

The Viking Museum Memorial in Curitiba

ABSTRACT: The research done by professor Dascomb Barddal has the goal to preserve the memory of Icelandic immigrants. In the beginning, he contacted the Iceland-Brazil association which was founded by Nanna de Carvalho Sondhal in March, 1996. This association possesses one of the largest collections of photos and historic documents of existing Icelandic immigration in Curitiba. Later, in 2005, Professor Dascomb Barddal was promoted president of the Iceland-Brazil association when he had Christine Viana Baptista's (Curitiba Culture Heritage Foundation Director) and Rafael Greco's support. There has been a plan to create a space for the preservation of the documentary memory of Icelandic immigration. This idea has been planned for several years by professor Dascomb Barddal. This space will be a museum, where all things similar to a "Viking home", including a replica of a Viking boat are projected to be part of it.

History

The idea to build an Icelandic museum was born from a research done by Professor Dascomb Barddal at his great-grandfather's homeland, Iceland. As soon as Dr. Barddal came back to Brazil, he made contact with the Iceland-Brazil Association. This association is the place where all the people and their descendents from Iceland that live in Brazil, get together.

The original idea was to build a museum, but deputy Rafael Greco suggested that the space would be used not only for pictures and documents from the immigrants but that its biggest attraction would be the replica of a Viking ship built in 834 A.D. and discovered in 1904 in a city named Oseberg in Sweden.

The Viking House

Originally the Viking's houses were built in pinewood structure with walls made of blocks of turf that was present in the roofs too, supported by the same pinewood. In the small houses, the windows were absent and there was only a door. In the biggest houses, there were side openings so the light could come through them.

The Bacacheri Park

A historical fact was used as an explanation to justify the choice of the Bacacheri Park as the location for the museum. It was in this place that Jónas Frithfinsson Barddal built, with the Viking's technique, the "Bacacheri Tank" that is still there, to faithfully reproduce the basic of the Icelandic life landscape where the necessity of water was very evident, even in the shape of a small lake or a pound.

The Oseberg Ship

There are four options for the construction of the ship replica:

- a) Ask naval carpenters and Brazilian wood carvers to build the boat in the museum itself, respecting faithfully the design given by the Oslo Museum;
- b) Build it in Itajaí, Joinville or Paranaguá where there are people specialized in the construction of ships;
- c) There is a Scandinavian ONG that has already built a replica of the Oseberg Ship, and it is willing to give the design of the ship;
- d) Import the replica straight from Norwegian dockyards.

The Viking Museum Memorial in Curitiba - Descriptive memorial of the construction

Objective: Create a new attraction for tourists in Curitiba similar to “Parque Alemão” and “Casa do Papa”. To this end, the intention is to create a unique physical space perfectly integrated to the urban scenery of Curitiba, having the replica of the Oseberg’s Viking ship as a concrete attraction. Regarding the dimensions of the ship and the space needed for the cultural aspects of the museum, it is estimated a space as big as 900m² of built structure divided into two floors occupying an area of 700m² of land.

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