

# Remembrance of Romano Del Nord

[English translation by Marta Berni]

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On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017, prof. Romano del Nord, full professor of technology of Architecture at the University of Florence, suddenly and prematurely died from a disease that he was courageously facing over the past year.

Prof. Romano Del Nord at local as well as national level was always strongly committed to interdisciplinary dialogue and given his interest in the management, monitoring, and evaluation of the complex built environment's transformation processes he was very interested in Appraisal and Evaluation, developing an ever-open dialogue and several joint research projects.

He was born in Manfredonia on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 1947, and graduated in Florence with the Supervision of prof. Pierluigi Spadolini, who immediately appreciated his intuition and capacity in problem analysis, combined with a sound methodology in problem-solving. In 1980 he became full professor of Technology of Architecture, witnessing a national recognition of his contribution to the discipline. In these years his research was focussed on social housing, healthcare buildings, industrialization of the construction process and on system design. The Florentine School of Technology of Architecture and Industrial Design (led by Spadolini, Cetica, Segoni, Koenig, Mucci, Felli, Zaffagnini) immediately recognised Romano Del Nord as a high-quality teacher and researcher who was able to expand its borders and affirm its role at both the national and international level.

Romano del Nord was able to permeate at the highest-level of scientific research, as well as academic and professional activity, showing how these three dimensions may be intimately related.

He carried out important research reported in numerous scientific contributions, among which the most recent and relevant ones are: "L'umanizzazione degli spazi di cura. Linee guida" (Ministry of Health 2014), "Le nuove dimensioni strategiche dell'ospedale di eccellenza" (Polistampa 2011), "The culture for the future of healthcare architecture" (Alinea 2009) "La politica edilizia dell'Ateneo fiorentino" (Pontecorboli 2009) "Lo stress ambientale nel progetto dell'ospedale pediatrico" (Motta 2006).

For the Italian Ministry of Instruction, Research and University (MIUR) he performed research aimed to define normative standards and models for quantifying the requirements of the university and school building. He was a member of the National Observatory on School Building and responsible for the Working Group for the development of Technical Guidelines for School Building.

For the Ministry of Public Works, he was the expert-consultant of the Central Observatory and coordinator of the Group in charge for the quantification of Hospital Buildings Standard-Cost. He chaired the Commission of MIUR for the Implementation of University Residential Buildings (RSU) and was responsible for the Working Group for the Management and Monitoring of the RSU Plans. For the Ministry of Healthcare, he performed research on the humanization of hospitals whose results have been successfully published.

He has long been recognized as one of the Masters and Founders of a School of thought, based on a systemic vision of the building processes rules, with a special focus on the correspondence among the projects, its goals, its quality, its technical and economic feasibility. Within the requirement-performance approach, its innovative contribution was particularly important in the field of the social and health building sector due to the development of methods for the analysis and the evaluation of projects.

In 1983 he was the first Director of the Department of Technology at the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Florence. Since 1991 he was the Director of the Inter-university Research Centre for Health-Care buildings (TESIS). In 2000-9 he was Vice Rector of the University of Florence in charge of the Construction Sector. He was a MIUR consultant for the Ministry of Health and a member of the Public Health Group of the International Union of Architects.

As a professional, he worked in the Centre for Construction Design Studies, that he founded with Paolo Felli and Antonio Andreucci. In collaboration with his partners, he designed several hospitals receiving international awards (e.g. the Pediatric Meyer Hospital in Florence).

No less important was his commitment to university teaching strongly appreciated by his students. Before the disease stopped him, he taught in the Architecture master course. He also was the supervisor of many Ph.D. students and created a group of researchers who, under his guidance, have achieved a high level of competence in the research field.

Romano del Nord had a reserved temperament, but also a sharp mind capable of strategic visions, and an original and constructive way of thinking. These qualities strongly contributed to the evolution of the technology of the architecture discipline coherently with its scientific foundations.