

THESIS

The Monastery of *Santa María de la Murta*. Architectural Analysis of a Hieronymic Monastery.

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ABSTRACT

This doctoral thesis aims to highlight the importance of the knowledge and documentation of our architectural heritage, taking as a case study the heritage ensemble of the Monastery of *Nuestra Señora de la Murta* in Alzira, based on the importance of drawing and graphic expression to represent the hypothesis put forward.

The monastery is located in the Valencia region of Ribera Alta, 7 km away from Alzira, within the *Murta* valley, between the mountain ranges of *El Cavall Bernat* and *Les Agulles*, in an area of high landscape value.

Interest aroused by the knowledge and documentation of our architectural heritage makes the monastery, which nowadays has practically disappeared, become an interesting element to consider, on the one hand as part of our history and our cultural heritage and, on the other, as an inserted element in a landscape of unquestionable natural value.

Study and research involves reevaluating the importance of this legacy by encouraging from considering the current status of the monastery to the future prospects and sustainability. The present thesis thus becomes a document that reflects the thoughts and studies on the whole group of buildings that formed the monastery, and through them, progress in their knowledge and therefore, in their value for society.

This research formulates the study of monastic architecture in the Order of Saint Jerome, distinguishing the characteristics of the monasteries belonging to the Crown of Aragon approaching us to the architecture of the monastery of *La Murta*.

From the analysis of these characteristics, the historical documents and the monument itself, the reconstructive hypotheses of the monastic ensemble was considered for reaching the final definition of the morphological layout that the monastery had in the late eighteenth century. For one thing, conclusions have been drawn on the specificity and features of the architecture in the monasteries of the Hieronymites Order, and for the other, on the specific morphology of the monastery of *La Murta*

We must establish considering two aspects when dealing with the final conclusions of the study, firstly, to progress in the knowledge of the monument, that is to say, its historical recovery and enhancing its value as a cultural heritage, secondly, from a graphic point of view, applying a methodology and scientific rigor in representing National Wealth by means of computer graphic technologies.

The goals I set out to address the research have theoretically allowed applying info graphic architectural methods to whole of the architectonic research, deducing it from traditional graphic variables. This very analysis helps to understand architectural digital model as a working methodology, and so a comparative analysis between traditional graphic language and the new info graphic language emerges. Conjuring up the three-dimensional model as a target using scientific methodology in capturing information, enables comprehensive record of the data provided, in such a way it can graphically document the architectural object studied.

The representation of missing architecture through the virtual model allows knowing the past, communicating a series of complex information regarding the existing remains and the hypothesis that is represented through the drawing and image, meaning the use of graphical techniques.

The conclusion of this doctoral thesis has a major bearing on graphical representation, and therefore a high communication capability, so that it enables society to recover graphically part of our cultural heritage.

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