

Fig. 39. Above: The Temple of Jupiter. Columns on the podium.

Fig. 38. Below: The Temple of Jupiter. Sampling areas and colour code.

Temple of Jupiter

“The temple is a more complicated building than it appears to be and its cella walls may not belong to the original construction. (1) The podium is certainly an original structure and it is therefore possible that the plaster (stucco?) on the crown moulding may belong to the temple’s first phase (but not necessarily so). You can find a very nicely preserved area on the temple’s west side, next to the brick arch that stands at the southwest corner of the temple. There may be two coats here, but sample the earlier, which is of a very high quality. (2) The cella walls. On the north side of the temple the exterior of the cella is at street level and easily sampled. I would recommend that you sample this temple well because the Temple of Jupiter is one of the most important buildings at Pompeii and you will be pleased in the long run to have samples from it. Comment. It would be useful to see if the plaster of the Basilica and the Temple of Jupiter (1) is similar; and (2) falls into your middle or late First Style group. Also, within the Temple of Jupiter itself, it would be helpful to know if the plaster on different parts of the temple falls into different groups.”

The traditional point of view is that the temple dedicated to Jupiter was built in the middle of the second century BC and rebuilt into a *Capitolium* after the foundation of the colony.¹ Recent studies of the podium have led to the hypothesis that the temple was constructed for the trinity of gods Jupiter, Juno and Minerva already during its first phase.² Zanker suggests that the podium is what remains of the old Jupiter temple and dates the architecture on the podium to the first years of the colony.³

Plasters and phases

Plaster and stucco was taken from the fragment of 1st style plasterwork at the crown moulding, at the west side of the podium and close to the southwest brick arch. This layer continues behind the arch that was built later. The next sample was taken from a decoration covering the earlier one. The third sample was taken at the north end of the exterior cella wall, from the 1st style decoration that continues behind the brick arch. The plaster of sample nos. 1 and 3 was not the same, i.e. these 1st style stucco decorations were made of plasters belonging to different groups; the one at the cella belongs to group A, and the podium plaster is later, group B. Plasters belonging to group A were also found on the blocked-up columns in the cella walls. On the interior cella walls, above the socle, there was a plaster connected with 2nd style decorations. Plasters belonging to the same group, C, had been used for decorations in the Casa di Cerere and Casa di Successus. Plasters connected with 3rd style decorations, group E, were found in a few places; at the southern opening of the cella, on cella and podium columns, and at the north side of the podium, covering the early first style plaster, continuing onto the arch. To the last period belong applications on the podium, on the exterior walls of the cella, and at the socle of its interior walls. The ICVBC investigation of three samples taken from 1st style decorations, shows, that these represent two different kinds of plaster. Samples TJ3 and TJ18 were considered as of the same kind while sample TJ24, the fragment in the podium was considered different. According to my results, sample TJ18 is different while the others belong to the same group, A. Sample TJ10 was considered by ICVBC to be of the same kind as other plasters in group E.

¹ Maiuri 1953, 23, Maiuri 1973, 101f, La Rocca & de Vos 2002, 132.

² La Rocca & de Vos 2002, 132.

³ Zanker 1993, 62, 73.



Fig. 40. Temple of Jupiter. The fragment in the podium, sample TJ24.

Discussion and results

I had many doubts regarding this temple, its early phases and my results, especially since these problems were also reflected in the other early Forum buildings. The main problem regarded the early plasters at the podium and the cella: how could I possibly explain finding an earlier plaster at the cella than at the podium? The last day at the site in 2004 I found a fragment in the podium wall, partially concealed by a later phase. This plaster fragment undoubtedly belonged to group A and was of the same kind as the earliest phase in the cella, and of the same type as the 1st style decoration at the north side of the podium. It was covered by a plaster that belongs to group B, found at crown moulding at the podium. A further problem was a statement by Professor Dobbins, who was of the opinion that there are no Second style decorations at the Forum; I had found a fine-grained plaster on the cella interior walls that was very similar to plasters in group C, taken from 2nd style decorations. In the chaos regarding early Forum plasters, I choose to disregard my judgements, and temporarily explained the different early fine-grained plasters as being of one type. Later, reviewing the samples and the site, and studying publications on the temple, uncertainties gradually vanished and I could see a logical pattern in which I believed – but could not quite explain. During my last days at Pompeii in June 2005, I was fortunate to meet Professor Filippo Coarelli and had the opportunity of discussing these problems. Professor Coarelli pointed out that Maiuri had studied the structures and found that changes had been made at the south part of the podium (*Fig. 40*). The steep stairs belong to that period.⁴ Further, Maiuri had noted that the interior of the cella was decorated with 2nd style paintings.⁵

