

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture (Construction)  
**Honors theses**

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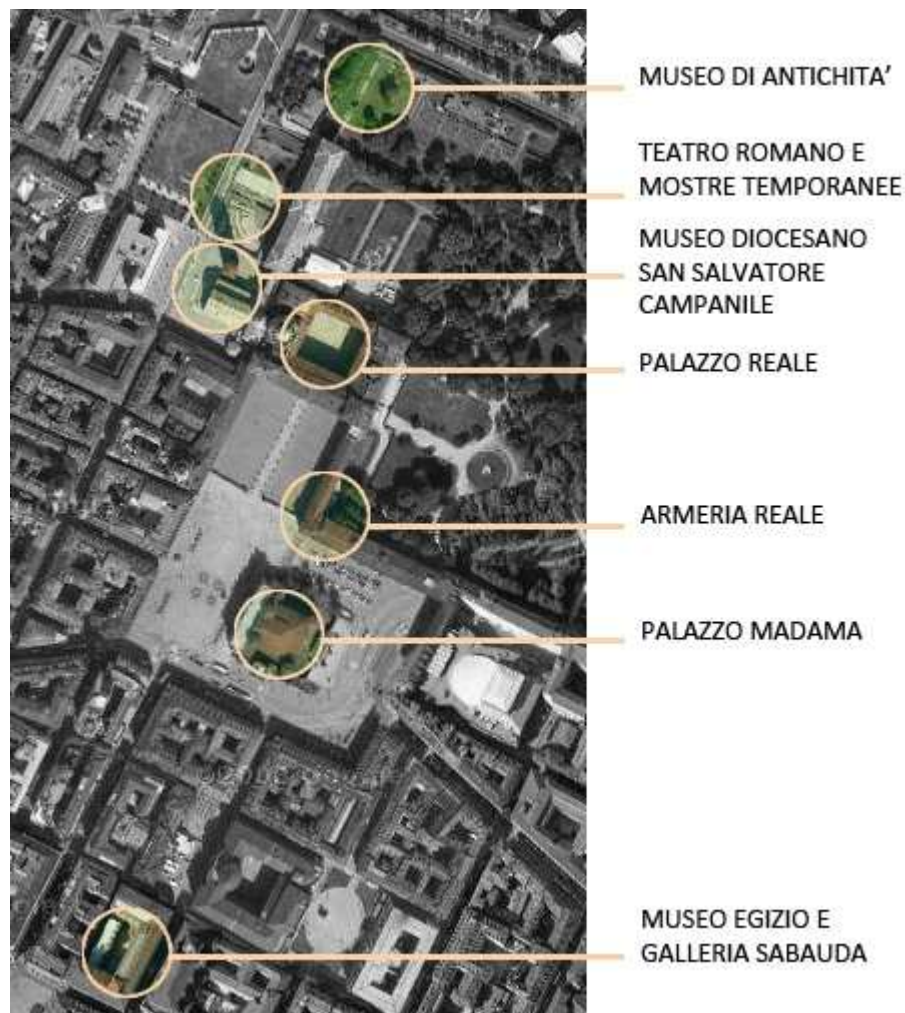
**The Roman theatre of Turin: a study for a project of continuity between past and present**

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In the heart of Turin you may find a little masterpiece: the *ROMAN THEATRE of IULIA AUGUSTA TAURINORUM*. In spite of the fact that this great find is situated in the so-called “Zona di comando”, that is to say the area which includes all the urban and religious points of the city, it is unknown to the majority of citizens and tourists. Whoever passes through via XX Settembre in order to visit the Dome of Turin or the majestic Torri Palatine, could not notice what is hidden in the gardens of the Manica Nuova of Palazzo Reale.

