



Session #202: Using Earthen Architecture as an Excuse: Productive and Social Practices in Prehistoric and Protohistoric Building

This session aims to tackle the archaeological detection and study of productive and social activities and practices involved in building processes during prehistoric and protohistoric times. For this we acknowledge the central role of studying earthen architectural remains and structures and all the information they may contain, also about other building components. At the same time, we intend to use earthen architecture as an excuse to explore the whole range of building materials available, such as wood, wattle, grass, stone, etc.

We seek case studies that address the *chaîne opératoire* of pre- and protohistoric building processes, from obtaining, selecting, preparing, transforming, and producing construction materials (including recipes), to their storage, protection, reuse, transport, and exchange. Also, the steps and gestures involved in the construction itself, decoration of the built spaces and structures, use and maintenance. Finally, the abandonment of buildings and related practices can also be part of the discussion.

Multidisciplinary contributions coming from different methodological approaches are welcome, especially those focused on social practices of building activities, from macro to microscopic analyses, like geochemistry, archaeobotany, or archaeometry. We are also looking for presentations from experimental archaeology or ethnoarchaeology, which can provide insight in aspects such as choosing and preparing the space for a new building, on foundation, inauguration or “coronation” practices (a less known part of the building processes that can also leave a material trace, through offerings and additions, and be detected in archaeological contexts).

We seek to bring together diverse research around these topics, from case studies to comparative analyses and synthesis with a wider scope, trying to shed light also on the environmental, material as well as cultural and identity factors behind specific building practices. This session will be complemented with the **Workshop 303** “Unsolved case studies of earthen architectural remains: a workshop to share experiences”.

Keywords

Construction, Building technology, *chaîne opératoire*, economic activities, social organisation, multidisciplinary approaches.

Organisers

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Call for papers: 19 December 2022 – 09 February 2023
<https://www.e-a-a.org/EAA2023/Home/EAA2023>

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Session #303: Unsolved Case Studies of Earthen Architectural Remains: A Workshop to Share Experiences

The fragility of the earthen architectural record entails some difficulties in identifying constructive processes and related social practices. With this workshop, we aim to share real cases from archaeological and ethnographic contexts, as well as from experimental studies, to jointly analyse the evidence. We also want to discuss and share proposals and solutions that allow us to reflect on our interpretations of past societies. We are looking for case studies that address the *chaîne opératoire* of broad archaeological construction processes, from the procurement, selection, preparation, transformation, and production of building materials (including recipes) to their storage, protection, reuse, transport, and exchange.

This session is complementary to **Session 202** “Using earthen architecture as an excuse: Productive and social practices in Prehistoric and Protohistoric building”. It aims to be a practical workshop where participants share the archaeological materials they bring and try to resolve together any doubts that may have arisen in the theoretical Session 202. However, other proposals not in the theoretical session can also be accepted. As we do not wish to focus here only on Prehistory or Protohistory, we accept papers from any era as long as the material presented is raw earth. At this point, we refer to the identification of earthen materials (from a macroscopic view to a microscopic approach, including XRD, XRF, FTIR, petrology, etc.), paying attention to imprints, decoration, and composition to understand the different construction techniques (wattle and daub, cob, mud brick, etc.), as well as earthen furniture, roofs/ceilings, etc.

Depending on the facilities available, attendees will be informed about the format: whether they can bring the materials, thin sections, etc., or only high-resolution photographs.

Keywords

Construction techniques, Daub, Mud elements, Imprints, Interpretation.

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