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Feature: Paulo Mendes da Rocha

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a+u's December issue is dedicated to Brazilian architect Paulo Mendes da Rocha, who passed away in May. Born in Vitória, Brazil, in 1928, Mendes da Rocha played a central role in the making of a Brazilian modernism, the Paulista School in particular, through a distinct and powerful use of concrete. Brazilian Museum of Sculpture has the openness of the "artificial landscape" that "ripples out toward the rest of the city" and "aspires to welcome ways of experiencing urban spaces that do not and cannot take place in the city," as described in an essay by Daniele Pisani. In his public buildings we discover something more than materiality, a profound ethic toward users and inhabitants. A new landscape and horizon emerge underneath its monumental superstructure. Together with new explanatory texts by José Paulo Gouvêa, 6 significant projects outlining Mendes da Rocha's contributions to public space are featured here alongside snapshots of his home and office, as well as whimsical sketches and drawings.

Text in English and Japanese.

a+u - Architecture and Urbanism – is a monthly architectural magazine established in 1971 that highlights a broad range of the work and activities of top contemporary architects from around the world in a well-presented format.