

IL RESTAURO DELLA CHIESA DI SAN PIETRO IN CRYPTIS A OFENA (AQ)

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Abstract.

The church of San Pietro *in Cryptis* near Ofena is one of the most important architectural testimonies of the diffusion of Benedictine monasticism in the land of l'Aquila. Its precious frescoes were rediscovered in the early eighties by the technicians of the Superintendence, who freed them from the remains of a baroque altar that hid them. The precarious state of conservation in which they were found, required an immediate intervention, which mainly consisted in the construction of a roof to close off the nave and in a campaign of consolidation and cleaning of the frescoes. However, the interventions were not sufficient to ward off the causes of the deterioration and twenty years later the surfaces were again affected by humidity. In 2019 a new restoration process began, prioritizing the interventions necessary to definitively prevent the entry of water into the walls. The frescoes were cleaned and consolidate again, as well as the stones of the entrance portal, damaged by a serious phenomenon of erosion and biodeteriogen agents. The contribution shows past and recent interventions, highlighting the improvement that the latter have brought to the structure, allowing it to achieve the goal of a more lasting conservation of all the architectural and decorative elements over time

Keywords: *rediscovering, conservation, frescoes, stones*