Full Documentation Fiche 2003
composed by national/regional working party of:
0. Picture of building/ group of buildings/ urban scheme/ landscape/ garden
depicted item: Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos
source: Brazil Builds, Philip Goodwin
date: 1943

1. Identity of building/ group of buildings/ group of buildings/
landscape/ garden
1. 1 Data for identification
current name: Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil – Departamento de Pernambuco (IAB-PE)
former/original/variant name: Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos, Pavilhão Luiz Nunes.
number(s) and name(s) of street(s): Rua Jenner de Souza, 130
town: Recife
province/state: Pernambuco
post code: 52010-130
block: -
lot: -
country: Brazil
national topographical grid reference: 25 L 290595.00 m E 9108686.00 m S (UTM)
current typology: ADM (Professional Institutions)
former/original/variant typology: ADM (Public building)
comments on typology: An exemplar application of Le Corbusier and Pierre Jeanneret manifesto Five points towards a new architecture: the free plan, the free façade, the ribbon window, the roof garden and the pilotis, which in this case is largely occupied by the reception rooms.

1.2 Status of protection
protected by: The Fundação do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico de Pernambuco (FUNDARPE), at the State of Pernambuco, and by the Instituto do Patrimônio Histórico e Artístico Nacional (IPHAN), at the national level.
grade: State level, by the Act nº 11.193 and, at the national level, by the Process number:1206-T-86
date: 1986 and 1998, State and national levels, respectively.
valid for:
remarks:

1.3 Visually or functionally related building(s)/site(s)
name(s) of surrounding area/building(s): The building is situated at the Derby neighborhood, close to its main square Derby Square, designed by Roberto Burle Marx when member of the Diretoria de Arquitetura e Urbanismo.
visual relations: It is closely related to the Capibaribe River and the School of Medicine building.
functional relations: The building was conceived as an institute of forensic medicine integrated with the School of Medicine, therefore contributing to the education and scientific research on the field.

2. History of building(s) etc.
2.1 Chronology
Note if the dates are exactly known (e) or approximately estimated = circa (c) or (±)
commission or competition date: 1936
design period(s): 1936-1937
start of site work: 1937
completion/inauguration: 1937

2.2 Summary of development
commission brief: the staff of the School of Medicine and the staff of the State of Pernambuco Government.
design brief: Luis Nunes and the staff of the Diretoria de Arquitetura e Urbanismo (Architecture and Urbanism Department).
building/construction: Serviço de Viação e Obras Públicas do Governo do Estado de Pernambuco
completed situation:
original situation or character of site:
2. 3 Relevant persons/organisations
original owner(s)/patron(s): Universidade do Recife (University of Recife)
architect(s): Luis Nunes and Fernando Saturnino de Britto
landscape/garden designer(s): -
other designer(s):
consulting engineer(s): Joaquim Cardozo
building contractor(s): Serviço de Viação e Obras Públicas do Governo do Estado de Pernambuco

2. 4 Other persons or events associated with the building(s)/site
name(s): Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil – Departamento de Pernambuco (IAB-PE)
association: current tenant
event(s):
period: since 1984

2. 5 Summary of important changes after completion
type of change: alteration/renovation/restoration/extension/other: Restoration
date(s): 2002
circumstances/reasons for change: The building was in an advanced stage of decay, particularly with regards to the concrete structure of the roof garden slab and the window metal frames.
effects of changes:
persons/organisations involved: ): Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil – Departamento de Pernambuco (IAB-PE)

3. Description of building(s) etc.
3. 1 Site/building character
Summarize main character and give notes on surviving site/building(s)/part(s) of area.
If a site: principle features and zones of influence; main elements in spatial composition.
If a building: main features, construction and materials.
The Pavilion was built as an annex of the former building of the School of Medicine and aimed to host its anatomy laboratory and the institute of forensic medicine. It is one of the most harmonious projects elaborated by Diretoria de Arquitetura e Urbanismo, in tune with the European avant-garde, in particular with regards to the fully application of the Le Corbusier and Jeanneret manifesto Five points towards a new architecture It is possible to note the influence of Le Corbusier’s projects, identifying the five points of architecture: pilotis (which is suggested, as the ground floor is occupied by the reception rooms), free facade, open floor plan, ribbon windows and roof garden.

The building is composed of a horizontal parallelogram resting on columns and also a secondary volume at the top floor with one of the faces of a cylindrical
section. The frontal façade has only straight lines with a long strip of ribbon windows that emphasizes building horizontality. Wooden shutters were used to fill this opening, ensuring the symmetry of the façade. In contrast, curve plans were used in the back façade. The West façade is filled by a specific type of hollow elements, called cobogó, allowing the natural wind flows. This is an important element of modern architecture in Brazil, representing a concern with local climate. (VAZ, 1988). The building structure is made of reinforced concrete and the columns are independent from the supporting walls.

