

Bank Boston Headquarters

Location: São Paulo, Brazil
Client: Bank Boston
Year: 2000–2004

The client for this project comprised three entities: The Bank Boston in the USA, represented by Bob Champion; The Bank Boston Brazilian headquarters, represented by Alex Zera; and US Equities, as development manager, represented by Bob Wislow. Our first effort on this project was a five-day “tropicalization tour.” We all gathered in Rio de Janeiro and spent a day touring Rio and a day visiting several parks and a fazenda near Rio, then off to Salvador to see the very interesting cultural mix of Portuguese and African origins and then onto the old summer capital. We finished up in São Paulo and toured museums, landscape features, and sites of interest. This was a terrific trip and impressed on us the festive nature and character of the culture. Perhaps the most impressive aspects of the trip, other than the food, were the patterns in the landscape and paving. The colors of the buildings in São Paulo are predominantly white or light gray with black accents in the paving patterns. Because of its tropical climate, plant material grows at an alarming rate and the Bank Boston site was large enough to contain a large park that would act as a barrier between the heavily trafficked streets and the entrance to the headquarters. We hired a local landscape architect named Isabel Duprat who was influenced by Burly Marx, as were we after our trip, and together we planned the entranceway to the bank.





