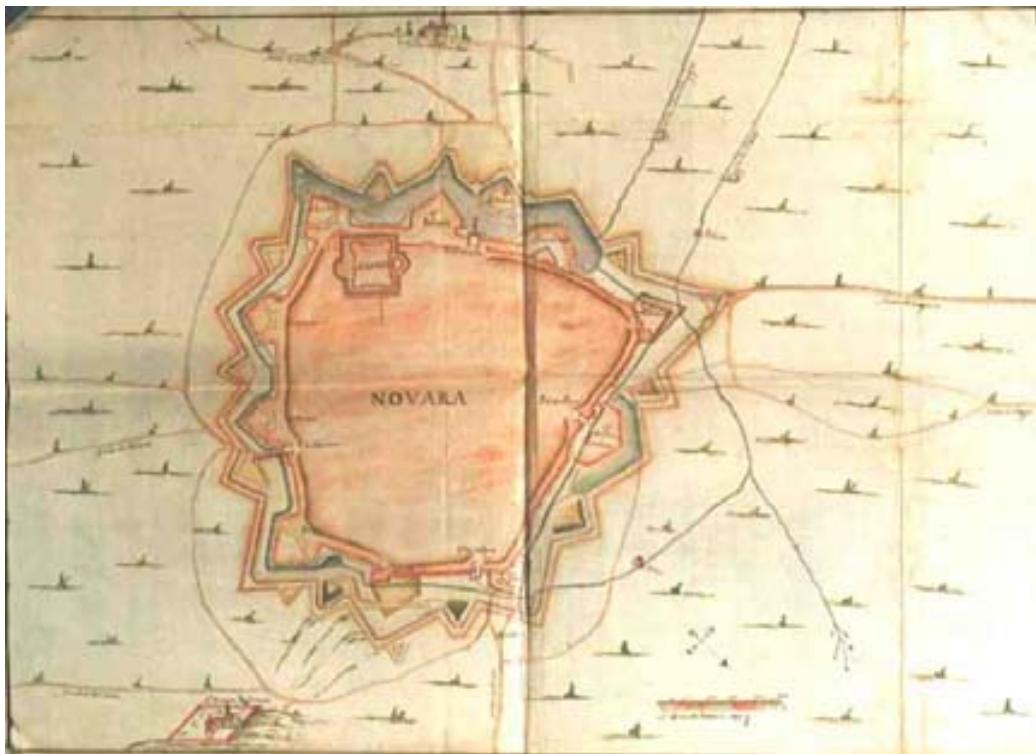


POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

Novara and his territory in modern and contemporary age

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The aim of this thesis is to give a picture of the handwritten and iconographic documentation about the history of the town of Novara, by which it is possible to outline an urbanistic development from the period of the Spanish rule (death of Francesco II Sforza, 1 november 1530) up to the end of the Napoleonic experience (1814).

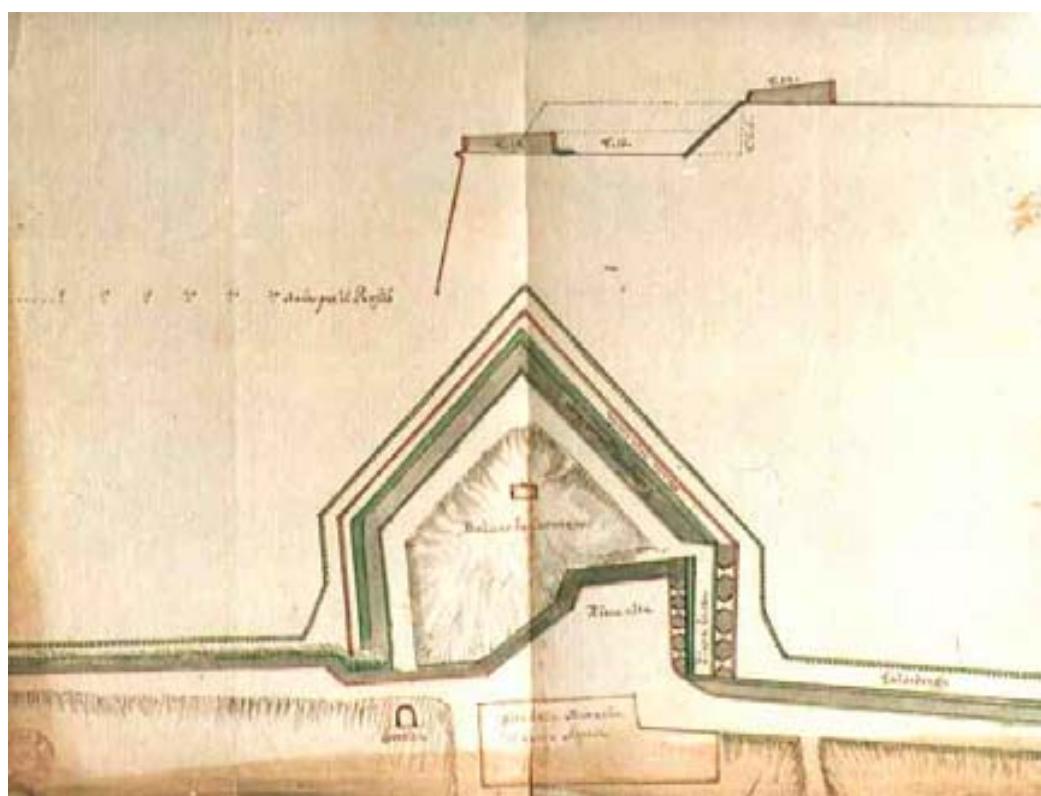


Although a lot of works have been developed until now about the history of this town, the studies about its fortifications, which moreover have characterized and influenced the urban morphology for about fifty years, have left a series of unsolved questions, or have been in some cases carried out with the new elaboration of themes and sources already consolidated.

