

Deep Space LIVE

The Virtual Reconstruction of Hadrian's Temple

Thursday, March 17, 2011 / 8-9 PM / Ars Electronica Center Linz

(Linz, March 14, 2011) "Hadrian's Temple" in the ancient city of Ephesus is one of the best-known archeological monuments and top tourist attractions in Turkey today. Although rediscovered and almost completely reconstructed already by 1956, the chronology, function and interpretation of this significant building are still matters of uncertainty. Ursula Quatember, archeologist and native of Traun, Upper Austria, has been in charge of the scholarly documentation of the so-called Hadrian's Temple since 2009. In cooperation with the ÖAI-Austrian Archaeological Institute and Breuckmann GmbH, she has produced a highly detailed 3D model of the ancient temple, which will be featured at the next Deep Space LIVE on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at the Ars Electronica Center Linz.

Hadrian's Temple not a Temple for Hadrian?

According to Ursula Quatember, scholars have known for about 20 years that "Hadrian's Temple" cannot have been an official imperial temple as had been initially assumed. The structure was built in about 117 AD, right at the beginning of Hadrian's reign, whereas authorization for the construction of an official imperial temple was not issued until about 130. Thus, scholars are still working on establishing the exact function that the building now known as Hadrian's Temple actually served.

3D Model

To solve this riddle, the ÖAI-Austrian Archaeological Institute and the Breuckmann Company, a subsidiary of Linz mechatronics specialist Vatron, have now produced a high-definition 3D surface image of "Hadrian's Temple" as well as the surrounding components and fragments that are prime candidates for roles in the edifice's further reconstruction. Thus, researchers are proceeding as if they were assembling a jigsaw puzzle—putting together the available pieces and virtually adding whatever is missing.

Emperor Hadrian

Publius Aelius Hadrianus (born January 24, 76; died July 10, 138) was Roman Emperor from 117 to 138. Hadrian was known as a philhellene (admirer of Greek culture) as well as for his great interest in architecture, which manifested itself in numerous important structures including Hadrian's Wall, a fortification that still stands today in Northern England, the Pantheon in Rome, his private villa in Tivoli, and his Mausoleum, the Castel Sant'Angelo.

Deep Space LIVE

The Ars Electronica Center is now hosting a Deep Space LIVE event every Thursday (except holidays) at 8 PM. Each presentation will feature ultra-high-definition imagery in 16x9-meter format and will be accompanied by expert commentary, entertaining stand-up repartee, and musical improvisation. Whether great works from the history of art, space travel, journeys of discovery in the Nanoworld, or a live concert is what you've come to behold, Deep Space LIVE stands for enlightening entertainment amidst breathtaking worlds of imagery. Admission (including an accompanying person) is €2. Holders of a valid Museum ticket are admitted free of charge.

ÖAI-Austrian Archaeological Institute: <http://www.oeai.at/>

Ephesus: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ephesus>

Hadrian: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hadrian>

Ars Electronica Center: <http://new.aec.at/center/en/about/>

With queries, please contact

Christopher Ruckerbauer
Tel: +43.732.7272-38
christopher.ruckerbauer@aec.at
www.aec.at/press