

ARCH International

# 2025 at a Glance

ARCH is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization based in the USA. ARCH works globally with local communities to protect and celebrate cultural heritage.

We come up with creative & engaging ways to involve the public around safeguarding the beauty of the past, highlighting aspects that bring us together.

Explore Our Completed & Ongoing Projects of 2025



# Projects & Initiatives



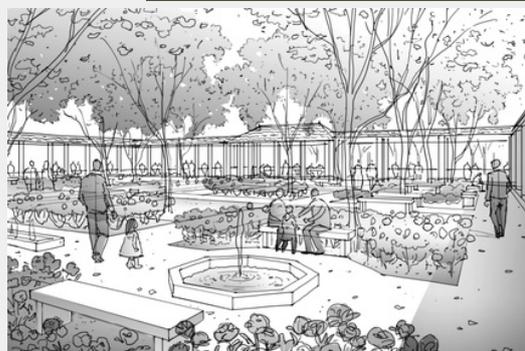
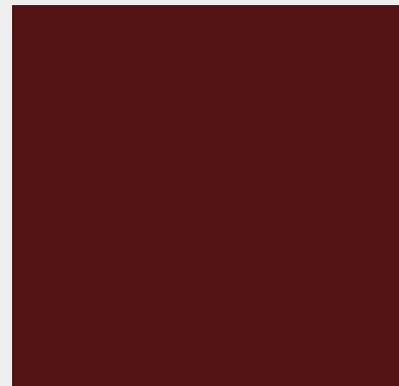
In 2025, ARCH worked with the Avicenna Foundation in Uzbekistan to develop an implementation plan for a replicable Heritage Garden concept rooted in Avicenna's (Ibn Sina's) global legacy and traditional healing knowledge.

**Our project to build the Avicenna Garden of Health and Healing** is planned for the village of Afshona just outside of Bukhara, the birthplace of the great scholar. It places strong emphasis on community participation, education, and long-term cultural sustainability across Central Asia.

In November 2025, we officially launched the project as part of the *XIII International Avicenna Readings* in Bukhara. We signed an MoU with the Avicenna Foundation and presented our vision at an official Roundtable with Bukhara officials.



## Avicenna Garden of Health & Healing (Uzbekistan / Central Asia)

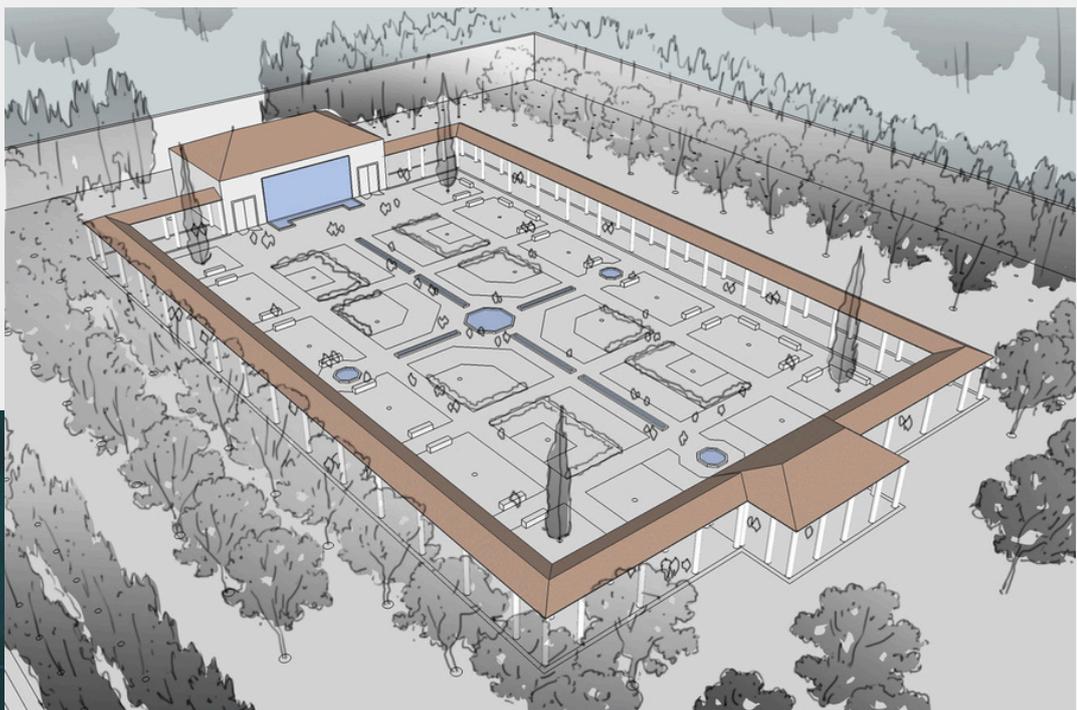
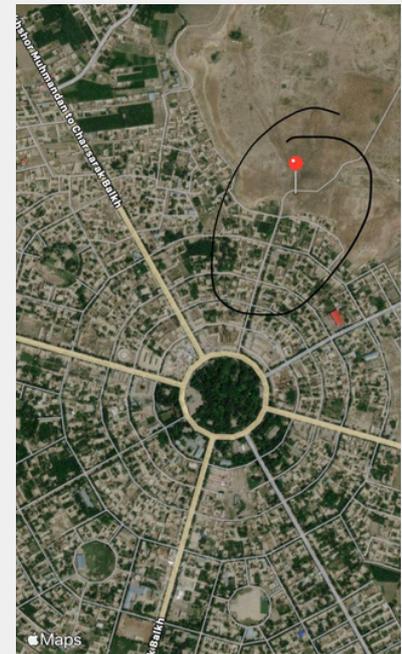


