

50 years  
1961/2011



la meccanica

1961-2011

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La Meccanica - 1961



# Many things have changed since way back in 1961...



## The smell of iron

The pungent smell of the workshop enters our nostrils every day, the same smell of iron as in the 1960s. Every morning, the same smell of iron awaits us and envelops us when we go into work. The smell that makes us proud to be mechanics every day.

## The sound of steel

As soon as we enter the workshop, we are surrounded by the sudden buzz of the lathe tools that cut steel to produce metres of coils and spirals of swarf in a bright and shiny colour. The cutters carve into the surfaces, scraping off metal swarf that shoots and bounces everywhere. An uncoordinated and continuous overlapping of sounds embraces us like an amazing concert. If we then move on to the metalwork department, we are surrounded by the frying sound of electrodes that fuse and heat the metal and the lamenting sound of sheet metal as it is cut by emery grinding wheels. Hammer blows shake the air.

## Memories spring to mind

The technical office has changed over the years. The old drawing board has been relegated to a corner, to die a slow death, while in the sacred silence of the office, we are aware of the continuous clicking of mice and the hum of computers. Few of us remember the rustle of pencils on transparent sheets or the scratching of sandpaper when they were sharpened.

## Once upon a time

Many things have changed since way back in 1961 when La Meccanica was established: Italy, Veneto and ourselves are no longer the same: a farming economy has given way to an industrial and financial systems.

## 1961-2011: fifty years that changed the country, its culture and values.

I remember the 1960s and '70s, and our father who spent all his time at work. He spent many an evening and many a Sunday at his desk sorting out final balances and estimates. Many lunches and dinners were eaten in silence to avoid arousing his many concerns. The great crisis of 1963, and the others that followed in the 1970s and '80s. Much time was spent since childhood in close contact with what was at the time a small industrial company: day after day, a sense of duty took hold of us and became part of us. La Meccanica was founded by the people of Veneto, with their peasant origins and a great desire to grow honestly. La Meccanica gathers together many stories of men who lived through the economic boom of



Ottorino Reffo



the industrialisation of Italy. Many employees worked together, side by side, with commitment and seriousness, spurred on by the values held dear in our motherland Veneto: the family, the home, children, work, solidarity...

## Pride

We have a passion for mechanics and a desire to successfully accomplish our work.

Every day, we diligently carry out our tasks with professionalism and responsibility, aware of the daily competition in national and international markets.

Every day, we interact with different cultures. It is a constant struggle that takes place on an ever-expanding front: from Europe to Russia, North Africa, the Middle East, the Far East and the Americas.

**Every prospect unconverted is a defeat, every order processed is a success**



Fabris team

# Being the North-east

by Renato Ganè

What is the North-east? It is unlikely that anyone would reply "the part of Italy that borders...". In fact, the North-east is what has happened and is still happening, perhaps a little less, somewhere between the Lake Garda area and the Karst region, the Po Delta and Trentino. It is not a question of "where", but more a question of "what". Using rather more erudite expressions, we can say: the economic and social phenomenon, the development model, or an example of unplanned and abnormal growth. I asked a friend, a foreigner, "What is the North-east?", and he immediately replied: "factories".

It was an almost exact answer. A prime example of what someone, I forget who, called the "Third Italy", namely, the Italy of widespread firms. It is different to Italy at the outset of industrialisation. It is the well-known industrial triangle that is even more different to Southern Italy. Everyone has spoken about the North-east. Conferences and seminars have been held on it and research and degree theses have been based on it. Moreover, a wealth of definitions has been provided, some even pleasant, such as the "California

of Italy" and "People who have gone from hunger to dieting in fifty years" while universities all around the world have made case studies of it. Our vocabulary has been enriched: industrial and production districts, network enterprises and informal mergers. What has happened? When did it begin? These are the questions of all time and the answer, the most obvious but perhaps the most correct is: "So it gradually happened and, I can add, we fell in love with it".

la meccanica





«A sower went out to sow his seed; and, as he sowed, some fell by the way side; and it was trodden down and the fowls of the air devoured it. And some fell upon a rock; and as soon as it was sprung up, it withered away, because it lacked moisture. And some fell among the thorns; and the thorns sprang up with it, and choked it. And some fell on good ground; and sprang up to produce an hundredfold.»

## When did the history of *La Meccanica* begin?

### “Set up your own business!”

**I suppose we can say that the history of our company did not begin in 1961 but much, much earlier...**

The photos here at the side show the damage and destruction to the Istituto Rossi of Vicenza, due to the bombings of 1944: for we technicians, no picture better represents the situation of our region in the immediate post-war period (for we mechanical technicians, ITIS A.Rossi is not only a school but also something sacrosanct).

I would like to remind you that the founder of La Meccanica, Ottorino Reffo, obtained a specialist high-school diploma in Aeronautical Engineering at the Istituto Rossi in 1944.

Before the war, life in the Veneto region was mainly based on agriculture. The practice of sharecropping still existed in the countryside. Families were large and homes were poor. The days passed by slowly characterised by the typical rituals of a rural culture. The standard of living was very low.

After the war, the economic prospects of the area were tough: agriculture did not provide enough to live on, jobs were scarce and few industries existed. Emigration was a choice for many people.

The history of La Meccanica is the same as that of dozens of companies established in an area that had suffered a war that brought trauma and destruction. It is the history of a young man who had lived a humble existence and studied thanks to his own perseverance and the help of his family. A family that placed their hopes in him. Hopes that Ottorino felt were his duty to repay.

A sense of duty!!! And a sense of duty that came from rural roots.

For fifteen years, he worked at Fabris (a long-standing company of Cittadella that had begun its activities back in the 1920s), where he gained experience.

I don't know when or how he had the idea of setting up his own business. And the seed that germinated perhaps sprang from the lucky coincidence of encounters or relationships, with the financial support of his father-in-law, Neo Costalunga, who believed in his talent and in an area called Veneto, with a great desire to impress.

Le bombe del 1944



Massimiliano "Neo" Costalunga



1961: our first picture

This was in the 1960s: the years when dozens of companies were established and flourished in a short time, radically changing the socio-economic fabric that had created them: dozens of companies with the same origins and history...

## Cittadella, a small world in turmoil

**by Roberto Brumat**

But what did this activity, which **Ottorino Reffo**, aged 37, was setting up in an area to the north of Cittadella involve? A local history expert **Giancarlo Argolini** explains.

### INDUSTRIALISATION

The first industrial area of Cittadella (in Facca) was established in 1970. The Master Plan of 1958 (still not fully implemented) was drafted by Engineer Scarabottolo (the mayor at the time was Attilio Gobbo) and perfected under the management of Antonio Petteuzzo, the mayor from 1960 to 1970. The areas involved were mainly to the south of Cittadella. Predicting an increase of 2,000 inhabitants during each decade, the Master Plan laid the foundations for local development. Heavy goods traffic was forced further away from the town walls, also allowing sites to be identified for the development of production areas.

Cittadella already had its leading industries, the main one was Officine di Cittadella established in 1946, which, in 1960, employed 230 workers who built and repaired railway rolling stock. One of the firms set up in 1946 was the machine shop Facco (agricultural machinery and snow ploughs), which was part of the Ansaldo group and employed 25 workers. Then there was the machine shop Fabris, with 25 workers producing industrial motors and precision tools. In the historic centre, the factory Piazza e Corizzato produced refrigerators – also employing 25 workers. Then there was Siev (today called Trafilerie di Cittadella) with 35 skilled workers producing electrodes for welding; and INE (Italian Electrode Industry), which, in the 1950s, occupied two rooms in the town centre and moved to Facca in the following decade. From 1946 onwards in



Fontaniva, Isoli produced trucks and aerial work platforms. From the 19th century onwards, the two spinning mills in Borgo Vicenza and Porta Bassano (examples of industrial archaeology today) continued production. They were owned by the Franceschetto family and the Miotti family (including those in Galliera Veneta) and the Brugnolaro distillery (established in 1892). Moreover, three companies traded in wines and spirits: Silva, Trevisani and Pasquale. The latter gave rise to Acqua Vera in 1979, in San Giorgio in Bosco. Then in Borgo Treviso, from 1954 onwards, a warehouse was owned by **Angelo Gabrielli** who traded in sheet metal and iron profiles: the origins of Siderurgica Gabrielli, now the leading industry of Cittadella. At the same time, in the Tombolo area, a very important international trade in beef cattle developed, with its first sorting centre in Cittadella: the cattle arrived from Eastern Europe in cattle wagons and were initially kept in barns owned by **Ettore Rubbo**, and then taken to Tombolo. Only a few of these activities, which comprised the backbone of local industry in the 1960s with an important impact on the related industries, still remain: Siev, Fabris, Siderurgica Gabrielli, Isoli and Acqua Vera.

In 1961, the population of Cittadella was 13,800: 41% of the 3,000 families earned an income from industry and small artisan workshops, 29% from agriculture and another 29% from the service industry. In these years, the Fiera Franca was very important not only as an opportunity for festivities and a traditional gathering around the town walls but also for its popular exhibition of livestock and handicrafts. Unemployment was unknown and the people of Cittadella, although forced to emigrate to Switzerland and overseas, were finally able to return now that work was available locally. People began to talk of skilled labour ...

In line with the rest of Italy, the local area had shifted from a rural to an industrial economy, outpacing the typical industries of the past – the spinning mills and the paper industry.

We can recall the firm Fabris, where **Ottorino Reffo** gained his initial experience, which also carried out maintenance operations at the local paper mills.

In the 1950s, the first vocational school ACLI (currently called ENAIP) opened in Cittadella. Boys were not the only ones to attend the main premises of the school in Via Pilastroni to learn a trade: evening courses were attended by workers sent from their factories in order to perfect their skills in mechanics, electrical engineering and carpentry. Dozens of students obtained a school diploma in a specialisation. The first head of this revolutionary training experience was Count **Alberto Alberti** of Cittadella. A key role in the school was also played by Monsignor **Aldo Pesavento** and **Dino Marchiorello** the founder of Officine di Cittadella.

### THE 1950s

For Cittadella, **Aldo Pesavento** was not only the parish priest who took over in 1956 from Don **Emilio Basso** who had run the community since 1908. Don Aldo's libertarian spirit and his protection of the weakest made him a point of reference for many. His commitment, when he still worked in Monselice, led him to be taken to the fascist prisons in February 1945: he was accused of helping the partisans, however, the wife and daughter of the Federal Secretary of Padua, facilitated his release. In the post-war period, the walled town did not experience the climate of revenge and

Factories are not run by numbers, but by people, with a history

hatred that swept the rest of Italy but remained a quiet place far from great political battles: as it had always been, except for the conflicts at the beginning of the century between the landowners and the Leghe Bianche Contadine (farmers white alliance) supported by the archpriest **Emilio Basso**.

In 1963, 97% of eligible citizens voted. The elections that had taken place five years before left no doubt about the composition of the electorate: 81% voted for the DC (Christian Democrat party), 5.2% voted for the socialists and 3.9% for the PCI (Italian Communist Party). Yet in that "isola bianca" (the CD party), recalls **Giancarlo Argolini**, the ideas of others were fully respected.

From those years, we can remember Don **Odone Nicolini**. After becoming a priest, due to his vocation when an adult, he was linked with the resistance movement (**Guerrino Citton** wrote a book about him entitled "The Priest of the Partisans"); On 29 April 1945, at the Porta Padova he, who spoke German well and other dignitaries, convinced the commanders of the first battalion of the 76th Panzerkorps under the command of General **Von Graffen**, retreating towards Bassano, not to enter Cittadella, which was "swarming with partisans", and to bypass its walls, thus ensuring the safety of its citizens.

In 1960, Professor **Antonio Pettenuzzo** became the mayor (a ten-year term). He was already a member of the Comitato di Liberazione Nazionale (National Liberation Committee) and a partisan alongside **Giuseppe Armano** commander of the Brigate Damiano Chiesa (partisan party). **Ottorino Reffo** was **Pettenuzzo's** cousin and as a child he had lived in his home, in the village of Sissa, in Onara, for several years. **Pettenuzzo**, was a friend of the lawyer **Gavino Sabadin** of Cittadella, who had been the mayor of the walled town from 1914 to 1922, the founder of the Brigate Damiano Chiesa, the secretary of the Veneto-based DC party in 1944, the first prefect of Padua in the post-war period and much more. After abandoning his role as a partisan and after ten months at Palazzo Santo Stefano (from 30th April 1945 to 28th February 1946) at the C.L.N. (National Liberation Committee), **Sabadin** made a strong bond of friendship with **Alcide De Gasperi** (Prime Minister from 1945 to 1953). In the 1960s, the lawyer, who had already been a provincial councillor from 1951 to 1965, became the national president of the Istituti Autonomi Case Popolari (Autonomous Institutes of Social Housing) and the hospital of Cittadella. In this political context, the Master Plan of Cittadella was established and foundations were laid for the industrial development of the local area.



Antonio Pettenuzzo



Bino Rebellato

### THE WIND OF CULTURE

In Cittadella, in those years, a new cultural dimension was flourishing along with economic development. Much is owed to the work of the writer and editor **Bino Rebellato**, who set up the Premio Internazionale di Poesia Cittadella (Cittadella International Poetry Prize) in 1953, involving international figures such as **Ezra Pound**, **Diego Valeri**, **Carlo Bo** and **Aldo Palazzeschi** on the judges panel at its various editions.

In those years, in the town streets you could also meet other renowned inhabitants of Cittadella: **Giuseppe Billanovich**, professor of Italian literature at the University of Freiburg in 1950, and later professor of medieval and humanistic philology at the Cattolica di Milano (Catholic University of Milan), and the author of many essays; **Giuseppe Mesirca** the general practitioner of Galliera, an essayist and novelist who reached the finals of the 1967 Premio Campiello with his novel entitled *Una vecchia signora* (An Old Lady); the medal designer **Luciano Mercante**, first prize winner at the Venice Biennale for his medal for the 1936 Olympics in Berlin; the brothers **Angelo** and **Elio Rocco**

well-deserving members of the Resistance movement before founding the Siev; the historian **Gisla Franceschetto**, also the honorary superintendent of the monuments of Cittadella.

The cultural revival of the local area also involved the theatre. Since the early 19th century, Cittadella had a private theatre, decorated internally by the set designer of the Teatro La Fenice, Francesco Bagnara. Remaining closed during the fascist





period when it was only used for "Carnevale" celebrations and gatherings, the theatre was donated in 1950 to the Municipality, which, after using it as a warehouse, reopened it in 1968 with its current 220 seats: it was a genuine event, also because the theatrical experience of Cittadella was inaugurated much earlier than that of Bassano and Castelfranco.

A mention should also be made of the **Biennale dell'Incisione Italiana Cittadella** (Italian Engraving Exhibition) as a further means of artistic expression, attended by leading Italian artists from the first edition in 1966.

