

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

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**The garden of the Castle of Pomaro Monferrato. Research project and restoration hypothesis for its conservation**

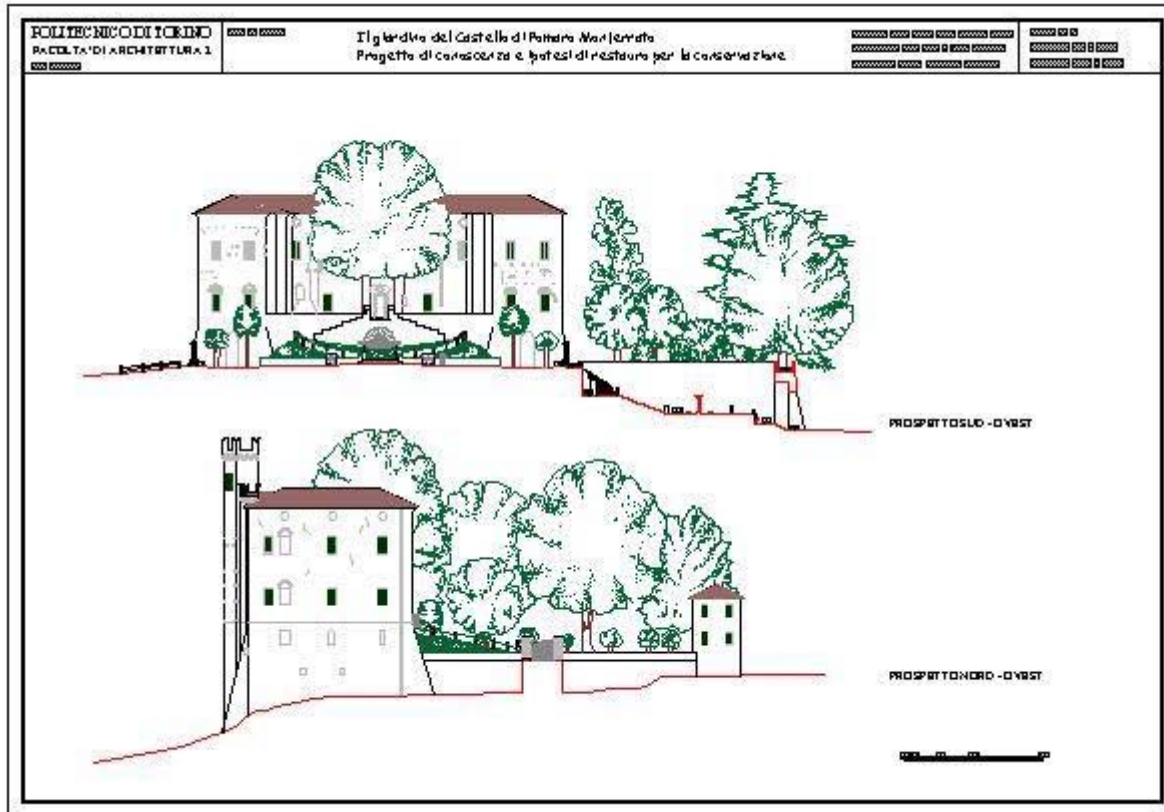
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The thesis proposes to reach in-depth knowledge of the manufactured object of study, through identifying its constituent factors, which historical transformations happened over the course of the centuries, the physical and material texture of the architectural elements of which it is composed, their state of conservation, the characteristics of the ornamental arboreal patrimony, and its pathologies.

The work was carried out in many directions, articulated in investigations of the indirect type (library and archival research), aimed at the understanding of the historical evolution of the garden, and in direct investigations, relative to the knowledge of the geometric material and vegetal characteristics. Thus, a general picture of what is in existence was obtained, an indispensable element for the choice of congruous interventions to be carried out on what is already built, finalised towards its valuation and conservation over time.

The first historical mentions of the garden date back to the XVIII – XIX century, in which two *Inventari* were written (Historical Archive, Turin), in which the garden is identified by the term “*Babilonia*”, a name which has assumed an important meaning, as it allows the hypothesis of the existence, in the gardens of the castle in the fifteen hundreds, of elements that could refer to the mythical gardens of Babylon.

The principal transformations that invest the castle and garden date back to the XVIII – XIX centuries, years in which the Dalla Valle family were feudal landlords of Pomaro: the garden, following the works of embellishment concluded in 1862, thus assumed its current shape.



Castle of Pomaro. view south -west and north-west

Entry to the castle goes across a scenographic structure dominated by a fountain with *mascherone*, a central element of the composition.

Two semicircular flights of steps lead to the “hanging gardens” courtyard, where two large *celtis australis* can be observed, so near to one another that their branches entwine, with which they give shade to a large part of the facade of the castle.

From the “hanging gardens” courtyard, one can admire the perfect symmetry which rules the organisation of the garden, its main axe, leaving from the front door of the castle, crosses the fountain with *mascherone*, and the smallest courtyard, arriving at the old stables.

On the east side the castle develops the *Ninfeo*: two fan-shaped flights of stone stairs open and lead to a unique central flight, crossing which one arrives at a valuable column fountain; crossing two further ramps, one comes to the inferior level of the *Ninfeo*, dominated by three plastered niches. The *Ninfeo* was for centuries graced by the presence of four statues, representing the allegory of the seasons, recently seriously damaged by an act of vandalism.

The work involved, before all else, the elaboration of thematic tables relative to the polymeric manufactures, the vegetation, and the plumbing.

Following this degradation relevance tables were drawn up, together with those of proposed restoration work, relative to the principal manufacts present in the garden: gates in blaten iron, the fountain with *mascherone*, the wells of the “hanging gardens” courtyard, the colunin fountain, and the three niches of the *Ninfeo*.

An analysis of the principal pathologies which afflict the trees present in the garden was also carried out, and the necessary interventions were valued.

The work flew into the drawing up of a tender, necessary for a deeper understanding of the proposed interventions, finalised in the conservation through time of one of the most beautiful gardens of Monferrato.

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