## Build the World's First Rumi Garden (Afghanistan)



ARCH continued conceptual and advisory work connected to Rumi's birthplace in Balkh Province, Afghanistan, exploring how gardens can serve as spaces of memory, learning, and community resilience in fragile and post-conflict contexts.

We convened a group of supporters and experts from within Afghanistan as well as from the expat community. We see *Rumi Gardens* as a project that while being rooted in its region, will connect the Afghan people with neighboring countries and the world through mutual respect for the influential poet Rumi and his lasting impact to this day.



# Pavlopetri Project - Fieldwork & Advocacy (Greece)

We went on a field visit to Greece, holding meetings with experts and municipal authorities to advance advocacy around the submerged site of **Pavlopetri** and its long-term protection.

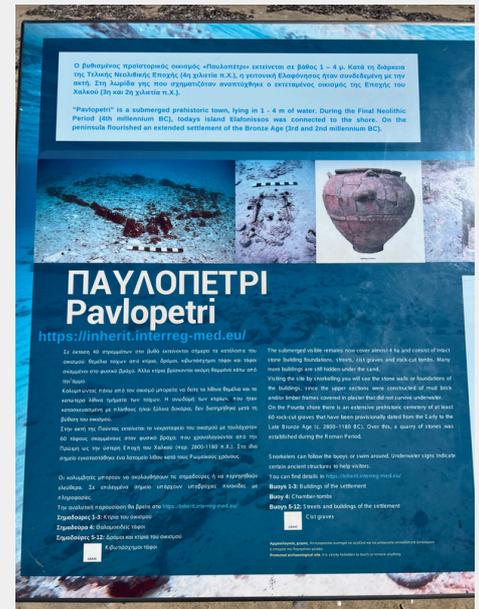
We also reviewed existing strategies for the display of and public engagement around underwater cultural heritage in in-situ and museum contexts.

## Advocacy for Asopos / Plitra

During the same field trip, we learned about the highly vulnerable and potentially extremely valuable underwater site of **Asopos**, including its artifacts left exposed and neglected along the coastline. We published an [information sheet](#) and reached out to heritage professionals to raise awareness.

This led to research about the Neolithic, which in turn brought us to knowledge about a largely overlooked, yet crucially important part of the history of Western culture: the Danube civilization. This civilization predated the Greek and Roman and built the essential foundations upon which their contributions in medicine, science, transportation and commerce were built.

In other Asopos news, our Director of International Programs, Sophia Schultz, was selected for *The European Archaeologist Magazine's* [Photojournalist of the Year Award](#) for this photo of an ancient mosaic at the site:



## a) Oral History Collection

We began a series of interviews to collect oral histories connected to the former mountain lodge Annahütte, ensuring that memories, and local knowledge are preserved. The interviews unearthed dramatic content about sectarian strife and personal hardships, honoring the memory of the victims while also providing a hopeful example of how such strife can be overcome and can result in harmonious Alpine communities of friendships across borders.

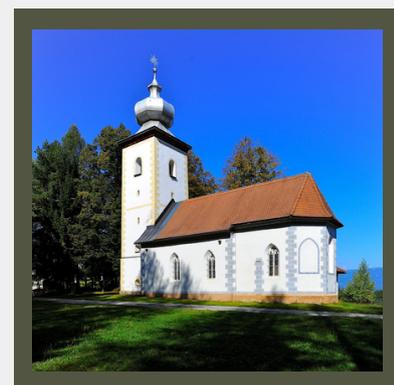


## b) Historians' Meeting

A dedicated historians' meeting in May 2025 brought together local experts and community leaders to contextualize the history of the Annahütte, linking previous research with local narratives and laying the groundwork for future public interpretation.



