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ITALY IS ITALY WAS: RAVENNA PART III

5/3/2024

Italy GIST 101

a presentation by Lori Wolper



RAVENNA RESEARCH

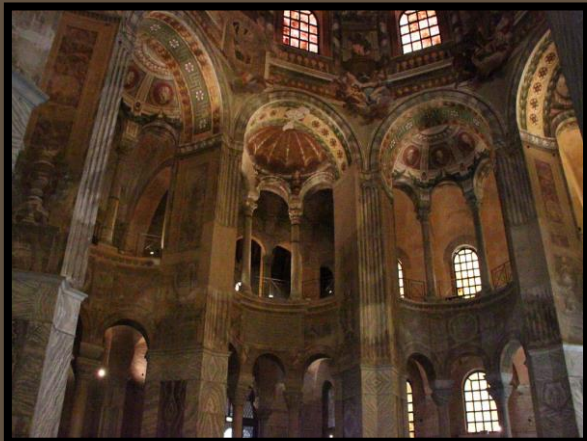
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Basilica of Saint Vitale

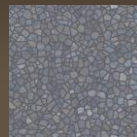
The basilica was commissioned during the Gothic kingdom, during the years of Bishop Ecclesius (525-526 AD). It took 20 years, 547 AD to finish during Justinian's rule. This Eastern Roman Byzantine Empire is one of the most important to survive. The building has an octagonal shape and has an Eastern style.



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**mosaic and
marble
pavements**



INTERIOR WALLS:

The walls were decorated with **marble wall revetment**, **mosaic and marble pavements**, columns and impost capitals, **stucco** deco under the arches, painted glass windows, figure mosaics in the presbytery and apse. All capitals were painted. There are detailed cornices running around the walls and piers and marble revetment covered the lower sections of the walls. It was made of **Proconnesian marble**(white with gray veins), and **marble from lasos in Caria**(deep red with white veins). High quality **stucco** was used in some arcades and window arches.



**Proconnesian
marble**



**Lasos in Caria
marble**



stucco

The wall below the mosaics was decorated with large roundels of **porphyry**, **smaller marble pieces with mother of pearl**.

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**marble wall
revetment**



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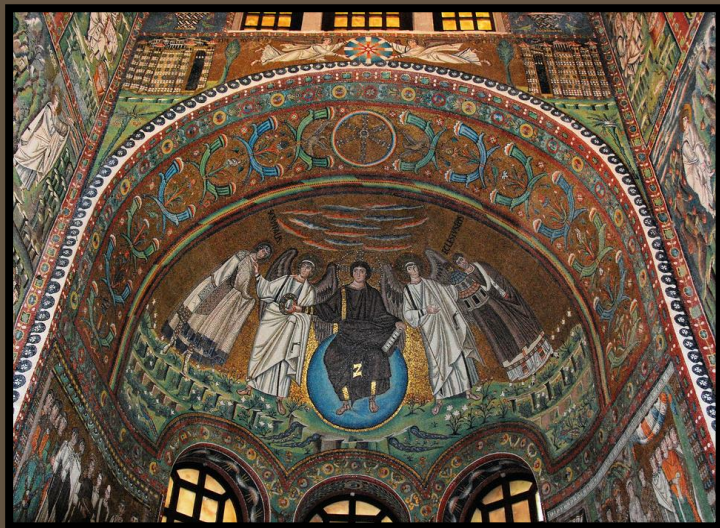


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Basilica of Saint Vitale



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INTERIOR CEILING:

The apse, the ceiling walls of the presbytery and the triumphal arch are covered with **mosaics**. They date back to a couple of years before the church was consecrated by Bishop Maximian in 547. It is likely the dome had mosaics as well. They used 2 styles of **mosaics**: one style uses gold for the backgrounds and **glass tesserae** for human figures,



and the second style uses green paint for the backgrounds and uses **stone** for the skin of the human figures. The dome is made of tubi fittilli, which is hollow terracotta tubes that go into one another.



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Basilica of Saint Vitale



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INTERIOR FLOOR:

The floors were decorated with mosaic in 8 triangular slices radiating out from a central medallion. Many of the materials were imported from the area of Constantinople. The marble used

was from an island near Constantinople called **Proconnesian**. It had white and gray veins in the **marble**. The Caria reddish marble was used as well. They materials were made from local craftsman in the area. There were six sections of the floors that were remade in the 1540's.



