

XV Congreso Internacional AIPMA

ANTIQUA PICTURA

Técnicas y procesos de ejecución, conservación y puesta en valor
Cartagena, Campus Mare Nostrum, 12-16 de septiembre 2022

The wall decoration of Baths of Buticosus in Ostia: a palimpsest of the Ostian painting

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The Baths of Buticosus (I,XIV,8): the location



The complex of the Baths of Buticosus (I,XIV,8)

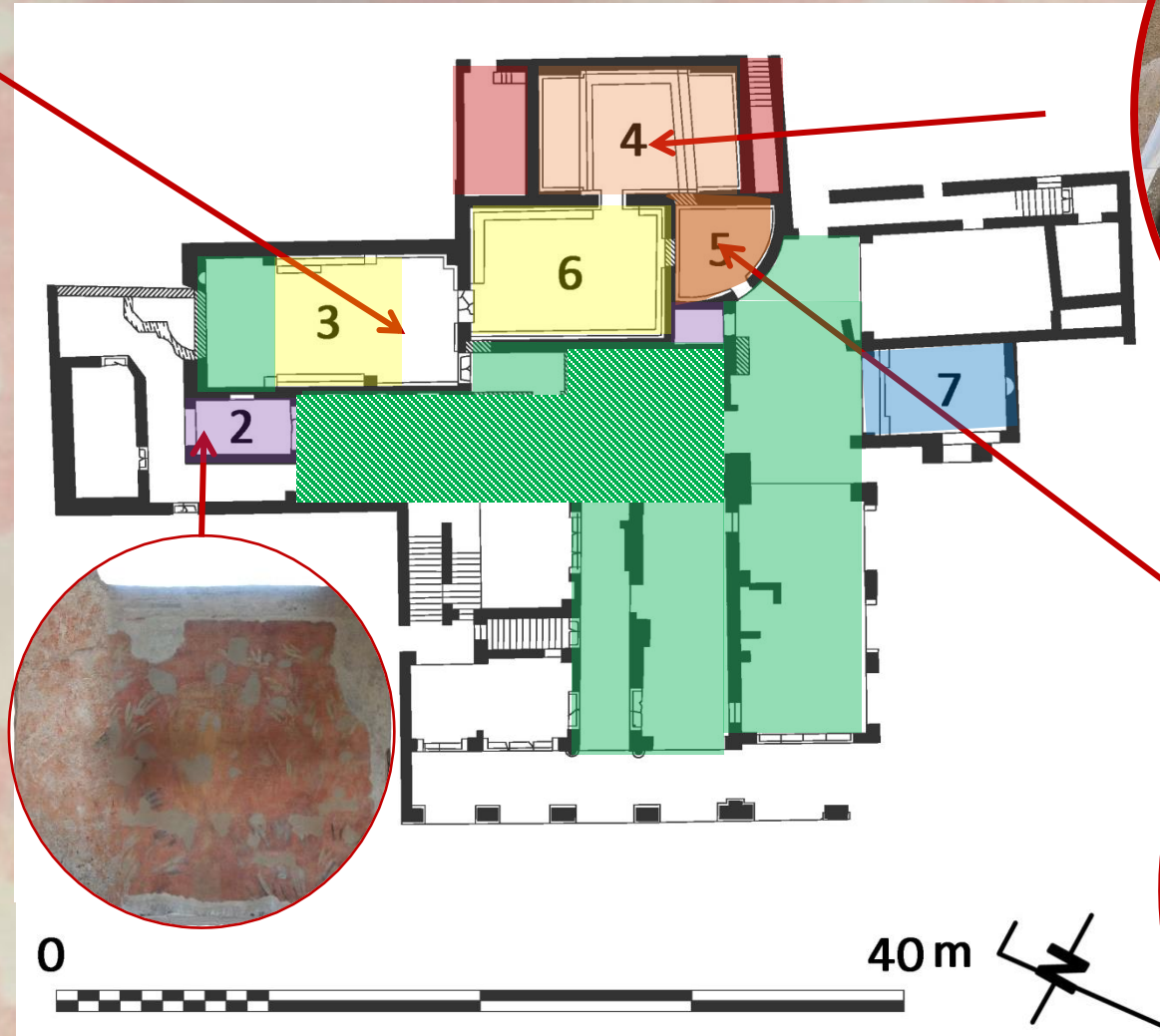


During and after 1930's excavations



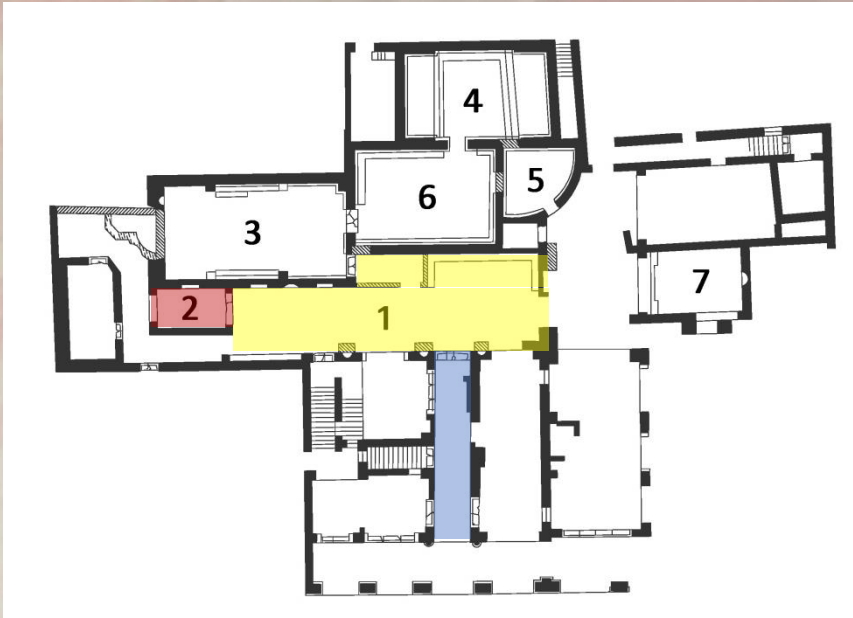
During the restoration works (2021)

The layout of the complex

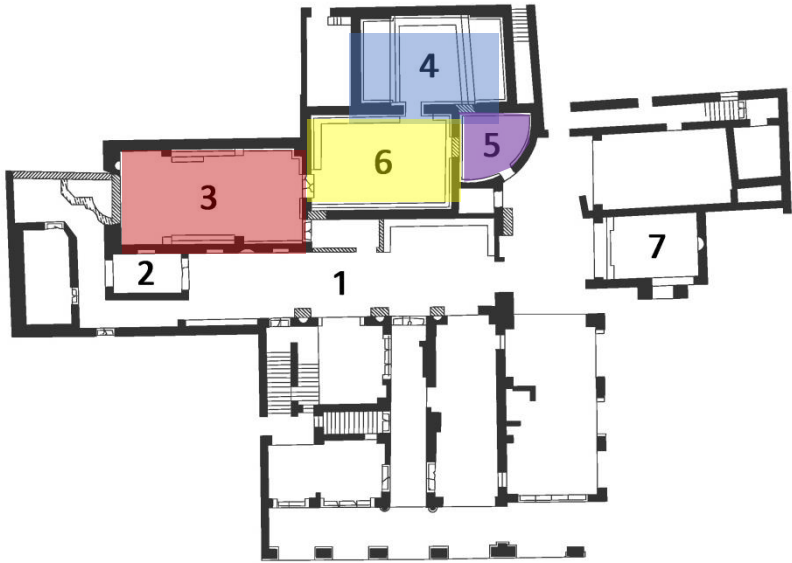


- Entrance/passage rooms
- Apodyterium
- Tepidarium/sudatio
- Calidarium
- Laconicum
- Praefurnia
- Frigidarium
- ?

