



**CHARACTERIZATION OF CLASSICAL BUILDING MATERIALS
USED IN 17TH CENTURY ETHIOPIAN ARCHITECTURE.
APPLICATION IN THE RESTORATION OF THEIR HISTORIC
AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE**

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5 **HISTORIC AND ARTISTIC HERITAGE.**
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33 **ABSTRACT**
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35 From the 15th century onwards various Jesuits missions were established in the Amhara region of
36 Ethiopia. With the support of the local ruling class, the Jesuits constructed civil and religious buildings of
37 great historical and artistic value according to Western standards and procedures. The restoration of this
38 historic circuit, declared a World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1979, will bring important benefits to the
39 region. Various samples from each monument were taken and subjected to X-ray diffraction tests,
40 polarized light optical microscopy, scanning electron microscopy, ultrasounds and colorimetry tests. The
41 composition results provided important information about the provenance of the materials used by the
42 Jesuits. Their air lime binders were also of particular interest due to the addition of locally-sourced
43 diatomite earths to create a product with high mechanical resistance and durability. The techniques
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3 introduced by the Jesuits can be used today in the sustainable, economical restoration of heritage in
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5 Ethiopia and adjacent regions.
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10 11 **KEYWORDS**

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13 Jesuit architectural heritage, Ethiopia, diatomite earths, restoration materials, lime binders, bricks, masonry
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15 stone.
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20 21 **1. INTRODUCTION**

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23 Today the drive towards sustainable development combines perfectly with the models for the conservation
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25 of historic heritage to create an excellent symbiosis in which to conduct field research into the restoration
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27 and characterization of materials in locations of high universal value, which require the support of different
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29 organizations, the public and private sectors and the promotion of activities and programmes at an
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31 international level.
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34 One example is the integrated plan being carried out jointly by the UNESCO and the United Nations in the
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36 study area in Ethiopia to restore the Jesuit buildings near Lake Tana. This programme includes and
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38 interrelates culture, science and local development. It also involves the local population and tries to use
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40 best practices so as to improve among other things, the conservation of the planet, its biodiversity and
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42 environmental values. The plan also envisages restoration work in settlements of enormous heritage value,
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44 for which purpose sustainable materials and equipment will be used. When possible, the original material
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46 will be reused and existing structures will be maintained.
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49 A non-profit organization, the World Monuments Fund (World Monuments Foundation WMF) has also
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51 been carrying out restoration work in the same area in collaboration with UNESCO (UNESCO, 2018) in
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53 an attempt to preserve sites of great architectural and historic value, via fieldwork, promotion and training.
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3 At the same time, at a more specific local level, projects are being carried out in the important cultural
4 tourism circuit of historic Ethiopia (Gondar, Lalibela, Aksum, etc.).

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7 Since 2006 the University of Granada together with a multidisciplinary team from various different
8 institutions (the Complutense University in Madrid, the Spanish Senior Research Council, the French
9 National Centre for Scientific Research and the Institute for Sciences of Work and Business in Portugal)
10
11 has been carrying out historic and archaeological research work into the monuments constructed by the
12 Jesuits, and in particular the most important buildings situated near the city of Gondar, the capital of the
13 Abyssinian Empire during the 17th and 18th centuries.

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16 In 2009 funding was obtained from the AECID (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation for
17 Development) to promote the protection of the historic cultural heritage in this region including among
18 other buildings the Palace Complex declared a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1979. Archaeological
19 prospection campaigns were also carried out in 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2015, producing a wide range
20 of research results. (Fernández et al. 2012), (Dietz et al. 2012), (Fernández 2013), (Fernández et al. 2017).

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23 The main focus of the research was the restoration of historic buildings, which when they form part of the
24 architectural and cultural heritage of a specific geographical area have their own unique features unlike
25 any others, be it at a strictly conceptual, formal or composition level or from the material point of view in
26 terms of their construction, conservation, restoration, recovery and promotion.

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29 In the geographical area covered by the study (Ethiopia, Lake Tana area) there are a number of interesting
30 constructions of different kinds (churches, residences, palaces for the ruling class, cisterns, fortifications
31 etc.), of undeniable architectural worth, which are the main cultural attraction in the area. The
32 consolidation and promotion of these monuments would lead to greater heritage and economic benefits for
33 Ethiopia (Phillipson 1998), (Phillipson 2009).

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36 Various analytical quantitative techniques were applied in the characterization of the mortars, concrete and
37 renders, as used in the studies conducted by (Rosario et al. 2001), (Thorborg 2003), (Lanas 2004),
38 (Arandigoyen and Alvarez 2007), (Acun and Arioglu 2011), (Valenca, Almeida and Julio 2012). The

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3 priority was to find materials that were compatible both with other materials and with the restoration
4 products used to improve their performance (Luxan and Borrego 2004), (Athuman and Ngoma, 2009),
5 Luque, Cultrone and Sebastian 2010), (Arizzi 2010), (Drdacky 2011), (Cobirzan and Balog 2013),
6
7 (Hammou et al. 2013), (Torney, Forster and Szadurski 2014), (Frankeova and Slizkova (2016). It was also
8
9 necessary to find out as much as possible about the process involved in the manufacture of these building
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11 materials, as this can affect the performance of the material (Margalha et al. 2011) and can help predict the
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13 type of decay it has suffered (Mosquera, Benitez and Perry 2002), (Cultrone, Sebastian and Ortega 2005),
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15 (Klisinka and Tišlova 2013).

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20 More recently, and in a complementary way, various research works (Arandigoyen and Alvarez 2005),
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22 (Kelouaz et al 2016), (Sepulcre and Hernandez 2012), (Moropoulou et al. 2002), (Slízková, Drdácky and
23
24 Viani 2015), (Thirumalini et al. 2015), (Cerezo, Mas-Barber and Kröner 2014) have been conducted in which the
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26 behaviour of additives that can improve the properties of restoration mortars has been tested. In all cases
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28 traditional materials and natural and organic resources were used, including bacteriological matter that can
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30 improve mechanical properties (European Network 2016), (BIOBRUSH 2008), (Thirumalini, Ravi and
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32 Rajesh 2017), (Jroundi et al. 2017), so obtaining savings in costs and materials.

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35 As regards joining mortars, previous studies in other unique locations such as in (Arandigoyen and
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37 Alvarez 2007), (Moropoulou et al. 2002), (Durgesh and Dhanapala 2015), (Groot 2016), (Maurenbrecher
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39 2008), Bianco 2013), highlight the importance of the characterization of these materials in order to ensure
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41 the right kind of restoration, the compatibility of the materials and their durability. This has helped with
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43 the characterization of the existing mortars in the masonry, ceramics and wall renders. In other cases, the
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45 study of the fundamental qualities and properties of the mortar has highlighted its importance in combating
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47 changes in temperature and humidity that cause stress at the interface and seriously damage the material,
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49 as described by (Drdáckya and Berana 2010), (Lanas and Alvarez 2003), Lanas et al. 2004), (Moropoulou
50
51 et al. 2005), (Karaveziroglou and Papayianni 1993).

