

# BRASILIA: Growth of a New Capital



The 2000 image shows considerable urban growth in planned areas and in surrounding suburban developments. The dark green color in the images represents forest, agriculture appears light green, light earth colored spots represents planned areas for infrastructure and shades of violet reveal urban infrastructure.



The 1973 image shows a newly born city with little development outside the city boundaries. Native vegetation abounds in the newly settled Brazilian frontier.



Inaugurated on 21 April 1960, Brazil's new capital of Brasilia began with a population of 140 000 and a master plan for carefully controlled growth and development that would limit the city to 500 000. Urban planner Lucio Costa and architect Oscar Niemeyer intended that every element - from the layout of the residential and administrative districts to the symmetry of the buildings themselves - should act in harmony with the city's overall design. This consisted of a bird-shaped core with residential areas situated between the encircling "arms" of Lake Paranoá. The city was a landmark in town planning and was recognized as a World Heritage site in 1987.