

Palazzo Morra, Lauriano, and its historical setting: its architectonic features and indications for its conservation

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This work illustrates the results of an investigation of the extent to which the measures devised for the conservation of a building of architectural interest should take into account both its history and the nature of the area in which it stands. The correct installation of activities in an edifice built to serve purposes quite different from modern needs, in fact, requires both exact identification of its relationship with its surroundings and assessment of the real possibilities of its transformation in keeping with the current regulations governing safety and accessibility.



Palazzo Morra and *Ecclesia Sancte Marie de castro Lauriani* (Church of St Mary, *Castrum Lauriani*)

This objective has been attained through an examination of the geography of the riverside area of the Monferrato in which Lauriano is located, and the part played by the Lauriano fief in the history of the Chivasso country. The sources, both lay (*Monumenta Germaniae Historica*, feudal investitures) and religious (pastoral visitations), are few and far between.

base and a double-curve echinus *à la Antonelli* and pilasters on the façade topped by Renaissance Revival Corinthian capitals.



Details of the construction of Palazzo Morra

An assessment of the present delapidation of the Palazzo and its causes is followed by a proposal for its conservation. The first step envisaged is identification of the parts most "resistant" to transformation. This would serve to show the essential features of the edifice and its structural layout that must then be taken as the starting point for restoration projects aimed at its conversion for purposes other than the practical reasons that led to its current arrangement.

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