

The piedmontese baroque as seen to one “guarinian” window

by Andrea Tonin

Tutor: Anna Marotta

How many influence have geometry to germination of new shape in architecture?

We can intend, this question, for base to comprehend this thesis. The geometry as “act explain” to really comprehend the deep signified of baroque architecture. The mathematics, the geometry and the astronomy become in baroque essential source of inspiration, and this have aesthetic character. All that which is baroque, from their esthetics on the geometry, and this geometrical construction are spired complex.

Whether every element of this architecture answer of this idea, so yet the window.

But what window it is?, well, we didn't now what reply, perhaps “flabellum”, “kidney-bean”, “reinsform”, “heart-shaped” or San Peter key. The window in question have no name, even not a type to refer, but have so many name, and that create confusion in the searcher.

And then we present a traces used in the different phases of research:

- 1- research of different terms adopted in architectural book for describe the window.
- 2- reading of the presence in piedmont territory of strange window into greater and less works.
- 3- the interest architect and his bond for construct the possible origin of this window.
- 4- the geometrical knowledge aquired in baroque epoch.
- 5- reading of execute works for determinate to exist only one geometrical reference.
- 6- how are build this form.

To find an answer of the sixes previous point we base the search in books of technology, mathematics, history of architecture and all the piedmontese territory.



Plate 1, the diffusion of “flabellum” in Savoy dominion: from period baroque to today.

To find in the books exhaustive answer, we have search possible point of contact, between element describe our window; in fact it's probable that only one author the approach used for two similar object whether the same.

We have discovered that, the window, it isn't a casual baroque element, but “sign” of specific culture, the late baroque piedmontese, to demonstrate the varied finding of less religious home, that only signified characteristic propose the “flabellum”.

For the maximum works, the first example cronologically check of window “kidney-bean” stay in tambour of San Lorenzo church in Turin, works of Guarino Guarini.

From here born the ispiration of title for this thesis: The Piedmontese Baroque as seen to one “guarinian” window.

If us asking who can be the inventor of “flabellum” more to Guarini, we answer that so good hardley so adapt another designer.

Guarini incarnate the essence of his epoch, at the same time is designer, mathematical, astronomer and theologian, seem be the only to posses the qualifications necessary for determine such shape.

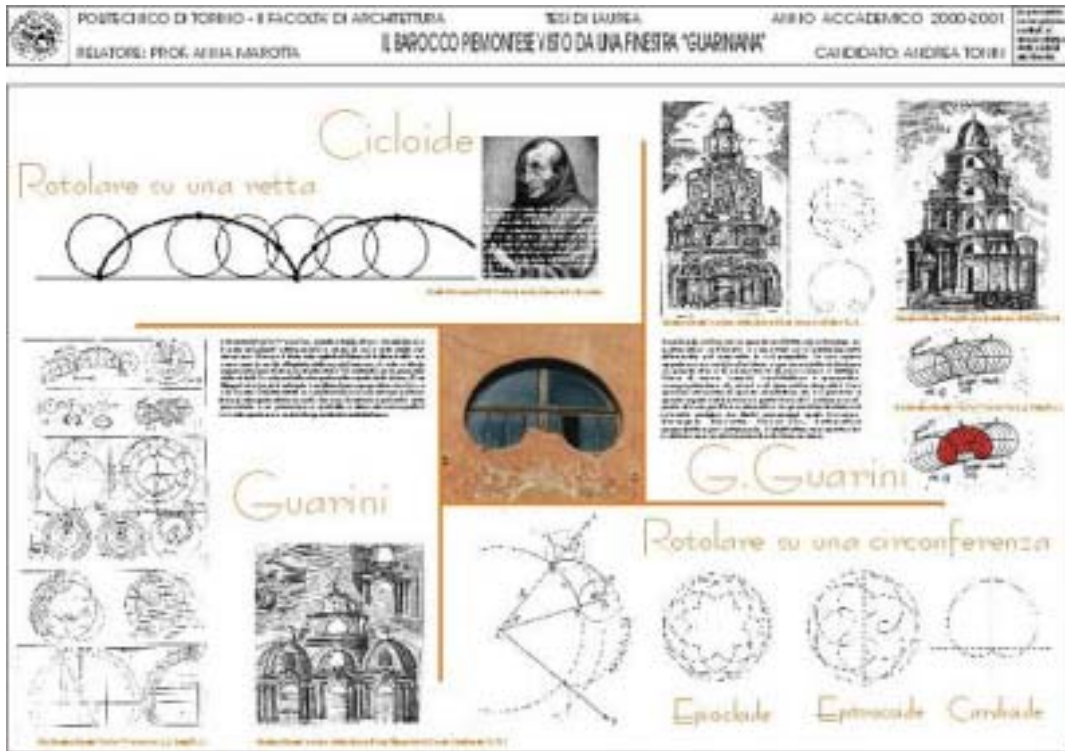


Plate 2, the geometry as constitutive process of architecture: from cycloid to window



Plate 3, the constructive technology of building in XVII-XVIII century: build the window

This window is really particular, not alone for his shape, but also because it assume a “superior” function, firm of baroque piedmontese. In fact between end of ninth century and beginning of twenty century the affirmation of culture of “neo”, the neo-baroque piedmontese re-propose in his architecture that and not another window.

For information: andrea_tonin@hotmail.com