



**POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO**

# Honors thesis

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MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURE HERITAGE PRESERVATION AND  
ENHANCEMENT

*Abstract*

**S. Carlo square in Turin from Napoleonic period to the new  
Roma street.**

**A Digital History study of the square and the block  
S. Frederick**

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Conducted through the analysis of land registers and historical censuses inside the archival heritage of the city, this study born like an analysis of the *physical transformation of urban and architectural space* of the *San Carlo's square in Turin*, according to the sequence of events historians have characterized the Turin city in the Nineteenth century by the arrival of the Napoleonic government and its reforms inspired by the principles of the French Revolution, both on the economic that socially, in which we witness a strong statement of the new bourgeois elites, until the major rehabilitation projects in the early decades of the last century that still shape the present appearance of the square and its blocks.

This square born in the mid-seventeenth century, with a project the ducal architect Carlo di Castellamonte, as a connecting element between the city "old" and the "new" city, with this research has shown that the place royal encloses, behind his constant curtain wall of representation, a story of men, actions, accommodation, social changes, that is "physical" parallel to that which is the history of the City of Turin, its spaces, its people and leaders .

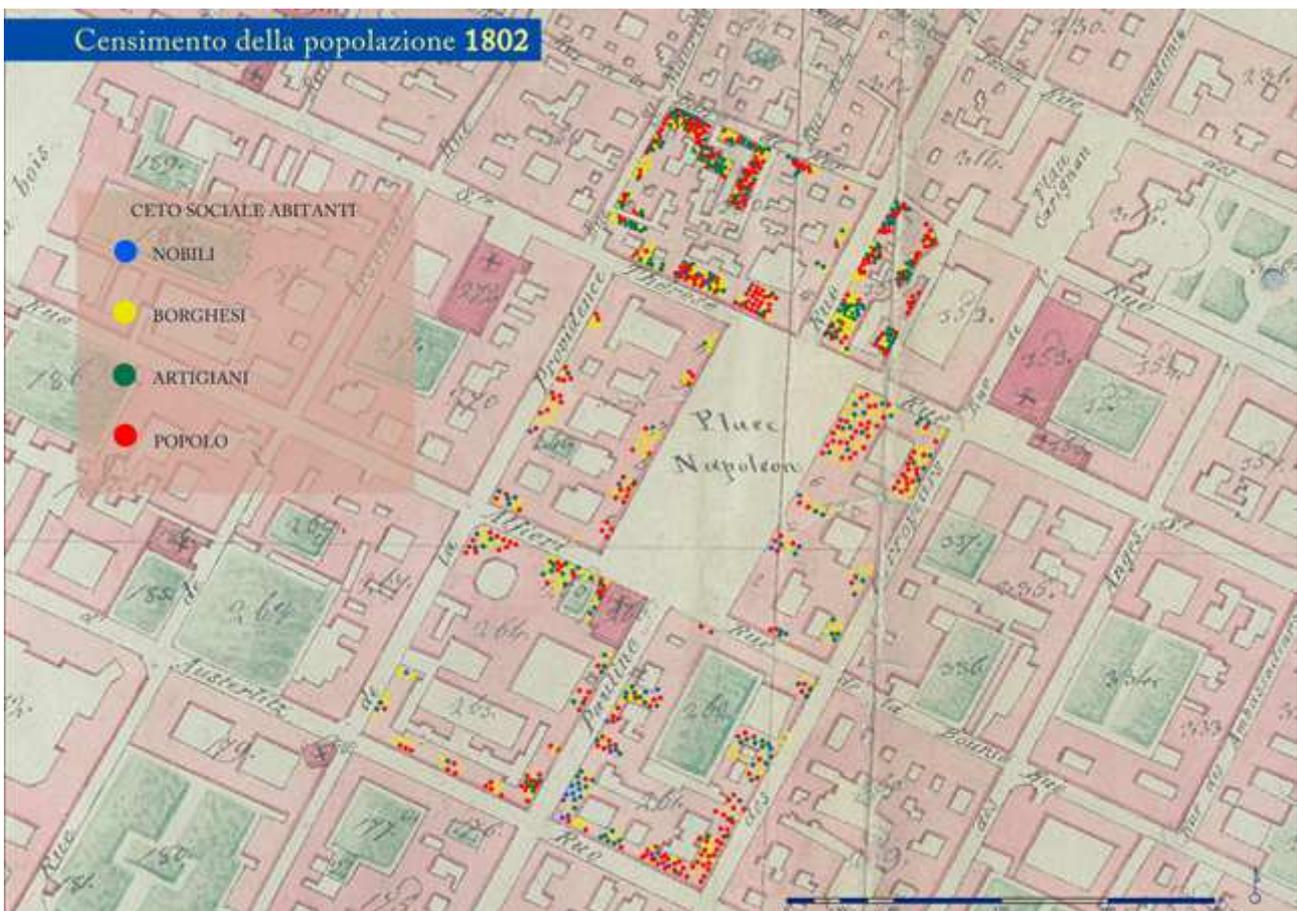
Starting from the analysis of the entire square and its six blocks characterizing this place, it was possible to get off to a scale of detail "minor", placing like object of further study the *block S. Frederick*, that differentiates from the others because is more interesting for the presence of its "internal streets" with spontaneous development, for the connection between some of its most noticeable changes with the *S. Carlo's square*, for example the *Natta Gallery*, the elevations of existing homes and the restoration of significant parts of the block, such as to give a new role also from the social point view, as in the case of *Geisser Palace*, seen as a punctual transformation within a larger extension.

