

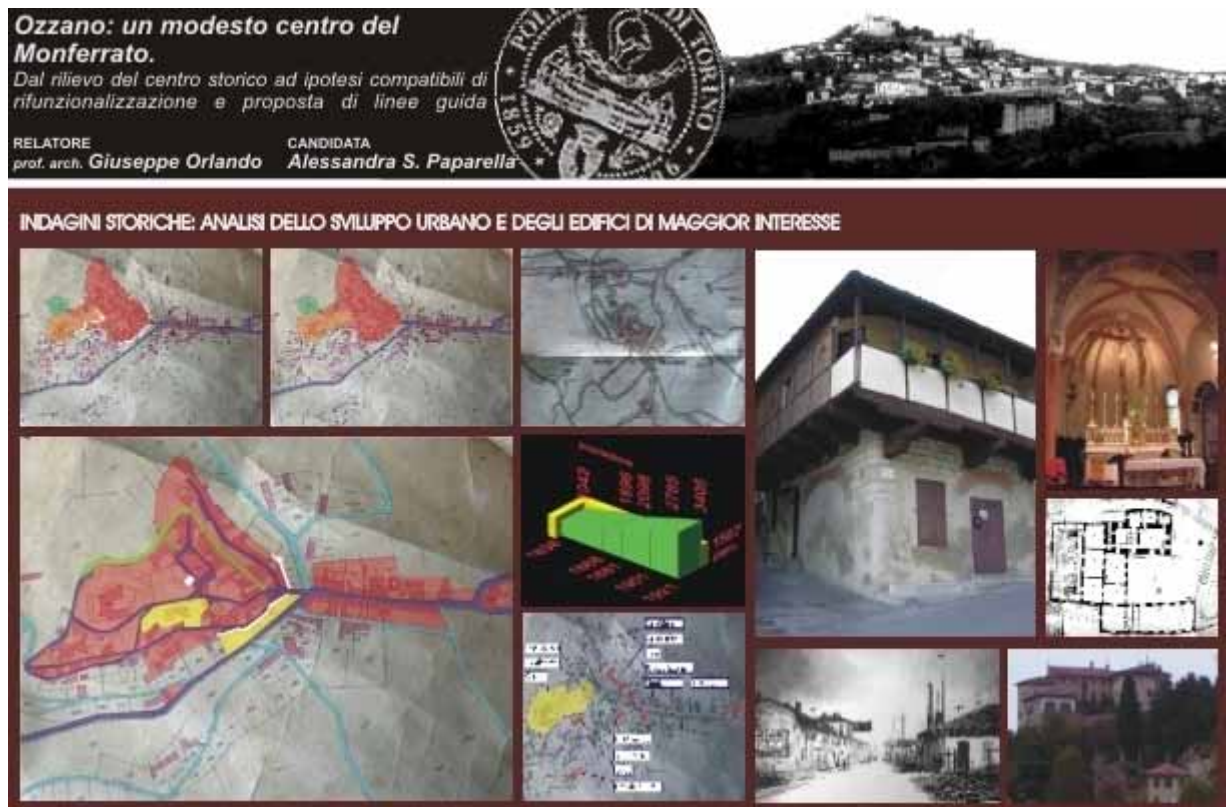
POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 2
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

Ozzano: a small town centre in Monferrato. From a survey on the town centre to hypothesis of “function renewal” and to guide-lines for restoring and building projects

