ARCHITECTURE TOUR BRAZIL
SÃO PAULO, BRASÍLIA, BELO HORIZONTE, INHOTIM & RIO DE JANEIRO

11-Day Tour Program
March 4th - 14th, 2020

[ INSIGHT ARCHITECTURE ]
WELCOME TO BRAZIL!

There are few places as magnificent and varied as Brazil. On the one hand, it has been blessed with the most beautiful beaches and breathtaking natural wonders, on the other, it has produced visionary architects such as Oscar Niemeyer, Lucio Costa and Affonso Reidy who have made Brazilian modernism world-renowned. In addition to designing acclaimed buildings such as the Ministry of Health and Culture and the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro, these visionaries planned the modernist city of Brasília from the ground up.

As an emerging BRICS state, and since hosting the 2014 FIFA World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics, Brazil has received more attention in recent years. These events have been the impetus behind many new ambitious infrastructure projects. Our journey takes us to the four major Brazilian cities, each one known for its architectural and cultural characteristics.

Recommended Reading

'Brazil Architectural Guide', DOM Publishers, Kimmel, Tiggemann, Santa Cecília
Michael Reid, ‘The Troubled Rise of a Global Power’
Larry Rother, ‘Brazil on the Rise’
THE FOUR MAJOR BRAZILIAN CITIES

Rio de Janeiro, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is also known as “Cidade Maravilhosa” or the “Marvellous City”, because of its spectacular scenery. Here the urban hustle-bustle perfectly melds with the relaxed beach life. Once the capital of Brazil and the Portuguese Empire, it offers a rich architectural heritage to explore.

With over 20 million inhabitants in its metropolitan area, São Paulo forms a huge, densely populated urban fabric. It is one of the largest cities in the world and the most populous in the southern hemisphere. There are many architectural highlights to discover in this key economic, financial and cultural center of Brazil.

Built in the late 1950s, Brasilia is one of the youngest capitals in the world. It was planned and built by Lucio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer, who thus gained world fame. In 1987, Brasilia was declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO and is a must-see for architects and urban planners.

The city of Belo Horizonte includes the Pampulha Modern Ensemble, which is another UNESCO heritage site. The buildings are situated around Lake Pampulha and were designed by Oscar Niemeyer. Belo Horizonte was the first state capital planned from the ground up.

The Institute for Contemporary Art Inhotim owns a world-class collection of contemporary art situated in a lush tropical garden within a spectacular landscape close to Belo Horizonte.

Music
Bebel Gilberto, Caetano Veloso, Chico Buarque, Ed Motta, Elis Regina, Gilberto Gil, João Gilberto, Maria Bethania, Marisa Monte, Seu Jorge, Tom Jobim, Tim Maia, Vinicius de Moraes

Movies
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SÃO PAULO

Besides being Brazil’s economic center, São Paulo is also known for its vivid cultural life and numerous iconic buildings. Many of them were designed during the era of Brazilian modernism. Inspired by mid-20th century European architecture, local architects introduced the modern style to their country. They adapted these principles to the local social, structural and climatic conditions and created a unique style.

Another very important architectural tradition in São Paulo is the Paulista School, a version of Brutalism. Architects such as Lina Bo Bardi, Paulo Mendes da Rocha and Vilanova Artigas created many unique and outstanding buildings including the Art Museum of São Paulo MASP, the Sculpture Museum MuBe and the School of Architecture FAU.

Today, São Paulo’s architecture scene is the liveliest in Brazil. Many upcoming studios and offices attract worldwide attention with their residential, commercial and cultural projects. Tryptique, Brasil Arquitetura, and Grupo SP are but a few examples of influential offices.
Day 1, Wednesday, March 4th

Economic Center Avenida Paulista

After leaving our baggage at the hotel and having midday snack, we will head out to explore the neighborhood of Jardins: a short walk uphill will bring us to the Avenida Paulista, São Paulo’s main financial and commercial center. The avenue was built at the end of the 19th century at the highest point of the city, and it was the first street to be asphalted at the beginning of the 20th century. Today, the wide, eight lane avenue is flanked by modern, post-modern and contemporary commercial high-rises. We will get to see some of the most iconic buildings and end the day’s program with a visit to the FIESP.

