

Dr. Goran Nikšić (from Split, Croatia) Delivers AIA's Charles Elliot Norton Lecture at SDSU

On Friday, October 13, 2017, seventy-five *lucky* attendees --- ranging from octogenarian community members, to SDSU students, faculty and staff, to a ten-year-old 5th grader --- gathered in Arts & Letters 101 to hear Dr. Goran Nikšić share a talk entitled "Diocletian's Palace - Design and Construction." Dr. Nikšić was hosted by the San Diego Society of the Archaeological Institute of America (founded 1961) and the SDSU Department of History and his visit was coordinated by San Diego AIA President and SDSU Associate Professor of History, Elizabeth Pollard. Nikšić's lecture was part of the 110-year running Charles Elliot Norton Lectureship of the AIA, which hosts "one or more distinguished archaeologists for a course of lectures... preference to be given to European scholars." Dr. Nikšić is the City Archaeologist and Architect for City of Split in Croatia and the Senior Lecturer on architectural conservation at the University of Split. A few years ago, Dr. Nikšić was recognized with the "Vicko Andrić," a national award in Croatia in the field of conservation of cultural heritage for his efforts with the restoration of the Peristyle of Diocletian's Palace in Split. His talk on October 13, 2017, at SDSU discussed the different parts of Diocletian's Palace (including a unique water-supply system), imagined the thought process of the architect who designed the palace, and offered a compelling argument for the palace as a wool-manufacturing center overseen by Diocletian after his retirement from his role as Roman Emperor (284-305 CE).



Figure 1: E.A. Pollard (Associate Professor of History and President of the San Diego Society of the AIA) introduces the speaker, assisted by her daughter Amelia Kirkegaard (complete with Indiana Jones hat).



Figure 2: Dr. Goran Nikšić delivers his 60-minute lecture to a packed A&L101 at 7:30PM on Friday the 13th (10/13/17). A mix of community members, students, and SDSU faculty and staff attended.