

courtyard paved with baked bricks, through which a large hall, probably a reception room, was accessible via a recessed door. On the courtyard side the wall of this hall is buttressed. This arrangement is strongly reminiscent of the public wings in the afore-mentioned EJZ 3b palaces, the Beydar central palace, and also Palace F at Khuera. Inside the large room is a platform, leading the excavators to suggest that the room served both as a banquet and throne room.²²⁰ Behind the reception room there is another large room, which might alternatively be regarded as a throne-room.²²¹ The Eastern Palace is not yet completely excavated thus no final conclusion on its overall functional organisation can be drawn. Nevertheless, a typical scheme of EJZ 3 palaces can be deduced from the three examples presented.

5.4.3 Period EJZ 4

Palatial architecture is characterised by a discontinuity between Periods EJZ 3 and EJZ 4. At Khuera, Palace F is transformed into a workshop area for pottery production in Level 1a-b, which corresponds to Period Khuera I E (= EJZ 4).²²² The palace had been gradually abandoned during the earlier Level 2a and the workshops of Phase 1 installed in its ruins. At Beydar the palace in Area F was totally abandoned in Period EJZ 4.²²³ This hints at a general discontinuity in political order between the two periods.

A different picture is visible at Mozan/ Urkesh. Here, the so-called "Tupkish Palace" (or Palace AP) was constructed in Period EJZ 4. Its two main Phases, 3 and 2, date to this period.²²⁴ The huge palace, still incompletely excavated, is divided into two separate wings located on different terraces: the formal wing to the E, and the service wing to the W (Fig. 47).²²⁵ The formal wing is arranged around a huge central courtyard paved with large flagstones (H3).²²⁶ It is remarkably different from the baked brick pavement of the palace at Beydar, but has a parallel in the courtyard of Khuera's Palace F (see above).²²⁷ The courtyard at Mozan is bordered on the S side by a unit of small regularly arranged rooms (H4-6, I1-3). A reception room and throne room within the formal wing, typical of EJZ palaces (see above), has not yet been exposed.

The service wing consists of two parallel room units with a similar layout. Each unit is arranged around a long central room (A5/ C5) with an *iwan*-like annex to the S (A2/ C2).²²⁸ This *iwan*-type of room is already attested in Period EJZ 3b in the palace at Beydar (see above), but at Mozan it does not have pillars at the front. The central room of this tripartite unit has a lateral wing on both sides consisting of two or three smaller rooms. At the N end each unit is closed by a broad room (B /D) separating the tripartite unit from a brick paved courtyard (F) to the N, from where both symmetrical units were accessible. A peculiar feature is the existence of a tiny chamber (1.8 x 1.3m), called a "closet" or a "vault" by the excavators and situated in one corner of each broad room in the tripartite unit.²²⁹ Both closets are located perfectly opposite to each other within the two broad rooms, upholding the overall symmetry of the tripartite units. They are accessible through an "*iwan*"-like annex to the broad room. The closets, which have thick walls and a recessed entry, are interpreted as having served for the storage of special goods. The two units of the service wing contain an oven and a hearth,²³⁰ a toilet,²³¹ a basin (possibly a scribal installation),²³² and a subterranean drain.²³³ The floor deposits yielded many seal impressions,²³⁴ thus an economic as well as a residential function can be assumed. When compared with other EJZ palaces, the tripartite units are remarkably reminiscent of the residential wing on the upper terrace of Palace F at Khuera, which has a similar tripartite layout (see above). The two separate units in the Mozan palace were perhaps used as living and storage areas for different social units within the palace. The integration of two parallel tripartite units into one sector of the palace is a very peculiar arrangement unparalleled at other EJZ palaces. Furthermore, the "closets", the *iwan*-arrangement, and the symmetrical layout are unique characteristics of the Tupkish palace. They provide this building with a very distinctive character compared to other EJZ architecture.

²²⁰ Pruss & Schmitt 2009: 19 f., Plan p. 26.

²²¹ Pruss 2008: 16, 19.

²²² Orthmann & Pruss 1995: 124 f.

²²³ Lebeau 2003b: 26.

²²⁴ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 2002a: Fig. 2.

²²⁵ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 1995a; 1995b; 1995-96; 1996a; 1996b; 2000; 2001; 2002a; 2004; Buccellati 1998; 2005.

²²⁶ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 2004: 14-19, Fig. 2-4.

²²⁷ Compare: Orthmann & Pruss 1995: 122.

²²⁸ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 2000: 142 f. (the excavators introduced the term "*iwan*" for the S part C2 of room C5).

²²⁹ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 1995a: 391, Fig. 4; 1995-96: 4 f., 28; Fig. 3, Photo 3.

²³⁰ Buccellati 1998: 21, 27, Fig. 5.

²³¹ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 2000: 142.

²³² Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 2000: 141-146.

²³³ Buccellati 2005: 19-21.

²³⁴ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 1995-1996: 6 ff.; 1995b: 65 ff.

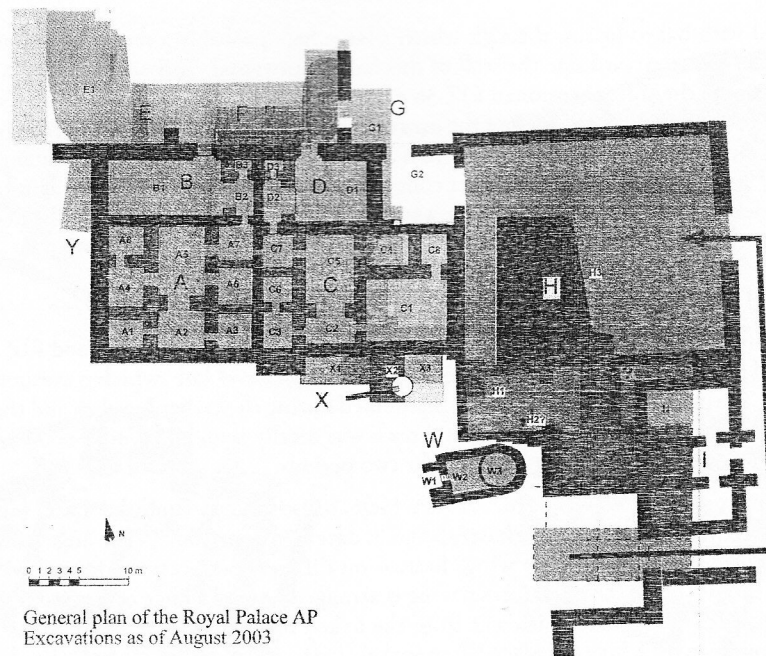


Fig. 47: Mozan, Tüpkish Palace, Phase 2-3, EJZ 4 (Buccellati 2005: Fig. 3; modified by G. Buccellati) (with kind permission of G. Buccellati).

At Leilan the so-called “Akkadian Palace” belonging to Period EJZ 4 is recorded on the NW Acropolis (Fig. 48).²³⁵ It is attributed by the excavators to Leilan Period IIB, corresponding to the Akkadian period (EJZ 4). The building, as yet incompletely excavated, is fortified and bordered by a glacis. Inside the 6.6m wide defensive walls are several rooms containing a large number of ovens and interpreted as the grain processing facilities of an administrative institution. Two other rooms were identified as a granary and a “tablet room”. Besides this, no other palatial features such as a courtyard, reception or throne room, or other typical architectural units have been recorded yet. Thus, no clear functional or architectural characterisation of the building is currently possible. There is a later occupation of the palace area during Leilan Period IIc (= end of EJZ 4 or EJZ 5), dated by C14 samples to around 2140 BC, but it is not clear whether the four remaining rooms maintained palatial functions.

The most famous, and most disputed, palace of Period EJZ 4 is the Palace of Naram Sin at Brak, excavated by Mallowan in 1937/38²³⁶ and investigated further in later years.²³⁷ The building is clearly dated to the Akkadian period (EJZ 4) on the basis of inscribed bricks with the name of the Akkadian king. The huge building measures 111 x 93m in size, two thirds of which have been excavated (Fig. 49). Only the foundations of the building survived, making architectural reconstruction difficult. The regular architectural layout is structured around a huge square central courtyard, 41 x 41m in size, and three smaller courtyards in the N part of the building, arranged parallel to each other with regular dimensions of 18 x 18m, 18 x 15m and 15 x 15m. All courtyards are surrounded by a single or double row of oblong rooms, all with a standardised width of 2.2m, and probably used for storage. No larger, typical palatial rooms were documented. Based on the enormous thickness of the 10m wide outer wall and on the interior arrangement of rooms, it has been proposed that the building was a “fortified storehouse”.²³⁸ This identification is supported by the discovery of burnt grain in three of the storerooms²³⁹ and cuneiform tablets mentioning people and commodities such as grain.²⁴⁰ Thus, the building probably served a purely administrative and economic purpose. This contrasts with other EJZ 4 palaces, with the possible exception of the Akkadian Palace at Leilan.²⁴¹ There is, despite the differences in dimension, a striking similarity of the Naram Sin Palace with the layout of the Pusham House at Mozan (see above). This might reflect similarities in the economic function of both buildings, albeit on a different socio-political scale.

²³⁵ All information given here is taken from the Leilan webpage: http://leilan.yale.edu/about/dig_sites/acropolis_northwest/index.html; see also: de Lillis Forrest et al 2004; de Lillis Forrest, Milano & Mori 2007; Weiss et al. in prep. (the palace is also referred to as “Dudu Palace”, but this provisional designation has been dropped; H. Weiss, personal comm.).

²³⁶ Mallowan 1947: 63-68, Pl. LIX-LXI.

²³⁷ Oates & Oates 2001a: 19-21, Fig. 15-19.

²³⁸ Oates & Oates 2001a: 19; Oates 2007: 171.

²³⁹ Mallowan 1947: 63 f.

²⁴⁰ Mallowan 1947: 66; Gadd 1940: 60 f.

²⁴¹ The latter needs to be more fully excavated in order to verify this assumption.

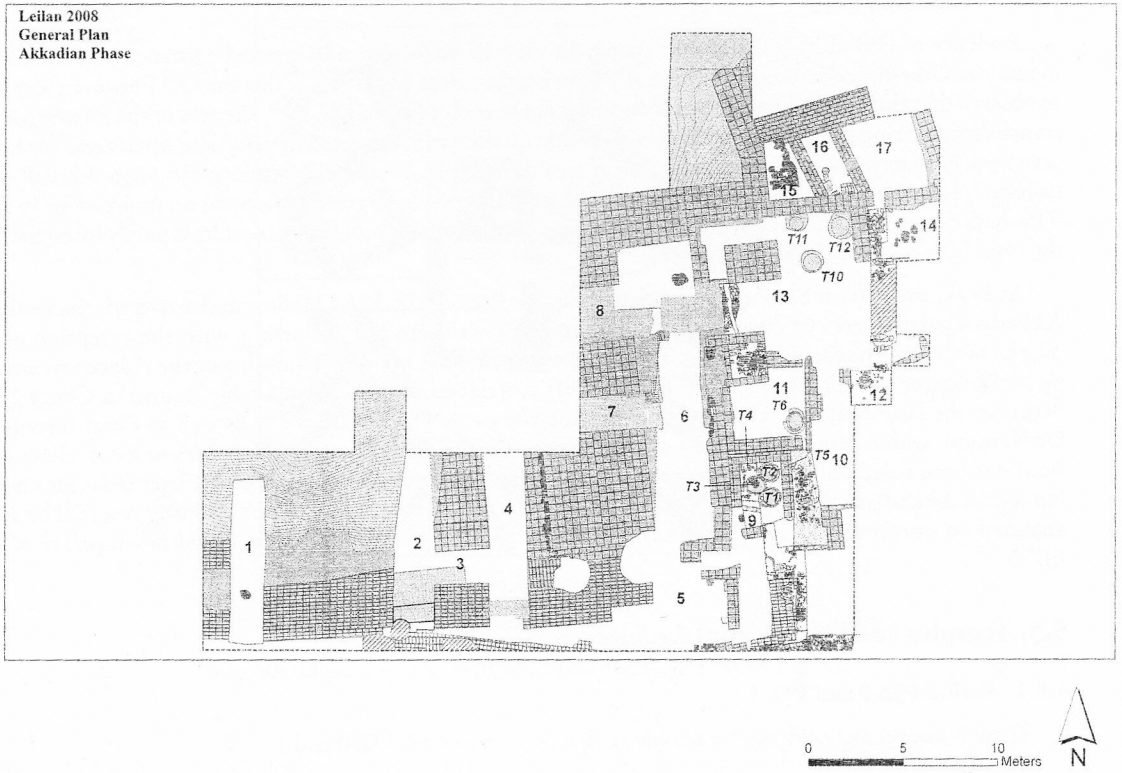


Fig. 48: Leilan, Acropolis Northwest, Akkadian Palace, Leilan Period IIb, EJZ 4 (Leilan webpage; and: Weiss et al. in prep.) (with kind permission of H. Weiss).

