The multimedia communication of an architectural object: the Sacra of S. Michele
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"Nowadays operating on communication means more and more to plan on knowledge structures and the word "to inform" is closer and closer to its literal meaning, that is to "give shape" to the data.
For this very reason and because it deals with the project of a kind of shape, the above construction is therefore called architecture of data. New words studied for new professions such as the infodesigner one, who usually is an architect whose task is to design cognitional architectures, have been suitably coined." (A.Ronchetta, 2000)

The above thesis is a study of all the issues relevant to the designing and accomplishment of a multimedia product related to an architectural object, that is to say of an hypermedia regarding the abbey of S.Michele alle Chiuse, symbol of the Piedmonte Region.
".... an hypermedia is the completion of the media into a sole and new catching object which is neither referable nor intelligible in any of the single specific media" (F.Antinucci, 1993)
The work consists of two different, but strongly and closely connected parts:
The first one which examines the theoretical considerations that have been based on the carried out project choices;
The second one in which the designing and the structure of the real hypermedia is analysed. In this very part the theoretical aspects are furthermore supplemented both with methodological and practical considerations.
As far as the first part is concerned, the theoretical basis, on which the present hyper-textual culture is based, and its links with the relevant cognitional processes, are taken into consideration. The above cognitional processes actually enable learning referring to the "Teatro della Memoria" written during the XVI century by the visionary Giulio Camillo and carefully studied by F.Yates and M.Turello, to the recent theories on the hyper-text by V.Bush with his project called MEMEX, by T.Nelson, G.Landow, N.Negroponte and to the basic concepts on the cognitional psychology by F.Antinucci.

The basic Italian research bodies, which for a long time employ information technologies combined either with the historical-artistic research or the cultural assets (CRIBECU, CNR, ICCD, STARLAB) and the new basic technological instruments, as well, used by the above mentioned activities, are moreover mentioned.
The second part, instead, begins with the analysis of the work performed for the realization of the hypermedia regarding the millenary abbey, that is to say the creation of the multimedia CD-ROM: "La sacra di San Michele" (fully realized with the Macromedia Flash 5 software).
All the steps relevant to the data processing procedure are explained and commented in this very section: the altering of the structure of the data processing, the definition of the so-called "invisible architecture", the designing and the realization of the interface of the application program.
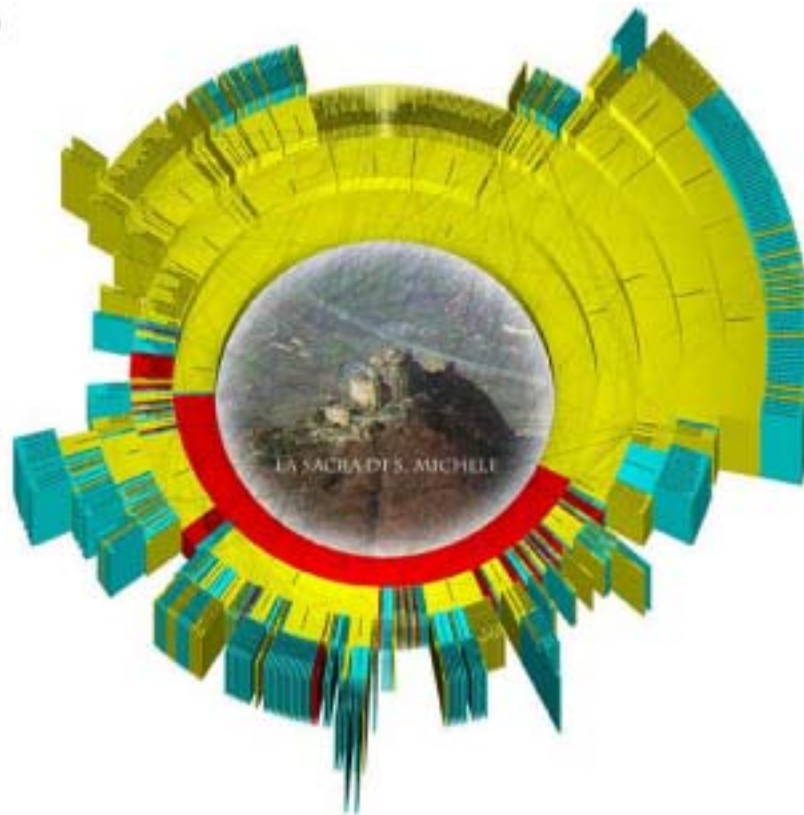
Fig. 1 – THE GRAPH – synthetical representation of the invisible architecture of the data contained in the hypermedia
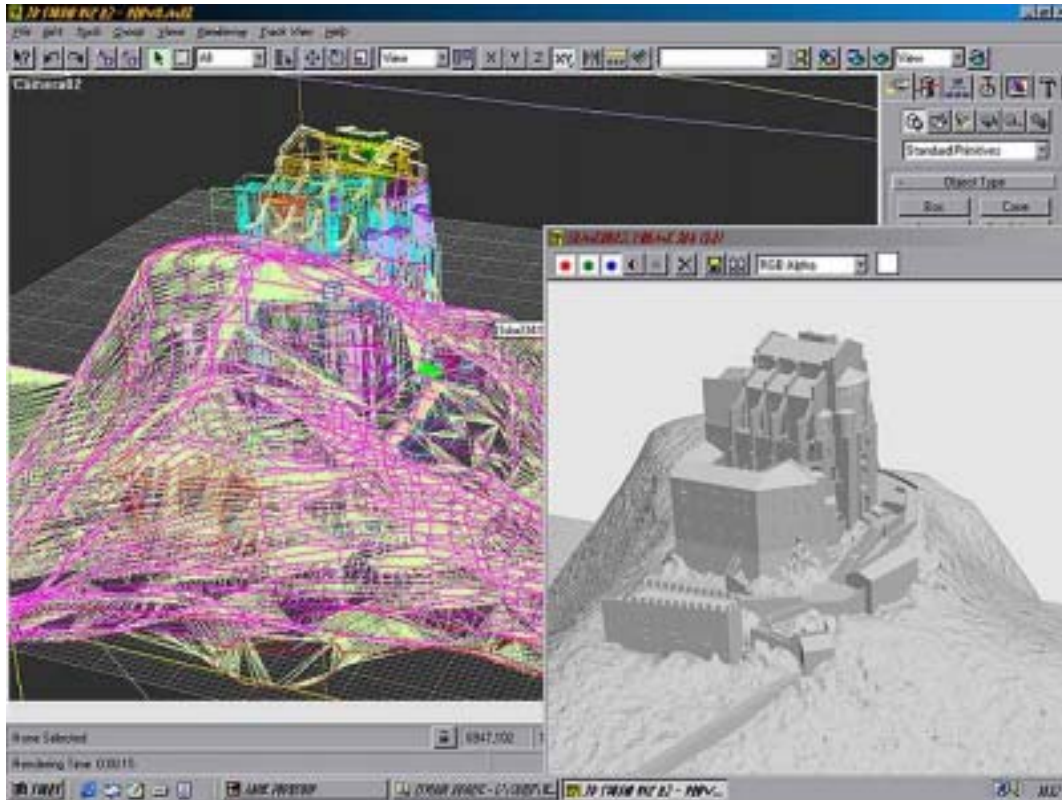

