APRIL - 2013

BRAZILIAN TEXAS

THE MAGAZINE FOR BUSINESS - SOCIAL LIFE - NEWS - POLITICS

HOUSTON, TEXAS

POLYGO AEROSPAC

About Polygon Aerospace

Polygon Aerospace is an internationally recognized distributor of aircraft fasteners with almost three decades of experience in servicing the aerospace manufacturing and maintenance industry. Polygon has assembled an extremely diverse inventory of parts specialized primarily in the support of Airbus and Embraer fleets. Our inventory is one of the most complete in the world when it comes to these two fleets. We have compiled an extensive network of manufacturers and suppliers over the years so that the "hard to find" products are no longer "hard to find" at Polygon.

Following the growth trend of Airbus and Embraer fleets around the world, Polygon Aerospace has also expanded its facilities at its headquarters in Houston as well as started a manufacturing facility in Sao Jose dos Campos, Brazil – home of the Embraer regional aircraft plant. This development has further strengthened Polygon Aerospace's position as one of the leading suppliers of fasteners for the Embraer jet families.

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Steve Clark is a regular contributor to Brazil Texas Magazine. His previous articles have been about infrastructure and technology, but in this story, he shares his personal experiences of visiting the Alemão Favela complex in Rio de Janeiro. Steve has a long relationship with Brazil, and has Brazil running through his blood. He was fortunate to have been part of Mayor Parker's Brazil trade mission delegation in March 2012. During that visit, through some unexpected circumstances, he had the opportunity to visit Alemão, and the pictures and stories he brought back are something to be shared, and hopefully, appreciated. Please enjoy the article." "Steve wishes to thank Marcelo Moacyr and David Peebles of Odebrecht for arranging the visit to Alemão, and introducing him, Miya and Chris to Hiago. If it were not for them, we would not have had the opportunity to visit Alemão."

Dilma Roussef Brazil on the Right Track

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"The end of poverty is only the beginning". Last week President Dilma announced the end of extreme poverty in Brazil, with the inclusion of 2,5 million persons in the program Bolsa Familia" in Brazil.

BRATECC The First Event of the Year

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Brazil 11th Bidding Round Luncheon. Promotes the Opportunities for Investments in the Brazilian Oil & Gas Industry & New Bidding Rounds.

Brazilian Texas Spring Boards Carnival Season

P. 24

Our own editor -in - chief as well as magazine founder, Sergio Lima presented a warm welcome speech to the patrons specifically acknowledging the intense bond between the State of Texas and the Brazilian business community.

Odebrecht Organization in the Houston Area

P. 34

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CURIMBABA PROPPANTS

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Editorial

Our mission

Time doesn't stand still, neither do we! We give continuity to our work, focusing in providing quality, and in expanding our objectives as a communication vehicle, as well as a promoter of businesses' interests between Brazil and United States. This is our mission. We do not want to give emphasis to any specific subject matter; we strive to be open to all segments of the community and to be an independent and truthful instrument for the exchange of ideas that benefit our general audience. Our principal objective has always been the spread of our culture and to expose Brazil's business potential in many sectors. Our efforts were recently rewarded with the Brazilian Press Award 2013. Through these 10 years of service, we are grateful to have achieved this. Again, as the time continues to pass, we will continue to endeavor to offer the best. We hope, through this edition, to offer you a pleasurable reading experience with our articles, interviews, and general information.

Sergio Lima

Congratulations !

BRAZILIAN TEXAS MAGAZINE
Conjunto de Trabalhos - Revista - Região 4

You are a winner for the 16th Annual Brazilian International PRESS AWARDS

Your outstanding performance and contribution for the Brazilian Culture was recognized by the Media and Cultural Leaders of the Brazilian Community in the United States.

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Brazil-Texas Chamber of Commerce

BRATECC OFFSHORE 2013: WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST

May 8, 2013

Magda Chambriard
General Director

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Click here for detailed program

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vem_aí

Dilma Roussef and Brazil on the Right Track

"The end of poverty is only the beginning". Last week President Dilma announced the end of extreme poverty in Brazil, with the inclusion of 2,5 million persons in the program "Bolsa Familia" This program is a safety net to ensure a minimal stander of living to the poorest Brazilian citizen.

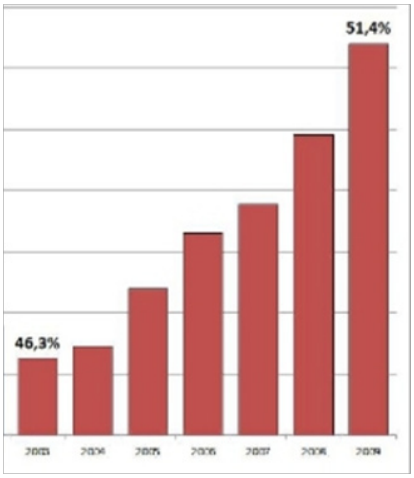
Why Brazil is doing so well?

In my opinion for five different reasons:

1- On the last 10 years the economic policy increased the value of the minimum wage, and, on cascade the value of all wages. From 2000 to 2011 the real value of the minimum wage tripled, and in result the domestic market developed. The concentration of wealth is reducing and the Gini Coefficient drooped from 0,585, in 2000, to 0,501, in 2011.

2- On the end of 2012 we had wonderful news in Brazil. The unemployment rate dropped to the lowest level in our economic history: 4,7%. Combine to that, another good news came up last week: the income growth of the poorest 20% of the poorest Brazilian went up on a rate 7 times faster compare to the income growth of the 10% of the richest. The gap between the poor and the rich is reducing. We are becoming a more just society.

3- The graphic below is our third reason why Brazil is doing so well. From 2003, when President Lula assumed the presidency, to 2012, the percentage of the wages in the total of our GNP increases from 46, 3% to 51, 4%. This meant a increasing of the purchasing power of the workers and a strengthening of the domestic market, what is good not only to the work force but also to entrepreneurs. According to a survey, conducted by the institution CareerBuilder, 80% of the Brazilian's entrepreneurs share the opinion that our economy is improving and 71% declared that they will hire more employees in 2013.



4- Reduce the interest rate was a goal to all Brazilian's Presidents. On the 80' and 90' the Brazilian banks were the most profitable on earth, mainly because of the hyper high interest rate. The highest on earth too. The bankers, with the help of some economists, spread the "theory" that was impossible to reduce the interest rate in Brazil without affecting the inflation. Low interest rate = high inflation. With lots of money and a strong lobby they sold this idea to ministers and senators. The high interest rate generated immense difficulties to finance the expansion of production.

The financial system, during more than 30 years, has totally dissociated from the production system, and like a parasite lived in a bubble of high interest rate, inflation and speculation. We didn't have a financial system in Brazil; we had a parasite that undermined our Today interest rates are being systematically reduced, and the enlargement of population that is using the financial system to acquire products is one of the fundamentals of our economic success.

5- Brazil, on the last ten years, has promoted a policy of access to land considered the largest in the world in the 21st century. The 87 million hectares devoted to land reform are equivalent in size to 27% of agricultural land in the country. Small farmers are prioritized in government food purchases. The food that feeds our children, in public schools, comes from small farmers. The food that feeds our poor, in the program "Restaurante Popular", comes from small farmers. Brazil is today the world leader in food production.

