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The Role of 4D Historic Building Information Modelling and Management in the Analysis of Constructive Evolution and Decay Condition within the Refurbishment Process

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1 **The role of 4D Historic Building Information Modelling and**  
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Accepted Manuscript

28 **The role of 4D Historic Building Information Modelling and**  
29 **Management in the analysis of constructive evolution and decay**  
30 **condition within the refurbishment process**

31 Recently, the scientific community is working on Historic Building Information Modelling  
32 and Management (HBIMM) in order to improve the interoperability among information/data  
33 in different types and formats. This circumstance has traditionally led to difficulties and  
34 errors in knowledge, diagnosis and refurbishment. The proposal of the operative method has  
35 been tested for managing the historical buildings' knowledge system by using relational  
36 databases and time parameter creating a 4D-HBIMM simulation for diagnosis of decay and  
37 settlements toward data computing. The information, as BIM parameters, refers to historical  
38 and constructive evolution, previous interventions, crack patterns and degradation condition  
39 of an Augustinian Monastery (southern Italy), as sample of an agglomeration of buildings,  
40 interested by previous refurbishment interventions, decay and kinematic movements. The  
41 advantage is the rapid data consultation and the possibility of comparison between  
42 geometric-typological and pre-diagnostic information in order to understand the actual  
43 causes of the decay and kinematic settlements.

44 **Keywords:** Refurbishment, Historic Building Information Modelling (HBIM), Information  
45 Management System, Diagnosis, Decay mapping, 4D-HBIMM, 4D Simulation

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## 61 **1. Introduction**

### 62 **1.1. Motivation**

63 Restoration, refurbishment and maintenance of historical buildings implies the accurate  
64 knowledge acquisition of geometrical asset, the material-constructive characterization and  
65 the analysis of constructive evolution, including prior conservation and refurbishment  
66 interventions that generated the current conditions of cultural assets (Binda and Cardani  
67 2015). Therefore, the archival information may be combined with on-site survey for  
68 recognizing modifications and stratifications and understanding if the combination of  
69 identified building phases and constructive elements are causes of degradation and existing  
70 kinematic settlements, without errors of interpretation (Fatiguso, De Fino, and Sciotti 2017).  
71 In traditional practices, the acquired information is collected as paper-based or digital  
72 documents that are often onerous to consult and manage, above all if comparing data  
73 connected to different chronological periods (Ciribini, Ventura, and Paneroni 2015). These  
74 circumstances may cause the risk of misunderstanding of actual building conditions and  
75 pathologies' causes, consequently the implementation of incompatible actions (Bruno, De  
76 Fino, and Fatiguso 2018). The computational nature of the Historic Building Information  
77 Modelling (HBIM) approach demonstrated flexibility in managing heterogeneous datasets  
78 about geometries and properties of structural elements, multiple construction technologies  
79 (walls, vault system, roof etc.), and decorative layers (frescos, stuccos and frames)  
80 contributing to the explanation of construction sequences and adopted technologies  
81 (Brumana et al. 2013).

82 For this purpose, this paper concerns the introduction of the time parameter within an  
83 HBIModel as essential for a clear and immediate visualization and analysis of the  
84 morphological layout, the anachronistic constructive evolution, the stratification of the  
85 interventions, the development of cracks and degradation phenomena.

86 Surely, a model can represent a solid basis for the interpretation of the construction evolution  
87 (Charbonneau et al. 2018), but it could also visualize and analyse the current future building  
88 conditions.

89 Furthermore, the challenge of 4D modelling is an efficient integration and management of  
90 multi-data sources (specifications, requirements, etc.) (Rodríguez-González et al. 2017),  
91 even as real support to the diagnosis and the decision of interventions.

92 As a result, this research deals with the significance of the research in 4D reconstruction as  
93 the integration of 3D models and databases proposing the 4D-HBIMM, a methodology for  
94 the documentation and the analysis of historic buildings that can be innovatively  
95 implemented with existing BIM tools. This method is an additional phase of the Diagnosis  
96 Aided Historic Building Information Modelling and Management (DA-HBIMM) as it  
97 completes and manages the knowledge framework, and it is oriented toward the automation  
98 and computing in the building diagnostics (Bruno and Fatiguso 2018) with the aim of  
99 supporting decision for refurbishment and restoration and recognising the correct diagnosis of  
100 the causes on which to intervene, without further compromising the building.

101 The 4D-HBIMM will be a constantly evolving interface on which to progressively add future  
102 refurbishment and restoration interventions, allowing interoperability among stakeholders. It  
103 integrates the Historic Building Information Modelling (HBIM) with the Information  
104 Management and 4D simulation in order to achieve the abovementioned objectives,  
105 employing the capability of BIM tools.

106 The analysis of the existing research about HBIM and 4D reconstruction (Sub-section 1.2)  
107 surveys gaps and challenges in literature and practice that reveals the absence of an operative  
108 method with the aims of collecting, classifying, managing and sharing information and data  
109 relating to construction phases, transformations and interventions over time, and recording

110 the state of previous and current decay phenomena of an existing building, benefiting from  
111 the Information Management.

112 The workflow of the proposed method is explained in Section 2 (Methodology) and it is  
113 divided in five steps: A) Preliminary Information Collection (Sub-section 3.1.), B) Reverse  
114 engineering (Sub-section 3.2); C) “As built-as damaged” HBIM (Sub-section 3.3); D)  
115 Information Management (Sub-section 4.1) and E) 4D-HBIMM simulation (Sub-section 4.2).

116 The method will be validated with a pilot study case (Section 3), an Augustinian Monastery  
117 in Trani, southern Italy, a historical artefact that underwent transformations and  
118 refurbishment interventions. It still experiences conditions of degradation and kinematic  
119 motions related to the sequences of construction events, transformations and interventions.  
120 Finally, the Section 4 illustrates results, while Section 5 regards conclusions and future  
121 developments.

## 122 **1.2. 4D Simulation and data management**

123 The knowledge of historic building evolution over time is essential for assessing the current  
124 condition and defining strategies of interventions (Binda and Cardani 2015). Traditionally,  
125 the temporal analysis and reconstruction were executed through heterogeneous documentary  
126 sources (mostly paper-based sources) and the results reported in drawings and reports. The  
127 development of innovative technologies for 3D modelling and data management facilitates  
128 the 4D reconstruction. In fact, the use of integrated survey techniques (aerial and terrestrial  
129 laser scanner, photogrammetry, etc.) - as a basis for 3D reconstructions in the form of  
130 polygonal mesh or parametric objects with a high degree of accuracy (Antón et al. 2018) -  
131 can consent the visualization of the constructive evolution of the historical artefact through  
132 the introduction of the time factor for a better understanding of building conditions.

133 The temporal simulations have the advantage of being non-invasive methodologies for  
134 analysing and monitoring historical sites and artefacts as they let visualizing the development

135 and transformations suffered over time by the historical heritage (Rodríguez-González et al.  
136 2017), analyse the risks to which they may be subjected (earthquakes, erosion, etc.) (Fieber et  
137 al., 2017) and verify the adequacy of future recovery interventions. Additionally, the  
138 reconstruction of three-dimensional diachronic models allows virtual access to urban spaces  
139 or partially destroyed historical artefacts (Rodríguez-gonzález, Campo, and Muñoz-nieto  
140 2019; Hejmanowska and Mikrut 2017) which can be implemented with Virtual Reality  
141 (Kersten et al. 2017) for an immersive use of the model generated by technicians and users  
142 (Lee et al. 2019). Therefore, specific methods and tools are needed for the integration of the  
143 knowledge about the environment with the aim of accessibility, management and global  
144 visualization.

145 The GIS (Geographic Information System) and BIM (Building Information Modelling)  
146 models, thanks to their link to database, could integrate data and represent the real world  
147 from different input like integrated surveys (Vacca et al. 2018). They are not mutually  
148 exclusive but rather complementary methods used to support the decision-making process  
149 and the problem solving according to the architectural heritage scale (Rodríguez-González  
150 et al. 2017). BIM tools are used in architectural level (walls, doors, decoration), instead GIS  
151 tools are used in urban level (terrain, land parcels and outdoor data), traditionally paired with  
152 two dimensional data (Templin et al., 2019). In addition to the possibility of modelling  
153 elements with a high level of detail (frames, capitals, handles, etc.), BIM modelling is  
154 characterized by an inherent hierarchization of architectural elements that facilitates the  
155 control and navigation operations of 3D models.

