

**I WOULD BECOME A COMMUNIST**

**Oscar Niemeyer's architecture from his drawings**

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## I WOULD BECOME A COMMUNIST

Oscar Niemeyer's architecture from his drawings

"If all communists were like Oscar Niemeyer, I would become a communist."

Manel Franco's book on Oscar Niemeyer's architecture based on his drawings is a real delight.

There are books that you receive and you don't know where to put them. There are other books that, when they arrive, you put them in your bookcase in the corresponding letter and that's it. And there are other books, the fewest, that remain on the table and that one reads with attention and that are an occasion for enjoyment, like this one by Manel Franco on Niemeyer's drawings.

I, who am so square, have always had a special fondness for Niemeyer because of his formal and vital freedom. And also because he died the same year as my father at the same age, 104 years old. And that freedom is also evident in these marvelous drawings that this book shows us.

On the occasion of his death I wrote: "Oscar Niemeyer has gone. And in his passing, I would like to say to him: "Bravo Oscar, bravo!" with the words with which Le Corbusier encouraged him, which are the words with which in Spain we praise good bullfighters when they fight well. Because our architect had something of a very good bullfighter, of a consecrated master. Something sublime that I would express, already in bullfighting similes, with "he dances when he draws, dances when he thinks and tempers when he builds". Like the best of bullfighters, like the best of architects. For to those drawings of his, so expressive and generous with curved lines that seemed to dance, corresponded a thought that far from being linear and classic in its reasons, jumped over them in a rapturous dance. And then, when he built, he did it with absolute security and certainty, as if tempering, with the tremendous strength of the best architecture".

And on the last page of this marvelous book, Manel Franco reproduces some accurate words of Oscar Niemeyer taken from his book *Meu sócia e eu*: "That my architecture does not accept compromises, that it seeks beauty and invention, without falling into small details, in the structure itself, in which it is inserted and shown from the first stroke". The structure that establishes the order of space. How could we not agree with these statements of the master? To seek and find beauty in order to make men happy. That and no other should be the pretension of architects.

I highly recommend you search and find and enjoy this book as much as I have.