

The eclectic period in Turin, as found in religious architecture at the end of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century

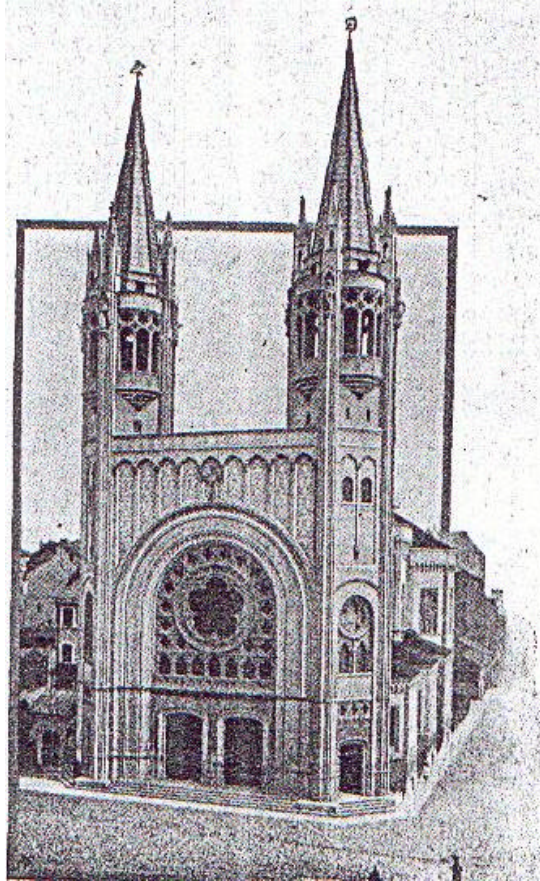
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The research is based on a detailed analysis of the architectural religious production in Turin, covering a secular period embracing the second part of the nineteenth century and the first fifteen years of the twentieth century.

The principal reason for this choice is due to: a) the scarce knowledge of the subject in question; b) part of the religious buildings between 1850 and 1915 being of particular personal interest, apart from an overall vision, and the existing analysis of the principal churches often results in being incomplete. Furthermore, while the architectural production of major resonance has already been subject to publication (particularly some of the most famous designers of the period in question: Edoardo Arborio Mella, Giovanni Battista Ferrante, Giovanni Angelo Reycond, Carlo Ceppi, Giuseppe Gallo), much less attention has been given to the professional context in Turin, which is by no means of less importance, where some of the finest architects of churches built at the end of the nineteenth and the beginnings of the twentieth century can be found.



The Church of the Holy Heart of Mary
(planned by Carlo Ceppi in 1889) in an illustration of 1929

The present documentation is the result of a meticulous study carried out in the Archives of the Metropolitan Curia in Turin (AAT), the Historical Archives of Turin County Council (ASCT), the Archives of Builders of Turin County Council (AECT) and local archives (relative to the church in question)

Relevant manuscripts documenting correspondence between priests builders and the Curia, the building expenses involved and the divergence between the building contractors and the buyers in question have been recuperated thanks to the Archives of the Metropolitan Curia. Included a number of documents relevant to new churches built in Turin parishes (signed by the Archbishop of Turin).



The Chapel inside Saint Joseph's College,
designed by Brother Cecilio Costamagna (1872)



The Church of Our Lady, inner temple of the “Cenacle” until 1959 (year of its demolition). Clearly evident the decorative designed rounded arch enclosing the doorway, the rose windows dominating the façade and the small crowning pensile arches. To the right, the inner wing connecting the temple to the Cenacle (photograph by kind permission of the Cenacle Archives)

Thanks to the Historical Archives of Turin County Council copies of more than a hundred design tables, relevant to building projects or extension work of sixty five churches taken into account have been gathered together. Furthermore, the consultation of the *Collezione Simeom* has consented the finding of further printing documentation, not present in the Archives of the Metropolitan Curia (especially that regarding newspaper articles and local publications relative to private religious institutions).

The surveys effectuated at the Archives of Builders consented the study of designs regarding the last buildings of the present analysis (churches planned later than 1915).

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