### 156 **1.3. HBIM Background**

157 The HBIM approach developed starting from the potentiality and the tools offered by the  
158 BIM as knowledge database and combining digitalization and Computer Vision (Murphy,  
159 McGovern, and Pavia 2009; Volk, Stengel, and Schultmann 2014; Barazzetti et al. 2015;

160 Murphy et al. 2017). The first efforts attempted to define the digital modelling and  
161 management approach of the historical building with BIM, investigating the automatic  
162 modelling procedures from integrated survey (Arayici 2007; Murphy, McGovern, and Pavia  
163 2009). Nowadays, many academic researchers are still engaged in refining and deepening the  
164 potentiality of HBIM in the following challenges (Bruno et al. 2018):

- 165 1. The “Scan-to-BIM/Point-to-BIM” process from the data capture and reverse  
166 engineering aiming at automatic recognition and conversion of 3D surfaces into  
167 parametric models for complex geometries and morphologies, in order to avoid  
168 simplifications and inaccuracies. Nowadays, manual or semi-automatic procedures are  
169 widely employed for modelling historic buildings with some drawbacks (Tang et al.  
170 2010; Pătrăucean et al. 2015; Luigi Barazzetti 2016; Volk, Stengel, and Schultmann  
171 2014).
- 172 2. The semantic enrichment of the HBIM models with the aim of generating an "as-  
173 built/as-damaged" HBIM model which collates tangible information (materials and  
174 construction techniques, transformations over time and their motivation) and  
175 intangible information (historical images and texts, narration and music, historical  
176 value and meaning) (Bruno, De Fino, and Fatiguso 2018; Fai et al. 2011).
- 177 3. Investigative objectives involve identifying methods of visualization and analysis of  
178 the degradation status, traditionally linked to the completion of the in-situ survey  
179 reports and their transcription in CAD drawings, now evolving as population of the  
180 HBIM models with different methods (Quattrini et al. 2015; Rodríguez-Moreno et al.  
181 2016; Bruno et al. 2017; Brumana et al. 2017; Chiabrando, Lo Turco, and Rinaudo  
182 2017) that could be able to identify the actual causes of deterioration and structural  
183 instability introducing related information and metadata in the HBIMM (Bruno and  
184 Fatiguso 2018).

185 4. Additional requirements as the semantic information organization and management  
186 (Megahed 2015) have been identified within the knowledge phase for supporting the  
187 refurbishment project (Quattrini et al. 2017). This aspect could be resolved with the  
188 innovative ICT technologies based on Integrated Project Database (IPDB) (Mocerino  
189 2017) and the cloud-based applications for sharing project information (Afsarivet al.  
190 2017), as experimented with new constructions. The representation and management  
191 of information and knowledge during investigation activities may have support by an  
192 ontology-based model in order to provide flexible and reusable methodologies of  
193 structured and accurate knowledge, integrating each investigation process about the  
194 preliminary knowledge acquisition, the assessment of the historic value, diagnostics,  
195 project, execution and maintenance (Acierno et al. 2016; Cacciotti, Blaško, and  
196 Valach 2015). In more recent works, the computational BIM is an additional research  
197 direction being undertaken toward innovation (Succar 2009; Porwal and Hewage  
198 2013; Arayici et al. 2016) for elaborating information and data through a set of logical  
199 and analytical rules. This step forward enhances the definition of a coherent  
200 knowledge base for decision support (Bloch and Sacks 2018).

#### 201 **1.4 Outcomes of literature review**

202 As a result of reviewing literature and practice, the research question is about the possibility  
203 to employ the HBIMM methodology for managing knowledge about constructive evolution  
204 and building conditions in order to diagnose the real causes of decay and settlements in  
205 historic buildings. The main aim is overcoming the gaps of traditional processes that are  
206 based on the collection and comparison of paper documents whose results are resumed into  
207 several digital files, difficult to read. The challenge is the creation of an operative method that  
208 connect 3D models and temporal digital data and information within a unique and  
209 interoperable platform aiming at the semi-automatic diagnosis and identification of

210 interventions. In contrast to what indicated by Charbonneau et al. (2018) (Charbonneau et al.  
211 2018) who specified that the BIM platforms are not appropriated tools for 4D modelling of  
212 architectural heritage, this research experiments with the appropriateness of the HBIM  
213 approach in the 4D reconstruction.

214 Existing approach for documenting the transformations over time within the HBIM model  
215 has been supported by classifying each BIM element by its historical phase through the  
216 creation of a specific Project Phase employing the “Manage-Phases Box” in Revit  
217 (Rodríguez-Moreno et al. 2016). However, the above-mentioned approach is limited to the  
218 manual selection and visualization of a hystorical phase per time and it also does not allow  
219 semi-automatic assessment of decay and settlements because of static browsing of the  
220 Property Palette per each element.

221 The proposed operative method, within the DA-HBIMM approach, aims to fit challenges and  
222 overcome gaps in knowledge providing a system that correlates the HBIM model with  
223 structured databases in order to manage the constructive evolution, the previous  
224 refurbishment interventions, the motivations of their execution and the description of the  
225 current state of conservation through semi-automatic procedures. Indeed, the understanding  
226 of the causes of degradation and constructive evolution will be supported by two  
227 complementary operations. On the one hand, the management of database information,  
228 structured in property categories, using conditional query tools; and on the other one, the 4D  
229 simulation of the real temporal dynamics of the constructive evolution. Through the  
230 combination of these two operations, it will possible supporting the identification of the  
231 causes on which it is necessary to intervene with coherent works.

## 232 **2. Methodology**

233 As stated by Rodríguez-gonzález et al. (2017) (Rodríguez-gonzález et al.,2017), temporal  
234 analysis and multi-temporal 3D reconstruction is paramount for the preservation of historic

235 buildings and support decisions about refurbishment and restoration. The implementation of  
236 fourth dimension of time provides a multi-temporal representation of 3D geometrical model  
237 as an innovative method aimed at the formulation of hypothesis of constructive evolution  
238 and, consequently, the selection of coherent interventions. In this research, the proposed  
239 methodology starts from this rationale and makes use of the potentialities of the HBIM  
240 approach for testing the role of 4D-HBIMM in the analysis of constructive evolution and  
241 decay condition, supporting the planning of interventions. The employed tools belong to the  
242 BIM methodology because it integrates 3D modelling and knowledge Database management  
243 for quickly obtaining reliable information (Sah and Cory 2008).

244 The Figure 1 illustrates the workflow of the proposed methodology:

- 245 1. Preliminary Information Collection (Sub-section 3.1);
- 246 2. Reverse Engineering (Sub-section 3.2);
- 247 3. “As-built/as-damaged” HBIM (Sub-section 3.3);
- 248 4. Information Management (Sub-section 4.1);
- 249 5. 4D-HBIMM simulation (Sub-section 4.2).

250 The first step concerns the Preliminary Information Collection (A). The preliminary  
251 knowledge consists of historical and photographic memories, archival documents and prior  
252 drawings. In particular, the understanding of the constructive evolution begins from the study  
253 of historical texts and project documents, stored in the archives. Secondly, a raw geometric  
254 survey, a preliminary analysis of materials/construction techniques and analytical and  
255 typological studies about building conditions have been carried out.

256 The second phase is the Reverse Engineering (B) that can be completed by updating prior  
257 CAD and paper drawings via traditional direct survey, by aerial and terrestrial laser scanning  
258 and photogrammetry, or a combination of survey techniques. The selection of the suitable  
259 methods for geometric survey depends on project budget, environmental conditions, surface

260 properties, required detail and accuracy, object dimensions. In this research, the geometric  
261 survey has been carried out starting from the prior CAD and paper drawings integrated with  
262 photogrammetric acquisitions.

263 We recall that the objectives of this research case are not the 3D modelling from point clouds  
264 and the quantitative evaluation of the Accuracy Level of three-dimensional models (Antón et  
265 al. 2018) but the understanding of a methodology for the management of assets' information  
266 in order to aid the decision-making of intervention strategies on historic buildings. The  
267 photogrammetric survey interested the most representative rooms of the constructive  
268 techniques and the state of conservation: a room at the ground floor and the main stairwell  
269 with evident cracking and deformations; in addition, they presented the most suitable  
270 environmental conditions, such as light, colour variations, workers' safety and, likewise, the  
271 possibility to move within the space free from scaffolding.

272 The equipment for photo acquisition is a CANON D600 reflex, 18-55 mm optics, following  
273 an acquisition plan to ensure the overlap of photograms (70%) and the overall effectiveness  
274 of the acquisitions and subsequent processing. The set of photographs was used for the 3D  
275 rendering in the form of a point cloud and photorealistic reconstruction (textured mesh) via  
276 image matching and the Structure for Motion (SfM) algorithms, with the aim of capturing  
277 and sharing information about the state of degradation (damp spots and crack patterns). This  
278 operation was supported by the use of the software AgiSoft Photoscan.

