

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement
Honors theses

A museum: the Royal Complex of Turin, a matter of method and esteem

by Alessandra Merzagora

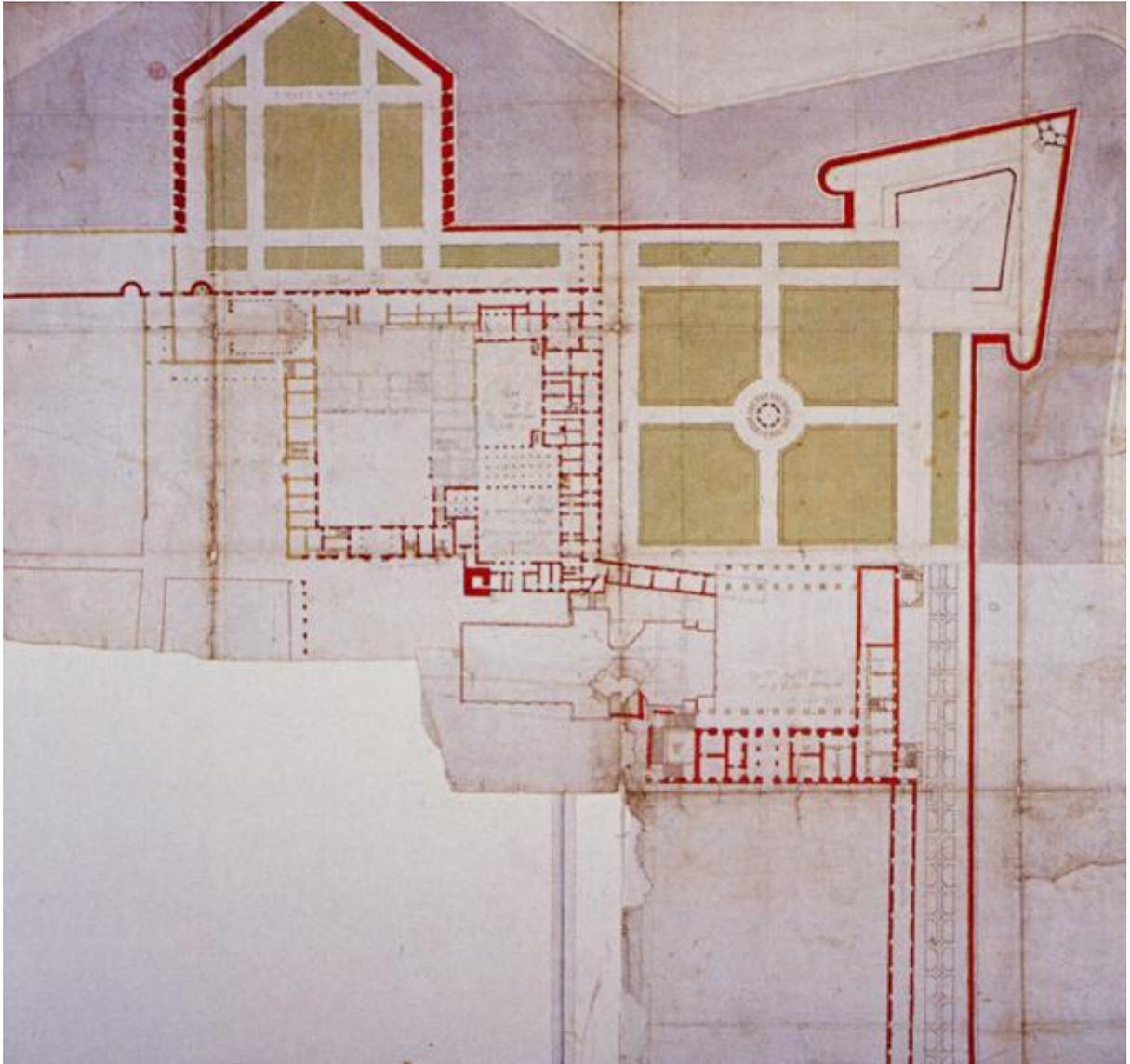
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The first step for a successful planning is a good knowledge of the territory in which one works. This is the direction towards which this academic thesis develops, a thesis which merges a thorough knowledge of the Turin city center and some hypothesis about new measures of intervention and development.

Since several years, the panorama of Turin's Cultural Heritages has demonstrated its will regarding the creation of a single Complex in the heart of the city. This creation envisages the union of some museums, which are spatially close. The Italian word *Polo* (which is translated here with the word *Complex*) has been adopted only recently with the purpose of defining this cultural unification. The museums that are included are: the Antiquities Museum (*Museo delle Antichità*), the Savoy's New Gallery (*Nuova Galleria Sabauda*), which has been recently transferred in the new wing of the Royal Palace, the Royal Palace itself (*Palazzo Reale*), the Royal Armory (*Armeria Reale*), the Royal Library (*Biblioteca Reale*) and finally the Chiabrese Palace (Palazzo Chiabrese). This last one can be considered as the most relevant element of the Complex, since its first floor (which was once occupied by the National Museum of Cinema) has been designed for being the ticket office and the bookshop of the whole Complex.

