

completamente la storia architettonica degli edifici, ma senz'altro di apportare una più salda conoscenza del manufatto ancora esistente.

## Abstract

During the Middle Ages the Mendicant Orders created a uniform type of architecture that derived from Cistercian Architecture. In general, the studies focus on the Dominican and Franciscan models, but this essay speaks about the Augustinians, and in particular the church and convent of the «Eremitani» in Padua. The church, dedicated to Saints Philip and James the Less, is a single-nave structure with a famous wooden ceiling. The friary has two cloisters, and became the «Gattamelata» barrack after the Napoleonic Suppression. This military use of the buildings was probably the cause of the bombing during WWII.

It is not easy to reconstruct the architectural scheme of the convent when it was inhabited by the Augustinian Friars. The structures that served for the communal life of the Mendicants are often less studied than the church buildings. Much of the information about the convent in Padua is lost, also because of the demolition and rebuilding of some parts of the ex friary.

This research was organized in many different parts, such as direct observation, as well as the use of historical photographs and pictures, maps and documents.

For the medieval period the only information about the rooms inside the friary comes from the wills. Two descriptions from the seventeenth century survive: one in the book *Della felicità di Padova* by Angelo Portenari, the other is *Relazione del 25 novembre 1650*. Both of them are written by priors of the Augustinian house in Padua. For this reason, they are reliable sources for the convent's state during that century.

It's not an easy affair to individuate the functions of the rooms inside the buildings.

This dissertation is an introduction of my PhD research, and I hope that my hard work has discovered in part the evolution of the architecture of the church and convent throughout their history, from the beginnings to today.

Parole chiave: Architettura Agostiniana; Eremitani; Ordini Mendicanti; Convento; Padova

Keywords: Augustinian Architecture; Hermits of St Augustine; Mendicant Orders; Friary; Padua