

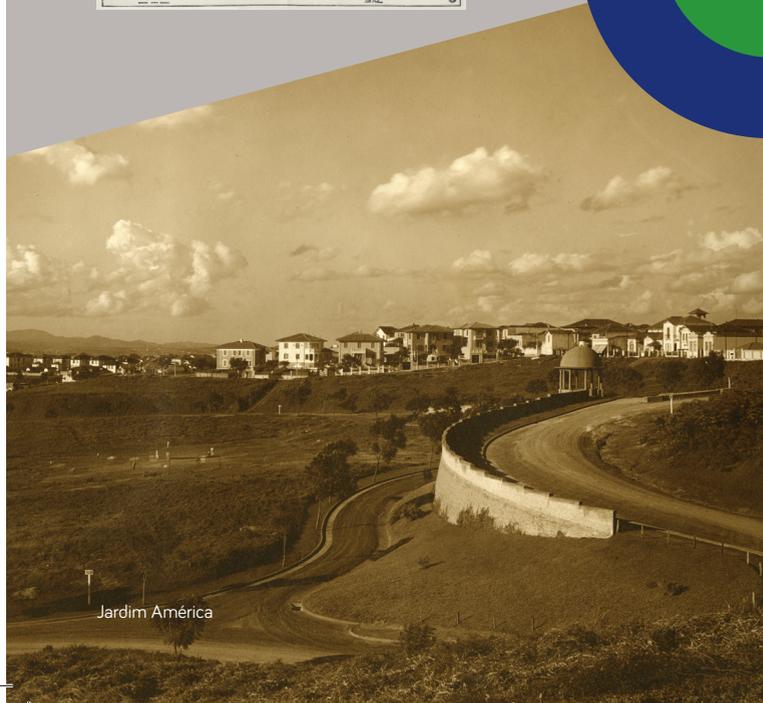
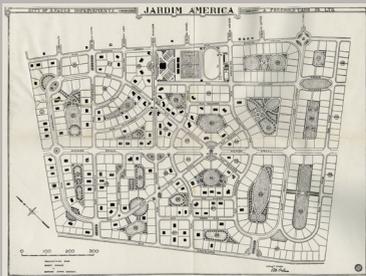
Garden Cities in Brazil

The Garden City movement was highly influential across South America and in Brazil produced some notable examples of garden city inspired settlements. Garden suburbs made their first appearance in Brazil in the 1910s and in later years a number of larger garden city settlements were planned, designed, and built. These modern 'English' designs were not responding to industrialised overcrowding but nonetheless were adopted as a physical planning model if not according to Howard's land stewardship principles.

Barry Parker

Letchworth's architect Barry Parker was highly active in developing garden settlements in Brazil during and just after the First World War from 1917-19. As Dr Mervyn Miller (2012), notes,

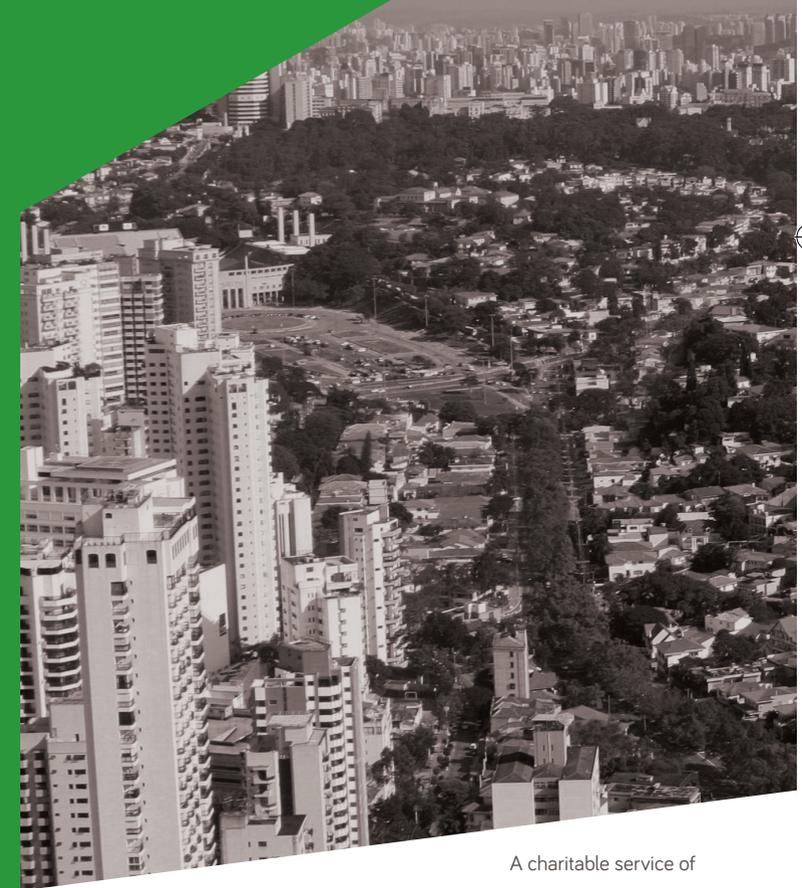
"In January 1917 Barry Parker travelled to Brazil to refine the layout (of Jardim América) designing many houses, re-landscaping a major park, and providing advice on the planned extension of São Paulo and other regional cities."



