

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 1
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

Ville de Nice: historical–morphological analysis of urban transformations during the Savoia’s dominion in modern age

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This dissertation aims to understand how much the politics of Savoia dynasty and the great interventions on the fortifications could have influenced the urbanistic development in Nice, tied up, between the end of the XIV and the XVIII century, to territorial dynamics and political choices that have delineated also the fates of the Piedmontese territory.

The job of search involved the analysis of studies and publications relating to the City of Nice, the history of the oriental Provenza, the Piedmont and the Savoia dynasty and, at the same time, the examination of historical documentation of the city in Italian and French Archives. An accurate research has been developed for a long time both in Turin, at the "*Archivio di Stato*" (Record Office) and the Royal Library, both in Nice, at the *Archives Départementales des Alpes-Maritimes*, both, finally, on the server *Opalinus* of the *Bibliothèque National de France* in Paris. It is to underline that a big part of the documentary material preserved at the ADAM originates from the dismemberment of the fund related to Nice preserved to the Turinese Archives of Court, dismemberment which Italy had to undergo after the 1947 peace treaty. This event made complex the search, that necessarily has been integrated among the two Archives, because all the documents that didn't made directly reference to Nice remained in Turin (as the projects of the fund *Materie Militari*, *Carte Topografiche*, as well as the drawings of *Architettura Militare*).

In the next phase the most complex problems have been to understand the reflexes on Nice of history of Piedmont, to establish a relationship among those influences and the material recovered in documents, and to compare the results with publications on the theme, that have different optics according to the nationality of authors.

The geographical peculiarity of only "window on the sea" made particular the nature of the economic and administrative relationships among the Court and the *Contado*, that can be defined as *privileges*.

The dukes called the bests architects of court to plan the modernization of the Citadel, the Port and the urban expansion; during the '600 because of the expenses for the renovation of the capital, the greatest part of these projects was not realized, but this innovative spirit moved to Nice investments that were translated in the realization of many noble buildings and ecclesiastical structures. In the '700 persisted the wish to improve the city, through the realization of great public interventions and infrastructures, as the Port, southwest and north expansions and streets of communication with Turin.



Nice: plants of boundaries and fortifications ASTO, Biblioteca Antica, *Architettura Militare*, vol. 5, f. 197v - 198

All those plans were favored by the dismantlement of the Citadel, that had been subjected to continuous expensive jobs of improvement for almost three centuries. After the XVIII century with the acquisition of Genova, Nice lost the role of only port of the Kingdom and so finished the age of investments for urban expansion; for these and others reasons in 1860, during the Risorgimento, the King left the city to France.

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