

PRESENTATION

This book inaugurates the activities of *FRBH Edições* press and is also the first publication in its *Coleção Bolso* [Pocket Collection]. Set up as an individually-run small business, the press aims to publicize works on culture in general and, more specifically, reflections on architectural configuration on any scale, from domestic to metropolitan space. This is the scope of the research undertaken by the group I coordinate – *Dimensões morfológicas do processo de urbanização* [Morphological dimensions of the process of urbanization], registered in the Brazilian Research Council-CNPq's *Directorio de Grupos de Pesquisa no Brasil* [Directory of research groups in Brazil]. The initial motivation was to create a medium for publicizing the group's intellectual production: dissertations, theses, conference papers and essays of various kinds. However, since our group is in close contact with various other research groups in Brazil and abroad, the press is also designed to be a vehicle available to them. We shall be honoured to meet their demand! The narrow range of vehicles for publicizing research in architecture, a scientific discipline rapidly becoming consolidated, will thus be widened.

The *pocket* format aims at making bibliographic output available at low cost, thus benefiting, researchers, teachers and students in architecture and associated fields as well as the general public with an interest in such topics. They are small-format books, printed in black and white on cheap paper, but with good printing and binding quality, and a design that will mark out the press's visual identity. Moreover, the books are to be supplemented by other media such as the Internet: we have created a web page (<http://www.fredericodeholanda.com.br> and <http://www.flickr.com/photos/fredericodeholanda>) the contents of which will supplement the printed matter with larger-dimension, colour illustrations, animations, films, audio presentations etc. The page already provides links to books previously published or organized by our group – and will do so with greater frequency, no doubt, as the new press gets into its stride.

The present text was written as a chapter of *O arquiteto Oscar Niemeyer* [The architect Oscar Niemeyer], organized by Sylvia Ficher and Andrey Schlee¹. I am grateful for their permission to publish it separately as an independent book before it appears in the set to which it rightly belongs. Owing to greater availability of space, this version is slightly longer than the original and contains more illustrations. Aiming at a wider reading public and with a view to enhancing our interaction with research groups abroad, it is presented in a bilingual English/Portuguese edition. This will improve conditions for disseminating ideas, in an exchange process that will, we trust, benefit all involved.

Brasilia, October 2nd, 2010.

Frederico de Holanda

¹ FICHER, Sylvia, SCHLEE, Andrey (orgs.). *O arquiteto Oscar Niemeyer*. Empresa das Artes (forthcoming).