

**The work site school of the
Italian Egyptian Centre for Restoration and Archaeology**



Fig 01 – The Italian-Egyptian Centre for Restoration and Archaeology (CIERA) in Cairo

The Italian-Egyptian Centre for Restoration and Archaeology (CIERA) operates in a large monumental complex at the foot of the Citadel of Cairo, in the district of Hilmiyah, near the mosque of Sultan Hassan (*Fig 01*).

The area, of approximately 10,000 square meters, of which more than 2,500 are covered with debris, offers architectural, historical and artistic remains and testimonies covering the period from the VII to the XIX century (*Fig 02*).

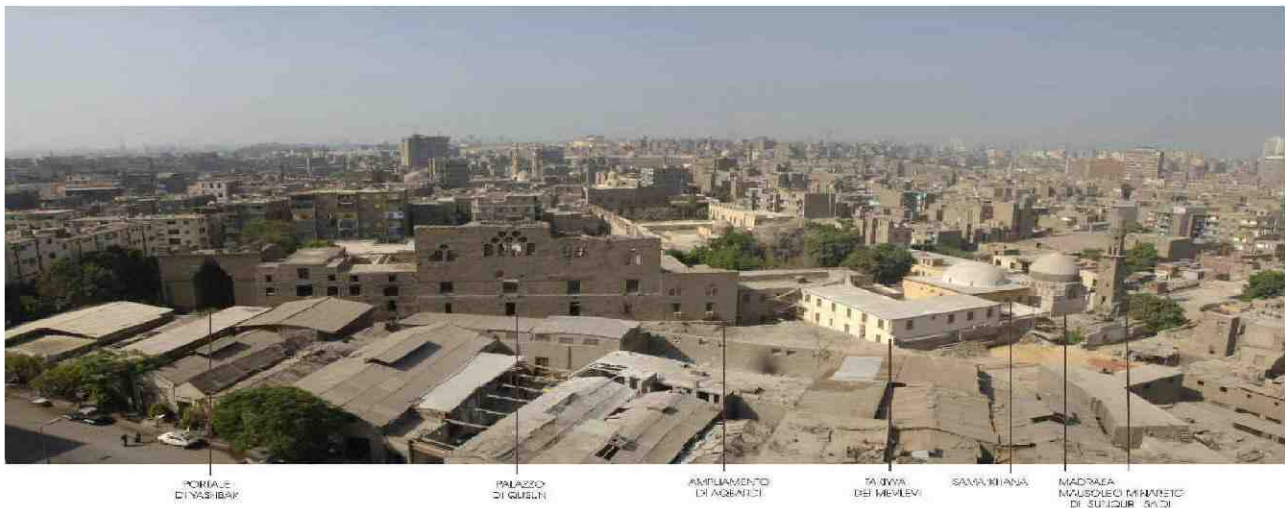


Fig 02

The following are the most remarkable buildings:

- The Palace of Qusun-Yashbak-Aqbardi: built with subsequent additions between the 14th and 16th centuries.
- The Madrasa of Sunqur Sa'di (14th century) and the underlying archaeological area, with remains of settlements from different epochs, starting from the 7th century A.D.
- The Mausoleum of Hasan Sadaqa (sec. XIV) adjoining the madrasa with its minaret.
- The “tekeyya,” which is the Convent of the Mevlevi Dervishes. Its construction began in the 16th century, in the area between the remains of the madrasa of Sunqur Sa'di and the Yashbak Palace, adapting to the new function that could be utilized from the old monuments.
- The Sama'Khana: a theater built by Mevlevi Dervishes (starting from 18th century) in which to perform the circular dance, typical of their mystical confraternity.

Since the very beginning, all the activities had an educational purpose (*Fig 03*). This is, indeed, a “work-site school,” where the practical activity of restoration cannot be separated from the scientific and technological research, or from training (both theoretical and practical).

The teachers supervise the intervention working directly with trainees (coordinators, restorers, technicians and artisans) in the accomplishment of the project.

Students, for their part, learn by practicing until the intervention is completed and by the repetition of similar interventions later, the teaching of restoration, in fact, cannot be exclusively theoretical.

All the projects and work concerning archaeology, architecture, structures and the fine arts were accomplished only in the laboratories and with the equipment of the Centre, by our staff and trainees. The documentation of the accomplished activity was, for each participant, certification of the acquisition of a professional qualification.



Fig 03

The Italian-Egyptian Centre for Restoration and Archaeology was officially inaugurated on the 28th of July 1988, on the occasion of the opening to the public of the restored Mevlevi Sama'khana (Fig 04), a *building for worship with a theatre plan*, after a long period of training and restoration, in cooperation with the Supreme Council of Antiquities (S.C.A.), Cairo University, and other Egyptian Universities.

Buildings involved in the restoration activities

- In 1988 the Centre completed the recovery of the **Sama'khana** (Fig 05), the most significant building in the world of this architectural typology.
- In 2002, the **Madrassa of Sunqur Sa'di** was restored (Fig 06): its plan is a very unusual example of Mamluk Bahri architecture. The restoration included archaeological excavations under the Sama'khana (Fig 07), which was built using some structures belonging to the madrasa itself.

