



PAPAL BASILICA OF ST. PAUL OUTSIDE THE WALLS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN THE MONKS' ORCHARD

Restoration interventions on the ancient walls

Archaeological remains in the Abbey's Orchard, brought to light between 2007 and 2009, give evidence of the building development phases of the settlement grown around the Basilica of St. Paul outside the wall during late classic age and medieval age. The discovered ruins belong to a complex history, which shows the development of monasteries and pilgrims' reception centres in the apostle Paul tomb's area.



Archaeological investigations have been made by Vatican Museums and the Pontifical Institute of Christian Archaeology, also thanks to the economic support of the *Patrons of the Arts in the Vatican Museums*.

These Institutions, together with the Administration Offices of the St. Paul's Basilica, undertook to advance the knowledge and the protection of the archaeological area and promoted the project of preservation, restoration and public opening.

The Graduate Program in Architectural Heritage and Landscape of the University of Rome "Sapienza" contributes to research, preservation and development activities of the area, to encourage visits, public fruition and spread of the site's knowledge. Here Postgraduate School's students do archaeological site activities for walls' restoration and arrangement. The students are conducted and monitored in the practical work on the buildings to preserve by experienced restorers, the qualified officials of the Vatican Museums and the School's teachers, which take turns during the internship days.

The students will get involved in all the stages of the intervention, that aims to these main objectives: need of **full preservation of the remains**, with relation to the outfitting arrangement; **minimal use of any additional sign** in connection to the ruins, together with the introduction of minimal impact standards and criterion of distinguishable and reversible restoration actions; the prearrangement of a **tour itinerary in the archaeological site**; the **exclusive placement in the area of archaeological finds, integrated into the context** with the itinerary, based on thematic and chronological parameters.



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