



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

---

ARCHITECTURE HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND  
ENHANCEMENT

*Abstract*

**The block of Saint Emanuel in Turin. Study of architecture  
and population with the support of the Digital History**

*Tutor*

Rosa Tamborrino

*by*

Elisa Scantamburlo

*Co-Tutor*

Fulvio Rinaudo

December 2015

By resolution of 30 April 1926 it was issued the plan “Risanamento di via Roma e delle vie laterali” or “piano Scanagatta”, which provides for the demolition and reconstruction of the blocks of the two tracts, with the presence of arcades for the whole length of the street.

They began the expulsions of Via Roma residents.

«[...] vociare disordinato che dagli ammezzati saliva su su fino alle soffitte [...]. Alloggi aperti, un disordine indescrivibile, un andare e venire di gente che trasportava casse, mobili, oggetti [...]. Per le scale anguste e scure, chi scendeva carico lentamente, chi risaliva lesto a prender roba. Uomini che vociavano, si chiamavano, imprecavano; donne che strillavano [...] apparivano pallide, spettrali, con gli abiti in disordine, i capelli arruffati; bieche d'ira, esse lanciavano impropri e maledizioni a quella casa dalla quale erano cacciate a forza».

In an article of 2 July 1931 of “La Stampa”, it was described in this way the exodus of people forced to leave their homes.

A decree of 3 July 1930 says the reconstruction of the blocks belonged preference to the owners of the same. In general the old owners were driven to the advantage of societies with large concentration of financial and industrial capital and insurance and social security institutions, as it happened to the Saint Emanuel block: although the owners had expressed their willingness to provide for the reconstruction work, in 1932 takes over the Royal Society of Mutual Insurance Companies.

Consolidated uses and functions that were bedded in the urban context through the centuries and residents who lived in this area were subverted by an act that causes a radical transformation.

The study started from the check of the transformations of urban space, and then focused on the social transformations of Turin and this area, supported by information from bibliographic research on the inhabitants censuses.

Particularly, to study in detail the relationship between the population and housing conditions in the early twentieth century in Turin, it has been considered a study by Giuseppe Melano in 1942, which lists, specifically, the extrapolated data from censuses 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931 and 1942.

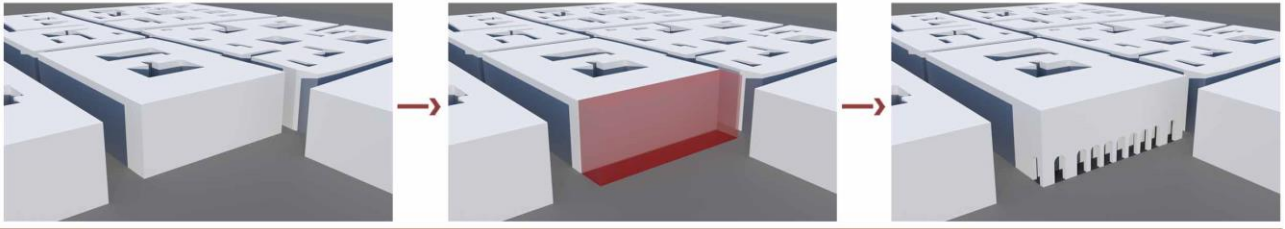
Going down in detail of the Saint Emanuel block, it was want to investigate ownership of the block through a bibliographic and archival research; it was created a GIS project with a database derived from the “Gatti Land Registry” until the years of reconstruction of the street “Via Roma”. You can consult it for different information concerning both the owners of the different lots, the nature and composition of the various buildings.

Subsequently, I studied the inhabitants who lived here before the expulsions caused to the reconstruction work of the street “Via Roma”. To do that I consulted the data of the 1931 census and archival documents related to reconstruction work and I created a database where you can see this information.

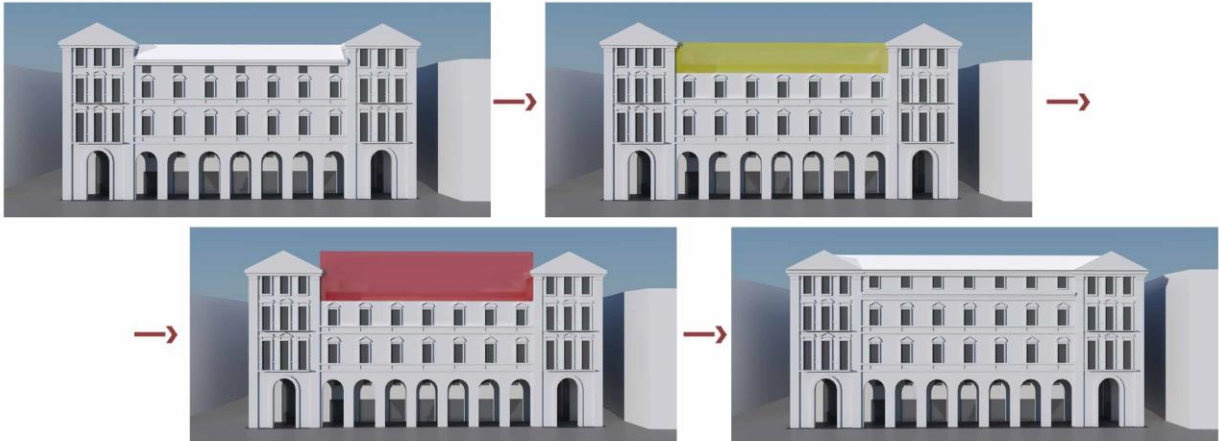
Finally, I made use of 3D modeling to study the architectural transformations of the block and return the results in a simple and immediate way, to understand what were those actions which have shaped the block, before the radical transformation due to the reconstruction of the street, which occurred over several years. The information used for this study are archival documents and photographs.

ISOLATO SANT'EMANUELE - FACCIATA VERSO PIAZZA CASTELLO

XVI-XVII secolo



1772 - Palazzo Francavilla



1798 - Casa Martini



XX secolo - Anni '30

