



International Course on Stone Conservation SC13

SESSION: Stones in Roman Construction

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Adriana Maras

DATE/TIME: Monday, 15th April/ 11:30 – 13:00 (1.5 hours)

SESSION OUTLINE

ABSTRACT

The lecture focuses on the type and quality of building stones used in Rome from the Roman time to the present days. The local geology (mainly volcanic), the Tiber River and the abundant natural construction materials have all contributed to the birth and growth and success of the Roman architecture. A short introduction to the Sabatini and Colli Albani volcanic fields is given to help the identification of local volcanic stones used in Roman building and to better understand their weathering. Some examples will be presented together with an overview of marbles used for internal and external decoration.

OBJECTIVES

- To understand the nature of the building stones used by Romans and their weathering.
- To recognize volcanic stones from the Sabatini and Colli Albani volcanic fields used for building.
- To be able to identify some common marbles used for decoration


CONTENT OUTLINE

- Type and quality of building stones used in Rome
- Description and identification of local volcanic building stones
- Weathering of natural building stones
- Examples of building stones and marbles used for internal and external decoration

READINGS

 = Essential reading material

 = Available online

 de Rita, D. and Giampaolo, C. 2006. "A case study: Ancient Rome was built with volcanic stone from the Roman land," in G. Heiken ed. *Tuffs. Their properties, uses, hydrology, and resources*: Geological Society of America Special Paper 408, p. 127-131.

Grant Heiken, Renato Funciello, and Donatella De Rita, 2005. *The seven hills of Rome: A geological tour of the Eternal City*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

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