

Fig. 36. Above: Temple of Apollo. Cella exterior, east wall. The mosaic floor butts against an earlier decoration in the cavity. At a later phase, the mosaic floor was concealed behind plaster.

Fig. 35. Below: Temple of Apollo. Sampling areas and colour code.

# Temple of Apollo

*“Sanctuary of Apollo.*

*Exterior and interior of cella wall of the temple. Date: Problematical. Comment. If stucco composition changes overtime, it would be interesting to compare the Eumachia and the Apollo samples because the date of the Temple of Apollo is controversial. It is either second century B.C. or an Augustan-period rebuilding. The PFP dates the tufa colonnade of the sanctuary to the Augustan period. We have no firm opinion about the temple itself, but we consider it possible that the temple also dates to the Augustan period. It is also possible that the temple is second century and its stucco is Augustan; we realize that the stucco does not necessarily date the temple.”*

*“Tufa colonnade of the sanctuary. Date: Controversial. Second century B.C. or Augustan period. Comment. The tufa columns reveal two phases of stucco. The first may be original; the second appears to be post-earthquake. The PFP would like to know about both phases, but it is especially interesting to know if the first coat is Augustan period (possibly first decade A.D.), or if it is similar to early to mid First Style samples.”*

*“House of Pansa VI.6*

*Peristyle. Tufa columns. Date: Second century B.C. Comment. Here, as in the Sanctuary of Apollo, the tufa columns of the peristyle reveal a two-phase stucco treatment. The second is presumably post-62. The first is possibly original to the columns and therefore belongs to the second century B.C. If this is true, it should be different from the original coat on the Sanctuary of Apollo columns and would form a nice contrast to that sample.”*



Fig. 37. Temple of Apollo. Plaster layers on a column in the south portico. Sample nos. 9, 10, 11.

The new temple of Apollo, surrounded by a portico with at least ten openings towards the Forum, is traditionally dated to around 120 BC.<sup>1</sup> The openings were closed when the forum was restructured and the Temple of Jupiter became the focal point. Some details of the early phase are still visible, among these the cella floor in *opus sectile*. Remnants of the original decoration in the cella are partially visible behind a later decoration.

### *Plasters and phases*

Samples were taken from layers in stratigraphic order on the cella walls, the tufa columns in the sanctuary, and later, at the podium, the north precinct wall and at one of the columns in the north colonnade (Fig. 37). One column in Casa di Pansa was sampled for comparisons.

The plaster used for the original 1<sup>st</sup> style decoration belongs to group A. There are, however, two kinds of early 1<sup>st</sup> style plaster in the temple, represented by reference samples TA1 and TA2. Due to minor variations within group A, I sorted these plasters into subgroups, Aa, Ab, and Ac. TA2 belongs to group Aa. It is covered by TA1, which belongs to group Ac. Type TA2 was used for the first layer on the interior wall of the cella, for the first decoration of the tufa column in the portico, and was also found in a cavity at the original floor level at the east exterior cella wall, where a mosaic floor butts against it (Fig. 36). Type TA1, covering TA2 in the cella, was found at the ovulo border, at the top level of the exterior cella, and as fragments used in the podium. The next decoration phase, connected with the 3<sup>rd</sup> style, is a plaster belonging to group E, found on the panels on the cella interior west wall, its exterior walls at the top level and on the lower part of the tufa column in the portico. A later plaster, group G, was applied on the 3<sup>rd</sup> style redecoration of the tufa column. This kind of plaster was used for the last decoration on north and west podium walls. The last decoration on the cella exterior walls was made with a crushed and reused plaster, group H. The first layer on the Pansa column is of the same kind as the first layer on the tufa column in the portico of the Sanctuary of Apollo.

According to the plaster analyses at the ICVBC, there are differences between samples TA1 and TA2; these are placed in different groups of 1<sup>st</sup> style plasters, and the results correspond with my own observations.

### *Discussion and results*

There might have been two decoration phases during the period of the early 1<sup>st</sup> style, followed by a redecoration, probably datable to the Augustan period. The last two plaster types, G and H, belong to the final years of Pompeii. The similarities between the two early plasters in group A are more notable than the differences: both are fine-grained plasters containing many crystals. The difference is that one filler (Aa) has almost exclusively black particles while the other (Ac) contains more coloured crystals and a few bright yellow particles. Indicative of two phases is the fact that Aa is covered by Ab, and of Aa being contemporaneous with the original floor and earlier than the mosaic floor. The questions concerning plasters in group A need to be further investigated.