Morning
- Individual arrival in São Paulo
- Check-in hotel (baggage drop)
- The program starts with a lunch near the hotel

Afternoon
- Avenida Paulista, the city’s main business street
- Conjunto Nacional, commercial and shopping center, David Libeskind and Hans Eger, 1954-58
- Instituto Moreira Salles, museum and library, Andrade Morettin, 2017
- Banco Sul-Americano, commercial building, Rino Levi, 1960-63
- MASP Museu de Arte São Paulo, museum, Lina Bo Bardi, 1957-68, interior visit
- Parque Trianon, public park, Paul Villon and Barry Parker, 1892

1. Aerial view of São Paulo; 2. Edifício Italia, Adolf Franz Heep
Day 2, Thursday, March 5th

The Historical City Center

On day two, we will go back in time on our visit to the city's historical center, the Centro. Here, many cycles of urban renewal have created colourful juxtapositions of heterogeneous architectural styles. We end the day with a visit to the Pinacoteca and the sculpture museum MUBE.

Morning

Teatro Municipal, theater, Ramos de Azevedo, Cláudio and Domiziano Rossi, 1903-1911
Viaduto do Chá, originally a steel bridge built in 1892, replaced with a concrete bridge in 1938
Matarazzo Building, city hall, Marcello Piacentini, visit of the lobby
Praça da Patriarca (Patriarca Square), roof and entrance for metro station, Paulo Mendes da Rocha, 1992-2002
Martinelli Building, commercial building, formerly the highest building in Latin America, Giuseppe Martinelli, 1924-28
Praças das Artes, art school, Brasil Arquitetos, Marcos Carum, 2006-12
Edifício Copan, residential building with commercial use on the ground floor, Oscar Niemeyer, 1951-1966

Afternoon

Pinacoteca, 1897-1900, museum, conversion by Paulo Mendes da Rocha, 1993-98
MUBE, sculpture museum, Paulo Mendes da Rocha, 1987-95
Day 3, Friday, March 6th

Brutalism and the Paulista School

On our last day in São Paulo, we will visit further examples of Brazilian modernism and the Paulista School including the SESC Pompeia and the Glass House by Lina Bo Bardi, the University FAU by Vilanova Artigas, as well as the Ibirapuera Park.

Morning

- SESC Pompeia, cultural and sports center, Lina Bo Bardi, 1977-86, interior visit
- Glass House, single family house, Lina Bo Bardi, 1950-51, interior visit

Afternoon

- FAU Faculdade de Arquitetura e Urbanismo, Vilanova Artigas, 1961-68, interior visit of the university
- Parque Ibirapuera, park, Roberto Burle Marx and Otavio Texeira Mendes, 1951-54
- Marquise do Parque Ibirapuera, free standing roof construction, Oscar Niemeyer, 1954
- Auditorium Ibirapuera, Oscar Niemeyer, 2002-2005
- Ibirapuera Oca, pavilion, Oscar Niemeyer, 1951-54

1. & 2. Glass House, Lina Bo Bardi; 3. FAU University for Architecture and Urbanism, Vilanova Artigas; 4. SESC Pompeia, Lina Bo Bardi
BELO HORIZONTE

The state of Minas Gerais was initially colonized by gold miners at the beginning of the 18th century. Soon the gold mines ran out of ore and the miners had to find other sources of income such as agriculture and mining for other metals. The settler community expanded rapidly thanks to the advantageous topography and climate until the end of the 19th century. When the state capital Ouro Preto reached its capacity due to its insular topography, Belo Horizonte was chosen to be the new capital of Minas Gerais. Within only five years, the new city center was built according to the plans of the engineer Aarão Reis. Belo Horizonte, the first city in Brazil planned on a drawing board, celebrated its inauguration in 1897.

