The technological achievements of the Greeks and Romans continue to fascinate and excite admiration. But what was the place of technology in their cultures? Through five case-studies, this book sets ancient technical knowledge in its political, social and intellectual context. It explores the definition of the *techne* of medicine in classical Athens, the development of new military technology in Hellenistic times, the self-image of technicians through funerary art in the early Roman Empire, the resolution of boundary disputes in the early second century AD, and the status of architecture and architects in late antiquity. It deploys a wide range of sources, from technical treatises to philosophical texts, the works of historians and playwrights, as well as epigraphical and archaeological evidence, to reconstruct a dialectic picture of ancient technology, where several ancient points of view are described and analysed, and their interaction examined. Dr Cuomo argues for the centrality of technology to the ancient world-picture, and for its extraordinarily rich political, social, economic and religious significance.

S. Cuomo is Reader in the History of Science and Technology at Imperial College London.
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Contents

List of figures page viii
Acknowledgements ix
Epigraph xi

Introduction 1
1 The definition of techne in classical Athens 7
2 The Hellenistic military revolution 41
3 Death and the craftsman 77
4 Boundary disputes in the Roman Empire 103
5 Architects of late antiquity 131
Conclusion 165

Bibliography 169
Bibliographical essay 203
Index 211
Figures

3.1 The Pettii stele page 87
3.2 The Verona relief 89
3.3 The ‘house-shaped’ sarcophagus 90
3.4 The Diogenes plaque 97
3.5 The skull-shaped bronze weight 100
5.1 Mosaic of a building site 136
5.2 Funerary mosaic from Tabarka (ancient Thabraca) 153
5.3 Mosaic of ktisis 158
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The book was completed a couple of weeks before my son Kes was born, and is dedicated to him. I hope that one day he will know enough Neapolitan to understand what the verses at the beginning are all about.
'A morte ‘o ssaje ched’ è? È una livella.
‘Nu rre, 'nu magistrato, 'nu grand’ommo,
trasenno stu canciello ha fatt’ o punto
ch’ha perzo tutto, ‘a vita e pure ‘o nome:
tu nu t’hè fatto ancora chistu cunto?
Perciò, stamme a ssent’ı
nun fa’ o restivo,
suppporteme vicino – che te ‘mporta?
Sti ppagliacciate ‘e ffanno sulo ‘e vive;
nuje simmo serie . . . appartenimmo à morte!

(A livella, Antonio De Curtis)