

Antonio Becchi

Antonio Becchi (PhD 1994) studied in Italy, France and Germany and he is now working at the *Max Planck Institute for the History of Science* (Berlin). His research interests include the history of construction, mechanics, art, architecture and science. He is the author or co-editor of several books, most recently: *Naufragi di terra e di mare. Da Leonardo da Vinci a Theodor Mommsen* (Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Rome, 2017), *Construction History. Survey of a European Building Site* (Classiques Garnier, Paris, 2018), *Leonardo's Intellectual Cosmos* (Giunti, Florence, 2021).

Antonio Becchi graduated in Architecture at the University of Genoa (1988, *cum laude* and “dignità di stampa”) with a thesis about *Radici storiche della teoria molecolare dell'elasticità, con particolare riguardo alla Theoria philosophiae naturalis di R.G. Boscovich*. Since 1992 he has been collaborating with the international project *Between Mechanics and Architecture*. 1994 he earned his PhD in *Storia delle scienze e delle tecniche costruttive* (Thesis: *I criteri di plasticità: cento anni di dibattito, 1864-1964*) and between 1989 and 2000 he spent regularly research periods in Göttingen and Paris (*École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées* and *École Polytechnique*). He moved to Berlin in 2001 and since 2004 he is living and working between Berlin and London. He was a Visiting Fellow at the Warburg Institute (London) in 2018-2019.

Antonio Becchi is co-founder of the *Edoardo Benvenuto Association* (1999), *Archivio dell'Arte e della Scienza del Costruire* (2000), *Edoardo Benvenuto Prize* (2002), *Bibliotheca Mechanico-Architectonica* (2007), *International Federation of Construction History Societies* (2018) and the projects *Disiecta membra. Tracing the History of the Albani Libraries* (2016), *In-Camera-Out* (2016), *Il manoscritto O della Biblioteca Panizzi (Reggio Emilia): dai manoscritti vinciani agli studi di Giovanni Battista Venturi (1746-1822)* (2021). He is a member of the editorial board of the *Max Planck Research Library for the History and Development of Knowledge* and co-director of the book series *Between Mechanics and Architecture* (Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Rome); since 2012 he is a correspondent member of the *International Academy of the History of Science*, since 2014 a member of the *Conseil d'administration* of the *Association Francophone d'Histoire de la Construction* and since 2016 a member of the Scientific Board of the *Werner Oechslin Library Foundation* (Einsiedeln) and of the *Centro Interdipartimentale Urbino e la Prospettiva* (University of Urbino). He was a member of the *Construction History Society Trustees and Management Committee* in 2012-2020.

Selected publications et alia (2002-2021)

Books

- 2002 *Degli archi e delle volte. Arte del costruire tra meccanica e stereotomia* (with F. Foce), Marsilio, Venice 2002.
- 2004 *Q.XVI. Leonardo, Galileo e il caso Baldi: Magonzza, 26 marzo 1621*, Marsilio, Venice 2004.
- 2017 *Naufragi di terra e di mare. Da Leonardo da Vinci a Theodor Mommsen, alla ricerca dei codici Albani*, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Rome 2017.

e-Book

- 2007 *I criteri di plasticità: cento anni di dibattito (1864-1964)*, PhD Diss. (University of Florence 1994), www.bma.arch.unige.it, 2007.

Edited books

- 2002 *Towards a history of construction* (with M. Corradi, F. Foce, O. Pedemonte, eds.), Birkhäuser, Basel 2002.
- 2003 *Essays in the history of mechanics* (with M. Corradi, F. Foce, O. Pedemonte, eds.), Birkhäuser, Basel 2003.
- 2004 *Construction history. Research perspectives in Europe* (with M. Corradi, F. Foce, O. Pedemonte, eds.), Kim Williams Books, Florence 2004.
- 2013 *Guidobaldo del Monte (1545-1607). Theory and Practice of the Mathematical Disciplines from Urbino to Europe* (with D. Bertoloni Meli and E. Gamba, eds.), edition-open-access, Berlin 2013.
- 2013 *Philippe de La Hire entre architecture et sciences* (with H. Rousteau-Chambon and J. Sakarovitch, eds.), Picard, Paris 2013.
- 2018 *L'Histoire de la construction. Relevé d'un chantier européen / Construction History. Survey of a European Building Site* (with R. Carvais and J. Sakarovitch, eds.), Classiques Garnier, Paris.
- 2021 *Leonardo's intellectual Cosmos* (with S. Hoffmann, J. Renn, and M. Valleriani) Giunti, Florence, 2021 (German edition: *Leonardos intellektueller Kosmos*, Giunti, Florence, 2021).

Edited e-Book

- 2015 *Construction History. A European Meridian* (with R. Carvais and J. Sakarovitch, eds.), Association Francophone d'Histoire de la Construction, Paris 2015.