A fundamental aspect of the method of investigation used for the study of this urban space, is the *introduction of digital tools*, new instruments both for the interpretation of the data that for historical narration; tools that can be called "hybrids", born from the interaction of multiple natural sources, both bibliographic and archives, where it was possible to draw an *new image of the square* that leads to a series of reflections and interpretations of the social classes for both the inhabitant that the owner of the *houses present in the blocks* and how the physical change of the square may have been influenced by the latter.

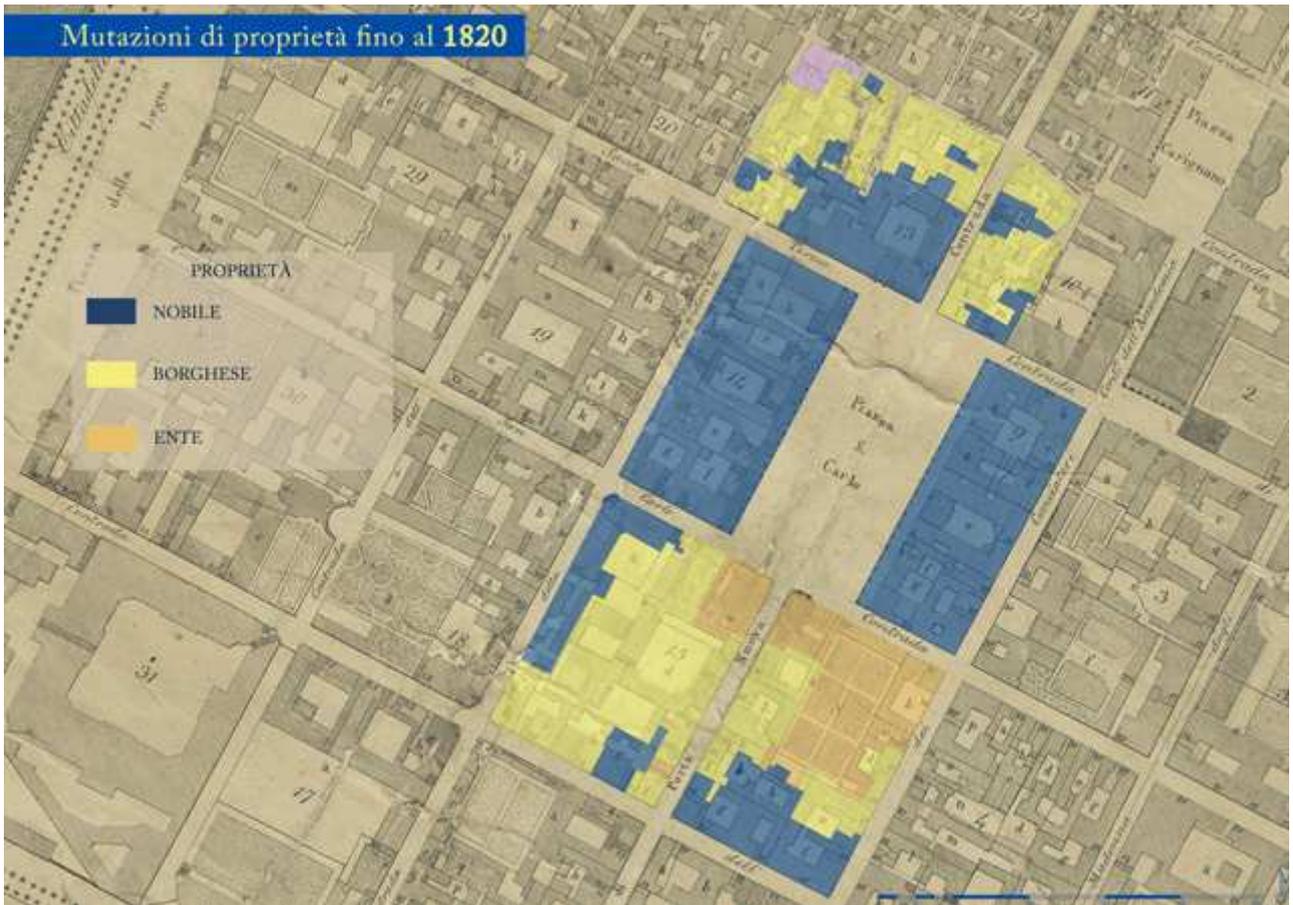
Using these resources allows you to create this new image of the city starting from geo-referencing of the data used for the purposes of research, organized in multiple databases, allow you to get a visual form of the relationship between "space, and individual" and finally for to narrate the story of this place in which they were carried out of actions,

describable through the relationship between the representation of an urban space and the sources of the information derived from this.

