wards from the surrounding pavement. The ramp leads into a darkened ante-chamber, from which the visitor passes into the huge light interior of the cathedral. A 30 ft. diameter and 150 ft. high, holding 4,000 people, shaped like a cooling-tower and, it is understood, functioning like one as well. A detached baptistery, egg-shaped externally, is reached by stairs from a subterranean passage leading from the cathedral floor.

The only other central-area buildings so far designed are for the business zone, where banks, insurance companies and so on will have their offices. A model, 5, has been made showing Lucio Costa's proposals as to how such buildings might be grouped. It is difficult to understand the logic of the change of orientation between the eleven fifteen-storey slabblocks suggested for private establishments and the crescents, which consist of a twenty-storey block in the centre for the Bank of Brazil and five others, connected to it, for Government financial agencies; but the use of levels to separate motor-traffic and car-parking from pedestrian access (cars approach each building beneath the piazza on which the buildings stand) is interesting and consistent with the planning technique used elsewhere.

The residential zone (see plan) is divided into squares, each housing about 8,000 people, identical in size but laid out internally in different ways. Belts of trees separate them, and primary schools and community buildings are sited among these trees. Another purpose they are intended to serve is to identify the outline of the squares and create a built-up skyline throughout the residential zone, during the period when parts of it have not yet reached the development stage. Work is going on eleven of these squares and others will be started soon. The buildings already begun will accommodate 15,000 people, mostly in seven- or eight-storey blocks of flats. Something over 200 flats are on the point of completion, 2,800 are scheduled to be ready by the end of this year and nearly 4,000 by the end of 1960. This rate of progress means that in April 1960, when the seat of Government officially moves from Rio de Janeiro to Brasilia, there will be something like 3,300 flats ready for occupation.

It has been estimated that a minimum of 1,800 essential civil servants will have to be working in Brasilia for the Government to begin operating from there, so this leaves a margin of accommodation for others besides civil servants, apart from the smaller quantity of housing that is already beginning to go up in controlled areas outside the main housing belt. Notable among these is a group of middle-class houses already finished, east of the southern arm of this belt, at the edge of the future lake.

The layout of the first square due to be finished within the residential belt is shown in model form in 6, and the progress photograph shows the buildings under construction. In the corner of the model can be seen the neighbourhood church, which is already finished. 8. It is one of Niemeyer's always interesting demonstrations of the use of concrete as a plastic material, though the relationship of some of the planes gives the impression of not having been very fully visualized and the church suffers from having been built, for economy reasons, rather smaller than the architect designed it.

There is now a labour force of about 20,000 in Brasilia, including building and engineering workers, transport and tractor drivers and those engaged in road-making and landscaping. They live for the most part in camps, hidden away in folds of the ground a little distance from the future built-up area (9 on the plan on page 94). There is also, just west of the airport,