The external rooms



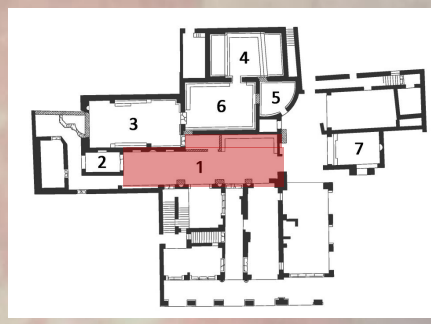
The heated rooms



The restoration works and the scientific collaboration (2019-2022)



The paintings



Room 1



2 m

Room 1, west wall

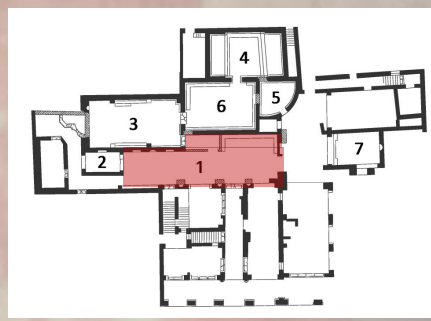


Room 1, east wall (with colour alteration)



White decoration from earlier phase (end 2° century?)

The paintings



Room 1



2 m

Room 1, west wall



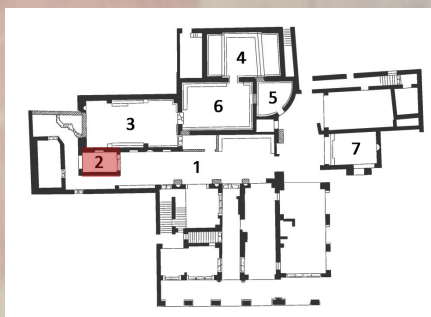
Room 1, east wall (digital restoration)

1 m
P. Tomassini



White decoration from earlier phase (end 2° century?)

The paintings



Room 2

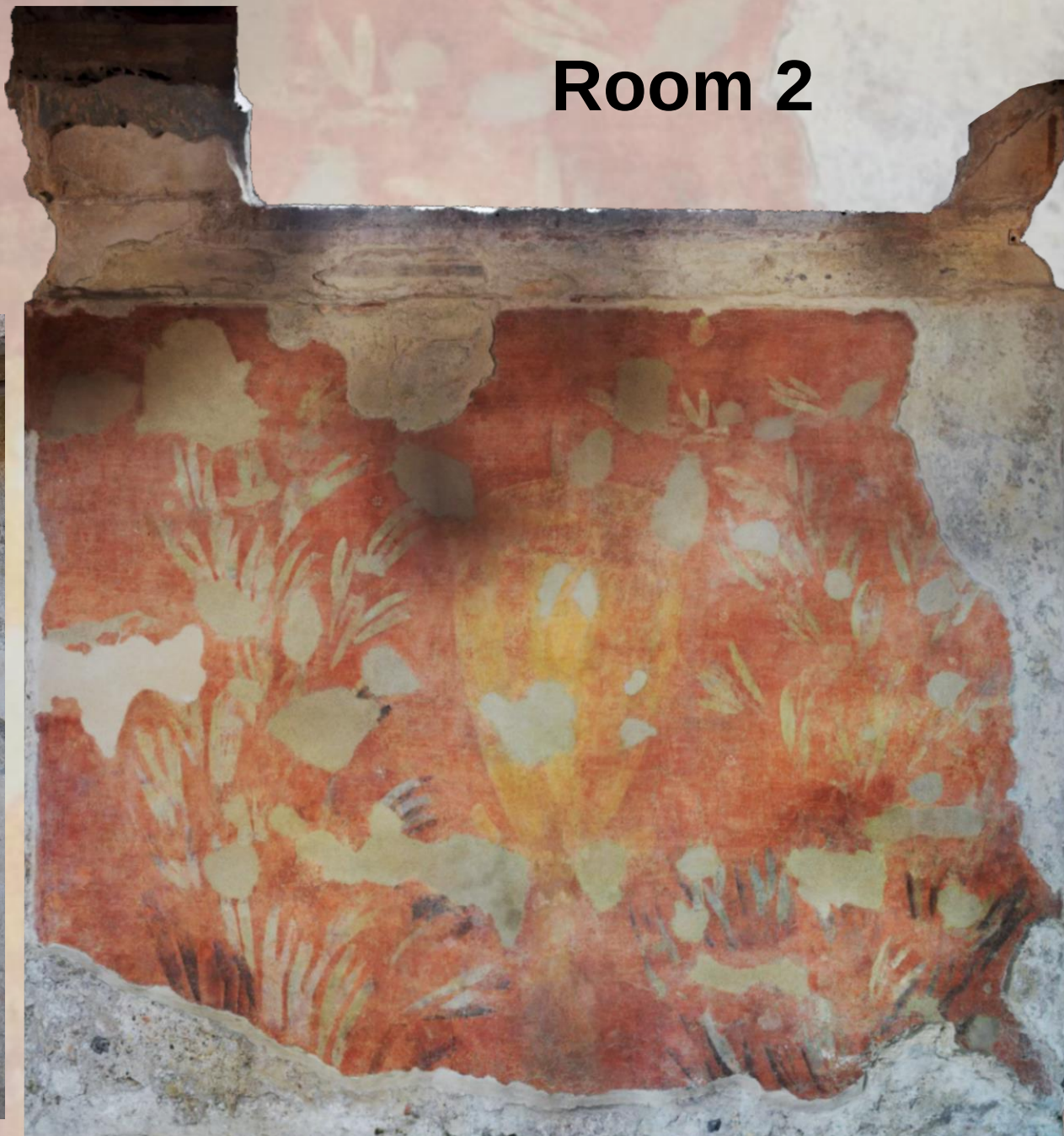
phase 1 (trajanic)

