

Biographical summary of the Architect Hestnes Ferreira

Raúl José Hestnes Ferreira (1931-2018) was born in Lisbon, the son of the poet and writer José Gomes Ferreira and of Ingrid Hestnes Ferreira. The republican and democratic elements that he inherited from his paternal grandfather Alexandre Ferreira and the neorealist literary universe followed by his father, José Gomes Ferreira, were fundamental influences throughout his life. Although his father was a writer, his circle of friends included several plastic artists and the closeness between his family and that of the architect Keil do Amaral was very important and even decisive in the choice of his future as an architect.

His career in Higher Education began with his admission to the Lisbon School of Fine Arts, in the 1st year Sculpture class, in the 1950-51 academic year. The following year he moved to the Architecture Course at the same School, having been expelled, for political reasons, at the end of that school year. In 1952, he enrolled on the 1st year of the Architecture course at the Porto School of Fine Arts, then led by the architect Carlos Ramos, becoming a student of, among others, Fernando Távora and José Carlos Loureiro. In this city he trained with Arménio Losa and João Andresen. He did not complete his 4th year until 1956-57, having been prevented by PIDE from doing so in the previous academic year. His Architect's diploma, awarded by the Lisbon High School of Fine Arts, was not obtained until 1961, with a thesis on University Residences (Planning and Projects), classified with 19 points, Carlos Manuel Ramos having been a member of the jury.

However, partly influenced by the naturalness of his mother's Norwegian family, partly by his fascination with the work of Alvar Aalto, he decided to go and live in Finland. Between 1957 and 1958 he studied at the Finnish Institute of Technology in Helsinki, as an external student, urbanism with Otto Meurman (1890-1994) and architecture with Heikki Siren (1918-2013). These two architects had a strong formative influence on Hestnes Ferreira, revealing to him in particular the importance of the constructive system and structure as integral factors in the conceptual process. In 1958, he worked in the office of Woldemar Baeckman (1911-1994) in Helsinki, and also during this period, in collaboration with Osmo Rissanen, he worked on a Competition for a Church.

In 1960, he returned to Portugal and stayed for one year in Lagos, in the Algarve, working with José Veloso on several projects, both as a team and individually. This set of works includes José Gomes Ferreira's House in Albarraque, and the Mimoso and Shrimpton houses in Praia da Luz, the latter later destroyed.

Between 1962 and 1965, he was based in the United States of America. A Scholarship from the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation allowed him to study at Yale, where he studied Architecture with Paul Rudolph and trained in the firm of Cope & Lippincott. Subsequently, also in that year, he began working in Philadelphia in Louis Kahn's workshop. As a collaborator in the workshop, he took part in the Plans for the Government Centres of Pakistan in Dhaka and Islamabad; on the National Assembly Buildings in Dhaka and Islamabad; on the Main Hospital in Dhaka (in charge); on the High School of Management in Ahmedabad, Indian Union; and on the Art School in Philadelphia.

His teaching activity began in 1970, the year in which he took part in the Pedagogical Experiments directed by Frederico George, as an Architecture Assistant for the 4th, 5th and 6th years of the Lisbon School of Fine Arts. However, following the National Ministry of Education's decision to suspend these experiments, he asked for his assistant's contract to be terminated, remaining at ESBAL until the end of the 1971-72 school year. He was a visiting professor on the Architecture Course of the Árvore Cooperative in the 1986-87 and 1987-88 academic years, leaving at his own request after the Cooperative's pedagogical structure changed. For a period of twelve years, between 1991 and 2003, he was visiting Full Professor in the Department of Architecture of the University of Coimbra's Faculty of Science and Technology. He also taught at ISCTE, in the department of Architecture and Urbanism, between 2001 and 2003, teaching as Full Professor from 2010 until his death in the Department of Architecture of the Lusófona University.

His relevance for the History of Portuguese architecture is underlined by the titles he has received, both academically and professionally, as an architect. In 2007 he received the degree of Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Coimbra and in 2010 he received the title of Honorary Member of the Order of Architects. In 2011 he was awarded the Medal of Merit from the University of Lisbon and finally, in 2014, he received the Diploma of Recognition and Merit of the Lusófona University.

As professional recognition of the several distinctions awarded to him, a highlight in 1982 was the National Architecture and Urbanism Prize from the Portuguese Section of the International Association of Art Critics; in that

same year, the Honourable Mention of the Valmor Prize for the Benfica Secondary School, now the José Gomes Ferreira Secondary School. In 1993 the Eugénio dos Santos Prize, from the City of Lisbon, 1st assignment, for the remodelling of a building in the Avenida da República, in collaboration with Manuel Miranda; in that same year the National Architecture Prize -Construction, Technical, Detail- given by the Association of Portuguese Architects, for the design of the Caixa Geral de Depósitos Agency in Avis; and the Honourable Mention of the Valmor Prize for the INDEG Building on the ISCTE campus; in 1994, 1st Prize in the Competition for the Remodelling of Évora Museum; and finally the 2002 Valmor Prize, ex-aequo, for the ISCTE II / ICS Building.

In addition to Architecture and Urban Planning in his own office, he also developed his activities in other organisations in Portugal. Between 1966 and 1967 he worked in the Technical Housing Office of Lisbon City Council, on the Municipal Master Plan and on projects for Chelas. During the 70s, he was part of the General Directorate of School Buildings, participating in other projects, on the revision of the University City of Lisbon Plan. Partly overlapping with this period, between 1976 and 1986, he performed the function of consultant of Urban Management for Beja Municipal Council.

As an author of texts on Architecture and Urban Planning, published in technical magazines, catalogues and books, highlights are the organisation and texts of number 185 of *L'Architecture d'Aujourd'hui* dedicated to Portugal (May/June 1976); the research, organisation and texts of the Exhibition and Catalogue on Cassiano Branco, in collaboration with the Architect Fernando Gomes da Silva, in 1986. In 2002, Edições Asa, under the editorial coordination of José Manuel das Neves, published *Raúl Hestnes Ferreira - Designs 1959-2002*, the first monographic review of his work.

Hestnes Ferreira spoke at several conferences in Portugal, France, Belgium, Norway, Italy and Mexico, in different years.

As guardian of the literary memory of his father, he collaborated on several dissemination projects on his life and work. In 2000, he organised the José Gomes Ferreira Exhibition in the Galveias Palace in Lisbon, on the centenary of his birth, and was author of the Photobiography of José Gomes Ferreira, published by Dom Quixote in 2001.

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Alexandra Saraiva is the author of the only Doctoral Thesis written so far on the work of this architect. Entitled *The Influence of Louis I. Kahn on the work of Hestnes Ferreira* defended in 2011 at the University of Corunha under the guidance of Joaquín Fernández Madrid. She is currently developing Post-Doctoral research on *Monumentality revisited - Hestnes Ferreira, between European timelessness and North American classicism (1960-1974)*, with the support of the FCT and within the framework of Dinâmia-CET'IUL, under the supervision of Professor Dr Paulo Tormenta Pinto.