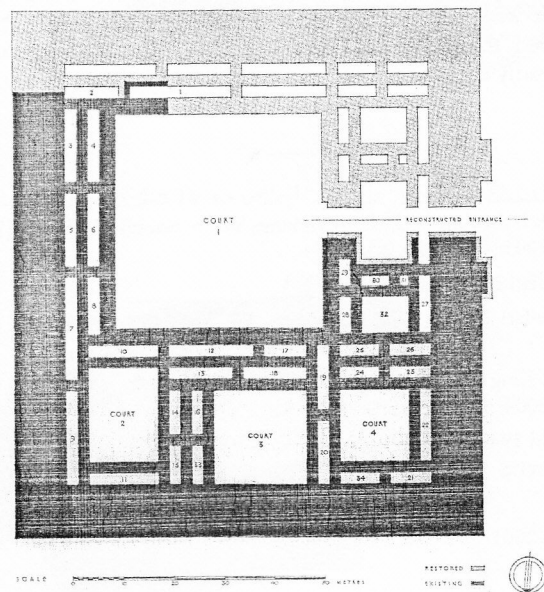


Fig. 49: Brak, Area CH, Naram Sin Palace, Brak period M, EJZ 4 (Mallowan 1947: Pl. LX).

5.4.4 Period EJZ 5

Evidence of Period EJZ 5 palaces is sparse. In view of the historically attested existence of a local Hurrian dynasty at Urkesh, there should theoretically have been a palace in Mozan at this time.²⁴² However, it is striking to observe that the Tupkish Palace was abandoned at the end of Period EJZ 4.²⁴³ The area of the former palace was transformed during Period EJZ 5²⁴⁴ into a domestic quarter with scattered housing and open areas for domestic activities. Probably, a palace was constructed at an alternative location within the city, although this still needs to be found. It is interesting to note that a royal seal, probably of a local ruler, was found on impressions in the EJZ 5 Pusham House. This indicates that the economic activities of this building were at least partly interrelated with the royal household of Urkesh at this time.²⁴⁵

At Brak, the Naram Sin Palace was reused during Period EJZ 5. As Mallowan discovered, the walls of the Akkadian palace were cut down to floor level and new walls erected, following, with the exception of Room 32, the outline of the earlier building. The floors were raised by 3m. The rebuilding of the palace was attributed by Mallowan to the Ur III-period (= EJZ 5). This correlation was based on a tablet found in Court 2, in the debris of the later building, and probably bearing the name of Ur-Nammu,²⁴⁶ as well as a seal inscription of Ur-Nammu, which came to light in a rubbish dump.²⁴⁷ The existence of Ur-Nammu's name in these inscriptions has been ruled out by a later re-study of the texts.²⁴⁸ Thus, an Ur-III date for the later palace is uncertain, but a post-Akkadian, Brak period N (= EJZ 5) date of the Naram Sin successor building can still be strongly assumed on purely stratigraphic grounds.²⁴⁹ Thus, it still can be counted as the only known palace of Period EJZ 5.²⁵⁰

5.5. Temples and Ceremonial Architecture

5.5.1 Period EJZ 0 and EJZ 1

There is not yet any evidence for temple architecture in Periods EJZ 0 and 1.

5.5.2 Period EJZ 2

An early Syrian JZ temple has been documented at Raqa'i, Level 3 (EJZ 2).²⁵¹ It is a free-standing shrine, 5.4 x 4.5 m in size, erected within an open courtyard surrounded by an enclosure wall (Fig. 50).²⁵² The "cella" is a bent axis room accessed through a door framed by buttresses and located close to the N end of the room. In the interior, there is a stepped altar podium on the N wall, flanked by a second, lower podium. In the middle of the room, at floor level, are the remains of a hearth. Two small side rooms, accessed separately, are attached to the N side of the "cella". The structure has been defined as a temple, primarily because of its conspicuous divergence in plan from the other houses at Raqa'i and the discovery of an altar.²⁵³ This interpretation has been challenged due to the similarity of the rooms and particularly of the altar podium to the houses at Khuera with their house altars.²⁵⁴ Consequently, the so-called "temple" at Raqa'i could be interpreted as a Khuera-type house with an ancestor altar or as a small shrine for family ancestors.

²⁴² As generally accepted, this is the time of the Hurrian kings Shatar-mat und Atal-shen (Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 2002a: 106 f. Fig. 19; 2002a: 113-115; 2005: 42-44, Tb. 2.).

²⁴³ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 2002a: 106-109, Fig. 2-3.

²⁴⁴ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 2002a: 113 f.; 2004: 15, Fig. 8d.; 2005: 29; Buccellati 2005: 23; Pfälzner & Dohmann-Pfälzner, in press.

²⁴⁵ It is the seal impression of King Rimush, not to be equated with Rimush of Akkade, but probably a local ruler of Urkesh dating to the Ur III period (Volk 2004: 95-98, Abb. 4; Pfälzner & Dohmann-Pfälzner, in press; Pfälzner, in press).

²⁴⁶ Mallowan 1947: 69; Gadd 1940: 61 (last paragraph); unfortunately the reading of the king's name is questionable and the tablet probably a writing exercise.

²⁴⁷ Mallowan 1947: 69.

²⁴⁸ Eidem, Finkel & Bonechi 2001: 109 (No. 23), 111 (No. 40).

²⁴⁹ Oates & Oates 2001a: 15-19.

²⁵⁰ The palace has recently been connected with the reign of the local Hurrian king Talpuš-atali, dated to the post-Akkadian time (including the Ur III period); see: Oates & Oates 2001a: 15; 2001 b: 393 f., Fig. 376.

²⁵¹ Level 3 is dated by Quenet, this volume to the final EJZ 2 period.

²⁵² Curvers & Schwartz 1990: 12-13, Fig. 8, 12; Schwartz 2000: 167-170.

²⁵³ Curvers & Schwartz 1990: 12; Schwartz 2000: 170-177.

²⁵⁴ Pfälzner 2001: 175, 309.

the mound. Two rooms and *tamanir* could be identified, at least demonstrating that there was domestic occupation at the site during Period EJZ 5.²⁰³

In summary, the few substantial examples of EJZ 5 domestic architecture at Mozan and Brak represent large, well-built and prosperous houses. This contradicts the general assumption of impoverished urban living conditions during this last phase of the 3rd millennium. It rather hints at the existence of wealthy households involved in supra-regional activities during this time.²⁰⁴

5.4. Palaces

In line with the general development of political structures in the EJZ period, no palaces are attested in periods EJZ 0, EJZ 1 or for most of EJZ 2. The earliest palatial building attested in the region dates to the end of Period EJZ 2.

5.4.1 Period EJZ 2

The oldest palatial building dating to the EJZ period is the so-called “Leilan IIIId Palace”, situated on the city’s Acropolis (Fig. 42). The part of the building excavated corresponds to Levels 17-16, dating to the end of Period EJZ 2.²⁰⁵ The walls are up to 1m wide and it has two groups of storage rooms, one comprising nine rooms, and the other three. More than 80 ED IIIa style seal impressions were found. These were associated with the building itself and an ash layer on top of it. Most of the storage rooms are very small, the largest one (Room 1) measuring 2.6 x 2.3m. In view of this and the fact that sealings are also widely present in EJZ period domestic contexts,²⁰⁶ it is possible that this complex of rooms was not actually palatial in nature. It could equally have been the storage area of a non-palatial communal, religious or private context. Thus, EJZ 2 palatial architecture remains obscure.

5.4.2 Period EJZ 3

Aside from the ambiguous Leilan (Period IIIId) evidence, JZ palatial architecture is first fully attested in Period EJZ 3. Palace F at Khuera has been documented for three phases: Building Levels 2b and 2a date to period “Khuera ID late”, whilst Building Level 3 dates to period “Khuera ID early”.²⁰⁷ Both of these local phases correlate with Period EJZ 3b. The largest exposures pertain to Level 2, whilst Level 3 possibly represents an earlier phase of the building, only reached by soundings in a few places.²⁰⁸ The palace is not centrally located, but is positioned with its back attached to the inner city wall. In the main building phase, Level 2b, the palace is strictly rectangular in outline, although it is terraced (Fig. 43). The central residential area is located in the upper terrace

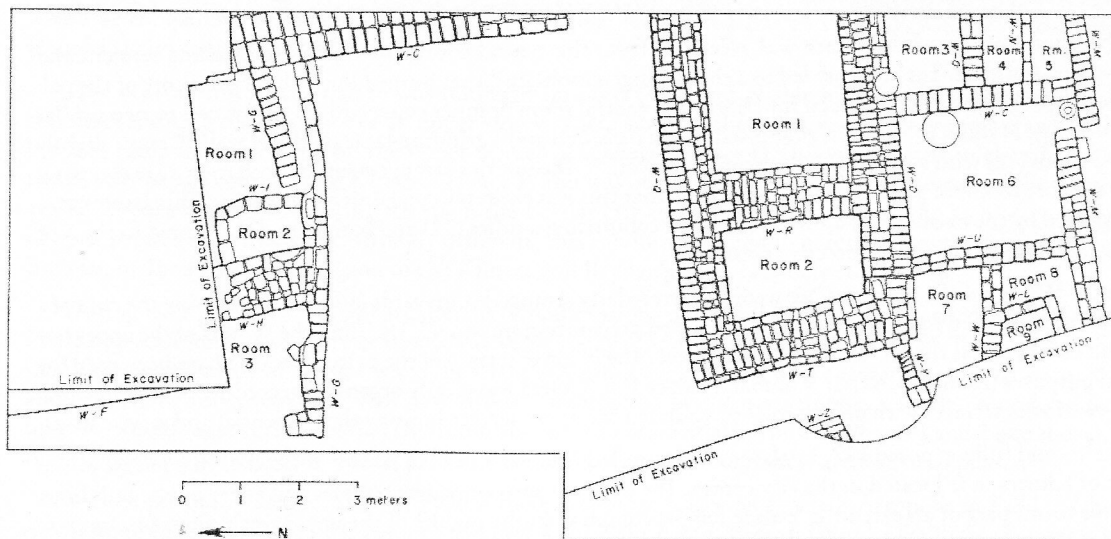


Fig. 42: Leilan, Acropolis, Levels 17-16, so-called “Leilan IIIId palace”, EJZ 2 (Calderone & Weiss 2003: Fig. 3).

