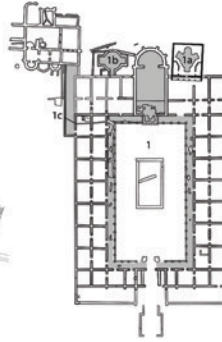


# CONDITION, PROBLEMS AND PRESENTATION OF THE MOSAICS IN MEDIANA, SERBIA

## SITE PLAN



- 1 Villa with peristyle
- 2 Villa with peristyle
- 3 Villa with peristyle
- 4 Villa with peristyle
- 5 Villa with peristyle
- 6 Villa with peristyle
- 7 Villa with peristyle
- 8 Villa with peristyle
- 9 Villa with peristyle
- 10 Villa with peristyle
- 11 Villa with peristyle
- 12 Villa with peristyle
- 13 Villa with peristyle
- 14 Villa with peristyle
- 15 Villa with peristyle
- 16 Villa with peristyle
- 17 Villa with peristyle
- 18 Villa with peristyle
- 19 Villa with peristyle
- 20 Villa with peristyle
- 21 Villa with peristyle
- 22 Villa with peristyle
- 23 Villa with peristyle
- 24 Villa with peristyle
- 25 Villa with peristyle
- 26 Villa with peristyle
- 27 Villa with peristyle
- 28 Villa with peristyle
- 29 Villa with peristyle
- 30 Villa with peristyle
- 31 Villa with peristyle
- 32 Villa with peristyle
- 33 Villa with peristyle
- 34 Villa with peristyle
- 35 Villa with peristyle
- 36 Villa with peristyle
- 37 Villa with peristyle
- 38 Villa with peristyle
- 39 Villa with peristyle
- 40 Villa with peristyle
- 41 Villa with peristyle
- 42 Villa with peristyle
- 43 Villa with peristyle
- 44 Villa with peristyle
- 45 Villa with peristyle
- 46 Villa with peristyle
- 47 Villa with peristyle
- 48 Villa with peristyle
- 49 Villa with peristyle
- 50 Villa with peristyle
- 51 Villa with peristyle
- 52 Villa with peristyle
- 53 Villa with peristyle
- 54 Villa with peristyle
- 55 Villa with peristyle
- 56 Villa with peristyle
- 57 Villa with peristyle
- 58 Villa with peristyle
- 59 Villa with peristyle
- 60 Villa with peristyle
- 61 Villa with peristyle
- 62 Villa with peristyle
- 63 Villa with peristyle
- 64 Villa with peristyle
- 65 Villa with peristyle
- 66 Villa with peristyle
- 67 Villa with peristyle
- 68 Villa with peristyle
- 69 Villa with peristyle
- 70 Villa with peristyle
- 71 Villa with peristyle
- 72 Villa with peristyle
- 73 Villa with peristyle
- 74 Villa with peristyle
- 75 Villa with peristyle
- 76 Villa with peristyle
- 77 Villa with peristyle
- 78 Villa with peristyle
- 79 Villa with peristyle
- 80 Villa with peristyle
- 81 Villa with peristyle
- 82 Villa with peristyle
- 83 Villa with peristyle
- 84 Villa with peristyle
- 85 Villa with peristyle
- 86 Villa with peristyle
- 87 Villa with peristyle
- 88 Villa with peristyle
- 89 Villa with peristyle
- 90 Villa with peristyle
- 91 Villa with peristyle
- 92 Villa with peristyle
- 93 Villa with peristyle
- 94 Villa with peristyle
- 95 Villa with peristyle
- 96 Villa with peristyle
- 97 Villa with peristyle
- 98 Villa with peristyle
- 99 Villa with peristyle
- 100 Villa with peristyle



Dr Gordana Milošević, Faculty of Architecture Belgrade  
Vesna Cmoglavac, National Museum Niš  
Dr Nadežda Gavrilović, Archaeological Institut Belgrade

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE MEDIANA

Ancient settlement Mediana is located in central Serbia, near city of Nish (Niš). It represents a unique complex built during the reign of Constantine the Great (306-337) and his sons. Many years of archaeological research suggest the existence of three main building phases that cover the period from the end of 3rd / beginning of the 4th century until the mid 5th century. Intensive life at Mediana lasted between 337 to 360, during Constantine's successors Constans and Constantius II, and also in the time of short reign of Julian the Apostate in 361. During the research the existence of two dozen buildings was noted, some of which are largely explored: the villa with peristyle, baths, two stibadii, horeum, villa with an octagon (triclinium) and a large hall, early Christian churches and necropolis. The settlement was destroyed by the Huns in 441 - 443, and the Mediana area was inhabited again in the Middle Ages but to a much lesser extent.