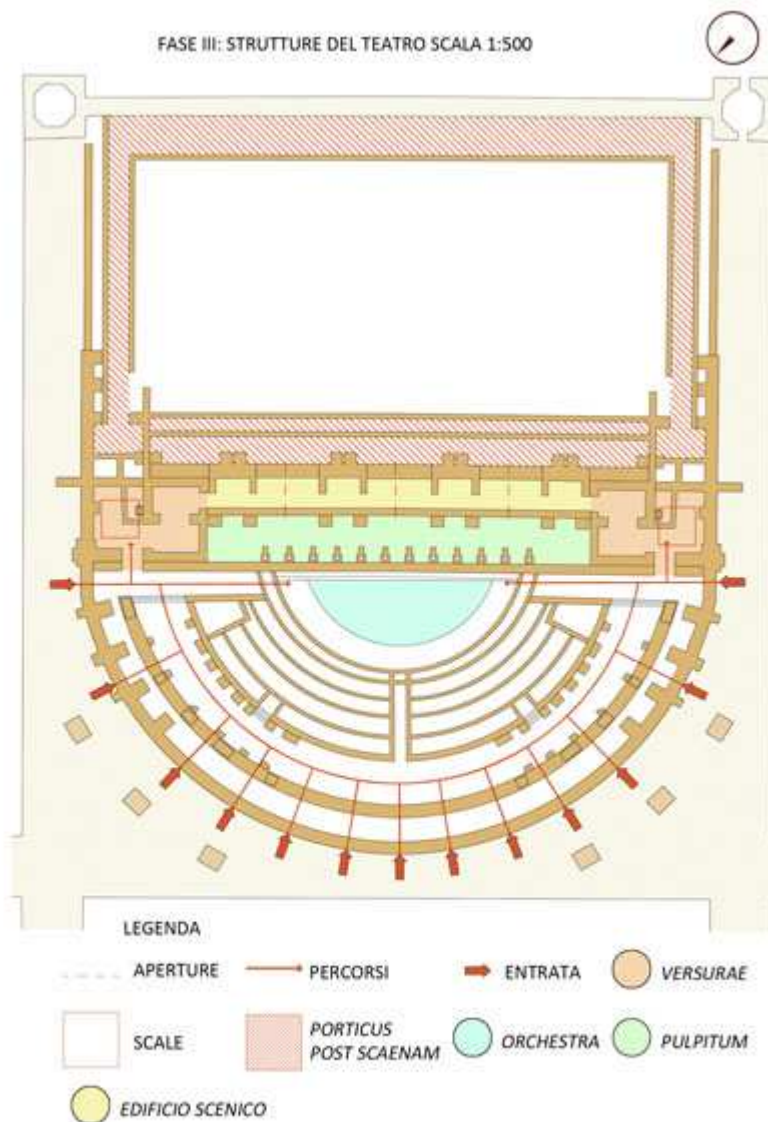


This situation is the consequence of a bad administration of the local authorities which has been lasting for several years, since 1889. Despite a great project which involves all the museums located in the centre of the city in a wide museum area, the Theatre remains, still today, unknown to most of the people.

All these points have led to the idea of elaborating a thesis on the Roman theatre of Turin, suggesting a project of functionality which may give new birth to the monument and attribute it the right importance that it deserves.

