



## Go for Gold: Winning Brazilian Architecture

How trophy-winning buildings translate to first-class houses in the home of modernism's greats



**Catherine Smith** August 13, 2016

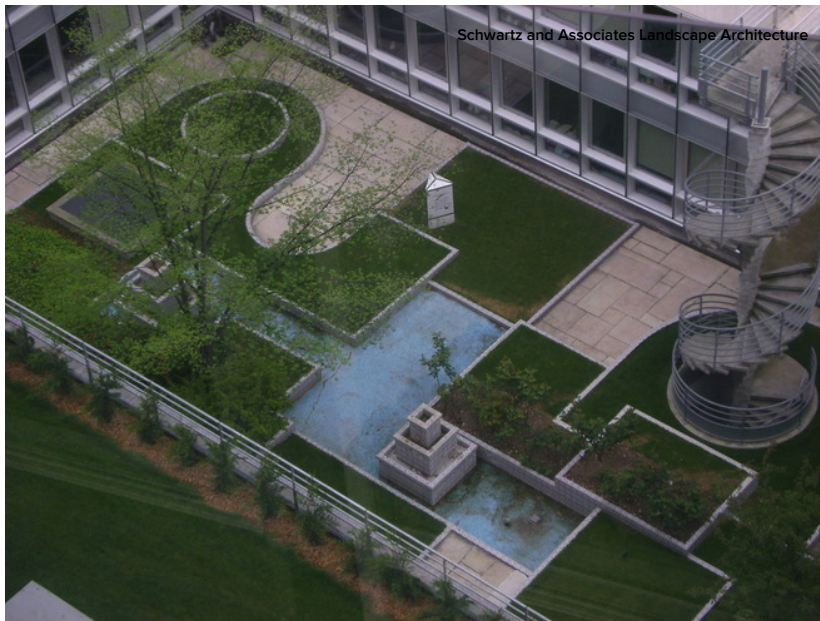
Houzz New Zealand Editorial Staff. A design addict from way back, I can't resist...

[More >](#)

Click "Embed" to display an article on your own website or blog. ×

When you think of Brazilian architecture, it's hard not to think past the catalogue of modernist buildings of the 1950s and '60s, crowned by the city of Brasilia (1956). This brutal minimalism of clean lines and a functional form, concrete and glass, became popular after World War II, driven by some innovative schools of architecture at leading universities in Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.

Oscar Niemeyer leads the pack, one of world's most famous modernist architects (he designed Brasilia with urban designer Lucio Costa) and one of the first global 'starchitects'. The roll call also includes Paolo Mendes da Rocha (he won the Pritzker Prize in 2006, and the Venice architecture Biennale Gold Lion for Lifetime Achievement) who espoused the concrete-formed 'Brazilian brutalism'. Other early greats include Joao Batista Vilanova Artigas, Ruy Ohtake and Jaime Lerner. And a whole new generation of architects are now carrying the torch.



**Project:** United Nations building gardens

**Designer:** Roberto Burle Marx

**Location:** Paris

Landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx worked with the greats, and is considered the pioneer of modernist landscape architecture, a modern 'nature artist' with a particular affinity for tropical gardens and water. A man of many talents, Burle Marx was a fabric, jewellery and print designer, and is credited as one of the first people

to campaign for the preservation of the Brazilian rainforest.

He worked worldwide, including the gardens for the United Nations building, Paris, shown here.



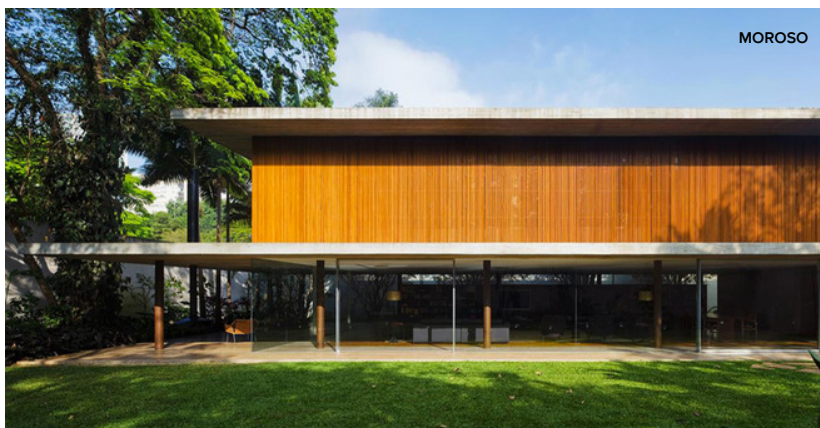
**Project:** The Toblerone House

**Designer:** Studio mk27

**Location:** Brazil

Marcio Kogan's Studio mk27 is one of today's leading proponents of the modernist movement, rethinking and continuing the works. The studio has won hundreds of local and international awards and represented Brazil at the 2012 Venice Biennale.