In 2012, alone, our agrarian reform generated 1,8 millions jobs and 4,8 billion dollars in products. In his latest article published in the "O Estado de São Paulo" news paper, Ambassador Patriota, Brazilian Minister of Foreign Affairs, stated: "The promotion of sustainable development with a focus on poverty eradication and on food security contributes to the promotion of peace. The lack of opportunities and perspectives is the seed of conflicts, encourages radicalism and weakens faith in institutions". There is no peace or development with hunger and poverty.

We are far from our goal to become a developed country, but, on the last 10 years we are on the right track and Dilma Roussef public approval indicates that. On the end of her second year in power she holds 82% of approval among the Brazilians, who qualified her government as good or excellent.

Ariel Seleme – economist

11th Bidding Round of Blocks for Exploration and Production

The National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels – ANP – promotes on May 14 and 15 in Rio de Janeiro the 11th Bidding Round of Blocks for Exploration and Production of Oil and Natural Gas. The ANP Bidding Rounds are implemented according to provisions of Brazilian Law 9478/1997, the so called Petroleum Law, as part of the National Energy Policy.

The 11th Round has its main focus on the Brazilian equatorial margin and on mature onshore fields located in the Southeast, North and Northeast of Brazil. The 11th Round was authorized by Resolution 3 of the National Energy Policy Council (CNPE), published in January 2013, which provided for the offer of 172 blocks.

> Main focus on the Brazilian equatorial margin

On February 28th, 2013, after completion of environmental analysis, the CNPE authorized the addition of 117 blocks to the Bidding Round. Therefore, the 11th Round will offer 289 blocks (123 onshore and 166 offshore) covering a total of 155,800 km², distributed in 11 sedimentary basins: Barreirinhas, Ceará, Espírito Santo, Foz do Amazonas, Pará-Maranhão, Parnaíba, Pernambuco-Paraíba, Potiguar, Recôncavo, Sergipe-Alagoas and Tucano Sul.

Besides increasing the knowledge about Brazilian reserves and enhancing the domestic production of oil and gas, the 11th Round seeks to decentralize the oil activity to different areas of Brazil, as a way to induce the reduction of regional and social inequalities – a point of national interest as stated in the Federal Constitution of Brazil. The offer of land areas in the basins of Recôncavo, Sergipe-Alagoas, Potiguar and Espírito Santo also encourages the participation of small and medium sized companies.

More information is available at *www.brasil-rounds.gov.br*

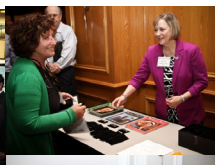
Indicative Timetable	Date
Opening of the period for delivery of documents relating to the expression of interest and documents for Qualification and Capacity	January 24, 2013
Availability of Data Packages	January 25, 2013
Initiation of Public Consultation	January 25, 2013
Final Deadline for contributions to the Preliminary Tender Protocol and termination of Public Consultation	February 4, 2013
Public Hearing (City of Rio de Janeiro)	February 19, 2013
Publication of the Bidding Notice and Concession Contract	March 11, 2013
Technical-Environmental Seminar	March 18, 2013
Legal-Tax Seminar	March 19, 2013
Final deadline for delivery of documents relating to the Expression of Interest and documents for Qualification and Capacity	March 26, 2013
Final deadline for payment of Participation Fees	March 26, 2013
Final Deadline for submission of Bid Bonds	April 26, 2013
Submission of bids	May 14 and 15, 2013
Signing of the Concession Contracts	August 2013

Obs.: This timetable is subject to changes

BRATECC –
THE BRAZIL-TEXAS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BRATECC
BRAZIL - TEXAS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Brazil 11th Bidding Round
Luncheon

Congratulations to BRATECC
for the First Event
of the Year.



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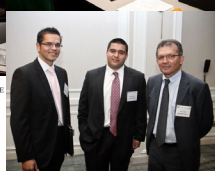

Other restaurants offer a traditional meal.

We offer a meal full of tradition.

Thirty years ago, Fogo de Chão was born in Southern Brazil. Today, our gaucho chefs continue to honor our Brazilian heritage by expertly preparing fine meats right here in Houston. As one of Zagat's top-rated U.S. restaurants, guests enjoy 16 cuts of fire-roasted meats, a sumptuous gourmet salad bar and traditional Brazilian side dishes, such as our pão de queijo (cheese bread). The menu is complemented by decadent desserts and an award-winning wine list.

Guests are greeted by the trademark blue tower featuring an authentic churrascaria, which is the type of fire pit used in roasting meats over an open flame. The grand dining area features high ceilings, natural Austin stone walls, and artwork representing the gaucho lifestyle and culture in Southern Brazil. The prominent wine room, located at the entrance, displays a vast selection of wines especially chosen to complement the dining experience. The internationally- recognized collection has received the Award of Excellence by Wine Spectator for the past 10 years.

Experience this centuries-old tradition during lunch Monday through Friday or nightly for dinner.

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Claudio Nunes

New President of PETROBRAS AMERICA and President of BRATECC

Cláudio Nunes is President of Petrobras America Inc. (PAI), a part of the Petrobras Group of companies. He is responsible for the administration ofall PAI upstream and downstream concerns, including oil and gas exploration and production in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico as well as the company's refining and trading activities. He joined Petrobras in 1980 and worked for 21 years in Petrobras'Exploration and Production area. He held a variety of managerial positions, including Executive Manager of the Engineering and of the Health, Safetyand Environment (HSE) areas, as well as Corporate Business Development Manager. Nunes also served as a member of the Board of Directors of Petrobras Energia S.A. (PESA) in Argentina, as well as PESA's Services Vice President and Gas and Energy Vice \President.

He was President of the Administration Board of PESA associated companies TGS, EDESUR and MEGA. Before becoming President of Petrobras America in January 2013, he was a General Manager in Exploration and Production, applying his expertise to the construction of 12 FPSOs (floating production, storage and of floading vessels) and of gas pipelines to be installed in the ultra-deep waters of the Santos Basin for the Pre-Salt fields. Nunes earned a degree in Civil Engineering from Rio de Janeiro's Federal University and in Petroleum Engineering from Petrobras. He also has degrees in Advanced Management and in Negotiation from Harvard University, and in Corporate Finances from Instituto Brasileiro de Mercado de Capitais-IBMEC/Rio de Janeiro, among others.

Cid Silveira BRATECC New Executive Director

The three year tenure commanding Confab's American subsidiary in Houston have helped to solidify his knowledge in various aspects, hence expanding his experience and professional vision. Soon after he started to focus in business expansion and procurement, as he contributed to the development of multiple projects. A major accomplishment was in the supply of parts and equipment for the very first subsea christmas tree manufactured in Brazil for Petrobras, commissioned to a subsea well in the deep waters of the Campos Basin. With a BSc. degree in Engineering from Escola de Engenharia Maua in São Paulo, and specialization courses in international trade, and an extensive knowledge of steel tubular materials with upstream and downstream applications, he's been conducting his business to keep up with the increasingly active trade relationship between Brazil and the United States.

