

PHOTOGRAPHY

Brasilia photos win award

Photographer is enchanted by Niemeyer's works

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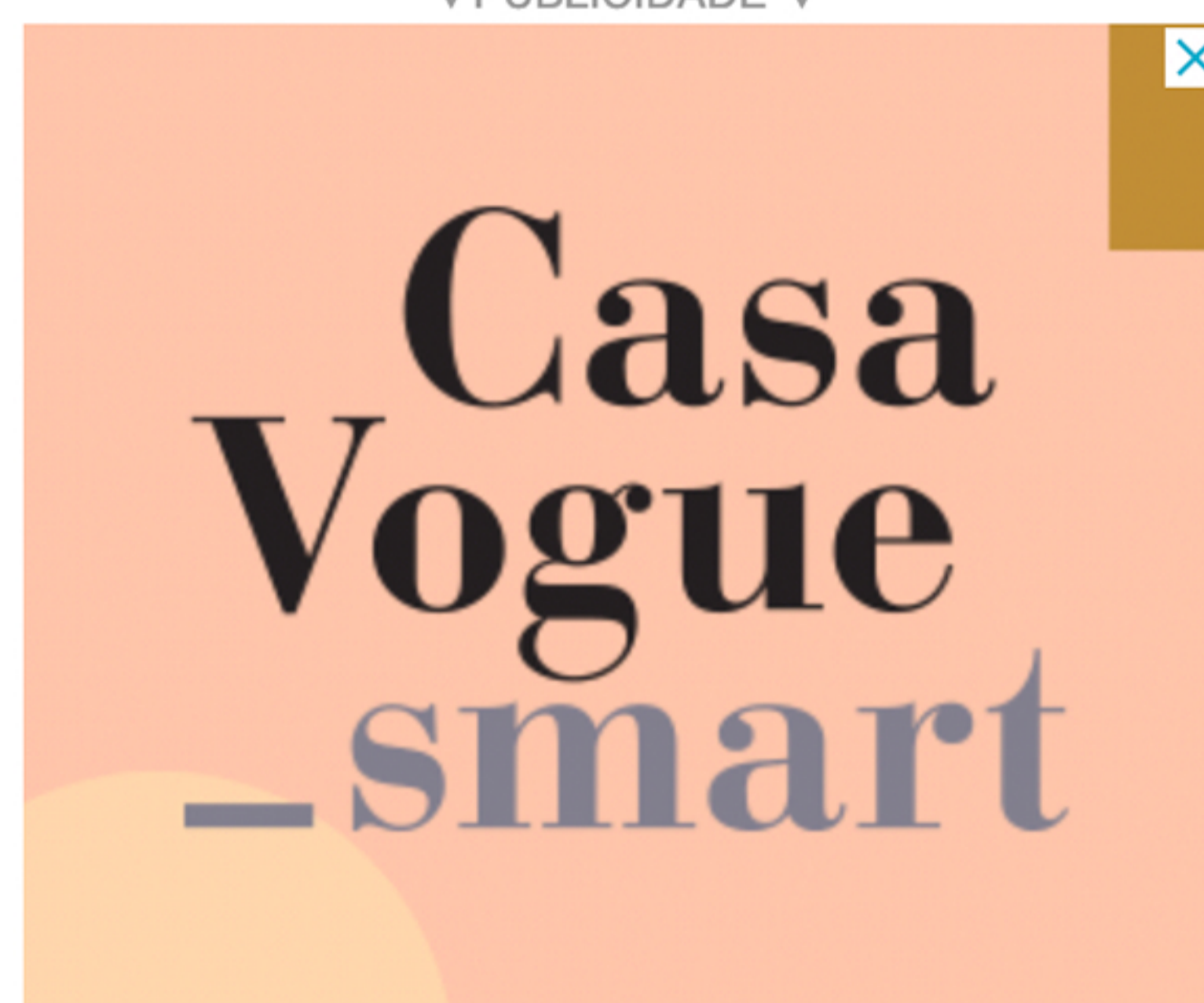


Itamaraty Palace , 2012

Although his name doesn't cause immediate identification when it reaches the common ear, **Andrew Prokos** is a renowned art and architecture photographer based in New York. His photographs have already been widely published, as well as being exhibited at the Museum of The City of New York. His works are part of important corporate art collections. But for us Brazilians, what is most relevant to be said about this figure is that he photographed Brasília, and these photos were awarded.

In February 2012 Prokos was in Rio de Janeiro on business when a fellow New Yorker who grew up in Brazil recommended that he visit Brasília. "You will enjoy photographing the architecture there", promised the friend. Despite knowing little about the city, Prokos accepted the suggestion. There, the photographer was received by a local family. They made a point of introducing him to all the best that was available in Brasilia. Thus, Prokos got to know the local cuisine and leisure on the banks of the Paranoá River.

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National Congress , 2012

His long-exposure photos and extreme precision further highlight Niemeyer's rich drawing. Some say that, with his images, Prokos transformed Brasília into a surrealist work. But the photographer retorts humbly, "Any surreal aspect of Brasília is due to Niemeyer, not me". In any case, with or without surrealist intent, Prokos' captures delight both lay and professional eyes. Proof of this is the important award they won, the **International Photography Awards** .

"The panel of judges selected the Prokos night photos from over ten thousand contestants," said Linda Dzhema, director of the award. The jury in 2013 included more than 70 international gallery owners, photo editors and art collectors such as the National Geographic Society, The New York Times Magazine, Yale University Art Gallery, The Royal Photographic Society, The British Journal of Photography, Tate Britain, and Taschen Books and Phaidon Press.



