THE MAGAZINE
OF THE PEOPLE
OF MCT ITALY

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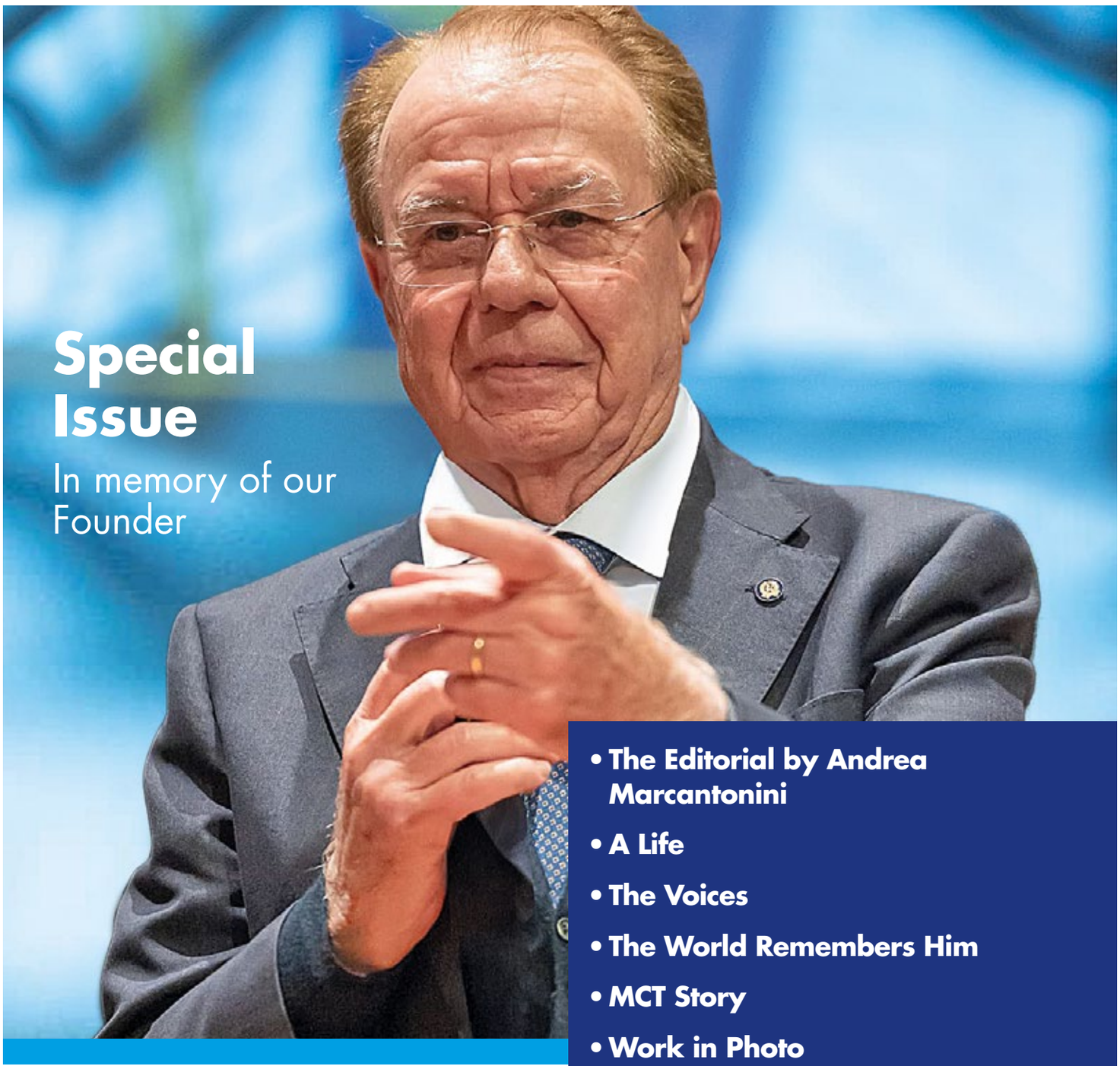


Special Issue

In memory of our Founder

- The Editorial by Andrea Marcantonini
- A Life
- The Voices
- The World Remembers Him
- MCT Story
- Work in Photo
- Work in Progress
- New Arrivals
- From Your Grandson

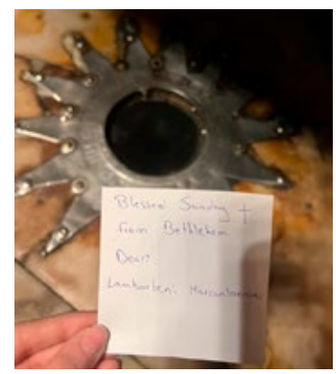
MCT ITALY
Marcantonini Concrete Technology

SPERO
CHE IL
RAGAZZO
TI PIACERÀ
NONNO
VOLA SEMPRE PIÙ
IN ALTO

#EDITORIAL

BY ANDREA MARCANTONINI

The day after his 80th birthday, he asked me how much longer he would be able to travel on his own. How much longer he would be able to go wherever he wanted. On his own. It was probably the thing that made him himself more than anything else. I answered that if he trained himself to walk, if he kept in shape, he would be able to do whatever he wanted for at least another 10 years.
He wanted to travel around the world by plane, stopping in Australia and New Zealand and then reaching the World of Concrete in Las Vegas, maybe another stop at a customer's in the States, and then home. He had been held back the year before by that accident with his new 500, but this time he would do it... that was what he was planning during those holiday days before starting again...
This was his spirit at 82 (minus a week).
I had never seen him and mum so close. They had reached a balance and I always thought: Finally!! They both deserved it after a full life for both of them, but certainly a demanding one. Tiring. Almost 60 years of running a company fill your life with things to tell, with beautiful moments, and also with very difficult periods, sometimes truly challenging. So I thought it was finally time for trips together. Carefree. Just the two of them. Simple things. The right reward. But no.
Six months have passed. I have never been frightened by what is to come.
Sometimes I miss him. I still feel strong.
I have cried twice.