The Toblerone House, shown here, was shortlisted for the World Architecture Awards the same year.



The ground floor of sliding glass walls and 14 slim steel pillars supports an upper floor box of wooden screens that filter the light, so that the house appears to float over the landscape.



**Project:** Casa Gama Issa

**Designer:** Studio mk27

**Location:** Brazil

Studio mk27's Casa Gama Issa, another World Architecture shortlister, again blurs the boundaries, this time with concrete and curves.

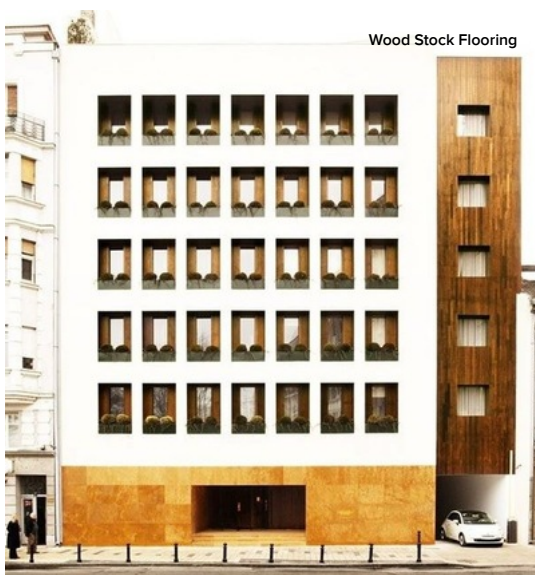


**Project:** Tetris House

**Designer:** Studio mk27

**Location:** Paris

Their 2013 Tetris House has stunning minimalist lines of wood laminate, mixed with stone. The wall of bookshelves directs the view from glass walls at either end to the garden, the horizontal upper blocks appear perfectly balanced.



**Project:** Square Nine

**Designer:** Isay Weinfeld

**Location:** Belgrade

Isay Weinfeld is another of Brazil's leading contemporary architects. Practicing since 1973 he has designed buildings around the world, including the Square Nine hotel in Belgrade and apartment blocks in New York. His recent project is the redesign of the Four Seasons restaurant, but he has also won awards for his work for the iconic

Havaianas' stores too.



