

馬斯華建築師 -- 澳門扶輪社 1985-1986 年度社長

澳門市政廳市政議會主席 1989-1993

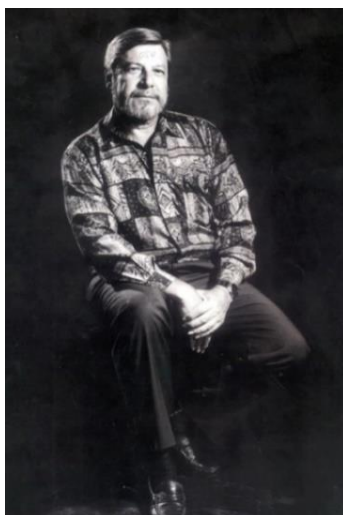
Architect José Celestino da Silva Maneiras

President 1985-1986 of the Rotary Club of Macau

President of the Macao Municipal Council 1989-1993

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José Celestino da Silva Maneiras (馬斯華) (1935 – 24 November 2025) was a renowned architect and politician in Macao (澳門), profoundly influencing the city's architectural development and urban planning. He was one of the founders in 1987 and the first President of the Architects Association of Macau (Associação dos Arquitectos de Macau, AAM 澳門建築師協會), dedicated to promoting the local architectural profession. He served as Member (1972-1989) and President (1989-1993) of the Municipal Council (Presidente do Leal Senado 市政廳市政議會主席). He was from 1972 to 1974 an Appointed Member of the Legislative Council (Conselho Legislativo 立法委員會) of the Portuguese Territory Macao (葡萄牙屬地澳門). He served as a member of the Macao Basic Law Consultative Committee (澳門基本法諮詢委員會委員) and the Basic Law Promotion Association (基本法協進會會員). He has been President of the General Assembly of the Macau Yacht Club (Clube Náutico de Macau 澳門遊艇會), and held key positions on several technical and aesthetic committees of the Public Works Bureau (公共建設局).

Maneiras joined the Rotary Club of Macau (澳門扶輪社) on 26 July 1966 as an Active Member holding the Classification "Architect". He later served the Club as President in 1985-1986. The Club then was a member of Rotary International District 345 jointly with Clubs in Macao, Northern Taiwan (臺灣北部) and the British Crown Colony Hong Kong (英國殖民地香港). The District Governor was also a Macanese architect Nuno Maria Roque Jorge (左立基) of Hou Kuong Rotary Club (濠江扶輪社).



A Man of Great Dignity

Rotarian José Celestino da Silva Maneiras, a pioneering architect whose vision and craftsmanship shaped the residential and urban landscape of Macao, passed away in the evening of Monday, 24 November 2025, at age 90.

His peers remember him as a man of dignity, humor, and unwavering dedication to his craft and his city.

Architect Nuno Soares (蘇偉圖), former President of the Center for Architecture and Urbanism, praised Maneiras as a “main architectural reference in Macao” and a “generous mentor to younger architects.”

Highlighting Maneiras’ humility, Soares told TDM Radio: “He was someone who shunned praise and flattery. He was very different from our class of architects, who usually have a lot of ego. He was the opposite of that.”

Carlos Marreiros (馬若龍), architect, urban planner, designer, and artist, states: “In addition to being an architect, he created a remarkable body of work in Macao.”

Economist José Luís de Sales Marques (麥健智), who succeeded Maneiras as President of Macao’s historic Leal Senado and served from 1993 to 2001, described Maneiras “was a man of great dignity, with a sense of duty and good humor”. He reflected on their shared legacy during Macao’s transition before its handover to China, calling Maneiras “a key civic leadership role during a crucial period in Macao’s transition”, and “a son of Macao who always had it in his heart”.

Of Portuguese descent born in Macao in 1935, Maneiras embodied a deep commitment to the city’s architectural identity, blending functionality with social consciousness throughout his colorful career.

In 1953, Maneiras began his architectural journey at the University of Porto’s Faculty of Fine Arts, in Porto of Portugal. He graduated in 1962 and returned to Macao the same year--when the city was still under Portuguese administration and its architectural scene was largely limited and utilitarian.

