

Site	Brasilia
State Party	Brazil
Id. No.	445
Date of Registration	7-11/12/1987

RETROSPECTIVE STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE (2012)

BRIEF SYNTHESIS

Laid out along a monumental east-west axis, crossed by a north-south axis curved to follow the topography as a transportation thoroughfare, Brasilia is a definitive example of 20th century modernist urbanism. Created as the Brazilian capital in the central western part of the country from 1956 to 1960 as part of President Juscelino Kubitschek's national modernization project, the city brought together ideas of grand administrative centres and public spaces with new ideas of urban living as promoted by Le Corbusier in six storey housing blocks (quadras) supported on pylons which allowed the landscape to flow beneath and around them. The city's planning is noteworthy for the remarkable congruence of Lucio Costa's urban design (the 'Plano Piloto') and Oscar Niemeyer's architectural creations, most powerfully reflected in the intersection between the monumental and thoroughfare axes, which stands as the determining factor of the city's urban scheme and underscores the representative character of Three Powers Square (Praça dos Três Poderes) and the Esplanade of the Ministries (Esplanada dos Ministérios), also manifest in the geometry of the National Congress and in the new approach to urban living embodied in the Neighborhood Units (Unidade de Vizinhança) and their corresponding Superblocks (Superquadras).

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA

CRITERION (I): Brasilia is a singular artistic achievement, a prime creation of the human genius, representing, on an urban scale, the living expression of the principles and ideals advanced by the Modernist Movement and effectively embodied in the Tropics through the urban and architectural planning of Lucio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer. The Brazilian experience is notable for the grandiosity of the project, one which not only brought to a definitive close a particular historical epoch, but which was closely tied to an ambitious development strategy and to a process of national self-affirmation before the world.

CRITERION (IV): Brasilia is a unique example of urban planning brought to fruition in the 20th century, an expression of the urban principles of the Modernist Movement as set out in the 1943 Athens Charter, in Le Corbusier's 1946 treatise *How to Conceive Urbanism*, and in the architectural designs of Oscar Niemeyer, including the buildings of the three powers (Presidential Palace, Supreme Court and Congress with its twin highrise buildings flanked by the cupola of the Senate building and by the inverted one of the House of Representatives),

and the Cathedral with its 16 paraboloids 40 metres in height, the Pantheon of Juscelino Kubitschek and the National Theatre.

STATEMENT OF INTEGRITY

The urban framework of Brasília includes all of the elements required to demonstrate outstanding universal value. A city that is at once *urbs* and *civitas*, Brasília has preserved its original guiding principles intact, as reflected in the protection of its urban scales, legally protected by local and federal organisms of government of the country.

The city finds itself today in the midst of a process of consolidation, in accordance with its dual function as city and capital, through the continuing implementation of new equipment and artifacts. The World Heritage property is vulnerable to urban development pressure including increased traffic and public transport requirements. The city's various sectors, as laid out in the initial plan, are now in the process of being supplemented and, indeed, concluded, in line with the original urban principles. These changes in no way jeopardize the singular and outstanding value of Lucio Costa's Pilot Project (Plano Piloto), which remains wholly preserved, both physically and symbolically.

It is possible based on the still undeveloped areas around Brasília, the surrounding green spaces, and the location's topography, to clearly distinguish the city's limits from the territorial expanse in which it was introduced, singular attributes that enable analysis of the site without losing any of the basic information critical to transmitting its continued outstanding universal value.

STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY

The authenticity of Brasília is guaranteed through maintenance of its architecture, urban design, and landscapes, all of which represent a new approach to urban living, reaffirmed by Lucio Costa and Oscar Niemeyer on the basis of the Modernist Movement's principles for 20th century architecture and urbanism.

The primary attributes of the Pilot Project (Plano Piloto) which converge to attribute universal and outstanding value to Brasília include: the intersection of two axes and the hierarchical distribution of the road system, the division of the city into sectors with their respective characteristics and end uses, the network of open and green spaces, the Esplanade of the Ministries and representative structures that make up the Monumental Axis (Eixo Monumental), the superblocks organized on the basis of neighborhood units, and, lastly, Oscar Niemeyer's architectural designs of the key representative buildings.