279 The data acquisitions were elaborated for two purposes: generating the point cloud to be  
280 employed for BIM modelling and the 3D texturized mesh to be linked to the BIM model for  
281 visualizing the real conditions and decay patterns. In the first case, the point cloud is  
282 generated as sparse and dense cloud from photos, then exported as \*.sat. This file format was  
283 imported into the parametric object modelling section of the employed BIM software  
284 Autodesk® Revit®. While, in the second case, the point cloud was automatically

285 polygonalized, setting a medium quality decimation and thus obtaining the polygonal mesh of  
286 the building. By using the parametric operator of polygonal decimation, it was possible to  
287 preserve the mesh's UV mapping, while leaving the possibility of experiencing progressive  
288 reduction coefficients, hence allowing the evaluation, in a perceptive way, of the correct  
289 representation of the shapes that constitute the two rooms. Because of some obstacles during  
290 the survey process (i.e. floor covering accumulations of rubble), it was necessary to use  
291 manual instruments of polygonal creation, so as to interpolate the single vertexes of the  
292 perimeters of those areas difficult to reach. Furthermore, it was verified the correct  
293 orientation of the normal polygons of each element. The resulting mesh was exported as \*.obj  
294 and inserted in a web viewer, Sketchfab®.

295 Thirdly, the “as-built/as-damaged” HBIM (C) can be created using the prior CAD drawings  
296 for Boolean operations and parametric object placement, or the “Point-to-BIM/Scan-to-BIM”  
297 process. This last process may be performed as i) the automatic conversion of point  
298 cloud/meshes - captured via laser scanning or photogrammetry - into BIM objects with plug-  
299 ins capable of processing geometry recognition algorithms (Jung et al. 2014; Wang, Cho, and  
300 Kim 2015; Paiva et al. 2018) or converting meshes into NURBS or ii) the import of point  
301 clouds into parametric modelling tools, in order to be used as a metric reference for manual  
302 procedures (López et al. 2018). The HBIM model must be modelled with the Level of  
303 Development (LOD) 500 (G202-2013 Project BIM Protocol) corresponding to the Italian  
304 LOD F (UNI/CT033-GL05 2017).

305 The specific provisions of the Italian UNI 11337-3-2017 introduces the LOD G for updating  
306 the model after refurbishment/restoration/maintenance during the building life cycle  
307 management (Brumana et al. 2017).

308 In the current case study, the “as-built/as-damaged” HBIM has been mostly modelled from  
309 the updated 2D drawings. The architectural components were manually modelled through

310 two different methods: parametric library objects (openings and related decorations, slabs,  
311 foundation micropiles, barrel vaults, etc.) or solids, as stairs and vaults because they are based  
312 on trapezoidal plans.

313 Whereas, some geometric primitives of vaults, openings and cracks have been traced as lines  
314 after importing the point clouds provided by the photogrammetric capture into the BIM  
315 software.

316 The comparison of all the outputs of the Preliminary Knowledge Framework (A) and the  
317 Reverse Engineering (B) enhances the identification of previous transformations and  
318 interventions, the material-constructive characterization and decay mapping, such  
319 information to be included into the parametric model (C). This set of attributes is inherent to  
320 constructional and material features, description of decay patterns, report and motivation of  
321 the previous interventions, useful to semantically enrich the model.

322 Then, the Information Management (D) concerns the creation of an Information System  
323 integrating the three-dimensional model and external databases via ODBC tools (Open  
324 Database Connectivity). The Navisworks<sup>®</sup> Manage software has been tested for the  
325 management of the “as-built/as-damaged” HBIM model, as it is a BIM tool for viewing and  
326 managing information systems, despite being created for cost and time coordination;  
327 moreover, it supports the control of database and the data management via Structured Query  
328 Language (SQL).

329 The BIM model has been exported as \*.nwd from Autodesk<sup>®</sup> Revit<sup>®</sup> to Navisworks<sup>®</sup>  
330 Manage, in order to have the possibility of simultaneously modifying the models in both the  
331 software products.

332 In Navisworks<sup>®</sup>, the building objects are firstly structured by macrogroups, distinct one from  
333 another according to the related construction phase and previous intervention, thus involving  
334 the time parameter (Sub-section 4.1).

335 Subsequently, each macrogroup has been matched to the categories of properties ('External  
336 Database Links', n.d.). These categories of properties can be manually added or automatically  
337 inserted linking external databases. The proposed information system connects the geometric  
338 HBIM model to external relational database, which were created as Excel spreadsheets or  
339 exported from the HBIM model, through the database management tools and compatible with  
340 the ODBC Driver of the employed multi-model-based management system. Indeed,  
341 Autodesk® Revit® permits the export of object parameters as external database via database  
342 management tools (i.e. the Ideate BIM link plug-ins ('Ideate BIM Link Software', n.d.), Revit  
343 DB link ('Access Autodesk Revit DB Link', n.d.), and the export tools embedded in the  
344 software.

345 The link of external databases into Navisworks® occurs with the configuration of the database  
346 via ODBC Driver, the Application Program Interface (API) for accessing the Database  
347 Management Systems (DBMS) within the "Datatools" plug-in. The user interacts with the  
348 relational databases via the Structured Query language (SQL), as it is the API for the  
349 Relational Database Management Systems (RDBMS). SQL statements are employed for  
350 queries of information from a relational database and for gathering data for reports. The SQL  
351 string *SELECT\*from[Properties\$]where"Element ID" =%prop("Element ID","Value")*  
352 matches the external database to the object in the model; the data fields correspond to the  
353 properties shown in the tables automatically created. The tables are organized in i)  
354 constructive macro-elements, ii) previous interventions and iii) description of crack patterns,  
355 introducing parameters, their description and data type (Sub-section 4.1)

356 Moreover, a more accurate "as-built/as-damaged" HBIM could be created through the  
357 integration of the parametric model with 3D photo-reconstruction (textured mesh) as an URL  
358 attribute of the used web viewer Sketchfab®. The URL generated in the web viewer can be  
359 linked in the BIM Information Management software Navisworks® Manage.

360 The last step is the 4D-HBIMM simulation (E) in Navisworks® Manage. Each macrogroup of  
361 the “as-built/as-damaged” HBIM model was associated to its time parameter for representing  
362 constructive evolution and the current state of conservation in a time line. The 4D-HBIMM  
363 simulation of previous events and the correlation of related information could support the  
364 identification of the causes of current decay patterns associated to human interactions with  
365 the building.

### 366 **3. Case of study**

367 The proposed methodology is applied to an Augustinian Monastery in Trani (southern Italy),  
368 as it is considered representative of historic buildings that underwent transformations and  
369 refurbishment over time and in degraded conditions, some caused by the succession of  
370 constructive events and incoherent actions.

#### 371 **3.1. Preliminary information collection (A)**

372 The construction of the former Augustinian Monastery (Trani, south of Italy) began in the  
373 16th century. Afterwards, Augustinian monks, in accordance with requirements, concessions  
374 and financial resources, repeatedly expanded the building until the 18th century and it went  
375 through a series of demolitions, reconstructions, structural interventions and functional  
376 upgrading between 1809 and 1960. Nowadays, the building presents heterogeneous interior  
377 distribution, different constructive systems and conservation status. Inside, we can recognize  
378 (Figure 2):

- 379 1. Unit 1 (1530): six rooms on the first floor and four larger spaces on the ground floor,  
380 built by Augustinian monks;
- 381 2. Unit 2 (1640): six basement rooms and the corresponding ground floor;
- 382 3. Unit 3 (1754 -1757): elevation of the Unit 2 and the completion of the cloister and the  
383 spaces overlooking it.

384 The aim of the previous interventions was the functional upgrade; the stratification of these  
385 interventions is still recognizable. In 1847, the monastery was converted into a hospital. After

386 the abandonment in 1969, the building underwent a series of structural interventions and  
387 maintenance of foundations, roofs, façades because of serious settlements, not yet completely  
388 solved. In particular, the entire foundation has been reinforced with an underpinning made up  
389 of piles in order to solve the settling of primary rotation of the external façades, caused by  
390 heterogeneous foundations and soil. The kinematic movement is more complex where the  
391 units around the cloister. The low resistance of the soil, estimated by tests in 1992, and the  
392 demolition of some vaults replaced with hollow-clay/concrete slabs has jeopardized the static  
393 equilibrium (Pettrignani and Camarchia 1992). Furthermore, the absent structural connection  
394 of the 18th-century porch (Unit 3) and the 16th-century unit (Unit 1) contributed to the  
395 settling. In 2005, the continuous seepage of rainwater from the roofs caused damp spots on  
396 the main façade. Therefore, in 2007, some localized interventions were carried out  
397 concerning the cleaning of the main façades, the installation of the waterproof layer and the  
398 eradication of spontaneous vegetation. The corroded rebar of the concrete joist were rehabbed  
399 and the hollow-clay/concrete slabs consolidated by Fiber Reinforced Polymer (FRP) at the  
400 intrados (Fabozzi 2007).

