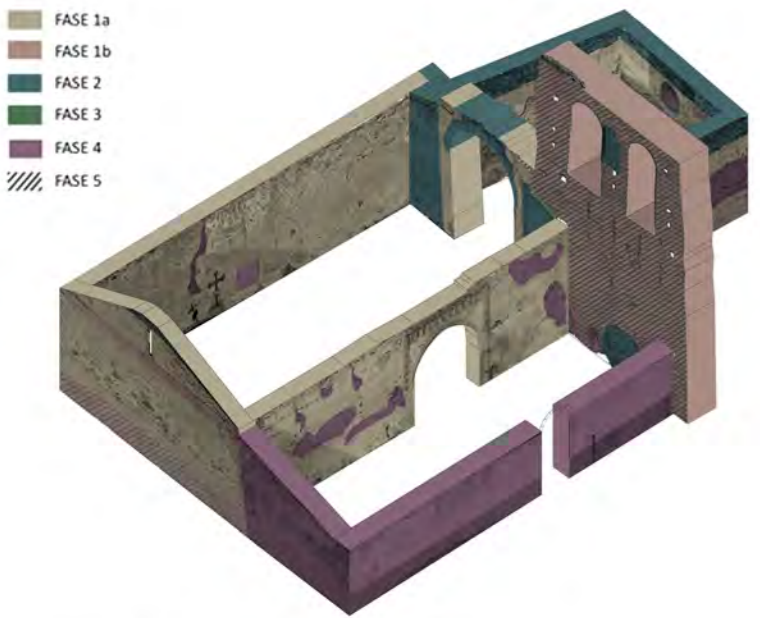




# Chapel of Santiago

Lost in the moors close to Gargantilla de Lozoya (pop.368), Madrid, Spain.



## ROYAL WEDDING OF PRINCESS JUANA IN 1470.

According to the historical study carried out by the Comunidad de Madrid, it is probably in this chapel of Santiago where princess Juana married by proxy Charles of Berry son of Charles VII, king of France in October 1470.



**MUDEJAR CASTELLANO**  
The Chapel is one of the few examples in Madrid of Mudéjar, the characteristic medieval Spanish architecture style mix of Christian and Muslim influences. However, years of neglect, and especially the lack of roof, are quickly damaging its architectural values.

**AUTHORITIES SPOTTED IT**  
In the last 3 years the General Directorate of Heritage of the Comunidad de Madrid invested money in emergency repairing works and more recently in archaeological and historical studies.

## PROs

- + Historical significance
- + Architectural value
- + Authorities are interested.
- + Rural tourism development
- + In use (graveyard...)



### IN USE, BUT AS A GRAVEYARD...

Paradoxically the use of the former chapel as a graveyard has kept the building alive. However the new use also caused big damage to the construction: adaptation and poor restoration works have been carried on uncontrolled in the last 50 years.



### LOCAL DEVELOPMENT OF RURAL TOURISM

A restored 1968 tourist train will link the area with Madrid. However, the train station will still be more than 5 miles away from the Chapel...



### ISOLATED

Although the Lozoya Valley and the County of Buitrago have been historically important places, today the area is clearly secondary and keeps losing population. The traditional economy, based on animal husbandry, is now being replaced by tourism, which however does not really work.

## CONs

- Area of low population: ISOLATED
- Far away from any town: VERY ISOLATED
- In use, but as a graveyard
- Neglected and decayed for years
- Very difficult economic environment

### VERY ISOLATED

The chapel lies in the middle of nowhere: 20 minutes away from the closest village, by the new graveyard. On the other hand the surrounding landscape, the Lozoya Valley, is clearly an asset.

### ECONOMIC CRISIS

And this is one of the biggest problems. The severe crisis in the country has brought heritage to the background for both public administrations and private sector.