²⁰³ Tunca & Miftah 2007: 13 f., Fig. 2.18a.

²⁰⁴ See: Pfälzner 2010: 4-10; in press.

²⁰⁵ Weiss 1990b: 209-213; Calderone & Weiss 2003: 194-197.

²⁰⁶ See: Pfälzner 2001: 232-239.

²⁰⁷ Orthmann & Pruss 1995: 121 f., 139 f.

²⁰⁸ Ibid. 122-124, Pl. 17-20, Beilage 15; Pruss 1998a; 2000a; 2000b; Orthmann 1990b: 25, Fig. 19.

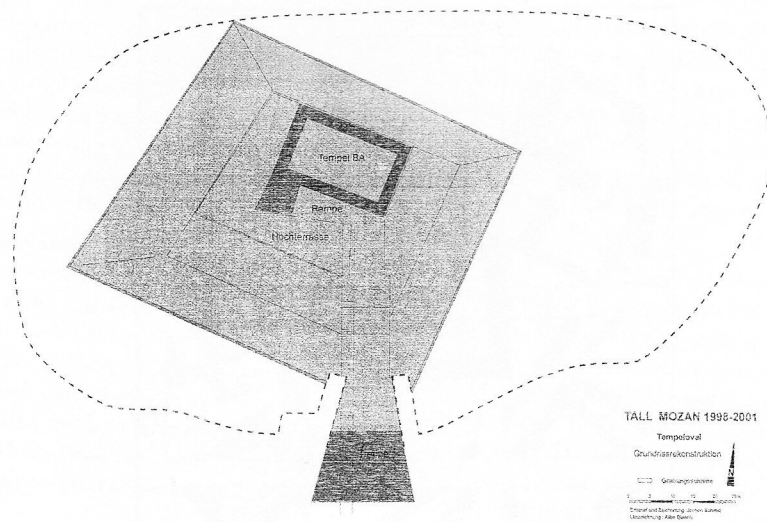


Fig. 53: Mozan, Area B, Temple terrace, Stage II, EJZ 3.

At Kashkashok III, Area A, there is one building that may have functioned as a temple. It is a freestanding, single-roomed structure (Room 13) measuring 6 x 8 m with thick outer walls and a bent axis entrance (Fig. 51).²⁵⁵ The interior has an altar on the W side as well as buttresses and benches on both the N and the W sides. The building belongs to Level A IV, which dates roughly to the end of Period EJZ 2 or the beginning of EJZ 3.²⁵⁶ The closest parallel is to the so-called "temple" at Raqa'i, although this too cannot be firmly identified as a cultic building (see above).

At Brak, a temple was excavated in Area HS4 (Fig. 52). This was initially constructed in Level 5 and rebuilt in Level 4.²⁵⁷ Both levels date to Period Brak K (EJZ 2). The structure is a single-roomed-shrine of 8 x 4.5 m although the location of the entrance is unclear. Inside there are benches along one long and one small wall and a free-standing altar along the central axis. In front of this, at floor level, is a rectangular hearth. Despite the correspondence in date, this structure is clearly distinct from the Raqa'i "temple" with regard to interior organisation: at Raqa'i, the altar is not detached from the back wall, nor does it have benches. These dissimilarities hint at a difference in function. Nevertheless, due to the lack of distinctive religious objects inside the cella of the Brak temple, its identification as a temple remains inconclusive. Indeed, the same set of installations, with the exception of a free-standing altar, are also characteristic of EJZ houses.²⁵⁸

The huge temple terrace at Mozan/Urkes, located on the high tell in the city's centre, was built during Period EJZ 2 (Fig. 53). Two floor levels were identified (Phases BS 6a and 6b) both dating to this period. These were connected to the mud-brick ramp substructure leading up to the high mud-brick terrace.²⁵⁹ These structures define Stage I of the temple oval. Thus, the temple at Mozan is the oldest known monumental temple building in the Syrian Jezireh. The exact layout of the temple in Period EJZ 2 is not yet known. The existence of a ramp and high terrace (see below) is clear. The ramp did not yet have its broad horizontal stone revetments. Also, there is no evidence for the existence of the stone-built, oval temenos wall in this early period. Nor is the temple building, which stood on top of the terrace, yet attested with a floor level of Phase EJZ 2, although it can be hypothetically assumed that the EJZ 3 cella on the terrace (see below) already existed in this period.

5.5.3 Period EJZ 3

Period EJZ 3 is characterised by the existence of large temple precincts. The temple oval at Mozan/Urkes is one of the most prominent examples. The huge mud-brick terrace, designated Stage II of the temple oval, evidently existed at this time.²⁶⁰ It is a monumental construction of mud-bricks which vary in size and quality. The structure has an exposed height of 4 m, and a calculated total height of 9 m, based on the assumption that the terrace reaches as far down as the foot of the ramp and staircase. The mud-brick terrace has only been exposed in a 2 m wide test trench, but based on results of the geomagnetic survey, it can be deduced that the rectangular terrace was roughly 45 x 55 m in

²⁵⁵ Suleiman & Taraqji 1995: 179, Fig. 32; Suleiman 2002a; 2002c; and: ARCANE database.

²⁵⁶ See: Quenet, this volume.

²⁵⁷ Matthews 2003d: 109-115, Fig. 5.18-5.29.

²⁵⁸ Pfälzner 2001: 146-153, 165 f., 169-176.

²⁵⁹ Dohmann-Pfälzner & Pfälzner 1999: 39, Fig. 15; Pfälzner 2008b, 411 f.; Pfälzner & Dohmann-Pfälzner, in press.

²⁶⁰ Pfälzner 2008b, 412 f.; Pfälzner & Dohmann-Pfälzner, in press.

site (Fig. 53).²⁶¹ The Mozan temple terrace is a “high terrace” in the S Mesopotamian sense and can be compared in dimension to the known Early Dynastic examples at Ur, Uruk or Nippur.²⁶² It provides clear proof that during the mid 3rd millennium, the idea of a *Ziggurat* was not limited to Southern Mesopotamia but also existed in the Syrian JZ.²⁶³

The high terrace was accessible via a ramp protruding over 20m to the S from the edge of the terrace. Its core is constructed of mud-brick and it is trapezoid in shape, ranging from a width of 12m in the upper part to a maximum of 23m near the bottom. On the surface of the terrace were three low stone walls, forming a slight, step-like terracing on the upper side of the terrace block. This was intended to facilitate and direct the ascent from the ramp to the centre of the terrace. On top of the terrace was a temple building, Temple BA.²⁶⁴ It is a single-shrine building with a bent-axis entrance and a stone altar block situated along the central-axis of the room. The room is particularly large, with an interior of 9 x 16.5m. Buccellati reconstructs it with a gabled roof,²⁶⁵ however Pfälzner argues for a flat roof.²⁶⁶ On the floor of the cella a rich pottery assemblage, typical of Period EJZ 3b was found,²⁶⁷ providing a precise date (*terminus ad* and *ante quem*) for the temple and the Stage II high terrace, on which the temple was built.

From a general urban point of view and based on Early Dynastic comparisons in Southern Mesopotamia (el Obeid, al-Hiba, Khafajah) it is plausible that the huge oval temenos wall surrounding the high terrace already existed during Period EJZ 3 which correlates to the final ED II and ED III period of the S. However, the lowest excavated level of the oval wall is associated with an EJZ 4 floor (Level C8), thus an earlier construction date cannot (yet) be proven archaeologically. The same is true for the stone staircase covering the ramp of the high terrace,

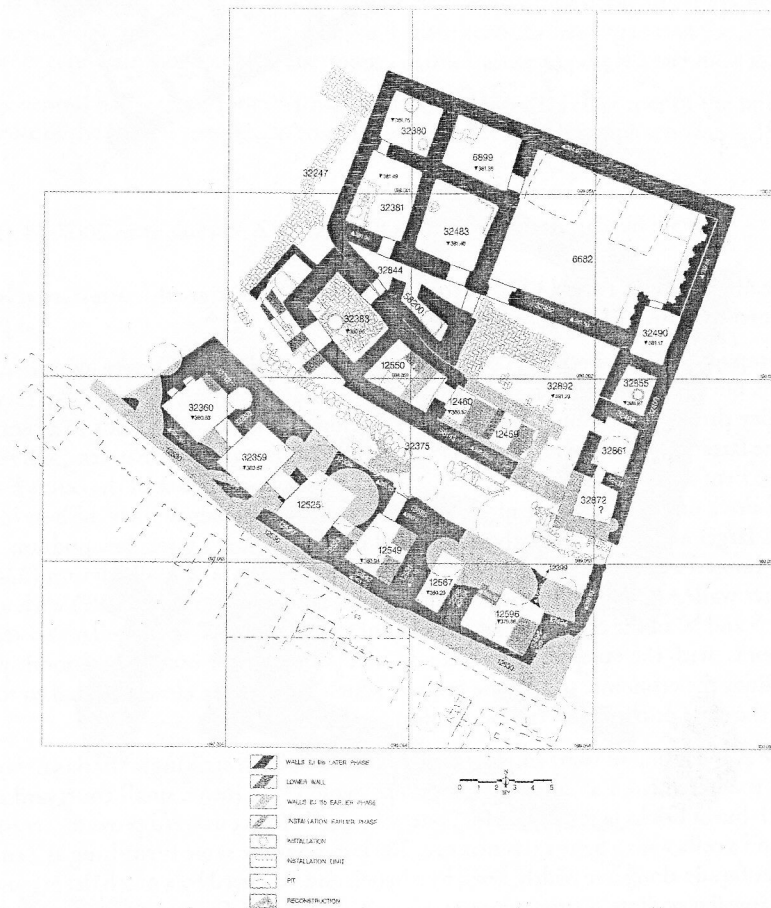


Fig. 54: Beydar, Area F, Temple A, Phases 1-2, EJZ 3b (Dezzi Bardschi & Stenuit 2007: Pl. 2).

²⁶¹ Dohmann-Pfälzner & Pfälzner 1999: 29-39; 2002a, 172-179; Pfälzner 2008b: 410, Fig. 11.

²⁶² Pfälzner 2008b: 419-422.

²⁶³ Pfälzner 2008b: 425-428.

²⁶⁴ Buccellati 1988: 59-61, Fig. 9-11, ill. 6-13; Buccellati 1998: 18-21; Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 1995a: 389, Fig. 3; Kelly-Buccellati 1990: 125-129.

²⁶⁵ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 1995a: 390, Fig. 3; 2005: Fig. 3; Buccellati 2005: Fig. 1.

²⁶⁶ Pfälzner 2008b: Fig. 16.

²⁶⁷ Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 1988: 65-66, ill. 12-13; 1995a, 390 f.



Fig. 55: Beydar, Area F3, Temples B and C, EJZ 3b (Suleiman 2007: Pl. II).

which plausibly already existed in Period EJZ 3. However, its earliest stratigraphic attestation is likewise in connection with the aforementioned EJZ 4 floor (Level C8) (see below).

