

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
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Honors theses

MADE IN CHINA. The conservation practice in China. Investigation on the safeguard of the cultural and environmental heritage in the People's Republic of China

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«*It would take a hundred lifetimes to learn about China*» Confucius said: but it's now clear to everyone that this country is growing year by year, overcome by an ever more definite contraposition between conservation and changing.

Broke down the Communism and adopted the capitalist economic system, the Chinese lifestyle is incline to look like the western one. China, once closed and solitary, is nowadays open to the world and is becoming a major economic power. The world's largest market seems to have become aware of all its infinite possibilities and now wants to redeem himself from the dark years of Communism.

Projected into the future, China regains its past. From a point of view, economic and with profit purposes, the *Middle Kingdom* -that in the last decades has registered a substantial growth in the international tourism—has become aware of the appeal that the local culture generate, with its history, its folk-lore and its monuments and works of art, in the western tourists. There are also occasions of serious scientific interest aimed to the safeguard of the historic and cultural heritage. Ever more frequent and solid are the cooperation and the inter-national scientific exchange in this field. The Italian high expertise in the field of the archeological research and in the conservation of the cultural heritage, makes it possible that our country can play a central role abroad. The Italian leader position in the restoration and safeguard of the cultural heritage in the world is the result of a close coordination between the Ministry of Foreign Affair and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage. Another important channel of the Italian intervention in the international cooperation for the safeguard of the cultural heritage include all the UNESCO efforts, in which our country gives an important and qualified support.

As Anna Blefari Melazzi declared: «*The respect and the admiration of which Italy enjoy on a worldwide level in the field of restoration is proven from the request made from the Chinese premier Uen Jao Bao during his stay in Rome: the Italian commitment for the restoration of the Forbidden City, a monument that bear the same symbolic value of our Coliseum* ».

The mission of this dissertation is provide to the scientific community an essay that highlight on what is happening in China in the field of the conservation of the cultural heritage.

On the basis of the fragmentary and equally poor existing bibliography and original testimony as a result of a cooperation with the ICOMOS International Conservation Center of Xi'an and with the Institute of Traditional Architecture and Historic Sites of Xi'an Jiaotong University, it was made an attempt to describe as the conservation practice is taking place on the light of the local and international provisions. The basic Chinese laws concerning the field of the conservation are otherwise translated and provided in the appendix.

Nobody ever tried an organic presentation in this direction and this was possible thanks to a personal experience in situ and a deep curiosity.

Several real and current cases of intervention on the historic and cultural heritage are shown so that can offer to the reader a general view about the Chinese modus operandi.

The proposed cases wants to be not only a mark of the Chinese conservation approach but also the basis of analysis and questions.

A work that is a summary of the present state and also a point of departure for further close examinations and researches.

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