

A Year in the Field

2014

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Welcome to the 2014 edition of *A Year in the Field*, which provides a snapshot of the work of The Getty Conservation Institute's Field Projects Department for 2014. The department's purpose is to advance conservation practice worldwide through the development and implementation of model field projects that incorporate strong research, planning and educational objectives. In all projects, the GCI works with local partners to build knowledge, skills and experience and ensure sustainability.

This year proved another extremely busy one and as you will see from the work described herein we spent effort on the dissemination of the outcomes of our work. We completed a number of articles, reports and other publications. We also provided online access to didactic materials across a number of our training areas such as stone and mosaics conservation.

Every few years the bi- or tri-annual conferences of the key professional organizations that our team participates in coincide. 2014 was one such year and we presented projects and were engaged with expert committees at the DOCOMOMO International Conference, ICOMOS General Assembly, the ICOM-CC and ICCM conferences amongst others.

Fieldwork continued at many of our sites across the world. Here in Los Angeles we began the investigation and diagnostics work at Louis Kahn's Salk Biological Institute and the work on the conservation management plan at the Eames House continued, both projects that contribute to the Conserving Modern Architecture Initiative.

In 2016 the Getty will host an exhibition on the Mogao Grottoes that will highlight our long-term collaboration with the Dunhuang Academy in China, and work began in anticipation of this. The Arches Project, a partnership with the World Monument's Fund, began the system's first customization of this cutting edge inventory and heritage management system for the City of Los Angeles. This is the culmination of the Arches project and Los Angeles Historic Resources project, a long-term partnership with local government to survey the historic resources of our resident city and make this information publicly accessible. Our work at the Kasbah of Taourirt, Morocco, included emergency stabilization, initial conservation work and training for our local partners in documentation and recording, and practical conservation of earthen architecture. Training courses in site management and mosaics conservation continued in 2014 under the MOSAIKON initiative.

Our work is only possible because of our strong collaborative partnerships and the involvement of many dedicated conservation professional colleagues and I would like to thank them all for working with us over another busy and successful year.

Susan Macdonald
Field Projects



PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Archaeological Site Conservation & Management

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE TOMB OF TUTANKHAMEN



Plans are fully developed for the refurbishment of the tomb infrastructure – lighting, flooring, stairs and ramp, but before this can proceed the mummy of Tutankhamen must be moved from the tomb for its safety, since construction will be undertaken. We are in discussion with the Ministry of State for Antiquities as to how the mummy should be moved and safely stored. Hopefully these questions can be resolved early in 2015, after which conservation of the burial chamber will go forward.

CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE VALLEY OF THE QUEENS



Joint implementation of the project with Egypt's Ministry of State for Antiquities has been postponed since 2011 due to the political situation in Egypt. The team continues to write up the report on the previous phases of work.

MOGAO EXHIBITION PLANNING



Planning for the collaborative exhibition of the Getty Conservation Institute, the Getty Research Institute, and the Dunhuang Academy, to be held at the Getty Center, May-September 2016, is moving forward. Loans from European institutions have been negotiated and three full-size exact facsimiles of cave temples will be sent from the Mogao Grottoes of Dunhuang. The exhibition will highlight the long-term collaboration of the GCI and the Dunhuang Academy in site and wall painting conservation and present the rich history of the Mogao Grottoes to the American public for the first time.

Building Materials

EARTHEN ARCHITECTURE INITIATIVE: SEISMIC RETROFITTING PROJECT, PERU



The publication of the SRP first phase was edited in Spanish, posted on the GCI website and presented in a public event sponsored by the Ministry of Culture in October. The testing of more than 300 material and structural characterizations of historic components of the SRP building prototypes were finished and the results have begun to be published. The project continued with the production of construction drawings for the seismic retrofitting of two of the prototype buildings: Ica Cathedral and Kuño Tambo Church. In preparation for the retrofit work, emergency and protective conservation work was undertaken to the church wall paintings.

INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON STONE CONSERVATION



Planning is currently underway for the next course, which will take place from April 15 to July 3, 2015. The course will host twenty mid-career professionals and will focus on theoretical and practical methodologies for stone conservation, including a field work practicum at Rome's Non-Catholic Cemetery.

CHINA PRINCIPLES

The GCI continued to work with the State Administration for Cultural Heritage on revisions to the China Principles. Final editing of the English translation was completed and is being prepared for printing by China ICOMOS. The six-year visitor capacity study undertaken for the Mogao Grottoes was published and implementation of the Shuxiang conservation plan was presented at the IIC conference in Hong Kong; both are application projects of the China Principles. GCI staff participated in the opening of the new Visitor Center at Mogao and in the conference celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Dunhuang Academy.