A number of temples dating to Period EJZ 3b (Temples A, B, C, D, and E) were excavated at Beydar. They differ in dimensions but all belong to the same characteristic Beydar type.²⁶⁸ Temple A, 25 x 30m in size, is accessed from an alley through a vestibule (32383) and a narrow corridor, which leads to a central square courtyard (Fig. 54).²⁶⁹ The latter is paved with burnt bricks arranged in a herringbone pattern (32892). The courtyard gives access to a large bent-axis cella (6682) 9 x 7.5m in size. The whole inner face of the cella's E wall is decorated with a series of mud-brick niches, with every niche recessed twice. A small bench lines the base of the niched wall. One of the niches is larger and deeper than the others and in front of it is a large, low podium. It is argued that this niche probably housed a cult image.²⁷⁰ In the SE corner of the cella is a small adytum (32490), also with a niche-decorated outer wall. Another door opens from the cella into a small room (6899) with a toilet. There are side rooms to the E, S and W of the courtyard and a group of rooms to the W of the cella, also accessible from the courtyard. These rooms, with the exception of a second toilet (12550), were used for economic purposes, mainly storage. This underlines the economic role of the temple, which seems to be closely related to the palace. This is also highlighted by the close proximity of the two buildings.

South of Temple A is a group of two temples, Temple B and C, both strikingly similar in layout and fittings (Fig. 55). Temple B is entered from an alley up some steps, which lead into a small courtyard containing a flat basin and paved with burnt bricks laid in a herringbone pattern.²⁷¹ The courtyard provides access to a staircase, a room with a toilet and a cella with a bent-axis entrance. The latter has the same furnishing as Temple A: a double-recessed niched inner façade along one width, lined by a bench and bordered by a much deeper and broader niche, in front of which a large flat podium is situated, resembling a "cult niche". From the cella a second toilet room can be reached, and to one side is a room equipped with two short benches, probably used for storage.

Temple C, situated parallel to Temple B, has a different kind of entrance. The courtyard is entered from the E side through a vestibule, from where access is gained to a staircase.²⁷² The courtyard is again paved with burnt bricks laid in a herringbone pattern. The temple is identical in layout and in approximate dimensions to Temple B:

²⁶⁸ Lebeau 2004.

²⁶⁹ Bretschneider 2003: 93-106, Fig. 41-56, Plan 6-9; Bretschneider, Cunningham & Jans 2007: 41-43, Fig. 1-2; Dezzi Bardeschi & Sténuit 2007: 53-61, Pl. 1-2, Fig. 1-7.

²⁷⁰ Bretschneider 2003: 98.

²⁷¹ Suleiman 2003b: 169-170, Fig. 1-4, Plan 18-19; 2007: 85-88, Fig. 1-5, Pl. I-II.

²⁷² Suleiman 2003b: 170 f., Fig. 5-8, Plan 18-19; 2007: 85-88, Fig. 6-10, Pl. I-II.

from the courtyard there is access to a toilet room and to the bent-axis cella, with the same kind of double-recessed niched inner façade, a bench and a podium. Behind the cella one finds the second toilet room and a storage room. Temple C is additionally decorated by a niched outer temple façade along the adjoining alley. The high degree of standardisation in this EJZ 3b Beydar temple type is astonishing.

Temple D, situated to the E of Temples B and C, again follows the layout of the Beydar temple-type. The courtyard is reached through a narrow vestibule and is paved with burnt bricks in a herringbone arrangement (Fig. 56).²⁷³ From the small courtyard one can reach a toilet and two other rooms, whilst to the S it opens onto the cella. In the cella a bench and a podium are preserved close to where the niched façade must have originally been, although this has now been completely destroyed. Two smaller rooms are again accessible from the cella.

A newly discovered monumental temple at Beydar, Temple E, lies to the S of Temples B and C, and also dates to Period EJZ 3b (Fig. 57). It adopts features of the afore-mentioned smaller Beydar temples, but also reveals striking similarities with the large temple complexes FS and SS at Brak (see below).²⁷⁴ Temple E was probably accessible from the S through a courtyard paved with baked bricks again in a herringbone pattern, typical of both Beydar and Brak. From here, a huge hall (13471), approximately 20 x 16m in dimension, was accessed. On its inner E wall is a decorated niched façade, with a bench at its foot and a podium at its N end. These interior features closely resemble Temples A to D and, thus, adhere to the Beydar style of temple furnishing. The size of this room however is outstanding in comparison to the other Beydar temples but finds a close parallel in the central rooms of Temples FS and SS at Brak. At Brak they are interpreted as courtyards due to their size, however it seems, as Lebeau argues,²⁷⁵ plausible to reconstruct them as closed rooms, both at Beydar and at Brak. The vulnerable lime floors and the plastered façade make a strong case for the existence a covered space. Whilst it would have been challenging to roof the 16m space with wood, this should have been technically possible. The enormous 2m thick walls support the technical feasibility of roofing.

From this large central hall a small room with a toilet (13455) in the NE corner of the building is accessible, again a typical feature of the Beydar temples. In contrast to the other Beydar temples, however, there is a succession

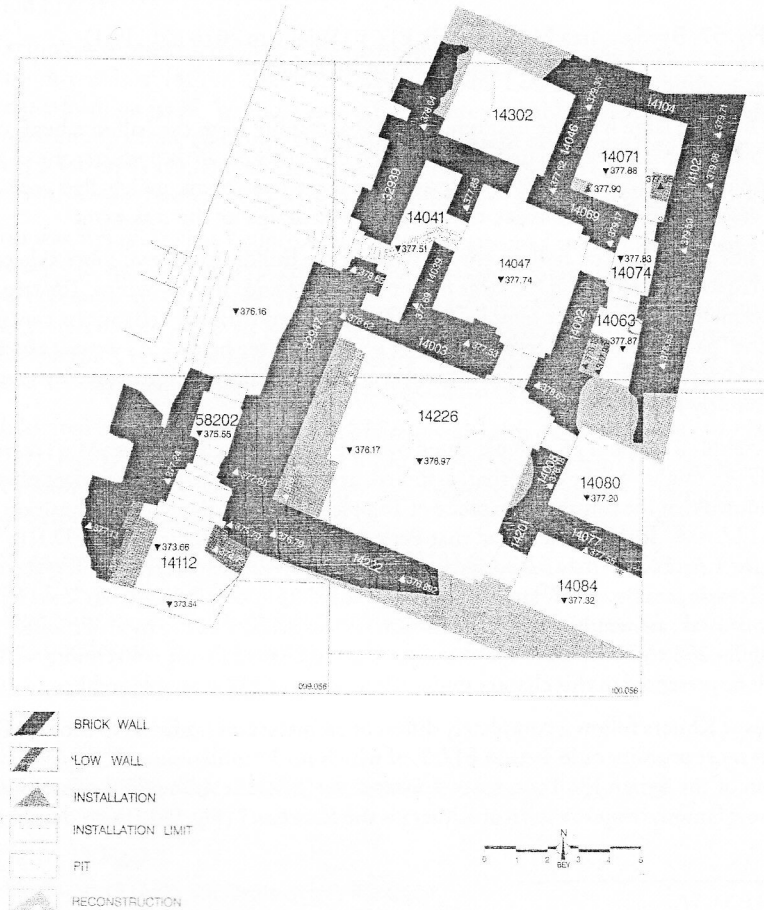


Fig. 56: Beydar, Area N, Temple D, EJZ 3b (Debruyne & Jans 2007: Fig. 3).

²⁷³ Debruyne & Jans 2007: 76-78, Fig. 2-3, 5-8.

²⁷⁴ Suleiman 2008: 13, Fig. 1, plan p. 15; 2009: 13-15, Fig. 1-2, Plan p. 18; Suleiman 2010 n.d.; Lebeau 2010 n.d.

²⁷⁵ Lebeau 2010 n.d.

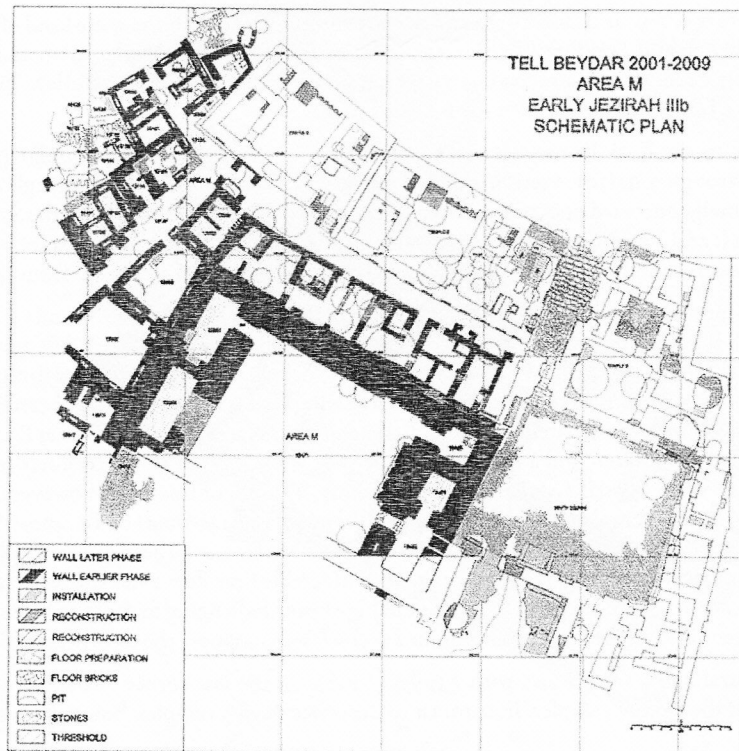


Fig. 57: Beydar, Area M, Temple E, EJZ b (Sulciman 2010 n.d.; Pl. I)
(with kind permission of M. Lebeau).

of two rooms to the E of the large hall, the first one (13496) accessible from the hall in a bent-axis arrangement, whilst the second (13461) can only be reached from the first one. This parallels perfectly the characteristic room arrangements in Temples SS and FS at Brak. Whilst at Brak, these two rooms are labelled *ante-cella* and *cella*, it seems, at least in the case of Temple E at Beydar, to be more apt to designate them as *adyta*.

On the opposite side of the central hall, in the W wing of the building, are two more side rooms. This gives the whole building a tripartite layout with the large hall at the centre and two side wings. The tripartite layout also structured the arrangement of the smaller temples B and C at Beydar, with the *cella* in the centre, but it can also be reconstructed in the (partly preserved) temples SS and FS at Brak (see below). As we saw already in the case of the Turkish palace at Mozan, the tripartite layout was also applied in palace architecture. This seems to have been a universal concept in Early JZ architecture.

The large temple complexes SS and FS at Brak, dated by the excavators to Brak Phase M,²⁷⁶ corresponding to the Akkadian period (EJZ 4), might well be older than assumed, at least with regard to their date of construction. The excavators already assumed that the construction phase of Temple SS, Level 5, dates to the transition from Brak Phase L to M (= EJZ 3b to EJZ 4).²⁷⁷ It should be noted that Period EJZ 3b correlates with the ED IIIb/ early Akkadian (pre-Naram-Sin) phase.²⁷⁸ An EJZ 3b date for both temple complexes is particularly plausible given the striking similarities to the plan of Temple E at Beydar,²⁷⁹ and furthermore would be in keeping with our knowledge regarding the historical importance of Brak, ancient Nagar, during the pre-Akkadian period, the time of the “Kingdom of Nagar” (Brak Phase L, ca. 2450 – 2350/2300 BC).²⁸⁰ Nevertheless, the established dating conventions will be followed and the two buildings will be presented in this chapter under the heading of EJZ 4 temple architecture (see below).

The EJZ 3 temples at Khuera follow a completely different architectural tradition to those at Beydar. Here, the *temple in antis* type is most prominent in Period EJZ 3, of which no 3rd millennium examples have been recorded for the Khabur region of the Syrian JZ. Thus, there appear to be different sub-regions of architectural traditions within the JZ. The most famous *temple in antis* at Khuera is the *Steinbau I* (Fig. 58). The oldest phase of the temple

²⁷⁶ Oates & Oates 2001a: 41, 73.

