

# ***Salirò, salirò...* Analisi tipologica e costruttiva delle strutture di collegamento: un'occasione di confronto con gli studenti sugli edifici storici**

## ***Salirò, salirò...* Typological and constructive analysis of connecting structures: an opportunity for students to discuss historic buildings**

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L'accessibilità riveste un ruolo centrale nell'ambito della conservazione, valorizzazione e tutela del patrimonio architettonico storico, coinvolgendo aspetti tipologici, tecnico-costruttivi e sociali. Il workshop *Salirò, salirò. Due architetture spericolate di scuola antonelliana*, promosso dal Construction History Group del Politecnico di Torino, ha approfondito tali temi attraverso l'analisi di casi studio, tra cui la chiesa di Sant'Eusebio a Camagna Monferrato. Sotto la guida della prof.ssa Carla Bartolozzi, gli studenti hanno esaminato l'accessibilità dell'edificio da una prospettiva urbana, tipologica e costruttiva, elaborando riflessioni critiche e proposte progettuali. L'occasione proposta dal workshop si è rivelata altamente formativa, arricchendo l'esperienza accademica mediante l'integrazione di teoria e pratica.

*Accessibility plays a central role in the conservation, enhancement and protection of historical architectural heritage, encompassing typological, technical-constructive, and social aspects. The workshop *Salirò, salirò. Due architetture spericolate di scuola antonelliana*, promoted by the Construction History Group of the Politecnico di Torino, explored these themes through the analysis of case studies, including the Church of Sant'Eusebio in Camagna Monferrato. Under the guidance of Professor Carla Bartolozzi, students examined the building's accessibility from an urban, typological and constructive perspective, developing critical reflections and design proposals. The workshop provided a highly formative experience, enriching the academic journey by integrating theory and practice.*

## I. Accessibility across scales: examining historical architecture from urban integration to construction details

In the broad field of conservation, accessibility plays a central role in the enhancement and protection of historical architectural heritage. The various ways in which it can be interpreted encompass different aspects of the architectural asset, ranging from typological and technical-constructive considerations to social aspects related to inclusivity policies. It also extends to pressing contemporary issues such as the 'touristification' of heritage, where potential and risk represent two sides of the same coin.

The different scales on which the issue of accessibility can be examined reveal the key role this concept plays in understanding a historical building: on an urban scale, accessibility addresses the integration of the asset within its surrounding environment, reflecting the dialogue it establishes with the urban fabric and the community that inhabits it<sup>1</sup>. On a building scale, the same issue relates to the typological aspects of architectural language, with distributive elements representing the continuity factors that make the architectural complex a unique entity<sup>2</sup>. On a more detailed scale, focusing on the construction details of the architectural elements that form the ascensional pathway, it is possible to analyze the material consistency and construction techniques employed, verifying their accessibility in terms of functionality and practicality.

Accessibility is one of the key topics that Professor Carla Bartolozzi has addressed throughout her academic and professional career, emphasizing its central role in the enhancement, repurposing and protection of historical architectural heritage, while also highlighting aspects related to inclusivity policies<sup>3</sup>.

## 2. The case study: the Church of Sant'Eusebio in Camagna Monferrato

The above-mentioned topics are the central thread of the workshop organized by the Construction History Group<sup>4</sup> of the Politecnico di Torino, titled *Salirò, salirò: Due architetture spericolate di scuola antonelliana*<sup>5</sup>. The theme of stairs, understood as both a spatial and technological device, was the main focus of the monographic lectures, site visits and final projects proposed by the students, resulting from a lively discussion with the professors in the classroom. Two case studies were analyzed during the educational experience: the clock tower at La Mandria di Venaria (TO) and the parish church of Camagna Monferrato (AL), with the latter being followed and coordinated by Professor Bartolozzi.

Thanks to the scientific experience accumulated throughout her career, Professor Bartolozzi was able to guide the students in analyzing the complex issue of accessibility for the church in question, examining the ascensional pathway of particular complexity that characterizes the historic building from urban, typological, and construction perspectives. Originally from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, the church underwent significant spatial and distributive remodeling by Crescentino Caselli, an architect of the Antonellian school, in the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This renovation, which paid attention to both technical issues and social and community aspects, renewed the overall system of ascents.

<sup>1</sup> Among the projects that Professor Bartolozzi has been involved in related to this topic, the case of the Forte di Exilles is exemplary. To get a deeper insight: Carla Bartolozzi, Francesco Novelli, *Dalla dismissione alla valorizzazione: progetti e interventi per il Forte di Exilles (To) negli anni 1978-2018*, in Anna Marotta, Roberta Spallone (eds.), *Defensive architecture of the Mediterranean*, proceedings of the International Conference on Modern Age Fortification of the Mediterranean Coast FORTMED (Torino, 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> October 2018), vol. 9, Politecnico di Torino, Torino 2018, pages 949-956.

<sup>2</sup> Also in the case of the Camagna Monferrato project, the case study for this workshop, the importance of the built palimpsest and the architectural system conceived as a unique entity within the framework of the conservation and enhancement of the historic building is emphasized. To get a deeper insight: Carla Bartolozzi, Francesco Novelli, *La chiesa di Sant'Eusebio a Camagna Monferrato: percorsi ascensionali verso la cupola e il lanternino di Crescentino Caselli*, Valentina Burgassi, Francesco Novelli, Alessandro Spila (eds.), *Scale e risalite nella Storia della Costruzione in età Moderna e Contemporanea*, Quaderni di Storia della Costruzione, vol. 2, series of the research center Construction History Group, Politecnico di Torino, Torino 2022, pages 397-415.

