



Filippo Brunelleschi

By Eugenio Battisti

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In this book Eugenio Battisti, one of the world's leading experts on the history of Italian architecture, presents the work of Filippo Brunelleschi (1377-1446). Brunelleschi, a Florentine architect and sculptor, played a major role in Renaissance culture, initiating an authentic artistic revolution that gradually reached all of Europe. He studied with passion the forms and technical processes of classical Roman architecture which, along with the invention of perspective, led him to found a rational method for measuring space and to seek an architecture in which each single part is harmoniously blended and in proportion with the whole. This rationalism is the foundation of his language, and marks the entire urban structure of Florence: the colonnade of the Ospedale degli Innocenti (Foundling Hospital), San Lorenzo and the Sacrestia Vecchia, the Chapel dei Pazzi, Santo Spirito, and above all, the revolutionary solution of the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore.

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Editorial Review

Review

' ... In some respects, Battisti's text anticipates the current trend for popular history ... Battisti ... was an authoritative scholar of the Renaissance, and although this is an academic work in many respects, his enthusiasm for the material shines through ... This book is saturated with fascinating detail and anecdote, from Brunelleschi's architectural model of the dome of Santa Maria del Fiore made from the a turnip, to the details of the ageing masters tax return ... However, it is also full of very serious research and hard historical information. On the one hand the book is aspiring to academic comprehensiveness, but is at its best when it uses its staggering scholarship to illuminate the events and machinations that led to the explosion of culture in quattrocento Florence. ...

Language Notes

Text: English, Italian (translation)

About the Author

Eugenio Battisti (1924-1989) has been professor of Art History at the University in Genoa, at the Pennsylvania State University and at the University of North Carolina; and professor of Architecture History at the Milan, Rome and Florence University. He has published numerous book on Giotto, Cimabue, Brunelleschi, Piero della Francesca, Michelangelo and on Renaissance Art and Architecture.

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