CD-rom

- 2005 *Bibliotheca Mechanico-Architectonica* (with F. Foce, eds.), CD-rom series, Genoa 2005.

Videos

- 2016-19 In the frame of the *In-Camera-Out* project Antonio Becchi and Montserrat de Pablo made 31 *Moving Portraits* (videos) between December 2016 and January 2019.

- 2019 The short film *Spring 1994* (2019), part of the *In-Camera-Out* project, was presented at the colloquium *Leonardo da Vinci. An Inquisitive Man: Technologist, Scientist and Artist* (MPIWG, 10th April 2019) as a homage to the MPIWG at the 25th anniversary of its foundation (1994-2019).

Exhibition

- 2021 *Leonardos intellektueller Kosmos / Leonardo's intellectual Cosmos* (with S. Hoffmann, J. Renn, and M. Valleriani), Staatsbibliothek, Berlin, 11th May - 17th July 2021.

Other selected writings

- 2002 *Aurea concinnitas: pour une orthodoxie hérétique*, in A. Becchi, M. Corradi, F. Foce, O. Pedemonte (eds.), *Towards a history of construction*, Birkhäuser, Basel 2002, p. 523-528.
- 2003 *Before 1695. The static of arches between France and Italy*, in S. Huerta (ed.), *Proceedings of the First International Congress on Construction History* (Madrid, 20th - 24th January 2003), Instituto Juan de Herrera, Madrid 2003, vol. 1, p. 353-364.
- 2005 *Raisons A-symétriques. Équilibre des formes et formes de l'équilibre dans la theoria columnarum*, in P. Radelet-de Grave (ed.), *Symétries*, Brepols, Turnhout 2005, p. 35-61.
- Fortuna (e sfortuna) critica del De re aedificatoria di Bernardino Baldi*, in E. Nenci (ed.), *Bernardino Baldi (1553-1617) studioso rinascimentale: poesia, storia, linguistica, meccanica, architettura*, FrancoAngeli, Milan 2005, p. 303-316.
- Baustatik*, in F. Jaeger (ed.), *Enzyklopädie der Neuzeit*, J.B. Metzlersche Verlagsbuchhandlung und Carl Ernst Poeschel Verlag, Stuttgart/Weimar 2005, vol. 1, col. 1093-1100.
- Vaults in the Air: Signor Fabritio's English Theory*, in S. Huerta (ed.), *Essays in the history of the theory of structures. In honour of Jacques Heyman*, CEHOPU, CEDEX, Instituto Juan de Herrera, Madrid 2005, p. 45-59.
- 88317.63520 *Tarli della storia, piatti di lenticchie e vecchie zje*, in G. Mochi (ed.), *Theory and Practice of Construction: Knowledge, Means, Models*, Ed. Moderna, Ravenna 2005, vol. I, p. 57-62.
- Bibliotheca Mechanico-Architectonica. From the passing references to a study of the sources* (with F. Foce), Introduction to the CD-ROM series *Bibliotheca Mechanico-Architectonica*, Genoa 2005 (digital edition).
- 2006 *Festigkeitslehre*, in F. Jaeger (ed.), *Enzyklopädie der Neuzeit*, J.B. Metzlersche Verlagsbuchhandlung und Carl Ernst Poeschel Verlag, Stuttgart/Weimar 2006, vol. 3, col. 945-948.
- Gewölbbau*, in F. Jaeger (ed.), *Enzyklopädie der Neuzeit*, J.B. Metzlersche Verlagsbuchhandlung und Carl Ernst Poeschel Verlag, Stuttgart/Weimar 2006, vol. 4, col. 881-884.
- La fine dell'inizio: 26 Maggio 1980* (with M. Corradi and F. Foce), in E. Benvenuto, *La scienza delle costruzioni e il suo sviluppo storico*, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Rome 2006, p. V-XVIII.
- Eggs, turnips and chains: rhetoric and rhetoricians of architecture*, in H. Schlimme (ed.), *Practice and Science in Early Modern Italian Building. Towards an Epistemic History of Architecture*, Electa, Milan 2006, p. 97-112.