The ferret out documents about the defensive structure of the town turned out to be very wide, to the detriment of its urbanistic consistence which is not significant till the drawing up of the cadastre known with the name of "Teresiano" (1722-1723).

Within the limits of the reserches developed for this thesis, documents collected in many archives both in Lombardia and in Piemonte have been consulted: in the

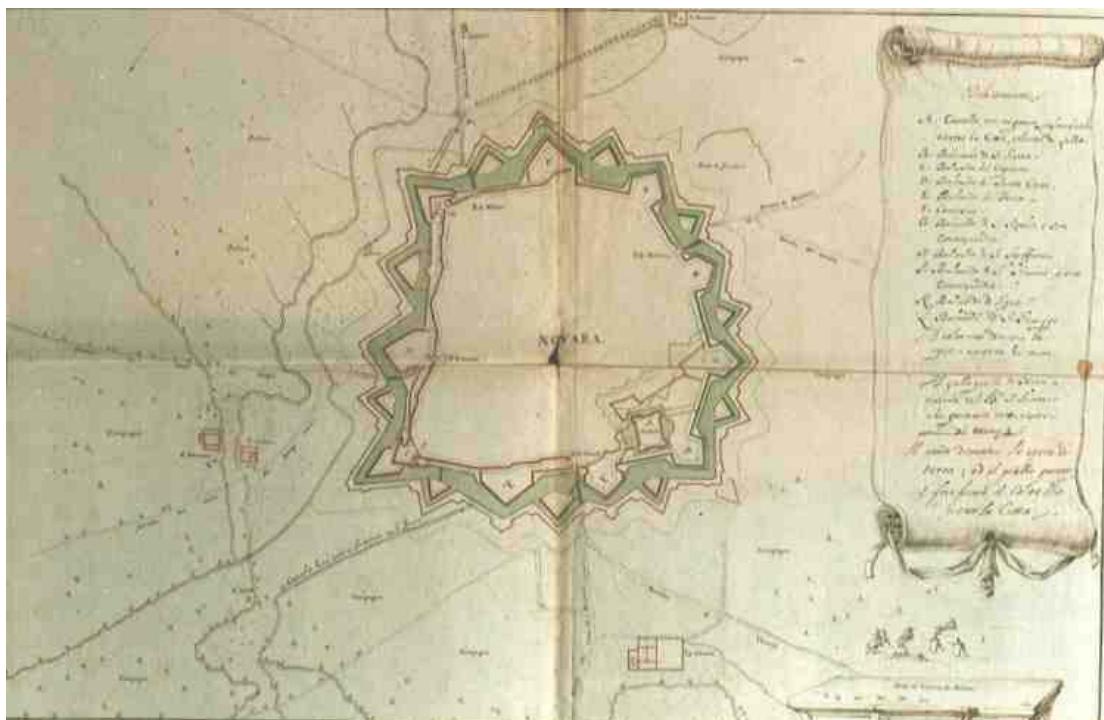
Archivio di Stato, the Trivulziana Library and the Ambrosiana Library in Milan, the investigations about the period of the Spanish occupation have been concentrated. In this circle it has been possible to get a series of informations first of all concerned with the main phases of the construction of the town fortifications and to reveal the unique nearly totally unknown character of the documents and the cartography. In the State Archive in Parma some town maps of 1600 have been discovered which are really meaning as regards the architecural outline of its urban structure. Moreover the State Archives in Novara and in Torino have offered the documentation relative to the town during the XVII century and in the Napoleonic period, first of all in relation to the revision and the drawing up of the cadastres. Some important events clearly come out about the history of the urbanistic of the town: the first concerns the decision to fortify Novara, taking in 1544, when the Engineer Gianmaria Olgiati is engaged to start building Novara.



The town, placed on the west side of the State of Milan, indeed should be used as border fortress, real "barbican" of the State. From now on during all the XVII century, people develop some studies, projects and real realizations to transform Novara in fortress until the ending of the fortifications in the eighties of the XVII century. At the beginning of the new century (XVIII) we assist to a period of transformation: Novara passes to the Austrian rule (Rastadt Peace, 1706) which indeed does not determine any changes both from the point of view of legislation and from that of the urbanism and the defence.

A new phase for the town begins when, after treaty of Vienna (3 october 1735), Novara passes to Savoia Rule, belonging for the first to the State of His Majesty the King of Sardinia.

With a series of institutional, economic and political reforms, the new government will try to give a new sign to the town, which reveals in a series of interventions mainly of urbanistic and building character.



The analysed documents allow to identify as a main characteristic of the Spanish policy the worry of confirming the defensive walls to the new war tactics and to the consequent use of the artilleries; on the contrary, from the time when Novara passes to the Sabauda rule, the interest in its fortifications is almost completely disappeared while the most important works are concerned with the restructuration and the environmental requalification, particularly for the Sud-west side of the town.

During the Napoleonic domination (1800-1814) Novara becomes chief town of the Department of Agogna and the modernization of the town and its "decoration" are the dominant themes of the new regime and are realized with the transformation of the bastions in public walking and with the construction of buildings of public interest. In fourteen years the town really changes its aspect.

Above all it is implicitly recognized the out to dateness and the overcoming of the bastioned town, as a defensive and military urban mean.