

Traditional Piedmontese building materials and products (Introduction to Section 26 of the Piedmont Regional Council's Price List regarding Public Works)

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When historic buildings are restored one issue which often comes to the fore is the lack of materials providing the information needed to draw up the correct "specifications" and "price lists" regarding the traditional local building materials and products used.

The manuals available on a national level ("The Architect's Manual", for example), do not take these specific demands into account.

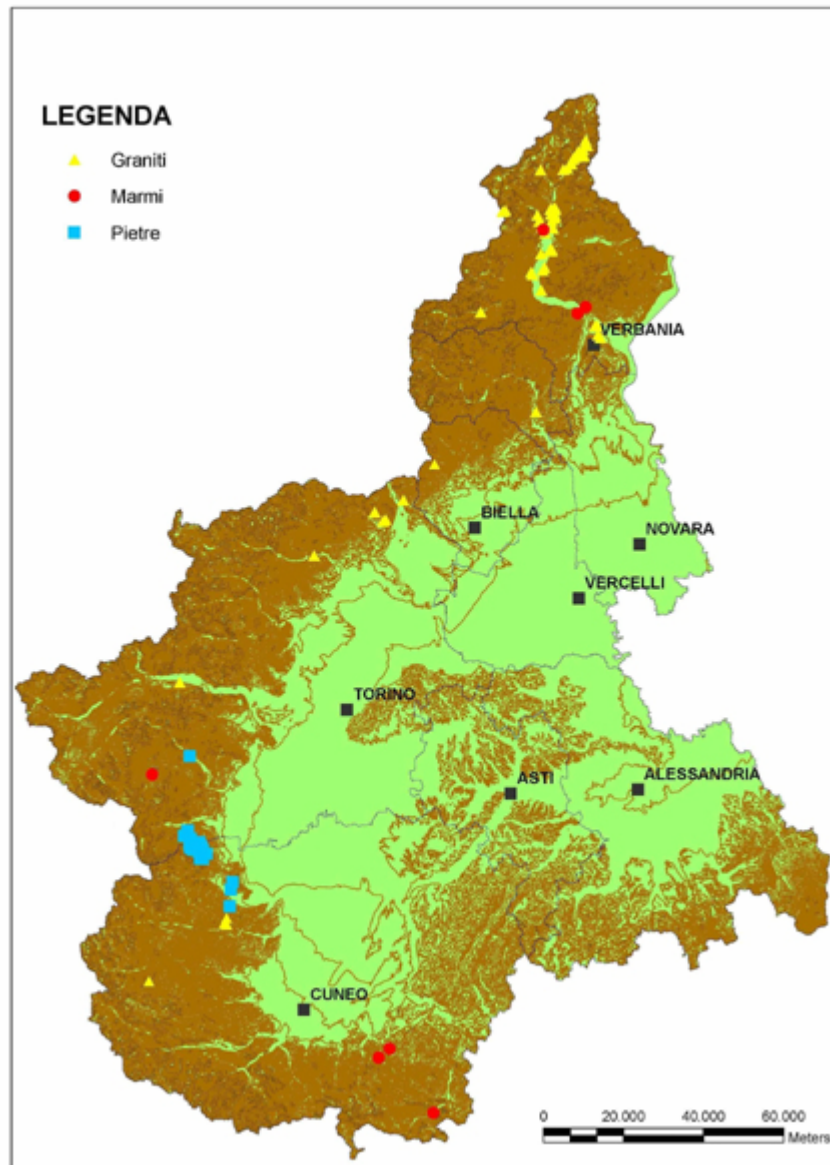
In Piedmont many of these traditional regional building materials and products are in current use and are available on the market, including in pre-packaged form, even though they are not mentioned in the Piedmont Regional Council's price list.

The aim of the thesis was to create a new section in the Piedmont Regional Council's Price List regarding Public Works, entitled "*Traditional Piedmontese Building Materials and Products*".

