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TECHNICIAN TRAINING FOR THE CONSERVATION OF MOSAICS

PART 1
THE CONSERVATION OF IN SITU MOSAICS

Different levels of conservation treatment



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Different levels of conservation treatment

First-aid or emergency care

Conservation intervention

Maintenance

First-aid or emergency care

The purpose of first-aid treatments is to stabilize only the areas of the mosaic in danger of immediate loss, pending intervention within the framework of a full conservation program.

Steps

Assessment of emergency

- Identification of risks and priorities

Intervention

- Localized and/or temporary protection operations
- Localized and/or temporary stabilization operations

Planning

- Develop a program for the complete stabilization of the mosaic

Conservation intervention

The purpose of conservation treatment is to re-establish the structural integrity of the mosaic, through minimum intervention.

Steps

Preliminary studies

- Archaeological study
- Identification of the construction technique
- Scientific analyses in laboratory and/or in the field to identify the causes of deterioration and the constituent materials of the mosaic

Steps

Determine the intervention methodology

- Determine the types and the sequence of the operations to be carried out
- Identification of the type of protection measures to use
- Selection of materials to use

Conservation program

- Calculation of time and cost of the work

Intervention

- Carrying out planned conservation operations and preventive measures

Maintenance program

- Develop a program of regular inspections of condition

Maintenance

The purpose of maintenance interventions is to preserve the structural integrity of the mosaic over a long period of time after its conservation treatment or initial stabilization intervention carried out by technicians.

Steps

Maintenance cycle

- Regular monitoring of the mosaic condition
- Prevention measures to avoid continuation of deterioration
- Stabilization operations to stop new deterioration phenomena (if necessary)

New maintenance cycle

Tools for the conservation and maintenance of mosaics



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Tool box

- Scalpels with interchangeable blades
- Scalpel blades
- Scalpels with fixed blade
- Spatulas
- Dental spatulas
- Dental picks
- Tweezers
- Chisels (width 3-10 mm)
- Hammers (weight 200-500 grams)
- Hand drills and bits(2 – 2.2 mm)
- Syringes (volume 20 - 50 cc)
- Syringe needles (diameter 1.8 – 2.2 mm)
- Vaseline
- Trowels
- Pair of scissors

- Small dustpans and brushes
- Flat paint brushes (width 2-6 cm)
- Toothbrushes
- Nailbrushes
- Large brushes
- Sponges
- Cotton
- Colored sticker dots
- Wooden sticks
- Rubber manual blower bulbs
- Small rubber bowls to mix mortar
- Plastic pitchers
- Water sprayers
- Water buckets

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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.

