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FROM THE CEO

# YOUR OWN VERY PRIVATE VIEW



Bonnie Stone Sellers, CEO Christie's International Real Estate

There is an art to finding the right home – especially when you have a collection of paintings and sculptures to display. So how do you find the right home for such a collection? Quite simple – you ask your architect to design your property around it. Starting on page 38, we meet architects from across the globe, including Seattle-based Jim Olson of Olson Kundig Architects, who have built luxurious homes to house their clients' collections.

This issue's cover property in Jardim Botânico, Rio de Janeiro, could almost be mistaken for a gallery itself, with sleek modernist lines by architect Ruy Rezende making the most of its spectacular setting. Read about its owners' approach to the interior design on page 16.

This issue also features newly expanded coverage of luxury travel (p12), as well as even more art and auction news and features, as befits our brand family.

Like our colleagues at Christie's auction house, our exclusive global affiliates are experts in their field, with unrivaled knowledge about luxury homes. This issue features more than 190 of their exceptional properties for sale around the world; you can find even more online at www.christiesrealestate.com

Find our latest listings, news, iPad app, and a digital version of this magazine at www.christiesrealestate.com

## urban urban eden

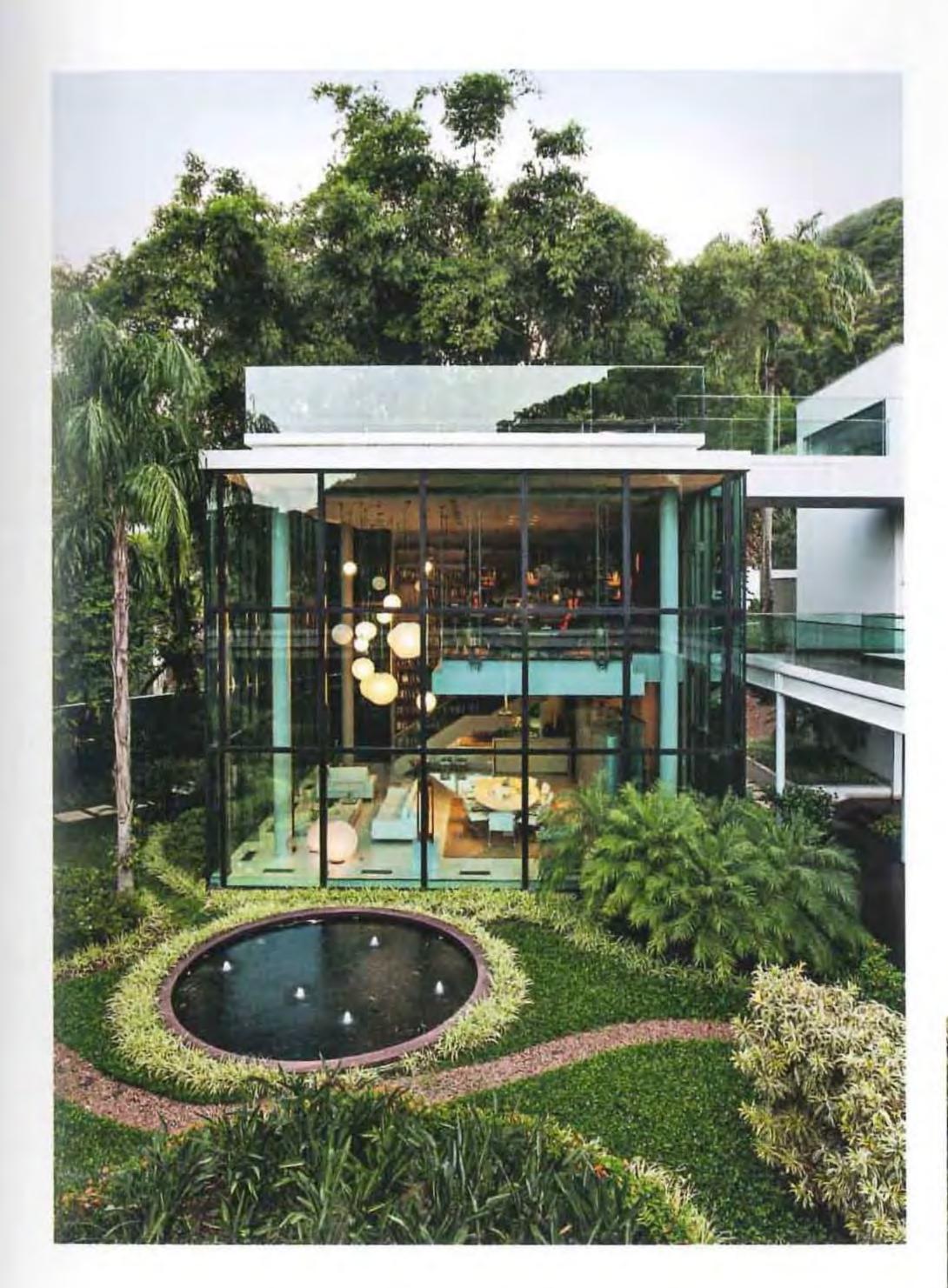
Set at the base of Rio's Corcovado Mountain, under the watchful gaze of Christ the Redeemer, is a striking example of modern living where clean lines and a pared-back palette create an oasis of space and calm

