

# **SALVAGUARDARE L'IMMAGINE STORICA DI UN CENTRO BALNEARE. LE SUPERFICI DELLE VILLE DI LEUCA FRA CONSERVAZIONE E MODIFICAZIONE.**

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## **Abstract.**

This paper aims to deepen the relationship between conservation and modification in the interventions on historical surfaces carried out over the last forty years on the *fin de siècle* architectures of the lower Salento. In particular, the attention will fall on the seaside resort of Santa Maria di Leuca, whose peculiarities rightly let us consider a unique episode in the Salento landscape. In fact, a specific reflection on the facade solutions and on their chromatic appearance it is necessary, at least, for two reasons: first of all, the color of the architectural surfaces represents the main form of recognition of the value of the 19th-20th century Salento villas; moreover, this character invests both the image of the individual architectures and the landscape perception of the entire urban center. In this regard, the reconstruction of the transformation process of the villas let us identify in the chromatic appearance of the facades one of the major conservation problems relating to the preservation of the historical image of the seaside resort. This survey will make it possible to verify the diffusion of significant variations in the chromatic treatment of the facades of the villas and to identify some trend lines. Furthermore, the solutions analyzed will constitute an opportunity to reflect on the key aspects of the culture of restoration in order to suggest the importance of a correct theoretical and methodological approach for restoration interventions attentive to the historical value of these architectures.

**Keywords:** *architectural historical surfaces, fin de siècle seaside resorts, facade colour restoration, landscape.*