²⁷⁷ Ibid. 73. The arguments brought up by the excavators against an EJZ 3b date of complex SS (Oates & Oates 2001b: 391 f.), mainly stressing the non-local character of the SS architecture, are not valid any more, especially with regard to new discoveries at Beydar (see above).

²⁷⁸ Pfälzner 1998: 70, Fig. 1; Dohmann-Pfälzner & Pfälzner 2000: 191, Fig. 2.

²⁷⁹ See: Lebeau 2010 n.d.

²⁸⁰ Oates & Oates 2001b: 380-383; Eidem, Finkel & Bonechi 2001: 100 f.

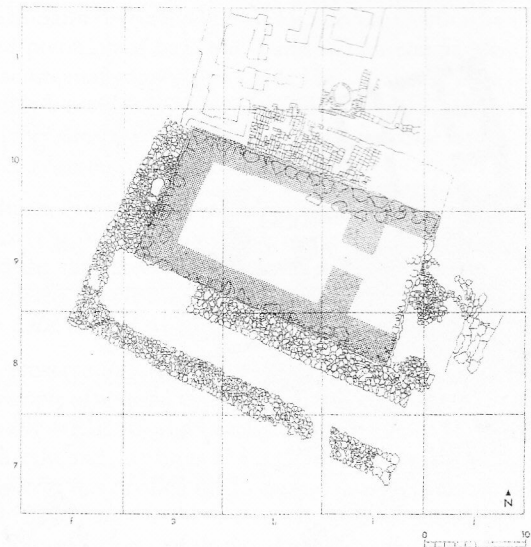


Fig. 58: Khuera, Steinbau I, EJZ 3a & 3b
(Orthmann 1990b: Fig. 9).

precinct, Level 7, dates back to Period EJZ 3a (Khuera Phase IC). Levels 6-1 of the *Steinbau I* temple precinct date to the succeeding Period EJZ 3b (Khuera Phase ID)²⁸¹. The stone temple platform itself was built during Phase 7b, i.e. within Period EJZ 3a.²⁸²

Steinbau I temple was constructed on a high platform (*"Kernbau"*) using large, sometime gigantic stone boulders.²⁸³ The structure is 26 x 14m in size with a height of 7m. Lower terraces built of stone and mudbrick are attached to the platform on its N, W and S sides. These were probably added later to stabilise the construction. The temple proper on top of the platform, built using mud-bricks on a stone foundation, was not preserved, but could be reconstructed on by studying the remains of foundations found within the podium. It was a classic *temple in antis*-type with a *cella* (interior of 15 x 10m) and a *pronaos* (5 x 10m) between two *antis* both 5m in length.²⁸⁴

The platform was accessible via a stepped ramp, obliquely attached to the platform on its E side. The ramp was initially made of stone (Stage 2) but later covered with mud-brick steps (Stage 1b).²⁸⁵ It is approximately 10m wide, thus hiding a large part of the platform's E front, and only 10m long. Adjacent to the temple platform's E and particularly N sides were dense clusters of rooms (Levels 7-1).²⁸⁶ The rooms were used for economic purposes, including storage. On the E fringe of the precinct, N of *Steinbau II*, was a bakery²⁸⁷. This clearly demonstrates the economic role of the temple, also evident at Beydar, where the four temples are surrounded by storage rooms and detached storage buildings.

Steinbau II, located in Area B 30m to the SE of *Steinbau I*, also dates to Periods EJZ 3a and EJZ 3b (Khuera Phases IC and ID) (Fig. 59).²⁸⁸ This structure was formerly regarded as a temple in its own right.²⁸⁹ However, a re-study of the area showed that it actually functioned as a *propylon*-type entry building to the vast temple complex extending from there up to *Steinbau I*.²⁹⁰

Steinbau III, corresponding in date to *Steinbau I* and II (EJZ 3a and 3b), consists of a large stone platform with dimensions of 16 x 14m and 4m in height (Fig. 60). The platform was accessible via a monumental, 13m wide and 21m long staircase, of which 14 regularly laid stone steps have survived.²⁹¹ The building has proven difficult to interpret functionally. Its initial excavators suggested that it was a temple on a high platform or perhaps

²⁸¹ Meyer 2010c: 14.

²⁸² Orthmann 1995: 34, 43-46.

²⁸³ Moortgat 1960a: 22-32; 1960b: 12-35; 1962: 22-42; 1965: 6-9; Orthmann 1995: 17-28.

²⁸⁴ Orthmann 1990b: 15-17, Fig. 9

²⁸⁵ Orthmann 1995: 24-28, Fig. 5-7.

²⁸⁶ Moortgat 1960b: 20-31; 1962: 23-35; Orthmann 1995: 28-37.

²⁸⁷ Klein & Orthmann 1995: 73-75, Pl. 11a-b; 12a.

²⁸⁸ Meyer 2010c: 14.

²⁸⁹ Moortgat 1960a: 25; Orthmann 1990b: 18, Fig. 10; 1990c: 253.

²⁹⁰ Klein & Orthmann 1995: 76; Fig. 32.

²⁹¹ Moortgat 1965: 9-11; 1967: 4-8; Moortgat-Correns 1975: 36 ff.; Orthmann, Klein & Lüth 1986: 34-37; Orthmann 1990b: 19-20; 1990c: 251-253.

a monumental grave.²⁹² Orthmann originally argued for a reconstruction as a temple in *antis* with an open *pronaos*.²⁹³ Based on the re-interpretation of *Steinbau II* and on new comparative data, it now seems more plausible that *Steinbau III* was a monumental gateway, preceded by a staircase on a long ramp which led into a second large temple complex, possibly located east of the *Steinbau I* complex.²⁹⁴ The ramp of *Steinbau III* is, in terms of construction and function, very similar to the ramp and stone staircase leading up to the temple terrace at Mozan (see below) and might reflect a common architectural tradition.

The “*Nordtempel*” at Khuera dates to Khuera Phase ID (EJZ 3b).²⁹⁵ It is a very clear example of a *temple in antis* and measures 15 x 9m in size (Fig. 61). The temple was erected on a flat mud-brick platform. Its foundations were constructed with stone and the superstructure was made with mud-brick. The altar, a rectangular stone slab, is situated on the central axis of the temple directly (3m) in front of the entrance. The temple building consists of a *pronaos in antis*, and a large *cella*, behind which is a long room, internally subdivided in two rooms.

“*Steinbau VI*”, newly discovered in Khuera’s city centre (Area S) and adjoining the “Anton Moortgat Place” on the N side, is another example of a *temple in antis* (Fig. 63).²⁹⁶ It dates to Period EJZ 3b and has three building phases: Level 3 (TCH ID early = EJZ 3b) and Levels 2c and 2b (TCH ID late = EJZ 3b). *Steinbau VI* is elevated on a stone platform 2m in height and measures 17.5 x 11.5m. A 4m wide staircase of seven stone steps leads up to the *pronaos in antis*. The *pronaos* was divided into a central passage and two lateral, slightly elevated areas, each with a bench along the wall. The *pronaos* could therefore be used for gatherings. The *cella* measures 11 x 7.8m and is equipped with a number of installations: an altar in the middle of the rear wall, a low podium on the N wall and a bench and a stone installation on the central axis of the *cella*, probably a hearth. The altar and the podium correspond to similar installations in the *cella* of the “*Kleiner Antentempel*”, suggesting that this type of furnishing was standard for an *Antentempel*, and probably also existed in the *Steinbau I* temple.

The smallest example of a *temple in antis* at Khuera is the “*Kleiner Antentempel*”, embedded in the dwelling Area K south of the “Anton Moortgat Place” (Fig. 62 and 64). Conventionally, Levels 1 to 5 have been referred to as a “temple”,²⁹⁷ but only the earliest Phases 1 to 3 are to be identified as an “*Antentempel (temple in antis)*”, whilst Phases 4 to 5 can be interpreted as a dwelling house with an ancestor altar.²⁹⁸ The *Antentempel* of Levels 1-3 can be dated to Khuera period ID (= EJZ 3b).²⁹⁹ It is built entirely of mud-brick, not even possessing stone foun-

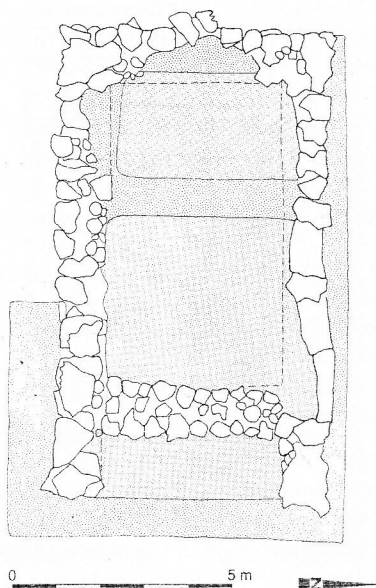


Fig. 61: Khuera, “*Nordtempel*”, EJZ 3b (Orthmann 1990b: Fig. 14).

²⁹² Moortgat 1967: 7.

²⁹³ Orthmann 1990c: 252 f.

²⁹⁴ Compare Meyer 2010d: Pl. 8, 11, 15.

²⁹⁵ Moortgat 1962: 9-22; Orthmann 1990b: 20; Moortgat-Correns 2001: 363.

²⁹⁶ Orthmann 2002: 3-9

²⁹⁷ Moortgat 1965: 12; 1967: 28-32; Moortgat-Correns 2001: 364-369, Fig. 13; Orthmann 1990b, 22, Abb. 15-16.

²⁹⁸ Pfälzner 2001: 336-338.

²⁹⁹ Dohmann-Pfälzner & Pfälzner 1996: 5-9, 13.

dations. Nor was it erected on a platform. Inside the *pronaos in antis* was a small staircase of mud-bricks (Level 2 and 3) leading up to the floor of the cella. The cella was a small room of 4 x 4.5m, with a low mud-brick platform on the left wall and a high, stepped altar with two lateral lower platforms at the rear wall.³⁰⁰ The "Kleiner Antentempel" of Levels 1 to 3 was probably an ancestor shrine. This interpretation is based on its small size, the discovery of figurines identified as ancestor statues, and its integration into an area of houses.³⁰¹

The use of heavy stone foundations and stone platforms for temples is a clear characteristic of religious architecture of Khuera.³⁰² Similar features are however found elsewhere. At Mozan a stone structure, Building XV, was documented in Area C2, Level C16 (EJZ 3a).³⁰³ It is a rectangular structure with a height of 1.5m, constructed using large stone blocks. It has a minimum size of 7 x 3.5m, but was not entirely excavated. The inside is filled with stone partition walls and mud-bricks, thus the construction possibly functioned as a platform. On the basis of the aforementioned parallels from Khuera, it could hypothetically have been a platform for a temple.

In summary, the survey of temple architecture dating to Period EJZ 3 reveals a large diversity of architectural forms. The most prominent types are: a) the "Antentempel"-type, best evidenced at Khuera, and consisting of two subtypes, one with a high stone platform and the other with no platform; b) the "Bent Axis Cella type" with an internal decorated façade, as recorded at Beydar; and c) the S Mesopotamian-style of high terrace temple, as exemplified by the Mozan temple oval.