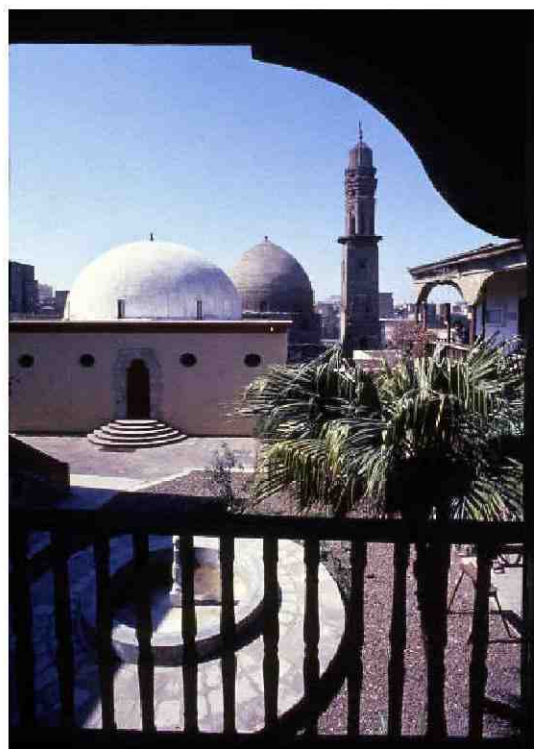


Fig 04



Fig 05

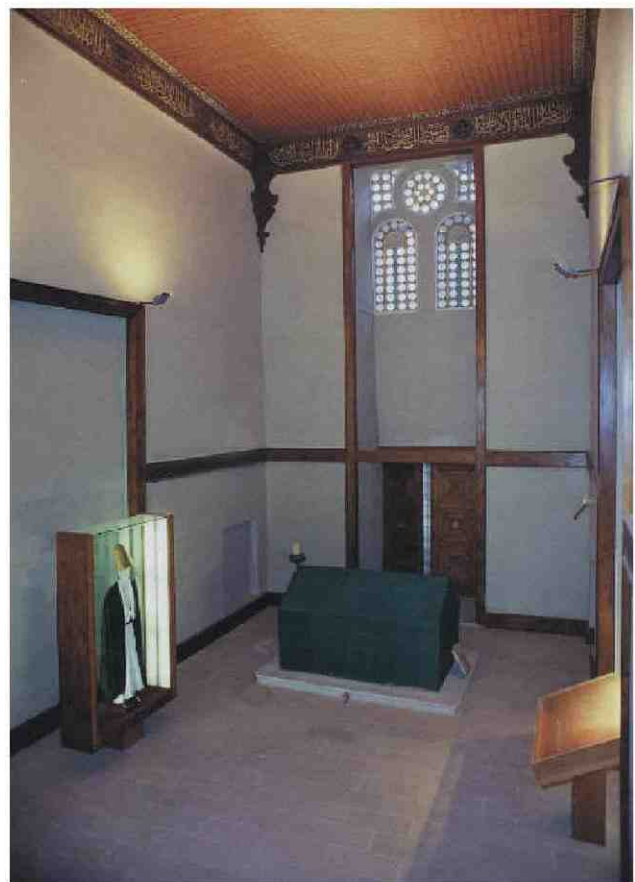


Fig 06

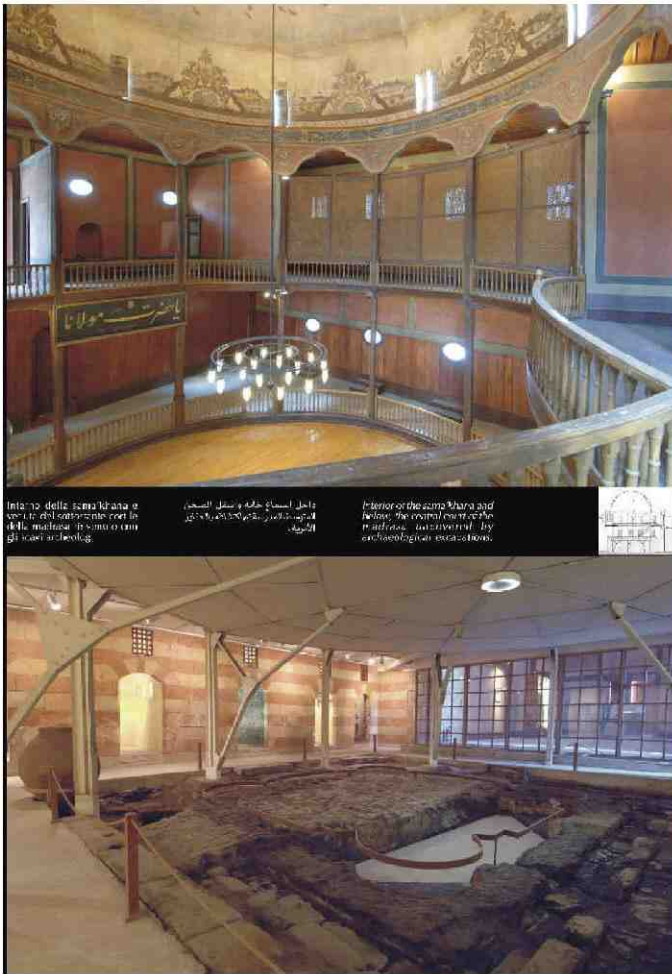


Fig 07

- In 2009 the Mausoleum of Sunqur Sa'di (known as the mausoleum of Hasan Sadaqa) was recovered, his marble cenotaph is now visible to the public (*Fig 08*).



Mausoleum of Hasan Sadaqa

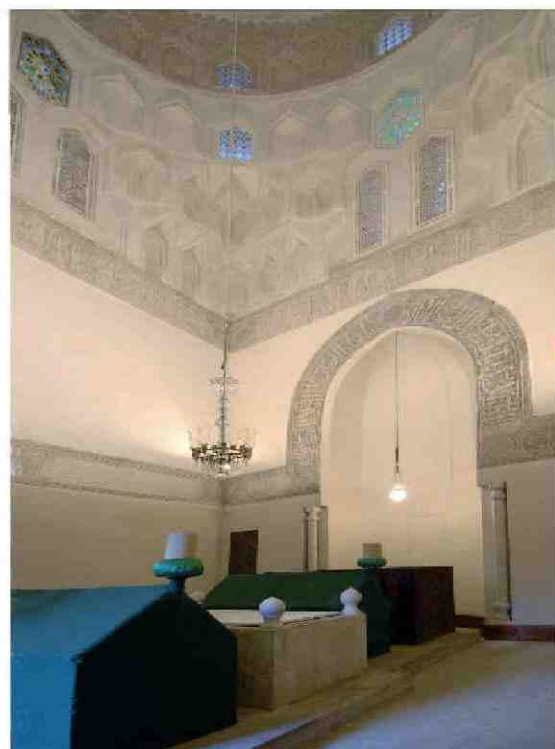


Fig. 08

The work site school of the Italian-Egyptian Centre for Restoration and Archaeology



Convent Restoration ("E" area)

before

after



Fig 09

- The cells of the Mevlevi convent facing the sama'khana (Fig 09) and in the entrance of the convent on Shari Es-Suyufiya were restored.

