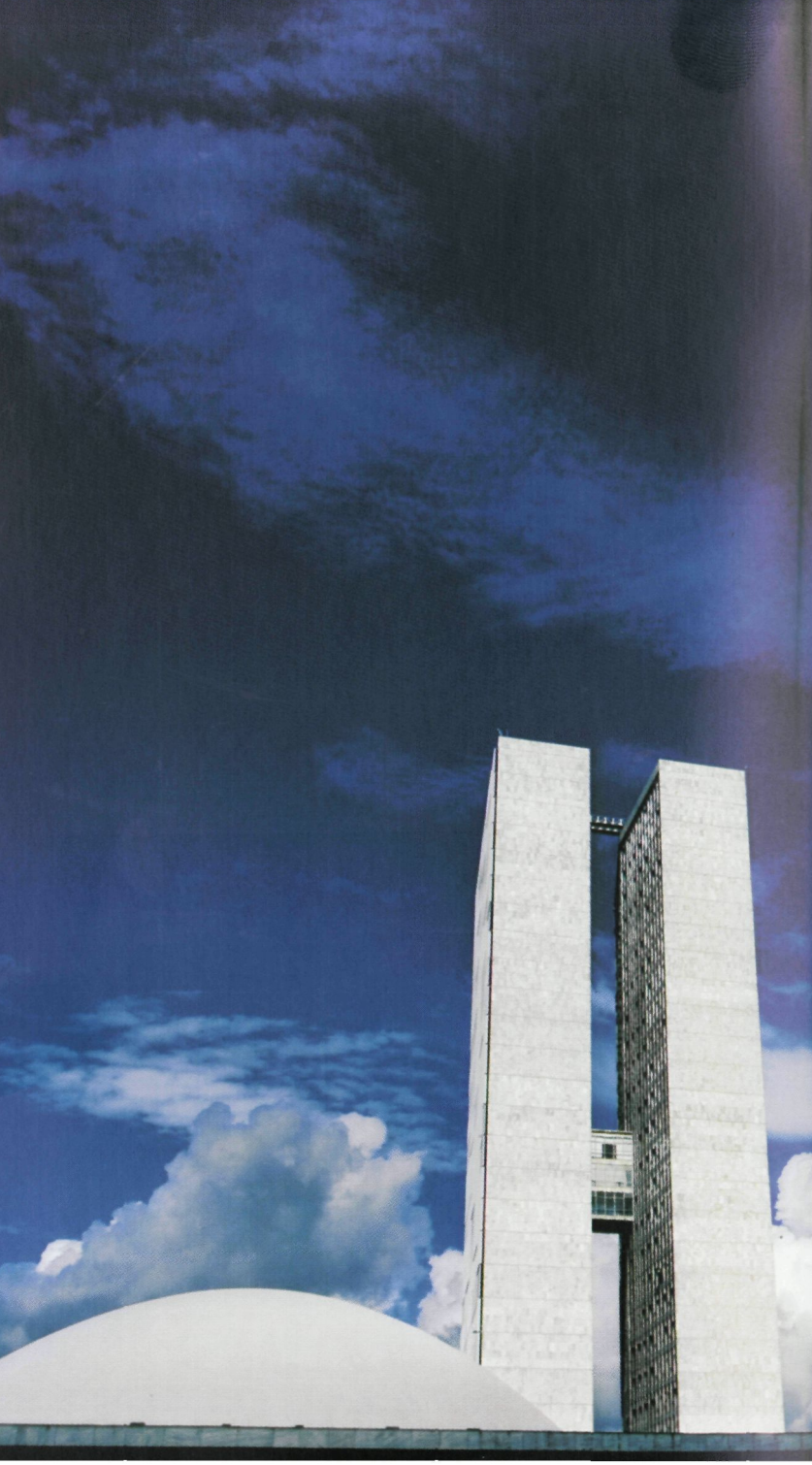


English Version

The Federal Senate





Welcome to the House of the Federation

Thousands of people from all over Brazil and the world walk the halls of the Palace of Congress every year.

Here, senators draft laws, approve the nomination of those who will hold some of the most important positions in the country, prosecute and judge public officials in impeachable offenses, deliberate on debt ceilings of federal entities, among other duties established by the Federal Constitution.

In addition to admiring the beautiful architecture of the building and enjoying works of art, visitors can better understand the work of senators and the history of the Federal Senate.

