



## Da Silva Junior; The architect of Atlantis<sup>1</sup>

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### Abstract

Born in Paris, António Rodrigues Silva Júnior (1868-1937) was a non-graduated architect, with a versatile activity expressed in engineering and architecture projects some of which remained unbuilt, but many others actually materialized, with special emphasis on single family houses, income buildings, interior refurbishments (such as Casa do Alentejo, Lisbon), but also industrial buildings (such as the Fábrica de Cervejas Germânia, which would later be known as “A Portuguesa”, also in Lisbon). Influenced by his training within the framework of the Beaux-Arts, they reflect the avatars of “eclecticism”, however, not devoid of singularity, with some unusual “modern” incursions. Active in the Cascais-Estoril area (his documents collection is kept in the Arquivo Histórico de Cascais), he would reveal an original penchant, as an enthusiastic adherent to Theosophy, becoming an outstanding member of the Portuguese Theosophical Society.

His speculations around the “visional” restitution of Atlantis and its buildings, excel in etheric and astral research, translated into canonical projects, some of which are unusual, but marked by its architectural culture. Nonetheless, the relationship he establishes with the cultures of Antiquity, from Asia to South America, in an impressionist pseudo-archeologic array particularly rooted on the mediumistic and visionary writings of the prolific Ukrainian Madame Blavatsky (1831-1891) - founder of Theosophy -, and her followers (Scott-Elliot, J. Churchward, Mario Roso de Luna) but also rooted on the speculations of Ignatius Donnelly, allows us to backtrack this fascinating journey, through the offprint

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Proportion  
Harmonies  
Identities

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phi  
The Golden Ratio

9th International  
Multidisciplinary  
Congress

Creation,  
Transformation  
and  
Metamorphose



05<sup>th</sup> - 07<sup>th</sup>  
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SEVILLE  
SPAIN

published by him in the magazine *A Arquitectura Portuguesa* (1930-1933), something that made him one of the rare examples of a visionary architecture with utopian contours in Portugal.

**Keywords:** Da Silva Junior; eclectic architecture; thermal buildings; theosophy; the architecture of Atlantis