

Training of archaeological site managers: MOSAIKON's approach to the conservation and management of mosaics at archaeological sites in the Mediterranean region

Kathleen Dardes; Leslie Friedman*; Thomas Roby*; Zaki Aslan***

*Getty Conservation Institute **ICCROM



The first major activity of the MOSAIKON strategic initiative, a partnership of the Getty Conservation Institute, the Getty Foundation, ICCROM (the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property), and the International Committee for the Conservation of Mosaics (ICCM), began in May, 2010 with a regional course, the *Conservation and Management of Mosaics at Archaeological Sites*. Fifteen participants from throughout the region took part in a three-week workshop held at Tyre, Lebanon. The workshop, the first of the three components, addressed concepts such as site management, documentation and recording of mosaics, their deterioration, condition assessment, and preventive and remedial interventions.



Course participants during on-site group exercises, Tyre, Lebanon. Photo: Leslie Friedman.

The second component of the course was a year-long mentoring phase during which the participants pursued independent training projects and prepared reports at their home sites or institutions, guided by the instructors who follow their progress and provide constructive advice. Their projects ranged from developing a mosaic conservation program and budget for a site, to planning on-site research on comparative protection methods for mosaics relaid in situ on reinforced concrete.

The last component was a review meeting held at ICCROM, in Rome, which brought together the participants and the main instructors, to follow up with the participants' work and to reinforce key ideas and concepts that were introduced in the first workshop. Site visits in Rome and Herculaneum, hosted by the Soprintendenza Archeologica di Roma and the Herculaneum Conservation Project, allowed the participants to observe



Presentation of group conservation planning exercise, Tyre, Lebanon. Photo: Gaël de Guichen.

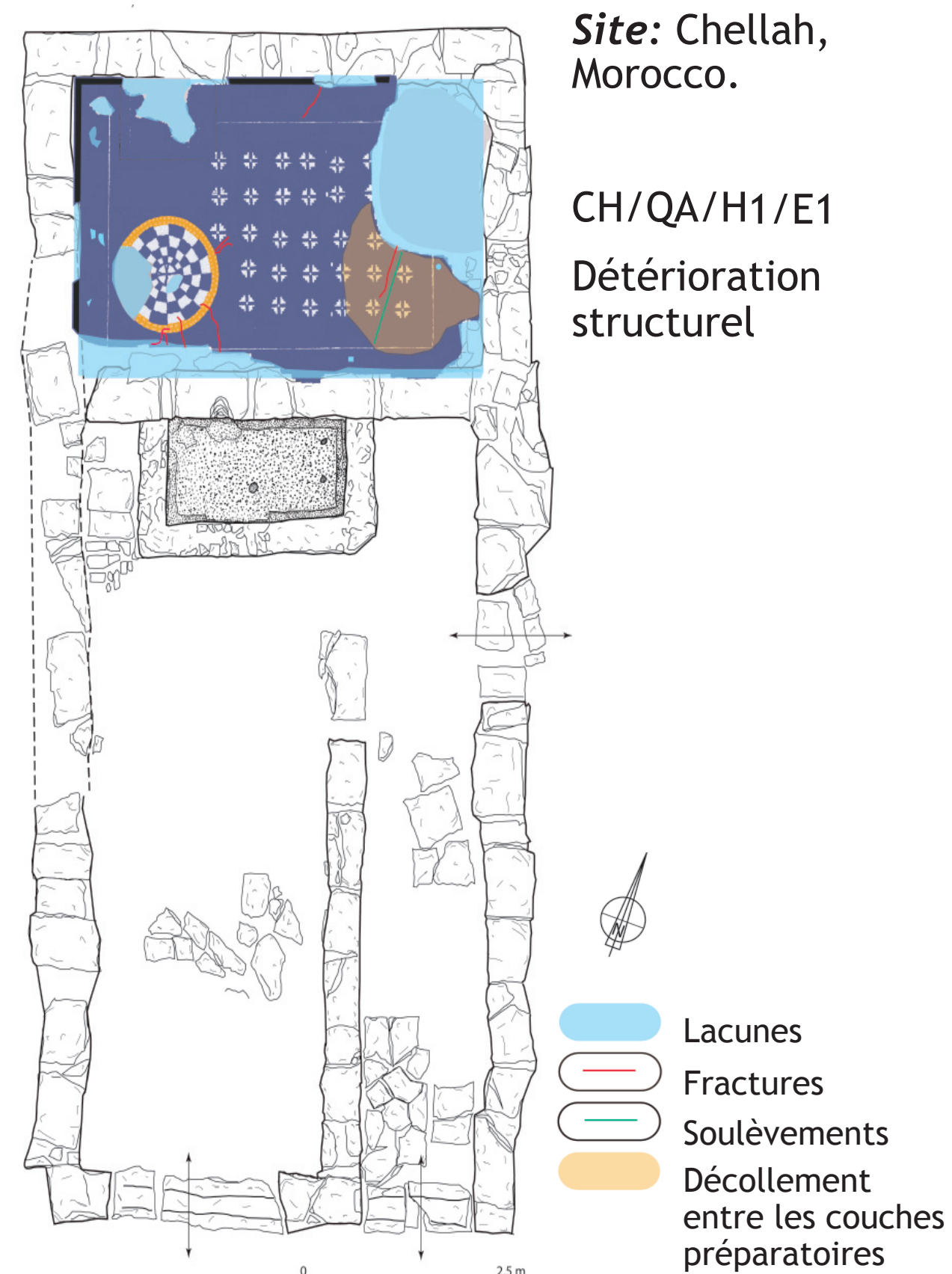
recent mosaic conservation and maintenance planning and implementation, and to use these real examples for developing mosaic conservation action plans as a group exercise. Participants presentations of their work provided opportunity for discussion and sharing of experiences.

Bringing together participants from throughout the region with both local and international expertise provides a more wide-ranging view of the problems facing archaeological mosaics and allows a more varied consideration of the possible solutions.



Participant presentation during a classroom exercise on designing a mosaic reburial regime, Tyre, Lebanon. Photo: Leslie Friedman

Additionally, the expansion of the training course to include the mentoring period, practical training projects, and constant communication amongst the participants, instructors, and MOSAIKON team, provided an extended and more effective learning environment. Two more such courses are planned for site managers from the Maghreb and the non-Arabic speaking parts of the Mediterranean region.



Example of condition recording produced by one of the participants during the mentoring phase of the course.



Participants from Algeria, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Syria and Tunisia, and instructors at the follow up workshop at ICCROM, Rome, Italy. Photo: Sabina Giurati.



Participant presenting their group's action plan exercise during the follow-up workshop, Herculaneum, Italy. Photo: Leslie Friedman