

Oscar Niemeyer Quotes

*Architecture, Important, Beautiful, Curves, Art, Simple, Country, Talking, Dream,
Drawing, Architect, Surprise, Sensual, Needs, Space, Light, Men, Lines,
Political, Building*

My work is not about "form follows function," but "form follows beauty" or, even better, "form follows feminine."

~Oscar Niemeyer

The architect's role is to fight for a better world, where he can produce an architecture that serves everyone and not just a group of privileged people.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Today, architecture is invention. It isn't enough to just be rational - It must also be beautiful.

~Oscar Niemeyer

What attracts me are free and sensual curves. The curves we find in mountains, in the waves of the sea, in the body of the woman we love.

~Oscar Niemeyer

The rule is the worst thing. You just want to break it.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Curves are the essence of my work because they are the essence of Brazil, pure and simple.

~Oscar Niemeyer

When you have a large space to conquer, the curve is the natural solution.

~Oscar Niemeyer

My architecture is easy to understand. And enjoy. I hope it also is hard to forget.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Life is more important than architecture.

~Oscar Niemeyer

It was the drawing that led me to architecture, the search for light and astonishing forms.

~Oscar Niemeyer

My ambition has always been to reduce a building's support to a minimum. The more we diminish supporting structures, the more audacious and important the architecture is. That has been my life's work.

~Oscar Niemeyer

We need to feel that life is important; we need that fantasy so we can live a little better.

~Oscar Niemeyer

We have to have dreams, even if they never come true.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Architecture is invention.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Camus says in 'The Stranger' that reason is the enemy of imagination. Sometimes you have to put reason aside and make something beautiful.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Humanity needs dreams to be able to survive the miseries of daily existence, even if only for an instant.

~Oscar Niemeyer

It is not with architecture that one can disseminate any political ideology.

~Oscar Niemeyer

I pick up my pen. It flows. A building appears. There it is. There is

nothing more to say.

~Oscar Niemeyer

I was attracted by the curve "the liberated, sensual curve suggested by the possibilities of new technology yet so often recalled in venerable old baroque churches.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Architecture is my work, and I've spent my whole life at a drawing board, but life is more important than architecture. What matters is to improve human beings.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Surprise is key in all art.

~Oscar Niemeyer

The artistic capability of reinforced concrete is so fantastic - that is the way to go.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Right angles don't attract me. Nor straight, hard and inflexible lines created by man.

~Oscar Niemeyer

I search for surprise in my architecture. A work of art should cause the emotion of newness.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Turning 102 is crap, and there is nothing to commemorate.

~Oscar Niemeyer

The challenge of a cathedral is very good for architectural inventiveness.

~Oscar Niemeyer

I had some good opportunities. I was lucky to have had the chance to do things differently. Architecture is about surprise.

~Oscar Niemeyer

When I was very little my mother said I used to draw in the air with my fingers. I needed a pencil. Once I could hold one, I have drawn every day since.

~Oscar Niemeyer

There is no reason to design buildings that are more basic and rectilinear, because with concrete you can cover almost any space.

~Oscar Niemeyer

I enter my studio at 9 a.m. I have lunch here, I return right away to my work and I go out to dinner at 8 p.m. My daily tasks vary very much.

~Oscar Niemeyer

I am a Brazilian before I am an architect. I cannot separate the two.

~Oscar Niemeyer

For me beauty is valued more than anything - the beauty that is manifest in a curved line or in an act of creativity.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Architecture does not change anything. It's always on the side of the wealthy. The important thing is to believe that it can make life better.

~Oscar Niemeyer

When students leave college, they are like children who know nothing about the problems of life, and don't have a political stance.

~Oscar Niemeyer

I think of myself as no more than 60. What I could do at 60, I can still do now.

~Oscar Niemeyer

I like talking to priests, to Catholics. Everyone has their beliefs.

~Oscar Niemeyer

Sometimes I lose a whole morning waiting on journalists and other people who look for me. But I always find some time for reading, talking to my friends and feeling what is happening in this world.

~Oscar Niemeyer

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