According to my results, the earliest plaster belongs to group A as in the Temple of Apollo, in the Basilica and on the column at the Casa di Pansa. To the next phase belongs the podium decoration, plaster group B. The 2nd style decorations in the cella represent the third phase, plaster group C, and to the last phase belong redecorations and repairs, i.e. plasters in group H.

⁴ Maiuri 1973, 102f.

⁵ Maiuri 1973, 114.

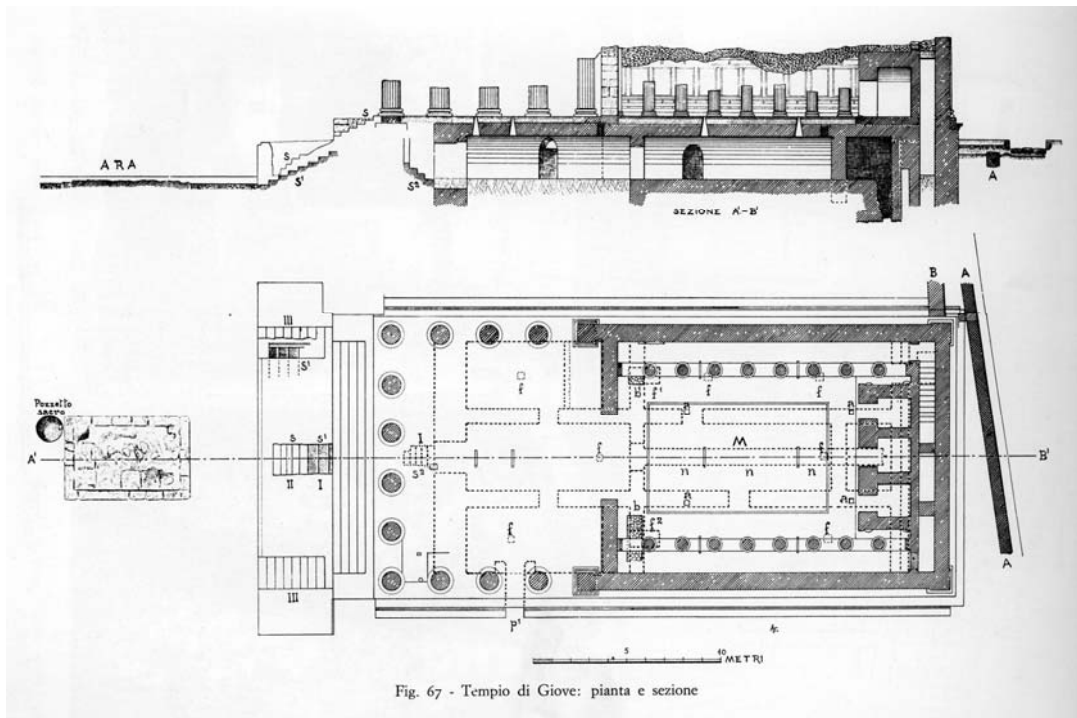
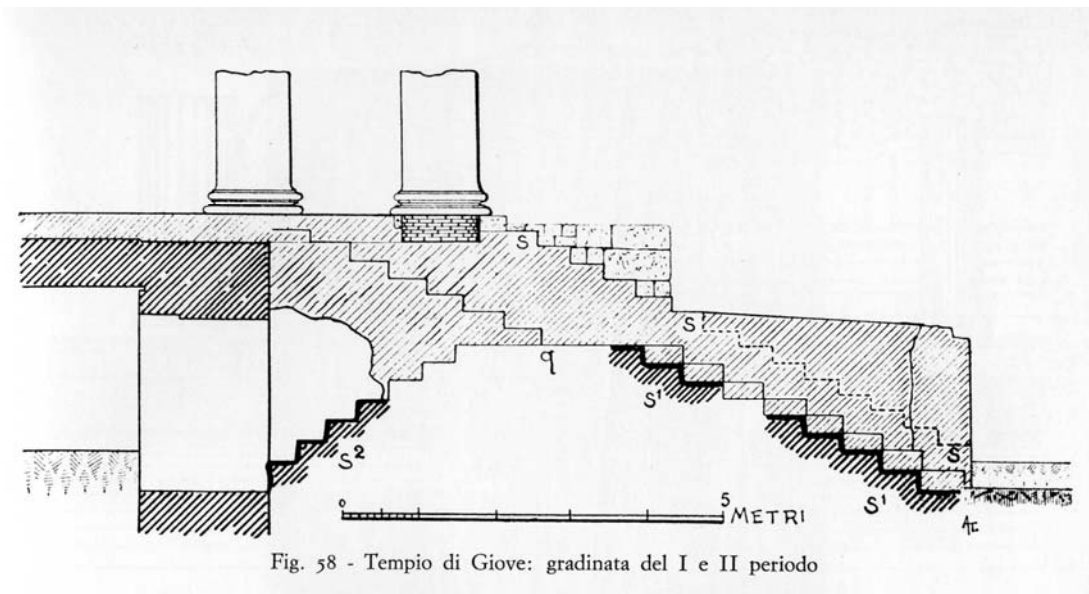


