

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Construction)
Honors theses

The third extension of Turin: 1715-1729

A fragment of a negotiated city

by Gabriele Zorino

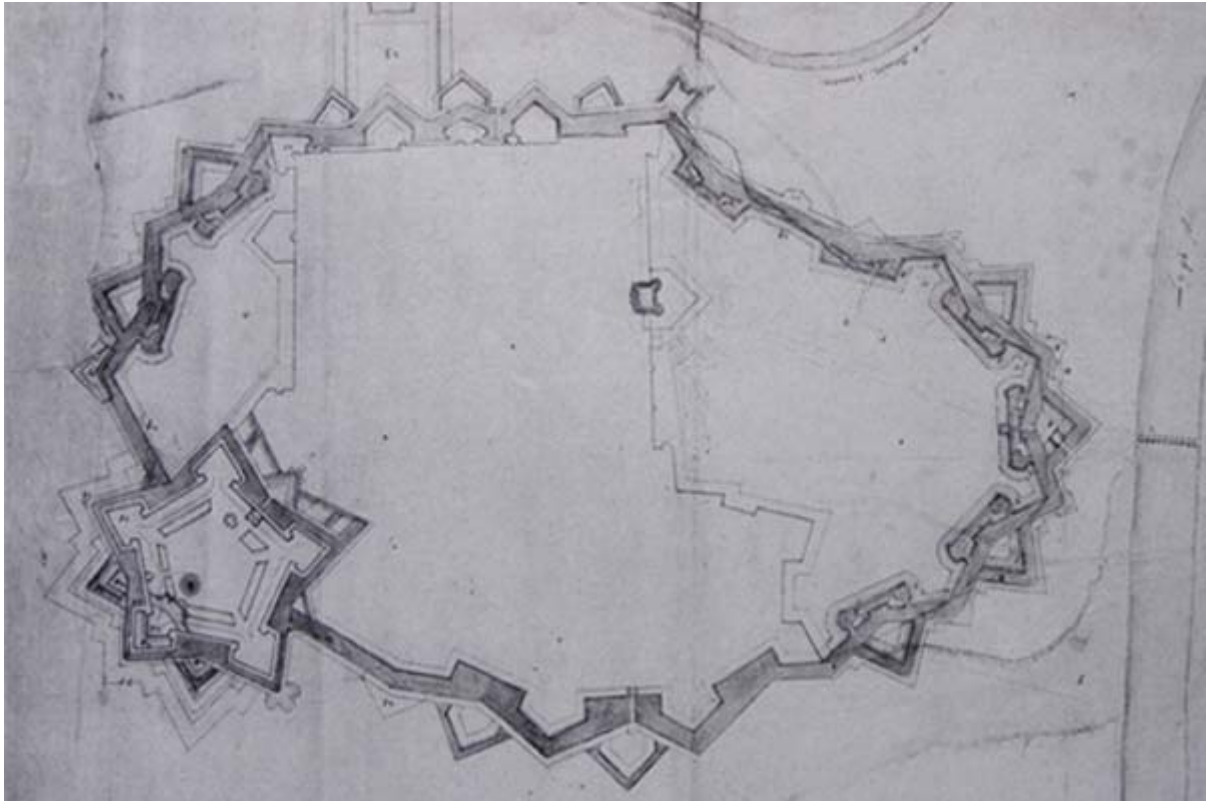
Tutor: Edoardo Piccoli

The thesis I am presenting is the result of a long research work, mainly done in the historical archive of Turin, regarding the acts of sale concerning the third extension sites of the city. The third extension, built between 1715 and 1729 and designed by Michelangelo Garove around 1711, is the result of a long debate on the best military culture in fortification.



