DECOR, an ERC-funded project based in Department of Classical Archaeology at Christian-Albrechts-Universität zu Kiel, is engaged in a comprehensive analysis of the decorative principles employed in Roman Italy between the Late Republic (early 2nd century BC) and the end of the early Imperial period (late 1st century AD). It is the first research programme of its kind to move away from analyses of single decorative elements in isolation and to focus instead upon their correlation and interaction. This comprehensive approach is being applied to a range of spatial contexts, including houses, sanctuaries and streets, enabling an examination of the changes that decorative principles underwent according various structural and functional characteristics.

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International Colloquium
Materiality as Decor:
Aesthetics, Semantics and Function
June 3-6, 2020
via ZOOM
Programme

All time specifications refer to UTC +1 (Berlin)

Thursday, June 4

13:00 Annette Haug and Adrian Hielscher
Introduction

Session 1 | Transformation of Surfaces

15:00 Simon Barker
Wall Revetment: Materiality and Perception in Central Italy during the First Century AD

16:00 Dora D’Auria
Elaborating Domestic Decorations at Pompeii in the II c. B.C.: the Role played by Materiality

17:00 Jessica Plant
Sticky Surfaces: Recontextualizing Stucco Reliefs in Roman Households

Friday, June 5

Session 2 | Performance of Materiality

10:00 Christian Beck
The Visibility of the Architectural Structure: Non-plastered Walls

11:00 Dennis Beck
Value and Semantics of Coloured Marble Columns in Late Republican and Early Roman Empire

12:00 Jörn Lang
Non arte, sed naturae? Optische Effekte am Beispiel römischer Kameen und Kameogefäße

13:00 Lunch Break

Session 3 | Imitation of Materials

14:00 Manuel Flecker
Ästhetisierung des Alltags: Skeuomorphism and Intermateriality in the Age of Augustus

15:00 Benj ﬀin Engels
Marble Wicker and Brazen Bones: Modes of Transmaterial Design in Ancient Artefacts

16:00 Lynley McAlpine
Desirability and Decorum of Exotic Marble in Roman Wall Painting

17:00 Lea Cline
Function and Fakery in the Floors of Villa A at Oplontis (Torre Annuzziata, Italy)

Saturday, June 6

Session 4 | Material follows function?

10:00 Tobias Busen
The humble material: building fabric in Roman architecture?

11:00 Adrian Hielscher
Marble Tables in Pompeian Houses: Interconnectedness of Functionality, Aesthetic and Semantic

12:00 Ellen Swift
Materiality and Object Design: perspectives from everyday artefacts

13:00 Lunch Break

Session 5 | Material and Semantics

14:00 Anna Anguissola
Gold, gilding and the material biographies of objects

15:00 Arne Reinhardt
Ubiquitous yet precious? Diverging trends in the semantics of terracotta in Roman Imperial Architecture

16:00 Matthias Grawehr
Travertine in Rome. Style and Meaning

17:00 Dominik Maschek
The Semantics of Building Materials in Late Republican Architecture

18:00 Final Discussion