

American Research Center in Egypt  
Egyptian Antiquities Project

**"Conservation and Display of Roman Mosaics  
Kom el-Dikka, Alexandria"**

**6th Progress Report  
Conservation and Landscaping**

submitted by Dr Wojciech Kołataj, the Project Director

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## **Progress Report on Conservation and Landscaping**

During the on-site visit on May 11, 1999 by Robert Vincent EAP-Grant Director and Jarosław Dobrowolski EAP-Technical Director, some technical details of the shelter design have been discussed and re-considered. As a result of practical considerations, some structural elements have been adjusted and necessary improvements introduced:

### **1. Foot-bridge:**

In order to improve structural stability and to secure safety of the visitors, the foot-bridge has been re-designed and adjusted to meet practical requirements:

- The existing construction has been additionally reinforced with parallel eye-bars I 180 mm added to the both segments of the foot-bridge. Newly introduced eye-bars were joined with steel angles  $\perp$  50 x 50 mm welded on top in equally spaced distances (150 cm). Those angles at the same time serve as mounts for bridge timber flooring. (Phot. No. 1 and Drawing )
- Endings of the eye-bars were anchored to the restored sections of the walls of the villa. The longer beam set along the east-west line was additionally anchored to the concrete retaining wall.
- The railing posts were made of steel pipes (1"). U-shaped posts were welded to the bottom of the foot-bridge.(Phot. no. 2). In order to avoid the visual effect of "overloading" and to secure unimpeded view for the visitors, a steel wire was introduced instead of traditional wooden hand-rail. Two wires ( $\phi$  6 mm) are to be stretched on two levels, between the railing posts.. Similarly made railing secures also the southern edge of the entrance platform.

### **2. Panel glass walls:**

- Assembling of the western, eastern and northern panel glass walls has been completed. Gables have been screened with smoked security glass (8 mm thick). (Phot. Nos. 3-8).

- Hopper windows have been placed on each side of the glass walls in order to ensure proper ventilation. Entrance and exit glass panel swing doors, mounted on M25 Speedy floor-checks, were installed. Both doors were equipped with locks.

### **3. Mosaics conservation:**

As it has been already reported (cf. Progress Report No. 5), conservation of the mosaics has been completed on April 15, 1999. All the *lacunae* were filled with gravel. Whereas, surface of the small trench cut in 1972 into the bedding of the *opus sectile* mosaic was repaired with mortar similar to the original one although no ceramic tiles were employed.

