

REUSE STRATEGIES AND CONSERVATION PRACTICES FOR THE FORTIFIED ARCHITECTURE. AN EXAMPLE FROM THE LIGURIA REGION: FINALE AND ITS FORTRESSES

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Abstract. The fortresses of Finale still looming on its hills, witnesses of the long-lasting story of the Marquisate of Finale. These fortresses were built in different historical periods and geographical places: *Castelfranco* was built by Genoese in the 14th century, *Castel Gavone* was built by Del Carretto marqueses from 12th century on the top of the *Becchignolo* hill, *Castel San Giovanni* was built by the Spanish in the 17th century. After one century of Spanish domination, the Marquisate of Finale became part of the Republic of Genoa and the fortresses were destroyed, abandoned or re-used for different purposes.

Recently, the first to be restored was *Castel S. Giovanni* – its works started in 1980s and it became part of the Liguria museum system in 2015. *Castel Gavone* restoration began in 2007 and together with *Castel S. Giovanni* have been opened to the public in 2018, with occasional guided tours. Nowadays *Castelfranco* is the only building (restored from 1990s) completely accessible.

Although in the last thirty years the municipality of Finale has started projects for revitalizing this Built Heritage, citizens don't feel them as a real part of their cultural background. Finale is one of the main tourist destinations in Liguria region, not only for its seaside, but also for its natural and Cultural Heritage – the old town is recognized as one of the most interesting medieval towns in Italy (*Borghi più belli d'Italia*). The reuse of these fortresses, given the tourism-oriented policies of the city, is a matter of great interest and it can not be faced through simplistic approaches that do not respect the local cultural identity.

This paper focuses on some of the recent enhancement of Finale Fortified Heritage, highlighting both strengths and threats of the reuse strategies.

Keywords: *Finale Ligure, Fortified Heritage, reuse strategies.*