

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
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Honors theses

“One way to heaven”. The stone cladding of the tower of Fruttuaria: materials, ages and stages

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The subject of the thesis delves into a very well known architectural , campanile of Fruttuaria in San Benigno Canavese , built, perhaps , at the beginning of the eleventh century , by the monaco - architect Guglielmo da Volpiano .

The impressive achievement, with exceptional dimensions planimetric , emerges at the center of the country, his prospects , punctuated by regular blocks of stone arranged as if they were following a project, have always attracted the attention of passers-by and scholars . In the more than a thousand years of life there have been occasions for radical surgery , but the tower is still survived to other structures related to it such as, for example , the church was demolished and rebuilt in the eighteenth century by Cardinal Vittorio Amedeo Lanze .

The data suggests that in ancient bell tower was considered a symbol. As such, it soon becomes a reference to the religious buildings of the eleventh century : the architectural model spreads , though, in the Piedmont thanks to its strategic location on the Via Francigena and the proximity of the main lines into the Po Valley , the Alps and the sea.

The facing stone is special badge of the article, it is precisely from that it has initiated research, adopting a multidisciplinary approach. The survey has intersected the theme of stone material with the analysis of the area in the Middle Ages, taking an interest, therefore, also of the historical aspects.

In the years around 1000 the religious foundation of Fruttuaria proves to be a center of attraction for the dynamics of power: in 1005 and in 1006 the abbey gets important diplomas, most recently by Pope John XVIII exemption from the jurisdiction of the diocese of Ivrea. The same documents also show the existence of a close relationship between William Volpiano and the main political parties of the time, secular and religious, particularly the bishops of Ivrea (Warmondo), Alba (Constantine) and Turin, all promoters of important sites.

Petrological analysis also requested an extension of the boundaries of the study, from the local to the regional today , since it turned out the re-use of paving stones from a Roman road : On some blocks still perceives the mark left by the wagons . The discovery of the use of Roman paving the coating was exciting and surprising at the same time . It can be assumed that the paving stones dismantled , processed and boxes , become tan for the tower , it is estimated that approximately 1500 segments for the four sides of the tower, due to a road surface dismantled about 375 square meters , which , assuming a width of 5 meters , 75 meters of the Roman road.

Before the discovery it was assumed that the material came from the hill moraine of Ivrea , in fact, have some such origin slabs prasinite present in small quantities in the base , after which it could be clarified that the paving stones were excavated in the Val di Susa.

Through all the considerations and analyzes , and while recognizing that the issue would require further investigation , it was concluded that the bell can be classified Fruttuaria unique : with its magnificence and well-defined lines lead the eye on of a real way to heaven .



Bell tower Fruttuaria



Picture of a Roman road paved



Detail of a bell tower

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