PHOTOGRAPHY MATTHEW WILLIAMS









"Each room in this house was designed to unify the interior and exterior, optimizing perspectives..."

Ruy Rezende

learly visible from Jardim Botânico, a noted residential area that dates back to 1808 when botanical gardens were established here, the outstretched arms of *Cristo Redentor* – Christ the Redeemer – welcome the world to Rio de Janeiro, a city preparing to host two of the largest events in the global calendar: the FIFA World Cup 2014 and the 2016 Olympic Games.

Just 15 minutes from Brazil's famous beaches, Jardim Botânico is a neighborhood edged by the lush Tijuca rainforest and the water and parks of Lagoa Rodrigo de Freitas – a green, airy, and calm oasis in the midst of bustling Rio. That serene mood and the magnificence of the statue are mirrored in a fabulously contemporary six-bedroom family home in the area, where a 26-foot turquoise picture of Christ was the starting point for the property's sophisticated interior design. Matched by views of Rio's landmarks from the house, the overall effect is dramatic, theatrical, and wonderfully calming.

The current owners employed internationally acclaimed architect Ruy Rezende to create a modern and environmentally responsible property that would pack a strong architectural punch while maximizing standout views of the ocean, city, and forest. The brief? Large spaces and clean lines. Places to enjoy being together, along with cozy options for solitary moments. And a seamless join between the garden and house.

"My projects, whether urban or corporate, always aim to achieve timeless, distinctive, and sustainable »



architecture," says Rezende, whose impressive portfolio of predominantly commercial and social development projects perhaps made him a surprising choice for this brief. Challenged to replace an existing house on a vast 50,000-square-foot site, Rezende considered the whole of the site and its unique aspects in his designs. "Each room of this house in Jardim Botânico was designed to unify the interior and exterior, optimizing perspectives of both the immediate surroundings and then beyond to the ocean and up to *Cristo*."

