

HBIM FROM A FIRST CENTURY ICONOGRAPHY

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ABSTRACT:

Protecting and enhancing inherited assets is a duty of every age; ours requires disclosure through the services of the interconnected network, the only one, to date, capable of reaching a wide audience and with it attracting adequate economic resources for the implementation of programs. In keeping with the international definition of "Cultural Heritage", the paper describes the methodology that guided the construction in 3D of the monumental building sculpted in the iconographies between 52 and 62 AD on the marble slab now preserved at the archaeological museum of Perugia. An informative workflow on what has been collected is proposed to then discuss the potential of its uses. The focus lies in particular on the possibility of the model to act as an interoperable collector to compare the reconstructive hypotheses.

The final objective looks at the opportunity to create multimedia, multimodal and cross modal collaboration spaces to remedy aspects that, by affecting a wider audience of users, encourage socio-economic policies.

1. INTRODUCTION

In step with the times and in line with the most recent guidelines for the Safeguarding of Cultural Heritage, the services offered by the network (internet) expand the potential and the cognitive dimensions: in fact, the accessibility benefits the learning by promoting actions that cross different sectors and areas (Bentkowska-kaFel, Denard, 2012). In this perspective, Digital Heritage (Hugh, 2012, p. 60) refers to an interdisciplinary approach and strategy, capable of involving and attracting the interest of a wider audience (Brusaporci, 2020). The London Charter for the virtual visualization of Cultural Heritage¹ (2009) directs towards a good practice that the "Principles of Sevilla" (2012) channel into a shared process between the scientific communities (Denar, 2012).

Observing with a renewed spirit the slab of Perugia (1st century AD), a document of fundamental interest for the history of relief and architectural design, therefore has a fourfold purpose:

- collect and order what has been examined on a cartographic practice already recurring to the death of Augustus;
- explain the pipeline used for the 3D reconstruction of the building starting from plans and measurements (Barratt, 2018, Clark, 2010);
- organize an interoperable workflow to make the results comparable in light of the application of the "falsification principle" and "self-correcting" supported by Karl Raimund Popper (1935) and the "Document on Authenticity" issued by UNESCO for digital modelling;
- discuss its accessibility on a theoretical-philosophical (Landi 1991, pp. 565-574) and practical-operational (McLuhan 1967) level, to enter the current debate and discuss the repercussions deriving from the declination of a renewed information paradigm within of a data sharing environment (CDE) (Jordán et al., 2020).

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The artefact hailing from Rome², is conserved in the Archaeological Museum of Perugia (Cante, Manconi 2004, p.63). It is a rectangular marble slab (circa 58 x 82 cm), in excellence condition to be studied with meticulous care (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Marble plan with funerary inscription of freedmen of Octavia and Nero 54-68 AD Coll. Gaddi Coll. Oddi, Inv. Com. 486. Exhibit n.45 (CIL VI, 2, 9015).

The document is composed by an engraving of the marble slab divided in three horizontal sections, variously proportioned and meticulously dimensioned in roman feet:

1. the ground floor of a funerary monument whit an open *triclinio*;
2. the planimetry of a ground floor of a rustic villa with a garden behind;

² "Bastioni del Belvedere 1544-1548, first of all coll. Gaddiorum (Firenze) then coll. Oddios in museo univertatis"

¹ <http://www.londoncharter.org>

3. the plant of a mezzanine floor of a hypothetic residence of the housekeeper.

The epigraph that extends along two longitudinal lines at the top and bottom of the slab clarifies that this slab is a donation for Claudia Peloris, freedwoman of Claudia Octavia, daughter of the emperor Claudio and of Valeria Messalina³. This information permits di determine unambiguously the date of creation of the engraving between the 52 and the 63 AD.

Few, erudite texts consider the engravings on the slab of Perugia as emblem of the mathematical rationality of the roman builders during the imperial period. Heinrich Jordan was the first scholar who examined in deepen the slab. The Roman topography expert underlines the merits and limitations of the graphic signs carved on the slab (Jordan, 1874, 1878).

