BRASILIA: Growth of a New Capital

Inaugurated on 21 April 1960, Brazil's new capital of Brasilia began with a population of 140,000 and a master plan that envisioned controlled growth and development that would limit the city to 500,000 inhabitants. Architect Lucio Costa and architect Oscar Niemeyer intended that every element - from the layout of the residential and administrative districts to the symmetry of the buildings themselves - should act in harmony with the city's overall design. This consisted of a bird-shaped core with residential areas situated between the encircling “arms” of Lake Paranoá. The city was a landmark in town planning and was recognized as a World Heritage site in 1987.

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