

EDITORIAL

2016 has been a landmark in the history of Brazilian open spaces' construction, mostly because of the Olympics, which took place in the city of Rio de Janeiro. It has brought about a series of new urban developments, such as the so-called *Boulevard Olímpico*, a huge public area between downtown Rio and the waterfront, attracting thousands of users, local inhabitants in its majority, due to its unprecedented originality.

This new boulevard is part of a complex refurbishment project called *Porto Maravilha* – still under development in 2016 – which is an overall transformation of an old and decadent port area, retrofitting both open spaces and buildings.



View of Porto Maravilha, Museu do Amanhã in the front.
Source/picture: Silvio Soares Macedo, 2016.

Until two years ago, this area was fragmented by one of the most important highways in the city, the *Via Perimetral*, which was demolished to open space for a big pedestrian precinct, previously surrounded by port buildings, mostly decadent, with almost no public access. The project is very controversial due to the conflicting interests involved, to its mode of production and also to the urban transformation itself. It is anchored in the construction of the *Cidade do Samba*, and the *Museu do Mar* and *Museu do Amanhã*, both located in the *Praça Mauá*, besides the aquarium, which has just been opened to the public.

The impact of this project has been positive since the opening because, after centuries, it has brought the city back to the water, in this fragment of the Guanabara Bay. This is very important to the city of Rio de Janeiro, where the central region had always been isolated from the sea.

In Rio de Janeiro, differently from many other cities in the country and in the world, the downtown area has been the target of lots of public investments to maintain and strengthen its centrality. This has been taking place since the beginning of the century, with the construction of the *Avenida Central* – currently called *Avenida Rio Branco* – and then the *Avenida Getulio Vargas* associated with the remodelling of the *Esplanada do Castelo* and the reconstruction of the *Largo da Carioca* and many other significant interventions, which guaranteed the maintenance of its centrality.



Calçadão da Cinelândia, Rio de Janeiro, which was revitalized at the end of the last century as one of the strategies to strengthen the central region of the city.
Source/Picture: Silvio Soares Macedo, 2016.

The project maintained many of the existing activities in the area, such as the State and City administrative facilities, the corporate headquarters of *Petrobras* and *BNDES*, besides cultural and leisure facilities such as the *Teatro Municipal*, traditional urban parks, an extraordinary architectonic heritage built over the centuries, since the territory was a capital city during the Colony, Empire and First Republic periods. Also the main museums of the city, cultural centres and a consolidated commercial pole, which attract thousands of people every day.

The opening of the Boulevard can be considered a landscape milestone, because it is the very first time in the country that such urban intervention has taken place, rebuilding the interaction between city and water through a collective public space, designed as a contemporary landscape masterpiece.

In the last two decades other similar interventions have been implemented in Brazil, despite their smaller scale and impact, such as the *Estação das Docas* in Belém do Pará, and *Marco Zero* in Recife.

The space created is basically a big promenade flanked by huge graffiti panels that structures this urban area and leads people both to the water features of the *Baía de Guanabara* and to the museums, cultural centres, *Cidade do Samba*, *Aquário do Rio de Janeiro* – most of them connected through a VLT line.



Connections between the boulevard and the sea. Gardens as transitional spaces that allow visual contact.
Source/Picture: Silvio Soares Macedo, 2016.



Estação das Docas, Belém do Pará, a small fragment of the city's port waterfront is open to the population, by means of a high quality design and landscaping project, although its use is restricted mostly to tourists and high-income population.
Source/Picture: Leonardo Coelho, 2014.



View of the boulevard that had just been launched for the Olympic games in August 2016, showing the graffiti panels that constitute a special tourist attraction.
Picture/source: Silvio Soares Macedo, 2016.

After the Olympic party was over, a space with a high level of urban quality was left – still waiting for finishing work – which can be already considered a new Brazilian standard for urban and landscaping projects, constituting a model for the interventions to come in the future.

This urban and landscaping project is certainly a milestone in the construction of the Brazilian urban space in this century's first decades. It can be considered the first big design project implemented in a central area. Its dimensions and impact are just comparable to the complex of parks and leisure spaces built in the city of Manaus (Amazonas) under the *Programa Prosamim*.

This century has witnessed an increase in the quantity and quality of urban parks, mostly in the biggest Brazilian cities such as Sorocaba (SP), Goiânia (GO), São Paulo (SP). Furthermore, it is relevant to mention the constant increase in the number of private developments that have sophisticated landscaping projects and, as a consequence, the increase in the landscapers' participation in the conception and construction of public spaces. It is important to highlight that this production has not been properly documented or assessed yet.