**The Federal Senate wishes you an
enjoyable visit!**

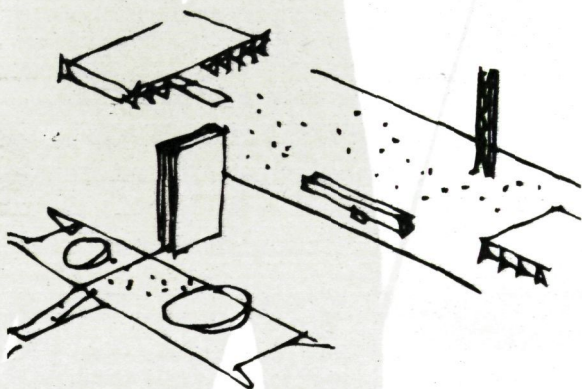
Three Powers Square and National Congress

In the Three Powers Square — a highlight of the project of urban planner Lucio Costa — we find the headquarters of the Legislative, Executive and Judiciary powers.

The Planalto Presidential Palace and the Supreme Federal Court are at the base of the equilateral triangle defined by the square, and in the vertex is the National Congress.

The architectural ensemble of Congress was designed by Oscar Niemeyer and is composed of the headquarters of the Federal Senate and the Chamber of Deputies. This set consists of two domes, which comprise the Plenary Halls of the Legislative Houses, and a pair of 28-storey towers, connected in the middle. This building is the tallest of Brasília.

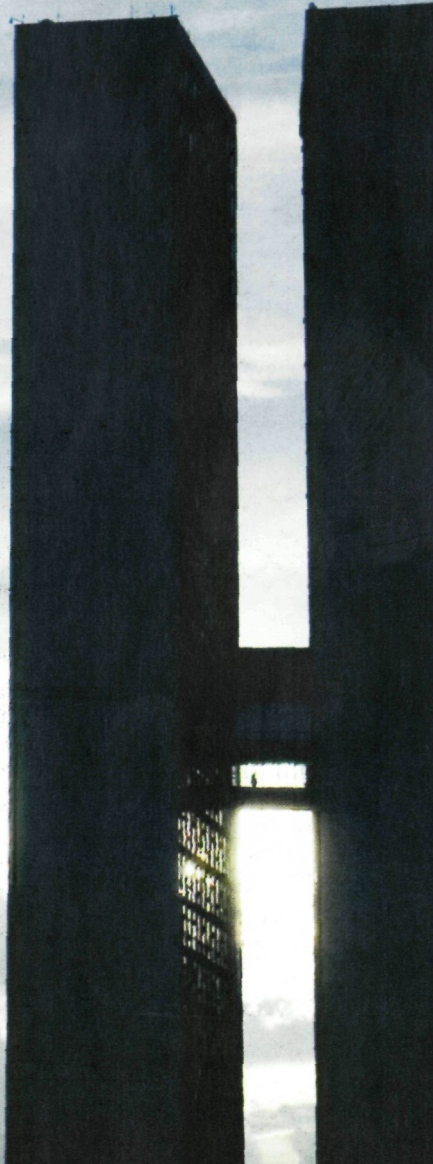
The convex dome, turned downwards, belongs to the Senate and the concave dome, turned upwards, to the Chamber of Deputies.



“ The work continued. It was not an isolated structure, but one of the palaces that would be part of the Three Powers Square, where it would be integrated with other buildings. And the distances worried me, so much so that I kept the upper portion of Congress at street level. I wanted passers-by to view the building at this level, with their eyes reaching the plaza between the two domes. And the palace arose, simple and monumental, with loose domes in the air, highlighting the hierarchical importance that they represent. It was the integration of technology and architecture—both of which are supposed to emerge together and nourish one another. ”

Oscar Niemeyer

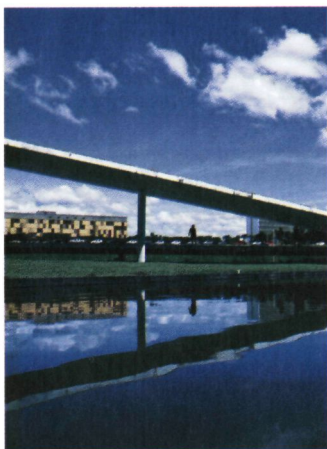
(Source: *Correio Braziliense* newspaper, February 25, 1999)



Black Hall

The Black Hall is the main entrance of the National Congress, and it is used for official ceremonies. It was named after the color of the floor and is ornamented by a panel of white marble and black granite, created by artist Athos Bulcão, and a tapestry made by Burle Marx.

The Black Hall is reached via the ramp of the National Congress.





