



**Politecnico  
di Torino**

## **Honors Thesis**

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**Master's degree Architecture for Heritage**

### **Abstract**

**Recreational and theatrical buildings in Germany:  
from knowledge to conservation and enhancement interventions.  
The application of a method to the amphitheater of Trier**

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For centuries, German scholars and thinkers have looked to the south, towards the Mediterranean and those countries that have dominated the pages of history for different epochs, intending to understand their origins and to spread a culture far from that of their native territories. Today, in a totally different historical and scientific context, the results of long and in-depth studies carried out so far on the Italian archaeological heritage are compared with the German archaeological material, developing a scientific curiosity focused on the historical-architectural knowledge of these structures and the process of conservation that has kept them to the contemporary era, evaluating the application of theories and methodological criteria on the archaeological heritage under examination.

This research contribution, in the perspective of the study of ancient playful and theatrical buildings scattered within the borders of present-day Germany, deals with investigating these ancient architectures with the aim of reaching conservation and therefore valorization, using the most recent studies in the sector. This work is therefore based on a fundamental phase of knowledge, which is essential for understanding the history and evolution of the territories, as well as the architectures inserted within them.

The study does not want to be a point of arrival, but rather a starting point for subsequent analyses and considerations; the result of discoveries that will certainly occur later than the time we are writing. In this regard, it was essential to use GIS technology as a resource that has allowed both the graphic and territorial restitution of the studies, guaranteeing further and more refined considerations not otherwise identifiable, and the realization of a real and proper project system that is easily implementable and shareable to modify and integrate new considerations, even with multiple hands.

The knowledge phase has highlighted the bibliographic and cartographic heritage from ancient and modern sources. In this way, it is possible to place the various playful and theatrical structures that have come down to this point, in relation to their insertion in urban areas or in extra-urban territorial contexts; then analyzing architectural systems, dimensions and construction quality based on their position. All the structures analyzed are investigated not only on the basis of their historical-archaeological knowledge, but also considered in terms of their process of historical transformation and formal and memorial rediscovery in the modern and contemporary context, investigating current protection and enhancement policies, with possible methodologies applicable according to the current conception of the discipline of architectural restoration.

This last consideration is brought to light with a focus on one of the most important archaeological structures in contemporary Germany, namely the amphitheater of Trier. With these analyzes, a methodological proposal for intervention is then formulated aimed at identifying some criteria to be put into practice for a new architectural project. A conservation intervention with the aim of improving the reading of the ancient ruins, highlighting the contemporary interventions and improving, as far as possible, the enjoyment and understanding of ancient architecture with the main purpose of preserving historical memory and the transmission of knowledge for generations to come.

This research analyzes the issue at different scales, from the general to the particular, from antiquity to the contemporary period, to investigate the history and conservation approaches regarding the playful and theatrical structures of classical times. A set of elements coming from a heritage now lost in its formal integrity but alive in the history of civilization, which we must guard and transmit.

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