# Archaeology of Historical Buildings

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COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course aims to provide graduate degree students with the theoretical and practical tools for studying historical architecture, using archaeological stratigraphy and chrono-typology.

Stratigraphy is an indispensable tool for interpreting the evolution of a building, and then reconstructing its history: this method involves the identification of the building phases and their chronological classification based on the study of construction techniques and the analysis of the materials used. The continuous updating of studies, with the contribution of the most modern architectural detection techniques, provides additional analysis tools.

What is explained in class can be integrated with the students' previous knowledge in both archaeological and artistic-historical fields in order to interpret the architectures of different historical eras.

At the end of the course, students will have acquired the skills to autonomously analyse an ancient masonry facade: they will be able to carry out a stratigraphic analysis of the monument, distinguishing the construction sequences; they will recognize the different types of construction materials used; and they will have the skills to choose the dating method to be applied.

Outdoor inspections will be organised in order to directly view historic buildings and study the architectures presented in class. The dates of these outings will be agreed with students during the course.

COURSE CONTENT

Architectures without architects: rural construction in the Lombard region.

This year's course will be dedicated to an initial introduction to the history of the discipline, with an in-depth study of the specific features of stratigraphy applied to elevations and of the dating methods applicable to historical architectures.

Lectures will then proceed with a focus on rural architecture, considered by traditional historiography as "minor", but fundamental for the definition of the urbanised historical landscape.

Through the presentation of several examples of research from the Late Medieval period relating to the area of eastern and western Lombardy, the course will discuss the problems related to the study of these peripheral architectures raised by local workers.

Through the study of construction techniques, it will emerge that often the buildings produced are technically of quality, and that they are inspired by models and elements that characterise urban construction.

READING LIST

A. Boato, L*’archeologia in architettura. Misurazioni, stratigrafie, datazioni, restauro*, Marsilio (Elementi Marsilio), Venice, 2008.

G.P. Brogiolo-A. Cagnana (Eds.), *Archeologia dell'architettura. Metodi e interpretazioni*, All’insegna del giglio, Florence, 2012.

A. Cagnana, *Archeologia dei materiali da costruzione*, S.A.P. Archeologica srl, Mantua, 2000.

D. Gallina, *Tecniche costruttive, tipologie e forme dell’architettura bassomedievale nei paesi del Sebino bresciano e bergamasco*, in M. Sannazaro and D. Gallina(Eds.), *Casa abitationis nostre. Archeologia dell’edilizia medievale nelle province di Bergamo e Brescia. Proceedings of the Study Seminar, Brescia, 8 June 2009*, in “Notizie Archeologiche Bergomensi”, 17, 2011, pp. 47-137.

T. Mannoni, *Il problema complesso delle murature storiche in pietra*. I, Cultura materiale e cronotipologia, in "Archeologia dell’Architettura", II, 1997, pp. 15-24.

F. Matteoni, *Medioevo costruito. Edilizia in Val Cavallina e Sebino bergamasco tra XII e XV secolo*, Bolis Edizioni, Almenno San Bartolomeo (BG), 2018.

The reading list indicated here is a reference for the course and does not necessarily correspond to that required for exam preparation. Further guidance on the definitive reading list for the oral exam will be provided during the course.

TEACHING METHOD

Frontal lectures with the projection of images, and seminar activities with field visits and the analysis of historical monuments.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

An oral interview aimed at probing students' knowledge of the contents presented during lectures and contained in the reading list, focussing on the accuracy of the data they present and their ability to critically comment on them. Clarity and presentation brevity, the ability to make cross-cutting reasonings and mastery of the technical language will also be assessed.

Attendance at the course is recommended.

NOTES AND PREREQUISITES

Since this is an introductory course, no specific prerequisites are required for the contents; however, interest in the subject and its possible variations in different professional fields (archaeology, architecture, restoration, art history) is assumed. Any gaps will be ascertained during the lectures and filled with specific interventions.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=Eng or on the Faculty notice board.