

**Call for application for research scholarships
for post-graduate international candidates**

RESEARCH PROJECT N. 36

Title
Conservation of earthen vernacular architecture in Piedmont (Italy): from knowledge to restoration
Scientific responsible (name, surname, role)
Mattone Manuela, Associate Professor in Architectural Restoration (manuela.mattone@polito.it)
Short description of the research activity (max 250 words)
<p>Widely spread in many countries all over the world, earthen constructions represent an important architectural heritage, whose conservation is necessary in order to make possible the transmission of a technological culture as well as the uniqueness of the landscape generated by the presence of this particular kind of architecture</p> <p>Earth is the most common material used for the construction of historical villages. Its conservation would ensure the transmission of a technological culture that represents architectural, landscape, as well as historical values. The "culture of the earth" is found mainly in rural settlements nowadays often severely compromised. Abandoned because they were considered unhealthy and unsafe, but, first of all, because they are incompatible with the concept of modernity to which contemporary people aspire, earthen buildings have been, unfortunately, since a long time ago, placed in a situation of great vulnerability and intended to rapid extinction.</p> <p>The preservation of this heritage requires first of all its identification and a good knowledge of the typologies, construction techniques and materials which characterize it, in order to facilitate the implementation of appropriate restoration and reuse interventions.</p> <p>The research will be focused on the historical earthen buildings, which can be found in Piedmont territories, and it aims to deepen the knowledge of this heritage examining types, construction techniques and analyzing characteristics and performances of the constitutive materials through both in situ tests and characterization of the earth of bricks and mortars. Furthermore, the research aims at investigating the possible sustainable restoration and recovery interventions compatible with the existing heritage in order to promote its conservation over time.</p>
Specific requirements (experiences, skills)
Master degree in Architecture Specialization in earthen architecture Experience in surveying historic and/or earthen buildings
Website of the research group (if any)
Keywords (min 3, max 6)
Earthen architecture, knowledge, conservation, decay
Research Area (max 1)
Architecture