

**“La Zizzola” of Bra: a delightful symbol of the town or of its decadence?
A proposition of conservation and of a new function**

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The title, that has been chosen for this doctoral thesis, is deliberately polemical, for the purpose of drawing attention to the ambiguous situation that the building had to undergo. As a matter of fact for one hand the building is the symbol of Bra and of the middle-class knowledge of the nineteenth century: this was the cultural background from which was originated; while on the other hand, for nearly forty years from the donation, it was neglected and left to anyone's mercy, waiting for a suitably new function that could restore an active role inside the town's cultural life.

The thesis deals with a multi-disciplinary subject. The purpose is to execute an integration to obtain a project of conservation of the existent in an intensely correlation with a propose of a new function.

The exposition begins with a study concerning historical events that involved the town of Bra and more in particular those that involved “la Zizzola”. It has not been possible finding any evidences (documents) proving the original use of the villa nor the exact moment of building.

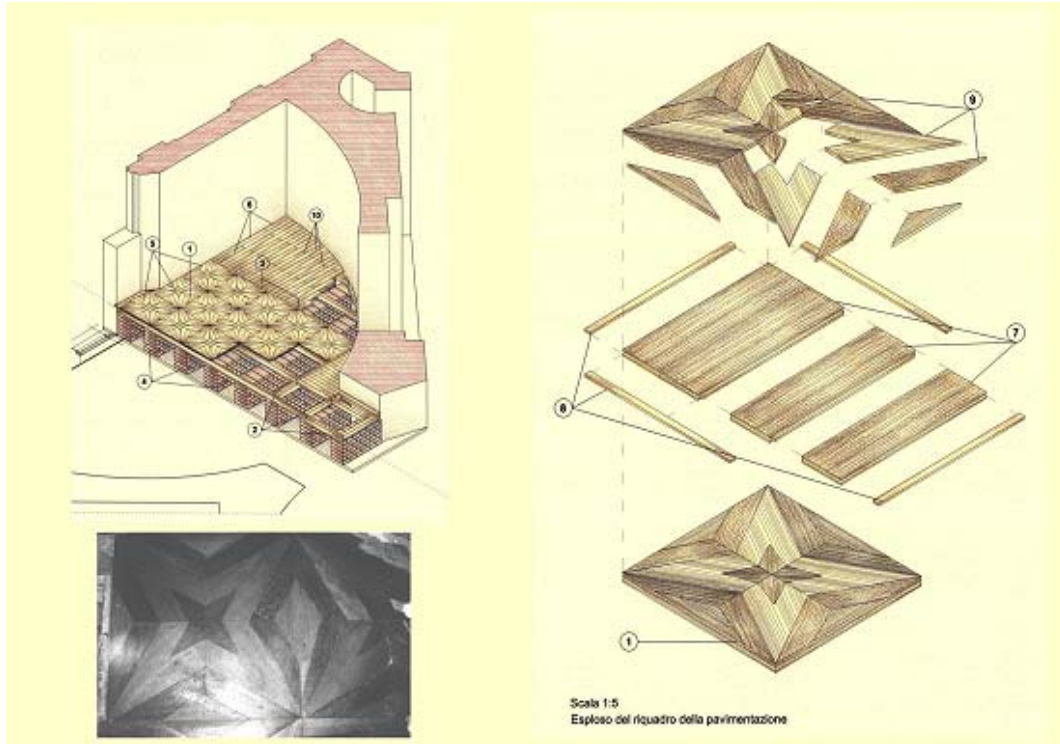
The only documents found out concern transfer of ownership and documents under the seal of a notary public but, contrary to the expectations, they rarely concern “la Zizzola” preferring, instead, listing the extent of the property. The most important fact found out inside a transfer of ownership dated 1849, is that the building is called as a *grandiose dwelling house*.

Such an indication suggests that the building period can be restricted between 1844, which is approximately the period of two drawings probably done by Conte Carlo Reviglio della Veneria, and 1849.

