

**DREAM AND YOUR DREAMS WILL FALL SHORT**

**Graduation speech. Class of 2024-2025 ETSAM**

2024

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Would anyone give up their life for teaching? Would anyone give up their life for the ETSAM teaching center in which they have taught? Yes, I would!

I started out in the ETSAM in 1966, so long ago! And I was lucky enough to fall under the guidance of Alejandro de la Sota, to whom I owe my life. And 20 years later, in 1986, I became Professor of Projects at this same institution. It seems unbelievable to me, even now. I still have Alejandro de la Sota's letter from a week before those examinations, wishing me all the best. And to this day, I'm happy, so very happy. And I continued teaching Projects until the 2019-2020 academic year, three years longer than stipulated by law for retirement, thanks to the generous support of our Rector.

To my best students, and that includes all of them, I recommend that once they have graduated as architects, they should never lose contact with teaching. They should do their doctoral thesis as soon as possible, opening the door to that world that I'm not going to describe here, but which, regardless of all the difficulties, is worthwhile: the world of the University.

Teaching is the most wonderful job in the world. You learn much more than you teach. It obliges us to have the mechanics of reason always at the ready. Reason is the primary and principal instrument of an architect.

The most renowned professor of the School of Architecture at Columbia University in New York, where many of you will go, Kenneth Frampton, has repeatedly said that the ETSAM is the best school of architecture in the world. And we have made him an honorary doctor of our University. Some of my best students are now teaching as professors and lecturers at that school.

Architecture is the most beautiful profession in the world. No doubt about it. To dream, to be able to build those dreams, and then for them to remain standing over time, what more can any creator ask for?

Dream, and your dreams will fall short, such a true statement from a friend of mine that I can't resist using it here today. So that's it: dream, and your dreams will fall short!