But there was, above all, a need for a culture within the reach of everyone. Several secondary schools were already based in Cittadella: Via Marconi was home to a branch of the Istituto Commerciale Calvi named after Professor **Giacinto Girardi** of Padua in 1962. In the same building, he had opened the first private technical school, in 1912, for agriculture and commerce (called Andrea Mantegna in 1921, which became a vocational school in 1929). Then there was the branch of the Istituto Tecnico Industriale Marconi (known as Meucci today). In 1969, the Istituto d'Arte Michele Fanoli for graphic arts also opened (a branch of the Selvatico school of Padua), which was initially situated in the 18th century Villa Rina in Borgo Treviso.

Cittadella also revived its town band (activities resumed in the post-war period) and other associations: the Tennis club, the CAI, which organised hikes in the mountains, social associations including San Vincenzo and ECA (the former cooker company established in 1880) and the CTG (Youth Tourist Centre).

### POSSIBLE ENCOUNTERS

In those years, in the streets of the walled town you could meet an interesting character who had chosen the life of a vagabond: Cesco, namely, **Francesco Cegan**, lived on alms by day and retreated to the tumbledown family house in Borgo Padova at night. He was strange but not mysterious: he descended from a family of pharmacists and grocers, which began running the pharmacy called Allo Spirito Santo in 1870. He could be seen, with very long hair and a beard (intended to advertise an anti-hair loss treatment created by his father), wandering around with his magical lotions on a rickety bicycle "decorated" with chamber pots and bells. On the same bicycle he went beyond the borders of the province and Veneto. It was not uncommon for him to appear, as a sore thumb among much elegance in the official photos of the Venice Film Festival next to a beautiful actress. It was easier, however, to meet him in Schio, where he went in search of food novelties, such as the first pasta wrapped in cellophane.

Although Cesco was able to give good advice on health, Bepi King Kong was shunned but only because he came out of bars rather tipsy. Then when word got around in Cittadella that by order of the mayor he could only be given wine diluted with water, Bepi King Kong moved to Facca, the land of the non-hostile innkeepers, who were still "free and generous".

# 1961

1961 marked the centenary of the Unification of Italy: the photo shows Monsignor Pesavento in the foreground blessing a laurel wreath. Among those present, we can recognise the mayor Antonio Pettenuzzo with his tricolor sash: a figure who played an important role in the life of Ottorino Reffo.



# 1961 What happened...

We have taken some of the main world events of 1961 from Wikipedia

- january 20<sup>th</sup>** USA. John Fitzgerald Kennedy was sworn in as the 35th American president
- february 15<sup>th</sup>** A total eclipse of the sun
- february 15<sup>th</sup>** Belgium. The Sabena 548 flight crashed near Brussels, killing 73 people including the entire US figure skating team. The forthcoming world championships, scheduled in Prague, were cancelled
- march 15<sup>th</sup>** Australia. An article was published by the doctor William McBride on the effects of thalidomide on the foetus: the drug causes phocomelia
- april 11<sup>th</sup>** USA. The singer Bob Dylan made his debut in New York
- april 12<sup>th</sup>** Soviet Union. The first manned rocket was launched: it was Vostok 1 with Yuri Gagarin 1934-1968) on board
- april 17<sup>th</sup>** Cuba. The invasion of the island by Cuban exiles, trained in the USA, was prevented in the Bay of Pigs by Fidel Castro's Cuban guerrillas
- may 1<sup>st</sup>** The first hijacking incident involving a commercial airliner
- may 5<sup>th</sup>** USA. Alan Shepard became the first American in space with the Mercury programme
- may 25<sup>th</sup>** USA. U.S. President Kennedy announced to Congress the beginning of the Apollo project to the moon
- may 28<sup>th</sup>** Great Britain. In an article published in The Observer, the lawyer Peter Benenson launched an appeal for the amnesty of two youngsters arrested in Lisbon under the dictatorship of Antonio Salazar. The appeal attracted thousands of supporters leading to the establishment of a movement for human rights: Amnesty International
- may 31<sup>th</sup>** USA. Leonard Kleinrock, researcher at MIT, published his first article on packet switching: the mother technology of the Internet
- june 11<sup>th</sup>** Italy. 37 bombings took place on the 'night of fires' in Alto Adige, marking the birth of terrorism in South Tyrol
- august 2<sup>nd</sup>** Great Britain. The Beatles held their first concert in the historic 'Cavern Club' in Liverpool
- august 13<sup>th</sup>** Berlin, Germany. The East German government erected the Berlin Wall
- november 11<sup>th</sup>** Congo. 13 men of the Italian Air Force on a UN mission were killed in the Kindu massacre
- december 11<sup>th</sup>** Vietnam. The USA intervened in the Vietnam War
- december 15<sup>th</sup>** Israel. A verdict was given sentencing to death the Nazi criminal Adolf Eichmann

- 1961 was the year when the second RAI channel was established and the year when Carosello and other programmes that were to become part of the history of Italian customs were introduced: *Canzonissima*, *L'amico del giaguaro* and *Studio Uno*, as well as the celebrities that accompanied our lives for many years: Gino Bramieri, Delia Scala, Corrado, Tortora...

### SPORT

- Juventus won the Serie A championship, followed by Milan and Inter. The footballers at the time were Charles, Sivori, Sani, Ghezzi, Rivera, Salvatore, Angelillo, Ferrini, Law...
- The Champions League was won by the Portuguese team Benfica, with the great player Eusebio.
- Phil Hill won the Formula 1 world championship with Ferrari.



# SCHOOLMATES

by Callisto Brunati

I very gladly and enthusiastically take the opportunity to recall a very dear schoolmate I met long ago in the years 1940-1945, during the war.

In those days, we attended the Regio Istituto Tecnico Industriale (RITI) A.Rossi in Vicenza, and were both enrolled on a course of a major specialisation, then known as CA Aeronautical Constructions. At the time, the institute was so respected and renowned that it was considered the best in Italy.

This record was mainly due to the merit of its good teachers, including Prof.ssa Alberti of maths, Engineer Ciro Giannini of machines and mechanics (who was then evacuated and took refuge at our home during the most dramatic stages of the war), vice-principal Tosato of physics, Professor Pedrazzoli of aerotechnics and drawing, as well as many other excellent teachers in the laboratory and workshop. In those days, the school was based on the responsibility, seriousness and skill of the teachers and on the discipline of the students. Precisely because of these characteristics,

Ottorino was the ideal student and proved to be the "best in the class". I always considered myself lucky to have immediately made friends with him because having only attended a boarding school up to the third year, where maths was not an important subject, thanks to Ottorino, who was a real "ace" in that subject, I quickly caught up: he made me do many written exercises, explained to me and corrected me. This not only happened when I went to his home in Tombolo but also, and above all, when travelling by train to go to school, writing with my satchel positioned on my knees as a desk.

I keenly remember Ottorino's friendship even after the school period, when he found a job at the Fabris workshops in Cittadella, which, at the time, made dies for wood. Ottorino proved to be very proactive and competent and was highly appreciated by the workshop foreman at Faleschini, with whom I also began to cooperate, as a friend of Ottorino, on building "washing machines" together, which, in those days, were a novelty. But soon everyone began to follow a different path according to individual initiatives.

It was an favourable time of economic boom and progress: thanks to the financial support of his father-in-law, Ottorino started his own workshop "La Meccanica", which immediately proved to be a high precision workshop and he started to work as a sub-supplier for leading companies and paper mills, as well as for Riello. I remember an incident, which he often told me about, concerning a payment agreed upon presentation of an invoice. At the time of each payment, the purchasing department of Riello always asked him for a further discount, and each time this became even larger. Until one day, in exasperation Ottorino clamorously replied: "Tosi ...! In stà maniera me mandè in malora!" (Boys! In this way I will go to ruin!). In conclusion, I can say that my friendship with Ottorino was pleasant, lucky and sincere and it was confirmed and reinforced when we became wedding witnesses and I could rightly say: "He who finds a friend, finds a treasure". I always remember Ottorino with great affection and I pray for him with great devotion.



la meccanica

I remember the afternoons when my grandfather came to see us. He would put me on his lap and hit my head with the knuckles of his large hand exclaiming: "Sentimo se l'è maturo" (Let's see if it's ripe). Who knows why I have always associated this memory with the hammer of the blacksmith who

## I REMEMBER...

by Roberto Reffo

forges steel...

I remember when, at midday, we stayed in the school lobby of the Istituto Farina, waiting for my father who was invariably late due to his work commitments. In the end, "el zio Bepin" (uncle Bepin) would come to pick us up.

I remember being confused at school when they called us into the hall and someone told us that Bob Kennedy had been shot: few of us understood what had happened; many of us, perhaps, thought that the lessons had been interrupted for some strange reason in order to send us home.

It was 4th June 1968: on that evening, after meeting his supporters at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, Robert Kennedy was assassinated by a gunshot: he died at dawn on 6th June 1968, just 42 years old.

I remember those long winters when the fog hid everything, deadened any noise and worked through the cold humid nights like an artist to give us, in the morning, a fairytale landscape all shining with hoarfrost...

I remember those months in May, when coming out of the rosary in the evening, we harassed the girls by catapulting paper bullets at their legs.

I remember my first football match with the Olimpia team. I played left-back: it was my first and last match due to my clamorous blunder which left, or rather "launched" the opposing centre-forward all alone in front of our goalie. The goal was inevitable and so was the defeat of our team.

I remember when cars still passed through the centre of Cittadella, where the traffic was controlled by a single traffic light in the centre of the crossroads.

I remember when, during Mass on Sundays, the priest turned his back on the congregation. The men, dressed in their Sunday best, a jacket, tie and well-pressed trousers, were to the left of the altar; the women, wearing a white veil, were to the right.

I remember the TV programme "Carosello" that concluded our day.







## I REMEMBER...



I remember the advert for Negroni salami: "le stelle sono tante milioni di milioni, la stella di Negroni vuol dire qualità" (There are many millions of stars; the Negroni star means quality). Every evening, there was an episode with a sheriff, with a large star on his chest, who unfailingly frightened off the bandits.

I remember the advert for the Bialetti moka pot with the picture of the man with a moustache.

I remember children's TV: "Squillino le trombe ed entrino le squadre" (Let the trumpets blast and the teams enter): the opening sentence that Febo Conti repeated to announce the entry of the children's teams that competed to win the afternoon game of "Chissà chi lo sa?" (Who knows, who knows?) (The first episode was broadcast on 30th September 1961 and the programme was so successful that it ran for 13 seasons in a row, until 1974).

I vaguely remember the TV literacy lessons called "Non è mai troppo tardi" (It's never too late) presented by the teacher Alberto Manzi.

I remember when only "Superga" trainers could be found and were good for any type of sport: from cross-country running to tennis, football and basketball. Nike, Asics and Reebok did not exist... football boots with studs were just a dream for boys and a gift for a few. The best were "Jair" trainers: black with light blue trims.

I remember that summer, when just before the August bank holiday I went to Umbria with my father to visit a customer. It was uncomfortably hot: our Fiat 125 Special appeared to have accumulated all the heat possible. There was no air-conditioning in those days, only side deflectors that released a pleasant warm breeze.

I remember the afternoons spent watching the Giro d'Italia (Tour of Italy) race: Gimondi, Adorni, Eddy Merckx... we sat on

a sofa in the room used for ironing. My mother ironed and we were surrounded by the warm damp fragrance that emanated from the clothes as she ironed. Now and again, she would spray a little water, the iron would let out steam and there was an atmosphere that recalled the liturgical use of incense.

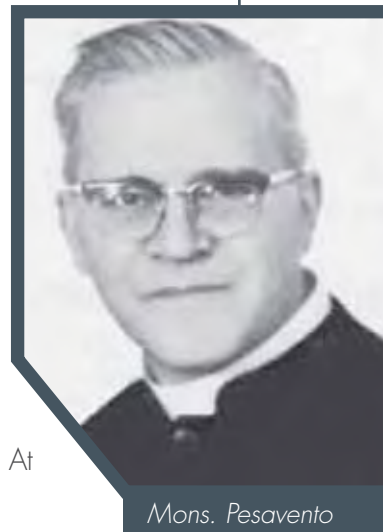
I remember Monsignor Pesavento, the parish priest of Cittadella, in the first years that La Meccanica was active, and the great esteem our father had for him.

*Surfing the Internet to find a photo of him, I found some pages of history. Don Aldo Pesavento was the priest of Monselice during the hard wartime period. He worked with such great energy and commitment that he became ill. He successfully grouped together many youngsters attracted by his passionate speeches. He helped the stragglers of the war and was accused of being a fascist by the partisans. In early February 1945, he was removed from the church of San Paolo and transferred to the political bureau in Padua. He was only saved because his superior spirit had also involved fascist families who managed to get him exonerated. The vicissitudes of this priest of Monselice were the same as many courageous priests. Don Pesavento was subjected to a lengthy interrogation. In the end, thanks to the intervention of the Bishop and the vice-Federal Secretary of Monselice, he was released with a warning: "to only carry out his duties as a priest ..."*

I remember the summer of 1975 when I was officially employed during the three summer holiday months. At last, my father allowed me to become part of this immense world.

I remember the worksheets filled in by hand with the R41 letter transfers. I remember the heliocopies of the drawings developed using ammonia. I remember the mitre saw bases produced and assembled in the old workshop in Via Isonzo... It took us about 20 minutes to manually place dozens of steel rollers, one by one, one vertical and one horizontal, on the inside lane of the base. The rollers were soiled with oil so that they would stay in position and not fall at the slightest error.

I remember the foggy afternoon of Christmas 1981, when a car suddenly ended the life of Annamaria, our youngest sister: she was only 18 years old. Our parents suffered great pain with dignity and courage.



Mons. Pesavento





In Tombolo, his native town, they thought that Ottorino was an engineer and not just an expert in aeronautics, as he was so competent in his field. And just think that he spent his childhood working in his family's barns! For Ottorino, his factory was his life and even when he crossed the road to go home in the evenings, he took his work home with him: it was his home and his business. His wife Lina had understood that...

# In those years...

by Dante Visentin

He never fired anyone and never resorted to laying workers off, not even during times of economic crisis. He reinvested all profits in the company, providing work for about eighty inhabitants of Cittadella.

Dante Visentin remembers:

"**Ottorino** was my uncle. When I was eleven years old, he and the mayor **Pettenuzzo** found a play to get me into the Camerini Rossi boarding school in Padua, which was run by priests. During the first week I ran away five times unable to withstand the strict discipline and the "column": when you got into mischief, you had to stand in front of a column during the entire break without talking to anyone. The school was tough: I remember once being punished by having to recite five verses of the Divine Comedy in front of 140 boys. And, in the evening, when we were allowed to watch the first TV broadcasts, we hoped that Carosello would not show the advertisement for Camai soap because when the priest heard the sentence "It seduces three times", he would invariably switch off the TV: the term "seduces" would have perturbed us too much!" "I could not stand that school. Over the years, however, I understood that since I was the only male nephew, **Ottorino** had wanted to prepare me for work: my father suffered, but my mother, my uncle and the mayor joined forces and were too strong".

"In the 1960s, for the boys of Tombolo, going to Cittadella was like going to a big city. For us having a sandwich in the "Giardini", a pizza and a Coca Cola for 500 lire at Trattoria Cappello (the first pizza restaurant in Cittadella) was a party! We even went on foot. It was different in those years: I remember when the old folk told stories in the barn in the evening - it was warmer than the house - while the women knitted or stirred the milk in a demijohn to make butter".

