



THE ALEXANDRIA HANDS-ON WORKSHOP: CONNECTING THE NTUA HOLY AEDICULE EXPERIENCE WITH THE HRIAC EXCAVATIONS AT THE SHALLALAT GARDENS

Alexandria, 2 June 2022



HELLENIC RESEARCH INSTITUTE
OF THE ALEXANDRIAN CIVILIZATION



PATRIARCHATE OF
ALEXANDRIA AND ALL AFRICA



GREEK COMMUNITY
OF ALEXANDRIA

Hands-on methodology of Non-Destructive Testing for the Protection of Monuments

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EDICULA: Educational Digital Innovative Cultural heritage related Learning Activities

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Non-Destructive Techniques (NDT) are used in the Field of Protection of Cultural Heritage because:

- ✓ *Destructive sampling is prohibited in the conservation of historic monuments*
- ✓ *They offer certain unique capabilities in a variety of applications*

BUILT CH PROTECTION

DIAGNOSIS

PLANNING
OF INTERVENTIONS

IMPLEMENTATION
OF INTERVENTIONS

ASSESSMENT OF INTERVENTIONS

MONITORING

USE OF NDTs

STATE OF PRESERVATION

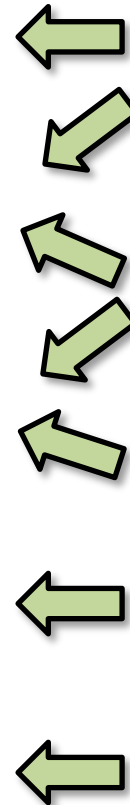
- ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT
- STRUCTURAL & PHYSICO-CHEMICAL DATA
- MATERIALS & DECAY-DAMAGE MAPPING

MATERIALS QUALITY CONTROL

DECISSION MAKING

EFFECTIVENESS & COMPATIBILITY ASSESSMENT

MONITORING – MAINTENANCE



Validation by laboratory testing



**NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS
LABORATORY OF MATERIALS SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

Portable Digital Microscopy

Digital Image Processing

Colorimetry

Ultrasonic Testing

Schmidt hammer

Endoscopy

Infrared Thermography

Ground Penetrating Radar



**Advanced Spatial Data Management
& Assessment Methods**

MONUMENT SCALE

Characterization of Materials

**Evaluation of Materials & Interventions
Compatibility**

Environmental Impact Assessment



INTEGRATED PROJECTS

**Strategic Planning of Conservation Interventions
on Historic Buildings**

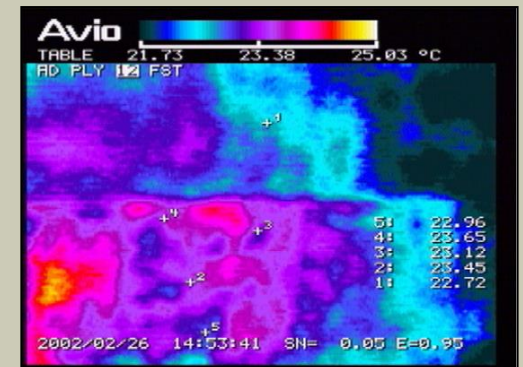
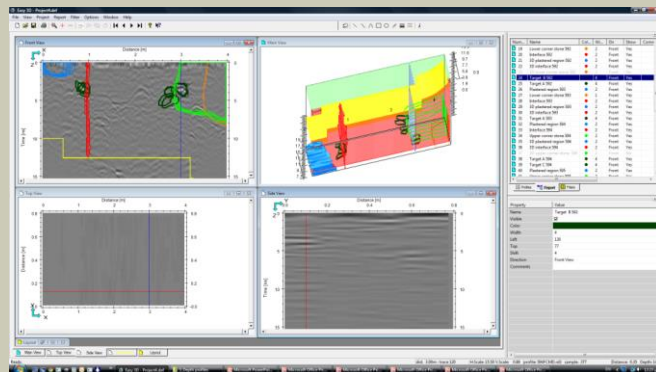
**Strategic Planning
of Environmental Management as a Tool for a
Sustainable Preservation of Historic Cities**

Short description of the theory of some Non-Destructive Techniques (NDT)

Digital Microscopy (DM): magnified visible spectrum images can be acquired, in situ or in lab, for the material under investigation. No treatment of the material is required.

Infra Red Thermography (IRT): Every material emits infrared radiation above absolute zero temperature. IRT measures the thermal variations of the material under investigation and produces an image. The IRT image presents temperature readings and their distribution on the examined surface by the rendering of different colors.

During **Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)** measurements a short electromagnetic pulse (10MHz – 10GHz) is produced and propagated into the structure, part of the pulse energy is reflected (due to the presence of internal interfaces between materials of different dielectric constant), rendering a 2-D or 3-D image of the sub-surface. Results reveal internal structure of masonries, location of cavities, identification of detachments and internal cracks, assessment of decay depth.



Short description of the theory of some Non-Destructive Techniques (NDT)

Portable spectrophotometer for measuring color variables (Colorimetry): It measures the reflected light of a material in the visible region. Spectra reflectance curve as a function of wavelength can be drawn, and then tristimulus chromatometric values are estimated. Following, these values can be converted to several color spaces to describe the color of the material under investigation. In conservation science the CIE Lab 1976 Color space is used more often .

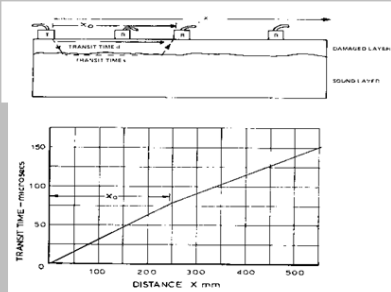
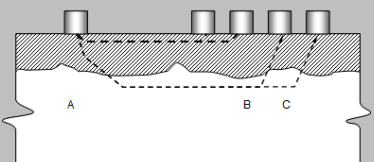
Raman spectroscopy is a technique, which is very sensitive to structural changes, used to understand molecular bonding in materials. It is a scattering technique, where photons from a laser source are used, typically in the infrared to UV wavelengths. Of the incident photons, a few undergo Raman scattering, losing energy through exciting vibrational modes of the sample. These scattered photons are detected to make a spectrum. Raman spectroscopy is commonly used to provide a structural fingerprint by which molecules can be identified.

Ultrasound pulse velocity measurements (UPV): Measures the velocity of ultrasounds traveling through a media, is recorded. The UPV depends on the media's density and the presence of voids and cracks. Thus, estimation of the depth of the decay patterns (crusts, cracks etc), evaluation of the effectiveness and the depth of penetration of restoration interventions.

