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TECHNICIAN TRAINING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MOSAICS

PART 2
THE CONSERVATION OF DETACHED MOSAICS

Mosaics detached and relaid in situ on reinforced concrete: their reinstallation in situ and documentation

Livia Alberti, Ermanno Carbonara, Thomas Roby



The various types of conservation treatments for detached mosaics relaid on reinforced concrete panels

In situ maintenance treatments

- Stabilization by removing areas of tessellatum using protective facing
- Stabilization by removing individual tesserae using a "work aid" photograph

Removing and reinstalling panels on site on layers of mortar

Intervention phases:

- 1. Detachment of mosaic panels
- 2. Preparation of reinstallation area for the mosaic sections
- 3. Removal of old support of mosaic panels
- 4. Reinstallation and presentation of the mosaic

- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
- Numbering of sections to be removed and reference placement for reinstalling sections
- Separation and detachment of panels
- Inversion of panels and transport to the laboratory

Cleaning of deposits of dirt and debris without water.

Cleaning of micro-organisms with water.

Resetting of detached tesserae using a weak mortar.

Filling lacunae with a weak mortar.

- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
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- Separation and detachment of panels
- Inversion of panels and transport to the laboratory





- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
- Numbering of sections to be removed and reference placement for reinstalling sections
- Separation and detachment of panels
- Inversion of panels and transport to the laboratory

Apply one or more layers of fabric to the surface of the mosaic using an adhesive.

- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
- Numbering of sections to be removed and reference placement for reinstalling sections
- Separation and detachment of panels
- Inversion of panels and transport to the laboratory

Characteristics of the adhesive to be used:

Able to be removed without damaging the mosaic.

Compatible with the fabric.

Adequate adhesion.

Adequate vitreous transition temperature.

Appropriate for the mosaic's humidity conditions.

Characteristics of the fabric to be used:

Compatible with the adhesive.

More than one fabric with different weaves.

Adequate resistance.

- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
- Numbering of sections to be removed and reference placement for reinstalling sections
- Separation and detachment of panels
- Inversion of panels and transport to the laboratory

Types of adhesive:

Water-based:

vinyl, acrylic, starch, bone

Solvent-based:

acrylic resin

Types of fabric:

Natural fibers:

cotton, hemp, jute, linen

Synthetic fibers:

polyester, polyamide (nylon)

- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
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- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
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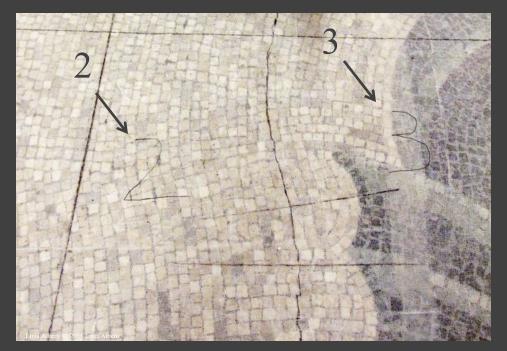
Mark and number the profiles of each section on a map and on each of the sections themselves.

Mark the reference lines between each of the sections.

Create a reference system separate from the mosaic.

- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
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- Separation and detachment of panels
- Inversion of panels and transport to the laboratory





- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
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Detach and lift the sections using long, flat bars and/or a lever.

Slide the sections onto rigid plywood panels.

- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
- Numbering of sections to be removed and reference placement for reinstalling sections
- Separation and detachment of panels
- Inversion of panels and transport to the laboratory





- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
- Numbering of sections to be removed and reference placement for reinstalling sections
- Separation and detachment of panels
- Inversion of panels and transport to the laboratory

Place a plywood panel on the surface of the section.

Hold the two panels together using rigid braces.

Invert the mosaic section.

Secure the panels with the mosaic section, if necessary.

Transport the panels manually or by other means, depending on the weight.

- Cleaning and Stabilization
- Facing of the surface with one or more layers of fabric and adhesive
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- Cleaning and Stabilization
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- Cleaning and Stabilization
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- Cleaning and stabilization of each original preparation layer
- Reconstruction of each preparation layer

Cleaning loose dirt and debris without water.