At the same time, through the activities of the work-site school, the CIERA has contributed to the institutionalization of restoration courses at universities in Cairo, Helwan, Qena, Luxor, Tanta (Fig 10), Kafr Sheikh, Alexandria.

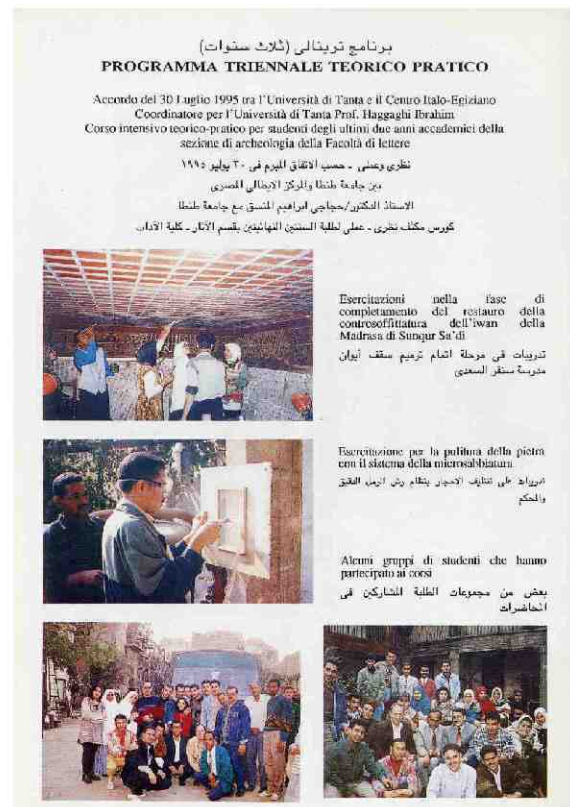


Fig 10

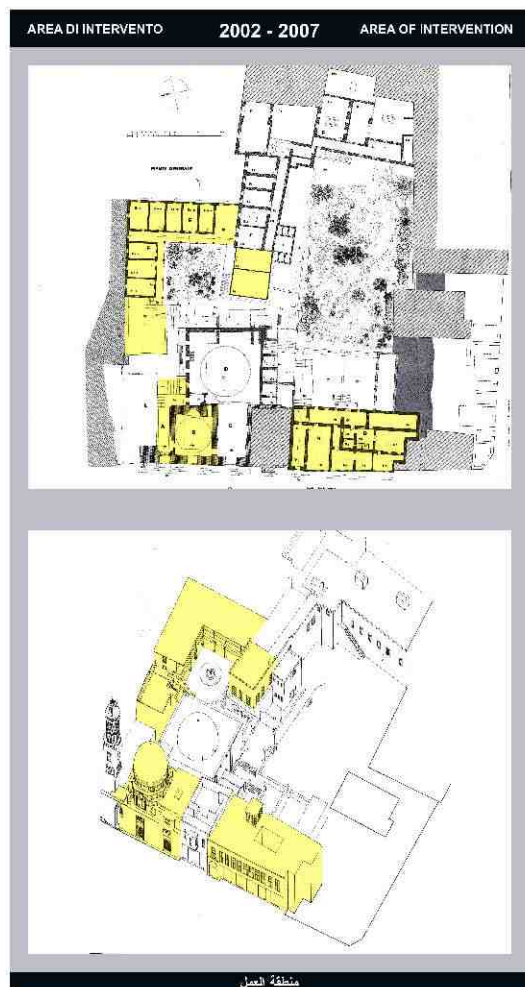


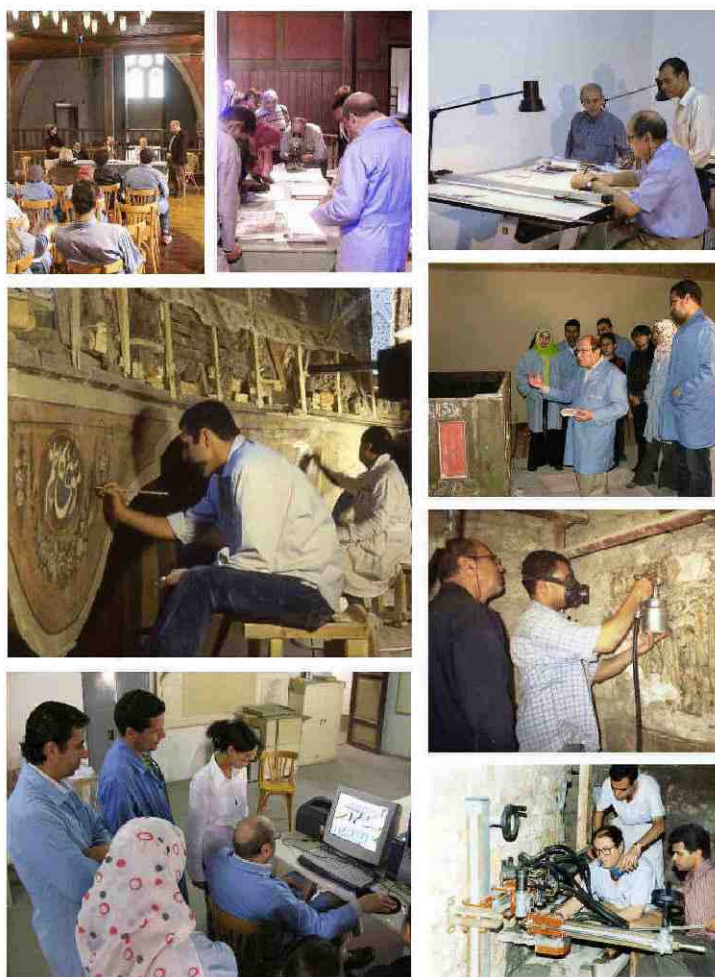
Fig 11

Organization of the work site school

Particularly during the period of 2002–2009, two programs interacted in the organization and development of the activities of the work-site school:

- (Fig 11) the restoration project of the Mausoleum of Sunqur Sa'di and the Mevlevi convent (project carried out with the contribution of the Italian law n. 212/92) in the period from October 2003 to March 2006, and
- (Fig 12) the Professional Training for Restoration and Archaeology Program (promoted by the Directorate General of Co-operation for Development, Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in the period from May 2002 to December 2009.

