This paper discusses the numerous engineering projects undertaken in a thirty-year period in the city of Rome in the early counter-reformation decades. They include reconstructing two of the ancient aqueducts, reconstructing and building new palaces and churches, widening and paving streets, constructing new fountains, flood control, bridge repair, and transporting and raising obelisks in new locations. The paper argues that projects of civil and hydraulic engineering were negotiated within a complex political situation that led to numerous writings on engineering which in turn facilitated a greater integration of technical practice with learning. Sponsored by the Mediterranean Studies RFG of the IHC, Medieval Studies, and the History of Science Program.