

The global digital archive of the Soprintendenza of Pompeii and the new Portal of Italian Culture by the Ministry of Culture - Scuola Normale di Pisa. Objectives and features

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Introduction to The Pompeii and Assisi projects

Visual sources reveal that the most famous historical settings as Pompeii and the cycle of frescoes of Assisi can testify a long tradition of visitors, experts, as well as photographers and painters that reproduces different perspectives of perceptions and knowledge on the represented objects. Historical archives of the photographic and graphic sources have been prepared and carried out for the Pompeii site and now are in progress, with the Istituto Centrale del Restauro (and the Sacro Convento di Assisi) for the Basilica of Assisi and its cycle of frescoes aiming at reconstructing also a historical scientific data base of the states of preservation and conservation of the monuments. The two projects represent the effort of a cooperation of the Scuola Normale di Pisa with the official responsables and curators of those monuments and aim at being accessible as sample of an integrated official approach within the Portal of Italian Culture. Both projects aim at proposing models of such scientific and cultural approach in the starting International Centre of Excellence that the Soprintendenza of Pompeii is planning for 2008 in a new seat inside of the Vesuvian area. That new Centre will be probably the first in the World where a Directorate of a well known monumental setting will organize directly courses and applied researches on the topics of management, conservation and communication of complex archaeological and artistic settings.

Archaeological Sites Digital Prototype as a Pillar of Critical Knowledge

Sharing access to knowledge and information about the European cultural heritage to enable intelligent access for education and other uses. The specific remit of the archaeological sites pillar has been to demonstrate how the BRICKS framework supports **Access to Digital Culture**.

Archaeological Sites Digital Prototype as a Pillar of Critical Knowledge

- 1. critical knowledge - circle as initial and final goal of 2.-3.
- 2. information - horizontal
- 3. communication - vertical
- Research has to integrate 1.-2.-3.

Towards a new combined approach to virtual-real museums based on critical knowledge and scientific perception of historical reality

- The new museum has to integrate two possible contemporary approaches:
- The real museum here and now also as the history of its origin and development through the changes of the public and of the museum itself.
- The digital museum for a new approach to the information system of the museum increasing the critical knowledge of the real museum

The 'Fortuna visiva of Pompeii' Application

The '**Fortuna Visiva of Pompeii**' Application represents a demonstration of BRICKS services to manage different kinds of data and information (texts and images) in a Digital Library. Notable features of the application include:

- A **map-based search** that allows end users to zoom into the map of Pompeii and search for archives relating to one of the buildings.

- The ability to **browse** through the photographs, drawings and digitised texts that comprise the digital library for Pompeii.
- The ability to **view** small, medium and large format images.

It is based on a B-Node installed in the Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa, the home of the Consorzio FORMA.

Contents of the application pertain to: Archaeological Superintendence of Pompeii, Consorzio FORMA, Deutsches Archaeologisches Institut in Rome, National Library of Florence, Scuola Normale Superiore in Pisa.

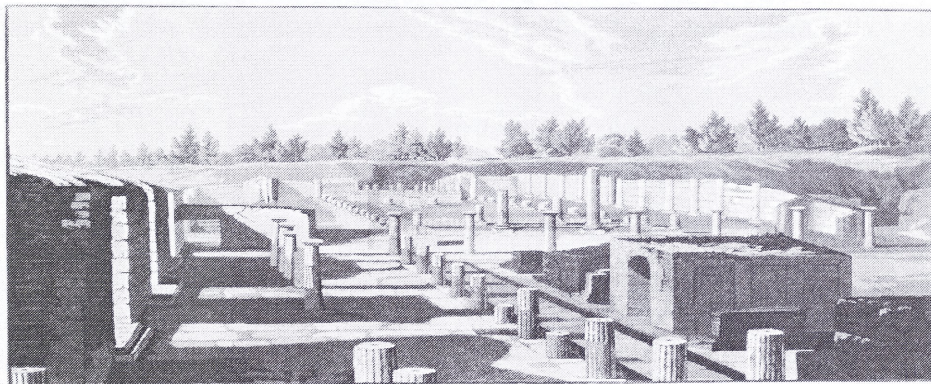
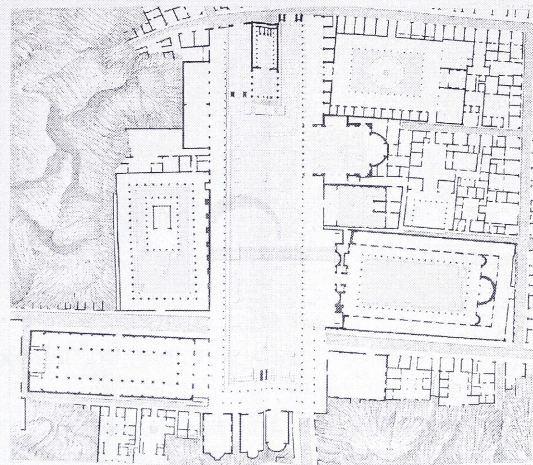
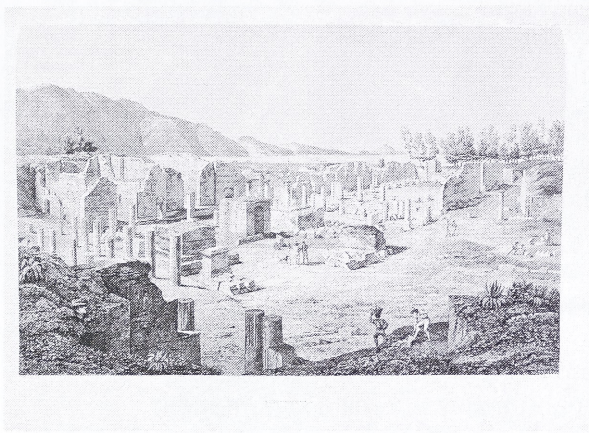
Fortuna visiva of Pompeii – Idea