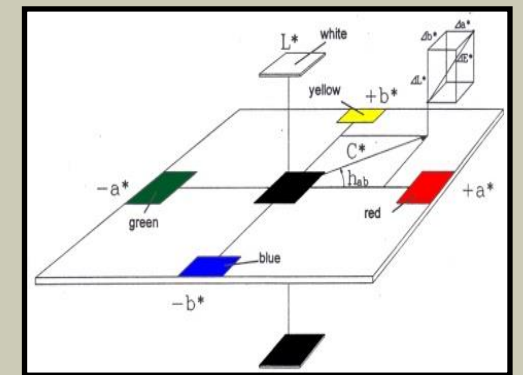
Depth of Crust

$$\alpha = \frac{I_0}{2} \left(\frac{V_S - V_D}{V_S + V_D} \right)^{1/2}$$

T: Transmitter R₁ R₂ R₃ R₄: Receiver

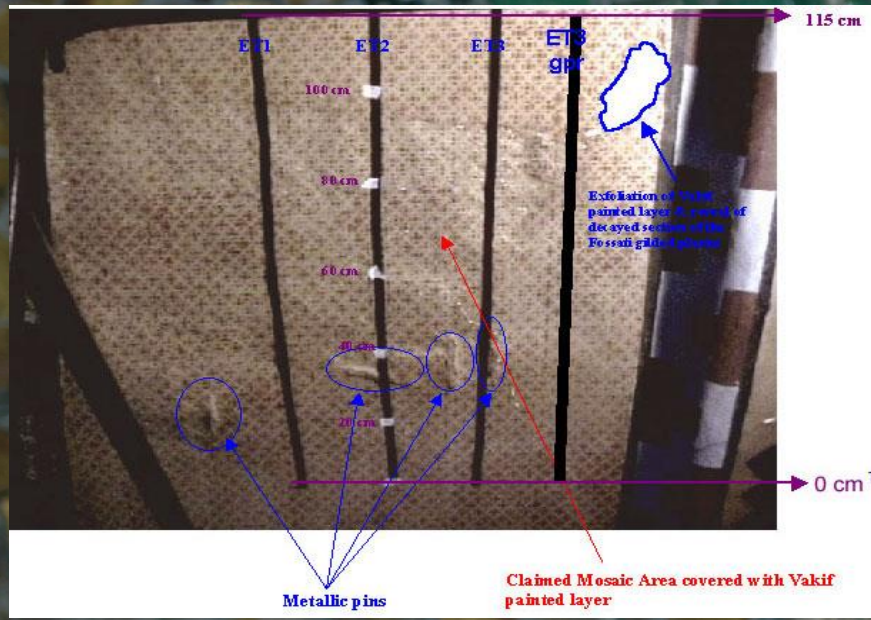


where V_S , V_D , are the ultrasonic velocities in the healthy and damaged part of the stone, respectively and I_0 the distance between the transducers where a change in slope of the distance-time curve is observed

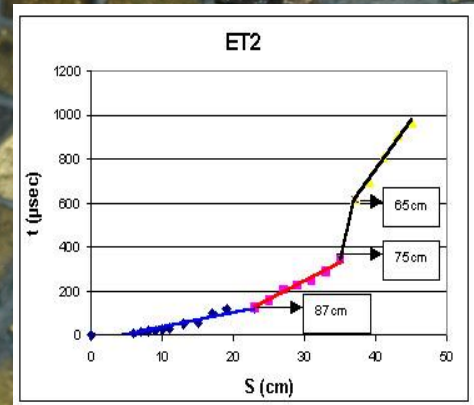


Hagia Sophia: GPR, UPV, IRT application

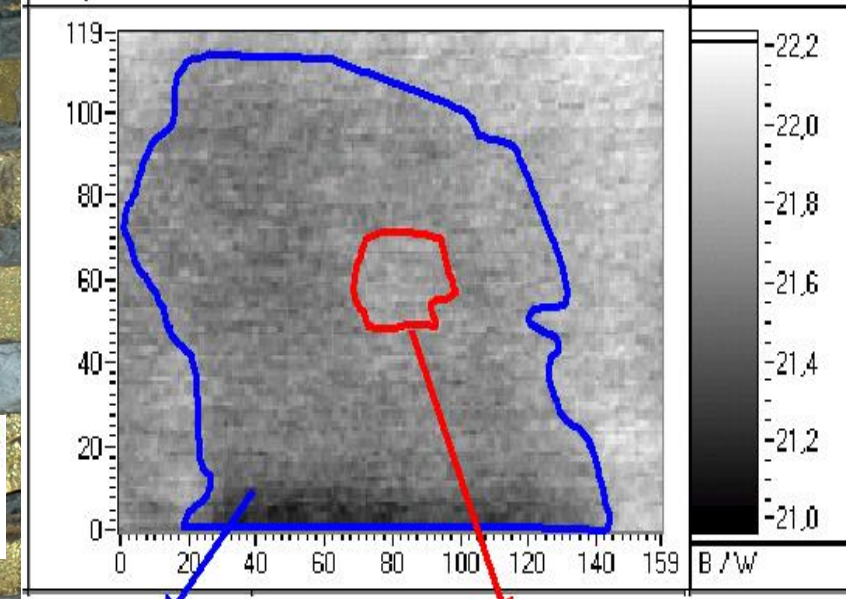
Compatibility assessment of previous conservation interventions



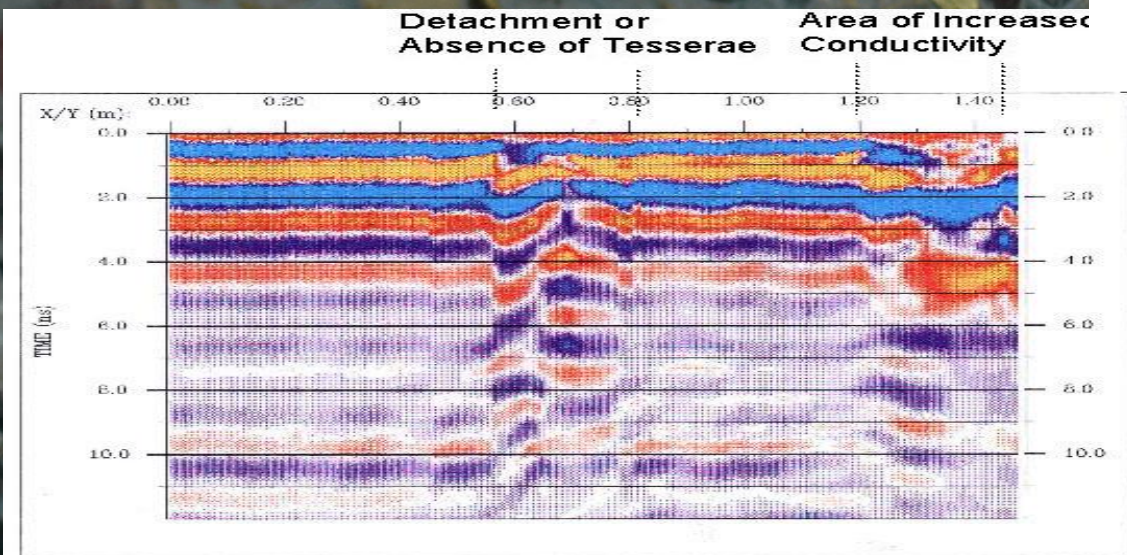
Examined surface: Vakif intervention at the dome of Hagia Sophia, between the 19th and the 20th rib



Area 1 (blue line): 112 – 87 cm ⇒ Area of Vakif painted plaster
Area 2 (red line): 87 – 75 cm ⇒ coated mosaic with paint layer
Area 3 (black line): 73 – 65cm ⇒ area with detachment or absence of tesserae



Coated Mosaic with Paint Layer
Detachment or Absence of Tesserae



NDT reveals surfaces of plastered mosaics, wherein areas of detached tesserae, as well as areas with moisture problems and presence of salts are displayed.

