

Friends with an Old Book: Compendio della Fortificatione

The title of the book already tells me a lot about the book. "Compendio" means compendium, which is a comprehensive collection of a subject. And "fortificatione" means fortification, which is a military building that was used to defend an area for example.

The book has two chapters and both seem to be talking about military structures. The first part is "DELL ARCHITECTURA MILITARE DEFENSIVA", which is the complete opposite of the second part, that is "DELL ARCHITECTURA MILITARE OFFENSIVA". What even strengthens my thoughts are the pictures, which talk about different kinds of fortifications as "modo" indicates different "modes" (pages: 1 ,6 ,7 ,9 ,12 ,13 ,15 ,16 and 19). The picture on page 28 also shows a kind of military rank-system, as I can pick out infantry and cavalry and general of the artillery.

So it is clear, that this book is about military buildings and different types of them, but I still can't understand what the pictures are trying to explain. All the fortifications seem to be built similar, as I can see sharp edged walls/structures. The pictures could be something like a cut through the building, but I'm not sure as it could also be a floor plan. It may also be an abstraction of a fortification, as it is clear for me, that the author knew how to draw a "classical" fortification, because he has drawn one on page one. I couldn't find any information about the author. Although the theme of this book might indicate his interest for the military. Another thought of mine was, that he was engaged in the Italian military.