



**POLITECNICO
DI TORINO**

Honors thesis

Master in Architecture Heritage Preservation and
Enhancement

Abstract

**Building types and constructional features of the urban
fabric in the walled city of Nicosia, island of Cyprus.**

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The thesis focuses on my home town, Nicosia, the capital of the island of Cyprus, and specifically its walled city, and aims at describing the building types and constructional features of its urban fabric. The research stems from the desire to reclaim my childhood memories, for since I was a child, I have always been amazed to walk within an environment completely different from the rest of the contemporary city, in terms of architectural and social features.

Nicosia's architectural landscape renders it a unique case study, worthy of attention.

«Place, however, resonates with the aspect of “having-been,” as its reconfiguration or erasure is always imperfect, always incomplete.» (Bakshi, 2017, p.14)

The latest events associated with its contemporary history have played an important role in influencing the development and the urban form of the city, and subsequently in causing the abandonment and degradation of the historic centre.

The main goal of this research is the documentation of the current state of the city by identifying its traditional typological and constructional characteristics through an in-depth reading of the building fabric present in the two areas chosen for the research.

The research is limited to two residential areas in the walled city, within which we experiment an analysis methodology that could become a research model for the rest of the historic centre.

The first area is the district of Arabahmet, the second the districts of Ayios Kassianos, Chrysaliniotissa, and Taht el Kale.

The choice of the areas was made for several reasons: their positive impact, in the revitalization of the walled city in the last twenty years; their historical importance as residential areas; the possibility to still recognize the traditional characteristics of the buildings (for the prolonged permanence of the original residential function).

The research is divided into two phases. The first is based on the study and comparison of historiographical and cartographic sources, on the analysis and reworking of documents provided by the offices responsible for the current development of the city and on on-filed observations, carried out through the expeditious survey of the external fronts of the buildings. The second phase is based on the detailed analysis of specific cases, selected during the preliminary inspections, carried out through photographic and metric surveys.

The collected documentation constitutes a testimony, an instrument to recall the past aimed at preserving the historical memory and the architectural heritage of the walled city of Nicosia. Furthermore, it can be used as a tool to focus on weaknesses and point out the priorities of intervention within the city.