

OVERVIEW OF THE ITALIAN ARCHITECTURE IN DURRËS FROM 1920 TO 1944

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Abstract

The city of Durrës, as many other Albanian cities, comes to this period of time with a medieval shape. Italian architects and engineers review the urban plans drawn by the Austrian Hungarian counterparts with the aim to change the face of the Albanian cities to resemble more to the European ones. The Italian architect Leone Carmignani, did worked on the regulatory plan for Durrës city. According to this regulatory plan, there was foreseen the construction of a number of important public buildings as the City Hall, the Bank, the Harbor, some Hotels, Factories and many more buildings for residential use, in the form of villas and collective residents, among which the King Zog Villa complex in the most eye catching hill of the city. During the recent years, these buildings are suffering degrade and demolition in an incontrollable way, risking to erase another part of the cultural heritage of Durrës, in the same way as happened to the antiquity one. The architectural heritage of Italian style and its monumental structures built during the '30 s in Albania is a value that ought to be preserved. But to preserve it, we must first to acknowledge it. The study identifies these buildings and their distribution in the city shape and focuses on the small structures with residential function, highlighting their architectural qualities. Through the cases study for the villa typology the aim is to explain and know the morphologic, compositional and stylistic characteristics. Concluding, it has been understand that Durrës city encloses inside its structure a lot of architectonic value that, as an inherited richness must be protected, restored, and revaluated in order to be part of the national cultural heritage list, prior to be damaged from lack of attention. Also, the data of this study will serve for future restoration's interventions in the order to help the revaluation of the architectonic and urban landscape.

Keywords: *architectural heritage, Italian architecture, residential villa Durres, preservation, revaluation.*