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3 The study area has a heterogeneous climate. The air temperature is not subject to extreme variations
4 although they can be quite substantial. There are high levels of precipitation four months a year, during
5 which the temperatures do not vary greatly. The average annual precipitation in the Lake Tana area ranges
6 between 1140 and 1308 mm, with 115-142 days of rain. The main climate problem in this area is the
7 combination of medium to high temperatures and high levels of moisture. Another serious problem is
8 insolation, which is very high for eight months of the year causing huge temperature gradients in the
9 buildings, which are subject to a great deal of heat stress (Ayalew et al. 2012), (Seleshi and Zanke 2004).

10
11 In this research the most representative materials from different constructions in the Jesuit missions in the
12 Gondar region of Ethiopia were characterized. The study centred particularly on mortars and concretes,
13 materials that featured widely in the form of both joining mortar and exterior render. The stones used in
14 the masonry and the ceramic materials (bricks) used in the construction were also characterized.

15
16 These findings will enable the development of suitable conservation materials and techniques that can
17 reduce the impact of previous restoration work for the conservation of elements of special heritage value,
18 using locally sourced materials such as natural stone masonry, the production of air and hydraulic limes
19 and the use of natural additives that enhance the performance of the concrete, mortars and renders used in
20 restoration.

21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 **2. MATERIALS AND METHODS**

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43 The samples collected for analysis came from four sites, and in particular from the following buildings:
44 Jesuit residence in Gorgora Nova (Maryam Gəmb, c. 1610), pond from the Azāzo complex (Gännätä
45 Iyāsus, c. 1620), great Palace of Susenyos in Dänqāz (c. 1625), and the House of the Patriarch in Däbsan
46 (Enfraz, c. 1630). Figure 1 shows the location of the missions created by the Jesuits in the Lake Tana
47 basin, of which remains survive today.

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3 **FIGURE 1.**
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5 As can be seen in Figure 2, all the monuments, of great heritage value, are in an advanced state of decay.
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9 **FIGURE 2.**
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14 In geological terms, Ethiopia is situated in East Africa in the sector resulting from the tectonic accident that
15 produced the Great Rift Valley, a trench running from North to South that splits the African continent in
16 two. The continuous volcanic activity has resulted in the formation of large volcanic cones and extensive
17 mesetas, leaving equally deep lacustrine depressions, like the depression of Lake Tana (Bergoeing 2012).
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23 Around Lake Tana there are outcrops of materials dating from the Mid Paleocene to the sub-actual
24 Quaternary deposits. From wall to ceiling the Ashangi formation from the Eocene is composed of an
25 alkaline basalt with limestone intercalations; followed by the Aiba basalts dating from the Mid-Upper
26 Oligocene, with sporadic limestone levels; moving on towards the ceiling we come to the limestone
27 formation of Tarmaber Gussa, from the Oligocene-Miocene Age, composed of basalts, trachytes and
28 phonolites; finally the series ends with two quaternary deposits, an older one of igneous origin, formed by a
29 plateau of basalt and trachyte; and more recent alluvial and lacustrine deposits formed by sands, silts, clays,
30 diatomaceous earths and limestones (Tadesse, Milesi and Deschamps 2003) (Figure 3).
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44 **FIGURE 3.**
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48 A total of 40 samples were characterized, as detailed in Table 1. The samples were classified into 5 groups
49 corresponding to the different types of material studied (concrete masonry, mortar masonry, painted
50 plaster, masonry stone and brick). The archaeological site and the particular building or structure from
51 which each sample was taken are also specified.
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TABLE 1.

The X-ray diffraction samples were analysed using a Bruker D8 Advance diffractometer with 2-theta geometry, using copper radiation and a Lynxeye detector, from the Scientific Instruments Centre (CIC) of the University of Granada. The composition was determined with the Xpowder software (Martin 2004), which takes into account multiple iterations of models of the mixture to ensure greater accuracy with the real diffractogram. The error is the minimum that can currently occur in XRD interpretation. According to the technical specifications of the diffractometer, it can detect minerals with a relative proportion in the sample increased to 2%.

The tests for the characterization of the mineralogy, texture and microstructure of the samples were conducted using a polarized optical microscope (Olympus BX-60) and a scanning electron microscope (SEM) Zeiss DMS 950 coupled with Microanalysis Link QX 2000.

The elastic properties (the degree of compactness) of the samples were studied using a Steinkamp BP5 ultrasonic pulse generator with 100 kHz transducers according to ASTM D 2845 (ASTM 2008), belonging to CIC-UGR.

In the samples in which this was possible, the ultrasound propagation speed (VP) was calculated in 3 directions with regard to the wall section from which the samples were taken. VP1 is the direction perpendicular to the wall, VP2 parallel to the wall and VP3 perpendicular to the other two. Total anisotropy (DM) was determined using the mathematical formulae proposed by (Guydayer 1986).

All samples were measured for colorimetric evaluation purposes. Their diffuse spectral-reflectance curves were measured in the visible range using a Konica Minolta CM-2500c Spectrophotometer, which has a wavelength of 360 nm to 740 nm and observer 2/10 degrees (CIE 1931/2, CIE 1964/10), illuminant D65, and belongs to the University of Granada (Spain).

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The XRD study of the mortar samples indicated a high presence of calcium carbonate, due to the fact that the lime binder used in the mixes sets well and has optimum carbonatation. The newly formed mineral compounds (Ca-Si) generated by the addition of diatomaceous earths could not be distinguished with XRD, due to their vitreous-amorphous nature.

XRD analysis of the masonry stone shows large amounts of Sanidine and Quartz, and very small amounts of Albite. Given that it is mainly composed of feldspar minerals it could be an igneous rock such as Trachyte, which is very common throughout the study area. The brick samples show a high presence of quartz, muscovite and calcite. The absence of new mineral phases together with the presence of calcite suggest that they were fired at a low temperature (750-850 °C). Figure 4 includes five diffractograms, one for each of the materials studied.

FIGURE 4.

The samples studied with polarized light optical microscopy (Figure 5) reveal a high degree of compactness of the air lime mortars used in the constructions in the Lake Tana area, due to the optimum carbonatation of the Portlandite ($\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$) present in the lime paste. This was undoubtedly produced by the careful process of preparing the air lime and curing it in the right conditions, out of contact with the air. The mortar binders have reaction interfaces with areas in which agglomerations of siliceous additives can be observed.

The stone sample shows a vitreous matrix with small, highly compact phenocrystals of plagioclase and pyroxene. Judging by their geological context and their characterization, the stones would appear to be from a volcanic igneous rock similar to trachyte or phonolite.

