

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 store-house 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.

Architecture

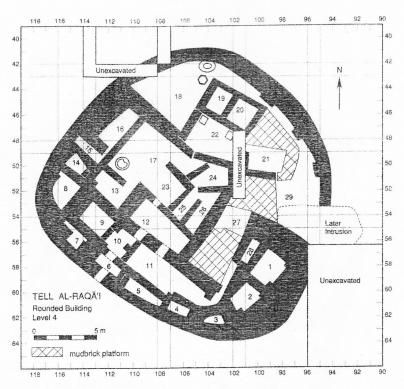


Fig. 72: Raqa'i, Level 4, Round Building, EJZ 2 (Schwartz & Curvers 1992: Fig. 10).

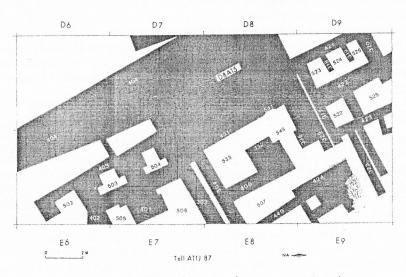


Fig. 73: Atij, northern silos, EJZ 2 (Fortin 1990a: Fig. 2).

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.

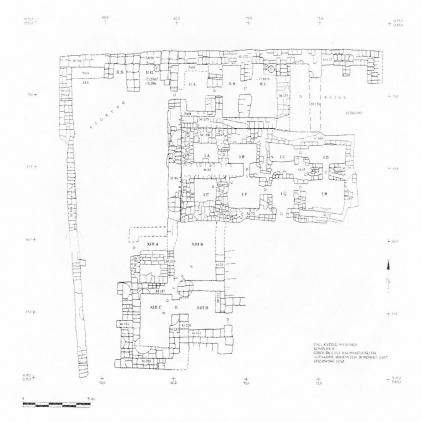


Fig. 75: Kneidij, level XIII, storage complex A, EJZ 2 (Klengel-Brandt, Kulemann-Ossen & Martin 2005: Pl. 29).

It is the only round silo attested in this period. It was most likely a private storage facility associated with a dwelling (Room III B). A similar structure was discovered in Area EF 10 of Kneidij. Its silo had a diameter of 3.6 m. 339

At Khazne a poorly understood monumental complex of rooms was excavated. And Based on the pottery it can be dated roughly to Period EJZ 2, All although the stratigraphy remains unclear. The excavators suggest that it was some kind of "religious-administrative complex". It consists of a dense cluster of rectangular buildings with between one and four rooms (Fig. 77). The buildings are attached to each other with very few passages in between them. They are also very few doorways, hinting that access to many of the rooms was from above. Several rooms have internal arched buttresses. The excavators interpreted at least some of the structures (e.g. Building 110, 149) as granaries, whilst they assume that others were temples (e.g. Building 136, 69). Given the lack of religious installations however, it is more plausible, that most of the excavated structures were storage rooms. In conclusion, the complex at Khazne should be interpreted as a huge storage complex. In view of the structural independence and the additive nature of the single room units within the complex, it was probably a communal storage facility for a nearby local community.

5.6.3 Period EJZ 3

In Period EJZ 3 the number of communal storage buildings decreases and private storage within houses prevails.³⁴⁴ The private storage facilities have single storage rooms, rounded or rectangular silos, storage benches, storage jars and many other objects.³⁴⁵ They are all part of private houses and are thus not treated independently in this chapter.³⁴⁶

³³⁹ Klengel-Brandt et al. 2005: 34, Pl. 41 (lower).

³⁴⁰ Munchaev, Merpert & Bader 1993; Munchaev, Merpert & Amirov 2004.

³⁴¹ Munchaev, Merpert & Amirov 2004: 481-483, pottery catalogue Pl. 1-38.

³⁴² Munchaev, Merpert & Amirov 2004: 477 f.

³⁴³ Munchaev, Merpert & Amirov 2004: Pl. 31, 32, 35.

³⁴⁴ Pfälzner 2002b; 2008a.

³⁴⁵ Pfälzner 2001: 155-163, 184-192, 208-217.

³⁴⁶ See above, section 5.2.

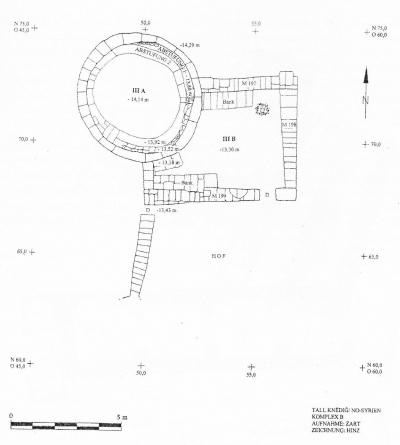


Fig. 76: Kneidij, level XIII, architectural complex B, EJZ 2 (Klengel-Brandt, Kulemann-Ossen & Martin 2005: Pl.31).

