

# FROM OUR BOARD MEMBERS **ORHAN ÜNSAL**

The construction industry is a constantly renewing sector, one that actually needs to be renewed. If you can't reinvent yourself in this industry, you have no chance of survival. Business life truly begins at home. And the most important support at home is your spouse's support. First, you need to have a dream. When you don't give up, you will definitely achieve that goal. I can say that I have achieved all my dreams.

My name is Orhan Ünsal. I was born in Gümüşhane, Şiran, in 1969. I graduated from Anadolu University's Faculty of Economics. I am a businessman and a pilot with PPL and UPL licenses. I am the chairman of the board of directors of the Ünsal Group of Companies. I entered the business world at a very young age, and our entry into the business world began with crises.



The 1994 crisis was our first encounter. We witnessed and experienced the April 5th decisions. The founder of the Ünsal Group was actually our brother, Yusuf Yücel Ünsal. In 1981, our brother started his first construction contracting business in Ankara. We began working alongside him. In 1993, we lost our brother in a traffic accident

Later, as the eldest son in the family, I took over the business at a young age. I was 23 at the time. Since then, we've grown our company by embracing our own vision. As the Ünsal Group, we operate in four main sectors. Primarily, these sectors are construction, with over 1 million square meters currently under construction in Ankara and, outside the city, in Antalya. We currently have a total of 3,600 residential units under construction. We actually do mass housing projects. We do urban planning projects. We design and implement projects. We build hotels. We also build dormitories, shopping malls, and high-quality housing. As the Ünsal Group, we build residential buildings

The Mevaşehir project is a dream project for us. As a 43-year-old company, the Ünsal Group has helped thousands of families become homeowners over the past 43 years. But we've been working on two-block, three-block, and single-block projects. Our dream was to create a project like this. A project with an urban concept. One we're excited about and enjoy. The landscaped area is one of Ankara's most magnificent. It boasts a 7,000-meter pond and 30,000 square meters of green space. It's a landmark project for both Ankara and Türkiye. The construction sector is constantly renewing itself, and in fact, it needs to be. If you can't innovate in this sector, if you can't keep up with current conditions, if you can't meet the demands, desires, and preferences of society, you certainly won't stand a chance. We're active in the marble sector. We have one of Türkiye's largest quarries in Sivas. We produce 21 types of marble from this quarry. We market our marble both domestically and internationally. We're also active in the aviation sector. In the aviation sector, we have one of Türkiye's private air parks, Ankara's first, where we offer flight training. We also hangar our businesspeople's aircraft here and offer them access to the airport and runway. I also serve as president of the amateur and sport aviation association.

In this regard, we are collaborating with our government, Civil Aviation, Ministry of Transport, and State Airports Authority to encourage the construction

of air parks at numerous locations across Türkiye. We are striving to build these air parks in partnership with our business community.

Flying was my childhood dream. I spent my childhood in a village. I always watched airplanes from afar. How did airplanes fly? I was always curious about how pilots operated them. In 2014, I was 45 years old. I decided to make that childhood dream come true. I went and enrolled in the Turkish Aeronautical Association Flight Academy. After a year of training, I received my pilot's license. I received my PPL license. They said you can't fly by renting a plane; you have to buy one. So we bought a plane. After buying the plane, we discovered that Türkiye didn't actually have a runway for flying planes. There were no air parks

They don't land small planes at large airports or airports. We saw this. They create difficulties. So, the challenge arose: we needed to build a runway for ourselves. We came to this area, the Polatlı district, and looked for land. We found land, but it was a bit steep and expensive. Then we built a runway for ourselves. After building the runway, we brought our aircraft here and landed there. Then I went to our General Director of Civil Aviation. He said, "Mr. Orhan has shown such courage. He built a runway. We need this, too. As aviation, let's help Mr. Orhan. Let's expand this runway. Let's turn it into an air park." He asked me, "Mr. Orhan, can you turn this runway into an air park?" After receiving your request, I said, "Mr. General Director, let's convert it month by month." We converted the runway into an air park. Now, there are over 20 aircraft flying at the air park. Our businesspeople have planes, and they use them. Our pilot schools also have planes, and they provide pilot training here. Our pilots, who need to fill their hours, are completing their time here by performing commercial flights. We also hold social events here. We've organized events for our children, earthquake-affected communities, orphans, and occasionally for the families of martyrs and veterans. We hold events on special occasions and national days, and we truly connect our children, our nation, and our people with aviation. We also host businesspeople here. Most recently, we hosted the MÜSİAD Ankara Branch and Board of Directors here. I personally flew businesspeople and friends here, and they were very happy. They said it was a joy and a pleasure beyond just flying. Therefore, we naturally invite our businesspeople to this opportunity.