The SCA has contributed significantly to the implementation of the programs with the provision of personnel to be trained and some local materials procurement. A particular and continuous contribution was given by Italian MAE, archaeological sector.



Il cantiere scuola

Work-site school

Fig 12

The work site school of the Italian-Egyptian Centre for Restoration and Archaeology

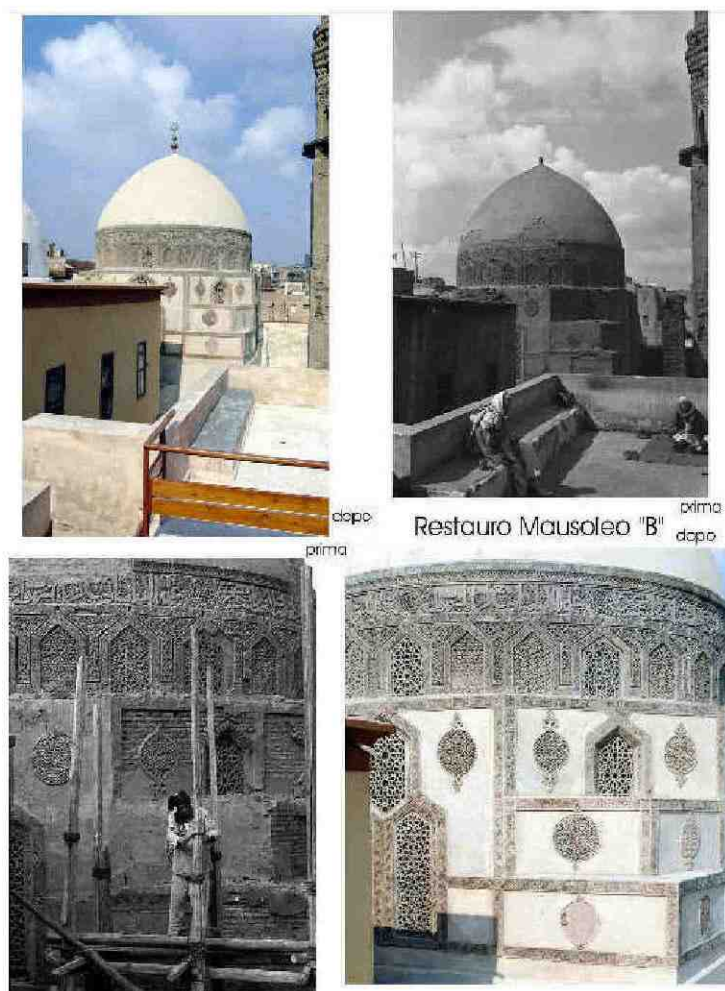


Fig 13

The two programs (*Fig 13*) were carried out, when possible, parallel to each other, and this contributed to providing all the activities with the organization and characteristics of a work-site school.

The volunteering of the members of the Italian NGO, CFPR, was crucial for the organization and implementation of the programs and the results achieved.

