



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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MASTER OF SCIENZE IN ARCHITECTURE  
(REHABILITATION AND REVALUATION)

*Abstract*

**Proposals of conservation and enhancement of the  
archaeological landscape of Delos island**

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September 2015

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The Master thesis focused on the archaeological heritage and the landscape of the island of Delos, since 1873 the subject of studies, research and significant archaeological investigations by the French School of Athens. Since 1990 officially enjoy the recognition of "World Heritage" by UNESCO.

Located in the heart of the Aegean Sea, in the Cyclades, it stands out among the smaller Greek islands and for its archaeological site that has a strong power of suggestion, particularly due to the absence of an effective human settlement, with the exception of sporadic and simple dwellings used exclusively by the custodians of the island to accommodate the archaeologists during the excavation missions. Another peculiarity is shown in the strong relationship between archaeological ruins and natural landscape, inevitably Delos as to define an authentic and exceptional archaeological landscape.

Rich in ancient religious center and home to one of the two most important sanctuaries of Apollo at Delphi was located where the oracle, but here the mythology established the birthplace of the god. The great shrine of Apollo Delio stood indeed on the most sacred of the ancient Greeks, and became the fulcrum around which developed the entire island city. Its history is inextricably linked to the very history of Greece underwent several dominations and particularly in that of Rome went establishing itself among the most prosperous commercial and financial centers of the Aegean. Over the following centuries, with the eclipse of the classical world, economic fortune and religious prestige gradually faded, the importance and its centrality remained such until the myth and the pagan worship of Apollo had power.

The island was contained in the very essence of the sacred place par excellence, the sacredness of the place depended so lucky to Delos. Currently the archaeological site consists of the ruins of the buildings of the ancient city: temples, shrines, monuments, public spaces and private homes.

The methodological proposals and solutions design studies aim to solve, even under a policy framework, the critical issues of the site. Especially in achieving an adequate level of usability through a more organized planning of itineraries. And improvement of the museological criteria rather dated today, concerning the contextualization between relic and site, the Archaeological Museum here present.

For the landscape emerges clear the conservation of the flora's ruin as element of prestige of the place, and the elimination of the weed where insists particularly conservative integrity and normal usability of the ruins.

Achieving these objectives it will be supported by increased efforts for routine maintenance: through desirable monitoring and intervention of the state of degradation of some of the monuments and museum building. It is finally proposed an innovative solution: the creation of a website totally dedicated to Delos, to absent today, connected to various digital platforms, so as to involve, encourage and raise awareness among the public unless caught in the visit and knowledge of this extraordinary testimony of 'antiquity. A solution of enhancement can be easily applied also to the archaeological sites found in other Greek islands.