HERITAGE VALUES, STAKEHOLDERS, AND CONSENSUS BUILDING

The project prepared a publication of the proceedings of a GCI workshop focused on promoting the application of consensus building and dispute resolution methods to the practice of heritage site conservation and management.

CONSERVATION OF *AMÉRICA TROPICAL*

Following the mural's conservation in 2012, in 2014 a monitoring and long-term maintenance plan was initiated for the mural. Additionally, the proceedings of the international symposium on the conservation of Siqueiros' murals were published by GCI as an online resource.

HERCULANEUM: CASA DEL BICENTENARIO

The team carried out consolidation of powdering and flaking paint and plasters of the wall paintings in the tablinum of the Casa del Bicentenario. Research continued into the characterization of original and added materials used in the execution and remounting of the wall paintings. Data regarding environmental conditions were synthesized based on monitoring of surface and ambient conditions in and around the room. A screened doorway was designed and installed to stabilize climatic conditions in the tablinum, and will be evaluated after one year.

INJECTION GROUTS FOR THE CONSERVATION OF ARCHITECTURAL SURFACES: RESEARCH & EVALUATION

Following the online publication and distribution of a manual for the evaluation of injection grouts for architectural surfaces in fall 2013, dissemination of project results is ongoing, including participation in technical working groups of international organizations, publications, workshops, and presentations at professional conferences. In 2014, results of the project were presented at MonuBASIN in Ankara, Turkey and at ICOM-CC in Melbourne, Australia.

MOSAIKON: BULLA REGIA

Conservation planning for the almost 400 mosaics progressed with the aid of a building-level planning form and the production of analytical maps of mosaics from the Geographic Information System (GIS) developed for the site. Subsequently, mosaic conservation interventions site-wide began with the emergency stabilization and protection of highest priority mosaics following protocols developed for use by the GCI-trained technicians and other site staff. The conservation and presentation of the Maison de la Chasse, continued with the stabilization of wall plasters and walls and reburial of selected rooms and mosaics.

MOSAIKON: CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES WITH MOSAICS



Twenty site managers and conservators representing twelve countries from throughout the southern and eastern Mediterranean region are currently participating in the second regional course, which began in April 2014 at the World Heritage site of Paphos, Cyprus. The approximately year-long course includes an extended mentoring period during which the participants carry out practical assignments relating to their own work. Three assignments have been completed this year. Selected participants from the current course, along with alumni from the first course, attended the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics conference in October, 2014 in Sardinia; and together took part in a specialized one-day workshop on grant writing.

MOSAIKON: REGIONAL TECHNICIAN TRAINING



Following on the first regional course for technician-level practitioners from North Africa in the conservation of in situ mosaics in 2012-2013, meetings were held with Moroccan authorities in 2014 and plans were made to conduct the next course in 2015-16 for another 10-12 trainees at the site of Volubilis.

MOSAIKON: SHELTERS FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MOSAICS



A planning meeting was held with project partners at the GCI in September 2014 about the development and publication of practical guidelines for sheltering archaeological sites with mosaics. The guidelines will cover the entire sheltering process, including making the decision of whether or not to shelter, performance criteria and the architectural response, implementation, and post-construction evaluation and maintenance requirements.

SOUTHERN AFRICAN ROCK ART PROJECT



In August 2014 a forum on issues in rock art management, conservation, public policy and awareness-raising was organized in Kakadu National Park in northern Australia in collaboration with Australian National Parks, Aboriginal communities that own and manage rock art sites, and Griffith University with support from mining companies operating in the region. Participants from southern African countries and the Trust for African Rock Art met with Australian counterparts over a two-week period to visit sites managed by local communities and develop a position paper, provisionally entitled "Rock Art – a treasure of humanity at risk," to be disseminated in various formats and to multiple audiences both professional and public.

WALL PAINTINGS AT THE MOGAO GROTTOS



Research continued on treatment options for the endemic problem of the flaking of the wall paintings because of the presence of salts, past treatment materials and the intrusion of external humidity. At the request of the Dunhuang Academy we are evaluating design options for a new door system for the 492 decorated caves. GCI advice on lighting and presentation in Cave 148 (Buddha in Nirvana) was implemented by the Dunhuang Academy.

