

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

The Italian architecture in Kos: history and identity of Casa Italia

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The subjects of the essay are the works done during the Italian occupation (1912-1947) in the town of Kos (Greece) and the following stages.

The research has been done both in Italy and Greece consulting both private and public files. The essay is divided in four parts.

The first one is a historic introduction of the different stages of the Italian occupation in the Dodecanese: the military occupation, the governorship of Mario Lago and the one of Cesare Maria de Vecchi, which influenced most of the urban development of the Islands.



The second part regards the theme of the urbanization of the colonies, analyzing and comparing the three regulation plans of the city.

The first General Regulation Plan of 1928 foresees the preservation of the urban connection of the ancient city putting limitations on building. It also schedules an expansion of the urban territories toward the south and east part of the town and a radiant expansion of the harbour area where all the new Italian style buildings are located.

The plan of 1933 has been edited after a violent earthquake which destroyed an extended area of the town on April of the same year. From here the “opportunity” to proceed with the archeological digging campaign in the walled city. Because of the presence of this campaign, in addition to the extended areas that have to be rebuilt, the new urban plan counts, in agreement with the urban debate of the time, not to intervene, creating an area under the archeological control in a baricentric position compared to the new urban development.

The scheme of the new city counts on a plant that headed the new typological division in three well divided areas: the management-commercial centre, the residential area and the popular building trade zone, placed in a strict street net.

The plan of 1987 doesn't bring huge changes to the road net. A new expansion of the city is due to the increase of tourists and it brings a huge construction development which causes an invasive urbanization and so a large amount of concrete has been used.



The next topic deeps in the architecture of the plans, distinguishing between the representative and popular architecture. The focus is on: the house of “fascio-cinema theatre”, the Building of the “Podesteria”, the Government Building, the Museum of Archeology and the House of “Balilla”.

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The popular architecture is part of the rebuilding plan of the city after the earthquake. The projects were run by the architect Mario Paolini who could count on a team of the LL.PP. of the Dodecanese.



The rebuilding works were fast: they started in 1934 and were finished by 1938. Four new neighborhoods were built in the east part of the harbor of Mantachie. The morphology of the typical house follows the “Mediterranean” style: the plan schemes are easy, with a small garden, rhythmic holes, plain roofs and white painting.

The goal of the essay is the development of a project of valorization of a popular building.

Like the Italian Cultural Society, the purpose is to continue the still strong links between the Italian and Greek communities.

The intervention really tries to preserve the handmade as more as possible with the Mediterranean influence and restore the falling parts with compatible materials.

The project foresees a first stage of cleaning of the extraneous of the past years on the original part and an expansion on the trace of the stratifications, in the interior courtyard and up to the second floor, preserving the identity and characteristics of the buildings, presented again in a modern way.

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