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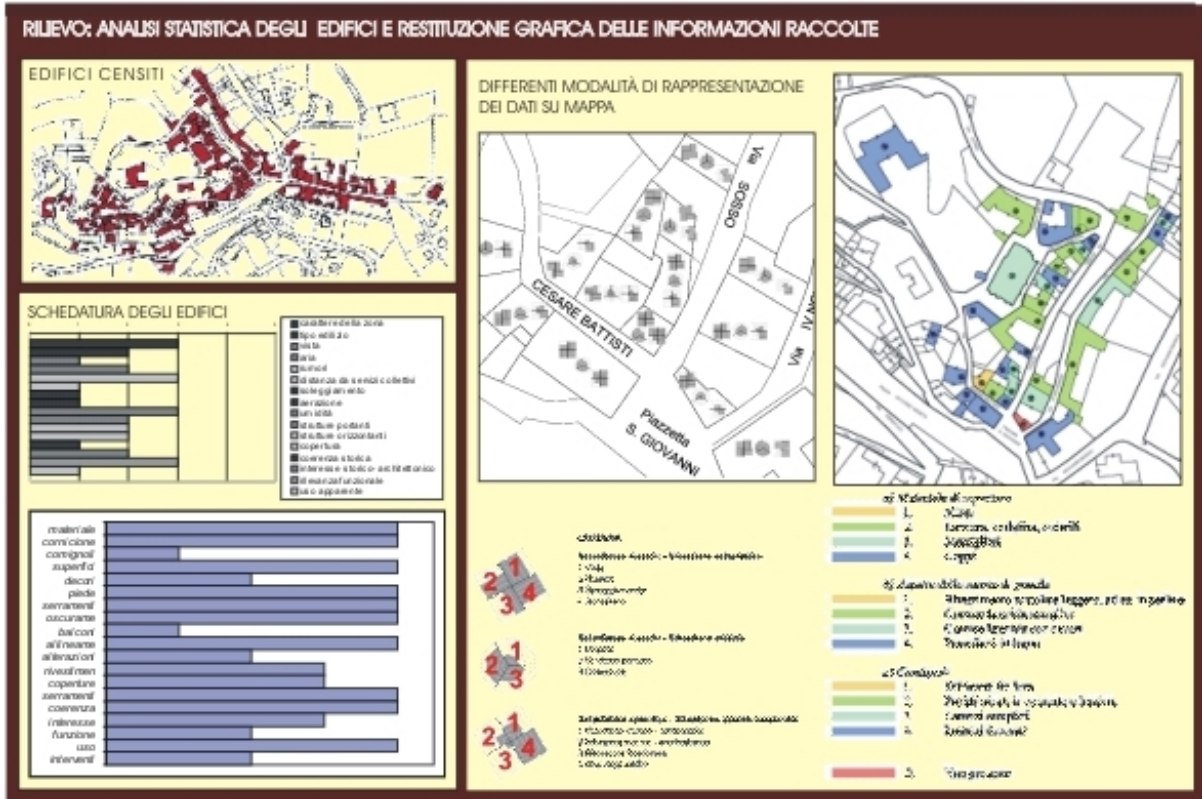
The work has been processed in three different phases: an historical review of the urban development, a cataloguing and a statistical survey of the buildings in the town centre, an hypothesis of guide lines for restoring the buildings in order to consistently function renewal the historical heritage.



Historical enquiries

Information about Ozzano Monferrato, a small village nearby Casale Monferrato, comes from bibliographical, archives and direct sources. Political, economical, cultural and social conditions that have been affecting Ozzano's evolution in the last thousand years, have been traced according to the development stages of the town centre and the history of the main buildings: the castle and its middle ages defence system which is nowadays mostly lost or unrecognizable; S. Salvatore Parish Church (14th century) which has remains of Spanzotti's painting school frescos; a late gothic

civilian building that still has a beautiful wooden structure; the main *extra moenia* expansion phases; the evolution and industrial development of the lime processing that in late 19th century gave birth to a new district called Lavello; the economical and demographical decrease in the second half of 20th century.