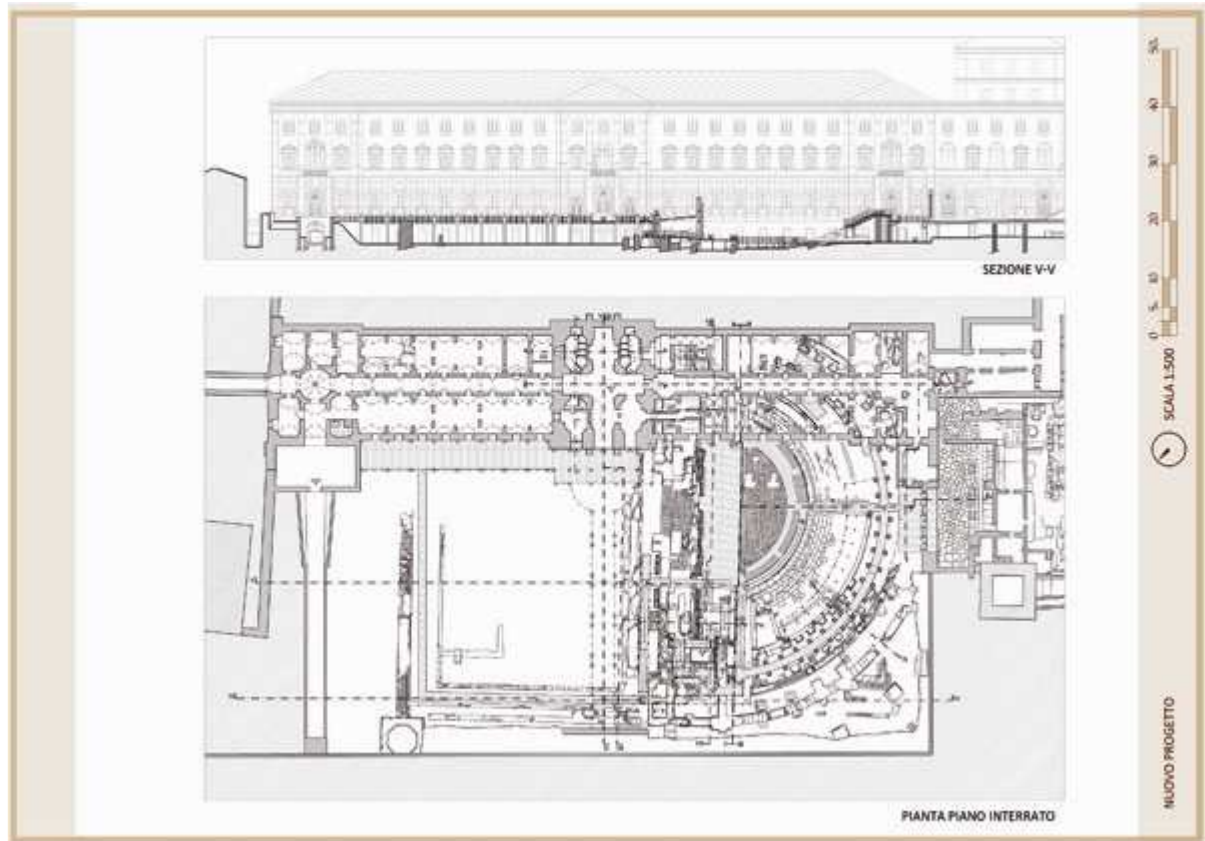
In the first chapter of the thesis I have focused my attention on the historic study about the foundation of the Roman colony and the construction of the theatre. To better understand the contest of origin of the theatre, in the first part I analysed the foundation of Turin. The colony was created with a unitary scheme where the main monuments of the city are inserted in the road network defined on the principal axes. These axes have been drawn according to the functionality of the territory since they follow the main communication routes together with the most important urban areas of Roman Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta. The theatre has been built on the boundary of the urban perimeter in order to make the access to it easier without burdening on the interior road network. Moreover, its suburban position allows people from the countryside to reach it easily.

The second analysis refers to the construction steps of the theatre. The monument has been modified during three consecutive periods. Firstly, it was subjected to strengthening actions, due to the fact that the theatre, mainly made of wood, has been affected by various fires; whereas, the last transformation has been made to dimension the theatre according to the increased dimension of the city.



The study of the constructive phases of the theatre and the analysis of the project area lead automatically to the project of renewal of the theatre. This is reflected in the definition of a museum itinerary which unifies the two external parts of the theatre freed from the accesses to the Manica Nuova of Palazzo Reale, with all the structures covered and preserved under the same building. The theatre has been rebuilt with new removable structures made of different and recognizable materials. These new elements offer the possibility to admire some parts of the theatre creating a path which both shows the finds and help to recognize the various parts and functions of the theatre giving an immediate vision as a whole. So, the didactic aim of this project is obtained through four passages: first of all the preparation of a museum in the cellars of Manica Nuova, where it is possible to see the story of the theatre; second, the external platforms which show the areas of the museum are directly compared to the finds and some explanatory signs which explain each part of the theatre. Thanks to all of these elements the visitor should be able to understand clearly the meaning of the monument.

The project both revalues the theatre as a museum and re-establishes the monument inside the city as a cultural point of interest; indeed, all the structures which have been rebuilt allow to put on plays for a maximum number of 300 spectators. To sum up, this new cultural point gives new birth to the Roman theatre and allows citizens to know a part of the city which may explain the origins of Turin.



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