"In the summer months, just turned twelve years old, I went to work as an apprentice at La Meccanica. It was 1963. The cleaning had to be done on Saturday afternoons. **Saverio**, **Luigi Pierobon** and I collected the swarf in a wheelbarrow and took it out. And after cleaning the workshop, at 4.30 sharp, half an hour before closing time, my uncle would come and use the air hose to blow under the machinery to ensure that we had done a good job. This cleaning and tidying up session remained a routine at La Meccanica. On Saturdays,

"In the 1960s,  
for the boys of Tombolo,  
going to Cittadella  
was like going to  
a big city"



General Master Plan of Cittadella (October 1960)

the machinery had to be oiled and everything had to be tidy for Monday. One of **Ottorino's** sayings was:

*"Tidiness costs little but produces a lot."*

At that time, the firm worked as a sub-supplier for large companies. I was hired as an employee in 1968. I remember my first salary at the age of 20: when they gave me the pay packet, I flew home on my bicycle. It only took me three minutes to get to Tombolo. I was happy, also because I was able to help my mother, who made many sacrifices: every morning at 4am, she left Tombolo on her bicycle. She bought a sack of rice in Fontaniva that weighed over 50 kilos, which she then went to sell, door to door, as far as Thiene. She often returned even after 12 hours. She started this tough job in 1955 and continued whatever the weather conditions..."

## THE FIRST WORKERS

Dante remembers the first workers at La Meccanica. "**Alessandro Mezzalira** from San Martino di Lupari, a carpenter with a strong character and who slapped you on the head to teach a lesson; **Mario Santi** the repairer, highly skilled manually; **Natalino Parolin** an excellent lathe-turner and a true gentleman; **Augusto Saverio** and **Giuseppe Simonetto** on the grinding machine with **Giovanni Simioni** from Galliera; **Franco Zaramella** on the lathe with **Giuseppe Toniolo** (Bepi Maciona) on the milling machine; **Renzo Melchiorri** on the milling machine; **Giovanni Batocchio** and then **Gaetano Sgarbossa** on the boring machine; **Luigi Pierobon** on the turret lathe. Repairs were done by **Giuseppe Simeoni**, **Carlo Baggio** and **Danilo Torresin**. In the drilling department: **Renato Beghetto**, **Gennaro Oscar**, **Piero Ferronato**, **Luigi Pettenuzzo**, **Giuseppe Antonello** and **Primo Calderaro**. Carpenters: the brothers **Gino** and **Giuseppe Pierobon**, **Carlo Baggio**, **Giovanni** and **Arone Toniolo**. **Fabio Melchiori** on the drill, **Odino Melchiori** on the die polisher; **Giuseppe Ferronato** (nicknamed Baga) in the varnishing department, **Giovanni Tonietto** the cleaner; **Sandro Costalunga** who worked at the furnaces. Then there were the first office staff: **Elia Antonello** (the first to be hired) and **Giorgio Bonamin** (the first clerk), **Giancarlo Brunati**, **Emilio Giaretta**, **Enzo Bonamin** and **Giorgio Pellegatti**..."



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# The change came one Sunday, and it was Polish

by Luigi Romanello

"I began working at La Meccanica in the afternoons, when I was still at university: my first job was to trace lines with the drawing board." This memory belongs to Luigino Romanello, who was an engineer at the company, and a native of Tombolo. "Ottorino's father-in-law, a food dealer, convinced him to leave the company Fabris and helped him to start up his own business. His first job involved producing, as a sub-supplier, grinding machines for lathes, in small mills, and mitre saw bases for the company Pedrazzoli of Bassano del Grappa. I then began to produce dies for presses used to produce animal feed. We built the first semi-automatic drilling machines cheaply. Following this, the project arrived for my first pellet mill".

The company began to make its own products. "I would like to recall an important moment for this company: the arrival of Richard Schultz, the Polish technician who led the way to exportation and the internationalisation of La Meccanica. He turned up at Ottorino's home without warning one Sunday in the early 1970s, offering his services as a technical sales specialist for foreign markets. He had decided to leave the Swiss company that was the leader in the feedmill machinery sector. The partnership took the Cittadella-based company to an international level. That Sunday, Schultz had brought some original paintings with him as collateral but Ottorino told him to put them away, as they were not required...

## Richard Schultz

**Richard Schultz**, a pioneer in the milling and animal feed sector, was born on 19th May 1933 in Leipe, Poland (former Eastern Prussia). He grew up on the family farm. On this property, there was a mill where he had worked since his childhood. His father and grandfather were millers therefore it was also a natural step for him to choose this job.

The Second World War put an end to the peaceful idyll of the family estate. His father left and his mother died an early death. At the age of 14, **Richard Schultz** decided to escape to Germany. When he arrived there, he found refuge with several relatives who helped him become an apprentice miller in Celle.

From that moment onwards, he began to show an interest in engineering and wrote interesting articles that were regularly published. With one of these articles, he won

a competition that offered him a work experience that lasted a few months in Switzerland. On this trip, **Richard Schultz** managed to make some interesting contacts that would help him find a job.

When he returned to Germany, he finished his apprenticeship as a miller and began to travel, just as boys did in those years. His travels took him to

Switzerland, where he found a job as a designer for various companies. In 1961, he began to work for the company Gebrüder Bühler AG in Uzwil. He was soon in charge of the Research division of the Dipartimento DM (various mills). He then became head of many new developments at the company Bühler, especially in the grinding field.

In the pellet production sector, he quickly understood that the booming food industry would need larger presses. Unfortunately, his idea was not accepted so he left the company Bühler in 1971 and looked for another partner to develop his ideas.

He contacted the company La Meccanica of Cittadella, which, at the time, had started to produce dies and rollers. Ottorino Reffo and Richard Schultz immediately established a good business relationship and were soon ready to produce very powerful presses. At first, they mainly focused their efforts on converting the existing presses. Making

an existing press more powerful is an advantage for customers, since alterations can be carried out at weekends and the press can then produce more than twice as before.

The benefit lies, above all, in the fact that no extra energy is required to operate presses with a higher production capacity. The early years were characterised by these so-called "conversions". This achievement soon led them to build an entirely new type of press.

For many years, the company PSI AG and La Meccanica pooled their ideas to create increasingly developed machines, and they managed to present a new one at each trade fair.

Successes such as "the largest press in the world" or "the first quick-change device for dies" are just two examples of the important innovations achieved by the two companies.

As a result of their great success, the large number of presses sold and rapid growth, La Meccanica required new production units and new headquarters. Agents in South Africa, Great Britain and South-east Asia helped to sell "Lamec presses" worldwide.

A considerable drop in sales of new machines was recorded from 1985 onwards when European countries, especially Germany, introduced milk quotas and therefore growth, which had been unlimited in the animal feed sector up to then, was halted.

Up to then, the company PSI AG had been almost entirely responsible for the total turnover of the company La Meccanica. At the time of this crisis in the sector, the two sons of **Ottorino Reffo**, who already worked in the company, wanted to expand the business aspect of their business.

Unfortunately, the two companies could not come to an agreement. In 1986, the manufacturing company La Meccanica and the business company PSI AG split up to follow different paths. Since both companies are still working successfully, they probably made the right decision.

We would therefore like to congratulate the company La Meccanica on its 50th anniversary and we wish the Reffo family good health and success in the future.

*Andreas Schultz*



Richard Schultz, ein Pionier und Erfinder für die Mehl- und Mischfutterindustrie, wurde am 19. Mai 1933 in Leipe, damals Ostpreussen, heute Polen geboren. Er wuchs auf dem elterlichen Gutsbetrieb auf. Zu diesem Gut gehörte eine Mehlmühle, in der er von Kindheit an mitarbeitete. Bereits sein Vater und Großvater waren Müller, und so verwunderte es nicht, dass auch er diese Laufbahn eingeschlagen hat.



# Industry and work after 1950

by Ugo Sgarbossa

These short notes are intended for all those who, born at the end of the last century, are amazed when they hear stories about life in the past...

A story is the outcome of first-hand experiences of life (I was born at the turn of the Second World War). The machines used in industry were obsolete but were kept in perfect working condition due to constant maintenance by "old" expert hands and supported by young workers wanting to learn and therefore improve their economic and especially their social position through hard work.

The foundries used worn-out dies to create the widest variety of machines for the manufacturing industry

Hot processing took place using coal forges and under precarious and difficult conditions for the safety of employees.

The departments dedicated to machine tools were powered by belt-drive systems, which were already obsolete.

In each department, there was only one warning: "No entry to unauthorised persons" (unlike today, where everything is covered in warnings).

In the factory where I worked for 15 years and where there were about 600 workers, no serious accident occurred.

We had much respect for machines and tried to look after them well to make them last. Today, instead, the consumer economy has led us to think that when a tool breaks it should not be repaired but replaced.

In the years to follow (from 1965), the working class developed in terms of work and social conditions.

Thanks also to a rise in the level of culture, the new generation gave significant impulse to improve working and social conditions.

It is important to mention, however, that the older workers passed on to the youngsters their entire background and the experiences and sacrifices that work entailed.

When we were students, during the summer holidays we tried to find a job in order to learn a skill and put into practice what we had learned at school.

We had no financial expectations whatsoever, unlike today when the first question youngsters ask is about money.

Work was from Monday to Saturday afternoon... these days, the working week ends at midday on Fridays.



The salary was enough for a family's needs. Everyone in the family was kept up-to-date on how the head of the family's job was progressing, and we were happy when there was overtime.

The firm organised summer camps, where we had the privilege of going to "see" the sea.

**The factory was considered an enlarged family. Full cooperation and reciprocal help existed in its departments**

The owner was regarded with the utmost respect and when he passed through the departments, everyone showed signs of respect to thank him for the work they were doing.

The rapid modernization that took place in the following years brought swift technological developments, resulting in a surplus of workers.

These changes led to violent strikes and job losses.

The few old workers, eager to get to work, were kept outside the factory gates and the dismay could be seen in their eyes, since they saw in their factory the means that had allowed their sons to grow and study.



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It was a period of industrial development, of recovery after the war. There was a desire to rebuild, reconstruct and face new challenges ...

## Animal feed production in the 1960s

by Giuseppe Corso

In the early 1960s, the annual per capita consumption of meat was about thirty kilos, and this was almost entirely beef. The food market was ready to absorb new products. The USA had brought machines but, above all, new ideas. For instance, a popular idea was to produce for the market without waiting for state aids. Agriculture was being organised with new machinery that had never been seen before. Farmers increased their production and supplemented their income by rearing livestock, mainly chickens and hens that were the most popular and the easiest to breed: the aim of bringing a chicken to every table still had to be achieved. The Dutch were, perhaps, the first to offer breeders selected chicks for fattening and pullets to breed for the production of a large number of eggs. The need arose for complete animal feed that could be administered easily and mechanically, ensuring a balanced diet. The best solution was to produce compound feed pellets, using optimized formulas. The decade therefore began with some structured feed mills, built in towers that hosted pelleting systems and facilities for receiving raw materials and delivering bulk feed.

**The animal feed market was characterised by favourable conditions therefore demand exceeded supply**



Plant technology was very simple and flour was produced by a separate grinding system with operator-controlled hammer mills and organised for grinding one type of grain at a time. The grains were the only raw materials that needed grinding. They were delivered to storage silos from which they were extracted, ground and sent to dosing chambers, ready to be dosed and transported to the mixer. From here they were conveyed to the packing systems or the pellet mill, which was the other important machine used in feed mills.

**Pellets, introduced at the end of the 1950s, were a value-added feature that feed producers added to the feed to improve the yield**

The nutritional needs of animals were met by preparing formulas with balanced nutrients with the addition of mineral salts and vitamins.

**There were no computers**

The raw materials were weighed using manual electric systems for extraction from the dosing chambers. Pellet mills were also operator-controlled: the feeder generally operated with a mechanical or hydraulic drive with manual adjustment. Automatic systems for controlling the pellet production system were only introduced at the end of the 1960s.

**The decade saw a major transformation in the livestock market: the integration of production controlled by a single operator**

In the 1960s, the sector was revolutionized: leading breeders already equipped with slaughtering systems, acquired animal feed production technology with specialised single-product systems. Instead, feed producers, finding themselves crowded out by their customers who had become producers themselves, recovered their share of the market by creating a space down the line to control of livestock production.

Innovation brought a reduction in the consumption costs, resulting in market development. Systems technology soon focused on mass production, with mixed grinding feed mills (grinding a mix instead of single raw materials), which allowed increased output, with specialised pellet production lines: therefore factories generally became more versatile. In less than half a century, the Italians were consuming about 80 kilos of meat per capita.

The development of livestock farming made an important impact on the entire agro-food sector, forcing farmers to change the way they ran their businesses.



# The dignity of work

by Don Remigio Brusadin

Work is one of the dimensions that characterises human life. Jesus worked up to the age of thirty, giving work sublime dignity. Having a job, a person can provide for himself and his family, communicating with others, offering his services to his fellow men, being charitable and using his work to complete the divine creation.

A job must be remunerated in such a way as to guarantee sufficient means to allow an individual and

his family a dignified life in terms of material, social, cultural and spiritual aspects.

Moreover, it is necessary to adapt the entire production process to the needs of individuals and their lifestyles (e.g. the mother of a family), taking into account the gender and age of each person.

Workers should be guaranteed an opportunity to develop their skills and express their personality in carrying out their work.

Furthermore, all workers should

enjoy adequate rest and leisure time to take care of the cultural, social and religious aspects of the family. In fact, they should have an opportunity to dedicate themselves to free activities that develop energies and abilities, which perhaps they are not able to cultivate during their professional work. (cf GS 67, document of the Vatican Council on the church-world relationship).