The next part deals with the knowing of the building and emphasizes its particular planimetric pattern that consists of rectangular, semicircular and trapezoidal rooms. The building shows a double axial symmetry both in plan, perfectly orientated to the cardinal axis, than in front elevation. Besides the knowledge undertakes the measurement and the detailed study of the construction scheme of all the wooden floorings, the particular flooring “alla veneziana”, and at last the even more peculiar vault “alla Delorme” or the so called camber vault.

The aim of the study of the flooring construction scheme is to provide a precise knowledge for executing a suitable conservation and re-establishment work to the damaged parts.

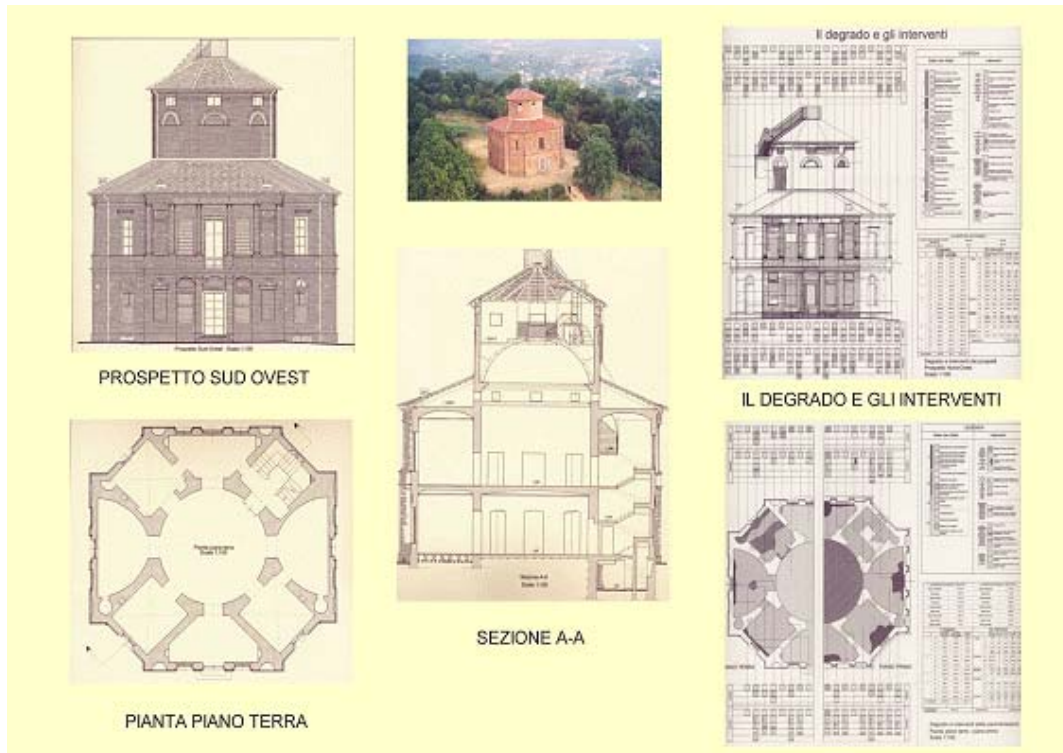
Special forms have been made to register the wooden flooring type and then these have been studied through exploded axonometric views, from the rooms to the single parts of the wooden elements.



Exploded axonometric view of a significant wooden flooring

The third part of the present study consists to an exhaustive analysis of degradation of the materials forming “la Zizzola” as brick, wood and plaster. Besides analysing the most common causes of degradation and the relevant pathologies, there is also the quantification of the deterioration.

