

This thesis presents the results of a study on urban transformations that have affected the city of Trento between the nineteenth and early twentieth century with the intent of understanding the extent of Italian and Hapsburg influences on architectural design.

The research methodology followed two approaches: first, an analytical study was carried out of the examined historical period, referring to the city of Trento, through the reading of primary and secondary sources, in order to delineate a picture of historical and politicians events, that have seen Trentino involved since the end of the bishopric of Trento at the outbreak of the First World War. Subsequently, attention was focused on the building transformations that took place in the city, examining the planning and restoration building interventions and the individual urban plans, through the analysis and interpretation of the documents kept in the Trento Historical Archive. To this end, it was essential to examine the municipal legislation of the Hapsburg Empire, as well as the first building and police guidelines regulating the life of the city of Trento.

The present work consists of three chapters. In the first, we made a preliminary picture of the Trentino's society in the first half of the nineteenth century, from the end of the Principality of the Diocese of Trento to the 1848 uprisings. In particular, we analyzed the political-jurisdictional bodies in force in Trentino from 1818 to 1848, the policy and the interventions promoted by the podestà Benedetto Giovanelli during his long term (1816-1846) and the unrealized project proposals of the engineer Giuseppe Pietro Dal Bosco for the city of Trento. Among the interventions implemented by the Giovanelli Administration, we mention the demolition of the medieval gates, the rebuilding of the façade of the Town Hall and the construction of the Teatro Sociale.

In the second chapter of the thesis, we made an analysis of the Trentino society in the second half of the nineteenth century, retracing the complex political events that affected Trentino from the proclamation of the Constitution of the Kingdom of Austria-Hungary in 1849, until the end of the century. In this long periodo we analyzed in particular the building and police regulations of Trento, the city statutes of 1851 and 1888, and the first construction interventions (demolitions, renovations, new buildings, infrastructure) that paved the way for the debate on the most suitable architectural language to represent the identity of the city.

A particular attention, in this second half of the nineteenth century, was placed at the time that historians define Risorgimento Trentino (1884-1895), namely the period when the entrepreneur Paolo Oss Mazzurana managed the city of Trento. It was precisely the municipal administration of Oss Mazzurana, which, exploiting the city statutes prerogatives, succeeded in implementing a series of economic policy initiatives in a liberal and progressive way, aimed at reviving the economic conditions of the city and, subsequently, of the whole Trentino. The main intent, pursued on the one hand with a fine art of political diplomacy towards the Government of Vienna, and on the other with a courageous policy of debt investments, was to transform the economy of the region from rural to entrepreneurial, in contrast with the Tyrolean administration, conservative and fearful of losing the political and cultural pre-eminence of the region. Among the initiatives undertaken by the Municipality we mention the creation of the new popular schools, which would have favored the cultural progress of Trentino in an Italian key, and the construction of the power plant on the Fersina torrent, in an era in which this technology had just been patented in America . Trento was one of the first cities in Europe, if not the world, to build a network for the use of electricity, with public investment. In this way the economic development of Trentino was increased and it was possible to create a system of tramways that would connect the smaller centers of the region with

the city of Trento. Behind the interventions promoted by the municipal council, bearers of economic development, the intention to achieve administrative autonomy from the German Tyrol was always present in order to safeguard the cultural and economic interests and the Italian identity of Trentino.

Also in this historical period the riverbed of the river Adige (1854-1858) was modified to allow the construction of the Verona-Bolzano railway line, starting the elaboration of the Centa urban plan in 1863, which was the first one for the building expansion of the city outside the walls. In 1882 the demolition of the houses in front of the Duomo gave rise to another urban extension, that of Briamasco. The new buildings built on these two stretches of urban expansion adopted an architectural language that referred to Renaissance models to underline the city's belonging to Italian culture.

The third chapter analyzes the building interventions carried out at the beginning of the twentieth century in those thirteen years that will precede the outbreak of the First World War and will see the city of Trento transformed more and more into «fortress city», subject to the «range ban on building». In this last chapter it was interesting to note also how the architectural language that referred to the Italian Renaissance models was approached by a new one, that of the Viennese secessionists, which however disappeared during the Fascist period, supplanted by the rationalist language.