Fig. 41. The Temple of Jupiter. The stairs of phases I and II. After Maiuri 1973, fig. 58.
 Fig. 42. The Temple of Jupiter. Plan and section. After Maiuri 1973, fig. 67.

Temple of Jupiter, Plaster types, groups, locations

Plaster type TJ 3, group A

A fragment of a 1st style decoration, inserted in the podium structure, west side, represents the earliest period. The same kind of plaster was found at the crown moulding at the exterior of the cella, north wall, continuing behind the north arch. The columns that are trapped within the cella walls belong to the same phase. This kind of plaster was used for 1st style plasterwork in, e.g., the Temple of Apollo, Casa di Amarantus and Casa del Frutteto.

Plaster type TJ 1, group B

The plaster used for the first remaining decoration at the crown moulding of the podium, belongs to the next phase. The decoration continues behind the south arch. This kind of plaster covers the fragment inserted into the podium. A plaster belonging to this group was found at the socle level in the Basilica, and, e.g., for the 1st style decorations in Casa del Bell'Impluvio.

Plaster type TJ 8, group C

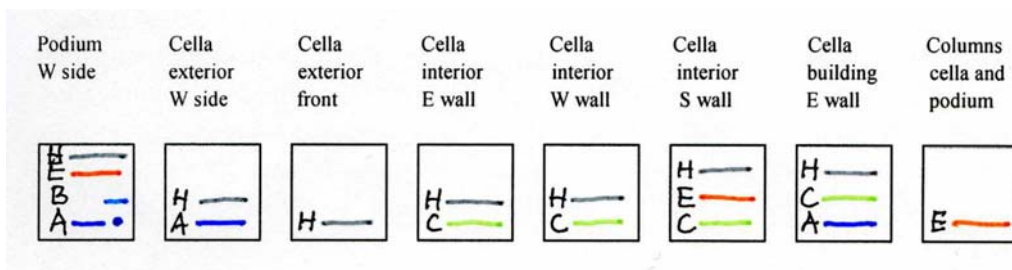
Plaster layers at the east and west interior walls of the cella represent the next phase. This kind of plaster covers the columns trapped in the aedicule walls. 2nd style paintings in Casa di Cerere, Casa del Bell'Impluvio and Casa di Successus were made on plasters that belong to the same group.

Plaster type TJ 10, group E

This plaster was found in the interior south wall of the cella, on the pilaster, and on the SE column outside the cella. Further, a small area was found on the podium, west side, at the north arch, covering a layer of the 1st style decoration, group A. This plaster type is related to 3rd style decorations, found in, e.g., the Edifice of Eumachia, Casa del Bell'Impluvio and Casa del Frutteto.