- 2007 *Wusste Galileo davon? Die Architektur als Theatrum pro experimentalis philosophia*, in *Jahrbuch der Max-Planck-Gesellschaft 2007* (digital edition, www.mpg.de).
- 2008 *“Taccia dunque la turba de gli Architetti pratici ...”*. Henry Wotton und der Abt von Guastalla, in W. Oechslin (ed.), *Wissensformen*, gta-Verlag, Zürich 2008, p. 100-107.
- Imaginer l'entasis. Constructions, définitions, malentendus dans les traités de la Renaissance*, in R. Gargiani (ed.), *La construction de la colonne. Nouvelle histoire de la construction*, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne 2008, p. 149-163.
- Les paradoxes (historiographiques) de la vis columnarum*, in R. Gargiani (ed.), *La construction de la colonne. Nouvelle histoire de la construction*, École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Lausanne 2008, p. 203-219.
- Bernardino Baldi, in N. Koertge (ed.), *The new dictionary of scientific biography*, vol. 1, Ch. Scribner's Sons, Detroit 2008, p. 166-168.
- 2009 *Vitruvius in the Sabara: Auguste Choisy's 'philologie plafonnante'*, in J. Girón, S. Huerta (eds.), *Auguste Choisy (1841-1909). L'architecture et l'art de bâtir. Actas del Simposio Internacional celebrado en Madrid, 19-20 de noviembre de 2009*, Instituto Juan de Herrera, Madrid 2009, p. 1-14.
- Juxta textum Vitruvii et mentem Newtonii. Das neue Wissen und das «Räthsel der Architektur»*, in W. Oechslin (ed.), *Architekt und/versus Baumeister*, gta Verlag, Zürich 2009, p. 40-49.
- Pregnant Columns. From Word to Shape*, in H. Nowacki, W. Lefèvre (eds.), *Creating Shapes in Civil and Naval Architecture. A Cross-Disciplinary Comparison*, Brill, Leiden and Boston 2009, pp. 279-296. Published as preprint in: H. Nowacki, W. Lefèvre (eds.), *Creating Shapes in Civil and Naval Architecture. A Cross-Disciplinary Comparison*, Preprint of the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, n. 338, Berlin 2007, vol. 2, p. 129-144.
- The Body of the Architect. Flesh, Bones and Forces between Mechanical and Architectural Theories*, in K.-E. Kurrer, W. Lorenz, V. Wetzck (eds.), *Proceedings of the Third International Congress on Construction History*, Cottbus, 20th-24th May 2009, Brandenburg University of Technology, Cottbus 2009, vol. 1, p. 151-158.
- Uno e trino. Impronte stravaganti di un testimone postumo*, in F.P. Di Teodoro (ed.), *Saggi di letteratura architettonica, da Vitruvio a Winckelmann*, Olschki, Florence 2009, vol. 1, p. 19-35.
- 2010 *La doppia vita di una 'mauvaise règle'. La regola di Derand tra Leon Battista Alberti e Simone Stratico*, in P. Cassinello, S. Huerta, J.M. de Prada Poole, R. Sánchez Lampreave (eds.), *Geometry and Proportion in Structural Design. Essays in Ricardo Aroca's Honour*, Ed. Lampreave, Madrid 2010, p. 123-139.
- Architecture as a mechanical problem. A 'new' Renaissance manuscript and some old stories*, in A. Sinopoli (ed.), *Mechanics and architecture between Epistème and Techné*, Edizioni di Storia e Letteratura, Rome 2010, p. 97-106.
- Histoire de la construction: un regard italien*, in R. Carvais, A. Guillerme, V. Nègre, J. Sakarovitch (eds.), *Édifice et artifice. Histoires constructives*, Picard, Paris 2010, p. 59-63.
- L'asino che vola: architettura, ricerca, metodi tossici*, in E. Rabasa, J. Ibáñez, D. Sanz (eds.), *Actas Tercera Jornadas Sobre Investigación en Arquitectura y Urbanismo (Madrid, 17-19 Junio 2009)*, Mairca Libros, Madrid 2010, p. XXXIV-XLVII.
- 2011 *Cantieri d'inchostro: meccanica teorica e meccanica chirurgica nella seconda metà del Cinquecento*, in G. Curcio, N. Navone, S. Villari (eds.), *Studi su Domenico Fontana 1543-1607*, Silvana Editoriale, Milan 2011, p. 91-103.