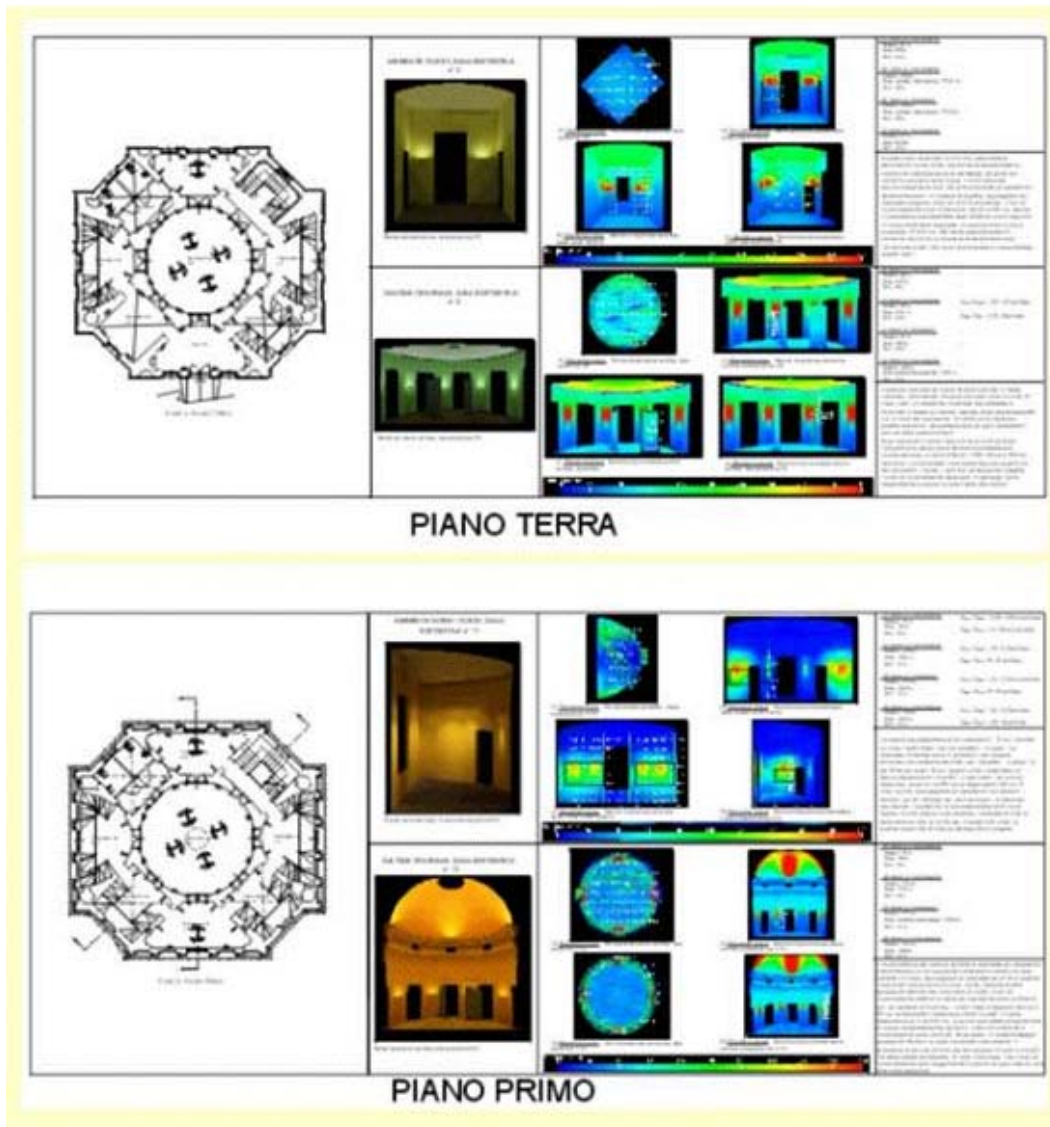
This has been done virtually subdividing the building in front views, cross sections and plans permitting an immediate verification with the drawings.



Ground floor plan, significant front view, cross section A-A, example of degradation mapping and intervention.

The last part consists of the study of the new function. As a matter of fact the building will be used as an exhibition room and that will also include the park at the back. It has been studied an artificial lightning system starting from the peculiar needs concerning the new function.

The light analysis has been done using a specific computer program with high resolution rendering and solutions.



Solutions and renders of the most significant rooms.

For further informations:

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