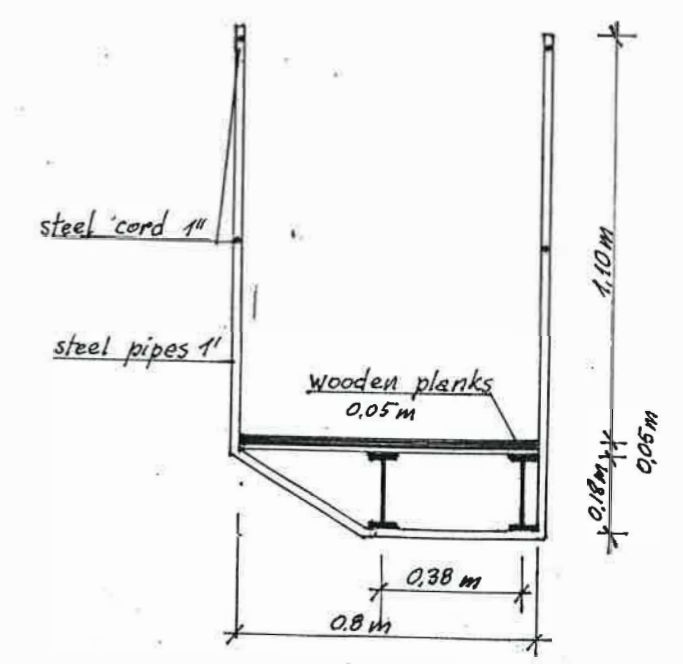
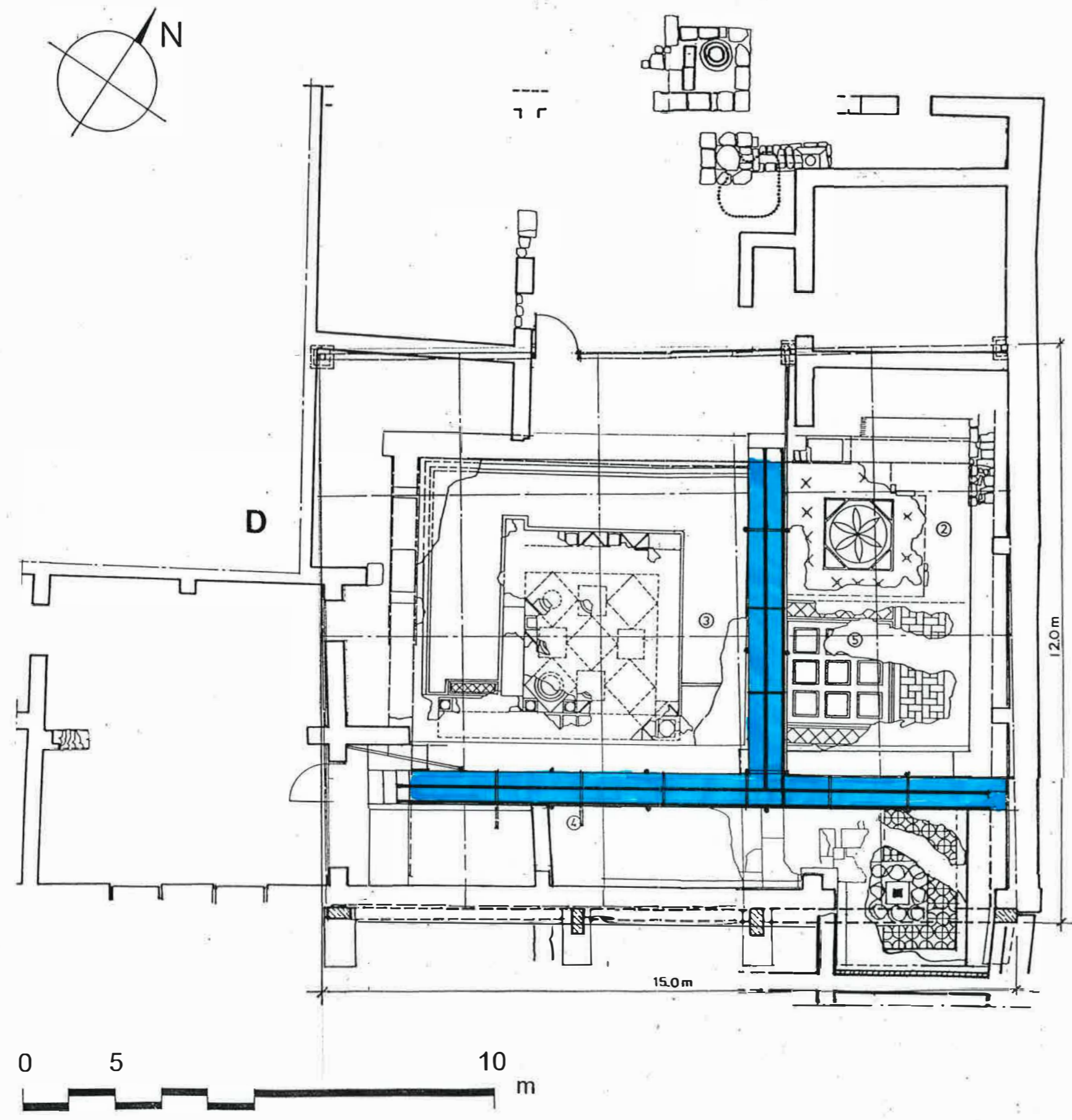
### **4. Additional finishing operations and landscaping:**