Noble Hall

It is the place where the President of the Senate hosts official guests. It houses the Senate Historical Museum, which highlights the gallery of portraits of former Senate presidents. Opened in 1991, the museum displays works of art, furniture of former Senate headquarters, silver ballots used in Senate voting, among other features of the collection covering the period from the Empire (1822-1889) to the Republic (1889-present).



Museum Opening Hours:

The museum is open from Monday through Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Weekends and public holidays, from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Senate Plenary Hall

Designed to host Senate sessions, the Plenary Hall is the main area of the House, where speeches, debates and voting take place.



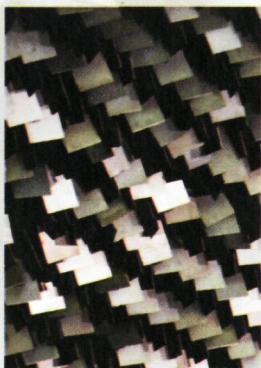
The seats of the 81 senators are located in the Plenary Hall. Each senator records his/her presence and votes electronically on the board located on his/her desk, which also has a computer and a microphone in order to make it easier for senators to work and make pronouncements.

The covering of the ceiling is made of 135,000 aluminum plates that improve acoustics and lighting of the Plenary Hall. Moreover, behind the central platform where legislative work

is conducted, there is a metal panel by artist Athos Bulcão.

The electronic panels located on both sides of the hall identify sessions and acknowledge the presence of senators, as well as voting results.

Senate galleries can seat about one hundred people and are open to public visitation. It is a place designed to accommodate citizens interested in following public sessions.





PRIMA SESSIONE PREPARATORIA
COMITATO DI RICERCA SULLO SVILUPPO INDUSTRIALE
E SULLA INNOVAZIONE E SOCIETÀ

Structure of the Plenary Hall

Senate Plenary Hall

Senators' seats are distributed in alphabetical order by state, starting with Acre, in front, and finishing with Tocantins. The audience follows the sessions in the upper galleries.

Senators may vote electronically – in person – indicating that they agree or disagree with a proposition or symbolically – through party leaders.

Senate Board

In addition to senators' seats, the Plenary Hall has a platform where Senate Board members conduct sessions. On the sides there are two tribunes for pronouncements. Below, stenographers take turns transcribing pronouncements.

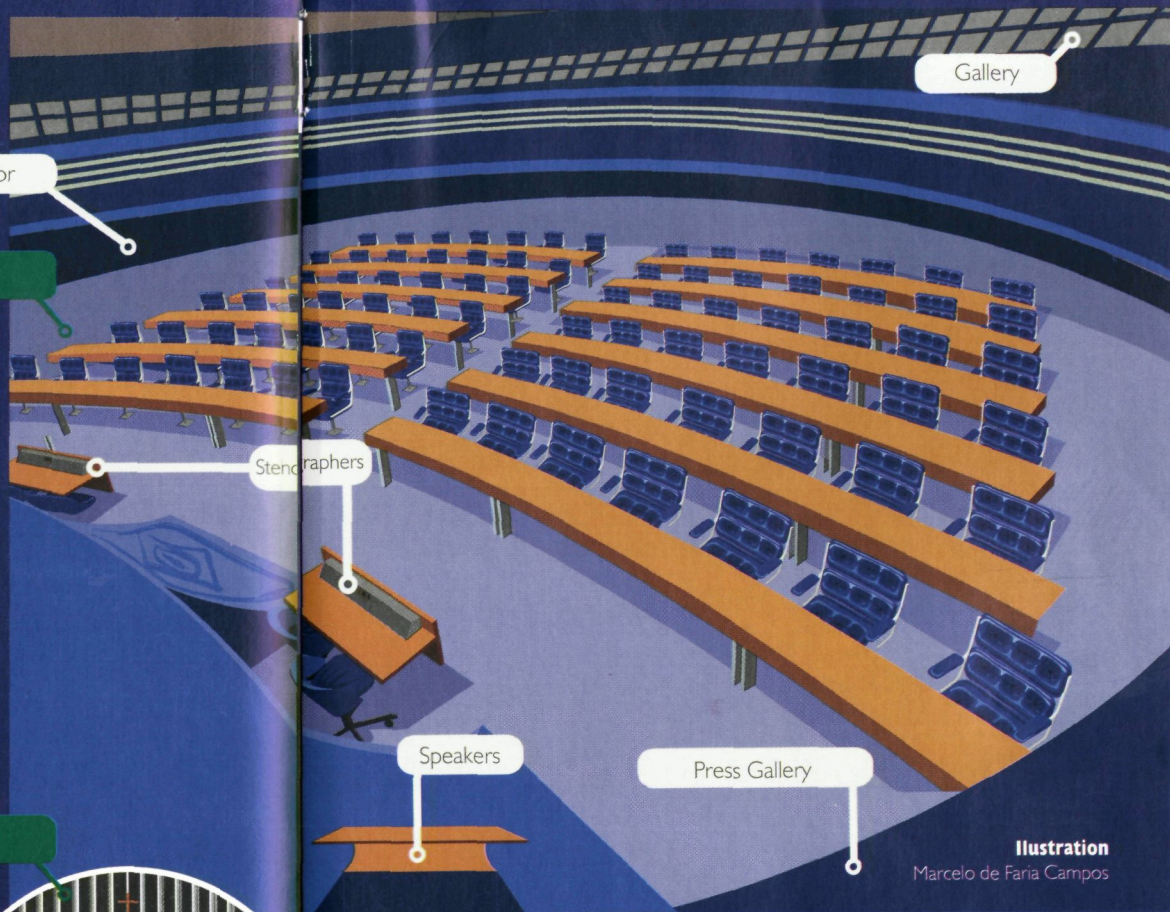
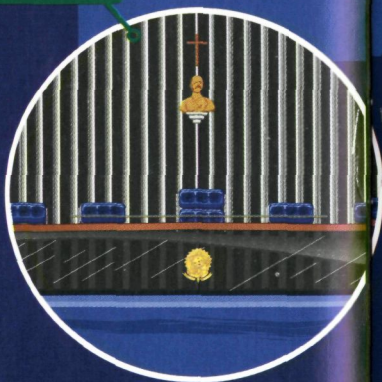
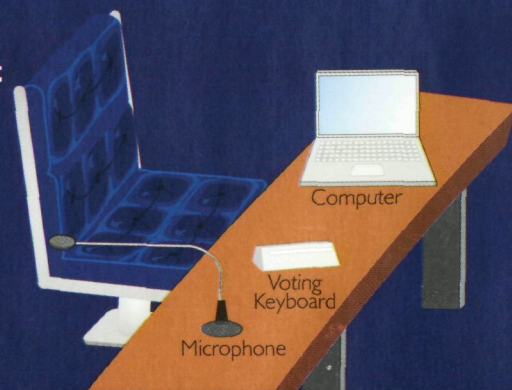