The rooms are meticulously quoted in Roman figures. Using the "foot" (Pes, in Latin), generally accepted as 16/28 of the cubit of Nippur, that is equivalent, to 0.29574 meters. The "S", visible at the end of some digits, is the representation of "Span", "Spanna" (half cubit, 9 inches, 22.86 cm) or "Semis" (half foot, about 15 cm), confirm the centesimal precision of the dimensioning of the rooms in plan compatible with a relief drawing of the existing building scale, rather than with a project drawing.

I level N. in the plan	Lower floor hypothetic function	Dimensions in roman foot Width-length	Measurements in cm width-length	Measurements taken from geometry
(01)	anterior porch	XVI - LXX	474-2075	474-2419
(02)	room n 2	V-VIS	148-193	148-193
(03)	room n 3	VI- (-)	178-(-)	178-181
(04)	room n 4	XX-XI	593-326	593-326
(05)	room n 5	XII-XI	356-326	356-326
(06)	room n 6	XIII-VIIS	385-222	385-466
(07)	corridor	(-) - V	(-) -148	782-148
(08)	room n 8	X-VIII	296-237	296-237
(09)	room n 9	IX-VIII	267-237	267-237
(10)	atrium	(-) - (-)	(-) - (-)	313-458
(11)	staircase	(-) - (-)	(-) - (-)	531-170
(12)	corridor	(-) - V	(-) -148	531-148
(13)	posterior porch	(-) - (-)	(-) - (-)	296-857
(14)	stable	VI- (-)	178-(-)	178-281
(15)	vegetable garden	LXV-LXX	1926-2075	2390-2419
(16)	access road	(-) -XXS	(-) -607	1890-607

II level N. in the plan	Lower floor hypothetic function	Dimensions in roman foot Width-length	Measurements in cm Width-length	Measurements taken from geometry
(01)	anteriorporch	XS- (?)	311 (è)	401-495
(02)	room n 2	(?) - XX	474-563	636-593
(03)	room n 3	XI-VII	326-207	296-207
(04)	room n 4	IX-VII	267-207	267-207
(05)	atrium	XXX- (?)	889	889-1005
(06)	posterior porch	(?) - (-)	-	291-1005

Table 1. *Edificium custodiae*. Numerical comparison between the data quoted in figures (Roman feet) transposed in cm and measured in the marble reduction scale. The distribution of spaces refers to the study by Rodriguez Almeida, 2002, fig. 13, chap. IV.

2.1 Analysis of the measurements: sources and documents

Based on the direct comparison between geometric configurations and real measurements, Guglielmo Gatti (Gatti,

³ Claudia, Octaviae divi Claudi f(iliae) lib(erta) Peloris/ et Ti(berius) Claudius Aug(usti) lib(ertus) Eutyclus, proc(urator) Augustor(um), / sororibus et lib(ertis) libertabusq(ue) posterisq(ue) eorum/ /form]as aedifici custodiae et monumenti reliquerunt.

1974, p.33) estimated the reduction scale of 1:83 for (the sepulchral temple with an underground crypt and outdoor *triclino*. This proportional ratio is halved in the adjacent iconography: the ground floor of the villa is engraved on a scale of 1:140; the plan of the custodian's accommodation is further reduced on a scale of 1:230 (Rodríguez-Almeida, 2002). These differences in the scalar ratios are not surprising, considering that the importance of each building is based more on its representational idea than its use. The position of the upper floor gains some doubt, since its proportions compared to the other plans are smaller, almost as if was added at the end as an extra.

Regarding the dissymmetry between the indicated and calculated heights, they were duly detected and noted (Tab.1) in order to vectorize the linear extensions of the walls in one metric scale by adopting a mean value derived from the comparison between the dimensions and the graphical readings. The use of a grid derived from the thickness of the walls (Figures 2-3) in which the module-measurement of Vitruvian memory relates harmoniously the position of the single portions referring them to the different parts (De Fusco, 1968), guided the subsequent analyses.

