SAFEGUARDING MY SON WORLD HERITAGE

- Demonstration and Training in the Application of International World Heritage Standards of Conservation at My Son - E7Monument

- 2005 –

Preliminary Technical Report
June–July 2005
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Technical Report, March-July 2005

by Mauro Cucarzi
International Project Coordinator

1. Introduction

During the period of March-July the main activities have been:

- Continuation and conclusion of archaeological excavations inside the Monument (see Zolese’ Report)
- Continuation and conclusion of geometrical survey and crack pattern survey of the Monument (see Condoleo’ Report)

According with the conclusion of the Third Scientific Board Meeting held in My Son and Hoi An on 12-13 May 2005, the team of archaeologists and architects engaged in E7 works completed in time all activities expected by the Term of References and agreed during the Meeting.

We have informed Arch. Le Thanh Vinh, Director, Institute for Conservation of Monuments of VietNam that all graphic documents were ready since June 25 in order to prepare the restoration project as agreed in the meeting.
PRELIMINARY TECHNICAL REPORT ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL ACTIVITY CARRIED OUT IN MY SON E7

By Patrizia Zolese
(Lerici Chief Archaeologist, UNESCO CTA)

2005
The Archaeological Team is composed by:

- Dr. Patrizia Zolese (Lerici Chief Archaeologist, UNESCO CTA);
- Dr. Caterina Brunelli (archaeologist, Lerici Foundation);
- Dr. Federico Barocco (archaeologist, Lerici Foundation);
- Dr. Silvia Pozzi (archaeologist, Lerici Foundation);
- Mr. Amphol Sengphachanh (architect, Lerici Foundation);
- Mr. Sinthewa Xayasane (engineer, Lerici Foundation)
Brief description of monument E7:

E7 monument is placed on SE corner of E group. The building is rectangular in plan and has been generally defined as “south building”, probably used as service annex to the main shrine.

1. Monument E7 – Location

Together with C3 and H4, this monument is provided by two rooms, connected by an interior door, with threshold, stone jambs and plain lintel. The main entrance is oriented on north direction and on east and west side are placed two small windows, characterised by baluster small stone columns. The roof is multi storied and probably decorated by corner stone antefixes. The building is composed by a platform decorated by moulded niches, the body with door and windows and the multilayered roof, with inverted vault. Related to the main temple, E1, the building was edified in later phase, probably around 10\textsuperscript{th} cent. Excavation carried out during the 2004 campaign between E7 and the enclosing wall of E area, has shown that the area was submitted to an enlargement. Archeological and stratigraphic evidence, shown two different and superimposed layers of enclosing wall: the lower one related to E1 and the other correlated to E7.
Discovered by H. Parmentier in 1904, the state of preservation of the building was quite fair. Only the higher part of the roof was lost, but the rest of the body was still standing. During 1969 war, the main entrance was effected by a bomb shell, that destabilised the whole structure. An emergency intervention, never completed, was carried out by the Polish architect Kazimier Kwiatkowski, that reinforced the platform.

The present project is aimed to provide an integration of the lost part, being the building in danger of collapse. During the activity carried out by the architects to document the present day state of conservation, a campaign of archaeological research has been carried out inside the monument. The interior area was covered by a high layer of recent filling and dirtness, cumulated during the last fifty years. Parmentier too never carried out any archaeological investigation inside this area.
Archaeological results:

As above described, the monument is composed by two small rooms. The first room is rectangular, measuring about 2.15 x 2.75 m. On the W side is located a window, decorated by three small and rounded columns.

The room is composed by plain masonry sides, 2.14 m. high. From this level starts the corbelled high roof. The covering of the first room consists of a high corbelled “chimney”, composed by 14 mouldings that precede the higher narrow ending. The E side shows, on the top, a hole linking the first to the second room.
On the E side of the first room is located the access to the second one. After the removal of 30 cm. of silt filling, the original brick floor has been exposed.
Second room: the second room is wider than the previous one, measuring about 2.50 x 2.77 m. Also in this case the roofing starts at 2.13 m. A small window, decorated by three rounded columns, is located in the middle of the E wall.

6. The second room window. View from NE corner

The excavation was planned to remove the recent filling, and to possibly find the original floor, but after the cleaning a very interesting evidence was found, that provided a new picture about the function of the building.

The filling was covering the remains of a squared brick pedestal, placed at the centre of the room, and in axis with the upper the centre of the roof.
**Archaeological cleaning and excavation of the monument’s inside:**

The structure, that still preserved 4 rows of bricks on its E side, was placed about in the middle of the room, slightly sunk because of past spoliations and looting.

7. The quadrangular brick structure partly exposed
8. The structure completely exposed

The structure is posed on a brick floor, lower than the one exposed in the first room.

9. Original paving

Probably because of past spoliations, both the paving than the brick structure are clearly sunk towards the middle of the room.
10. The structure sunk towards the middle of the room

The structure is composed by three moulded rows of bricks, still connected. The most preserved side is the E one, where 4 rows are still clearly preserved. The bricks, show different measures comprised between 30 and 38 (L) x 17-19 (W) x 6 (Thick.). The pedestal is sizing 1.50 x 1.50 m. As already pointed out the structure has been submitted to past lootings, and signs of pick are clearly visible on the bricks, especially on the W side.

11. Signs of pick on the bricks

In the SW corner has been noticed a squared brick (cm. 20 x 18), probably used to facilitate the posing in correspondence of the corner itself, while on the second moulded row, in the N side, there’s still evidence of the chiselled sign for the posing of the bricks during the construction.

On the floor, between the structure and the N and E walls of the room, have been found numerous pottery sherds, related to gritty globular vase with everted rim.
12. Pottery sherds found on the paving

The vessels were probably used to contain offerings. In this way it is clear that the structure, full and rising at least 25 cm. from the paving, was probably a platform used to prepare the services related to the *puja*, the traditional hindu custom to offer food and gifts to the divinity kept in the main sanctuary.

After the accomplishment of the excavations inside E7 monument, has been carried out an accurate and complete documentation of the brick structure so far exposed. Architectural drawing on tracing paper has been performed, together with the photographic documentation before the removal of the numerous pottery sherds, that will be classified and inventoried.

The archaeological trench has been than filled up with sand and closed, to facilitate the architectural survey performed inside E7 by Italian and Vietnamese architects. After the accomplishment of the monument restoration, this relevant and unique archaeological finding, an unprecedented occurrence in the history of southeast asian archaeology, will be consolidated and if possible left visible to the public, as important feature strictly linked to the full comprehension and articulation of the monument itself.
1. E7, STATE OF ART

During the month of June all the geometrical surveys of E7 monument, including drawings of prospects, plans and sections, have been concluded by the Vietnamese team of architects. All drawings will be transferred in Autocad.

Fig. 1 – map of damages and of crack pattern
Fig. 2 – First phase of modelling 3D

Fig. 3 – refined model
Section