Rio 2016 Olympic Park Competition
Aquele Abraço

SWA provided master planning and landscape architecture for the Rio 2016 Olympic Park Competition, located on a 118-hectare site in the neighborhood of Barra da Tijuca. The underlying concept, “Embrace”, weaves through the design in a grand planning gesture which both defines the Olympic Games and provides a lasting identity for the City of Rio de Janeiro. More specifically, this masterplan encompasses ‘Games’, ‘Transition’, and ‘Legacy’ as an integrated plan that grows and blossoms over time, guided by strategies for urban design, sustainability and accessibility.

The Olympic infrastructure, designed for both the present and the future, creates an exuberant Games experience which easily adapts into a sustainable urban community woven together by public space: an innovative greenway system, restored wetland habitat, and urban park.

Starting with the Olympic Games, which brings people from all over the world together in the spirit of competition, our proposal creates a festive experience for all to enjoy. Post Games, this plan will transform into a robust mix of neighborhoods and open spaces around the remaining Olympic infrastructure. Thus, the site will have an uninterrupted life from the Olympics forward.

Location
Barra da Tijuca, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Client
Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil

SWA Scope
Master Planning
Landscape Architecture

Size
118 hectares

Project Team
SWA Group - Land Planning, Landscape Architecture and Urban Design
Gensler, Coutinho Diegues Cordeiro (CDC), Arquitetos and MPG Arquitetos Associados - Architects
Vicente del Rio, Professor of City and Regional Planning, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo - Master Planning
Herrera Environmental Consultants and Sherwood Design Engineers - Sustainability
Walter P. Moore - Transportation
Richard Bezemer - Security

Awards
Second place out of 59 competitors in overall design competition