

CODE 202**ANTHROPIC TRANSFORMATIONS AND NATURAL DECAY IN URBAN HISTORIC AGGREGATES: ANALYSIS AND CRITERIA FOR CATANIA (ITALY)****Alessandro Lo Faro*; Angela Moschella; Angelo Salemi; Giulia Sanfilippo**

1: University of Catania, Department of Civil Engineering and Architecture.

e-mail: alessandro.lofaro@dac.unict.ite-mail: angela.moschella@dac.unict.ite-mail: angelo.salemi@dac.unict.ite-mail: giulia.sanfilippo@dac.unict.it**KEYWORDS:** Catania; conservation; project; building facades; vulnerability.**ABSTRACT**

Architectures those make up the historical cities are the result of the material culture of a community that has been able to express, in various ages, wise use of materials, artistic language, architectural composition and building typologies.

These architectures, observed in their diachronic development, have to be interpreted according to a synchronous reading, considering both the envelope, consisting of a surface that determines a language, degrades and transforms itself, both functional and structural components, which instead determine its typological-distributive, technological a structural features. This complexity suggests an interpretation of building blocks like macro architectural organisms (aggregate): they must be understood as a *whole* and not as a *total*.

The buildings in the down town of Catania (Italy) insist on a particularly layered fabric due not only to historical events, but above all to the numerous cataclysmic (lava eruptions and earthquake) that have fallen on it. In addition, changes in altimeter structures have been conditioned by the functional needs induced by mobility and public health.

The case study proposes an analysis of an urban aggregate in the city's eighteenth century soil, involved in the transformations (both formal and structural) determined by the *leveling plan* of 1862. The aim is to find a criterion, supported by interdisciplinary studies and procedures already being tested, to study and understand every aspect of the architectural vicissitudes that have brought the building to its present state of conservation. It intends to propose procedures for the correct intervention on the consolidated city, understood as a single body made up of related architectures. The adopted methodology foresees the reading of architectural, technological and structural characteristics of the study compartment and the understanding of the degradation phenomena.