

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

The gardens of Villa della Regina: the multisensory such as inclusive instrument of cultural development

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*An heritage is not that it is not usable.
The mere contemplation does not belong to architecture.*
Amedeo Bellini

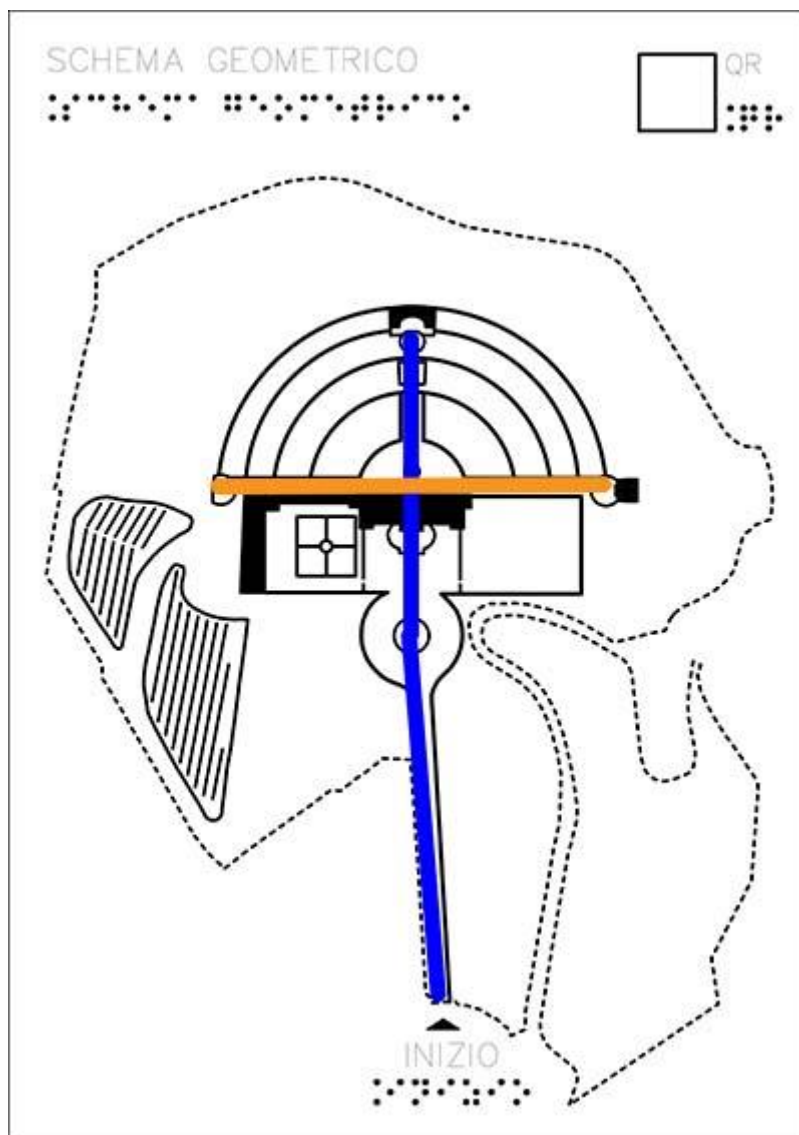
The thesis has the objective of development, such as *activities aimed at ensuring the best conditions for the use and public fruition of the heritage*, about the Gardens of Villa della Regina. The complex of Villa della Regina, built down the hill of Turin during the seventeenth century at the behest of Cardinal Maurizio of Savoy, belongs to the system of Savoy Residences, recorded since 1997 in the World Heritage List of UNESCO.



On the left - 1665-1666, Anonymous based on a drawing by G. T. Borgonio, *Vinea transpadana ser.mae principessae Ludovicae a Sabaudia*. On the right – Aerial photo of the site of Villa della Regina

In order with what is stated in the Convention on the UNESCO World Heritage in 1972, the thesis aims to raise the awareness of the public towards the site and its values. The projectual activities focus on the garden as an *expression of the close relationship between civilization and nature, a place of pleasure, suitable for meditation or dream garden [...] evidence of a culture, of a style, of an era*. In this sense, the thesis develops routes of enjoyment and knowledge that enhance the site which included moving waters, built and decorative elements, visual and vegetable in their essences, volume and colors, and underlies the transformations in the course of history. These aspects and the cycle of the seasons represented a potential from which define multi-sensory pathways that develop in the gardens, while maintaining and enhancing the close relationship between the components of the Villa: the architectural elements and artistic collections.

The routes offer multiple opportunities for multisensory visit that, through experiential forms of communication, involving the visitor in an engaging and immersive ways. Using different sensory perceptions, we offer an inclusive visit, suitable for different audiences from children to foreigners and people with sensory disabilities. The process of knowledge is to illustrate the consistency of the complex of Villa della Regina read through two thematic itineraries that evidenced the most important features of the garden. The first, called *Percorso Catena d'acqua*, lets you know the water system, an essential component of Villa della Regina that flows from the Belvedere, the Fountain of the Grand Rondeau passing through the Fountain of Mascherone, the Cascatella of the Naiade, the Cave of Re Selvaggio and the Fountain of the Siren. The second, called *Percorso Prospettive scenografiche*, illustrates the compositional structure of the formal garden from privileged points of view that allow you to enjoy the spectacular outlook of the complex.



Tactile picture about Villa della Regina with two thematic itineraries: in blue *Percorso Catena d'acqua* and in orange *Percorso prospettive scenografiche*

To illustrate these routes have been used inclusive tools for communication: simplified texts, three-dimensional models, designs in relief, synthesis speeches, translations in Braille and Italian sign language.



Photo of inclusive tools

The process for the preparation of inclusive tools was shared with the Soprintendenza per i Beni Storici, Artistici e Etnoantropologici del Piemonte and associations of stakeholders (Italian Union of the Blind and Visually Impaired section of Turin and Institute for the Deaf of Turin) to define in detail their requirements and to verify the effectiveness of the inclusive tools prepared either in the form, both in content. The comparison has been an important element in the growth and improvement of the work.

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