

1948 // NATIONAL PROFILE CHILE

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LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE IN 1948

In 1948 there was no training for landscape architects and no professional association of landscape architects in Chile. There was, however, an interest as well as the ongoing practice of some garden design and horticulture. The Club de Jardines de Chile (Chilean Garden Club) was founded in 1954. The Chilean Institute of Landscape Architects (ICHAP), a Chilean subsidiary of IFLA, was established in 1989; among the founding members was Marta Viveros Letelier.

Until well into the middle of the twentieth century, professionals from other countries were hired as landscape architects on important projects in Chile. At that time, landscape architecture was limited to working for private, wealthy individuals. One of the most influential landscape architects of the first half of the twentieth century was Oscar Prager. He came to Chile from Germany around 1925 and, until his death in 1960, gained influence and recognition in Chile as a landscape architect and urban planner.¹ Prager shared many of his ideas and advice especially with two groups of people;

(a) the owners of gardens and parks, through long conversations as well as gifting them bulbs and seeds that they could add to their gardens throughout the seasons.

(b) the professionals who worked with him. Prager taught basic techniques for building and maintaining the garden. Probably Prager's informal apprentices adopted designs and constructions of similar complexity and scale.

NOTABLE INDIVIDUAL

Carlos Guillermo Cariola Ansaldo (1887–death not known) was a building contractor with multiple connections to Europe. He was of Genoese descent, studied commerce in Switzerland and served as officer at the Cavalry School in Turin, Italy, during World War I.

Around 1930, Carlos Cariola and his long-time professional partner, the engineer Ernesto Bozzo Pezza, built the seaside resort Las Rocas on the coast of Santo Domingo in the Valparaíso region. By commissioning the architectural firm Smith Solar & Smith Miller, Cariola ran into Oscar Prager, who became responsible for the masterplan of the Santo Domingo resort. According to Cariola's children, the seaside resort with its large gardens reflected their father's dedication to sport and his love of nature. With the opening of the seaside resort, the Santo Domingo Garden Club was founded.² In 1948, Cariola had sufficient means to finance a trip to Europe and the IFLA congress in London, at a time when this was an unattainable luxury for the vast majority of people in Chile. Carlos Cariola attended the founding meeting in Cambridge, was one of the fifteen first councillors and, though not trained as landscape architect, continued to participate in the Grand Council Meeting in 1958 in Washington.³

1. Further information on Oscar Albert Prager in this article: Viveros Letelier, M. (2019). 'Oscar Prager (1876–1960): a career across the Americas', *Studies in the History of Gardens & Designed Landscapes*, 39.3, 234–254. DOI: 10.1080/14601176.2018.1543040

2. Escudero, J.C. (2015). Patricio Cariola Barroilhet y su aporte a la renovación pedagógica en la segunda mitad del siglo 20 en Chile. *Historia Da Educação, Associação Sul-Rio-Grandense de Pesquisadores em História da Educação*, 19.47, 149–174. DOI: 10.1590/2236-3459/53788

3. Notes of Informal Meeting held at Jesus College, Cambridge 14th August, 1948. (1948).

Notes of Informal Meeting held at Jesus College [minutes] CIVA Brussels, IFLA Golden books, IFLA (1958). Minutes of a meeting of the Grand Council held in the East Room, Shoreham Hotel, Washington, D.C., 1st July, 1958. CIVA Brussels, IFLA Golden books

4. List of participants at the Informal Meeting held at Jesus College, Cambridge, 14th August, 1948 © CIVA Collections, Brussels

