

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

Knowledge and exploitation of the Piazza Maggiore a Mondovì: Palazzo del Governatore. Historical reading about the hand-made building and its installation system closing with a project like a proposal

by Ada Bresciano and Elena Casu

Supervisors: Chiara Aghemo, Patrizia Chierici, Maria Grazia Vinardi

Theme of the thesis is the building situated at the Piazza Maggiore at Mondovì (CN), known as Palazzo del Governatore.

The reasons for the choice of this building have to be found in its important function in the past. This complex had always representational functions (seat of the government, in small parts of the Prisons and of the offices of the Prefecture). Its inner situation on the square represents it as an element of prestige, holding the role of first point of attraction, like a wing scenographical performed, in course of the centuries, by additions of the façade, small hanging arches, frames, heraldic figures referring to several Governors, a sun-dial.



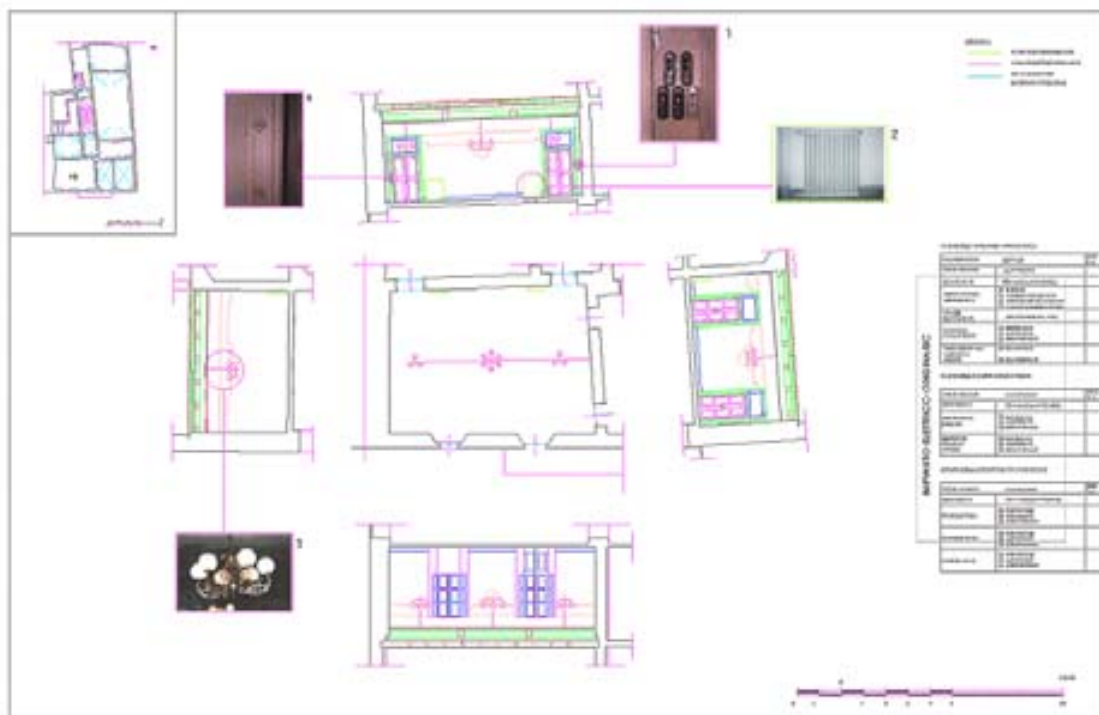
Some constructive details, that, because of their material and formation, characterize strongly the whole building, were studied by comparing them with historical handbooks.

After a first reception of the object, the work was passing to studies of documents from the 16. until the 19. century, that were giving useful informations about the

structure and the destiny of the building at the Communal Archives of History and at the Record Office of History at Torino.

After this phase of information the thesis was going into the direction of recognition of the main installation systems that were characterizing strongly the building, and especially the first floor, until the year 1827.

