

Leone Battista Alberti Encyclopedia Article

Leone Battista Alberti

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Leone Battista Alberti

1404-1472

Italian architect and mathematician whose *Della Pittura* (1435), which contains the first general account of the laws of perspective, initiated the classical Renaissance style in art. Known as the Florentine Vitruvius, his *De re aedificatoria* (promulgated 1452, published 1485) became the bible of Renaissance architecture, incorporating as it did advances in engineering and aesthetic theory. Alberti also produced a treatise on geography that set forth the rules for surveying and mapping and wrote the first book on cryptography.