Michelangelo Garove, Extension of "Porta Susina" , 1711-1712

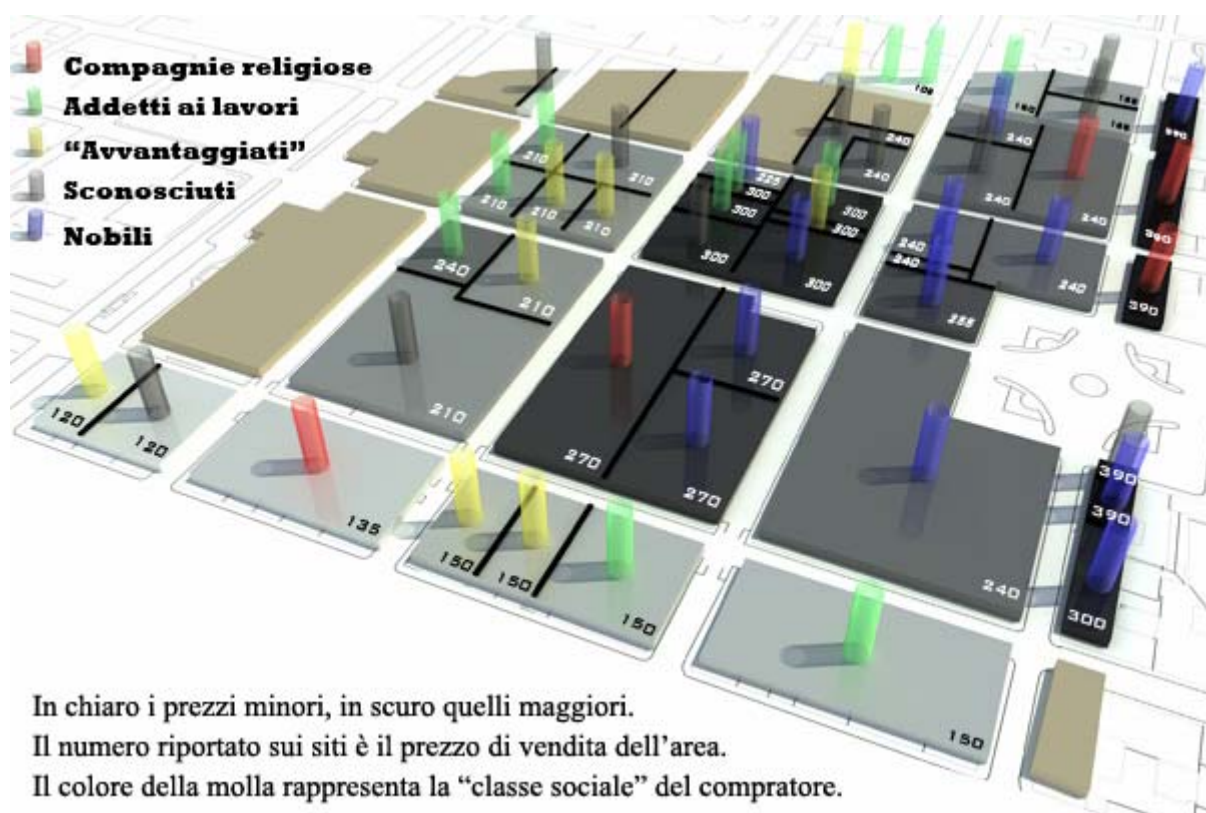
Already during the studies conducted for the second extension, built surrounding the road connecting the Castle to the river, that is called now via Po, emerged some proposals for the final variation of the perimeter wall; between the drawn projects, the more interesting and, above all, more important idea, in comparison with the already constructed extension, was designed by Sébastiène de Vauban Le Preste around 1670.



Sébastien Le Prestre de Vauban, Extension of Turin, 1670

The third enlargement was thus inserted in the area between the old Roman-Medieval walls and the new fortifications; the aim of Vauban's project was to eliminate the not defensible obtuse angle, determined by the intersection between the Roman-Medieval walls and the citadel designed by Francesco Paciotto, thus realizing the "almond shape" layout of the fortifications. The causes of this enlargement, besides the importance of finishing the "almond" in view of the imminent French siege of 1706, were the pressing demand for new housing development – in order to solve the complete saturation of the existing city - and the possibility to construct new buildings, for the new capital of the Kingdom, as the "*Quartieri Militari*" (Military Quarters) and the "*Regia Tintoria*" (Royal Dye-house).

After a summary of the political, cultural, demographic and historical situation of Turin in the period between the construction of the citadel - from about the half of the sixteenth century to the half of the eighteenth century -, I focused the research carrying out a complex and comprehensive database, formed in part from the study on all the sales documents of the areas and if possible on the constructed buildings. Starting from a large amount of documents I created a solid database, from which I drew up a detailed research on the "social" and working life of all buyers, directly or indirectly involved, thus constituting a list of characters, divided according the "social position" of the investors. From the results of this research we can see complex and unexpected events in the sale of the sites; the sale shows some key figures in a privileged position towards the market, although they did not cover a particular "role" in the Savoy Court, especially compared with the many other investors involved.



Involved investors and prices of the areas

Every "social group" that tries to buy in the extension, also tries to enter in the stages of the sale in the most suitable way, according with personal needs and following its economic possibilities. Although generally every "social group" is distributed mainly in a specific area - for example the nobility come to live in the "*Isole centrali*" (Central Islands) and in the "*Isole di Completamento*" (Completion Islands) (I divided the expansion in three groups: peripheral, central and completion) - what has primary importance in this thesis is the evaluation of the complex system of setting the price of the areas to sell. The setting of the price starts from general information related to the position of the area, but then is determined by the contractual weight of the investor involved, rather than exclusively by the characteristics of the area.

For further information, e-mail:

Gabriele Zorino: gabrielezorino@yahoo.it