IMTO – Italian Mission to Oman
University of Pisa

Salut

ARCHITECTURAL REPORT (September - December 2016)

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The **2016B** architectural work of the Italian Mission to Oman is carried out between September 17th and October 6th and between November 19th and December 17, 2016.

The **restoration and maintenance** work has involved all the main areas of the site. Following the results of the old missions, in this campaign we worked with the same method in Husn Salut and Jebel Salut areas.

The **drone campaign** is carried out during the architectural campaign in Salut and Khor Rori.

HUSN SALUT

At the beginning of the 2016B archaeological mission we worked on Husn Salut.

Maintenance

One of the tasks required to the Italian Mission To Oman is the maintenance of the mudbrick walls. Following the work carried out during the previous campaigns, we went on with the fixing of the coverage of some existing mud-brick walls and floors previously restored with a layer of mud and straw mortar.

After the plaster was prepared we carried it up on the site. There the mud was mixed again with water to get the correct consistency. Afterwards small amounts of this mixture were further prepared by the man before to be spreading it, coat after coat, on the mudbrick walls fixing the cracks. Once the procedure was finished, part the walls were covered by mud plaster, giving a wet, deep brown colour. The sun then dried the plaster in two/three days giving it a solid structure and a final light brown colour, well-integrated among the others walls.

Raising of the walls located close to the platform

After the work made by the office team during the period between the end of 2016A and the start of 2016B IMTO mission, we had to modify the height of some walls around the platform in order to better connect them with the platform. As described above, first of all we analyzed the strength of the wall in order to maintain the original structure as much as possible. the technique of a double faced stone wall with orthogonal stretchers to afford it more strength, we finished to restore and raise the walls on the left and the right side of the platform. The work is carefully carried out to keep the final appearance of the reconstructed part as similar as possible to the original site walls. A dry stone wall was built with no need of mortar. type and methodology of intervention are chosen in respect of the Unesco-Icomos general principles.

Some further work has to be done in the next missions.

JEBEL SALUT 4, GRAVE 2

During the 2016B mission we also worked on the Jebel Salut, restoring the Jebel Salut 4, grave 2 situated where many collapsed tombs are located. The tomb was investigated by archaeologists before our work.

This tomb, situated close to the access road facing directly the site of Salut, was almost completely destroyed, but traces of the external wall and the inner chamber were still visible.

The methodological approach was the same of the old interventions: checking of the existing structures, estimating the amount of damage and verifying which parts could be preserved and, at the end, starting with the restoration.

The remains of the grave 2 were composed of an irregular circular plan of stones. The structure was made up in part of two and mostly of one rows of stones. Inside the perimeter another shape showed the burial chamber. First of all we checked the solidity of the structure, taking away the unstable stones and trying to consolidate the old parts. Only when these actions proved in effective, were

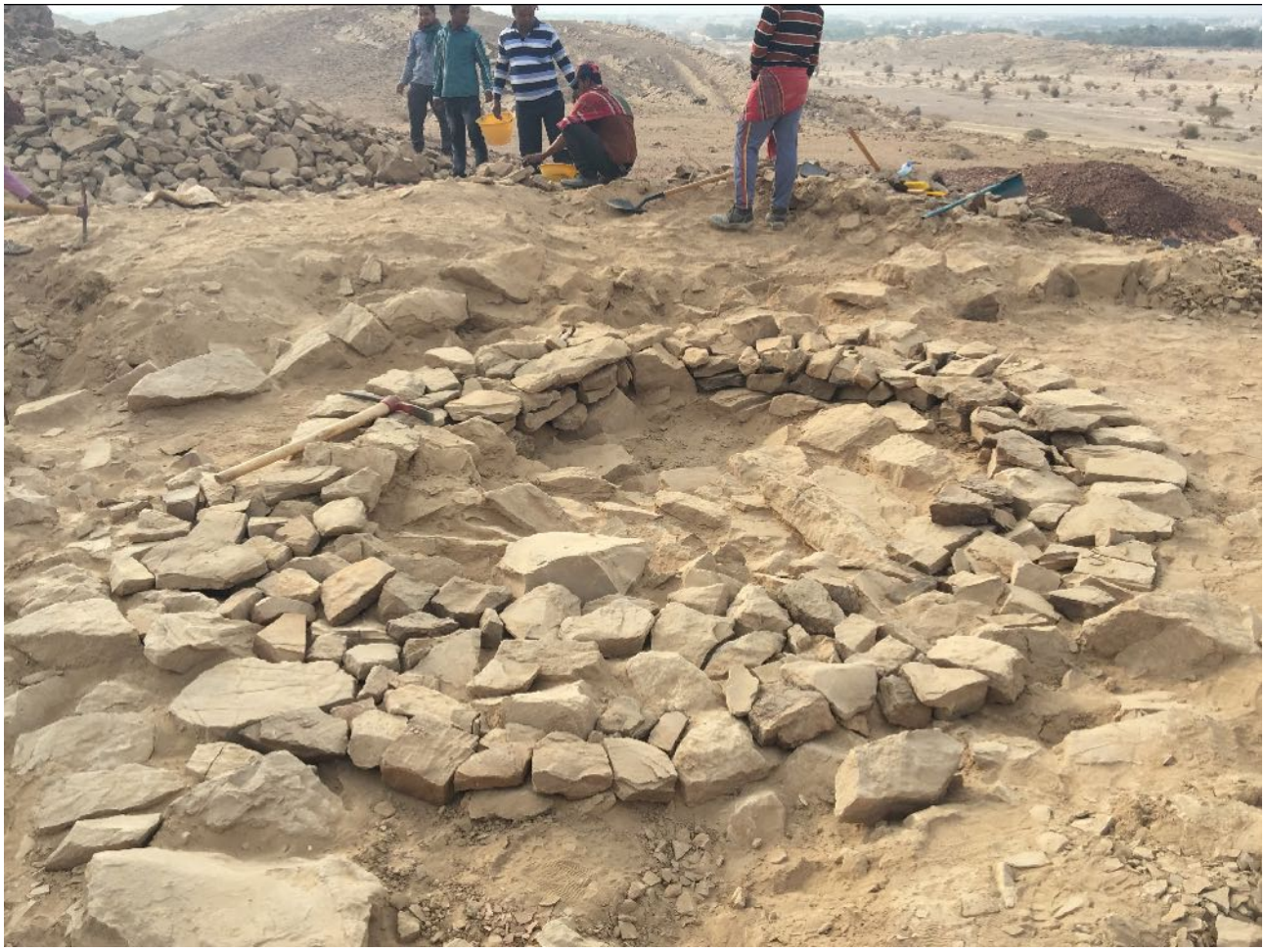
parts removed. Then, in order to separate the new stones from the old ones, we put a geotex layer before starting the rebuilding.

