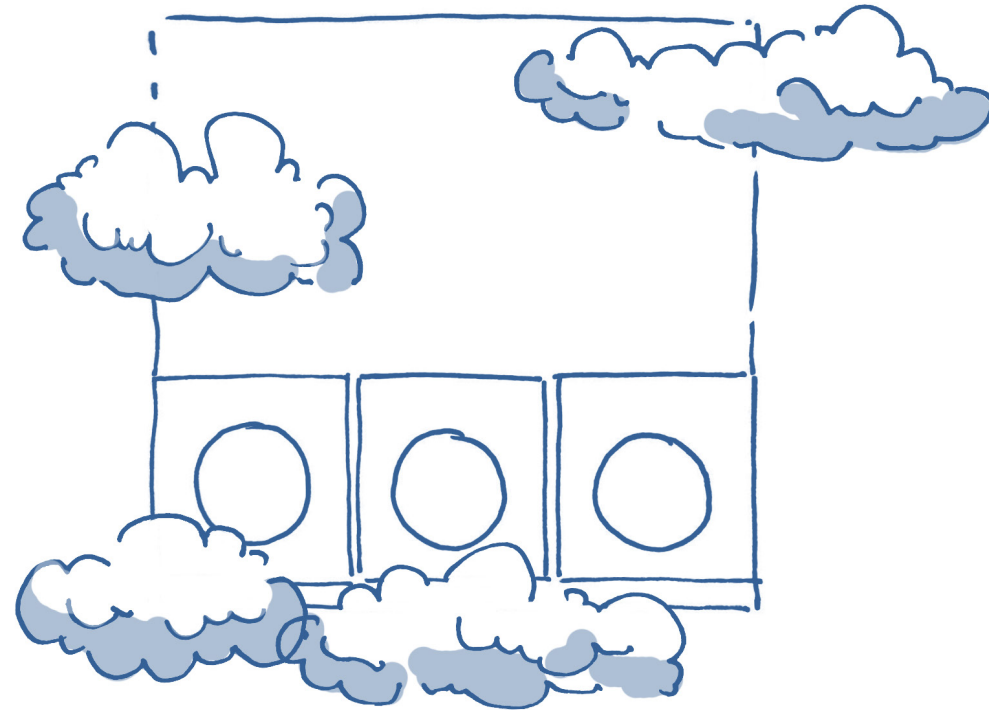


S: But you know, (the balcony) it's kind of like your backyard. It's the place where you can come out for some fresh air. We have just one of our balconies enclosed. There is a cupboard from top to bottom and that's where I keep all my jars. So I don't go down to the cellar. We use it for a pantry.

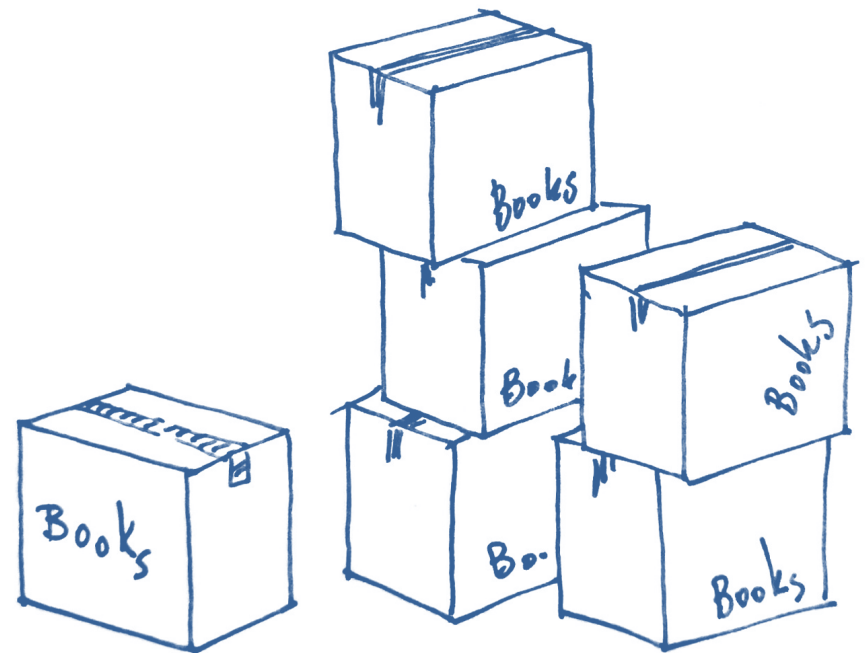


E: You know, I'm on the 7th floor - from all sides there's a panorama, I can see Pamporovo all the way from here, and Zdravetz as well! My two balconies are my yard - in the morning I sit on one of them, in the afternoon on the other - we drink coffee with my girlfriends and so on. Even on the one balcony, my husband had planted a willow tree, so a bit like an ikebana, we had cut it into a special shape. And a neighbour asked " Hey, what's that tree over there?" And the P. (her husband) said, "Well, I planted a peach tree for E., so that she wouldn't go to the market, but she could pick directly from the tree!"

