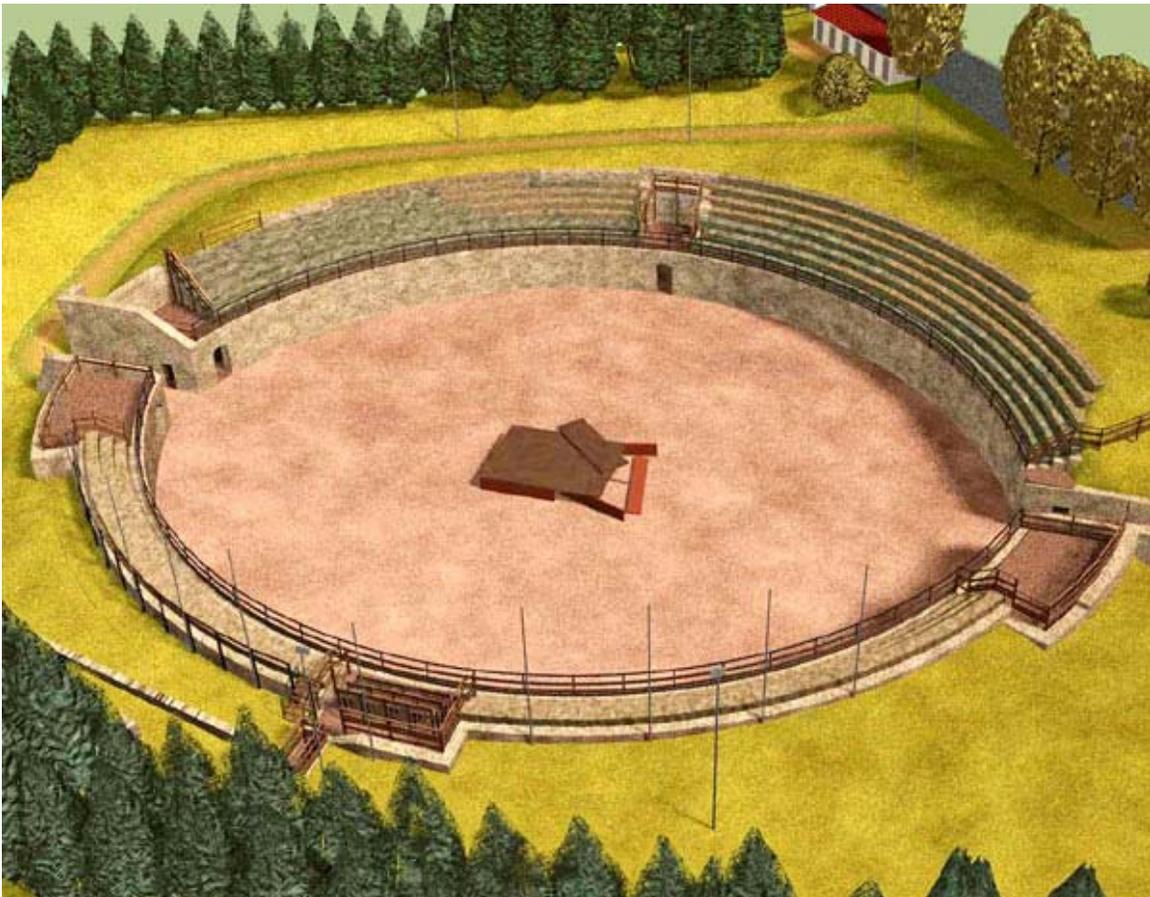


The roman amphitheater of Susa: preservation and valorization

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Virtual reconstruction of the roman amphitheater of Susa, realized with Alias Studio 3D, with the platform, designed in conformity with the requirements of Municipal Administration

I decided to write a thesis on the preservation and valorization of the amphitheater of Susa after a visit of the town.

In this tour I discovered the roman amphitheater by chance.

Seeing with astonishment the beauty and the grandiosity of this archaeological find and observing the condition of advanced degradation, I thought of applying experimentally the criteria of the conservation plan (usually adopted for architectural goods) to this exceptional archaeological find.

The structure kept in the course of time, because it was buried in the ground, slid down on it for the repeated floods of the near torrent Gelassa.

Only during the last century the structure has come to light, thanks to some excavations and restorations, which permitted to reassemble what came out of the ground.

I developed my thesis firmly believing that the preservation of archaeological finds is guaranteed over the centuries if, in addition to restoration, we can identify a “*new utilization*” of the monument, which helps making it “*alive*”.

Thanks to this form of “*new utilization*”, we are therefore able to justify a continuative maintenance of the monument that can shield it from future degradation.

In accordance with what stated above, this thesis intends to:

1. Include the amphitheater between the legs of the town’s tours, studying a thematic itinerary, that links architectural and archaeological monuments organically, in order to emphasize the cultural resources of Susa.
2. Carry out an exhaustive research work about the amphitheater, absolutely necessary to begin any preservative intervention.
3. Study the necessary restorations in order to eliminate current degradation
4. Predispose new utilization consistent with the amphitheater, in order to make it not only an archaeological find, but also a lively stage for manifestations and events.

The whole survey of the amphitheater, made with a Nikon DTM 500 total station, allowed me to rebuild the tridimensional model with Alias Studio 3D and to visualize the possible transformations and new utilization of the monument.

I studied three kind of possible staging of the amphitheater:

1. Staging for pupils
2. Staging for the “*Palio*”
3. Staging for musical performances

In the first case, I studied the possible utilization of the amphitheater for a school trip.

In this case, the *carceres*, the rooms set along the perimeter of the amphitheater, now utilized as a warehouse for old chairs and as a deposit of rubbish, house temporary exhibitions about the history of the amphitheater and its manifestations, thus providing the visitors with a reading tool about the monument.



Virtual reconstruction of the carceres staging, realized with Alias Studio 3D

Since the amphitheater is already the seat of cultural and folk events, like “*The Palio of the Villages*”, I tried to make the building structure more suitable for this kind of utilization, designing a platform and removable seats.

I suggested to place removable seats on the steps of the arena, which can be easily arranged and removed if necessary, thus avoiding to disfigure the amphitheater with permanent modern structures.



Removable seats set on the steps facing north of the amphitheater

The amphitheater is a suitable place for concerts and theatrical performances, thanks to its excellent acoustics. For this purpose I designed a wide removable platform, to be placed inside the amphitheater.

The platform, designed in conformity with the requirements of municipal administration, can be easily composed and disassembled.

Moreover, it can be easily carried into the arena with a truck and taken away through the west entry, when it is not used.

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