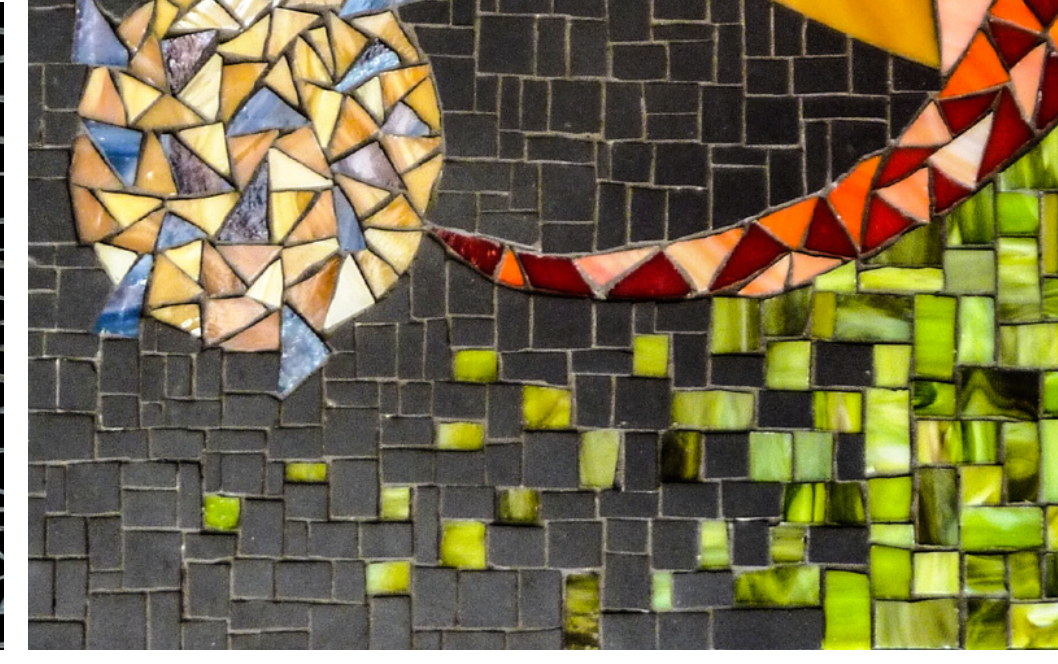
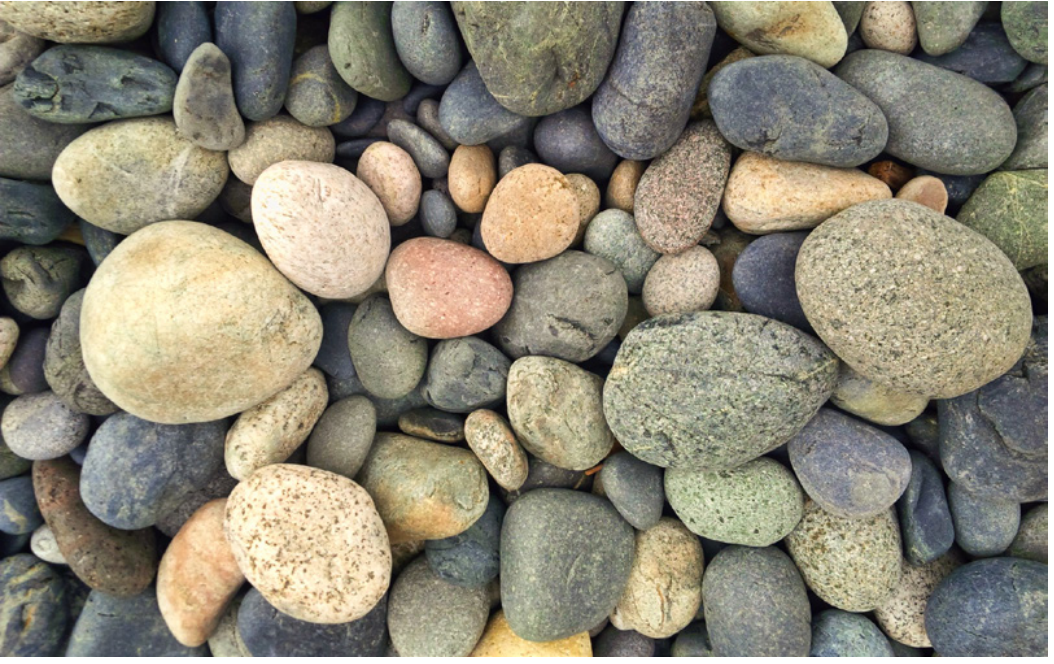