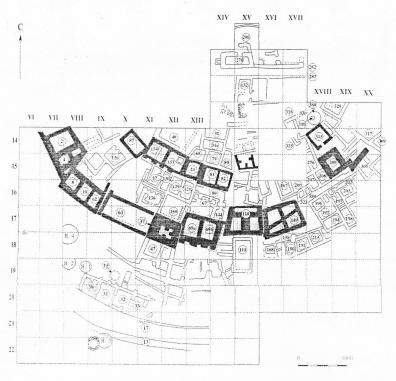


Fig. 77: Khazne I, "monumental complex", EJZ 2 (Munchaev, Merpert & Amirov 2004: Pl. 3).

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. The 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. Temple A and was clearly related 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. The storage rooms is situated to the S of Temple A and was clearly related to the latter temple.

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. This storage building was most likely public, as indicated by the width of the walls $(1.20 \, \text{m})$, 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 $(5 \, \text{x} \, \text{5m} \, \text{each})$. 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.

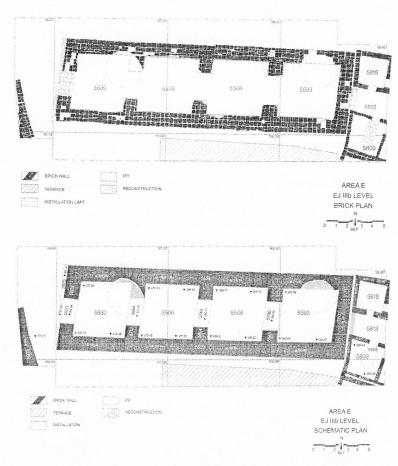


Fig. 78: Beydar, Area E, storage building, EJZ 3b (Sténuit 2003: Plans 23 & 24).

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 EIZ redistributive storage facilities

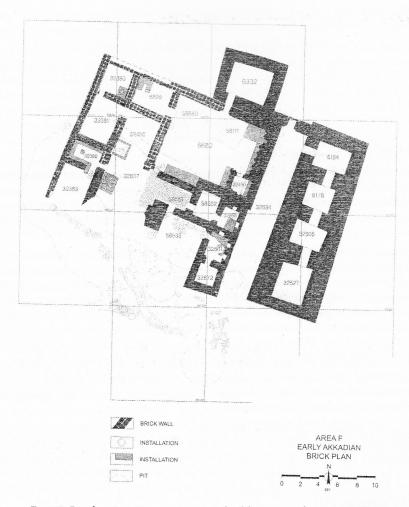


Fig. 79: Beydar, Area F, eastern storage building, east of temple A, Early Akkadian, EJZ 4a (Bretschneider, Jans & Suleiman 2003: Plan 13).

(EJZ 4c) periods (Fig. 79).³⁵² Architecturally the building, which consists of a row of four interconnected storage rooms accessible from the N side, remained principally unchanged. However, the storage area can no longer be related to the palace, as this building no longer existed. Rather, it was probably related to Temple A, the nearest structure, which laid to the W. This change indicates that there was a functional reorganisation of storage activities during Period EJZ 4.

Another example of an EJZ 4 storage building was found at Khuera. In Level 1 of the palace Area F, dated to Khuera Period I E (EJZ 4), is a round building with a diameter of 3m.³⁵³ It was built on top of the abandoned ruins of the palace and has been interpreted as either a watchtower or, more plausibly, as a free-standing grain silo.

5.6.5 Period EJZ 5

No evidence has so far been found for a freestanding Period EJZ 5 storage building. At Mozan, a row of storage rooms forms the N, and largest, group of rooms in the Pusham-House (Level C 7, EJZ 5). This is interpreted as a trader's house in the form of a *khan* (see above, chap. 3.7).

In Area FS at Brak, Level 1 (Brak period N = Ur III), there is a rounded, slightly oval building with a maximum diameter of 5m, reinforced by four buttresses on the outside. 354 It is interpreted as a granary, and is comparable to the EJZ 4 round silo at Khuera, although at Brak it seems to have belonged to one the large houses in the area (Fig. 41). It can thus be interpreted as the private granary of a wealthy household.

³⁵² Bretschneider et. al 2003: 149-157, Plan 12-17.

³⁵³ Orthmann & Pruss 1995, 124 f.; and: Khuera-Homepage (http://www.orientarch.uni-halle.de/digs/Khuera/chu98_99/98_99ger.htm).

³⁵⁴ Oates & Oates 2001a: 71-73, Fig. 89.