When Juscelino Kubitschek became Mayor of Belo Horizonte in 1940, he commissioned the young architect Oscar Niemeyer to design five significant buildings around the new artificial lake Pampulha. Together they constructed a chapel, a casino (now an art museum), a yacht club, and a ballroom. The hotel, the fifth design, never came to fruition. These buildings soon became landmarks of Brazilian modernism. The project was also the beginning of a close collaborative relationship between Kubitschek and Niemeyer, which coalesced with the construction of the new capital Brasília a decade later.

Day 4, Saturday, March 7th
The “Drawing Board City” and Pampulha

Morning
Transfer & flight from São Paulo to Belo Horizonte

Afternoon
Museum Pampulha, Oscar Niemeyer, 1940-43
Casa do Baile, ballroom house, Oscar Niemeyer, 1940-43
Casa JK, house of president Juscelino Kubitschek, Oscar Niemeyer, 1943
Igreja San Francisco of Assis, church, Oscar Niemeyer, Roberto Burle Marx, Cândido Portinari, 1940-45
INHOTIM

Covering more than 300,000 square meter (75 acres), the park contains numerous pavilions and an extensive national and international collection of contemporary art created by the entrepreneur Bernardo Paz in the mid-80s. The Institute of Contemporary Art Inhotim has been open to the public since 2006 and offers a broad educational program. Landscape, architecture, and art engage the visitor in a unique way at Inhotim: most buildings were built in anticipation of specific pieces of art and the art work was conceived within the context of the park itself.

Day 5, Sunday, March 8th

Contemporary Art and Architecture

All day
- Transfer to Brumadinho
- Guided tour of the Institute for Contemporary Art Inhotim
- Lunch at restaurant Tamboril
- Transfer to Belo Horizonte
BRASÍLIA

While the Brazilian Constitution of 1891 proposed the transfer of the Brazilian capital from the coastal city Rio de Janeiro to the interior of the country, it took several decades for the move to occur. In 1904, the Cruis Mission was in charge of selecting the most appropriate location in the state of Goias. It was only in the late 1950s that president Juscelino Kubitschek actualized this plan.

Built in the country's heartland, the city was supposed to be equally accessible to all Brazilians. At the same time, the goal was to bring progress to the interior of the country. The new capital would be a modern city that promised progress and welfare without a weighty colonial legacy or the apparent poverty of slums.

Lucio Costa's extraordinary master plan for Brasília played a special role in the relocation of the capital. One of the key requirements was that the new capital should not run the risk of becoming a provincial town, which would inevitably occur if it were to be built in the traditional way. During our two-day program in the capital, we learn more about Costa's urban strategies and how he led the project to completion.

1. Metropolitan Cathedral, Brasilia, Oscar Niemeyer; 2. Supreme Court, Oscar Niemeyer; 3. Aerial view of "the wings" and Monumental Axis, Masterplan Lucio Costa; 4. Santuário de Dom Bosco, Church, Carlos Alberto Naves
Day 6, Monday, March 9th

Costa’s Master Plan and the Monumental Axis

Lucio Costa’s master plan has the form of a cross and is also sometimes referred to as an airplane. The horizontal line - “the wings” - follows the artificial lake along a curve. These wings are reserved for the residential areas, while the ministries and government palaces are located in the airplane’s “body”. On our first day, we will visit these public buildings on the so-called “Monumental Axis”.

