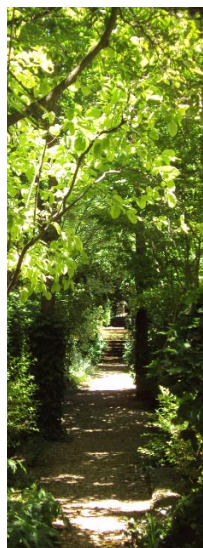




Do not hesitate to wander through the beautiful paths of this small, unique green gem, located at the foot of the Alcázar.



San Marcos Romeral Leandro Silva Garden

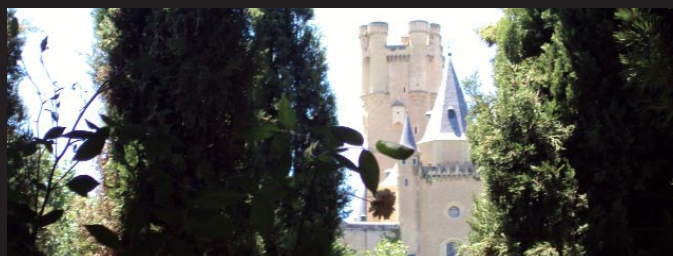


More than 300 species from all over the world comprise this small, green treasure in our city. Visiting the San Marcos Romeral means not only a relaxing walk inside the freshness of a garden, but also an immersion inside a true work of art which reflects the soul of its creator, the Uruguayan landscape gardener Leandro Silva Delgado.

Preserved and cared for by the Amigos del Romeral de San Marcos — Asociación Amigos del Jardín y del Paisaje founded by Silva himself—, the garden stays alive as a perfect example of contemporary landscape gardening.

How to get there?

Walking down from the old quarter of Segovia – from the Alcázar towards the San Marcos district -, the visitor crosses the Eresma river over “la Puente Castellana” [the Castilian bridge]. On the other side of the bridge, the visitor will find, on the right, the Marqués de Villena Street, which joins San Marcos with El Parral Monastery. At the beginning of this street, and hidden among the orchards of the Eresma, this famous garden may be found, which includes every type of plant species.





"Every man who is subject to his own cosmogony carries within him a garden which translates the landscape, the entire universe". (Gilles Clément)

It could be said that Leandro Silva Delgado (1930: Salto, Uruguay- 2000: Segovia, Spain), endorsed the idea transmitted by Clément, although he added his conviction that the garden is born from the nostalgia derived from the loss of paradise.

Owing to the creation of the San Marcos Romeral, the artist managed to materialize his most dreamed-of Eden in perfect harmony with the environment.



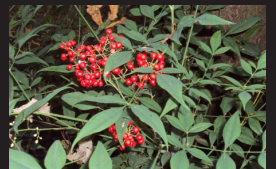
This encounter between nature and history in a man's life is a reflection of the importance of subjectivity, this being the principal characteristic of the modern 20th century garden.

Leandro Silva's work has always been rigorous and unique. His studies and the precision of his technique make his gardens a mixture of meanings that join nature, culture, history, symbology, art and architecture.

The forms of his gardens are inspired by references from all over the world. Thus, whoever walks around them can find influences from Moorish and Hispano-Muslim styles and, above all, from the sacred Roman gardens – such as the one at Hadrian's Villa, so much admired by Silva – or from old Babylon and the first gardens in history. Likewise, the great variety of species that can be found creates a scent that transports the visitor to the richness of tropical nature.



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This ideal was born in 1971, the year when Leandro Silva decided to move to Segovia. He was advised by the Segovian historian Antonio Ruiz, and he bought a house and a plot of land in the neighbourhood of San Marcos, at the foot of the old quarter. It was “half a hectare facing South and protected from the cold Northern winds by a group of limestone rocks”, as the landscape gardener himself wrote.

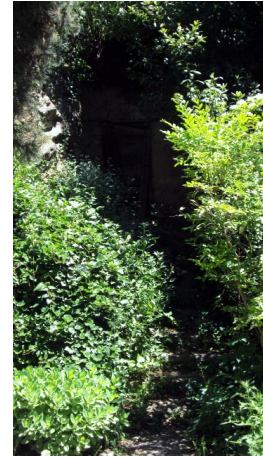
Above all, what makes the place he selected to establish his home, his workshop and his garden so special, is its location in a valley privileged by history. A few metres from the Eresma River, his abode was situated in a unique environment: to the east, El Parral Monastery, to the north, the Veracruz Church and, to the west, the Carmelites Convent. The presence of limestone rocks contributed to the creation of a real microclimate

The visit to the Romeral allows one to enjoy a unique view of the Alcázar: The Uruguayan artist realized this with the words: “This is a view which, for thousands of people, both Spaniards and foreigners, is emblematic of Spain. For this reason, it should be taken care of.”





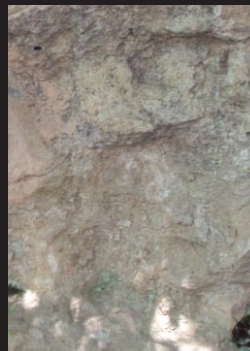
When Leandro Silva bought the plot of land, it was a simple orchard with one single inhabitant: the rosemary tree, which had been abandoned to the cold.



In Silva's view, the working of this land was not an excessive or crazy thing at all. The palm tree, whose leaves prevent the ground from getting too hot, preserve humidity and favour nocturnal condensation.

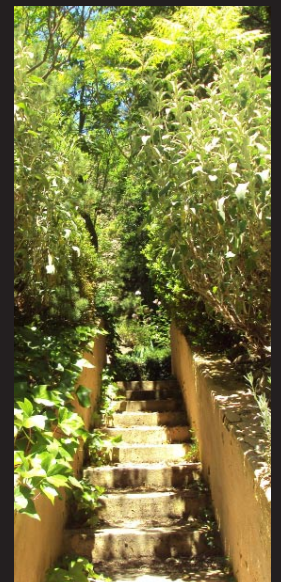
The presence of limestone rocks contributed to the creation of a real microclimate that, in turn, favoured the growth of species which would otherwise have been impossible. This was how this humble orchard became an experimental garden and, later, a true poem in vegetation, a reflection of its creator, but also of the old city located just opposite.

With narrow paths, fluctuating boundaries and slopes, San Marcos Romeral, perfectly reflects the characteristics of Segovia's old quarter.



"In Silva, gardener and painter come hand in hand, the artist together with the sensitive observer of the reality of the world".

The texts included in this leaflet have been taken from the work by José Antonio Gómez Municio entitled "El universo en el jardín: paisaje y arte en la obra de Leandro Silva" (2002) ["The Universe in the Garden: Landscape and Art in the Work of Leandro Silva"].





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