

'The Italian Job': The construction industry in Italy between standardization and craft approaches

*Luciano Cardellicchio*

In Italy, the construction industry is the most important economic sector due to its contribution to the GDP and for the number of jobs it provides. However, this sector is still dominated by small to medium-sized enterprises, whose organization and production are strongly characterised by a craft approach. Coexistence between artisanal practice and industrial management has always accompanied the evolution of the construction industry in Italy. Therefore construction remains deeply rooted in a variety of small specialisations rarely managed together with an integrated approach.

By comparison, the aim of this paper is to highlight how the "Italian" traditional approach has been shaped by mass-customized techniques for three non-standard buildings: the new Herziana Library by Juan Navarro Baldeweg; the MAXXI by Zaha Hadid and the Dives Padre Misericordioso church by Richard Meier.

Biography:

Dr Luciano Cardellicchio is an architect and a building engineer. He is currently a lecturer in Design and Technology & Environment at Kent School of Architecture. His research focuses on the relation between form and construction and the connection between technical details, urban shape and construction tradition in Contemporary Architecture in Italy.