Cleaning compact dirt with water, if necessary.

Fill lacunae and cracks with lime putty or hydraulic lime-based mortar similar to the original layer to be stabilized.

- Cleaning and stabilization of each original preparation layer
- Reconstruction of each preparation layer





- Cleaning and stabilization of each original preparation layer
- Reconstruction of each preparation layer

Create mortar samples for the various preparatory layers to be integrated.

At the correct level, reconstruct the missing parts of each original preparatory layer, excluding the bedding layer for the tesserae.

Consider the slope for draining rain water from the room and determine the placement of a water drainage opening, if necessary.

- Cleaning and stabilization of each original preparation layer
- Reconstruction of each preparation layer





- Cleaning and stabilization of each original preparation layer
- Reconstruction of each preparation layer





- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections

Make close parallel cuts in the panel using a disc grinder.

Remove the concrete ridges left behind by the cuts, using a hammer and chisel.

Clean the back of the tesserae with micro-chisels, micro-engravers, scalpel, etc.

Attach again with an adhesive any detached tesserae to the fabric, if necessary.

- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections





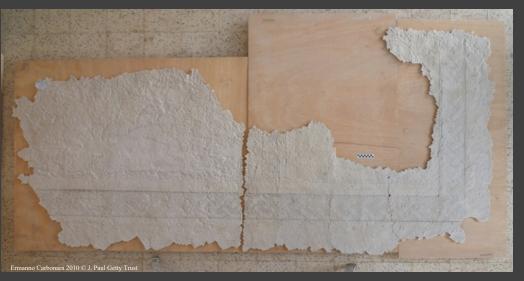
- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections

Procedure to follow in the event of minimal panel deformation:

Verify the connection between the sections, correct their position and mark the new reference lines if errors are detected in the alignment from the previous positioning.

Create new section cuts in the mosaic, if necessary.

- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections





- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections

Procedure to follow in the event of significant panel deformation:

Apply a layer of clay to the back of the sections and invert them.

Tap the surface of the mosaic while the layer of clay is fresh to bring the sections together and correct the deformation of the mosaic, referring to the lines and motifs of the mosaic decoration itself.

Dissolve the facing adhesive with an appropriate solvent, depending on the type of adhesive used, and remove the fabric, verifying that the tesserae do not detach from the clay bedding layer.

Apply a new fabric layer (one or more) to the surface of the mosaic using an appropriate adhesive.

Mark and number the new sections on the map and on each of the sections themselves.

Mark the reference lines between sections and create a new reference system with the in situ structures.

Create new section cuts in the mosaic.

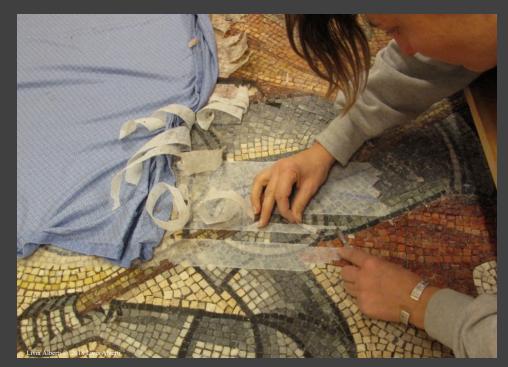
Invert the mosaic sections and remove the clay layer.

- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections





- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections





- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections





- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections

Invert the mosaic sections on plywood panels.

Transport the sections on site.

- Removal of reinforced concrete
- Temporary assembly of mosaic sections
- On-site transport of sections



- On-site reinstallation of mosaic sections
- Removing the fabric and cleaning the adhesive
- Stabilization of the tessellatum

Apply the lime-based mortar on the tesserae and the section reinstallation area.

Reposition the sections one at a time by sliding them onto the mortar beds that are still freshly applied to the section reinstallation area.

Verify the position of the sections using the reference lines between the various sections and the reference systems previously set up around the mosaic.

