



**Il castello di Pietrabuona  
Materiali per la Ricerca  
a cura di Gaia Lavoratti**

In copertina

ASFI, *Capitani di Parte Guelfa* Cartone XXVI, n. 36 (particolare), realizzato dall'ingegnere granduca Carlo Maria Mazzoni. L'acquerello, che raffigura il castello di Pietrabuona, rientra in una sperimentazione del Catasto Pietroleopoldino avviata su alcune Comunità del pistoiese e del senese nella seconda metà del Settecento ed interrotta nel 1785. Al centro l'abitato di Pietrabuona con le vestigia delle mura castellane, al tempo ancora integre. Copyright dell'Archivio di Stato di Firenze; su concessione del Ministero per i Beni e le Attività culturali; sono vietate ulteriori riproduzioni o duplicazioni con qualsiasi mezzo.

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EDIZIONI ETS  
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info@edizioniets.com  
www.edizioniets.com

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## Abstract

The second book of the series *Quaderni di Rilievo Urbano*, section *The Valleriana castles*, has been published on the subject of Pietrabuona castle two years after the editing of the volume on the Sorana castle. Twenty-four months is an adequate time for the analysis of a limited dimensioned urban unit, as most of the early medieval centers of the Svizzera Pesciatina area are, following the aims of the research indicated since the beginning: the proposal of the documentation of the phases of origin and transformation of the built-up area.

The method adopted in the text is a multidisciplinary comparison between researchers belonging to different scientific areas of interest: architectural surveyors, a landscape specialist, an archeologist, a historical medievalist, geologist and an art historian. The dialogue is not clear and in some cases becomes incomprehensible when certain researchers take distinct stands due to their specific knowledge, however the predisposition to the listening has often prevailed. When it isn't possible to reach a unanimous decision, it is preferred to keep the different opinions distinctively clear in each article written by the various scholars (then integrating each part into the DVD). The value of this editing is undoubtedly high and each scholar discovers a deeper comprehension in the research of others, thus allowing the information to develop in an apparently unconnected way. This integral information, thanks to the different experts present in the research group, has composed a difficult puzzle, giving new and deeper meanings to various topics.

On the editorial point of view, the book maintains the same structure of that given to Sorana's. It seemed convenient in fact to facilitate an eventual cross reading of the two volumes and to leave an unaltered division in chapters and in the paragraph repartition. I recall that this printed volume has a prominent aim, however this does not cause it to become scientifically less evidential. Behind the format of a monographic text of "simple" lectures there are professional works written specifically for an expert audience. It is here that these contributions have been synthesized and harmonized to confer a general and organic overview of the urban history of Pietrabuona following the intentions of the given author.

The text doesn't aim to exhaust all the possible questions about the historical and architectural events of the town, and in fact the opposite is the case. The book could introduce new doubts, provoke other hypotheses that have not been touched, or establish original research methods. The academic community would be pleased even if only one of these hypotheses were proven true because this would mean that our work as scholars has been positive, therefore contributing to furthering the study and the analysis of historical urban sites. We have the conviction that only a deep knowledge of the dynamics of the past can allow a correct planning of future interventions.

For this reason the DVD enclosed in the volume, although it is a publication on its own, contains not only the paper of each researcher, but also all those documents that for spatial reasons are not in the paper book (transcriptions of the historical documents, files of "symbols, epigraphs and signs on stones", comparison between the works realized by the architects Bernardini, data of the survey campaigns, database of the built-in and urban qualities, photographic archive, 3D models of the built-in and survey of the entire town and of the single architectonic main parts). All these documents have been saved in their original format and for this reason are editable. People that are interested in continuing the studies on the Valleriana castles are able to edit under the *Research Material*. The equipe is proud of it, being an unicum on the national panorama in which too often researchers keep the results of their studies for themselves.