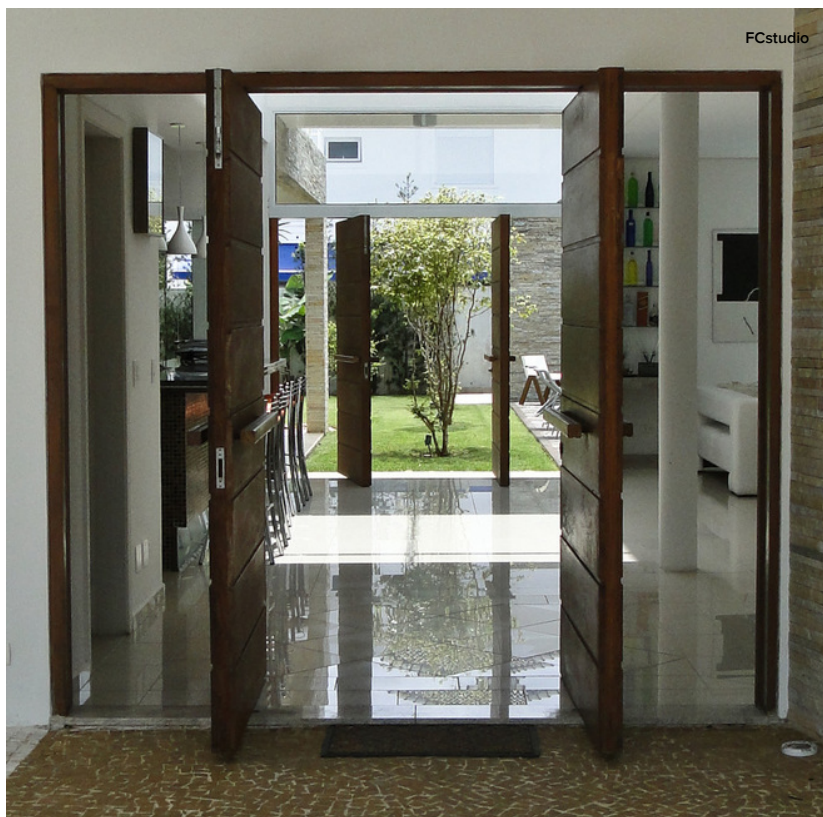
**Project:** Planalto house

**Designer:** FCstudio

**Location:** Pernambuco, Brazil

FCstudio, the Sao Paulo practice founded by architect Flavio Castro, is another inheritor of the mantle, recognised in awards from the Institute of Brazilian Architects, World Architecture Festival, London International Creative Competition and the International Property Awards.

This Planalto house repeats the familiar typology: strong vertical planes, horizontal cantilevered platforms that appear to float, transparency between indoors and out.



In Pernambuco, north eastern Brazil, FCstudio has used pivoting doors at the front and back of the house to draw people through the house and into the garden.



**Project:** Box House

**Designer:** 1:1 Arquitetura:design

**Location:** Brasilia

1:1 Arquitetura:design, based in Brasilia, likes to test scale and space, while incorporating story-telling with lighting, volumes, flow, and contrast.



**Project:** Linhares Dias House

**Designer:** DOMO Arquitetos Associados

**Location:** Brazil

Also based in Brasilia, DOMO Arquitetos Associados is led by architects Daniel Mangabeira, Henrique Coutinho and Matheus Seco that work on both big architectural schemes to small interior design. Their Linhares Dias House would comfortably fit into any Australasian setting, complete with 60's mod transparent and breeze block walls.

Walters Storyk Design Group



**Project:** Morro do Chapeau  
**Designer:** Eduarda Correan  
**Location:** Belo Horizonte

Enormous country weekend houses – this one on the outskirts of Belo Horizonte, Brazil's third largest metropolitan area – have breathtaking landscapes, with views of mountains and gardens.

The pool room of Morro do Chapeau, designed by celebrated Brazilian architect Eduarda Correan included glass skylights, insulated by a special micro perforated transparent foil to eliminate audio reverberation from the nearby pool equipment and sound systems.



The Brazil office of Walters-Storyk Design Group, the international architecture and acoustic design firm, devised the acoustics for the enclosed pool and spa area.

Espasso



As famous as the architecture, mid-century Brazilian furniture has also garnered a world wide reputation. Espasso, founded in 2002 by Carlos Junqueira has brought contemporary Brazilian furniture designers to the fore, as well as conserving the country's rich design heritage with pieces by greats such as Jorge Zalsupin and Oscar Niemeyer.

The sculptural wooden Diz armchairs on the right are by Sergio Rodrigues, considered the father of Brazilian furniture.



**Designer:** João Armentano  
Arquitetura

**Location:** Brazil

Brazilian architecture is not just about spreading suburban or country plots. High rise apartments dominate in the cities too. Here a triplex apartment by São Paulo architect João Armentano Arquitetura combines the best of striking architecture, panoramic views and the sculptural landscaping pioneered by Roberto Burle Marx.

Item 6 Arquitetura e Sustentabilidade



**Project:** Paisagismo Residencial

**Designer:** Item 6 Arquitetura e Sustentabilidade

**Location:** Vila Nova Conceição

Another rooftop terrace, this time by Item 6 Arquitetura e Sustentabilidade in the desirable neighbourhood of Vila Nova Conceição in São Paulo, frames the skyscraper views with a wall of tropical plants.



**Project:** Copacaba Triplex

**Designer:** Carlos Cesar Ferreira

**Location:** Rio de Janeiro

This beautiful triplex apartment in Rio de Janeiro by architect Carlos Cesar Ferreira integrated the sea view of the famous Copacabana beach with white and light.

DOMO Arquitetos Associados





**TELL US**

What would be your dream Brazilian architecture destination? Share your built-up fantasies in the Comments below.

**MORE**

Browse more stories on architecture