phase 3 (3° c. AD)

phase 2 (end 2° c. AD)



phase 2, red and yellow motifs on white



phase 3, garden scene on red

2019: Before the restoration



**Degradations due to
the large use of
cement, reinforced by
metal elements (nails
and grid)**





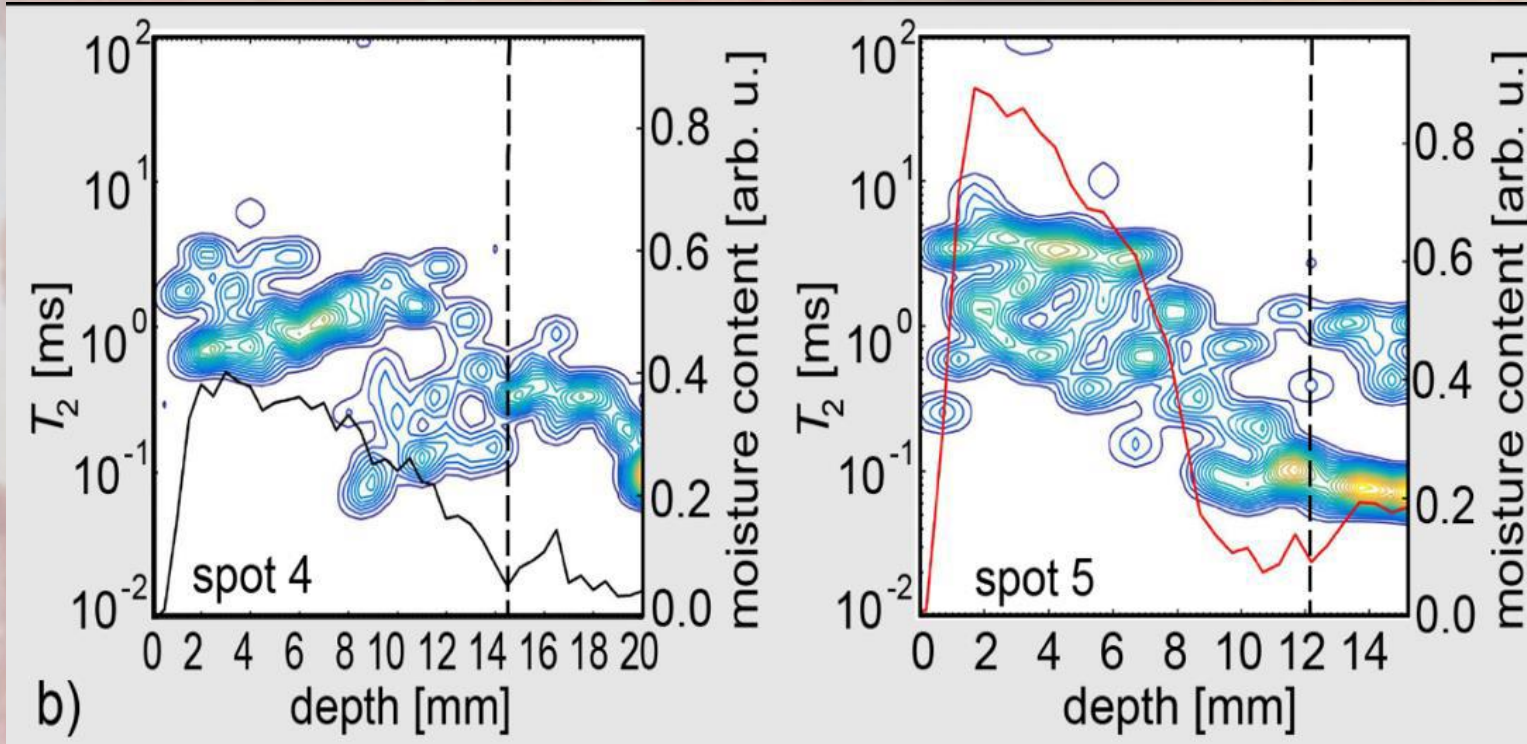
**Thick biological patina and
saline efflorescence**

