

COLORE DELL'ARCHITETTURA STORICA E RESTAURO NEL MERIDIONE D'ITALIA. IL CASO DI BISCEGLIE (PUGLIA).

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ABSTRACT

More than thirty years after the first critical approach to the facade paintworks restoration, it seems necessary to focus on southern Italy, where the topic has been little studied so far. The paper offers some preliminary results of a broader research project that aims at investigating the architectural use of paintworks and their implication on the urban landscape in the Kingdom of Naples, focusing on the town of Bisceglie as an interesting study case. A deepening on the Apulian towns is particularly relevant now, since the ongoing restorations are often eliminating the plaster layers and fastly changing the urban landscape. The work provides an historical outline of the painted facades, based on archival and iconographic researches, survey campaigns with both direct and indirect techniques, stratigraphic and colourimetric analysis. Furthermore, in specific cases, the most advanced archeometric and diagnostic techniques offered a chemical characterization of the pigments. The results show how the paintworks have developed in parallel with the architecture to create the urban landscape, being not only a decoration but a more important cultural issue. Therefore it is necessary to revisit some theoretical and operational aspects of the actual restorations, to be updated by the most advanced diagnostic techniques and to best practices, such as the use of the laser technology. The research thus highlights the necessity of a critical consciousness on the topic, which is often underestimated or neglected.

Key-words: colour, facade, history of architecture, restoration.