



Fig. 81. The cella podium within the Temple before and after the application of a protective mortar capping (photos by Franco Sciorilli)

In 2016 and 2017, the Temple of the Winged Lions Cultural Resource Management (TWLCRM) Initiative—a collaborative project between ACOR, the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, and the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority (PDTRA)—continued to focus on the conservation, preservation, and presentation of this temple in Petra.

In 2016, continued efforts were made to conserve the temple's walls and features exposed by the prior American Expedition to Petra (AEP). A team led by conservator Franco Sciorilli continued to clean the building's sandstone walls which were affected by salts. Gaps between the stones on the walls were filled using historically accurate mortar. Through this work, the building's front-facing architecture has been conserved.

In 2017, the conservation and local team, joined by engineering geologist Giuseppe Delmonaco, worked to preserve the temple's interior. A protective and reversible mortar capping for the cella podium surface and a cover for the open niche at the back were created to direct the flow of rainwater away from the podium. A specially designed brace system was created to support two leaning columns on the west side of the temple. Work also progressed on backfilling of the interior of the temple and a pathway providing safe access to the temple interior. An innovative glass sign that presents an "augmented reality" view of the temple interior was installed at the entrance of the temple, providing a new interpretive element for visitors.

In the Southwest Quadrant, work continued to stabilize and preserve the exposed architecture and rubble slope in much danger of damage and collapse since its exposure during AEP excavations. In 2016 the exposed architecture was fully documented and then covered with protective geotextile. The area was backfilled with alternating layers of soil and rubble, and large numbers of ashlar blocks from the temple. A buttress of sandbags filled with sifted soil from the AEP dumps was used to support the vulnerable rubble slope on the Southwest

## PETRA: TEMPLE OF THE WINGED LIONS

**Glenn J. Corbett**

Council of American Overseas  
Research Centers

**John D.M. Green**

American Center of Oriental  
Research



Fig. 82. Nearing completion of the backfilling in the SW Quadrant in December 2017 (photo by Jack Green)

Quadrant's north side. Sifting continued to yield artifacts from the AEP expedition dump piles. In 2017, backfilling work continued with the clearing of exposed geotextile and sandbags, followed by the addition of compacted layers of backfill imported from outside the Petra Archaeological Park. Over 100 cubic m of backfill was added during 2017, providing a gradient from the rubble slope southwards, allowing for improved drainage. The conservation team consolidated the rubble slope, providing channels for rainwater to be directed away from this area. By the close of 2017, our objective to provide increased stability, site safety, and suitable drainage, had been met.

A commitment to combining documentation, training, and research continued in 2017 through assessment of the site's main lapidarium, which consists of diagnostic architectural fragments from the temple. In 2017, Marco Dehner of Humboldt University, Berlin, undertook extensive rapid photo-documentation that will serve as a useful tool for documentation and preparation for conservation and reorganization efforts.

The TWLCRM Initiative continued to support community partners in training and to raise public awareness of the site and its preservation. Cooperation with a local partner, Sela for Vocational Training and Protection of Cultural Heritage, continued until summer 2017. During 2016, local team members Eman Abdessalam and Ahmad Mowasa, provided nearly 70 members of Petra's host communities with hands-on experience in essential documentation, conservation and documentation techniques. Their role as SCHEP site stewards helped facilitate the Experience Petra program, resulting in over 300 Jordanian school students taking part in hands-on educational activities at the site in Fall 2017. The TWLCRM Initiative acknowledges the contributions of former co-director Elena Ronza (until March 2017).

#### REFERENCES:

Corbett, G.J. 2016. "A Temple Transformed: The TWLCRM Initiative Hits Its Stride." *ACOR Newsletter* 28(2): 1–5.

Corbett, G.J. & J.D.M. Green. 2017. "The TWLCRM Initiative: Ensuring the Temple's Long Term Preservation." *ACOR Newsletter* 29(2): 1–5.

Project website: [www.acorjordan.org/temple-of-the-winged-lions/about-twldcrm-project/](http://www.acorjordan.org/temple-of-the-winged-lions/about-twldcrm-project/)