**Proconnesian
marble**



**lasos in Caria
marble**

MOSAIC SITE 1 * 5 TAKEAWAYS

1. The theme of this mosaic program is the authority of the emperor in the Christian plan of history. The takeaway is that this plan has affected our Christian values today by intertwining the church, monarchy, and the military.
2. Justinian's reign tried restoring the territories of the empire. His importance was critical for the life of the Roman Empire, but eventually there were stronger territories and militaries that took over and their empire fell apart.
3. This is important because at this time he saw himself as the defender of the Christian faith and wanted uniformity throughout the Roman Empire. The Christian religion has since remained today because of this uniformity.
4. The main mosaic image shows Justinian as the central point as the Emperor between the church and imperial administration and his military. The takeaway is the emperor represents all three domains of society.
5. Christ is dressed in imperial purple like Justinian and symbolizes universal dominion. Justinian is considered Christ's vice-regent on earth. My takeaway is Justinian seemed to be the next most powerful moral under God.



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Basilica of Saint Vitale

Summary: It began in 526 under Ostrogothic rule. This Eastern Roman Byzantine Empire is one of the most important to survive. It was completed soon after 547. One of the most famous mosaic images is of Emperor Justinian and his court. It is located in the sanctuary of the church and is a part of a much larger program in the space around the altar.

MOSAIC SITE 2 * 5 TAKEAWAYS

1. It was built to house the tomb of Galla Placidia, daughter of Emperor Theodosius I (379-395). This is an important takeaway because she eventually represented the western Roman Empire.
2. She was married two times, one being the Roman co-emperor Constantius III (417-421). During this period, it was accepted that Galla Placidia was allowed to divorce twice being a prominent person.
3. My takeaway is her father was the emperor earlier and this certainly was the reason she became the powerful empress who ruled the western world for 12 years (425-437).
4. Although it was built for her tomb, she is not buried there but in Rome. Rome was the capital of the Roman Empire and since she was empress for 12 years this entitled her to be buried in Rome.
5. It was originally connected to the narthex of the adjacent church of Santa Croce. This was built by Galla Placidia as well. This takeaway is important because she commissioned the oratory and that is why it takes her name even though she is not buried here.



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Mausoleum of Galla Placidia

Summary: This late Antique Roman building was built between 425 and 450. It is one of the oldest in Ravenna. It was built in the 5th century and is apart of the UNESCO World Heritage Site in the city. Galla Placidia was the sister of Honorius and Arcadius who later became the western and eastern Roman Emperors. The Mausoleum was built as an oratory rather than a mausoleum.

MOSAIC SITE 3 * 5 TAKEAWAYS

1. Dante Alighieri, the poet, is considered the father of Italy's national language. The takeaway is he helped elevate the Italian language that is used today.
2. The important takeaway is that he introduced the dialect that became the basis of Italy's national language. You can hear this in the rhythm and melodic tone of the language today.
3. He was born in Florence, but he did not end up there when he died. The takeaway is he had not seen Florence for some 20 years because he was in exile for life in Ravenna because of losing the war.
4. After the war he was invited by the ruler and settled in Ravenna for 3 years but died early at age 56 from malaria. The importance of this was that the city would not allow his body to be returned to Florence.
5. After his funeral his body went into a Roman marble sarcophagus that was outside the church's cloister. This is important because his body stayed there for 160 years. The city of Florence kept asking Ravenna to return his body because he was so prominent to Italian culture.



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Tomb of Dante Alighieri

Summary: After 75 years Florence requested Dante's remains for the first time. It took many tries of asking Ravenna, but they always said no and moved his body to a more prominent place on the other side of the cloister. A Florentine delegate went to Ravenna to recover his body, but his remains were not there. Monks in Ravenna moved his remains and guarded him for another 150 years. In the end he never did return to Florence and was put back in his Ravenna mausoleum for the final time in 1945.

MOSAIC SITE 4 * 5 TAKEAWAYS

1. Saint Francis's crypt was hidden for almost 600 years. It was discovered under the Basilica di San Francesco in 1818 and was restored in 2011. The importance of Saint Francis is one of most important places of Christian pilgrimage in Italy.
2. The second takeaway is that the city of Assisi is famous for this distinct landmark to those who visit.
3. Saint Francis rejected a life of luxury to live in extreme poverty. He served the poor and spread the Gospel throughout the world. The main takeaway was he was a hero because he put his faith into action by giving to others.
4. He is beloved by animal lovers and is the patron saint of animals. He trained a wolf that was tormenting a town. This was his first miracle he performed.
5. He renounced worldly goods and family ties to dedicate his life to helping the poor. The most important takeaway is he founded the Franciscan order establishing Catholic orders in history for both brothers and sisters, spreading the message throughout the world: succoring the poor, hungry and sick. This order was recognized by the Pope in 1210.