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<sup>1</sup> La Rocca & de Vos 2002, 103.

## *Temple of Apollo, Plaster types, groups, locations*

### **Plaster type TA 1 and TA 2, group A**

*Reference sample TA 1.* Subgroup Ac. This sample consists of two layers, the upper with extremely small particles, and the lower with small grains between large. The lower layer is of the same kind as the upper layer on sample no. 2. One of many fragments used in the construction of the podium, west wall, has this kind of plaster. To subgroup Ac belong plasters of the first phase in the Basilica and in the Casa di Cerere.

*Reference sample TA 2.* Subgroup Aa. Layer below no. 1. The filler is small-grained and contains a lot of crystals, almost exclusively long black, some uncoloured, greyish and a few green. To group Aa belong, e.g., plasters of the first phase in the Temple of Jupiter, Casa di Pansa, Casa del Frutteto and Casa di Amaranthus.

### **Plaster type TA 3, group E**

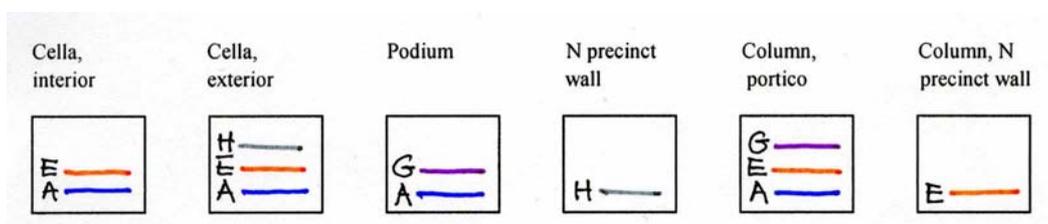
This kind of plaster was applied on the west wall panels in the interior cella. It had also been used for the decoration of the exterior walls of the cella, top level, and for the last decoration at the lower part of the tufa column in the portico and for the column at the north precinct wall. Plasters of this kind were used for 3<sup>rd</sup> style decorations in e.g. Casa del Bell'Impluvio and the Edifice of Eumachia. It is possible that the more fine-grained plaster of samples TA12 and TA24, used for the columns, constitute a new group. It may otherwise be due to a different plastering technique.

### **Plaster type TA 11, group G**

This is a plastered area, a repair, covering phases 1 and 2 on the column in the portico. A plaster of this kind was found as the last decoration on the podium, north and west walls. To the same group belong plasters for the 4<sup>th</sup> style decoration in, e.g., the Macellum.

### **Plaster type TA 6, group H**

The last decoration on the exterior walls was made of this a crushed and reused plaster. To the same group belong the 4<sup>th</sup> style decoration in Casa del Puer Successus and the last applications at the Temple of Jupiter.



