

## **Prof. Dr. Ayten ÇETİNER**

**(1982)**

### **MY PROFESSOR**

I am very excited at this very moment I am writing a memoir for our distinguished Professor Kemal Ahmet Aru - who is considered an authority in the urbanism field in Turkey. Because, I think, words are not enough to explain and describe Professor Aru. I feel sorry that I can only present a certain amount of his characteristics within this brief note.

Professor Aru has been an exemplary and successful person for his students and friends not only in his professional life but also in his social life and administrative duties. On these days he is fulfilling his fortieth year in the profession, he is still the same Kemal Ahmet Aru as I have known thirty years ago; he maintains his youth, strength and dynamism in his actions and his work.

As always, he sustains his enthusiasm towards various areas like teaching, practicing the profession and competitions. I am confident that there are many people who recite the same words just like myself: "I wish I was like Professor Aru".

The class of 1954 has a special place among the graduates of ITU. Without doubt, urbanism was our favorite lesson during our professional education as architects. The fact that the majority of our class is now working in planning provides a proof for that. Our deep interest and enthusiasm towards urbanism originates from Professor Kemal Ahmet Aru. During the lessons, we would watch his drawings on the blackboard and his colorful slides with admiration; and we would keep the corrections he made on our works as if they were art pieces. During the meetings upon his return from field trips, his way of handling the issues seriously, presenting his ideas intriguingly and expressing himself genuinely would not only impress everybody but also provide guidance for many young instructors. Organizing meetings in his house in order to reinforce his professional practices was a distinct characteristic of Professor Aru; through these meetings, he shared the happiness, sorrows and problems of his colleagues and students who worked together with him. In this respect, his contributions to the education system in ITU, his efforts for the Center for Urban Research, his efforts for the establishment of planning department are, without doubt, clearly obvious to all of us.

He has greatly contributed the urban planning efforts in our country through training skilled professionals and through personally practicing himself. We will only be delighted if we can manage to carry his efforts forward.

I would like to put my feelings of mine and many of my friends into words:

"I would like to thank you deeply for your concern and for your efforts in leading us to choosing and improving this profession, and I wish health and joy for the rest of your life."

Long live Professor Aru,

Prof. Dr. Ayten ÇETİNER