The first time was Sunday, 8 February. I cried a lot.
My father wanted to visit Bethlehem. He had told this to Mohammed Abu Salman, a young Palestinian man who had come to Italy and had bought a plant from us. He had met my dad, they had talked about religion. He, a Palestinian Muslim, under the bombs, wrote the note for Lamberto and went to a church in Bethlehem. I will never thank him enough.
The second time I cried was when my son, his grandson, sent me his latest high school report card. There was so much of his grandfather in it, there were the days the two of them had spent together, there was the grandfather's passion for science, physics and history. Some evenings later, around one in the morning, Ale called me crying. He was in the car. He was driving home. He was thinking about how happy his grandfather would have been to see those very grades.
They were the subjects they used to study together until just a few days before.

LAMBERTO MARCANTONINI 1944 – 2026

There is a photograph that says a lot about Lamberto Marcantonini. It was taken during the final evening of GIC 2024 at Piacenza Expo, when he was presented with the lifetime achievement award at the ICTA — Italian Concrete Technology Awards. He is on stage, microphone in hand, speaking with that energy that anyone who knew him remembers well: direct, passionate, able to fill a room without raising his voice.
He was eighty-one years old. And he seemed to still have everything to say.

The roots

Lamberto was born in January 1944 in Bettona, a small medieval town perched on the hills of Umbria, into a family involved in the production of precast concrete products. He was a curious and technically-minded boy: he attended a secondary technical school, learned German and French, and from a young age developed a particular sensitivity to the mechanisms of things — how they work, how they can be improved.

In 1965 he joined Manini Prefabbricati as an employee, where he gained direct and deep knowledge of concrete: not as an abstract material, but as a living process, made of mix ratios, timings and the quality of the finished product. It was there that he learned to look at production from the point of view of those who use it — a perspective he would never abandon.

The founding

In 1967, after little more than a year, he made the decision that would change everything. He founded his own company specialising in the design and construction of concrete batching plants. He was twenty-one years old. It was called MCT — Marcantonini Concrete Technology.

The insight was simple and powerful: to start from the final product in order to rethink the production process. Not to sell machines, but to design systems. Not to follow standards, but to build tailor-made solutions for every customer, every context, every production need.

In those years, a handful of people worked in a basement. The first workshop was still under construction. But the direction was already clear.

The growth

In the following decades MCT grew with method and passion. Lamberto took the company to international markets — North America, Australia, Europe, the Middle East — while always keeping its headquarters in Bettona, in the heart of Umbria. That choice was never random: it was an act of faith in the territory, in Italian industrial culture, in the value of identity.

He became a speaker at Assobeton congresses in Italy and abroad. He held the presidency of the metalworkers' trade association of the province of Perugia, the vice-presidency of the Consorzio Umbria Export, and the presidency of the Banca di Credito Cooperativo di Bettona. He was not a man who limited himself to his own company: he was a system-builder.

The man of institutions

Alongside his business, Lamberto cultivated a deep civic commitment. Mayor of Bettona over several terms — from 1974, then in 2007, then again in 2016 — he brought to politics the same approach he used in his company: listening, pragmatism, attention to people.

At the centre of his administrative work were always the promotion of the territory, culture, tourism and innovation.

From 2020 to 2025 he was a member of the Board of Directors of Umbra Acque, serving as vice-president. In 2023, together with his friend Roberto Morroni, he founded the political-cultural association "L'Officina", a laboratory of ideas on regional and national life. In 2024 he received the lifetime achievement award at the ICTA in recognition of a life dedicated to innovation in the concrete sector.

The legacy

When he passed away, on 7 January 2026, just a few days before his eighty-second birthday, the world of concrete stood still. Messages arrived from every continent. Colleagues, customers, collaborators, institutions: everyone searched for the words to describe something that went beyond his professional profile.

Because Lamberto Marcantonini was not just a successful entrepreneur. He was a man who knew how to build lasting relationships, who put people at the centre, who believed in innovation as an act of responsibility towards the future.

He had planted a seed in 1966. In sixty years it had become a forest.

THE TESTIMONIES OF THOSE WHO KNEW HIM

In the weeks after his passing, messages arrived from all over the world. Handwritten letters, telegrams, emails, posts on social media. We chose to gather some of these voices — those that, together, give the truest portrait of who Lamberto Marcantonini was.

From the concrete industry

"Remembering the figure of Lamberto Marcantonini is no simple matter, given the vast range of business initiatives he promoted and developed in Italy and abroad. A multitude of activities that made him a point of reference for all those who have believed and still believe in technological research as a pillar for the constant progress of companies and people. Needless to say how much of the world of precast concrete represented within Assobeton owes him gratitude for the innovative ideas and the professional rigour with which he translated and put them forward. I would like to add my own personal memory: a person of exceptionally gracious manners, always willing to listen, from whom one could draw precious lessons of humanity and wisdom."

Enrico Dassori,
President of Assobeton

"Lamberto Marcantonini was an innovator for two fundamental reasons. The first concerns his professional path, which began from the final product — from direct knowledge of concrete — in order to rethink processes, solutions and production systems in reverse. The second is human: he was a person of great kindness in his relationships, able to maintain balance and respect even in the most complex situations. He had the ability to find common ground and to build a team. For this reason, from both a commercial and a human point of view, he was a point of reference for a great many customers and professionals all over the world."

