

Tec graduate wins international award for construction management



*“Years ago, I was present at an **award ceremony** where an Argentinian construction company won, and I said ‘I want to be there one day,’”* recalled **Damián Pizá**, founder of [Pizá International](#), which was given an award by the [Construction Management Association of America \(CMAA\)](#) in 2022.

Ten years after that event, the [Tec graduate’s](#) company was given an award for excellence in the **Construction Project Management** category for construction of the [“Otay Medical Tower”](#) in the city of **Tijuana, Baja California**.

*“Winning this award required a **huge effort**, especially because we are a family business,”* he explained.



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Pizá International received the “**2022 Project Achievement Award**” from the **Construction Management Association of America**, which is an industry association dedicated to professional construction management.

The association recognized “**The Best of the Best**” in construction project management and administration worldwide on **August 22**.

Pizá International has become the **first Mexican company** to be given an award by the CMAA and only the **second in Latin America**.

In addition to this award, **Damián Pizá’s company was also given the Global Best Project award** by the [Engineering News Record \(ENR\)](#), one of the **construction industry’s** most important global **news** magazines.

“Winning this award required a huge effort.”

*“Pizá International was recognized, along with **34 other global projects**, by the ENR. We are the first Mexican company to form part of this list,”* he explained.

He explained that some of the **factors** that led his company to win both awards included the application of technologies such as **virtual reality, virtual construction, and analytical**

intelligence

'Building' a startup

Damián graduated from the Monterrey campus with a **degree in Civil Engineering** and holds a **Master's Degree in Construction Administration**. He was able to **enter the field of Project Management** when he founded his company **Pizá International in November 2009**.

*"It took several attempts before I finally created my company; the greatest opportunity I had came thanks to the **Tec's international programs**, as I was able to spend a year at the **University of Texas**.*

*"That exchange gave me a taste of how what I wanted to do in **México** was already happening in the United States," he shared.*

The **Tec graduate** added that an **important part** of creating a startup in this field of construction was **to transfer the U.S. methodology to Mexican processes**, which represented a business advantage.

"As a business owner, my philosophy and values are based on the lessons I have learned."



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*“I think what makes us better than those using a traditional methodology is that we include **emerging technologies**. We’ve also started to train our architects in three-dimensional modeling.*

*“As project managers, being able to do this is incredible because I can foresee many things that could happen, **risks that we can avoid**: that was essential for us to incorporate,” he said.*

From hard work to heart work

We realized that **failure** doesn’t always happen because of **costs and delays**, he added, but that we had to focus on **communication, collaboration, and coordination** to make the business work.

*“As a business owner, my philosophy and values are based on the **lessons I have learned**, but something that I’ve always been clear about is that I want us to go from hard work to heart work,” he said.*

Damián Pizá also wants to implement his innovations in **social projects** through a **vision for the future** focused on **new processes and technology**.

*“We want to work on more non-profit projects such as the **renovation of public schools in Mexico**, in addition to continuing to promote this technology,” he concluded.*

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