

## **MANUEL LAGINHA: PIONEER OF MODERN ARCHITECTURE, IN THE ALGARVE IN THE 1950s-'60s**

At the same time that architecture of the "official taste" prevailed, *talented and non-conformist young architects, born in the Algarve* and of a new generation, who completed their studies at the end of the 1940s, started their practice in a modernist language and political setting (socializing, internationalist, left).

**Manuel Laginha, Gomes da Costa and Vicente de Castro** are currently the three best-known names, without prejudice to other architects (such as Rui Mendes Paula, from Lagos). After their Graduation in Porto (where they completed their studies due to a non-conformity that caused tensions in Lisbon (the school, with a reactionary and classical orientation that they previously attended) these architects started in the respective cities where they settled or went to work the first qualified examples of the so-called "modern architecture of the international movement" a post-war architecture built in the Algarve. We associate Laginha especially with Loulé, Gomes da Costa with Faro and Vicente de Castro with Portimão. Especially in these cities but also in other cities in the Algarve, they have contributed to the construction of a modern, consistent and effective urban planning and architectural image.

### **The modern architects from the Algarve are:**

- \* **Manuel Laginha** (born in Loulé, 1919-1985, graduated from EBAP, 1947) built, in addition to a brilliant career in Lisbon, Loulé, Quarteira and Olhão.
- \* **Manuel Gomes da Costa** (born in Vila Real de Santo António, worked in Tavira, Olhão, Faro and Aljezur.
- \* **Vicente de Castro**, working in Portimão and Lagos, settled professionally in Portimão. Like the others, he graduated from EBAP (Architecture training Porto) in 1955, where, like countless architecture students, he "took refuge" after EBAL (Architecture course in Lisbon).

**Manuel Laginha**, undoubtedly the most active and best-known Algarvean architect of his generation, is known for several express works, mostly published in a publication in the magazine *Arquitectura*, which clearly express his talent and inventiveness, such as:



Paderne house before & after

\* in Paderne, a house (with ramp) - see rev. *Arquitectura* n.o. 35, from 1950 - a pioneer work from 1948, today unfortunately completely disfigured and half destroyed (next to the factory on the way out of town)



House Loulé before & after ( only the entrance door has remained)

\* in Loulé: a house published in the same magazine *Arquitectura* (No. 26, 1948, no longer available);



Building Av. Marçal Pacheco no 36 - 1948

2023

\* A building right in the city center, on Av. Marçal Pacheco No. 36, with 3 floors (on the facade of which the author explored the innovative integrated system of movable and overlapping shutters/ windows/doors, just like Le Corbusier ( published in the same *Arquitectura* magazine, No. 26, 1948).



Alfaiataria York / Ourivesaria Laginha e Ramos 1949

\* Tailoring York (disappeared) in *Arquitectura* magazine no. 30, April-May 1949);



Centro de Assistência Social Polivalente de Loulé before & now

Perhaps his most qualified project, the Multipurpose Assistance Center of Loulé, with the architect Rogério Martins, a work between 1952 and 58, with an original and dynamic facade in a sloping plane, with "brise-soleils" in the style of modern Brazilian architecture, very popular in the early 50s.

Still in Loulé, and also by **Manuel Laginha**, two relatively well-preserved works can be mentioned:



House for António Laginha Ramos - Rua. David Teixeira no. 121

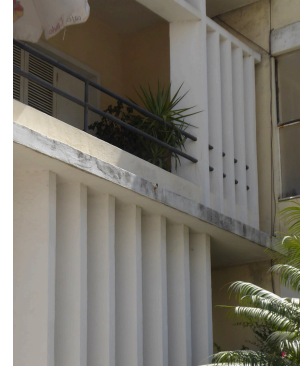
\* The house for António Laginha Ramos Rua. David Teixeira No. 121, with an expressive intimate atmosphere, surrounded by trees,



Residential and commercial building Av. José da Costa Mealha No. 10. before & now

\* The residential and commercial building, on Av. José da Costa Mealha No. 10, with verandas and an elegant pergola, from the 1950s-1960s

Laginha created a "school", or rather, a practice of modern urban architecture in Loulé, soon followed by designers and engineers, who repeated and reinvented modern themes using reinforced concrete. Sometimes in an interesting and creative way with balconies, pergolas, ceramic grilles and polychrome tile coverings. Perhaps the most important example is that of **João Campos**, a designer with a large number of signature works in provocative modernism such as:



Av. Ascensão Guimarães no. 53, 77, 96 and 114-120



Rua David Teixeira 235