

# From dome to town: Brescia – Lonato – Montichiari going and coming

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**Abstract** Which are the architectural signs that make recognizable the skylines of the ancient cities, conferring them recognizable elements in comparison to with the different profiles of the contemporary settlements?

Both towers and bell tower certainly represent meaningful signs but the large number and their becoming thicken give little reference points for orientation: if all the churches are endowed with bell tower and many smaller historical centers also have at least a tower, really the frequency of this vertical sign makes it meaningless as symbol of identity of the community or as signal of orientation.

The dome instead, for its lesser use (at least in the western architecture), becomes an element of certain identification. This is confirmed by its dimensional accentuation, that turns it into an "out of scale" sign, in comparison with the urban context, with the architectural building which it is overlapping, or even to the landscape.

The dome becomes, in this way, not only a religious symbol, but also an identity-making's one: a protective "umbrella" of the ground and, at the same time, a wedge that pierces the sky, violating it.

The perceptive route that it's introduced, also the main theme of an university research program in progress, clearly shows that communities draw their skies with this sign in a dynamics of imitation, but even more starting a sort of competition to be represented by the most imposing and visible sign.

It could be called "the triangle of the three domes", the one which connects along the ancient *via* Brescia, the province capital to Lonato and, along the smaller way, Lonato to Montichiari: in fact the common denominator is the same rising of signs or volumes that visually recall each other and that allow, in the distance, the immediate recognition of the cities which they belong.

Objective of the study is to underline a particular spatial and perceptive order that characterizes a limited area with an unpublished and original analytical point of view, "telling" through photographs and drawings a path that is not only the one of the religiousness, but also and above all, of the identity and of the affirmation, mutual and toward the universe, of the local communities.

**Keywords** perception, skyline, identity