BRATECC – THE BRAZIL-TEXAS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Interview

How many members does the BRATECC Chamber have?

Since the inception of BRATECC back 12 years ago we've tried to work with several sectors of the Texas industry. Some of those that we identified as strong and that we thought could be of interest to the business community in Brazil included the medical sector, the technology area (HP/Compaq, Texas Instruments) and of course the energy industry, especially oil & gas. Throughout the years we became very focused on the latter, and as consequence our membership today is primarily populated by companies from the energy business. We're now around 400 members and growing.

What are your membership goals for the new year?

As Brazil becomes an important player in the world energy industry, we believe we can seize the opportunity and increase our membership significantly. We also see the trade relations between the United States and Brazil is intensifying during the last couple of years, and maybe now it's time again for us to make an effort and expand into other areas We also see the trade relations between the United States and Brazil is intensifying during the last couple of years, and maybe now it's time again for us to make an effort and expand into other areas. For example, we have the privilege to have some of the best schools in Texas in our board of directors and membership, including Rice University,University of Texas San Antonio,Texas A&M, and University of Houston, and that contributed to our helping in some programs this great schools have been developing with renowned Universities in Brazil. There are other areas that we see we can certainly make a move, and medicine,tourism and livestock may be some of those opportunities.

What's your best argument for joining the BRATECC Chamber?

BRATECC built over the last 12 years a strong network with both the Brazilian and the Texan business community especially in the oil and gas sectors, and today Brazil more than ever offers excellent opportunities for American companies. Petrobras investments and all the necessary infrastructure to host the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Summer Olympics, all this in very stable economic and political scenarios, are paving the way for great opportunities during the next five years plus.

Just last year BRATECC helped organize a remarkable Trade Mission with the GHP and the City of Houston, when our Mayor Parker visited with Mayors of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro, among other important authorities in the business community in Brazil. Bratecc has built a solid reputation in helping both business communities to succeed. If your target is the Brazilian market, being a member of BRATECC is definitely an excellent decision.

What is BRATECC'S Biggest challenge?

I believe that the most important challenge will be to continue and make BRATECC stronger each and every year, like we have been doing since it was created. We will be expanding our activities and offering the best to our members and associates. A Chamber's mission is always as challenging as the challenges of its members.

Cid Silveira

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Tramontina USA is proud to manufacture aluminum nonstick cookware in the United States. In 2005, it revived a cookware factory in Manitowoc, Wisconsin as a strategic move to further position the company as a complete domestic solution for its retail partners. Since then, its domestic production has grown steadily, and the company will expand its U.S. production capabilities in 2014.

Tramontina's growing U.S.-based manufacturing and assembly capabilities build on the company's well-established strengths in product development, packaging, marketing, sales, warehousing and distribution.

While "Made in the USA" products have always been extremely attractive to consumers and retailers, many recent economic, environmental and social factors have escalated the consumer's preference for domestically made goods.

"Our primary objective is to bring a complete solution to our retail partners. In today's competitive environment, retailers are constantly facing new challenges and must react quickly to consumer demand, sales and trends, while presenting an innovative and fresh assortment. Domestic production allows Tramontina to be extremely responsive to our customers," said Antonio Galafassi, President and CEO of Tramontina USA, Inc.

Domestic Production for a Competitive Edge

In its many years of manufacturing cookware at its Manitowoc plant, Tramontina has made a variety of improvements to better enhance its product development, manufacturing and distribution systems.

The company employs a local labor force and has gained efficiencies through streamlining manufacturing techniques, such as recycling production aluminum scrap, and minimizing freight costs. In 2012, the average daily production was more than 50,000 cookware vessels.

Now, more than ever, retailers are finding the benefits of domestic manufacturing – such as speed to market, lower minimum order quantities, quality assurance and product flexibility – are providing them with a competitive edge in the housewares marketplace.

TRAMONTINA
PROFESSIONAL

PRO3004

Commercial-grade cookware made of heavy-gauge aluminum alloy 3004 is available with and without nonstick. Removable silicone soft-grips allow for both stovetop and oven use.

MADE IN USA

TRAMONTINA PROFESSIONAL is a collection of items designed and crafted to optimize performance in both commercial and gourmet kitchens. Design, material, finishes and fixtures are carefully selected to provide exceptional durability to match the expectations of professional chefs. **Lifetime Warranty.**

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Believe in Tramontina.

A Variety of Finishes

Tramontina has continuously invested in improving equipment and streamlining operations to manufacture aluminum cookware in a variety of finishes in its U.S. facilities:

- Colored porcelain enamel exterior with nonstick
- Hard anodized with and without nonstick
- Commercial-grade aluminum alloy 3004 with and without nonstick
- Mirror-polished aluminum alloy 3004 with nonstick
- Bright multi-colored exterior with nonstick

New Nonstick Colors - PFOA-Free

This spring, Tramontina is introducing new and vibrant colors of high-quality nonstick coating that provide additional options to an already robust assortment.

The nonstick will be available in an array of colors, including Ivory White, Hot Chili, Bronze, Blue, Aubergine, Olive, French Gray and Pewter. The nonstick coatings are PFOA-free and have been developed using the latest technology by the company's key domestic nonstick suppliers, DuPont® and Whitford®.

Coming Soon: Ceramic Coated Cookware

To meet the growing trend and demand for interior ceramic-coated cookware, Tramontina is building a new production line within the Manitowoc facility, which will manufacture ceramic-coated cookware. The line is slated to begin production in spring 2014.

"In addition to being thrilled about our new production line and the upcoming ceramic capabilities, we are also extremely pleased to continue working with our domestic suppliers," said Galafassi. "Our success and growth simultaneously assists with the growth of our network of suppliers."

Domestic Assembly & Customization

Tramontina's finishing and assembly operation in Texas allows for product customization beyond the broad range of interior and exterior finish options. After the cookware vessels are produced at the factory in Manitowoc, they are shipped by rail to Tramontina's Sugar Land facility near Houston for finishing and assembly.

The Tramontina Sugar Land campus comprises three separate buildings with an area of nearly 2 million square feet, hosting the US corporate office, product and design center, finishing and assembly lines, warehousing and distribution.

"Our manufacturing and assembly process allows us to specifically tailor the product to a retailer's price point and needs, and we produce only the quantities needed to establish a program," said Galafassi. "If we find opportunities for improvements, we're able to quickly adjust, creating greater synergies and benefits for both the retailer and for our operation."

A Brand with a Strategy

With its wide range of manufacturing capabilities, Tramontina can supply cookware in every price point, including private label items. The company has created several quality product collections that encompass a complete range of materials, styles and price points:

- LimitedEditions
- Gourmet
- Professional
- Style
- Select
- EveryDay

While aluminum nonstick cookware is the focus of Tramontina's domestic manufacturing efforts, the company's comprehensive network of factories in Brazil and abroad produce several lines of premium 18/10 stainless steel and enameled cast iron cookware, forged and stamped professional cutlery as well as a large assortment of 18/10 stainless steel flatware, kitchen and servingware items.