We're trying to get the public involved in aviation, to encourage them. Because we need our businesspeople, too. To develop aviation, we're working with our government, our ministry, our civil aviation department, and our state airports to spread these airfields across Turkey.

We're active in the tourism sector. We're currently building a hotel in Ankara. We're nearing completion. We have a tower project on Eskişehir Road in the Konutkent neighborhood of Ankara. This tower project is one of the tallest in Ankara. Nexus Tower is a 157-meter tower. We're building this tower into a 5-star hotel, and hopefully, it will be Ankara's new 5-star hotel. Our hotel also has a convention center. It has a total of five halls, one of which can accommodate 1,500 people. We're currently building Ankara's largest hall.

We will open our hotel under the Dolce by Windham brand. Its current name is Nexus Tower. Nexus Tower is one of Ankara's tallest towers at 157 meters. Our hotel has 180 rooms, 40 of which are suites. There's also a presidential suite. We have five halls. We have a convention center. We're building Ankara's largest convention center right now. Our 1,500-seat convention center will hopefully open at this hotel. We also have a spa center. Our fitness center and swimming pool are also available at our hotel. It's a 5-star hotel with the most beautiful view in Ankara.

Of course, youth means excitement and a rush of blood. My advice to young people is to choose a morally upright life. I believe this is crucial. Then, I advise them to pursue their dreams relentlessly, tirelessly, and without giving up. In other words, when you don't give up, you will definitely achieve your goals.

Business life actually begins at home. The most important support at home is your spouse's support. If you have peace at home, if you have a spouse who constantly motivates and uplifts you, this will also be reflected in your work. I can say with certainty that my wife is my greatest motivator. Of course, the life you live is also very important here. So, if you have a healthy life, a fulfilling life, and peace at home, this can lead you to success.

I can say that I've achieved all my dreams. I've reached my goals in the world I've created. But of course, we won't stop there. Because from now on, we need to set

bigger goals. New dreams It's necessary to establish. The world is constantly evolving. The world keeps turning. That's why we can't stand still. When you stand still, your competitors surpass you. We've pursued institutionalization, especially in the construction sector.

We will continue to develop new projects in the construction sector. Our country is untouched by the aviation sector. In this sense, we want to take major steps in aviation. We want to expand this airfield we've built to four locations across the country. We have plans for four more. Turkey has made significant strides, particularly in the defense sector.

We build fighter jets and unmanned aerial vehicles. These are lacking in the civilian sector. We are planning to begin building a two-seat aircraft.

We have begun taking steps. Hopefully, Türkiye will soon produce its first two-seat aircraft



Our introduction to MÜSİAD Ankara came thanks to our President İlhan Erdal. He came to me one day and said, "The President, we'll take you to MÜSİAD." I said, "Okay, President, why not?" Later, President Hasan Fehmi invited us to join the board, thankfully. And we've been on the board for two terms. In my opinion, MÜSİAD's most important contribution to the business world is its commitment to national and moral values and its ethical stance. I believe this is crucial. This is the most important factor that keeps me involved, that keeps me involved in MÜSİAD. In fact, both our family and I are very happy to be in MÜSİAD. Of course, economically, MÜSİAD has a production capacity and a vision. It's a recognized civil society organization, recognized both globally and in our country. The MÜSİAD family truly embraces the moral values of society, a family committed to national and moral values. Therefore, I'm happy to be a part of the MÜSİAD family. My family and children are also very happy to be available. Hopefully, we will continue to exist as a family in the available space, as a Münsal family