## *List of examined plaster samples*

### Temple of Apollo

### Pompeii Forum 2004-2005

No	Sample location	Comments	Brief description, plaster	Stucco	Decoration	Type	Group
1 CNR	Cella, west wall, interior. At the centre, cornice.	Two layers: first layer = preparation? Upper layer with stucco decoration. Covered by later decoration. <i>Same group: TJ3, B2, TV5, P1.</i>	Upper layer: lots of crystals. Much lime. Very small grains, mainly black. Uncoloured, grey. Some orange and green. Lower layer: small grains between large. Lots of crystals, long black, uncoloured, orange, green. Same as TA2.	Fine white stucco. Small uncoloured crystals, some large.	1 <sup>st</sup> style decoration	TA 1	A
2 CNR	Cella, west wall, interior. At the centre, cornice	Layer below no. 1.  <i>Same group: TJ3, B2, TV5, P1.</i>	Black and white. Clean lime, grainy. Small grains between large, mainly black, some grey and brown. Few red grains. Lots of black crystals, uncoloured, olive and grey. Few yellow crystals.		1 <sup>st</sup> style decoration	TA 2	A
3 CNR	Cella, west wall, interior. At the centre, panel.	Covering earlier decoration (samples 1, 2).  <i>Same group: TJ10, E1, TV2.</i>	Multi-coloured, warm colours. Very small grains between few large. Mainly black, brown and beige rounded. Many yellow, some bright yellow particles. Long black, uncoloured and some olive green crystals. Clean lime.			TA 3	E
4	Cella, west wall, interior. At the centre, panel.	Preparation for no. 3. Same as no. 3.	Same as no. 3 with smaller grains. Many crystals, yellow, green.			TA 3	E
5	Cella, east side, exterior. At the floor level, below second panel from NE. plaster layer in the cavity.	Layer with decoration. This decoration is contemporary with the cocciopesto floor. Covered by no. 6.	Black and white. Very little lime. Lots of black grains, mainly small between medium sized, some grey. Long black and uncoloured crystals. Very few small red grains. Almost exclusively black particles.		1 <sup>st</sup> style plaster	TA2	A
6	Cella, east side, exterior. At the floor level.	Decoration covering 1 <sup>st</sup> style decoration (no 5). Similar to no 3, not the same. 4 <sup>th</sup> style? Crushed no 3 with new lime? Bad mixture of no 3? Reused plaster.  <i>Same group: TJ2, M3, E10, CP2</i>	Mainly black particles. Uncoloured. Grey and few olive green crystals. Very much lime, grainy.		Reused plaster	TA 6	H
7	Cella, north side, exterior. Decoration at the upper level (old?).	At the horizontal (ionic) ovulo border decoration. Above the second vertical border from NW. Fine white stucco surface. Same as no. 1	Black and white with some colours. Grainy lime. Small grains between large, mainly rounded, black, brown, grey. Some orange. Few red grains. Uncoloured crystals.	Clean lime. Small, medium sized and large, uncoloured and yellow crystals.		TA 1	A
8	Cella, north side, exterior. Decoration at the middle level (new?). Yes.	At the 3 <sup>rd</sup> vertical border from NW. Last decoration. This stucco surface is greyish. Roughly shaped borders. Same as no. 6.	Clean lime. Medium sized grains between large, black, brown and yellow. Some large yellowish grains (travertine?) Some small red, few bright yellow particles. Uncoloured, grey, few olive green crystals.	Clean lime. Large and medium sized crystals, uncoloured and yellow.	After 62?	TA 6	H

No	Sample location	Comments	Brief description, plaster	Stucco	Decoration	Type	Group
9	Tufa column. Second column from SW.	First layer. Rough layer, preparation. Same as no 2.	Black and white, large grains. Lots of small black grains between large brown, grey, red-brown. Many black with red dots. White and green crystals.		preparation		
10	Tufa column, Second column from SW.	Two layers. Preparation, (sample 9). Upper layer with stucco. Same as no 5.	Black and white. 2 plaster types in the box. Preparation no 9 and plaster no 10.	Very large crystals, uncoloured, yellowish and greyish	1 <sup>st</sup> style decoration	TA2	A
11	Tufa column, Second column from SW.	Covering no. 10.  <i>Same group: M1, P4.</i>	Sandy brown plaster.		repair	<b>TA 11</b>	<b>G</b>
12 CNR	Tufa column, Second column from SW.  Lower part of the column.	Upper layer and stucco, last decoration.	White lime. Thin layer. Rounded grains, mainly black, beige. Some bright yellow, bright orange particles. White, uncoloured, yellow and some black crystals. Beige "beans".	White lime. Large crystals, uncoloured, yellow, grey. Some black.	3 <sup>rd</sup> style? 4 <sup>th</sup> style?	TA 3	E
13	Cella, exterior, north wall, south side. West of entrance.	Last layer				TA 6	H
14	Cella, exterior. East side.	Layer for terracotta, covering old decoration and covered by the last decoration	Small grains, many yellow. Much lime, lots of crystals.			TA 3	E
15	Cella, exterior. West side.	Old decoration	Sample taken to substitute no 1, which is very small.			TA 3	E
16	Podium, north side.	Layer covered by 17	Sandy brown plaster.			TA11	G
17	Podium, north side.	Last decoration	Sandy brown plaster, same as 16.			TA11	G
18	Podium, north side.	Fragment in the wall	Black and white.			TA2	A
19	North precinct wall.	Last decoration	Sandy plaster, yellow grains.			TA 6	H
20	Podium, west side.	Fragment in the wall	One of many fragments of the same kind – a row of round white stones in lime.			TA 1	A
21	Podium, west side.	Layer covered by 22	Sandy brown plaster.			TA11	G
22	Podium, west side.	Layer covering 21	Sandy brown plaster. Same as 21.			TA11	G
23	Podium, column.		Only stucco.				
24	Column, at the north precinct wall.		Many colours, lots of yellow grains. Same as no. 12.			TA3	E