

POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture (Urban and Territorial Design)  
**Honors theses**

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**Cly castle**

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Cly castle is placed on the top of a rocky headland in Saint Denis, Valle d'Aosta, Italy. Built around the 11th century, it presents a primary structure characterizing the models of ancient castles. This structure is currently in ruin, but it is still partially readable, since its evolution crystallized following the abandonment and the plundering of the 1600's.



North-west View of the castle of Cly

The challenge of this work consisted in clarifying how much history and how much mythology were revolving around this kind of structure, trying to reconstruct its evolution and trying therefore to define its chronological sequence on the basis of a chrono-typological analysis, carried out on the most remarkable element of the complex.

I refer to the main tower of the castle of which, thanks to the method of stratigraphic analysis combined with the archival research, we could propose the most precise possible datings. Moreover, the employed method has been extremely important for the definition of a “yard of the acquaintance” in which the synergy between history and archaeology is revalued for the planning of a series of interventions aiming to protect, in its complexity, the cultural and historical wealth of the structure. Based on the historical analysis, we proceeded detecting the main evolutionary phases through a careful observation of the building and the reconstruction of a total plan.

**Immagini Panoramiche**

View North East of the castle of Cly. Foto aerea del Istituto Wilton (I.R.E.I.L., Istituto Wilton Riforma, Ch., int. CHAA-847/24, www2402, 1974).

View North West of the castle of Cly. Foto aerea del Istituto Wilton (I.R.E.I.L., Istituto Wilton Riforma, Ch., int. CHAA-847/24, www2402, 1974).

View North West of the castle of Cly. Foto aerea del Istituto Wilton (I.R.E.I.L., Istituto Wilton Riforma, Ch., int. CHAA-847/24, www2402, 1974).

**Fasi storiche**

I Fase

II Fase

III Fase

IV Fase

V Fase

<b>POLITECNICO DI TORINO</b>	
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<small>TESI DI LAUREA: <i>Il castello di Cly</i></small>	<small>AA 2006/2007</small>
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**I castello di Cly e la sua evoluzione**

Il castello di Cly venne edificato attorno al XI secolo, durante questa prima fase presentava sicuramente un elemento di rilievo, una cinta muraria in un fossato, ma per i dati in nostro possesso, non sembra restarne traccia.

Il cantiere potrebbe aver subito un blocco e venne terminato verso la fine dello stesso secolo. Durante questa fase fu edificata la piccola cappella di San Maurizio.