5.4.4 Period EJZ 4

The largest and most impressive temple building of Period EJZ 4 is the temple oval at Mozan/ Urkesh (Fig. 65, 66a and 66b). It dates back to Period EJZ 2 and EJZ 3 (see above) and was used continuously through to Period EJZ 4. The well-documented remains of Period EJZ 4 are labelled Stage III.³⁰⁴ The high terrace with the temple on top and a ramp to one side still existed in this period. The precinct did however undergo one fundamental modification, first visible in Stage III of the temple oval, but hypothetically already present earlier on (Stage II / EJZ 3). An oval perimeter wall was constructed around the high terrace and ramp.³⁰⁵ The huge wall was built of stone and encloses an area of 70m (N-S) by 130m (E-W). It was first identified by geomagnetic survey, then tested by the DOG-team at three points using soundings.³⁰⁶ The American Mozan team later excavated the wall on a larger scale.³⁰⁷ The wall of large boulders must have been at least 4.3m wide.³⁰⁸ This structure is clearly reminiscent of the temple ovals in Southern Mesopotamia (el-Obeid, al-Hiba, Khafajah), to whom it is also equal or even superior in size. This architectural model seems therefore to have derived from a southern tradition (based on the EJZ 4 date of the excavated part of it) or was created simultaneously in the S and in the N of Mesopotamia (if it already existed in Period EJZ 3).

Stage III of the temple oval also includes a monumental stone staircase on top of the ramp leading up to the high terrace.³⁰⁹ The lowest excavated step is connected to an EJZ 4 floor of Level C 8, indicating that the staircase existed at least since this period. In total, 24 steps made of large stone slabs, were preserved reaching 5.4m in height. These led across the oval wall to the upper edge of the mud-brick terrace. The staircase is trapezoid in shape, 23m wide at its lower end, and it protrudes well beyond the oval temenos wall. This together with the lateral

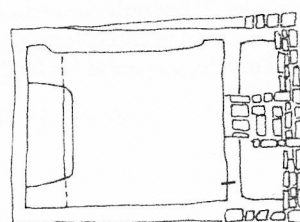
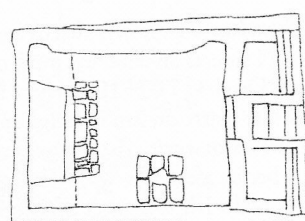
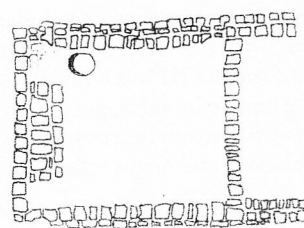


Fig. 62: Khuera, Area K, Kleiner Antentempel, architectural development of Levels 1 to 3, EJZ 3b (Orthmann 1990b: Fig. 15).

³⁰⁰ Moortgat 1965: 11-17; 1967: 8-33.

³⁰¹ Pfälzner 2001: 336 f.

³⁰² Orthmann 1990a; 1990b.

³⁰³ Dohmann-Pfälzner & Pfälzner 2002a: 156-159, Fig. 4-5; Bianchi et. al, in press.

³⁰⁴ Pfälzner 2008b: 413.

³⁰⁵ Dohmann-Pfälzner & Pfälzner 2002a: 168-172; Pfälzner 2008b: 405-411.

³⁰⁶ Pfälzner 2008b: 405-407, Fig. 11-12; Pfälzner & Dohmann-Pfälzner, in press.

³⁰⁷ Buccellati 2005, 7-10, Fig. 2; Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati 2005: 31 f., 35-37, Ill. 1-2; 2009.

³⁰⁸ Pfälzner 2008b: 409; Buccellati & Kelly-Buccellati (2005: 31) imagine an original height of 5m.

³⁰⁹ Dohmann-Pfälzner 1999: 34-39, Fig. 14; 2002a: 172-175, Fig. 14-15; Pfälzner 2008b: 403-405.

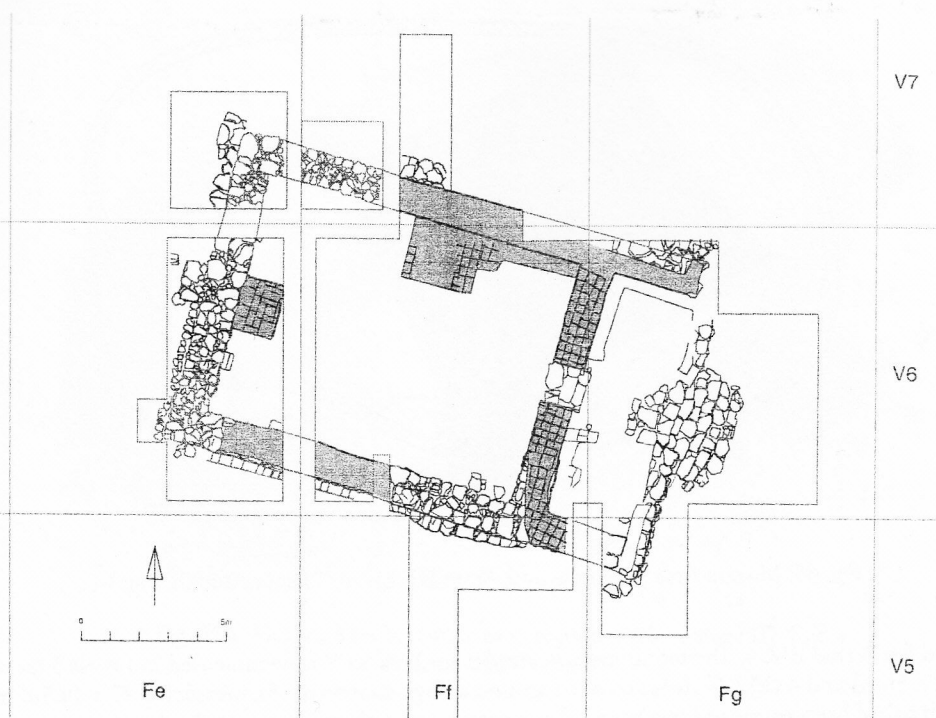


Fig. 63: Khuera, Area S, Steinbau VI, Phase 2c, EJZ 3b (Orthmann 20023: Fig. 1).

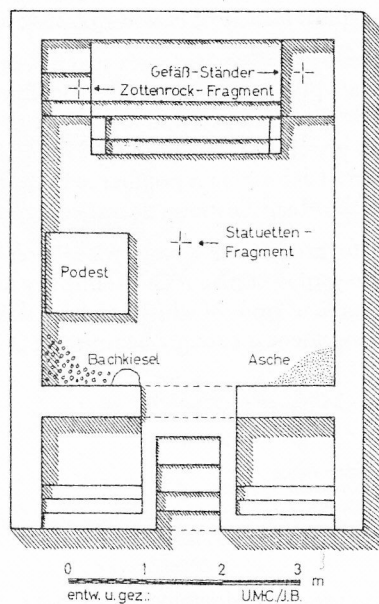


Fig. 64: Khuera, Area K, Kleiner Antentempel, internal installations of Level 2, EJZ 3b (Moortgat 1967: Fig. 7).

stone revetments of the ramp give the staircase, situated in the city centre, a monumental, eye-catching appearance (Fig. 66b).

The two temple complexes at Brak, SS and FS, differ in architectural type from the temple oval at Mozan, although they are similarly impressive in dimensions, monumentality and layout. As noted above, the construction of both temples may date back as far as Period EJZ 3b, but the most intensive use of the two complexes

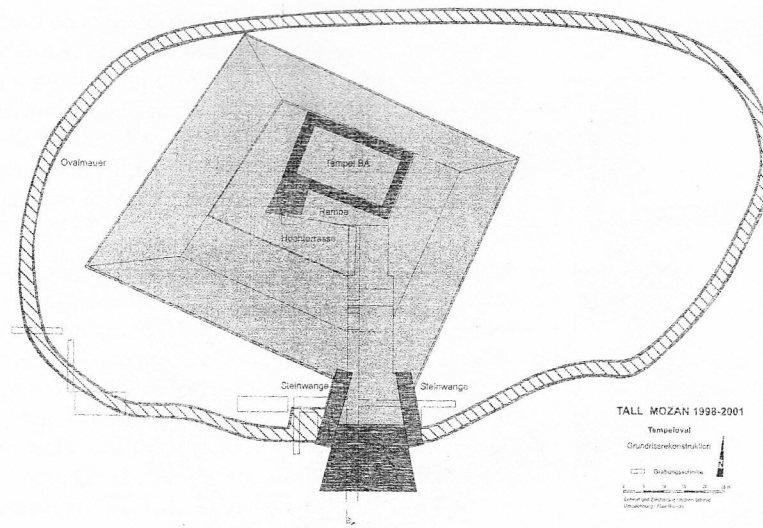


Fig. 65: Mozan, Area B, temple oval, Stage III, EJZ 4 (Pfalzner 2008b: Fig. 14).

is recorded for Period EJZ 4. The monumental complex in Area SS³¹⁰ is documented in Levels 5 (construction period, EJZ 3b/4) and 4 (EJZ 4). It is arranged around a huge courtyard (8), measuring 27 x 14.5m in size and paved with baked bricks arranged in a herringbone pattern, as is characteristic at Beydar. The central courtyard is surrounded by a regular row of rooms, each with a 5m wide opening onto the courtyard (Fig. 67). The E, S, and W sides all have three such rooms, and northern side just one. The openings are framed by monumental "rebated piers", and a central column or pillar was situated in the middle of the openings, as it was recorded in Rooms 15 and 16. This "iwan"-type of architecture can also be observed in palace buildings of the JZ, such as in the Acropolis palace at Beydar (EJZ 3b) and the Turkish Palace at Mozan (EJZ 4) (see above). It therefore seems that the use of an *iwan* type layout is a typical feature of Period EJZ 3b/4 political and religious architecture.

The interiors of these *iwan*-rooms are highly decorated with two repetitive features (Fig. 68): double niches, arranged on top of one another, with the upper one having two-stepped recesses and the lower ones being unrecessed; and a wall decoration of regularly spread thin vertical mud ribs, either plain or fluted, made using vertical finger impressions. Both features are best preserved in the *iwan*-type Room 5 on the N side of the courtyard, but they also exist in many other rooms. The wall decoration is peculiar to Brak, and is used exclusively in the SS building complex. The fact that it is not found elsewhere illustrates the variety of local styles present in EJZ architecture.

The N side of the great courtyard is furnished with a very typical ceremonial façade. In the N wall, located roughly along the central axis of the courtyard is a broad niche, framed by tower like buttresses. Inside the niche is a smaller recessed niche and a high bench, in front of which is a huge dais, consisting of a stone slab lying on the floor and 3 x 1.85m in size. This arrangement is strongly reminiscent of the courtyard in Palace F at Khuera

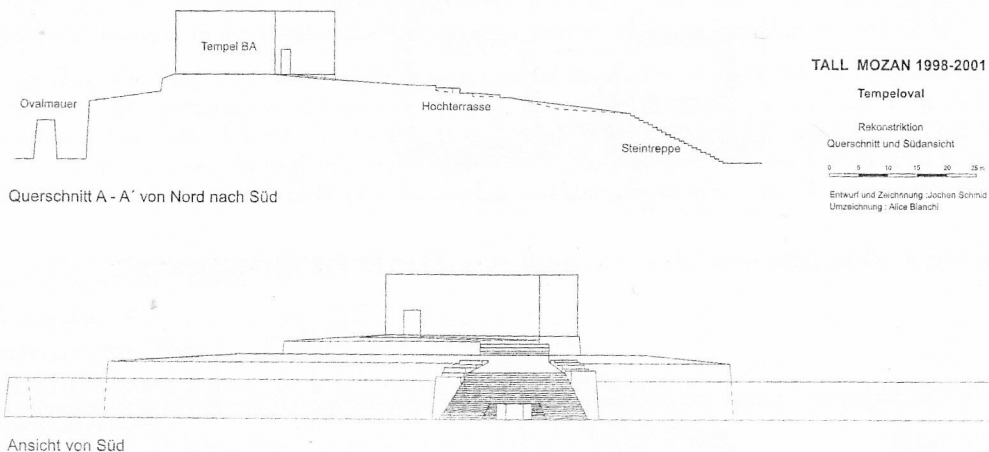


Fig. 66a: Mozan, Area B, temple oval, reconstruction, Stage III, EJZ 4 (Pfalzner 2008b: Fig. 15).

