

WORDS IN THE AIR

Introduction. Dicho y hecho. Vicens and Ramos

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It is an honor for me to introduce this collection of writings by Ignacio Vicens y Hualde.

The author is one of the most prestigious architects and professors of the School of Architecture of Madrid, and one of the most cultured people I have ever met in my life. Possessing a vast and profound culture, he spreads it everywhere with surprising naturalness. I have always gone to him when I have had any doubt on any subject. He knows everything about everything. And even more about Architecture.

And, in addition, he has the ability to give vent to all this wisdom, with the greatest naturalness in the world. He is always perfectly understood. His writings, very clear, are also enjoyable and read with pleasure. He seeks and achieves to instruct by delighting, pursued by the classics. His students know this and always come to him for advice.

When in the last writing of this collection he makes a provocative "In Praise of the Crisis", he does it with such grace that we end up convinced that we are privileged to be living in this time. That we are. So positive it is.

His quotations range from Keats' precious "Ode to a Grecian Urn" on Truth and Beauty, to the words of a graffiti in the Faculty of Pharmacy "Wisdom pursues me, but I am faster". And these quotes, cultured and abundant, are not those of the one who has no words of his own but, on the contrary, those of the one who makes his own the most beautiful words that creators generate. They are the accurate words of the one who knows that the word is the great weapon of the human being.

The fact that his architecture is also of the highest order is nothing more than the logical consequence of his radical coherence. Coherence between his thought and his discourse and his works and his life. That which we should demand of any creator and which few possess.

I have had the good fortune to share many years of teaching with him and I always wanted to be his student.

I am convinced that his clear words will reach the four corners of the world, now in the hands of Cervantes and then in those of Shakespeare. Words that, thrown into the air, will feed the heads and hearts of men.