

Fig. 74: Atij, southern silos. EJZ 2 (Fortin 1990a: Fig. 14).

There has been much debate concerning the way these storage structures were used and organised. The excavators of Raqa'i argue that the Round Building functioned as a specialised storage place within an interregional administrative system based in the northern Khabur triangle, from where the processing and exchange of agricultural surplus was organised.³³³ Fortin thinks that the structures at Atij were used for the centralised storage of surplus agricultural products that were shipped on behalf of an interregional redistributive system from the northern Khabur region down to Mari on the Euphrates.³³⁴ Hole interprets the structure as a storehouse used by the semi-nomadic or nomadic population in the Khabur valley and adjacent steppe region.³³⁵ Pfälzner contends that the structures were used for a local communal storage system, and that the Round Building at Raqa'i and the silos at Atij were community storage facilities that served the local households in both settlements.³³⁶

At Kneidij, the "multi-cellular building complex A" in building Phase XIII (EJZ 2) can also be reconstructed as a communal storage facility. It is located in the NE quarter of the large settlement, attached to the northern fortification wall and separated from the domestic quarters by a thin, rectangular enclosure wall and a large open area. The building consists of three architectural units: a northern unit (Building II) with one row of long rectangular rooms, a middle room block (Building I), consisting of two rows of nearly square rooms, and a southern unit (Building XII) made up of larger rooms with a more irregular arrangement (Fig. 75).³³⁷ As at Raqa'i and Atij, the rooms are very small in size, particularly in the middle block, which contains rooms with an interior dimension of only 1.5 x 1.5m. In contrast to the two afore-mentioned sites, the architectural layout of the communal storage complex at Kneidij is relatively regular.

Close to the large Complex A storage facility of Phase XIII at Kneidij there is a small storage building, Complex B, consisting of one rectangular room (III B) and an attached second round room (III A) which are accessible from one another (Fig. 76).³³⁸ The round room has a diameter of 5m and is interpreted as a silo.

³³³ Schwartz & Curvers 1992; Schwartz 1994b.

³³⁴ Fortin 1989; 1990b.

³³⁵ Hole 1991; 1999.

³³⁶ Pfälzner 2002b; 2008a.

³³⁷ Klengel-Brandt, Kulemann-Ossen & Martin 2005: 22 f., Pl. 22, 26, 31, 32, 54.

³³⁸ Klengel-Brandt et. al. 2005: 21, Pl. 22, 26, 31.

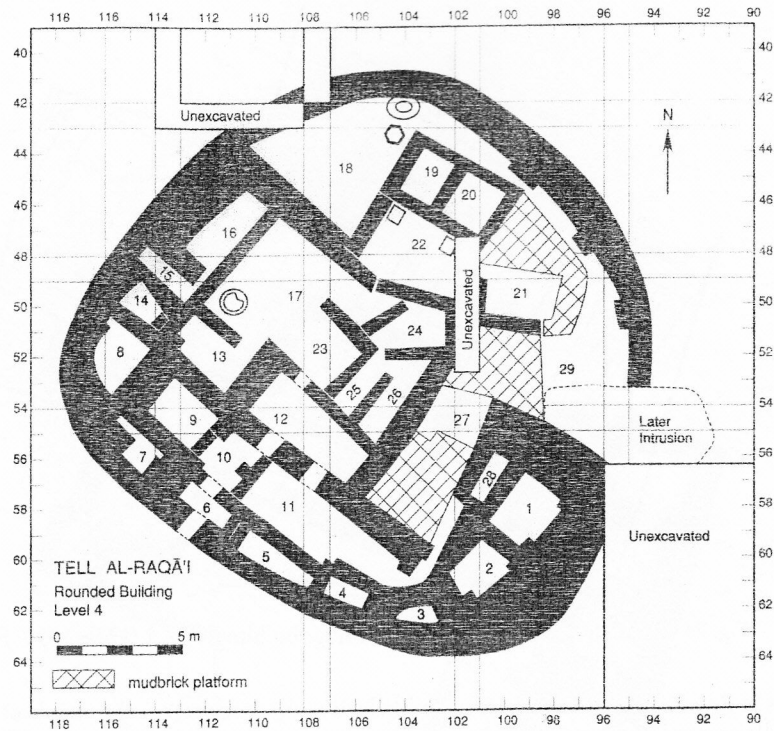


Fig. 72: Raqa'i, Level 4, Round Building, EJZ 2 (Schwartz & Curvers 1992: Fig. 10).