The 'Fortuna Visiva of Pompeii' is a digital archive of graphic and written documents from the discovery of Pompeii in 1748 to the end of the XIX century.

Joining the information derived from the documents, the final user will be able to reconstruct by him-/herself the taste for Pompeii and its monuments during the considered period, that is how Pompeii was seen, perceived, represented and communicated.

Thus, he/she will better comprehend where his/her ideas on Pompeii take origin.

A methodological approach to the critical knowledge of Pompeii has to consider the result of a sequence of **perceptions**, which on the whole defines the present **Cultural Identity** of Pompeii.



Vue de la Basilique des saints des Frons à Pompéii

- **Fortuna visiva of Pompeii – Contents** **Digital Archive**
- **Iconographic sources**
all sort of images (drawings, watercolors, engravings, etc.)
- **Bibliographic sources**
edited books containing iconographic sources
- **Unedited sources**
manuscripts and unedited documents containing iconographic sources

Fortuna visiva of Pompeii – Contents : Geographic Information System

The GIS represents the ancient area of Pompeii (½ square mile) and contains approximately 3.000 polygons. . The GIS is used as a topographical platform, linking the documents of the Digital Archive to the related monuments.



Objectives:

The main objectives of this application are:

- To offer a flexible critical instrument for research and education;
- To provide a system for analysis, comparison and access to texts and images;
- To reconcile the needs of specialized users and more general users with an architecture based on a solid scientific basis, capable of displaying information simply;
- To contribute to the preservation and accessibility of rare documents and to the historical evaluation of the archaeological site of Pompeii.

Building up the application – User needs

The 'Fortuna visiva of Pompeii' application is designed to meet the needs of different groups of users, with different aims:

- Researchers and students - need to find on-line books, documents and images for their work.
- Curators and managers - responsible for interpreting and presenting collections, for example in exhibitions or learning materials.
- Tourists and Tourist operators - want to find texts and images relating to Pompeii easily.

Building up the application – Experimentation.

The application offered an opportunity to integrate a GIS with the BRICKS platform; an important requirement in the field of archaeology as archaeologists often need to link different kinds of documents to a geo-referenced map.

This is also important for applications addressed to tourists and young students: the capability of connecting various kinds of information with a place immediately facilitates comprehension and fast learning.


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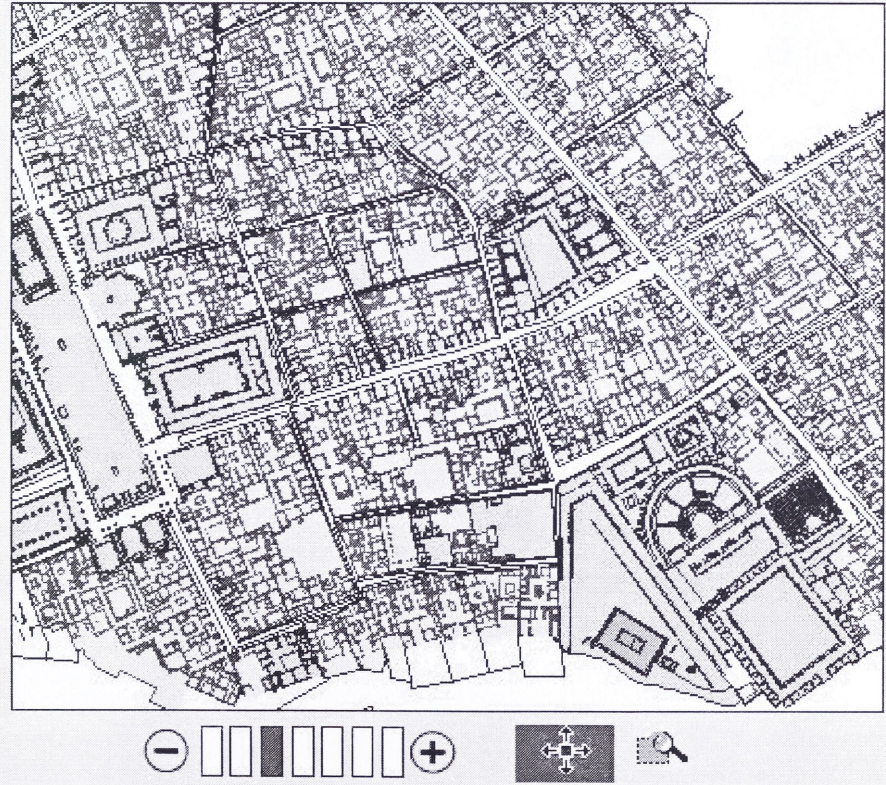
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Building up the application – History / Step 2:

The 'Fortuna visiva of Pompeii' application, 1st prototype (July 2006):

- a Map Server was provided to manage geographic data
- a web interface was implemented to integrate data from the BNode and the Map Server
- functionalities of upload, query and visualisation of the contents were provided.





