

THE MAJOR RESTORATION



2006, the Villa dei Vescovi, western facade



2013, the Villa dei Vescovi, western facade

The architectural restoration (c. 2008-2011) was targeted at respecting not only the physical and material substance of the villa, but also its architectural and environmental harmony. The works encompassed cleaning, consolidation and protection, all of which were essential to preserve the physical nature of the building, with a particular focus on the surfaces, flooring and decorations. The restoration did not alter the distribution of the spaces, with the works and the new services designed in such a way as to be non-invasive.

Carried out under the supervision of the Veneto Region's Archaeology Office, the excavation works have brought to light ceramics and glass dating from the 6th and 7th centuries - far earlier than the oldest known documents concerning the Luvigliano area (12th century). These pieces form part of a series of tombs (a full 35 have been analysed) that are indicative of the presence of a cemetery adjacent to the church of San Martino. Also of interest is the discovery of a considerable section of mediaeval wall, built to protect not just the church, the baptistery and the burial ground, but also some nearby storehouses.



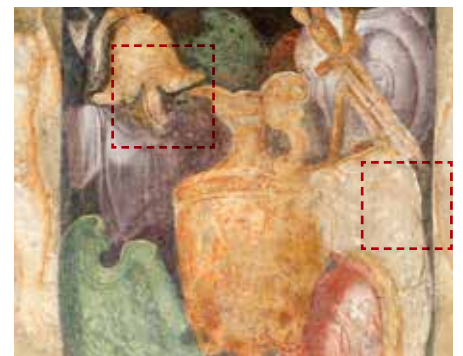
The Villa dei Vescovi, ground floor during the excavations



2007, the Villa dei Vescovi, ground floor



Ancients Figures Room, frieze, during restoration



Ancients Figures Room, frieze, after restoration

The restoration of the frescoes was curated for FAI by the team led by Pinin Brambilla Barcilon between 2009 and 2011. The cleaning enables us now to admire the extraordinary colours of the frescoes by Sustris: the decorations were relieved not only of dust and dirt but also of the synthetic resins deployed during the restorations completed in the 1960s, which had altered the colours. The tones were then rebalanced to facilitate appropriate interpretation. The in-depth restoration has allowed the cycle to rediscover a sense of unity that it appeared to have lost forever.