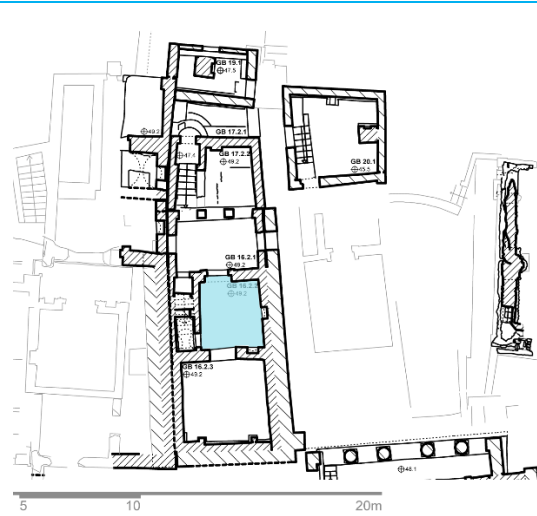


Tomb no. GB 16 (Gabra no. M 06/SS) anteroom



Description of the interior design

A multi-storey tomb house made of adobe masonry. Today three rooms on the second floor are accessible via a staircase and through a portico.

The inside walls are plastered with lime mortar. The floor as well was covered with a thin plaster layer painted with red colour. Only near the walls survived fragments of this red floor.

On the walls, the plaster layer was whitewashed in the upper areas. Along the lower half of the walls a second thin plaster layer was applied and decorated with imitations of stone incrustations. The polychrome paintings were carried out directly on the smooth plaster surface.

The lost areas of the original plaster have been closed parallel to the reconstruction of the roof. The repair phase with white plaster was left unpainted.

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Condition before treatment

The plaster layers are partially lost and expose the sun-dried clay brick masonry (adobe). Collapsed plaster fragments could be found on the floor. Where visible, the adobe masonry shows a structurally destabilised and sanding surface. Parts of the joints are lost.

There is a layer of dust on everything and a thick layer of bat excrements on the floor. The architectural surface is lined with cracks. Additionally, the plaster layers are detached from the adobe masonry, being endangered to falling off. In particular, the southern-eastern corner is especially fragile. The paint layers are reduced, but the remaining colours are stable.

An intervention is necessary to halt active deterioration and preserve the original plaster and wall painting.



Treatment

The following steps of emergency measures were done in the field schools of 2014, 2015 and 2018. The anteroom was cleaned. For temporary protection fragile parts of the wall painting were faced with Japanese paper. The many fallen-off plaster fragments were secured, documented and stored separately.

The main goal was to stabilize the paint layer supporting plaster. The consolidation of the adobe masonry surface provided a solid structure for the treatments to follow. In addition lost joints were infilled. The plaster layers were stabilized by edging detached fragments. The conservation mortar contains cellulose-ether as binder and is reversible. To improve the connection between masonry and plaster, voids have been filled by grout injections based on a silica binder.

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To learn about details of all conservation steps and materials please refer to the link “treatment” to be found on the front page introduction.



Condition after treatment

Emergency measures have been carried out to prevent further decay. Near by the walls the fragments of the lime plaster floor have been covered by sand for protection.

The tomb house is open, and the wall paintings are exposed to the elements and human action. In this respect, it would be desirable to establish maintenance and monitoring programme for the future.



Status: October 2018