

To Ezio Bortolussi

MARCO PETTI

Authorities, ladies and gentlemen, colleagues, Ezio Bortolussi, I would like to give a brief greeting of my own, as Director of the Polytechnic Department of Engineering and Architecture, who promoted and proposed to the Academic Senate of the University of Udine the conferral of the honorary degree to Mr. Ezio Bortolussi.

The solicitation, received from the territory, was carefully considered by the Council of my Department, which approved it and forwarded it to the Academic Senate on June 13, 2018. The Academic Senate, on July 24, 2018, unanimously confirmed the request and forwarded it to the Ministry of Education, University and Research.

The approval procedure requires, in the preliminary phase, the appointment of an evaluation committee composed of professors not belonging to the University of Udine; this task was entrusted to Prof. Claudio Amadio, full professor of Construction Technique at the University of Trieste, to Prof. Fabrizio Vestroni, full professor of Construction Science at the University “La Sapienza” of Rome, and to Prof. Carmelo Gentile, full professor of Construction Technique at the Polytechnic of Milan.

This Committee expressed a unanimous opinion in favour of the proposed honorary degree in Civil Engineering for the following reasons, which I am pleased to share with all of you and the graduating student.

In his report, Prof. Amadio recalls how Bortolussi’s work “in the field of reinforced concrete constructions of great height was typical of an engineer highly qualified in the operations of complex worksites requiring extreme skill. Proof of this lies in the numerous innovations made in the field of climbing constructions and site optimisation for

tall buildings. Innovations that have allowed us to carry out extremely prestigious works in Canada and other parts of the world”.

Prof. Vestroni emphasised how “each project presents its own problems, addressed with specific strategies, always introducing innovative solutions, often with high quality aesthetic results. The aspects that have contributed to the success of these activities have been solutions that have prioritised implementation times, costs and safety requirements”. He continues, “Bortolussi is the classic case of a man who has demonstrated uncommon gifts, not only of initiative, but also of technical expertise in Civil Engineering that have contributed to the successful implementation methods of complex constructions, such as skyscrapers, especially when built in difficult urban contexts”.

Prof. Gentile in his report writes “Bortolussi appears an almost perfect paradigm of the building site engineer who, through experience and a technical-technological culture, has managed to create a “new way” towards great achievements through the combination of passion, imagination and a search for innovative technological solutions, while respecting the significant constraints that the construction of any tall building imposes”. So much so, Prof. Gentile concludes, that “Passion for construction, direct knowledge of building site practice, intuition, technical culture and the search for innovation have made Ezio Bortolussi an extraordinary interpreter of current Civil Engineering”.

These judgments were shared and adopted by my Department, which had no hesitation in proposing Ezio Bortolussi for an honorary Master’s degree.

Among the numerous degree courses offered by the Department, it seemed natural to place it in the Master’s degree in Civil Engineering.

From my part, a special applause to Mr. Bortolussi, pride of the Friulian people and a model for our students.

Marco Petti
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