Tap the surface of the mosaic while the mortar is still soft to bring the sections together and correct deformations, if necessary.

Apply weight to the surface of the mosaic while the mortar is setting.

- On-site reinstallation of mosaic sections
- Removing the fabric and cleaning the adhesive
- Stabilization of the tessellatum







- On-site reinstallation of mosaic sections
- Removing the fabric and cleaning the adhesive
- Stabilization of the tessellatum





- On-site reinstallation of mosaic sections
- Removing the fabric and cleaning the adhesive
- Stabilization of the tessellatum

Dissolve the adhesive with an appropriate solvent, depending on the type of adhesive used.

Remove the fabric one small area at a time, verifying that the tesserae do not detach from the bedding layer.

Clean the adhesive off the mosaic surface with an appropriate solvent.

4. Reinstallation and presentation of the mosaic

- On-site reinstallation of mosaic sections
- Removing the fabric and cleaning the adhesive
- Stabilization of the tessellatum





4. Reinstallation and presentation of the mosaic

- On-site reinstallation of mosaic sections
- Removing the fabric and cleaning the adhesive
- Stabilization of the tessellatum

Remove the old mortar in the lacunae and fill them with appropriate mortar.

Fill the interstices between the tesserae where needed.

4. Reinstallation and presentation of the mosaic

- On-site reinstallation of mosaic sections
- Removing the fabric and cleaning the adhesive
- Stabilization of the tessellatum



Documentation

for in situ reinstallation interventions for detached mosaics

PREPARED BY

DATE

PREPARED BY

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DATE

	D. 3 – CONDITION			STUDY PHASE
NCDECTION TVDE	☐ Initial inspection		SAIC ID/ Maintenar	
NSPECTION TYPE	☐ Initial inspection	1	☐ Mairiteriai	ice cycle
PRESENT EXPOSURE CON	IDITIONS ☐ Reburied		Underen	ala altay
In open air		11	☐ Under an open shelter☐ Under a closed shelter	
☐ Walked on ☐ Parts not excavated o	☐ Under a removable cover or inaccessible		Grider a closed stielder	
	check the boxes of all the deterio on phenomena that have occurre	•	•	
TRUCTURAL DETERIORA	ATION		(Condition Ass	sessment Map No. 1)
☐ Tessellatum lacunae		☐ Depress		
☐ Cracks		☐ Detachments between mosaic layers		
☐ Bulges				,
SURFACE DETERIORATIO	N		(Condition Ass	sessment Map No. 2)
☐ Detached tesserae		Stains		
☐ Deteriorated tessera	e	☐ Incrusta	ntions	
☐ Deteriorated mortar	between tesserae	☐ Efflores	cence	
PRESENCE OF BIO-DETER	RIORATION AGENTS		(Condition Ass	sessment Map No. 3)
☐ Micro-organisms		☐ Tunnels	or entrance hole	s made by
☐ Vegetation		insects and other animals		
DETERIORATION OF INTE				sessment Map No. 4)
☐ Deteriorated lacunae	e fills or		iched tesserae	
edging repairs		Deteriorated support panels		
☐ Deteriorated mortar	between tesserae	Deteriorated support metal reinforcement		etal reinforcements
Reburial:	Presence of vegetat	ion		
	Loss of fill materials			
	☐ Deteriorated separa	ition membran	es	
DETERIORATION OF INTE	RVENTIONS AROUND THE M	IOSAIC		
Clogged drainage		☐ Deteriorate	d cover or shelter	
☐ Stabilized walls with	new deterioration	☐ Damaged a	ccess barrier	
		Other:		
DBSERVATIONS ON THE (CONDITION ASSESSMENT			
GENERAL CONDITION OF	THE MOSAIC			
	Good	☐ Fair	☐ Bad	d
☐ Date recommende (No intervention requ	ed for next inspection: uired)			
☐ Date recommende	ed for intervention: d)			
PREPARED BY			DATE	