The *Paisagem e Ambiente* Magazine has been looking to give a contribution to broaden the awareness and further the debate on the Brazilian Landscaping for the last three decades, in both the academic and everyday reality perspectives. The pres-

ent edition of the magazine is the first released in Portuguese and English in its online and printed versions, in order to expand its impact and the number of contributors and readers. We expect a wider dissemination, nationally and internationally, to consolidate and spread our activities.



Linear Park in Manaus, part of the urban requalification program called *Programa Prosamim*. Manaus, AM, Brasil. Source/picture: Eugenio Fernandes Queiroga, 2015.

In this issue, in the section *Paisagem Urbana*, we have a collaboration of the PNUM (Portuguese Network of Urban Form) Coordinator, Dr. Vitor de Oliveira, who dissertates on the Urban Form and Landscape of Lisboa, based on the Morpho method and the local urban legislation, developed by his research team.

In the section History, the article entitled *Organizações Dierberger (1893-1940)*, written by Marta Enokibara, describes for the first time the history of a family that was a landmark in the Brazilian landscape scene, between the 19th and the 20th centuries, highlighting some examples such as Dona Veridiana Prado's gardens in the neighborhood of *Higienópolis*, São Paulo, and the *Liberdade* square in the city of Belo Horizonte.

The section *Meio Ambiente* comprehends two articles: the first one entitled *A influência dos aspectos geomorfológicos nas áreas degradadas susceptíveis à desertificação no estado do Ceará, Brasil*, authored by Jäder Ribeiro Lima, Abner Monteiro Nunes Cordeiro and Frederico de Holanda Bastos, which focuses on a current and interesting theme: the genesis of three desertification cores in the State of Ceará; the second article,

Aplicação dos conceitos e métricas de ecologia da paisagem na gestão da paisagem urbana, written by Bráulio Magalhães Fonseca, Rodrigo Pinheiro Ribas e Ana Clara Mourão Moura, shows how the methods and concepts of Landscape Ecology could collaborate with city planning, using the municipality of São Gonçalo do Rio Abaixo, in the State of Minas Gerais, as a case study.

The section *Pesquisa* presents the social role of research and its interfaces with reality in the essay *A interface entre pesquisa e extensão na discussão dos parques lineares como estratégia de requalificação da paisagem urbana*, written by Renata Baesso Pereira, Claudia Maria Lima Ribeiro, Adriano Bueno, Daniel Henrique Ribeiro, Danilo Pena Maia, Fernanda Martini, Maria Stella Angote, Ricardo Lazarin, Rodrigo Roda and Viviane Bestane Bartolo. The article describes the academic practices of the *Programa de Ensino Tutorial do Curso de Arquitetura e Urbanismo of the Pontífica Universidade Católica de Campinas'* group. In other words, it has reported on the experience of a partnership established between the university and the government of Campinas to design a new park in the city.

Once again, we bring in the Section *Projeto* an essay about Burle Marx's Works, *Paisagismo A questão da paisagem no Brasil através de Roberto Burle Marx*, de Alexandra Maria Aguiar Leister, opening a reflection on Burle Marx's works and thoughts.

The Section *Paisagismo* brings the article *Da preservação à restauração: políticas e métodos aplicados aos jardins*, authored by Marianna Gomes Pimentel Cardoso, which highlights the historic gardens in Brazil and some of their restoration details.

And last, but not least, the Section *Espaços Livres* presents two articles. The first one, *Os espaços livres públicos da região metropolitana de Belo Horizonte (MG): área conurbada do Vetor Oeste*, written by Marieta Cardoso Maciel, Natalia Achcar Monteiro Silva, Mirelli Borges Medeiros, Priscila Schiavo Gomes da Costa and Renata Carolina Fraga Ribeiro, which describes some of the research results found in the evaluation of the open spaces in that specific area, by the *Laboratório da Paisagem da Escola de Arquitetura da Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais*, member of the national network of the Quapá project – *Quadro do Paisagismo no Brasil – Quapá-Sel*.

The second article is authored by Eduardo Pimentel Pizarro and is entitled *Sistema de espaços livres e espacialidades da esfera pública em favela: os casos de Paraisópolis, da Linha e do Nove, em São Paulo*. The article unveils and describes the characteristics of the open spaces in three favelas in the city of São Paulo, two of them smaller and the third one, the second biggest informal community in the city, with around 100 thousand inhabitants.

Silvio Soares Macedo
Editor
November 2016