The book is structured in three chapters, each divided into thematic paragraphs. The first chapter deals with the landscape of the high part of the Pescia Maggiore River valley. The landscape reading, as a synthetic discipline, offers the possibility to integrate the diverse information from various studies conducted on a well-defined part of the territory and to develop the interrelations between the different components that constitute it, creating a "general picture" (*The overall view*). We have specifically referenced the geologic structure (*Geologic evolution of the landscape*), the hydrographic system, the track net (*The streets*), and the productive system (*The productive system*). These elements are undoubtedly connected to the natural resources of the territory.

It didn't seem appropriate in this case to provide again a synthesis of the principal growth phases of this area near the mountains, as it is already published in the book regarding Sorana, to which we refer.

The second chapter discusses the castle of Pietrabuona. The paragraph *Geologic and Geomorphologic Aspects* contributes to clarify the genesis of the shape of these spots, together natural (in particular tied up with the geography of the territory and at the litho types present) and artificial (for what concerns the stone materials with which the castle has been built). In a specific paragraph (*Historical notes*) the main political-social events occurred at the town between the 10th and the 20th Century is reported. Despite the great

number of documents unpublished found in the consulted archives, nothing has emerged from the reading that can make progress in the knowledge of historical events, but they have been of fundamental importance for the reconstruction of the events tied-up to the urban structure and to the main buildings.

A critical reading of the material evidence has been possible due to the synergy between architectural archaeologists and architects. These elements flow together in the paragraph *Archeological Investigation of the Architecture*, amplifying the historical knowledge of the rural center.

The paragraph *Development Phases* treats the urban and built dynamics that occurred within the castle. When using the term "built", we intend to incorporate all things that human beings have constructed through the centuries with the aim to bind the simple action of living (base buildings) and of social, spiritual and productive life (special buildings). These last buildings: *The Rocca, The oratory of Saint Michael Arcangelo, The church of the Saints Michael and Colombano, The public palace, The hospital of Saint Rocco, The public fountain* and *The "Saint Rocco" paper factories*, besides to the constructive military system of the 14th Century used to protect the castle, have been the subject of a meticulous study converged each in a paragraph. Here, near to the survey, the constructive and stylistic characters of the buildings are described, as well as the events that happened to them throughout time.

The "special" architecture present in the inhabited center are also spaces used to host the artworks that during the centuries have been realized within the local area or imported from more important art centers. The artistic evidence present in Pietrabuona, set out in the paragraph *The described image*, put Pietrabuona in a cultural position that is not at all marginal in the Tuscan artistic panorama between 14th and 17th Century. It is possible to find permeating vivacity within the elements developed in the art botteghe of the main artists of that time.

Of sure interest for the comprehension of the politic weight held by the settlement from the 10th to the 18th century are the depictions impressed in the stones with an evident symbolic value- the epigraphs and the signs left from the handcrafts workers on stones. Beyond testifying the degree of erudition of a community, their identification and the consequent reading made in relation to their position in the urban environment allow to ascribe a work at a certain age rather than another.

The survey ultimately makes some hypotheses regarding the existence of a project at the base of the constructing of the fourteenth-century wall curtain (*The circle of wall*) and on the meaning attributed at the particular orientation of the Bolognese door belonging to this wall (*Astronomic orientation with calendarial function of medieval architectures*).

The paragraph *The Urban Environment* at the end of this chapter contains the description of the characters that connote today the public spaces of the castle: typology and deterioration of the pavings, the walls, the external frames, public systems, and the draining of rain water and of all that gives its contribution to form the image of the town. This information has been deduced from a filing realized in loco during the survey campaign and merged in a computerized database.

The third and last chapter contains three different papers that all face in detail the aspects tied-up to methods and instruments used during the survey of the entire center and the following phase of graphic restitution of data. In particular, in the paragraph *The representation of the castle*, the first results of a project in which there have been attempts of established relationships are illustrated using software dedicated to game engine between the database containing the information on urban and built qualities of Pietrabuona with the 3D model realized through procedures of reverse modeling, retopology and baking.