### 401 **3.2. Reverse Engineering (B)**

402 The geometric survey has been carried out starting from the prior CAD and paper drawings  
403 integrated with photogrammetric acquisitions (Figure 3 (a), (b), (c)) applied on two rooms  
404 most representative of the building for the state of conservation and constructive technologies  
405 and accessible for using photogrammetry: a room of Unit 1 on the ground floor and the main  
406 stairwell. The use of UAV was neglected because the building is in the historic urban centre.  
407 The photographic set realized was carried out on the basis of an acquisition plan previously  
408 drawn up in order to optimize the survey time and ensure the effective overlap of 70%  
409 between the photographic shots. Photographic set of 164 shots for main stairwell and 330  
410 shots for the room of Unit 1 have been acquired. The data processing of these images via

411 Agisoft Photoscan produced two dense point clouds (48.274 points for main stairwell and  
412 75.155 points for the room of Unit 1) and two 3D-reconstruction models (texturized meshes)  
413 with a ground resolution of 0.994 mm/pixel at a distance of about 4 m away from the walls.  
414 Thus, the level of detail is high for displaying masonry texture and surface alterations. In  
415 addition, the visual inspection has been enhanced to glean typological and material  
416 information of masonry walls, floors, finishing, their state of conservation, observing the  
417 presence of crack paths and building pathologies. In the proposed method, the  
418 photogrammetric survey has supported an accurate modelling of geometries and decay  
419 patterns reaching the Level of Detail (LOD) 500 or LOG F, according to UNI 11337  
420 (Brumana et al. 2017). Given the limitation of parametric modelling to the realistic  
421 reproduction of irregular geometries and deformations, typical of a historical building, was  
422 chosen to link a hyperlink of the 3D Photo Reconstruction Model -obtained from the point  
423 cloud - to the HBIM model. Hence, it is possible to preserve the geometric complexity.

### 424 **3.3. “As-built/as-damaged” HBIM (C)**

425 The “as-built/as-damaged” HBIM has been modelled in Autodesk® Revit® employing the  
426 point clouds for the two rooms mentioned before (Sub-section 3.2), and the existing 2D  
427 drawings for the rest of the building. In Figure 4 the photo and the parametric model of the  
428 whole building. The point cloud was imported into the family editor (\*.sat) and used as a  
429 metric reference for the graphic representation of the decay pattern, vaults, doorways,  
430 widows and stair ramp. The building components (arched openings, barrel vaults, rib vaults,  
431 groin vaults, frames) and decay patterns (cracks and damp paths) have been modelled as BIM  
432 parametric objects, mostly customized. The as-damaged model is also the result of the  
433 modelling and the data enrichment of damp and crack patterns. Figure 5 shows the digital,  
434 parametric and computable representation of semi-parabolic cracks due to primary rotation

435 and compared to the point cloud from which the BIM object was generated (Bruno et al.  
436 2017).

437 The creation of the specific parametric object allows the insertion of geometric and  
438 descriptive attributes, derived from the analysis of information and data acquired during  
439 phase A and B of the methodology. As anticipated in Section 2, after importing in  
440 Navisworks®, the parametric objects have been grouped in six macro-categories divided by  
441 constructive epochs: 1. First construction unit 1530 (Unit 1); 2. Building extension in 1640  
442 (Unit 2); 3. Building extension in 1754-1757 (Unit 3); 4. Transformation in 1847-1969; 5.  
443 Intervention in 1992; 6. Intervention in 2007. Information added to each group concerns  
444 technical properties of the building components and historical/analytical features, and  
445 organized in the categories, as shown in Table 1, Table 2, Table 3.

#### 446 **4. Results and discussion**

447 As mentioned in Section 2. Methodology, the former phases are propaedeutic to the  
448 Information Management (D) and the 4D-HBIMM simulation (E), structured activities with  
449 the aim of querying the databases for supporting the diagnosis.

##### 450 **4.1. Information Management (D)**

451 The automatic export as ODBC Databases from the parametric model was made possible due  
452 to the BIM tools for Database Management (i.e. the Ideate BIM link plug-ins, Revit DB link,  
453 and the export tools embedded in the software). The use of Database arises from the  
454 possibility to manage information in software such as Excel or Access, or imported into other  
455 BIM software and their related plug-ins, thus facilitating Information Management (D).  
456 Specifically, tables were created per each of the subsequent categories and properties, as  
457 described in Sub-section 3.3 and shown in Table 4.

458 As mentioned in Sub-section 3.2, the 3D photo-reconstruction model is linked to the HBIM  
459 model because it provides the actual knowledge (in situ and remotely) about the geometries,

460 the decay condition and any decorated surfaces for documentation, structural monitoring and  
461 analysis of technological building systems (Garagnani and Manferdini 2013).

462 Then, the SQL Language permits consulting information within the information system  
463 through i) the selection of the interested building constructional group in the model and  
464 opening the related properties table (Figure 6) or ii) employing the conditional query  
465 operations to filter categories and properties, consequently comparing corresponding values  
466 (Figure 7). The difference between the two methods stands in the type and the quantity of  
467 properties. The first permits the view of all the information related to an object or to a group,  
468 the second one helps the filtering of the required properties per each category and the  
469 comparison of the values for specific analysis (i.e. diagnosis of a settlement).

470 In particular, in the first method (Figure 6), the selection of a BIM object in the group  
471 elements Unit 1 (1530) opens the properties table about the category “Analysis of the  
472 conservation state A\_2017”, reporting information about geometry, constructive techniques,  
473 interventions and transformations, crack patterns and settlements (properties in Tab 1). This  
474 operation can be executed per each element belonging to the subsequent transformations and  
475 interventions.

476 The second method (Figure 7) is the inverse process of the former one, because of the  
477 selection and correlation of the property to the element, highlighted in the model. The query  
478 operation permits the filtering of multiple data to be compared; the comparison of the  
479 detected settlements in each construction unit, the morphology of the cracks, and the motivation  
480 of the consolidation intervention. The query of the database, as set in Figure 7, underlines the  
481 presence of the same settlement in the three construction units: primary rotation of the  
482 external facades and this kinematic movement provokes the depression of keystone of the  
483 vaults of adjacent rooms.

#### 4.2. 4D-HBIMM simulation

The correlation of the years in which occurred the first construction and subsequent transformations to each modelled constructive unit permits the 4D-HBIMM simulation in order to dynamically show the entire building life cycle to the actors of the refurbishment process (Figure 8). The problem in allocating the temporal parameter is the limitation that Navisworks® starts from 1753; thus, an ideal year has been assigned to each element, respecting the chronological order of the events.

The simulation allows an overview of the current conservation state, the constructive evolution and it is a support for diagnostic operations of the causes of decay and settlements. In Figure 7, the cracking pattern of three rooms of the building, two on the ground floor (a) and (b), and one on the first floor (c).

An analysis of the overall crack patterns reveals a primary rotation of the façade, and the simulation highlights the cause of the crack location and its morphology. Indeed, the facade was built during the expansion of 1754-1757, in addition to the already existing building core which includes the rooms on the ground floor. Therefore, it emerges that the wall is not tied to the pre-existing structure, thus cracks are visible between the floor and wall, but this problem is not present on the first floor, where the crack is on the wall orthogonal to the façade. On the other hand, the cracks in the vaults intrados can be traced back to the fact that the primary rotation is causing a separation of the vault abutments, with the consequence of scarce load equilibrium. The simulation also reveals that the static consolidation of foundations through a sub-foundation with piles has delayed the ongoing instability, not fully resolved.

#### 4.3. 4D-HBIMM experimentation in comparison to traditional practice

Against the outcomes of the literature review in Section. 1.4, the proposed 4D-HBIMM methodology demonstrates potentiality in supporting diagnosis of actual causes, employing

509 the information management and retrieval capability of BIM as it is database system of  
510 tangible and intangible information and data.

