

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Rehabilitation and Revaluation)
Honors theses

**The commemoration as a form of preservation and conservation:
some experiences of the Canadian province of Ontario**

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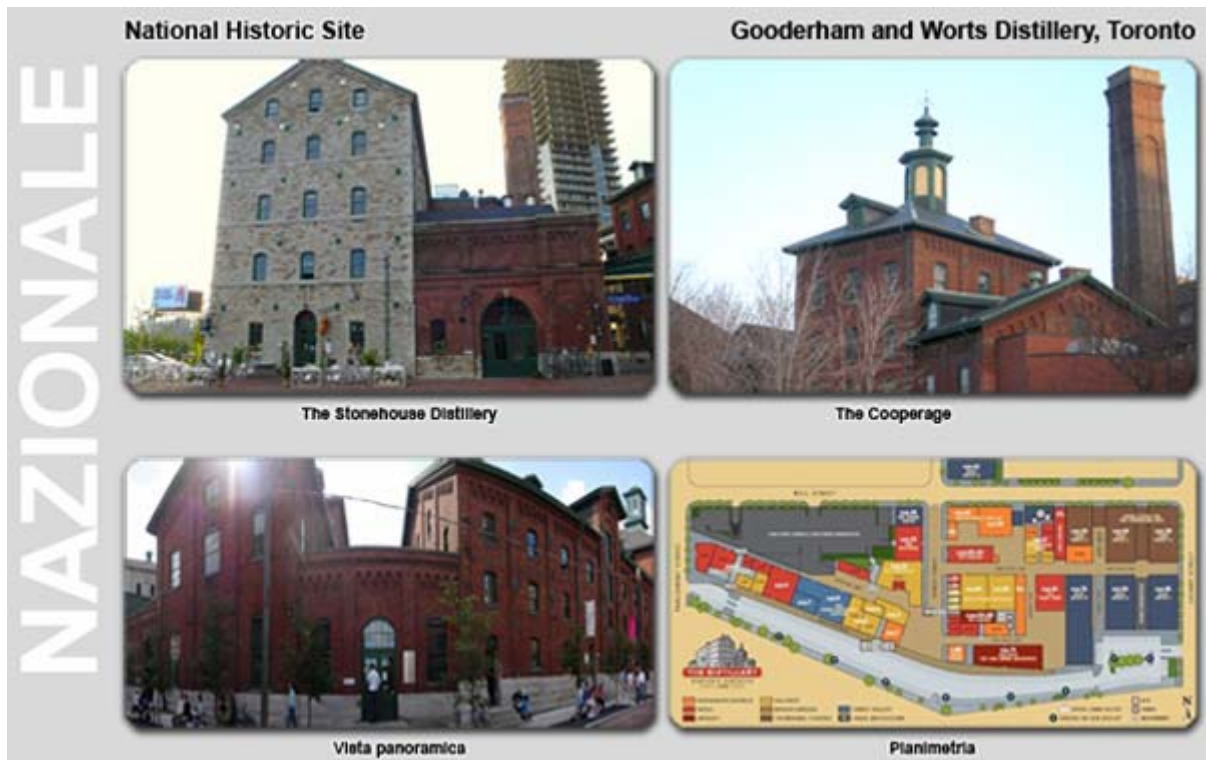
We wanted to document - through a critical analysis aimed at understanding of all the issues relating to conservation - the evolution of concepts like the international protection and the awareness of the past in various civilizations about preservation and restoration of their historical monuments in a country such as Canada, an area with a wide land to manage and a history too often considered so basic and unworthy to be studied in terms of heritage conservation.

To address the issue of protection and restoration in Canada, it should be first of all to find out which theory of conservation practices influence the Canadian legislative system and all its public and private mechanisms supporting this matter.

In particular we have chosen to investigate the systematic approach to environmental protection by a hierarchical analysis methodology that - taking origin from North American and international restoration systems - went through the Canadian system more and more in detail to a local level.