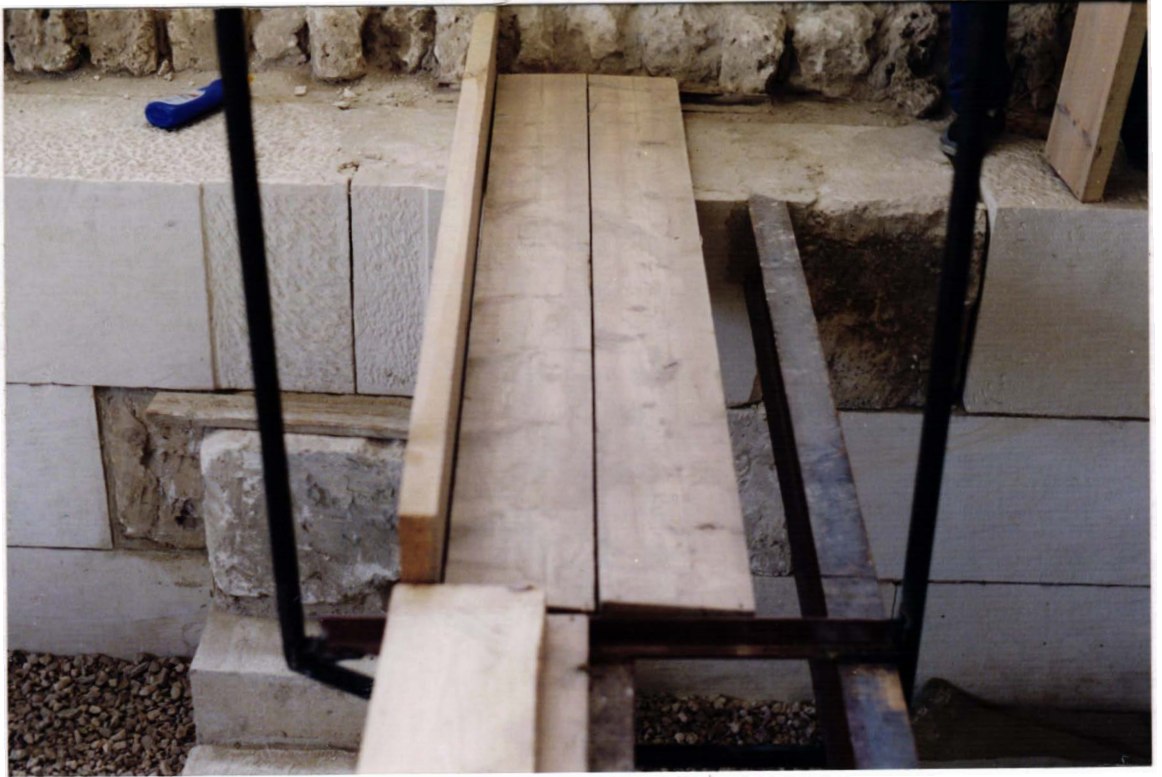
- Ground surfaces between the walls of the Roman villa and Byzantine buildings were covered with gravel. Surface of the entrance platform was paved with well-packed gravel set in cement mortar subbase.
- Roof thermal insulation was made of hardened Styrofoam panels (2 x 1 m, and 4 cm thick).(Phot. no. 9). Styrofoam panels were fixed to the purlins with wooden stringers.
- Roof supporting structure was first coated with primer and then twice painted white.(Phot. no. 9).
- Gutters fixed along the southern elevation were equipped with stone gargoyle supplemented with hanging chains in order to redirect rain splash away from the structure. Rain-water will be drained off to a channel running along the eastern elevation of the shelter towards the ancient sewage system.
- Southern and eastern escarpments and surrounding ground were re-shaped and arranged. Escarpment footing was additionally encased with low walls in order to prevent water penetration during raining season or watering. (Phot. Nos. 5-6).
- Along the entire section of escarpment comprised between the theatre and the south-east corner of the site (close to the Saphia Zaghoul Street, i.e. some 150 m) a water supply was introduced. Taps for watering were installed every 50 m. (Phot. No. 10).
- Along the southern perimeter of the area, a screening wall ( some 40 m long and 4 m high) was built in order to prevent littering and to create visual background. (Phot. No. 11).
- The exit patio from the shelter was arranged, and ivy was planted along the southern wall of the abutting Byzantine building D. (Phot. Nos. 7-8)

The overall construction of the shelter was thus completed.