511 Firstly, the 3D representation of geometry and constructive evolution about historic building  
512 solves the limitations of traditional practices threatened by the fragmentation of the  
513 knowledge system that is extremely heterogeneous in terms of chronology, form, style and  
514 structure (texts, paintings, engravings, old photographs, maps, etc.), because reported in paper  
515 or digital formats. Therefore, it was necessary to establish a useful workflow to sort and  
516 condense multi-source data for current and future management, which allows easy updating  
517 of data and collating previous and future geometric and non-geometric information. In this  
518 regard, the 4D-HBIMM overcomes the issues of traditional practices in i) investing a lot of  
519 time in the retrieval of documents, the survey of current building condition, ii) coordinating  
520 of the figures involved in the process and iii) consulting separate paper and digital documents  
521 about the geometric asset and incremental knowledge about the building that leads to errors.  
522 Secondly, it is an evolution of the approached employed by Rodríguez-Moreno et al. 2016  
523 (Rodríguez-Moreno et al. 2016) because it utilizes semi-automatic procedures based on the  
524 integration of the 3D model and structured databases and the inserted data/information sets  
525 can be compared with query operations. The databases are organized according with the  
526 historical flow via time parameter, useful for the study and analysis of the past and the  
527 prevention of possible risks in the future.

528 Finally, the navigation of the building history and state of conservation could be immediately  
529 managed thanks to the hierarchization of the construction elements featured by relational  
530 databases. The digital managing has the benefit of facilitating a comparison of graphical and  
531 no-graphical information; for example, the direct connection of the instabilities detected  
532 within the building nucleuses, the morphology of the cracks and the related causes conducts  
533 to the identification of the consolidation interventions.

## 5. Conclusions and future developments

534  
535

536 The HBIM methodology demonstrates potentiality in aggregating information and data from  
537 archival, bibliographic sources, memories, traditions, surveys, but advances are required for  
538 automatic analysis of this knowledge in order to support the diagnosis of actual causes  
539 employing the information management and retrieval capability of BIM. It could be used as  
540 an initial guideline to organize maintenance and conservation interventions, as it is a digital  
541 archive for historical documentation, survey data, diagnostics and monitoring. This article  
542 proposes the 4D-HBIMM system, an innovative methodology for managing knowledge about  
543 historic buildings assembling an interoperable workflow of existing commercial BIM tools.  
544 The connection of the HBIM model with external databases makes the historical evolution  
545 more comprehensible to all the users. The implementation of programs with query languages  
546 allows feasible access of data in the database. The SQL (Structured Query Language) is a  
547 common programming tool used by relational databases as the BIM ones for searching the  
548 required information. An advantage of this methodology lies in the assembly of easy-to-use  
549 software products with simple scripting for databases.

550 The effectiveness of the method stands in the organization of the BIM model in groups of  
551 BIM objects corresponding to each identified constructive phases - each one associated to a  
552 timeline - and the structuration of the related knowledge in order to facilitate the query and  
553 analysis for diagnosis. In particular, the properties are associated to each parametric group  
554 about each temporal phase. Firstly, the categories collect the data/information about i) the  
555 analysis of the state of conservation, as executed per each constructive unit, ii) previous  
556 consolidation interventions and iii) the current decay patterns. Then, the properties are  
557 defined as alpha-numerical parameters per each category, assigning a description and a data  
558 type. Such a system, characterized by an easy user-interface, can automatically produce the

559 4D-HBIMM simulation that consists of the reproduction of the entire building life cycle and  
560 the query of properties.

561 The benefit of the Information Management is the support in identifying settling causes via  
562 database queries, consequently suggesting adequate interventions.

563 Thus, the 4D-HBIMM system will support public and private actors such as building  
564 managers, planners, construction companies, researchers and users in the refurbishment  
565 process from the knowledge phase to the conservative interventions/maintenance and in the  
566 management of funding according to the current building conservation conditions.

567 This methodology has been tested on a case study and it can be applied on several historic  
568 buildings. The Reverse Engineering and “as-built/as-damaged” HBIM steps can be planned  
569 and performed with other methods according to the environmental conditions and  
570 morphological features of the building itself. In recent literature, accuracy and quality of the  
571 3D models is evaluated with methodologies based on semi-automatic procedures (Daniel  
572 Antón , Benachir Medjdoub 2018). In this case study, the objective was not the accurate  
573 generation of the geometric model, but the semantic enrichment and an efficient management  
574 and analysis of non-graphical information. For this reason, the modelling step can be refined  
575 in order to achieve a rigorous HBIM model. Nevertheless, remaining within the main  
576 research objective, the link between the parametric model and 3D photo-reconstructed model  
577 (texturized mesh) allows to gain an accurate understanding of three-dimensional geometry  
578 and surfaces. This geometric model is sufficient for aggregating archival and bibliographic  
579 sources, memories, traditions, systematic diagnostic and monitoring activities aiming at  
580 complete material and constructive characterization and assessment of the level of  
581 degradation. However, further efforts may be performed for the automation of the recognition  
582 and the modelling of different constructive elements and decay patterns starting from the 3D  
583 photo-reconstructed models and meshes, in order to reinforce the entire HBIM methodology.

584 Future development will also consist of the integration of database about past execution  
585 techniques related to each architectural component, another aspect that can be the cause of  
586 decay and settlements. Moreover, further research could identify a method for the automatic  
587 diagnosis of causes and the suggestion of intervention hypotheses through the collation and  
588 the logic correlation of data and information. Finally, the problems related to the use of large  
589 files could be overcome through the development of web-based services in the cloud that can  
590 ensure the same operative framework of the proposed 4D-HBIMM method.

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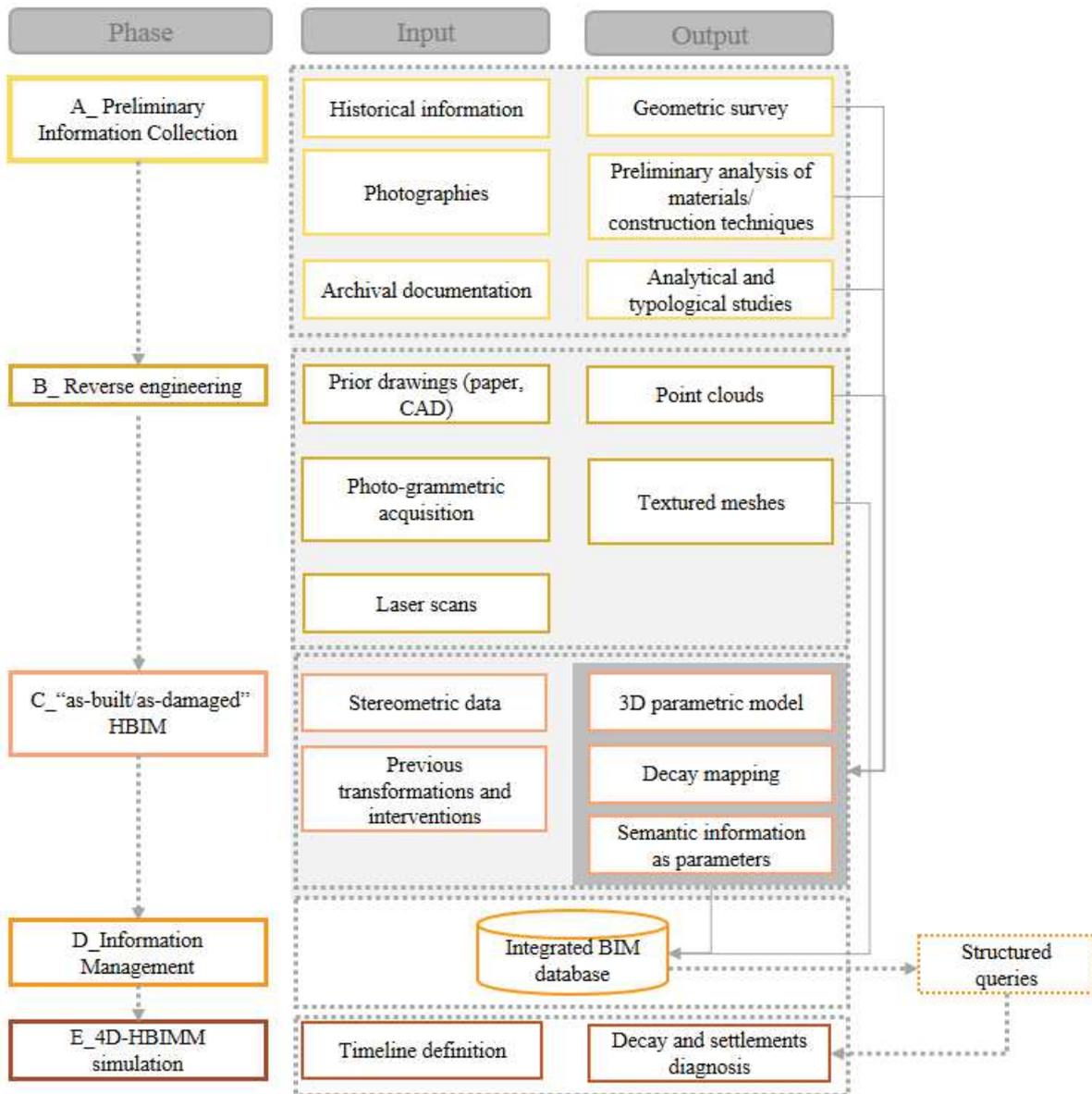
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Figure 1 Operative method scheme