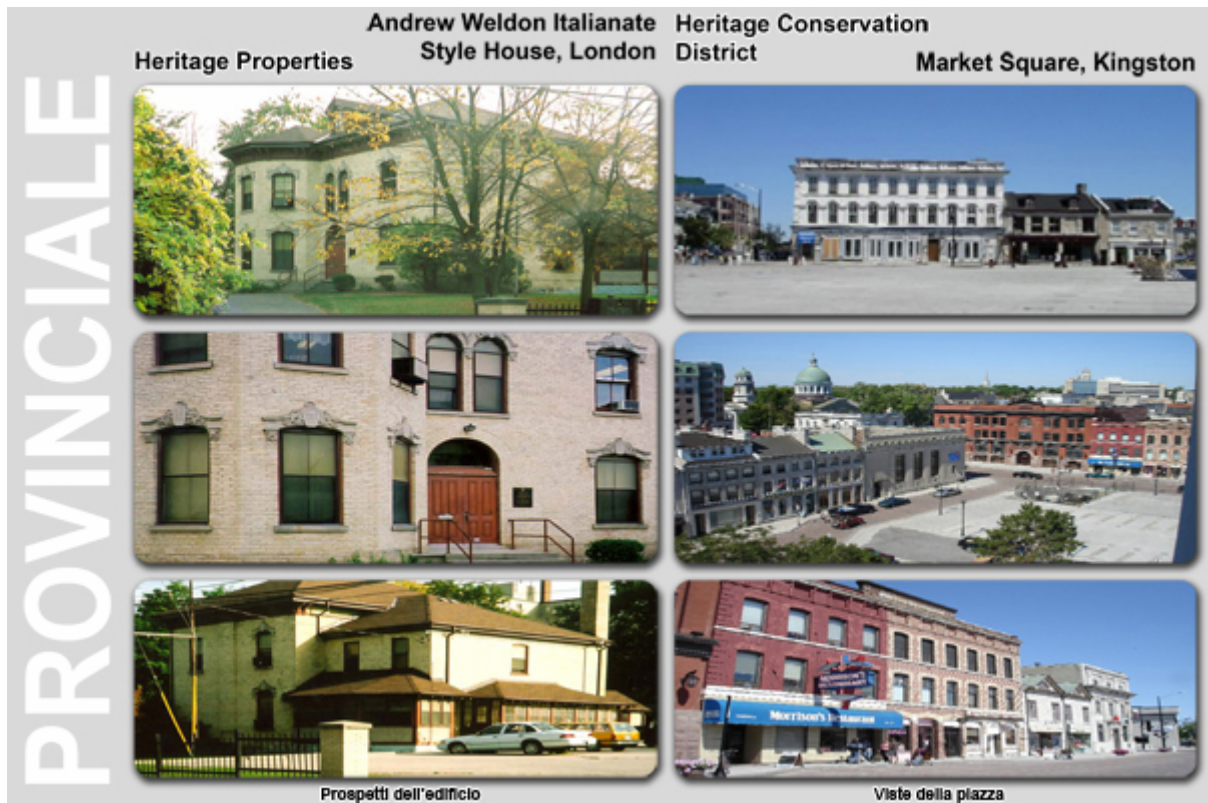
Chapter one – brought up by a detailed terms research able to help the understanding of the concepts strictly related to heritage protection regarding the British area – faces the values-based approaches systems whose preservation and intervention strategies start, first of all, from the perception about the real value of cultural assets, further than the deep interests they arouse in the American conservative machine, and in the UNESCO organization too.

Chapter two proves by documents the preservation and conservation culture in Canada - whose character is deeply commemorative - examining how the institutions and local authorities involved in federal area, creating a lot of programs, policies and new instruments or resources, devoted to the preservation of their natural and cultural heritage assets.



