

Assisi and the Franciscan sites

Engineering geological conditions and problems:

The 26 September 1997 an earthquake involved a great part of the Umbria region.

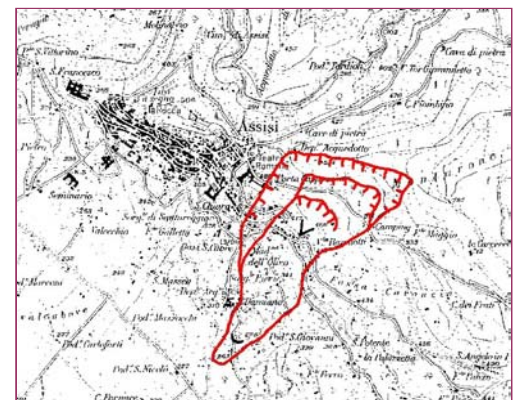
The monuments of Assisi, especially the Church of St. Francis were severely damaged.

The church is made up of two buildings: a higher and a lower part. The lower part is the older one. During the earthquake, part of the arched ceiling of the higher building fell down killing four people.

The seismic problem is not the only one. Several landslides are distributed along the hills where the town was built. The most important one is located in the Rinascita - Ivancich area. The landslide activated in 1955 and menaces the eastern part of the town (see the second image).



The cathedral of St. Francis
(www.moveaboutitaly.com)

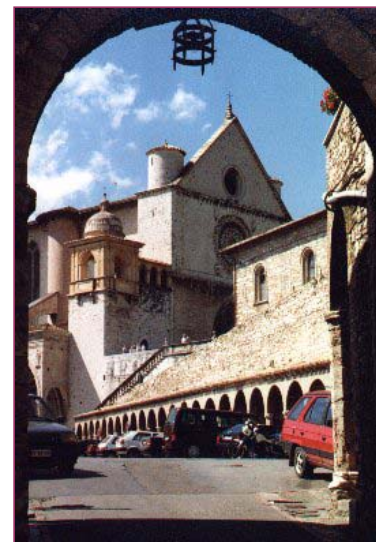


Landslide in Ivancich area (www.gndci.it)

Investigations and protection measures already realized:

From the architectural and artistic point of view, all the paintings and the artistic buildings damaged by the earthquakes have been restored.

Actions have been taken in order to improve the safeness level of the Cathedral of St. Francis.



The cathedral of St. Francis
(www.moveaboutitaly.com)

Supplementary information:

The town of Assisi represents an example of a sanctuary – city for its position and for the umbro-roman and medieval origins. Assisi is the place of birth of the Franciscan religious order, therefore, from medieval time onward, the town is strictly associated with the cult and the diffusion of the Franciscan movement in the world. All the important buildings and churches of the town are linked with the figure and the person of St. Francis and St. Clare. Assisi was inserted in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2000.

References on studies already done:

ALBERY E., BELLI G., CENTRONI C. E MENCINI L. (2000) “Strumenti innovativi per l’analisi e la documentazione dei beni artistico culturali l’uso di stereofotocarta e stereospace nella Basilica di S. Francesco di Assisi” – Atti della 4° Conf. Naz. ASITA, Genova, 3-6 ottobre 2000, 383-388.

CNR – GNDCI “Progetto AVI – Aree vulnerate italiane - Censimento delle aree italiane storicamente vulnerate da calamità geologiche ed idrauliche” (www.gndci.it)