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3 The ceramic samples included matrices based on fusible clays and tempers made out of crushed rocks or
4 crushed ceramic products. The compactness of these materials indicates a low level of sintering and a low
5 firing temperature. 10-20 μm pores can be observed throughout the material.
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11 **FIGURE 5.** Microphotographs of mortars and stone (crossed polars).
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15 The study of materials using SEM and their analysis with EDX (Figure 6) revealed various interesting
16 aspects of the air lime mortars. Firstly, the fact that an extra fine siliceous additive had been added to them.
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18 The additive included above all deposits of diatom skeletons which had generated a certain degree of
19 hydraulicity in the mixes based on air lime (portlandite). The chemical analysis (Si-Al-Ca) of the lumps in
20 some of these samples highlighted the process of hydrolyzation and, by extension, the good compactness
21 of the mortars and concrete, and the increase in mechanical resistance. The mortars also contain aggregates
22 with a variable grain size from the volcanic rocks in the area (basalts, trachytes, etc.).
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31 The ceramic products are made out of locally quarried clays and tempers. The tempers were either made
32 out of reused crushed ceramic material or alternatively out of crushed rocks and sands of a siliceous nature.
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34 The high porosity of their components and the fact that they showed no signs of vitrification suggest that
35 these ceramics were fired at a low temperature. The elementary analysis with EDX showed them to be
36 similar to common pottery products. No newly formed minerals were detected that could indicate firing
37 temperatures of over 750-850 $^{\circ}\text{C}$.
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44 The EDX analysis of the masonry stones on the basis of the SEM results confirms the presence of
45 feldspars and feldspathoids characteristic of the igneous rocks present in the geological area (trachytes
46 and/or phonolites).
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50 **FIGURE 6.**
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3 As regards the ultrasound measurements, Table 2 includes the average values for the mortars, stones and
4 bricks collected at different locations, with average speed and standard deviation data.
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9 **TABLE 2.** Ultrasound pulse transmission speeds for samples of joining mortar, rendering mortar, masonry
10 stones and bricks.
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15 All the materials obtained expected values, highlighting in particular the natural stone materials (see
16 Figure 7). These masonry pieces come from massive, scarcely porous rocks which have high ultrasonic
17 pulse transmission speed values, so guaranteeing their durability in buildings. The mortars, concrete and
18 renders made with air lime obtained either expected values or in some cases slightly higher values than
19 previous measurements for other air lime mortars (Arizzi et al 2015). This would suggest that the increase
20 in transmission speed, the reduction in porosity and the increased compactness are due to the incorporation
21 of siliceous additives (diatomaceous earths). The ceramic materials show similar values to those for the
22 group of common pottery, with very low firing temperatures that were incapable of causing sintering or
23 initial signs of vitrification in the materials with plastic properties (Cultrone et al 2004).
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37 **FIGURE 7.**
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42 As regards the structural anisotropy (DM), this ranges between 1.00 % in the case of masonry concrete and
43 5.00 % for stone, revealing only minimal differences. This indicates that the samples behave in a
44 homogeneous way and anisotropy cannot be considered a factor as far as reducing resistance is concerned.
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48 Analysis of the colour of the mortar samples (see Figure 8) revealed a yellow tone with low saturation,
49 medium to high lightness and a whitish grey visual appearance, characteristic of mortars, concrete or
50 waterproof renders made with air lime binders. The stone is very dark and relatively unsaturated, which
51 means that its green shade does not stand out due to the lack of lightness. It has the same visual appearance
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3 as the rocks (basalts and trachytes) from the Lake Tana area. The ceramic materials have yellow red tones,
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5 are relatively unsaturated and have low lightness. This suggests a low firing temperature with partially
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7 reducing firings, as often found in low quality ceramics. Table 3 sets out the colorimetric values
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9 corresponding to the different groups of samples studied.
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13 **FIGURE 8.**
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17 **TABLE 3.**
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22 The results obtained after carrying out the different characterization techniques offered us a very
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24 approximate vision of the physical and mechanical properties of the construction materials used in the
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26 Jesuit buildings at the Gorgora Nova, Danqaz, Azazo and Dabsan sites, and of their conservation and
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28 durability conditions. Their suitability was also checked by comparing them with the results from a range
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30 of publications. The colour characterization was useful for two reasons in that it enabled the updated
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32 classification of the artificial materials studied and the creation of a colour chart for restoration works.
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35 In the same way and after characterizing the mineral composition of the samples from some of the most
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37 important constructions, this research also confirmed that the production and use of air lime enhanced with
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39 siliceous additives was a technical breakthrough introduced into this area by the Jesuit missionaries in the
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41 17th century. This suggests that they had an excellent knowledge of construction techniques, perhaps
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43 acquired from classical sources, and were prepared to use a selection of local raw materials in the actual
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45 building works. The incorporation of diatomaceous earths was clearly a deliberate step to improve the
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47 mechanical resistance of the mortars, concrete and renders. Their waterproofing was also improved
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49 through the reaction of the Portlandite with the amorphous silica in the opaline diatom shells to form
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51 hydrolyzable compounds of Ca-Si composition. This suggests that the diatomaceous earths were
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3 deliberately added to the lime paste as no heat-related alteration could be observed in the frustules of the
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5 binder mixes. This increased both mechanical resistance and waterproofing.
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7 The decision to use igneous stones in the construction of the buildings as compared to other kinds of
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9 sedimentary stones was a question of maximization of resources. In this area there was an abundance of
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11 fragmented trachytes and basalts, the main raw materials used to build the masonry walls, as compared to
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13 the use of other less local materials in the Lake Tana area.
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15 The ceramic materials were also made of local raw materials. Although the clay deposits in the area are of
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17 a low ceramic quality (micaceous), they can be used to make ceramics with an acceptable degree of
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19 compactness at low firing temperatures. The generally low firing temperatures and the low compositional
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21 refractoriness have produced ceramic materials with high porosity and little or no sintering. Although the
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23 Jesuits used bricks in some of the buildings, their main building material was the highly resistant siliceous
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25 stone available in abundant quantities in this area. The research also indicates that the Jesuits decided that
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27 the local binding materials required technical improvements (artificial binders).
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33 **4. CONCLUSIONS**

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35 The recovery and promotion of the architectural cultural heritage in different kinds of buildings (and other
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37 structures) in varying locations poses a real challenge for research in the field of building materials and in
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39 conservation practice. The composition of the materials, the way they are laid in the building and their
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41 state of decay and deterioration are key aspects in the necessary analysis that must be carried out prior to
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43 making any proposals regarding restoration work.
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46 Locally-sourced materials can be used in restoration work today, following the procedures used by the
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48 Jesuits in the 17th century. The limestones can be used to make the air binders in the restoration of the
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50 buildings and the walls and for producing inorganic consolidants based on limewater Ca(OH)_2
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52 suspensions, which allow the original renders and mortars to harden. The inclusion of diatomites after the
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54 slaking of the lime will help increase the mechanical resistance of the mortars after the restoration work.
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3 It is important to make clear that the use of siliceous additives has been a constant continual practice ever
4 since classical antiquity, as can be seen in the development of Roman cement made with air lime and the
5 addition of “lapilli” or volcanic ash with a high silica content. This practice, as well as their knowledge of
6 the correct way to prepare and preserve air lime, shows that the Jesuits who moved to Abyssinia had an in-
7 depth understanding of building materials, probably based on ancient treatises such as *De architectura* by
8 Vitruvius (Vitrubio de Architectura 1997). It is very important that the siliceous additive used in binders
9 based on air lime is of high quality, due to its chemical nature (Si), which implies good reactivity between
10 the additive and lime matrix, its morphology (shells with micro-orifices) and its small size (large specific
11 surface area).