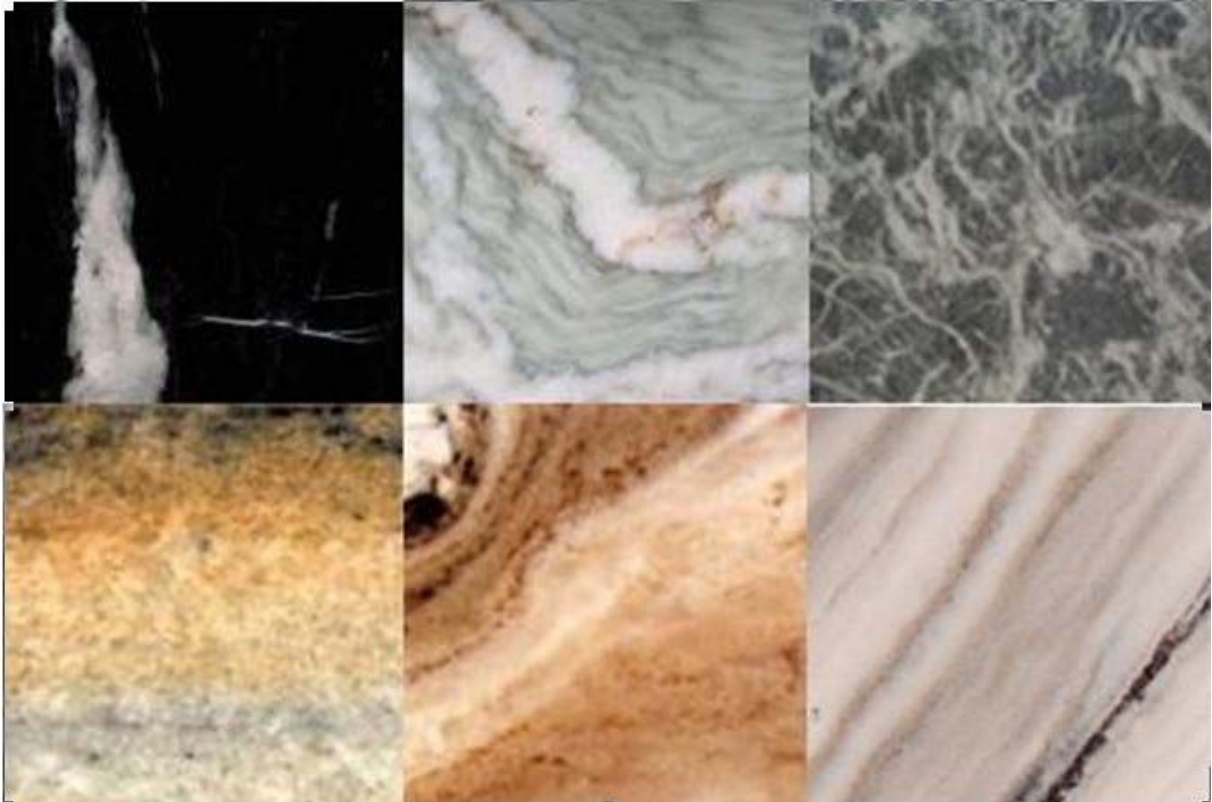
Research involved analysing period manuals (by local authors dating back to the end of the nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century such as G. Curioni, A. Lenti and G. Gelati), and exploring the Price Lists dating from the mid nineteenth century to the present day, with the aim of identifying the classified provenance of raw materials (Po sand, Superga lime, Luserna stone or Candoglia marble) and the changes in the description of finished works (such as Piedmontese style roofs, or Monferrato gypsum floors) over time.

This was followed with lengthy "*market research*" carried out with the companies to assess what the current market actually offers, and what has survived the passage of time and the advent of modern building materials.

The database regarding "quarries and mining", supplied by RUPAR (Unitary Network of the Regional Public Administration), was used to identify the main functioning quarries in Piedmont for the following materials: clay, binders, stone and alluvial materials. Then it was possible to identify the companies which hold the permits and map them geographically.



The largest group of “*traditional Piedmontese*” materials was without a doubt stone. There are indeed various types of quartzite (*quarzite di Barge, quarzite di Vogogna*), granite (*bianco Montorfano, rosa Baveno, verde Mergozzo*) and marble (*palissandro bluetto, classico, oniciato*) which are only found in the area.



Principal example of Piedmontese marbles

With regards to binders the situation is different: as it was not possible to apply the criteria of “*traditional regional material*”, in line with the approach of the thesis we examined only companies which work with raw materials (lime for instance) from Piedmont.

With regards to brick, a number of companies has been taken over by the big firms in the sector, which have modified production to respond to the demands of an increasingly competitive market. There are other companies which are still managing not to succumb to market pressures, mostly artisanal companies offering niche products such as hand-made bricks and pantiles, which choose to invest in tradition and focus on products which differ from industrially-manufactured materials.

We then prepared descriptions of the individual materials, with both technical information (indicating the current norms) and commercial information (providing the names of a number of companies we contacted which work in that sector).

At the end of the project, once all the materials which satisfied the criteria for inclusion on the Price List had been identified, and the prices ascertained, we attempted to contribute to the preparation of an introduction to “Section 26”, a point of departure to provide official recognition for these building materials, which could be likened to the DOC status awarded in the wine sector.

The use of such products contributes to raising the cultural profile, enhancing the quality and improving the economy of the building industry.

SEZ.	CODICE	DESCRIZIONE	MATERIALI	UNITA'	EURO	NOTE
25	25.P.02	AGGREGATI PER MALTE				
25	25.P.02.A1.0	Sabbia		q	1.15	*Voce da ditta Elmit listino prezzi franco-cava
25			Del Ticino	q	1.15	
25			sabbia fine (4/8)	q		
25			Della Dora	q	1.3	Voce da ditta Cave-MV s.r.l. listino prezzi franco-cantiere
25			Del Po	q	1.6	*Voce da ditta J.E.S. s.r.l. listino prezzi franco-cava
25				q	1.704	*Voce da ditta Bertoncava listino prezzi franco-cava
25	25.P.03	PIETRE E MARMI				
25	25.P.03.A2.0	Diorite di Traverella		q		
25				q	94,80	Voce da ditta Tomajno listino prezzi al pubblico i materiali della presente categoria si intendono lavorati a piano di sega con coste fresate
25			In lastre dello spessore di cm.2	q	131,00	
25			In lastre dello spessore di cm.3	q	168,00	
25			In lastre dello spessore di cm.4	q	195,00	
25			In lastre dello spessore di cm.5	q	229,00	
25			In lastre dello spessore di cm.6	q	262,00	
25			In lastre dello spessore di cm.7	q	296,00	
25			In lastre dello spessore di cm.8	q	328,00	
25			In lastre dello spessore di cm.9	q	362,00	
25			In lastre dello spessore di cm.10	q	3.616,00	
25			In masselli	q	60,80	
25			Scapoli di cava grezzi, con diametri trasversali compresi tra cm.25 e cm.60	q	12,90	
25			Elaboratura	m	3,93	
25			Lucidato di mola per pietre dure	m	7,65	
25			Lucidato a piombo per pietre dure	m		

Part of the Piedmont Regional Council's Price List regarding Public works

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