



**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE**  
**MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE**  
**CONSTRUCTION CITY**

**Honors Thesis**

## **The ancient convent of Santa Maria delle Grazie in Crocetta district of Turin. Historical reconstruction of urban block**

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This thesis develops the historical reconstruction of urban block in the urban district Crocetta of Turin, where stands the original core around which formed this part of the city, represented by is the ancient convent dedicated to “Santa Maria delle Grazie”, overlooking largo Cassini.



*Technical map of **Turin's** commune, where is marks whit colors the block (treated, handled)*

The work was basically divided in two consecutive and complementary stages, a preliminary aimed at finding documents and a second revision phase, consisted in gathered the vast amount of material founded in the archives of the city. Starting from the information obtained by the preliminary investigation, material's organization was accomplished mostly following chronological order, trying to point out the most important aspects and moments of the whole affair.

It was therefore decided to subdivide the exposure according to essential caesuras given by some events outside the block itself, as well as the entry of new players in the game, which contributed however to change the course of events, opening every time new chapters in the block story, each of them corresponding to the elaborate chapters.

Subsequently an initial overview to frame in the long run what circumstances led to the genesis and following transformations, that worked together to fix the Crocetta district, the first part of the thesis focuses on the events relating to the construction of the convent as well as the events relating to objection of Trinitarian Fathers, trustees of monastery and church dedicated to “Nostra Signora delle Grazie”, for raise the church to independent parish, until the convent’s abolition in the late eighteenth century, corresponding with the advent of Napoleonic period, followed by a short digression about order of Holy Trinity.



The building of Santa Maria delle Grazie convent

The transition from one century to another marks as well as the abolition of religious order, due to the suppression law of religious order, that, from the mid-eighteenth century to alternate periods of up to more than half of nineteenth century, involved Italian and European regular clergy, the coming into play of a new actor in the affairs of monastery, auctioned by Royal Finances, the Royal Agricultural Society of Turin. Of the latter and the experimental garden founded in convent’s building, the causes undertaken between Royal Society and parish, owner of the church belonged to the already suppressed Trinitarian Fathers, about the sale of convent complex in the last decades of eighteenth century and, at last, as far as the opening of current seat of

parish, the church of “Beata Vergine delle Grazie”, is the third chapter.

Another chapter in the history of the monastery, which coincides with the fourth chapter of work, opens on the eve of the twentieth century, with the sale of convent buildings, belonged to the Agricultural Society to archconfraternity of the Holy Trinity, who settled in this property the charitable institution named “Opera Pia Convalescenti alla Crocetta”. This section of the thesis briefly describes the foundation of the archconfraternity, institution’s administrator, which still continues the activities dedicated by the confraternity to shelter convalescent, although with a reconversion of the kind of reception, focusing on self-sufficient and non self-sufficient elderly, are also listed actions that contributed to the gradual transformation and growth of the building complex, to make what we can observe today.

In parallel with the purchase by the archconfraternity of the Most Holy Trinity, occurred the sales areas, which had housed the garden and the lawn of the old convent, in a different way, not as a simple transaction of land as such, but with the prospect of residential development of the same, the main subject of the fifth and final chapter, in which I expose

building projects, built on the latter, which have contributed to the final definition of urban block, where indeed it stood the convent, as currently appears.