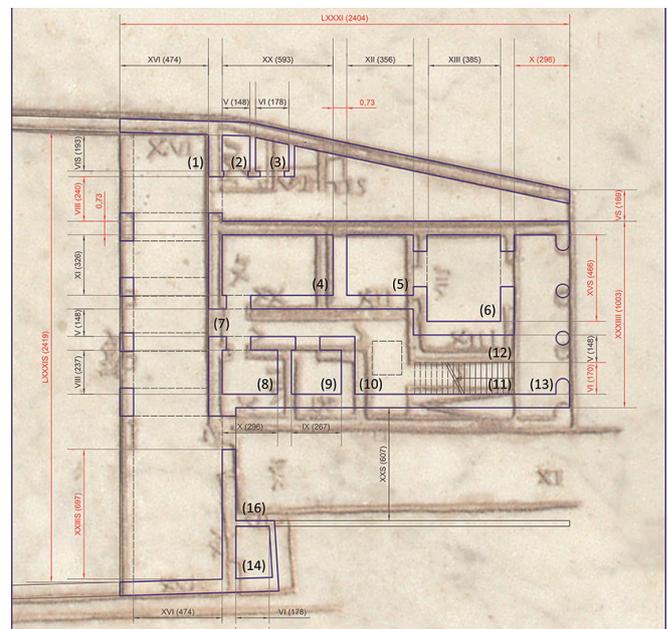


Figure 2. *Edificium custodiae*. Graphic comparison between the data obtained by superimposing the lines engraved on the marble and the quotas in Roman figures for the ground floor (see Tab.1).

2.2 Distribution and functionality of the spaces

According to clear criteria and immediate communication, the iconographies visualize the supporting framework of the artifacts. In this sense, the iconic clarity of the conventions and symbols engraved in the first century slab is astounding. These anticipate almost unchanged the conventions that make the "Forma Urbis Marmorea Severiana" (III century AD) the cartographic document par excellence (Carettoni et al., 1960).

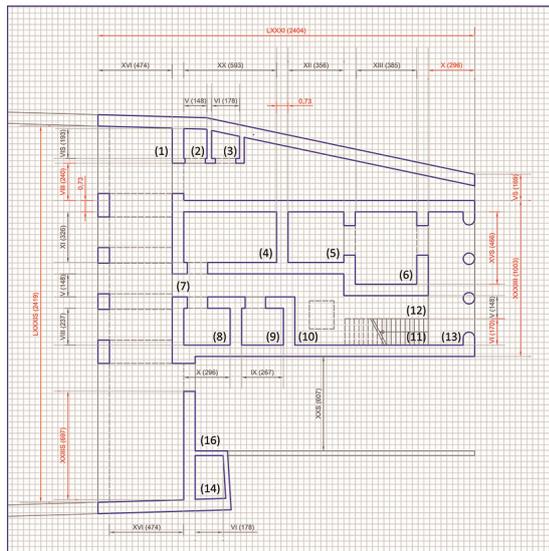


Figure 3. *Edificium custodiae*. Use of a grid derived from the thickness of the walls. The measure-module measures the parts. The numbers of the rooms refer to the functional distribution referred to in Tab.1.

The walls are traced with a double line, as if to indicate the consistent thickness of the plaster that covers the rows of bricks. Clearly visible is the thickness of the walls cut at a useful height to show the gaps in the light compartments. In the views from above, however, the roofs are sculpted in their dimensions: this is verified by observing the iconography of the mezzanine floor, and in more detail that of the underground body in the plan of the monumental building. Following the advices of Vitruvius, the orientation of the temple will certainly have taken into account the apparent path of the sun (Bodel, 2017, pp.226-228). In the *aedificium custodiae*, where the functional needs are dominant with respect to the ones in the monumental buildings, the builder kept into mind the microclimatic needs imposed by the habitability of the rooms, in that period without fixtures (Vitruv., De Arch., I, 1). Hence, the distribution of the rooms is articulated around the path that connects the anterior courtyard to the posterior one; the path is identified by a ramp, perhaps equipped with a staircase, indicated in the plan, as is still the case today.

