

## Remembering Roberto Vaccaro

Still student, I knew Roberto when he was a newly appointed lecturer at the Electronic Institute in the Polytechnic of Naples. He shared the room with Lello Luciano, to whom I had gone to get advice on some circuits I was developing. Roberto was a person who radiated sympathy, a friend for his colleagues and for us students, always ready to listen and to help others, even sacrificing himself. A couple of years later, in the early seventies, I met him again at the Polytechnic Computer Center, where I had been asked to build replacement modules for their Bendix/CDC G20 mainframe. At that time he was leading the computer maintenance staff, jokingly called by his colleagues 'BobbyVac', an euphonic nickname recalling the Univac computer line. In the next couple of years I had the opportunity to work side by side with him in the setting up of the new 'Hybrid Computer Study Center' (CSCI - Centro Studi Calcolatori Ibridi), a couple of rooms inside the Computer Center, for which I was asked to design and build the same [interface unit for the first hybrid computer](#), based upon an HP 2100A connected to a Hitachi 505 analog computer.

Roberto faced each new commitment with his own unlimited enthusiasm and dedication, which he transmitted to anyone working with him. I am sure that it was the same also with the hundreds of researchers, distinguished names today, who worked at the center he directed when it moved, under the new name IRSIP, to its new location and our contacts became less frequent.



Roberto, now you are back where it all started, to rest a little, joking as usual while sharing again your enthusiasm in electronics and its multiple applications with Lello Luciano!

Emilio Ciardiello

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