

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO  
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 2  
Degree in Architecture  
**Honors theses**

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**The architecture in the cuneese between the 1800's and the 1900's: a  
"florilegio" of cases braidesi**

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My thesis objective is the study of the braidese architecture between the end of the XIXth century and the first years of the XXth and in particular of what can be described with the term "Florealé". From here the title: "florilegio di casi braidesi", which indicates an anthology of liberty examples in Bra, a City placed between the hills of the Langhe and the Roero and the metropolitan area of Turin.

My search began from the study of the general characters of the liberty and deco styles, in particular cultural, historical, literary and architectonic ones, analyzing the European and Italian ambit, till the case study of the city of Bra.

Much attention has been given to the documentary sources; I have used: historical news on the city of Bra, regarding the contemporary age; historical cartography, for better comprehension of the evolution of the city; oral sources represented by the memories and the studies of inhabitants of Bra; material sources represented by the buildings or by their remains; the documents conserved in the Communal Archives and in particular the documents of the archives: Building regulations, Questions work. The last ones were very useful for the catalogue and index of the documents of the buildings.

My attention has been focused initially on the Tanneries, elements of strong impulse for the city that have allowed the contacts of Bra with many European countries and the start of a cultural, architectonic and economic development. The search then has been concentrated on the civil buildings that were built from the first years of XX the century until 1940. In those years the realizations in "Stile Liberty" were insufficient, reducing themselves especially to epidermic architectonic operations, to an eclectic assembly of art nouveau decorative elements still on XIXth century's structures; expressions of the needs of a new bourgeoisie that, attracted from the exotic gust of the "new", absorb the recent images of the movement from beyond the Alps and reduce them to captions applied on traditional organisms. It is a later production than the works of the Turin Liberty, born in the first years of the century, whose influence is certainly perceived..

The buildings show architectonic characterizations reminiscent of Liberty and late Liberty, especially in the decorations, in the railings and parapets, in the halls and the gates, in the doors and the windows, in the valuable wrought irons.

Planners of the buildings are two surveyors: FRANCESCO TESTA and LORENZO MILANO who worked with the son, Bartolomeo. Their works testify their prolific presence in the city of Bra.



Civil building room, Via S. Rocco, 20

Also analyzed were the civil and funeral monuments of the two artists-sculptors who have worked in Bra between the end of the 800 and the first decades of the 900: GIUSEPPE CERINI and CELESTINO FUMAGALLI both of Turin. One of adoption and one of birth.

CERINI began to work in Bra in the 1895, when he won the competition for the realization of an imposing funeral monument to honour the memory of the lawyer BOGLIONE, a city's benefactor. It was a big success, because the author obtained, from that moment on, numerous job orders for the realization of works, funeral monuments especially, approximately about fifteen, that he realized in 30 years.



Family OLIVERO's Funeral monument. A mosaic decorated niche with a sun is the setting for a beautiful figure of woman with a lively dress and a light in her hand

FUMAGALLI participated in Bra in a competition held in 1896 for the realization of a public monument in honour of its most illustrious citizen, Beato Cottolengo. He won with a bronze statue of great dimensions inaugurated in 1900. The figure of the Saint with open arms and the look turned towards the sky rests upon a high granitic base. To its feet, a scene of charity in which an angel helps a suffering needy. The magnificent scene is modelled with a pictorial sensibility: the treatment of the great curved wing and the flowers with their soft roots are characteristic of the liberty style just like the wrought iron gates that enclosed the monument with its stylized flower-bed of lilies gone lost in the operation "ferro alla patria".



Cottolengo statue Address

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