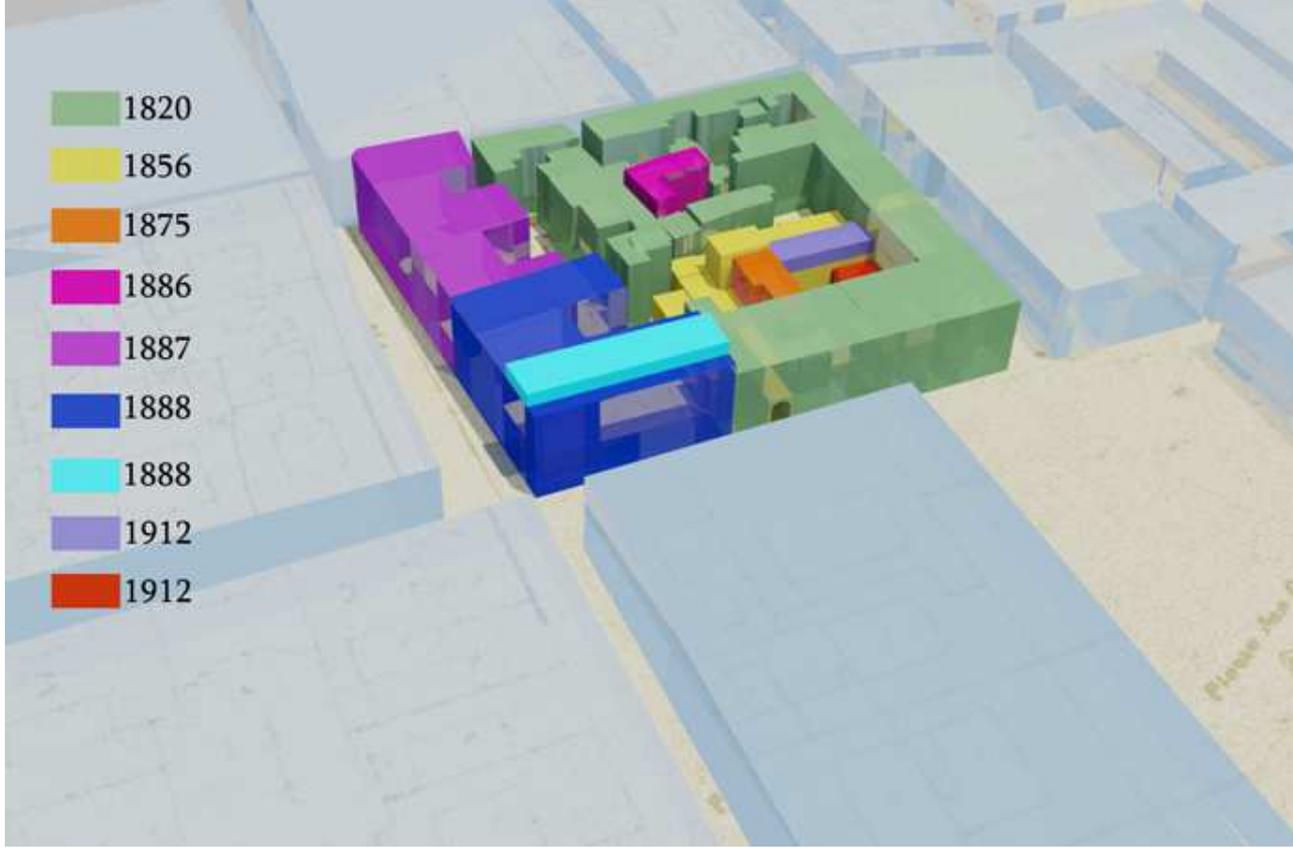
The final production of these thematic maps, made with the development of ArcGIS software, shows "graphically" and gradually the establish itself of the middle class within the historical context of the square's buildings until its current shape almost linked to the role of "economic and representative city", with some exceptions and variations, while the volumetric interpretations, performed with the help of 3D modelling, describe "the spatial interpretation" of the buildings inside the block chosen, that is disappeared or that still exists, which may also justify the existing social stratification before the last fascist restoration project.



Families living in the homes of Piazza San Carlo indicated according to the social class of origin in accordance with the deduction of the data in the Census of 1802, on the basis of cartographic Napoleonic land register of 1807;



Study of mutations owned up to 1820, highlighting the social status of the owner, as was apparent from colonnario of the Gatti Land Registry mutations;



3D Model: study spatial transformations of the block SAN. Federico made during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries;

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