

Petra: Islamic Baydha Project

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Fig. 1. Training on Buildings Archaeology at the Islamic Baydha Project. (Photo by Steven Meyer.)

During seasons 2020 and 2021, the Islamic Baydha Project had two study seasons, focusing on the processing of data and finds, in preparation for publications, and on project presentations. In 2020, a research grant was generously awarded by the Barakat Trust, one of the project's main funders, for a study season which took place mainly at the American Center of Research in Amman. This season included a complete study of the Islamic-period ceramic finds from all excavation seasons and the drawing of architectural plans. The flotation of the archaeobotanical material also took place at the American Center, where samples for ^{14}C analyses were also selected from the most promising stratigraphic units of the two mosques. An in-depth study of the archaeobotanical materials by Annette Hansen took place at the University of Brussels, and a series of optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) analyses of soil samples from one of the mosques was undertaken by Dr. Timothy Kinnaird at the University of St. Andrews. The results of the OSL analyses were not conclusive on this occasion, and they highlighted the need to identify the chronology of the mosques from an additional perspective. (For more on the study season carried out at the American Center during the pandemic years, see Sinibaldi 2020a)

During these two years, there was also a focus on presenting preliminary results on the Islamic Baydha Project and the broader Late Petra Project in online conferences and meetings. Micaela Sinibaldi presented on the Late Petra Project for the series Archaeology of the Middle East and North Africa from Late Antiquity to the



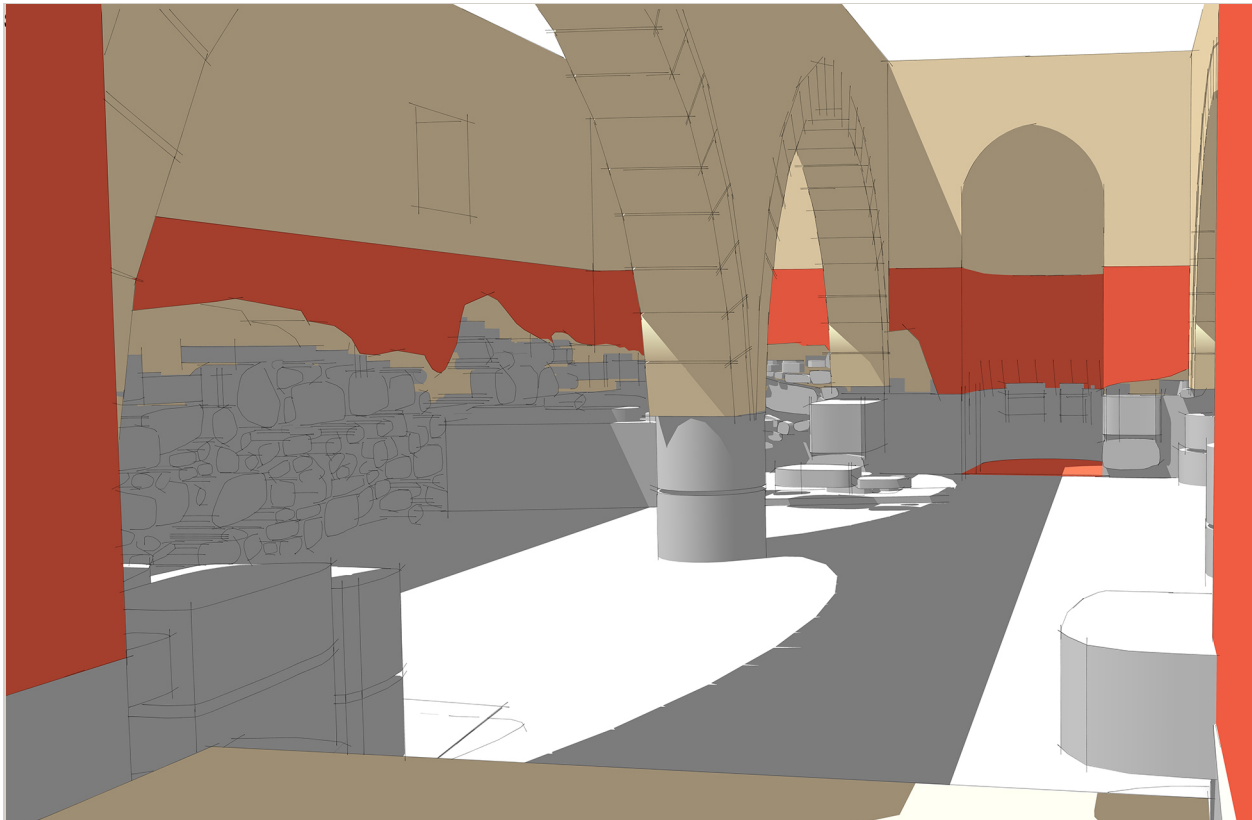


Fig. 2. Reconstruction of interior of Mosque 1. (Graphic reconstruction by Qais Tweissi.)

Ottoman Period organized by the Institut français du Proche-Orient (25 February 2021; published in Sinibaldi 2021); on the Islamic-period ceramics from southern Transjordan at the Ceramics from Islamic Lands conference organized by the Victoria and Albert Museum, London (20 July 2021); on the program of community engagement of the Islamic Baydha Project for the Coronomics and Cultural Heritage in the Middle East workshop organized by the Politecnico of Milan (15 November 2021); and on settlement in Petra in the Islamic and crusader periods at the online portion of the annual meeting of the American Society of Overseas Research (December 2021).

In addition, the final phases of production of a video documentary on the Islamic Baydha Project have been completed. The film was selected for screening and the awards competition at the Rovereto International Film Festival, Italy (October 2021), the Agon Festival in Athens, Greece (May 2022), and at the Festival del Cinema Archeologico di Agrigento, Italy (July 2022), where the project been presented specifically for its component of training and community engagement. In figures 1-3, some of the components of the Islamic Baydha Project illustrated in the video documentary are shown: the training of Jordanian archaeologists, with a focus on female participants (Fig. 1); 3-D reconstruction of the interior of Mosque 1 for future presentation of the site to the public (Fig. 2), and engagement of schools of the Petra region during the Schools Day (Fig. 3).

In 2020, the final version of the volume *Islamic Heritage Sites in Jordan*, edited by Ammar Khammash and Thomas Weber, was published; it includes an entry on the two mosques of



Fig. 3. Schools Day at the Islamic Baydha Project. (Photo by Micaela Sinibaldi.)

Baydha, with architectural reconstructions of the structures (Sinibaldi 2020b). In moving toward the final publication of the materials from the Islamic Baydha Project, as part of the broader Late Petra Project, contributions have been submitted by Sinibaldi on the study of ceramics of the Islamic period from the Petra region; for the upcoming final publication of the fieldwork in Baydha directed by Patricia Bikai for the American Center of Research (2003–2008); for the Beidha Documentation Project, in preparation; and for *The Pottery of Jordan: A Manual*, edited by Jihad Haron and Douglas R. Clark (2022). A contribution on the study of ceramics from excavations at Ba’ja I (Petra region) by the German Protestant Institute of Archaeology is currently in preparation.

References

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Project website: islamicbaydhaproject.wixsite.com

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