*La Meccanica, inter-company football tournament*



50 years  
1961/2011

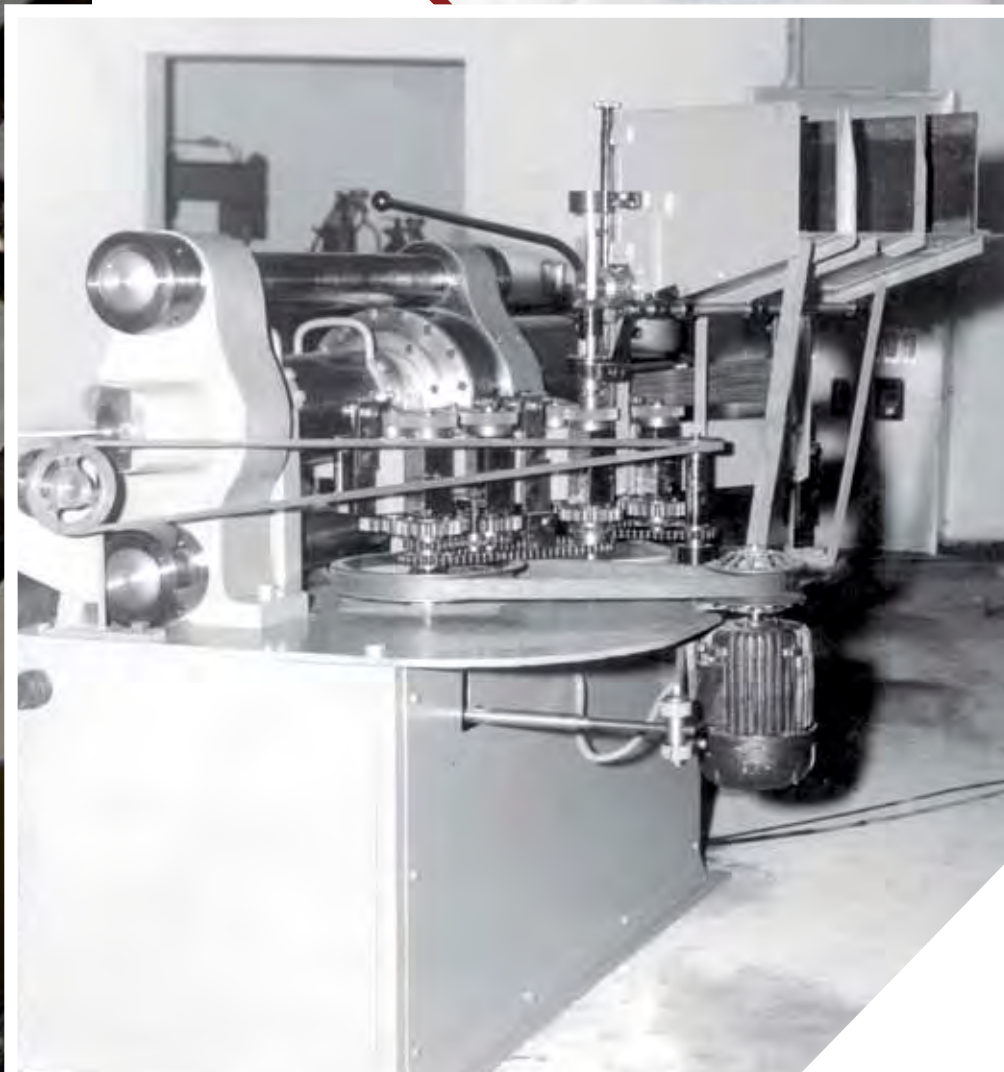
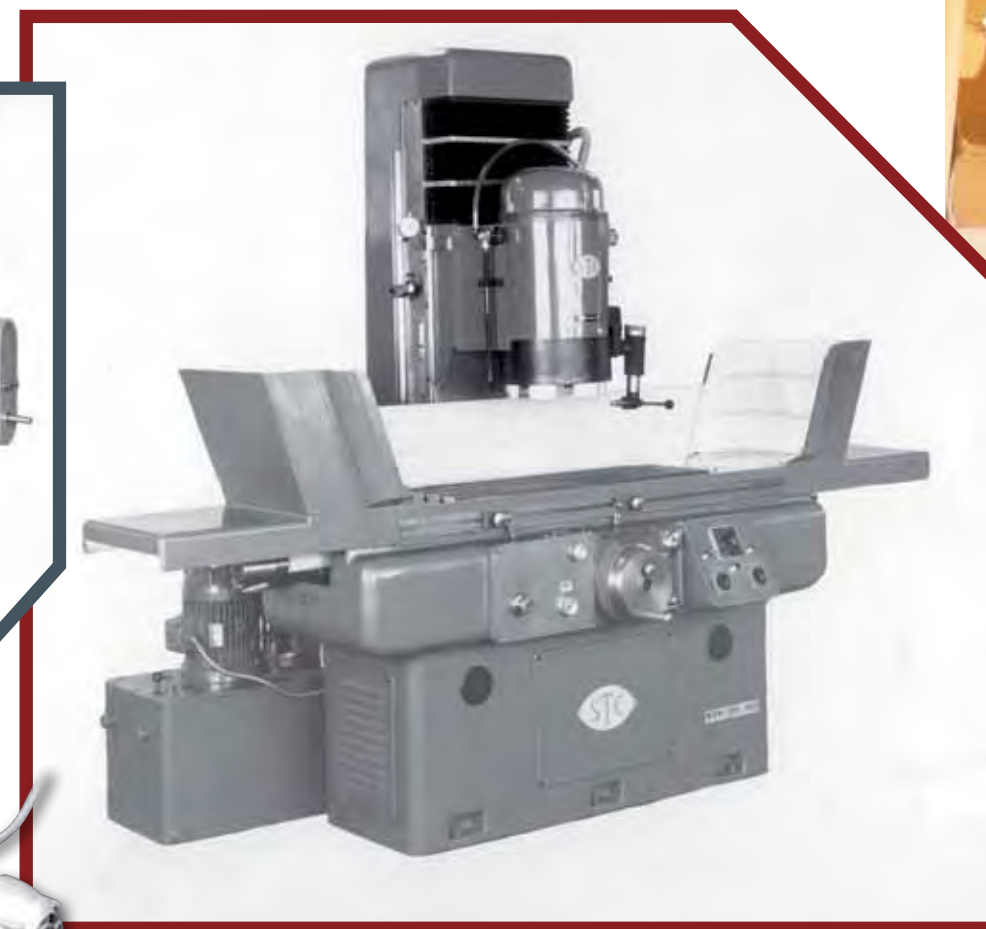
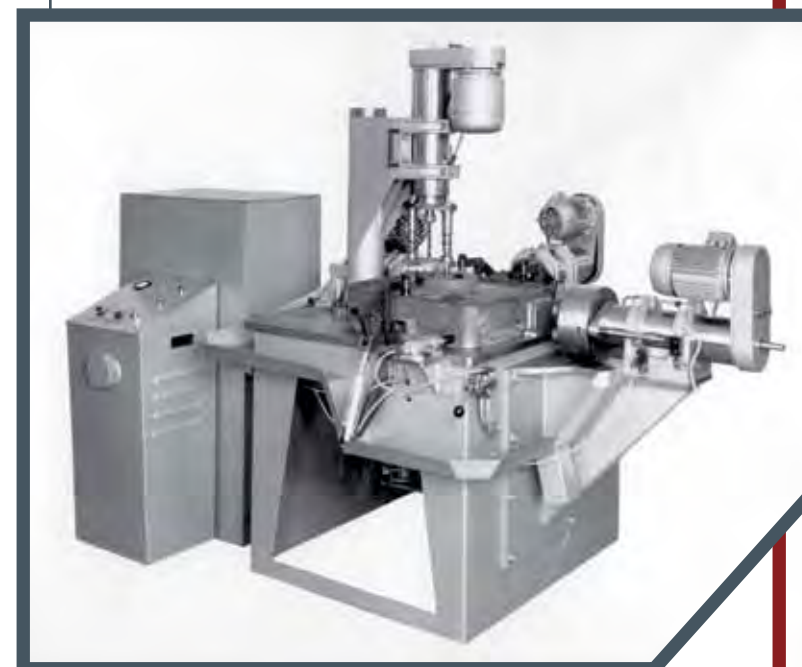


FIFTY YEARS  
OF PASSION AND PRIDE

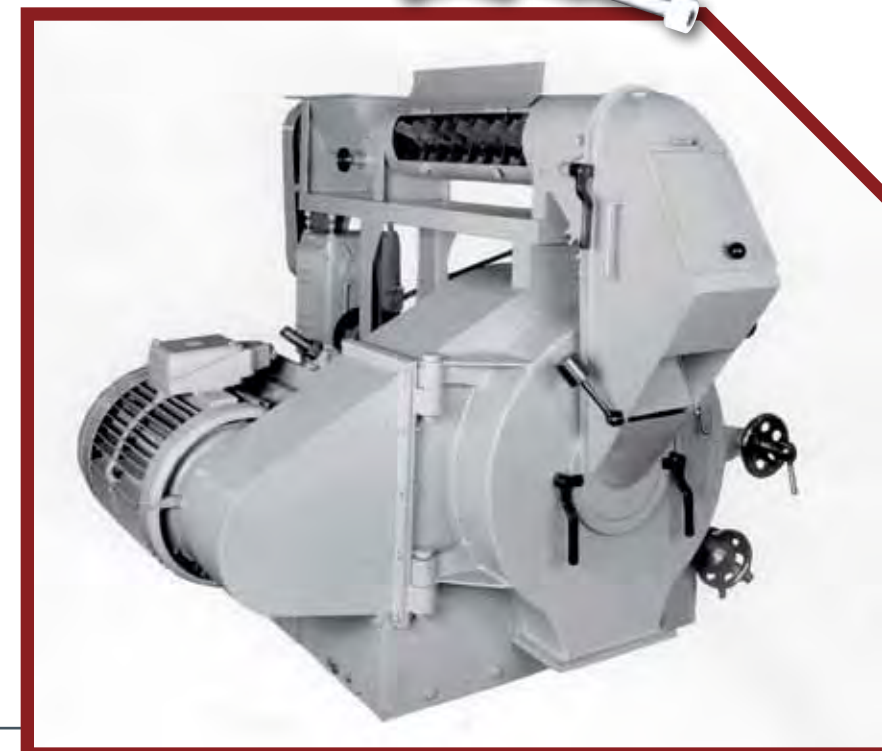


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50 years  
1961/2011



...At first, the work involved producing, as a sub-supplier, grinding machines for lathes, in small mills, in the mitre saw bases. Then dies were made for the presses used to produce animal feed. The company began to make its own products...

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LA MECCANICA,  
A GREAT HISTORY  
OF MEN  
AND MACHINES



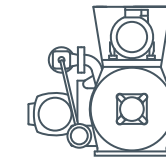
This collection is intended to tell a story, highlighting the value of work and enterprise, which has to be done in order to help society. In short, it is a brief story that not only belongs to us but becomes ours when we take part by describing our first-hand experiences...

...It is a way of stopping for a moment, looking back to reflect on the meaning of a life lived intensely in an important historic context, to reflect and ponder on the present and look ahead with greater awareness.

In describing our experiences, we write about the past but we would also like to speak about the present and, perhaps, about what should be a different concept of the world of work...







Thank you for giving me the  
opportunity in these years to grow  
and mature in my work:  
Dreams are like the stars are to sailors:  
you never reach them, but you need them  
to plot your life.  
*Mario Guarise*



In work and in life: always believe and never give up.  
*Massimiliano Menin*



There is only one secret to being happy:  
Love what you do.  
*Mario Langeri*





Never break down a fence before knowing why it was built.

Franco Gazzola



The meaning of life...  
Health, work and the family.  
Paolo Sgarbossa







Remember to be happy.  
Andrea Nicoletti



Face a job with  
humbleness and serenity.  
We hope for a better future  
for youngsters entering the  
world of work.

Giuseppe De Poli

...The end is in the means, just as the fruits are in the seeds...

Giuseppe Guidolin



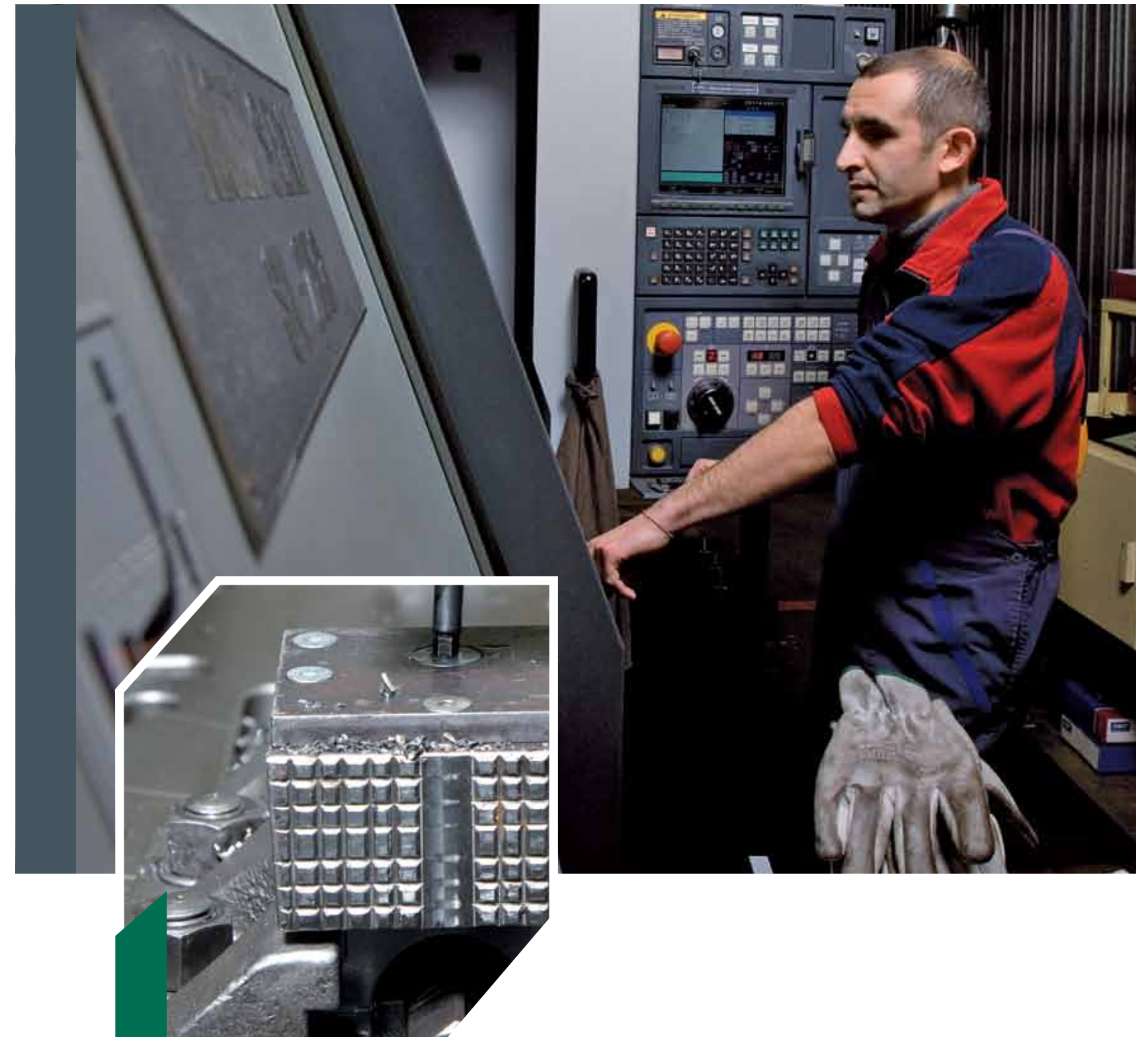
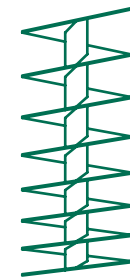
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Those who do not teach their children friendship will lose them as soon as they are no longer a child.  
*Daniele Pettenon*



In life and in work you learn that humbleness and respect help you to interact with others and grow.  
*Angelo Campagnaro*