The boundaries of problematic areas are detectable,

Holy Aedicule: application of DM, IRT, GPR

DM: Classification of historical mortars



DM: Cracks investigation



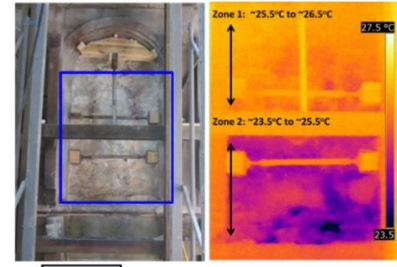
DM: Cracks sealing



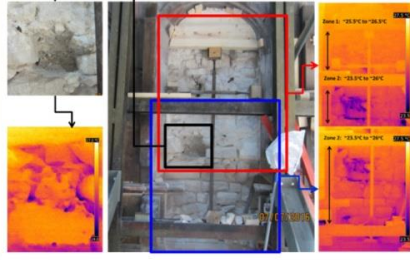
Upper horizontal crack Middle horizontal crack Lower horizontal crack

Monitoring of panel N2

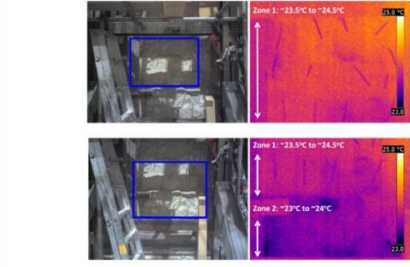
- Disintegrated state of the filling mortar layer
- Intense rising damp from the underground
- Anisotropy regarding moisture transfer phenomena



- Variety of different mortars detected
- Continuous effect of rising damp
- Thermo-hygric incompatibility between historical building materials (mortars & stones)



- Temperature distribution width became tighter
- Compatibility among restoration mortar, building stones & historical mortar
- Capillary rise continues to affect the restored masonry



Project phases

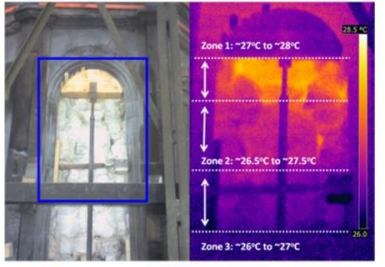
After façade stone slabs removal - filling mortar investigation

After filling mortar removal - Historical masonry

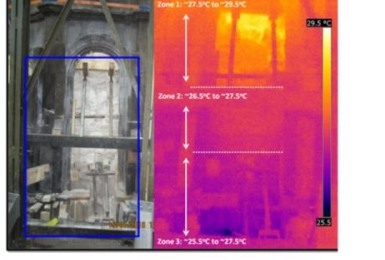
Application of masonry restoration mortar - Restored masonry

Monitoring of panel N4

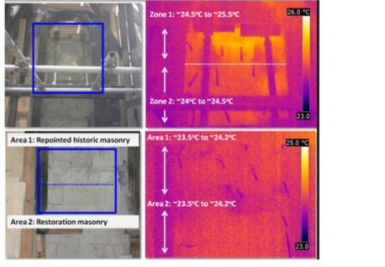
- rising damp of the lower masonry parts
- presence of voids and defect areas
- transition temperature zone between zones, above and below middle masonry area



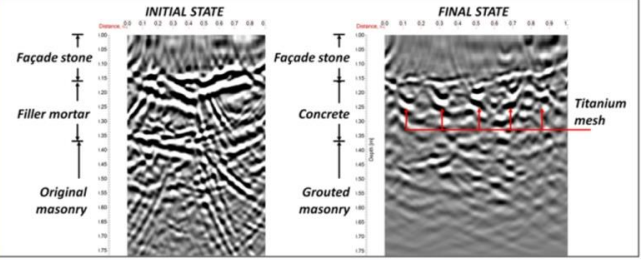
- voids and defect areas still present
- continuous affect of rising damp
- anisotropic moisture transfer & thermo-hygric behavior of historical building materials



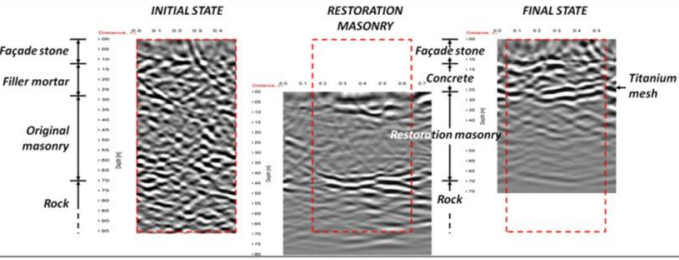
- More homogenous temperature distribution
- Compatibility between restoration mortar and historical masonry
- Compatibility between historical and restoration masonry



IRT revealed the presence of rising damp, leading to a survey of the Holy Aedicule's underground areas to identify moisture sources and propose appropriate measures; as well as it revealed the problem of voids and defect areas at the upper masonry part supporting the decision for the monument's upper zone grouting

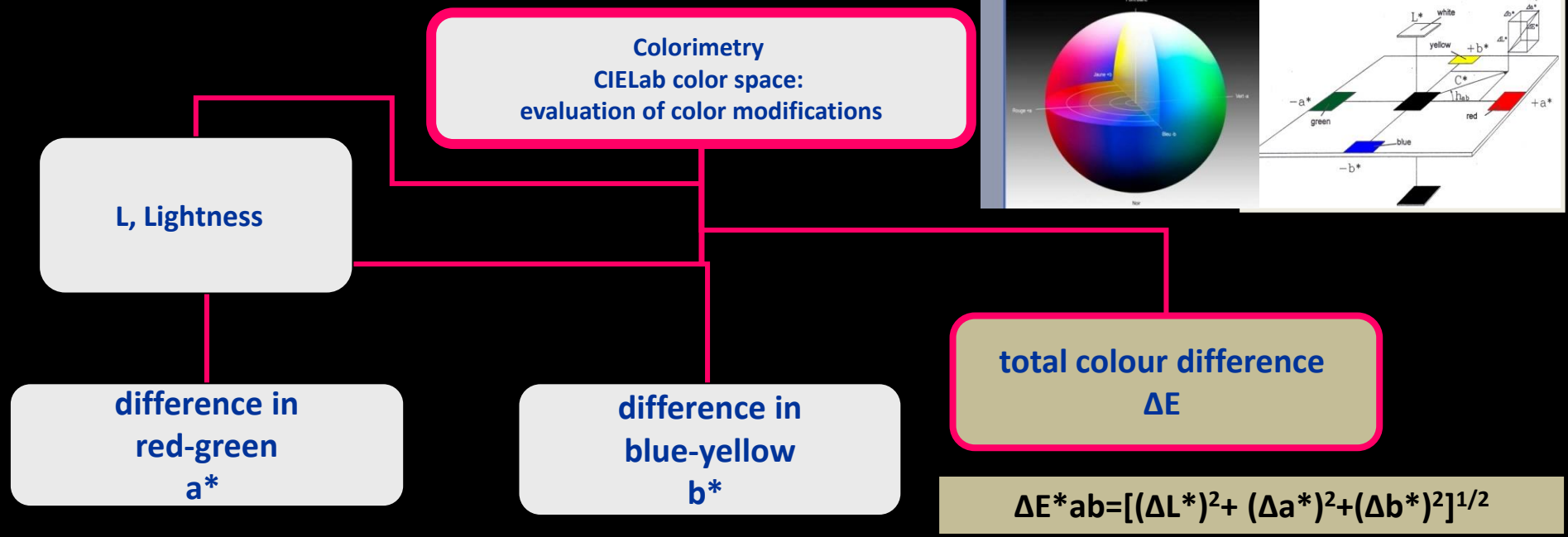


Application of optimized restoration concrete & comparison of initial and final state



In both cases (N2 & N4 panels) the presence of the concrete layer and the titanium mesh, the repointing of the masonry and, where applicable, the restoration masonry, have improved structural homogeneity and cohesion between layers, as evidenced by the lack of voids and cracks

Aesthetical Evaluation of cleaning on pentelic marble architectural surfaces – Academy of Athens



