


Report Conservation Treatment on the North-East Wall of Tomb 3

	
Object	Tomb Nr. 3, part b (north-east) outer wall
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Date	3.-5. October 2023
Location	Necropolis Porta Nocera, Pompeii, Italy

Condition

In this area there were multiple endangered areas that were at risk for loss if not treated. There has been loss of adhesion on multiple layers which led to detachments and scaling. In large parts the whole plaster layer showed a detachment from the masonry. In some parts the gaps between masonry and plaster were very wide, up to 2 cm. Detachment was also visible in the other layers of the plaster. In the intonaco there were small parts that were affected by loss of cohesion in addition to the detachment and that were severely endangered of loss. In some gaps between the detachments plants and insects are visible. All plaster layers show discoloration, supposedly caused by biological infestation.

Treatment

Due to time constraints the detachments from the masonry were not treated in this area. The detachments within the plaster layers were treated as they also seemed to be more fragile and at risk of loss. The first step was to mechanically clean the areas that were to be treated. In the gaps of the detached layers dust and plaster residues were blown away with an airball or gently removed with brushes and spatulas. If the gaps were open at the bottom these areas were firstly closed with mortar. After that the gap was wet first and injected with backfilling (Leo's recipe) after. After this all open gaps were closed with edging repairs. One problem with the edging repair was to match the color as the discoloration in this area was very diverse. In two very fragile areas that were also affected by loss of adhesion a facing with methylcellulose and japanese paper was applied, so the area would not collapse under the weight of the edging repair and the backfilling. The facing was removed as soon as the treated area was set and cleaned with water and a cotton swab.



Prewetting before injection of the backfilling



Edging repair

After the treatment





