

Carpets of rocks.... the “risseu liguri”. Case study of Castelvecchio di Roccabarbena (Savona, Italy)

by Fenoglio Federica and Ivaldo Arianna

Tutors: Cesare Renzo Romeo, Maurizio Serito Gomez

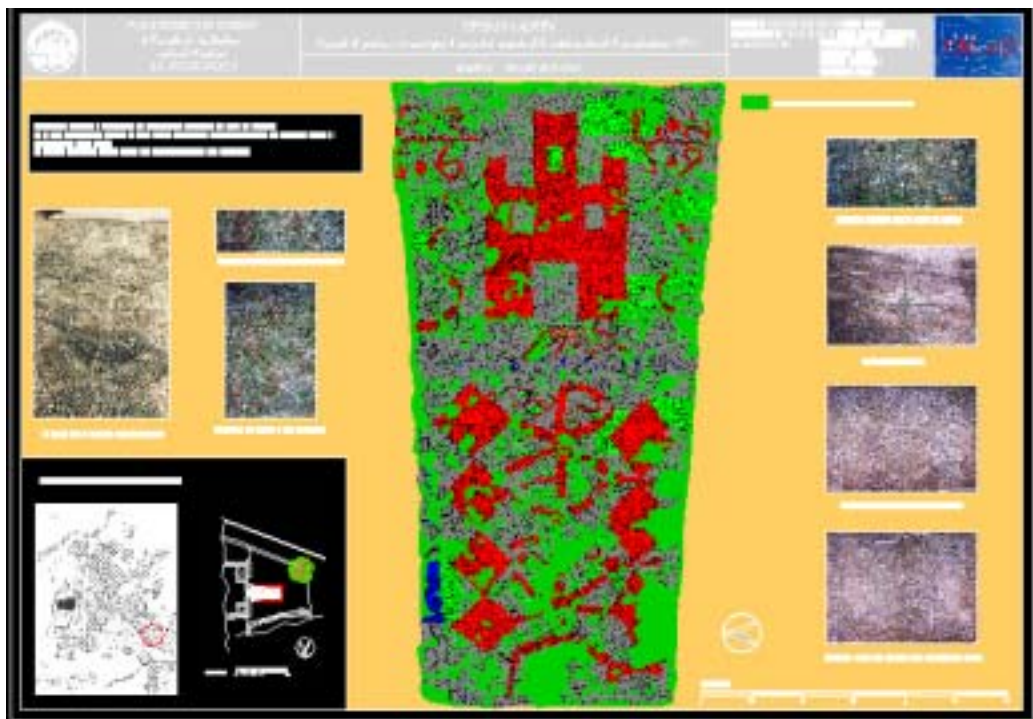
The subject of our thesis comes out after having participate to a congress, took place in Santa Margherita Ligure, about the artistic and historical importance of the pavements, with a particular interest on those that cover the courts of the churches.

We immediately found fascinating the study on how the ancient citizens of Liguria picked up pebbles, colored black and white, still bathed, from along the rivers or on the shore of the sea and how, after bringing them to the courts of the churches, they transformed, combining the colors, with all the stones inserted and hammered in the sand, to arabesques and volutes, stars and roses of the winds, religious and civil symbols, to express an ancient custom and somehow a spontaneous feeling of their faith.

After having affirm ascertained that this technique today is practically disappeared or at least the original one and that many of these courts of the churches have been abandoned however preserved inadequately, we choose to face this theme and try to propose a method to conserve these creations.

We have conducted a census of the courts of the churches in the province of Savona that has allowed to analyze the various typologies, the used materials, the symbols and the decorations, the dating and to appraise their conditions.

Our attention detained on the court of “Nostra Signore dell’Assunta” in Castelvecchio of Roccabarbeno church, whose maintenance has been for years completely ignored and therefore currently in need of restorations.



In close examination the subjects of our thesis are:

- The court of the church

The origins, the Christian church squares and their evolution.

- The “RISSEU”

Pavements. Pavements of pebbles in antiquity, in medieval years till today. Different typologies of the church courts. Symbols and thematic, manual ability: today a rarity.

- Analysis of the courts of the churches in the province of Savona.

