

## ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ESSAY

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### INTRODUCTION

Ten years have passed since my first application for the Architecture bachelor's degree in the ETSAV. Ten years on a roller-coaster of emotions, learning's and experiences. Ten years as an university student on which I have not hardly felt like one. For that reason, my university experience must be understood from another way of view.

### BACKGROUND

Earlier to my admission at University I studied a two years Draftsman Designer degree, studies that provided me the necessary knowledge to achieve my first job in an Architecture Office.

Nevertheless, on my sixteen's and during the research project of high school, I demonstrated my abilities and great interest on the sector, and the Architecture Office I was asking information for, **gave me the opportunity to be part of them and learn about architecture** during my days off and holidays. At these ages, while my friends were playing with the PlayStation, I was spending hours at the Studio learning about my passion and vocation.

Since then, I have not stopped working and studying at the same time. Consequently, **I always feel more as a worker who studies**, and not as a student who works.

### UNIVERSITY LIFE

Start Architecture bachelor's degree with a basic knowledge and some professional experience gave me some advantage in many courses at the beginning of the degree.

However, there were other courses like Mathematics, Physics and Structures, that never have been my strong point. **I am more creative and conceptual person either than a numerical.** On that

ones I had to dedicate more time, still the paradox, these courses were the ones I learned most.

The course of 'TAP', probably the most relevant of those studies, is the one where I did it better. I think basically for two reasons: for being a creative person as I mentioned previously, and for my professional experience. This professional experience has given me an ease in getting programmatic and conceptual solutions, and by the other hand, because the limited free time available I had, **it has taught me how to optimize my time.** That has been the key during the whole degree.

Other courses such as 'Història' and 'Composició' have given me a fundamental knowledge, not only to know the evolution of architecture, also have awakened in me extra sensitivity for the existing heritage and art.

'Condis' or 'Construcció' confirmed to me what I daily found at job, giving me the basis of essential concepts and necessary knowledge that in the field of work supposed to be known. Notwithstanding the above, it is true that, from my point of view, practical cases are missing during the whole bachelor's degree, because I have learned more in the course of 'Intervenció en el parc edificat' than in all previous ones related to matter.

### THE GREAT DECISION

Ten years have passed since my first application for the Architecture bachelor's degree, however my university period was not continuous.

In 2013, and due to the economic crisis that we all know, I found myself for the first time without job, without income and in a complicate university stage; demotivating and with difficulties. **I lost my motivation and I did not find sense to continue studying a career with an uncertain future.** Immersed in a kind of depression, I took the tough and great decision: move to Canada.

After many administrative formalities, the Canadian Government granted me the Work Permit Visa for one year. I valued many cities in the country where I thought I had job

opportunities, and ended up deciding to go to the city of Fort McMurray, north of the state of Alberta. It was a city in full economic growth and infrastructures, a booming city dedicated to oil.

I arrived on July 2014, with nothing and nobody; and I began my adventure living in rented rooms while looking for a job in my field of expertise. However, a month later I realized that I was in the wrong city if I wanted to work in architecture. Architecture offices and important construction companies were located 400km away in one of the most important cities of the state, Edmonton.



Laffont Way, Fort McMurray (AB), Canada

Without money to move to Edmonton and start over again, I stayed at Fort McMurray and worked as hard as I could as gardener, dog walker and as a construction worker in an extreme weather conditions.

I was doing networking until at the third month since I arrived, I got a contract job as Draftsman Designer where I was commissioned for an office rehab project to real estate agency Royal LePage. That was my only job related to architecture I did. I realized not having studies in Canadian universities deprived me many employment opportunities.

However, my main job during my stay was in the ONG The Salvation Army, where I was working for eight months. Undoubtedly, the most rewarding experience and where I most learned. There, I met marvelous people, who helped me deeply to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

### POST-CANADA

In August of 2015 I came back to Barcelona; plenty of energy and optimism to finish my studies, as well as with new projects and goals to fulfill.

Finishing the bachelor's degree was one of the main goals. I re-started my studies with 'TAP VIII' and 'TAP IX', in which I learned and enjoyed as much as I had never done before on the degree. Both projects were based on a real project with real client, fact that made me feel very involved and be part of a project group.



Prototype 'Gausarq', Tap IX

Another objective was to find a job to be able to pay my studies. Fortunately, two months later of coming back, I found a construction company who builds single houses with balloon frame system. It was a sign! Thanks to my experience in Canada, they became so interested on my profile and offered me work with them quickly.



Single house under construction in Valldoreix (Sant Cugat del Vallés)

It is amazing how my experience in Canada changed dynamics of my life and how it filled me with full of energy and enthusiasm. **It pushed me to struggle for all those goals that were previously confusing.**

### PRESENT AND FUTURE

Although my academic life can be considered slow, now I am in the final stretch in which I only have pending the Master's degree to be what I have always wanted to be, an architect.

After many years of suffering, desires and hardworking, during which time I have sown a lot, currently is the moment when **I begin to see gratified all the effort invested.**

I do not pretend to be a famous or recognized architect, I just want to have the opportunity to make an architecture with which I feel identified. Fan of the works of architects Ramon Esteve and Marcio Kogan, whose I am inspired with. I cannot imagine architecture without a wink of nature. Materials done it by man and the permanent delivery to nature.



'El bosque' house, by Ramon Esteve

Currently, I have a job where I want to work, where they value me, and see in me professional potential, where **the future plans of the company are with me as a part of it.**

I consider myself a professional constantly evolving, hardworking, competent and efficient. That is why I have the confidence and faith that whatever I propose, sooner or later, I will get it.