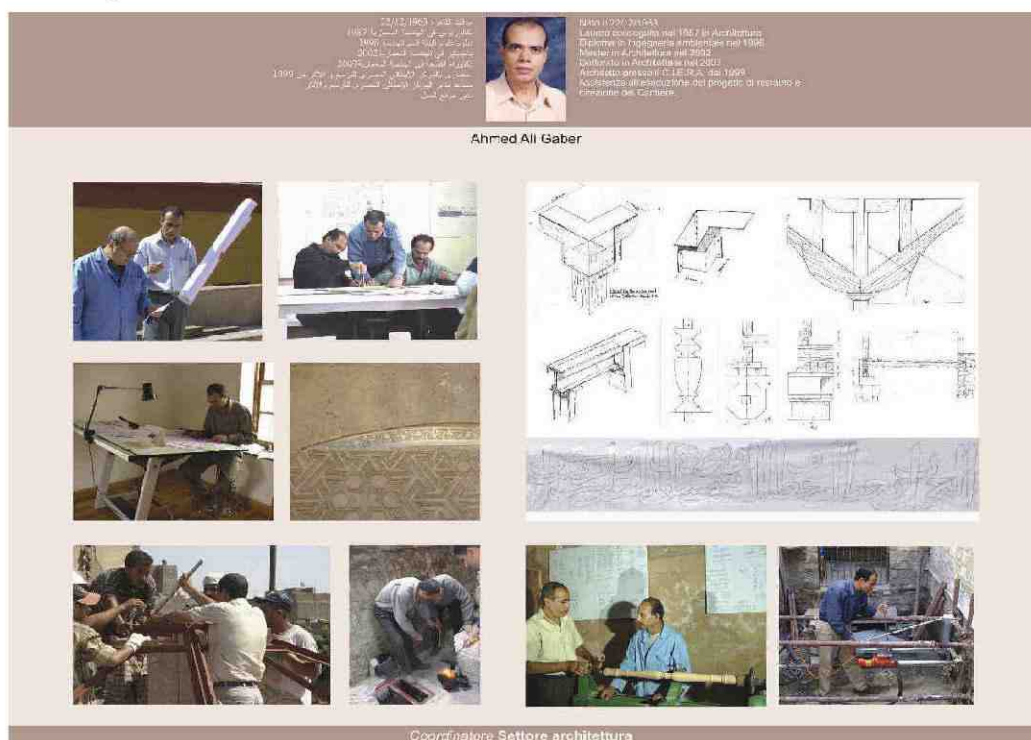



Fig 14

The work site school of the Italian-Egyptian Centre for Restoration and Archaeology




Fig 17

- *Specialized professional figures* (stuccoes, stone materials, paintings, archaeological materials, yard assistance, technicians for special interventions) (Fig 17);
- *Support artisans* (carpenter, joiner, mason, smith, plasterer, painter, stonecutter, tiler) (Fig 18).




مواليد: 30-5-1962
 جالس بالمركز الاجتماعي المصري للدراسات
 منذ عام 1984 حتى 1996
 رئيس لجمعية من عام 1996 وحتى الآن


Nato il 30/5/1962
 Operatore al CIERA dal 1986 al 1996
 Capo opera dal 1996



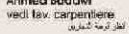
Mahmoud Saliman
assistente di cantiere
مصاعد رئيس العمال



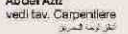
Hesham Abu Bakr
assistente di cantiere
مصاعد رئيس العمال



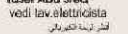
Hamed Abdel Rehim
assistente di cantiere
مصاعد رئيس العمال



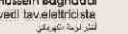
Ahmed Badawi
vedi lav. carpentiere
القفل لوجبة شامري



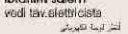
Abdel Aziz
vedi lav. Carpentiere
القفل لوجبة شامري



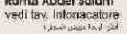
Yasser Abu Sraa
vedi lav. elettricista
القفل لوجبة شامري



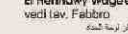
Hussein Baghdadia
vedi lav. elettricista
القفل لوجبة شامري



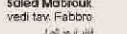
Ibrahim Salem
vedi lav. elettricista
القفل لوجبة شامري



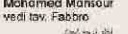
Ramad Abdel Salam
vedi lav. Intonacatore
القفل لوجبة شامري



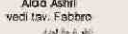
El Hennawy Wageh
vedi lav. Fabbro
القفل لوجبة شامري



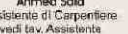
Saled Mabrouk
vedi lav. Fabbro
القفل لوجبة شامري



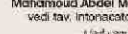
Mohamed Mansour
vedi lav. Fabbro
القفل لوجبة شامري



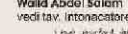
Alaa Ashri
vedi lav. Fabbro
القفل لوجبة شامري



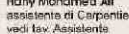
Ahmed Said
assistente di Carpentiere
vedi lav. Assistente
القفل لوجبة شامري



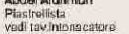
Mahamoud Abdel Magea
vedi lav. Intonacatore
القفل لوجبة شامري



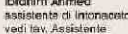
Walid Abdel Salam
vedi lav. Intonacatore
القفل لوجبة شامري



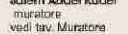
Hany Mohamed Ali
assistente di Carpentiere
vedi lav. Assistente
القفل لوجبة شامري



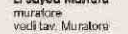
Abdel Arahman
Piastrinista
vedi lav. Intonacatore
القفل لوجبة شامري



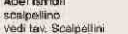
Ibrahim Ahmed
assistente di Intonacatore
vedi lav. Assistente
القفل لوجبة شامري



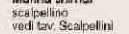
Salem Abdel Kader
muratore
vedi lav. Muratore
القفل لوجبة شامري




El Sayed Mustafa
muratore
vedi lav. Muratore
القفل لوجبة شامري




Adel Ismail
scalpellino
vedi lav. Scalpellini
القفل لوجبة شامري




Hanna Shimali
scalpellino
vedi lav. Scalpellini
القفل لوجبة شامري




Rotat El Sayed




Ahmed Salem




Amr Shouky




Abdel Fakh El Sayed




Ahmed Said




Khaled Abdo




Mohamed Abdel Farah




Mahmoud Kamal




Fouad Yousef




Yasser Abdel Shafi




Ali El




Abdel Mandoh




Akkela Abdel Salam




Mahmoud Abu El Mag




Tamer Mohamed




Mohamed Mostafa




Mohamed Abdel Kary



Mahmoud Mohamed



Amir Amir El Sayed



Zaharia Mohamed

Capo opera

Fig 18



Fig 19

Professional specializations involved different **operational fields**.