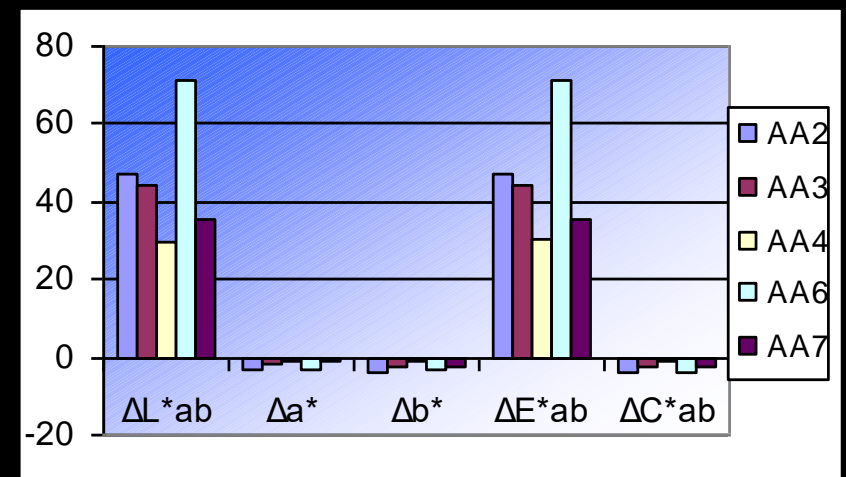
Estimation of color parameters' modification of different decay patterns on exterior marble surfaces after cleaning

Aesthetic parameters:

- $\Delta C^*_{ab} < 0$ \Rightarrow less saturated areas after cleaning
- $\Delta a^* < 0$ \Rightarrow greener (less red)
- $\Delta b^* < 0$ \Rightarrow bluer (less yellow)
- $\Delta L^*_{ab} > 0$ higher lightness (more white) after cleaning

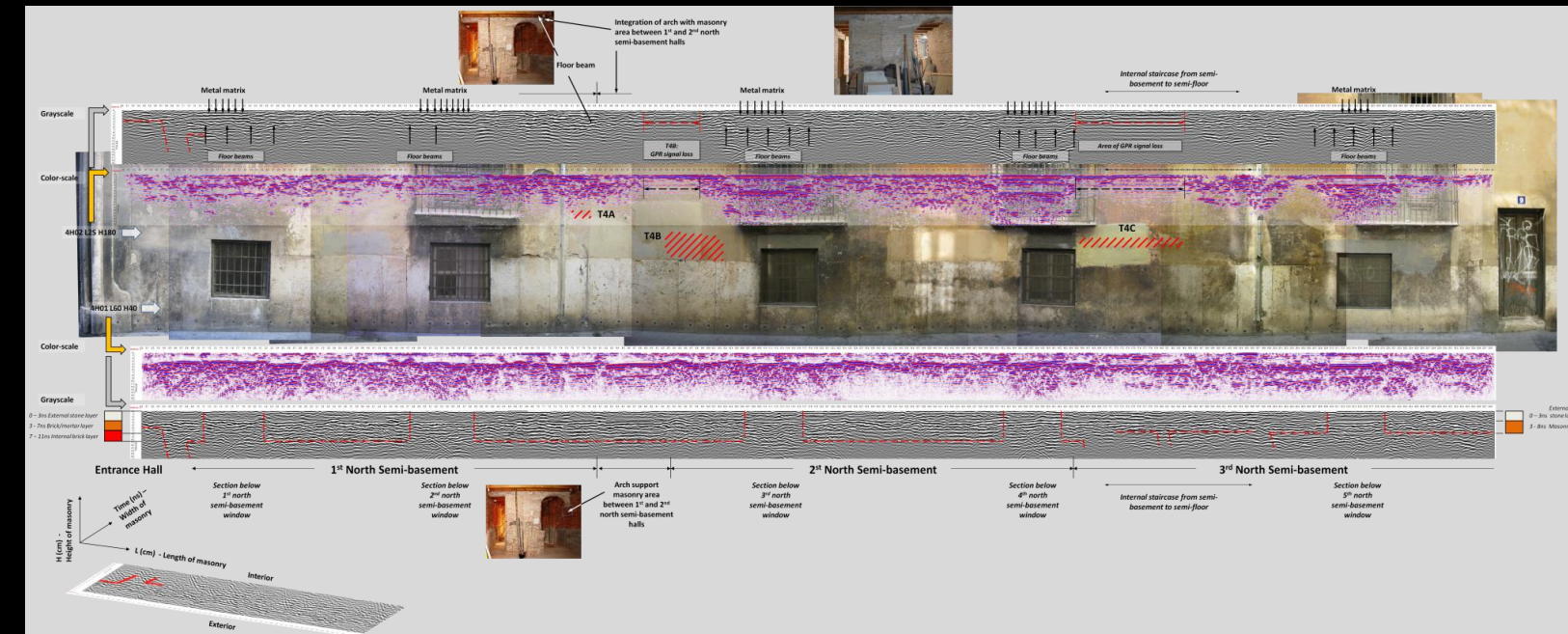
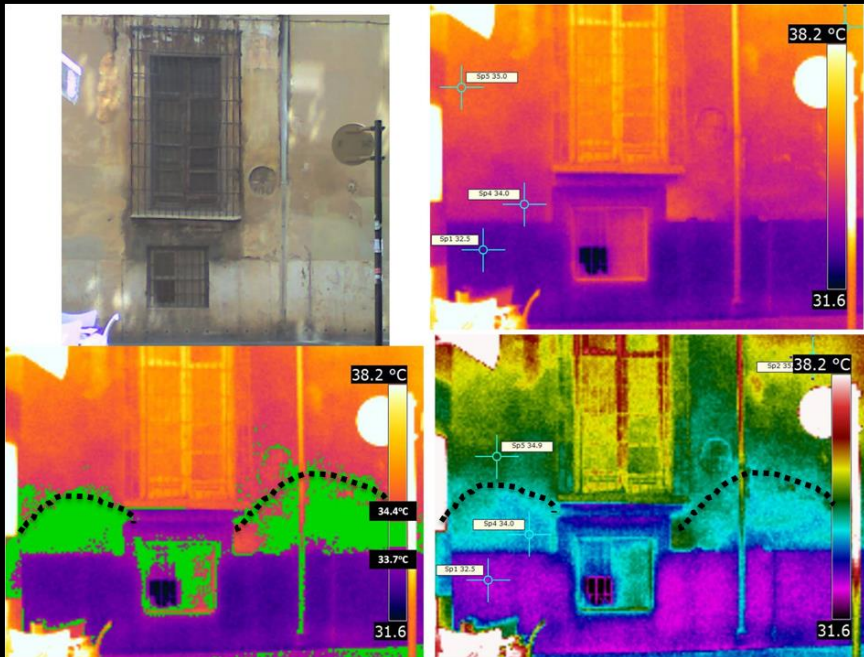
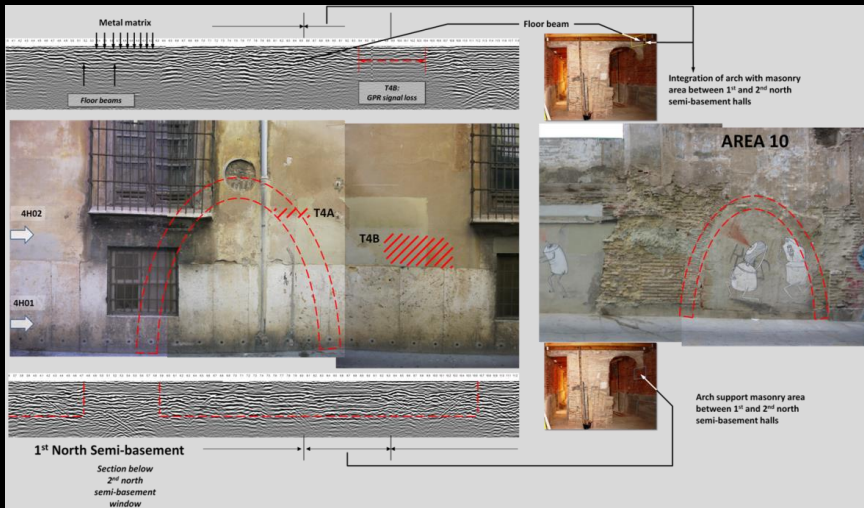
Validation according to
[EN15886:2010 Conservation of cultural property-Test methods-Colour measurement of surfaces,](#)

