

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture  
*Honors theses*

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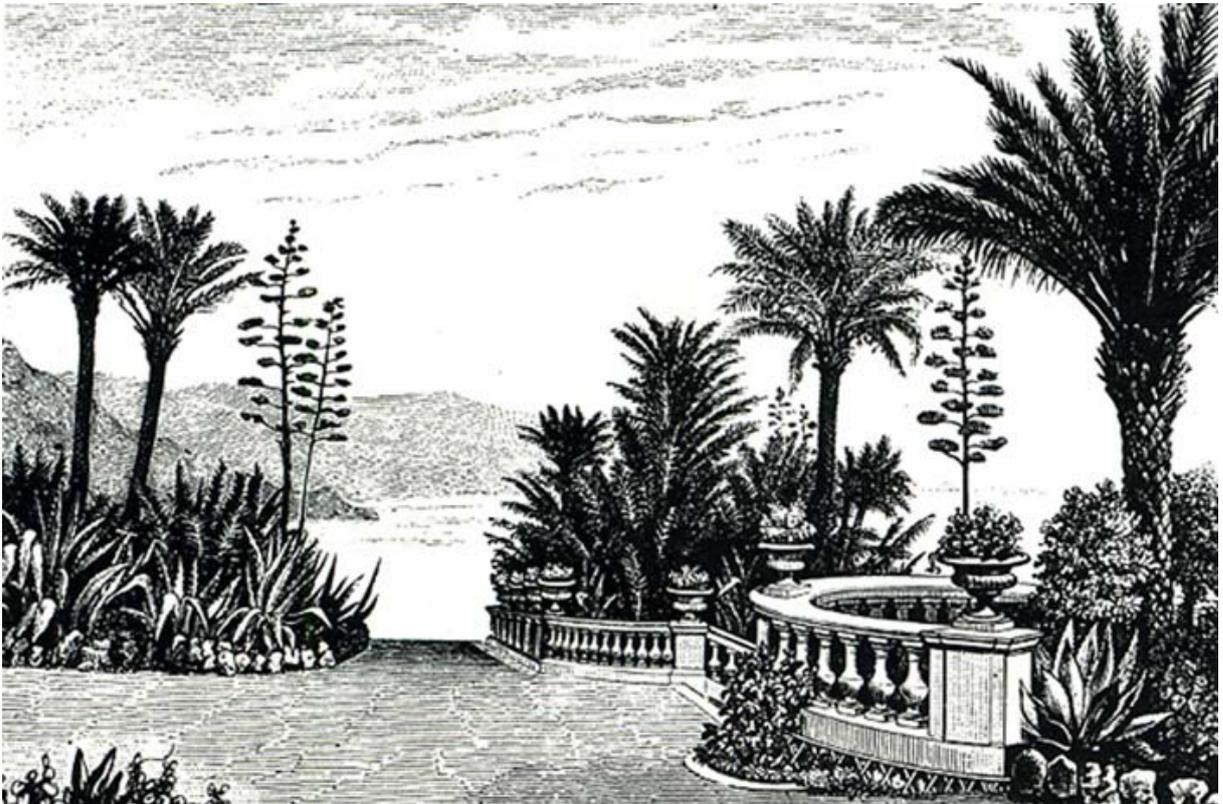
**Gardens, culture, international society in French Riviera in the early XX century**

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The main object of the following thesis is an analysis on gardens of late nineteenth century and beginning of twentieth century located on the French Riviera, based upon structure, composition and form. Our attention has focused on Serre de la Madone, a garden situated in Menton, just beyond the Italian-French border. The research starts, at first, across a study of the social and political components that have characterized Europe and especially England and France from the XVIII century to the XX century. Across the theme of the *Grand Tour* it has been possible explain the reason why the sea, the beaches, the spas have flourished during this period especially in Southern Europe. Many people, especially from the cold European countries, settled in the warm Riviera with the intention to recover from polmonary illnesses.