Stuccoes: (Fig 19) interiors and exterior of the Mausoleum of Hasan Sadaqa (cleaning, consolidation, integration of missing parts, cast-molding-reproduction);

Stone: (Fig 20) façade of the Mausoleum and of the *iwān* of the madrasa of Sunqur Sa'di (preliminary phases, operational tests and cleaning);

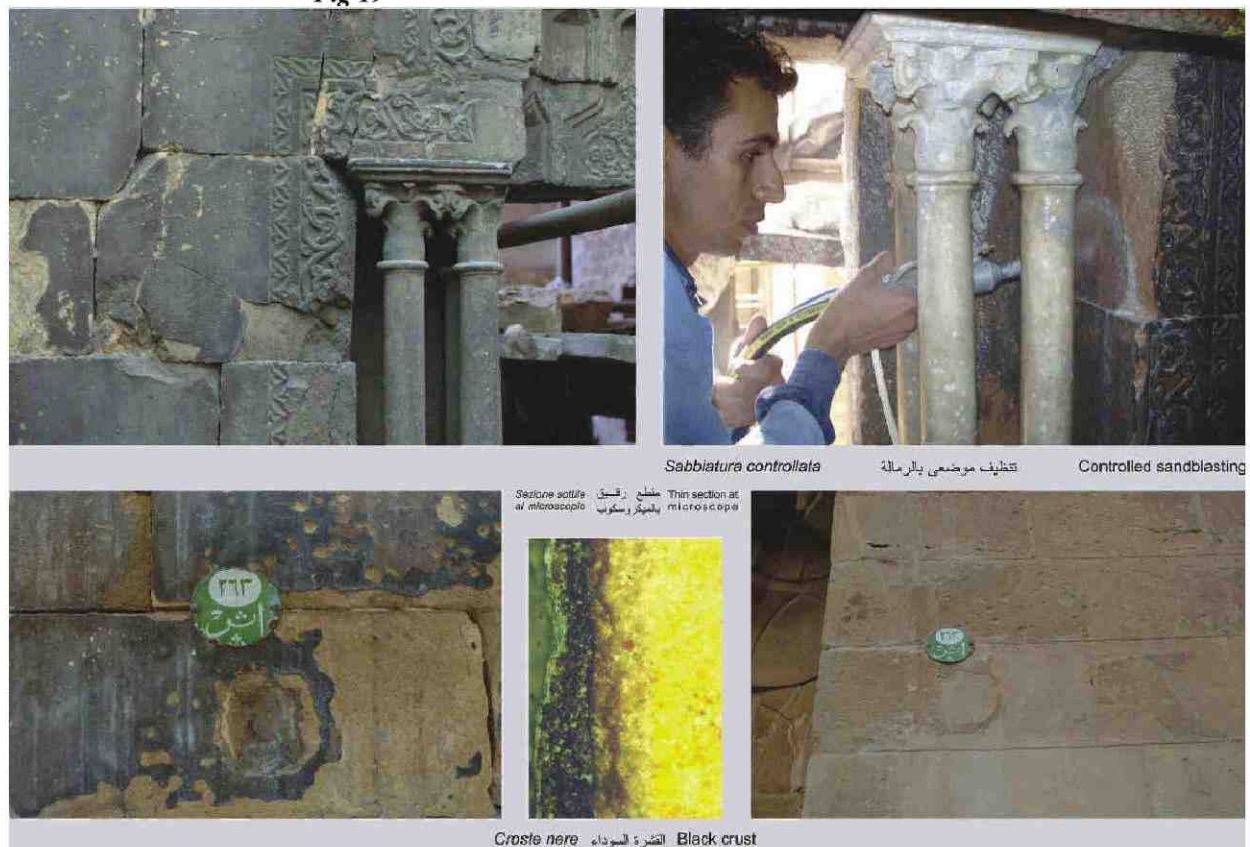


Fig 20



Fig 21

Paintings: the wooden sarcophagus of Hasan Sadaqa (Fig 21), the inscriptions in the iwan and decorations of the Sama'khana;

Archaeology: Mausoleum and madrasa of Sunqur Sa'di (Fig 22) and the Mevlevi convent (excavations in the mausoleum and researches in the convent, restoration of the archaeological material;