Plaster type TJ 2, group H

The last decoration on the podium, also the last decoration phase in the temple, was made on this type of plaster. It was applied on the exterior walls of the cella, where samples were taken on the south and west sides. The plaster used for the decoration of the socle zone inside the cella is slightly different, but it still belongs to the same group. 4th style decorations at the Macellum and in the Casa di Successus were made on the same kind of plaster.



List of examined plaster samples

Temple of Jupiter

Pompeii Forum 2004-2005

No	Sample location	Comments	Brief description, plaster	Stucco	Decoration	Type	Group
1	Podium, west side. Crown moulding, at the south corner close to the SW arch. (JD: may belong to the buildings first phase).	Plaster and stucco. Covered by a later decoration (sample no.2). This decoration continues behind the arch. Same as no. 18. Late 1 st - early 2 nd style. <i>Same group: B1; B11.</i>	Black and white, large-grained. Grainy lime. Most medium size grains between some large, rounded, mainly black, grey and some brown-red. Some black with red dots. Some transparent crystals. Some small red grains. Few long black. One olive green. Some small bright yellow.	Clean white lime. Transparent crystals, most medium sized, some large and small. Ca. 2-3 mm.	1 st style	TJ 1	B
2 CNR	Podium, west side. Crown moulding, at the south corner close to the SW arch.	Covering the 1 st style decoration. Last phase on the podium. Probably post 62. <i>Same group: M3, E10, TA6; A 8, PS10, B19.</i>	Sandy plaster with pores. Lots of red particles (cruma and terracotta?). Large and small grains, mainly black and grey, many yellow. The plaster looks "sandy", with airbags.			TJ 2	H
3	Cella, exterior wall. West side, at the NW arch, in the NE corner (JD: may belong to the buildings first phase).	Plaster and stucco, continuing behind the arch. Similar to no. 1, not the same. <i>Same group: TA1, B2, TV5, P1; PS1, F1, A1, C1, B116.</i>	Black and white with many crystals. Much lime, white, with some lumps. Most small grains between some very large, mainly black and dark grey. Very few volcanic red. Lots of crystals, many black, some uncoloured, very few olive green. Very few bright yellow.	White lime. Mainly small and medium sized uncoloured crystals. Ca. 4-5 mm.	1 st style	TJ 3	A
4	Cella, exterior wall. West side.	First layer, filling cavities between stones. Lime and clay? No, it is a "sandy" lime plaster. <i>Same composition as Basilica 5.</i>	Very fine grains in lime. Lots of small yellow particles. Few large black. The plaster looks "sandy". Preparation layer.		Preparation		
5	Cella, exterior wall. West side.	Second layer, applied over the wall. Lime and clay? No, it's a sandy lime plaster.	Lime and very small red volcanic particles, lumps of lime. Airbags.		Preparation		
6	Cella, exterior wall. West side.	Third layer.	Sandy plaster. Much lime with lumps, airbags. Large and small grains, mainly black. Some large black and dark grey. Many small red. Same as no.2.			TJ 2	H
7	Cella, exterior wall. West side.	Upper layer with stucco. Last decoration.	Same as no. 6 and no. 2. Second-fourth layers make c. 4.5 cm. Colour slides 8, 9, 10			TJ 2	H