National Museum of the Cultural Complex of the Republic , 2012



Alvorada Palace , 2012

“Brasília remembers the place where I grew up, Florida, due to the existence of a lot of open space, the lifestyle more suburban than urban and the slower pace than in other capitals”, said the photographer. “In addition, there are plenty of green areas, sun, swimming pools and blue skies”, he added. “Even if the city is criticized for its utopian character, it seems to me that **Niemeyer** and Lucio Costa got it right in several urban aspects, especially far from the Monumental Axis, in residential areas”, he analyzed.

But when it comes to architecture, Prokos heads to the Monumental Axis to point out favorites. The Planalto Palace, the **Alvorada Palace** and the Federal Supreme Court are his favorite buildings. “The minimalist, elegant and light style of these works escapes the standard of state buildings, normally full of Greco-Roman ornaments, as in Washington”, he explained.

“Although the North American capital is beautiful, it is undeniable that the buildings carry the weight of authority and tradition”, he says. “Niemeyer's buildings are the opposite, creative and somewhat fantastic. It is noticed that its author is a nonconformist, who is unconcerned about transmitting an authoritarian message with his work”, diagnosed Prokos quite cleverly.



Alvorada Palace , 2012



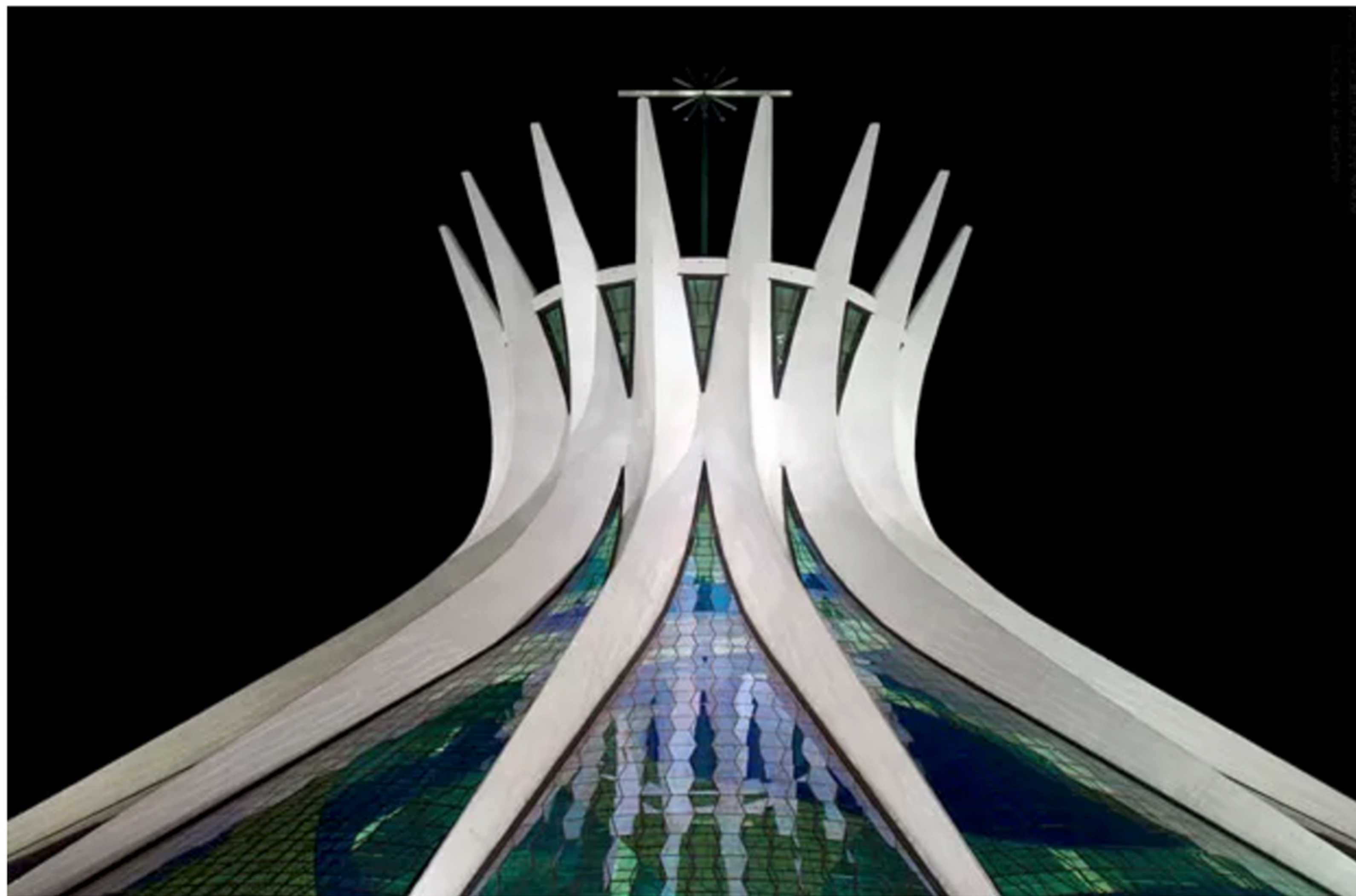
National Congress , 2012



Planalto Palace , 2012



Duque de Caxias Square , 2012



Brasilia Cathedral , 2012



Brasilia Cathedral , 2012



Brasilia Cathedral , 2012



Brasilia Cathedral , 2012