Stones from the collapse tomb and others from the closest area were used.

Before the rebuilding phase we didn't discover indication where the small door was located, then we placed it following the same direction of Jebel Salut grave 1 and 2.

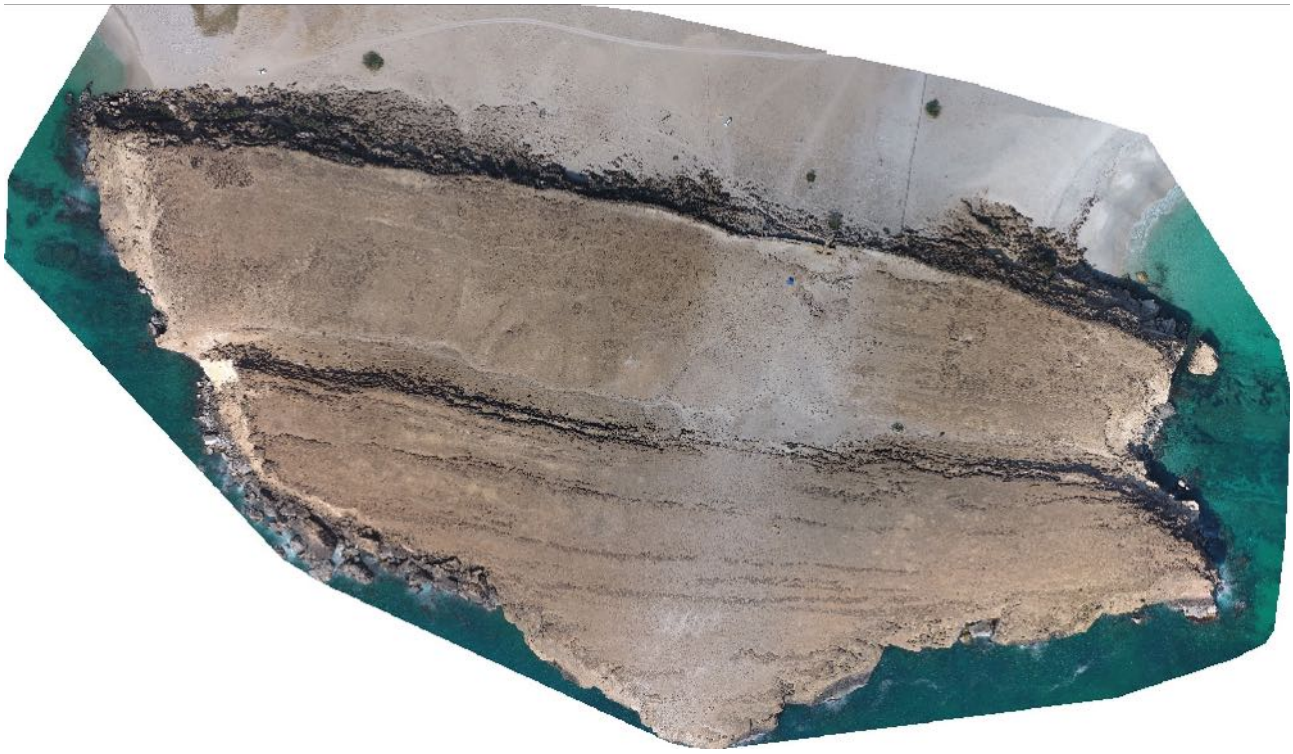
The rebuilding was started by putting rows of stones one after another, one concentric row after the other.

