

FRANCISCO MANUEL SERDOURA

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PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY

Educational background

Francisco Manuel Serdoura is a renowned urbanist and architect with a strong academic and professional background in spatial planning, urban morphology, and public space design. He began his academic journey with a degree in Architecture from the Technical University of Lisbon in 1986, followed by a MSc in Urban and Regional Planning in 1995. In 2006, he earned a PhD in Urban and Regional Planning, also from the Technical University of Lisbon, with a thesis focused on the livability and functionality of public space, using the Parque das Nações as a case study. His formal education has been enriched with additional specialization in spatial analysis, sustainable mobility, tourism, and participatory urbanism. Fluent in Portuguese, English, and Spanish, he approaches urban challenges with an inclusive and international perspective.

Career to date

His career reflects a steady evolution from academic engagement to leadership in urban planning research and practice. He began his academic career in the early 1990s, taking on teaching responsibilities and later assuming senior roles. He has served as Associate Professor at the Faculty of Architecture, University of Lisbon since 2022, after many years as Assistant Professor and Lecturer at both the University of Lisbon and the Technical University of Lisbon. In parallel, he has held research roles at CESUR and CiAUD, where he coordinates the Urban and Environmental Dynamics Group (DUA.lab). Internationally, he has been a visiting professor in Brazil, Iran, Albania, and Italy, contributing to knowledge exchange and cross-cultural academic projects. His work bridges theory, policy, and design practice. Francisco M. Serdoura is also a senior partner of HighPlan Portugal.

Professional Experiences

In addition to his academic work, Francisco M. Serdoura has added a wide experience in urban planning consulting, aiming strategic spatial planning, urbanization and detail planning, tourism development, and public space design in Portugal, South America and European cities.

He has led major projects such as the Strategic Master Plan for Sao Roque do Pico, Pico Island, Açores, Portugal (2025), Banado Norte Plan, Asunción, Paraguay, Plan Maestro del CHA, Asunción, Paraguay (2014), the Monte da Rocha Tourist Development, Ourique, Portugal (2011), and Monte Campanador Tourist Development, Ourique, Portugal (2011).

Also, he leaded a new urban vision for the Delta and Porto Baroš Area, Rijeka, Croacia (2013), and participated as consultant in several urban design studies for some streets and squares in the city of Lisbon (2018-2020).

Previously, he done some Detail Plans for different cities such Sines, Vendas Novas, and Évora (1990-2012).

His plans and developments show his ability to integrate cultural and environmental considerations into new, strong urban solutions.