- Historical – territorial organization of the suburb.

The Neva valley and the surrounding territory.

- Analysis of the “Castelvecchio di Roccabarbena” church court.

Photographic survey, CAD drawings, Analysis of the pebbles

- Analysis of the stone patrimony in Liguria

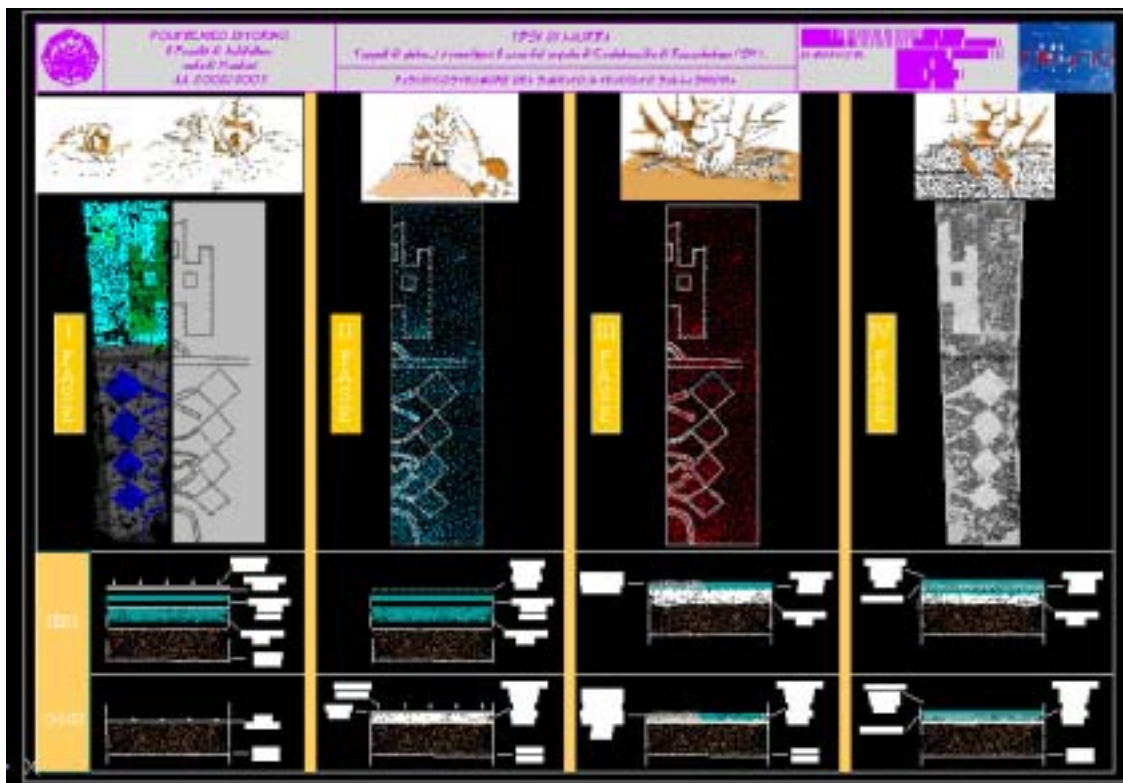
The tradition of the stone employments in Liguria. A geological analysis in Neva valley.

The study of the minerals. Observation to the microscope. Recognition to the X rays.

Chemical analysis.

- Damages and criterions of intervention.

Conservation problems. Restoration and conservation project. Damages and criterions on rocks. Method of study of the church courts. Analysis of degradation. Interventions.



The intervention of conservation has been supported by one of the disciplines that mostly have valorised our thesis, *petrography*.

This science helped the identification of the principal characteristics of the pebbles, the use for the realisation of the “Nostra Signora dell’Assunta di Castelvecchio di Roccabarbena” church court and of which is discovered their origin, the Neva stream that flows in the valley.

Analysis and tests of laboratory made by making thin sections, have constitute the base for the definition of the most suitable interventions for the recovery of the material.



For further information:
F74@virgilio.it
ariannaivaldo@virgilio.it

Maintained by:
CISDA - HypArc, e-mail: hyparc@polito.it