

A Virtual Reconstruction: Isthmia Roman Bath

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The Isthmia Roman Bath is located in Greece overlooking a great ravine on the Isthmus of Corinth. It was in use during the 2nd through the 4th centuries. I have created a 3D VRML walkthrough of the ancient bath. This interdisciplinary project utilizes the research of an archaeologist, architect, and art historian. Because the researchers live in different locations, it made sense to use the Internet as a research tool. When clicking on the numbers on the home page, you can see the process that I went through to model the Roman Bath. After seeing the images, the researchers were able to visualize their research, reply to questions, and re-evaluate their findings.

VRML promises an accessible, highly visual, and interactive representation of difficult to see data, opening up new ways of presenting research. It is possible to walk within the bath by clicking on the Virtual Reconstruction link. When in the "Entrance view", click on the vase to see a map of the ruin. There are three places within the project that link to the existing excavated site. Links are also available to walk outside. The project runs best on Windows NT using Netscape. You must have the plug-ins for Cosmoplayer (VRML) and Quicktime (movie). Because the VRML plug-in doesn't work as well on a Mac, it is possible that you may only be able to view the images and movie from the project.



Room VI, or the Great Hall, was a place where people would have socialized and worshipped. There is a slight niche on the west wall, indicating a space for a colossal statue, most likely Athena. The flooring has been restored and indicates a beautiful monochrome mosaic. The mosaic is divided into thirds, with two figural panels in the center and at each end are four square panels filled with geometric designs. This mosaic is one of the best preserved and most impressive works to survive from ancient Isthmia



Room I, located at the northeast end of the bath. Lamps would have occupied the rooms that would not have received natural light. It is thought that some type of ritual would have taken place in this room



Rooms III, IV, and V are considered to be part of the frigidarium, or cold baths. These spaces were magnificently decorated with marble columns and panels, as well as fresco paintings in the pools. Of all the areas, the most is known about the frigidarium. Experts have been able to determine quite a lot, because the majority of the remains were found in this space. In Room III, as shown, there were marble panels with a leaf fresco below



Room IX is part of the calidarium. There is an apsidal hot plunge pool at the opposite end of the room. The two statues are Marcus Aurelius and Lucius Verus