

# UMIDITÀ DI RISALITA E *SORACOMUN* A VENEZIA: DEGRADO, OPERE DI CONTRASTO ED ESITI SULLA MATERIA E SULL'IMMAGINE DELLA CITTÀ

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## **Abstract.**

This paper reports some results of a ESF research grant concerning rising damp and flooding (*high water*) in Venice. It was developed at the Iuav University of Venice (Department of Architecture and Arts) and then involved in a further study about Knowledge and preservation of Venetian historical surfaces (medieval brickwork and plasters). The research was meant to detect – through an on-site survey and a bibliographic cross-check- the different means which have been employed over time to hinder humidity. Several techniques have been analysed, observing their efficacy, durability and impacts on different scales, including the changes of the image of the town due to their effects.

The attention is particularly focused here on the dynamics physical integrity-decay-reintegration which is now concerning Venice and its building tradition. On the one hand we can find a connection between the architectural-and-construction features and the main forms of vulnerability towards rising damp, as well as towards such decay phenomena as the erosion of the lower part of buildings. On the other hand a strong increase of physical decay during the last century is urging both a traditional and an innovative counter-action.

The on-site survey of several different devices against rising damp lead to some general remarks about the main operational trends and their changing over time.

The most remarkable results concern, on the one hand, the relationship *Old and New* in reintegrations, as physical and chemical compatibility turns out to be the main requirement. While the alteration due to the interventions themselves, suggests not to disjoin the technical remedies to rising damp from the architectural project as a whole.

**Keywords:** *rising damp, physical decay, alteration, preservation, compatibility*