Manuel Boccolini,
CEO of Manini Prefabbricati

"Lamberto was for me more than an industrial partner: he was a travelling companion with whom to share and win exceptional challenges.
Since the early 1990s, our collaboration gave rise to projects that marked the growth of our companies and of the entire sector, combining his technical vision with an extraordinary operational pragmatism.
Beyond the professional successes, what I will always treasure is the deep humanity and mutual esteem born over more than thirty years of working side by side."

Claudio Failla,
past President of CTE and former CEO of Gruppo Magnetti

"Since Lamberto Marcantonini officially created his own company in 1967, MCT has become one of the beacons of innovation in the sector of large concrete batching plants.
MCT's journey has proved to be an extraordinary adventure of innovative thinking, tenacity and determination in pursuing the most ambitious goals, in an indissoluble bond with society and the territory.
A bond that formed the launch pad towards international markets in North America, Australia and every country in Europe."

Concrete News editorial team
GIC – Italian Concrete Days

Scan the QR code and download the Book of Memories dedicated to Lamberto

From the Umbrian region

"With the passing of Lamberto Marcantonini, Umbria loses a leading figure of the business and political world, a man who was able to combine industrial vision, civic passion and a deep attachment to his own land."

Quotidiano dell'Umbria

"In these five years, particularly significant for the challenges of the sector, Lamberto was for us a point of reference of great human value, as well as institutional and managerial. As generous as he was competent, as humble as he was tenacious, a visionary champion of choices geared towards sustainability. A visionary politician and a far-sighted entrepreneur, yet capable of the greatest talent: that of stepping aside to let other seeds blossom."

Board of Directors,
Umbra Acque

"You were a charismatic, visionary entrepreneur and, at the same time, a passionate man of institutions, devoted to his land and his community, which he loved and served without reservation. A true guide for all of us. But more than anything else, you were a person of value. Immense value. A sensitive, empathetic man, able to unite, always to find common ground, generous, responsible, consistent, respectful of every point of view, of every voice, of every heart."

Andrea Romizi,
Regional Secretary of Forza Italia Umbria

From the heart of MCT

"I had the honour of being one of his employees and I can be proud of it. A gentleman in every sense, a great man. I will miss him terribly."

Luigi Porzi,
MCT collaborator

"We are losing a great entrepreneur but above all a man of another era, polite and kind, always ready for dialogue, to bring peace to every situation. It was a great honour to have known you."

Roberta Ricci

"Lamberto was one of those people whose leaving makes us say: and now how will we manage without him."

Stefania Malvizi

"A man of style and grace, possessing a depth of knowledge like no other. Always kind, generous with his wisdom, and unwavering in his willingness to support and uplift those around him. His presence left a lasting impression on all who had the privilege of knowing him."

Marianne Johnson

#THE WORLD REMEMBERS HIM

BETTONA AND THE WORLD: A BOND THAT LAMBERTO HAD BUILT ONE PLANT AT A TIME

One of the most striking aspects, looking at the messages that arrived after Lamberto's passing, is their geographical origin. Alongside the Umbrian institutions, the colleagues from the sector, the lifelong friends, there are voices that come from far away. Very far away.

From Morocco, from France, from Ukraine, from the United States, from Canada, from Australia.
From Bethlehem, a gesture that deeply moved us. One of our Palestinian customers lit a candle to remember Lamberto inside the Basilica of the Nativity, the place where, according to tradition, Jesus was born. A great message of peace, brotherhood and hope.:
"Blessed Sunday from Bethlehem. Dear Lamberto Marcantonini."

It is no coincidence. It is the measure of what he had built. In almost sixty years of activity, MCT Italy has installed plants in over seventy countries. But Lamberto did not work for statistics. He worked for relationships.
Every customer was a story, every installation was a beginning, every visit to Bettona became — as he himself liked to say — an event that bound that person forever to these places.

"This humble and determined man was able to raise MCT in terms of reputation, extending its international activity to the highest level. What is equally remarkable is that he managed to grow this company by bringing together around him a committed and competent team."

Daniel Ancrenaz,
QUADRA Contamine-sur-Arve, France

"We would like to offer you our most sincere condolences at this time of profound grief."

The Sicoma North America team

"Mr. Lamberto was a remarkable man. His wisdom and guidance touched so many lives. He was a true gentleman and a pillar in his community. I'm deeply saddened by his passing. His legacy of kindness will live on."

Siddu Jakkannavar

"Condolences from the Marcantoninis of Chile, who were lucky enough to have met him during a day spent in Bettona."

Orietta Rossi

This last message says it all. A Chilean family bearing the same surname, met by chance during a visit to Umbria, who feel the need to write. Because that is how Lamberto was: he forgot no one, and no one who had met him could forget him.
Dear Lamberto, you had brought Bettona to the world. And the world, in the end, gave it back to you.