Morning
- Transfer and flight from São Paulo to Brasilia
Afternoon
- Cathedral Metropolitana, Metropolitan Cathedral, Oscar Niemeyer, 1959-70, interior visit
- Congress Nacional, National Congress, Oscar Niemeyer, 1956, interior visit
- Praça dos Três Poderes and Espaço Lúcio Costa, urban masterplan by Lúcio Costa, buildings by Oscar Niemeyer 1957-61
- Panteão da Pátria, memorial monument, Oscar Niemeyer 1985-86
- Ponte JK, bridge, Alexandre Chan, 1998-2002
- Palácio da Alvorada, president’s residence, Oscar Niemeyer, 1958

1. & 2. Itamaraty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oscar Niemeyer
Day 7, Tuesday, March 10th

Superquadras and the University Campus

On our second day in the capital, we will explore the “wings” of the airplane. The residential area is divided into Superquadras, individual units of 280 x 280 meters (920 x 920 ft), each one containing four housing lots. The interior street is reserved for commercial use and between two Superquadras there is space kept for public infrastructure such as schools, sports fields or churches.

The University of Brasília was built in the 1970s by Oscar Niemeyer. The 700 meters long building has over 30 entrances. It is commonly said that the building represents democratic ideas through its symmetry; it is equally accessible from each point of the perimeter.

Morning

Palácio Itamaraty, ministry of foreign affairs, Oscar Niemeyer, 1959-70, interior visit
Santuário Dom Bosco, Church, Carlos Alberto Naves, 1963, interior visit
Torre TV, tower, Lúcio Costa, 1957-1967, visit of the platform
Memorial JK, Oscar Niemeyer, 1980-81
Quartel General do Exército, military headquarters, Oscar Niemeyer and Roberto Burle Marx, 1968-70

Afternoon

University Campus UnB, Lúcio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer, masterplan 1960-62, buildings 1963-71, interior visit
Central Institute of Sciences, Oscar Niemeyer, 1963-71
UnB Rector’s Office, various architects, 1972-75
UnB Library, José Galbinski, Miguel Pereira, 1968-73
UnB Restaurant, José Galbinski and Antônio Carlos Moraes de Castro, 1969
Superquadra SQS 308, residential block, Oscar Niemeyer, 1960
Nossa Senhora de Fatima Church, Oscar Niemeyer, 1957-58

1. National Museum, Oscar Niemeyer; 2. Palacio Itamaraty, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Oscar Niemeyer
RIO DE JANEIRO

With its beautiful beaches, tropical climate and its unique setting between mountains and ocean, Rio de Janeiro attracts visitors from all around the globe, but it is has also gained recognition as the home of a unique style of architectural modernism, typified by the work of Oscar Niemeyer, Lucio Costa, Affonso Reidy and the brothers Roberto.

The latest architectural highlights were created in sight of the Soccer World Cup in 2014 and the Olympic Games 2016. The Museum of Tomorrow by Santiago Calatrava and the Art Museum of Rio de Janeiro MAR by Bernardes Jacobsen Architects are part of an urban development plan to convert the former industrial port area into a new residential, commercial and cultural center.

Day 8, Wednesday, March 11th

Art Deco Copacabana and Niemeyer

Close to the beaches facing the Atlantic Ocean lies Rio’s wealthy South Zone area. It is an urban residential district with good infrastructure, many restaurants, bars and shops. Rio’s most famous beaches, Copacabana and Ipanema, are located here. The term “South Zone” has become a general expression in Brazil for wealthy "downtown" neighborhoods. In contrast stand the favelas that coexist in almost every neighborhood in Rio. On the tour, besides visiting Art Deco buildings in Copacabana, we also explain the social, political and urban implications of this contrast.

Morning  
Transfer and flight from Brasilia to Rio de Janeiro

Afternoon  
Museum of Contemporary Art, MAC Niterói, Oscar Niemeyer, 1996  
Praça Popular, square, Oscar Niemeyer, 2002-14  
Walk through the neighborhood Copacabana  
Residential Art Deco building, Rua Ministro Viveiros de Castro 100  
Art Deco buildings at Praça do Lido  
Copacabana Palace Hotel, Joseph Gire, 1923

Day 9, Thursday, March 12th

The City’s History and Development

Rio de Janeiro has reinvented itself many times in its 450 year history. On a walk through the historical center we will unravel the urban development, discovering its diverse building styles that range from colonial and imperial times to modern and contemporary architecture. We end our day with a visit to the top of Sugarloaf Mountain.

