



POLITECNICO  
DI TORINO

# Honors thesis

---

COURSE OF DEGREE IN MASTER OF SCIENCE IN  
ARCHITECTURE (REHABILITATION AND  
REVALUATION)

*Abstract*

**Villa Gruber in Genoa.**

**History, conservation and refunctionalization of a urban  
layout**

*Tutor*

Monica Naretto

Co-Tutor

Cristina Cuneo

*by*

Lina Versace

Valeria Schenone

July 2015

---

This thesis offers an architectural, conservative and historical-artistic description of Villa De Mari Gruber, a building founded in the fourteenth century, located inside an historical park on the hill of Genoa. This Villa is a part of that unused historic patrimony of Genoa that is currently undergoing to a debate in the City, regarding the necessity to enhance the value of these architectural heritages and let them be available for different purposes.

After many years of abandon and repeated acts of vandalism that partially compromised the conservation state of the building, now it is necessary more than ever to start a conservative restoration project of the villa and assign to it a new function in order to be able to generate new opportunities and increase its value.

The study of this architectural work was structured beginning with an initial knowledge phase during which was realized the architectonic survey. Through this survey, came to light that the villa was adapted and enlarged during all these years. Because of this reason it is impossible to recognize the original extent of the villa, especially for the ground floor that leaves many questions about the function of a room, called bagno ipogeo, decorated with frescoes depicting Ovidio's Metamorphosis, unique case in Genoese architectural tradition in which this space is inside the building and not outside, or rather in the garden.

Simultaneously to the metric survey it was made an historical research, beginning with the study of the tradition of villa with garden in Genoa from XV to XIX century. The knowledge of the history of Genoese villas was essential to understand the cultural dynamics that influenced Villa Gruber inside and outside. Because of these dynamics, in the Villa are fused together the mannerist style of the bagno ipogeo and of some of the rooms at the first floor with the neoclassical style of the vestibule at ground floor, with the golden stuccos decoration of some rooms and the neoclassical main façade towards the garden in English style.

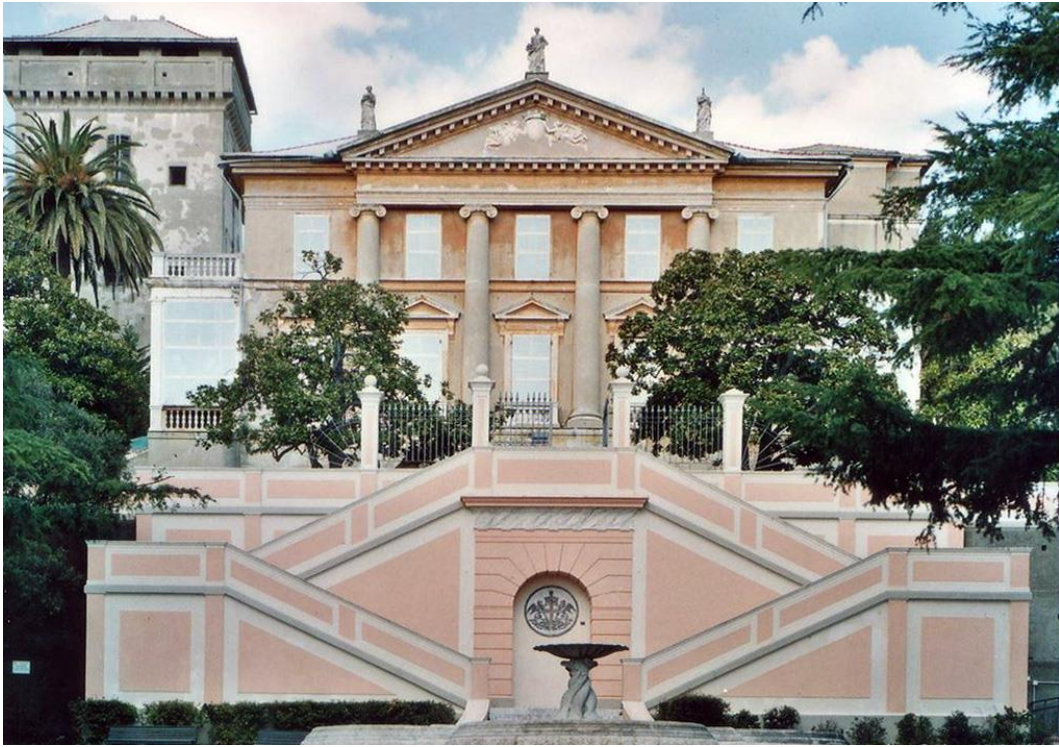
The understanding of villa Gruber was completed with the study of its constructive elements, of vertical links, of hanging archway in wattle and with the study of the historical flooring of the villa.

After the fact-finding phase it was made an analytic study of the conservative state of the Villa consisting in a material mapping of the main facades and of the cross section that pointed out elegant marbles of Carrara and Portovenere.

In order to understand the conservation dynamics of the villa's internal spaces it was also made a deterioration mapping, by virtue of which were contrived the Project Units (UP) aimed to the conservative restoration.

To the restoration project followed the assignment of a new function to the villa considering its historicity, its courtly consistency and limited possibilities of intervention in it because of the historical - artistic bond. With these premises the villa was appointed to events location. The medieval tower, connected to the villa, will contain a Centre of Excellence and Defence of Genoese Pesto, in order to promote the knowledge and valorisation of Pesto, symbol of culinary tradition of Genoa.

---



---

For further information please contact:  
Lina Versace, [lina.versace87@gmail.com](mailto:lina.versace87@gmail.com)  
Valeria Schenone, [vale\\_s7@hotmail.it](mailto:vale_s7@hotmail.it)