Designing an exhibition about the history of personal computing

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the Museum of Computing Tools
- focus on digital computing
- unique in Italy, relevant in Europe
- mechanical calculators since XIX century
- early Italian computers from the Sixties
- iconic supercomputers of the Eighties
- milestones of commercial computing

lack of display spaces
- in 2010 spaces were reduced to about one third
- many machines confined in the museum stores
- in 2011 started an ambitious project:
  - a complete reorganization of the Museum spaces

current challenge: the exhibition about personal computing

goals & constraints (besides the space)
- cover the whole personal computing history
- tell it from an original perspective
- debunk prevalent equation PC = Jobs+Gates
- reveal centuries of advances in science & technology
- appraise the collection of mechanical calculators
- show renowned masterpieces as well as less known ones
- give credit (when due) to Italian excellences

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