**2019: Before
the
restoration**

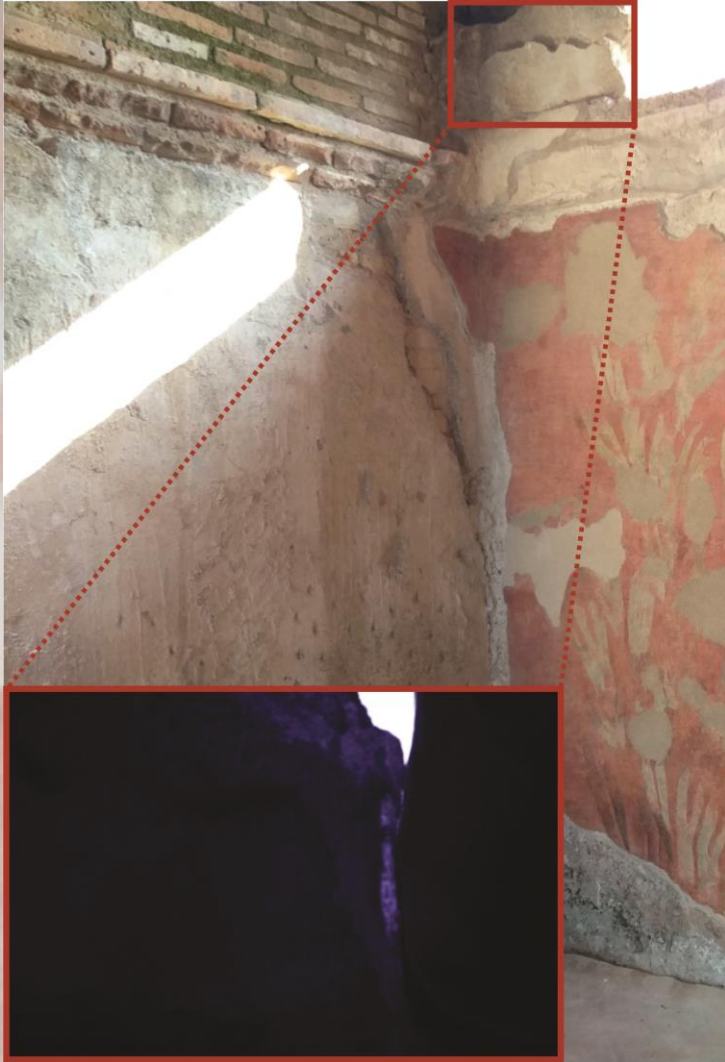


Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR)

