

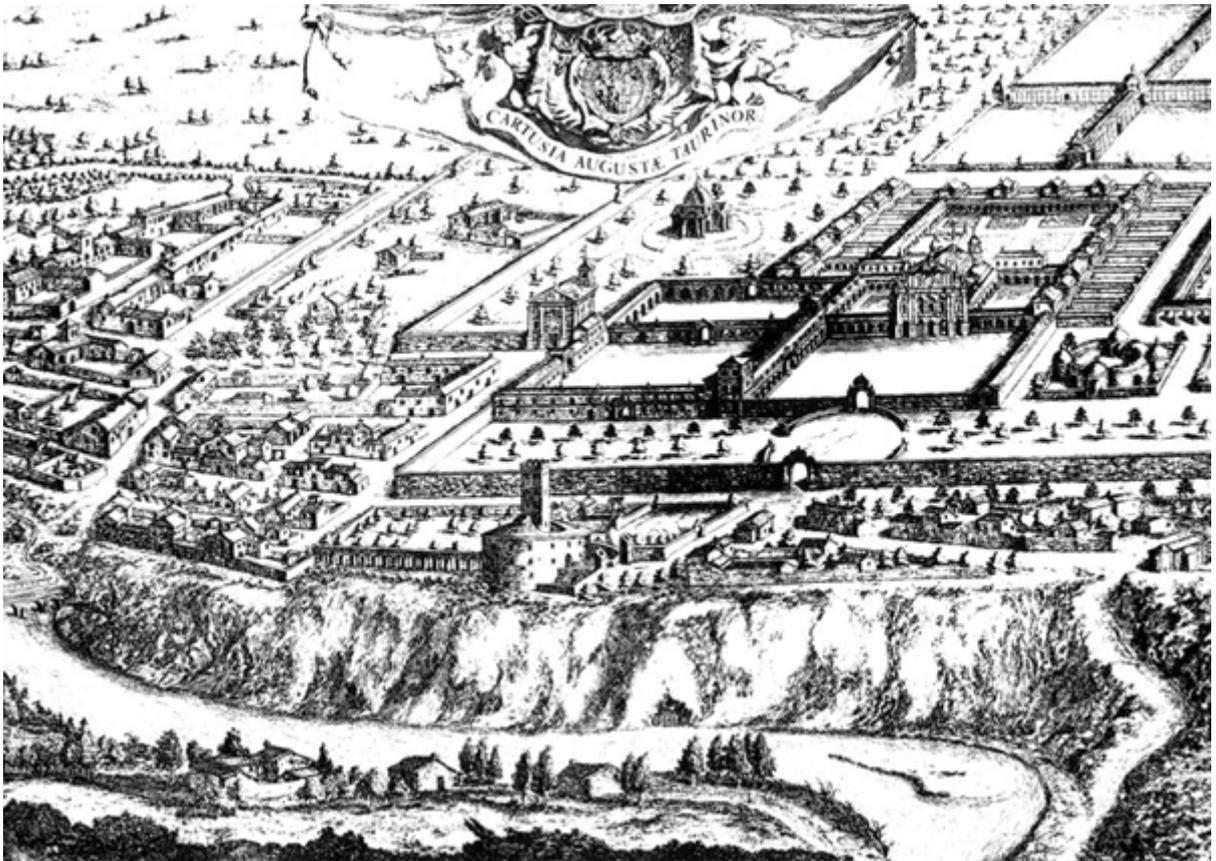
POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture (Rehabilitation and Revaluation)
Honors theses

**The future of the “Generale Carlo Alberto Dalla Chiesa” public park .
Restoration and development of an historic building complex and surrounding
green area**

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Caption: Etching of The Royal Charterhouse of Turin in Collegno by Johannes Ram based on a drawing by Giovenale Boetto, as depicted in the Theatrum Sabaudiae. (1667/1668)

A place occupies a space and has a site and an attitude. It is an ever-changing, living shape. It reflects the passage of time and incarnates proportion. It is our responsibility to safeguard its identity.

Domenico Luciani (D. LUCIANI, 2001, p. 25)

The conservation of the architectural and environmental heritage of mankind has always been my chief area of interest, so when it came to choosing the subject for my final dissertation, I looked for a project which would involve the preservation of an historic site and its development as a modern amenity.



Caption: Villa Regina Margherita, one of several of the same name , which was once a mental asylum for the upper classes

The 'Generale A. Dalla Chiesa' park in Collegno was the perfect case study. The site now comprises a number of buildings erected in the 1930s on a sizeable expanse of parkland. The original Charterhouse became the Psychiatric Hospital of Collegno but when all mental institutions were closed, the high surrounding walls were demolished and the whole area was transformed into a public park. It is now one of the main social and recreational amenities in the city.



Caption: The 'Dalla Chiesa' park, Collegno

Great care and attention must be taken in the conservation and improvement of green areas. A project must respect the delicate balance between nature and architecture as it aims to create an environment which caters for users' needs while preserving and protecting vegetation. Depending on the choices made by project managers the result can be harmony or cacophony, consonance or dissonance, confusion or contrast.

It is of primary importance that the conservation of this crucial green area in Collegno keeps pace with the changes taking place in the city itself. The park must be an integral part of the life of the present inhabitants and of generations to come. Any present or future developments must also be ever mindful of the historic and cultural heritage which the site represents.

Any future changes or transformations in the park will aim at harmonizing the architectural and natural environments to produce an organic synthesis which will hopefully produce positive emotions in the visitor; yes, because the emotional response of those who use the park will provide a gauge to measure the success or failure of the project.

As my kingdom you gave me the wonderful world of nature and the strength to live in it and to enjoy it. But please don't allow me to just stare at it in cold amazement.. Let me gaze deep into its heart as if it were my bosom friend.

Johann Wolfgang V. Goethe (J.W.V.GOETHE, 1783, p. 5)

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