

Old Town Hall and tower in Saluzzo: preservation project

by Emma Boidi

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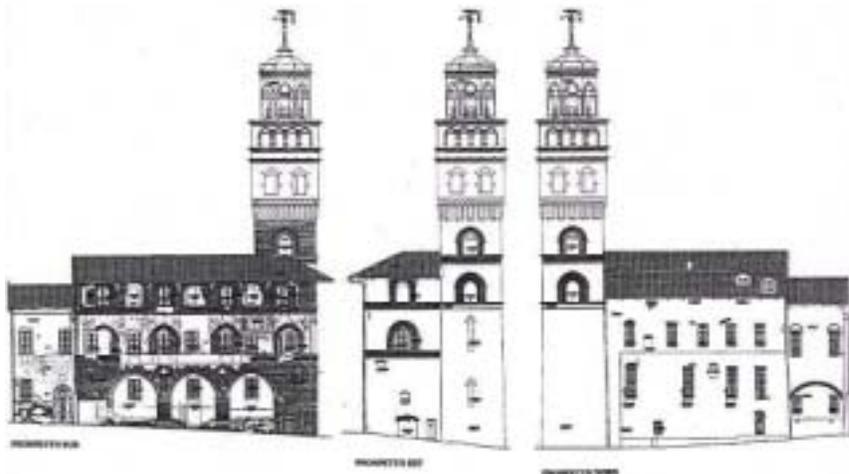
Co-Tutor: Claudia Bonardi

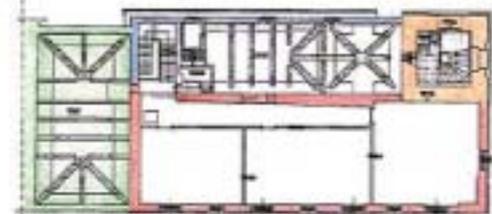
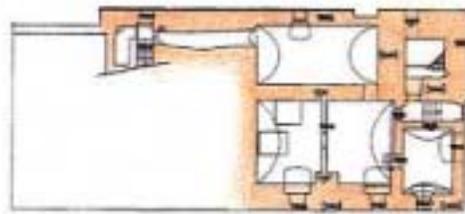
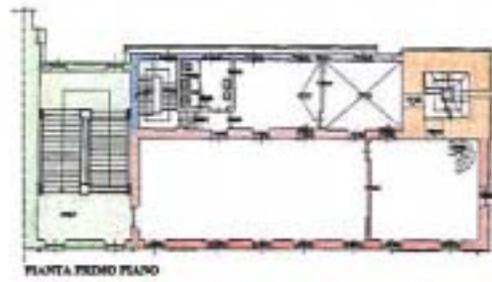
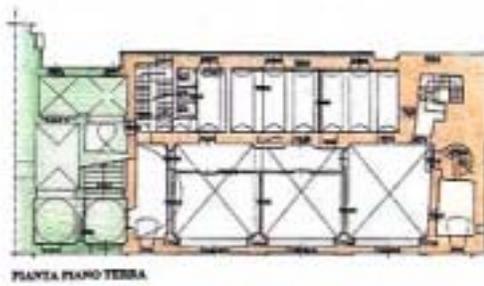
The thesis work runs through the historical events which have affected the Old Town Hall and Clock Tower in Saluzzo, with the aim of suggesting a preservation project and of working out a proposal for regaining the building to new uses, considering it in the more extended context of the surrounding area.

The project focuses on three distinct parts, connected one to the other and in particular the first one deals with the historical knowledge of the building, the second one with the restoration project and the last one with the proposal for a new utilisation of the site.

A wide "knowledge" of the work of art, object of the restoration programme is extremely necessary for its preservation. It is only through an analitic and global analysis that the restorer, with the help of his professional methodology and careful planning, can proceed scientifically.

"Knowledge" means first of all to analyze the development of the building techniques and the following transformations that involved the Old Town Hall and Tower of Saluzzo from the beginning to our days. Most important for this research was the study of the ancient documents found at the Historical Archives in Saluzzo and the State Archives in Turin. This research and cataloguing needed many months of diligent work, which mostly consisted in translating from latin and old italian the ancient records and in analyzing them, trying to understand and reconstruct the original "facies" of the Old Town Hall and of the Clock Tower and the changes that they underwent during five centuries.





