

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

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**Derivatives of wood between innovation and recovery, cases of a study for the recovery of the great wooden covering of Palazzo Madama in Turin**

by Clara Caglio

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The present work establishes a stage of a long road begun in 1992 in order to know an extraordinary material which is an expression of our traditional way of building: the wood, a conclusion of a course of study rather varied which only toward the end has allowed me the freedom to get a more profound knowledge of this planet which is the world of the wood.

The theoretical lessons, the bibliographic research, to attend congresses and visit expositions, but above all to associate with those who actively, constantly and with enthusiasm for wood have permitted me to compile a thesis which has just about satisfied my need of knowledge in such very wide argument.

To get to know the history of a building so very important as Palazzo Madama is like revisiting the history of the whole city; to be able to reach and discover sites so particular as the wooden cover of the central hall, was a unique experience; I was able to admire the city from a privileged point of view.



The setting of my desktop during the last five years

Following the activities of a live restoration-works, from the security installations and the proceedings of the works on the site, to the editing of the project for the completion of the restoration of the great wooden covering of Palazzo Madama, I have acquired much important knowledge regarding the methodology about the science of the actual work restoration.

The thesis is divided into three parts:

The first described the derivatives: the overcoming of the limits of the use of wood thanks to the technological innovation at the first lights of the third millennium,



Particularly of one realization

The second is the stage of the knowledge of the restoration or rather, the preliminary study of the preparatory step for the working site proper, a particular attention is paid to the past, to the history of Palazzo Madama and to that of the wooden beams.



A prospective view of the wooden trusses installed above the central hall of Palazzo Madama in Turin

The third part, more operative and executed “in situ” regards the working-site proper, this part is obviously less descriptive, but rich in designs, made on the working site, which roam from the graphic structure, to the planning and execution of the works. In the end it is question of the results of the inspection carried out but also of the memorandum of the works for the future maintenance and an occasion to set a point for a more complete definition of the methodology of the works for the wooden structures, which could be used for future restorations.

To conclude the works of restoration of Palazzo Madame have been a privileged laboratory for the applications of the knowledge about the technological innovation, have also formed the possibility of an approach for a recovery project with techniques between traditional and innovative respecting the cultural value; starting from industrialized and engineered products, I have brought the attention to the intervention for the recovery with a thematic approach being well aware of the knowledge of history, matter, technology and rules which enclose the planning, bestowing a privileged upon the aspects of technical-architectural formation which shows the experimentation of the projectile reality in the methods.

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