FACT SHEET

EXHIBITION

ROBERTO BURLE MARX: THE UNNATURAL ART OF THE GARDEN

DATES

May 23 - August 13, 1991

ORGANIZATION

Guest Curator William Howard Adams, Fellow, Myrin Institute, in collaboration with the Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art.

SPONSORSHIP

Made possible by a generous grant from Banco Safra SA. Additional support has been provided by Mr. and Mrs. Gustavo Cisneros and The International Council of The Museum of Modern Art.

CONTENT

This retrospective examines the work of the Brazilian landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx (b. 1909), one of the most important practitioners of this art form in the twentieth century. Since the 1940s, Burle Marx has designed and built gardens and parks, mainly in South America, which are inspired by exotic native plant material used in the context of a modern world. Often designed in collaboration with major modernist architects, Burle Marx’s gardens incorporate fountains, pools, mosaics, and sculpture. Ranging from exuberantly biomorphic to boldly geometric, his lush designs link art and nature.

The exhibition includes early studies and projects, private gardens, gardens for the workplace, and public gardens (list of major projects attached). These are represented by over sixty drawings, models, and photodocuments, as well as a slide presentation.

PUBLICATION


TRAVEL

An international tour is planned.

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For further information or photographic materials, contact the Department of Public Information, The Museum of Modern Art, 212/708-9750.
List of Major Projects

Private Gardens

Burton Tremaine Residence, 1948
Santa Barbara, California (unexecuted)

Odette Monteiro Estate, 1948
Correias, Rio de Janeiro

Olivo Gomes Estate (Tecelagem Parahyba), 1950, 1965. São José dos Campos, São Paulo

Mr. and Mrs. Gustavo Cisneros Residence, 1980. Caracas, Venezuela

Fazenda Vargem Grande, 1979-90
Clemente Gomes Estate, Areira, São Paulo

Gardens for the Workplace

Ministry of Education and Health, 1936-38
Rio de Janeiro

Safra Bank, 1982
Rua Consolação, São Paulo

Safra Bank, 1982
Rua Bela Cintra, São Paulo

Sitio Santo Antonio da Bica, 1949
Campo Grande, Rio de Janeiro

Public Gardens

Ibirapuera Park, 1953
São Paulo (unexecuted)

Flamengo Park and Museu de Arte Moderno Garden, 1954. Rio de Janeiro

Copacabana Beach, 1970
Rio de Janeiro

Ministry of the Army, 1970
Brasilia