S: Before I used to live in a house, on the ground floor. And because it was close to a factory, there were cars going by, it was dusty all the time. And so I used to dream of living up high. And when they gave us the 5th floor apartment, D. protested - he wanted the 6th floor. He was given the 6th, we were given the 5th. And he asked V. (her husband) to switch.



E: We put up the wall because we had a large library. The books couldn't be in the same space as the kitchen. We did it before we even moved in, because I really wanted the library. When we were renting before all my book were in boxes.





E: Here everyone became very creative when it came to enclosing rooms.

M: We enclosed the room even when before we moved in. My husband put up the wall, because our mothers and fathers lived close by. I was thinking we would need to take care of them later in life and so it was. That's why we wanted to have more rooms. The kids had that room, later my mother moved in, my father-in-law as well. After the kids were gone - she was in the kids room, he was in the kitchen, and we were in the bedroom and so. That's why we put up the wall.



E: Well it started to get overbuilt. They sold all the places planned for parks and gardens and just erected blocks next to each other.

Z: Trakiya is a big neighbourhood.. there is just one cinema. There should be at least 2...



Z: Well yes, now there where they are building this new apartment complex - weren't they going to build an opera house there?! And a park... and an opera...

Z: Trakiya, let me tell you, is one of the best neighbourhoods in Plovdiv. Because in the old districts (...) it's crowded, the streets are very narrow, there's nowhere to park your car, there are no city night lights. Here you can go out at 12 o'clock in the evening to walk outside, and there - it's dark. In the other neighbourhoods there aren't that many shops either, so we're being spoiled here with shops and restaurants everywhere. There are shops and restaurants around every corner. There are a lot of young families as well. The only thing is.. the urban landscaping, let me tell you, it's a bit missing... We need more parks, more greenery. Everything else is perfect.

A : Next year on April 28th it will be 40 years since we started living in Trakiya. It was a bit of a coincidence how it came to be. Due to the military laws we were allowed to apply for an apartment expansion. The commander refused the apartment, then another family refused as well, and we were third in line. The commander called me in: "Do you agree?" "I agree!" "Have you asked the wife?" "Ah, there's nothing to ask her, she knows I'll take her to a better place!"

N: We've did the parking lot ourselves, the landscaping outside as well. We built the gazebo by the entrance.  
G.(her husband) planted all the trees in front. The ones on the other side of the block, as well as on the street street side... he planted them, even the walnut trees. He wanted a walnut tree garden. Nobody told us what to do in front of our block entrance beforehand.

N: We have an external insulation. When we moved in here the first year, we installed the wallpaper on the walls , we furnished ourselves. All of a sudden it started leaking on this side of the wall. So even the wallpaper was filling up with water! G. (her husband) did the repairs on his own: he plug the joints of the panels... and he saw that the joints were filled with newspaper, with newspaper!!!

A : Next year on April 28th it will be 40 years since we started living in Trakiya. It was a bit of a coincidence how it came to be. Due to the military laws we were allowed to apply for an apartment expansion. The commander refused the apartment, then another family refused as well, and we were third in line. The commander called me in: "Do you agree?" "I agree!" "Have you asked the wife?" "Ah, there's nothing to ask her, she knows I'll take her to a better place!"

E: She came up with it all by herself. She said "I don't want these cabinets that are all the same, like everyone's." So she put red foil on them.

Z: I painted them first!

E: True, with exterior paint - red! At which point she scandalised half the world, because she loved that colour - bright red. Then she scraped the paint off and stuck foil on them.

Z: Because a friend of my husband's gave me 2 rolls of foil. However, I didn't have enough foil so I made for every door one square in the middle and one strip on each side. It turned out very nice! And after that my love of red passed (laughs) I just ordered doors, wooden ones and I exchanged the old ones.

I: Same as in my apartment, my husband made wooden doors!

E: At her place, all the furniture her husband made. It's wooden, it's nice. Furniture that no one else has. And she sewed the cushions by herself! She's the best seamstress and a wonderful artist!