**FOOT-BRIDGE  
STRUCTURE AND LOCATION**

Drawn by. W.Kolątaj

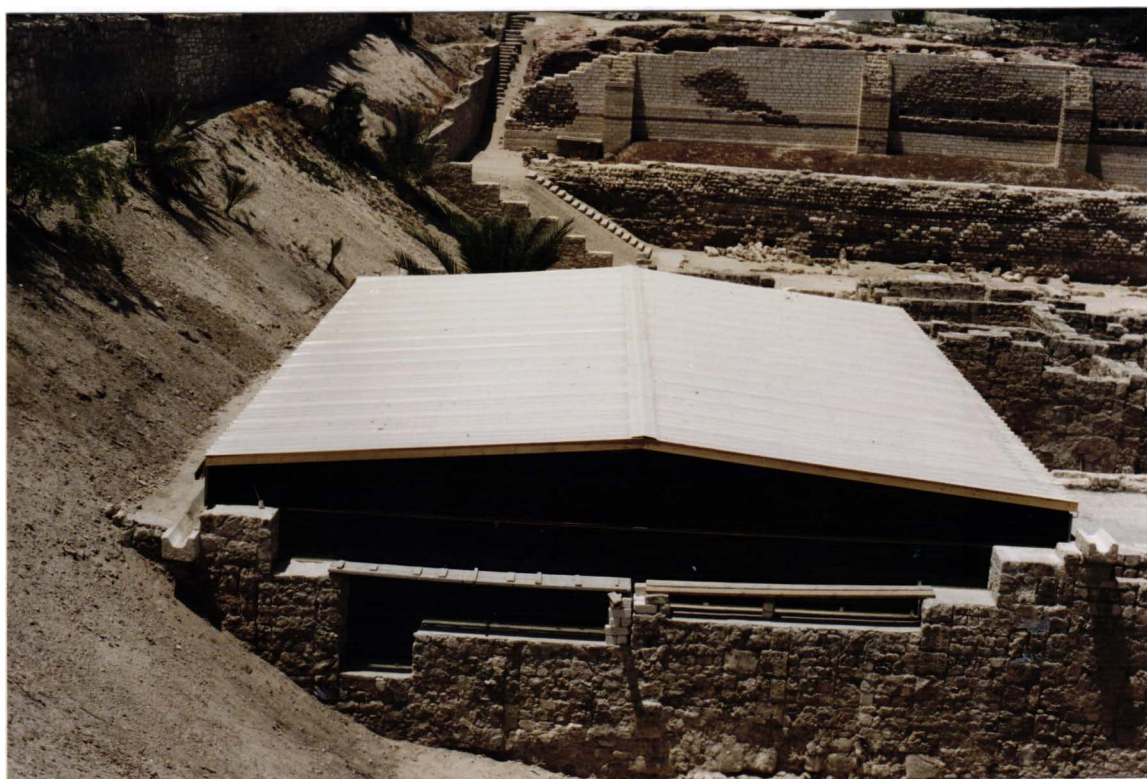




Phot. 1, 2. Foot-bridge construction.



Phot. 3, 4. Northern panel glass-wall.



Phot. 5, 6. Eastern panel glass-wall and escarpment.



Phot. 7, 8. Western glass-wall and exit patio.





Phot. 9. Roof thermal insulation.



Phot. 10. Water supply pipe along the southern escarpment.



Phot. 11. Screening wall along the Fire Brigade area.



Phot. 12. Beginning of the tourist pathway.