- AA2: grey crust
- AA3: dust fall
- AA4: washed out surface
- AA6: black-grey crust
- AA7: area of grey veins



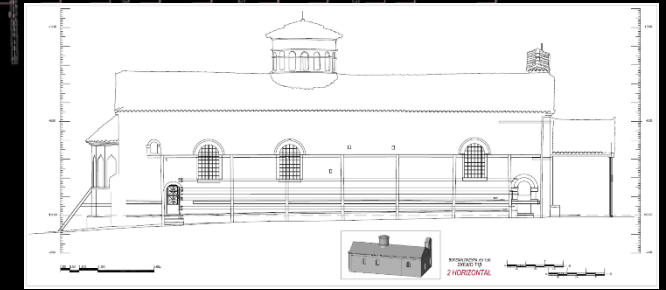
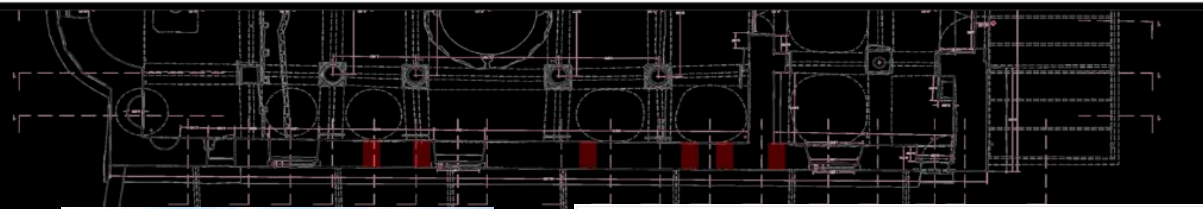
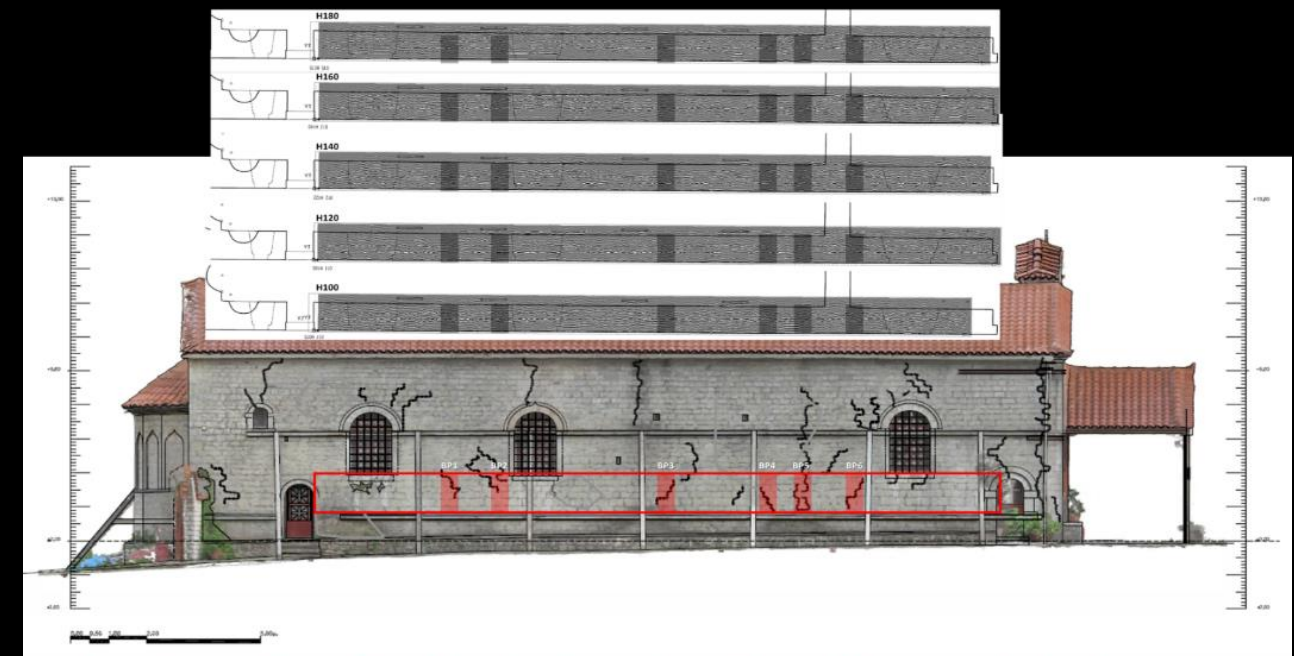
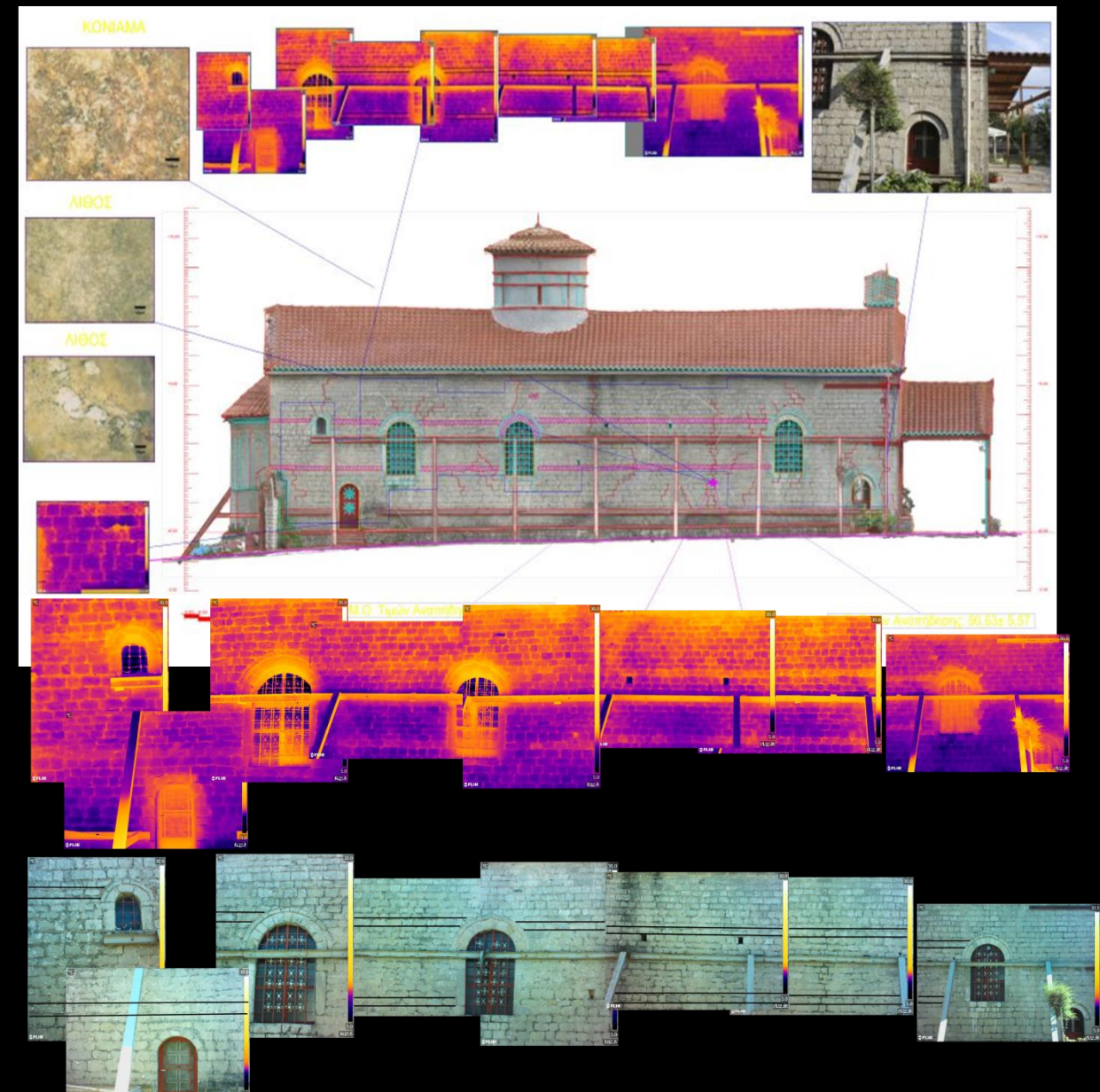
GPR, IRT application - Colegio del Arte Mayor de la Seda de Valencia