Gardens in French Riviera

Across the analysis of old geographic maps it has been possible understand the creating process of new settlements, villages, cities and gardens in the French Riviera. This type of research has given us the possibility of tracking down about sixty gardens on the territory that goes from Menton to Nice. Many of these gardens, at the present time, have vanished because of the world war that destroyed most of the estates, others are unapproachable because have been transformed in private properties. Of great importance has been the study of the historic background not only of the gardens but also of the owners: some of them were famous people such as artists, writers, others were wealthy people with a great passion regarding gardens, others were professional collectors of rare plants coming from far away countries.

The second step of the analysis has been, through a structural reading of the gardens, the creation of a classification of gardens across the use of some important parameters such as form, style and territory position.

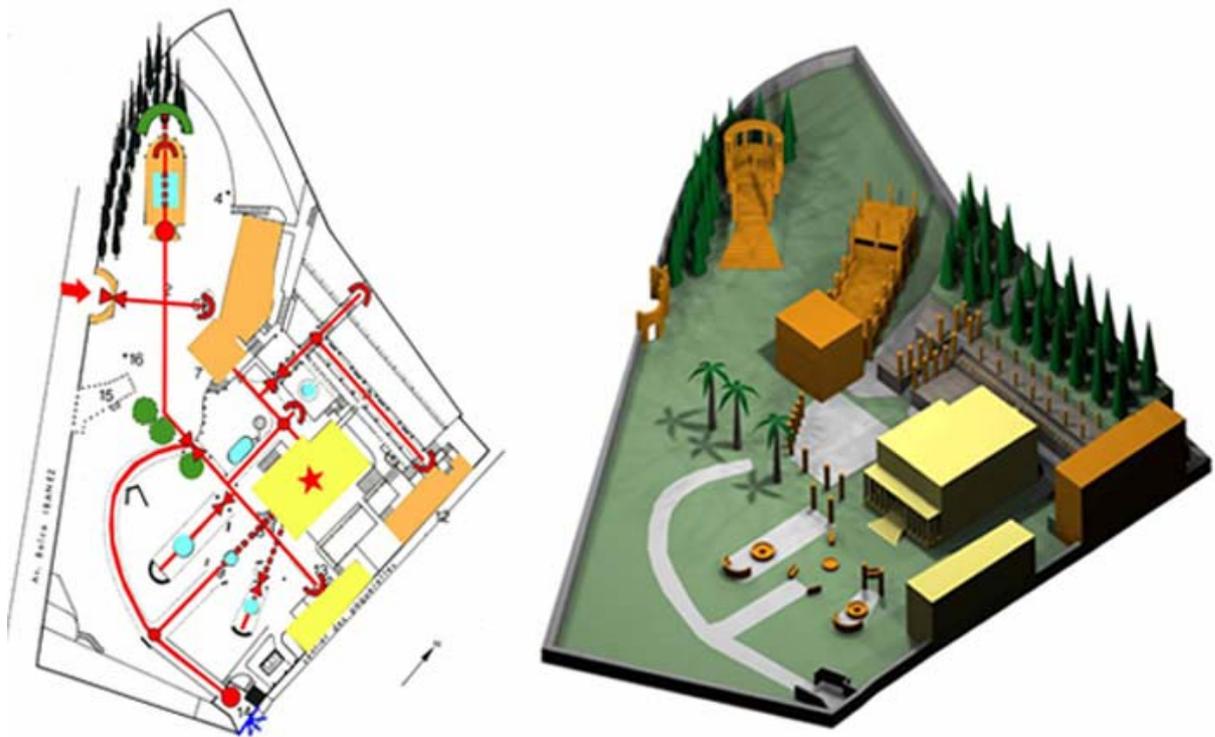


Garden examples: Serre de la Madone at Mentone, Villa Ephrussi at St. Jean Cap Ferrat, Val Rahmeh at Mentone

Through a deep study upon the history of irregular gardens in Europe, especially in England, during the eighteenth and nineteenth century, it has been possible create a great cultural basis on which build the whole work.

The practical study consisted in plans, sections of the most important gardens, photographic profiles and three dimensional rendering that helped us rebuild gardens that have vanished.

Serre de la Madone is an example of English garden in French Riviera: through its study, it has been possible put into practice the theory previously studied.



Structural analysis through schemes and three dimensional renderings

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