



POLITECNICO
DI TORINO

Honors thesis

COURSE OF ARCHITECTURE FOR HERITAGE
PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Abstract

Archaeological site of Villa Adriana in Tivoli.

Accessibility and usability studies.

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By

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Villa Adriana in Tivoli is a unique ancient architecture example that still allows to experience an efficient and deep relation between buildings and nature.

Its monumental consistency is still present and visible, and it makes us enter in a true connection with the past, reflecting the present both as cultural heritage and architectural lesson.

Starting from the results of the research called *Pompei Accessibile, Linee guida per la fruizione ampliata del sito archeologico*, led by the University of Naples, we have decided to focus the accessibility and usability studies on another Italian archaeological site: Villa Adriana in Tivoli.

Basing on the Pompeian studies, the research has underlined the topic of the increased usability within cultural heritage on Hadrian's site. The improvement of accessibility has been studied in the widest sense of the adjustment practices, including not only the act of going through architectural and perceiving barriers in some areas, but also the enhancement of the archaeological site.

The topic of cultural heritage accessibility is now considered as an aspect that is included into the restoration design. The Pompeian research is believed to be an essential reference for other studies of the same kind, since it has outlined a grounded and efficient method, that could suitably fit for our study on the Hadrian's site.

The research aims to take into consideration the topic of accessibility on Villa Adriana, thinking about an increased usability, which leads to take decisions with regards to the conservation and enhancement project.

Our studies base on consequential approaches: the first part is characterised by analysis concerning both knowledges about architectural barriers, enhancement of cultural sites and the most up-to-date laws relevant to the theme, and smatterings about morphology, history, architecture and composition of the Villa.

A second part has been dedicated to the actual state of the archaeological site within the accessibility and usability topics: urban connections on different scales, distances, paths, differences in heights, areas closed to the visitors, communications and information, landscape.

At the same time, basing on an historical cartography reference, we have introduced an analysis about paths and entrances and how they changed and transformed through time. For doing this, we have used the georeference method that allowed us to have a direct and efficient comparison among all the paths that had been previously identified on the historical maps and on the actual one. This was possible thanks to the overlaying process. This fundamental step has then been useful in the project part for the design of the accessibility to the area.

The research has then focused on a comparison among other archaeological sites, chosen according to specific parameters, in order to know which is the state of the art concerning accessibility themes and possible suitable relevant solutions.

After having realised a more general and methodical analysis on the entire archaeological site, the area of interest narrows itself to a specific sample zone to study many critical aspects, such as physical and perceiving barriers or morphologic and material ones, concerning the theme of increased usability.

After that, the study aims to identify some strategic points where it would be possible to realise enhancement and usability solutions. This includes suggesting hypothetical paths, in

order to outline some experimental key practices and solutions that can be used when needed.

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