Fig. 2 – THE VIRTUAL MODEL – a phase of the three-dimensional modelling of the architectural object realized with Autodesk AutoCAD 2000 & 3D Studio Viz 2.5.
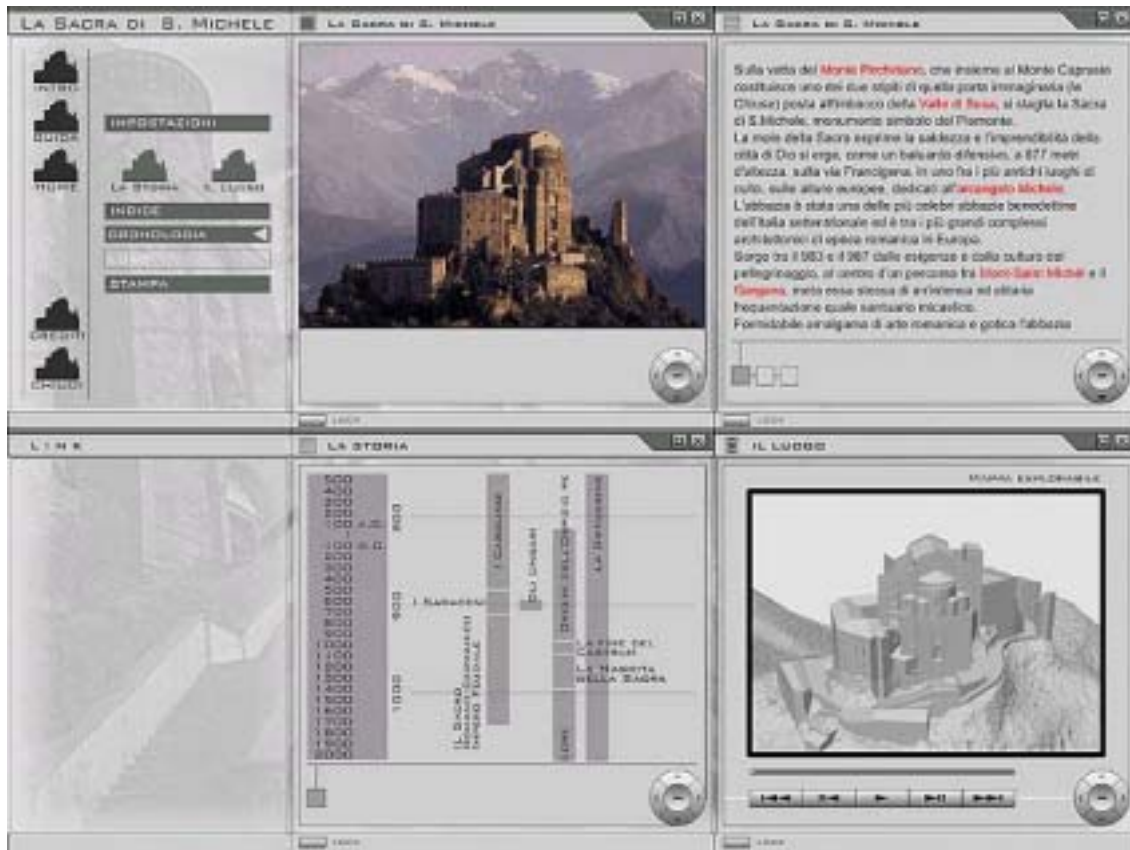
Fig. 3 – HOMEPAGE – it consists of the simultaneous display of four independent nodes of information from which it is possible to have access to the contents of the application program.

Creating a versatile product both for the users' needs and for those of the makers, but at the same time easy to use like all the other widespread application programs, is one of our basic goals to be achieved.
Our intention was to realize a kind of interface, not truly bound to the particular theme of the Sacra di san Michele, easily suitable to any complex issues such as the architectural objects.
We have tried to increase the possibilities of the hyper-textuality with reference to the Web pages giving the user a means of selecting the course of his own surfing choosing among multiple links. The double possibility of publishing both in an off-line & on-line environment is assured.

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