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22 The ceramic materials, above all large bricks, were not widely used in the Jesuit buildings. In general, they
23 are poor quality and have insufficient mechanical resistance, unlike the stone used in the masonry. This
24 stone is widely available in the area, extremely durable and highly compatible with the original mortars
25 and concretes. The use of bricks of this kind in conservation and restoration work would not therefore be
26 suitable. Instead locally quarried stone should be used intensively, as it is easily available and very
27 durable.

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35 The analytical techniques are ideal for the characterization of the building materials and for assessing their
36 technical condition and the alterations they have undergone. They can also be used for making
37 conservation and restoration proposals. One of the most important techniques was the colorimetry study of
38 the different samples, which will facilitate good restoration work by ensuring that the appropriate
39 restoration materials are selected and that these materials match adjacent existing materials.

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46 Finally, it is important to emphasise that the Jesuits were a source of knowledge in the different countries
47 that they visited and settled, often creating new building materials on the basis of their experience and
48 knowledge of historic sources. This made it easier for them to access different cultures such as the inward-
49 looking Abyssinian society of the 16th and 17th century. The Jesuits shared and spread their knowledge in
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3 truly exceptional settings, so giving rise to the fascinating buildings constructed in the Lake Tana area of
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5 Ethiopia.

6 7 8 9 **5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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3 FIGURE CAPTIONS

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5 FIGURE 1. Left, geographic location of Lake Tana and the Amhara region within Ethiopia. Right,
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7 geographic location of the four archaeological sites and former Jesuit missions where the samples were
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9 taken. Two cities existing today (Gondar and Bahir-Dar) are also indicated.
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13 FIGURE 2. Detail of the Jesuit constructions studied near Lake Tana. A. Basilica (1) and Jesuit residence
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15 (2) in Gorgora Nova. B. Circular masonry towers inside the fortified area (2) of the church (1) in Azazo.
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17 The royal residence (3) is also marked on the map. C1. Palace of Danqaz indicating the royal residence (1)
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19 and the large underground water deposit (2). C2. The basilica church of Danqaz with a Latin cross floor
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21 plan (3). D. Dabsan Complex, indicating the defensive wall (1), the water deposit (2), and the Jesuits'
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23 residence building (3). Plans adapted from (Fernández 2017).
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29 FIGURE 3. Geological map of the Lake Tana area in the Amhara region of Ethiopia, adapted from
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31 (Tadesse, Milesi and Deschamps 2003). All the building materials used at the archaeological sites
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33 (especially those from the Quaternary) are currently available in the area.
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38 FIGURE 4. Diffractograms of the mortar samples from Gorgora Nova, Azazo and Danqaz showing the
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40 presence of calcite, anorthite and vaterite. The diffractogram for the brick samples from the Dabsan site
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42 shows mainly quartz and muscovite, with some calcite. The presence of both muscovite and calcite
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44 suggests that the bricks were fired at a low temperature. The diffractogram for the stone from the masonry
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46 at Dabsan shows large amounts of sanidine and quartz, which indicate a Trachyte type rock. Abbreviations
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48 for names of rock-forming minerals (Whitney and Evans 2010).
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3 FIGURE 5. Microphotographs of mortars and stone (crossed polars).

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5 Microphotographs taken with polarized light optical microscopy and scanning electron microscopy (SEM).

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7 A. Lime mortar from the cistern at the Gorgora Nova historic site (GOR-7), 20x, crossed nicols. Detail of
8 the concentration of additives made with diatomaceous earths in a lime matrix (edges marked with white
9 arrows and red lines). B. Massive aspect of the lime mortar from the pond at Azazo (ASZ-7), 20x, crossed
10 nicols, with structures that indicate the presence of siliceous additives and recrystallizations of secondary
11 calcite in the pores. C-D. Ceramic material from Dabsan (DAB-11), 40x, crossed nicols, with detail of the
12 matrix and pores, and of fine tempers. This includes crushed ceramic material and temper. E-F. Lime
13 mortar from the Palace at Dangaz (DAN-6), 20x, crossed nicols. The siliceous additives made from
14 diatoms are highlighted. G. Lime mortar from Gorgora Nova (GOR-4) 20x, crossed nicols. The presence
15 of siliceous additives is marked in red. H. Masonry stone from the Dabsan site (DAB-10), 20x, crossed
16 nicols (triangle). Plagioclases in a vitreous matrix, (rhombus). Pyroxene in a vitreous matrix of trachyte.

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31 FIGURE 6. Representative SEM images and EDX analyses of samples. A. Detail of lime mortar sample
32 from Danqaz (DAN-3) with detail of the biological additive in the foreground, and of its analysis using
33 EDX, characteristic of diatomite bodies and other marine organisms rich in silica. B. Massive aspect of the
34 air lime mortar from Azazo (AZO-7) with a large amount of siliceous additives, plus a detail of the lumps
35 with Si-Al-Ca composition (hydraulic). C. Detail of the matrix of the lime mortar, with siliceous additives
36 from Górgora Nova. The high degree of compactness of the mortar (GOR-4) is noteworthy, as is the high
37 level of carbonation. The EDX analysis shows the Si-Ca nature of the additive which in morphological
38 terms corresponds to diatom exoskeletons. D. Mortar from the Danqaz architectural site (DAN-5), with a
39 calcite crystal cover and huge amounts of diatom shells. E. Topographic detail of the diatom exoskeleton
40 from the Danqaz mortar (DAN-7). The EDX analysis corroborates the chemical composition of the diatom
41 shells. F. General aspect of the ceramic material fired at low temperature from Azazo (AZO-11), in which
42 there are important fissures and cracks measuring over 100 μm . G. Ceramic materials fired at low
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3 temperature from the Dabsan (DAB-11) site, with high porosity and negligible fusion between the
4 particles. The EDX analysis showed that its composition was typical of a common pottery product. H.
5 SEM image of masonry stone from the Dabsan archaeological site (DAB-10). Detail of the plagioclase in
6 the trachyte and its EDX analysis.
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13 FIGURE 7. Variability in ultrasonic pulse transmission speeds in the main materials found in the four
14 Jesuit buildings in Ethiopia. Note the low compactness of the ceramic products compared to the natural
15 stone with high ultrasound pulse transmission speeds.
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22 FIGURE 8. Graphic representation of the CIELab 1976 (ISO 11664 2007) values for the mortars,
23 concretes, masonry stone and bricks. Illuminant D65.
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30 TABLE CAPTIONS

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32 TABLE 1. List of samples studied during this research. The location and the type of material are also
33 specified.
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39 TABLE 2. Ultrasound pulse transmission speeds for samples of joining mortar, rendering mortar, masonry
40 stones and bricks.
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45 TABLE 3. Colorimetric values according to the system (ISO 11664 2007) for samples of joining mortar,
46 render mortar, decoration, concrete mortar, render and masonry stones.
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TABLE 1. List of samples studied during this research. The location and the type of material are also specified.

