

Fig. 45. *Above*: Temple of Vespasian. The fragment.

Fig. 46. *Below*: Temple of Vespasian. Sampling areas and colour code.

Temple of Vespasian

“Sanctuary of the Genius of Augustus (or Sanctuary of Augustus); also called Temple of Vespasian. Façade. North end where it forms a corner with a short east-west wall. A small patch of plaster at ca. 1.60 m. above the ground is located in the corner. Date. Uncertain, but probably Third Style; certainly earlier than the setting-bed for marble revetment that is located in this area and that once covered this earlier plaster. Comment. The specific date of this sample is not critical for the PFP, but it would be interesting to see where it fits into your scheme.”

The small fragment of decorated plaster that remains in the southeast corner is roughly the size of a football, spread out equally on the north and east walls. This little fragment has two parts, an upper and a lower. The upper half is white and the lower has a dark violet shade. The violet band and part of the white decoration makes one entity, the top part of the white decoration with two blue dots makes the other. Below is a simple undecorated plastered area.

A compact plaster with very fine grains was used for one part of the decoration, a large-grained plaster for the other. The violet band and the area below belong to the fine-grained part, and the large-grained plaster was used at the top level. Remnants of both plaster types have survived on areas of the wall; the fine-grained at the socle level and the large-grained at the top. At the top level of the fragment and also at another fragment, situated at the upper part of the wall, the large-grained plaster is covered by the finer variety. In this case it is not a question of plastering technique; the plasters have different composition. The large-grained plaster belongs to group E, and the finer one to group F.

Both plasters have a filler is rich in colour and are therefore rather similar. The difference, observed under the microscope, is that the fine-grained, type F, contains many more red particles. This difference in grain size is notable already at ocular inspection. Two layers of plaster in stratigraphic sequences, where the upper is finer than the first one applied, obviously bring to mind the rules of plastering; the rough layer is followed by such of successively finer grains. In this case, the differences between the fillers observed under the microscope were confirmed by the ICVBC investigation. According to the ICVBC analyses, sample TV1 and TV2 are different in composition as well as grain size. TV2 was placed in group E, and TV1 with fine-grained plasters connected with the 4th style.

Summing up, there were two kinds of plaster on this little fragment. The plaster types E and F were found in relative stratigraphy also in the edifice of Eumachia.



Fig. 47. Plaster samples TV1 and TV2.

Temple of Vespasian, Plaster types, groups, locations

Plaster type TV 5, group A

Reference sample TV 5. Filler with a lot of crystals, mainly long black, many green and few yellow. Plasters of this kind were used, e.g., for the first phase at the Jupiter temple.

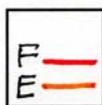
Plaster type TV 2, group E

Reference sample TV 2. Plaster with a multi-coloured, large-grained filler, containing black, red-brown, red and orange grains and crystals of many colours. There are also some very large grey-beige grains. Plasters of this kind were used for 3rd style decorations in, e.g., Casa del Bell'Impluvio, in the Edifice of Eumachia, and in the temples of Apollo and of Jupiter.

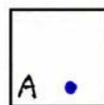
Plaster type TV 1, group F

Reference sample TV 1. Plaster with a very fine-grained filler, which contains black, brown, wine-red, and beige grains, lots of yellow and red particles and uncoloured crystals. The stucco is yellowish and contains uncoloured and greyish crystals, and also some red and black grains. Plasters of this kind were found at the Edifice of Eumachia and the Casa di Cerere.

Fragment
on the wall



Fragment
in the wall



List of examined plaster samples

Temple of Vespasian

Pompeii Forum 2004-2005

No	Sample location	Comments	Brief description, plaster	Stucco	Decoration	Type	Group
1 CNR	Outside the temple. East wall, NE corner	Layer with stucco. Two layers of plaster, the upper has extremely fine grains. <i>Same group: E6, C14.</i>	Many colours, small grains. Mainly black, brown, beige. Lots of red and caput mortum coloured grains. Uncoloured crystals.	Yellowish lime, uncoloured and greyish crystals. Some red and black grains.		TV 1	F
2 CNR	Outside the temple. East wall, NE corner	Upper layer with decoration. <i>Same group: TJ10, TA3, E1; B17, PS3, A6, C7.</i>	Many colours, large grains. Small grains between large, mainly black, brown, beige, yellow. Few orange. Some large grey-beige. Large uncoloured crystals.	Lime layer or very small crystals.		TV 2	E
3	Outside the temple. East wall, NE corner	Upper layer with decoration, covering a layer type TV2. Same as no. 1. Very similar to TJ10, also the stucco.				TV 1	F
4	Outside the temple. North wall.	Small plastered area. Very similar to no. 1 Dirty sample.				TV 1	F
5	Outside the temple. North wall.	Fragment in the wall. Plaster and stucco. <i>Same group: TJ3, TA1, B2, P1; B116, PS1, F1, A1, C1.</i>				TV 5	A