



Brazilian Architecture – Viewed from the Middle

27th May to 15 June

In this fourth edition of the Brazilian Architecture program designed by *Instituto Tomie Ohtake* – a space that cherishes architecture alongside with visual arts and design since its foundation -, guest curator **Nelson Brissac** put together three photographers to display a look on the surface of urban plan from within the city, “as weeds growing through rocks.”

The curator highlights that one of the most striking features of the contemporary metropolis is that it cannot afford seeing itself. Hence his proposition to photographers **Arnaldo Pappalardo**, **Mauro Restiffe** and **Pio Figueiroa**, from them to seize the city from its streets, squares and train stations, immersed in situations experienced by citizens every day. As such, this exhibition is not marked by well-known, quickly recognized monuments and buildings. “Instead, this deals with a metropolis where we merge and mingle with what is so typical to it - sometimes certain pictures appear to belong to locations other than those photographed,” says the representative of ITO’s Curating and Research Department (NPC).

According to Brissac, the landscape morphology, the urban design, the layout of the main arteries and even the location of different neighborhoods escape from the experience of individuals, evading being grasped by visual observation. “We look at this compact mass of buildings and cannot discern the hill, the valley or even the water stream it eventually conceals. Nor are able we to sense when walking up and down the streets, the way through which the avenues and train lines that articulate the farthest points of the city actually flows,” says the curator.

To attain this purpose, *Viewing from the Middle* was produced by photographers who worked face-to-face with the metropolis, from within. According to the curator, large-scale mapping requires grasping what cannot be directly measured; and there is no way to intuitively visualize the shape of the space in which we are immersed. “In this exhibition, the photographer follows the city.”

Under its Brazilian Architecture program, Instituto Tomie Ohtake has already held the following exhibitions: *Viver na Floresta [Living in the Forest]*, curated by Abílio Guerra (2010); *O Coração da Cidade – a invenção do espaço de convivência [The Heart of the City - the invention of living space]*, curated by Julio Katinsky (2011); and *Arquitetura Brasileira vista por grandes fotógrafos [Brazilian architecture through the eyes of great photographers]*, curated by André Corrêa do Lago (2013).