UNITED BY  
DETERMINATION,  
CONCRETENESS  
AND TEAM SPIRIT





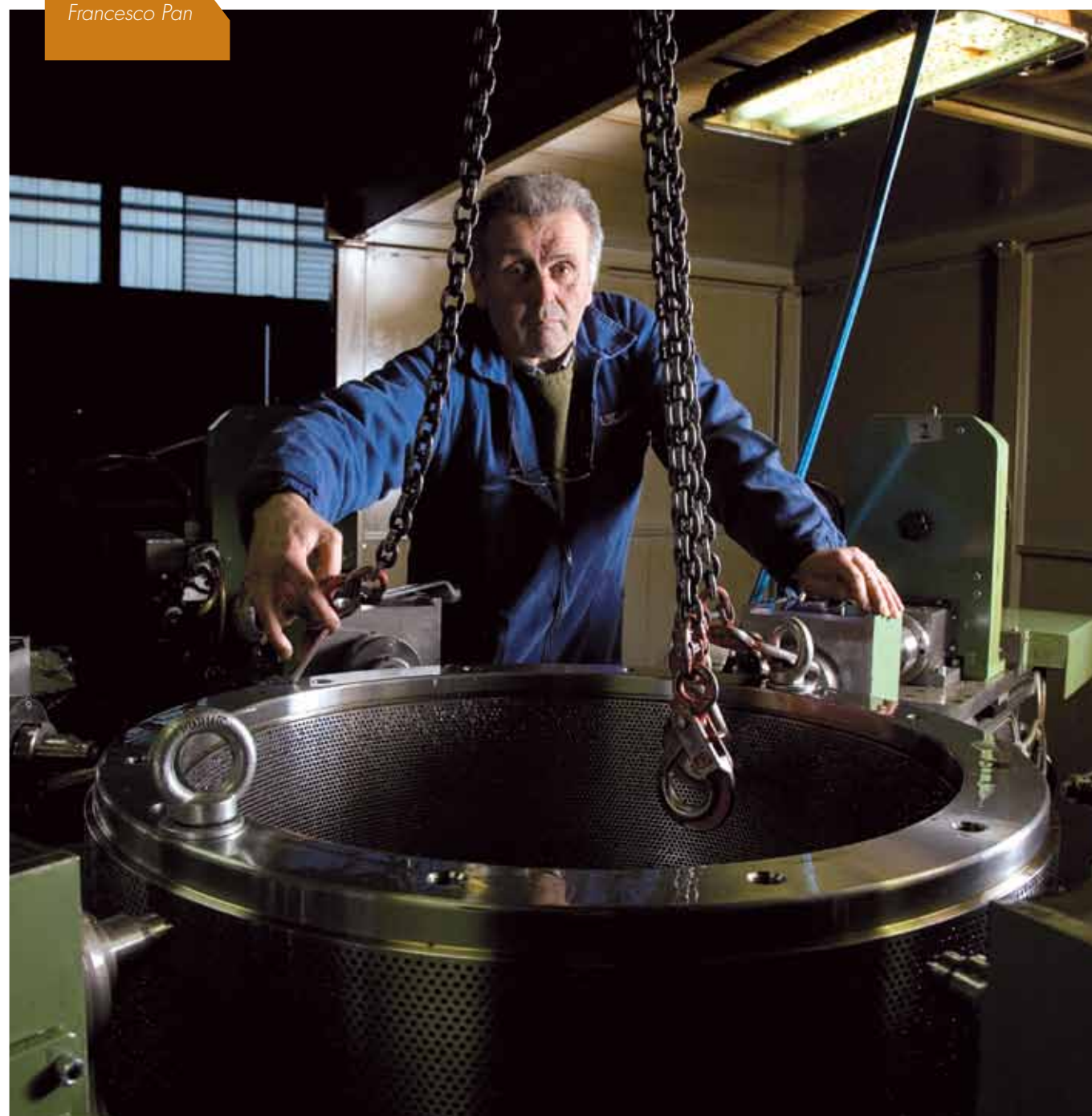
Enthusiasm and collaboration help the world around us grow.

*Moreno De Vicari*





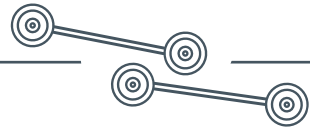
Francesco Pan



The first rule in life is to never lose your smile; work may be your best ally in keeping it.

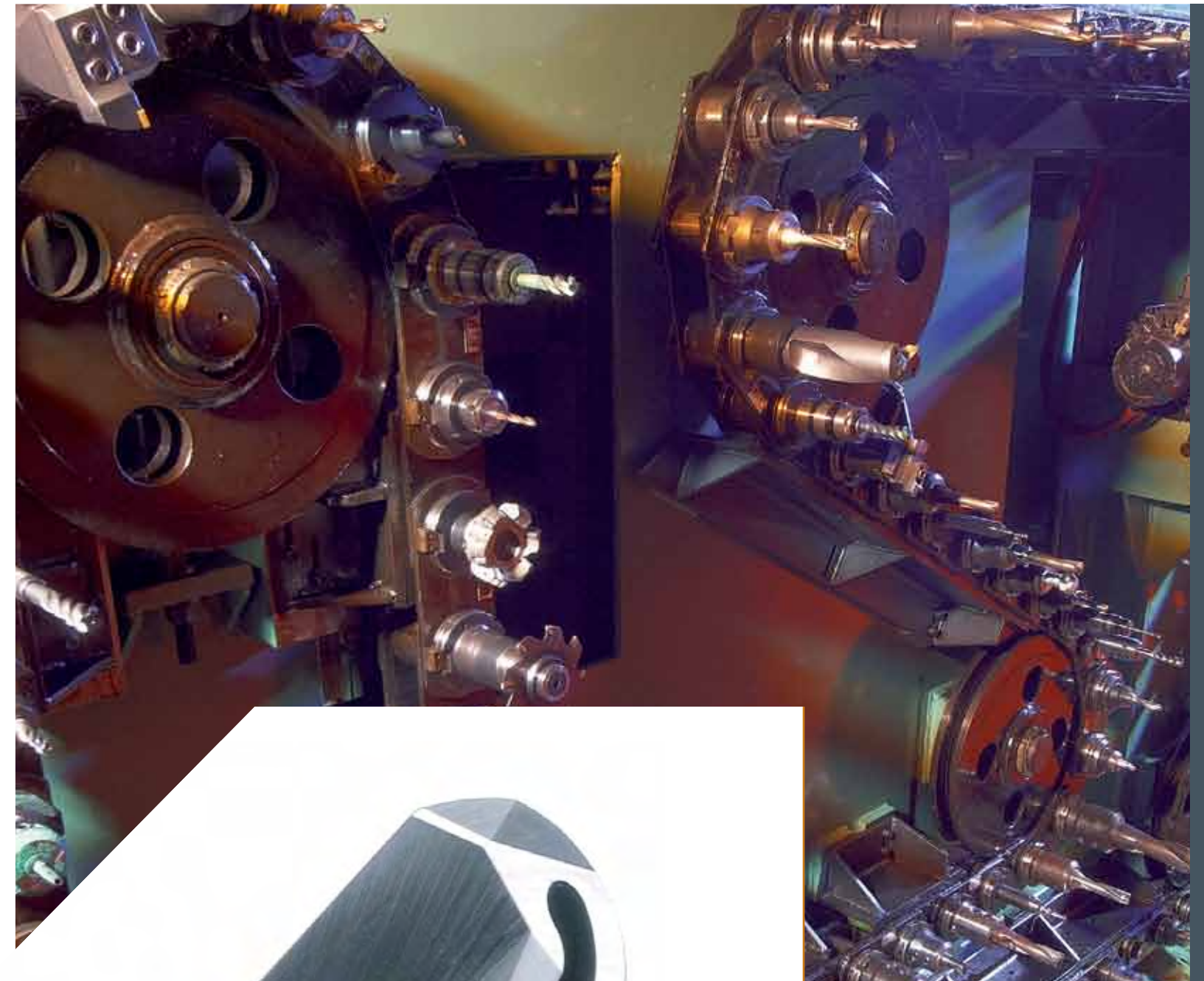
Andrea Brotto





In addition to a wholesome discipline, be tolerant with yourself. You are the son of the universe, the trees and the stars, and you are fully entitled to exist.

*Giuliana Beghetto*







I look at the tree that  
embraces the world  
with its branches. Then I  
think that it sprang from a  
small seed.

Rino Pilotto







Three treasures should be carefully guarded: the first is love; the second is fragility, and the third is not to put ourselves in first place. Love makes us brave. Fragility makes us generous. Not putting ourselves in first place allows us to lead men.

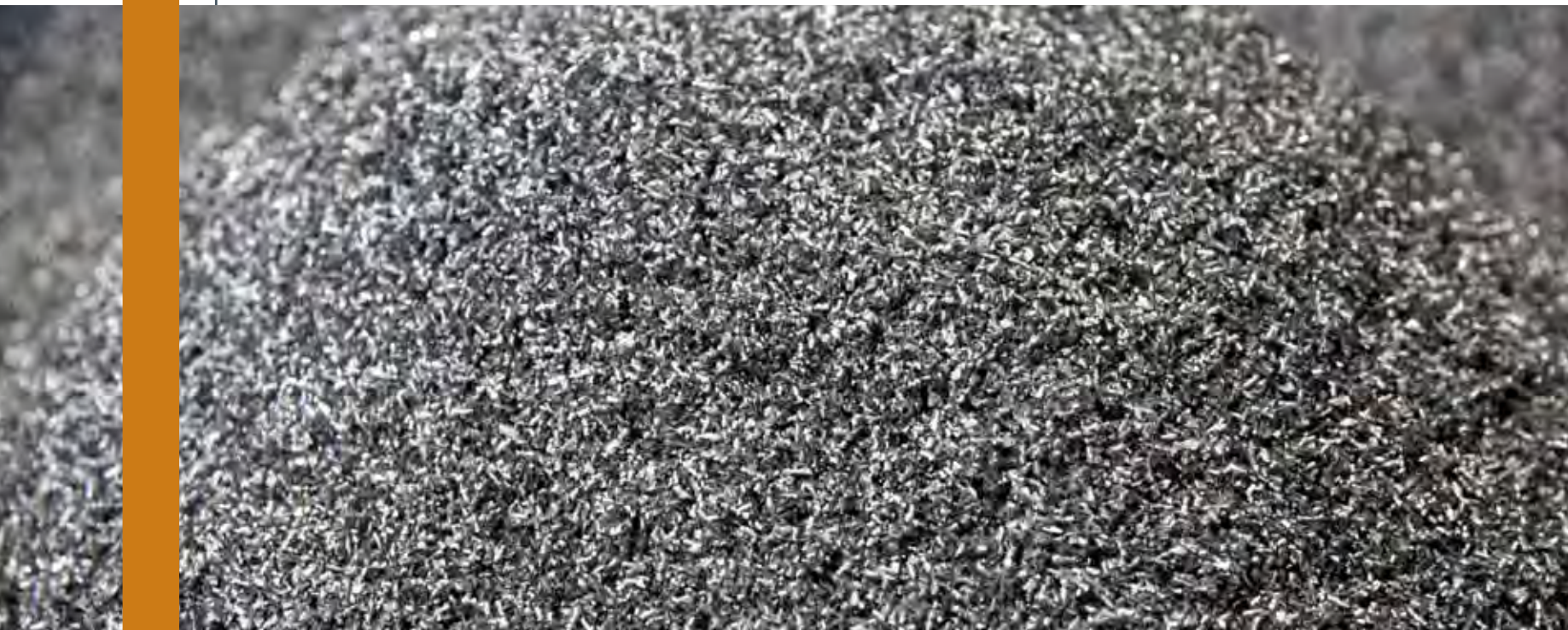
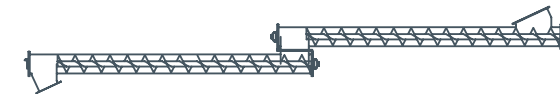
*Stefano Bevilacqua*



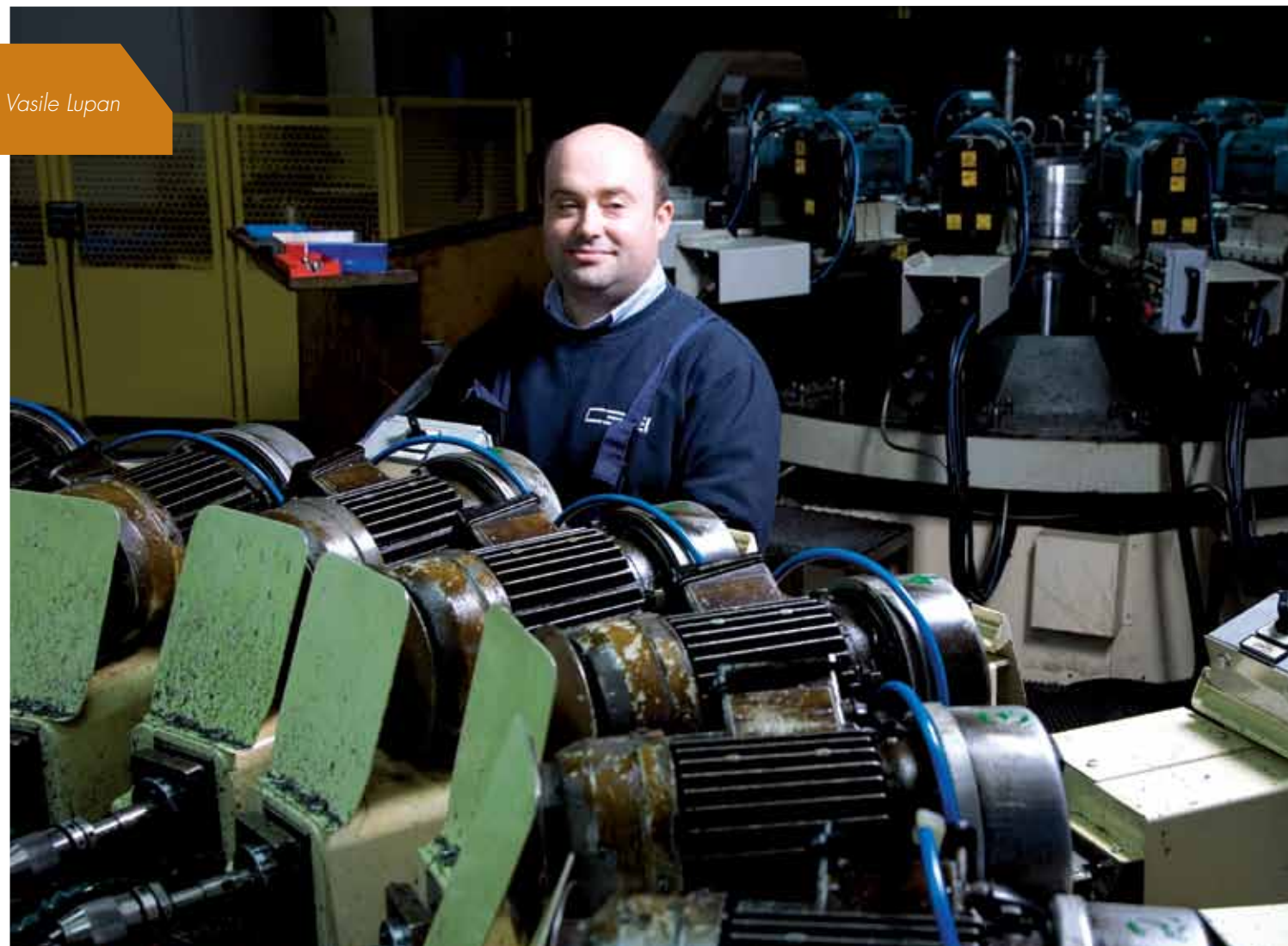
What you keep to yourself you have already lost. What you give to others will be yours forever. (Anonymous) A smile always leads to another smile (Anonymous) Not always he who hesitates is lost; sometimes he has simply arrived.