Entering into the merits of the distributive hypotheses formulated by Emilio Rodriguez Almeida (Rodriquez Almeida, 2002, fig.13, chap. IV) the Romans did not know the use of the fireplace, or the hood or the flue, visible in the Italian architecture from the thirteenth century. This is confirmed by the etymology of the term *Atrius*, "dark", because of the dust that darkened the walls where the water was formerly collected and at the same time the wood for cooking was burned. The smoke found its main outlet in the aperture of the roof, which came from that visible on the top of the pre and protohistoric huts. Hence the need to postulate a well of air and light on the roof at the vertical connecting ramp-staircase and the room behind it where, according to Rodriguez, food was smoked (on the second level) or cooked on the first level.

3. RECONSTRUCTIVE HYPOTHESIS: AIMS AND METHODS

The engraving excludes any type of information on the elevations, the elements than more than others imprint onto the visive memory of the visitors. These are necessary data for the elaboration of a collaborative environment useful to learn and

comprehend the background to explore the functionality of a dedicated platform with the aid of multimedia interface (visual, auditive and tactile). Using apps and open-source software, linear or map indexes guide to orient a personalized experience (MR, Mixed reality). The opportunity to actualise issues (Bolter, Grusin, 1999) in harmony with the international definition of "Heritage", places the digital reconstructions at the centre of cognitive, planning and communication strategies. To proceed with a scientific method, it is necessary to premise in a transparent way the sources on which the reconstruction is based, along with the declaration of the choices that led to the different readings-interpretations and on which the applicative procedures are based.

3.1 Procedural and technical methodologies

On the operational level, it seemed useful to discern the reconstruction of the monumental building from the service one for the caretaker.

a) *aedificium monumentalis*. Christian Carl Friedrich Hülsen made an axonometric projection sketch of the monumental building (Hülsen, Friedrich, 1890, p.53) supposing the aspect of the facade, repeating the style of the triumphal arches built in the Augustan and Giulio Claudia era (Figure 4a). As a reference for the reconstruction, it was used also the Archaeological Museum on the isle of Malta (Figure 4b), built around archaeological remains of the I century AD. Taken together, the sources make the morphological choices of the monumental building scientifically plausible. These are inductively verifiable in the light of the "Document on Authenticity" (Unesco 1994) and the statements on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (Unesco, 2003 and 2009). On the other hand, the rebuilt of the villa is more subjective, due to the lack of archival data. The declaration of the sources permits on the other hand to value the historic reliability of the reconstruction (Wijesuriya, 2008, p.65).

The basis is the data derived from the analysis of the marble slab. The reference grid deduced from the measurement module, if overturned in elevation on the vertical plane (Figure 5), covers the principles to the elaboration of the elevations-sections (*Orthographia*). The alignments were then compared with the proportions of the axonometric sketch hypothesised by Heinrich Jordan.

b) *aedificium custodiae*. It is mandatory to remember that in addition to the geometries and arithmetic relationships, the material extension of the architecture is measured with history and technology. The 3D reconstruction considered the Roman construction technique. The virtualizations of a similar era, freely drawn from the shared network (internet), were indeed helpful. Here lays the opportunity to use software that can digitally build the choices made.

In order to proceed quickly with the construction of the three-dimensional model from which to derive the two-dimensional graphics (Eastman et al., 1975), the floor plan of the monumental complex made in CAD was developed into the Bim software Revit by Autodesk, a powerful tool for the planning of new buildings, providing a shared work environment during all the phases of the project. (Lu et al. 2016; Woodward, Heesom, 2021; Fai et al, 2012).

Its characteristics therefore are appropriate to complex and rich approaches to the potential inherent in information models (Garagnani, 2019; Arayci et al., 2011).

For these reasons, a model has been proposed that includes the following phases (Bianchini et al., 2021):

- classification of construction elements (semantization);
- extraction of geometries with the direct method (segmentation);

- modelling of geometric attributes (2D and 3D);
- development of components according to a declared level of information;
- taxonomic organisation of graphic circumstances within a shared and interoperable workflow.