INTEGRATED CONSERVATION PLAN FOR THE EARTHEN KSAR AND KASBAH OF TAOURIRT IN SOUTHERN MOROCCO



The project continued its second phase with the development of a Conservation and Rehabilitation Plan for the site to be used as a model for similar earthen kasbahs in the region. This work included the training of CERKAS personnel in advanced documentation techniques for earthen sites, principles for the development of a management plan, and site conditions assessment and diagnosis. A workshop on the analysis of earthen materials was also held, and the project team began planning and implementation of urgent conservation measures for the Caid Residence including re-roofing and the stabilization of wall paintings.

URBAN CONSERVATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA



In May 2014, several participants from two previous urban conservation training courses (2012 and 2013) came to Penang for a three-day conference, attended also by course instructors. Past participants discussed how the course had influenced their work, met with their post-course mentors, and heard lectures about current urban conservation practices in the Asia region. In October 2014, partners met to plan the third delivery of the course, which will occur in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in April 2015.

CONSERVING MODERN ARCHITECTURE INITIATIVE (CMAI)



The CMAI hosted a series of well-attended public lectures over 2014, and began work on the first book on historic concrete in a new series: "Conserving Modern Heritage: Case Studies from the Field." An experts meeting on the subject of concrete conservation was held in June 2014, the outcomes of which are available on our website. We also began work on an annotated bibliography on the conservation of historic concrete that will be published in 2015.

EAMES HOUSE CONSERVATION PROJECT



Research undertaken in FY14 continues to focus on climate assessment to aid in the environmental optimization for the interior of the house and its collection. The project team, aided by consultant GML Heritage, began developing the Conservation Management Plan to inform a long-term strategy for the care and conservation of the house.

SALK INSTITUTE CONSERVATION PROJECT



A second field project was initiated under CMAI with the Salk Biological Institute, Louis Kahn's 1976 building. Treatment recommendations for cleaning and repair of the teak window-wall assemblies were developed based upon historic research, significance and condition assessments, scientific analysis, and diagnosis. Planning for on-site trial mock-ups of the recommended treatments is underway.

CONTEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE IN THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT



The preparation of an annotated bibliography, with key doctrinal, philosophical, and critical texts and case studies on the topic of contemporary architecture in historic environments, was completed. The bibliography will be published in early 2015 as a resource for the professional community.

ARCHES: HERITAGE INVENTORY AND MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS



Arches is an open source, web-based geospatial information system for the international heritage field to inventory and manage immovable cultural heritage. In March 2014, version 2.0 of the system was released. The project partners held a second Arches community workshop in England with participants from a number of North American, United Kingdom, and European heritage government authorities and research institutions to help them in their evaluations or implementations of the software, to receive feedback on development to date, and to promote the growth of an Arches open source community. Arches was selected to receive two Google Summer of Code interns to work on software development. The GCI is customizing Arches for deployment by the City of Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEY - HISTORIC PLACES LA



The City of Los Angeles has completed field surveys in the Community Plans Areas of Venice, Westwood, Wilshire, and Boyle Heights. In addition, field surveys began in eight Community Plan Areas in the San Fernando Valley: Van Nuys-North Sherman Oaks; Chatsworth-Porter Ranch; Northridge; Reseda-West Van Nuys; Granada Hills/Knollwood; Sylmar, Sun Valley-La Tuna Canyon; and Sunland-Tujunga-Lake View Terrace-Shadow Hills-East La Tuna Canyon. In 2014, the GCI worked to customize the Arches information system for use by the city to manage and publish online data collected through the survey. This will be the first full customization of the Arches system in the United States.

MIDDLE EASTERN GEODATABASE FOR ANTIQUITIES (MEGA)-JORDAN



The Jordanian Department of Antiquities continued to make regular use of the MEGA-Jordan system, which is online at: megajordan.org.