*Paolo Mattiotti*





Vasile Lupan

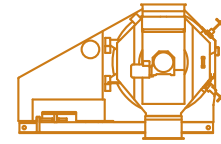


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Mariano Pierobon







There is no defeat in the heart of those who struggle.

*Alessandro Beghetto*

Best wishes to the  
Reffo family and La  
Meccanica, and may  
it continue for another  
50 years.

*Giorgio Simioni*



*Ionel Ene*





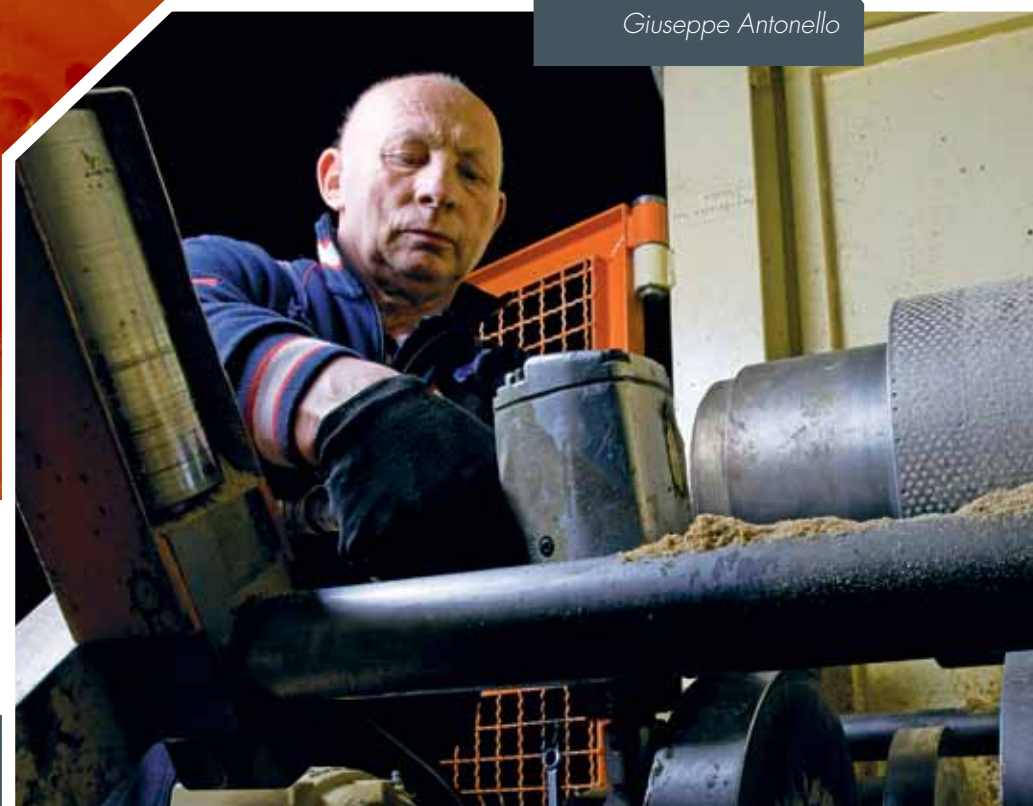


The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams... (Eleanor Roosevelt)

Eugen Ene

My second family.

Giuseppe Antonello



Long ago, in the mind of a man, Ottorino Reffo, a small spark led to a humble industry that has provided work and a livelihood for entire generations. It has continued to grow thanks to the strategic initiatives of his sons Sergio and Roberto, to the loyalty and the tough commitment of all those who followed on over half a century. A great family, "La Meccanica", is inscribed in this book of history. We hope that the 50-year milestone will motivate us, encourage us to further improve and rediscover the simplicity of life, also remembering that we are all passengers on the train of time. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues for what they have taught and given me along this path of cooperation.

Giorgio Parisotto

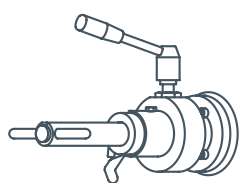


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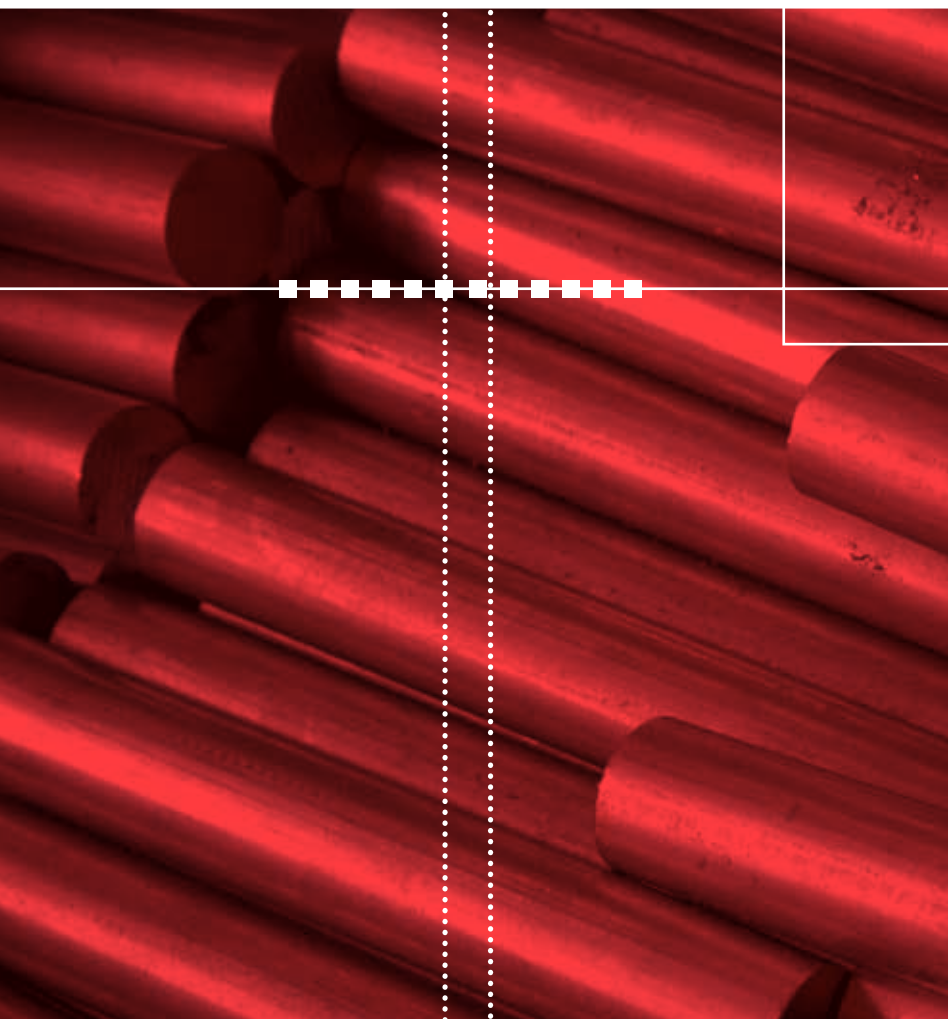
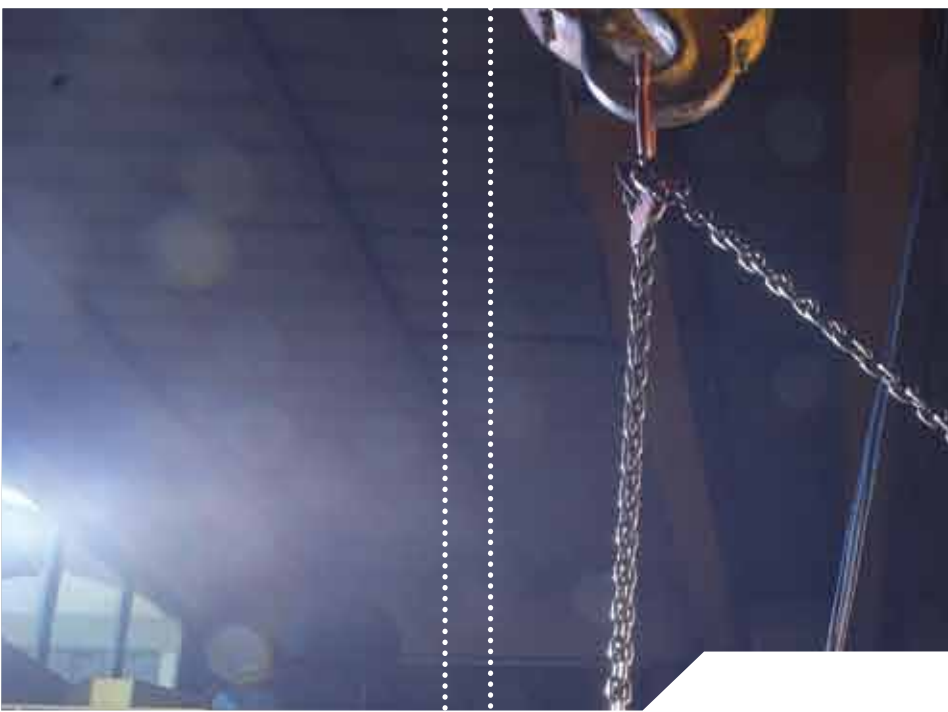
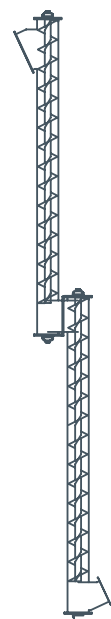




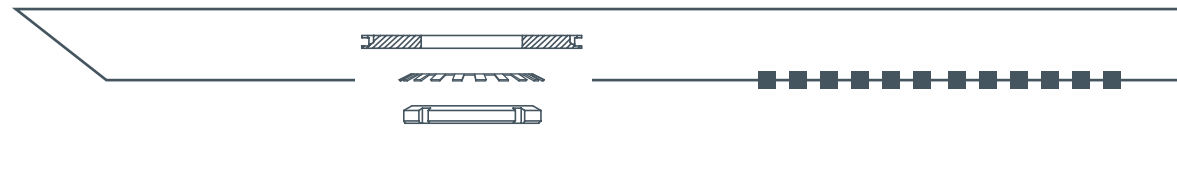
TECHNICAL EXPERTISE,  
RIGOUR AND  
KNOW-HOW ARE A  
COMMON HERITAGE











Being happy with one's choices means being proud of  
having made them.  
*Mirko Nicoletti*



At La Meccanica since 1965, helping customers worldwide.

*Carlo Baggio*



Daniele Pavan



Best wishes for growth and improvement as in these 50 years.

Renato Antonello



Fabio Mazzonetto





THE VALUE  
OF WORK IS  
UNDERSTOOD  
EVERY DAY





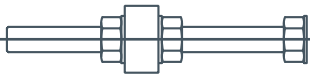


On this 50th anniversary of the birth of La Meccanica, a thought and a thank you to its founder.

Giuseppe Pierobon



Alberto Heidempergher





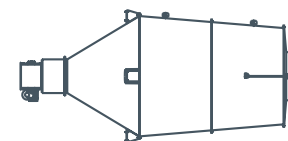


My 2 years working in Italy  
have been my most serene.  
*Marian Dingina*



I knew a man who thanked God for every day lived because he did not fear death. He was my father.

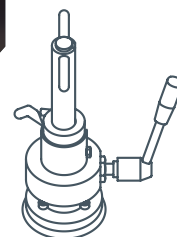
*Massimiliano Pitton*





What makes us  
different is not what we  
are, but what we do.

*Damiano Zanin*



September 9th 1972 was my first day as an employee of Mr. Ottorino Reffo, who immediately showed his seriousness trying to transmit motivation and humbleness almost like a strict and precise father. Working at the same company for almost forty years enabled me to see its continuous development: the processing techniques, the increasingly technological machinery, production always focused on optimization and safety at work. I believe that this is an appreciable sign of guarantee and soundness that many workers would aspire to. In recent years, there have been problems and radical changes but we have always tried to work together, sharing the same goal: to supply customers with high-quality products in the mechanical sector. The work has been satisfying because it has always been regularly paid and rewarded when goals set by the company have been achieved. The metalworking and mechanical engineering sector has always interested me and has helped me to appreciate my work, living serenely, regardless of any aspirations of income. We must not forget, however, to continue our commitment and the same humbleness of the first days at work, and not neglect the years of experience gained.

Happy 50th anniversary to the entire company!

*Dino Parisotto*



Marco Pierobon

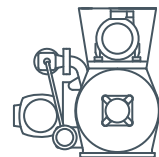


In life, we know that money does not bring happiness or even good health. However, it has the privilege of being able to calm the nerves.

Stefano Battocchio







I have worked at La Meccanica for thirty-five years. During this time, I have met many people who have helped me develop as a worker and a man. Therefore I cannot forget the person who, more than any other, gave me this opportunity, Ottorino Relfo.

Agostino Zordanazzo



Antonio Marchetti







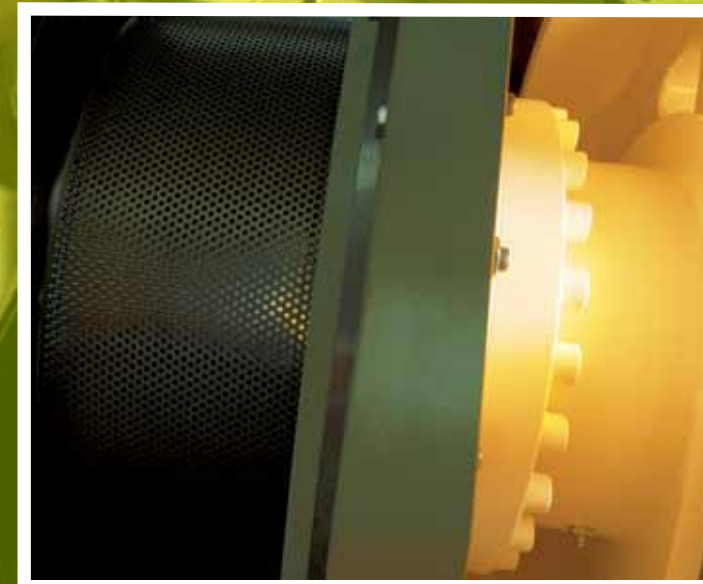
I would like to thank La Meccanica for the work experience I have had. It is a positive memory in my life, too.

*Fabio Andreazza*



When I started, I was a young boy and I will leave as a grandfather. La Meccanica has been a second home to me, where I have been content, and it has given me the opportunity to travel halfway around the world. This is why I am happy and I would do it all again. When I retire, I will really begin to work!

