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When it is said that José Marques da Silva (1869-1947) was the architect who shaped the face of Porto in the early 20th century, it becomes clear that the 24 works selected in this guide are not enough to express the full range of his work as an architect. His work was founded upon his early studies in the field of academic architecture, firstly in Porto at the Academia de Belas Artes (1882-1889) and later in Paris, where he attended the École Nationale de Beaux-Arts (1889-1896) as a student of Victor Laloux (1850-1937). His buildings displayed an academic culture that sought to supplement the values of the classical tradition with more rational components. In this way, he promoted schemes of functional composition, more suited to the mechanics of modern life, but nonetheless decorated with a formal grandeur that endowed his buildings with a powerful look and enabled them to assert their ornamental presence.

requirements, the established practices of the beaux-arts became faced with complex challenges. Between 1896 (when he returned to Porto) and 1944 (when his last works were completed), Margues da Silva maintained a highly stable disciplinary integrity. Without ever betraying his roots in the beaux-arts, he nonetheless continuously adjusted his architectural practice to correspond to the aspirations of society. This opportune sense of compromise also shaped his teaching career. Between 1913 and 1939, he was the director of the Escola de Belas Artes in Porto, where he taught various generations of architects. Drawing was seen as the central instrument of project design and became the driving force behind his teaching, being regarded as the essential basis for transmitting stable methodological processes that could respond to the multiple demands placed upon the professional practice of architects. Such a strategy earned him the great esteem of various generations of modern architects, who, based on the academic foundations that had been established by Marques da Silva,

were able to reinvent the practice of Porto architecture. On any visit to Porto, the transforming influence that Marques da Silva had on the city's landscape can be clearly felt, extending far beyond his own

## Suggested bibliography

António CARDOSO, O arquitecto José Marques da Silva e a arquitectura no Norte do País na primeira metade do séc. XX, Porto, Faup-publicações, 1997.

António CARDOSO, J. Marques da Silva arquitecto 1869-1947, Porto, Secção Regional do Norte da Associação dos Arquitectos Portugueses, 1986.

## Marques da Silva Foundation

Set up by the University of Porto at the bequest of the heirs to the architect's estate, the José Marques da Silva Foundation Institute (FIMS) has as its mission to promote science, culture, education and art through the architectural heritage of José Marques da Silva, as well as through the architecture and town planning of both Porto and Portugal. Based in the architect's former home and studio, the Foundation houses the family's documentary collection, including his professional archive and that of his daughter and son-in-law, Maria José Marques da Silva and David Moreira da