Revealed hidden decoration in room 1, after 1.2-1.4 cm from the surface



Pigment analysis for identifying restoration materials



VIL



FT-IR



XRF

Step 1: removing the cement and consolidating the surface



Step 2: cleaning the surface



Step 2: cleaning the surface



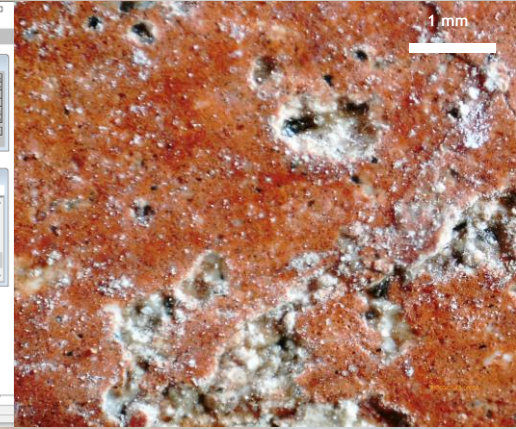
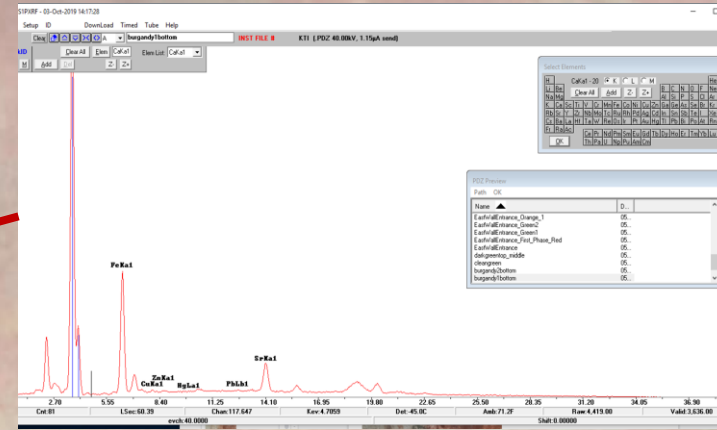


**Step 3:
filling the
gaps,
retouching
the losses**

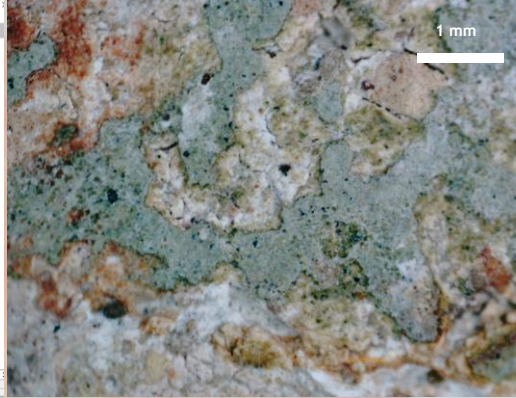
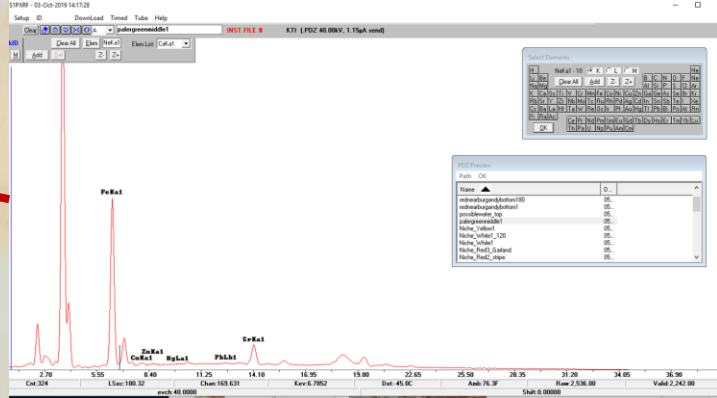
X-ray Fluorescence (XRF)



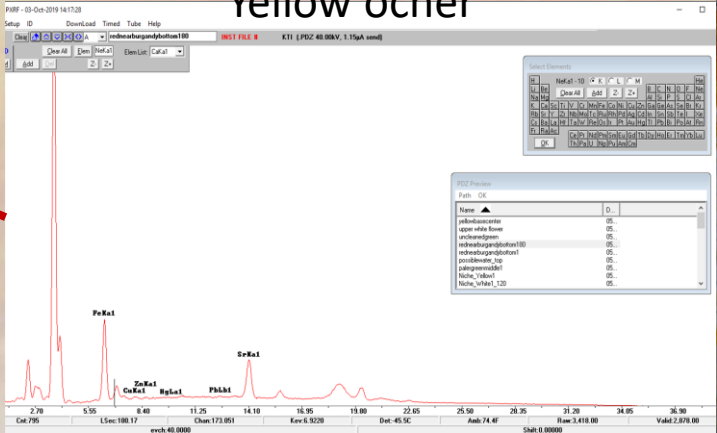
Red ocher



Green earth



Yellow ocher



The result



Digital restoration of the paintings of room 1



Actual state (2019)



**Drawings of M.A. Ricciardi
published in Baccini
Leotardi 1977**



**Alteration of colours with
Dstretch software**



Digital restoration

