

Honors Thesis

Master's degree Architecture for Heritage

Abstract

Seismic behaviour of vaulted systems Recurring mechanisms in the 2009 L'Aquila earthquake

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Earthquakes have always constituted a threat to the historical architectural heritage, especially for the Italian territory, characterised by a high seismic hazard. The history of building has, therefore, always been, more or less consciously, conditioned by the need to guarantee the stability of buildings even in the presence consequences of an earthquake. More and more effective solutions, recognisable as an intentional response to the seismic problem from the 18th century onwards, have been developed over the centuries and have allowed historic buildings to survive even in very hostile seismic contexts. The intervention of modern mechanics has allowed this process to be founded on solid rational foundations, systematising it and extending it from masonry to other building types. The purpose of the research presented here is to analyse the seismic behaviour of historical masonry architecture and, in particular, of one of the building systems that most characterises it: vaulted structures. Knowledge of the mechanisms governing the collapse modes of vaulted systems is of fundamental importance for identifying their weaknesses and vulnerabilities and, consequently, for the definition of restoration works aimed at improving their seismic performance without distorting their technical constructive characteristics. This knowledge is all the more necessary as modern materials seem to allow increases in the loadbearing capacity of vaulted systems that are not correlated with real structural needs.

The research was carried out assuming as a case study the earthquake that devastated the L'Aquila area in April 2009 and limiting the analysis to religious buildings: the availability of a large amount of data, acquired both during the emergency phase and during reconstruction activities, has in fact made it possible to carry out an in-depth reading of the damage found in the selected churches and to understand the probable kinematics from which they originated. The work required the analysis of the historical and technical-constructive characteristics of the buildings and a more general study of the historical local seismicity and the evolution of antiseismic presences during the last centuries.

The recognition and categorisation of the recurring kinematisms in the vaults of the L'Aquila churches are original results of the research and have been achieved by having as a reference, on the one hand, the theoretical apparatus deriving from the first eighteenth-century research on the statics of the arches and their subsequent inclusion in the conceptual framework of limit analysis and, on the other hand, the constructed reality of architecture, in a process in which the theoretical model supports the interpretation of the physical data and thus validated.

Chiesa di San Marco rilievo del danno



durante l'impulso sismico e dell'importante carico aggiuntivo ad esso dovuto.

Chiesa di San Giuseppe Artigiano rilievo del danno



Chiesa di San Giuseppe Artigiano interpretazione del danno e cinematismi

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1 L'impulso in direzione longitudinale L'impulso in direzione longitudinale provoca un movimento relativo tra i **pareti A e B** e tra i **pareti D e C.** Il movimento di B e C, strutture di separazione tra la navata centrale e le laterali, comporta la traslazione rigida della prima e la deformazione delle seconde vincolta esterna. delle seconde, vincolate esterna-mente dai fabbricati adiacenti.



Il meccanismo sopra descritto provoca lo scorrimento nel piano orizzontale delle volte nelle campa-te laterali, con la comparsa di lesioni ortogonali alla diagonale che esibisce un movimento estensivo.

Il movimento dovuto all'impulso sismico è di tipo oscillatorio: entrambe le tiagonali, alternativamente (casi I e II), subiscono movimenti estensivi, compor-tando la formazione di lesioni tra loro ortogonali. Esse presentano un anda-mento circonferenziale, ccerente con il modo di vibrare torsionale delle cupole. diag $\stackrel{}{\longleftarrow} \mathbb{N} \xrightarrow{}$ I Π

Le lesioni delle volte appaiono meno pronunciate in prossimità dell'abside, dove il movimento è stato minore, e nelle volte della navata destra, in corrispondenza della quela la parete di facciata. Che presenta una sezione variabile, è più massiccia. Questo ha portato a un ribaltamento asimmetrico dell'elemento.

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Chiesa di Santa Maria dei Raccomandati rilievo del danno



Chiesa di Santa Maria dei Raccomandati interpretazione del danno e cinematismi