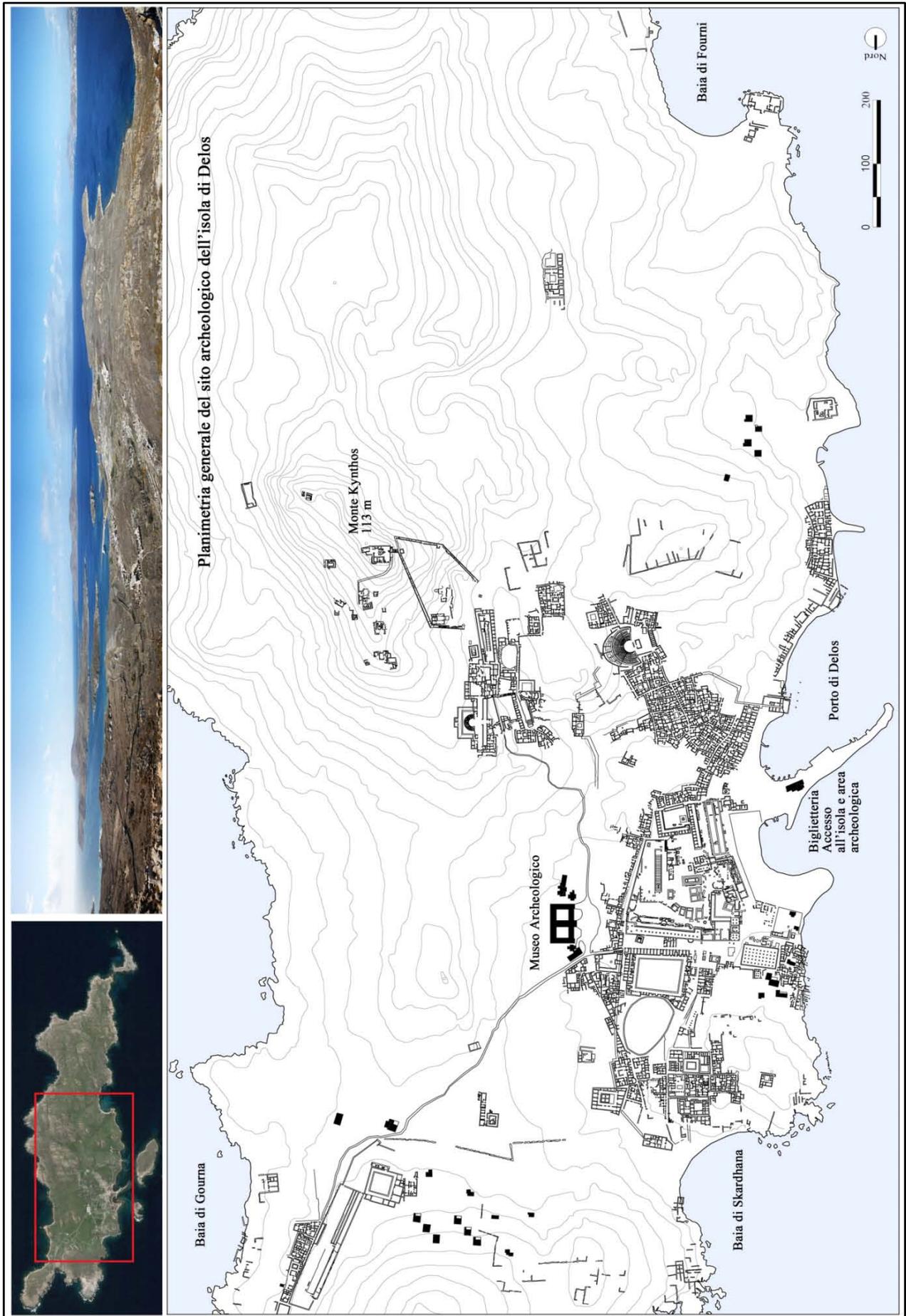


Figure 1, Table 1: General plan of the archaeological site of Delos island.

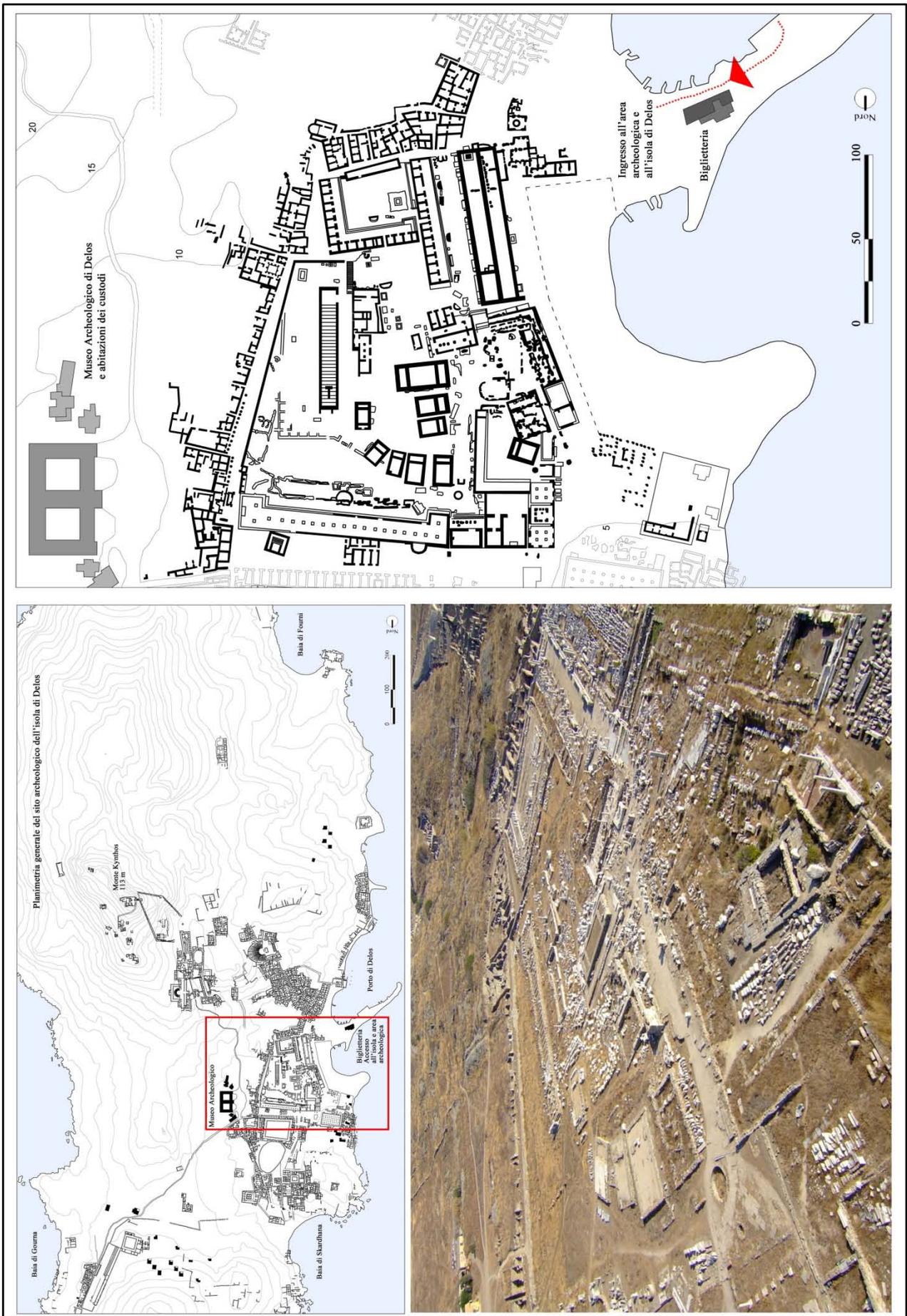


Figure 2, Table 3: Plan of the "District of the Apollo's Sanctuary."

The starting point is a bibliography rather large, carefully researched and selected; the rich iconographic and cartographic, many of them unedited, were taken from: the photographic and historians archives of the French School in Athens, the archives of the National Library of France in Paris, and the archive of the "Archaeological Explorations of Delos" published by French School since 1877 until today. The numerous photographs taken in situ during my inspection, with bibliographic sources and attachments final complete in exhaustive way this research work.



Figure 3: Aerial view of the island from the northwest, Archive picture of the French School

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