

MONOCLE

A BRIEFING ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, BUSINESS, CULTURE & DESIGN

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The ascent of Brasilia: Sharpening Brazil's foreign policy

Monocle REPORTS on why yellow and green are the new red, white and blue in international diplomacy

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+ HONG KONG: AN URBAN SURVEY

SEVEN STEPS TO DIPLOMATIC SUCCESS



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Go on an embassy building spree **3**

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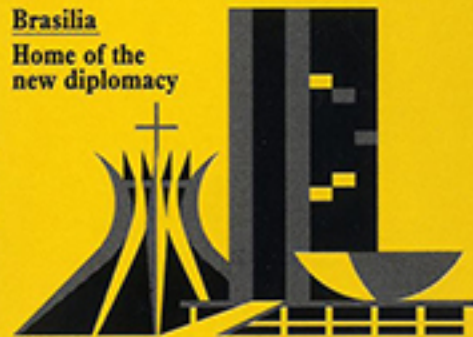
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A NATION ON THE UP

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Brasilia
Home of the new diplomacy



D/D DESIGN DIRECTORY

32-page special section for home and office



The Ministry of External Relations' Itamaraty Palace, Brasilia
Building designed by Oscar Niemeyer



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Bureaux Milan/ Tokyo

Preface

Two crisp, clean offices manage to meet the exacting aesthetic principles of their creators, while also being warm, inspiring spaces for their occupants.

Writers

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Danielle Demetriou

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Edmund Sumner

Bureau 1 Sawaya & Moroni, Milan

Architect William Sawaya wanted to create a simple, functional and clean environment when his practice, Sawaya & Moroni, moved offices.

The firm was set up in 1978 by Beirut-born Sawaya and Italian Paolo Moroni. The duo work on a range of projects, designing everything from private residential commissions to hotels. They also produce their own line of limited-edition furniture and silverware.

Having resided in the same inner-city Milan office for almost 20 years, Sawaya & Moroni relocated to a nearby building on bustling Via Marco de Marchi. The site was formerly an art gallery and the entire ground floor, covering around 300 sq m, had to be renovated to make way for a studio, conference room and reception.

"I wanted the simplest office. I hate visual confusion," says Sawaya.

Inside, it's serene and clutter-free, thanks to hardworking storage. There's no dull office furniture either – instead you'll find pieces from Sawaya & Moroni's own collection dotted around, such as the Girl's Best Friend lamp on the front desk. There are bespoke pieces, too – in the main studio, all 12 designers sit around one central table.



Top five features

- 01 Sawaya & Moroni fills the office with its own designs, such as the white Flora chairs.
- 02 A central table promotes creative interaction.
- 03 A wood-panelled reception area provides a warm welcome to visitors.
- 04 Large wood-framed windows make the most of the garden view.
- 05 Bespoke storage solutions keep desks free from distracting clutter.



A sleek, back-lit reception desk crafted from African wenge creates an unusual and elegant entranceway. Digital artwork in the conference room by US artist and Rhode Island School of Design president John Maeda adds a playful and inspiring touch.

Rooms are bathed in natural light and the original parquet flooring gives a homely warmth. "We have big windows overlooking a small garden, which is rare in central Milan," says Sawaya. — (M) sawayamoroni.com