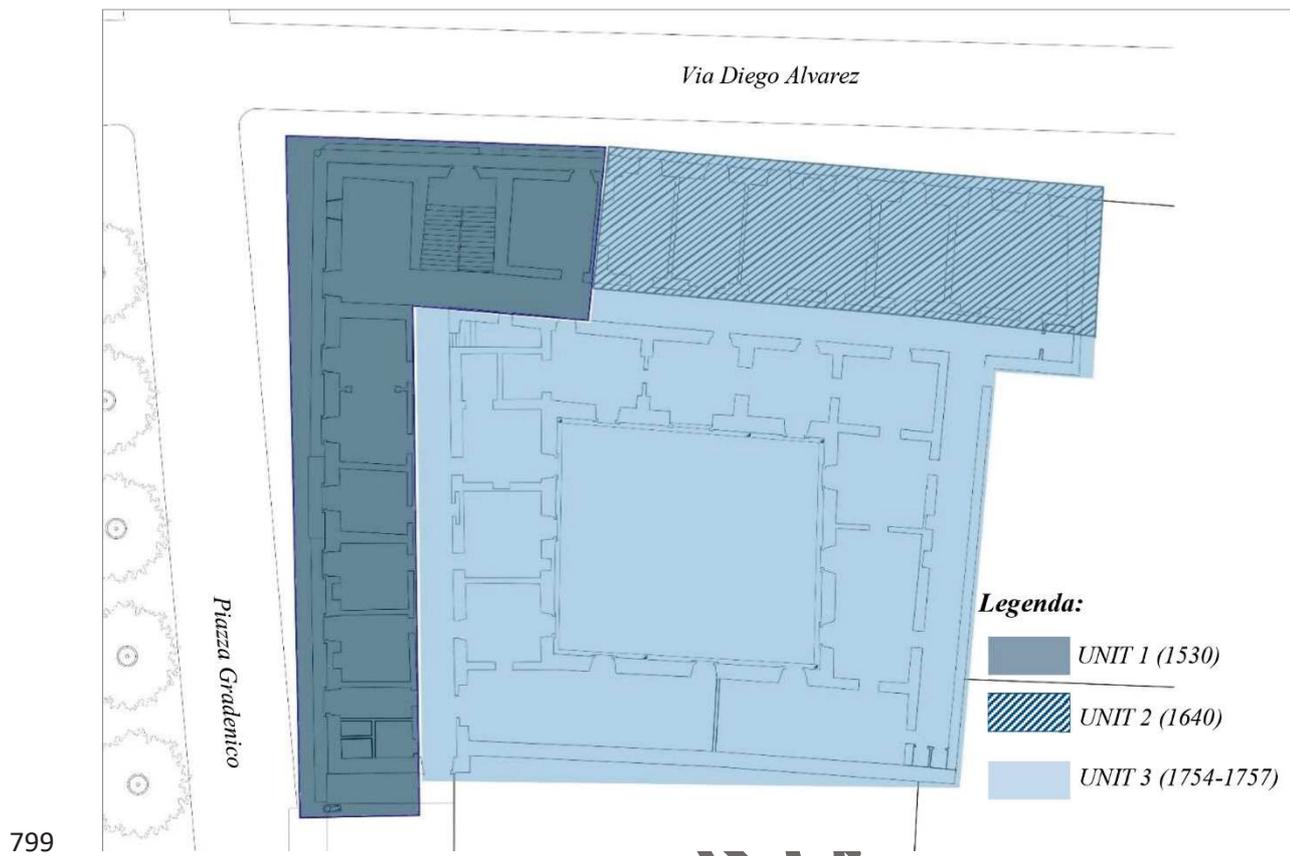
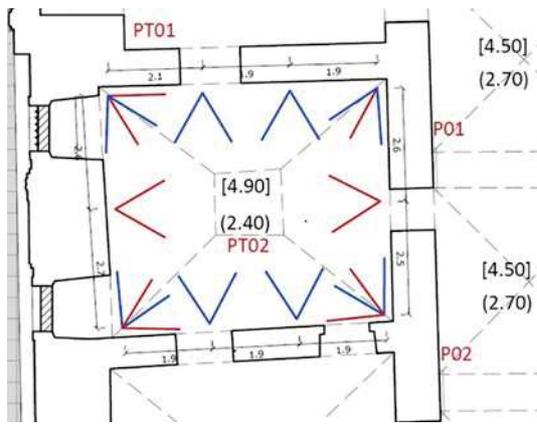


Figure 2 Transformations over time (Unit 1, 2 and 3)

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811 (a)



(b)



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813 (c)



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815 Figure 3 (a) Acquisition plan, (b), Frame, (c) Texture mesh

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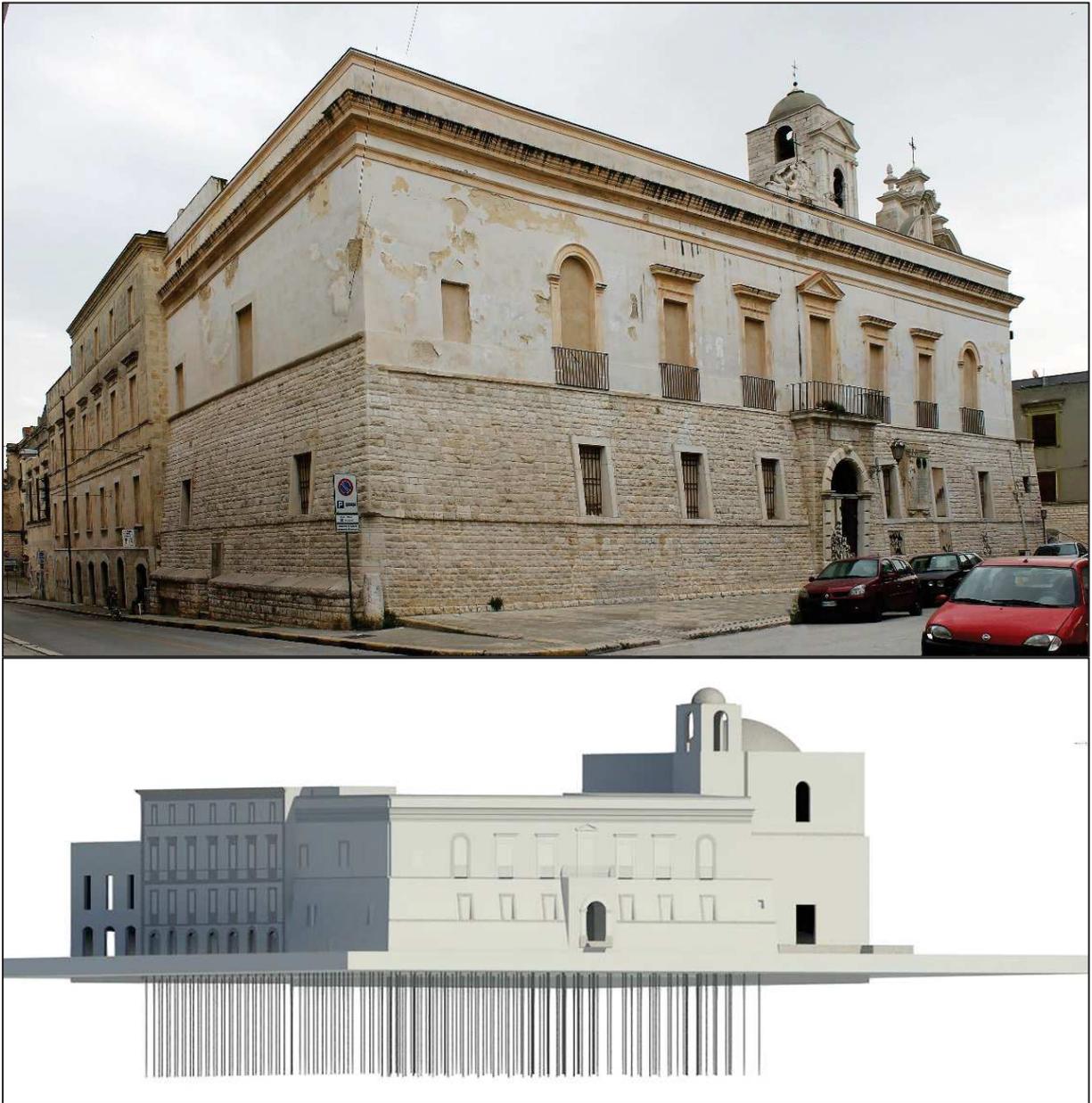