TRAMONTINA

GOURMET

Hard Anodized

Constructed of premium materials and fixtures, Tramontina's heavy-gauge hard anodized nonstick cookware line provides exceptional performance, outstanding durability and effortless cleaning.

MADE IN USA

TRAMONTINA GOURMET, a collection of premium products engineered and manufactured with the finest design, materials and workmanship, outperforms similar products within the market and delivers the best quality and value to the cooking professional and enthusiast alike. **Lifetime Warranty.**

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Online Retailers - Pick & Ship and Customer Service

To keep pace with online product placement, sales and distribution, Tramontina has made significant investments in customer service, warehouse infrastructure, operation and logistic systems which has greatly expanded the company's capacity for pick and ship order fulfillment.

Tramontina also provides exceptional customer service to ensure purchase orders are shipped on time and without backorders, and provides consumer assistance and warranty service.

Manufacturing Legacy

Although Tramontina USA has only been manufacturing within the U.S. for eight years, the company continues a manufacturing legacy of more than 100 years started by the parent company in Brazil. Craftsmanship and quality are integral to Tramontina's culture.

The Tramontina Group

Tramontina USA, Inc. was founded in 1986 and is one of the largest corporate affiliates of the Tramontina Group from Brazil. The Tramontina Group is an international consortium founded in 1911 by Valentin Tramontina and headquartered in the Rio Grande Do Sul, the southernmost state of Brazil. The group operates 10 modern factories and 12 distribution centers worldwide, and is one of the world's leading manufacturers of household goods, ranging from cookware and cutlery to flatware and kitchen utensils. Tramontina USA has become the largest channel of distribution of products manufactured under the Tramontina label.

TRAMONTINA

STYLE

Earthtones

New ivory white PFOA-Free nonstick coating technology by DuPont® delivers innovation and multiple color choices in durable porcelain enamel exterior finishes.

MADE IN USA

TRAMONTINA STYLE, a collection of products of outstanding quality, design, functionality and value, features the latest innovations and color trends in kitchenware items. Products provide the optimum in functionality and exceptional durability. **Lifetime Warranty.**

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VIRACOPOS
AEROPORTOS BRASIL

New Passengers Terminal

The development of the Aeroporto Brasil Viracopos (Viracopos Airport) considers in the first phase of investment. The inauguration, by May of 2014, of the new passenger terminal with capacity for 14 miilion passengers per year.

The new terminal will have a modern building composed of steel, concrete and glass, compact and easy to build, maintain and adequate for future expansions. The building columns holding the roof, have the top in form of a tree, considering openings to permit a natural lighting inside the building. Also, a ceiling in wood, creating a cozy and enjoyable atmosphere.

In addition, another adjacent building shall be built on the first phase. This building will maintain the Parking for 4000 vehicles, restaurant, rental car offices and authorities offices. This building will be connected to the terminal by a covered bridge. The building design took in consideration a future expansion for a new hotel and office spaces.

Project Data Summary:

- 28 new terminal gates
- 7 new remote stations
- Parking for 4,000 vehicles
- Expansion of area for aircraft maneuvering
- Terminal adequate for 14,000,000 passengers /year
- Terminal Area: 145,000 square meters (aprox. 1,560,000 sq.ft)
- Addition 35 aircraft slots

VIRACOPOS
Aeroportos Brasil

Brazilian Texas Magazine Spring Boards Carnival Season

Stunning performers, glittering bead strands, sounds of salsa and a general atmosphere reflecting "party time" from Rio de Janeiro to São Paulo enveloped Houston's business community when Brazilian Texas in conjunction with En Houston and LPBNET hosted the commencement to Carnival season at "Scott Gertner's Jazz Club/Houston Pavilion in Downtown Houston.'It was the spring board for a very festive and enlightening season! Among the hundreds of the attendees were many influential members of the Brazilian business world, a vast amount of local entrepreneurs from En Houston and guests who came to enjoy the glitz and glamour associated with the country that will host the 2016 Olympics in Rio.

Our own editor -in- chief as well as magazine founder, Sergio Lima presented a warm welcome speech to the patrons specifically acknowledging the intense bond between the state of Texas and the Brazilian business community. He noted that the "commerce between the Lone Star State and the largest country in South America has continued to flourish and with the upcoming Olympics this relationship will continue to expand.

Sergio Lima and Ray Hewitt

En Houston's Ray Hewitt readily concurred that the bond between the two communities is thriving.

The evening was filled with fun, great food and true Carnival style entertainment, bringing Rio to Houston for the evening. Dancers in authentic costuming graced the stage in a traditional display of Brazilian dance. Music bellowed (and no, "The Girl from Ipanema" was NOT forsaken) as couples demonstrated their best Latin Jazz dancing techniques.

A special surprise was the Salsa dancing lessons that were provided. By the end of the evening beginners were twirling and moving to the sounds of Brazil.

Sadly, Carnival season has ended, but anyone who had the privilege of being part of an amazing evening, can close their eyes and envision a night to be remembered!

Gondola lift leaving the Estação da Baiana (Baiana Station) within the Complexo do Alemão which is used by local residents and tourists

History of the Alemão Favela Complex

An article published by O Globo in 2007 revealed the origin of Complexo do Alemão. After World War I, a Pole named Leonard Kaczmarkiewicz bought the land. It was not long before the place became known as Morro do Alemão (German's Hill) due to Kaczmarkiewicz's physical looks (a person of stereotypical European fair complexion is informally called alemão, galego or russo in Brazilian Portuguese, while gringo only apply to non-Portuguese-speaking tourists; these terms can be offensive, jocose or intimate depending on context, but are generally unpolitely neutral).

The rural area began to change its appearance in the late 1920s, when the leather factory Curtume Carioca was founded. It attracted hundreds of workers to the region. When Avenida Brasil was inaugurated in 1946, the region started to progress and soon became the city's main industrial center. Settlement building began in 1951, when Kaczmarkiewicz divided his land into plots and eventually sold them. The area evolved into the haphazard growth of favelas over several decades; which was parallel to what was occurring in other parts of Rio during the same time period. A Gondola lift built by the Leitner-Pomagroup now spans the Complexo do Alemão allowing residents a faster commute.It is popularly called "Bondinho do Alemão", in reference to the more famous Sugarloaf Mountain's cable cars and Santa Teresa Tramway, both also called bondinho. It has become a popular destination for foreign tourists on the weekend.

Demographics:

Area: 296.09 ha (2.96 km2) (2003)

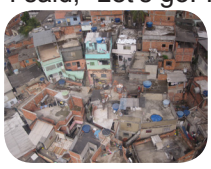
Population: 65,026 (2000)

Homes: 18,245 (2000)

A Visit to Alemão Favela Complex
An Introduction to the
"Real" Brazil

"Steve, can we use your internet?", shouted Miya Shay, the Channel 13 reporter covering Mayor Parker's visit to Brazil. She and her cameraman, Chris, had been trying to upload the day's news story back to the station so it would arrive in time for the 10:00pm opening spot in Houston. It was 11:40pm in Rio de Janeiro, so 9:40pm in Houston, and they had run into internet problems at their hotel. Knowing that the rest of us were staying around the corner, Miya and Chris had come over to find someone to help them out. "Sure!," I said, "come on up." So, up the three of us went to hook up their equipment and upload the news. Unfortunately, after about 15 minutes of trying, we had no better luck at our hotel than theirs. An exasperated Miya was clearly concerned they would not make it. At 11:55pm, I said, "Let's go!".

