

ASCSA Excavations
in Ancient Corinth
2025 Report

Excavations Northeast of the Theater

From April through June, excavations were carried out at Corinth in two adjacent fields northeast of the ancient theater. The fieldwork focused on four distinct areas (Figure 1). The first was within the large bench-lined Marble Room that has been progressively revealed since 2020.

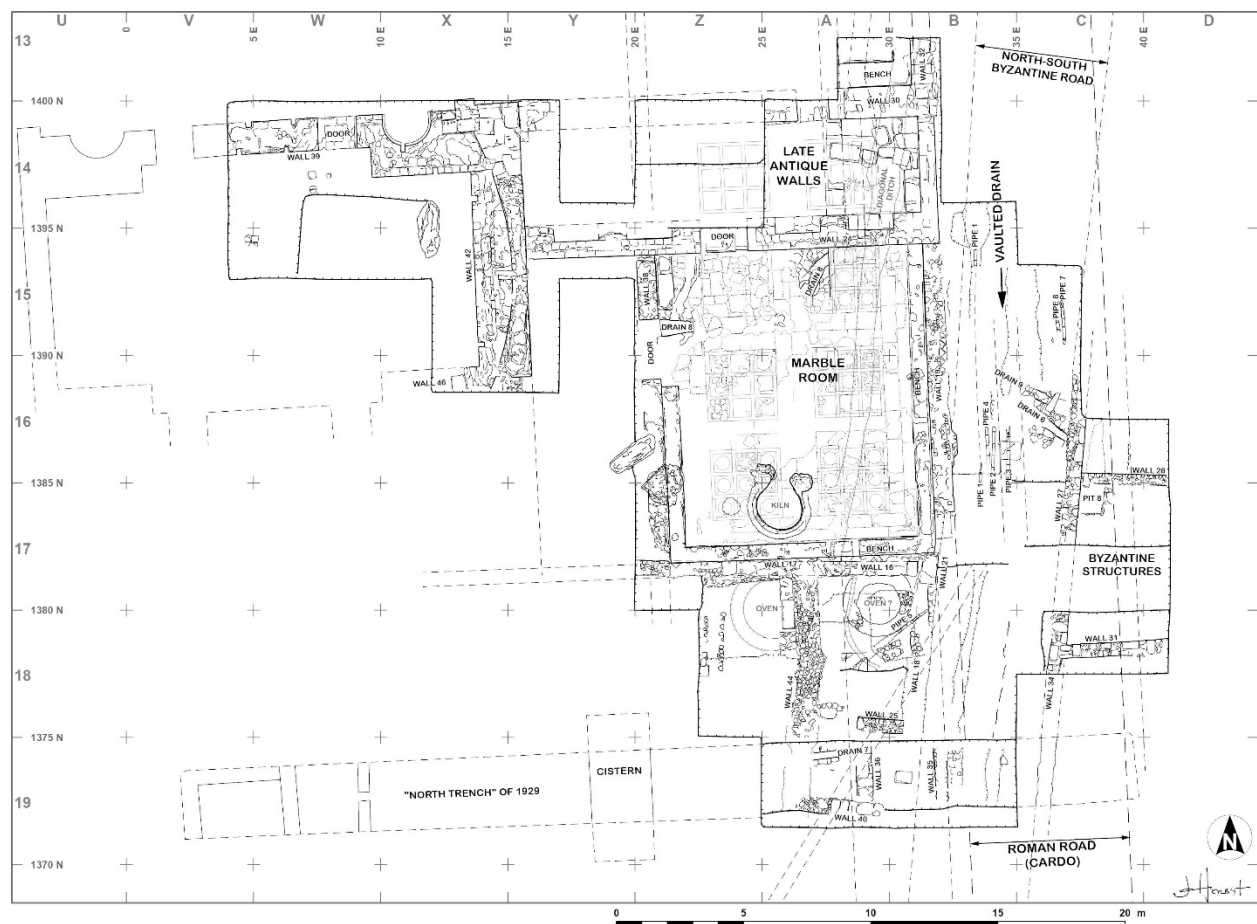


Figure 1. Northeast of the Theater area after the 2025 season (orthophoto J. Herbst)

As noted in previous reports, this room is likely to be part of the large bathing complex to the west, perhaps serving as an *apodyterium*. In 2025, the southwest corner of the room was revealed (Figure 2). The original *opus sectile* floor of this part of the room was considerably damaged and repaired with a mortar surface that sloped down toward a shallow pit that seems to have served as a catch basin. The provision of such a feature is perhaps an indication that in its final phase, the Marble Room was an open-air courtyard providing access to the large Late



Figure 2. Southwest corner of the Marble Room, view from the northeast

Antique structure of unknown function to the north. The pit is not provided with any form of drainage conduit, so if, indeed, it was a catch basin, one must assume that water entering it was simply allowed to seep into the underlying hardpan.