Crypt of Basilica of Saint Francis

Summary: The Crypt of Basilica of Saint Francis is located between the upper and lower floors of the Basilica and can be reached via a stairway. The official name of the church was The Papal Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Assisi, Italy is where Saint Francis was born and died. He was known for his ministry to the poor and underprivileged, his care for nature and animals, and the founding of the Franciscan order, which was living a life of poverty, love of nature and animals, and their fellow human beings.

MOSAIC SITE 5 * 5 TAKEAWAYS

1. The basilica was consecrated to "Saint' Apollinare" in the 9th century. Apollinare, was a Syrian saint. The importance of this saint from the Romans point was described as "a bishop who spread among the nations the riches of Christ."
2. He led his flock as a good shepherd and honored the Church of Classis near Ravenna. The importance of Apollinare to the people of Ravenna was because he was the first bishop of Ravenna and Classe, which was the ancient Port of Ravenna.
3. The basilica was renamed again in 856 AD when relics were transferred from the Basilica of Saint Apollinare in Classe because of the risk of pirates from the Adriatic Sea. This important to protect the relics that were in Classe church, so they changed the name to Saint Apollinare Nuovo.
4. The key takeaway is they added "Nuovo" to the name to keep it separate from another church in the city. This would have been confusing to have two churches similar in name.
5. The Romans use to grow a beard as a sign of mourning. There are two depictions of Jesus, one as a young beardless man and one bearded Christ as a symbol of experience. The importance is the young one has origins in the eastern origin, but the older Christ gets his meaning in western culture. My takeaway is in most Christian churches today you see Jesus, a more mature man with a beard representing the western culture.



Basilica of Saint Apollinare Nuovo

Summary: This basilica sits in the heart of the old town of Ravenna. It was built in 493 to 526 by Theoderic the Great, king of the Ostrogoths. It was his palace chapel during the first quarter of the 6th century. There were two phases around 561, when the Goths were run out of town, and the second when the church was converted to Catholic orthodoxy during Justinian's rule. It was consecrated to Tours' Bishop, and he called the Basilica St. Martin in "Gold Heaven" because of its shining gold lacunar ceiling.

FAMOUS RAVENNA SITE

Summary: Ravenna is the headquarters of the historic capital of mosaic art. Manual craftsmanship was developed centuries ago in Ravenna. Here is where every tessera or piece, has a different shape and size and then is used to link together to make a masterpiece of artwork. These artworks are sent all over the world. Their motto is “never stop” developing patent processes by creating new materials.

Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

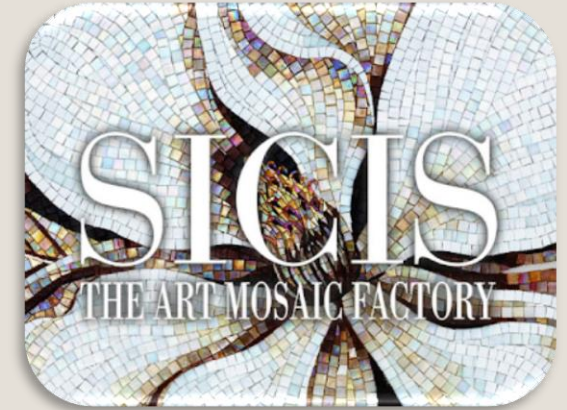
1. SICIS Art Mosaic Factory is lit up in bright pink to catch the attention of visitors highlighting the headquarters of the SICIS company. This is an important point of reference when trying to locate the campus or village.
2. Touring the showroom is an experience like no other with the mosaic lab underneath so you can see how the mosaic masters' artists link together all the tessera pieces to create a piece of artwork.
3. There are five showrooms in main cities on five continents in the world. The projects that have been created are in different places for example, international hotels, pools, private houses, public and landmark areas. This shows the importance and demand of their brand in the global market.
4. They are the only company in the world that uses only 70% precious minerals. This takeaway helps the mosaic tiles to reflect light which helps give off bright vibrant colors and is very durable.
5. Each design is created differently and unique in shape and size. The materials they use for their mosaics are made from glass, metal, marble and stone. The importance of using these different materials is that you can create different patterns, designs, tones and textures that show unique visual effects.

