

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

**Houses facades of Siena. Competition of Monte dei Paschi di Siena bank, 1900-1902**

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This thesis was inspired by the Exhibition *Mostra delle facciate delle case di Siena 1900-1902*, located in *Santa Maria della Scala* Museum (05/05-06/17/2007) in Siena: 83 sketches from the competition *Concorso sulle facciate del Monte dei Paschi (1900-1902)* were shown.

This competition funded the restoration of 148 humble buildings façades. The enterprise was successful thanks to the cooperation between the bank and the municipality.

The writer has taken part in the practical activities connected with the exhibition. The *Workshop* was directed by Prof. Giovanni Brino of the *Politecnico di Torino* University and it was carried out with the cooperation of the *Scuola Edile di Siena* School, managed by Dr. Lorian Bernazzi, during which 25 participants (selected by means of a competition) copied some decoration particulars of the sketches and developed plaster casts of some existing frames.



The writer, together with architect Eleonora Pini, has painted a *trompe-l'oeil* fresco of a dummy window (fig.1) situated on the building between via del Refe Nero and via del Giglio streets (sketch cat.#39).

The *Cantiere-scuola*, organized by the Scuola Edile of Siena, carried out an exemplary restoration of the “*Casa Delle Balie*” building front: plastering and lime painting and restoration of a rough brick wall (nowadays they have become two problematic operations) by using the most advanced methods in preservation.

The research carried out by Prof.’s Guasparri, Sabatini, Gabrielli of the University of Siena detected 4 constructive phases (1400, 1601, 1720, late 1800) for this front. For each phase the author has drawn some digital sketches (see right side of fig.1) published both in the brochure and in the video related to the Exhibit Catalogue.

The sketches of the Competition also provide important information about technologies, materials, decorative and chromatic models which have inspired the writer’s typological subdivision and creation of a digital database of facades of Siena (fig.2).

**Database ricavato dalle schede del dott. Matthias Quast, lo scrivente ha aggiunto la suddivisione tipologica delle facciate (732 schede)**

N.	Denominazione e/o proprietà	Fasi costruttive e Stile	Indirizzo	Tecnico e/o impresa	Descrizione						Anno restauro e/o fondo	Materiali e colori impiegati (stato attuale)
					facciata intonacata		focolato in laterizi		focolato in pietra			
					intonaco e rilievi 3D	rilievi assenti o simulati	cortina simulata laterizi	cortina simulata pietra				
1	Torre dell'Arte della Lana	I: primo 1200 II: postmedievale (conserva forme)	<a href="#">Banchi di Sopra 1-3</a>							x	2002	Calcare cavernoso
2		I: primo 1500 II: 1500 (dal 1540 circa) III: 1800	<a href="#">Banchi di Sopra 2-6, Torre del Tornabelli</a>							x		Con marcadavanzalli e incorniciature in rilievo di pietra serena e laterizi
3		I: secondo 1200 II: postmedievale	<a href="#">Banchi di Sopra 5</a>			x					2002	Fondo color "marrone"
4	Palazzo Mignanelli	I: secondo 1200 II: 1800 (neoclassicismo)	<a href="#">Banchi di Sopra 7-15</a>							x		Con marcadavanzalli e cornici in rilievo di laterizi intonacato

