*M&D 98, Nexus '98,
Palladio Workshop '98*

Vera W. de Spinadel

M&D-98. Second International Conference on Mathematics and Design.
1-4 June 1998, San Sebastián, Spain.

Following the success of the previous multi-disciplinary conference held at the Faculty of Architecture, Design and Urbanism of the University of Buenos Aires, Argentina, 23-27 October 1995, this second one was scheduled in San Sebastian. Conference directors were Vera W. de Spinadel, Director of the Centre of Mathematics & Design, University of Buenos Aires and Maria E. Uranga as director of the Applied Mathematics Department, University of the Basque Country. The organising committee was headed by Javier Barrallo Calonge. The International Scientific Committee that selected the accepted papers included 12 scientists of the highest level. The *Proceedings* of this conference were edited by Javier Barrallo Calonge. The publication contains the 76 papers, which were presented as oral or video presentations, software or poster. The broad scope of ideas ranged from some almost purely mathematical properties to applications in architecture, computerised design, visualisation and system design, computational geometry, musical design and medicine, jewels design, painting and sculpture. The high level of the plenary invited conferences and the short communications as well as the unusual excellent organisation, made this conference one of the best I have ever attended in my long academic career! Finally, I cannot resist the temptation of recounting the visit, on the free day, to the splendid Guggenheim Museum of Bilbao. The museum, designed by the architect Frank Gehry, is, without any doubt, one of the architectonic and cultural milestones of the end of this century. At the closing session, it was announced that the third international conference on Mathematics and Design M&D-2001, will be held at Melbourne, Australia.

Nexus '98: Relationships between Architecture and Mathematics,
6-9 June 1998, Mantua, Italy.

This was the second conference directed and organised by Kim Williams, following the first one at Fucecchio, Italy, 1996. The 13 essays presented during the second conference were of the highest level, with participants representing five continents. One of the essays was presented by myself and the subject was the introduction of a new family of positive irrational numbers, the Metallic Means family and its possible applications to architectonic design. The publication, *Nexus II: Architecture and Mathematics*, was edited by Kim Williams in a beautiful volume, under the auspices of the Accademia Nazionale Virgiliana and the Centro Studi Leon Battista Alberti of Mantua. The third Nexus conference will be held in 2000.

1998 Workshop on the Mathematics of Palladio's Villas.

A small group of seven persons participated in a workshop on the architecture of Andrea Palladio from 9-12 June 1998. The workshop was directed by Stephen R. Wassell and organized by Susan F. Knight. We stayed in Vicenza. Among the villas visited were the Villa Pisani Ferri, the Villa Rotonda, the Villa Valmarana Bressan, the Villa Godi Valmarana Malinverni, the Villa Barbaro, the Villa Emo, the Villa Cornaro and the Villa Foscari, "La Malcontenta". The information we gathered at this workshop was so important that we are only beginning now to assimilate it and arrive to conclusions. It is hoped that the workshop will be repeated in the future.