

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

“The Murazzi” along Po river in Torino

by Igor Falcone

Tutor: Costanza Roggero

Co-tutor: Annalisa Dameri

“The Murazzi” along Po river were built between 1873 and 1890, realizing only in part a much more ambitious project which provided the complete arrangement of both river sides between actual Umberto I and Regina Margherita bridges, in order to carry out Borgo Nuovo and Vanchiglia quarter planning.



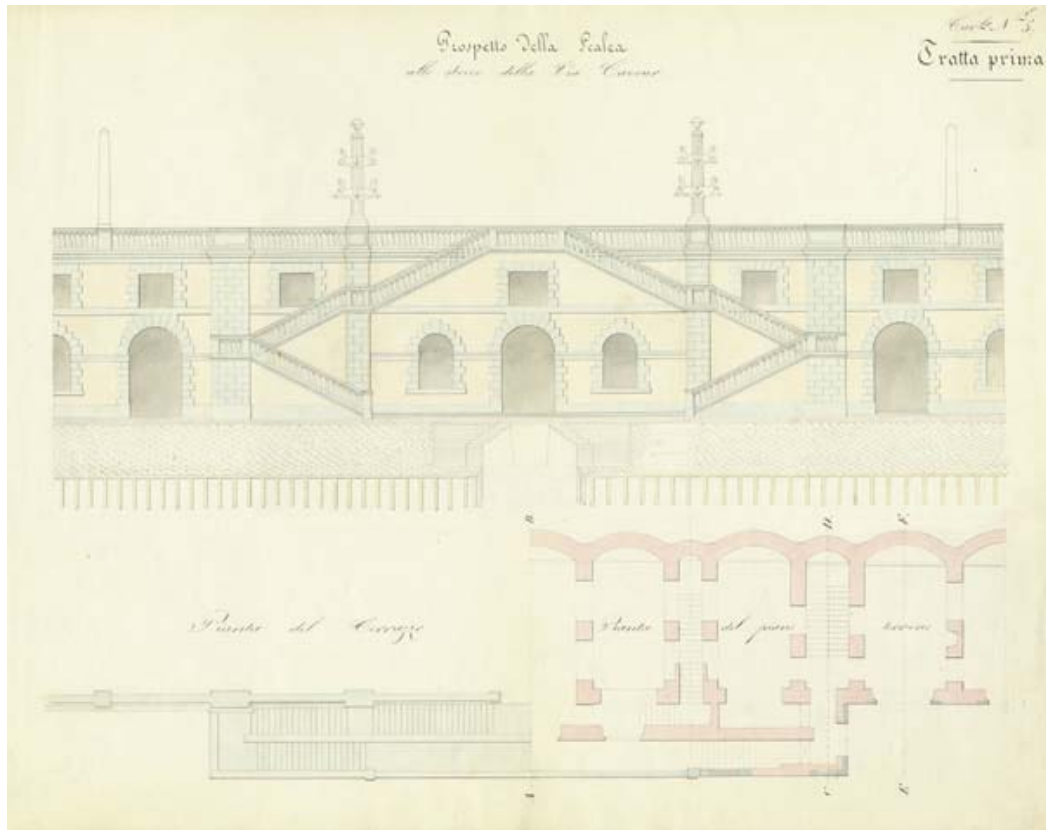
GIANCARLO DALL'ARMI, View of “The Murazzi” from the “Monte dei Cappuccini”, approximately 1920 (ASCT, *Archivio Fotografico*, Collezione Dall'Armi, R0310156)

Po river side integration in urban landscape started only at the beginning of XIX century – during Napoleonic period – in the sphere of a much more wide programme of town planning redefinition in consequence of fortification demolition.

In particular the «ponte in pietra», even if set up outside the town, thanks to the lining up to the axis of the «contrada di Po», was included in the city planning, and it was thought as a urban construction, characterized by wide *murs de quai* turning on both the river sides.

