
something else besides pasta. A special acknowledgement goes to my German house-office mate and buddy **Florian** and my German born-Dutch during the world cup-party animal **Steffen**. You both are fantastic people with whom I have lived in harmony for two unforgettable years. Unfortunately our lives at some point took different paths, but I am sure that we will continue sending each other postcards and meeting with real pleasure every time.

A big thank you goes to all my Italian friends in The Netherlands, responsible (in part) for not having learned Dutch (yet). In particular, this time in Eindhoven would not have been the same without **Ciccio**, **Pirro**, **Betty**, **Vale**, **Saporito** e **Christian**. I cannot really count all the parties, festivals, laughs, texts, nonsense that we had together. Sometime I ask myself what if I had not met Christian during the Dutch course who introduced me to the mayor, who introduced me to the Italian gang and opened the doors of his house when I could move in... but to be honest I prefer don't think about it. The Italian family includes the best photographer-physicist **Nico** whose company several times made me falling asleep with my clothes on and with the light on, the best DAE designer **Pace** able to transform any space in the house in a better place for the entire humanity, the best-in-everything **Dani** who gave me the template of this thesis (that does not take into account landscape tables), countless suggestions, and that several times I used as a human google, **Agnese** and her sweetness, hugs and smiles, **Ginny** and her **Albe**, **Minicass** and his 19 years old vitality, **Luca** and his efforts in social causes, **Cristian** for welcoming in his house during the last period.

People that should change their passport after having spent so much time in Nieuwstraat and that I would like to thank are **Laura** for having shared with me many important moments, **Ester** for just being as she is in a world totally different, **Dj Juan** for instilling in me his passion for music and vinyl records, **Joyce** rare example of Dutch living in Eindhoven. I don't forget all my university friends **Paolone**, **Jucas**, **Covi**, **Paoletta**, **Ale**, **Bif**, the bombers **Marco** & **Miki**, the radiant **Giorgia**, i cug. (non sta per cugini) **Broccolo** & **Mirko**. Each of you my dear (new and old) friends taught me something different and your friendship is one of the most valuable rewards I could ever wish.

Nothing could be ever possible without my family. I have an amazing family, unique in many ways, and the stereotype of the southern Italian family in many others. Their support has been unconditional all these years and I need to thank them in Italian now... **Mamma**, **Papà**, **Cristina** non sarei qui senza di voi, senza il vostro supporto, senza i vostri incitamenti, senza le chiamate su skype con internet che "non va", senza i messaggi per sapere se va tutto bene, consigli e preoccupazioni. Sappiate che la distanza è stata solo un mezzo per raggiungere tutto questo, non una scelta, tantomeno un piacere. Vivere a migliaia di chilometri di distanza è difficile, ma spero siate orgogliosi dei nostri traguardi come famiglia e felici nell'affrontare il futuro. Vi ringrazio davvero di cuore e vi dedico questo lavoro che potete e dovete sentire vostro. Grazie a tutta la mia famiglia in generale, agli **Spina** ed ai **Marino** che hanno sempre creduto in me, raggiungendomi dove possibile e cercando di essere sempre presenti nelle fasi più importanti della mia vita.

Lastly, I would like to thank my loved **Sandra** where the most basic source of my life energy resides. We were born at almost 10000 kilometers of distance. We would not have been able to meet even in a dream because when you were sleeping I was awake, still somehow we crossed each other's lives. If it happened, it is because we are meant to be happy together, and I want this from the bottom of my heart. Thank you for being with me.

With love,
Gabbo