Following this path, the first goal of this dissertation is the one of making the cultural heritage comprehensible and communicable. Precisely, just a part of this heritage was considered and studied thanks to some useful tools, used firstly, to investigate the stratification of the structure and its transformation and secondly, to understand some objects, with which the beneficiaries are in contact with. The elaborate construction of this central area was verified and made comprehensible by examining in depth what is considered certain and what has been written by others before us.



Map of the Palace and of the Gardens and Square around the H.R.H. old Palace in Turin. Amedeo di Castellamonte's School. 1633-1640. Turin, Royal Library

At this point, it has been presented not only the development on a urban scale of a part of the city, which nowadays is considered central, but also a chronological analysis of it. This analysis started from documentary and bibliographic sources, which were used to create a critical collection for every single examined artifact. This led to the final result of the drafting of files concerning the historic buildings. This particular result can be considered as part of the second goal of this dissertation and it consists in the divulgation of the found and studied materials. This disclosure is addressed to an average audience, which appears to be interested in the history and the evolution of these buildings.

	DATA	INTERVENTO	ATTRIBUZIONE	COMMITTENTE	ENTOURAGE E PITTORI	FONTI ARCHIVISTICHE	FONTI ICONOGRAFICHE	
PALAZZO DUCALE PD PALAZZO REALE	1576	vengono acquistate le scuderie del Vescovo e l'orto del Paradiso						
	2 febbraio 1583	viene acquistato l'intero complesso dell'Arcivescovado dalla Curia				A.A.T., S.3; A.A.T., 18 ms. "Instrumento di vendita del Palazzo Arcivescovile"; Patente ducale 15 aprile 1586 in C. Rovere, 1858, p.57.		
		data della girata di servizio di Ascanio Vittozzi come ingegnere ducale					La data dell'assunzione al servizio ducale è attestata dalla patente del 18 ottobre 1584 (AST, Camerale, Patenti Controllo Finanze, art. 689, 1583-85, c.182)	
	1° ottobre 1584	Vengono fissati i capitoli per la costruzione del Palazzo e vengono avviati gli scavi delle fondamenta.	Ascanio Vittozzi		Carlo Emanuele I	Angelo Martinello, Giacomo Mariano, Battista Grassillo.	ASTo Ser. Runtze, Contratti, Reg. 42, fol. 28, seguono gli incanti il 1, il 6 e l'8 ottobre.	
	31 ottobre 1584	viene stipulato il contratto per la fabbricazione dei pilastri e altri lavori riguardanti il Palazzo					ASTo Ser. Runtze, Contratti, Reg. 42, fol. 38	
	13 novembre 1584	ordine di demolizione di parte del Palazzo Vecchio	Augustino Persighino				ASTo Ser. Runtze, Contratti, Reg. 42, fol. 84, seguono gli incanti per le fondamenta	
	6 luglio 1586	commissionati 7 quadri	Ascanio Vittozzi			Ottaviano Semino		
	2 agosto 1586	pagamento per la realizzazione di un modello del nuovo palazzo	misurieri Bartolomeo Beltramo e Giovanni Encher					
	4 agosto 1586	veniva ordinata la demolizione di altre parti del Palazzo Vecchio					ASTo Ser. Runtze, Contratti, Reg. 42, fol. 102	
	7 agosto 1586	demolizione di circa 20 tralicci di muraglia nuovi conti per la	misuratore Pietro Taborrino					
	1607-1610	realizzazione dei telai delle finestre, dei vetri della Porta grande del Nuovo Palazzo	Ascanio Vittozzi					
	1615	Morte di Ascanio Vittozzi						

Boards of the buildings included in the Royal Complex

Then an informative database has been created, which contains the cataloguing of the whole museum area, divided into rooms for the Royal Palace and into exhibition spaces for the museums. The starting point was the first floor of the Royal Complex. It is interesting to notice that when the information becomes more substantial, it is possible to update gradually the cataloguing, adjoining the documentary research, which can be consulted by the audience, that in this way has the access to a broader range of publicity material. However, this database is accessible not only to the audience, but it could also be used in order to improve and simplify the management of the involved buildings.

PR1

PIANO TERRA

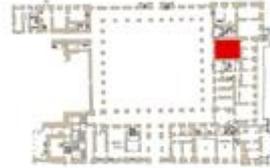
Appartamento di Madama Felicita
Anticamera

USO ATTUALE: percorso museale

DATI GEOMETRICI:
Superficie ambiente: 110 mq
Perimetro Ambiente: 58 mt

MATERIALI:

Pavimento: Parquet
Pareti: Parati in carta, cornice a stucco



Soffitto: intonaco liscio bianco



Informative database. In particular, example of file regarding a type setting of the Royal Palace

Starting from an historic and critical idea of the examined architectures, the draft of this thesis led to the conclusion that the hypothesis of unification turns out to be interesting also from a critical point of view, since the buildings are not only linked by a spatial proximity. Currently, it is particularly important the transmission and the appreciation of this heritage, also in order to ensure a careful management, which is oriented on the one hand towards the conservation, and on the other hand towards the projected and accurate employment of the assets.

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