

## 'Medusa'

### General information:

- Size of the mosaic: 355 x 330 cm
- The mosaic illustrates the portrait of the Medusa
- It is dated to the period of the Roman occupation
- It is located in a permanent exhibition in the New Archaeological Museum of Patras
- The mosaic was found in a rescue excavation in 1987
- It was detached and moved to the New Archaeological Museum of Patras in 2009
- The mosaic consists of 10 restored pieces



New Archaeological Museum of Patras

### Displaying the Medusa Mosaic:

The Medusa mosaic came to light during the excavation of a private building in Patras in 1987. It has been on display in the New Archaeological Museum of Patras since 2009.

The mosaic was placed on a special panel, a metal earthquake-safe construction which, according to the manufacturer, is capable of supporting the weight of the mosaic. The size of such a panel depends upon the size of the exhibited mosaic. The upright base on which the mosaic is mounted is made of 5mm thick pinewood with a positive inclination of 5%.

The Medusa mosaic was removed in 10 pieces and each one was separately restored. Restoration included removing the old brittle substratum, which was then replaced by new mortar and reinforced with an aluminium frame and an aluminium grid. Each piece is 3-3.5cm thick and weighs 50-55kg / m<sup>2</sup>.

The restored pieces were suspended in slings and lifted to the desired position by a crane. Each piece was then secured with screws, which were driven into ready-made holes.

Each piece of the mosaic was independently positioned and secured, with a 1-2cm gap separating each one. When all the pieces were in place, the gaps were filled with the tesserae that had been displaced during the mosaic's removal (tessellation).

All stages of the entire procedure were documented with photographs and drawings (in particular, the exact position of the supporting screws), in order to facilitate any future restoration work.

Step 1:  
Planning the position of the restored pieces of the mosaic



Step 2:  
Lifting and placing the first piece



Step 3:  
View of the first piece



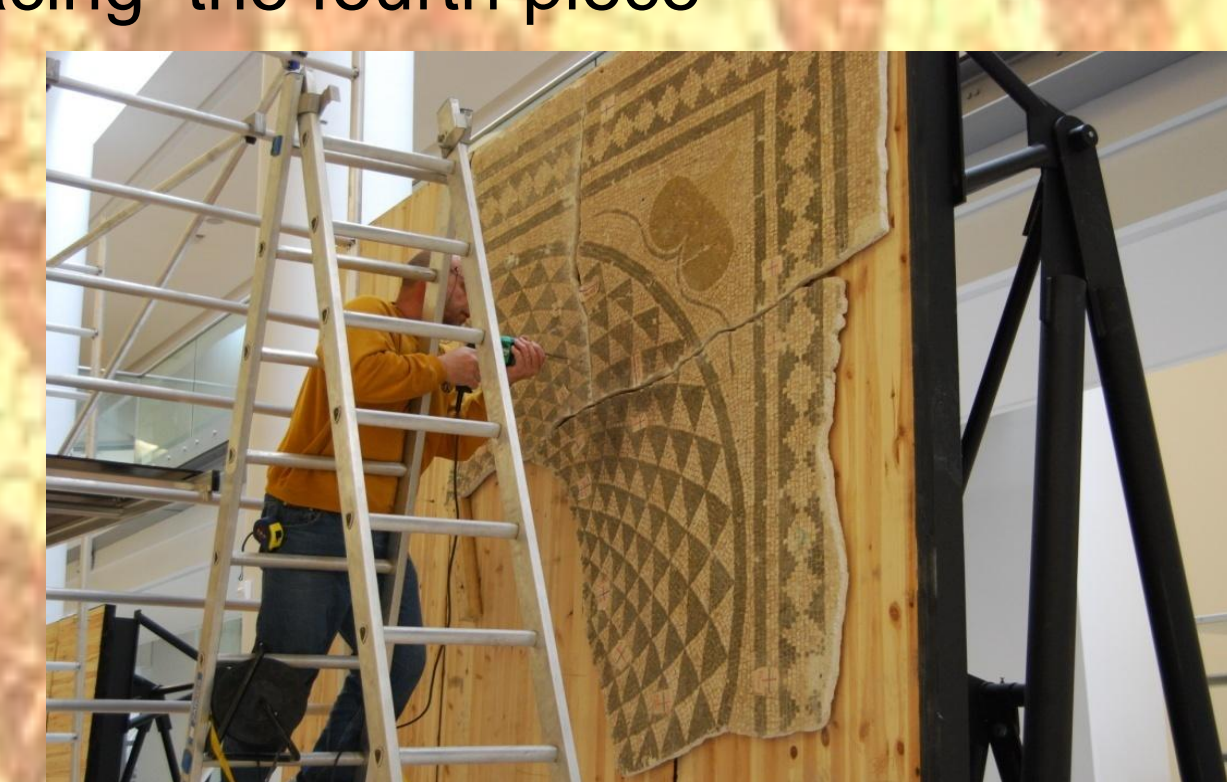
Step 4:  
Placing the second piece



Step 5:  
Final position of the second piece



Step 6:  
Placing the fourth piece



Step 7:  
Mapping the position of the screws



Step 8:  
Placing the fifth piece



Step 9:  
Placing the central piece of the mosaic



Step 10:  
Fixing the central piece of the mosaic



Step 11:  
Placing the sixth piece



Step 12:  
Grouting the mosaic



Step 13:

Tessellation



Step 14:

Tessellation



Step 15:

Tessellation



'Medusa Mosaic' base



'Medusa Mosaic' on display