Restoration of Mosaic Replica from Stolac

The mosaic is dated to the 3rd century AD and it is just a part of a 16x6m big scene with the Minotaur and the labyrinth. In 2009 on workshop, this mosaic replica was made with original tesserae from excavations when floor mosaic was discovered, in 1894. On that workshop mosaic's edges were finished without any logic. At the beginning of treatment dimension were 56,3x41x3,6cm (picture 01).

Basic mechanical cleaning was conducted with brushes and sponges, so that thick layer of filth and dust would be removed from surface. The first thing, after cleaning, that needed to be done was removing incorrect edges. Mortar of that edges had been removed all to the tesserae (pictures 02,03,04).

Original tesserae from Stolac were carefully cleaned and sorted by color and size (pictures 08,09,10). Clay was added on edges in the level of mosaic, because that is only material that can keep tesserae and can be removed after that part of the restoration process. Tesserae were placed in clay respecting the original pattern (pictures 05,06,07).

When all tesserae were on their places, they had to be glued with some natural (origin glue and thin layer of cellulose paper to consolidate surface (pictures 1,12,13,14,15).

When glue was dry, mosaic was ready to be rotated and clay was ready to remove. After all clay was removed tesserae left glued to paper (pictures 16,17,18,19). Wooden frame was made and situated around mosaic (picture 20).

At the end, after merging new plaster in frame with old one, new dimension are 68,5x47x4,1cm (picture 21). When plaster went dry, mosaic was rotated. Surface was cleaned with warm water because glue was reversibly. (picture 22)

Literature references:
BUSULADZIC, Adnan, Umjetnost antičkih mozaika na tlu Bosne i Hercegovine, Sarajevo : Zemaljski muzej Bosne i Hercegovine, 2008