Morning  
Mauá Square with Museum of Tomorrow, Santiago Calatrava, 2015  
Museu de Arte Rio de Janeiro MAR, Bernardes Jacobsen Arquitetos, 2013

Banco Boavista, bank, Oscar Niemeyer 1946-48
Candelaria Church, built 1609, 2nd extension 1877 with cupola and lateral naves, interior visit
Casa da Franca, Grandjean de Montigny, 1816
Praça XV de Novembro with Imperial Palace, built 1743

Afternoon
Confeitaria Colombo, legendary coffeehouse built in 1894
BNDES Headquarters, by Willer, Stelle, Ramalho, Sanchotene, Oba, Mueller, 1974
Petrobras Headquarters, Gandolfi, 1967
Metropolitan Cathedral, Edgar de Oliveira da Fonseca, 1964-76, interior visit
Municipal Theater, Francisco de Oliveira Passos and Albert Guilbert, 1905-09
National Library, Sousa Aguiar, 1910, interior visit
Ministry for Education and Culture MEC, Lúcio Costa, Le Corbusier and Oscar Niemeyer, with Roberto Burle Marx and Cândido Portinari, 1936-45
Flamengo Park, Affonso Reidy, Lota Macedo, Roberto Burle Marx, 1954-65
Sugarloaf, viewpoint
Day 10, Friday, March 13rd

Modern Brazil

Modern European architecture and Le Corbusier’s manifesto “Five Points of Architecture” influenced the Brazilian movement very strongly, but the style was not just copied. Adapting the principles to the tropical climate and Brazilian culture, the architects created their very own style; the similarities as well as the differences between both styles are the topic of this day.

Morning
- Residential Complex Pedregulho, Affonso Reidy, 1947, interior visit
- Sambódromo da Marquês de Sapucaí, sambadrome, Oscar Niemeyer, 1980
- Parque Guinle, residential complex, Lucio Costa, 1948-54
- Instituto Moreira Salles IMS, photography museum, Olav Redig de Campos, 1951

Afternoon
- Free

Evening
- Farewell dinner and optional visit of Rio Scenarium samba concert

Day 11, Saturday, March 14th

Tropical Landscape Design

Roberto Burle Marx is Brazil’s most recognized landscape architect. He was a good friend of Oscar Niemeyer and is responsible for almost every modern garden and landscape project in Brazil. At his own property and park at the city’s border, Burle Marx planted over 4,000 different species and created an oasis of 365,000 square meters (almost 4 million sqft) in the middle of the urban jungle. After a visit to his property, we will have lunch at the award-winning restaurant Bira da Guaratiba with a view over the nature reserve. Our Brazilian journey ends with an interior visit to Oscar Niemeyer’s first residence, Casa das Canoas, built around a rock in the middle of the Tijuca forest.

Morning
- Sitio Burle Marx, park and residence, 1949-94

Lunch
- Restaurant Bira da Guaratiba

Afternoon
- Casa das Canoas, residential house of Oscar Niemeyer, Oscar Niemeyer, 1953,
  not confirmed due to renovation
- Optional: swimming at Ipanema beach

Evening
- Transfer & return flight

1 & 2: Sitio Burle Marx, Roberto Burle Marx
The Tour Guide & Accompanying Organizer

Barbara Iseli is a multilingual Swiss architect, a graduate (MSc) of the ETH Zurich, and a "Carioca de coração" a Rio de Janeiro-an by heart, with professional experience in Switzerland and Brazil. At Boltshauser Architects in Zurich she was the project manager for large scale housing projects and won various competitions. Barbara has lived in Rio de Janeiro since 2012. Here, she was in charge of the conversion of the Swiss Consulate and is a founding partner of the architecture office Plural Projetos Singulares. She speaks native German and is fluent in English, Portuguese and Italian. She has led tours for architects and architecture enthusiasts in Rio and other Brazilian cities since 2013.