Assessment of preservation state of masonries Identification of hidden features



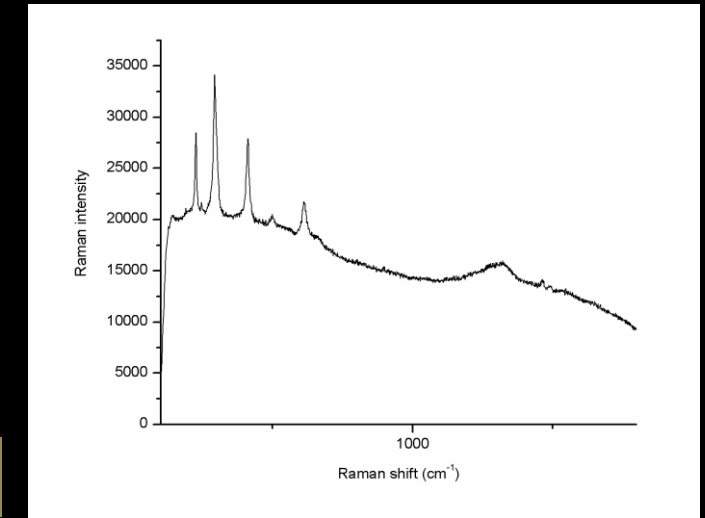
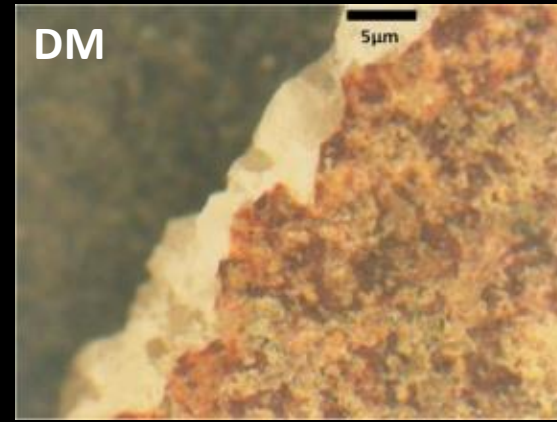
IRT & GPR: Identification of wooden structural elements within the masonry

Byzantine Monastery of Panagia Varnakova



Raman Spectroscopy

Hephaisteion (Ancient Agora, Athens): Patina identification

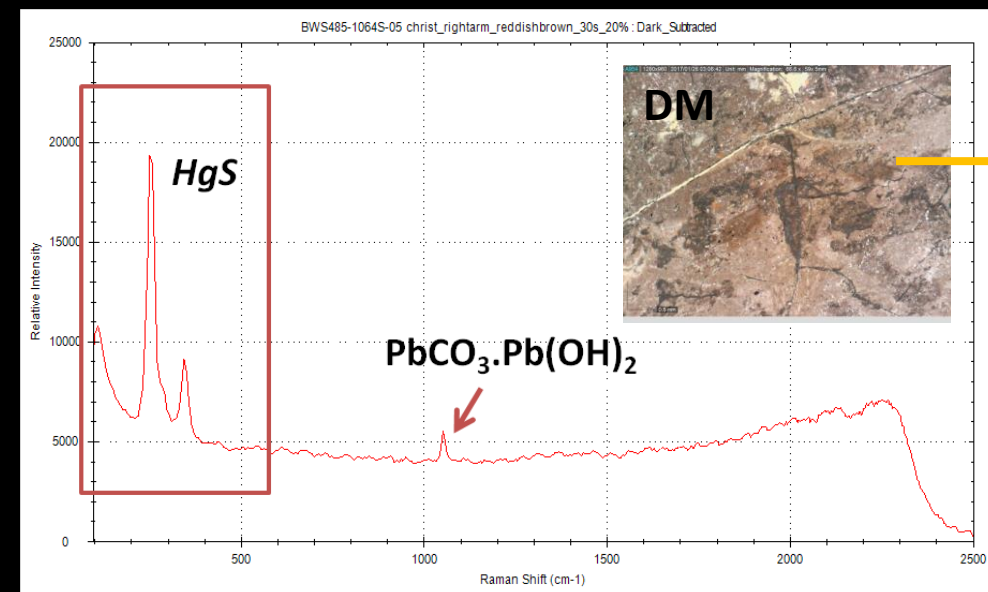


Characteristic bands of hematite: ($\alpha\text{-Fe}_2\text{O}_3$): use of red ochre.

