

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture
Honors theses

Barcelona 1858-1888. The Citadel's Park. Urban décor by Carlo Maciachini's project for a bourgeois city

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In the 1870s Carlo Maciachini presents a series of project papers, containing drawings and memories, during the competition, announced by Barcelona's (Spain) Municipal Council for the creation of the Citadel's park.

This survey, created by the interest of adding a tile to the rich mosaic of Maciachini's career, (at the moment, recognized, merely, to be the author of the Cimitero Monumentale in Milan), is composed of archival research (in the Barcelona's archives), consultation and analysis of local newspapers, plans, drawings, engravings, photographs, documents and historical information concerning both the park's planning, as the social and cultural context of Barcelona.

In the first place, after picking over all Maciachini's writings, books and articles published about his works and about the historical events of the city, I try to situate this project inside the cultural and architectural context. In addition, as much as possible, this reconstruction of Maciachini's life and works, has allowed us to take the opportunity to recognize affinity and dissonance between the Citadel's project and what he has already realized. After filing each part of the project, I make a critical analysis about styling standards of every structures inside the park.

The relationship between town planning, architectural and construction allowed me to reconstruct the entire creative process of the architect, who is able to give expression to personal creativity and "breaks" with the contemporary tendencies. Finally, through Catalan and Spanish bibliography, have recomposed the facts, the events and the changes of Barcelona (Citadel's district) during the competition, to mark a turning point, both cultural and socio-economic profile of the city.

The objective of this work is to understand, not by a superficial approach, but a critical analysis, the whole Maciachini's works, to capture the process that drove him to be one of the most important Italian eclectic architects in the nineteenth century. This is the result of the comparison between stylistic, constructive choices, linked to contemporary trends, allowing him to recognize her value in a foreign land.

Maciachini have a dual personality, oscillating between "architect and artist", who characterize him since the education period at the Accademia di Brera. Why is an eclectic architect? Maciachini, in a Citadel's project, take the opportunity to experiment, through a magnificent graphic technique, elements and themes from different architectural styles: Neo-classical, Gothic, Moorish and Renaissance. So, this various acknowledgment is in line with the definition given by Gabetti R. of "Eclecticism", in the *Dizionario Enciclopedico di Architettura e Urbanistica* (edited by P. Portoghese), meaning that: «[...] che tende ad accogliere consapevolmente attraverso l'analisi dei monumenti appartenenti a civiltà lontane nel tempo e nello spazio, elementi da ricomporre secondo coerenti principi storici, modi tipologici [...] o ancora secondo accostamenti bizzarri e stimolanti [...]».

Maciachini have a talent of "wood carver", is a man of his time and have a deep knowledge of national and foreign architectural trends, linked him to export a "revolution" language into Catalan's context, to be ahead of the times the "genius" of Antoni Gaudí, who are going to become the formal representative of Catalan Modernism and the "Renaixement" in Barcelona.

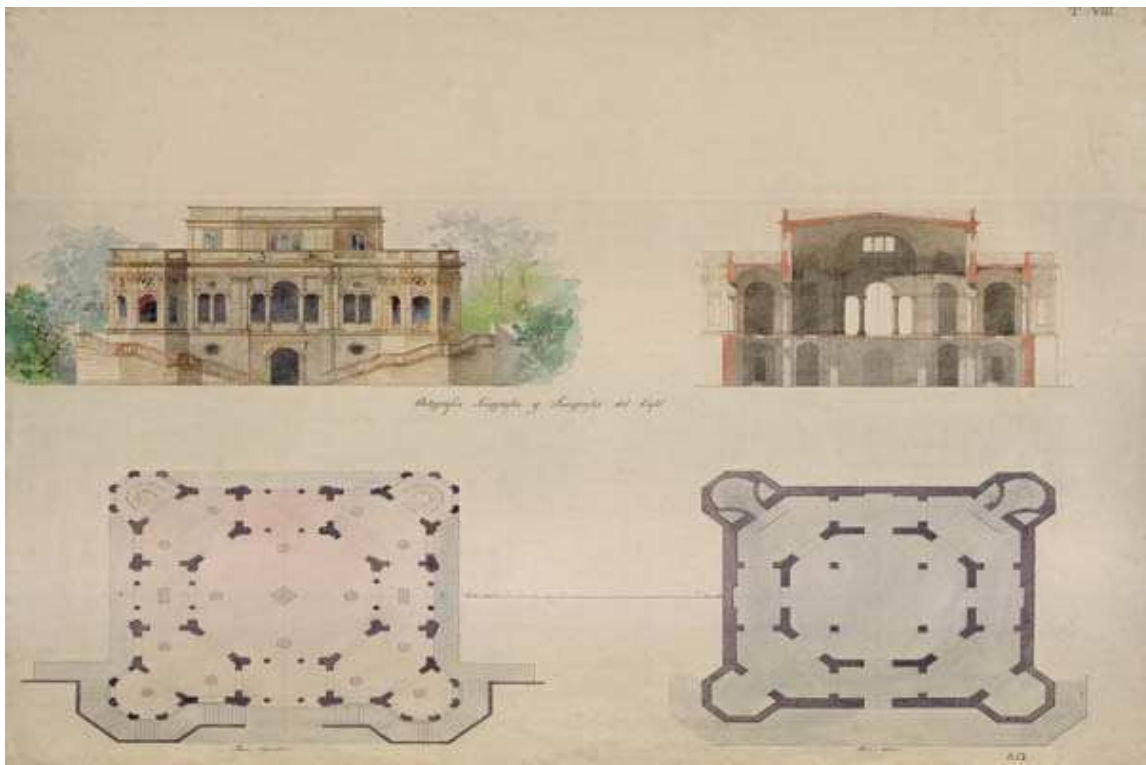


Plano topografico y geometrico, que se representa en planta la obra que se proyecta realizar

AHCB, Carlo Maciachini, *Parque de la Ciudadela*



Vista general a volo de pajarro
AHCB, Carlo Maciachini, *Parque de la Ciudadela*



Planta, perfil y fachada del café sobre la colina
AHCB, Carlo Maciachini, *Parque de la Ciudadela*

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