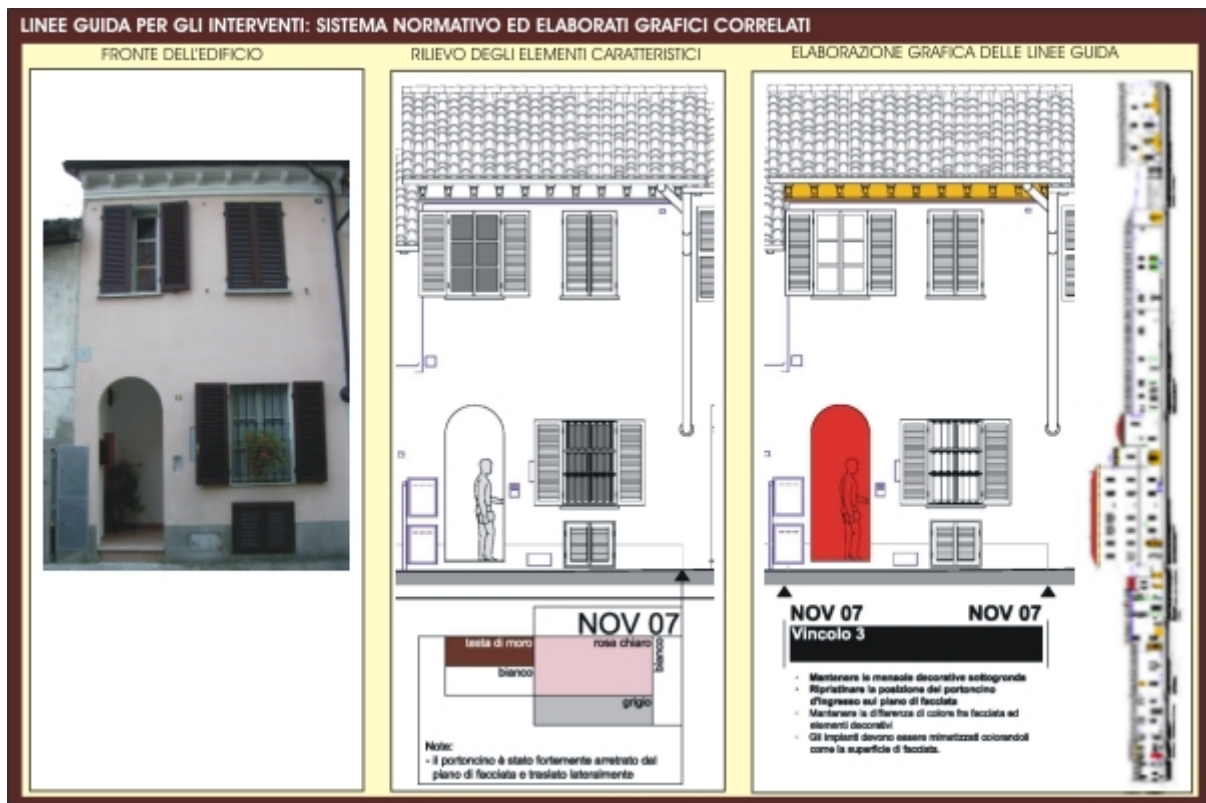
The survey

After the identification of the original town centre area, a first cataloguing survey has been carried out on 129 buildings, using an integrated version of Auzelle method. The purpose was that of renovating the method by tracing and experimenting changes that would fit both the evaluation of an ancient town centre and a contemporary urban research.

16 parameters have been used to evaluate building characteristics and types, the quality and the maintenance state of the buildings, their fitting with the rest of the building environment, their architectural appeal, their use. The analysis of the data has revealed a town centre which is mostly non aulic and maintains its original features except for a few late modernization works; it is not entirely used and still holds main public service functions, while private activities are concentrated in Lavello.

A further cataloguing has been carried out on 38 buildings who have been identified as first *intra moenia* built area, according to other 15 parameters who shift the enquiry from a urban scale to a building one. Each single element of roofs and façades has been analyzed according to type, material and preservation degree; alignments, alterations and importance of the changes already done or to be done have been evaluated. The work has made possible to put in evidence the recurrent

typologies and the data have been displayed through tables, graphs, symbol and colour maps in order to offer different kinds of description of the built heritage.



Function renewal

Considering the present transformation perspective of the social and economical background, different possibilities for a new use of the town centre have been put in evidence, according to the necessity of both safeguarding the heritage and keeping it available to use, in order to give a solution to its under utilization.

The amount of analyzed data and the comparison with other studies have made possible to define a few guide lines for restoring projects aimed to preserve both the peculiar identity of the buildings and of their surroundings; these guide lines are also aimed to harmonize previous restoring works that might not fit with the surroundings without getting into a falsification of the buildings. These indications have been translated into guidance that would apply to the buildings in conformity with a four group prescriptive classification.

This model has been tested on the front elevation of an entire street, which is representative of all town centre front types, through an accurate survey of the façades and through a graphic system (including reference to above prescriptions) that has the aim of describing the guide lines for restoring projects.

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