

(Carol's research, cont. from page 3)

Apparently the city buried itself. Rome is sinking, but that's not the whole story. Under one Romanesque church (the Basilica of St Clement) modern excavations have uncovered the intact structure of the smaller 4th century church it replaced. Some of its arches were filled in, and extra columns added for support, but the new church simply rose on top of the old, and it was forgotten. Under the old church visitors can continue down through visible time into a narrow Roman street and the remains of a 1st C apartment building. Beneath these are the ancient Roman aqueducts and the rubble of Rome that burned in Nero's great fire. The end wall of a Roman church in the Forum has recently been replaced with windows so that visitors can look two stories down into the excavated interior of the 3rd C BCE Temple of Jupiter Stator, which had been incorporated into the 6th C church's outer wall and foundations. The story is repeating itself all over the city.

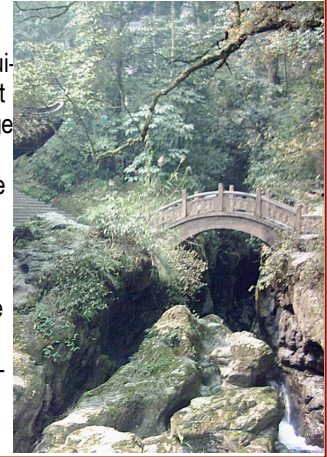
Somehow, these images leave me awestruck. They seem so rich in symbol and metaphor that I hesitate to intrude. I feel as if I have been balancing on the fragile surface of a deep crust of life, unaware of the secrets beneath my feet. Mysteries lie there, and perhaps answers. Our pasts. Whole lives. Worlds we never suspected. And beneath it all, tunneled in the tuff (a soft volcanic stone that hardens when exposed to air), are the labyrinthine passages of the catacombs where the dead lie in their painted chambers.

I'm not sure why, but it leaves me feeling hopeful." --Carol

NEWS

Word is that Tapestry friend **Margaret Hiza Redsteer**, Ph.D. (Crow), a geologist at the USGS, has been named recipient of that organization's most recent Diversity Award. Margaret is Project Coordinator of the USGS Navajo Nation Studies, part of the USGS Global Change Research, Climate Change Studies programs.

Harrison Adams, scholar, son of Tapestry's Dawn Adrian, recently visited the city of Chengdu, in the mountainous western area of Sichuan Province. Harrison, who speaks and writes Mandarin, has been studying Asian religions, especially Buddhism, in southern China, and now prepares to study with a Taoist Master. On Spring Equinox, he was part of a group that visited UNESCO World Heritage Site Mt. Emei, one of the Four Sacred Mountains of China. The photo of the macaque on the first newsletter page is from there, as is this image. Both were taken by Harrison and are used with permission. Harrison contributes to Tapestry's understanding of culture and nature, for use in our programs.



The photo on the newsletter front page and the top of Carol's article (previous page) show the inside of the basilica Santi Cosma e Damiano. That image is from the Wikipedia commons, Nina Aldin Thune the photographer. The church has a more ancient temple to Jupiter beneath it that's being excavated. Its exterior can be seen in this image (below, left) taken by Anthony M., also posted on the Wikipedia Commons. More of Anthony's work may be seen on his Flickr site, at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/93226994@N00>. Here's what it looks like from the inside (below, right), where the glass wall has been installed so worshippers in the Basilica can see down into the excavation of the older temple to Jupiter. This photographer is Lalupa, and the image is again from the Wikipedia Commons. The doors you see are the same ones seen from the outside in the previous image. That gives you an idea of how far above the old street level the new street level -- and the Basilica floor -- are!



Obviously, Carol is using more detailed images in her research, but those are not yet available for use in public media. We very much appreciate the resource of images provided by the Wikipedia Commons, and thank the photographers who've contributed.