

## The Cathedral, *Torre Civica* and *Piazza Grande*, Modena

**Historical background - Engineering geological conditions and problems:**

The magnificent 12th-century cathedral in Modena (Emilia-Romagna region) is a supreme example of Romanesque art, the work of two great artists (Lanfranco and Wiligelmo). Together with the adjoining square and the soaring tower, the cathedral testifies the strength of the faith of its builders and the power of the Canossa dynasty who commissioned the works.

The architectural buildings of the city are mainly grounded on a geological substratum of alluvial deposits of sands and clays.

The historical centre is relatively far from the two rivers that rim the city. In the past some floods interested the area but there's no specific information about damages occurred to the historic and architectonic buildings of the city



**The Torre Civica**  
(<http://piazzagrande.comune.modena.it>)



**Aerial view of the historic centre of Modena** (<http://sit.comune.modena.it>)



**The Cathedral**  
(<http://piazzagrande.comune.modena.it>)

**Supplementary information:**

The Committee decided to inscribe this property considering that the joint creation of Lanfranco and Wiligelmo is a masterpiece of human creative genius in which a new dialectical relationship between architecture and sculpture was created in Romanesque art. The Modena complex bears exceptional witness to the cultural traditions of the 12th century and is one of the best examples of an architectural complex where religious and civic values are combined in a medieval Christian town.

This properties was inserted in the list in 1997.