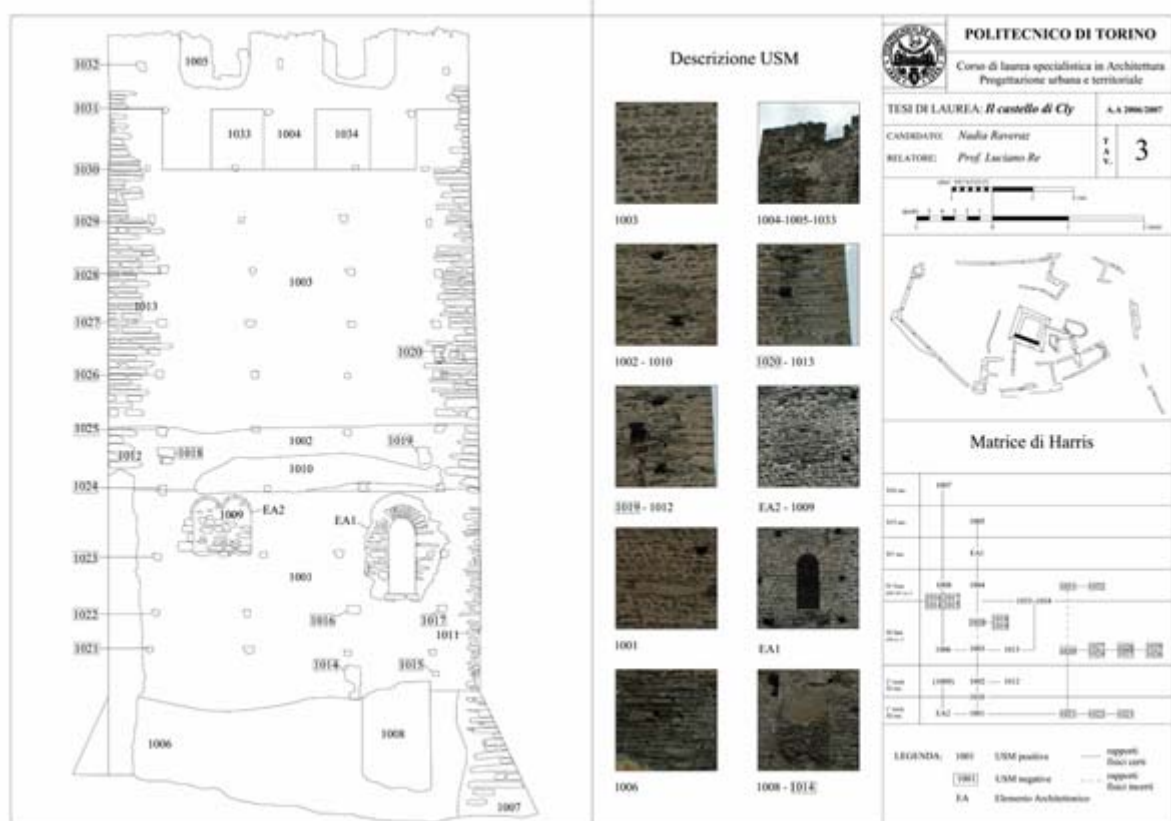
Doveva passare almeno un secolo, però, prima che vi fosse una nuova campagna di lavori, durante la quale la cinta muraria venne ampliata, e quella vecchia superlevata, così come la torre. Probabilmente prima che ciò avvenisse, verso la fine del Duecento, i signori di Cly fecero realizzare la "sala bassa" facendo aprire una bifora nella parete orientale.

Più tardi è il complesso delle quattro stanze verso Chambava, che subirono pesanti interventi durante una quarta fase quattrocentesca, fase che vide i Savoia entrare in possesso del complesso.

Dopo il periodo sabauda il castello subì ancora qualche modifica, passando di proprietario in proprietario fin quando Pierre Philibert Ranscaux ne determinò il rapido deperimento. Di questa fase è rintracciabile il muro est delle camere "sull'orto", probabilmente realizzato anche dopo la metà del '500.

The castle of Cly and its evolution

The virtual reconstruction by simple volumes of the complex allowed to put in evidence the various evolutionary phases of the structure. From the acknowledgement of the most ancient block, that is the tower, we passed to a more complex body characterized by a boundary wall, some service buildings and a chapel, then to a third phase of widening of the town-walls and addition of height to the main tower, and, at the end, to the realization of a residential body towards south. The analysis of the historical stratifications concerned the tower as primitive nucleus connoting the castle.



### Analysis of the historical stratifications of the prospect South of the main tower

The aim of this work consisted in experiencing a relatively new method of approach to the knowledge of the tower. After having reordered and synthesized the incredible amount of information, the combination of the stratigraphic analysis and the historical-archival research allows us to add an element to the present information on the castle.

The conservation project becomes therefore the basis for the maintenance of a source of information from which the future readings of the building depend. From here the importance to guarantee the survival and the duration of the structure, with conservative interventions, always recognizable and reversible, to ensure the reading possibility also in future.

In conclusion, the "yard of the acquaintance" that has been attempted to develop for Cly has a twofold scope: on one side, the formulation of line guides for the proposal of a plan of conservation addressing to the more meaningful portion of the complex, studied on the basis of a relief of the structure and its degradations with the support of photographic images; on the other side, the focus of the attention on a structure of great historical and cultural interest.

In such a way, the “yard of the acquaintance”, testifying the mutations occurred during the centuries, would place a basis for the evolution of the cognitive process of the historical context to supply fundamental elements to the reconstruction of those puzzle that by now for a long time, historicists and archaeologists from Valle d'Aosta are trying to reconstruct in a region where, until two decades ago, the Middle Ages was subordinated to the roman period.

Video North Side: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kXyiOINIO2E>

Video South Side: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tAQmDHYh3eo>

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