		GORGORA NOVA	AZAZO	DANQAZ	DABSAN
CONCRETE MASONRY	POND (WALLS)		AZO-1 AZO-2 AZO-3 AZO-4		
	CHURCH			DAN-1 DAN-2	
	WALL PILASTER	GOR-4 GOR-5			
	WALLS				DAB-1 DAB-2 DAB-3 DAB-4
MORTAR MASONRY	POND (FOUNDATION)		AZO-5 AZO-6 AZO-7 AZO-8 AZO-9 AZO-10		
	PALACE			DAN-3 DAN-4	
	UNDERGROUND WATER DEPOSIT	GOR-6 GOR-7		DAN-7 DAN-8	DAB-5 DAB-6 DAB-7
PAINTED PLASTER	DOGS AREA OF PALACE			DAN-5 DAN-6	
MASONRY STONE	LINTELS	GOR-1 GOR-2 GOR-3		DAN-1 DAN-2	
	WALLS				DAB-8 DAB-9
	VOUSOIRS AND JAMBS IN DOORS AND WINDOWS				DAB-10
BRICK	VOUSOIRS AND JAMBS IN DOORS AND WINDOWS		AZO-11	DAN-7	DAB-11

TABLE 2. Ultrasound pulse transmission speeds for samples of joining mortar, rendering mortar, masonry stones and bricks.

Site	m/s	Masonry concrete			Masonry mortar			Painted plaster			Masonry brick			Masonry Stone		
		V _{p1}	V _{p2}	V _{p3}	V _{p1}	V _{p2}	V _{p3}	V _{p1}	V _{p2}	V _{p3}	V _{p1}	V _{p2}	V _{p3}	V _{p1}	V _{p2}	V _{p3}
Azezo	□	2185	2151	2075	2288	2260	2264				1320	1456	1345	4854	4521	4715
	σ	90	91	85	76	84	102				84	82	89	83	83	83
Danqaz	□	1984	2002	2000	2304	2276	2280	2355			1444	1584	1280	4808	4475	4669
	σ	70	71	70	69	77	92	68			91	89	97	83	83	83
Gorgora Nova	□	2285	2251	2175	2225	2299	2219				1494	1601	1274	4887	4554	4748
	σ	90	86	84	75	84	84				82	79	89	96	96	96
Dabsan	□	2302	2288	2282	2221	2295	2214				1325	1597	1565	4856	4523	4717
	σ	75	78	79	76	84	93				93	94	79	83	83	83

TABLE 3. Colorimetric values according to the system (ISO 11664 2007) for samples of joining mortar, render mortar, decoration, concrete mortar, render and masonry stones.

Site-values	Masonry mortar					Painted mortar rendering					Masonry concrete					Rendered mortar					Masonry stone					
	L*	a*	b*	C	h _{ab}	L*	a*	b*	C	h _{ab}	L*	a*	b*	C	h _{ab}	L*	a*	b*	C	h _{ab}	L*	a*	b*	C	h _{ab}	
Azezo	□	69,7	5,2	14,1	15,0	69,7					63,9	4,2	15,3	15,9	74,6	56,5	5,9	15,5	16,5	69,2	26,0	-5,0	2,0	5,4	-21,7	
	σ	4,2	0,7	1,1	1,0	1,2					4,1	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	2,3	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,9	0,9	0,3	0,6	0,2	0,2	3,0
Danqaz	□	66,7	5,1	15,3	16,1	71,6	60,7	6,1	16,5	17,6	69,6	63,2	4,3	14,9	15,5	73,6	57,3	5,2	16,0	16,8	72,0	26,9	-5,0	1,6	5,2	-17,8
	σ	4,1	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	5,1	0,4	0,7	0,7	0,6	6,7	0,8	3,2	3,3	0,7	2,7	0,6	0,3	0,3	0,9	0,9	0,3	0,5	0,3	3,2
Gorgora Nova	□	70,4	4,8	14,8	15,5	72,3					63,9	4,0	15,0	15,5	75,0	58,2	5,0	15,8	16,6	72,4	26,4	-4,8	1,6	5,0	-18,1	
	σ	3,5	0,6	0,9	1,0	1,3					4,2	0,8	1,0	0,9	0,9	4,3	0,8	0,9	0,9	0,9	0,5	0,3	0,4	0,4	0,4	3,6
Dabsan	□	57,7	6,1	15,5	16,7	68,7					64,1	4,8	15,0	15,8	72,3	57,1	5,0	15,9	16,7	72,6	26,0	-5,0	1,5	5,2	-16,6	
	σ	0,5	0,2	0,4	0,4	0,4					5,4	0,7	3,0	3,1	0,9	5,1	1,2	1,0	1,0	0,9	0,5	0,3	0,5	0,3	0,3	3,1



FIGURE 1. Left, geographic location of Lake Tana and the Amhara region within Ethiopia. Right, geographic location of the four archaeological sites and former Jesuit missions where the samples were taken. Two cities existing today (Gondar and Bahir-Dar) are also indicated.

97x58mm (300 x 300 DPI)

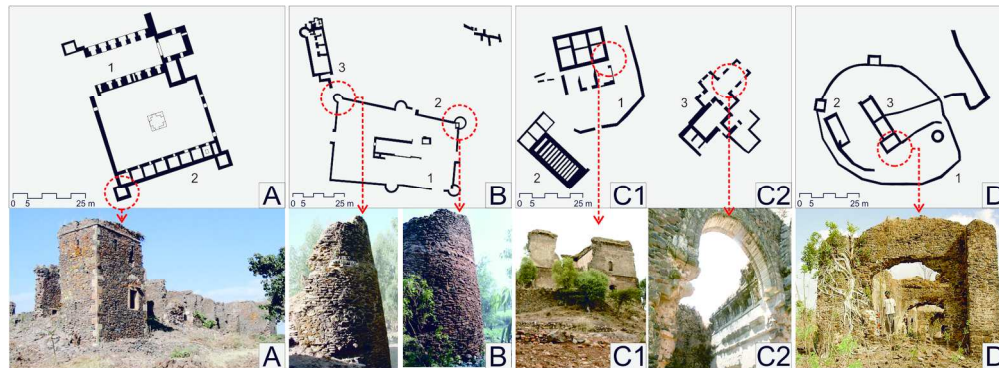


FIGURE 2. Detail of the Jesuit constructions studied near Lake Tana. A. Basílica (1) and Jesuit residence (2) in Gorgora Nova. B. Circular masonry towers inside the fortified area (2) of the church (1) in Azazo. The royal residence (3) is also marked on the map. C1. Palace of Danqaz indicating the royal residence (1) and the large underground water deposit (2). C2. The basilica church of Danqaz with a Latin cross floor plan (3). D. Dabsan Complex, indicating the defensive wall (1), the water deposit (2), and the Jesuits' residence building (3). Plans adapted from (Fernández 2017).

