

Conservation Report for the Northeast Church at Hippos 2004

Conservation at the Northeast Church was conducted under the supervision of Eva Paradowska. Three types of work were undertaken: repair, stabilization, and protection.

Repair: When the north wall of the *domus*, many of the interior facing stones had tumbled into the church. As these stones were reused corbels of identical size with those used to make a secondary bench next to the north wall, a run of the stones were replaced in their previous position in the wall to document the rebuilding of the wall in a later phase of the church.

Stabilization: The mosaic floors in the nave and the north aisle survived only in fragmentary form. The edges of these fragments were stabilized using a mix of sand, marble, and lime. Due to a shortage of lime, a lime-based joint compound was substituted for some of the work. Smaller lacunae were filled. In some sections of the nave, two layers of mosaic were partially in evidence. Both layers were stabilized. In the north aisle, the surface of the tesserae was cleaned. One section of collapsed flooring was lifted, a new plaster base installed, and the tesserae were repositioned.

Protection: All floor surfaces in the nave were covered with felt and a 2-4 cm layer of sand or earth. In the chancel, the flagstone and opus sectile surfaces were covered with cloth and earth. In the atrium, exposed surfaces of flagstone were covered with earth (2-4 cm).