3. 2 Current use
of whole building/site: Head Office of the Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil – Departamento de Pernambuco (IAB-PE)
of principal components (if applicable):
comments:

3. 3 Present (physical) condition
of whole building/site: Preserves original building conditions
components (if applicable): -
of other elements (if applicable): -
of surrounding area (if applicable): -
comments: The restoration project was based on the analysis of the current conditions of the distinct materials and architectural components, with particular attention to the reinforced concrete structure. An accurate study of the layers of painting accumulated over the years showed a distinctive original coloring palette which distinguished the supporting elements from the partitions. These features were restored.

It is also noteworthy the solution given to the introduction of an air conditioning system at the second floor, in order to maintain the flow of natural ventilation as original conceived by the architects: the surface of hollowed blocks is closed by a retractable curtain when the air conditioning system is on.

3. 4 Note(s) on context, indicating potential developments
Indicate, if known, potential developments relevant for the conservation/threats of the building/site

4. Evaluation
Give the scientific reasons for selection for docomomo documentation
Intrinsic value
4. 1 technical evaluation:

The reinforced concrete structure is composed by a set of twelve columns that supports two floors. All the internal partitions are removable.

The hollowed block used on the West façade was originally designed by the civil engineers Amadeu Coimbra, Ernst August Boeckmann e Antônio de Góis (which
initials Co-Bo-Go originated the name of the product) to be used to form light partitions. Nunes adapted it as a sun protection and wind flow device in many buildings. Produced in industrial scale, the cobogó was in consonance with the Nunes’ standardization concepts.

4. 2 social evaluation:
As an institute of forensic medicine integrated with the School of Medicine, the building housed two important activities: the study of human anatomy and the application of medical knowledge to legal questions.

4. 3 cultural and aesthetic evaluation:
In the design of the Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos are reified the Five points towards a new architecture. The potentialities of the free plan and the free façade are fully explored to convey aesthetic and functional quality.

Comparative significance
4. 4 canonical status (local, national, international)
The Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos is internationally renowned since the 1940s when it was selected by Philp Goodwin to take part in the exhibition Brazil Builds, promoted by the Museum of Modern Art (MoMa), in New York, and published in the correspondent book Brazil Builds, architecture new and old – 1652-1942.

It is a listed building, both at the state and national levels.

4. 5 historic and reference values:
Luis Nunes was invited by Carlos de Lima Cavalcanti, the governor of the State of Pernambuco, in 1934, to assume a position at the Setor de Obras Públicas do Estado de Pernambuco. In the same year, Nunes creates the Diretoria de Arquitetura e Construção (Architecture and Building Department), later Diretoria de Arquitetura e Urbanismo (Architecture and Urbanism Department), responsible for planning and designing the public buildings of the State.

Nunes restructures the institutional procedures aiming at a program of standardization and efficiency. He invites professionals and students in tune with the concepts of modern architecture, amongst them the as structural engineer Joaquim Cardoso and the landscape designer Roberto Burle Marx, who will later become internationally renowned.

The legacy of Luis Nunes and his collaborators are represented by the Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos. Seen from the prism of the public administration, the building is a sheer reflection of the standardization and efficient control of the building site, as it was entirely built with construction remainder of other public buildings (SILVA, 1988). From the point of view of the architectural affiliation, Vaz (1988) highlights the relevance of the Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos in the
specific context as a reification of the *Five points towards a new architecture* and its similitude with the Ville Savoy.

5. **Documentation**

5.1 archives/written records/correspondence etc. (state location/ address):
The original plans of the building are housed at the Arquivo Público Estadual Jordão Emerenciano, in Recife.

5.2 principal publications (in chronological order):


5.3 visual material (state location/ address)
original visual records/drawings/photographs/others:
recent photographs and survey drawings:
Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos / Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil
Source: Bárbara França, 2007
Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos / Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil
Source: Bárbara França, 2007

Source: RAPOSO et al, 2007

Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos / Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil: ground floor.
Source: RAPOSO et al, 2007

Pavilhão de Verificação de Óbitos / Instituto de Arquitetos do Brasil: first floor.
Source: RAPOSO et al, 2007
5. **4 list documents included in supplementary dossier**

6. **Fiche report**

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   - **date of report:** July 2012

**examination by DOCOMOMO national/regional section**

   - **approval by working party co-ordinator/registers correspondent (name):**
   - **sign and date:**

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**examination by DOCOMOMO ISC/R**

   - **name of ISC member in charge of the evaluation:**
   - **comment(s):**
   - **sign and date:**
   - **ISC/R approval:**
   - **date:**
   - **working party/ref. n°:**
   - **NAi ref. n°:**