LEGEND - CONDITION ASSESSMENT MAP NO. 4 DETERIORATION OF INTERVENTIONS			
	MOSAIC ID//////		
	Deteriorated lacunae fills or edging repairs		
	Deteriorated mortar between tesserae		
••••	Re-detached tesserae or detached tesserae of a re-laid mosaic		
	Deformed mosaic support panels		
•••	Bulging areas in support panels		
	Visible deterioration of metal reinforcements in support panels		
	Detachment between tessellatum and support panels		
<u>~</u>	Cracks in mosaic support panels		
PREPARED BY	DATE		

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Use the additional sheet to create specific legends

ADDITIONAL SHEET	MOSAIC ID	/	/	/_

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Example of documentation

Hergla, Tunisia (2010)

House "of the two peristyles" ID: HE/H2P/12



DATA FORM NO. 1 - IDENTIFICATION

STUDY PHASE

MOSAICID HE, H2P, 12

This form must be completed with the site manager. It should be supplemented by an overall photograph of the mosaic and a plan of the building indicating the location of the room.

Hergla (HE) SITE

House "of the two peristyles" (H2P) BUILDING

12 (12) ROOM

SECTIONS, FRAGMENTS OR LEVELS

(Use Arabic numerals for sections, letters for fraaments, Roman numerals for levels)

MOSAIC ID

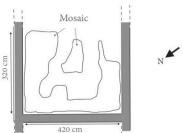
EXISTING DOCUMENTATION ABOUT THE MOSAIC AND ITS CONSERVATION

(References of publications, plans, photographs, drawings and other documents)

DATE OF MOSAIC EXCAVATION:

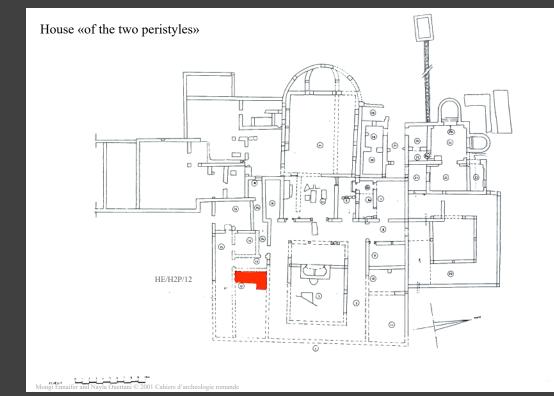
DIMENSIONS AND NUMBERING OF FRAGMENTS, SECTIONS OR LEVELS

(Use an existing drawing or make a sketch of the mosaic indicating the north and the walls of the room)



GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUE

(Type of pavement, decoration, materials, colors, tesserae sizes, etc.)





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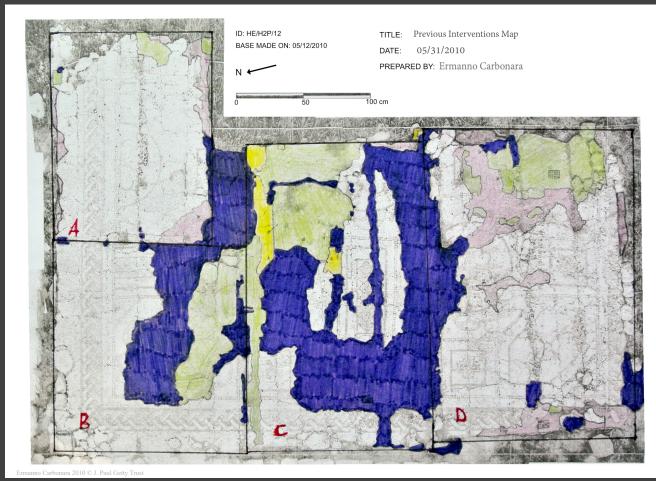
HE-H2P-12 2010-05 1ID VueGénérale

