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Construction Techniques and Writings on Architecture in Renaissance and Early Modern Europe

Edited by Caterina Cardamone, Pieter Martens

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Construction Techniques and Writings on Architecture in Renaissance and Early Modern Europe

Edited by Caterina Cardamone, Pieter Martens

The 2020 issue of the journal *Opus Incertum* (Florence University Press) aims to examine, through selected case studies, the complex relationship between construction practices and architectural writings in early modern Europe.

Although the literature on architectural treatises is vast, the complicated connections between the written page on the one hand and the building site on the other have received comparatively little attention. Situated at the crossroads of several disciplines (architectural history, history of science and technology, history of literature), the subject can be approached from different perspectives.

To begin with, confrontations of texts on construction techniques with the material realities of extant buildings may reveal, for specific contexts, to what extent these texts operated as vehicles for the transmission of technical know-how, and how much weight they gave to topoi borrowed from ancient authors. Furthermore, analyses of the rhetorical and literary aspects of technical writings may help to technical contextualize passages construction, assessing their relevance within the larger structure of the treatise as well as in the eyes of contemporaries. The latter aspect can also be elucidated by looking at the various translations, adaptations, and cuts which the Italian treatises underwent while circulating across Europe. Further epistemological questions are raised by considering how supposedly oral building traditions were confronted with writing and how their timehonoured conventions were adapted to theoretical frameworks. Another problem concerns the role of drawing in support of writing for the transmission of technical knowledge.

go, ma a vna certa particolare parte della città, della quale, tratteremo infieme on le altre cole del fiu genere, quando membro per membro tratteremo di fimili opere publiche. Nel fondare fotto gli ordini delle colonne, non fa melliere tirare adilungo vna fossa tutta cótinouata ripiena di muraglia, ma è cosa conueniente fortificare prima illuogo doue tu vuoi porre le sedie & il letto di este colonne: & da l'uno a l'altro gittare poi archi voltando il dorfo di quals e luno verso il profondo, di modo che il ricinto & lo spazzo del primo piano, serua per corda di detti Archi.

Pereioche stando cosi, safano manco pronte a forare il Terreno in vin luo go solo, postutu sopra di qual se di parte poi archi voltando il dorfo di colonne, serua per corda di detti Archi.

Pereioche stando cosi, safano manco pronte a forare il Terreno in vin luo go solo, postutu sopra di qual se di la piu pesi, per i fortificamenti de gli. Archi che in quello modo segli contraporranno. Et quianto le Colonne sieno atte à forare il Terreno de quàto elleno sieno pericolose, & agrauate da i pesi postiul sopra, de constanta del nobile Tempo di Vespessimo, che volta verso l'occidente estiuo. Persione hauendo voluto lasciare sotto vo ta la via publica, da poterui passa recienemina occupata dalla cantonata, intralaciando alquanto di spatio della pianta. & adattata alla muraglia via volta, la sistorazificarono con saladeza di dopera, & con aituto di vu babacane. Ma se quelta sinalmente sforzzata dalla grauezza di si grande edistito, & mancandoli sotto il Terreno, si possa di prema del primo ricinto a piano. Cap. Ul.

Che si debban la sciano spatanta pertantelle mava grassi, da ballo, ad alto, ecche distributo di treto quello che si appartiene, si a riempiere i sondametti, si à sinire annora tutte le mura. Percio che ne gli edistiti grande de distito, anno della mura se esi di materia, co della sirum ada primo ricinto a piano. Cap. Ul.

Che si debban la sciano sono sono sono si della primo ricinto a piano. Cap. Ul.

Che si da da contra di altro, per

This thematic issue will bring together new contributions and a number of papers first presented at the conference *Building techniques in writings on architecture between Italy, France and the Low Countries (16th – early 18th century)*, held in Brussels and Namur in February 2015. We welcome proposals from other geographical contexts and from related disciplines and are open to approaches that differ from those briefly indicated here.

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