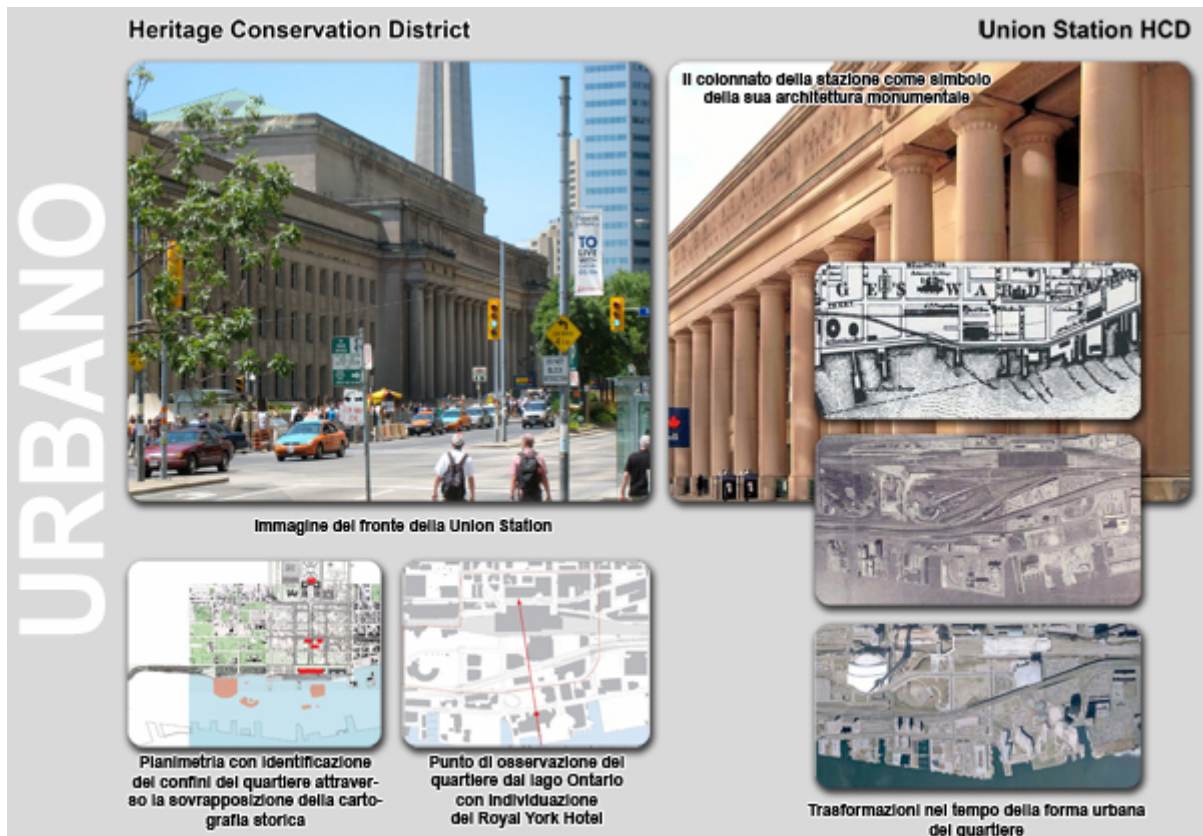
The case of the National Historic Sites especially of the Gooderham and Worts Distillery in Toronto, a facility of the mid-nineteenth century which is re-used in 2001 for commercial space

In Chapter three it was undertaking a review on the province of Ontario, a very particularly area because of it stands out on the national scene for some its owns features and peculiarities – as mentioned in the Ontario Heritage Act - including the delegation of powers from the province to the municipalities for the protection of heritage properties.



The heritage conservation in Ontario: Heritage Properties and Heritage Conservation Districts protected under Part IV and V of the Ontario Heritage Act

At last, in Chapter four, we have closely examined the city of Toronto, whose history and built heritage are very good examples of the application procedures arising from the theoretical background discussed above; and since Toronto is a town closely tied to its own past, this positive behavior towards cultural assets has given the historical urban structure an easily, pleasant interaction with the newly built architecture. We have also focused our interest on the Union Station Heritage Conservation District Plan, as a protection instrument example really able to protect - from the city and the property owners point of view - all the district heritage resources.



The Heritage Conservation Districts as city heritage protection tools and specifically the Union Station Heritage Conservation District Plan

Thanks to this study, it has been possible to document the Canadian conservative culture characterized by complex shades, as for instance the federal aspect – both regional and provincial – typically commemoratives and representative of a nation need to compare itself with international standards, highlighting similarities and contrasts, by which we can play a wide open on a heritage discussion and a cultural exchange, increasing the knowledge and sustaining best practices conservative regarding cultural heritage.

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