05/2010

Previous Interventions

DATA FORM NO. 2 – PREVIOUS INTERVENTIONS MOSAIC ID HE H2P, 12				
PREVIOUS INTERVENTIO	NS ON THE MOSAIC			
Mortar repairs	X Infilling of lacunae			
	☐ Edging repair			
	☐ Filling of interstices between tesserae			
	☐ Grouting of voids between preparatory layers			
Reintegration of lacunae	☐ with tesserae			
	 with pieces of stone, brick or other material inserted into the mortar 			
Lifting and relaying on a	■ Reinforced concrete/cement support (1969)			
new support	☐ Other type of support:			
Surface treatment	☐ Chemical cleaning			
	☐ Mechanical abrasion			
	☐ Application of a surface product (resin, wax, etc.)			
	☐ Other:			

LEGEND .	- PREVIOUS INTERVENT	ONS MAP
		MOSAIC ID HE, H2P, 12
Mortar repair		
L	Infilling of lacunae Reinforced c	oncrete panel mortar visible on the surface (1969)
	Edging repair	Old 1 2 3 4 New
		mortar morta
\leq	Outline of each infilling or edging mo	rtar
-	Overlapping between mortar layers (r	new → old)
	,	·· / · ·,
	Filling of interstices between tesserae	
		ment mortar repair. Cement mortar rep
Yellov	v color (1969) Gr	ey-yellow color 4 Dark grey color
Reintegration	of lacunae	
Reintegration		
	Reintegration with tesserae	
	Reintegration with:	
Detached mo		
Detacned mo		
	Outline of the support panels of a dec	ached mosaic re-laid in situ /panel designations A, B, C, D
	Location of the metal reinforcements	
	8 / 12 F T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T T	
	Parts detached and stored elsewhere	
Other times	fi-ttions	
Otner types o	f interventions	
	Reburial outline	
	Drainage openings	
	Diamage openings	



DATE 05/31/2010

TITLE: Condition Assessment Map No.1- Structural deterioration BASE MADE ON: 05/12/2010 05/31/2010 PREPARED BY: Ermanno Carbonara

DATA FORM NO. 3 - CONDITION ASSESSMENT

X Initial inspection INSPECTION TYPE

X In open air

Reburied ☐ Under an open shelter Malked on ☐ Under a removable cover ☐ Under a closed shelter

☐ Parts not excavated or inaccessible

During the initial inspection, check the boxes of all the deterioration phenomena that are present. During maintenance cycles, only indicate new deterioration phenomena that have occurred since the last inspection or last intervention.

□ Depressions X Tessellatum lacunae

☐ Cracks

☐ Detachments between mosaic layers

☐ Bulges SURFACE DETERIORATION

(Condition Assessment Map No. 2)

☐ Maintenance cycle

☐ Detached tesserae

X Stains

■ Deteriorated tesserae

☐ Incrustations ☐ Efflorescence ☐ Deteriorated mortar between tesserae

LEGEND - CONDITION ASSESSMENT MAP NO. 1 STRUCTURAL DETERIORATION

MOSAIC ID HE, H2P, 12

Tessellatum lacunae

Cracks

 \mathcal{W} Depressions

Detachments between mosaic layers

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DATA FORM NO. 3 - CONDITION ASSESSMENT X Initial inspection

Reburied

☐ Under a removable cover

Detached tesserae

Deteriorated tesserae

Incrustations

Efflorescence

Deteriorated mortar between tesserae

During the initial inspection, check the boxes of all the deterioration phenomena that are present. During maintenance cycles, only indicate new deterioration phenomena that have occurred since the last inspection or last intervention.

□ Depressions

☐ Incrustations

☐ Efflorescence

X Stains

LEGEND - CONDITION ASSESSMENT MAP NO. 2 SURFACE DETERIORATION

☐ Maintenance cycle

☐ Under an open shelter

☐ Under a closed shelter

☐ Detachments between mosaic layers

(Condition Assessment Map No. 1)

(Condition Assessment Map No. 2)

INSPECTION TYPE

X Tessellatum lacunae

SURFACE DETERIORATION

☐ Detached tesserae ■ Deteriorated tesserae

☐ Parts not excavated or inaccessible

☐ Deteriorated mortar between tesserae

•••••

X In open air Malked on

☐ Cracks ☐ Bulges

DATE 05/31/2010

MOSAIC ID HE, H2P, 12

ID: HE/H2P/12 TITLE: Condition Assessment Map No.2 - Surface deterioration BASE MADE ON: 05/12/2010 05/31/2010 PREPARED BY: Ermanno Carbonara