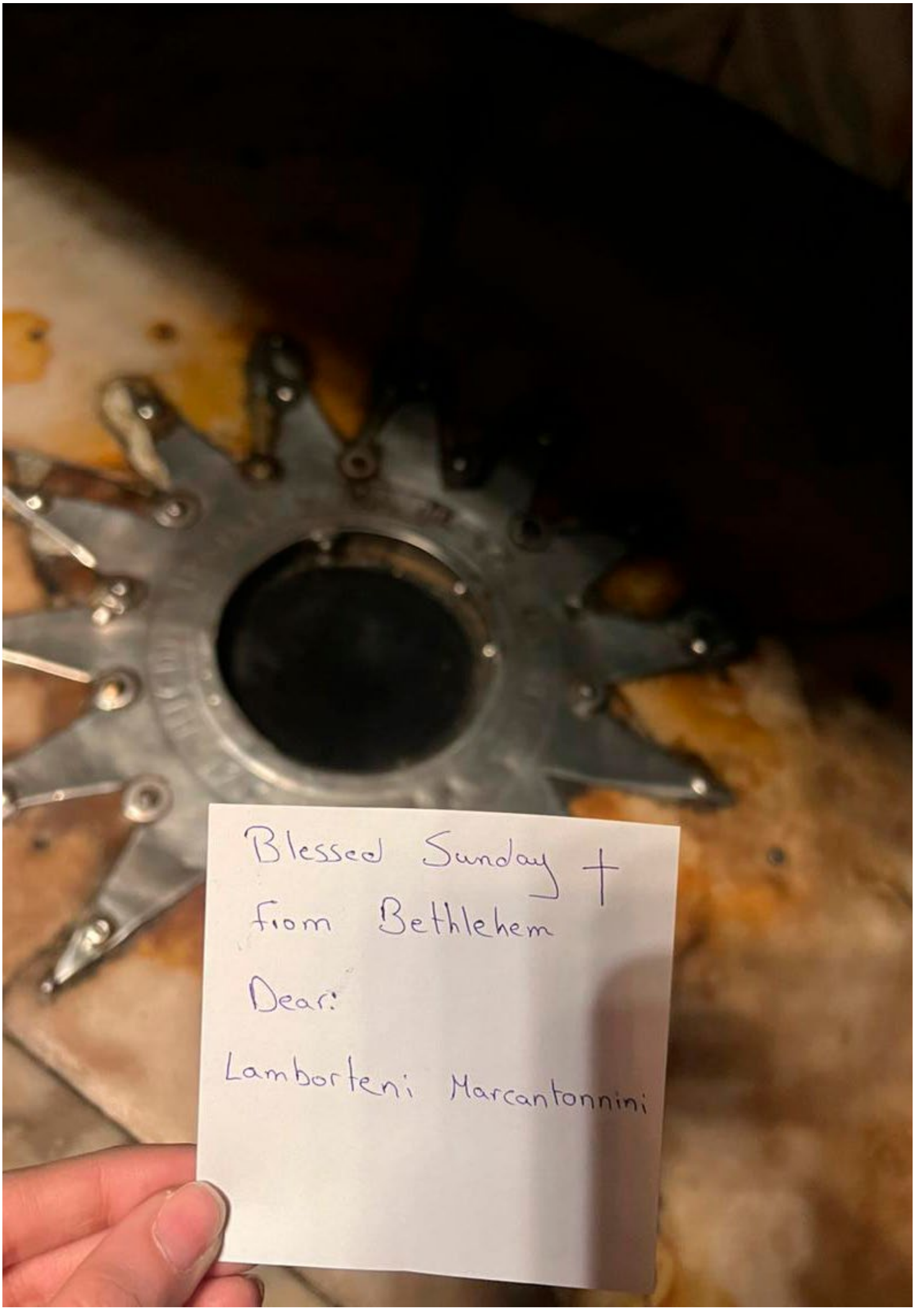
In ricordo del nostro fondatore Lamberto Marcantonini

Con profonda commozione annunciamo la scomparsa del nostro fondatore Lamberto Marcantonini, avvenuta il 7 gennaio 2026.

Lamberto è stato un padre devoto, un uomo di famiglia e un imprenditore carismatico e visionario. Dalla sua amata Bettona ha dato vita a un'impresa oggi apprezzata a livello internazionale, dimostrando come passione, determinazione e lavoro costante possano trasformare una visione in realtà.

Profondamente legato alle istituzioni, al territorio e alla comunità, ha sempre agito con spirito di servizio e attenzione al bene comune. Il suo impegno nel sostenere i meno fortunati, unito a una naturale generosità e a una rara capacità di unire le persone, ha lasciato un segno profondo in tutti coloro che hanno avuto il privilegio di conoscerlo. Sono molti coloro che gli saranno per sempre grati per la fiducia, la guida e i valori che ha saputo trasmettere. Siamo onorati di proseguire il cammino da lui tracciato e di custodire con responsabilità l'eredità dei suoi valori. ■

