

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

The Palace Balbo-Ferrero of Cavallerleone: history, context, restoration project

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The restoration project focused on the requalification of Balbo-Ferrero palace and its opposite square Santa Maria.



The first phase consisted in the study of palace context: the rural origin of the municipality of Cavallerleone and its demographical evolution during the past centuries, The built-up area of Cavallerleone has been analyzed throughout the most representatives buildings of the municipality, such as the Nuceto castle, the Maria Santissima Assunta parish church and the Ceriana silk factory (subjects of others thesis).

The second and most extensive section of the thesis consisted in the study of the warehouse history, through documents and direct observation of the building., The few documents found in Turin State Archive and in the historical archive in Cavallerleone marginally described the building and focused more on property changes than on the architectural evolution.

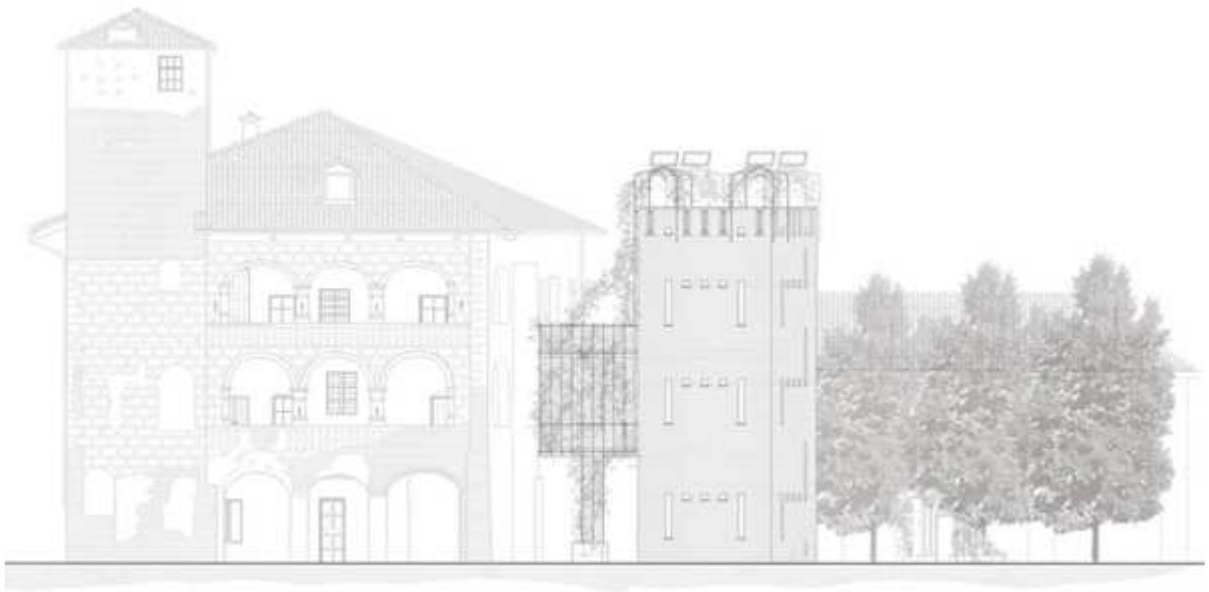
In spite of this, these investigations allowed to find out the transformation phases of the building. Moreover studying and comparing the architectural elements of the structure with those of other buildings in the same area, allowed to date back to the whole building history.

Focusing on the direct observation of the palace, each architectural element was thoroughly studied also in term of degradation and possible restoration.



The project foresees the construction of a new apogee area for the city archive. In this way the significant weight of the archive would not burden on the old building, while the empty spaces on the first floor of the palace has been designed only to inspect documents.

The vertical connection between the various environments is ensured by a new tower with stairs and lift. The top floor of the palace, nowadays abandoned, may be used by cultural associations of the village. The inclusion of a new volume in Cavallerleone urban plan, in an area dramatically changed throughout the centuries, (most remarkably in the last forty years) presents strong challenges, but at the same time various opportunities in term of both volumes and materials for the new structure. The project should be integrated in the territory and so I had considered carefully and refined several proposals to leave the palace its centrality. To achieve this goal, the tower volume has been reduced to the minimum possible size, satisfying security laws. Its height derives from the historical building roof and only the roof parapet and a system of four green towers exceeds the height. The proposal of this roof has been inspired, quite ironically, by medieval towers, with different functions. Following the same spirit, windows looks high and narrow, like it was in towers of the past.



The project had to be necessarily integrated to its environment, thus I proposed the requalification of square Santa Maria also, through the addition of a avenue and a review of parking and leisure spaces, suggesting a more suitable development of the central built-up area.

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