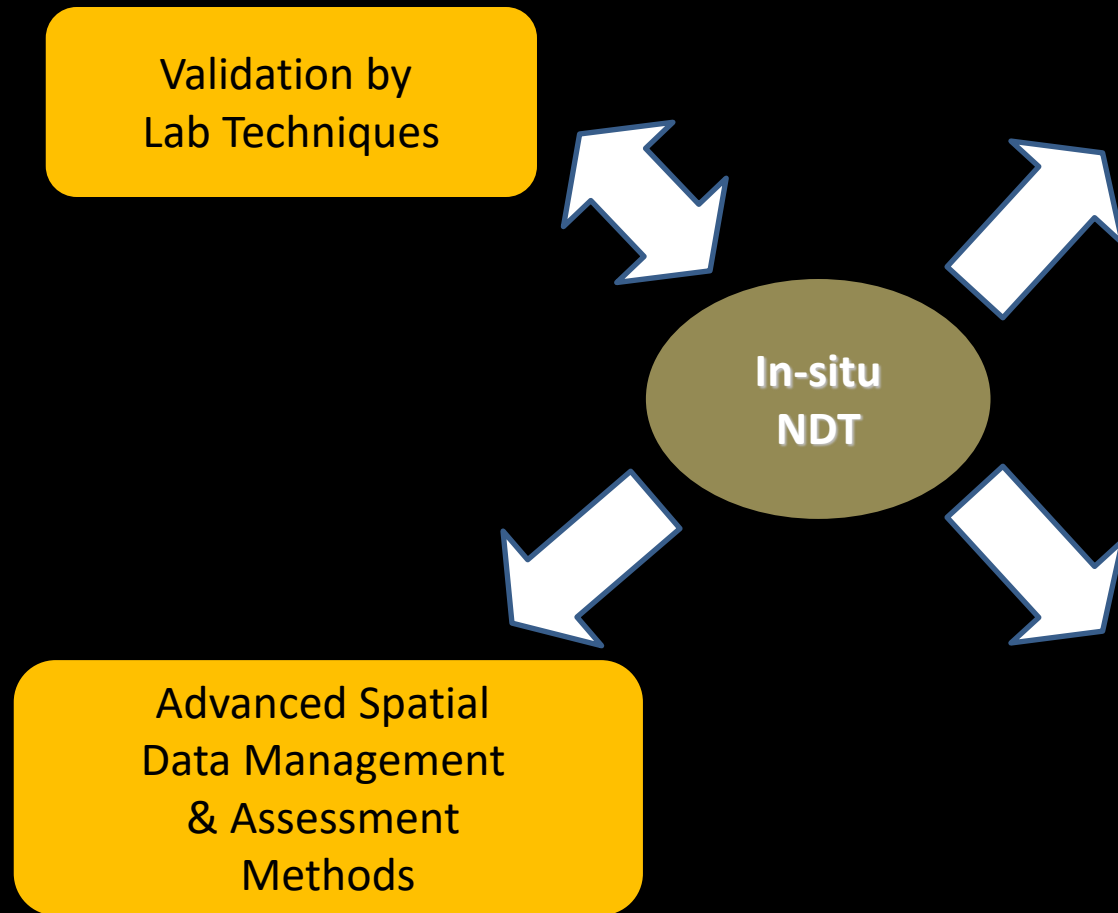
Raman bands: 291vs, 410m, 506w, 608m, 1300 (br)

Ntoutsis, Delegou, Moropoulou, 2015

The gilded marble relief of Christ Resurrection in the Holy Tomb Chamber



➤ Flesh tones were achieved by a mixture of cinnabar (characteristic bands at 252 (vs) & 345 (m) cm^{-1}) with lead white (characteristic band at 1052 cm^{-1}).



Monument Scale

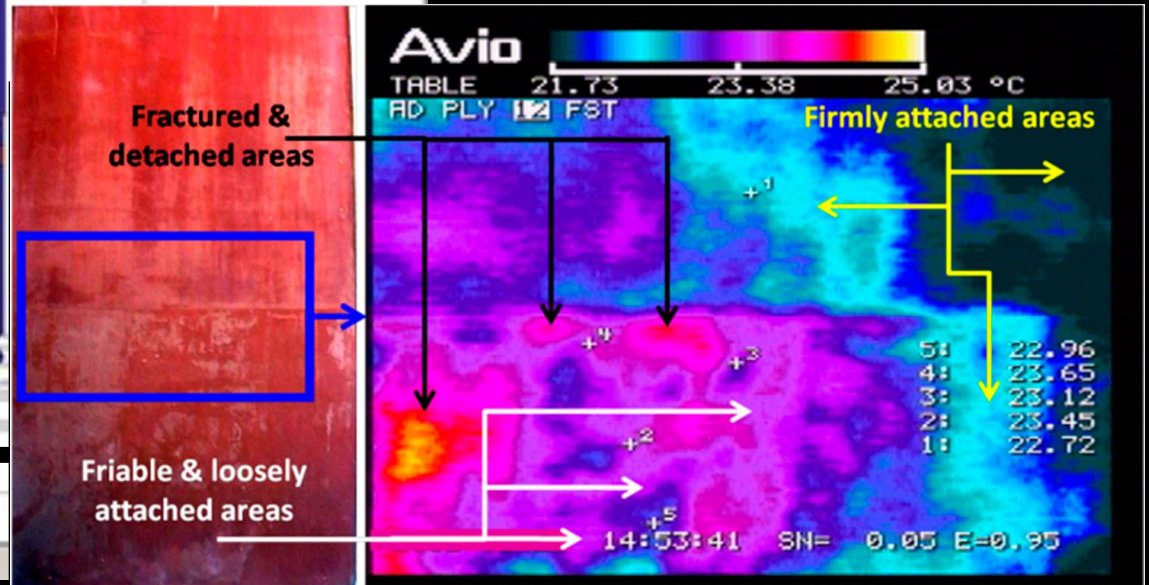
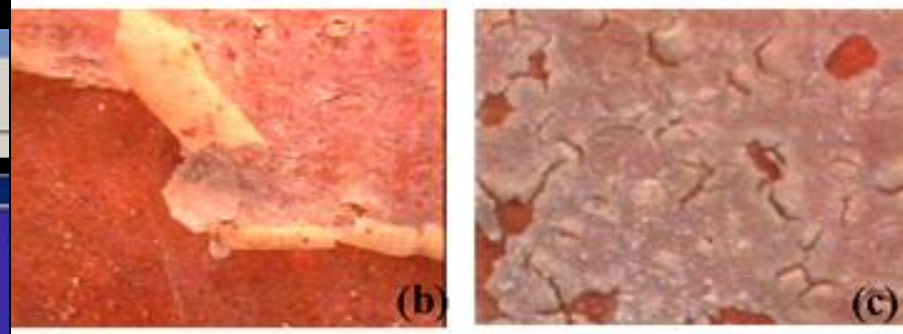
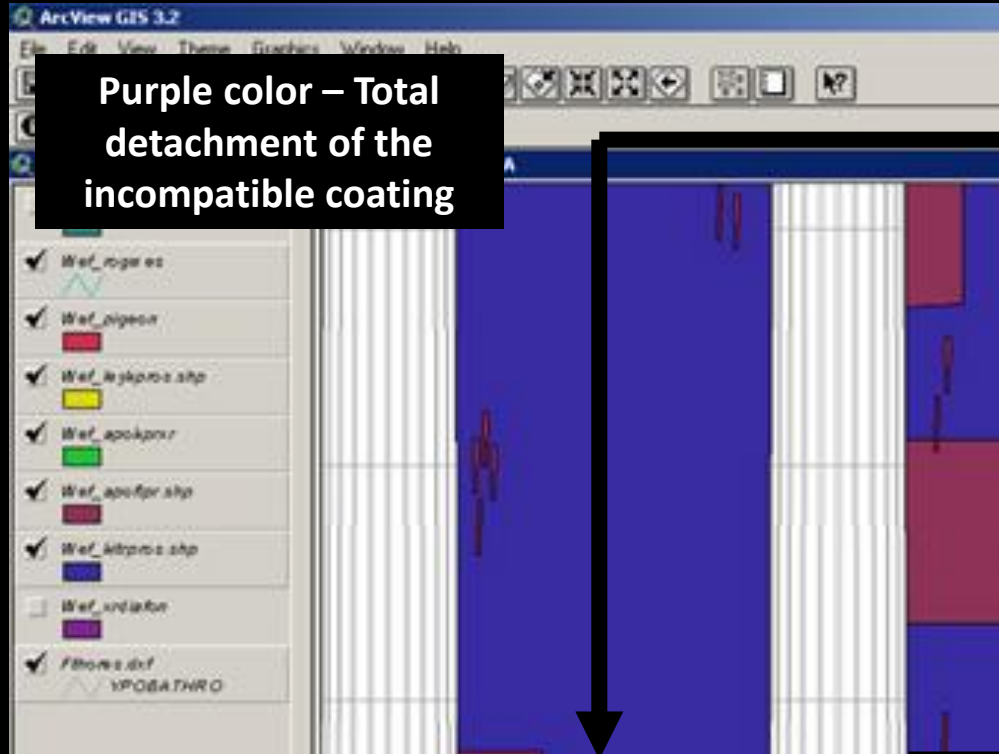
- ❖ Materials Characterization
- ❖ Evaluation of Materials Compatibility
- ❖ Environmental Impact Assessment
- ❖ Monitoring of Conservation works
- ❖ Sustainability assurance

