

Fig. 43. Edifice of Eumachia. Sampling areas and colour code.

Edifice of Eumachia

“Eumachia building. Porter’s lodge (space 223). Date for this sample. Probably first decade of the first century A.D.; some would put it into the 20s A.D., but no controversy beyond that. The painting in this space belongs to the first phase of the building. There is much post-earthquake repair in the Eumachia Building, but this part, including the painting, is original.

Space 211. northeast exterior corner or northeast interior corner. Comment. Both these areas of plaster appear to be original.

South crypta (space 221). The south wall of the space (=south wall of the building) possibly preserves original plaster (or it could be post-62). See fig. 28, left edge of photograph. Not the plaster straight ahead at the west end of the space.

South crypta, west end. Figure 28 also shows the interior side of the south wall of the building and some of its plaster - a sample of that plaster would be desirable, but as indicated above, it is possible that that plaster belongs to the original Third-Style phase of the building. Date. For the west end of space 221, the plaster should be post-earthquake.

Exterior. South wall and east wall. The stucco (plaster?) on the south exterior wall is much more accessible than the better preserved areas on the east wall. Date. First phase of the building, first decade A.D, or at latest, 20s A.D.”

The edifice of Eumachia, constructed on top of demolished shops and *tabernae* from the third and second centuries BC and earlier,¹ is the first building of the Augustan period erected at the east side of the Forum. Its dating, to around AD 22, is based on an inscription on a marble panel at the entrance towards Via dell’Abbondanza.² This building, thought to have been a cloth market, was decorated with 3rd style paintings, of which there are some remains.

Plasters and phases

Samples were taken at the Porter’s Lodge (space 223), from the traces of decoration in the corridor that leads to the upper floor (space 222), from the exterior south wall towards Via dell’Abbondanza and at the south and west walls in the south crypt (space 221). The same kind of plaster, group E, had been used for decorations in the Porter’s Lodge and in the corridor. The exterior south wall towards Via dell’Abbondanza had a slightly different kind of plaster, belonging to group F. On the south wall of the crypta a layer of plaster type E was concealed by a layer type F. These phases were, at the socle, covered by a layer of the last period, group H. According to ICVBC analyses, the plaster used at the exterior south wall is different to that used for interior decoration (samples E4 and E6).

Discussion and results

The dominating type of plaster found in this building belongs to group E, known from other 3rd style decorations. The fine-grained plaster, group F, at the south exterior wall is less frequent: in fact it was found only in this building, at the Temple of Vespasian and in the Casa di Cerere. Plasters in groups E and F look similar, but those in group F have plenty of red and some orange grains. The socle at the south wall in space 221 had been repaired with a very late, reused plaster.

¹ Maiuri 1973, 54.

² La Rocca & de Vos 2002, 120.



Fig. 44. Edifice of Eumachia. Sample E 1. *To the left:* sampling area. *To the right:* The sample.

Edifice of Eumachia, Plaster types, groups, locations

Plaster type E1, group E.

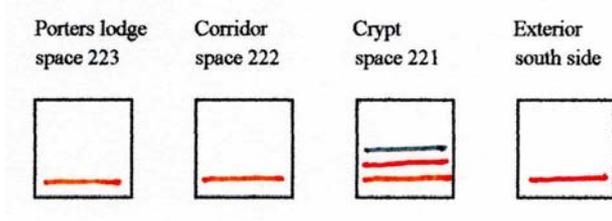
Small-grained filler with many yellow grains. Found as the first layer in the building's interior. This kind of plaster was used for 3rd style decorations at the Casa del Bell'Impluvium and Casa di Successus. It was also used for decorations at the temple of Apollo, the Temple of Jupiter and the Temple of Vespasian.

Plaster type E 6, group F.

Similar to E, but finer grains and more red particles. Found as the second application on the south wall in the crypta and on the exterior south wall. This kind of plaster was used for the last decoration of the portico column at the Temple of Apollo and was the last phase on the fragment at the Temple of Vespasianus.

Plaster type E 10, group H.

Reused plaster, found at the socle zone on the south wall in the crypta. A similar plaster was used for the last, unfinished decoration at the Temple of Apollo.



List of examined plaster samples

Edifice of Eumachia

Pompeii Forum 2004-2005

| No | Sample location | Comments | Brief description, plaster | Stucco | Decoration | Type | Group |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|-----------------------|------|-------|
| 1 | Porters lodge (space 223). East wall. | Layer with decoration 2 layers: the upper has finer grains. <i>Same group: TJ10, TA3, TV2; B17, PS3, A6, C7.</i> | Small grains between medium sized and a few large, black, beige, grey. Many yellow grains. | Uncoloured and greyish crystals, few very small yellow. | 3 rd style | E1 | E |
| 2 | Porters lodge (space 223). East wall. | Layer with decoration. Top layer. This layer, below the stucco, has extremely fine grains | Many colours. Small grains between few large. | | | E 1 | E |
| 3 | Porters lodge (space 223). North wall. | Layer with decoration (cinnabar?). | Many colours. Small grains. | | | E 1 | E |
| 4 CNR | Corridor (space 222). East wall. | Layer with decoration. <i>No. 4 extra, taken from floor: the same.</i> | Many colours. Small grains. | | 3 rd style | E 1 | E |
| 5 | Corridor (space 222). West wall. | Rough plaster. | Very fine grains between larger. (crushed?) reused? | | | | |
| 6 CNR | Exterior wall. South wall at Via dell'Abbondanza. | Upper layer with stucco decoration. <i>No. 6 extra, taken from pavement. Same group: TV, C14.</i> | Many colours, more red grains than E1. | | | E 6 | F |
| 7 | Crypta (space 221). South wall, close to the SW corner. | First layer on the stone. | Large grains. | Many colours. | | E 1 | E |
| 8 | Crypta (space 221). South wall, close to the SW corner. | Second layer, covering no. 7. <i>As no. 2 with more red grains.</i> | Small grains. | | | E 6 | F |
| 9 | Crypta (space 221). South wall, close to the SW corner. | Third layer, covering no. 8. Same as no 8 | | No stucco on the sample. | | E 6 | F |
| 10 CNR | Crypta (space 221). South wall, close to the SW corner. | Upper layer with stucco decoration (black socle with yellow stripes). <i>Same group: TA6, M3, TJ2; A8, PS10, BI9.</i> | Dirty sample. | No stucco on the sample. | | E 10 | H |
| 11 | Crypta (space 221). West wall, close to the SW corner. | Layer covered by 12 | | | | E 1 | E |
| 12 | Crypta (space 221). West wall, close to the SW corner. | Layer with decoration, covering 11. | | | | E 1 | E |