

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

The Colours of Plants in Gardens of Turin

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Turin was the first city to have a 'colour scheme' for its façades. Although one of Italy's greenest cities, no study has yet been made on the colours of its plants. This study looks into the past and present colours of plants in the streets and squares of Turin, for all four seasons.

Research was first carried out using the communal historical archives of Turin. This research looked into the green areas in the city's gardens from the baroque period to today. The archives found—plans and tenders—were appropriately recorded on purpose-made cards. The data was then used to provide a concise picture of the arboreous species found over time in the various streets and squares still existing today.

Special card-indexing was made for individual plants. This contained a morphological description obtained from botanical manuals, and a chromatic description of the foliage and trunk through the different seasons. The colours were coded using munsell adopted from uni for the colours of the built environment. This is linked to the system for the scientific denomination of colours, known as iscc.nbs, which lets individual colours be grouped together in homogenous areas, and which enables colours not only to be described using a system of objective notation but also using a standard international denomination.

The colours of the plants were then inserted on appropriate cards so as to make a database which can be updated and consulted in real time. These colours were then shown in the form of 'chromatic maps'.

Serving as an example, enclosed are the 'chromatic maps' for the 'Gardens of Lamarmora', with a representation of the colours of the individual plants through all four seasons, and the list of species used.



List of Plants Found

- 1) *Acer negundo*
- 2) *Acer palmatum*
- 3) *Acer platanoides*
- 4) *Acer platanoides globosum*
- 5) *Acer pseudoplatanus*
- 6) *Acer saccharinum*
- 7) *Aesculus hippocastanum*
- 8) *Aesculus hippocastanum purpureum*
- 9) *Albizzia julibrissin*
- 10) *Betula alba*
- 11) *Carpinus betulus*
- 12) *Catalpa bungei*
- 13) *Celtis australis*
- 14) *Cercis siliquastrum*
- 15) *Fagus sylvatica*
- 16) *Fagus sylvatica purpurea*
- 17) *Fraxinus excelsior*
- 18) *Ginkgo biloba*
- 19) *Gleditschia triacanthos*
- 20) *Hibiscus syriacus*
- 21) *Juglans nigra*
- 22) *Lagerstroemia indica*
- 23) *Liquidambar styraciflua*
- 24) *Liriodendron tulipifera*
- 25) *Magnolia grandiflora*
- 26) *Magnolia obovata purpurea*
- 27) *Ostrya carpinifolia*
- 28) *Paulownia imperialis*
- 29) *Platanus occidentalis*
- 30) *Platanus orientalis*
- 31) *Populus italica*
- 32) *Prunus blireiana flore pleno*
- 33) *Prunus pissardi nigra*
- 34) *Pterocarya caucasica*
- 35) *Quercus robur pyramidalis*
- 36) *Quercus rubra*
- 37) *Sophora japonica*
- 38) *Tilia argentea*
- 39) *Tilia hybrida*
- 40) *Ulmus campestris*
- 41) *Ulmus pumila*