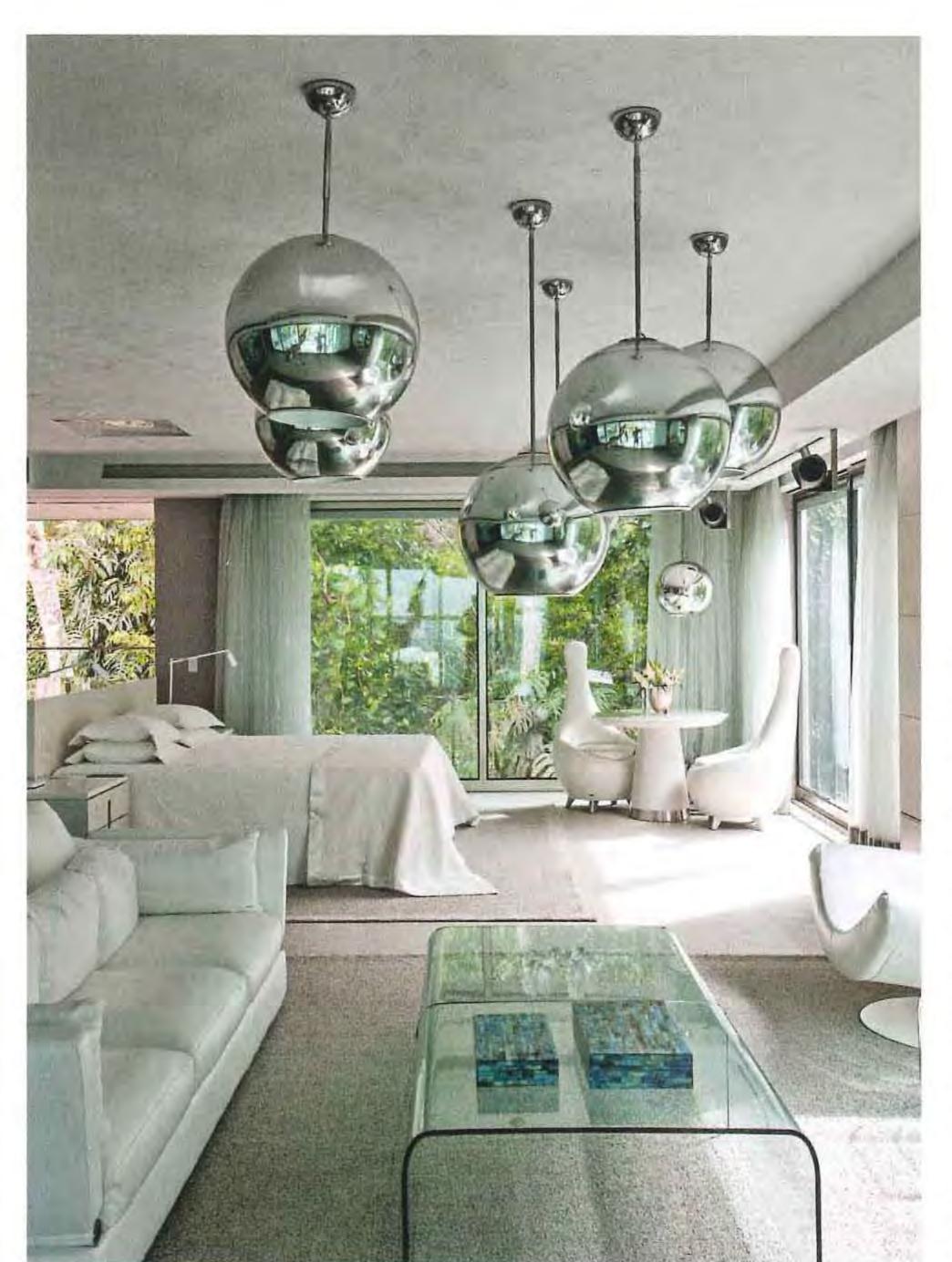
This sense of unity carries through to the client's own interior design – a pared-back silver and cream palette highlighted by vivid splashes of turquoise and orange. Natural materials used throughout include granite, the finest grade ipê wood, and super-sized white Silestone tiles. Entire walls of low-emissivity glass imported from Europe cover the client's environmental brief by cooling the house in summer and warming it in winter, while at the same time showcasing those stunning views. The living room, accessed by a panoramic elevator from the entrance area, features soaring 28-foot ceilings, an entire wall of glass, and furniture that feels very much at home in the space, including a geometric sofa and Gaetano Pesce "Donna" chair.

The full effect is welcoming and harmonious, and is matched by an equally impressive exterior. Landscaped gardens frame the mansion's striking architecture, while an infinity-edge pool – set in a wooden deck suspended over the garden – reaches out towards Rio.

suspended over the garden - reaches out towards Rio.

"This is a discreet, secure property and the attention to detail is special, even for this neighborhood," comments Frederico Judice Araujo of Judice & Araujo Imóveis/Christie's International Real Estate, who is marketing the home. "It is truly an intelligent property. The air conditioning, lighting, audio, and water and energy consumption are controlled by automation – the largest residential automation project in South America. Wherever the owner is, an ERP system manages day-to-day operations through one click on his or her iPad."

The overall aesthetic and approach is notably in keeping with the simple, clean lines that define the very icon of Rio itself, *Cristo*. It is undoubtedly the careful consideration applied by both owners and architect when commissioning and designing the property – a desire to balance the demands of 21st-century life with a sensitivity to the property's truly unique setting – that has ensured this residence is its own fitting monument to modernity in a vibrant, changing city.



Left: Architect Ruy Rezende in the spectacular 32-foot by 65-foot living room, which features a wall of glass framing views of the rainforest and Ipanema's beaches.

Above: The 1,200-square-foot master suite, complete with Bang & Olufsen home theater system. Right: The generous self-contained office/entertaining suite enables the current owners to host meetings and cocktail parties without interrupting family life.

