

## **Some thought on the act of building by Livio Vacchini**

Vacchini, Livio, Capolavori, Edition Linteau 2006 <https://www.darchitectures.com/hommage-livio-vacchini-1933-2007-a2849.html>

Doing and Knowing. Usually the task at hand is trivial. While working, the banality of the task is quickly overcome and turns into a necessity of a spiritual nature: the need to build a thought. Making a project means indulging in the pleasure of constructing a thought. The driving force behind this process is the feeling of inability that grips us before and during labor and it is the need to free ourselves from this frustration that drives us forward: our psychological condition is not knowing.

Enjoyment arises when you believe yourself delivered, but deliverance does not come immediately, you need patience and the time spent with a bad project is always very long. It is only through a bad project that a good result can be achieved. It is he who makes us progress and often it even happens that to get rid of a bad project, there is no choice but to carry it out. It is the error that leads us to the truth.

The job is to fiercely pursue a perfect image and there is exhilaration, obsession. Obsession makes us immune to interest in irrelevant things. We have the impression that every act, even the smallest, must be an invention; nothing is ever a mere detail.

To do a project is to calculate. The form is nothing more than the result of this calculation. But there is not just one possible calculation and when the eyes prove my calculation wrong, I do it again. There isn't one calculation truer than another, there is simply one that is more useful. All calculations are made on the basis of a practical result.

Everything I know is from my work. I only know what I can do. To do so is my only source of certainty.

I don't have the love of knowing, I only have the love of knowing.

I don't like the very much, the very little is enough for me.

I like to think, to add one thought to another, to believe that one idea is only the promise of another idea.

I like to keep the irrational to a minimum and take the rational to extreme limits.

My universe is logical, understandable and transmissible. I like to talk about it knowing how dangerous it is to put a good project in front of an ignorant person. To do so is the fruit of the contact of two elements: the creed, the unshakeable dogma, and the theory, in other words the rule, the calculation.

The creed is in the DNA of each person, while the theory is linked to the project to be developed, each project having its own rule. It is in fact the theory that gives the work of general interest.

The practical result is never calculable, but it alone is able to correct the theory, to clarify it and to amplify it.

Truth is never something that we can know a priori, it is always and only a truth specific to the object. Without the rule, without the theory, the intellect is incapable of constructing, of reacting differently in different situations, of taking advantage of chance and of using it. It is theory that enables us to discover the relationships between apparently different elements and to discover the differences between apparently identical elements.

Contrary to theory, the creed does not give a work greater or lesser interest, but it is the basis on which all the construction of thought is based. The credo does not confer quality on a work. Of course, I can cite a few important points of my credo: Architecture is a ritual, an ethical question, not an aesthetic one, a mental question, it is an instrument, it has no time, it determines the context. The quality is objective; form is a result, not a goal, it has no essence; order is intrinsic and the whole is not the sum of the parts; light is matter and geometry.

I would like to be able to bring my thinking back to old fashions and implicitly produce new ones, thus perpetuating the tradition. To work means to participate in a rite, it is the celebration of the work done by those who came before us, a reworking of their masterpieces, a means of prolonging their life, a restitution of their thought.