

STRENGTHENING HISTORIC STRUCTURES: NOT ONLY A MATTER OF TECHNIQUES

Lia Ferrari¹

¹ DIA - Università di Parma, Parco Area delle Scienze 181/A, 43124 Parma, Italia, lia.ferrari1@studenti.unpr.it

ABSTRACT

It might seem strange to consider the structural aspects of restoration as a borderline territory: these issues have always been fully part of conservative interventions and, in the past, they were most frequently dealt with directly by restorers, who quite often had both the qualification of architect and engineer. Nevertheless, in the last decades, this field has been more and more occupied by technicians, looking mainly at the structural efficacy. The equilibrium between safety and conservation is often solved with the “invisibility” of the structural interventions. Rare are the cases in which the works of consolidation are not hidden from view, carrying not only the technical capacity to strengthen the building but also the aesthetic ability of representing the contemporary architectural vocabulary. The proposed paper thus aims, through the analysis of some examples and case studies, to overcome the belief that consolidation is an anonymous conservation tool but it can be an element of expression and functional authenticity, getting to the possible proposal of interventions that can enhance the structure demonstrating the technique and art of the present time. This implies an interdisciplinary approach: the synergy between the various disciplines, primarily in engineering and architecture, becomes a mode of action necessary to achieve effective compromises in terms of technology, function and aesthetics.

Parole chiave/Key-words:

Consolidation, Strengthening, Authenticity, Aesthetics, Interdisciplinary approach