Mediana was imperial villa built for the enjoyment and managing of state affairs, but also as agricultural property. The taxes (annona) were collected and distributed in the form of food, to serve the imperial, military and state officials. The importance of Mediana can be viewed through a residential, administrative, economic and religious function. The residential area is represented by richly decorated buildings with architectural elements, mosaics, frescoes and sculptures. A number of workshops and warehouses for storing goods is a economic part of Mediana.

## MOSAICS IN VILLA WITH PERISTYLE (1)

Area : 885m<sup>2</sup>

Mosaics were lifted, conserved and put back during 1972-1973. They were covered with sand since then. The mosaic floors which covered the whole of the peristyle porch and the audience room (aula) are in good state of preservation.



## MOSAIC IN STIBADIUM A (1a)

Area: 48 m<sup>2</sup>

Excavated in 1933-1935.

Mosaic is almost completely preserved and in 1936 a building was erected over it and from then on it was used as a museum. The mosaic was bordered with concrete seals. It is on stable ground, tesserae are stable, tightly linked to the substrate. In some places there are microbiological organisms, which are a consequence of rising damp and lack of drainage around the building. Due to large amounts of cement it increased the humidity and salt appeared from cement. The conservation of the mosaic will be done after architectural repair of the building in 2012. Concrete seals will be removed and replaced by lime mortar seals, which contents and structure are very similar to the original plaster.



## MOSAIC IN VILLA WITH CONCHES (11)

Area: 15m<sup>2</sup>

The villa was discovered during the construction of the highway in 1975. It had to be relocated immediately, so it was first lifted and conserved in the period from 1976 to 1978. It was appointed to the grill of wood in which heraklit plates were fixed with the wire and nails, and mortar is applied in it and immersed tesserae. As it was presented outdoor for years (with a low protective cover built in 2005), due to the influence of weathering the wood decayed and the heraklit plates were largely disintegrated, and mortar was covered with a network of cracks and began to fall in layers. Therefore, there has been a falling out in tesserae and deformation of the mosaic. That caused loss of 15% of the mosaic. In 2011 the first phase of reconstruction was done. Facing was applied on the surface of the mosaics and it was cut into 16 fragments and lifted. The remains of heraklit and mortar are cleaned up to the tesserae. In the next phase, which will be carried out during 2012, it is planned to be put on a light surface of aluminium honeycomb and to prepare for a presentation from 3-4 segments, to make it easier for manipulation and presentation.

## MOSAIC IN STIBADIUM B (1b)

Area: 50 m<sup>2</sup>

Excavated in 2010-2011.

Stibadium B has preserved floor mosaics, but there are remains of a huge amount of glass tesserae which imply the presence of wall mosaic.

The mosaics on the floor in the eastern half of the round room and in the annexes are considerable damaged. Due to deterioration of the hypocaust there is damage in the central part of the mosaic in the round room; in the eastern half there is decline and depression in the mosaic, which is separated into fragments; western half is well-preserved, tesserae are stable, except at the rim.

Preventive conservation was carried out in 2010 and 2011, when the mosaic was bordered with lime mortar seals. The plan for conservation treatment of mosaic is scheduled for 2012. Mosaic is temporarily covered with geotextile and sandbags and has a low protective cover.

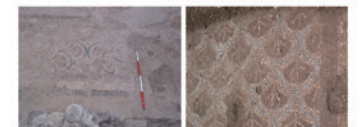


## MOSAIC IN THE CORRIDOR (1c)

Area: 104 m<sup>2</sup>

The mosaic was excavated on several occasions. Discovered in 1936, it was buried, then in the 70's re-discovered and buried again. During the 2004 it was re-buried and then covered with sand and in eastern part with nylon and sand. A shelter was built under this area in 2005.

Mosaic has a lot of damage in the form of lacuna, cracks and detachment of tesserae. It was once again re-buried in 2011 when cleaning was done in part by large deposits of dirt and lime mortar seals were put. Also, some investigation treatments were done as preparation for conservation of mosaic in situ that is planned in 2012.



## MOSAIC IN THE EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCH (7)

Area: 0.3m<sup>2</sup>

Mosaic was discovered in 2000. In the plaster floor of the nave, at the place of ambo, there is a field (60 x 50 cm) with presentation of Chrystogram built in a mosaic of secondary used stone tesserae. Mosaic is well-preserved with a few lacunae and some detached tesserae at the rim.



A project of presentation of villa with peristyle is currently in works. It includes re-conservation, conservation and reconstruction of certain parts in context of whole presentation of complex and exhibition space inside the Museum building. The villa with peristyle occupies central place in presentation, while other objects and areas inside the fence wall will be presented otherwise. After the conservation process, the discovered mosaics will be presented for the public.