

## **SUPERFICI ARCHITETTONICHE E PULITURE ECESSIVE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Starting from a synthetic re-reading of the cleaning interventions carried out "beyond measure" in the eighties of the last century, how has the approach to the theme of façade conservation changed?

We're thinking about some restorations of famous "Roman" monuments that were immediately criticized: that of Saint Paul within the Walls and those of the Theatre of Marcello (with a strong change in the figurative unity due to the contrast between the new whiteness and the darker stone parts, including the additions of the Twenties in "spur" stone). But also, about the restorations of the Arch of Septimius Severus and that of the façade of St. Peter's Basilica, executed on the occasion of the 2000 Jubilee, must be remembered, disputed by the excessive whiteness of the surfaces after the cleaning and the striking tonal changes. Analysing those interventions, we understand that the reasons for disapproval concerned both the change in appearance with respect to the surrounding context, but also the results compared to the famous (but artificial) binomial created by Alfredo Barbacci in the fifties between 'patina intrinseca' and 'patina extrinseca', and finally concerning some other objective considerations.

And in other contexts of the Mediterranean basin what was the state of the art?

It is often an idea of cleaning that has led to confusing or even assimilating the restoration with cosmetics or embellishment, according to an improper concept, which in Spain was defined with a significant term such as "monumental sodomy". One thinks, for example, of some interventions carried out on architectures representative of the Catalan Modernism, which are still being discussed today.

Taking a cue from some of the mentioned examples, it is therefore intended to carry out a brief examination of the change in approach to the topic of cleaning architectural surfaces in recent decades.

**Key-words:** cleaning, architectural surfaces, urban environment, restoration, colors