# Annahütte Project (Austria/ Slovenia)



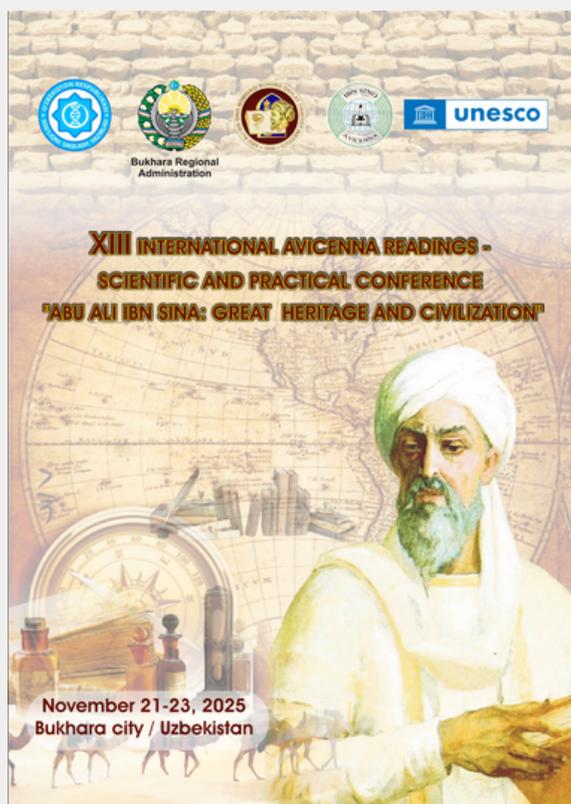
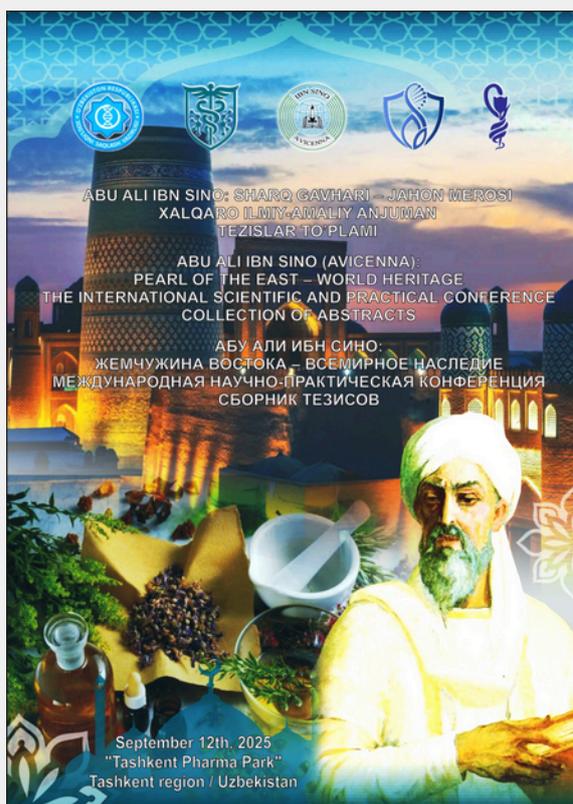
# Education & Training

## Avicenna Conference Publications

ARCH International published two articles in connection with two separate international conferences dedicated to Avicenna (Ibn Sina), contributing to cross-border scholarly exchange.

International Scientific and Practical Conference “Abu Ali ibn Sina (Avicenna) – A World Heritage,” held from September 12-13 in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

XIII International Avicenna Readings: Scientific and Practical Conference “Abu Ali Ibn Sina: Great Heritage and Civilization,” held from November 21-23 in Bukhara, Uzbekistan



## Protect Cultural Heritage Through Films & Cultural Icons Series

We produced educational films highlighting the urgency of protecting underwater cultural heritage and communicating its relevance to both local communities and international audiences.

This also forms part of our Cultural Icons Series, where we interview influential archaeologists and other cultural leaders who are exceptionally inspiring in their field.

In 2026, we will release our interview with Dr. Nadezhda Dubova, who will discuss her own fascinating work as well as her introduction into the field by her mentor, the world-renowned archaeologist Victor Sarianidi.

- Long-Format Interview with Dr. Nicholas Flemming
- Educational Film about the Importance of the Pavlopetri Site
- Film about Dr. Flemming’s Life and his Career Advice



Dr. Nadezhda Dubova



Dr. Nic Flemming



# Public Engagement & Event Design

## Cool Kabul

Over the last year, we built the public-facing Cool Kabul platform to share Afghanistan’s cultural history through photography, oral histories, and personal archives. The project invites audiences worldwide to engage with a largely forgotten past – while linking it to its ongoing relevance today.