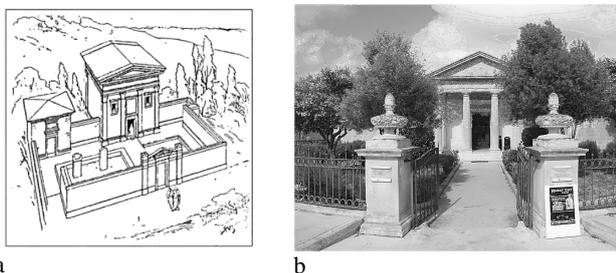


Figure 4. References for the reconstruction of the monumental building: a) Hypothesis by Christian Carl Friedrich Hülsen presented in an axonometric sketch; b) Malta, Domus Romana. Reconstruction around the archaeological findings of the temple with an underground crypt and outdoor *triclino* (I century).

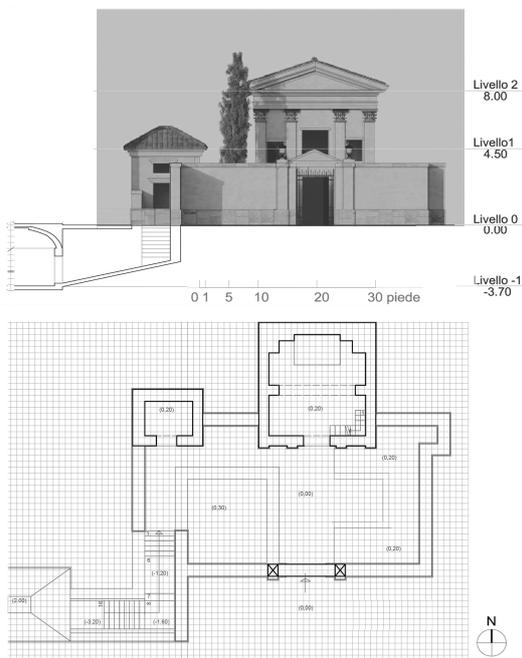


Figure 5a. *Aedificium monumentalis* (a). Use of the grid to compare the proportions of the southern elevation of the temple with the proportions obtained by studying the iconographic documents

3.2 Executive choices

A first information model has been created, based on both the geometric (LOD-detail) and the informative descriptors (LOI-Information). The extraction of the components with the direct method allows the contextual association of families of technologically determined types stored in dedicated system instructions (Garagnani, 2019, p.47-73). However, since this is a first-century construction, there are no archival data that can support the 3D reconstruction⁴. It is possible to proceed correctly by linking technical data sheets adequate to the information need (Level of Information Needed) to the

⁴ <https://www.ingenio-web.it/18667-sistema-dei-lod-italiano-uni-11337-4-2017>

geometric detail with qualitative and quantitative 3D LOG attributes.

The formal structure of the geometric model is conceptually linked to information sheets (LOI). In fact, European and therefore Italian legislation discerns the level of detail by distinguishing geometric representations/virtualizations from non-geometric representations/virtualizations (Figure 6) (Baker, 2012; Maiezza, 2019). This is in an attempt to clarify the controversial level of detail referred to in previous UK and US LoD regulations as LoD A refers to symbolic object, LoD B to generic object, LoD C to defined object, LoD D to detailed subject, LoD E to specific object, LoD F to executed object and LoD G to object updated (Jallow et al., 2019).

A first Level of Information Needed (the construction of an ad hoc archive is in progress), was obtained by identifying object-components such:

- Vertical structures. The "Opus Testaceum" in the first century was placed side by side with other construction techniques, allowing the bricks to be broken along the lines generated raw (Luglio 1957, Plate CLXI-CLXXXIV). This type of wall is appropriate for receiving and discharging the loads coming from the arches supporting the ceilings of the ground floor of the villas (Adam, 2017). Only in the more modest houses were the flat floors made of wood.