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PREPARED BY Ermanno Carbonara

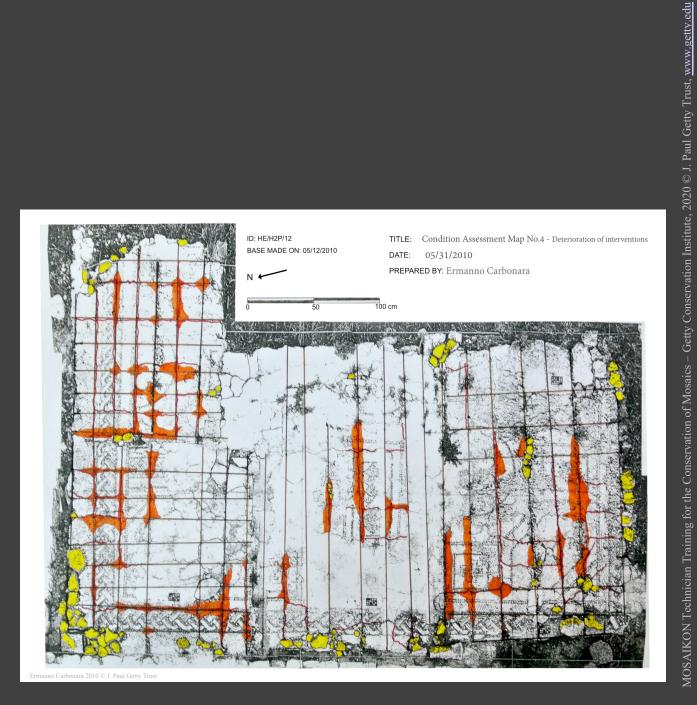
DATE 05/31/2010

DATA FORM NO. 3 - CONDITION ASSESSMENT X Initial inspection INSPECTION TYPE ☐ Maintenance cycle Reburied ☐ Under an open shelter X In open air Malked on ☐ Under a removable cover ☐ Under a closed shelter ☐ Parts not excavated or inaccessible During the initial inspection, check the boxes of all the deterioration phenomena that are present. During maintenance cycles, only indicate new deterioration phenomena that have occurred since the last inspection or last intervention. (Condition Assessment Map No. 1) ☐ Depressions X Tessellatum lacunae ☐ Cracks ☐ Detachments between mosaic layers ■ Bulges (Condition Assessment Map No. 2) SURFACE DETERIORATION X Stains ☐ Detached tesserae ■ Deteriorated tesserae ☐ Incrustations ☐ Deteriorated mortar between tesserae ☐ Efflorescence **LEGEND - CONDITION ASSESSMENT MAP NO. 3** PRESENCE OF BIO-DETERIORATION AGENTS MOSAICID HE, H2P, 12 Micro-organisms Vegetation Tunnels or entrance holes made by insects and other animals