- 2012 *La poutre brisée: une question, deux réponses*, in R. Gargiani (dir.), *L'architrave, le plancher, la plateforme. Nouvelle histoire de la construction*, Presses polytechniques et universitaires romandes, Lausanne 2012, p. 316-328.
- Ut unum sint: poutres, arcs, plates-bandes*, in R. Gargiani (dir.), *L'architrave, le plancher, la plateforme. Nouvelle histoire de la construction*, Presses polytechniques et universitaires romandes, Lausanne 2012, p. 329-340.
- Il corpo dell'inventio: Vitruvio interprete di Archimede*, in "Horti Hesperidum. Studi di storia del collezionismo e della storiografia artistica", 2012, fasc. 2, p. 39-60.
- 2013 *Idées manuscrites, théories imprimées: la mécanique architecturale de Philippe de La Hire*, in A. Becchi, H. Rousteau-Chambon, J. Sakarovitch (eds.), *Philippe de La Hire entre architecture et sciences*, Picard, Paris 2013, pp. 177-190.
- ...zoticamente non intendendo le Mechaniche. La scientia aedificandi ai tempi di Guidobaldo del Monte*, in A. Becchi, D. Bertoloni Meli, E. Gamba (eds.), *Guidobaldo del Monte (1545-1607). Theory and Practice of the Mathematical Disciplines from Urbino to Europe*, edition-open-access, Berlin 2013, p. 241-263.
- Archimedes' Bath*, in G. Di Pasquale, C. Parisi Presicce (eds.), *Archimedes. The Art and Science of Invention*, Giunti, Florence 2013, p. 115-119. Also in Italian edition: *Il bagno di Archimede*, in G. Di Pasquale, C. Parisi Presicce (eds.), *Archimede. Arte e scienza dell'invenzione*, Giunti, Florence 2013, p. 115-119.
- Architectus omnibus armis ornatus. Sind die Waffen des Architekten nur Spielzeuge?*, in *Jahrbuch 2012*, Braunschweigische Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft, J. Cramer Verlag, Braunschweig 2013, p. 215-225.
- Looking for an equilibrium point: Wilson, Machiavelli and the King of Siam*, in "Construction History. International Journal of the Construction History Society", vol. 28, N. 3, 2013, p. 1-19.
- 2014 *Fokus: Die Gestalt der Säule*, in J. Renn, W. Osthus, H. Schlimme (eds.), *Wissensgeschichte der Architektur*, Edition Open Access, Berlin 2014, vol. 3, p. 369-396.
- Fokus: Architektur und Mechanik*, in J. Renn, W. Osthus, H. Schlimme (eds.), *Wissensgeschichte der Architektur*, Edition Open Access, Berlin 2014, vol. 3, p. 397-428.
- À Joël, le juste*, in "Construction History. International Journal of the Construction History Society", vol. 29, N. 1, 2014, p. ix-xi; also "Scholion", 8, 2014, p. 177-179.
- 2015 *Vitruvius zu den Zeiten der reinen Vernunft: Giovanni Poleni, Simone Stratico und ihre Exercitationes*, in U. Hassler (ed.), *Der Lehrbuchdiskurs über das Bauen*, Institut für Denkmalpflege und Bauforschung der ETH Zürich, Zürich 2015, p. 78-92.
- Eugene Goostman et les pierres de Saint-Petersbourg*, in "Re-Vue Malaquais", n. 2, 2015, p. 46-49.
- Oltre la 'Scientia de ponderibus'*, in P. Caye, R. Nanni, P.D. Napolitani (eds.), *Scienze e rappresentazioni: saggi in onore di Pierre Souffrin*, Olschki, Florence, 2015, p. 389-403.
- 2016 *Drawing Proofs: lo sguardo cinematografico di Robert Willis*, in A. Buchanan, J.W.P. Campbell, J. Girón, S. Huerta (eds.), *Robert Willis. Science, Technology and Architecture in the Nineteenth Century*. Proceedings of the 'Robert Willis Symposium' (Cambridge UK, Gonville and Caius College, 16th-17th September 2016), Instituto Juan de Herrera, Madrid, 2016, p. 141-165.
- Learning from falling stones: Autobiografie scientifica between mechanics and architecture*, in "Science et technique en perspective", IIe série, vol. 18, fasc. 2, 2016, p. 3-18.

- 2017 *I commenti di Daniele Barbaro al Proemio della 'terza parte principale dell'Architettura' (1556-1567)*, in F. Lemerle, V. Zara, P. Caye, L. Moretti (eds.), *Daniele Barbaro 1514-1570*, Brepols, Turnhout, 2017, p. 187-198.
- La lezione di Salmacide: Vitruvio e il potere delle acque*, in T.G. Schattner, F. Valdés Fernández (eds.), *Wasserversorgung in Toledo und Wissensvermittlung von der Antike ins Mittelalter*, Ernst Wasmuth Verlag, Tübingen/Berlin, 2017, p. 371-385.
- 2020 *La Bibliotheca Albana Urbina nel carteggio tra Bernard M. Peebles e M. Howard Rienstra*, in "Studia Oliveriana", IV ser., Vols. V-VI, 2019-2020, pp. 143-166.
- 2021 *Diamanten und Glas: Ein Gespräch in der Werkstatt der Leonardo-Forschung*, in A. Becchi, S. Hoffmann, J. Renn, M. Valleriani (eds.), *Leonardos intellektueller Kosmos*, Giunti, Florence, 2021, pp. 331-347.
- "Veggiamo se tal fabbrica può reggersi": misurare l'ignoto, secondo natura*, in F. Camerota (ed.), *Dall'Inferno all'Empireo. Il mondo di Dante tra scienza e poesia*, Sillabe, Leghorn, 2021, pp. 56-57.