**Database basato sui rilievi effettuati dallo scrivente (276 schede)**

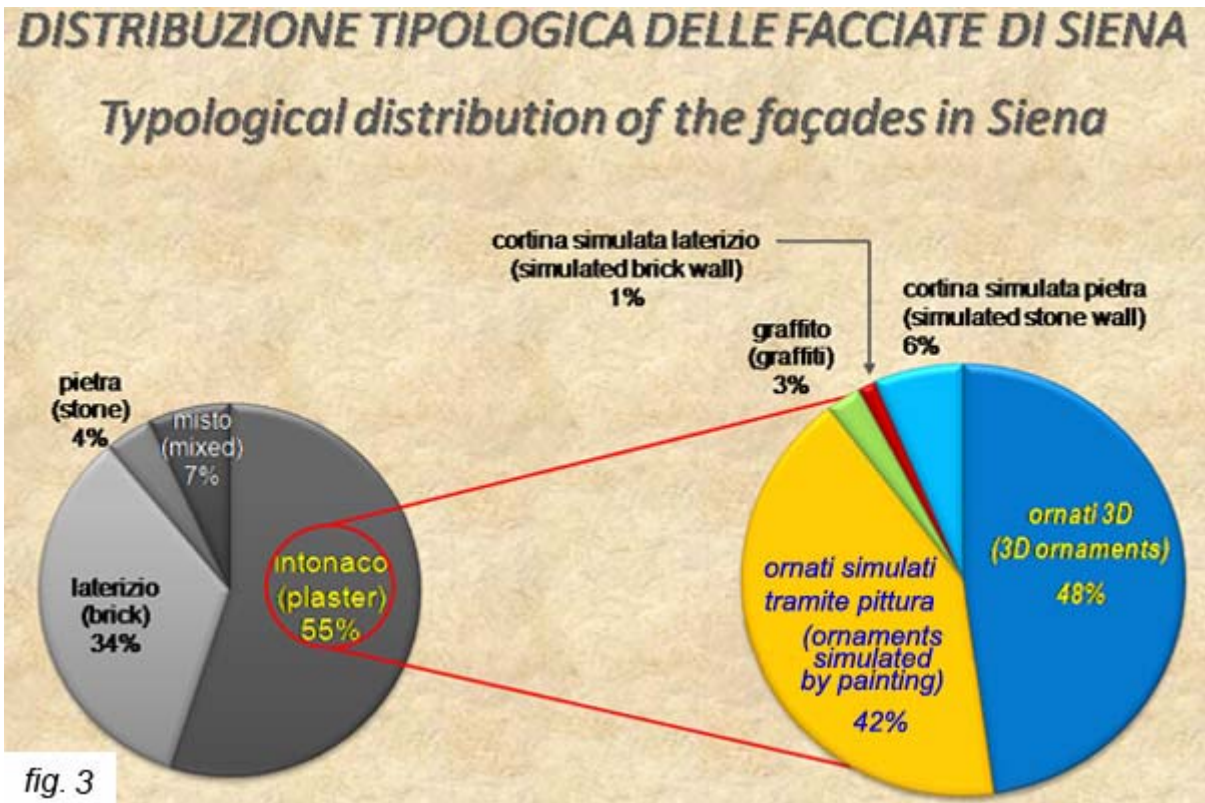
N.	Zonizzazione	Indirizzo	facciata intonacata				Database rilievi	Intonaco 3D	n°
			rilievi 3D	rilievi simulati e trompe-l'oeil	grafite	cortina simulata laterizi			
001	Zona 1	<a href="#">001, o zetta della Selva 2</a>		x			74		
002		<a href="#">002, via Franciosa, 74</a>		x					
003		<a href="#">003, via Franciosa, 72</a>		x					
004		<a href="#">004, via Franciosa, 77-79 (x001)</a>		x					
005		<a href="#">005, via Franciosa, 69-75</a>		x					
006		<a href="#">006, via Franciosa, 69-75</a>		idem					
007		<a href="#">007, via Franciosa, 65-67</a>	x						
008		<a href="#">008, via Franciosa, 56-58</a>		x					
009		<a href="#">009, via Franciosa, 47-53</a>		x					
010		<a href="#">010, via Franciosa, 43-45</a>				x			
011		<a href="#">011, via Franciosa, 43-45</a>				idem			

Summary table on the right:

Database rilievi	Intonaco 3D	n°
74		
7		
22,6		

fig. 2

It includes the aforesaid sketches, 732 luxury fronts of main streets scheduled by Prof. Quast at internet site <http://db.biblhertz.it/exist/siena/siena.xq.htm>, the data of the Archivio Storico di Siena (Historical Archives of Siena), directed by Dr. Laura Vigni as well as 276 files of the façades surveyed by the writer, located in “popular” (long ago) quarters divided by zones. Every entry shows a hypertext link pointing to the related, original file.



The digital format of the database enables a typological, quantitative analysis of the entries: starting from Prof. Giamello et al.(1992)'s study *Materials utilized in buildings of Siena*, a first step typological subdivision, between fronts with and without plaster, can be found by means of induction from that data of matter (b&w pie chart on the left of fig.3). Then, by using the database (significant sample >1000 fronts), it is possible to derive some statistic and local data concerning the distribution of façades with plaster (pie chart on the right of fig.3) which mean to assist planning restoration and preservation.

The collected data show a wide range of colouring and fronts models in Siena: without appropriate information and preliminary studies it is difficult to choose, as the case may be, the right historical-architectural configuration or the correct degree of procedures to avoid a "stylistic" restoration.

It is in doubt whether the majority of designers and construction businesses are capable to ensure the correct restoration of those complex facades. The exemplary experiences of *Workshop*, restorations and detection of constructive phases, intend to prompt institutions and experts to arrange similar activities. The typological distributions found in this thesis, mean to be a further updating instrument to the *colour plan* and to aid front restoration of the city centre of Siena. Finally, the author hopes that the remaining ornaments are not only surveyed, but they will survive by means of a systematic restoration. The Competition *docet*.

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