

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement
Honors theses

Architecture, towns, territory in Savoy (1814-1861)

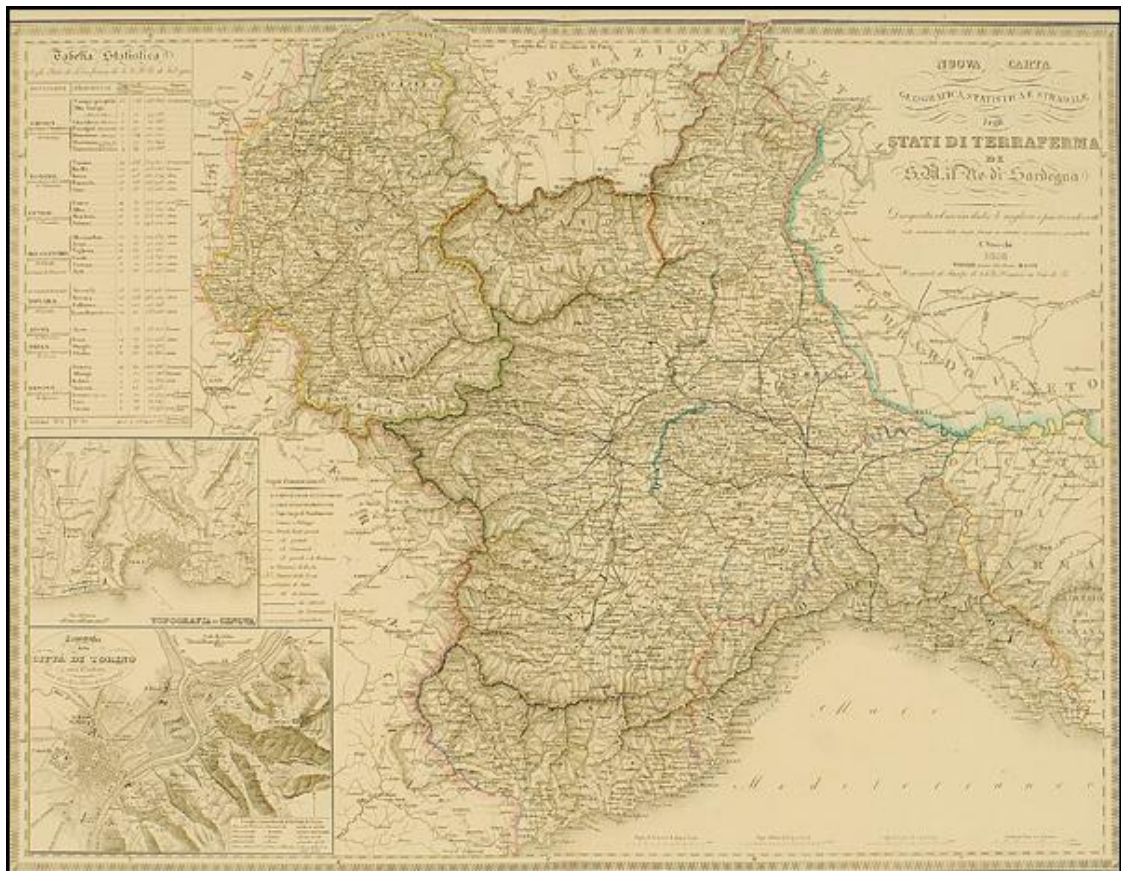
Interventions for the capital city Chambéry

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The thesis that we wrote deals with the theme of the Savoy region (south-east of France), focusing on the city of Chambéry, during the Piedmontese period of sovereignty after Napoleon's defeat (1814-1860). Professor Mauro Volpiano from Interuniversity Department of Urban and Regional Studies and Planning has accepted to be our supervisor.

In 1815, after the Congress of Vienna, the king Vittorio Emanuele I can control the area again. After him, his successors (Carlo Felice, Carlo Alberto and Vittorio Emanuele II) carry on his policy about renovation of the Kingdom of Sardinia, and of course, Savoy is included. Our interests are in trying to understand what happened in that region about transports, infrastructure and, in particular, in Chambéry: city changes concerning new roads, demolitions and new buildings.

