

To Ezio Bortolussi

ANGELO VIANELLO

I had the pleasure of getting to know Ezio Bortolussi through our mutual friend, Dani Pagnucco, while on his path to receiving an honorary degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Udine. Of course, I was particularly struck by how, as a “migrant” in Canada, he had been able to grow an extraordinary business in the building sector from nothing. Over time, he had overseen the construction of more than three hundred mighty skyscrapers, all highly acclaimed for their aesthetic qualities and related original technologies used.

Ezio Bortolussi impressed me most of all with his human qualities that, from what I have been told, he always shared, first and foremost, with his staff. Workers, who at their various levels of skill and responsibility, were able to carry out these impressive building projects, making him famous in Canada and throughout the world.

His way of working and relating to the people who interacted with him has deep roots in the culture of his homeland, Friuli, and for this very reason can be summed up in the noble phrase: *“Furlan, salt, onest e lavoradôr”*.

Ezio is, without a shadow of doubt, a “steadfast” man, that is, a determined man who, despite the inevitable difficulties and unexpected events, has shown immense courage in pursuing his life’s goals and, in particular, those linked to his activity as a building contractor. He has always done so, as far as I know, with great care, “honesty” and generosity towards his employees, qualities that make him a “great worker” who honours his home country.

In the meetings I have had with Ezio Bortolussi, he has always showed authority and dignity, two qualities that he has always expressed with great humility. For all these reasons, I feel honoured to have him as a true friend and am delighted about the degree that my University has conferred on him.

Angelo Vianello
Former professor, University of Udine