ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Preserving And Presenting Again Beirut's Past: The 2024 Lebanese-Italian Conservation And Public Engagement Initiative At Tell Beirut

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Abstract

The first conservation and enhancement campaign at Tell Beirut in March 2024 marked a pivotal step in preserving Beirut's heritage. This project, a collaboration between the Lebanese University, University of Bologna, and the Directorate General of Antiquities, aimed at surveying, conserving, and enhancing public engagement with the site. Efforts centered on at-risk sectors BEY003, BEY013, and BEY020, originally excavated by H. Sader, U. Finkbeiner, L. Badre, and N. Karam and conserved in 2004 by Y. Makaroun. These sectors, featuring fortifications dating from the early Middle Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period, had suffered from neglect and were largely invisible to the public. Utilizing GPS and 3D modeling, the team successfully mapped and documented critical structures, providing a detailed understanding of the site's fortification systems. Conservation efforts, including clearing debris and stabilizing structures, enabled the reopening of the Tell Beirut Archaeological Park for public viewing and access. Public engagement was enhanced through informational panels and a 3D model of the site's glacis on Sketchfab, expanding access and sparking research interest in Beirut's ancient history. The project's success underscored the importance of interdisciplinary efforts and sustainable management in heritage preservation, establishing Tell Beirut as a model for future urban archaeological conservation initiatives.

Keywords

Lebanon, Beirut, outreach, conservation, heritage

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