"Where are we going?"



"Just follow me!"

As we ran out of the front of the hotel, I found the first taxi and we all piled in. I told the driver, in Portuguese, to take us to the nearest "Lan House" and get us there as fast as he could. A Lan House is Brazil's version of an internet café, and we were lucky that the driver knew of one just a couple of blocks away.

We dashed in and I quickly explained to the somewhat surprised proprietor that we needed to hook up our computer to their system. He pointed to an empty desk with an internet connection, and by 10:04pm Houston time we had uploaded the day's news on Mayor Parker from Brazil. Although we missed the opening slot, we made the slot after the first commercial break.

When I asked how much the charge would be, our Lan House host said "Un Real", the equivalent of approximately 50 cents. And so it was that Miya and Chris learned that I was pretty good with Portuguese, that I knew my way around Brazil, but we had just opened the door for two newly arrived Americans to the Brazil that belongs to Brazilians.

The Road to Alemão

As our trip progressed, Miya, Chris and I became pretty good friends, and they regularly appreciated my translating things for them. A couple of days later, Miya asked if I would like to come along with her and Chris to visit the Alemão Favela, on a visit being arranged by Odebrecht.

Without hesitation I jumped at the opportunity when I found out that our driver was a man who had grown up in Alemão.
For those unfamiliar with Brazil,the favelas are the slums that have grown up by necessity due to a lack of low income housing and infrastructure in Brazil's major cities.

Tourists are always advised to stay out of the favelas unless they are going with someone who lives there, and even then, some favelas are quite dangerous. While previously some what dangerous, Alemão had been recently "pacified", the term used by the government to indicate a favela that has been cleaned up, the drug traffickers had been run out, and major street improvements and infrastructure is being implemented.

The Teleférico do Alemão

The Teleférico do Alemão was constructed and is operated by Odebrecht as part of Brazil's infrastructure development program. It is a 3km long, six-station system that connects the residents of Rio's massive Alemão favela complex via five hilltop stations, with a connection to the Bonsucesso Station of Rio's Super-Via commuter rail system. The new aerial system has made travel much easier for Alemão's residents, greatly improving their mobility and quality of life.

The system began operation in 2011, and travels the entire extent in about 16 minutes. The Alemão residents can apply for a Rio Card which allows them two free rides per day on the system.

A Visit to Alemão Favela Complex

Our Visit to Alemão

Our visit began with us meeting our driver, Hiago, at the Maracanã Stadium redevelopment project, currently being performed by Odebrecht. Hiago grew up in the Alemão complex. Although I had been visiting Brazil for over 15 years, and know more of Brazil than many Brazilians, I was not prepared for the trip into Alemão. As we traversed the neighborhoods along the way, I was aware that Gringos had no business being where we were. However, once we got to Alemão and our first stop, everything was different.

Without question, the teleférico and the pacification of the Alemão complex has totally transformed the area. But unfortunately, much of the poverty and poor housing still remains. Traveling on the teleférico itself provides a window into the vastness of the poverty which holds back so much of the population in Rio. Hiago mentioned that his mother still lives in Alemão, and I asked if we could visit her. When we arrived, she was not home, but walking around the streets near the station, we met his sister who works in a small grocery market. We had a chance to talk with some of the local residents, and found that life has really improved since the pacification. As has always been my experience everywhere I've been in Brazil, there was no shortage of smiles and playfulness in the children. Having travelled to many developing nations, the one aspect that always strikes me about Brazil is the happiness that shows through in the faces of the people. It's one of the great things of Brazil that keeps pulling me back.

When Hiago's mother returned home, we were invited into her small home, where she had raised all of her children, on her own. As she served us coffee, she told us heart wrenching stories of the hardships, violence and fear they had endured while growing up, with drug traffickers regularly stealing the money they had for food, leaving them just enough to survive. It was clearly a difficult life for the whole family, but through their faith in God and in each other, they have a remarkable tale of love and success.

A Visit to Alemão Favela Complex

Where is the End?

This is a story that has an ending and a middle, but I don't know how to end. I don't know how to begin to reconcile my world with the world I discovered on that day in Alemão. I wish there were an easy way to close the gaps we have within our society, but I don't know how. I do know that through infrastructure projects such as the teleférico and the many improvements to the Alemão complex we have begun to change a small part of the world we live in.

But it isn't enough. We need more, much more. Perhaps we should not worry that we aren't doing enough, but do what we can, and pray that God's mercy falls on all of us.

My day in Alemão was a stark reminder that I live a very privileged life. I was truly blessed to have been touched by the Hiago family, and I am grateful. I was humbled by their kindness and generosity, and know not what else to say. I was allowed into a world I knew nothing about, a world so harsh, yet where a stranger is welcome and the people are full of grace beyond measure. We all have so much to learn.

Hiago family

Steve Clark is a regular contributor to Brazil Texas Magazine. His previous articles have been about infrastructure and technology, but in this story, he shares his personal experiences of visiting the Alemão Favela complex in Rio de Janeiro.

Steve Clark

Credito: fotosfalantes.blogspot.com

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN BRAZIL IS THEME OF CONFERENCE AT RICE UNIVERSITY

Before discussing specifics about the very educative conference presented at Rice University on March 5, 2013, on the subject of Affirmative Action in Brazil, I would like to introduce the person responsible for the idea and concretization of the event. Elizabeth Farfan-Santos is a PhD, Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Humanities Research Center at Rice University, and the organizing force behind the conference titled "Beyond Multiculturalism? Brazil as a Model for Affirmative Action Policies in Contemporary Latin America." Dr. Farfan-Santos' interest in the subject of Affirmative Action, and particularly in the Quilombola fight for land rights in Bahia, started several years ago when she was doing research in Brazil as an undergraduate student. She visited various states and interviewed numerous institutions about the subject. At first, she confesses, she was fascinated by the complexity of the racial dynamics in Brazilian society. As a young American of Mexican ancestry living in the South, she tried to draw parallels between the two nations, but found it to be difficult to compare the two systems.