SICIS THE ART MOSAIC FACTORY

Tessera, a piece



Photo from www.sicis.com



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Photo from www.sicis.com

Vetrite glass slab
"CLIFF"



Photo from www.sicis.com

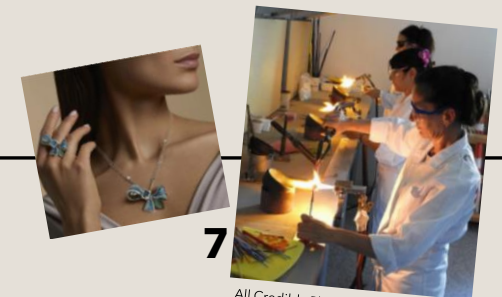
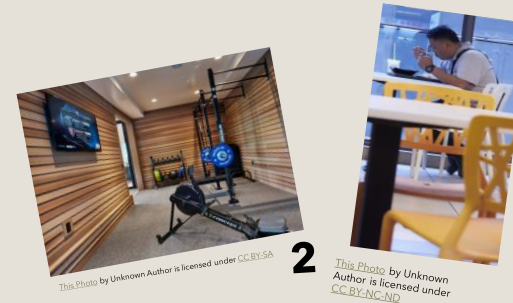
FAMOUS RAVENNA SITE

Summary: The Sicis Village is an 80,000 sqm production village or campus outside of Ravenna. It started in 1999 by reconstructing an old empty industrial park. This village or campus is where all their stunning mosaics are produced in an artistic laboratory. There are seven sections to the campus that I am going to explain.
Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

- 1. Technical, Admin and Directional offices:** These workspaces are open inviting departments that allow the employees to interact with others. This is why they are so successful throughout the world because this helps give people the chance to share their ideas and best work.
- 2. Canteen and Gym:** The importance of allowing for mental and physical well-being helps the brain to produce more efficient work and more creative ideas.
- 3. Warehouses for Storage:** The modern housing for the mosaic tesserae, the Vetrite slabs, and the furnishings are kept in warehouse that have easy loading docks for trucks to pick up the final product. The importance of having modern and organized facilities helps to get their products sent out faster and more efficient.
- 4. Production Furnace for Glass Mosaic:** This internal production uses traditional techniques and processes to make and be checked by workers. The glass mosaics are then assembled into sheets. This helps in the transport of the mosaics all over the world.
- 5. Artistic Mosaic Laboratory:** This is one of the largest workshops for their experts' masters and artists to create artworks with the mosaic glass, marble and natural materials. The artists share in the work and get to show the public the process they take part in to create masterpieces. This is so important because it helps develop pride in their work and the final product.
- 6. Exhibition Areas:** Visitors get to touch and feel the beautiful surfaces from Vetrite, glass slabs and mosaics, view the masters at work and take in all SICIS beauty.

SICIS VILLAGE: 7 SPACE CATEGORY TYPES

- 7. Micromosaic Jewelry Workshop:** The masters of this lab of micromosaic art use thin rods from the fusion of fine mineral dust to create shapes and sizes for detailed high-end jeweled masterpieces. The testing part of the materials in the early stages is important for them to get the best look possible before sending on.



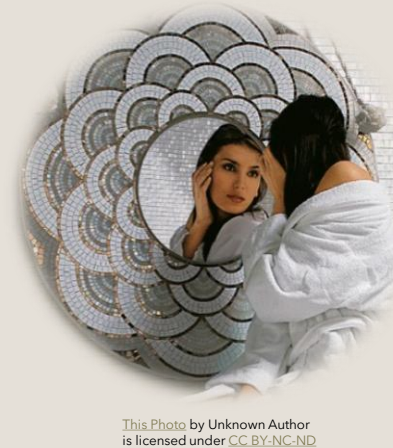
All Credible Photos on this slide are from: www.sicis.com

WORLD-FAMOUS RAVENNA SITE

Summary: In 1999, SICIS expanded its glass mosaics and started its historic headquarters. In 2001-2009 they started to expand on the world stage by bringing their pieces to fashion window fronts for the world to see. In 2010-2015 they were bold and decided that surfaces were not enough. So, they expanded even further to include interior design: furniture to accessories and then decided to form a jewel division producing mircomosaic jewelry and precious stones.

Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

1. The future is bright for SICIS. Since 2016, they are using large clad slabs of Vetrite glass in their home collections.
2. Not only are they in commercial businesses, but in residual as well. Their description of a home is "a window looking into the owner's soul". The importance of furniture and accessories are a way to show our personalities. I agree with this whole heartily.
3. Their furniture line encompasses many different pieces from chairs, sofas, tables, cabinets, beds, ottomans, and furniture for the bedroom and closets as well. I believe this was smart to add furniture and accessories to their inventory. People are looking for unique art like pieces that other people do not have. I can see these lines becoming collector's items in the future.
4. Many of the pieces are influenced from their mosaics which is nice to see because then that way they don't lose the look of their first love and people will recognize it.
5. I like their description of accessory as well: "Elements that complete the environments". These pleasures do make people feel good inside about their living spaces and give you a sense of balance within your own choices.



SICIS FURNITURE AND ACCESSORIES

Some of the accessories they produce are mirrors, door handles, pictures, sinks, doors, bathtubs, and masks for the wall. For example, they say, "A room gives the first impression through its door, it is like a business card that announces what we will find once we cross its threshold. I agree with this, my takeaway is it is like a good mystery waiting to be investigated with every single person being curious about the unknown."

WORLD-FAMOUS RAVENNA SITE

Summary: The city hall and surrounding buildings are home in the center of the town square, called Piazza Del Popolo. This is a gathering place for its citizens and is always lively at all times of the day thanks to its open-aired cafes and intersects many meetings between all sorts of people.

Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

1. The origins of the square date back to the 13th century. There is great importance with the name because during this period the city of Ravenna was ruled by the Da Polenta family.
2. The present square remains like it did in 1470-80. The current square was expanded along the bank of the Padenna River. This expansion has been important for the people because it allowed for a passage of Ravenna to connect to the Venetians in Venice.
3. This expansion to Venice allowed the arrival of the first Venetian podesta, Vittore Delfino. Later the new city hall was rebuilt with a coat of arms, a stone balcony and terracotta ferrules in the arches. Venice had already started to influence the style in Ravenna.
4. In 1441, the Venetians intervened by enlarging and paving the square and introducing their own art. The importance of this influence brought about characteristics of Venetian rule.
5. There were two columns placed on the square in 1483 on the side of the Padenna River. This was considered the border of the square.

PIAZZA DEL POPOLO

One was a statue of Saint Apollinaris, patron saint of Ravenna and on the other closes to the palace was placed the lion of Saint Mark. In 1509, Pope Julius II took possession of the city after the Venetians had been defeated. This is important to know how Venice has influenced this city.



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WORLD-FAMOUS ADRIATIC SEA

Summary: The Adriatic Sea is a body of water separating the Balkan Peninsula and the Italian Peninsula. Punta Marina is a sandy beach, in Ravenna that offers shallow waters. Families enjoy this vacation destination. You can see from the beach picture what sorts of facilities they offer. There are showers, loungers, toilets and a lifeguard for safety. There is a large parking lot for people to park if they drive to the beach. Visitors like the many restaurants and bars that are located on the beach.

Five Takeaways and Why it is Important?

1. One takeaway is knowing what some of the best restaurants are near Punta Marina Beach. Punta Marina include Oasi Ristorante Piadazeria, Baba Beach Pizzeria, and Bagno Perla are just a few on the list. This will be important when visiting.
2. The beach is 7 kilometers long and features fine white sand. This takeaway is a plus because many beaches in Europe do not have fine sand. The importance of sand over stones is huge because of the walking comfort level.
3. The name "Terme" comes from the hot springs located in the area. The importance of this is the springs have therapeutic qualities there are from ancient times.
4. This takeaway is that the beach offers excellent swimming conditions for all levels, because of the gentle and clear waters.



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PUNTA MARINA BEACH

5. The activity takeaways in the area are various things such as camping, fishing, scuba diving, snorkeling and surfing. Very important to know what sorts of activities you can take part in when visiting.

CREDIBLE RESEARCH SOURCES:

Credible source under photos

www.smarthistory.org
www.thebyzantinelegacy.com
www.thelocal.it
www.sicis.com

www.ricksteves.com
www.quora.com
www.lonelyplanet.com
www.beachatlas.com
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THANK YOU & THE END

LORI WOLPER

ITALY STUDY ABROAD: GIST 101

MAY 3, 2024