# Mosaics on Euboea Island Greece : From Antiquity to Today

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## WHAT Exhibition

## ABOUT Presentation of new ideas in mosaic art and history

## WHEN November 2016

## WHERE Calckida, Euboea, Greece

## LOCATION Town Hall of Chalkida

## SPONSOR Hellenic Society for Near Eastern Studies



### Motivation

The exhibition draws jointly upon the fields of archaeology and conservation of antiquities to present the art of ancient mosaics, especially those found in Euboea\*. The motivations for this attempt are the promotion and development of that important cultural heritage.



Photo 1

\* Some of the most important Hellenistic-period pebble mosaics in Greece are located on the island of Euboea. The most well-known comes from the 'House of the Mosaics' in Eretria (early 4th century B.C. Photos 1, 2, 3). These mosaic pavements are made of small-sized (roughly 1-2cm diameter), naturally smoothed pebbles. The mosaics portray themes of mythological human figures and creatures, as well as geometric patterns. They are mainly in black and white but also in yellow, orange and red.

### The Exhibition

An exhibition brochure was available at the entrance, and guided tours could be scheduled daily. In addition, specially-tailored small workshops were prepared for schoolchildren.



Photo 2



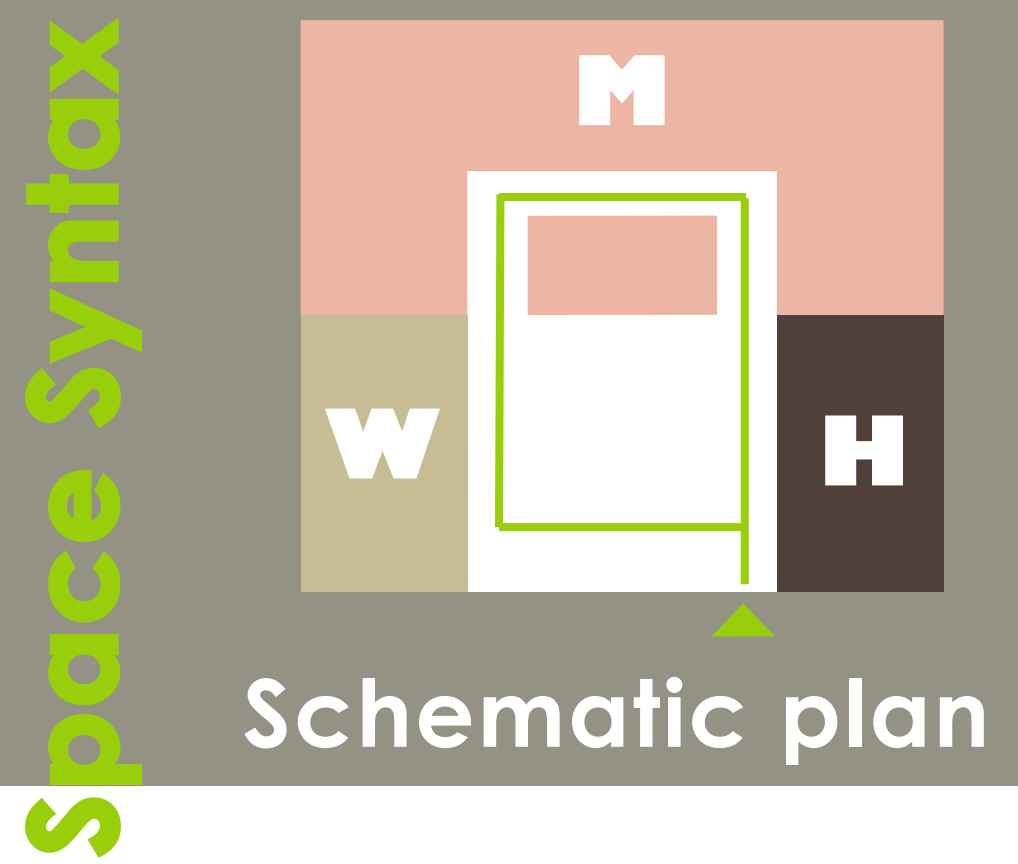
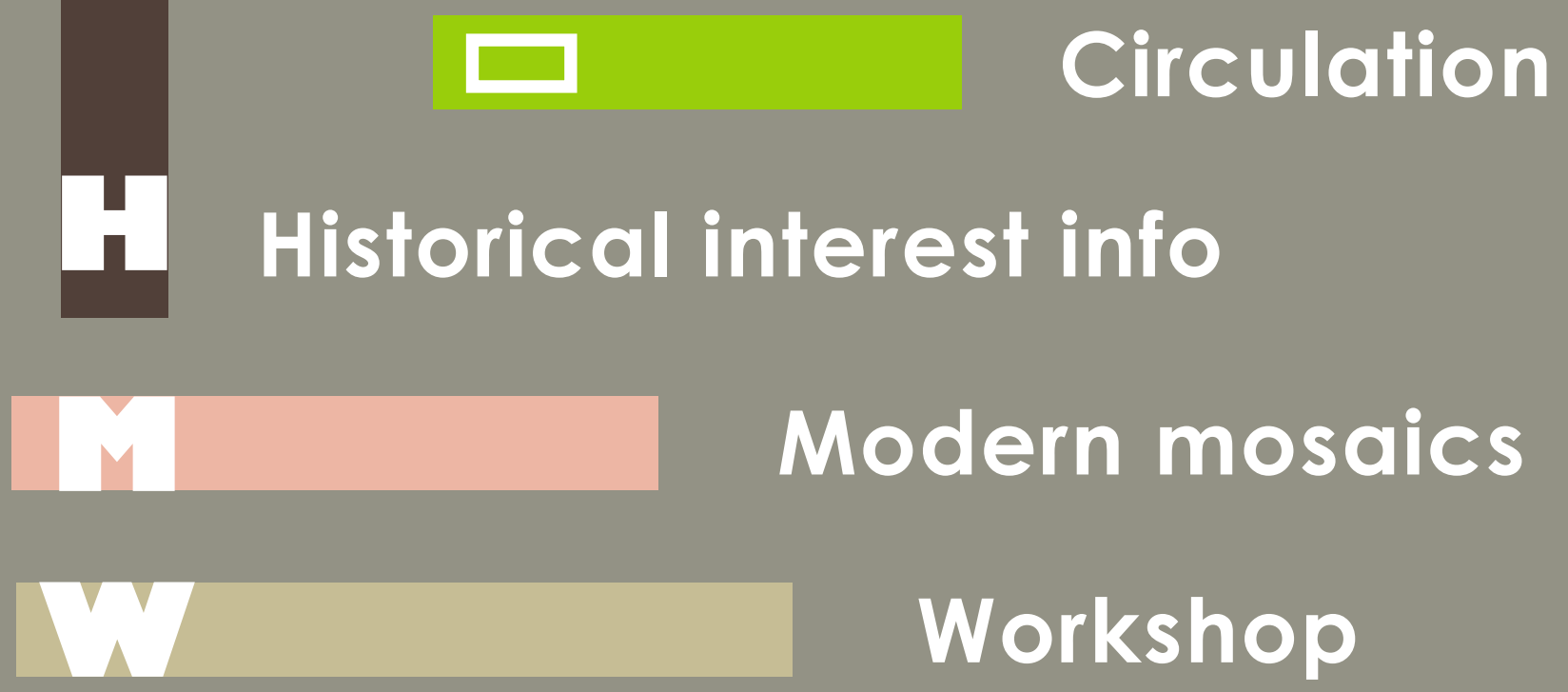
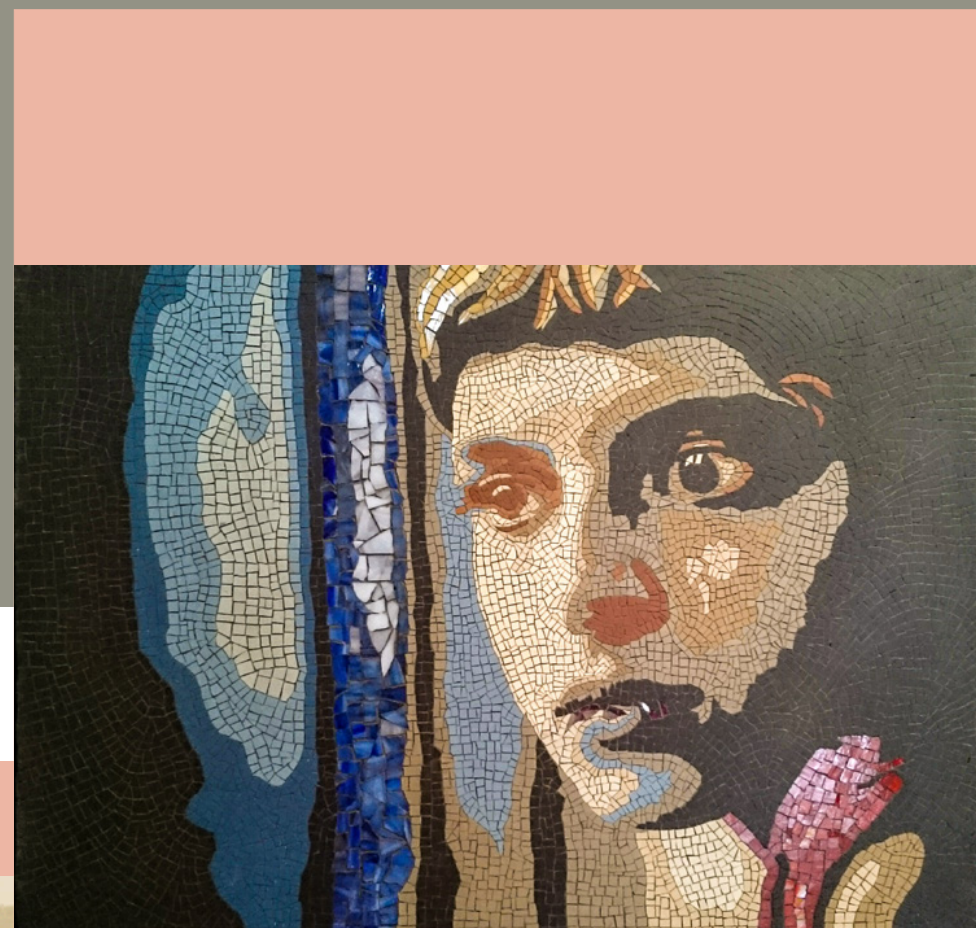
Photo 3

