

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 2
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

The roman town of Industria: conservation project

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On this degree thesis an analysis and examination of the archaeological area of Industria has been carried out and a restoration project for the conservation of the ruins has been proposed.

On the mid 17th century, some local farmers discovered this old roman site, which is currently under protection and study of the Piemonte Archaeological Service.

The antique site of Industria is placed on the right side of the Po river, near the little village of Monteu da Po (Turin), along the state road 590 connecting Turin to Casale Monferrato. The city has been founded in the first century d.C. and is characterised by the presence of a holy building used for the veneration of Iside and Serapide. This is the reason why it is “unique” among all roman buildings discovered in Piemonte.



Picture 1. Aerial view of archaeological area

A comparison, from a theoretical and practical point of view, of the proceedings currently applied on the architectural restoration field and those used on areas of archaeological interest has been done.

The method applied for the study of archaeological area that is normally used in all architectural restoration projects is composed of three phases: knowledge, restoration and re-operation.

In the first part, data concerning fundamental elements of the studied object were collected and analysed from the environmental, the historic, the dimensional and the materials point of view.

The environmental enquiry is concerned with the setting of the archaeological site, its relationship with the surroundings as well as climatic and legislative aspects.

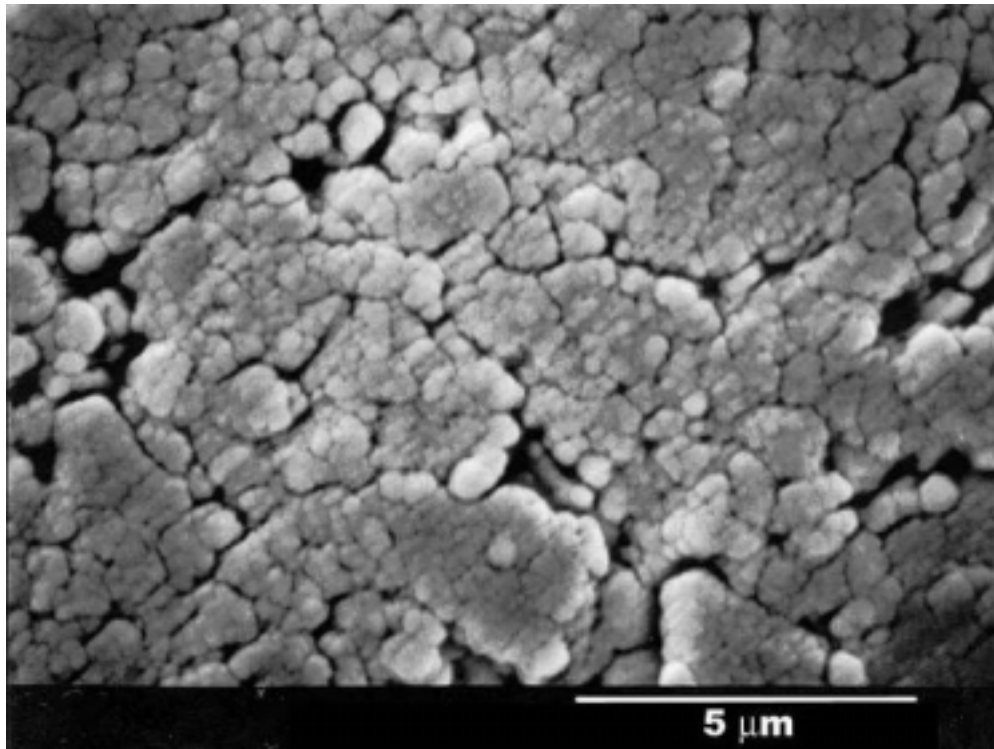
In the historic analysis the town of Industria was set within the background of the Piemonte Cispadano region. The evolution from its foundation to its decay was studied, and the main phases concerning the excavation campaign realised to discover finds and also the restorations carried out on masonry, starting from the sixties, were located.



Picture 2. The temple dedicated to Iside

With the realisation of the technical survey we got to know the structures existing in this archaeological area and its surroundings, from a dimensional point of view.

We finally took samples of the materials from the ruins to discover the deterioration causes and to analyse the nature of the materials used during previous restoration campaigns.



Picture 3. SEM micrograph of roman mortar picked up in Industria

In the second part of the thesis, an analysis of the architectural and archaeological restoration thematic was done from a theoretical point of view. The difficult thematic of conservation and defence of cultural assets was faced through methodological study of used interventions as well as evolutions of norms and “Restoration Papers”.

In the final part of the theoretical research a graphical reproduction the deterioration typology in the analysed area has been carried out through application of “Normal” symbology, usually used in the architectonic field. Finally, some restoration interventions were proposed to control the large deterioration phenomenon.

For the phase called “re-operation”, a theoretical analysis of the problems concerning the founding of archaeological parks and the protection of historic sites of interest.

This project finally proposes a territorial organisation of Industria area and a temporary structure able to protect a mosaic, recently discovered, which can as well be used as a covering for outlined visits of the site.

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