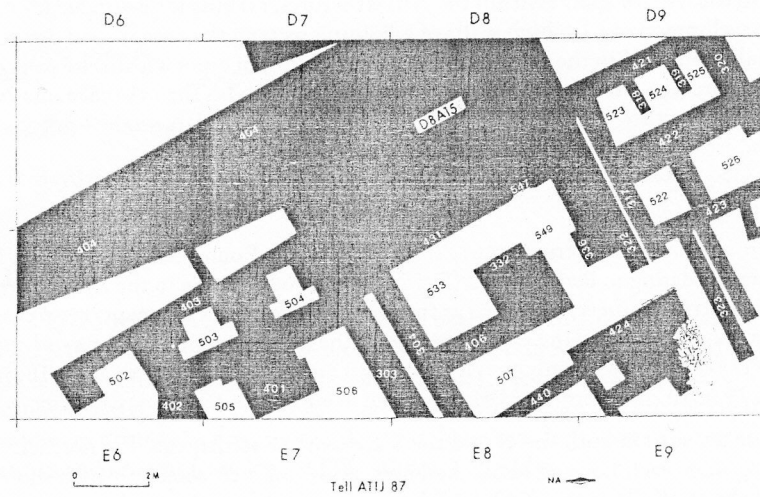


Fig. 73: Atij, northern silos, EJZ 2 (Fortin 1990a: Fig. 2).

The southern silos at Atij (Fig. 74) are attached to the inside of the S segment of the fortification wall (wall 310).³³⁰ The rooms are generally larger than those of the N silos, and are arranged in rectangular blocks, with smaller rooms between them. One room (515) is vaulted, whilst the other rooms (e.g. 516) have corbelled arches placed at short intervals on their inside walls. There is even a third area of silos at this small site. These are located on the E side of the tell summit and are similarly attached to the inside of the settlement's fortification wall.³³¹ Here, there is evidence for at least one tiny storage room (600) with a corbelled roof, hinting that architectural techniques similar to the other granaries of Atij were used. Unlike Raqa'i, where the oval storage building is located in the centre of the settlement surrounded by houses, at Atij, the storage facilities were attached to the settlement wall and themselves surrounded the houses.³³²

³³⁰ Fortin 1988b: 162-164, Fig. 27-29; 1990a: 232-236, Fig. 13-14.

³³¹ Fortin 1995: 37, Fig. 12.

³³² For the houses of Atij see section 5.2 and for the settlement wall see section 5.1. of this chapter.

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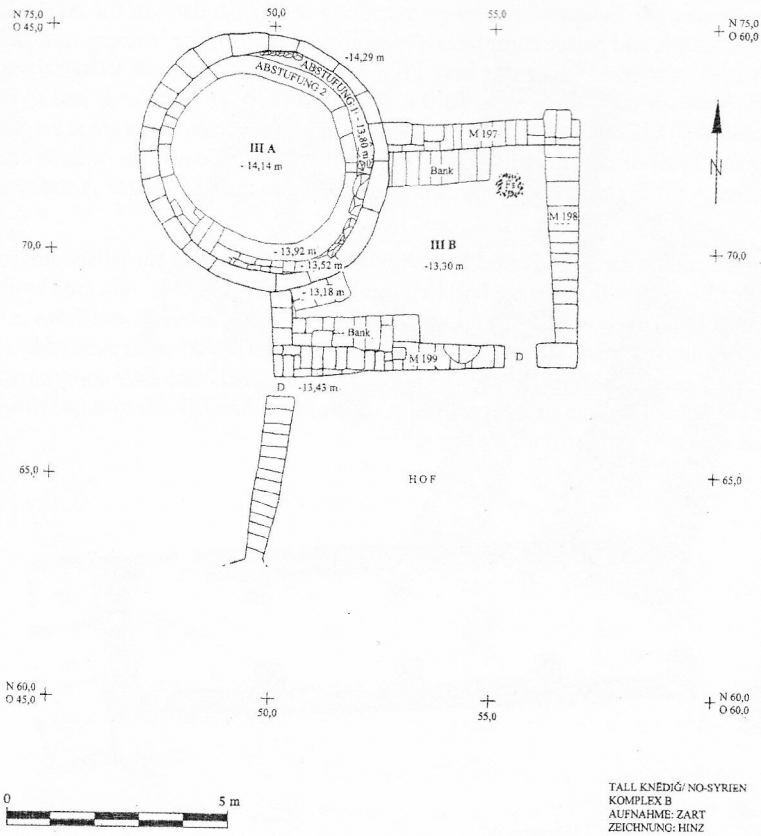


Fig. 76: Kneidij, level XIII, architectural complex B, EJZ 2 (Klengel-Brandt, Kulemann-Ossen & Martin 2005: Pl.31).