Illustration
Marcelo de Faria Campos

Senator's Seat



White Hall (Cloakroom)

In the past, it was common for public buildings to provide a service to keep visitor's hats, coats and canes, usually at the main entrance. Even though such services are no longer available at the Senate and hats have gone out of fashion, the main entrance of Congress, the White Hall, continues to be called Cloakroom.





Blue Hall and Flags Square

The Blue Hall gives access to three key areas of the Senate: the Plenary Hall, the office of the President of the Senate and the Secretariat-General of the Board.

The flags of Brazil and of the 27 units of the Federation are displayed in an area of the Blue Hall known as the Flags Square.

The flags are arranged in chronological order, following the historic dates in which each state was formed. The Brazilian flag stands in the center.



Did you know?

Bahia was the first unit of the Federation to be created. Roraima, on the other hand, is the newest state of Brazil, created in 1988.



Time Tunnel



The Time Tunnel connects the main building to Annex 2. On its walls, there are panels telling the story of the Brazilian Senate, since it was created by the Imperial Constitution of 1824 until today.

***Plenarinho* : Antique Plenary Furniture**

The furniture of the two former seats of the Senate (Conde dos Arcos Palace and Monroe Palace, in Rio de Janeiro) was transferred to the current site and rearranged in order to be permanently exposed.

Inmates of the Rio de Janeiro Prison, under the supervision of Casa Leandro Martins (a furniture store), made the furniture in hardwood in 1867. This ensemble is called today *Plenarinho* and its disposition is similar to the one existing at the Plenary Hall today.





Committee Wings

Committee wings house rooms where meetings of standing committees (such as the Committee on Economic Affairs and the Committee on Constitution, Justice and Citizenship), temporary committees (such as parliamentary investigating committees) or select committees take place.

In these committees bills are discussed in depth, and in certain cases standing committees can also perform final voting, obviating a floor vote.

The Senate has 11 standing committees.

Office Wings

Annex 2 of the Senate houses the wings where most of senators' offices are located. Annex 2 also houses the Senate bookstore and the Senate Library (open to the general public from Monday to Friday, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.).



Visit the Federal Senate

The Federal Senate conducts, in partnership with the Chamber of Deputies, a program of guided tours of the Palace of the National Congress. The visits take place every day, including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with no lunch break, with groups leaving the Black Hall every 30 minutes.

