



**funda  
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**biennale  
architettura 2014  
7.06–23.11**

## antonioni's villa

will mclean

Dante Bini was born in Castelfranco Emilia, Italy, in 1932. Architecture, design, and technology were Bini's passion, and his innovative packaging designs for the family wine business led to the creation of Unipack, for which Bini won several International awards. However, it was the comprehensive design science of architecture that attracted the young Bini, and after successfully completing his studies in Florence he quickly established an architectural office. An epiphany following a game of tennis in a snow-covered indoor dome was where Bini's idea of building with air was formed. In 1965, Bini successfully constructed a hemispherical concrete shell structure 12 meters in diameter and 6 meters high in three hours on the outskirts of Bologna using his unique and subsequently patented pneumatic formwork. In 1967, at the invitation of Professor Mario Salvadori, in only two hours Bini successfully raised a reinforced concrete Binishell (with a diameter of 15 meters) at Columbia University, New York. This very public success at Columbia and the press interest it generated launched the Binishell company and the career of a unique architect, who is still driven by a need for innovation and economy in the construction industry. Dante Bini's work has encompassed numerous patented construction systems, including the Binishell, Binistar, Binishelter, Binix, and Minishell. ¶ Several of Dante Bini's projects have become exemplary of his unique structural and aesthetic art, and perhaps his house for film director Michelangelo Antonioni and actress Monica Vitti in Sardinia is where Bini's iconic construction system is deployed to its most artful effect. The home is a Binishell, its thin symmetrical carapace asymmetrically perforated; it is a home for artists, built as a work of art, and embedded with crushed rock taken from the set of Antonioni's *Il deserto rosso*. Local chamomile grows in the terrazzo floor. The home's oculus does not so much afford a view as enhance the sound of the sea, and the "tuned" cantilevered stone stairs form part of the home's visceral performance. Bini was commissioned to build the home with the proviso that the clients should remain anonymous throughout their residence. The agreement was honored and it is only now, several years after Antonioni's death, that this exceptional collaboration can fittingly be celebrated.



banditi a orgosolo



41°03'22"N  
08°56'52"E

Participant Will McLean  
Other credits Dante Bini, Mark Boyce,  
Lucio Fontana and Alison Bron  
Supporters The Archive of Dante Bini,  
Nic Bini (Binishells), The University of  
Westminster, Bibliotheque McLean,  
Simon Veglio, Nick Crosbie (Inflate)

**View of Villa Antonioni growing out  
of the Sardinian landscape, 1970**  
The Antonioni House was designed  
by Dante Bini & Associates of  
Bologna, the contractor was Impresa  
Aldo Pola of Trinita' d'Agultu and was  
built on land owned by Pierino  
Tizzoni. The Dome was built by  
Binishells of Milano.



Photo Courtesy of Dante Bini.

Padre Padrone 1977, Paolo e Vittorio Taviani



padre padrone