*Daniilo Torresin*



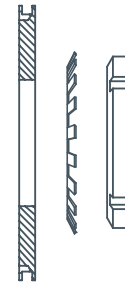
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THE FEELING  
OF BELONGING  
AND A SOUND  
TRADITION







They are small and large, lazy and hard-working, quick and slow, fat and thin, young and old, unfriendly and friendly, weak and strong, sweet and bitter, good and bad, everything and nothing. Everything is nothing.

*Giuliano Longo*





In any job, passion helps overcome difficulties.  
*Alessandro Visentin*



Work allows you to  
travel and learn about  
customs and traditions.  
*Italo Zordan*





God never fails to help. But man  
chooses the way.

*Deonis Ursu*

la meccanica 



*Larisa Arhip*



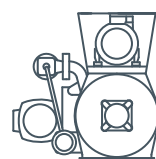
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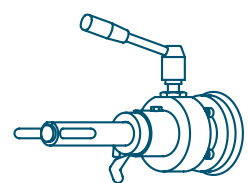
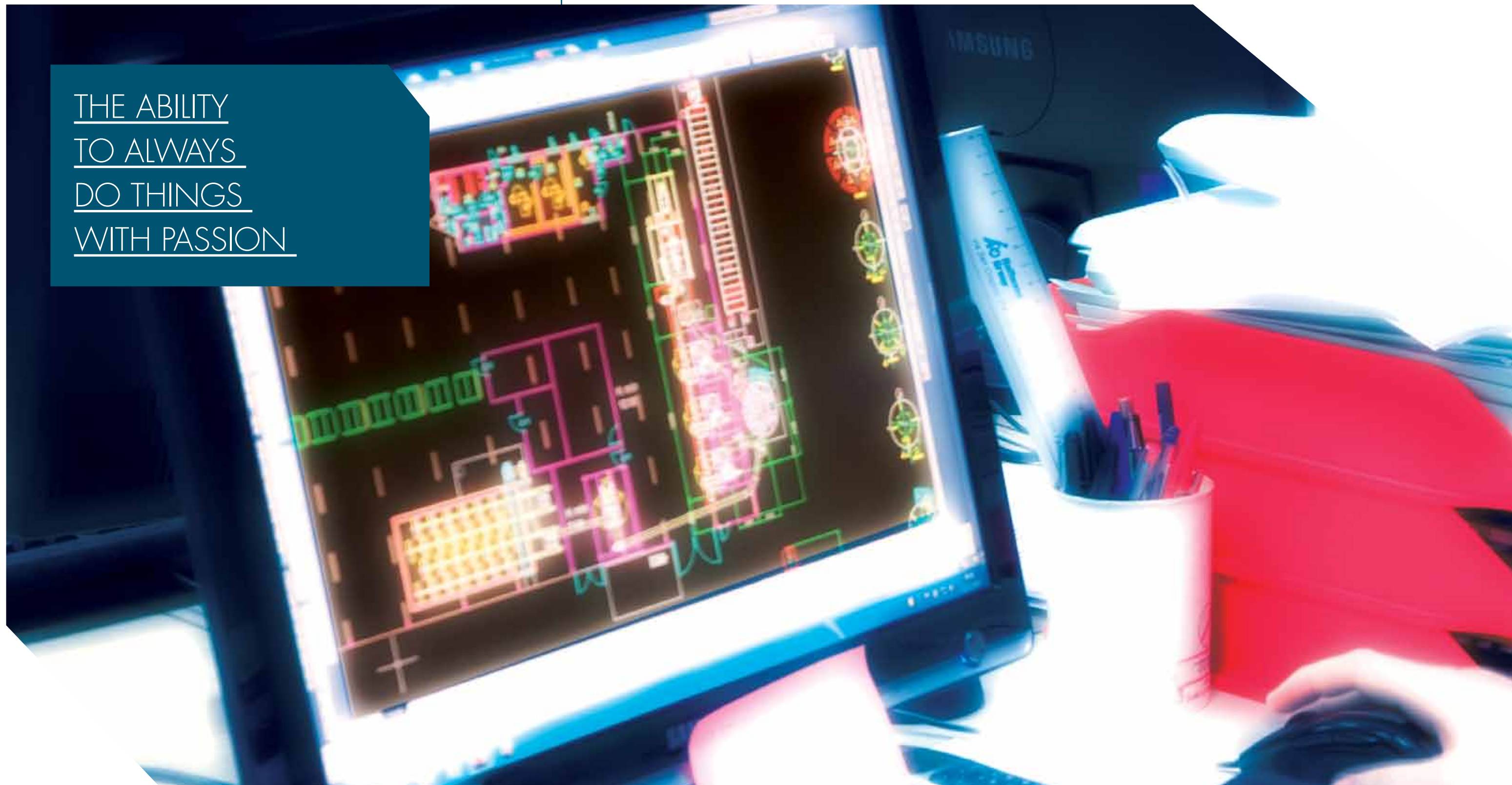
I, Oscar Gennaro, have worked at this company, which celebrates its 50th anniversary today, for forty-four years. And I ride. I ride around in the truck. I have almost travelled the world. I have always done my duty and I am proud of that. I would like to thank the employees and all the workers, who are a family to me, for all these years, and I am grateful. I wish the company a long life and prosperity.

Oscar Gennaro





THE ABILITY  
TO ALWAYS  
DO THINGS  
WITH PASSION





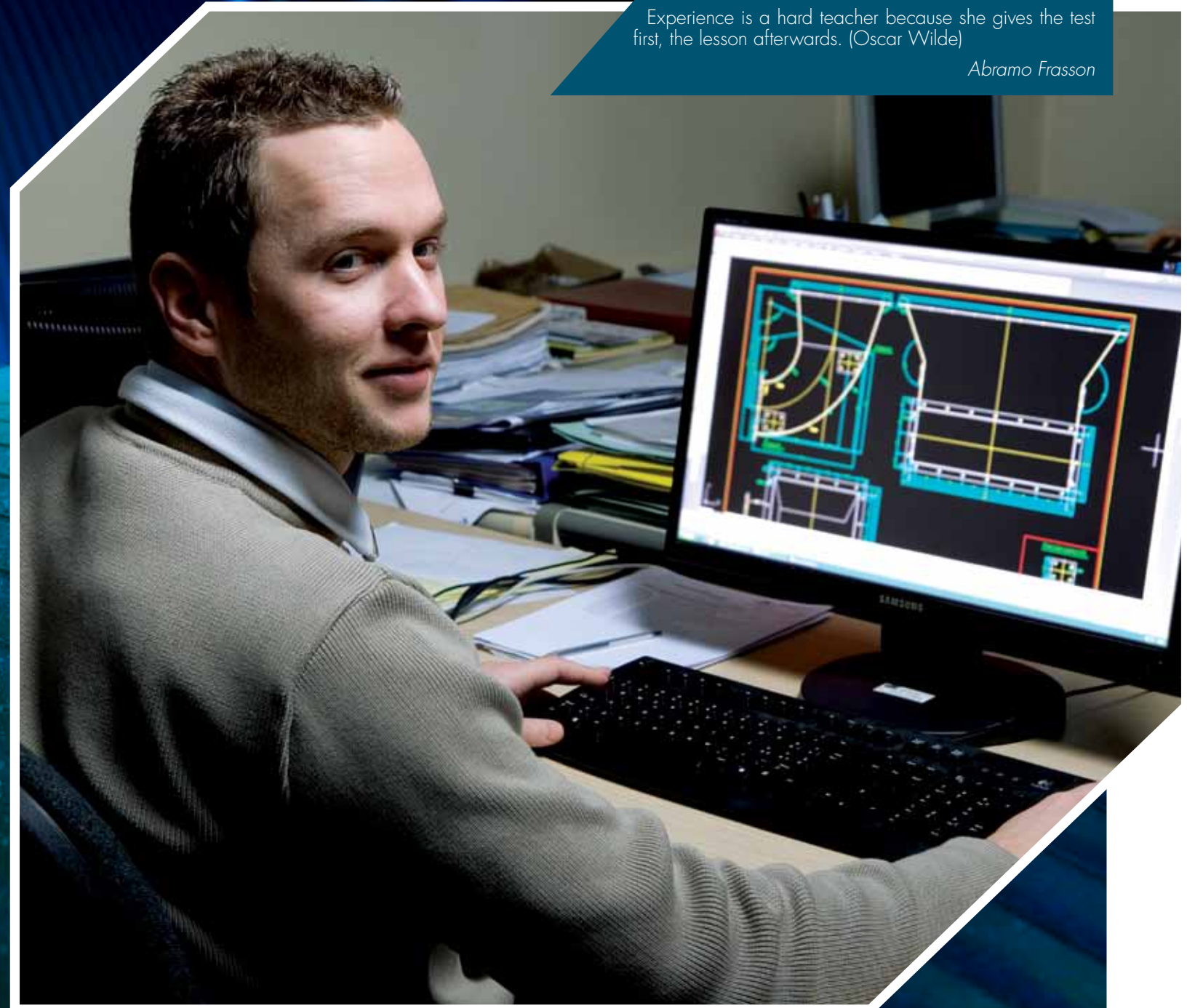
We can see, hear and talk but we do not know what energy lets us see, hear, talk and think. What is worse is that we do not care at all. Yet, we are that energy.  
This is a perfect example of human ignorance.

*Giorgio De Pieri*



Experience is a hard teacher because she gives the test first, the lesson afterwards. (Oscar Wilde)

*Abramo Frasson*

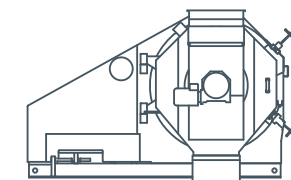


If a man will begin with certainties, he shall end in doubts;  
but if he will be content to begin with doubts, he shall end  
in certainties. (F. Bacon)

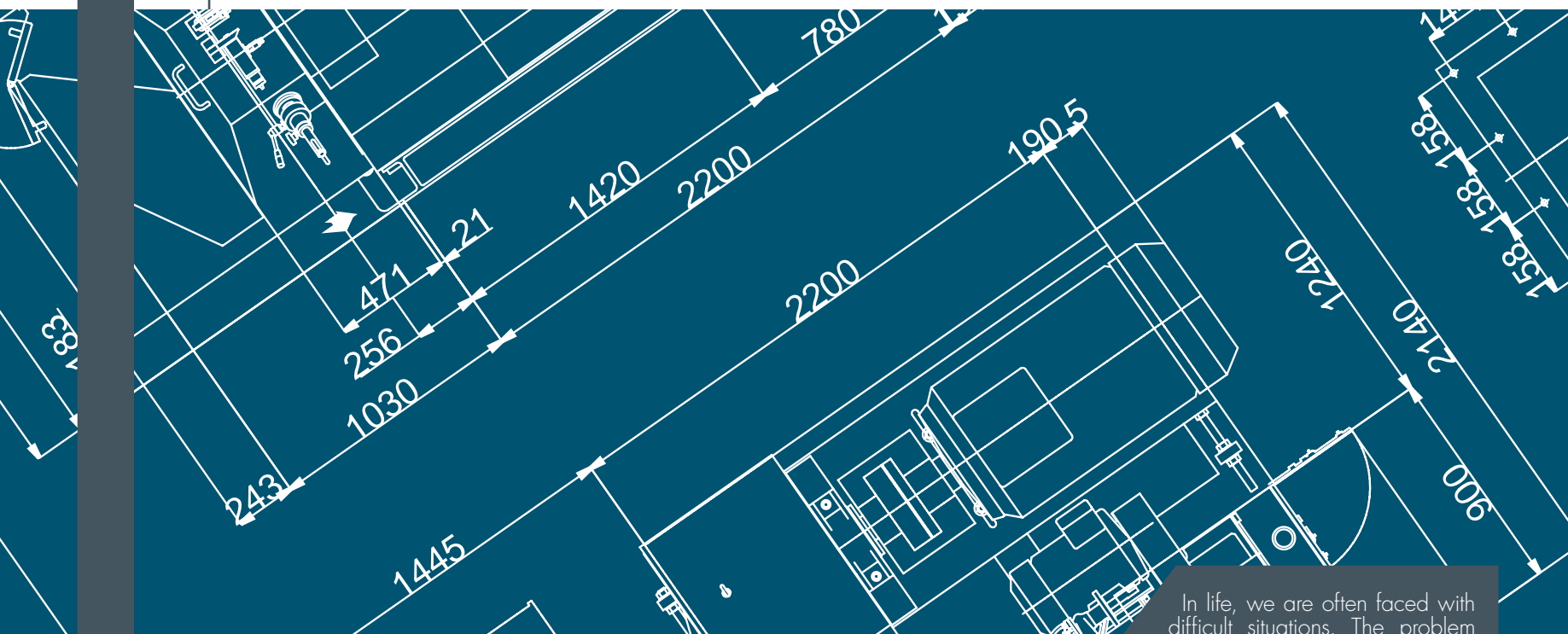
*Devid Perin*



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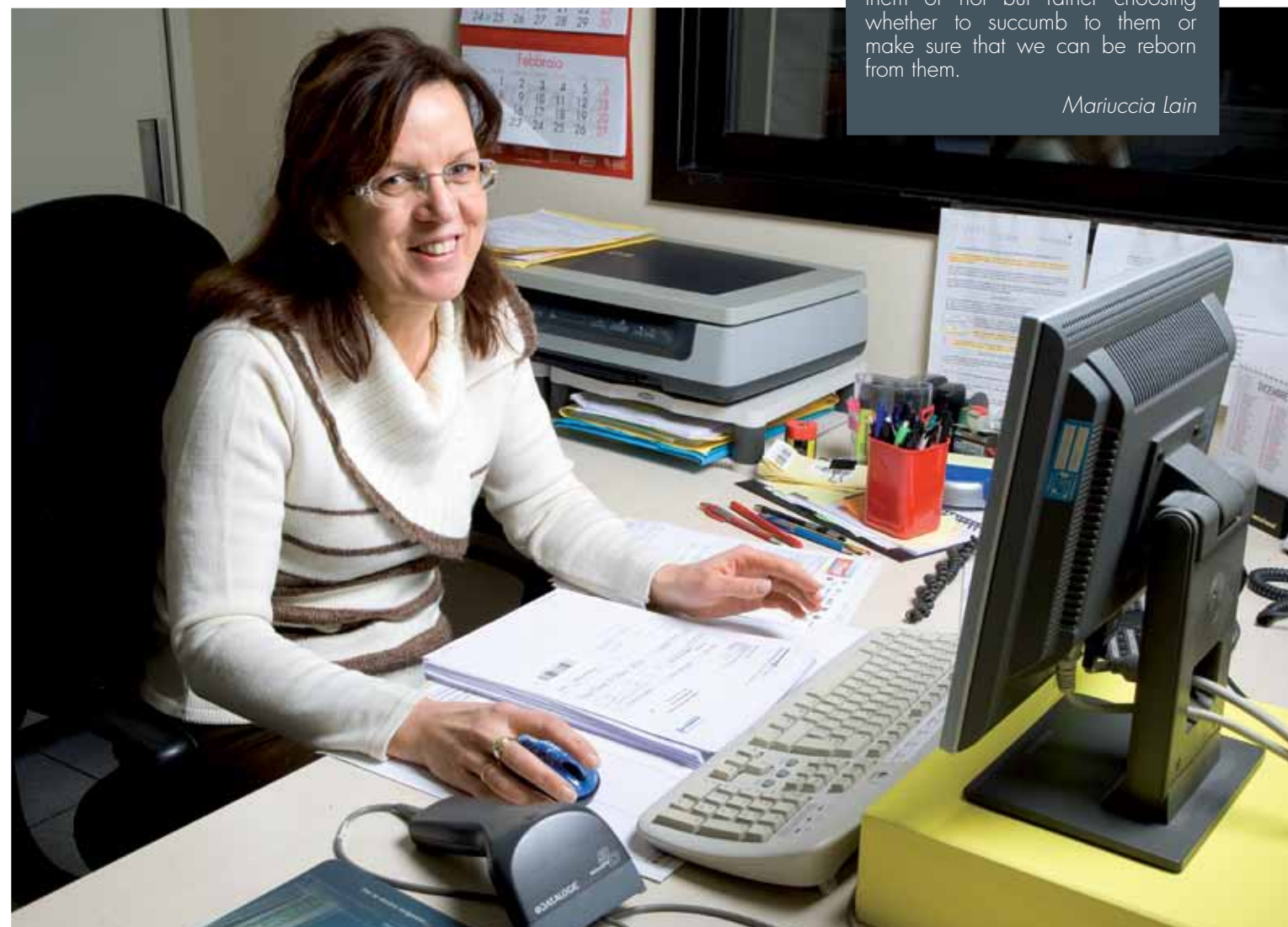






In life, we are often faced with difficult situations. The problem is not deciding whether to accept them or not but rather choosing whether to succumb to them or make sure that we can be reborn from them.

