

IN PRAISE OF ALVARO SIZA

Alvaro Siza poet, creator and researcher

PUBLISHED IN

Honoris Causa Alvaro Siza. Universidad Técnica de Lisboa, 2010.

Poetica Architectonica. Ed. Mairera. Madrid, 2014

IN PRAISE OF ALVARO SIZA

Alvaro Siza poet, creator and researcher

POET

If I had to summarize Alvaro Siza's Architecture with just one word, I would choose Poetry. And if I had to describe Alvaro Siza as something, I would describe him as a Poet.

If Poetry is words conjugated with precision, capable of moving the hearts of men, Siza's Architecture does it.

When a poet that he and I know writes: "I would like and I want to have/ the poetic halito/ capable of turning the world upside down and transforming it", it seems that he is discovering Alvaro Siza's intentions with his Architecture, an Architecture capable of turning the world upside down and transforming it: pure constructed Poetry.

CREATOR

"I have no news of greater delight and satisfaction than to recognize that it is also given to man to create imperishable values, and that we remain eternally united to the Eternal through our supreme effort on earth: through art."

The beautiful words with which Stefan Zweig closes his essay *The Mystery of Artistic Creation* are perfectly suited to the person and work of Alvaro Siza.

The result of his creative work are imperishable works or, as Zweig himself notes a few lines earlier, "immeasurable".

In a hectic world that is running wild, unbridled, maddened, Alvaro Siza is a point of reference in serenity, silence and calm.

When all architects fold, twist, shake, Alvaro Siza wields the plumb and level, the horizontal, horizontal and vertical, vertical. And he only moves his lines when necessary. As when Bach uses the contrapuntal technique.

When all architects color, sgraffito, stamp, Alvaro Siza raises again the novelty of the white color. Even whiter. Although later, like Barragán, he adds a touch of color wherever it is convenient.

RESEARCHER

Alvaro Siza's creative work is so rigorous that it can be considered a true work of research.

When Zubiri, the best contemporary Spanish philosopher, was awarded the Research Prize in 1982, in his precious speech he was grateful that the Society, through this prize,

understood that his work, Philosophy, was a real research work. So Alvaro Siza's Architecture is pure research. And he does what Zubiri says in his speech that St. Augustine advised: "Seek as those who have not yet found seek, and find as those who have yet to seek find find."

Well, that poetic breath, that creative character and that research spirit, all of them so characteristic of the University, is what is being celebrated here with this Honorary Doctorate for Alvaro Siza. Poet, Creator, Researcher: ARCHITECT, how could such a figure not be Doctor Honoris Causa?

Philosophers used to distinguish between the truth of things and the reality of things. Alvaro Siza's architecture is all truth. With that Truth whose splendor, as Plato teaches us, is Beauty. The Beauty of Alvaro Siza's Architecture.