Bettina Johae (Dipl.-Ing. Arch / MA Studio Art) is an architect and artist whose work engages with the changes and perceptions of the city. Many of her projects focus on New York City and have been exhibited nationally and internationally. Bettina received her Diploma in Architecture from the Technical University Berlin and her Master in Studio Art from New York University. Born in Berlin, Germany, she lives in New York City since 2001. Bettina is the principle of aplusnyc architecture and art tours and has organized and led tours in New York and the USA since 2009.

The Hotels

Jaragua Novotel is located in the renowned Edifício Estadão building in the central district of São Paulo. It was planned and built in 1946 by the architect Jacques Pilon as the headquarters of the newspaper Estado de São Paulo, the radio station Eldorado and other offices. It was converted into a hotel in 1979.
Mercure Lourdes Belo Horizonte is a mid-scale hotel featuring comfortable, practical rooms. Located on Avenida do Contorno, close to bars, restaurants and the city’s neighborhoods Lourdes and Savassi.

Brasília Palace, the modernist hotel is part of the historical heritage of the federal capital. Next to Lake Paranoá, Brasília Palace is an important project by Oscar Niemeyer, with two magnificent art works by Athos Bulcão.

Arena Leme Rio de Janeiro offers 164 modern rooms in one of the city’s most relaxed neighborhoods, next to the vibrant restaurants, outdoor cafés and colorful boardwalk kiosks of Copacabana Beach.
Travel Information

Price without int. Flights
USD 3,990 double room*
Surcharge for single room occupancy USD 650
Hotel rooms upgrade for 10 nights USD 280 per room

*Additional small group fee USD 200 for a group size of 15 people or less
Early hotel check-in on the day of arrival is possible for an additional cost
Additional fee for credit card payments 3%
Price guaranteed until December 31st

Dates
Departure New York, March 3rd evening
Arrival São Paulo, March 4th morning
Departure Rio de Janeiro, March 14th evening
Arrival New York, March 15th morning

Services included
3 x nights in São Paulo, Jaraquá Novotel or similar
2 x nights in Belo Horizonte, Mercure Lourdes or similar
2 x nights in Brasília, Brasilia Palace or similar
brasiliapalace.com.br
3 x nights in Rio de Janeiro, Arena Leme or similar
arenalemehotel.com.br
11 days of guided architectural program in English
All entry fees as listed in the program
Domestic flights São Paulo · Belo Horizonte, Belo Horizonte · Brasilia, Brasilia · Rio de Janeiro including transfers
Transportation during tours in São Paulo, Belo Horizonte, Inhotim, Brasilia and Rio de Janeiro
Welcome snack/lunch, welcome dinner and all breakfasts

Int. Flights
Return flight New York · São Paulo / Rio de Janeiro · New York can be arranged at cost plus a booking fee of USD 100 (transfers included)*
*If you decide to book your own flight on an individual schedule, transfer in and out will not be included. Latest arrival time for individual travelers is Wednesday at 8:30 AM.
Carbon-dioxide emission compensation program for your flight with myclimate.org USD 100

Additional expenses
Personal expenses, travel insurance, visa for Brazil (required for US citizens),
meals (lunch and dinner), tips for drivers, waiters and guides

Group size
Minimum 12 people, maximum 24 people

Guide
Barbara Iseli, architect and founder of Insight Architecture, insight-architecture.com

Organizer
aplusnc tours LLC, New York aplusnc.net

Operator
Rex AG, Winterthur Switzerland rex.tours, Etours DMC etoursbrazildmc.com

Registration
insight-architecture.com/travel-registration/
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Program as of November 2019, may be subject to change