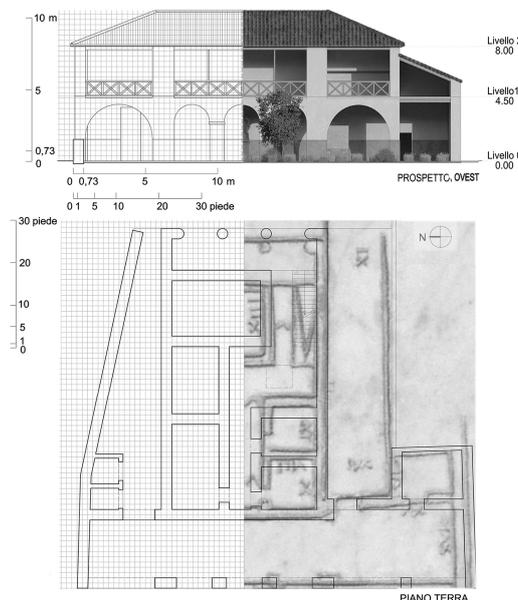


Figure 6b. *Aedificium custodiae* (b). Use of the grid to compare the proportions of the west elevation with the adjacent ones of the temple and with the reconstructions of rustic villas.

- Horizontal structures. The use of beams did not involve any or a very limited horizontal force on the straight leg but it had to be considered that the openings could not exceed 4 feet. This problem could be avoided with the use of arches that allowed to deflect part of the load; hence the light compartments were wider (Choisy, 1904, p.503-505). The wooden rib shaped using circular arches (El-Naggar, 1999; Heisel, 1991) allowed to create the structure of the ashlar used for the construction of a "simple" vault, e.g., the barrel vault and, when necessary, a cross vault (Docci, Migliari, 1992, p. 455).
- Cover structures. The roofs were usually constructed with double or quadruple pitches. For this reason, rectangular beams and props were used or, alternatively, boards of thickness between 5 and 10 cm on which the roof tiles were placed.

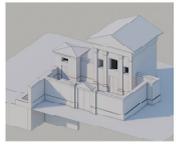
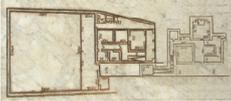
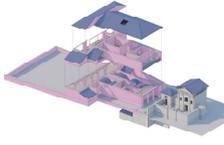
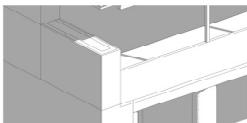
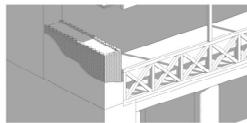
Level of detail (LOd)	Construction LOd	Function LOd	Decorative LOd
			
Level of reliability (LOR)	LOR 1 (high)	LOR 2 (medium)	LOR 3 (low)
			
Level of detail (LOd)	LOd 100	LOd 200	LOd 300
			

Figure 7. The differentiation in LoD referring to the functionality, the graphical and geometrical details in the models and the distinction of three different Level of Reliability referring to the process used to reconstruct the final model: high reliability refers to the reconstruction of the plan based on the engravings and the mathematical calculation, medium refers to the vertical structures reconstructed on bibliographical data, low consists on the accessories elements as parapets, for which no data where found.

