



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

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Master in Architecture Heritage Preservation and  
Enhancement

*Abstract*

## **The sea's stations**

**Restoration and conservation of the coastal maritime heritage of Sardinia  
The case study of the former Capo Figari semaphore station**

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September 2020

The paper has as its objective the methodological project for the restoration of the former semaphore station of Capo Figari, a complex of buildings belonging to the coastal maritime heritage of Sardinia, built around the end of the nineteenth century with the function of coastal surveillance and as a basis for land-sea communications.

Preliminary researches concerned the architectural typology of the sea's station, called "semaphore", which first spread along the coasts of southern France and later near the most important ports of the Italian peninsula. Five semaphore stations were built in Sardinia to monitor the port areas, but above all to direct the entry and exit of boats.

The semaphore complexes were exploited for a few decades, as the invention of the radio made their function superfluous. During the war period they were occupied by the Navy, which transformed the buildings into weapons depots, sighting and surveillance barracks thanks to their strategic position that allowed a clear view of the gulf in front of it.

At the end of the conflicts the semaphore system became obsolete and the stations were abandoned, which were subjected to acts of vandalism and looting that led to a rapid process of decay.

The former Capo Figari station, located in the municipality of Golfo Aranci, north-east of Sardinia, was the only one to be reused for other purposes than military ones, becoming the basis of the experiments on micro-waves by the scientist Guglielmo Marconi.

The project focuses on the Capo Figari case study, taken as a basic model for a restoration methodology that could also be applied to the remaining four former semaphore stations, finally included in a single dynamic tourist route which aims to integrate them into the coastal maritime heritage, thus having the opportunity to be discovered, visited, and valued.



Capo Figari semaphore, Golfo Aranci



Capo Sperone semaphore, Sant'Antioco