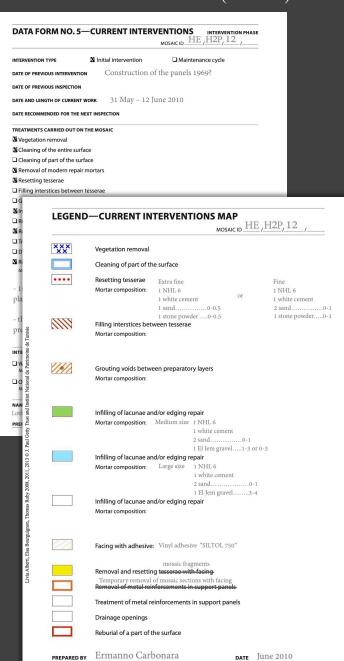


DATE 05/31/2010

DATA FORM NO. 3 - CONDITION ASSESSMENT INSPECTION TYPE X Initial inspection ☐ Maintenance cycle Reburied ☐ Under an open shelter X In open air ■ Walked on ☐ Under a removable cover ☐ Under a closed shelter ☐ Parts not excavated or inaccessible $During \ the \ initial \ inspection, check \ the \ boxes \ of \ all \ the \ deterioration \ phenomena \ that \ are \ present. \ During \ maintenance \ cycles,$ only indicate new deterioration phenomena that have occurred since the last inspection or last intervention (Condition Assessment Map No. 1) □ Depressions X Tessellatum lacunae ☐ Detachments between mosaic layers ☐ Cracks □ Bulges (Condition Assessment Map No. 2) SURFACE DETERIORATION X Stains ☐ Detached tesserae ■ Deteriorated tesserae ☐ Incrustations ☐ Deteriorated mortar between tesserae ☐ Efflorescence **LEGEND - CONDITION ASSESSMENT MAP NO. 4 DETERIORATION OF INTERVENTIONS** MOSAICID HE, H2P, 12 Deteriorated lacunae fills or edging repairs Deteriorated mortar between tesserae • • • • Re-detached tesserae or detached tesserae of a re-laid mosaic Deformed mosaic support panels ••• Bulging areas in support panels Visible deterioration of metal reinforcements in support panels Detachment between tessellatum and support panels Cracks in mosaic support panels Detached fragments



Current Interventions (Phase 1)

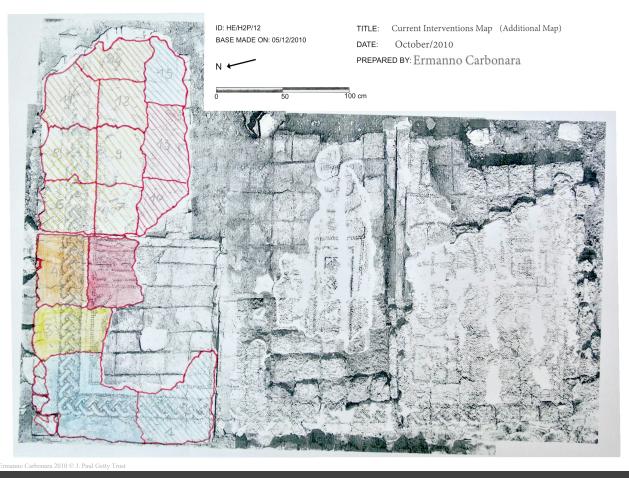




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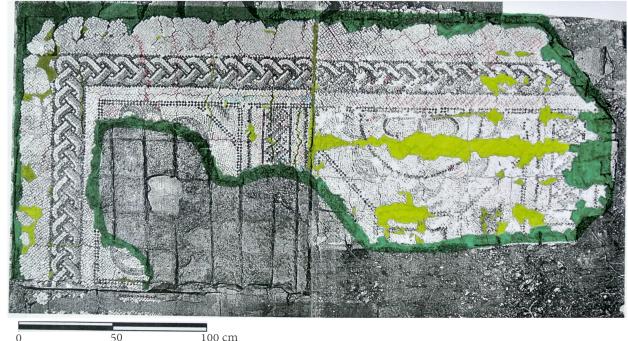
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0 50 1

ID: HE/H2P/12 / North area N

1

TITLE: Current Interventions Map

DATE: 16-22 November, 2010

PREPARED BY: Ermanno Carbonara

rmanno Carbonara 2010 © J. Paul Getty Trust

BASE MADE ON: 06/12/2010

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MOSAIKON is a partnership of four institutions: the Getty Conservation Institute, the Getty Foundation, ICCROM, and ICCM. The aims of the project are to strengthen the network of professionals concerned with the conservation, restoration, maintenance, and management of mosaic heritage in the southern and eastern Mediterranean region; provide training to a variety of individuals involved in mosaics conservation and, more generally, with the management of archaeological sites and museums with mosaics; work with national and international bodies to provide a more favorable legislative, regulatory, and economic environment for the conservation of mosaics in the Mediterranean; and promote the dissemination and exchange of information.

