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# Paphos Hamam

## This is a project of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

*Start Date:* **28 June 2013**

*End Date:* **18 March 2015**

*Type of intervention:* **Conservation works**

*Total cost:* **Approx. 54,000 Euro**

Mediaeval and ottoman baths have their origins in the Roman and Byzantine Periods. They combine the functionality and architectural features from the roman thermae and the byzantine baths with the Arab and ottoman tradition of steam bathing. Like their Roman predecessors, they consist of adjacent cold, warm and hot rooms.

The Chrysopolitissa bath was part of a larger complex built during the Medieval period and modified in later times. It consists of two domed rooms and two smaller rooms with a barrel vault roof placed on the long sides of a narrow entrance hall. The heating technology of the bath closely follows its Byzantine and Roman prototypes, employing a floor-heating system (hypocaust). Fire was lit in a furnace located in the back of the building block. It heated directly the water of the bronze boiler placed in a small closed chamber, as it heated indirectly the bath's floor, which was supported on low pillars. Hot gasses and smoke circulated under the floors before they were drawn out by the flues embedded in the thick walls. The hot room was placed closest to the furnace. Clay pipes distributed hot water from the boiler to the hot room. On the walls are visible the traces of the water faucets, under which small basins used to be placed. During bathing, water splashing on the warm stone slabs of the floor evaporated, creating a steam bath. The bath rooms have no windows. They are lit by perforations on the domes and the vaulted roofs, which used to be closed with round thick glass.

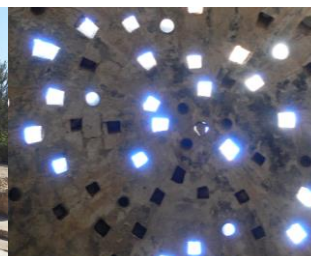
The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the UNDP in partnership with the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage.



Before



After



Conservation works included:

- Removal of the tree trunk: the stone wall adjacent to the trunk was dismantled to remove trunk and re-erected to its original state including new pointing and rendering;
- General restoration of the stonework including grouting and re-pointing of mortar-joints on interior wall surfaces and exterior low walls, rendering of walls;
- Cleaning of interior floor including removal of vegetation and replacement of sand;
- Reparation to the external surfaces of the domes including removal of the de-bonded parts of the outer rendering, consolidating the stonework beneath and rendering. An outer layer similar to the original one was then placed;
- Cleaning and pointing of the interior surfaces of the domes took place including preservation of traces of wall paintings and general waterproofing;
- Cleaning and pointing of the interior surfaces of the vaults, reparation of the collapsed first vault
- Excavations in the south-west corner and exposure of the findings.

The project was fully funded by the **European Union**. Total cost (including additional safety items, design and works) 53,760 EURO.

This is a collaborative work and an effort between United Nations Development Programme – Partnership for the Future Office, the Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage of Cyprus and local and international architects, engineers, conservators and researchers.

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More information on on-going projects of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage can be found here: <http://www.cy.undp.org/content/cyprus/en/home/library/partnershipforthefuture/the-technical-committee-on-cultural-heritage--2015/>

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**The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage** - The Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage works in line with the mutually agreed mechanism for the preservation of the island's common heritage. In 2009 the Advisory Board was set up by a decision of the two leaders as the executive body of the Committee. The aim of the Board is to protect, preserve and facilitate the preservation, physical protection and restoration (including research, study and survey) of the immovable cultural heritage of Cyprus. This mechanism allows for the practical aspects of preservation to be considered in a non-political manner so that practical measures can be taken to improve the situation on the ground.

**United Nations Development Programme – Partnership for the Future (UNDP-PFF)** - The Agreement on the establishment of the Advisory Board for the Preservation, Physical Protection and Restoration of the Immovable Cultural Heritage of Cyprus recognizes a special role to **UNDP in Cyprus** as a **politically accepted implementation body** by both communities. For this reason, UNDP-PFF was requested by the European Commission to become the lead coordinator under which the project would be implemented fostering dialogue, cooperation and confidence building between Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots.

**European Union** - Since 2012 approximately **€6.7 million of European Union funds** have been provided by the European Commission to implement the priorities of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage for the preservation of the island-wide cultural heritage in Cyprus. The European Union is biggest supporter of the work of the Technical Committee on Cultural Heritage in Cyprus.