

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE  
Degree in Architecture  
*Honors theses*

---

**Giovanni Angelo Reycend (1843-1925) Engineer**

by Elena Gianasso

Tutor: Costanza Roggero

Co-tutor: Vittorio Defabiani

Giovanni Angelo Reycend was born in Turin on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1843, descending from a bookseller's family had come to Turin from Manestier-de-Briancon since the Eighteenth century. "Fratelli Reycend" published *L'indicatore torinese [...]*, *Turin et ses curiosités*, *Vues de la Ville de Turin* and other books, important way of knowing life at the beginning of the Nineteenth century.

Reycend studied for an engineering degree attending the "Scienze Matematiche" in Turin's University for two years and then attending the "Regia Scuola di Applicazione per gli Ingegneri in Torino", where among the teachers were Richelmy, Sobrero, Promis, some of the chiefs in Italian scientific sphere. Reycend graduated in 1865 presenting a "Dissertazione" above architecture (*Influenza dell'arco sullo stile architettonico - Arch's influence on architectural style*).



Giovanni Angelo Reycend

In 1873 the engineer, binding himself to famous family, married Angela Mosca, niece of Carlo Bernardo Mosca, designer of one of Dora's bridge in Turin.

Angelo Reyceud, approaching the activity of his father Ferdinando architect ("architetto civile e misuratore") and teacher in professional schools, taught Topography, Geometry applied to arts and Building in different Turin's schools like the "Scuole Tecniche San Carlo", the "R. Istituto Industriale e Professionale" (then "G. Sommeiller") and drawing evening school. In 1912 the engineer, supporting "Società Assistenti Edili ed Arti affini"'s idea, founded, for bricklayers and people working in building site, a new school named "Scuola Professionale per Assistenti Edili", then "G.A. Reyceud", and now "Centro Istruzione Professionale Edile-Torino".

In 1877 the engineer, because of his love of teaching, applied for Architecture's chair in the "R. Scuola di Applicazione per Ingegneri in Torino", temporarily entrusted two older assistants, Regis and Casana. Reyceud won the competition and then he taught in the school until 1919; he became Scuola di Applicazione's Director in 1902 and then he had been keeping his job from 1903 to 1905. His way of teaching was the same of his teacher, Carlo Promis; Reyceud led pupils to know works of the greatest artists of the past, to abstract some elements and at the end, to set new projects, in order to satisfy "modern" requirements. In 1903 Reyceud published, in order to propose a new education system for architects, *Proposte per un nuovo ordinamento per la Scuole di Architettura in Italia*. From 1885 to 1910 he had been projecting some extensions of Valentino's Castle, seat of "Scuola di Applicazione per gli Ingegneri in Torino", and a building for new Turin's Polytechnic (it was born in 1906) too.

These projects were published in *Atti della Società degli Ingegneri e degli Architetti in Torino*. Reyceud was the president of "Società degli Ingegneri e degli Architetti" in 1894-1895 and then in 1907-1909; he organized some architecture's exhibitions in Turin between XIX and XX century.

The engineer was also Councillor and Chairman (Education, Police, Public Works, Land Register committees) in the same city from 1891 to 1897. He paid particularly attention to town planning and building trade (he was in "Commissione d'Ornato"), to professional schools development (he founded the "Scuola d'Arti e Mestieri" and the "Istituto Professionale Operaio"), and to necessity of poor people.

Reyceud was member of the "Istituto Nazionale per le Figlie dei Militari in Torino" and he was its "technician". He projected the seat of the "Istituto", a new building in via Figlie dei Militari in Turin (which designs, kept in private archives, are catalogued) and he signed some studies for the restoration of the "Fabbricato Chiabrese" at "Villa della Regina" (Turin), another seat of the Istituto.

The engineer, like resulting from analysis and studies of dossiers kept in the "Archivio Storico della Città di Torino", was an important designer of both civil architecture and religious one. Significant example is Gani's House, in corso Vittorio Emanuele II 94 (Turin).



House Gani in Turin

Particularly famous was the design of the Sanctuary of Salute's Church in Turin.



Sanctuary of Salute's Church in Turin

The engineer attended to other important works in Piedmont, like one for Rivalta's church and one for Vicoforte's Sanctuary near Mondovì.

Reycend defined his style a "transition style", because he usually extracted elements belonging to Romanesque and Gothic architectures or to Tuscan Rinascimento and he worked them out according to modern necessity; so he become an "eclectic artist".

The engineer, member of the most important Italian artistic societies, wrote a lot of works, published in technical magazines (it's given a complete summary of his printing works).

Reycend, a complex figure who allows to know Turin's reality between Nineteenth and Twentieth century, died in Turin on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1925.

For further information: [egianass@tin.it](mailto:egianass@tin.it)