From 1962 to 1966, he worked with Manuel Vicente’s (韋先禮) urban planning team, taking part in foundational projects that would shape the city’s evolving identity.

Then, in 1967, Maneiras opened his own architectural studio and embarked on a career marked by innovative residential designs that stood apart from Macao’s construction norms.

At a time when most construction in Macao consisted of no more than three-story buildings, typically replicated mechanically by engineers and draftsmen, according to 《Jornal Arquitectos》, Maneiras’s buildings showcased careful craftsmanship and a nuanced respect for community life.

Maneiras's work was regarded by many as "strongly influenced by the Porto School of Fine Arts", known for its "contextual modernism" that blends simplicity, functionality, and local sensitivity. His architecture was described by many of his peers as "competent and beautiful" while serving "practical needs".

His private practice remained small but renowned. His signature projects included the São Francisco Complex (聖方濟各綜合體) on Rua da Praia Grande (南灣大馬路) and residential buildings along Estrada do Visconde de São Januário (若憲馬路). One of his most notable works, completed in 1970, was the Macao Holy House of Mercy's Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Blind (Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Macau Centro de Reabilitação de Cegos 澳門仁慈堂盲人重建中心) at Fai Chi Kei (筷子基). This design introduced tactile flooring and discreet handrails to aid visually impaired users, pioneering accessibility features decades before they became standard practice.

Some of his residential works include Tung Hei Kok (東曦閣), Luen Pong Building (聯邦大廈), Magran Residential Estate (葡京花園 Lisboa Garden, in Taipa 氹仔), Pac-On Residential Estate (北安住宅區).

Beyond residential architecture, Maneiras has worked in the construction of the Hac-Sa Dam Reservoir Watersports Recreational Centre (黑沙水庫水上樂園), the Canidrome Swimming Pool Complex (蓮峰體育中心游泳池), and he was part of the design team for the renovation of the Tap-Seac Square (塔石廣場).

Maneiras extended his influence to commercial and industrial structures, including the Si Toi Hong Kong Bank Building (時代商業中心), Wah Meng and Wah Pou industrial estates (華明工業大廈/華寶工業大廈). These projects exhibited his occasional Brutalist leanings while maintaining a consistent dedication to human-centered design.

While much of his architectural legacy has been altered or lost due to redevelopment and a lack of preservation in Macao, Maneiras's influence lives on through his contributions to the city and its professional community. Maneiras was known for his craftsmanship and human-centred design during a time of largely utilitarian construction in the city.

A founder and the first president of Architects Association of Macau (AAM) in 1987, Maneiras helped establish a community built on ethics, excellence, and service to the public realm. His public service as Municipal Council member (1972–1989) and President of the Municipal Council Leal Senado (1989–1993) built bridges between Chinese and Portuguese cultures. He also oversaw the re-conversion project of the Hotel Bela Vista (峰景酒店) into the Portuguese Consul-General's Residence, and the re-modelling of Forte Bom Parto's (燒灰爐炮台) house for senior staff members of the consulate. He advised on the Baía da Praia Grande Plan (Nam Van) and chaired the General Meeting of the Macau Civil Engineering Laboratory (澳門土木工程實驗室).

In 2006, he was named an Honorary Member of the Portuguese Association of Architects, recognized by his peers for defending the dignity of the profession.

Above all, Maneiras was a tireless mentor---generous with his time, incisive in counsel, and unwavering in his belief in the promise of young architects. His encouragement opened pathways, his example set standards, and his kindness cultivated a culture of respect and curiosity that endures within AAM and beyond.

Honours

In recognition to his remarkable service to the community, Rotarian Architect José Celestino da Silva Maneiras has been honoured:

- (1) Ordem Militar de Cristo (Military Order of Christ 基督軍事紳士勳章) by President of the Portuguese Republic
- (2) Medalha de Mérito Altruístico (Medal of Merit for Altruism 仁愛功績勳章) by Macao Special Administrative Region Government, People’s Republic of China

