

Projects

GUANABARA AND RIO DE JANEIRO MASTER PLAN



By virtue of a contract signed in January 1964 with the State of Guanabara, Brazil, Doxiadis Associates undertook the preparation of a Master Plan and Program for the development of the whole State of Guanabara, the former Federal Capital District of Brazil, including the city of Rio de Janeiro.

The duration of the study was of two years and a final report on the Urban Development of the State of Cuanabara and of the city of Rio de Janeiro within Cuanabara was submitted to the Government in December 1965.

The study was carried out by a large team of Doxiadis Associates experts, which worked in close cooperation with the authorities of Canabara State.

In 1964 the total population of the Rio de Janeiro Metropolitan Area was about 5,5 million people, whereas the population of Rio de Janeiro proper within Cuanabara came to 3.75 million people. The state of Guanabara covered some 1,170 sq. km. within a Metropolitan Area covering a total of some 4,000 sq. km. The city was facing numerous problems and its economy was in a slump partly as a result of the loss of federal functions to the new capital city of Brasilia.

All possible available information pertinent to the Study Area were collected and collated at three scales:

- a. The macroscale, covering the whole of Brazil.
- b. The mesoscale, covering the State of Guanabara and the Metropolitan area.
- c. The microscale, which dealt with specific communities within the Study Area.

After a systematic analysis of information and data concerning the natural environment, the economy, the demographic and physical characteristics of Rio and the other human settlements in the area, the study proceeded to an elaboration, both qualitative and quantitative, of the problems that affected the city at the previously mentioned scales.

A population of 8.4 million people was projected for the target year 2000 within Guanabara, while it was expected that the Metropolitan area of Rio de Janeiro would have a population of some 18.2 millions.

The identification of problems led to the definition of policies for overcoming these problems and subsequently to an estimate of the exact future needs of the city in terms of infrastructure works, transportation network, facilities and amenities, was made at a city wide and neighborhood scale (1:100,000 for the Metropolitan Area; 1:50,000 for the Master Plan of Cuanabara State; 1:20,000 for the main road network; 1:5,000 for Copacabana and Maneue districts).

The needs for every five year period up to the year 2000 were in turn translated into land requirements which served as the basis for the preparation of the Plan. However, the Study was not limited only to the elaboration of a physical plan for growth of the State, but preceded to the preparation of a detailed long-term program of action for implementation of the Plan, in the light of the needs of the State and the city of Rio de Janeiro and the available public and private financial resources.

The basic remedies proposed by the Plan and Program were the overhauling and improvement of all public utility networks including the transportation network and the creation of a new physical structure for growth that would permit the city to develop along an east-west axis within the State of Cuanabara. In order to assist this growth, impetus was to be provided by the creation of a large industrial complex and port at the western edge of the State of Guanabara on the bay of Sepetiba.

The above basic proposals of the Plan aimed at overcoming the faulty and obsolescent infrastructure of the State that had in the recent past caused most new business and industry to shun Guanabara and to locate in areas of Brazil more favorably equipped with water, electricity, sewerage networks and transportation facilities. The reshaping of the physical structure of the city aimed at overcoming the problems caused by the present concentric form of Rio de Janeiro, which piled up pressures upon the center and discouraged expansion outward.