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PRESERVATION AND ENHANCEMENT

Abstract

**Analysis and characterization of the plaster of the rocky
Chapel of Santo Spirito in Zagarolo (Rome), with reference
to the phases of the building and the construction
techniques used**

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by

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The rocky chapel of Santo Spirito in Zagarolo (Rome) is a still intact example of the widespread presence of cult buildings placed to protect and control the extra-urban areas, and of the evolution of the rural territory, characteristic of many areas of the Roman countryside. Such artefacts often allow the acquisition of data on the historical, building and cultural development of the peri-urban areas.

The study aims to integrate the collected bibliographic and archival information with the data collected from the survey and various chemical-physical and diagnostic analysis performed on a portion of the building, by sampling material from the apsidal wall plaster, to acquire new data about the phases and construction techniques used.

The results of the compositional, morphological and microstructural analysis, together with the information gathered from the bibliography and the survey, allowed to characterize the coating mortar of the hypogeum and to formulate some hypotheses regarding the construction phases, also by examining the forms of deterioration and the related causes that affect the artifact. The materials and the methods of realization of the pictorial decoration were also investigated, with the aim of providing further chronological and technological indications on the plaster stratigraphy.

The collected data have also been used to provide information on the state of conservation of the building and the interventions for the recovery and consolidation of the surface.

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