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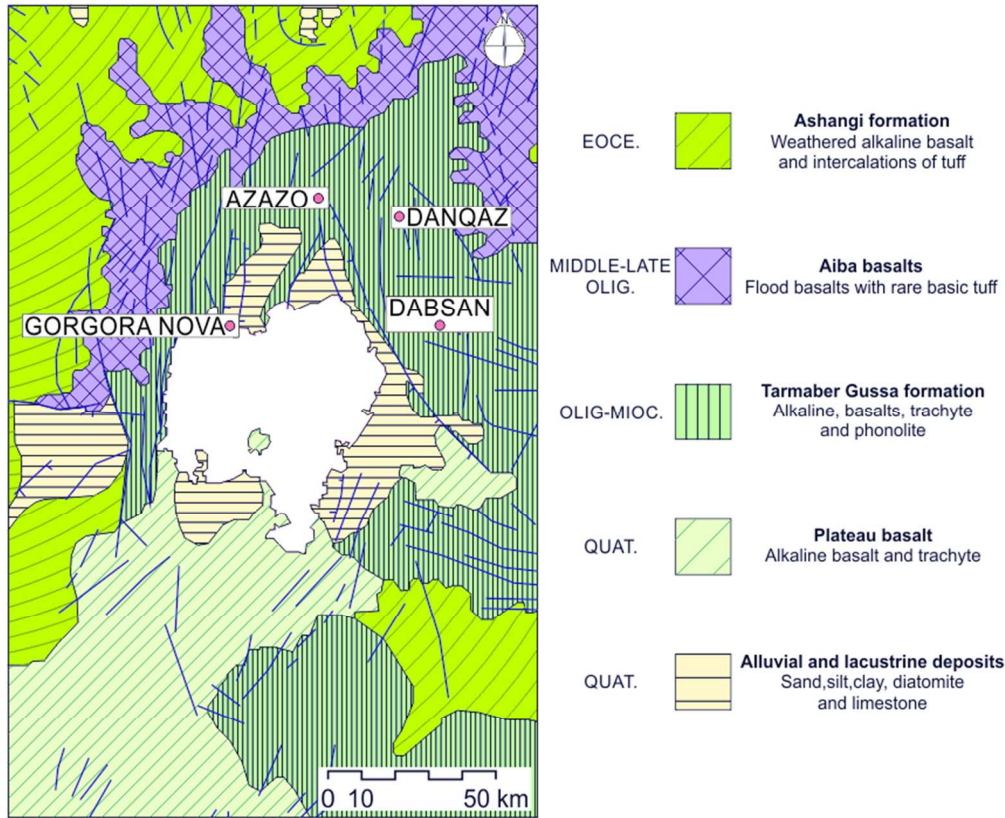


FIGURE 3. Geological map of the Lake Tana area in the Amhara region of Ethiopia, adapted from (Tadesse, Milesi and Deschamps 2003). All the building materials used at the archaeological sites (especially those from the Quaternary) are currently available in the area.

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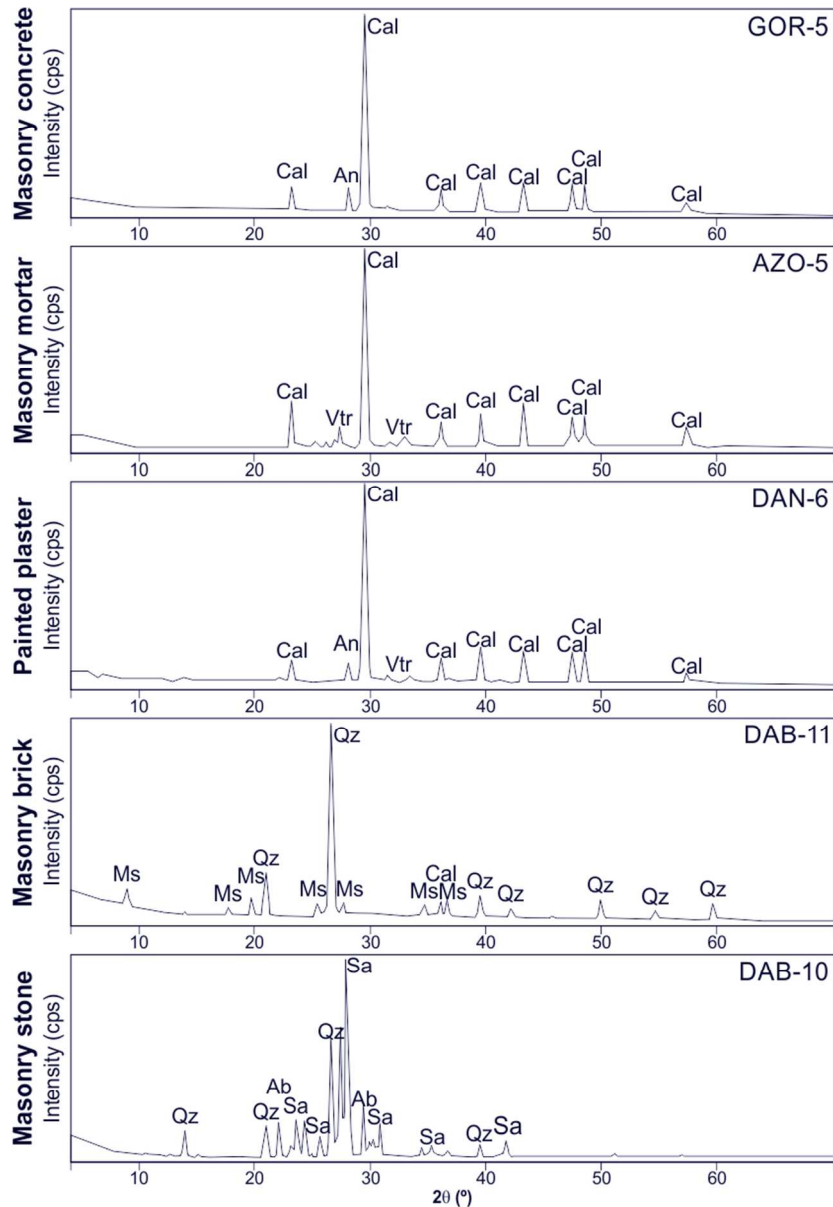


FIGURE 4. Diffractograms of the mortar samples from Gorgora Nova, Azazo and Danqaz showing the presence of calcite, anorthite and vaterite. The diffractogram for the brick samples from the Dabsan site shows mainly quartz and muscovite, with some calcite. The presence of both muscovite and calcite suggests that the bricks were fired at a low temperature. The diffractogram for the stone from the masonry at Dabsan shows large amounts of sanidine and quartz, which indicate a Trachyte type rock. Abbreviations for names of rock-forming minerals (Whitney and Evans 2010).