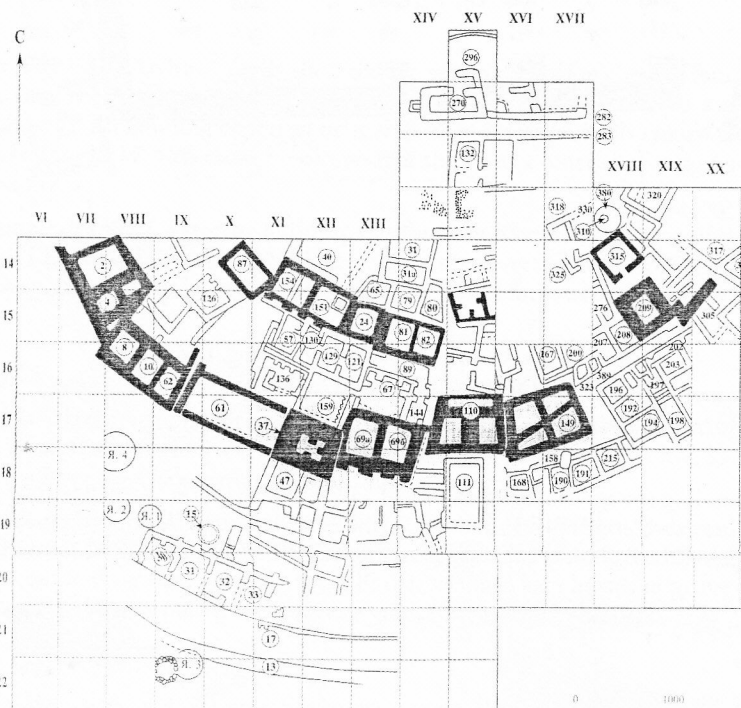


Fig. 77: Khazne I, "monumental complex", EJZ 2 (Munchaev, Merpert & Amirov 2004: Pl. 3).

At Beydar there are structurally independent storage buildings of EJZ 3b date on the Acropolis, which were functionally related to the temple and palace complexes. Opposite Temple A is the “eastern storage building”, consisting of a straight row of four rooms.³⁴⁷ It might have been related to the Acropolis Palace since it borders the entrance passage to the palace on the eastern side. To the W and to the S of Temples B and C there is another storage building that housed handicraft activities. Here, small storage and workrooms are arranged in a long rectangular building along the S side of the street flanking Temples B and C.³⁴⁸ They seem to have been functionally connected to these temples. A similar block of storage rooms is situated to the S of Temple A and was clearly related to the latter temple.³⁴⁹

A freestanding storage building dating to Period EJZ 3b and situated to the E of the palace and temple complex, was excavated in Area E of Beydar.³⁵⁰ This storage building was most likely public, as indicated by the width of the walls (1.20m), and its careful overall construction and size. It measures 26.5m in length and 7.5m in width (Fig. 78) and is subdivided into a line of four square rooms of equal size (5 x 5m each). They are separated by very wide openings with corbelled wall projections, creating the impression of a very long hall with four compartments. The structure is a very impressive example of a monumental public storage building. The EJZ 3b storage facilities at Beydar in all likelihood functioned as part of a redistributive system.³⁵¹



Fig. 78: Beydar, Area E, storage building, EJZ 3b (Sténuit 2003: Plans 23 & 24).

5.6.4 Period EJZ 4

Evidence for freestanding storage buildings in Period EJZ 4 is very sparse. At Beydar one storage building shows clear continuity between Periods EJZ 3b and EJZ 4. The Eastern Storage Building on the Acropolis (Area F) remained in use throughout the Early Akkadian (EJZ 4a), the Middle Akkadian (EJZ 4b) and the Late Akkadian

³⁴⁷ Bretschneider 2003: 91-93

³⁴⁸ Suleiman 2007: 85-89.

³⁴⁹ Dezzi Bardeschi & Sténuit 2007: 55-60.

³⁵⁰ Sténuit 2003: 243-248, Fig. 1-38.

³⁵¹ See Pfälzner 2002b; 2008a (163, 168, 176, Fig. 10:24) for a theoretical assessment of EJZ redistributive storage facilities.