PARTNERS

Archaeological Research Unit of the University of Cyprus
 Australian National Parks
 Badan Warisan Malaysia
 Centre de Conservation et de Réhabilitation du Patrimoine Architectural des Zones Atlasiques et Sub-atlasiques, Maroc (CERKAS)
 Chengde Cultural Heritage Bureau
 Chinese Academy of Cultural Heritage
 City of Los Angeles
 Courtauld Institute of Art
 Department of Antiquities of Cyprus
 Department of Antiquities of Libya
 Direction du Patrimoine, Maroc
 Direction du Patrimoine Culturel, Algérie
 Direction du Patrimoine Culturel, Maroc
 Dunhuang Academy, China
 Eames Foundation
 English Heritage
 Flanders Heritage Agency
 GCI Council
 Getty Foundation
 Getty Research Institute
 Griffith University

Herculaneum Conservation Project
 Institut National du Patrimoine, Tunisie
 International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)
 International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM)
 Israel Antiquities Authority
 J. Paul Getty Museum
 Jordanian Department of Antiquities
 Los Angeles City Council
 Ministerio de Cultura del Perú
 Ministry of State for Antiquities, Egypt
 Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome
 Office of Historic Resources, City of Los Angeles
 Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú
 Salk Institute for Biological Studies
 Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni archeologici di Pompei Ercolano e Stabia
 State Administration of Cultural Heritage, China
 Think City, Penang, Malaysia
 Trust for African Rock Art
 University College London
 World Monuments Fund

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Bicer-Simsir, Beril. 2014. "Evaluation of Injection Grouts for the Conservation of Wall Paintings and Plasters in Herculaneum." Presentation at the 9th International Symposium on the Conservation of Monuments in the Mediterranean Basin, Ankara, Turkey, June 3-5.
- Bicer-Simsir, Beril. 2014. "Round Robin Testing of Fresh Properties of Injection Grouts." Presentation at the National Laboratory of Civil Engineering (LNEC) in Lisbon, Portugal, November 3.
- Bicer-Simsir, Beril, and Leslie Rainer. 2014. "Field Test Methods for Comparative Evaluation of Lime-based Hydraulic Injection Grouts for the Conservation of Architectural Surfaces." Presentation at the ICOM-CC 17th Triennial Conference, Building Strong Culture through Conservation, Melbourne, Australia, September 15-19.
- Carlisle, Phil K., Yiannis Avramides, Alison Dalgity, and David Myers. 2014. "The Arches Heritage Inventory and Management System: A Standards-based Approach to the Management of Cultural Heritage Information." Paper presented at the International Committee for Documentation of the International Council of Museums (CIDOC) conference: Access and Understanding-Networking in the Digital Era, Dresden, Germany, September 6-11. archesproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/1-1_Carlisle_Dalgity_et-al_paper.pdf.
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- Cody, Jeff. 2014. "Cultural Mapping for Conservation Practice: Lessons from a Training Course in Penang, Malaysia." Paper presented at the 18th General Assembly, International Council of Monuments and Sites [ICOMOS], Florence, Italy, November 10-14.
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- Maekawa, Shin. 2014. "Modeling Impacts of Visitation on Cave Environments." Paper presented at ICOMOS-ISCS International Conference on Conservation of Stone and Earthen Architectural Heritage, Kongju National University, Gongju, Republic of Korea, May 20-23. Web publication forthcoming.
- Macdonald, Susan. 2014. "Somewhere between History and Current Events: Conserving Modern Heritage." Paper presented at Docomomo Belgium's Lecture Series: Conservation as Innovative Practice, Leuven, Belgium, March 13.
- Myers, David. 2014. "The Arches Heritage Inventory and Management System: A Free and Open Source Tool for the International Heritage Field." Presentation at 18th ICOMOS General Assembly and Scientific Symposium, Florence, Italy, November 10-14.
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- Rainer, Leslie. 2014. "Conservation at Herculaneum." Presented at the Lunch and Learn Series, California Science Center, Los Angeles, California, November 20.
- Rainer, Leslie. 2014. "Conservation of David Alfaro Siqueiros' *América Tropical*." Panel discussion at the Science of Art Conservation: Murals. Mixing Arts and Science Part IV. East Los Angeles College, Los Angeles, California, December 3.
- Rainer, Leslie. 2014. "Grout Workshop." Conducted for the Murals, Stone and Rock Art Working Group, ICOM-CC. Melbourne, Australia, September 20.
- Roby, Thomas, Leslie Friedman, Hamida Rhouma, Moheddine Chaouali, Livia Alberti, Ermanno Carbonara, Cristina Caldi, Ascanio D'Andrea, Daniele Sepio. 2014. "Conservation Planning for Excavated Mosaics at the Site of Bulla Regia, Tunisia: A Component of the MOSAIKON Initiative." Presentation at 12th Conference of the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM), "Conservation and presentation of mosaics: At what cost?", Sassari-Alghero, Italy, October 27-31.
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For further information on current and past projects visit:
http://www.getty.edu/conservation/about/field_projects/index.html