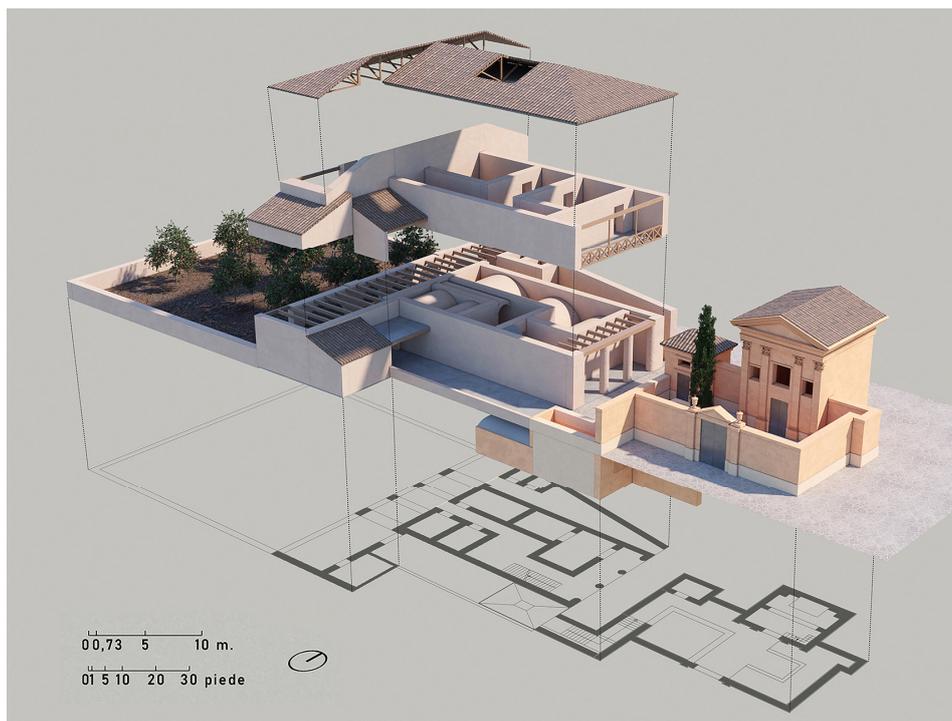


Figure 8. View of the 3D model referred to in graphic virtualizations visible in <https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/table-of-perugia-89df393019e246ea9f090a66f691ee35>

4. CONCLUSIONS

In recent decades, two paths have been taken to make scientific research dialoguing with the production of data (De Luca, 2020a). These, in essence, are attributable to the strong modelling and to the contextual research on the ontological transmission of data articulated around the interdependence of space, time and form.

This paper discusses the 3D reconstruction (Figure 7) phases methodologically based on sources and on the transparency of the pipeline (Figure 8-9-10). It is common practice to share the model in digital repositories that the organization of a workflow on the web platform makes shared and interoperable. This is an opportunity to reflect and experiment new methods of support (complete and/or integrated) for the dissemination of the "inherited architectural heritage" (Brusaporci et al., 2020).

For this purpose, the organization of a portal to which an enlarged and differently enabled user can access is in progress (Figure 8). The ultimate goal is the design of a digital ecosystem compliant with the identified semantic needs (De Luca, 2020b). This system will be useful for developing a cultural, intelligible and shared vision of the Imperial era. In this context, the so-called "slab of Perugia" is a testimony of fundamental importance for the history of the survey and, in actuality, for the debate on the accessibility of architectural studies as structural ensembles capable of "remedying" contents and meanings for educational purposes. By reducing the distance between inherited goods and the "consumers" of culture it will be possible to advance in knowledge and at the same time raise awareness among the users necessary for protection and enhancement policies.