After the rebuilding we cleaned the area around the tomb.



THE DRONE CAMPAIGN

Through the use UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) photogrammetry, there are many products which can be extracted from the aerial imagery like orthophotos or digital models surface.
We flew over the archaeological site of Salut, Jebel Salut enclosed and over the site of Sumhuram in order to take a complete series of cloud points to obtain some orthophotos of the areas.
Our aim was to help, as requested, the archaeologists to update the maps of the last excavated parts of the sites. Moreover we worked on calculation of DMS and 3D reconstruction of some parts of the sites and objects coming from the excavations.



Khor Rori: Hamr al-Sharqiya

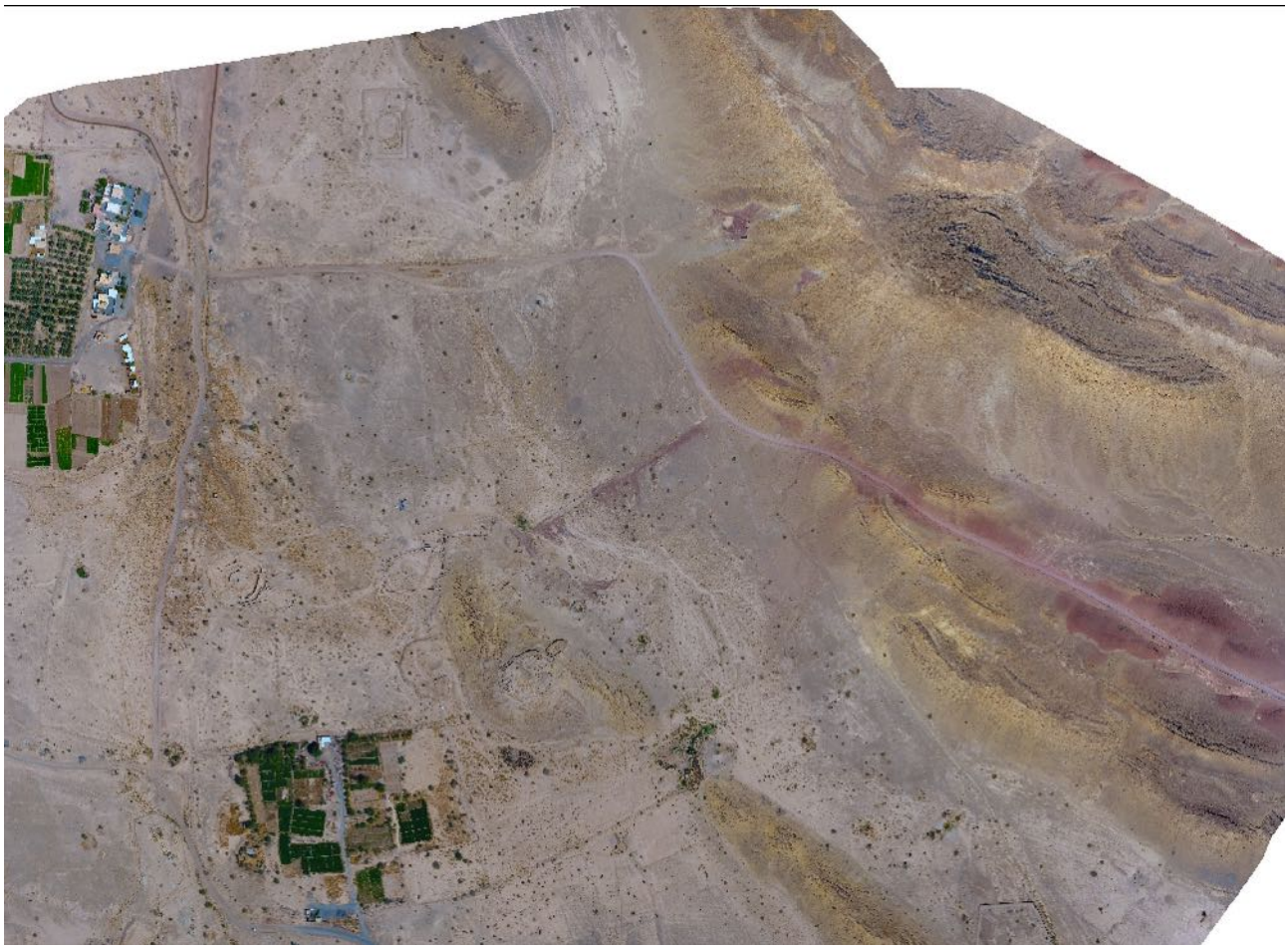
Khor Rori: Sumhuram

The Archaeological park of Salut

The Tombs area (JS4)

Old village rooms (SL_Q East: trench 6)

The SS10 area (SL_Q South)



General view of the Salut area (cloud points made for helping in contour lines)

3D reconstruction of late Iron Age jar (F147) - snapshot from the video clip