

SUPSI

Conservation of archaeological mosaics in Israel

The case of the conservation of the Roman mosaic

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Invito alla conferenza

Martedì 22 maggio 2018, ore 16:30

Aula C-102

Campus Trevano, Canobbio

Corso di laurea in

Conservazione e restauro



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Israel has more than 7000 sites with mosaics from different historical periods. These sites are under constant threat due to urban development, mismanagement and lack of funds.

The climatic context of these sites varies from maritime environment, with high humidity and aerosol in the coastal area, to desert climate in the South and South-East of the country where extreme temperature fluctuations occur.

The Conservation Department of the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) is relatively young as it exists from 1988. It is responsible for the preservation of the state collections of mosaics in museum and the in-situ conservation of archaeological sites in the country.

The main activities of the IAA Conservation Department are:

- Re-restoration of mosaics re-laid in the past on concrete supports
- Exhibition of mosaics for public display
- Conservation of archaeological sites with mosaics
- Planning, documentation and research
- Maintenance of archaeological sites with mosaics

This presentation will illustrate some of these activities through the case of the Roman mosaic from Lod (Israel) discovered in 1996 during rescue excavation associated with the reconstruction of a road. The presentation will illustrate the decision making process and the conservation activities carried out over the past 20 years.

The mosaic was conserved and reburied, but a search started for funds for an exhibition to the public. A few years later (in 2009), the IAA had the necessary budget for re excavation, conservation and building of museum at the site where the mosaic was found. The mosaic was lifted, restored and traveled to be exhibited in several museums in the world while a museum is in construction. The exhibition will include panels describing technical findings during the lifting of the mosaic such as: the presence of other mosaics, footprints of the mosaic masters on earlier plaster layers, the presence of a painted sinopia.

