
The Many Footprints Left by Martin Bachmann in Pergamon

Josef Steiner, Struct. Eng., Ingenieurgruppe Bauen (until 2012), Mannheim, Germany.
Corresponding member of DAI (German Archaeological Institute).

Dedication

The architect and architectural researcher Dr.-Ing. Martin Bachmann, since 2006 second director of the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) in Istanbul, participated in many of the DAI's archaeological sites in Turkey. Last July, Martin Bachmann died unexpectedly. This article is dedicated to him, to his achievements, and to the many visible traces left by him, particularly in Pergamon.

Building Z on Pergamon's Acropolis Hill

Since 1926, the year the Istanbul Department was founded, Pergamon has been one of the DAI's largest and most significant excavation sites. In addition to the archaeological excavations and the careful safeguarding of antique buildings in danger of collapse, the institute's tasks include long-term protective measures for valuable finds, as well as restoration projects that aim to offer visitors at least an impression of the original feel of an antique building. One such project that has been widely discussed among experts is the reconstruction, completed in 1996, of parts of the Sanctuary of Trajan. Situated on the acropolis hill in Pergamon, the sanctuary is visible from a great distance. The project leader at this time Klaus Nohlen reports in Ref. [1]. With Ref. [2], Wolfgang Radt published a comprehensive work on the history, the buildings and the excavators of Pergamon. At the beginning of the 1990s, during excavations to investigate antique housing construction on the acropolis hill, remains were also uncovered of a large, two-story peristyle house. In the north section of the building, excavations revealed very impressive colorful mosaic floors from the time of the Roman Empire, as well as Hellenistic stucco on a hill-facing wall. It was immediately obvious that these extraordinary finds must be protected and presented to visitors in an appealing way. This led to Martin Bachmann's first large footprint in Pergamon: the new Building Z. Together with Andreas Schwarting, he showed that it was