Integrated Projects

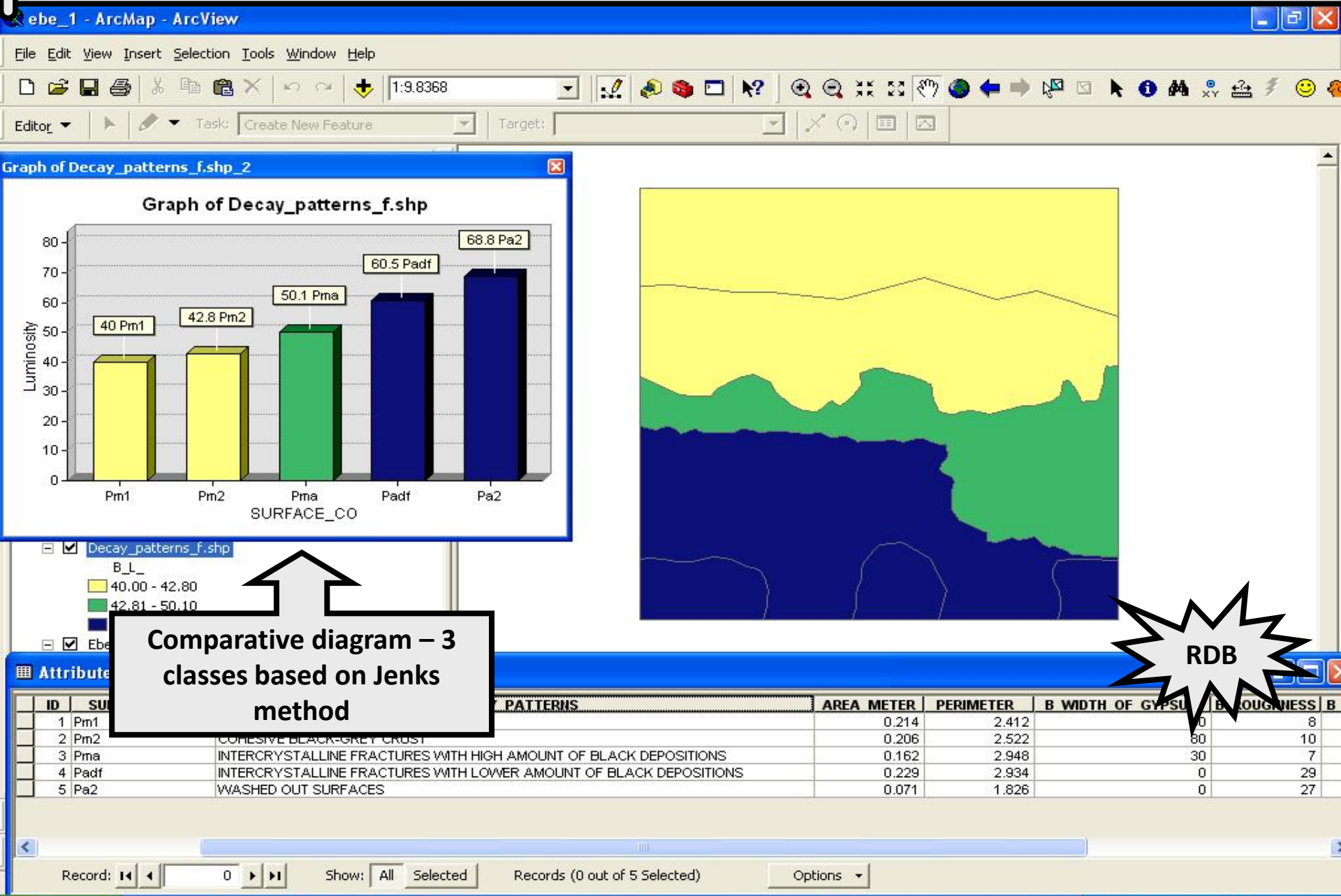
- ❖ Strategic Planning of Conservation Interventions on Historic Buildings
- ❖ Strategic Planning of Environmental Management as a Tool for a Sustainable Preservation of Historic Cities

GIS thematic map of decay – plastered architectural surfaces of National Archaeological Museum of Athens

Spatial classification of decay patterns



GIS thematic map of decay – attributing the physicochemical characteristic of color lightness L^* on the spatial entities of the architectural surfaces of National Library of Greece

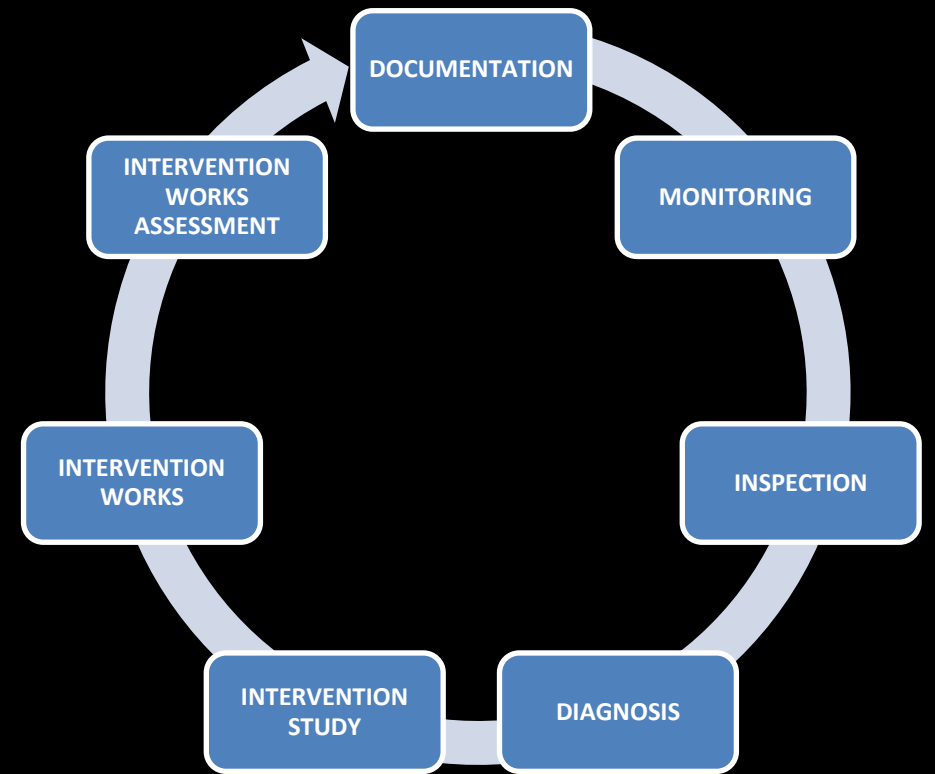


Decision Making Procedures

LEAD TO

ACCORDING TO THE NECESSITY OF PERFORMING:
INSPECTION - DIAGNOSIS - INTERVENTION WORKS

NDTs are valuable tools



The image shows the interior of a large, domed church. The dome is covered in intricate mosaics, including several figures in robes and a central figure with wings. The walls are also decorated with mosaics and Greek text. Light streams in from several arched windows, creating a bright, hazy atmosphere. A large, white, sans-serif text "THANK YOU" is overlaid in the center of the image. The overall scene is one of a grand, historic religious space.

THANK YOU