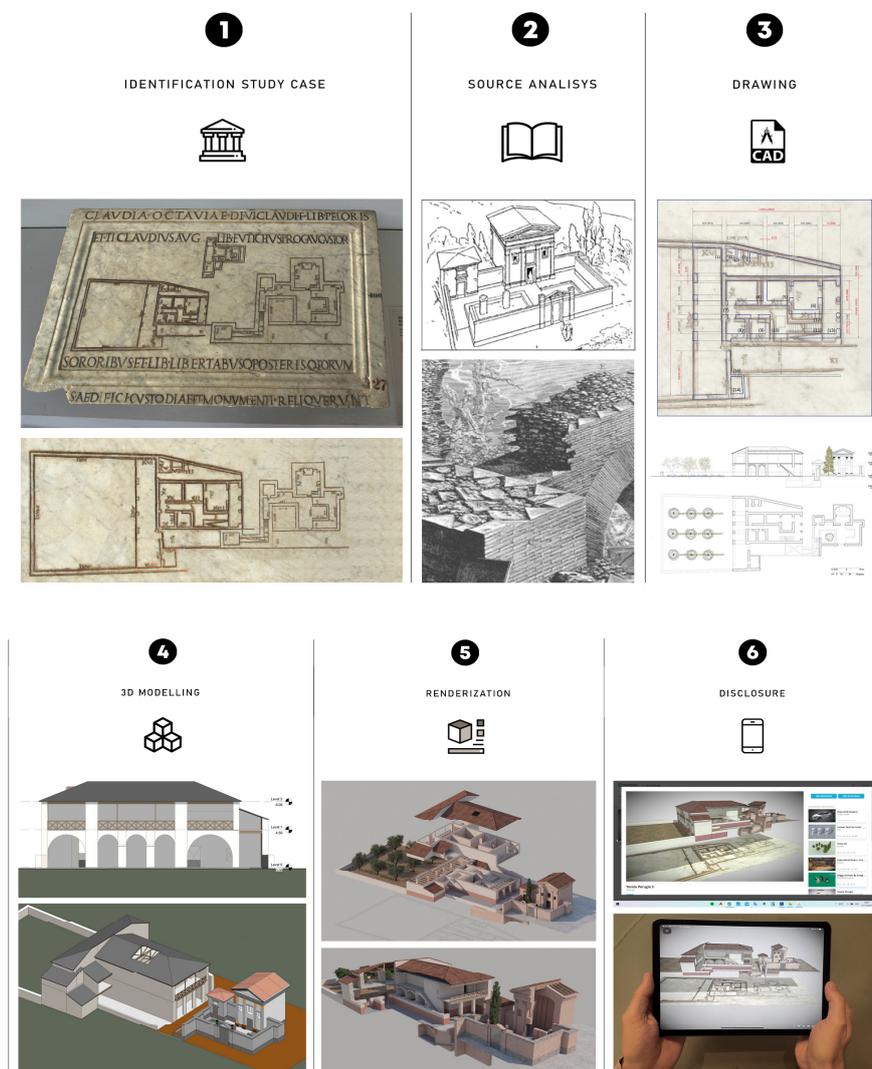


Figure 9. The process that, starting from the analysis of the artefact led to the sharing of the 3D final model.

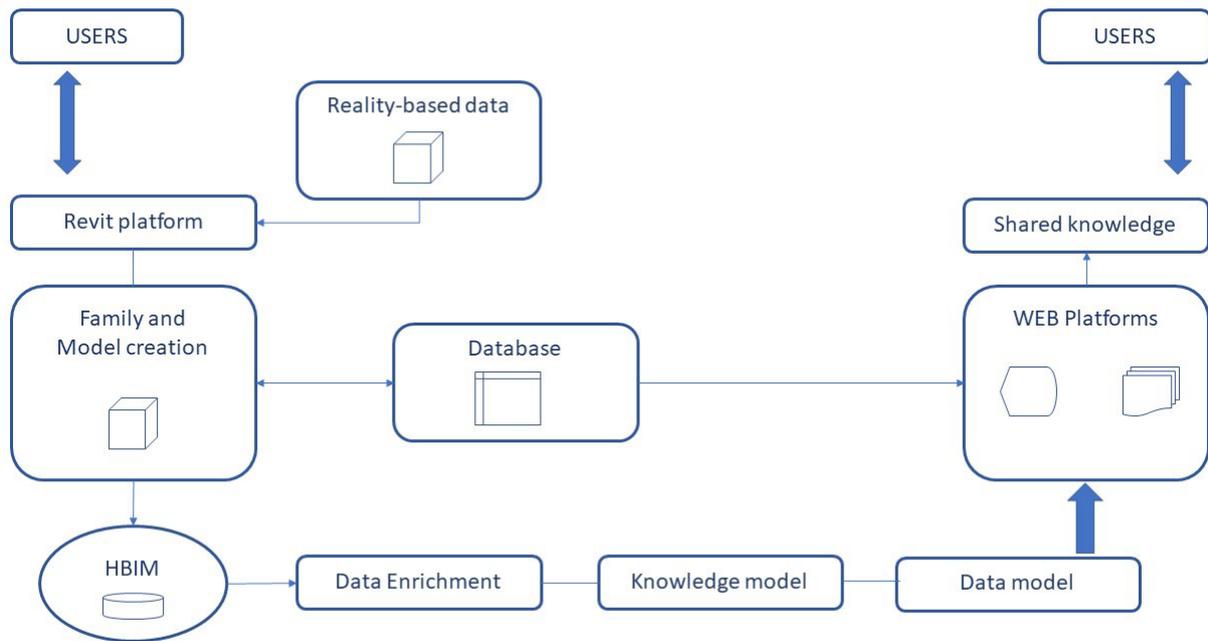


Figure 10. The schema of the process

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