Figure 4 Comparison between photo and parametric model

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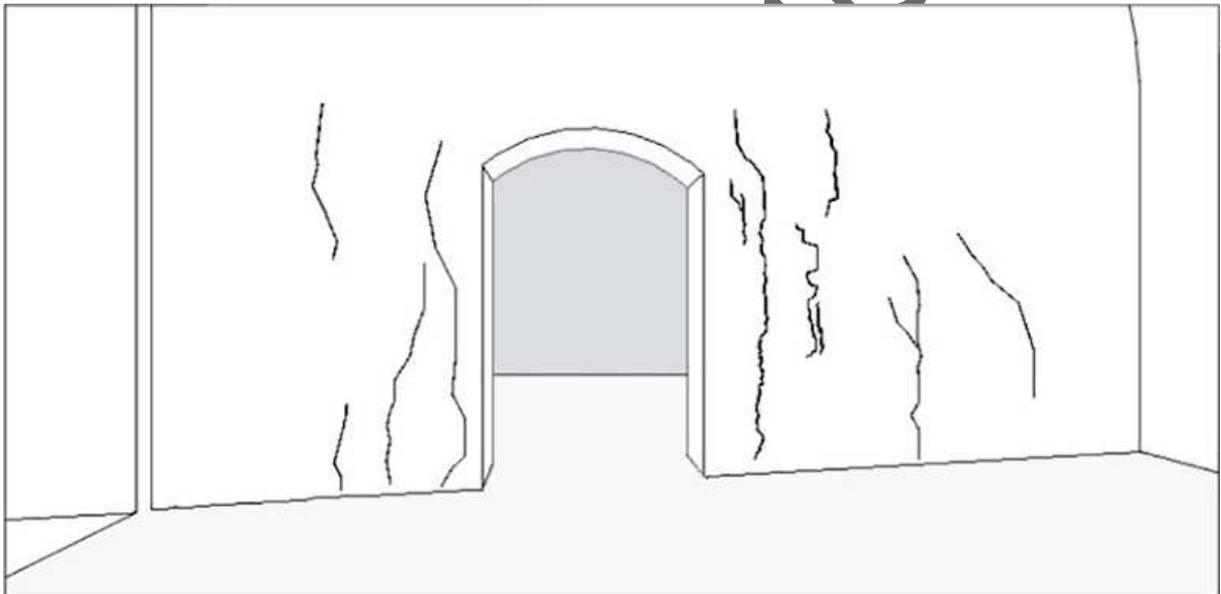
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(a)



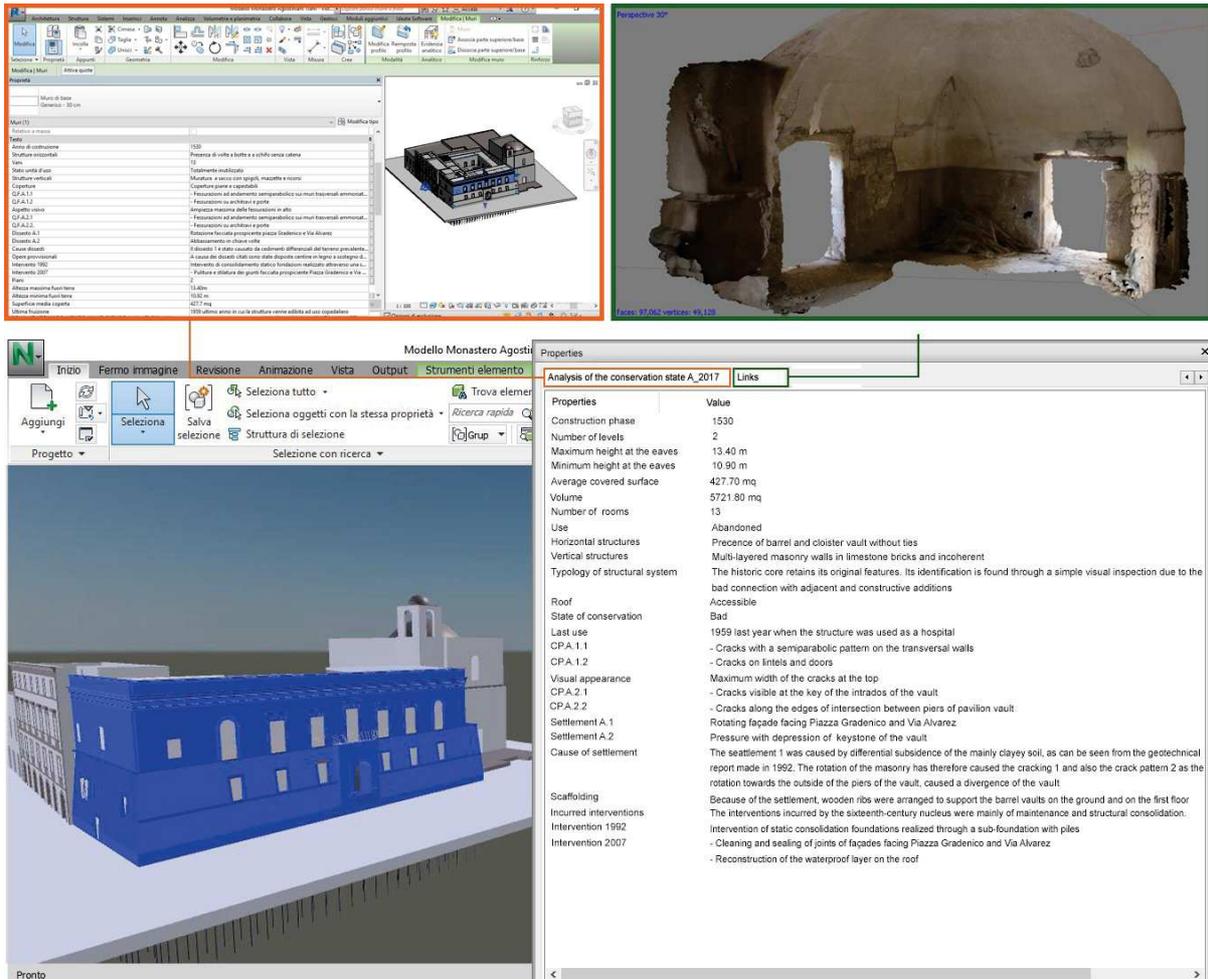
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(b)

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Figure 5 (a) Point cloud (b) HBIM model as-damaged

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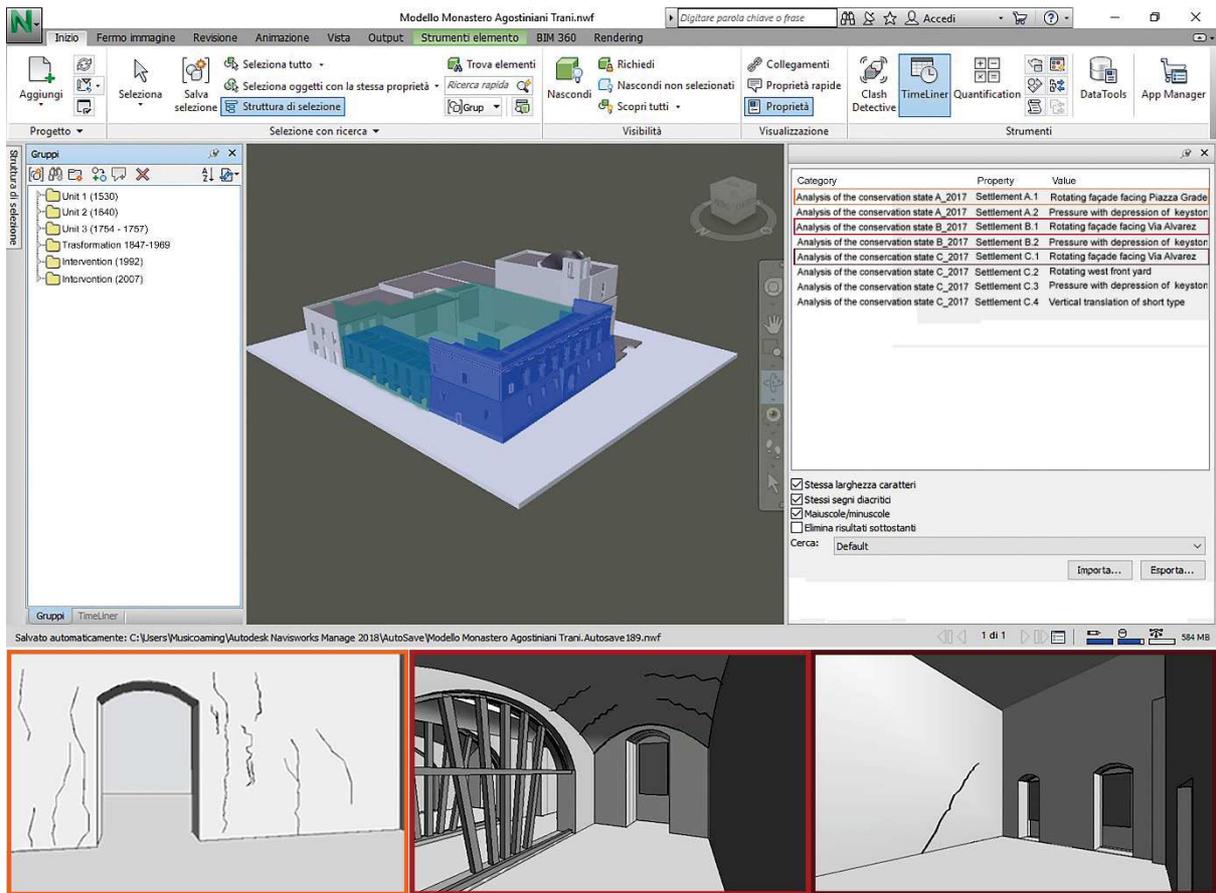
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Figure 6 Integrated BIM database

