

Historic centre of Urbino

Historical background - Engineering geological conditions and problems:

The origin of the town are probably prehistoric, but Urbino knew a big prestige in the Roman period as a fortress and especially in the Renaissance period with the dynasty of Montefeltro. Urbino is famous in the world because gave the birth to two important Italian artists, like Raffaello and Bramante.

The historic centre of Urbino is in a seismic zone. A long sequence of earthquake is known since 1279. On 30 September 1789 the cathedral was almost completely destroyed and then reconstructed.

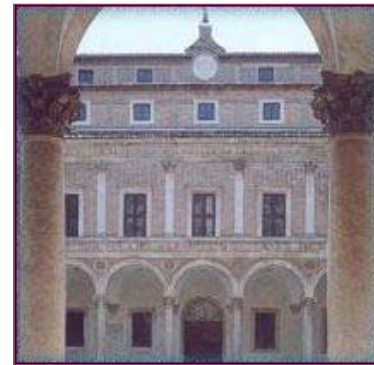
The last big earthquake happened on September 26, 1997 and involved a great part of central Italy. The architectural buildings damaged by the shocks were the church of S. Francis, the cathedral and a part of the ducal palace.

An earthquake of moderate intensity, without any damage, happened in 2002.

On June 10, 1992 a rainstorm triggered landslide caused part of the city walls to fall.



A view of the historical centre of Urbino
(www.terremalatestiane.net)



The internal court of the Ducal Palace
(www.guidamarche.com)

Investigations and protection measures already realized:

The restoration of the buildings damaged by the earthquake is still going on.

Supplementary information:

The Committee decided to inscribe the historic centre of Urbino in the list in 1998, because during its short cultural pre-eminence, Urbino attracted some of the most outstanding humanist scholars and artists of the Renaissance, who created there an exceptional urban complex of remarkable homogeneity, the influence of which carried far into the rest of Europe. Urbino represents a pinnacle of Renaissance art and architecture, harmoniously adapted to its physical site and to its medieval precursor in an exceptional manner.



The Torrioncini
(www.guidamarche.com)

References on studies already done:

BUSDRAGHI P. e VENERI F. (2003) "I materiali lapidei impiegati a Urbino nell'antichità: i travertini". Atti I Congresso nazionale AIGA, CHIETI 19-20 Febbraio 2003, 127-137.

GNDICI "Progetto AVI – Aree vulnerate italiane - Censimento delle aree italiane storicamente vulnerate da calamità geologiche ed idrauliche" (www.gndci.it)