No	Sample location	Comments	Brief description, plaster	Stucco	Decoration	Type	Group
8	Cella, interior. East wall between columns 3 and 4 from SE.	Upper layer, with remains of red paint. Last decoration at the upper level. Below this layer is a layer of plaster type TJ3, i.e. belonging to group A. <i>Same group: C2, B12, PS4.</i>	Warm colours. Lime with some lumps. Mainly small grains between large, some very large. Some yellow and beige. A few very small red. Lots of crystals, mainly long black, a few uncoloured with strange green discolouration, many grey. Very few bright yellow.	Stucco with large and small crystals, uncoloured, yellow and greyish and some red grains.		TJ 8	C
9	Cella, interior. East wall, socle, between columns 5 and 6 from SE.	Black decoration with lines. Last decoration, socle. <i>Similar to A6, E10.</i>	Black and white, reused? Small between large. Lots of lime.	Few crystals plus black and yellow grains.		TJ 2	H
10 CNR	Cella, interior. South wall, SE side of entrance. At the pilaster. (The wall to the right of the pilaster has a yellow decoration).	This plaster butts against the wall decoration = covering 10b. <i>Same group: TA3, E1, TV2; B17, PS3, A6, C7.</i>	Many colours. Very fine grains between some medium size and few very large grains. Mainly black, grey and brown, rounded. Long black, uncoloured, grey and yellow crystals. Few olive green.	Yellowish lime, large and small uncoloured and greyish crystals. Ca 8 mm.	3 rd style plaster	TJ 10	E
10 b	Cella, interior. South wall, SE side of entrance. Close to the pilaster.	Yellow decoration. Plaster and stucco. This layer is covered by the pilaster plaster.	On top there is a thin black and white layer with some red grains.	Same as no 8. black and red grains.		TJ 8	C
11	Cella, building. East side. At the column, blocked in the wall.	Layer on the column. Covered by no 13. Very similar to no 3. Similar to no. 1.	Black and white, small grains between large. Some very large grey and black. Few bright yellow. Lots of crystals. Few green. Much lime.			TJ 3	A
12	Cella, building. East side. Niche? Close to another blocked column at the NW.	Layer in the niche. Covered by no. 13.	Similar to no. 3. Same as no. 11.			TJ 3	A
13	Cella, building. At the wall.	Upper layer, covering 11, 12. Last decoration on the wall. Very similar to no 8. Same stucco as no. 8.	Black and warm colours. Small grains, mainly black, few large. Few wine-red. Lots of crystals, many long black and grey, uncoloured, few green. Few volcanic red. Few bright yellow particles.	Orange lime, lots of small yellow grains, some black. Ca. 3 mm.		TJ 8	H
14	Cella. Column 1 outside the building, SE side.	Same as no. 10.	Many colours, very small grains, most lime.			TJ 10	E
15	Cella, west wall. Between columns 1-2 from NW. <i>New sample: 15b, taken in front of column 3 from NW. Also this sample has two layers, plaster and stucco, same as 15.</i>	Two plaster layers and stucco. Last decoration at the upper level of the wall. Same as no. 8.	Warm colours. Small grains between large. Few green. Lots of crystals, many black. Lime with lumps. The plaster looks sandy.	White lime, small and medium sized crystals, uncoloured.		TJ 8	C

No	Sample location	Comments	Brief description, plaster	Stucco	Decoration	Type	Group
16	Cella, exterior. Front wall, west side, NW corner.	First layer of two.	Sandy plaster, red particles. Small grains between large, some yellow and many red grains. Same as no. 2.			TJ 2	H
17	Cella, exterior. Front wall, west side, NW corner.	Upper layer, with stucco. Similar to no. 2. Lots of red. Last decoration.	Sandy plaster. Same as no. 16 with stucco. Same kind of stucco as no.9.	Yellowish lime, large and small crystals and some black grains-	4 th style	TJ 2	H
18 CNR 18 b	Podium, west side. Crown moulding, at the north arch. Decoration continuing behind the arch. New sample.	First phase decoration, with stucco. This layer is covered by no. 19. Same as no 1.	Black and white, large-grained	Snow white stucco, with small and medium sized crystals, uncoloured.	1 st style decoration	TJ 1	B
19	Podium, west side. Crown moulding, at the north arch	Upper layer, decoration. Covers no 18. Same as no. 10.	Many colours, lots of yellow.		3 rd style	TJ10	E
20	Podium, west side. Crown moulding, at the north arch	Last layer, decoration covering 19 Same as no. 2. Same as Amarantus 2.	Sandy plaster, red particles		4 th style decoration	TJ 2	H
21	Podium, base. At the middle of the wall.	Layer with stucco, covered by the last decoration phase. Same as no. 1.	Black and white, large-grained			TJ 1	B
22	Cella, building. East aedicule, east side of the entrance.	Plaster and stucco with decoration	Black and warm colours small grains. Few green. Thin layer.	Small crystals, thin layer.		TJ 8	C
23	Cella, south wall. East side.	Same stucco as no 8.	Black and white, warm colours, no green.			TJ 8	C
24	Podium, west side.	Fragment in the wall, plaster and stucco. Covered by plaster layer type TJ 1.	Black and white, small grains between some medium sized, lots of crystals, many long black, uncoloured, green			TJ 3	A