The book is completed with a dense *Appendix* in which there are the list of the toponym that reoccur in the oral tradition with their respective definition and the index of the iconological files necessary to comprehend the symbols, the epigraphs and the signs studied. At last there are the bibliographic indications of the books consulted and the index of the researchers that have participated at the draft of this volume.

## Il castello di Pietrabuona - *Materiali per la Ricerca*

a cura di Gaia Lavoratti

Il DVD, oltre alla versione informatizzata del volume cartaceo *Il castello di Pietrabuona* (Alessandro Merlo, 2012), contiene il materiale, in formato editabile, raccolto e prodotto dall'*equipe* multidisciplinare – composta da architetti rilevatori, paesaggisti, archeologici, medievisti, geologi e storici dell'arte – che ha preso parte alla ricerca inerente lo studio e la documentazione del castello di Pietrabuona. Le eterogenee competenze messe in gioco, indispensabili per poter ricomporre un quadro conoscitivo ampio ed esaustivo, sono confluite in contributi differenti e tra loro complementari, costituendo una solida base di partenza per ulteriori analisi. Lo scopo di questo compendio è quindi quello di agevolare tutti coloro che, sensibili all'intrinseco valore del patrimonio architettonico ed ambientale del castello, intendano proseguire ed approfondire tale indagine.

*Materiali per la ricerca* è composto da quattro differenti apparati:

- il primo (TESTI) raccoglie la versione integrale (in formato PDF) di tutti i testi originali, corredati da immagini e disegni, prodotti dai ricercatori. Ad essi si aggiunge una corposa appendice contenente la trascrizione dei documenti d'archivio consultati, la maggior parte dei quali ad oggi inedita, ed una cronologia essenziale relativa agli avvenimenti salienti che hanno interessato il castello;
- il secondo (SCHEDE) è formato da gruppi di schede che hanno lo scopo di indagare, in forma schematica e sintetica, argomenti attinenti a quelli trattati nei singoli contributi. *Analisi iconologica ed epigrafica a Pietrabuona. La schedatura dei simboli, delle epigrafi, delle marche lapidarie* permette il riconoscimento e la collocazione nell'ambiente urbano di 314 raffigurazioni impresse nella pietra, catalogate e classificate in base al periodo di realizzazione, alle modalità di esecuzione ed al loro valore simbolico. *Gli edifici religiosi progettati dagli architetti Bernardini*, consente un raffronto tra la chiesa ottocentesca dei Santi Matteo e Colombano in Pietrabuona ed altre architetture religiose realizzati dalla famiglia Bernardini nello stesso periodo. *Toponomastica popolare otto-novecentesca di Pietrabuona*, infine, raccoglie 184 toponimi popolari impiegati tra il XIX ed il XX secolo nel territorio del castello, la loro descrizione e la loro localizzazione;
- il terzo (MATERIALE ICONOGRAFICO) riunisce la documentazione fotografica e la cartografia, storica ed attuale, che ha costituito un supporto essenziale in tutte le fasi della ricerca;
- il quarto (RILIEVO) riassume gli esiti della campagna di rilievo integrato svolta nel marzo 2011. Oltre alle tavole, in formato vettoriale DWG e raster JPG, contenenti gli elaborati tecnici descrittivi del tessuto urbano e delle sue principali emergenze architettoniche, la cartella raccoglie i dati delle campagne condotte sull'intero abitato per mezzo di un'unità topografica Leica TPS di tipo *no prism* ed un *laserscan* Faro Photon 120. Il *database* delle qualità edilizie ed urbane del castello, in formato MDB, cataloga infine tutti i caratteri relativi ai fronti edilizi ed ai percorsi urbani che caratterizzano l'abitato, rilevati mediante schedatura e tradotto graficamente in planimetrie tematiche interrogabili attraverso *query*.