

**Cuornè, the origin and the growth of a mercantile Burg. XI – XVIII centuries**

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It's an industrial and agricultural little town of Alto Canavese situated on a low river terrace (414 m. above sea level).

At town-planning level from the early documents Cuornè is composed of two quite distinct units: the "Villa", based on agricultural economy, and the "Burg" that, for the presence of arcade street, has a mercantile economy.

Our study only addressed to the Burg, it's only based on archivist research and particular on transcription of unpublished ancient land registers (1371-1397-1475-1511-1523-1613). They are precious manuscripts for different types of information that they can give: they can't only to register the evolution of the town-planning system, the demographic variations and the economic-patrimonial events of the resident families; but they also give us the information about the territory organisation, the exploitation of territory and the ancient medieval place-name. It's make necessary to apply to the regressive method, which is to starts from more recent documents and iconographical material (XVIII century) to go back at the state of things of XIV – XVII century.



Cuornè air view.

The work is divided into three parts: 1 – The origins of Cuornè, 2 – the stages of urban growth (XI – XVIII centuries), 3 – the characteristic aspects of the mercantile Burg.

We have elaborated hypothetical reconstruction historical events that made to the origin of Burg even if the foundation act and documents of IX and X centuries are impossible to be found. It was born after the disappearance of *Curtis Canava* village documented until 1030. An inundation of nearly stream Orco destroyed this village. The survivors moved to a shelter of inundation place and naturally defensible by the adverse raids: the present territory of Cuornè.

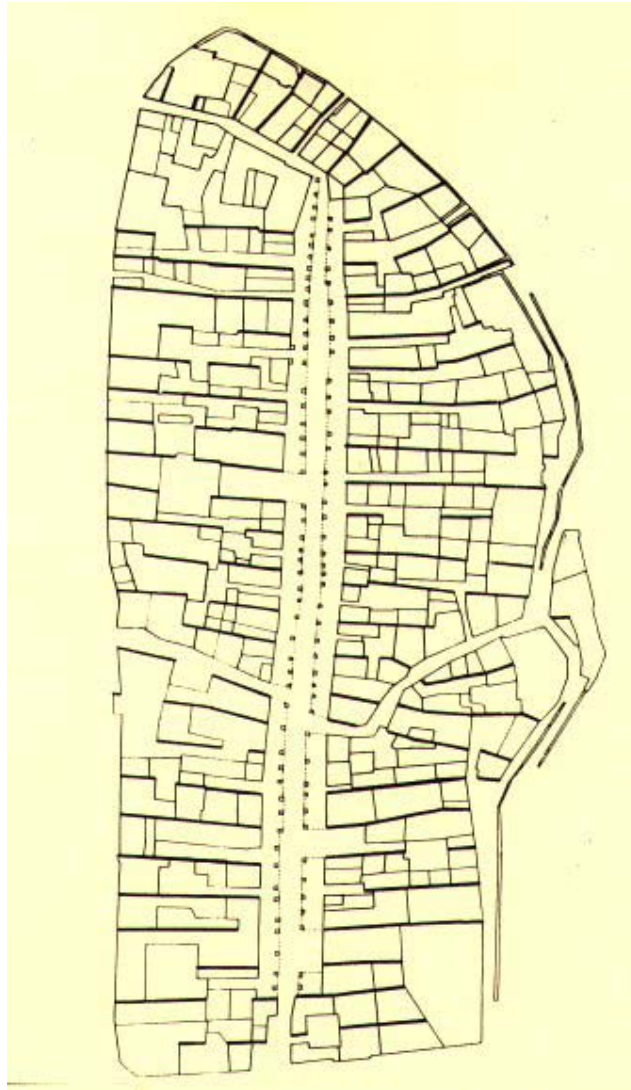
We had placed the origin and the parcelling out of the Burg across the second middle of XI century. Observing the map of Cuornè we can see the regularity of building texture, there are the boundary lines that cut across the blocks of houses, these lines are at the same distance one from the other, perpendicularly to the main street: this group of regular lots are the original properties.