A second area of excavation, directly south of the Marble Room, was explored to determine what might lie between that room and the Northeast Theater Plaza to the south (Figure 3). Part of a



Figure 3. Area south of the Marble room, view from the southwest

rubble and mortar foundation was revealed running southward from the south wall of the Marble Room. This foundation appears to belong to the same construction phase (Late Roman) as the Marble Room, and it evidently served as a partition between two rooms with earthen floors lying about 1.33 m above the level of the original *opus sectile* floor of the Marble Room. Earlier Roman architectural features in the area included another north-south foundation, constructed of poros ashlar set on a rubble bedding layer. This foundation, which had gone out of use prior to the construction of the Marble Room, was set down into a series of earlier earth floor layers. Three terracotta pipelines and the nearly intact body of a Dressel 2-4 amphora were found embedded in these floor layers. Over the south wall of the Marble Room, slight remains of a Middle Byzantine wall were found, and adjacent to this, remains of a round structure – probably an oven – were revealed. A similar but somewhat smaller round structure was found in 2021 only a few meters to the east.

The third area of excavation, to the west of the Marble Room, yielded portions of the massive brick-faced walls of two heated bathing rooms (Figure 4). With the discovery of the south wall



Figure 4. East wall of the bathing room, view from the southwest

of the southern room (wall 46), the interior width (north to south) of that room was revealed to be 5.7 m. Unexpectedly, the east wall of the southern room (wall 42) was found to have an earlier phase in which the west face forms a broad arc (with a radius of 11.5 m) in plan. In the second phase of this wall, the curved west face of the earlier phase was concealed behind a straight face into which two arched niches were integrated. Details of construction indicate that the second phase of this wall is contemporary with the adjacent north and south walls of the bathing room. Like the north wall, the second phase of the east wall was provided with flue channels for venting heated air from a hypocaust (not yet excavated).

Some 20 m northeast of the Marble Room a test trench was excavated with the aim of revealing the full stratigraphic sequence of the area (Figure 5). The specific location of the trench was



Figure 5. Test trench northeast of the marble room, view from the east

chosen because over most of the area ground-penetrating radar had not shown any significant structures in the upper two meters below the surface that would impede deeper probing. As expected, at the west end of the trench, excavation uncovered a small part of the north-south, Middle Byzantine road revealed in previous years to the north and south. To the east of the road, deposits of mixed fill (with material as late as the Middle Byzantine period) were found to extend down to the natural hardpan roughly 3.5 m below the surface. A narrow trench cut into the hardpan and part of a Roman built drain were the only features revealed below the deep mixed fill. From the evidence now available, it appears that at some time in, or prior to, the 12th century, a large, deep trench was cut through this area and that it was subsequently filled in through what appears to be a combination of both human agency and natural forces.

The excavations of 2025 were carried out with the permission of the Archaeological Service of the Ministry of Culture and Sport and under the supervision of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Corinthia. We are grateful to the director of the Ephorate, Panayiota Kassimi, and the assistant Director, George Spyropoulos, for their cooperation and support.

– Christopher Pfaff

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Phanis Kollias

Georgos Tsakalakis

Sotiris Raftopoulos

Argyris Tsirikis



Beginning of excavations in April (photo M. Papadakis)



James Herbst instructing J. J. Lugardo and Ehsan Behbahani-Nia about drawing conventions



Roberto Nardi speaking to J.J. Lugardo, Eduardo Berrios, Kelly O'Connor, and Taylor Cwikla about the conservation of frescoes



Ehsan Behbahani-Nia, J.J. Lugardo, and Argyris Tsirikis excavating south of the Marble Room



J.J. Lugardo inventorying coins in the museum (photo Taylor Cwikla)



Phanis Kollias, Spyros Christou, Panos Kakouros, and Elias Coli prepare for the removal of fallen masonry, while Eduardo Pavez Berrios, Thanassis Notis, and Kelly O'Connor look on



Eduardo Pavez Berrios surveying with the total station



Kelly O'Connor, Spyros Christou, and Panos Kakouros excavating the southwest corner of the Marble Room



Kelly O'Connor and Ioulia Tzonou identifying coins in the Museum (photo Taylor Cwikla)



Panos Kakouros and Vasilis Dellistathis excavating the settling basin in the southwest corner of the Marble Room



Sydney Parkin and Georgia Landgraf excavating animal bones from late fill



Angela Burr drawing a trench plan



Peter Foote surveying trench south of the Marble Room



Buck Roberson, Vasilis Dellistathis, Kate McGuirt, Phanis Kollias, Spyros Christou, and Panos Kakouros excavating fill in a bathing room west of the Marble Room



Buck Roberson recording walls of the bathing room west of the Marble Room



Angela Burr and Andy McNey dry-sieving



Kasey Corey and Elias Coli dry-sieving



Argyris Tsirikis, Kasey Corey, and Peter Foote excavating south of the Marble Room



Ioulia Tzonou introducing supervisors of the April session to the coin collection in the museum
(photo Taylor Cwikla)



April Session



May Session



June Session