In 2026, we will fundraise to turn our living archive into a **Coffetable Book** that will positively disrupt current perspectives of Afghanistan by showing an exciting glimpse into a time capsule of when its capital was a hub for fashion, culture, music and more.

## Annahütte Audio Guide

We developed a practical audio guide for the hiking trail to Annahütte, spanning from Austria to Slovenia, which is directly linked to a map that works offline as well. This long established pilgrimage route, walked frequently by locals, is transformed into an accessible and engaging format for international visitors, divided up into stations along the hike where we offer historical background and general information.

Download Tour to your Phone



## **Cities That Rise Again: Bath as a Living World Heritage City**

*An immersive audio guide exploring post-war reconstruction*

We produced a public audio walking tour through the historic parts of Bath highlighting the city's post-war reconstruction and its evolution into an UNESCO World Heritage city shaped by both loss and renewal. The Guide comes with first-hand accounts of Bath residents who lived through WWII bombing raids.



Download Tour to your Phone



## **Europa Nostra – Heritage Champions Nomination**

We nominated the Albanian group We Are the Theater for the Europa Nostra *Heritage Champions Award*, recognizing their innovative, community-driven and persistent approach to mobilizing civil society around heritage protection.



## **European Association of Archaeologists (EAA) – Heritage Prize Nomination**

We prepared the nomination of Dr. Nic Flemming for the 2025 European Archaeological Heritage Prize, highlighting his decades of impact and relentless dedication across archaeology, heritage protection, and public advocacy.

## Paris-Kabul Race of 1970 – Planned Exhibition

We are currently putting together an exhibition for 2026 on the historic and iconic Paris-Kabul Citroën Race, a 16.500-kilometer rally from Paris to Milan, Belgrade, Sofia, Istanbul, Tehran, Kabul and back, in 29 days. The event attracted more than 1,300 young competitors in almost 500 vehicles, who gathered at the start in Paris on Saturday, August 1, 1970. Our partners and sponsors in this ARCH exhibition concept – using adventurous travel as a lens through which to explore cultural exchange and global connection – are the Qatari Embassy in Kabul and Ariana Television Network.



## Papoura – Urgent Action Appeal (Petition)

We supported an urgent action appeal to mobilize public support for the protection of the Papoura site, a Minoan architectural circular structure, on the island of Crete, demonstrating the importance – and effectiveness – of collective action in moments of immediate heritage risk.

After ARCH’s post on X was re-shared and reached more than 8,000 views, the issue gained wider public attention. Shortly afterwards, the local citizens’ group contacted us with the following message:

*“We wanted to thank you so much for all your kind support these past days - it really means a lot to us. Also, we wanted to share some very positive news: Last week, the Regional Council of Crete unanimously adopted a resolution calling for the protection of the Papoura site, opposing the radar installation next to it. It’s an important and hopeful step! So grateful to have you following this with us.”*



# ARCH-Europe Blog – Call for Contributions

*Your ideas can inspire others - please share them!*

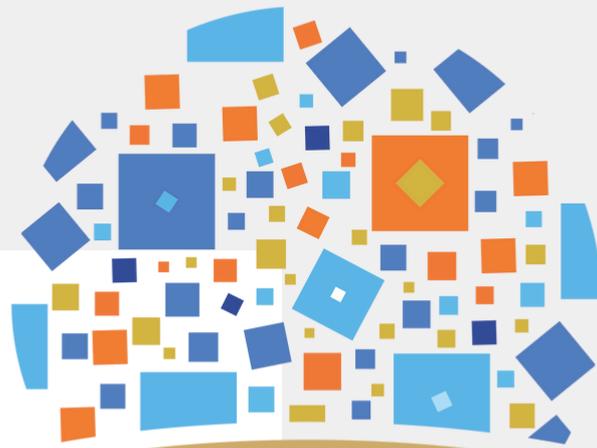
The ARCH-Europe Blog is an open platform for thoughtful, accessible writing on cultural heritage. We welcome contributions from researchers, students, and community voices on topics including heritage protection, oral history, and participatory approaches—especially projects engaging families and children.

## Supporting ARCH International

ARCH International is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to protecting cultural heritage – always in close collaboration with communities on the ground.

**Our work depends on the generosity of supporters like you.**

Donations are tax-deductible, and every contribution – large or small – helps sustain our research, advocacy, education, and public engagement work.



**ARCH**  
ALLIANCE FOR THE RESTORATION  
OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

# Thank You!

**We thank you for your interest in our work and wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR.**



Arrange a Zoom Call with us [info@archinternational.org](mailto:info@archinternational.org) – We'd love to connect!



Arlington, VA, USA



[www.archinternational.org](http://www.archinternational.org)