MCT Italy S.r.l., 06084 Bettona (PG), Italia


Blessed Sunday +
from Bethlehem
Dear:
Lamborteni Marcantonnini

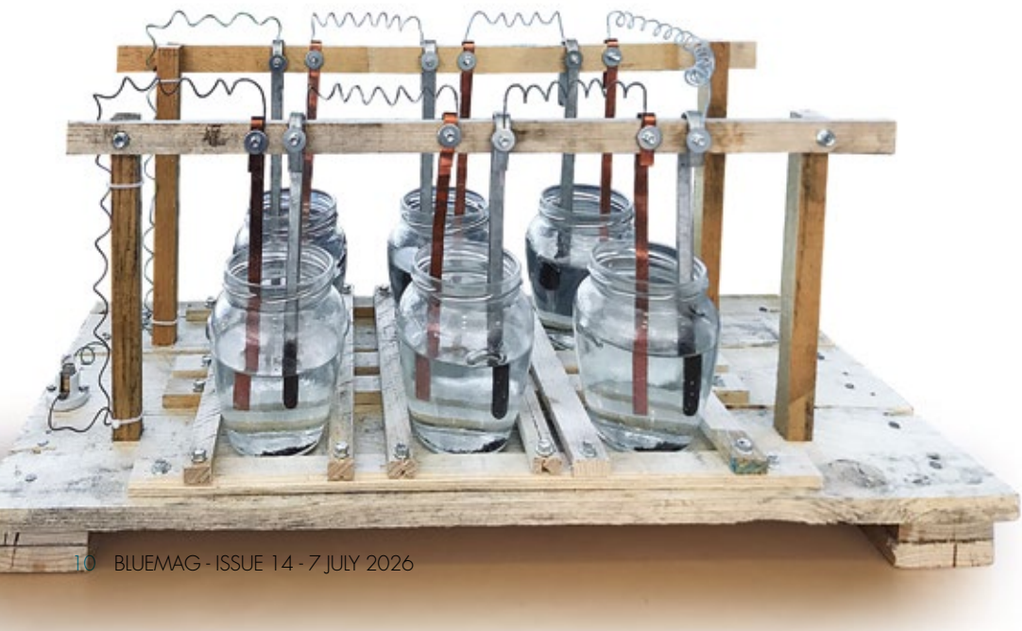
#MCT STORY

OUR FIRST 50 YEARS

Volta's Pile is the initial spark, the unwitting embryo of the creative fever that, over the course of time, forged the great industrial venture born of the curiosity and vocation of the very young Lamberto Marcantonini. A little boy, struck — one might say — by the drawing of a "strange thing" that Teacher Carlo Bonamente had sketched on the blackboard, illustrating the first electricity generator in human history.

That "contraption" lit up, in 1954, the technical yearning of a ten-year-old child who, listening at school to the lesson of a passionate teacher, decided, on instinct, that he too wanted to be able to build the revolutionary invention that, in 1800, the Como scientist Alessandro Volta had delivered to the progress of humanity. A bizarre impulse, and there was the first step towards the desire to create by inventing. An unconscious approach to a definitive life choice. Irrepressible was the desire to personally experience the emotions savoured by the Lombard scholar. "I got – Lamberto reveals – my cousin Mario involved. I passed my enthusiasm on to him. And together we took on a venture that, for a thousand reasons, including financial ones, seemed impossible. We had no money to buy the zinc, copper and sulphuric acid used by the scholar who had fascinated me. We made do like little buccaneers. We took possession of the copper pot that grandmother Palmina had bought at the Fair with her savings. We quietly pinched the zinc from the undertaker in Passaggio. Then, with written authorisation from the shopkeeper of my village, Ezio Fragola, we cycled 30 kilometres to Foligno to buy the acid, which we poured into six little jars emptied of the peaches in syrup that mum had jealously hidden in the cellar. Finally, using the hammer and chisel of my bricklayer father, we went to the riverbank, far from curious eyes and prying ears. And there, with a great deal of noise, we chopped up the metals we had furtively obtained. It was thrilling when, in the end, we really did build the much-coveted pile. We tested it on the bicycle lamp. It worked! And off we ran to school to show Bonamente and our classmates the wonderful outcome of the attempt. The Teacher congratulated us. And later, unfortunately…, he also congratulated our parents, who thus — alas — discovered the culprits behind the little thefts suffered at home. Naturally, dad and mum were not moved by the genius of us little rascals. They gave us a good telling-off." The "little inventor" of those feverish days devoted to the Pile was no stranger to solutions capable of firing the imagination and gratifying the pleasure of "do-it-yourself". In fact, for a couple of years already, he had devised an original way to scrape together a few lire while having fun. Once a month he offered himself as a keeper of the dozens of bicycles used by the country folk who flocked to the livestock Fair set up in Passaggio di Bettona. Together with his cousin he organised the safekeeping of the bikes, giving the owners tickets to collect them. In a notebook he recorded the deposits of these improvised storage spots. All perfectly in order. And at a price fully satisfactory to those who chose to free themselves from the fear of theft by entrusting their bikes to a pair of enterprising youngsters.

With an all-too-easy play on words, one might say that Lamberto grew accustomed, from a very young age, to finding the key… stone — the "chiave di volta" (keystone) — that is, the solution to the most varied problems. Those small beginnings then evolved into great promises. Not only kept, but infinitely multiplied.



A Volta Pile built in the company on the occasion of the 50th anniversary.

1964. AT MANINI, THE START OF THE CAREER OF LAMBERTO MARCANTONINI

With his technical-industrial schooling over, the young Lamberto Marcantonini truly began his face-to-face encounter with life. He had to identify, scrupulously, the road to take. Give in to the anxiety of a fixed salary in the heart of an Italy that offered rather few of them? Or train more and better to refine the strategic-entrepreneurial vision he had nurtured since adolescence? Marcantonini had clear ideas: "Enel called me for an immediate hire, but I had the courage not to accept because I was convinced I had to go and learn how to run a business. I admired the developments of Technology and I noticed that our country had a great desire for development. I wished, without flaunting it too much, to create a business of my own. With this state of mind, on the First of July 1964, I joined the workshops of Arnaldo Manini, a young industrialist who, from Santa Maria degli Angeli, was working to launch precast construction. My dad was a small customer of his and an old friend of Arnaldo's father. It was, for me, a fundamental choice.

In the rooms of that young man, eight years older than me, I tried to 'learn the trade'. You could tell at a glance that he had great talent and that he would race ahead. I was extremely determined to learn. Staying close to him, minute after minute, I tried to learn what someone who aspires to undertake a wider-reaching venture could, or should, be. He, for his part, opened the doors to me with affectionate willingness." "Oh yes – recounts Arnaldo Manini, smiling heartily – I welcomed him with open arms, also because of the esteem that bound me to Sandrino, his father, a gentleman, an extraordinary worker, always ready to honour his commitments. He had told me about his son who was number one at School. It didn't take me long to understand how deserved his great success in the State Exams was. After a few weeks of testing him, I told him 'You speak the language of electricity'. It was exactly so! He had technical skills that were out of the ordinary. And then, day by day, he revealed the seed of the future Captain of Industry.

