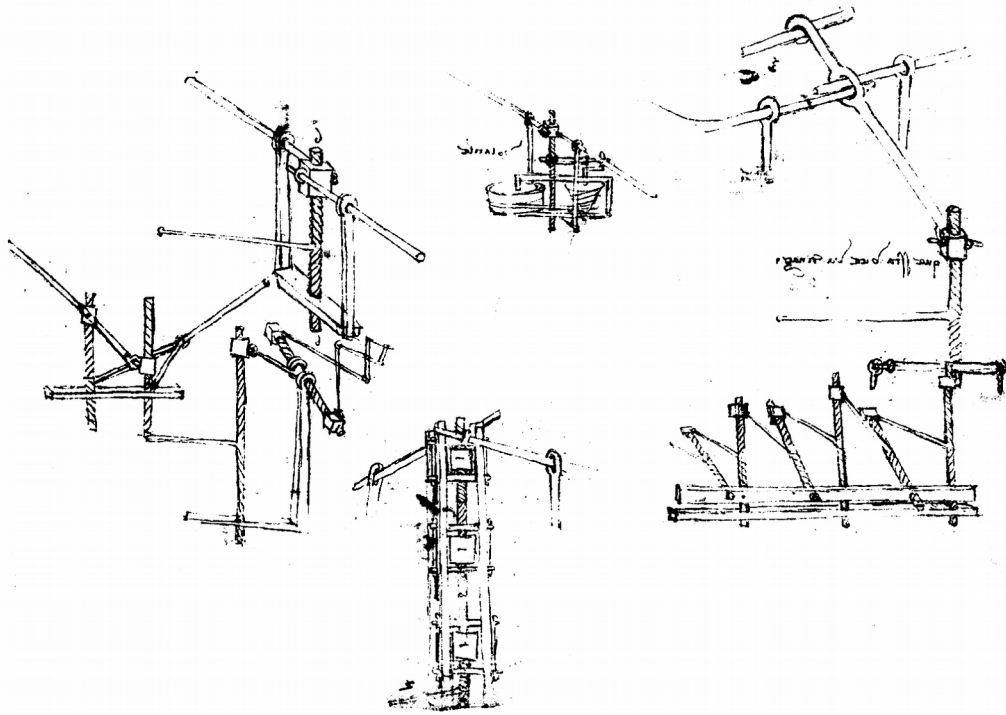


IN LEONARDO

In an undefined day between 1487 and 1490 Leonardo took a “large and thin ruler” with which he was drawing some kind of machine, and twirled it wildly in the air. He noticed that his arm tended to rise itself pushed by the force of that blade moving in midair. Here it comes, for the first time, the helicopter principle.

Twirling that ruler, Leonardo moreover understood that the inclination was causing the ascent in the air and since the shoulder was the beginning of that twirling, the result was the start of a spiral motion. To Leonardo is enough a sketch, without going into constructive details, but using structural elements of the naval technology.



*“Define the wind flight and then describe how birds move in it with the simple balance of their wings and tail”*

The limit and the charm of the investigations on the flight adequate to men is in the analogy that Leonardo continuously try to set between man and natural beings: insects, birds, chiropterans. But the attempt of supporting and moving the human body

in the air fails because, not knowing the combustion engine, Leonardo was not able to create adequate propulsion organs to sustenance.