PIANTA SEMINTERRATO

PIANTA SECONDO PIANO

SIMBOLOGIA DATE

- [XV] EPOCA PRESUNTA
- 1462 EDIFICAZIONE
- ±1580 DEMOLIZIONE
- 1830 RIPLASMAZIONE
- >1580 POSTERIORE ALLA DATA
- <1580 ANTECEDENTE ALLA DATA
- 1830 RESTAURO

AMPLIAMENTI

- EDIFICAZIONE ANTERIORE AL 1462
- EDIFICAZIONE POSTERIORE AL 1462
- AMPLIAMENTO A NORD DEL PALAZZO 1584
- EDIFICAZIONE DELLA SCALA 1737

The documents enclosed to the main volume of the thesis contain the manuscripts and the papers of most consequence for the research, organised in a sintetic scheme of cataloguing with a comparison between the following documents:

Register of Council Sessions, Records of Council Resolutions, Artisans' Subjugations, Treasury Statment of Accounts and Written Instructions given to the architects and builders of the Old Town Hall and Tower.

The comparison between the different documents gave to the researcher the opportunity to create an historicaal scheme, on which it was possible to collocate in chronological sequence the numerous recovery intervention carried out on the building.

The analysis of the development of the various building techniques during the centuries, is seen in the more general urban context of the town of Saluzzo and refers to its historical, political and architectural events.

Saluzzo is a civic congregation of ancient origins and its urban centre can be considered itself a sort of open document into which the researcher can read the social, economic and cultural development of the town.

The Old Town Hall was built between the XIV and the XV century and its collocation into the urban context of the town created some great problems to the entire community, imposing big expenses on the population and opening a building site which was to remain in progress for many years.

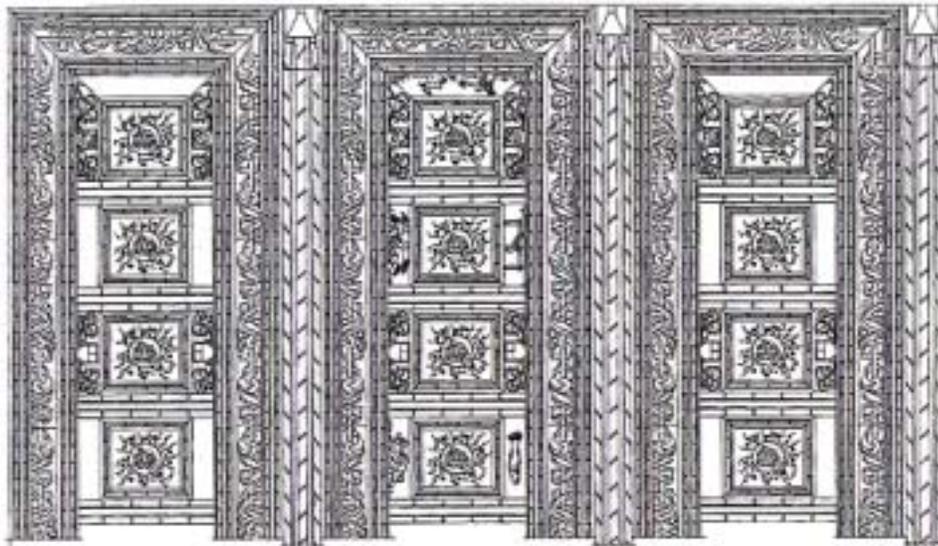
The building of a Public Town Hall has to be considered not only from an architectural point of view, but also for its political importance and the researcher has to carefully analyze the motivations that led the City Council, a "coniuratio" of citizens, to state their political and legal independence with the building up of a Public Hall. The historical details about Saluzzo date before the city-state period, from the XI to the XIV century, when the town underwent the change from the hegemonic power of the Marquese to a public form of government.

The research consists of two parts: the first one is the narrative phase, where the researcher has gathered all the relevant documents organizing them in chronological sequence, following the historic background; the second phase consists of the dimensional, geometric and typologic analysis of the building developed with the help of the architectural reliefs and plans and the graphic representations. Through the graphic plans the researcher focuses on the constructive aspects of the building and on its structural degradation.

This study offers the possibility to point out the interventions needed to restore the Old Town Hall and Clock Tower and to work out a project for a different reutilisation of the building.

The Old Town Hall is owned by the City Council which intends to collocate into its rooms a permanent exhibition of paintings and sculptures of Matteo Oliviero, artist from Saluzzo, at present displayed at the actual Town Hall. The Old Town Hall should then obtain new vital importance and should become a public museum.

The twenty tables enclosed to the thesis volume contain the historical analysis, the reliefs and the reutilisation project in different metric scales 1:200 and 1:5.



VISTA DA SOTTO PARTICOLARE A

SCALA 1:10