



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF

Degree in Architecture Construction City

Abstract

**Scenarios for the conservation of the archeological
heritage: material and virtual enhancement of the theatres
of the Gallia Narbonensis**

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The objective of this Master thesis is to outline possible conservation and enhancement strategies for the french roman theatres through research methods concerning the disciplines of Restoration and Geographic Information System (GIS). The study has been carried out according to a multi-scalar criterion: starting from an analysis conducted at national level, the study area has been first restricted to the regional scale, then to the urban and architectural one.

The first part of the thesis deals with a systematic reading of the historiographical debate on the sources, ancient and modern, related to Gaul. This is followed up with a descriptive framework of territorial and time boundaries correlated to the four ancient gallic regions, with a particular focus on *Gallia Narbonensis*. An attentive exam of the *Notitia Dignitatum* has determined the guidelines for an analysis at a urban level, allowing the differentiation between the *metropoles civitates* and the small urban centres. In this case the decision in favour of a deeper examination on the *Gallia Narbonensis* results in the extension of the study area to the small urban centres. The choice of wide geographical and time borders, has not precluded the possibility to discern, among the multiplicity of issues, the one regarding the "Romanization" of the Independent Gaul. This last issue can be perceived in the construction of a road and marine infrastructure network, as well as in the masonry construction of buildings and city walls in the gallic *oppida*. With a further narrowing of the investigation scope at a architectural scale, the study has focused on the gallo-roman theatres.

The methodological approach has envisaged, initially, the study of historical sources and the research on the theatres traces in the cartographic and iconographic documentation, in many cases useful in substantiating an hypothetical identification of the theatre (fig. 1). Secondly, the methodological approach has consisted in a use of the software *QuantumGIS* in order to guarantee a spatial and geographical management of the data. The extent and the distribution of these data has led to a database that would provide the georeferentiation for the total of all 158 theatres, as well as some basic information (fig. 2). This first level of knowledge has been implemented, for the 16 theatres of the *Gallia Narbonensis*, with a *link* to a schedule, in *pdf* format, including not only some informations about the theatre but also the related iconographic and cartographic documentation. Lastly only for the theatre of *Arausio*, Orange, a new database has been designed according to specific logical and chronological principles, that should facilitate the reading and the use of the totality of the documentation found (multimedia, literary, iconographic and cartographic sources).

In conclusion, the outcomes of this study have been summarized and ordered into a digital platform in order to promote their knowledge through a website, designed with a very simplified interface (fig. 3).

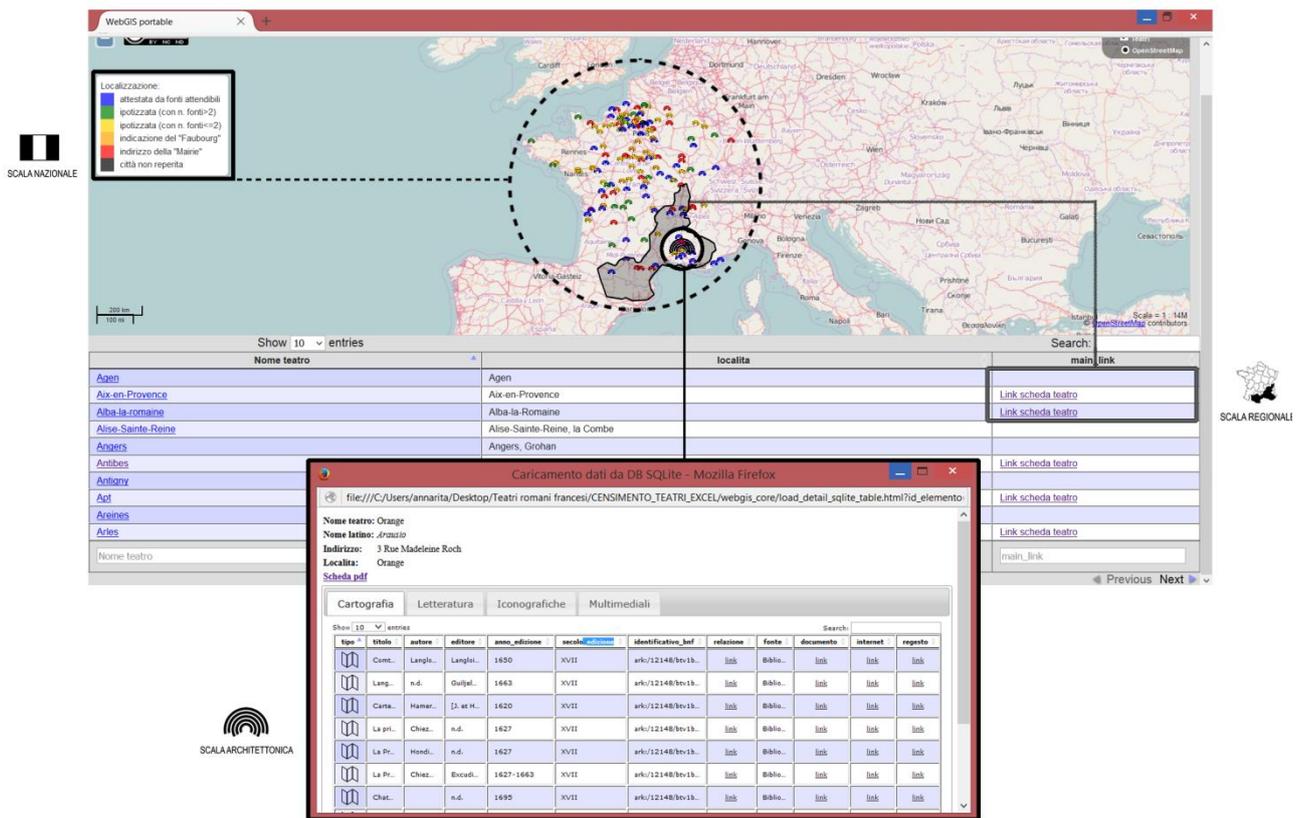


Fig. 3: The website interface (graphic elaboration of the author on the basis of two screenshots of the digital platform).

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