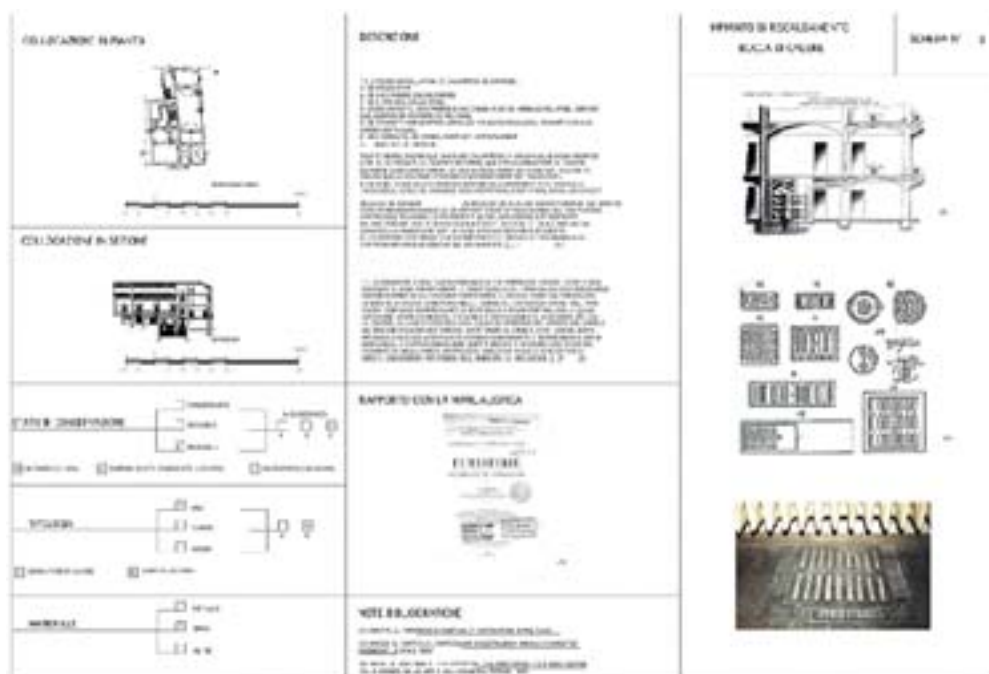
Seeing the particularity and the important history of some elements of the installation system, the thesis was intending to examine systematically single components in various rooms of the first floor, working out a method of inquiry consisting of a first level, in which the physical characteristics of the spaces in which the installations were inserted was considered (stratigraphy, voids and hollows, damage and finishing) and a second level in which the relations of the components to the space was analyzed (consistence, physical compatibility, ambiental compatibility and effecence).



Seeing the historical value of particular elements and to get a better knowledge, it was proceeding with a comparison of the installation with the historical handbooks finishing in form of a project with a correct recovery of the system and its components.

The phase of information was also completed by a diagnostical examination using the thermography and endoscopy, aimed on a profound examination not only of the historical stratification but also on the distribution of the installations.

These studies were leading to the exploitation, through a projectal proposal in big scale, particularly relativ to the safety and the illumination of the ground floor and the first floor, with greater attention to the theatre hall.



The choice of destinations of use was determined by the needs of the town and under the aspect of former functions of the building: the three halls looking to the Piazza Maggiore are thought to be used for temporal exhibitions, with the essential furniture and illumination.

The theatre-hall was open in the past to public festivities and official balls and now it's used, because of its strong particularity, like a concert hall for chamber music, little theatre performances and like an aulic hall of entertainment. Seeing the particular destination of use, solutions for direct and diffuse illumination were studied, while proceeding to verify the acoustic of the hall comparing its resonance time with the optimal values for music and the spoken. The results were confirming the good resonance of the hall.

The public destination makes it necessary to adapt the object to the actual norms of security.

To avoid architectonical barriers a side entrance with direct access to the elevator and the hall, reserved places at the stalls and big enough toilets for the manoeuvres of a wheelchair are projected.

In conclusion, the ground floor is used for the reception of the audience: it is proposed to open the four arches of the arcade, with direct access of the front, while the side entrance, brought back to function 1921, is going to be used only by the residents of the second floor and the attic floor.

More informations:

Ada Bresciano, s.bresciano@tiscalinet.it

Elena Casu, casuele@hotmail.com