He was curious about everything. He didn't keep track of his working hours. If there was work to be done into the night, he stayed spontaneously alongside me. So impeccable as to seem almost implausible. I would ask him for something more and he always answered 'OK'. I even told him 'Sometimes a no would go down well too'. He was mild and willing. He was always on the ball because he felt the urge to grow and to learn the ropes. He wanted to overcome every doubt. He would repeat 'People want certainties'. He insisted on going beyond the excellent knowledge acquired at School. He wanted to add to it the experience of his own hands. In certain specialist fields Lamberto can boast unique practical experience. Equally exceptional, on the other hand, is his enormous knowledge of materials. He insisted on studying them in detail. If he had doubts, he studied them, made them his own. Faced with a big problem, I might get agitated; he, on the other hand, tackled it with a smile, telling me 'I think it can be solved'. And indeed he managed it.

He made the most of every moment of the day: he had even taken on a few hours of teaching at an Institute in Perugia."

Arnaldo Manini, founder of Manini Prefabbricati, established in 1962.

#MCT STORY

IN POLITICS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT: "I ADMIRED THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRACY'S SPIRIT OF PUBLIC SERVICE"

In 1970 the twenty-six-year-old Umbrian entrepreneur decided that it was right to also devote himself, in a distinctly civic way, to the community. He joined the Regional Committee of the Christian Democrats, stood for the Town Council of Bettona, was elected and even became Deputy Mayor and Councillor for Public Works and Assets.

A first contact with politics that had matured some time earlier: "I had joined the DC because I deeply believed in the spirit of service proclaimed by a Party that was looking for young people ready to train and prepare themselves for endeavours useful to Society. In the meantime, I wanted to do something politically good for Bettona. The town wanted, and needed, to break away from the hardships of the post-war period. Worthwhile initiatives had begun to be launched by Mayor Alberto Castellini, a liberal-centrist, capable of genuinely working for the needs of the people. In 1966 he had set to work, intelligently, on the electrification of the countryside, using the Fanfani II Plan. A fine project which, however, had a limit: it guaranteed contributions only to farmers who cultivated at least five hectares of land. Castellini, with a shrewd move, took care to widen the pool of beneficiaries of electrification. To Torquato Minuti, who had won the contract for the works, he said: 'I must also benefit the sharecroppers not covered by the Law.

1974- Lamberto diventa sindaco di Bettona, dopo le dimissioni di Castellini.

To these you deliver the poles and they, with the financial support of the Municipality, see to installing them by digging holes in the ground.' He thus created a sound partnership between entrepreneurs, public administrators and the people, who shared the joint contribution. Castellini acted with a very broad social vision. He would repeat: 'If someone chooses to govern publicly, he must serve, otherwise he should stay at home'. How could one not agree with him? He taught me to understand and to decide. In Politics and in Administration I consider him a master."

It was Castellini himself who, re-elected Mayor in '70, asked him to be his Deputy and to lead a key Department.

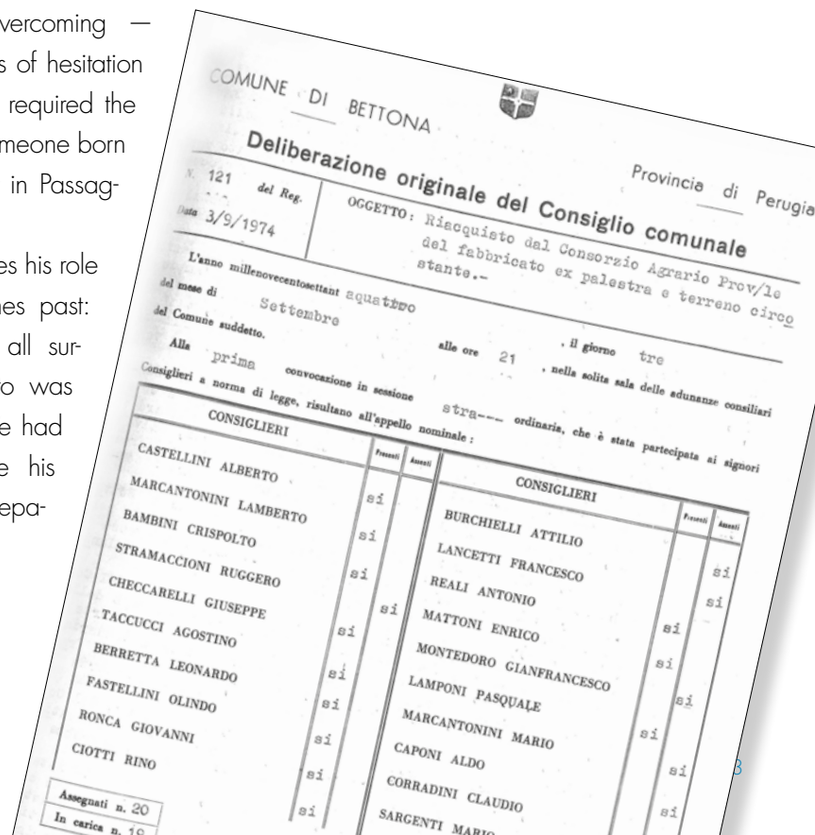
The municipal clerk who had the most regular dealings with the "Deputy Mayor" was Renzo Torroni, a balding, serious type, with the face of a scrupulous Servant of the Public Good. Not by chance, he had previously honoured his country by lending his diligence to the Navy. Torroni takes pleasure – and it shows – in recalling his daily life with the young Councillor: "For me Lamberto was not a new face. I had seen him before, when he came to greet his bricklayer father who was doing some renovation work in the Municipal Offices. I immediately felt at ease with him. He asked me to address him informally. He was not a nuisance, he did not keep his distance, yet he wanted to know the details of every smallest procedure. Not even a comma escaped him. He amazed us because he knew everything, not only about the rules pertaining to his Office, but also about the regulations governing relations with the Trade Union. We devoted ourselves to our many tasks with mutual satisfaction.