Jardim América

The International Garden Cities Exhibition

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Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Renato Leão Rego for material in the article Rego, R. L. (2014). Brazilian garden cities and suburbs: accommodating urban modernity and foreign ideals. *Journal of Planning History*, 13(4), 276-295; to Joseli Macedo, for their article, Macedo, J. (2011). Maringá: a British Garden City in the tropics. *Cities*, 28(4), 347-359; and to Dr Mervyn Miller for his paper "Barry Parker: before and after Jardim America", 15th IPHS Conference, São Paulo, Brazil, 15-18 July 2012.

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Jardim América

Established in 1917 Jardim América is perhaps the most famous garden city inspired example in Brazil and was designed by Barry Parker in a suburb of São Paulo. The picturesque suburb plan featured boulevards and curving avenues lined with Jacarandah trees, with low density, detached family housing appealing to and affordable by upper middle class residents. There were departures from the Letchworth model as Renato Leão Rego (2014) points out, no-one wanted to maintain communal gardens given the historical association between gardening and manual labour in a formerly slave owning society.

Jardim America influenced a range of other garden suburb designs including Jardim Paulista, Jardim Europa and Alto da Lapa and other São Paulo neighbourhoods as well as in other Brazilian cities.



Jardim América



Jardim Shangri-lá

Jardim Shangri-lá

Jardim Shangri-lá was developed in 1952 in the northern Brazilian state of Paraná in the city of Londrina, itself a new town from the 1930s that Rego (2014) points out was undergoing massive growth due to economic success post-war based on trading and coffee growing. Rego (2014) notes that "Culturally tied to the Brazilian metropolis (of São Paulo), the affluent local elite contacted the civil engineer Francisco Prestes Maia (1896–1965), former mayor of São Paulo, to prepare a master plan to regulate urban sprawling. Maia introduced several new planning notions and practices, particularly "the radio-concentric systems of avenues; the multi nuclei structure with secondary centers for regional commerce; functional zoning; and 'ideas of neighborhood unit [originally in English], garden-cities, garden-suburbs, linear cities and other urban models relating to the organization and grouping of buildings".

The Jardim Shangri-lá itself was the city's first garden suburb, designed by Léo Ribeiro de Moraes with a residential character again appealing to an upper middle and upper class residential market. In contrast to the conventional grid plan, Jardim Shangri-lá had landscaped meandering streets, but also modernist style architecture rather than the cosy arts and crafts styles more often associated with garden cities and suburbs.



Maringá

Maringá

This garden town was developed in Brazil's northern state of Paraná, in the 1940s based on a slightly earlier settlement by a British land company (the Companhia de Terras Norte do Paraná) which proposed to privately develop some 100 such towns around agricultural regions of Brazil which would be connected by rail. Described in its marketing literature as 'a stroke of magic in the forest' the settlement was again designed by Jorge de Macedo Vieira, as an architecturally 'modern' town with a garden city-inspired winding street layout that rejected the grid favoured by Portuguese colonialism.

The town followed layout principles defined by Raymond Unwin, with large house plots, a limit to house coverage area on site and substantial set-backs from the street. It also included a central boulevard as a spine, palm tree-lined streets and substantial green park space conceived as 'town lungs', Maringá featured low density, single family housing and public squares rather than communal, semi-public gardens which did not suit Brazilian social mores. The town as a whole was thought to show City Beautiful ideas in its civic and commercial areas and more picturesque garden city approaches in the residential neighbourhoods.

Águas de São Pedro

The spa town of Águas de São Pedro was a garden settlement in the jardin anglais style which echoed what Rego calls the 'arranged disorder' of the English village. It was designed by the civil engineer, Jorge de Macedo Vieira (1894–1978), who had worked with Barry Parker as a graduate and designed a number of garden suburbs in São Paulo.

The town was primarily residential with a small commercial area and was laid out with very substantial green park and walking areas, a 100-metre wide boulevards and winding tree-lined avenues and a canal. Housing was either detached or semi-detached and two or fewer stories high, with a series of small parks. Electricity cables were run underground so as not to interfere with tree cover and green landscapes. The city today retains many of its garden city features, including its four 'jardim' neighbourhoods named in the local Tupi-Guarani language.

Goiânia

Goiânia was conceived in 1933 as a new capital city for the state of Goiás southwest of Brasília and was designed by the architect Attilio Correa Lima (1901–1943). Centred on a classical layout of three converging boulevards, the town plan proposed a network of parks, parkways and tree-lined streets.

In 1936 Lima was replaced by engineer Augusto de Godoy (1876–1944), a keen advocate of Garden Cities, describing them in his writings as 'the most perfect creation of our time'. Godoy revised the original layout, focussing on Goiânia's residential neighbourhoods with a picturesque style of winding lanes, and an early example of a 'Radburn layout'.

Goiânia today it is a large sprawling city with a population of over two million.

Francisco Prestes Maia (1896-1965) and Leo Ribeiro de Moraes (1912-1978)

The garden city and suburb story in Brazil is bound up with the work of the civil engineer, Francisco Prestes Maia (1896–1965), who developed a masterplan for the city of Londrina which drew on garden city and garden suburb ideas. The Urban Code produced by Maia was used in the development of Jardim Shangri-La.

The architect and engineer Leo Ribeiro de Moraes meanwhile was well known in Brazil for campaigning in support of the garden city model. Ribeiro de Moraes emphasised the importance of maintaining the garden city as a city rather than a suburb in order to reap its full benefits.



Francisco Prestes Maia