Casa del Fauno, mosaico di Alessandro, dettaglio: testa di un persiano - prospetto

acquaforte, acquerello
mm 263 x 190

Drawer: Angelini
Etcher: Estevan

In Quadro in mosaico scoperto in Pompei a di 24 ottobre 1831. Descritto ed esposto in alcune tavole dimostrative dal Cav. Antonio Niccolini Architetto di Casa Reale Direttore del Reale Istituto delle Belle Arti

Caption: in basso a sinistra: Orazio Angelini lucido dal Mosaico in basso al centro: N. direso. in basso a destra: Raph. Estevan sculp.

Owner: Firenze, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale - su concessione del Ministero per i beni e le attività culturali



title	mosaic
subject	
creator	
publisher	
coverage	
contributor	
type	
format	
description	
source	



acquaforte, mezzatinta

Drawer: Casanova
Etcher: Aloja

in Gli Ornati delle pareti ed i pavimenti delle stanze dell'antica Pompei incisi in rame

IB18942_0682_0000_0

Casa del generale L'championet, atrio - veduta, particolare di un mosaico



acquaforte

Drawer: Mazois
Etcher: Testa

in Les Ruines de Pompéi, dessinées et mesurées par F. Mazois, pendant les années MDCCCIX, MDCCCX, MDCCCXI... (ouvrage continue par M. Gau)

IB18110_0124_0000_0

Casa del Fauno, mosaico di Alessandro, dettaglio: testa di un persiano - prospetto



acquaforte, acquerello

Drawer: Angelini
Etcher: Estevan

in Quadro in mosaico scoperto in Pompei a di 24 ottobre 1831. Descritto ed esposto in alcune tavole dimostrative dal Cav. Antonio Niccolini Architetto di Casa Reale Direttore del Reale Istituto delle Belle Arti

IB18942_0682_0000

Luogo non identificato, mosaico pavimentale - prospetto



acquaforte, mezzatinta

Drawer: Casanova
Etcher: Fiorillo

in Gli Ornati delle pareti ed i pavimenti delle stanze dell'antica Pompei incisi in rame

IB18942_0648_0096

Luogo non identificato, mosaico pavimentale - prospetto



acquaforte, mezzatinta

Drawer: Casanova
Etcher: Geni

in Gli Ornati delle pareti ed i pavimenti delle stanze dell'antica Pompei incisi in rame

IB18942_0602_0068?

Casa delle Vestali, mosaico pavimentale - prospetto



acquaforte, mezzatinta

Drawer: Casanova
Etcher: B.

in Gli Ornati delle pareti ed i pavimenti delle stanze dell'antica Pompei incisi in rame

IB18944_0143_0042_1

The Application - Architecture

The architecture integrates different kinds of data:

- Metadata related to texts and data from the 'Fortuna visiva' databases;
- Images connected to the database records in three different formats;
- Geographical data from Pompeii GIS.

BRICKS Foundation Services support the management of the first two kinds of contents, but they do not include specific tools for the management of geographic data. This application tests the integration of BRICKS services with an external module for managing geographical data.

The Application – Architecture / 3. WEB Interface

The **Web Interface** accesses data stored both on the BNode and on the Map Server, permitting integrated queries and results consultation.

- Map tiles received from the Map Server are joined in the Web interface by means of javascript procedures to compose an image of the larger map.
- The interface also supports GIS functionalities including panning, zooming and performing queries on a given point.
- The Web interface allows end-users to perform queries on the data stored on the BNode both through metadata and through the GIS.

The Application – Functionalities

By accessing to the Pompeii Application, the final user will be able to:

- Consult the GIS
 - Zoom: Enlarge and reduce the image of the map;
 - Pan: Move through the map;
 - Select: Select a polygon.
- Browse through the GIS
 - After selecting a polygon corresponding to a building of Pompeii, a list of results composed by all the records linked to that polygon will be displayed.

The Application – Functionalities

- Search through the textual search form
 - After typing one or more words, or portion of words, into one or more fields of the form corresponding to the Dublin Core Elements, a list of results composed by all the records responding to the typed parameters is displayed.
- Consult the results in the Pompeii Digital Library
 - The list of results is composed of abstracts with a thumbnail. The complete record is displayed when users click on the abstract title.
 - In the complete record, it is possible to see the large format image (1000 x 1000 pixels) by clicking on the medium size image.