



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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Degree in Architecture Heritage Preservation and  
Enhancement

*Abstract*

**Villa Lajolo a Piossasco: restoration and enhancement  
project**

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The F.A.I. (Fondo Ambiente Italiano – Italian Environment Fund) was the promoter, in the spring of 2014, of a cultural event that attracted about 1,700 visitors in the city of Piosasco, suburbs south - west of Turin. On this occasion we become aware of the existence of the architectural work considered in this master degree thesis. Villa Lajolo is an eighteenth-century mansion located in a hilly area of the city of Piosasco, known as the village of San Vito. The mansion is one of the ancient villas which marked the original perimeter of the village. The beauty of the garden of Villa Lajolo and its historical relevance have allowed its nomination for the FAI and in 1984 the Superintendent of the architectural and cultural heritage of Turin has put a constraint of environmental protection on the complex.

In consideration of this, the objective of this thesis aims to enhance and promote the discovery of such a beautiful cultural heritage. According to the methodological approach established, in the first phase a survey of the historical case study has been carried out, which unfortunately has not led to the complete reconstruction of the analysis, due to a lack of documents. The solution adopted for this shortfall has been a comparison between the architectural connotations of Villa Lajolo with the decorations and use of materials in that time, which has allowed us to date it back to the late eighteenth century, thanks to the book by Giovanni Chevally "*Gli Architetti, l'architettura e la decorazione delle ville piemontesi del XVIII secolo*". The same work has been done with the garden, the exact date of its setting being unknown. Referring to the French essays by Dezallier d'Argenville, "*La Théorie et la Pratique du jardinage*" and André Mollet in "*Le jardin de plaisir*", it has been possible to verify a similarity to the French gardens of the eighteenth century. The second phase of the restoration of the building has provided for a restoration of the ruined parts through the use of compatible materials, in order to highlight the modern interventions and the redesign of the garden. The project of new functions, in the third phase, reflect a proper choice made on the purpose of relating the main building to the garden. The ground floor will host a bookshop specialized in historical gardens and the art of topiary, as well as a small nursery and a hall in support of the municipal library which will keep books concerning the village of San Vito. The first floor will host the functions related to the areas of the park intended to become a garden and orchard as educational workshops for children and an exhibition space. To enhance the park, both functionally and scenically, a lighting project has been planned, with the inclusion of some elements such as a *berceaux* and green seats. All these functions provide an example of how an eighteenth century villa can be enjoyed by a great number and variety of visitors, without being perceived exclusively as a museum of itself.

This intervention is well integrated with a series of events involving the city of Piosasco: in the village of San Vito a small masterplan of widespread hotel has started, which, thanks to the hypothesis presented here, can lead to a promotion of the local attractions. In fact, through collaboration with local authorities and promoting associations, touristic events will be intensified. Villa Lajolo may be an example for the other villas that make up the village of San Vito of how, by applying such a project of re-functioning and enhancement, we can get to a promotion of the entire village.

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