Elizabeth Farfan

The majority of Brazilians think of themselves as living in a country with a multicultural society without racial discrimination. But is it a fact? Is racial prejudice absent from Brazilian cultural, political, and educational institutions? Dr. Farfan-Santos became deeply interested in finding answers to these questions. She went back to Brazil many times to investigate the subject: she interviewed governmental organizations; she witnessed debates and conferences between authorities and the communities; she met with civil rights leaders, and she spent time immersed in the communities which at that time were fighting for their rights. During these years Dr.Farfan-Santos developed a sense that the story needed to be further studied and analyzed for its social importance, hence her hard work in putting together such a successful event. On the conference poster, Dr. Farfan-Santos writes,"Does a "post-racial" society exist in the Americas? In the past few years, Brazil has implemented trailblazing, yet controversial, affirmative action policies that have turned attention to persistent racial discrimination and exclusion in political, economic and educational spheres.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN BRAZIL IS THEME OF CONFERENCE AT RICE UNIVERSITY

Raulina Dathe and Luiz Nascimento

Robert Slenes and Edward Telles

This conference will examine the historical trajectory of race-based policies in Brazil, affirmative action vis-à-vis multiculturalism as a model for racial justice in Brazil and the U.S., the extant everyday violence of racial exclusion in rural black Brazilian communities, and affirmative action as a way of reclaiming 'a birthright' for Afro-Brazilians. These topics will invite us to think about the historical, political and social power structures that continue to warrant a discussion of race, racism and affirmative action." As one can see by this short passage, the discussions of the day were well diversified and covered a wide range of point of views. I will mention all presenters, and whenever possible relate some information about each discussion. However, I will concentrate on the presentations of Professor Luiz Claudio Dias do Nascimento and Dr. Elizabeth Farfan-Santos.The first presenter of the day was Professor Lilia Schwarcz from the University of Sao Paulo with the theme: "Neither Black nor White: Ambiguity, Inclusion, and Exclusion in the Brazilian Concept of Race." This was a very informative historical demonstration on the process used by the ruling class in Brazil from the time of discovery, moving through the centuries, in forming the ambiguous racial identities existent in Brazil today. She showed how artists' depictions on paintings, as well as literary personages, deliberately created to publicize Brazil's image, were a romanticized view of reality. After each presentation, there was a half hour of open discussion with the audience with a facilitator, which in this case was Luis Duno-Gottberg, Associate Professor of Film and Caribbean Studies, Rice University. The next presenter was Edward Telles, Professor of Sociology at Princeton University, with the title "Looking Retrospectively at Brazil's Racial Inclusion Policies". Here, Professor Telles explained when and how Affirmative Action measures came to be introduced, as well as the complex logistics of implementing some of them. He talked about the introduction of racial quotes into public universities, the conflicts generated by it, as well as the changes made to improve the system since its introduction.

RICE UNIVERSITY

He spoke of the difficult task in deciding who is black enough to benefit from such a program in a country with so many different shades of people. There was even a case where a pair of twin brothers received different classifications. He added that by now, the quote system is mostly a combination of race and social class evaluation, a criterion considered to be more just to all. The discussion that followed was facilitated by Jenifer Bratter, Associate Professor of Sociology at Rice University. Following Professor Telles, Juliet Hooker, Professor of Government and African Diaspora Studies at University of Texas in Austin, spoke about "Multicultural approaches to Racial Justice: Affirmative Action in Post-Racial Societies". Throughout her presentation, Professor Hooker drew a parallel comparison of the American history of affirmative action with the emerging racial inclusive policies in Brazil. From her speech, as well as from the following discussion facilitated by Courtney Morris, Post-Doctoral Fellow GSWGS at Rice University, it appears that there are many differences between the two systems, starting with the premises in which they were created and implemented. Dr. Hooker argued that people in the United States see affirmative action as a policy directed to the future and not to the past. In Brazil, President Dilma Rousseff stated to the nation that social quotas were implemented with the explicit intent to repay a debt the nation owes its black citizens. The overall feeling was that the verdict is not known yet about the success or failure of such policies; as the American affirmative action program receives mixed reviews- and prognostic, so do the measures implemented in Brazil. After lunch came the presentation of Luiz Claudio Dias do Nascimento, a Professor of Anthropology and Research Coordinator at the Centro de Estudos, Pesquisa e Acao Socio-Cultural in Cachoeira, Bahia, Brazil with the theme "Impasse Between History and Law in Recognition of Quilombo (communities descendent of slaves, most started by runaway slaves, "Maroons") Descendants in Brazil: The Experience of Sao Francisco/Boqueirao, in Cachoeira, Bahia".

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN BRAZIL IS THEME OF CONFERENCE AT RICE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Farfan-Santos, Edward Telles, Luiz Nascimento and Jenifer Bratter

Elizabeth Farfan, Luiz Nascimento and Raulina Dathe

Thus, as I mentioned in my introduction, I will concentrate on this subject for two reasons: First, because I worked as an interpreter for Professor Nascimento, which afforded me the opportunity to know his subject in depth, and second, because in my opinion, his subject of interest, the legal conflicts in the quilombos, is a fascinating example of the drama involved in the implementation of affirmative action's policies in Brazil. As the title makes clear, Professor Nascimento's speech was about a specific place and situation, a situation in which he is involved as one of the petitioners for the recognition of the community as a legal Quilombola, according to article 68 of the Brazilian Constitution of 1998, as well as mediator and historian in charge of documenting the process. Article 68 guarantees the appropriation of lands by afro-descendants' communities who have preserved their cultural African legacy.

Based on these criteria, Nascimento introduced a project in 2007 with the objective of recognizing the entire Iguape area, a sugar mill region about 110 kilometers from Salvador, the state's capital, as a legal Quilombola. This region, known as the Reconcavo Baiano, fertile area where sugar was produced and slavery was abundant, is greatly distinguished by people from many African nations, which left strong cultural marks in the area. The process required to initiate a petition is long and complicated with interviews, mapping of properties, anthropological analyses, documentation filing, etc.… However, in the words of Nascimento, "After the exhaustive work…political interests and other interferences derailed our attempt…individual communities were forced to solicit quilombo recognition independently.

Thus the political strength of the quilombola movement was weakened by creating legal impasses with private land owners." In addition to the conflicts created with the division of the region, there were irregularities found in the anthropological report of some areas, plus the fact that some communities did not follow the lawful process set by the constitutional amendment, choosing instead to use an approach similar to the landless movement, where they invade and settle on idle land. All these problems brought the process of quilombo recognition in the entire country to a halt. Because of these conflicts, the system was discussed in the House of Representative in Brasilia and reevaluated by the Institute of Colonization and Agrarian Reform (INCRA), which decided to follow the advice of Eliane Catarino O'Dwyer, Project Coordinator of the Brazilian Association of Anthropology. She suggested hiring anthropologists with previous research and work experience with the subject matter. Thus, the INCRA published a decree in 2011 requesting the contracting of specialized anthropologists to revise and give progress to the processes. These conflicts and delays penalized some communities, such as the Kaonge/Engenho da Ponte. They suffered acts of revenge by the land owners such as the destruction of hundreds of dende palm trees, which the community used for the production of oil and craft products, and deforestation of an area where sacred trees, part of an antique Calundu (religious manifestations) were grown.

After many appeals, Professor Nascimento reports that "Finally a culture Point was created in these communities…a space that supports the practice of citizenship, dance, theater, cinema, production of honey, and cultivation of herbs." But he goes on to say that these same communities still face problems in formalizing their land rights which would guarantee financial resources, plus investments in agriculture and fishing, and other social implementations guaranteed by the Federal Government. He stresses the resistance faced by these communities from the Brazilian social elite, as well as the complications coming from the excessive bureaucracy of Brazil's legal system.