It has been possible to locate in the Burg the considerable presence of churches, confraternities and convents. By the reading of the registers of landed properties of 1371, the oldest one, we have deduced that the lot corresponds to a "*sedime*", that means a building land 9-10 metres in width and 40 metres in length, the house faces the main street.

For the following historic periods it's been possible to reconstruct two hypothetical maps.

In the first (XIV-XVI centuries) we have identified town-walls, the number and the site of the doors-towers and the rounds-runs. In the second, thanks to the register of land properties of 1613 more complete and descriptive, we can reconstruct the fully configuration of the Burg in this year and to give any house to its proprietary.

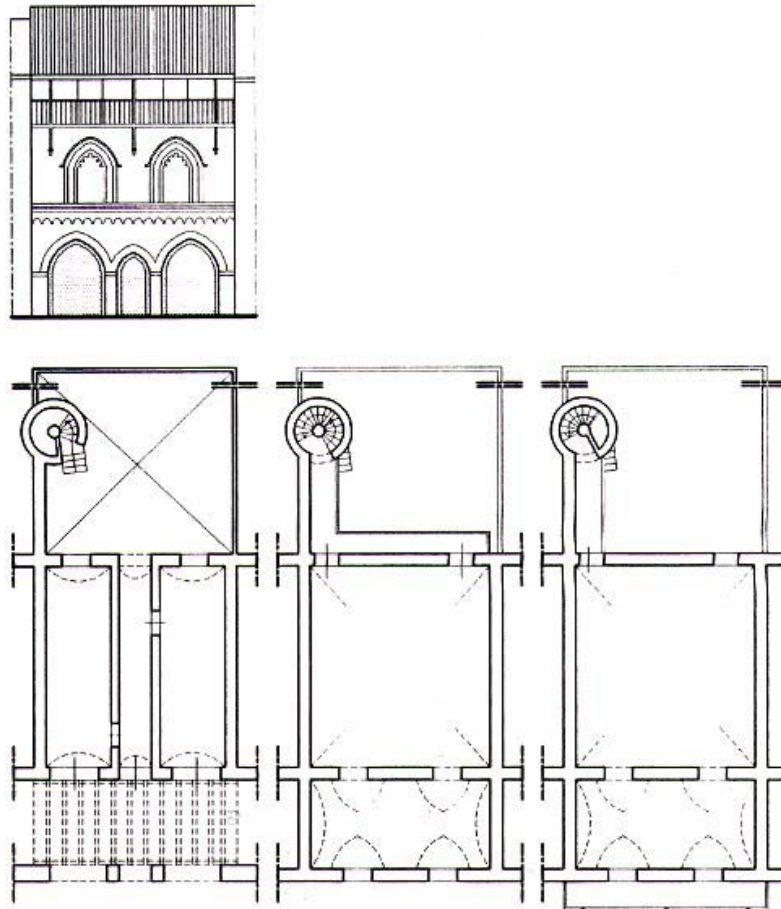
By the reading of land registers we have been able to identify the original site of the ancient Burg church of Saint John, until now never located.



Try to determine, on the map of Burg, the original lot of the foundation, it correspond to a typical module.

In the third chapter, reorganising the dates deduced by the registers of land properties, we have treated the characteristic aspect of commercial Burg, pointing out the particularity of Cuornè market. An element that had contributed to the growth of mercantile centre is the presence of the Orco's bridge; its unity in the zone Alto Canavesana preferred it to a fixed course. The same town-planning configuration of the Burg, follows the typical implant model of the commercial areas, the building structure might answer the society's exigency mainly based on a mercantile and handcrafting economy. The house units, usually by two levels, reserved only the upper floor for living; the ground floor was used as a shop. Always in the same chapter it has been treated the building typology's evolution.

We have analysed, of any single house, the front, the plan and the appurtenance, classing the elements that have individuated the evolution: the arcades and their dimension, the indoor arrangement, the position of stairwell, the number of floors, the number and the position of the windows in front. We have been able to reconstruct the main stages of building transformation, whit the picked dates by the survey work, integrated to those keeping by the land registers, and we have resumed the dates on a synoptic table.



Hypothetical historic reconstruction of the home in via Arduino 27/b at XV century.