

La chiesa rupestre di S. Nicola all'Annunziata a Matera: verso una conservazione preventiva

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Abstract

The theme of rock churches finds a vast treatise which in recent years has been enriched with the technical-scientific studies relating to the state of conservation of these complexes, conducted in the field of scientific research by ICR (Central Institute of Restoration), CNR (National Research Council) and the universities of Basilicata and Salento.

The study concerns the crypt of *S. Nicola all'Annunziata*, also known as *S. Maria de Olivara*, in Matera (IX-X century), part of a larger rock complex consisting of several caves dug in the calcarenitic rocky bank.

The study proposed here is part of a research project started in 2019, which is in synergy with the Regional Archaeological Historical Park of Rock Churches. The project is aimed at analyzing the pathologies of degradation deriving from the action of water, using a system of non-invasive or destructive diagnostic investigation (thermography and conductivity), in order to evaluate the type and degree of damage, the water content present and to determine the various parameters over time.

It will thus be possible, through constant microclimatic monitoring and targeted diagnostic investigations, to act, in terms of conservation, by outlining a planned maintenance project.

Keywords: *Rock churches, Matera, S. Nicola all'Annunziata, Thermography, Conductimetry*