

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

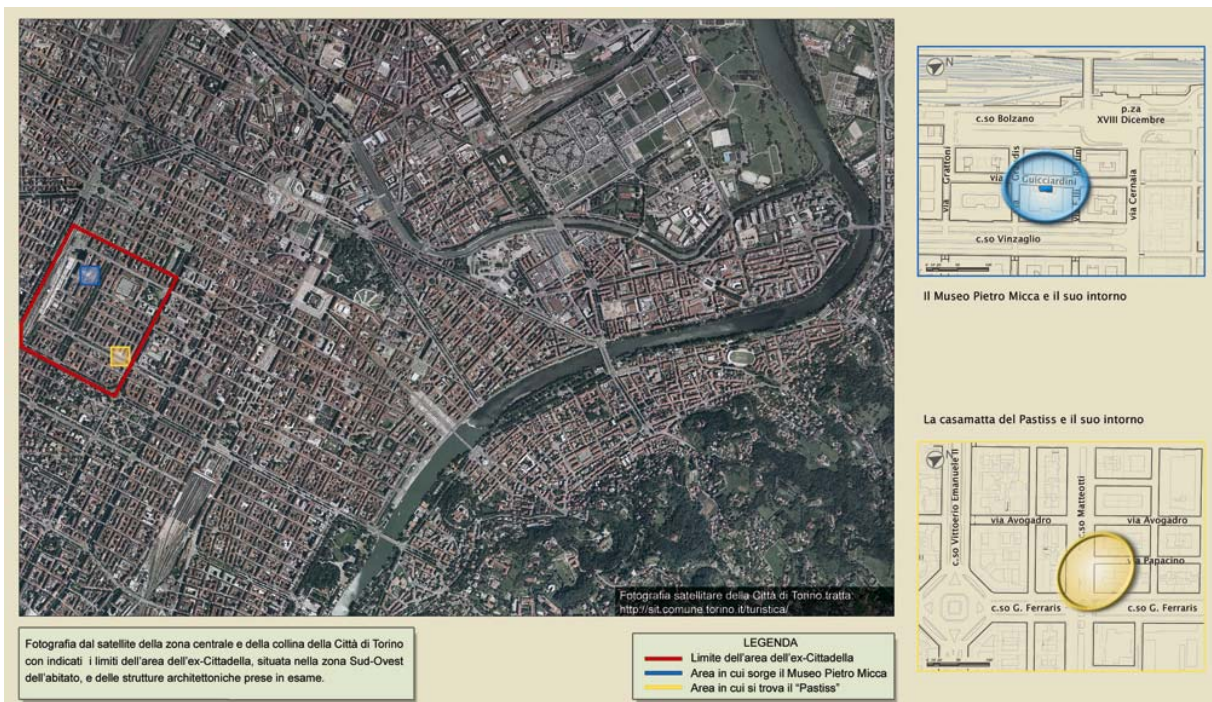
The Pietro Micca Museum of Turin and its extension work at the so-called Pastiss casemate. Study for a mini multifunction museum

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Turin, historical town, keeping in its structure the characteristics of the different ages, which have marked and “built” it, has a part of its artistic and cultural legacy also underground.

Under the streets of the “historical” town, runs a system of communication and defence tunnels and passages creating a network which thickens in the South-West area of the Renaissance Turin, where once was standing the Citadel, wanted by Emanuel Filbert in 1564 to defend the new capital of his reign.



Just in this area, now marked out by tree-lined roads and 19th century palaces (residences, offices and services) there is a small civic museum, which has the aim to remind the inhabitants of Turin and to let the tourists know of that unique heritage of mine and countermine tunnels built there from 1572 up to 1706 and after.

This is the *Museum of Pietro Micca and of the siege of Turin of 1706*, created after the discovery by Gen. Guido Amoretti, of the 18th century staircase connecting the two parallel countermine tunnels (high and low capital), which branched off the Citadel to the countryside. The staircase went off during the French siege of 1706 for the heroism of the miner Pietro Micca who died to defend the town.

This almost unknown museum is the starting point for the thesis. In fact, its underground network is today the only element showing the greatness of the defence system of this town. Moreover, the underground is not only protecting the long tunnels but a full structure of military architecture as well, the casemate once defending the San Lazar bastion of the Citadel: the Pastiss.

