

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 2
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

**The markets covered between XIX and XX century in Piemonte:
protection, integrated conservation, valorization**

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The growing interest towards the Mercato Coperto Alimentare IV
(pict.1), better known like “Tettoia dell’Orologio”, placed in Piazza della
Repubblica in Turin (pict..2), brought us to write a thesis over it.



pict. 1



pict. 2

This iron–glass building, because of its condition of Bene Culturale of the Piedmont, is submitted to ties of guardianship from the Superintendence for the Architectural Good and for the Landscape of the Piedmont.

The first project about the renovation of this structure has been developed within the project “The Gate”, which concerns, in a larger scale, the renovation of the hole area Porta Palazzo below the architectonic, urbanistic, social and cultural aspect.

We started with the analysis of this building-typology, symbolic example of market-structure between end '800 and beginnings '900, to research and choose among sheds belonging to the same period and with similar characteristics in Cuneo's area: the market of Piazza Cavour in Saluzzo (photo 3), the market of Piazza Ellero in Mondovì, the market of Piazza Giolitti in Bra, the market of Piazza del Bestiame in Alba, the market of Piazza Umberto I in Santo Stefano Belbo, the market of Piazza Virginio in Cuneo.

We especially wanted to analyze the values and the meanings that these structures actually have both for common people and for the Administrations, which will be involved when the conservation and the restoration will take place.

The study of an exemplary case as the Mercato Coperto dell'Orologio in Porta Palazzo and of all the other examples in Piemonte, allowed to understand if a combined action of guardianship, integrated maintenance and exploitation is at the base of the interventions that have interested the sheds, and therefore as the presence or less than this has influenced the life of the buildings.

The first analysis has been made through a critical reading of the main urbanistic tools, departing from those pasts to actually reach the P.R.G.C. currently in use, bringing to knowledge, among these constructions, what tie of guardianship is submitted to and what instead not considered of historical-artistic value.

It emerges therefore strongly that the good result of the interventions is always not connected to the existence of an any type of law on the building.

The native destinations of use have generally been unchanged because that of "market" is the most suitable for this type of structures. Only in some cases the destinations have been changed with results of different kind. This occurs because of the position that the construction occupies in the urban structure and because of economic and political reasons.



The case in Turin results more complex, because all the factors analyzed until now emerge together and must be valued in a larger scale, the big city's scale. This allows to consider adequately the combined action among guardianship, integrated maintenance and exploitation. From this has emerged how much difficult is to separate the building from the context in which it is placed: the Mercato dell'Orologio is an example of remarkable historical and architectural interest, but that has not been valorized in suitable way yet.

Therefore it is necessary to identify the appropriate functions for this kind of building. Also the adjustment of the structure in the actual context is subjected to growing new destinations of use and values, and through several actions in an optic of cultural development within which the maintenance becomes also productive activity.

We can finally affirm that we discovered a correct attitude to get the total retraining and exploitation of the area of Porta Palazzo and of the Mercato dell'Orologio, but for this we have to wait the end of the jobs.

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