

FIELD SCHOOL

CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF ROMAN MOSAIC

PROGRAM 2020

Populonia, Italy

June 14th - July 11th 2020



Archeodig
Archaeological Field School

T2AQ
EXPERIENCE

The Roman coastal settlement of
POGGIO DEL MOLINO





Restoration

Archaeologically speaking, **excavation and restoration represent two sides of the same coin**, each serving its own indispensable role in the analysis and preservation of archaeological sites and the materials they produce. Moreover, **both practices help us develop and support the cultural heritage of communities, a valuable resource that must be transmitted to future generations.**

The archaeological excavation at Poggio del Molino has uncovered not only a vast array of ceramic, glass, and metal fragments, but also the **impressive mosaic floors, dating to the end of the 2nd century CE, which decorated the residential rooms and baths of the seaside villa.**

The restoration's program, entering its fourth year of activity, is intended to insure the **preservation of the mosaic** which, in some cases, are already badly damaged from the penetration of tree roots and the natural movements of the earth on which they were laid.

The methodology of restoration

Critical analysis of the work intended to facilitate an understanding of how it was created and in what styles, including photographic documentation, drawings, and core samples for identifying its preparation layers.

Analysis of the state of preservation of the work intended to the necessary course of action, including mapping the degradation of the mosaics.





The restorer's work

- **SECURING:** the mosaic is "quarantined" in a temporary condition of security that allows restorers to work. In this high delicate phase, restorers pursue the removal of all elements that have penetrated the mosaic, including roots and debris. This phase also includes the use of removable materials that do not interfere with later phases of restoration.
- **CONSOLIDATION:** the mosaic is solidified via the injection of liquid malt beneath its surface. Such a solution is comparable to materials used in ancient times for filling the empty pockets that emerge beneath mosaics over time.
- **CLEANING:** the mosaic is cleared of superficial accumulations, especially lime, in order to restore its original colors and reveal its tesserae and decorative motif.
- **RECONSTRUCTION OF LACUNAE:** this process allows restorers to stabilize the mosaic and prepare it for public viewing, presenting its original decoration in its entirety while leaving in place its original segments.



ACCOMMODATIONS

Students will stay in comfortable apartments located in Piombino, a city about 15 minutes away from the excavation. Apartments will include a fully equipped kitchen and basic amenities.

LIVING IN PIOMBINO

Piombino is a lively coastal city with a world class archaeological museum and a walkable historical center.

After site and during the weekends, students will be free to explore the city as they wish and get a taste for life in a coastal Tuscan town.

FEES

\$3200 (4 week period)

\$1800 (2 week period)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

April 1, 2020

HOW TO APPLY

For application details please contact:

Tyler Johnson at
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