

*Il Cantiere Artigianale: Pier Luigi and the legacy of the shipyard*

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This paper examines affinities between Pier Luigi Nervi's brief wartime work in experimental concrete ship hulls for the Italian navy and his subsequent use of lofting and shipbuilding techniques on projects throughout the 1950s and 1960s. Nervi used techniques and algorithms from his shipbuilding experience to develop labour- and material-saving patterns and processes in larger scale building work such as the Turin Exposition Hall and the *Palazzo dello Sport*. These placed his building activities somewhere between that of a traditional jobsite and the assembly-line production of components found in a typical shipyard, reflecting the multiple definitions of the Italian *cantiere*.

Biography:

Thomas Leslie, AIA, is the Pickard Chilton Professor in Architecture at Iowa State University. He teaches building science, design, and history, and is the author of *Louis I. Kahn: Building Art, Building Science*, and *Chicago Skyscrapers, 1871-1934*. He was the 2013-2014 recipient of the Booth Family Rome Prize in Historic Preservation.