### Objectives

Rescuing, conserving and enhancement of cultural heritage are matters that best involve the participation of local communities. Consequently, the main purpose of the exhibition was to inform and raise public awareness concerning the art of ancient and modern mosaics. The intention was to attract the interest of visitors to three different topics: the history and origin of mosaic art, with a special reference to finds on Euboea; the technology and the materials which were, and still are, being used in mosaic-making; and, the potential for artistic expression through modern mosaic.



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Space Syntax



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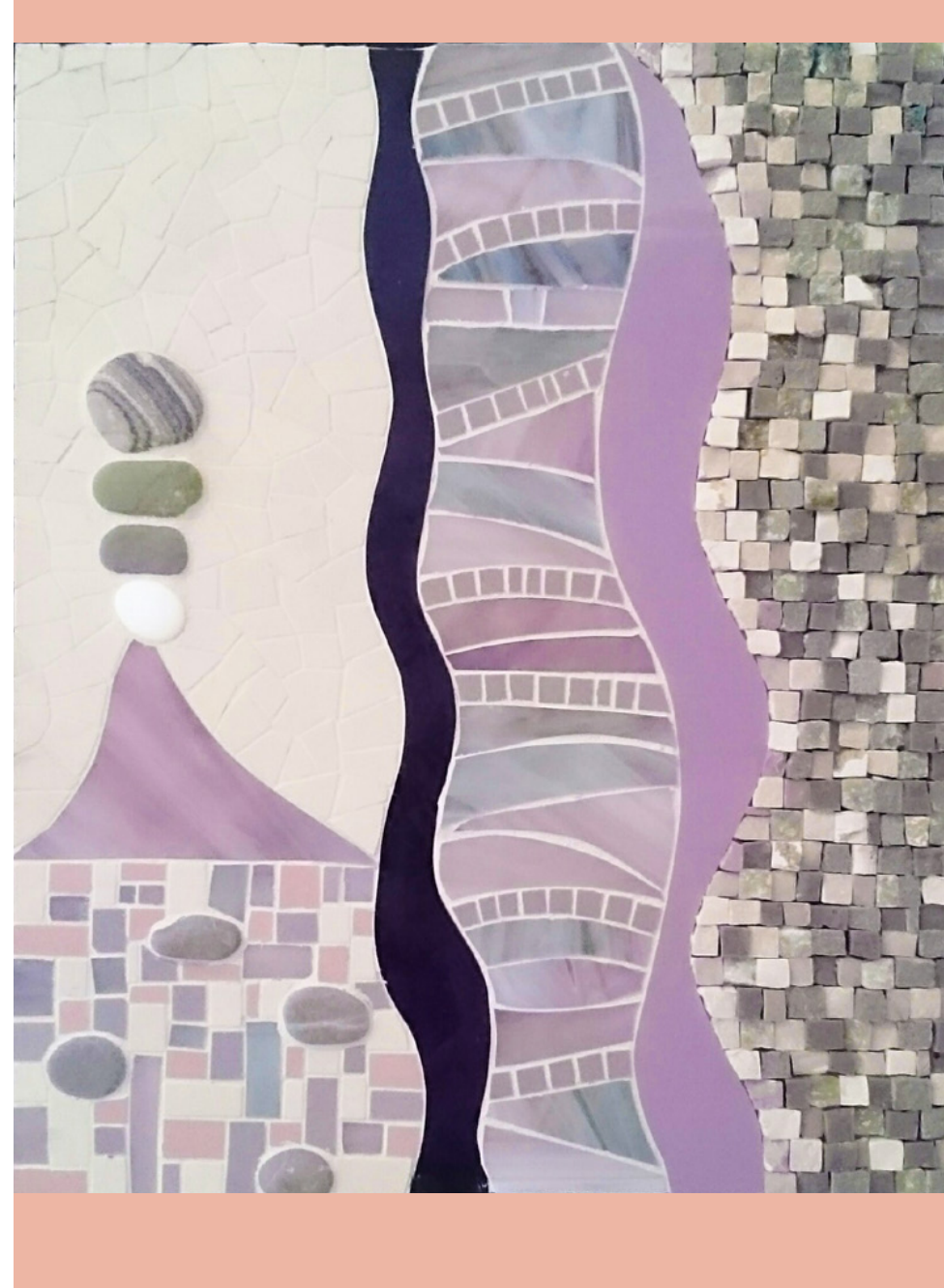
The design of the spatial layout was inextricably linked with the objective of the exhibition. As visitors entered the exhibition hall they were guided anti-clockwise to the information area which included panels divided into four themes: The Origins of the Mosaic Art; The Development of Mosaics Art; Mosaics on Euboea; and Production Techniques of Ancient Mosaics.



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Next, the visitors walked into an area displaying modern mosaics which were created by mosaicist Elli Mantzana. The careful choice of more than forty mosaic works was intended to illustrate contemporary techniques and materials.

The last part was a workshop area with a mosaic working table. All types of materials, tools and techniques related to mosaic-making were presented. Visitors were encouraged to use these resources in order to have a live experience of the craft.