From here, instead of moving chronologically as I have been doing, I will jump to the last presentation given by Elizabeth Farfan-Santos because her presentation was also on the subject of Quilombolas: "Saying it like it is: Quilombola Rights as Racial Inclusion". This is not a coincidence; in fact, Farfan-Santos has worked with Professor Nascimento during her research in Bahia, Brazil. As I mentioned earlier, she has done exhaustive interviews with all sides of the conflict. She seems to be very connected to the human drama involved on the process. As a non-Brazilian, not accustomed to the bureaucracy and in some cases pure corruption present in these situations, she was brought to tears when speaking of some experiences she had in these communities. These people face colossal struggles.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN BRAZIL IS THEME OF CONFERENCE AT RICE UNIVERSITY

Ibrain Nascimento, Raulina Dathe and RICE'S' Students

Robert Slene and RICE'S Teachers

Photos by: Ibraim do Nascimento

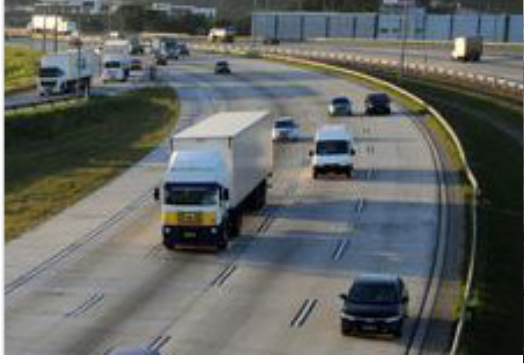
The complications come from every side: one example is the fact that even though the Federal Government passed the land law benefiting the quilombos, Bahia's state land laws have not changed since the 1800s. This situation gives the land owners a point to contest. Another problem is the difficult process of identification and authentication of the communities, as cited by Nascimento. Still, one of the most complicated and painful conflicts are the ones created between members of the communities, as they are divided in groups of different opinions about the whole idea of affirmative action, and the concept of land rights based on ancestry.

The conflicts in the population come from the fact that, as is mentioned on the title of the conference, Brazilians have been conditioned to believe that its society is multicultural and post-racial. This belief leads to the rejection of any racial categorization and the shunning of any benefits that could come from race divisions in some individuals. Dr. Farfan-Santos talks of families divided with violent fervor about the subject, which to me is an indicative of the confusing ideas of ethnicity we Brazilians have. In this case it is even more fascinating, since the rights to quilombo's lands are based not only on race but on the relationship to the land itself, to the roots and traditions, and to the long interdependence of the communities on such lands. Still, as it is common to Brazilians, some people who could benefit from a law such as this one espouse the thinking of the dominant elites in believing that it is important to keep the status quo. This is not to say that the implementation of affirmative action cannot generate real negative consequences such as a racial divided society and backlash lawsuits as we have seen here in the United States. But, as it was reported by some of the speakers and reiterated here by Dr. Farfan-Santos, the positive results outweigh the negatives and make the process worthy and necessary to create a fair society with equal rights to all, basic rights that continue to elude many hard working and deserving people in Brazil. The question-answer session for Farfan-Santos was led by Mariola Alvarez, Post-Doctoral Fellow, HRC Rice University.

Now I will return to the 5th presenter of the day, Robert Slenes a Professor of History at the University Estadual de Campinas (Unicamp) in Sao Paulo, Brazil, whose presentation was titled "A 'Great Arch' Restored: Reclaiming a Brazilian Birth Right though Affirmative Action." As I understand it, he was speaking of the birthright of the nation, as he showed the results of relatively new researches which show that the rights of blacks in Brazil had a sharp period of decline when compared to early periods around the beginning of the 19th century.

Using statistics, he demonstrated that by the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries there was a period when a large number of slaves obtained freedom and rights. Many of the free blacks owned slaves themselves. He goes on to show a change in the system as the number of large plantations of coffee increased in Sao Paulo. So, the research shows that even after the commerce of slaves had been declared illegal, it not only continued but increased in Brazil. Here lies the "Arch" of the racial rights he is speaking about. Also, I understood that this second wave of slavery and its effects had not been considered through the constitutional amendments since then until these recent affirmative laws were introduced. Slenes concludes that at its birth, Brazil indeed had the promise of a multicultural and inclusive society, but economic forces brought by the growing power of the coffee plantations turned the tide against equal rights to blacks. Slenes' follow up discussion was facilitated by Alida Metcalf, Harris Masterson, Jr. Professor of History at Rice University. This conference was an amazing learning experience to all who attended. It brought insight into a complicated issue that needs further analysis in order to improve its applications and measure its progress and benefits. The conference itself was of historical significance discussing the implementation of affirmative action policies in a Latin American nation at a moment when affirmative action in the United States is being questioned and dismissed.

By: Raulina Dathe



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In the United States, Odebrecht currently operates in the states of Texas, Pennsylvania, Florida, Louisiana, and West Virginia.

History

In 1944, the companies that would form Construtora Norberto Odebrecht S.A. began to move their first concrete mixer trucks. The DNA of the Odebrecht Organization, however, dates back years earlier: 1856, when Emil Odebrecht arrived in Brazil. Following the flow of German immigration to the country, the German engineer settled in Vale do Itajaí, in the Southern Brazilian state of Santa Catarina.

Emil participated actively in the land demarcations, topographic surveys and construction of roads in Brazil's Southern region. He married Bertha Bichels and had 15 children. One of his grandsons, Emílio Odebrecht, would show a passion for the Civil Construction sector and prove the entrepreneurial vocation of the Odebrecht family.

The construction company Isaac Gondim e Odebrecht Ltda was Emílio Odebrecht's first company. In 1923, he founded Emílio Odebrecht & Cia., which was responsible for constructing several different buildings during the inter-war period in states of the Brazilian Northeast. At the time, the company was one of the pioneers in the use of reinforced concrete in Brazil.

With the start of the Second World War, the construction materials coming from Europe became expensive and scarce, generating a crisis in the sector. Discouraged, Emílio abandoned his businesses located in Salvador, Bahia. His son Norberto Odebrecht took his place in 1941. Three years later, Norberto created his own company, considered the organization's starting point.

Under his leadership, Odebrecht grew, traversed borders and diversified its operations, always founded on the Principles, Concepts and Criteria developed by it and included in the Odebrecht Entrepreneurial Technology (TEO).

In the late 1980s and early 1990s, investments in petrochemical sector ventures became strategic for the company. Also during this time, Emílio Odebrecht succeeded his father as CEO of the Odebrecht S.A. holding , with the challenge of guaranteeing the continuity of the company's international expansion. The organization increased its operations, arriving to countries such as the United States, Mexico, Venezuela and Malasia.

Emílio Odebrecht headed the organization for 10 years, until Pedro Novis took the lead in 2001 . The start of the new century would be marked by the acquisition of shareholder control of Copene – the raw material center in Polo de Camaçari, Bahia – as part of a consortium with Grupo Mariani. A mighty and competitive Brazilian company in the petrochemical sector began to emerge. A series of corporate and operational mergers produced the company Braskem in 2002.

At the end of 2008, Marcelo Odebrecht assumed the command of the organization. Part of the family's third generation, he now leads a new cycle of growth.

To learn more about the Odebrecht Organization please visit www.odebrecht.com

Odebrecht in Texas

Engineering & Construction

Diverse in site, scale and purpose, Odebrecht's projects in the United States reflect a range of construction services for ports, airports, mass transit, rail, general building, bridges, highways, and environmental projects such as dams, levees, and floodwalls.