³¹⁰ Oates & Oates 2001a: 73-92, Fig. 91-129.

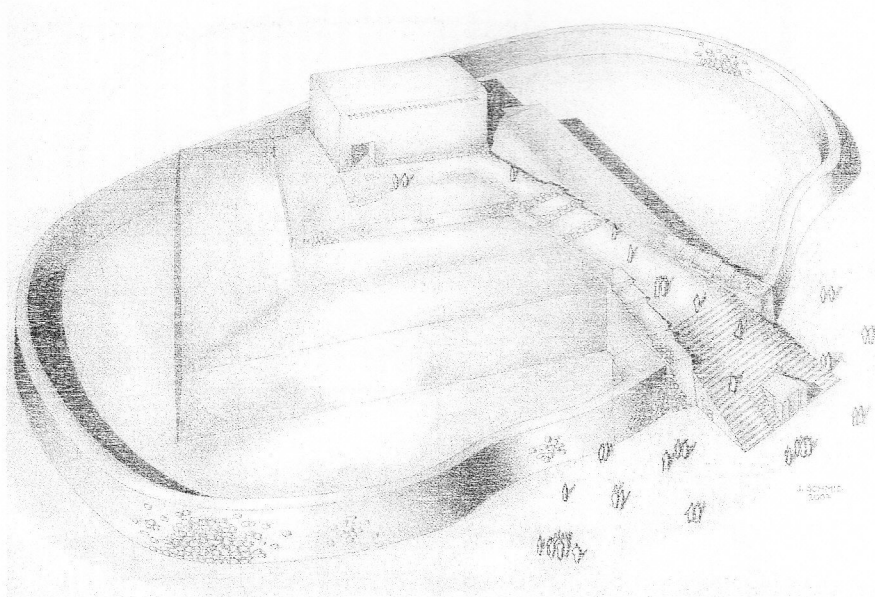


Fig. 66b: Mozan, Area B, temple oval, reconstruction, Stage III, EJZ 4 (Pfälzner 2008b: Fig. 16).

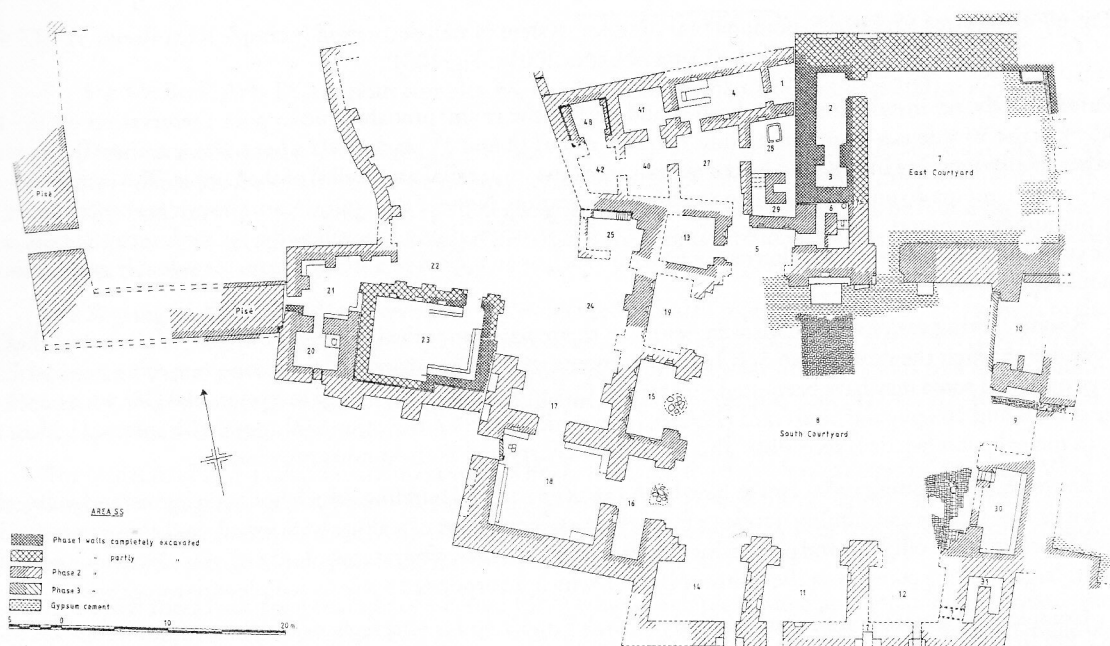


Fig. 67: Brak, Area SS, Level 5, monumental complex, EJZ 4 (Oates & Oates 2001a: Fig. 91).

(EJZ 3), which had a similar dais (see above). Comparable arrangements are also known from Beydar, both in temples (see above) and in a public courtyard (e.g. the “South Court”). Most probably it was used for ceremonial purposes. That it looks onto the vast courtyard suggests that this was associated and was perhaps used for rituals involving a large audience. Whether these ceremonies were religious or political (as is indicated by the Palace F at Khuera), or a mixture of the two, is difficult to say. It should be noted that there are no clear temple furnishings in these parts of the SS complex. Based on the available evidence, the function of the SS complex is therefore difficult to assess.

Leading from the N ceremonial façade of the great courtyard is an entry gate into a large room. This is 17 x 16m in size and is interpreted by the excavators as an eastern courtyard (7). As discussed however, (see above), it is more plausible to assume that this is a covered hall. This is supported by the thickness of the outer walls (3.5m wide on the north side), the use of gypsum floor plaster, unsuitable for open spaces, and by the close similarity with the main hall of Temple E at Beydar. The space can be interpreted as the main room or cella of the temple.

Architecture

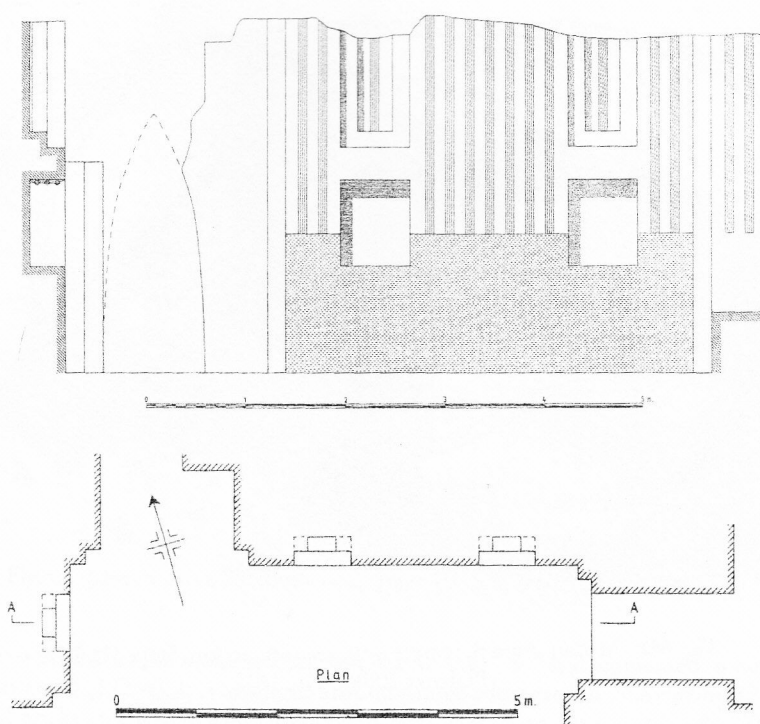


Fig. 68: Brak, Area SS, Level 5, monumental complex: system of wall decoration (example from Room 5), EJZ 4 (Oates & Oates 2001a: Fig. 103).

Unfortunately, no installations have been found within the room, probably due to poor preservation on the E side. On the W side is a door leading into two side rooms (2 and 3), reached via a bent axis entrance. These two rather small rooms are interpreted by the excavators as the “antecella” and “cella” of the temple. The installations in these two rooms do not however support this identification. None of the typical features such as an altar, hearth or podium were found. The only installations were low benches lining the wall and a jar sunk into the floor in the corner of the first room. An alternative function such as an *adyton* or a storage room for valuable cultic items should therefore be assumed.

Rooms serving various functions were found in the remainder of the building. To the W of the temple hall, accessible through the *iwān*-Room 5, is a group of rooms with economic-related functions; one room possessed a large oven and some may have been used for storage. Other rooms include a large reception hall (18) with bench-lined walls and an irregular courtyard (22/24), from which a second reception (23) room with internal benches and a niched outer façade is accessible. This W wing is interpreted as an administrative sector.

In conclusion, Complex SS seems to have been a multifunctional building, which housed religious and political activities. The storage and administrative sectors, where a large number of sealings were found, could have supported both functions. The religious and political activities must be seen as strongly interconnected, as is also demonstrated by the large building complex in the centre of Beydar, which incorporated a palace, temple and storage area.

Complex FS, situated on the opposite side of Brak’s upper city is strikingly similar in outline to complex SS (Fig. 69).³¹¹ It existed in Level 5 (Brak Phase M, EJZ 4) and was deliberately filled in at the end of its use along with ritual deposits of animals such as donkeys and a diverse range of objects. A large courtyard (18 x >20 m) again lies at the heart of the complex. There is only one “*iwān*”-type room (6), which opens onto the W side of the courtyard. On the S side is a large gateway (1/2/13) with two door openings (2/13). It has one internal room (1) equipped with benches and bins, which was probably used as a waiting room. On the N side of the large courtyard is the temple, the courtyard façade of which has deep niches, but no platform or other typical furnishings similar to complex SS.

The excavators interpreted the main temple Room 43 as a courtyard. It has a size of 10.7 x >11 m. It is probable that the room was roofed, like the main hall of Temple SS. This is again supported by the thickness of the outer walls, especially the N wall (more than 2 m thick), and by the smoothness of the mud plaster floor,³¹² which would be unsuitable for an open-air environment. Thus, the hall can be interpreted as the *cella* of the temple. From its

³¹¹ Oates & Oates 2001a: 41-53, Fig. 42-59.

³¹² Matthews et. al 2001. 356 f. Fig. 359 (based on the microstratigraphic observations the floor proper does not show rain disturbances, which are only visible in a layer on top of an ash deposit and date after the abandonment of the building).

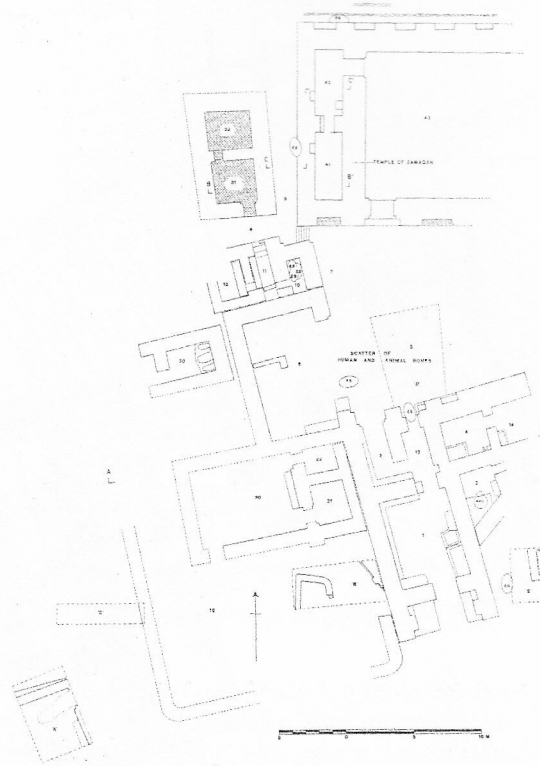


Fig. 69: Brak, Area FS, religious complex FS, Level 5, EJZ 4 (from Oates & Oates 2001a: Fig. 42).

