

## **ABSTRACT**

*In 1951, the Brazilian architect Lúcio Costa published an essay entitled "Testimony of a Carioca Architect: Concrete, Sun, and Vegetation," adapted from his letter to Gustavo Capanema, the cultural minister, in support of establishing the Ministério da Educação e Saúde building of 1937-1942 as an historical and cultural landmark of Brazilian modernism. Here, Costa identifies the significant contribution of landscape architect Roberto Burle Marx in the development of Brazilian modernist architecture. While Burle Marx's landscape projects are well known, by the late 1960s he had attained an effective, though ethically controversial, political platform from which to promote a robust strategy for the conservation of the Brazilian landscape, specifically the forest. Appointed by the military dictatorship as a Counselor to the Brazilian Conselho Federal de Cultura, he delivered seventeen depositions, many addressing the impacts of deforestation and development in Brazil. These position pieces, published in the Council's journal Cultura, are translated and analysed here for the first time since their initial publication. Like Costa's initiatives to protect cultural landmarks within the built environment, Burle Marx sought to protect natural landscapes throughout Brazil, many of which had provided both inspiration and plant materials for his garden designs. For Burle Marx, the ecological conservation of the forest was a national cultural project, a position that still resonates with environmentalists today. The "culture" of the forest and the diversity of Brazilian flora, like the legacy of modernist buildings, was to be understood as an aspect of Brazilian national heritage, deserving both definition and protection.*