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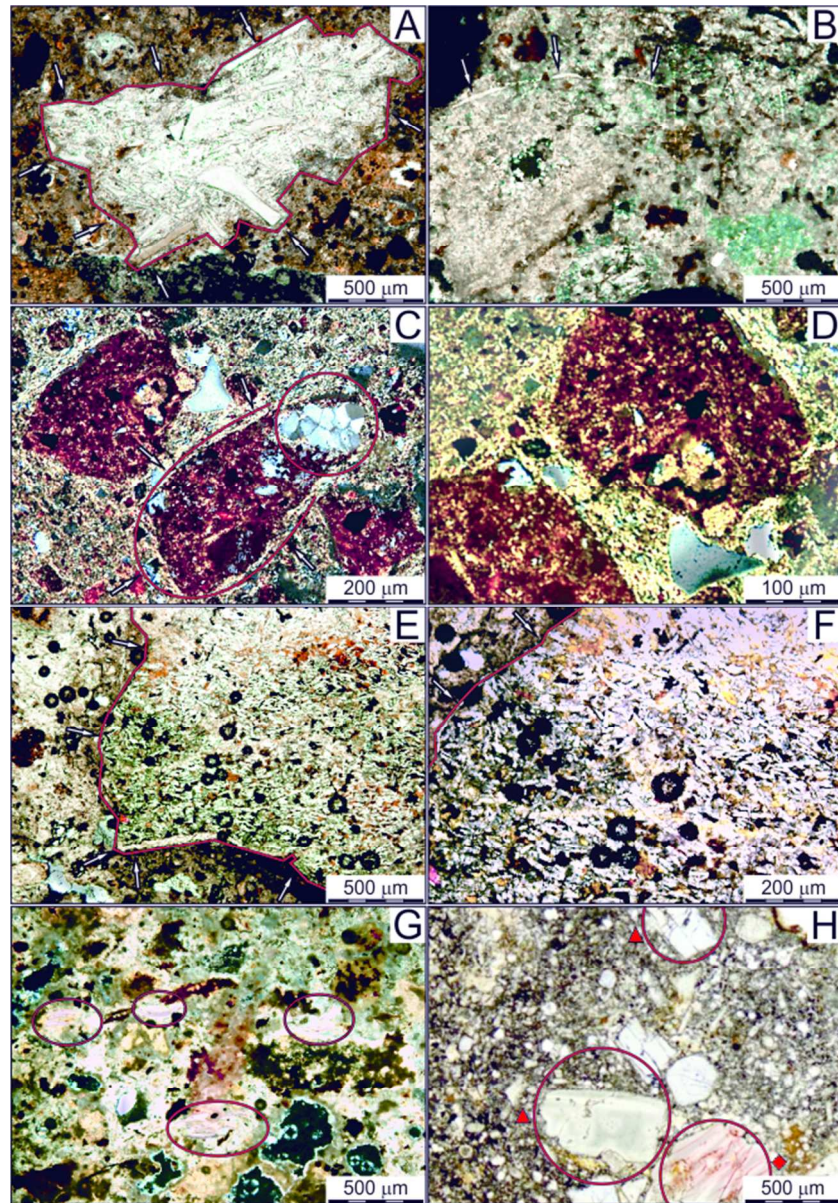


FIGURE 5. Microphotographs of mortars and stone (crossed polars).

Microphotographs taken with polarized light optical microscopy and scanning electron microscopy (SEM).

A. Lime mortar from the cistern at the Gorgora Nova historic site (GOR-7), 20x, crossed nicols. Detail of the concentration of additives made with diatomaceous earths in a lime matrix (edges marked with white arrows and red lines). B. Massive aspect of the lime mortar from the pond at Azazo (ASZ-7), 20x, crossed nicols, with structures that indicate the presence of siliceous additives and recrystallizations of secondary calcite in the pores. C-D. Ceramic material from Dabsan (DAB-11), 40x, crossed nicols, with detail of the matrix and pores, and of fine tempers. This includes crushed ceramic material and temper. E-F. Lime mortar from the Palace at Dangaz (DAN-6), 20x, crossed nicols. The siliceous additives made from diatoms are highlighted.

G. Lime mortar from Gorgora Nova (GOR-4) 20x, crossed nicols. The presence of siliceous additives is marked in red. H. Masonry stone from the Dabsan site (DAB-10), 20x, crossed nicols (triangle). Plagioclases in a vitreous matrix, (rhombus). Pyroxene in a vitreous matrix of trachyte.

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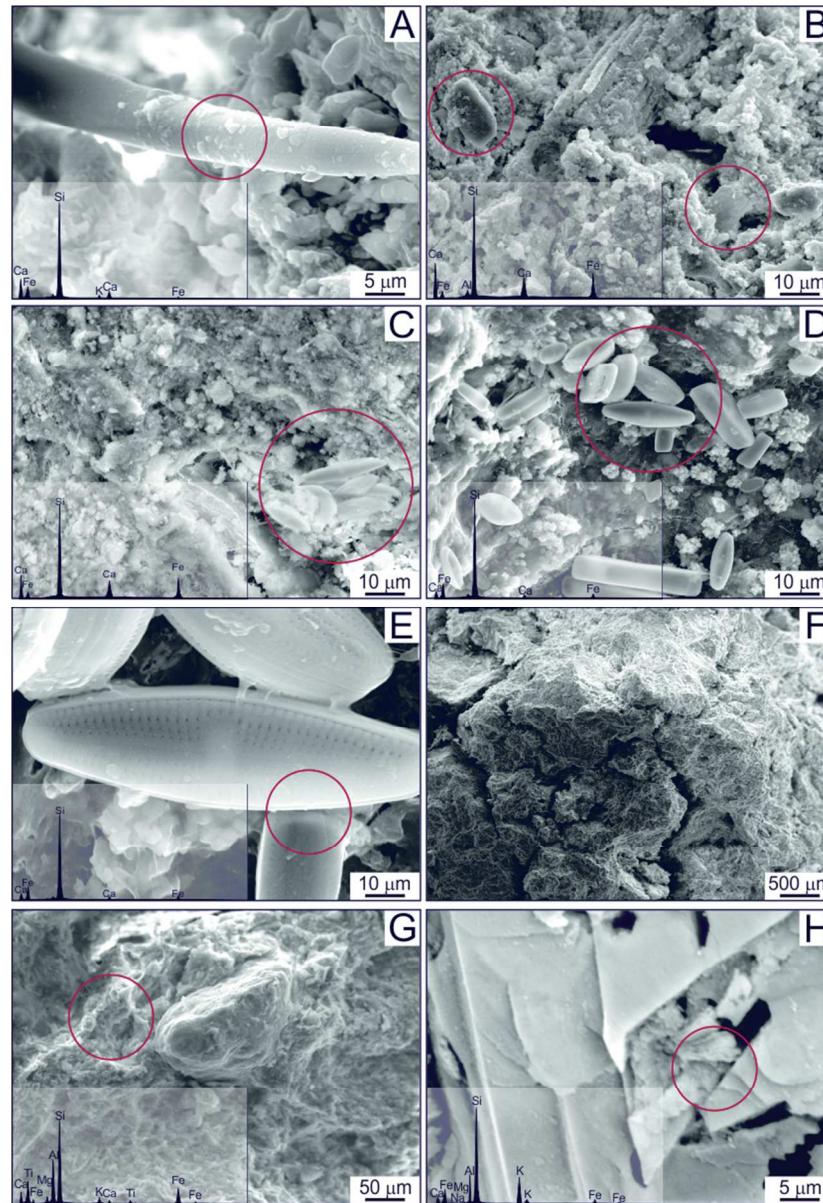