NW corner two small rooms, interpreted by the excavators as an *antecella* and *cella*, are accessible. Again, as in the case of Temple SS, the small size of the rooms and the installations do not support this interpretation. There is a tiny, flat podium and a circular bin in the first room (42). With the exception of a niche found high up on the side wall, there are no installations in the second room (41). The rooms should instead be interpreted as an *adyton* or a special treasury.

The W wing of the FS complex contains storage rooms and a kind of reception room (20), very similar to those in the SS complex. Again, one can argue that additional economic and political tasks were undertaken in the FS complex, and that these were integrated with, or complementary to the assumed religious role of the building. However, it should be noted that even the possible religious role of the “temple” unit (41/ 42/ 43) is not substantiated by specific installations or finds.

The evidence of EJZ 4 religious architecture at Khuera is scarce. The only clear example is “*Steinbau*” VI in the city centre. Its last phase of use, Phase 2a, can be dated to Period EJZ 4 (Khuera period IE). There are no major architectural changes between the EJZ 3b phases (see above) and Phase EJZ 4 of the temple, suggesting that there was continuity in the use of religious buildings between the two periods.³¹³

At Beydar there is also one example of a Period EJZ 4 temple. Temple A was constructed immediately to the S of the Acropolis palace during Period EJZ 3b (see above). In the Early Akkadian period (EJZ 4a) the temple plan remained principally unchanged, with only minor modifications to the rooms around the courtyard (Fig. 70).³¹⁴ The *cella* retained its characteristic interior niched façade and presumably its cultic functions. During this phase a rich burial with two shafts was made below the floor of the *cella*.³¹⁵ This suggests that the temple was probably used as an ancestor sanctuary, at least from Period EJZ 4 onwards. In the Middle Akkadian period (EJZ 4b) the *cella* was abandoned and replaced with a courtyard.³¹⁶ Rooms of unclear function and no obvious relation to the cultic use of the building were constructed in the W part. In the Late Akkadian period (EJZ 4c), a new temple building was constructed. It consists of a nearly square room of 8 x 8m with a central platform, a podium, a basin on the W wall and a hearth in the NE corner.³¹⁷ These installations are not like the cultic installations found in earlier temples, thus it is unclear whether this building maintained a religious function.

³¹³ Orthmann 2002, 5-7

³¹⁴ Bretschneider, Jans & Suleiman 2003: 149-154, plan 12-13.

³¹⁵ Bretschneider & Cunningham 2007: 99 ff., Fig. 1-4.

³¹⁶ Bretschneider 2007: 100-101.

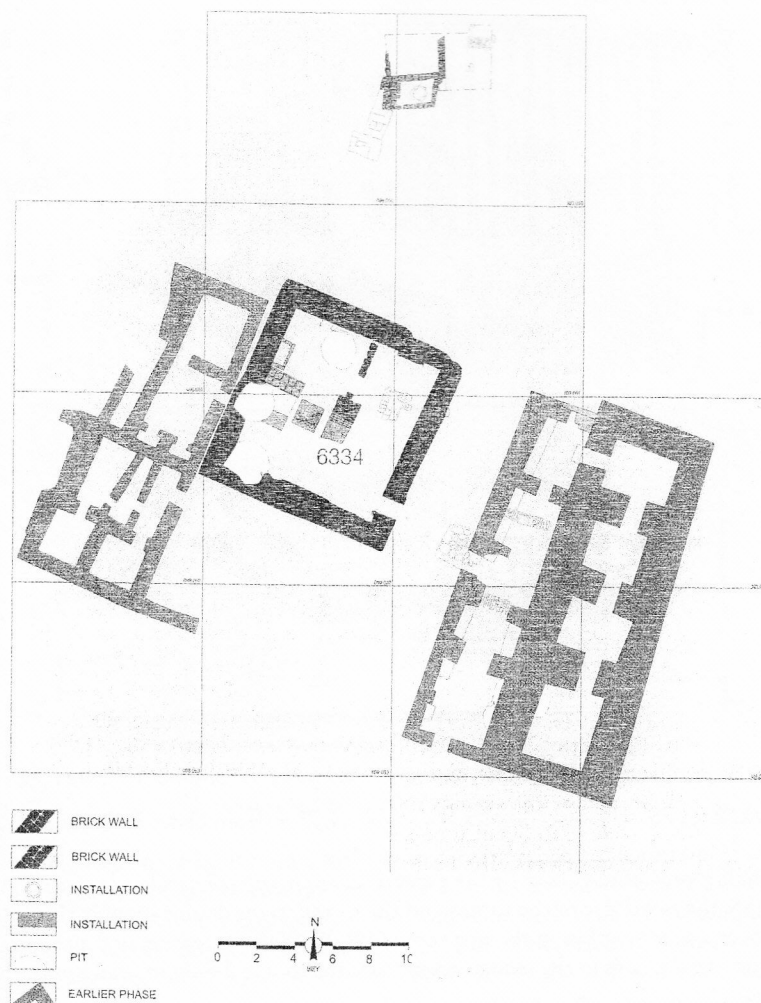


Fig. 70: Beydar, Area F, square "temple" (Room 6334) of the Late Akkadian period, EJZ 4c (Bretschneider, Jans & Suleiman 2003: Plan 17).

5.5.5 Period EJZ 5

The only Period EJZ 5 religious building is the temple oval at Mozan/ Urkesh. Stage V of the temple oval is dated to Period EJZ 5. It is associated with three successive floors on the Max-Mallowan-Place abutting the temple staircase. The temple oval, consisting of an oval perimeter wall, stone staircase and mud-brick terrace with a high temple, remained unchanged during Period EJZ 5, providing evidence for the uninterrupted religious nature of this important sanctuary during the final part of the 3rd millennium. It provides a clear indication of continuity in religious structures and systems from Period EJZ 4 through to EJZ 5.

5.6. Storage Buildings

5.6.1 Period EJZ 1

The grill-plan structures recorded at Raqa'i, Levels 5-7 (see above) can be interpreted as substructures of storage facilities. They served to raise easily perishable goods from the ground and thus kept them dry.³¹⁸ The grill-plan architecture does not represent public or communal building activities. Rather, it provides evidence of a small-scale, household-based system of storage. It seems to have been characteristic of EJZ 1 domestic structures.

Another grill-structure, exposed on a much larger scale, was excavated at Ziyadeh on the Middle Khabur (Fig. 71).³¹⁹ It dates to sometime between Periods EJZ 1-2,³²⁰ although given the close comparability with at

³¹⁸ See the discussion above in section 5.2 EJZ 1.

³¹⁹ Buccellati, Buia & Reimer 1991; Hole 1999; 2000.

³²⁰ Hole 1999, Tb. 1; 2000.

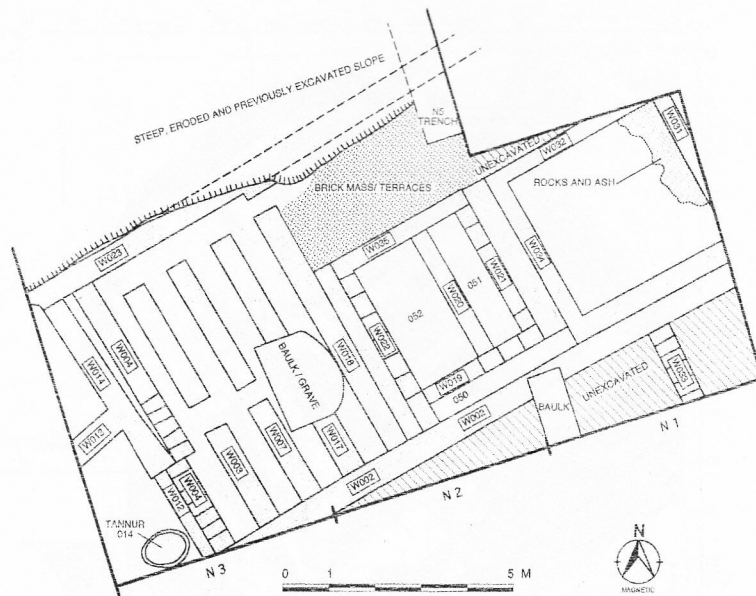


Fig. 71: Ziyadeh, Phase N3, grill-plan storage building, EJZ 1 (Hole 1999: Fig. 4).

the structures at Raqa'i³²¹ an EJZ 1 date is most likely. It is the best-preserved example of this type of architecture, with walls preserved to a height of 2m. The building consists of three units: a grill-structure to the W, a "central building" with two rectangular rooms, and a square-shaped "eastern building".³²² A mud-brick terrace, interpreted as a "loading platform" for the storage rooms, protects the building on the N side. The grill-unit contains five walls, each 50cm wide with 60cm spaces in between. An inner corridor connects the four narrow spaces via well-preserved arched doorways. The excavator reasons that the entire building served as a storage structure, due to the narrow spaces within the grill structures, making it unsuitable for habitation; the absence of doors in the well-preserved 2m high walls of adjoining rectangular rooms; and due to the complete lack of household installations within the rooms.³²³ The diversity of room types within the storage complex may reflect a diverse range of storage-related activities or types of stored goods. The existence of a *tannur* immediately to the W of the grill-structure³²⁴ hints at a possible connection of this large, multi-purpose storage facility with the adjoining house.

5.6.2 Period EJZ 2

The most prominent storage structure of Period EJZ 2 is the Round Building at Raqa'i. It has been recorded in two levels, Level 4 dating to Period EJZ 2 (Fig. 72), and Level 3 dating to the end of Period EJZ 2 (Fig. 14a).³²⁵ It is completely preserved in Level 4 and sits at the centre of the small settlement. Houses surround the building, although these are mainly attested in Level 3 (see above). The structure is oval in shape with a diameter of 23m and is enclosed by a thick outer wall with only one entry, giving it a strongly fortified character. The interior space is densely subdivided into 29 small chambers (Level 4), of varying size and layout, most of which served as storage rooms.³²⁶

At Atij, there are silos in both the N and the S areas of the settlement. The northern silos (Fig. 73) consist of three building units each housing small chambers of varying size, some of which show remains of corbelled roofs.³²⁷ Two of the small silo rooms (503, 504) have a T-shaped form due to the fact that the side walls are only corbelled over two thirds of the room's length, whilst one third of the room has straight walls in order to allow access from the roof, perhaps using a ladder.³²⁸ The three building units have, in contrast to the Round Building of Raqa'i, an overall rectangular outline. On the E side they are fortified by a thick wall, and a wide mud-brick platform, which is attached to the inside of the oval fortification wall surrounding the entire settlement.³²⁹

³²¹ See Section 5.2 EJZ 1

³²² Hole 1999: 269-272, Fig. 3-5.

³²³ Hole 1999: 269.

³²⁴ Hole 1999: 270, Fig. 6.

³²⁵ For the dating compare Quenet, this volume.

³²⁶ Curvers & Schwartz 1990; Schwartz & Curvers 1992: 406-410.

³²⁷ Fortin 1988b: 155-162, Fig. 18; 1990a: 222-232, Fig. 2-10.

³²⁸ See: Fortin 1988b: Fig. 19-20.

³²⁹ Compare Fortin 1995: Fig. 13.