



POLITECNICO
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Corso di Laurea Magistrale in Architettura per il Restauro
E Valorizzazione del Patrimonio

Abstract

The churches with bell tower-façade in the diocese of Ivrea: new studies including stratigraphy analysis and interpretation of the sources about restorations

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The study carried out for this thesis wants to deepen the knowledge of the architectural model of the churches with bell tower-façade, in the particular declination that they assume on the territory of the diocese of Ivrea, which was for centuries a crossroads for the passage between the Italian lands and the Alps. The transit through the Canavese areas in the Middle Ages, also thanks to the presence of some stages of the system that today we call "via Francigena", has contributed to an exchange of techniques and knowledge between workers, which not surprisingly led to a rare concentration on the site -in comparison to every other Italian region- of churches with entrance through the bell tower, also defined with "clocher-porche". This theme has taken on particular importance in historiography, which starting from Patrizia Chierici Furno (1975), highlighted the close connection between these architectures and the French examples. Furthermore, criticism will often focus on defining these examples as architectures with "extremely simple constructive characters" (Chierici, 1975, p. 330), a legacy attributed to a general tendency assumed by the architectural production between the X and XI century in the north of Italy. To what extent then analyze this formal simplicity? The thesis therefore proposes the achievement of this objective, namely to provide a detailed knowledge of the construction phases and the relationship between the bell tower and the construction of the church itself, starting from the material data, direct source.

The simplicity so acclaimed by critics, both formal and in the execution of the masonry technique, could conceal a more complex characterization of the model on a local scale, making these examples of even more singular pieces of a complex picture between patrons, workers and construction sites? What were the choices made at the design stage? What may have been prior technical knowledge and what were the closer reference models? These questions can only be answered by a stratigraphic approach: by decomposing the building into homogeneous constructive actions, according to an analysis proposal indicated by researchers from the Polytechnic University of Turin, it is possible to recognize the phases and construction times and arrive at a chronological proposal, even considering the absence of documentary sources on the foundation of the churches in question, if not the need to review some interpretations provided by some Authors in the past. What will be extrapolated from this reading, will be a direct term of comparison that will see the comparative comparison between two case studies: the church of the SS. Pietro and Paolo in Bollengo and the church of S. Stefano in Chiaverano. The research also investigates the most recent phases of transformation and conservation by proposing an interpretative reading of the SABAP_TO archive sources on restoration work from the last quarter of the nineteenth century to the present, preparatory to the identification of the original masonry portions. In light of these considerations, this thesis aims to propose a continuity and an update of field studies, trying to offer a new critical interpretation in terms both relative and sometimes absolute chronologies, placing a first basis for a catalog of masonry, to be considered as a channel open to enrichment and the addition of new case studies, in order to weave more and more the references of inter-territorial relations.

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