

The towerclock of Avigliana (Turin): from cognitive analysis to restoration and exploitation

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The great resource of Italian monuments admits ancient buildings not showed up to advantage and sometimes even in bad conditions, especially in small towns where unfortunately the preservation of monuments involves often great difficulties. So the unquestionable need to preserve the past memories, in particular the most threatened, asks studies and reflections in order to find best forms of protection for each case.

Around this topic has been developed the study of the towerclock of Avigliana, a small town near Turin.

Placed to the ends of the expansion that the period of greater economic development of the town accompanied (from XI to XV century), also in presence of other elegant ones and important buildings, the clocktower constitutes from always a point of reference of the town. Together with the underlying buildings, the clocktower was modified several times in the past, it has crossed undamaged the alternate vicissitudes of the city and today represents the memory of the Piedmontese Middle Ages. For these reasons it was also studied by the studios and architect Alfredo d'Andrade, that has reproduced it in the 'Borgo Medievale' of Turin in the 18th century.

Confirming the problems of conservation of the 'smaller architectures', the *status quo* of the complex denounces a worrisome situation of degradation and insufficient exploitation. The carried out job therefore, has picked this cue, proposing itself the search of shapes of conservation and exploitation, adapted to the constructions in object.



The clocktower in Avigliana: photos and drawings

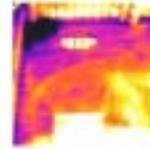
The tight tie between protection and preservation has rendered necessary a deep cognitive surveying of the object, important to understand historical-artistic valences as well as potentiality to develop. The study of the tower and the underlying buildings has come to form a detailed cognitive picture which shows necessary elements for an operation of restoration critically founded, that satisfies the aesthetic and documentary request. This surveying in its aspects more significant has permitted to understand its conformation in the historical evolution and its relationship with the city, today and in past.

The work has been divided in three sections. The first section analyses the history of the city, detecting in town transformations the reflex of the great events of its past. The second section analyses the complex, through cartographic documents, the studies of Alfredo d'Andrade and in particular through deep analysis of the state of fact and integrated termographic surveying. The third and last section takes in consideration the conservation through the study of compatible uses and the conservative restoration of the building central part, natural continuation of cognitive process and effective measure in order of its exploitation.

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La lettura delle successive stratificazioni storiche.



Rifacimento della copertura in posizione diversa

Tamponamento del loggiato

Confronto tra la riproduzione al Borgo Medievale (a sinistra) e l'originale



Sopraelevazione (1683-1700) e rifacimento della copertura

Modifica delle aperture originali messe in evidenza dalle termografie in alto

Tamponamento dell'arcata originale

Historical analysis of the object