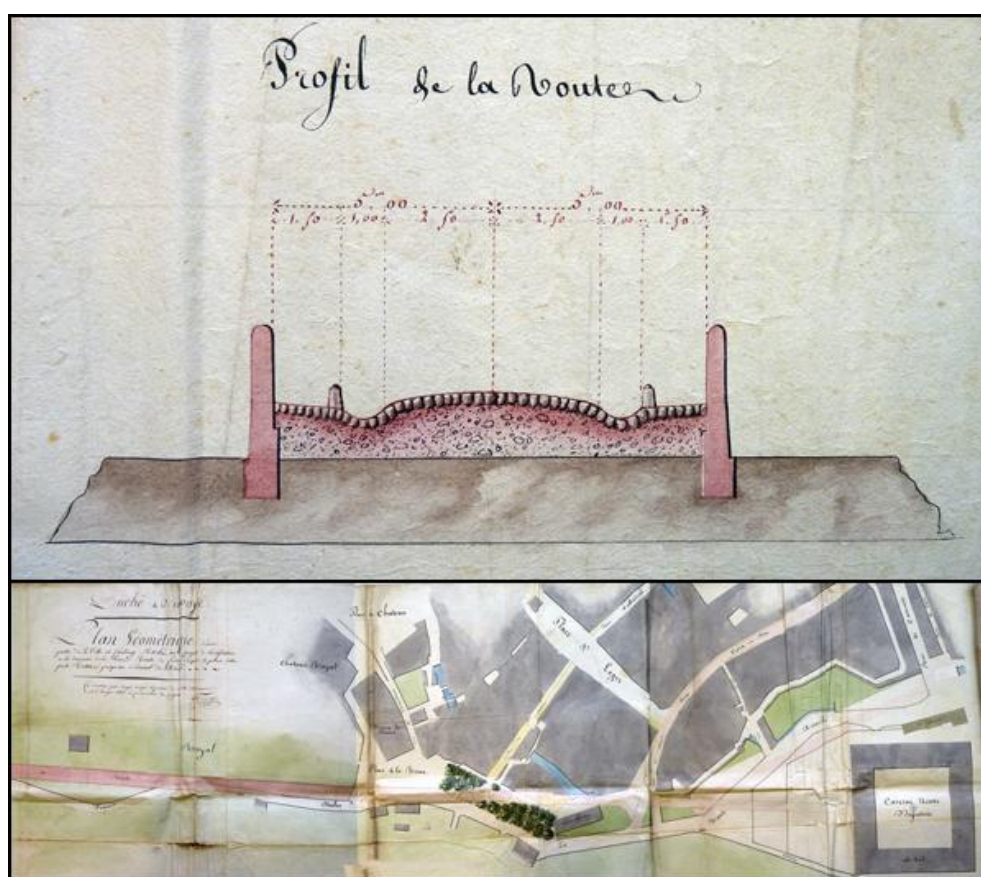


STUCCHI, *Nuova carta geografica, statistica e stradale degli stati di terraferma di S. M. il Re di Sardegna*, 1856 (Historical Library of Eng. Carlo Bernardo Mosca, A 278 GF)

We've started our research from Politecnico's libraries in order to improve our knowledge about that period, then we've focused on the Savoy region. Our next step was consulting Turin's archives looking for what remained here in Italy after the "Rattachement" (1860), when many documents about Savoy were carried to France. Brofferio and Casalis' books have been useful sources because they were contemporary to the period we were looking for and even most recent authors as Nada, Guderzo and Guichonnet have been helpful as well.

In these two first researches we've found several information about the Savoy's whole kingdom policy, but in order to have a closer look to the main topic, we needed to go to France. In Chambéry we spend advantageous time in the city library, then we examined the departmental archives of Savoy and we found really interesting documents indeed. Two funds were particularly useful: *Collection des cartes et plans* and the *Fonds Sarde*.

The first interesting topic during the Savoy's reign was the improvements of the roads made to have better connections between the cities and the two parts of the realm, divided by the Alps: the goal was to have better links to communications and commerce. The first train connection in Savoy was made just in 1856 linking Aix-les-Bains to Chambéry and Piedmont, that became part of the Italian kingdom in 1861, was connected to Savoy, after the *Rattachement* to France, only in 1871 with the Frejus tunnel.

