

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
 Master of Science in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement  
***Honors theses***

***The Unesco site of Sassi of Matera and the cataloging of its cultural heritage***

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The historic center of Matera is in a particular position: it is spread all over a slope overlooking a canyon and it is developed during the centuries starting from the higher part of the settlement, the Civita, that is on the top of the hill, occupying in a second time, every free part of the slopes where the two parts today called *Sasso Barisano* and *Sasso Caveoso* developed. The city has a very old story that starts in the Neolithic Age. The more recent part of the historic center is the Piano one, build in the Seven and Eight Hundred by the richest part of the population that, to differentiate from the poor population of farmers and shepherds, it creates a definite break between Sassi and Piano, thanks to a curtain of houses that didn't allow to understand what could be above.

In the first half of the Twentieth century the dramatic situation that was little by little getting worse in the Sassi area was denounced: Matera became the symbol of the South of Italy that was struggling to emerge after the World War, and that was the reason for its definition "national shame".

The national government intervened for this situation, with the enactment of laws that provided the dispossession of the Sassi and their emptying.

From the Eighties they started to think about how to intervene in this big historic center that was completely abandoned. It was the starting point of the Matera's renaissance that culminated in the 1993 with the proclamation of the UNESCO.

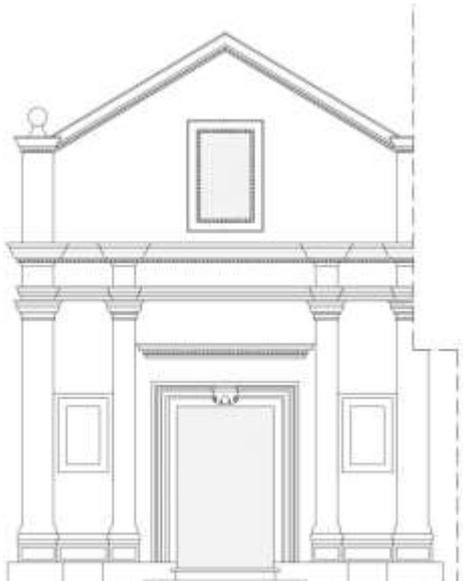
Thank to this thesis I tried to create some bases to facilitate the valorization of that place. In agreement with the town council that provided the equipment and the indications of its needs, first thing it has been the realization of a form to catalogue the Cultural

**FIG 1. Part of the cataloging form with its fields and subfields**

1		CSATCH06	SAN DOMENICO_chiesa
<b>1. IDENTIFICAZIONE DEL BENE</b>			
<b>1.1 Ubicazione</b>		1.1.5 Zona	CENTRO STORI
1.1.1 Regione	17	1.1.6 Indirizzo	PIAZZA VITTO
1.1.2 Provinci	MT	<b>1.2 Categoria</b>	Bene Architettoni
1.1.3 Comune	MATERA	<b>1.3 Tipo</b>	CHIESA
1.1.4 Contesto	centro urbano	<b>1.4 Proprietà</b>	ENTE ECCLESIASTI
		<b>1.5 Utilizzatore</b>	ARCIDIOCESI DI M
		<b>1.6 Destinazione</b>	
		1.6.1 Originale /Storica	LUOGO DI CULTO
		1.6.2 Attuale	LUOGO DI CULTO
<b>2. CARATTERISTICHE DEL SITO</b>			
<b>2.1 Posizionamento in</b>		Planura	
<b>2.2 Infrastrutture</b>		2.2.3 Accesso con h inferiore a 4 metri	<input type="checkbox"/>
2.2.1 Accesso pedonale	<input type="checkbox"/>	2.2.4 Accesso con mezzi pesanti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.2.2 Accesso carrabile	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	2.2.5 Parcheggio nelle vicinanze	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		2.2.6 Spazi aperti a disposizione	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		<b>2.3 Posizione all'interno del</b>	Buffer zone
<b>3. INDIVIDUAZIONE SU MAPPA</b>			
<b>3.1 Coordinate</b>		<b>3.2 Ortofoto</b>	C:\Documents and
3.1.1 Latitudine	40°40'1.915" N	<b>3.3 Mappa catastale</b>	C:\Documents and
3.1.2 Longitudine	16°36'23.948" E	<b>3.4 Dati catastali</b>	
3.1.3 Altitudine	387 m	3.4.1 Tipol. Catast	Catasto fabb
		3.4.2 Foglio	159/2
		3.4.3 Particella	2/2
<b>4. INFORMAZIONI GENERALI SUL BENE</b>			
<b>4.1 Datazione originale</b>		XIII sec. d.C.	
<b>4.2 Fasi di stratificazione</b>		INIZI XVII sec. RICOSTRUZIONE DELLA VOLTA A CAPRIATE IN	
<b>4.3 Denominazione</b>		SAN DOMENICO	
		<b>4.4 Accessibile</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		4.4.1 Inaccessibile per causa	intrinseche (crolli, inagi)
		<b>4.5 Analisi dell'aggregato edilizio</b>	Bene architettonico aggregato
		4.5.1 Quanti e quali sono i corpi di fabbrica aggregati	Bene architettonico aggregato
<b>5. VINCOLI E STRUMENTI</b>			
<b>5.1 PRG</b>		<b>5.2 Vincoli</b>	1098/39 ART.4 - 1497/39 D.M.
		<b>5.3 Strumenti urbanistici</b>	V.G.P.R./73 ZONA 1B

