

# The Museum of Modern Art

For Immediate Release  
February 1991

## 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**         *Roberto Burle Marx: The Unnatural Art of the Garden* by William Howard Adams. Foreword by Stuart Wrede, Director, Department of Architecture and Design, The Museum of Modern Art. 80 pages. 50 color and 42 black-and-white illustrations. Published by The Museum of Modern Art. Distributed by Harry N. Abrams, Inc., and available at The MoMA Book Store.
- 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.

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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

*Sítio 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  
Brasília