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Museo de Arte de São Paulo

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LINA BO BARDI: MUSEO DE ARTE DE SAO PAULO

The Museo de Arte de São Paulo (1957–68), or MASP, was designed by Lina Bo Bardi to float above the roofs of the coffee mansions that previously existed along São Paulo's major street, Avenue Paulista. The floating museum is hung from two standing beams that are supported at two edges of the site on double piers. A structure of tension rods, which hangs from double horizontal beams that span the site, supports extremely thin concrete floor and roof slabs. At grade, access is down a stair to a below-grade entry foyer and an elevator that moves upward through a glass shaft and takes visitors to the two levels of suspended galleries. MASP does not defy gravity

in any sort of heroic manner but instead employs a suspension concept that allows the project to be both incredibly massive in its composition and urbanistically light in its suspension. Pedestrians who walk on the plaza beneath the galleries feel nothing of the weight of the structure overhead, but rather may sense that a cloud has passed in front of the hot Brazilian sun and given them a delightful moment of coolness. Photo: Flieg.