Heritage: starting from a preexisting but not exhaustive form, I compared different types of cataloging (*ICCD*, central institute for the cataloguing; *Sivars*, system for the valuation of the seismic risk; *of the Damage*, Cultural Heritage' damage monitoring system) creating a form consisting of 14 different fields (monument identification, features of the site identification on the map, general information about the monument, restrictions and instruments, dimensional data an survey, physical substance, status quo, degrade, intervention, additional information, photographic documentation, bibliography, compilers) with the respective sections (FIG. 1). For each form are linked appropriate attachments (architectonic drawings, photographs and maps) (FIG. 2).

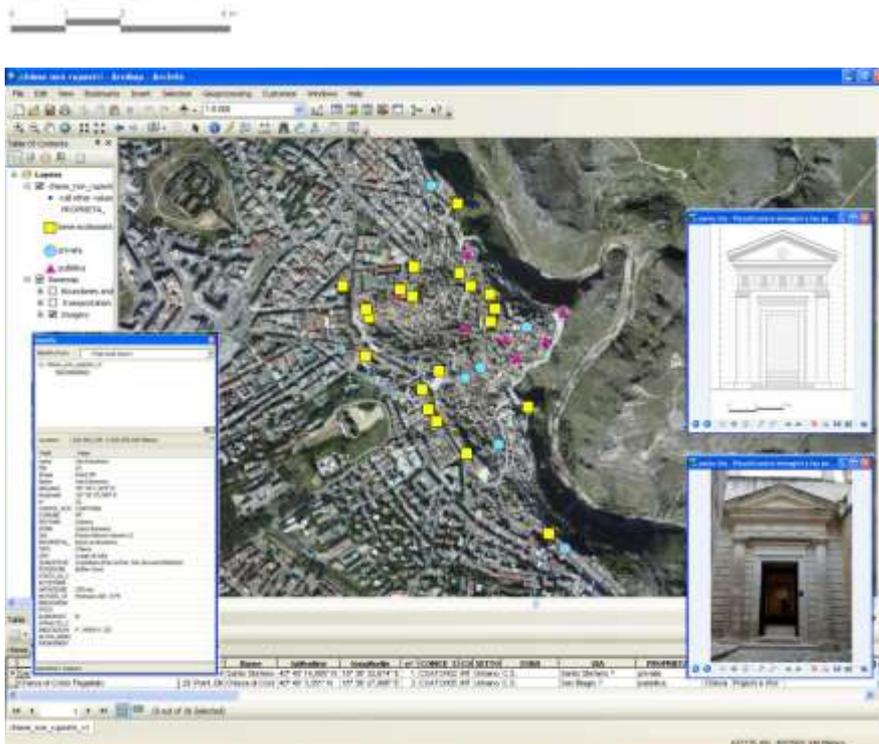
**FIG 2. Example of architectural drawing of one of the built churches (church of Saint Eligius, Matera)**



Working in Matera it means to face with a site that became world heritage more than twenty years ago, but unfortunately we know too little about it if we want to intervene with a functional valorization. Today the Sassi are uninhabited for the 50 % and the town council doesn't own any documents about the different owners and, actually, many Sassi's rooms are occupied illegally.

They would like to reach the extension of the study the final valorization of the whole cultural heritage, Sassi included. The developed job is only a point of departure, besides the study of a suitable method of cataloguing, that has set the study of the fundamental characters of the particular patrimony in examination, through the close examination of texts such as Giuffrè and Carocci's *Codice di pratica per la sicurezza e la conservazione dei Sassi di Matera, Matera*, Restucci's *Manuale del recupero* and Laureano's *I Giardini di pietra. I Sassi di Matera e la civiltà mediterranea*.

**FIG 3. The GIS data table and the photographs and reliefs attachments**



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