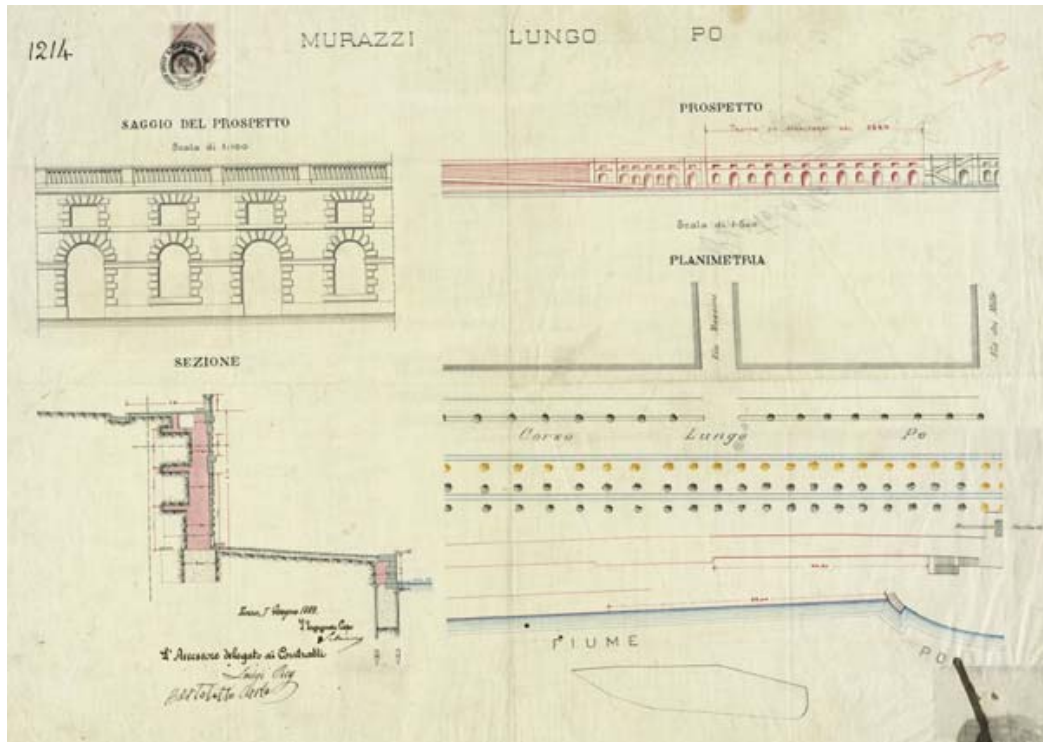
The French project, though completed only in part, maintained a great morphogenetic capacity and built up the Restoration plans matrix which grown up privileging axial prolongation of historic arteries and reappointing the importance of urban crux represented by *grand places* outside town.

Starting from the Restoration, the research work tries to reconstruct the different stages which have been conducted, at first, to *quais* planning, designed by Carlo Bernardo Mosca engineer, and then to the project of “the Murazzi”, by Edoardo Pecco engineer.



[EDOARDO PECCO], *Prospetto della scala allo sbocco della Via Cavour*, [1860-1861]
 (ASCT, *Tipi e Disegni*, 15.3.19)

The first ones were realized between 1834 and 1835 as necessary left river side sistemation work, in order to finish the urbanization of Vittorio Emanuele square. "The Murazzi", already thought in 1853 by Carlo Promis in relation to the *Piano d'ingrandimento della Capitale*, were planned in 1860 as part of a larger and ambitious program of extraordinary works for town embellishment that was drawn up by municipality in the illusion of seeing Torino as the head of a finally united nation. As the consequence of the transfer of the government the Murazzi project was abandoned and resumed only in 1872, during urban reconstruction and clearance, in particular for the demolition of the Borgo del Moschino and the construction of the first Murazzi stage, down Napoleonic bridge. Maybe this project was influenced by the contemporaneous starting of Tevere river side arrangement in Rome.



CARLO VELASCO, *MURAZZI LUNGO PO*, 7 giugno 1889 (ASCT, *Tipi e Disegni*, 15.3.17)

Beginning from this phase a precise analysis has been developed – and a complete regist – of the richest documentation, conserved in Torino Historic Archive, concerning all different planning and building stages of the Murazzi, starting from the relations written by chief engineers succeeded in the Civico Ufficio d'arte – nowadays Ufficio tecnico – and running council room discussions, contract tenders for work trust and test relations.

Documentary material is completed with a collection of about 250 drawings – completely regist – part of which represents the various hypothesis formulated from 1860's plan. The drawings of realized plan cover all different erecting yard stage and are indicative of search level achieved with preliminar studies.

At last some plans, dated back to the 1880's, have been analyzed. They were produced by some free-lance technicians, in order to complete the Murazzi left riverside or to extend the right side building.

For further information, e-mail:

Igor Falcone: igor.falcone@hotmail.it