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843 Figure 7 Selection of categories, property to be analysed, query and property value of the tree  
844 units. Down the cracking pattern of three rooms of the building, two on the ground floor (a)  
845 Unit 1 and (b) Unit 2, and one on the first floor (c) Unit 3.

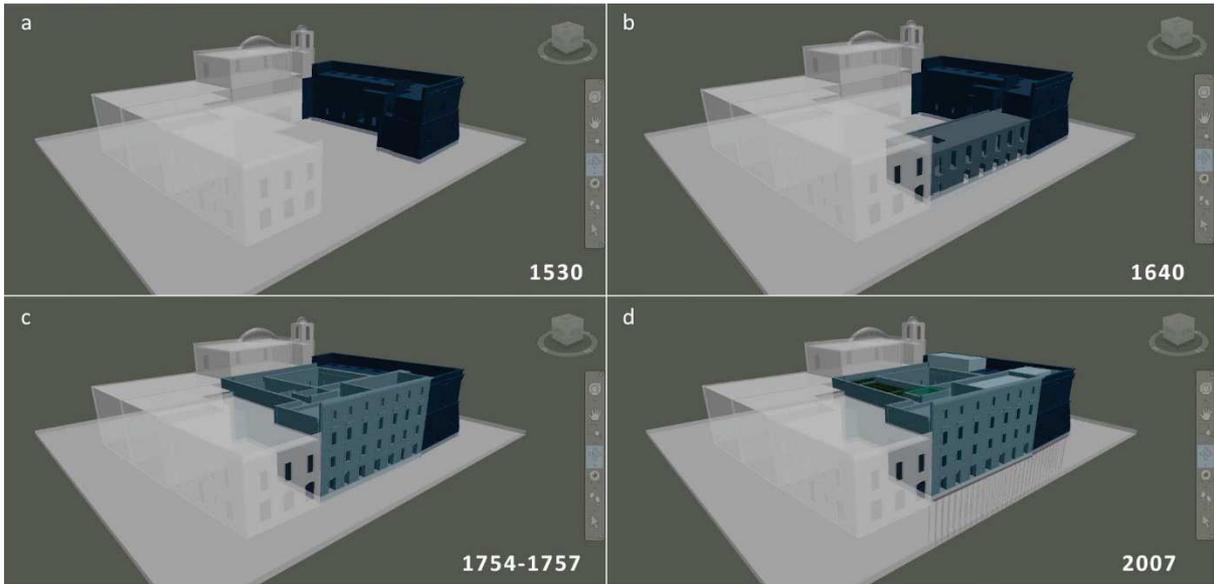
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Figure 8 Simulation of constructive phases

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<b>CONSTRUCTIVE MACRO-COMPONENTS</b>		
<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Data Type</b>
Construction phase	Year of constructive macro-component (Unit 1, Unit 2, Unit 3).	NUMBER
Number of levels	Number of floors in the macro-component.	NUMBER
Maximum height at the eaves	Dimension expressed in meters.	NUMBER
Minimum height at the eaves	Dimension expressed in meters.	NUMBER
Average covered surface	Dimension expressed in square meters.	NUMBER
Volume	Dimension expressed in cubic meters.	NUMBER
Number of rooms	Number of rooms that composes the constructive nucleus.	NUMBER
Use	Use of the rooms that composes the constructive nucleus.	MULTILINE TEXT
Horizontal structural systems	Constructive system of horizontal structural systems (technical typology of vault, slab, etc.).	MULTILINE TEXT
Vertical structural systems	Constructive system of vertical structures (wall).	MULTILINE TEXT
Typology of structural system	Description of structural system (load-bearing masonry, reinforced concrete beams and columns).	MULTILINE TEXT
Roof	Typology of roof.	MULTILINE TEXT
State of conservation	Comments about the state of conservation based on visual inspection.	MULTILINE TEXT
Last use	Indication of the last designated use of the building	MULTILINE TEXT
CP X.N.	Crack Pattern (CP), description of morphology of a crack patterns (N) related to the constructive nucleus (X=1,2,3).	MULTILINE TEXT
Visual appearance	Description about the visual appearance of crack patterns.	MULTILINE TEXT

Settlement X.N.	General description of the settlement related to CP.X.N .	MULTILINE TEXT
Causes settlement X.N.	Description of the causes of settlement X.N	MULTILINE TEXT
Scaffolding	Typological and material description of scaffolding in the constructive nucleus.	MULTILINE TEXT
Incurred interventions	List of incurred interventions to constructive nucleus.	MULTILINE TEXT
Intervention 1992	Description of the intervention.	MULTILINE TEXT
Intervention 2007	Description of the intervention.	MULTILINE TEXT

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872 Table 2 Parameters about previous interventions: Transformation in 1847-1969; Intervention  
873 in 1992, Intervention in 2007

<b>Parameters</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Data Type</b>
Year of intervention	The year of construction of the nucleus.	NUMBER
Accessibility by inspection	Possibility of inspection of the intervention.	MULTILINE TEXT
Typology of intervention	Description about typology of intervention.	MULTILINE TEXT
State of conservation	Comments about the state of conservation based on visual inspection.	MULTILINE TEXT
Settlement prior intervention	Description of Settlement X.N related to CP.X.N.	MULTILINE TEXT
Causes of intervention	Description of the motivation for Settlement X.N.	MULTILINE TEXT
Description of intervention	Description of intervention (phases, materials, constructive techniques).	MULTILINE TEXT
Piles foundation system	Material and dimensional composition of piles foundation.	MULTILINE TEXT
Source of file	Indication about source of files and information.	MULTILINE TEXT

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876 Table 3 Parameters about crack pattern

description of crack patterns		
Parameters	Description	Data Type
Encoding host	Code of constructive element where the cracking is identified.	MULTILINE TEXT
Crack pattern typology	Typology of the crack pattern.	MULTILINE TEXT
Settlement	Description of settlement.	MULTILINE TEXT
Cause of settlement	Description of the causes of settlement.	MULTILINE TEXT
Crack length	Dimension computed along the vertical axis, orthogonal to the floor.	MULTILINE TEXT
Crack upper cusp dimension	Dimension computed along the horizontal axis towards the vertical direction of the wall.	NUMBER
Crack lower cusp dimension	Dimension computed along the horizontal axis towards the vertical direction of the wall.	NUMBER
Crack skirt dimension	Dimension computed along the horizontal axis towards the vertical direction of the wall.	NUMBER
Crack description	Morphological description of the crack (vertical, horizontal, parabolic shape, etc.).	MULTILINE TEXT
Crack progression	Indication about the progress of the cracking.	MULTILINE TEXT
Edges profile	Indication of visual appearance of edges profile (sharp edges, rounded edges).	MULTILINE TEXT
Monitoring system	Indication about monitoring activities (optic fibers, strain gauges, etc.).	MULTILINE TEXT

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884 Table 4 Correlation among constructive evolution, category of transformation/interventions  
885 and tables of properties

<b>Transformation</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Properties</b>
Unit 1(1530)	Analysis of the conservation state A_2017	Tab 1
Unit 2 (1640)	Analysis of the conservation state B_2017	
Unit 3 (1754-1757)	Analysis of conservation state C_2017	
structural consolidation of foundation	Intervention in1992	Tab 2
rainwater penetration solutions	Intervention in 2007	
Current decay state: Crack patterns. The model also presents a hypertextual link to the texturized 3D mesh (Sub- section 4.2).	Analysis of the conservation state X_2017	Tab 3

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