These attributes are best understood on the basis of the four scales identified by Lucio Costa at the time of Brasília's designation as a heritage site and preserved as the guiding benchmarks of the Pilot Project (Plano Piloto)'s original design: a monumental scale, which confers on Brasília its status as a capital city in which the nation's administrative functions are performed; a residential scale, which embodies a new approach to living, centered on the Thoroughfare Axis (Eixo Rodoviário) along which the Neighborhood Units are distributed

Formatado: Não Realce

and divided into a North and South Wing (Asa Norte and Asa Sul); a social scale, situated at the intersection of the two axes – Monumental and Thoroughfare – where the bank, hotel, business, and service sectors converge to form the city’s central section; and a bucolic scale, which permeates the other three and is composed of large open and green spaces that provide the city with its unique city-park aspect.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Brasília’s importance was recognized from the time of its conception. In 1960, prior to the new capital’s inauguration, the Organic Law of the Federal District (Lei Orgânica do Distrito Federal) provided that any proposed changes to the Pilot Project (Plano Piloto) must be submitted to the Federal Senate for review. The question only took on relevance beginning in the early 1980s with the city’s rapid growth. In 1981, the Working Group for the Preservation of the Historical, Cultural, and Natural Heritage of Brasília (Grupo de Trabalho para Preservação do Patrimônio Histórico, Cultural e Natural de Brasília) was established. Composed of representatives of the National Pro-Memory Foundation (Fundação Nacional Pró-Memória), currently the National Institute of Historical and Artistic Heritage (Instituto Nacional de Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico – IPHAN), the Federal District Government (GDF), and the University of Brasília (UnB), the entity’s studies were critical to Brasília’s inclusion on UNESCO’s List of World Heritage Sites in 1987, providing the basis for the technical dossier which accompanied the city’s candidacy.

At the time, primary responsibility for preserving the site resided with the Secretary of Culture of the GDF, through its Department of Historical and Artistic Heritage (Departamento de Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico – DePHA). This determination was founded on Decree 10829/GDF of October 14, 1987, a legislative instrument submitted by the Brazilian Government to the World Heritage Committee to serve as a binding guarantee for the protection of Brasília which remains in force to this day. Further, in response to an explicit request from UNESCO that same year the GDF decreed the protection of the city’s four scales, while also delimiting the 120 square kilometer area on which the 1990 federal designation of Brasília as a historical site was founded.

In 1990, the Urban Framework of Brasília was officially recognized as a national historical heritage site. The designation was formally enacted through SPHAN/PróMemória Directive 04/90, subsequently replaced by IPHAN Directive 314/92, which remains in force.

Currently, the Federal District Government and the Federal Government exercise shared responsibility for the management and protection of Brasília through the Secretariat of State for Urban and Housing Development (Secretaria de Estado de Desenvolvimento Urbano e Habitação – SEDHAB) and the Federal District Superintendence of the National Institute of Historical and Artistic Heritage (Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional – IPHAN), respectively.

The challenge of preserving Brasília requires assessing present-day issues and demands relating to the city based on its singular urban plan. This necessitates adopting a forward-looking vision for the city, which protects its Outstanding Universal Value while enabling sustainability.

Protection of the Urban Framework of Brasília is governed by a series of legal instruments intended to ensure its preservation on three operational levels: local, federal, and global. At the local level, a set normative instruments consisting of specific laws aimed at protecting the heritage site as well as highly complex body of technical and operational urban legislation based on the Federal District's Urban and Land Settlement Policy have been put in place.

Some of the principal sources of pressure exerted on the heritage site include real estate development, the illegal occupation of public areas and green spaces, the implementation of activities inconsistent with the end use of particular sectors, the encroachment of private property on the lakefront, increased urban traffic, and inadequate public transportation associated with social-spatial segregation across the metropolitan region. Add to this the urban dynamic of surrounding areas in connection with the Federal District's outward push, which has placed intense pressure on the Pilot Project (Plano Piloto), requiring that special attention be devoted to the city's urban landscape as well as the function and use of the corresponding spaces, where the vast majority of public services, jobs, and regional investments are concentrated but less than 10% (9.6%) of the Federal District's population resides.

To address these challenges and recognizing that the preservation and protection of the Urban Framework of Brasília cannot be disassociated from the city's urban development, an Urban Framework Preservation Plan for Brasília (Plano de Preservação do Conjunto Urbanístico de Brasília – PPCUB) is currently under development by SEDHAB/GDF with the assistance of IPHAN. The objective is that the document serve as the primary instrument for planning, preserving, and managing the protected area and for coordinating the measures and agents involved in Brasília's urban development.