He also coordinated the gradual development of the Ring Road. We were always overseen by the ever-attentive Mayor Castellini, head of the council for more than ten years. Castellini, a person of gold, was truly committed to helping Bettona grow. With the Green Plan he had brought light where there was none. And he had worked hard to build eight kilometres of roads, as well as the Sports Ground in Passaggio and the Giovanni Pennacchi Middle School in Bettona. He hoped to somewhat repopulate a territory to which the 1961 Census had attributed five thousand inhabitants, some of whom, however, had slowly moved towards Bastia. The Municipality's rooms were tucked into a nook: a single policeman, four clerks, the school-bus driver."

At the end of 1974, a small twist. Mayor Castellini resigned and, for the succession, proposed Marcantonini, who was indeed elected, overcoming — after a few moments of hesitation — the tradition that required the First Citizen to be someone born in Bettona Alta, not in Passaggio.

Renzo Torroni resumes his role as chronicler of times past: "We were not at all surprised that Lamberto was the new Mayor. We had watched him refine his competence and preparation. He knew how to listen, yet he had the energy to decide. With the Tricolour Sash he immediately began to restore the Theatre, inaugurated the Memorial to those Fallen during the Resistance and in the two World Wars, and bought back the Gymnasium which, when he was a boy, the Municipality had sold to the Agricultural Consortium, which intended to turn it into a store for tonnes of grain."

"Oh yes – Lamberto interjects – I hurried to honour the promise I had made to myself and to my classmates when, forced to do gymnastics outdoors, we breathed air polluted by the sulphur used to treat the grain. 'If one day I became mayor – I had announced – I would buy back the Gymnasium and make it available to our students'. It had been a kind of pact of honour which in '74 I confirmed, with great emotion, handing over to the Consortium a plot of municipally-owned land and regaining possession of the large room that had been the children's sports shelter. An even exchange. On that plot the Consortium put up a warehouse, used to store its wheat."


COMUNE DI BETTONA

Provincia di Perugia

Deliberazione originale del Consiglio comunale

N. 121 del Reg. — Data 3/9/1974

OGGETTO: Riacquisto dal Consorzio Agrario Prov/le del fabbricato ex palestra e terreno circostante.-

L'anno millenovecentosettant aquattwo del mese di Settembre del Comune suddetto.

Alla prima convocazione in sessione straordinaria, che è stata partecipata ai signori Consiglieri a norma di legge, risultano all'appello nominale: alle ore 21 il giorno tre nella solita sala delle adunanze consiliari

CONSIGLIERI	Presenti	Assenti
CASTELLINI ALBERTO	si	
MARCANTONINI LAMBERTO	si	
BAMBINI CRISPOLTO	si	
STRAMACCIONI RUGGERO		si
CHECCARELLI GIUSEPPE	si	
TACCUCCI AGOSTINO	si	
BERRETTA LEONARDO	si	
FASTELLINI OLINDO	si	
RONCA GIOVANNI	si	
CIOTTI RINO	si	
BURCHIELLI ATTILIO		si
LANCETTI FRANCESCO		si
REALI ANTONIO	si	
MATTONI ENRICO	si	
MONTEDORO GIANFRANCESCO	si	
LAMPONI PASQUALE	si	
MARCANTONINI MARIO	si	
CAPONI ALDO	si	
CORRADINI CLAUDIO	si	
SARGENTI MARIO	si	

Assegnati n. 20
In carica n. 19

1974 – Municipal Council Resolution through which the newly elected Mayor reacquired the municipal gymnasium.

#MCT STORY

1988, THE LANDING IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ASTONISHING ADVENTURES ON THE ISLAND OF FORMOSA

One step at a time, forays into distant lands, one after another. The ideal voyage towards "every shore" was aided by favourable winds. "In 1988 – Lamberto recites, leafing through his logbook – came our landing in the USA. In Baltimore, to be precise. The first sales to the Pavestone company. And then to Boccard of New Bourg, run by the heirs of an old Italian – Boccardi – who spoke a slang somewhere between old-fashioned Neapolitan and American. We expanded our contacts as far as Texas and California. We maintained our presence there until 1996." Also in 1988, a very significant contract took the Bettona-based company to Taiwan. A very large Plant had to be installed. "The clients – smiles Marcantonini – wanted me to be present in person to train the local staff and, finally, to attend the solemn inauguration. My wife came too. So we booked the flight to Taipei, the capital of Taiwan. The Tour Operator told us that a Visa was no longer needed to land there. But when, after a couple of previous stopovers, we arrived in Taipei, we were stopped because we lacked the indispensable authorisation. They shut us in a little room. And then, without much ado, they informed us that British Airways would take us back. I tried to protest, but they explained that the Geneva Convention only obliged them to guarantee us a sandwich and a glass of water. They added, however, that since we were Catholics, and given their good relations with the Vatican State, they would send us back only as far as Hong Kong, where one of their consular authorities would provide us with the required Visa. We had to comply.