*Mariuccia Iain*



Things happen that are just like questions. A minute goes by, or even years, and then life responds.

*Gloria Sgambaro*





In work, as in everyday life, it is easier for us to do what is right rather than apologise for what we have done wrong.

Stefano Sgambaro



In order to create a group that works harmoniously and efficiently, time, reflection, communication and close collaboration are essential.

Maurizio Sgarbossa



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In order to create an efficient work team, we need time, reflection and communication in close collaboration.

Claudio Mattolin



Work to live or live to work?  
I choose part-time work!

Walter Mattolin

Tidiness is cheap but very lucrative (Ottorino Reffo)

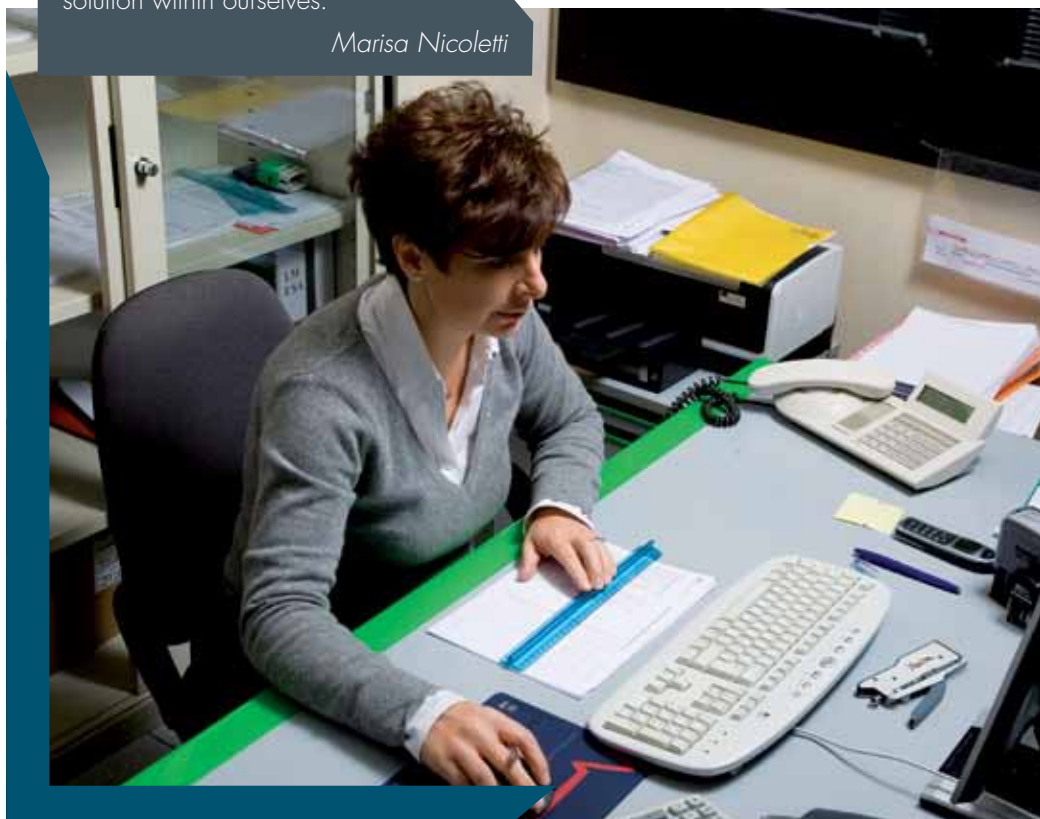
Dante Visentin





It is easier to find the cause of a problem in others than look for a solution within ourselves.

Marisa Nicoletti



... Many changes, many places, a large family, much joy, many concerns and plenty of commitment. This is the life I would like... Mine.

Loretta Grigolo



A happy man is not one who has the best of everything but one who makes the best of everything!

Emanuele Zoppi



From generation to generation, collaboration is renewed.

Roberto Brunati

Work keeps away three evils: boredom, vices and needs.

Renato Tosetto

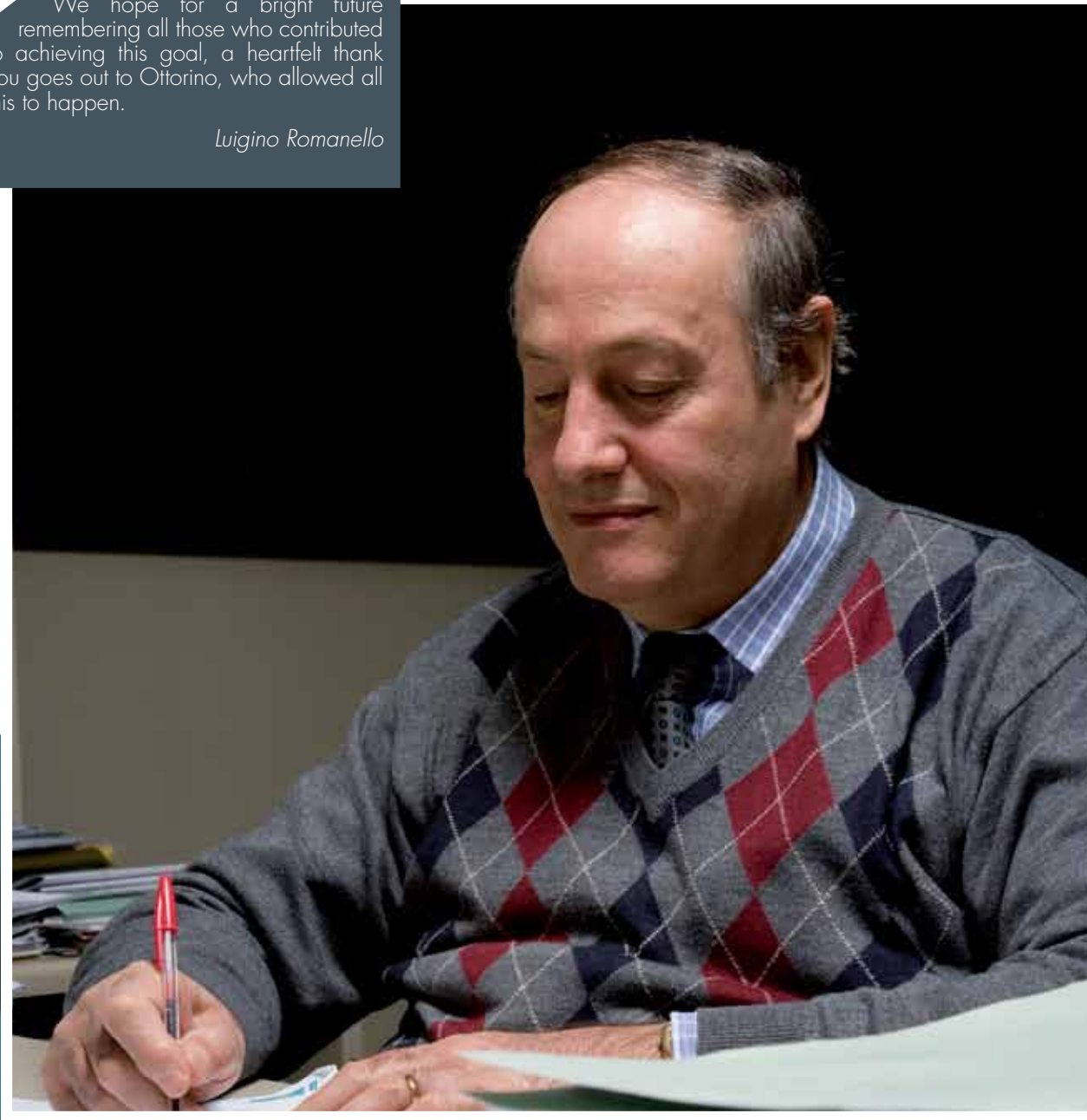


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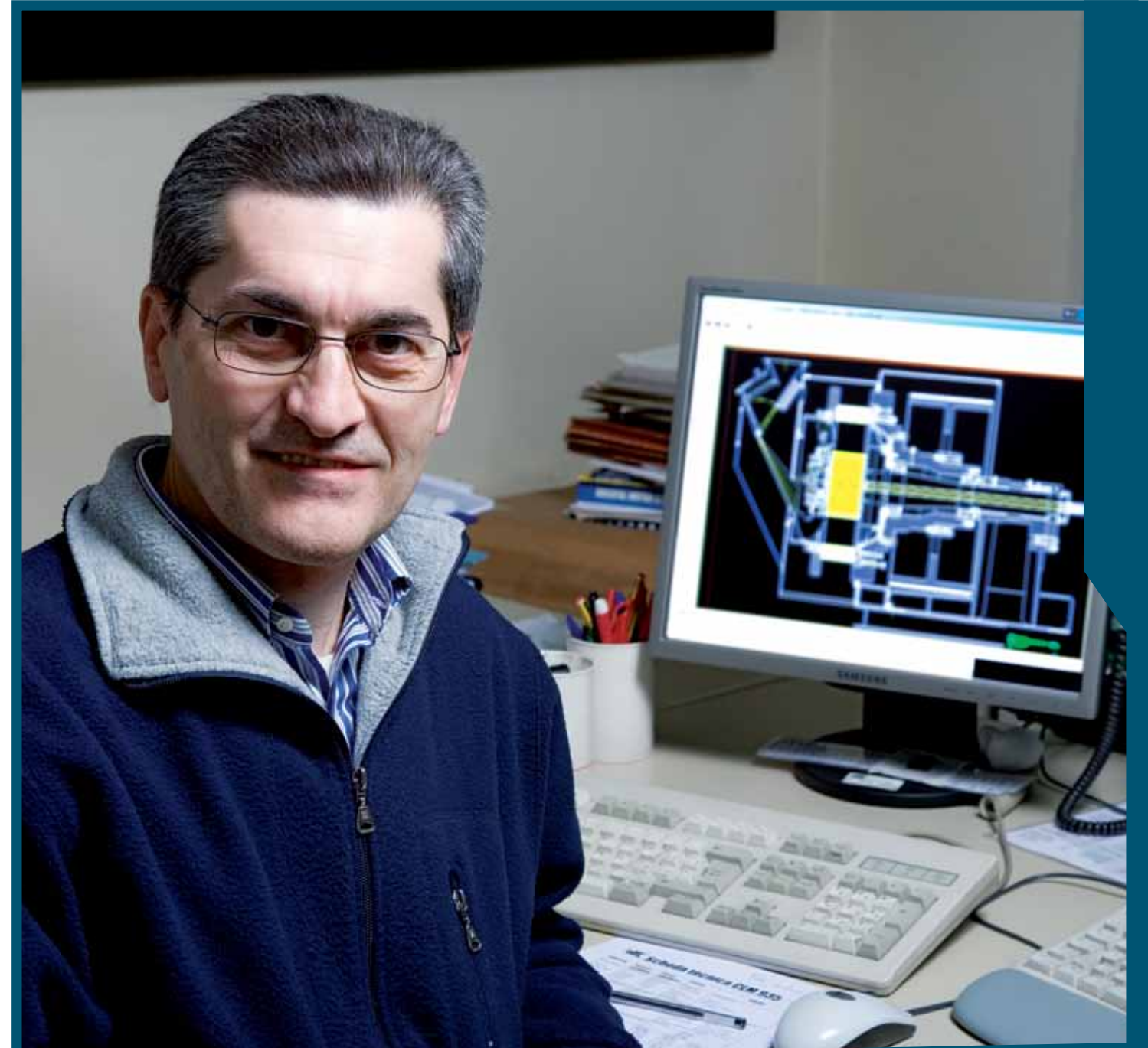


Fifty years: a Golden Anniversary for La Meccanica! We hope for a bright future remembering all those who contributed to achieving this goal, a heartfelt thank you goes out to Otorino, who allowed all this to happen.

*Luigino Romanello*



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My first 30 years at La Meccanica.

*Flavio Lovisetto*



## Work involves relationships and the opportunity to express ourselves...

Companies can and must contribute to the growth of communities and of the local area in which they are established. In a complementary and integrated way to school, "learning by direct experience at a company," allows us to acquire a working knowledge focused on business. Companies, which play the role of a coach, can transfer their culture to the people they involve and while acquiring new knowledge.

*Claudio Saurin*

## The social contribution of companies

Through its activities, a company is able to influence the social life of the world around it. The consequences of business decisions are not just restricted to companies. In fact, they extend to the different spheres of social life and to different economic and social parties.

A company is an open system that interacts with a variety of individuals who, on the one hand, affect the achievement of business goals and, on the other hand, rely on companies to achieve their own goals.

A comparison of the value of what a company brings to a community and what it receives from it on various levels shows the net balance, which expresses the social contribution of a company.

In a context of free trade, industrial policy must progressively aim at creating a local context that is favourable for the establishment of new companies, which are innovative, dynamic, technologically advanced, create employment and, in general, produce external effects that are beneficial to society.

*Roberto Reffo*

## The value of life

For many people, money is a way of measuring the value of things...

But how much is an hour of work worth? How much is a day of work worth? How much is a year of work worth? How much is a life of work worth?

The value of life cannot be measured because it has no boundaries: it does not begin with birth and does not end with death. Life cannot be bought or sold. Life does not just belong to us but also to the people around us. Life belongs to many people because it comprises many pieces. Each piece of our life is part of many other lives and many puzzles, which overlap at the same time.



*La Meccanica - 2011*

## For young people who are leaving school and entering the world of work...

Do not be afraid of your future. Any experience, whether positive or negative, will make you grow.