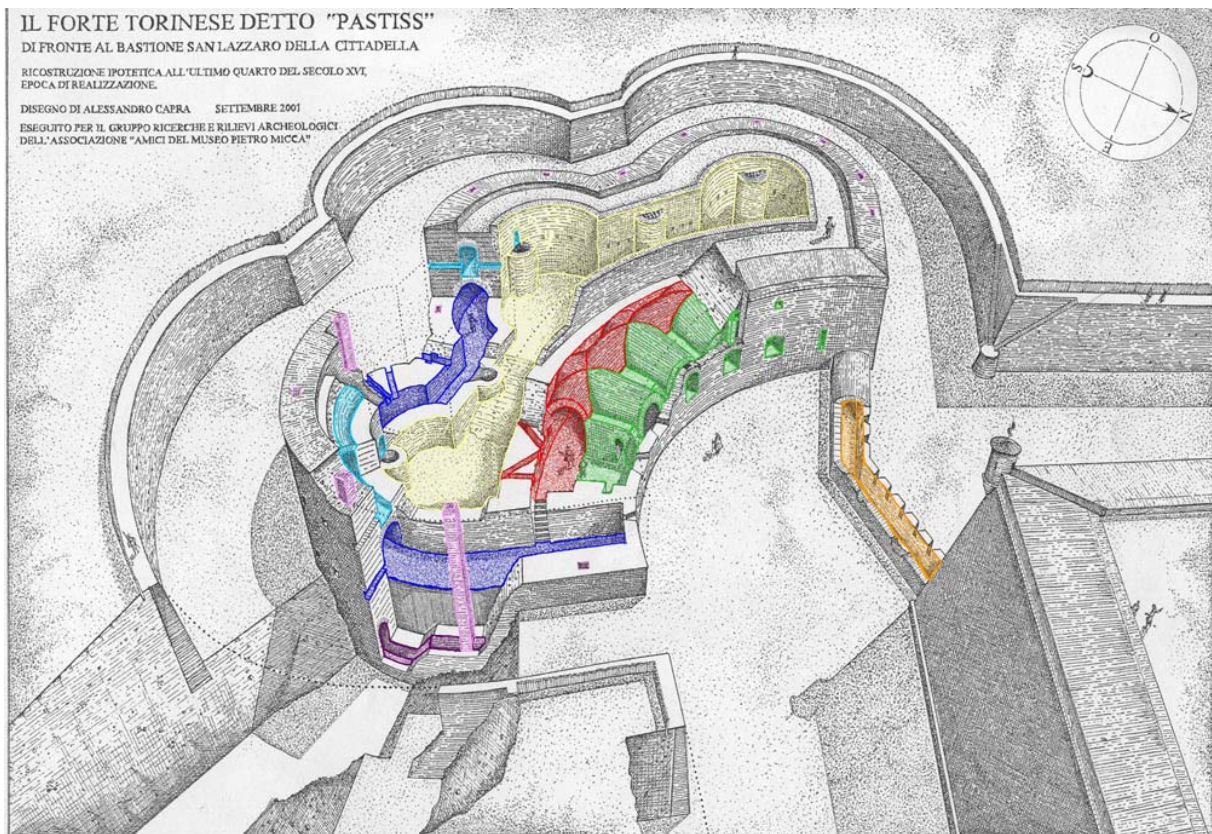
All these elements were once making part of a single unit, which is now broken and no more perceptible as a whole.

For this reason, the thesis, after an historical survey and a study of the area to be examined, is developing on three phases, which - through the analysis of each single element - allow to reach a unitary vision of these “artistic and cultural places” which are worthy to be improved.



The first phase is focused on the plan and study of the present **Museum**, which has been analysed both as an architectural structure and as a place to be visited. We have pointed out the qualities and the defects of the Museum and we have shown the guidelines for a re-organization and a possible enlargement.

The second phase concerns the **casemate "Pastiss"**, placed under the road sediment of Papacino Street, corner Matteotti Avenue. Only some historical analysis of the structure were available. Therefore, we have prepared a study on the architecture of the place, showing and explaining the complexity of the 16th century trilobite casemate. We have found out how it was built and, according to the plan of the still accessible section, we have figured out the reconstruction of the original shape and dimensions pointing out the operations to be done to transform it into a museum: restoration works, compliance with the current rules, improvements of the structure.



Draw of Arch. Alessandro Capra modified

The third phase, finally, considers the creation of a **mini multifunction Museum**. Today, an isolated museum can only survive if its exhibits and, especially its dimensions, allow to put together many activities making it a small multifunction centre.

This cannot happen to the small Pietro Micca Museum in Guicciardini Street and to the “Pastiss” casemate if they are managed separately.

For this reason we have considered the opportunity to create a mini multifunction pole allowing to make up for the lacks of the structure of the present civic museum. It is possible to create an *ensemble* in the area of the lost Citadel by connecting functionally, and “netting” the elements of the ancient defences, which are now physically separated by the 19th century blocks.

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