

ABSTRACT

The interest of the development of this PhD thesis comes up after the Final Project of the Architectural Heritage Preservation while the PhD student in 2005, which title was Ferrant File Cataloguin and Investigation of the renovation Works of the Discovery of the gothic works of the cathedral of Valencia, being its advisor Dr. Julián Esteban. In this research the demolition works of the neoclassical architecture, mainly managed by Alejandro Ferrant in the XX Century, to give the gothic aspects back to this cathedral. After seeing the most important parts of the academy valencian architecture were being demolished, of an evident value at an European level, it came up as a unique chance to investigate about the opposite process, the one of the neoclassic construction in the XVIII Century.

The cathedral of Valencia, during its seven centuries of existence, had a lack of research studies in one of its most important constructive stages, its neoclassical renovation and furthermore its evolutionary process finished with it.

The architectural and constructive process of the neoclassical stage lasted from 1769 to 1831, with a starting project of Antonio Gilabert and supported in the site management by Lorenzo Martínez. After the Civil War (1936-1939) it started a restoration of its gothic architecture and nowadays it still continues, searching a cathedral which it never existed and that it is not possible to understand without the neoclassical renovation.

In this PhD thesis, it is wanted to lay down, under the own vision of the Architecture, the investment costs, the authors and the relevant celebrities, processes, constructive techniques and analyze the architecture produced in the XVIII century, from the gothic structures. To name it there are different possibilities with terms as transformation or renovation and academicist or neoclassical.

For that, and with the first information and conclusions of the Master final work it has been done a very detailed methodology from the basic information of the Master Plan, managed by Dr. Rafael Soler, and the processes of the research for a inherited building shown in the subject Historical Constructions from the ETSIE (UPV), whose principal is D. Rafael Marín. It has been sought existing information in local and national files, being the most important source the *Archivo Catedral de Valencia*, where it has been done a very deep research of the existing documents belonging to this period. In addition, it has been done the field work and the next computer work with a graphic and surveying work, following the academy guidelines of the doctors Alfonso Jiménez and Francisco Pinto. Some information has been achieved due to direct inspection, contributed with drawings and documents that had not been studied yet and thanks to photogrammetry studies, as well, new drawings have been drawn with the aim of make easier the comprehension of this PhD thesis and the studied works, being one of the main ones the study of the geometry of the gothic cathedral, from the studies of professors Felipe Soler and Jorge García, to

understand the fitting of the neoclassical work.

This PhD thesis expects to be a document considered in the moment to work inside the cathedral of Valencia, due to the value of its architecture and the information that it has, and it would be included within the guidelines of the Cathedrals Plan, setting up some lines of research and suggesting procedure works in order to preserve and highlight this monument. Just like that, it is a contribution to the history of the architecture and construction, establishes the link to other european cathedrals and big churches, as Santa María la Mayor or San Juan de Letrán, in Rome. It is important to remember how Dr. Javier compares Gilaberts's architecture with the most important masters of the architecture, as Alberti, Vasari, Serlio, Palladio, Borromini or Piranesi... when all of them carry out works with superposition of architectures.

In the case of the cathedral of Valencia, it is about the facing works of the gothic part, but from the order and modulation established in the presbytery by Pérez Castiel at the end of XVII century and that Gilabert put together the classical architecture with the medieval constructive techniques, to carry out the elevations of the naves of classical architecture and covered with vaulted cross ceilings, as the same as the first valencian renaissance example, Colegio del Patriarca's Church or Corpus Christi, or some cases of the italian classic architecture.