



Is it a lamb? A rabbit? An asn?

That man striking the vulture, is he Prometheus?

Are there really gloves and hand fans coming out of a cornucopia over that building?

These and other questions has been answered in the book O RIO QUE O RIO NÃO VÊ – OS SÍMBOLOS E SEUS SIGNIFICADOS NA ARQUITETURA CIVIL DO CENTRO DA CIDADE DO RIO DE JANEIRO (RIO THAT RIO DOESN'T SEE – THE SYMBOLS AND THEIR MEANINGS IN DOWNTOWN RIO DE JANEIRO'S CIVIL ARCHITECTURE), written and presented by the photographer and graphic designer Luiz Eugênio Teixeira Leite.

First book of art of its kind in Brazil, O RIO QUE O RIO NÃO VÊ has been published by Aori Produções Culturais and sponsored by BNDES (National Bank of Economical and Social Development) with resources from the Rouanet Law. With a superb graphic project by famous designer Victor Burton, the book has 250 pages and 28 x 28cm.

The piece is a photographic essay about the architectonic ornaments present in Downtown Rio façades and goes beyond the simple description and cataloguing. Through Rio's buildings, O RIO QUE O RIO NÃO VÊ takes the reader to the scene and proposes a reflection about the functional character of the ornament, seen by most people as a mere decorative additive to the construction, hipothesis resignified by the book.

In the publication, the introduction of which was written by the architect Nelson Porto Ribeiro, professor of the Department of Architecture and Urbanism in UFES (Federal University of Espírito Santo), Teixeira Leite not only captures the scenes, but also describes and interprets the several symbolic ornaments in the city façades.

The result is an invitation to an in loco view. By means of the author's acute look, O RIO QUE O RIO NÃO VÊ employs the symbolic ornamentation to lead the reader to understanding the formation of brazilian society.

In Rio de Janeiro's façades lie silent stories that travel the almost 500 years of the "carioca" civilization. The headquarters of the brazilian colonial period, the Empire and the Republic for quite a while, one can see in the city many representative and traditional public and private institutions, like churches, theaters, libraries, banks, insurance companies, navigation companies and much more.

Started in 2000, the research that originated the book has already compiled and studied 1000 ornaments. 300 are present in the book, of which 200 printed in large format, together with the author's comments about their symbolic function in the building, architects and artisans names, construction techniques, curiosities, original and present uses and dates.



Contact:

Luiz Eugenio Teixeira Leite  
55-21-2524-1113 / 9 8188-2909  
[leugenio@centroin.com.br](mailto:leugenio@centroin.com.br)