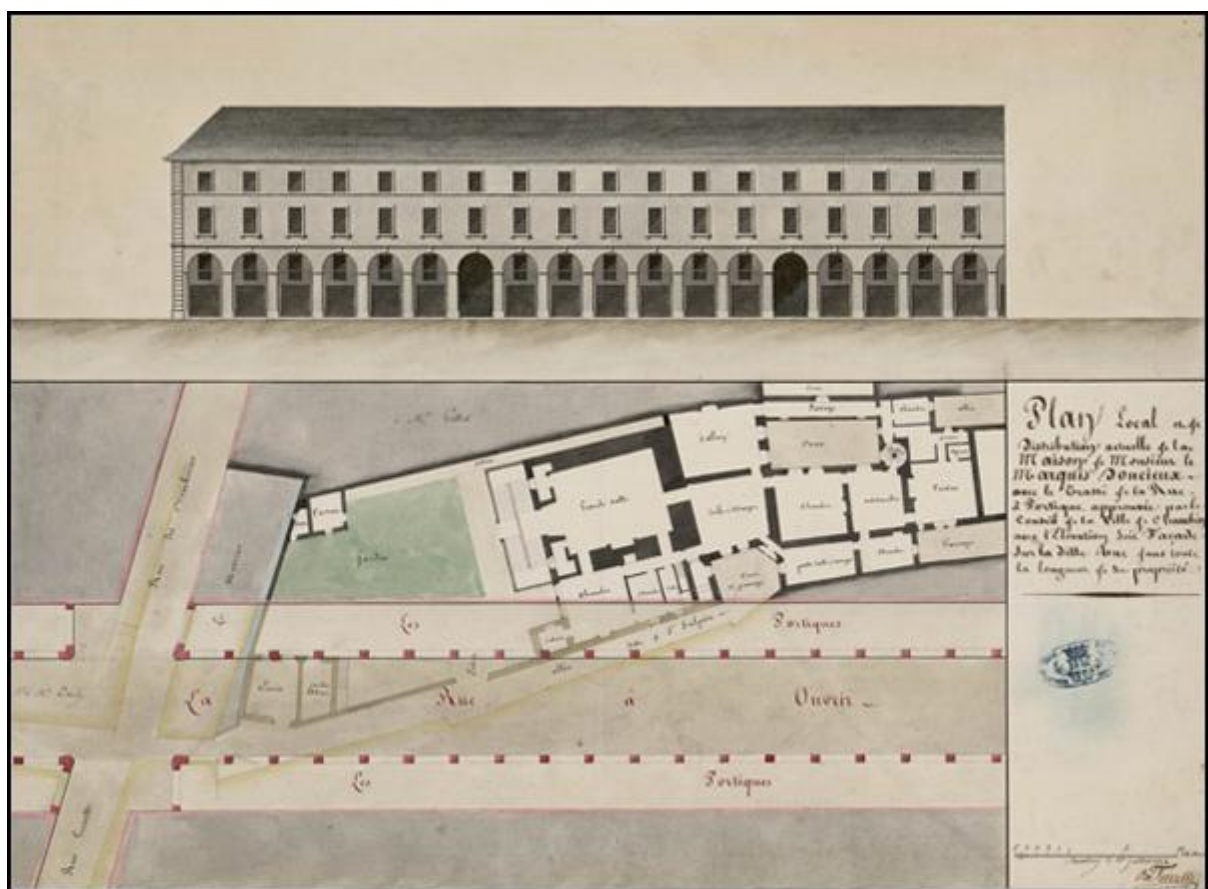


JACQUES BERNARD TRIVELLI, *Plan Géométrique d'une partie de la Ville et faubourg Maché, avec le projet de Rectification de la traversée de la Grande Route de France depuis la place dite porte Reine jusqu'au sommet de Maché*, extract, before 1836 (Departmental archives of Savoy, *fond sarde* (1814-1860), 1Fs 3658)

The cities during that period were forced to be renovated and change in order to be ready to the new needs of the innovated kingdom. The example of Chambéry, *chef-lieu* of the Savoy, is a very interesting case for these particular reasons.

We've decided to divide the city in few areas to study them easily. Then we've seen that the main changes in every part of the town were demolitions made in order to create healthy, straight and decorous roads and the needs of new public buildings as slaughterhouse, trains station, prisons, military and government palaces.

Chambéry's story gave us an important chance to solve at least few of the several questions about its architectural and infrastructural history: during 1864 the theater, the city archive in that period, was completely destroyed by a big fire and all the documents inside it burned. That's why it was so difficult to find precise document about some buildings, some particular area or district. On the other hand, we had the chance to explore a thematic that few other researchers were interested to probe.



JACQUES BERNARD TRIVELLI, *Plan local et de distribution actuelle de la maison de monsieur le marquis Doncieux avec le trassé de la rue à portique approuvée par le conseil de la ville de Chambéry avec l'élévation (illeggibile) façade sur la dite rue dans toute la longueur de sa propriété, 1822* (Municipal Library of Chambéry, Plan Chy M A 000.035)

So the main problem has been to find the connections between the numerous different documents that were usually disconnected because of difficulties of dating and localization, therefore XIX century city maps and bibliographical sources have become even more indispensable.

All of these studies should be an important step in order to find out, rediscover and renovate the common history of Savoy and Piedmont, giving us the opportunity to deepen and valorise the old connection between the two capitals of the Duchy of Savoy.

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