

THE DIFFUSE HERITAGE OF CEMETERIES BETWEEN KNOWLEDGE AND CONSTRUCTION OF COMPUTERIZED MEMORY

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ABSTRACT

The research aims at demonstrating how the small graveyards in the countryside, together with the elements they contain, are able to reflect the social phenomena that took place between the XIX and XX century throughout the Italian territory. They represent a historic, artistic and documentary heritage worthy of being preserved and restored by specific rules within the town planning, as for monumental ones. The study aspires to create a method of knowledge through a geographic information system (GIS) and make communities aware of the value of the graveyards to realize upkeep programs and more careful expansions projects. After conducting a study of the cemetery models and laws that have been enacted to regulate them, some graveyards located in the province of Turin were considered as a sample and a historic and archival research about their origins and transformations has been performed. Afterwards the cataloguing of gravestones and funerary monuments has been carried out, by analysing the style, materials, symbolic elements, the first photographs, the professionals involved and the epigraphs, obtaining important information on mortality, on the welfare state and technological innovations. The research represents a sample survey that can be exploited in other contexts. Graveyards could be experimental fields where the established methods and techniques of conservative restoration meet the testing of innovative techniques and compatible materials.

Parole chiave/Key-words: Cemeteries, GIS, Heritage, Conservation, Restoration