



Location

- **Location.** Buronzo Castle and Historic Refuge, in Buronzo, Vercelli.

- History of the building.

The building is characterized by a series of works performed during various periods of history; it is a complex and varied structure and many additions were built over the course of the centuries. The first construction stage (twelfth to thirteenth century A.D.) lives on in the watchtower, the only surviving element of the original settlement, along with part of the masonry base of the foundations. Between the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries A.D. the fortification was concentrically expanded by the construction of new buildings along the perimeter and of a second line of defence, while the second half of the fifteenth century was witness to the last expansion, the building of the fortress and new structures along the enclosure. These stages were followed by other alterations during the eighteenth century and, more recently, in the 1950s.

The Castle has been damaged by the progressive decay caused by time, neglect and abandon.

Work

- **Type of work.** Structural and architectural development and restoration of the Buronzo Castle and Historic Refuge

- **Work start date.** March 7th 2007

- **Work completion date.** October 17th 2008

- **Commissioned** by the Buronzo Municipality

- **Planners.** Steci s.r.l.

- **General contractor.** Dottor Group S.p.a.

- **Safety coordinator.** Eugenio Castelli, Surveyor.

- **Historic research and laboratory tests.** The restoration project was preceded by research on the building and by a series of stratigraphic tests, samples and archaeological research on the internal walls and inside various rooms, so as to locate any decorated surfaces and to obtain material useful for the reconstruction and construction work to be performed on the Castle.

- Structural/architectural and artistic work.

Almost completed, the restoration work has given the people of Buronzo a portion of their symbolic building back to them, recovering its functionality as well as its aesthetic value. The building was in a complete state of neglect when Dottor Group started the work and bits had been added that made it difficult to see it as it had originally been. The complex was restored by fixing the damaged roof, reinforcing the vaults, building new lofts in steel above the original wooden ones so as to take the weight off the decorated and not perfectly preserved beams, removing and replacing crumbling bricks, fixing numerous cracks on the wall facings. New floorings in cocchiopesto mortar were laid in the main rooms, similar to the original floorings, small traces of which were found; the original decorations covered by layers of repainting were brought to light and the ones that were visible enough imitated; the original internal doors were restored and used; the external fixtures were completely rebuilt, following the original ones in similar shape and colour; gaps in the plaster were filled in, using mortars similar to the original in colour and texture, and technical and service facilities were built in line with the original internal layout.

The necessary samples were taken and approved prior to carrying out work on the cocchiopesto mortar floorings, installing any fixtures and new brickwork, plastering and restoring the decorations.