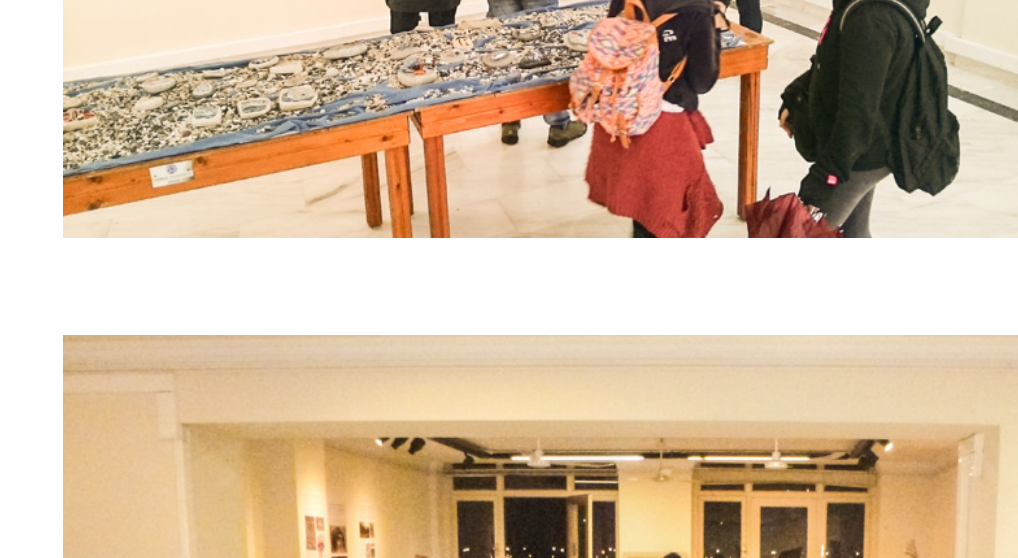
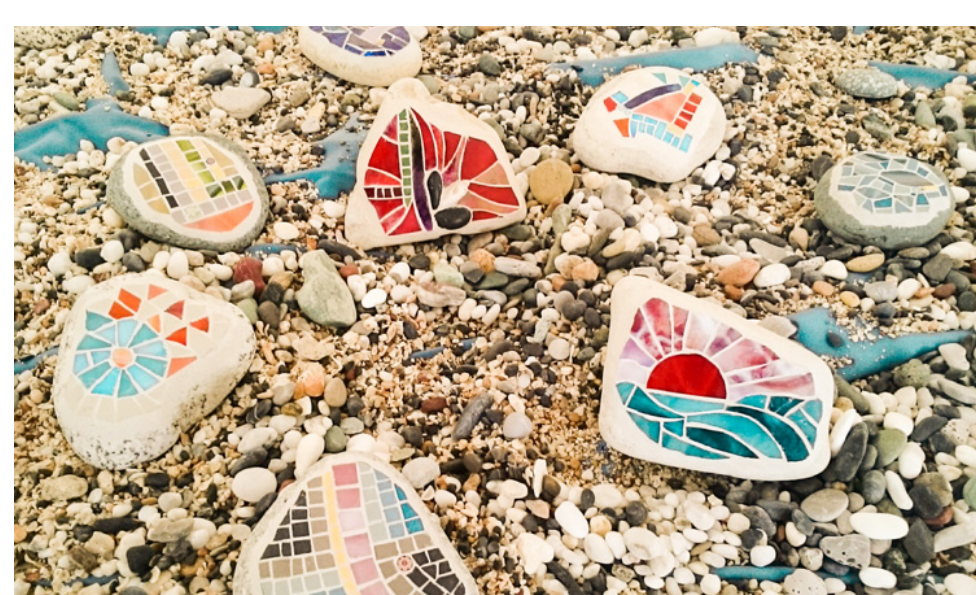


### Future Plans

The positive results of the exhibition encouraged the organizers to continue developing this venture in the future. At present, many requests have been made to repeat the exhibition in Chalkida, as well as to make exhibitions in other towns of Euboea, such as Eretria and Ymi. The main purpose would be to make people more aware of mosaics. One improvement that can be made is upgrading the feedback mechanism. Questionnaires can be prepared focusing more on scientific, quantitative and qualitative analysis of the visitors' experience. This information could be useful to better evaluate the availability of the local community for future cultural activities concerning mosaic art. Finally, the long-term plan is the creation of an updated and multi-purpose mosaic space. This could serve various activities connected with mosaic art, such as theoretical seminars, thematic exhibitions, and practical lessons for making modern mosaics. Such a space could encourage and inspire local communities to maintain and develop their mosaic heritage.

