

POLITECNICO DI TORINO
SECOND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE
Master of Science in Architecture Heritage Preservation and Enhancement
Honors theses

Works of restoration happened at the convent and Church of San Giovanni in Saluzzo through the memory of the archive of the Servi di Maria 1829-1941

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San Giovanni's Church represents a common good of the Piedmont cultural heritage and for a long time has been an important religious centre of Saluzzo. Subject of many studies, recent and not, the Church and its walls hide several questions stimulating researcher to discover the historical facts that conduct at the present definition of the church's structure and its important sculptures and frescoes. The church and its convent had been extended several times along the centuries, growing proportionally to the Marchesi needs and Saluzzo nobility's needs, who find in the church and its cloister the place of their religious centre and graves.

The first chapter deals with the arrival of Father Predicatori in the city of Saluzzo and describes the architectural transformation of the religious complex.

My thesis frames in a biggest project of knowledge lead to Polytechnic of Turin (and the economical support of the Bishopric of Saluzzo) during 2010-2014 and continuing next years. The team of research is composed from my two teacher supervisors, the engineer Maurizio Gomez and the architect Silvia Beltramo, and from the Professor Fulvio Rinaudo. The studies are directed to discover the particularity of the church's choir (Marchesi's chapel) and are divided in material analysis, technical analysis, an architectural three-dimensional survey and examination of historical documents.

For my thesis I examined some historical documents of the Province Piedmonts' archive of the Servi di Maria in Superga (Turin), current owner of the convent and Church's keeper; the examination of documents brings to the writing of a chronological document list of the "Cartella 5", connected to the works of restoration happened to the church and convent from 1829, year of the arrival of Servi di Maria in Saluzzo, to 1941.



The second chapter contains the reflections over the chronological document list; the information has been developed in tables in which are summed the most important work of restoration divided for the different part of the church; in a second table are mentioned also the workforce and materials used for the restorations. A last paragraph deals with the description of materials of the Church sculptures' deduces from the memory if a great researcher of the religious complex: Giovanni Vacchetta.

My research concludes with a depth analysis of the figure of Vacchetta Professor emeritus of the Polytechnic of Turin, operating with Alfredo d'Andrade, Cesare Bertea and Ovidio Fonti in the restoration of the artistic and architectural common goods of the Piedmont; the government department responsible for the historical buildings charged Vacchetta with doing the restoration project of the frescos' church; from that moment he become fond of the history of the church so that he conducted several researches and published a book in 1931 about the church, its history and artistic particularities.



The book full of information and represent nowadays a big and fundamental study about the church of San Giovanni. The complexity of that book dwells in the turnover between the sure information and the hypothesis of the author. I analyzed a separation between Vacchetta statements' certain and uncertain, making a critical study the book; I hope it could be useful for who has to continue the studies, so that the lecture of Vacchetta book could be done in a ponderous way.

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