

Student ID: 5504641209

Name: Pirapat Pareeratanasomporn

Topic: Filippo Brunelleschi

Word Count: 1,022

The 21st century is a period in which humanity has been developed the most. Many great inventions occurred during this period. The world became borderless. People in every single area are now connected with a visual world contents. We are now in the globalization world with the most advanced technology ever developed. This fabulous period will never be a part of human history if there is no strong foundation. Looking back in the timeline of humanity, we cannot deny many great people who devoted themselves in order to advance societies. Talking about science and mathematics, the very first name that might pops up in everyone's head is Sir Isaac Newton or Albert Einstein. In biology, we might suddenly think about Charles Darwin or Robert Hook. When we focus into the field of architecture, we cannot ignore a person named "Filippo Brunelleschi". **The contribution of Filippo Brunelleschi has made a marvelous impact to humanity as a whole in which it had become a legacy that will eternally integrate into the timeline of human history.**

Filippo Brunelleschi was born in 1377 to Brunellesco di Lippo and Giuliana Spini.¹ His hometown was Florence, Italy. He was a second child out of 3 children in Brunelleschi family. During his childhood, his father intentionally wanted to inherit his specialization as a lawyer into the future architect, but he did not intend to do so. After father's hope was declined, Filippo decided to enroll in the Arte Della Seta to

¹ "Filippo Brunelleschi - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Feb. 2013. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Filippo_Brun

train as a master of goldsmith, but later made another transition in his life to architecture in which he became famous of his inventions. The event that flipped a side his life was his disappointment in losing a sculpture competition to Lorenzo Ghiberti, one of the great sculptors who influenced the art of Renaissance. His disappointment inspired him to pay attention at architecture instead of sculpture.

At that time, the city of Florence formed a competition to find the one who could complete the construction of Basilica di Santa Maria del Fiore, the Florence cathedral which took approximately almost a century and a half to construct. The cathedral was originally built as a wooden dome. After an architect who was in charge passed away, the wooden dome appeared to be a source many technical problems. So, in order to replace the old trouble dome with the newly designed one, the one who win the competition would be a part of the project. Although many great architects competed in this event, but the winner was Filippo Brunelleschi. Filippo Brunelleschi's design was based on Pantheon's Dome which is the largest dome was ever built without flying buttresses.² He went to Rome to study this ancient building piece by piece for the construction. It took approximately 16 years for him and his team to complete the Dome of the Florence cathedral.

The dome of Florence cathedral was one of his masterpieces which influenced the building designs of the early renaissance. Another contribution of Filippo Brunelleschi was his concern about safety of workers. He came up with many rules and regulations for all his team members to follow. For example, every worker must use safety belt while construction was in process and limiting alcoholic beverages by mixing wine with water. He raised a standard of safety construction which had

² "Patheon - Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia." *Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*. N.p., n.d. Web. 10 Feb. 2013. <<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Patheon>>.

become a basic practice nowadays. His idea seemed to be effective since only 3 workers died during the dome construction.³

During the construction, he invented some easy but effective equipments to accelerate the time consumption of construction. He came up with an idea to build a crane truck to arrange large numbers of brick in order.⁴ Another invention of Filippo Brunelleschi was a rear gear which is a foundation of a gear in modern vehicles.⁵ He was very innovative, because both convenient devices are still being used today for more than 600 years consecutively.

To talk about another innovation of Filippo Brunelleschi, he completely revolved the way a design was presented. In the field of architecture today, it is very normal to see a building plan drawing in perspective. Filippo Brunelleschi was the first architect to use linear perspective in illustration of an art-related work.⁶ He applied mathematics into designing a work, making the art more realistic. In just a short period of time, the linear perspective quickly became a standard tool on representing the drawing. Although some historians argued perspective illustration had been adapted long ago before renaissance period by the ancient Greek and Romans, but we cannot deny he was the one who rediscovered the marvelous technique.

The way Brunelleschi influenced the world was primarily emphasized on architecture. When we look at buildings at the present, they were designed in many geometrical shapes which can be traced back to the early renaissance. It makes us

³ Kubik, Matthew, and Patrick Ashton. "Brunelleschi and the Future of Design | CreateTheGreenAge.com." *Create The Green Age*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Feb. 2013. <<http://createthegreenage.com/brunelleschi-and-the-future-of-design>>.

⁴

⁵ "Filippo Brunelleschi: Brunelleschi's machines ." *Life of an Artist - Biographies and Galleries*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Feb. 2013. <http://www.artist-biography.info/gallery/filippo_brunelleschi/67/>

⁶ zantine. "Linear Perspective: Filippo Brunelleschi's Experiment - Smarthistory." *Smarthistory: a multimedia web-book about art and art history*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Feb. 2013. <<http://smarthistory.khanacademy.org/Brunel>>

wonder why his innovative ideas are still dominant today. It is fascinating in which those concepts have been practiced and inherited by generations after generations for more than 6 centuries. We cannot deny that Filippo Brunelleschi is a terrific scholar who changed the world with his innovations; the most crucial fundamental principles which have improved standard of living of humanity. A person who should be commemorated, the genius Italian architect "Filippo Brunelleschi"

Filippo Brunelleschi died on April 15, 1446 at the age of 69 years.⁷ His body was buried in the Florence cathedral to honor his skill in architecture. One of his latest work was Pazzi Chapel, a catholic building in Florence, Italy which he designed it by himself. The one who wrote biography was Antony Manetti who was one of his friends

All 3 elements above have certified Filippo Brunelleschi's contribution. He was an architect, engineer, and sculptor who influenced the art of early renaissance. He raised a standard of construction which is still practical nowadays. He created a totally new way of illustration called "Linear Perspective". We cannot deny his existence in the timeline of history. We can still see his way of thinking through works that he left it for humanity. It can be summarized that Filippo Brunelleschi was moral, intelligent, and innovative. He will become the modern generation idol for his contribution to the world.

⁷"Filippo Brunelleschi." *NNDB: Tracking the entire world*. N.p., n.d. Web. 9 Feb. 2013. <<http://www.nndb.com/people/675/000084>