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| Nota di contenuto | Preface -- Translators' Note -- Acknowledgements -- Daniele Barbaro and the Geometric Solids -- Daniele Barbaro's Innovations in Perspective Studies -- Dedication to Matteo Macigni -- Foreword -- Part I, setting up a perspective -- The Ordering of the principles -- On the eye -- On the way of seeing -- On the thing seen -- On distance -- On the division of planes -- Where the eye must be placed -- On the distance -- Of the size that figures must be made in the painting -- Part II, in which are treated ichnographia, that is, the description of the plan -- The practice of describing figures -- The way of describing plans -- The way to degrade a given plane -- The way to reduce the degraded plane into a square -- Division of the degraded square according to the perfect square -- The way to add to or take away from the degraded square -- How to cut a square from a quadrangular surface that is wider than it is long -- How to respond to those who, in dividing the plane into braccia, comet have a foreshortening that is |

larger than the perfect -- The plan of the triangle, and how the degraded is made from the perfect form -- How to form the plan of a cube -- Other ways of making plans -- Part III, which treats the ways of raising the body from the plan -- Three ways of raising bodies from the plans -- Unfolding, raising and shadowing the pyramid -- Unfolding, raising and shadowing the cube -- Unfolding, raising and shadowing the body called 'octahedron' -- Unfolding, raising and shadowing the dodecahedral body -- Unfolding, raising and shadowing the body called 'icosahedron' -- Description of the irregular bodies that are born from the regular bodies [truncated tetrahedron] -- Description of a body that is born from the cube and from the octahedron, and its unfolding [cubocatahedron] -- Description of another irregular body that is born from the cube [truncated cube] -- Description and unfolding of another body that is born from the cube [small rhombicuboctahedron] -- Unfolding and description of a body that is born from the octahedron [truncated octahedron] -- Unfolding and description of a body that is born from the dodecahedron and from the icosahedron [icosidodecahedron] -- Unfolding and description of another body that is born from the dodecahedron [truncated dodecahedron] -- Unfolding and description of another body that is born from the icosahedron [truncated icosahedron] -- Unfolding and description of another body that is born from a composite body [great rhombicuboctahedron] -- Unfolding and description of another body that is born from a composite body [rectified truncated octahedron] -- Unfolding and description of another body composite body [small rhombicosidodecahedron] -- Unfolding and description of another body [rectified truncated icosahedron] -- Unfolding of some other bodies [truncated pentakis dodecahedron] -- Unfolding of another irregular body [truncated truncated icosahedron] -- Unfolding of some other bodies [great rhombicosidodecahedron] -- Unfolding of another irregular body [truncated truncated octahedron] -- Unfolding of another irregular body [great rhombicosidodecahedron augmented with pentagonal cupolas] -- Unfolding of another irregular body [great rhombicuboctahedron augmented with square cupolas] -- Unfolding of another irregular body -- Unfolding of some bodies based on the surfaces of bodies both regular and irregular, and first that which is based on the pyramid [elevated tetrahedron] -- Unfolding of a body based on the cube [elevated cube] -- Unfolding of a body based on the octagon [elevated octahedron] -- Unfolding of a body based on the dodecahedron [elevated dodecahedron] -- Unfolding of a body based on the icosahedron [elevated icosahedron] -- Unfolding of a body based on an irregular body [elevated cuboctahedron].-Unfolding of a body resting on an underlying body [elevated small rhombicuboctahedron] -- Unfolding of another body [elevated icosidodecahedron] -- Description of some of the previous bodies with pyramids -- Some easy and quick ways to draw plans and bodies -- How to degrade many circles drawn on the same centre and divided into several parts -- An easy way to degrade without rulers -- Description of the torchio, or mazzocchio -- The perfect description of the mazzocchio -- Part Four, in which will be treated scenographia, that is, the description of scenes -- The manners of scenes -- Description and shading of the Tuscan base -- Description and shading of the Attic base -- Description and description of the Ionic base -- Description and degradation of columns -- Description and degradation of the Tuscan capital -- Description and degradation of the Doric capital.-Description and degradation of the Ionic capital -- Description and degradation of the Corinthian capital -- Description of the Doric architrave -- Description of the Ionic architrave and the

pediment -- Rules for the heights of the architraves and ways to transpose them from one size to another -- The description and degradation of stairs -- Of arches, vaults and doors -- Plan, elevation and profile of a temple -- Description of the Tragic scene -- Description of the Comic scene -- Description of the Satiric scene -- Part V, in which is set forth a fine and secret part of perspective -- [Distorting images] -- Part VI, which is called Planispherio -- Unfolding, description and degradation of the sphere -- Projection of the sphere onto the plane according to the ancients -- How to make projections of oblique circles -- The projection of the circles of the heights onto the plane -- Part VII, which treats lighting, shadows and colours -- [The importance of light, colour and chiaroscuro] -- On the projection of shadows -- Part VIII, in which are treated the measures of the human body -- Measurement of the human body -- The way to describe the plan of the human head -- How to describe heads that are neither in profile nor straight on -- The way to make heads that look either up or down -- Part IX, in which are described many instruments and ways of rendering things in perspective and transporting them -- The author's instrument for making clocks in every climate, on every plane and for every sort of hour -- The use of the universal clock -- Albrecht Dürer's instrument for making perspectives -- Building another instrument by Baldassarre Lanci -- Natural manners of rendering things in perspective -- [Appendix] How with a new instrument it is possible to know the inclination of scarps of walls, according to the invention of Giacomo Castriotto -- Index.

Sommario/riassunto

A year after the second edition of his famous translation and commentary on Vitruvius, Daniele Barbaro published *The Practice of Perspective*, a text he had begun working on many years before. Barbaro was the first to publish a formal treatise entirely dedicated to the science of geometric perspective. In an informal style especially addressed to practicing artists and architects, Barbaro begins by drawing on and expanding the manuscript treatise of Piero della Francesca with regards to basics of perspective constructions for representing three-dimensional solids on two-dimensional media, and then goes on to show that perspective is a particularly suitable instrument for other scientific and artistic applications as well, including cartography, cosmology, stage set design, and anamorphosis. Here for the first time Barbaro's *The Practice of Perspective* is made available to contemporary scholars in an English translation, augmented by annotations relating the printed treatise to the three unpublished manuscripts in Italian and Latin of the work now conserved in Venice's Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana. A foreword by Philip Steadman sets the stage for this book. In-depth essays by authors Kim Williams and Cosimo Monteleone situate the treatise within the editorial panorama of the Cinquecento, outline the innovations that Barbaro brought to the study of perspective, and focus particularly on his creative explorations of geometric solids and the construction of clocks. Sometimes dismissed in recent studies as a compilation of known principles, the aim of this present book is to reveal the truly innovative nature of Barbaro's experiments and results and restore him to his rightful place as an original scholar of Renaissance perspective theory.