<sup>3</sup> *Design for all* plays a crucial role in the repurposing of historic buildings and sites, as demonstrated by the case study of Villa Adriana in Tivoli. To get a deeper insight: Carla Bartolozzi, Francesco Novelli, *Villa Adriana a Tivoli: temi dell'accessibilità nell'ambito del Piano Integrato di gestione UNESCO/Villa Adriana in Tivoli: accessibility topics within the UNESCO Integrated Management Plan*, in Maria Luisa Germanà, Renata Prescia (edited by), *L'Accessibilità nel patrimonio architettonico. Approcci ed esperienze tra tecnologia e restauro*, proceedings of the conference Giornata Nazionale di Studi: L'Accessibilità nel patrimonio architettonico. Approcci ed esperienze tra tecnologia e restauro (Palermo, 24<sup>th</sup> January 2020), vol. 1, Anteferma Edizioni, Treviso 2020, pages 25-31.

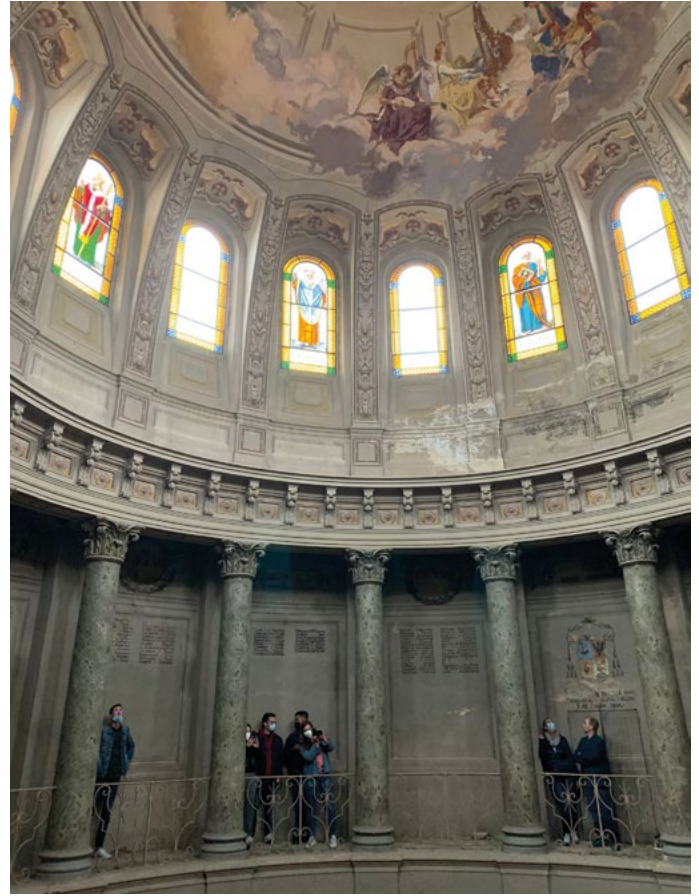
<sup>4</sup> The CHG is a Research Center established within the Department of Architecture and Design at the Politecnico di Torino. It is open to faculty, researchers, and PhD students engaged in research in the field of construction history within architecture and engineering, with Professor Bartolozzi serving as a member of the Executive Board.

<sup>5</sup> The first workshop of the CHG (in partnership with Collegio di Architettura) was held at the Politecnico di Torino's Lingotto and Castello del Valentino campuses from October 4 to 9, 2021.



**Fig. 1 – Professors Carla Bartolozzi and Francesco Novelli discussing with students during workshop activities in the classroom.**

**Fig. 2 – Professor Carla Bartolozzi with students during the site visit to the Church of Sant'Eusebio in Camagna Monferrato.**



The new continuity between the public square and the parish square, the ascensional path from the latter to the lantern, and the technical and material consistency of the individual ascent elements<sup>6</sup> were analyzed by the students through three levels of investigation, thanks to stimulating collaboration with faculties from various disciplines<sup>7</sup>. In particular, Professor Bartolozzi, besides taking on the crucial organizational role, has coordinated the research activities and, importantly, the ways of communicating the results. The graphical representation of the investigations conducted plays a fundamental role, and its clarity and precision, as consistently emphasized by the Professor in the atelier courses, are essential.

### 3. The workshop as a model for intensive learning

The workshop format proves particularly effective in concentrating these activities within a short timeframe, providing students with an intensive and highly formative experience that integrates lectures, site visits, classroom debates and the presentation of final proposals. This approach significantly enriches the students' academic experience, complementing classroom instruction in a stimulating manner and offering the opportunity to put the knowledge acquired into practice.

The teacher's formative role, perfectly assumed by Professor Bartolozzi, is evident in the ability to introduce broad and highly relevant topics, such as the accessibility of historic buildings and sites from the perspective of conservation, enhancement and protection of architectural heritage. Thanks to her significant experiences gained throughout her professional and academic career, she has been able to address these themes through a concrete, functional, and effective case study, allowing students to gain a deep understanding of complex content, internalize it, develop critical reflections, and formulate design proposals.

<sup>6</sup> In the final presentations of the workshop, particular emphasis was placed on the technological details of the various types of stairs, categorized through a comparison with early 20<sup>th</sup> century technical manuals.

<sup>7</sup> The professors, specialized in various fields, who participated in the workshop as tutors and rapporteurs are: Annalisa Dameri, Maurizio Gomez Serito, Francesco Novelli, Edoardo Piccoli, Roberta Spallone, Cesare Tocci, Marco Vitali and Mauro Volpiano.