



## ISABEL DUPRAT

IN THE 1930s, ROBERTO BURLE MARX WAS BRAZIL'S FIRST landscape designer to make a clean break with the colonial language of the past. Embracing Brazil's botanical plenty and demonstrating how perfectly possible it is to adopt a nonconfrontational attitude toward the natural world, Marx unfolded a vision of harmony between man and nature that became the root from which his garden-making evolved into art. This approach is very much alive in Brazil today, particularly in the hands of Isabel Duprat, who as a young architect worked alongside Marx to collect and study Brazil's indigenous flora, setting the stage for their lifelong friendship. In the past 25 years, she has been prolific, designing projects ranging from the restoration of Marx's garden at the Instituto Moreira Salles in Rio de Janeiro to a 21st-century park placed as the centerpiece of, rather than as the complement to, São Paulo's BankBoston building.

Rather than adopt a style that is then superimposed on the landscape, Duprat takes a naturalist approach that adapts to the unique needs of a particular space. "I love to embrace unexpected situations and take advantage of them," says Duprat. As an example, her solution for the design of the entrance of São Paulo's corporate Torre Sul building was found in excess slabs of Brazilian green quartz used for a fountain constructed at the same site. Placing the stones in careful harmony with each other, she created a language and a rhythm between the elements so that each plays its own part in a kind of musical composition.

**Opposite:** For the entrance garden of this São Paulo residence, Isabel Duprat (at right) counterpoints sculpted bamboo reaching toward the sky with river stones at rest in the pool. **Top:** A similar approach is at play in her Isamu Noguchi-inspired stone garden at the entrance to the Torre Sul building, where the elements are harmoniously balanced. **Above:** Creating a feeling of a house in the country, Duprat surrounded this swimming pool with plants able to thrive in the city's subtropical climate.



