



Chemical Characterization of Finish Treatments on Bricks in the North of Italy: Historic Knowledge to Restore Using Traditional Materials and Methods

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Finish treatments are one of the most important part of a buildings, because they are what is seen. A restoration of a historical building must be really careful, it has to maintain the traces of the past and to recreate a new treatment on the surface. The better method of working on historical surface is to know the materials used for the realization and the method: an imitation is not sufficient. Works of restorations on some historical buildings of the North of Italy give the possibility of taking samples coming from bricks to study the finish treatments, both the chemical composition and the method of realizations. The results obtained allow to understand that in the different areas the finish treatments were realized not only with different materials and techniques but also with different functions: they were used to protect the surface and also with aesthetic purpose, to imitate fine materials. The surface analysis confirm that the technology of realization and the functions of the treatments were strictly bound to the geographical areas. This traces are the keys to understand both the material history of the palace and the correct way to maintain and restore it.