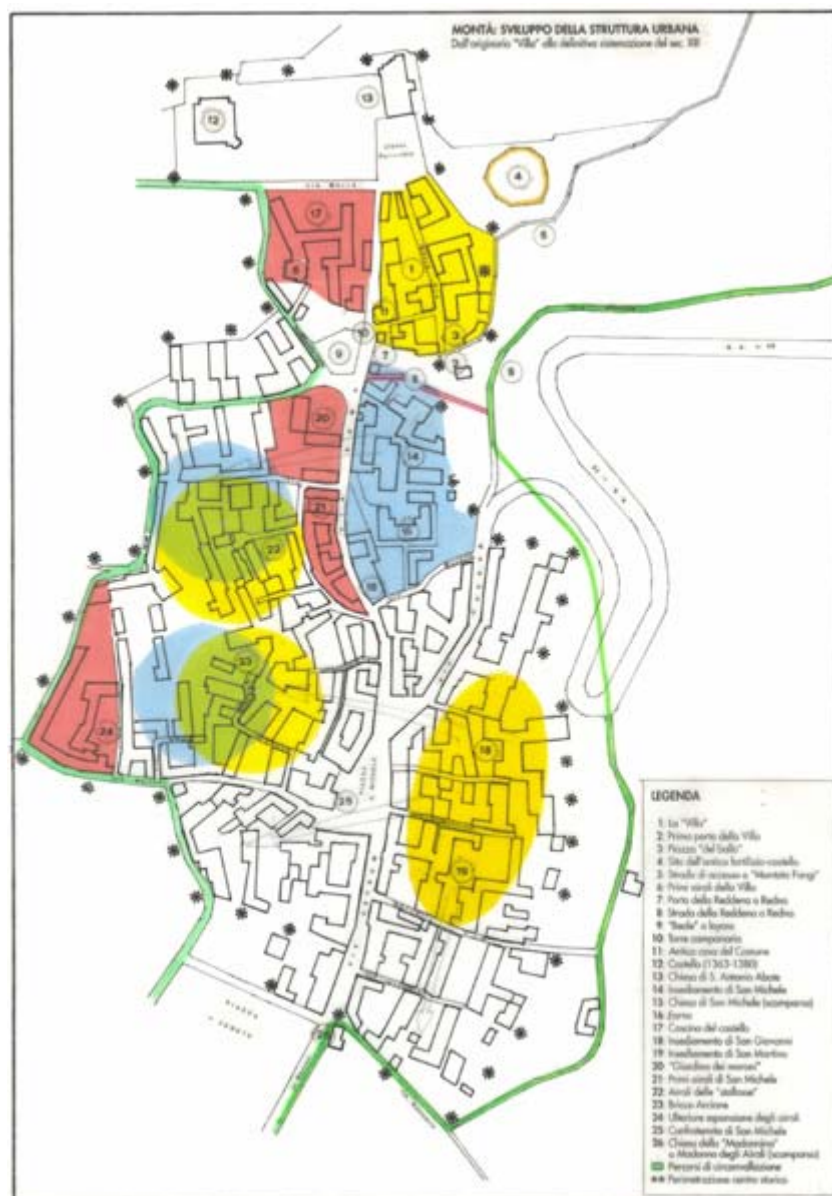


POLITECNICO DI TORINO  
FIRST SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE  
Master of Science in Architecture  
*Honors theses*

**The transformation of a rural piemontese settlement: Montà from 1800s to 1900s**

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Object of this study is the analysis of urban and social transformation of Montà small town from nineteenth to twentieth century.



Montà: the growth of the urban structure

The best support came from municipal and parish archive, that has opened the book of the great turning point occurred in the decades between the two centuries highlighting an important concept: the difference between community and society. The distinction between community and society represents a consolidated takeover of science historical & social. The concept of community, that keeps it a positive connotation, is generally considered as the coexistence of a small number of people like a tiny agricultural village. The concept of society recalls, instead, the idea of a wider audience, more alien, the cities world.

The passage from a community dimension to a social dimension, when it happens on a vast scale, entails the change of the modernisation. The model “community – society” ends, within certain limits, for being antagonistic and dialectic, very similar to the relations about centre – suburb, town – country.

With reference to the relation about study made on Montà, we can find different way of reading. In the second half of the XIX century, a modernisation way starts and so, an opposition of the previous rural community against new society; a slow passage with few connection with the outside.

The affirmation of the bourgeois class, is not determined by external factors in the community, but is its evolution: the wealthier families begin to study their children, and so born a new generation of notaries, lawyers, painters, surveyors, traders, that with some traders, forms a bourgeois partnership, determinant in every innovative process.

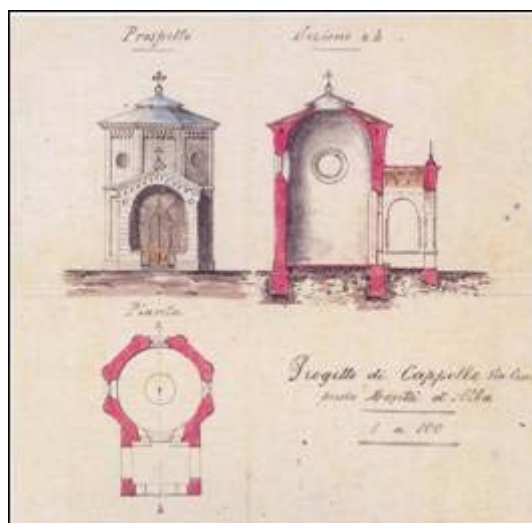
Only with Twentieth develops the first craft, far from industrial forms that are born in urban suburbs: they are small family-run workshops. This process is accompanied by a vigorous modernisation of transport links between the neighbouring settlements and in particular with the provincial road connecting Turin to Alba (highway 29) where there are a significant increase of commercial traffic until the rail project , cultivated for decades without ever finding a positive ending.



Frontal and side prospect of the school palace

In this context, architecture plays a crucial role: Each class is represented by its buildings. Farmers inherit the homes of fathers, building on the model of rural farms ( often inurbate ) designed exclusively depending on the needs of families and their activities, without stylistic requirements. The chieftains built sumptuous villas, according to the modern architectural trends, calling famous architects. Traders build their buildings very similar to models observed in the city, reinterpreting with according to the needs, and local workers, as well as continue to make the craftsmen at the beginning of the twentieth century.

This fervor the crucial role it plays the district office with the construction of the building of primary schools, which "opens our eyes" to who live in the town with new style and refined taste for architectural decoration of houses. Later, in front of the town disordered expansion drafts of the Plan regulator enlargement intervention exceptional since Turin equip itself with the first master plan just two years earlier. The law states that are obliged to adopt the town plan only municipalities to over ten thousand inhabitants: Montà considered that touches just the four thousand is the obvious importance of this decision. The most interesting contrast ,political and social, is the one that is emerging in the twentieth century between liberals and Catholics, a debate reflected the national policy that continues between ups and downs until 1928 when the advent of the mayor puts an end to this period and finally introduces in fascist.



Plan of the via crucis chapel

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