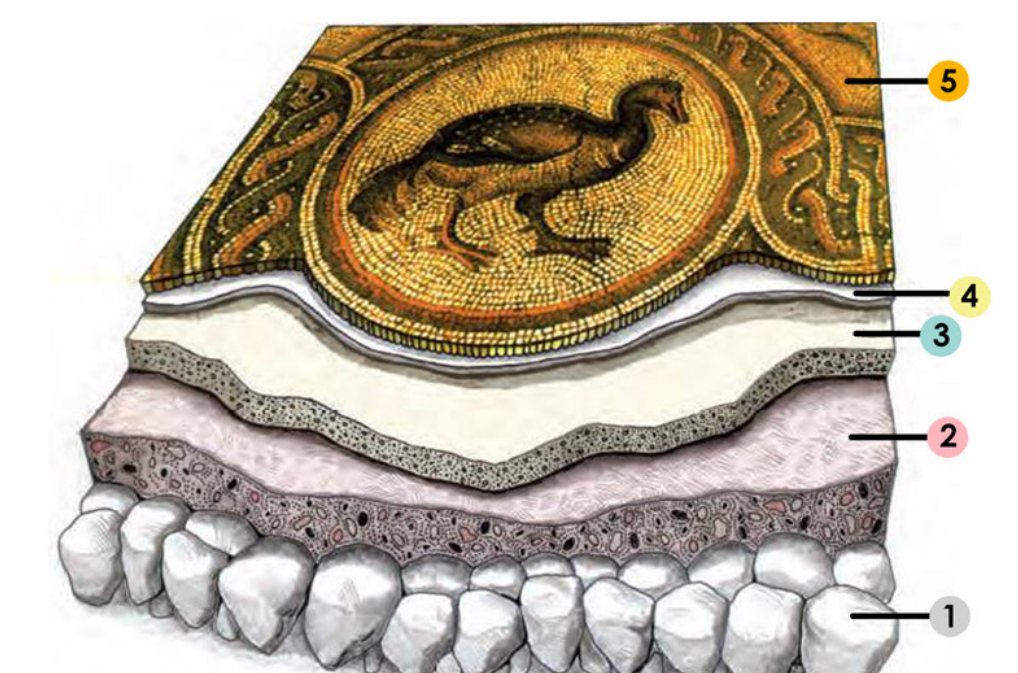
### Results and Evaluation

Almost 500 people and 50 primary school pupils visited the exhibition during the ten days that was open. Only 20% of the visitors had ever seen a mosaic before. The feedback that was collected through written and oral comments was very positive and encouraging. Visitors underlined the interesting and helpful combination of historical information and interactive mosaic workshops. Most visitors seemed pleasantly surprised by the potential of mosaic artistic techniques and 30% expressed strong interest to learn the art of mosaic-making.



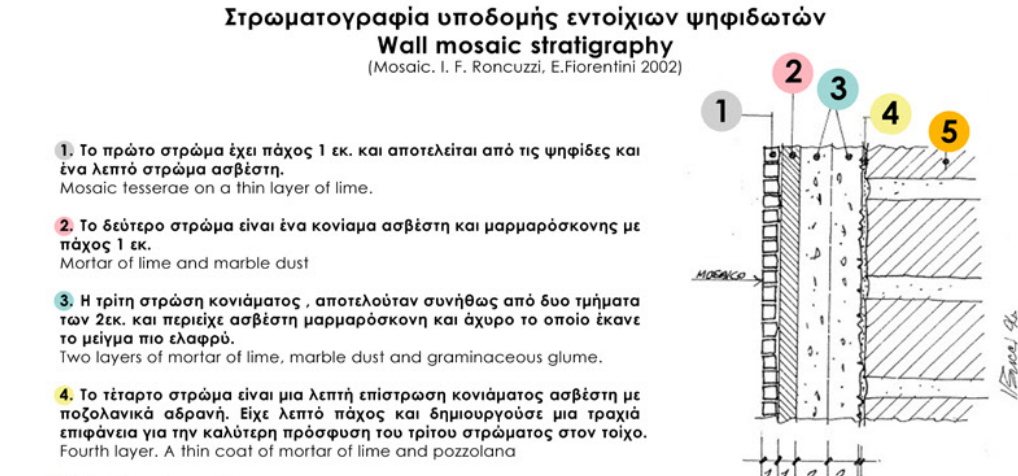
### Information panel

Προσπονηση υποδομης ιστορικών φρεατίων Floor mosaic stratigraphy



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