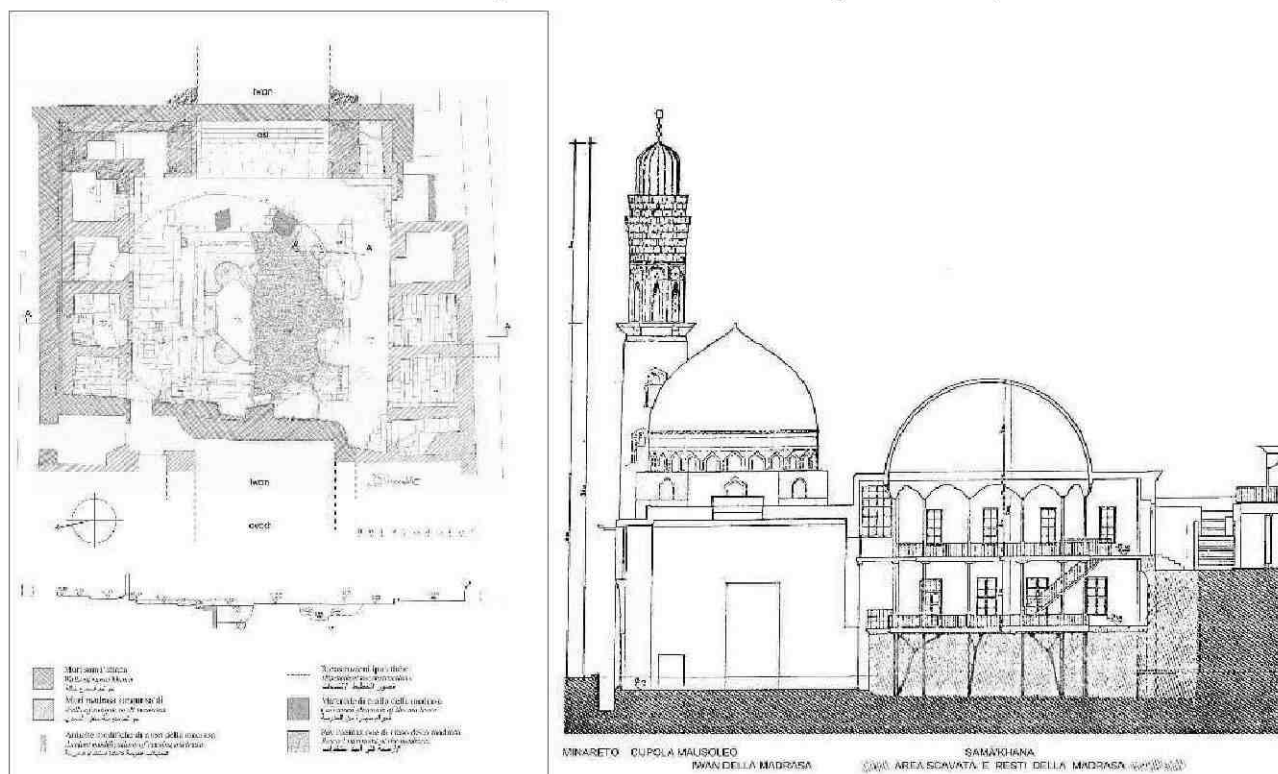


Fig 22

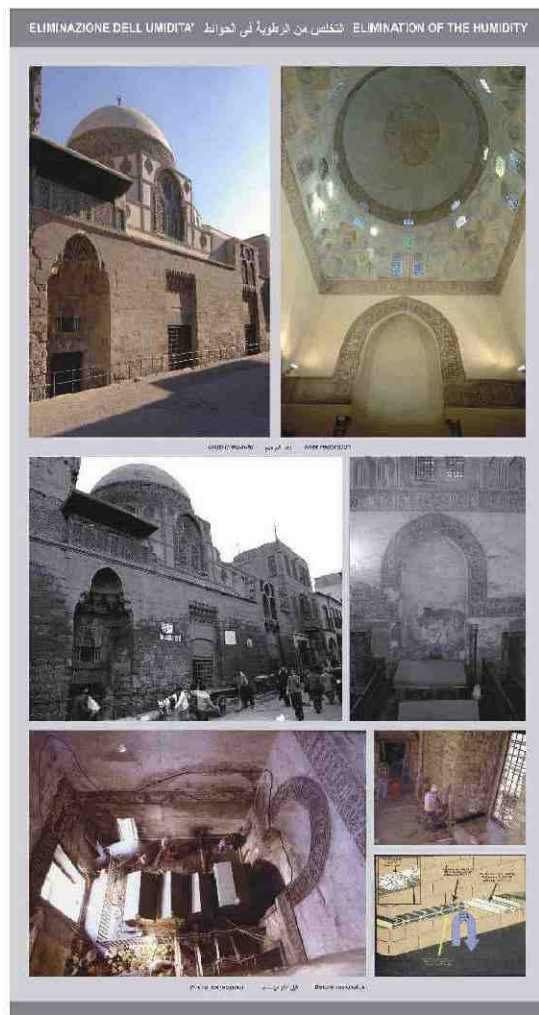


Fig 23

Architecture: (Fig 23) Convent and Mausoleum (elimination of moisture in the walls, consolidations, restoration of wooden structures, floors, roofing, balconies).



A1



A2

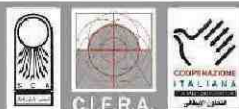


Fig 24

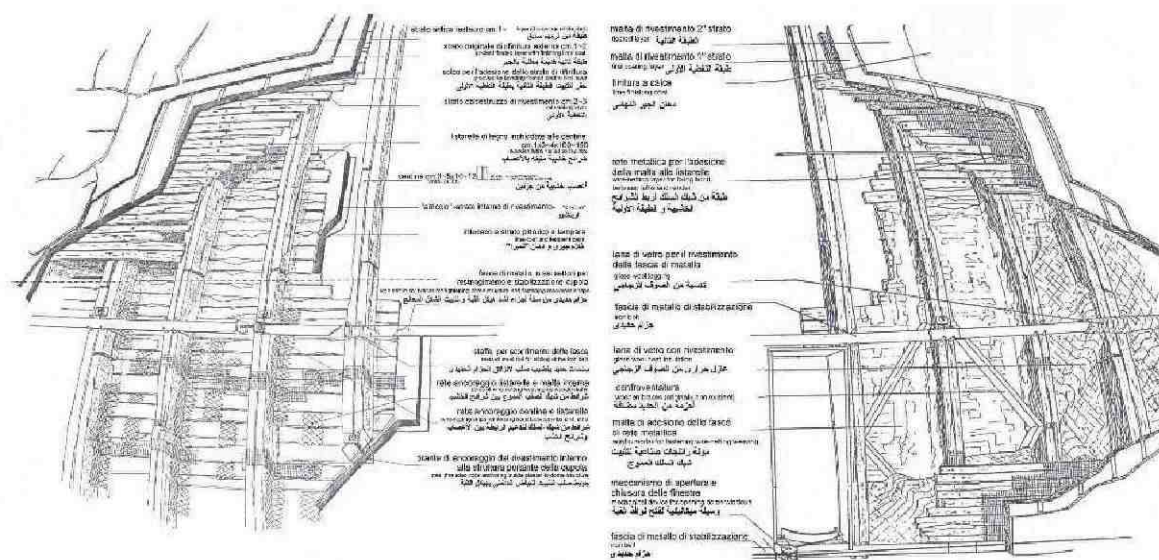
These restoration interventions were carried out in accordance with the following concepts:

- **Visibility** of the intervention (pictures of the iwan) (Fig 24)

NUOVE TECNOLOGIE E MATERIALI DI
SUPPORTO ALLE TECNICHE ANTICHE



New technologies and materials as
integration of ancient techniques



ANALISI STRUTTURALE DEGLI INTERVENTI DI RESTAURO NELLA CUPOLA IN LEGNO DELLA SAMA'KHANA
Structural analysis of the restoration interventions in the wooden dome of the Sama'Khana

Fig 25

- **Compatibility** of the materials used with the original ones (section of the Sama'khana dome) (Fig 25);
- **Reversibility** of both materials and intervention, where possible (opening of the Sama'khana windows) (Fig 26).



