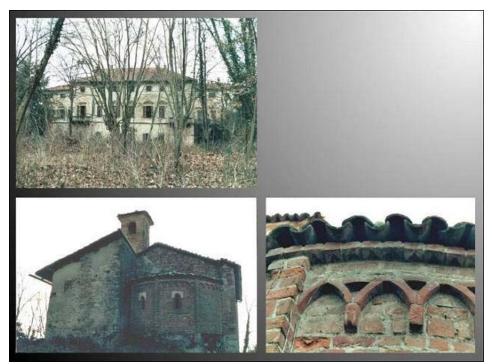
POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 1 Degree in Architecture

Honors theses

Palazzo Morra, Lauriano, and its historical setting: its architectonic features and indications for its conservation

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This work illustrates the results of an investigation of the extent to which the measures devised for the conservation of a building of architectural interest should take into account both its history and the nature of the area in which it stands. The correct installation of activities in an edifice built to serve purposes quite different from modern needs, in fact, requires both exact identification of its relationship whit its surroundings and assessment of the real possibilities of its transformation in keeping whit the current regulations governing safety and accessibility.



Palazzo Morra and Ecclesia Sancte Marie de castro Lauriani (Church of St Mary, Castrum Lauriani)

This objective has been attained through an examination of the geography of the riverside area of the Monferrato in which Lauriano is located, and the part played by the Lauriano fief in the history of the Chivasso country. The sources, both lay (*Monumenta Germaniae Historica*, feudal investitures) and religious (pastoral visitations), are few and fer between.

Even so, the origin and development of Lauriano and the changes in the spread of its built-up area have been determined in terms of time and space. The results of this research are summarised in some historical and thematic maps. They show that Lauriano has been a village whit a "two-way" growth. Its original core -*Castrum Lauriani*- was gradually abandoned during the 15th century, though its existence is recalled by the remains of its church: *Ecclesiae Sancte Marie de castro Lauriani*. An account of this church's type of construction and its decorations is also provided.

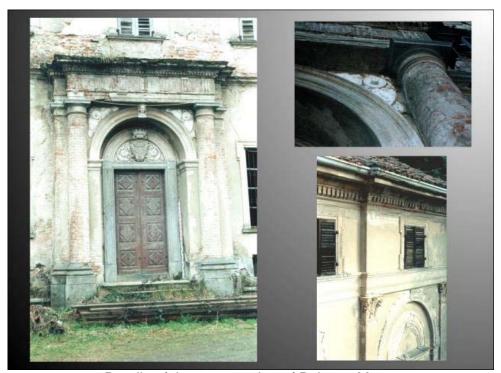
The second stage of the investigation involved a detailed study of Lauriano's buildings and their recent modifications. Particular attention has been devoted to the local farmhouse and a country residence of the kind typically found on the Turin flatlands. The outcome of this study is illustrated on a map prepared in accordance whit the symbols employed by the Turin Polytechnic's Institute of Technical Architecture. The data supplied by the land registers drafted during the course of the centuries are also filtered through a historical table. The central role played by Palazzo Morra in Lauriano itself and its surroundings has been clearly defined.



The cadastral profile of Via Mazzini.

Lastly, the architectonic features of Palazzo Morra are described. The reasons that determined its shape are illustrated and a very probably exact indication of the period in which it was built is deduced from certain peculiar aspects of its composition. There are, in fact, echoes f the style of Caronesi, Leoni, Talucchi and Sada. Particular interest has been aroused by the presence in the Neoclassical entrace of a Doric capital with an Attic

base and a double-curve echinus à la Antonelli and pilasters on the façade topped by Renaissance Revival Corinthian capitals.



Details of the construction of Palazzo Morra

An assessment of the present delapidation of the Palazzo and its causes is followed by a proposal for its conservation. The first step envisaged is identification of the parts most "resistant" to transformation. This would serve to show the essential features of the edifice and its structural layaout that must then be taken as the starting point for restoration projects aimed at its conversion for purposes other than the pratical reasons that led to its current arrangement.

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