



From Tec to Italy and back: The Mexican professor who conquered Milan

*“The **responsibility** of every designer and architect is **to give meaning**, to make sense of things, and to avoid banality.”*

These were the words of **Miguel Ángel Jiménez**, a Tec graduate who is now a professor at the **School of Architecture, Art, and Design** on the [Tec’s State of Mexico campus](#), who has consolidated his **career** by participating in important forums such as the 10th Biennial of Architecture in Mexico and **Salone Satellite**.

Salone Satellite features designers under 35 and is part of **Salone del Mobile**, one of the **world’s most important** design and furniture exhibitions, held annually during Milan Design Week.

In 2018, **Jiménez** became the **first Mexican** to receive the **Banca Intesa Sanpaolo** award for his sustainable furniture design: *Claro*.



This award, given by Italian bank **Intesa Sanpaolo** during **Salone Satellite in Milan**, recognizes projects that highlight creativity, functionality, and commitment to sustainability.

*“Being **recognized** internationally at **Salone Satellite in Milan**, one of the world’s most important platforms for young designers, is a **great honor that I cherish every day**,”* said **Jiménez**.

Journey and purpose

Jiménez graduated with a degree in Architecture from the **Tec in the State of Mexico** in 2006. He first went to **Italy** in 2013, pursuing a master’s degree in Industrial Design at [**Milan Polytechnic**](#).

*“I consider myself **lucky**. I have great memories of my years at the **Tec**, the people I met, and the skills I developed. **The journey continues**,”* he said.

This decision **allowed him** to work in **studios and design offices** not only in Mexico, but also in Italy and **Slovenia**.

Some of the **projects** he participated in received awards at the **10th Biennial of Architecture in Mexico** and the **2015 Red Dot Design Awards**.

“The responsibility of the designer and architect is to give meaning and make sense of things.”

In 2017, he founded his **own studio** under the name *MutarQ*, a nickname he had used since college. There, he works on **architecture** and **design** projects, with *Claro* marking his **debut** as an industrial designer.

With this project, he participated in the **Satellite Awards** in 2018, making history as the **first Mexican** to receive the **Banca Intesa Sanpaolo** award.

Currently, he has developed a wide variety of projects with *MutarQ*, ranging from **lighting design** and architecture to ceramics, **furniture**, and home accessories.

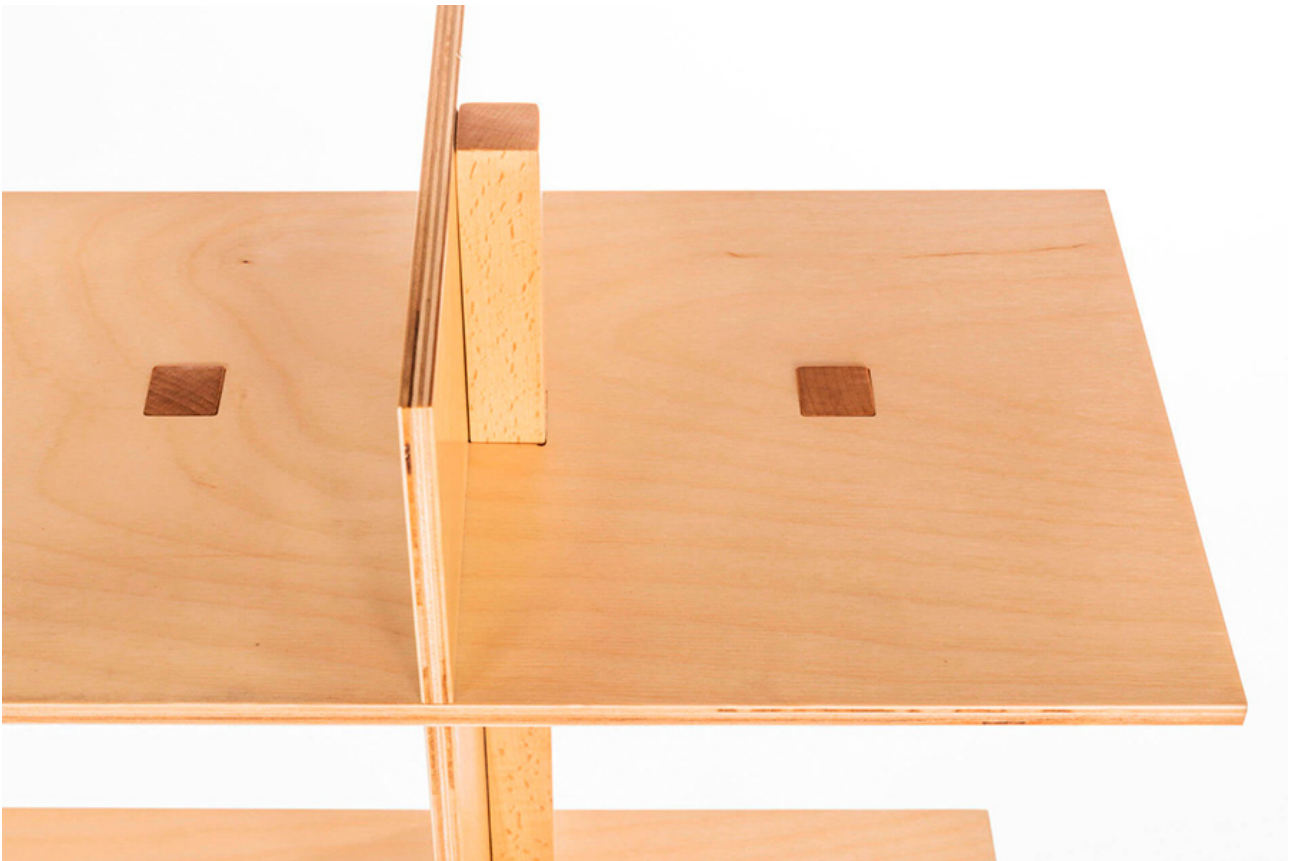
Following this achievement, **Miguel Angel Jiménez** returned to the **Tec** as a professor at the School of Architecture, Art, and Design on the **Tec’s Mexico City** campuses, where he has been responsible for design, product, and systems projects.

An unexpected project

Claro emerged as a **personal project** from a need in his home: **a new bookcase**. **Jiménez** began designing with just this idea in mind, not knowing where it would take him.

*“It was a personal project, driven by the **need** to have a bookcase that fit my space, taste, and **budget**.”*

*“I wanted to use as **little material** as possible to reduce costs, without knowing that this would involve many **technical challenges**,”* recalls the academic.



Inspired by **Japanese assemblies** and furniture designed to be assembled by the user, the bookshelf combines tradition with **technology**, using birch plywood panels and beech crossbars.

This piece of furniture is **assembled** without the need for adhesives or **fasteners** such as screws or nails. Its assembly system is precise, almost like a **puzzle**, giving it great **structural strength**.

The result was a bookshelf that weighs **only 7 kilos** but can hold many books and other objects **without warping**, maintaining, according to **Jiménez**, an elegant and understated structure.

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