

MEMORIAL BRUMADINHO

Six years after the country's biggest humanitarian tragedy, the Brumadinho Memorial was opened to the public in January 2025. **The lighting design project developed by Atiaia recently won the Architectural Lighting Design of the year 2025 in the prestigious LIT Awards, a global recognition of excellence in lighting design.**

Brumadinho Memorial is a space based on the ethical commitment of symbolic reparation and memory for the 272 fatal victims of the collapse of a dam at Córrego do Feijão Mine, owned by Vale S.A. mining company. Occurred on January 25, 2019, in Brumadinho (MG), affecting 26 municipalities and releasing 12 million cubic meters of mining waste mud.

It was born from the historic mobilization of the victims' families with the goal of embracing their grief and transforming the site of the tragedy into a space for reflection, learning and transformation. It was chosen by the families through a vote, selecting the winning proposal from among four others submitted.

Among the 272 lives lost were 251 workers from the mining company Vale S.A., two unborn children, as well as community residents and tourists. The Memorial gives names, faces, and tells the stories of the victims. It presents facts and figures about the day of the dam collapse, about the history of Córrego do Feijão and Brumadinho.

Our task in facing the reality of the families' pain has placed us in a position of profound humility. The narrative belongs to those who can no longer speak and to those left behind in grief. There is no consolation that can be materialized under these circumstances. This was, therefore, our limited effort to honor the memory of invaluable people whose lives and dreams were abruptly cut short.

Brumadinho Memorial houses an entrance pavilion, a grove, outdoor living areas, pathways to a sculpture-monument, a reflecting pool, Memory and Testimony exhibition rooms, and a space dedicated to the dignified storage of the victims' corporeal segments.

The lighting design, while paying tribute, exposes what cannot be repaired, serving as a call and spark for reflection and necessary changes.

Lighting was crafted to create an immersive, sensitive and respectful atmosphere. It conveys information, brilliance and presence, as it illuminates messages, symbols and architecture, honoring the victims' memory: a Poem, a crystal cluster, 272 ipê flowers, 272 stars in the lake (the lost "jewels"), a sculpture that cries over concrete walls mixed with the pigment of mining waste.

It is also a tool to illuminate those who visit, reflect, feel, and are transformed by this experience.

Each solution was designed to connect the visitor to the impacts of what happened, through a symbolic and sensitive interpretation. It helps guide the journey and the experience of the Memorial, determining layers of light and highlighted planes; emphasizing elements and symbols; determining zones of light and darkness, defining brightness levels and more or less perceptible contrasts per space, according to what they represent, shelter, and display; opting for a warmer light color appearance for some impression of comfort and welcoming; striving not to distort the characteristics and colors of the architectural materials, without hiding defects.

Brumadinho Memorial is a place to feel - an act of resistance against oblivion, so that brutal events like this, against humanity and the environment, never happen again.

Brumadinho Memorial is in a rural area. We sought to balance the solutions to honor the memory of the victims with the need to preserve the night sky, fauna and flora, directing light where needed.

Despite the use of uplight solutions, such as grazing effects for highlighting concrete walls, wallwashers for highlighting the Monument, inground fixtures for glowing selected tree canopies, light spill was mitigated where possible.

Facades have eaves shielding from light dispersion, use of high efficacy LED fixtures and fiber optics solutions, life maintenance standards (LM70 and LM80), optical control with additional accessories, choice of precise luminous flux and intensity, lighting fixtures manufactured in Brazil, minimizing the carbon impact of transport, are some of the strategies considered.

Also, the Memorial remains lit only during opening hours, minimizing power consumption and light pollution to the sky.

The timeframe was tight for a complex and unique project that required customization. Coordination between disciplines required considerable dedication and dialogue, as the lighting design needed to be integrated with architecture, interior, structures, plumbing and fountains, waterproofing, signage, landscaping, air conditioning and sustainability, as well as electrical installations and automation. Prototypes were necessary to validate many solutions.

CREDITS:

Project: Memorial Brumadinho

Location: Brumadinho, Minas Gerais, Brazil

Client: AVABRUM (Association of Families of Victims and Those Affected by the Collapse of the Córrego do Feijão Mine Dam)

Architects and Interior Design: Gustavo Penna Arquiteto e Associados

Lighting Design: Atiaia Lighting Design (Mariana Novaes/principal; Pedro Ferreira, Bárbara de Oliveira, Elisa Campos - collaborators)

Project Manager: Olhar 360 Projetos

Landscape: Medra Paisagismo

Signage: Greco

Exhibition design project for the Memory and Testimony Spaces: Júlia Peregrino

Lighting of the exhibition design for the Memory and Testimony Spaces: Cesar de Ramires

Installation of quartz crystals with fiber optics: Demian Quincke

Suppliers: Arte em Cena, Fasa Fibra Ótica, Interlight, Lemca, Lightsource, Lumicenter, Luxion, O/M Light

Photographers: Jomar Bragança, Leo Drumond, Pedro Mascaro.

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<https://atiaiaidesign.com.br/en/>

<https://www.instagram.com/atiaia.lighting.design/>

<https://www.memorialbrumadinho.org.br/>

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