Fig 26

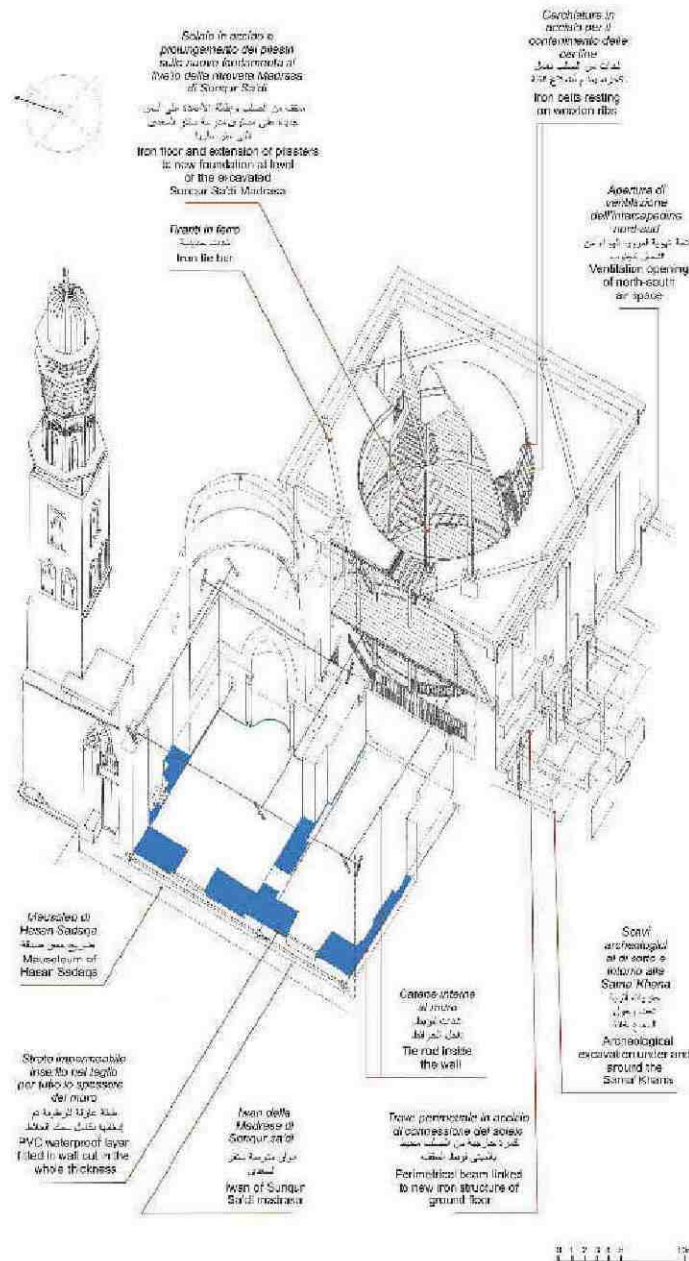


Fig 27

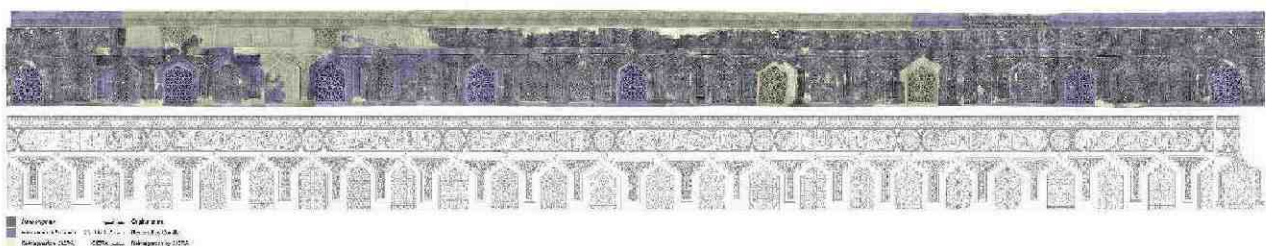


Fig 28

Special attention was paid to the preservation of the shape and the technique of the monument, using (Fig 27):

- **Minimal intervention** to preserve the shape
- **Supporting structures**, in case of structural interventions, to preserve original techniques and technologies (chains, braces and tie rods in the mausoleum and Sama'khana)
- Detailed **documentation**, before, during and after the intervention, especially in the case of changes. Where possible, documentation was produced *in situ* (windows in the Sama'khana façade; stuccoes in the mausoleum) (*Fig 28*).



Fig 29

The **theoretical lessons** were divided into three levels. **Basic lessons**, addressed to artisans. **Specific lessons**, concerning the different field of restoration, addressed to the coordinators and the staff of the Supreme Council of Antiquities (*Fig 29*).

Thematic lessons and workshops on research themes, accomplished restoration interventions and related cultural and historical aspects; these lessons, addressed to professionals and to a wider public were carried out by experts of CFPR or other institutions (*Fig 30*).

The total number of people who took part in the training program is 529, distributed as follows:

- SCA staff in the period from 2002 to 2009: 3 professionals (coordinators); 87 artisans-workmen; 39 restorers;
- for short training programs: 88 university students; 71 artisans-workmen;
- thematic refresher lessons: 241 professionals in the field of restoration.

Italian teachers and experts

Most of Italian teachers come from the *State's Institute of Art*, but also from the *Central Institute for Restoration*, the *National Council for Research* and also from *Rome University "La Sapienza," Naples University "L'Orientale", Polytechnic of Bari* and *Venice University, IUAV*.

In view of the continuity, the CIERA has requested the Ministry of Social Solidarity its registration as NGO in Egypt and finally obtained it in October 1st, 2013.

The current organization will enable a more fruitful cultural and technical exchange between Italy and Egypt, with youth employment, social development and awareness of cultural heritage.



Fig 30