Visits are free of charge. Visitors enter the building through the main ramp, on the side of the palace facing the Esplanade of Ministries. The groups are led by a team of monitors of the two legislative Houses, and the walking tour shows the highlights of Congress. Groups with over 15 people and/or disabilities must be booked in advance. The availability of visits in foreign languages must also be checked in advance.

Exceptionally, by fortuitous reasons, access to one or both institutions may be temporarily suspended. In such cases, visits will resume as soon as possible.

The Senate standing rules do not allow the entrance of visitors wearing shorts, bermuda shorts, sleeveless shirts or flip-flops on weekdays or on weekends when the House is in session. These restrictions do not apply to children under 12 years of age.

You can make suggestions, express opinions and ask questions to the Senate by calling the toll-free telephone number of the Citizen Hotline - *Alô Senado* (Hello Senate): 0800 612211.



Tuned in to what happens at the Senate

Plenary sessions, discussions held in the committees and all legislative activities may be followed by citizens at the Senate website. Access www.senado.gov.br and learn about all 81 senators, read their speeches and follow the bills discussed and approved by them.

Alô Senado (Hello Senate)

If you wish to ask questions about legislation, senators or anything related to the Senate, please contact the Citizen Hotline - *Alô Senado* (Hello Senate). This cost-free communication channel was created to facilitate interaction between citizens and Parliament.

Through this channel, you can also express criticism, praise and send your feedback about topics discussed in Congress.

This telephone service is available from Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., by calling 0800 612 211.

You can also access it on-line: senado.gov.br/alosenado

Senate Ombudsman

The Senate Ombudsman is another service made available to the public. Using this channel, you can make suggestions, criticize, praise, complain and expose problems relating to legislative activities. The person responsible for this service is the Senate General Ombudsman.

The general ombudsman is a senator elected by the Plenary Assembly and he or she serves for a two-year term. His role is to listen to the concerns of Brazilian citizens regarding the Senate and to propose measures needed to improve the institution. The Ombudsman is committed to answering all contacts coming from identified parties.

Contact:

- Ombudsman portal on the Internet (senado.gov.br/ouvidoria)
- Mail (Senado Federal - Anexo II Biblioteca - térreo – Sala da Ouvidoria)
- Filling in forms handed out by the Ombudsman
- *Alô Senado* (Hello Senate) 0800 612211, choosing the option "*Fale com a Ouvidoria*" (Talk to the Ombudsman)

Institutional Campaigns

Institutional campaigns contribute to bring transparency and publicity to the legislative work. These communication actions, planned with the help of all departments of the Senate, are designed to build a solid and institutional image, an image consistent with the constitutional mandate of the Senate.

Check senado.gov.br/campanhas

News

Every day, the various media of the Senate cover legislative activities conducted in its premises: news, full broadcast of plenary sessions and committee meetings, calendars of activities, and information on legislation and the work of senators.

You can have access to this content through television, radio, newspaper, cell phone, the Internet website and the Senate blog.

Smartphone Applications

You can download the Senate application for Iphones, Android phones and BlackBerry phones. Senate applications give you access to the news produced by Senate News Agency, a calendar of activities and profiles of senators, filtered by name in alphabetical order, by state or party.

Download it on senado.gov.br/noticias/aplicativos.aspx

Senate TV Multiprogramming on the Internet

Other than the normal programming, Internet users can now watch seven channels that broadcast in real time plenary sessions and committee and subcommittee meetings.

Access senado.gov.br/noticias

Social Networks

The Senate is present on social networks in order to establish a direct connection with citizens. Through this interaction, the Senate wishes to stimulate the dissemination of ideas about Parliament in an independent way and to bridge the gap between decisions made by senators and the population.

Check different profiles on senado.gov.br/noticias

Federal Senate Digital Library

The Federal Senate Digital Library grants on-line access to more than 173,000 documents of legislative interest. The digital collection is diversified, including books, rare works, periodicals, newspaper articles, intellectual production of senators and Senate employees, text and audio legislation, and other documents.

All works available on the Federal Senate Digital Library are public domain or have been granted copyrights by the authors. This allows free access and download.

Access senado.gov.br/biblioteca

Federal Senate Archives

Federal Senate Archives provide publications of the Senate regarding the legislative memory of the institution, documents and multimedia content with records associated with the construction of Brazilian democracy, biographic data of senators, as well as Internet research tools for the historic data of the institution.

Access senado.gov.br/senado/secretarias/arquivo

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