And I must say that in Hong Kong we found courtesy and speed. We were able to return after a couple of days. I could thus begin my lessons to the local Staff. How? With a particularly convoluted procedure: I spoke in English, a Chinese man translated into Mandarin, and a third local deciphered it for his people who were unable to understand Mandarin. It is clear that only 50% of what I said reached correctly the ears of those who had to learn the best way to use our Plant.

With much mutual goodwill we finally arrived at the long-awaited day of the official inauguration of the machinery we had set up. The owner of the facility wanted to do things in grand style. He invited us to his home, where he had had a stage erected for the lunch to be enjoyed in the presence of many witnesses. He wished our recent friendship to be publicly consecrated. There was fish soup: prawns, mussels, clams. With the most euphoric look in the world, the delighted gentleman hosting us cried out 'Now the most exquisite morsel of the meal must go to Mrs Marcantonini, most welcome friend'. In exalting such an extraordinary tribute to my wife, he pulled a pork shank out of the big pot of fish soup. A bewildering surprise! We were taken aback, but it was essential to put on a brave face. Oh yes, there they combine fish, pork and even poultry. It is the height of the courtesy with which they intend to make the hours of their hospitality pleasant."

The Umbria on the move had its stirrings not only in Passaggio di Bettona, but also in Passignano sul Trasimeno and in Bastia: Enzo Coloni, from Passignano, built a single-seater that, in the Formula One Grand Prix, competed against Ferrari, Mercedes and Renault. It was driven by Ivan Capelli and the promising Spaniard Fernando Alonso. Carlo Petrini, from Bastia, head of a historic Pasta Factory, set up in Kansas City a mill and a production facility equipped with cutting-edge technology.

New York - USA - February '88.

AT THE HELM OF A GREAT VESSEL: "YOU HAVE STEERED A COMPANY THAT SAILS TOWARDS THE FUTURE"

There is a fine large photo in Lamberto's Central Office: in the foreground, him with his arms firm on the Helm of a great vessel. And his gaze is stretched forward. It is an image taken during the crossing of a French river. That snapshot can surely be a symbol. That is how the employees of the Passaggio factory understandably interpreted it when, on the occasion of a recent birthday, they penned beneath the photograph a heartfelt dedication: "To a man – helmsman of a Company that deserves special recognition, for the commitment shown in the past, in the present, and projected into the future. A humble, strong, altruistic personality. So in work, so in life" – Followed by everyone's handwritten signature.

#WORK IN PHOTO

PUJOL, SPAIN - PHOTO BY ADAM HAOUFADI

Mixers

Transfer Conveyor Belt

Elevator Top

Central Structure

MACK, FLORIDA, UNITED STATES - PHOTO BY GIORGIO RADICCHI

General View

Mixer Level

Aggregate Storage

Aggregate Storage

Storage Top Conveyor Belt

ELIS SECUIENI, ROMANIA - PHOTO BY MARIUS IMBRISCA

Concrete Conveyor Belt

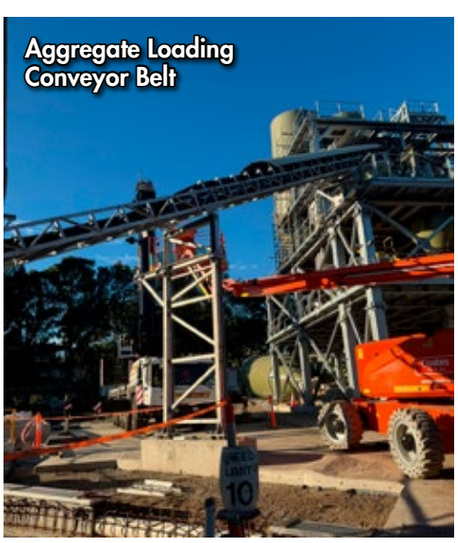
Structure

Skip and Runways

BORAL, AUSTRALIA - PHOTO BY NABILE EDDAMI

Mixing Tower

Mixing Tower from the Aggregate Loading Conveyor Belt

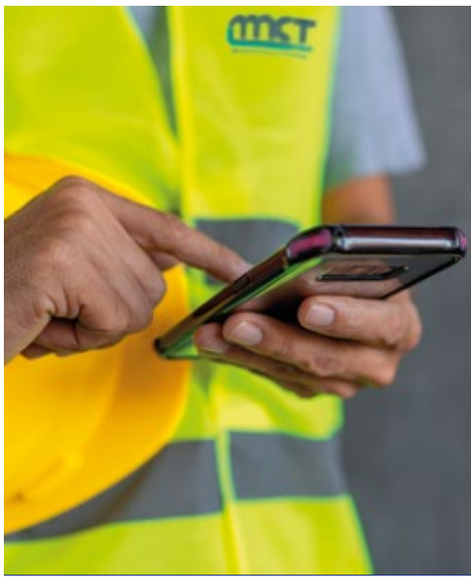

Aggregate Loading Conveyor Belt

From your grandson,

"I will thank you all my life for all the things you did for me, the experiences, the "I love yous", the stories, the help you gave me with school, the scientific explanations about everything I asked you, the jokes, the games we played together, or even simply worrying about the temperature of the swimming pool.

I love you immensely and I am very sorry I did not say goodbye to you as you deserved, but I am honoured to have learned from you kindness and, above all, the help you gave to the people around you.

I could not have had a better grandfather. Goodbye grandpa and rest well, since I already know that you are resting among the best!"



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