

CONTRO L'ADOZIONE DEL CAPPOTTO ESTERNO NEGLI INTERVENTI SULL'ESISTENTE. IL POLICLINICO DI PADOVA DI GIULIO BRUNETTA COME CASO DI STUDIO

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ABSTRACT

The thermal insulation system that involves wrapping the building with an insulating layer, generally called coat, is a commonly used method aimed at saving energy and therefore protecting the environment. This practice uses increasingly diverse materials and technologies.

However, the decision to use such a coating is often taken without critical appraisal. Although the case for coating may be convincing for new buildings, the results do not seem satisfactory for older buildings because there are no adequate aesthetical criteria to safeguard the quality of the architecture that is being covered. In particular, the huge building heritage built in the last century, the result of designs and experiments often conducted by architects of uncommon quality, runs the risk of disappearing beneath the insulating layer, on a daily basis. As an example, we can cite the case of the Padua Polyclinic, which recently underwent an intervention to, among other things, encase the building in an external structure. While proving useful in solving problems of a technical nature, this compromised the aesthetic quality of the building complex, cancelled out the clever use of exposed brick and wiped out the ideas and the craft of the person who designed fittings and textures. In short: Disfiguring the Polyclinic as an urban symbol does not help the redevelopment of its surrounding area in Padua.

Key-words: thermal insulation, external coat, Padua Polyclinic