The Houston office was established two years prior to Odebrecht USA's contract with the Harris County Toll Road Authority in 2011. The contract with the Harris County Toll Road Authority was to expand a portion of the Sam Houston Tollway.

The approximately 5-mile long project calls for the addition of two new lanes in each direction, for a total of eight lanes when completed. The addition of the new lanes will double the capacity of the road and should significantly improve traffic flow and enhance mobility in the area. In addition to the road widening, the main lane toll plaza will be reconfigured to include three dedicated "EZ TAG" electronic toll lanes and three dedicated cash toll lanes.

Entrance and exit ramps will be renovated and will each feature a dedicated "EZ TAG" lane and a dedicated cash lane.The Sam Houston project is just one of many in Odebrecht USA's endeavors. To date, Odebrecht USA has completed over 63 projects in the United States, work valued at $6.4 billion.

Another project in the Greater Houston Area is the Grand Parkway F1, F2, and G Projects, consisting of approximately 38 miles in length. The completion of these three Segments will create a tolled, four-lane highway around North and West Houston.

The project being built by Zachry – Odebrecht Parkway Builders (ZOPB) comprises a mostly east-west portion north and northwest of central Houston. It begins at its eastern end at the US59 freeway in Montgomery County about 22 miles out from downtown Houston and runs 13.5 miles west to I-45.

Industrial Engineering

Odebrecht is also responsible for the maintenance work at the Petrobras Pasadena Refinery, located in Texas.

Oil & Gas

Petrobras Pasadena Refinery

The oil and gas chain has experienced accelerated development over the past years, gaining increasing importance in the Brazilian economy. The Organization followed this advance up-close through the companies currently concentrated in Odebrecht Oil and Gas.

Oyster Creek/Freeport

Braskem

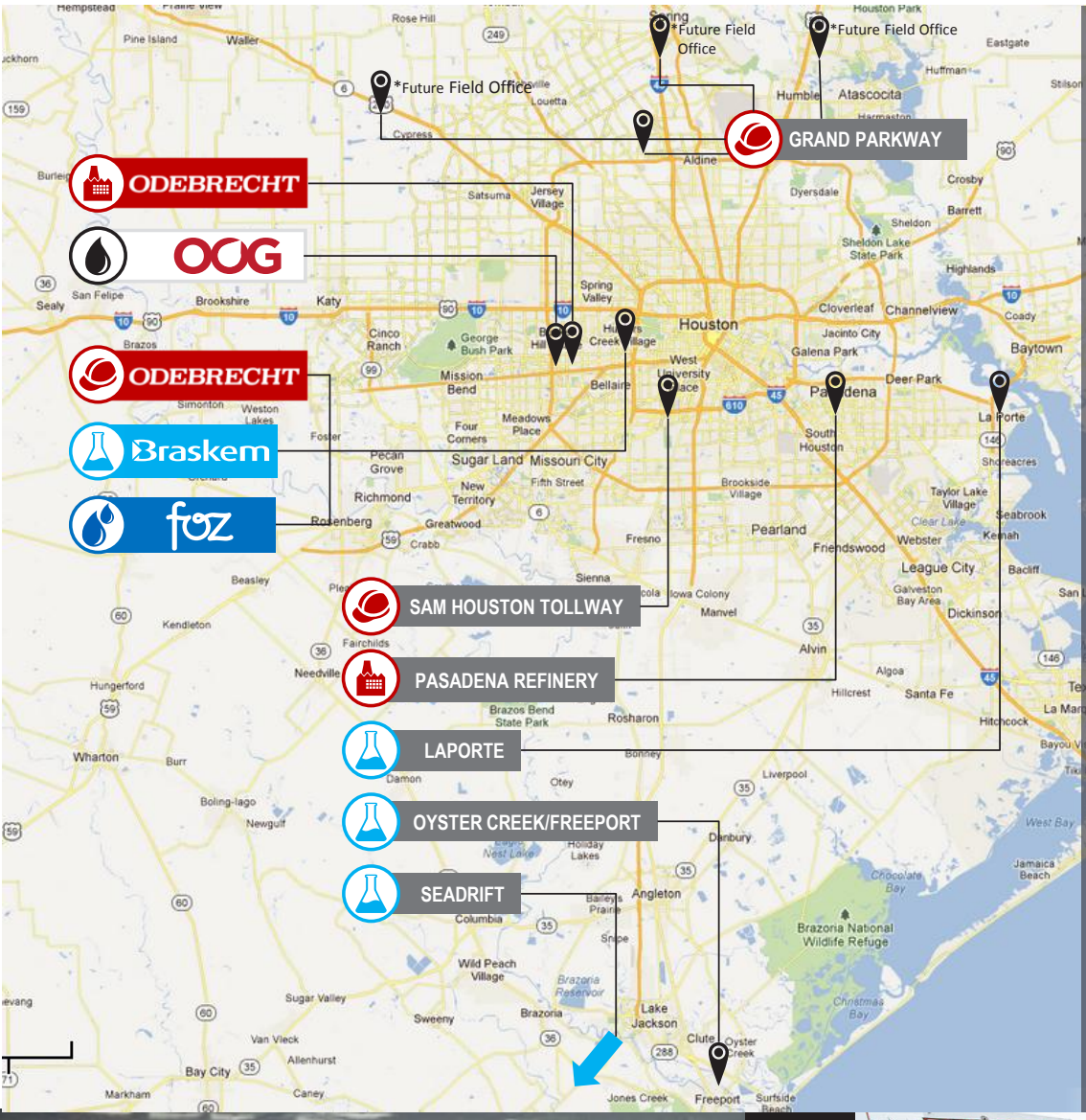
Chemical & Petrochemical

Odebrecht founded Braskem in 2002, although the Organization's
investments in the segment began back in 1979. Today, Braskem is the largest petrochemical company in Latin America, the fifth largest in the world, with exports to more than 60 countries worldwide.

A key move for the company's internationalization was the acquisition and consolidation of the US-based Sunoco Chemicals' polypropylene assets in 2010. As a result, Braskem began manufacturing and R&D operations in the United States. In 2011, Braskem acquired the polypropylene assets of Dow Chemical. Headquartered in Philadelphia, Braskem America has five polypropylene (PP) plants: three in Texas (La Porte, Oyster Creek and Seadrift), one in Pennsylvania (Marcus Hook) and one in West Virginia (Neal), in addition to a modern Innovation & Technology Center in Pittsburgh.

ODEBRECHT

The Odebrecht Organization in the Houston Area



416 team members

OFFICES:

- Odebrecht Construction
- Odebrecht Industrial
- Braskem
- Foz
- Odebrecht Oil & Gas

PROJECTS/PLANTS:

- Grand Parkway F1, F2, & G
  TxDOT
- Sam Houston Tollway Widening
  HCTRA
- Pasadena Refinery
  Petrobras
- Laporte Petrochemical Plant
  Braskem
- Oyster Creek/Freeport Petrochem Plant
  Braskem
- Seadrift Petrochemical Plant
  Braskem