FIGURE 6. Representative SEM images and EDX analyses of samples. A. Detail of lime mortar sample from Danqaz (DAN-3) with detail of the biological additive in the foreground, and of its analysis using EDX, characteristic of diatomite bodies and other marine organisms rich in silica. B. Massive aspect of the air lime mortar from Azazo (AZO-7) with a large amount of siliceous additives, plus a detail of the lumps with Si-Al-Ca composition (hydraulic). C. Detail of the matrix of the lime mortar, with siliceous additives from Górgora Nova. The high degree of compactness of the mortar (GOR-4) is noteworthy, as is the high level of carbonation. The EDX analysis shows the Si-Ca nature of the additive which in morphological terms corresponds to diatom exoskeletons. D. Mortar from the Danqaz architectural site (DAN-5), with a calcite crystal cover and huge amounts of diatom shells. E. Topographic detail of the diatom exoskeleton from the Danqaz mortar (DAN-7). The EDX analysis corroborates the chemical composition of the diatom shells. F. General aspect of the ceramic material fired at low temperature from Azazo (AZO-11), in which there are important fissures and cracks measuring over 100 μm . G. Ceramic materials fired at low temperature from the Dabsan (DAB-11) site, with high porosity and negligible fusion between the particles. The EDX analysis

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3 showed that its composition was typical of a common pottery product. H. SEM image of masonry stone from
4 the Dabsan archaeological site (DAB-10). Detail of the plagioclase in the trachyte and its EDX analysis.
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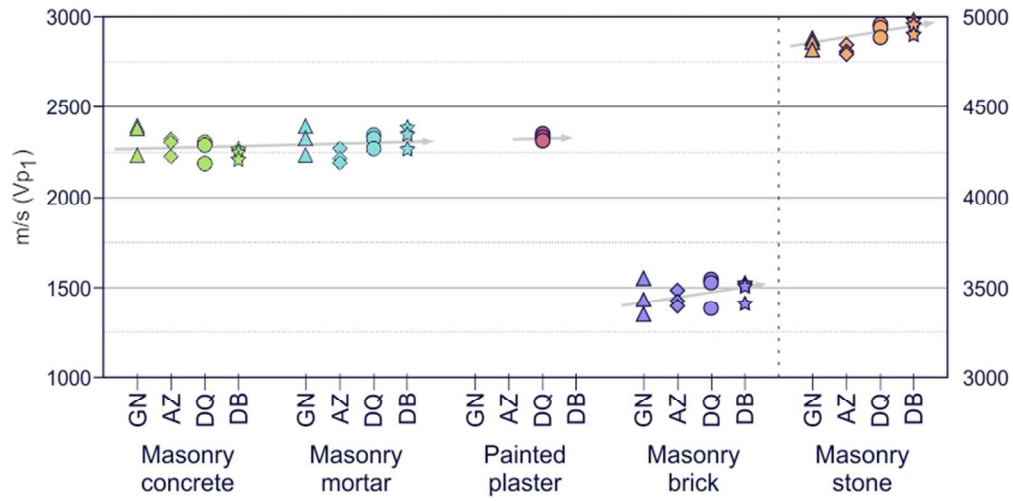


FIGURE 7. Variability in ultrasonic pulse transmission speeds in the main materials found in the four Jesuit buildings in Ethiopia. Note the low compactness of the ceramic products compared to the natural stone with high ultrasound pulse transmission speeds.

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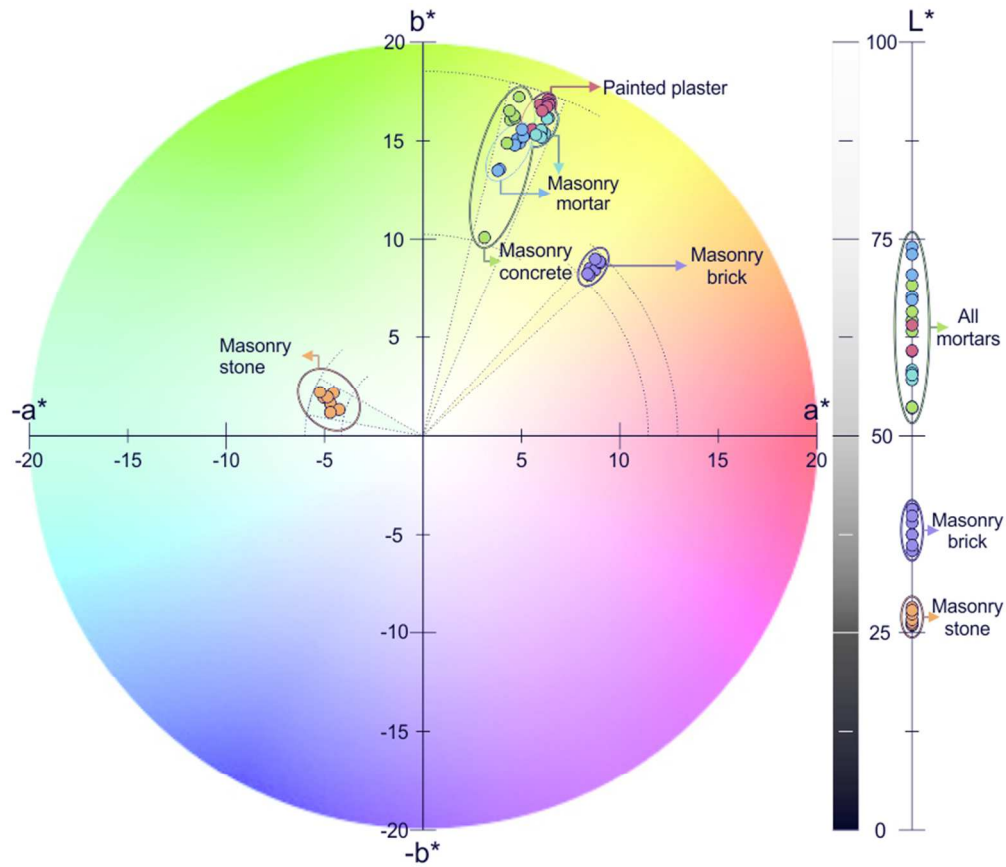


FIGURE 8. Graphic representation of the CIE Lab 1976 (ISO 11664 2007) values for the mortars, concretes, masonry stone and bricks. Illuminant D65.

76x65mm (300 x 300 DPI)