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Chapter 1 : S. E. Iakovidis | LibraryThing

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The most obvious feature of mainland architecture is that it is hall centered, dominated by a central rectangular hall or megaron, thereby combining both axuality and simplicity. It forms the core element of the Mycenaean palaces, with additional rooms and courtyards organized around it. Construction techniques varied regionally and chronologically but include a variety of techniques including mud-brick superstructures on a stone socle, drywall masonry, rubble masonry, Cyclopean massive unworked and partially worked boulders masonry, and ashlar masonry on a stone socle. Mud bricks were used to construct upper-story walls and to make repairs. Terraces consisting of retaining walls with fills were used to extend the habitable area on hillsides and serve as platforms for buildings, typifying Mycenaean palatial architecture Wright , 54” The use of local stone predominates in building. Ashlar was typically sand or limestone, although saw-cut, dressed conglomerate blocks were used in special places such as thresholds and the entrances of fortifications and tholos tombs. Conglomerate is composed of naturally cemented-together pebbles, cobblestones, and other sediments, giving the worked blocks a colorful, variegated appearance. There was also a sparing use of decorative stone such as gypsum, which might reference Crete, in the palaces and other monumental structures such as tombs. Corbel vaults were used to build culverts in bridges, construct galleries and passageways, and create the domed beehive or tholos tombs. Neolithic Architecture Late Neolithic”Early Bronze Age architecture on the mainland is characterized by variations on a theme, namely the rectilinear hall. For example, the site of Dimini in the plain of Thessaly in central Greece is dominated by a large central, megaroid-style building Preziosi and Hitchcock It comprises a large hall with a horseshoe-shaped hearth that is roughly centered, with four columns supporting the roof as indicated by postholes. A forehall and smaller porch connected to the hall by axially placed doorways were later additions. Rectangular Neolithic houses might also be apsidal at one end and include a rectangular porch. Apsidal houses are also well attested in the Middle Bronze Age discussed later. Neolithic houses were more frequently composed of just a small, single rectangular room that contained a variety of internal features including bins, hearths, and platforms. Hearths might be constructed out of stones that may or may not have been coated with clay. Bins were constructed from stone slabs; pits coated with clay served as storage areas. Rainy weather in many parts of Greece suggests that roofs were slanted or gabled with a covering of clay and reeds. Neolithic houses typically employed stone foundations that would have supported a mud-brick superstructure and postholes for wooden supports. House models give some indication as to what houses may have looked like and reflect an interest in symbolically representing them. Other types of installations”such as pottery kilns”also characterize Neolithic settlements. The Mainland in the Early Bronze Age Larger, hall-centered rectangular or megaroid buildings appear in significant numbers during the Early Bronze I from Troy and Poliokhni in the northeastern Aegean and throughout mainland Greece. They were commonly entered on their short side, with axially connected rooms. A variant of this form, the corridor house, is distinguished by a more complex internal arrangement. The House of Tiles was named for the enormous quantity of fired clay roof tiles associated with the building. It was built of mud brick over a substantial stone foundation course ca. It was two stories high, as indicated by traces of stairways, and may have had several verandas upstairs, partially covered by a pitched roof, as suggested by Shaw These buildings sometimes also incorporated elaborate clay hearths that are decorated with stamped-seal impressions. In addition, while monumental fortifications typify the mainland, they are well known in the Cyclades during the EBA as well. Dwellings were characterized by groupings of rooms into what may have been compounds for extended families, separated by alleys, streets, or courtyards. Burial architecture was simple, consisting of rectangular cists lined with stone slabs. Middle Helladic Architecture On the mainland, cities were located on citadels from at least the Middle Helladic

period. Among them, House D at Asine is the most convincing. It is composed of a rectangular hall and porch but lacks the column bases and hearth of a canonical megaron see the following section. It was a hall-centered building with a porch and a forehall, as well as rear and side chambers accessed by circulatory corridors. Its carefully rendered foundation beddings anticipate the Mycenaean palaces of the 13th century BC. Mansion I and its successor, Thebes and Orchomenos are only partially preserved, and the presumed Mycenaean palace at Athens was obliterated by later structures. In terms of design, the main Mycenaean palaces included a core set of recognizable architectural features and modules arranged in a set pattern, additional recurring features that were deployed in a varied syntax, and unusual elements that were site specific and formed the central part of a larger compound that included buildings unique to each site. This is most clearly illustrated at Tiryns and Pylos and to a lesser extent at Mycenae, where much of the palace was lost over a precipice. The core element of the Mycenaean palace is the megaron, or hall. This is generally not very large and would have fit easily within the central court at Knossos. It consists of a hall, a forehall, and a porch of rectangular outline with two columns in antis to support the roof. Both the forehall and the porch are approximately one-half the depth of the inner hall. The internal arrangement of the megaron was dominated by a monumental circular hearth decorated with painted plaster and surrounded by four columns. The best-preserved hearth is at Pylos and is ca. It is decorated with a painted stucco design depicting a running spiral motif around the top and a flame pattern around the side. There, the columns probably supported a clerestory with a balcony to admit light and draw off smoke through a two-part clay chimney found in the excavations. The megaron frequently had rear chambers, with side corridors giving access to smaller, square service rooms. All megarons incorporate variations of this basic arrangement. At Tiryns, this feature is located to the northeast of the palace across a court, though still within the confines of the palace. In contrast, at Pylos this feature is tightly incorporated into the fabric of the palace and is located to the south of the east row of side chambers and on the east end of the courtyard leading into the palace. An H-shaped propylon with a central doorway and one or two columns between projecting antae is another characteristic feature. Layers of plaster around the column bases at Pylos preserved impressions of fluted wooden columns. The propylon gives access to a colonnaded courtyard that leads to the palace at both Pylos and Tiryns. Tiryns had an additional outer courtyard and At Mycenae, the palace and its associated structures was spread over multiple levels situated on three artificially constructed Cyclopean terraces. A lengthy passage separates the propylon at Mycenae from the courtyard that fronts on the palace. A grand staircase also leads to the courtyard. Soles regards this staircase, throne emplacements, and heraldic decoration in Mycenaean palaces as a Knossian inspiration. Beyond the commonalities in the megaron hall, propylon, court, and similar construction techniques discussed later, there is an extraordinary amount of variation in the appointments in the palaces, as well as in the rest of the compound. In contrast, Tiryns boasts a colossal, sloping, monolithic black slab with channel and mortises, which may be for washing or libation. The megaron at Mycenae was decorated with a gypsum slab pavement, which may reference earlier Minoan prestige architecture. Many of the rooms deployed around the megaron at Tiryns are included within the fabric of the building, while Pylos and Mycenae had a number of nearby but discrete buildings that were functionally associated with them. The House of the Columns was a colonnaded, court-centered building with a north-south orientation and a west wing composed of what may be storage or workrooms. The many differences in Mycenaean palatial compounds warrant a closer functional analysis. Many of the building techniques employed in Mycenaean palatial architecture are quite similar to those used earlier by the Minoans. These include the use of timber framing and a rubble core in the interior walls, which were usually covered with plaster. The exterior walls of the palaces were constructed of ashlar blocks, many containing dovetail mortises or clamp cuttings to secure them to the rubble core and square dowels to hold horizontal timbers along the outer face of blocks, with the occasional use of mortar. Doors are indicated by cut-stone doorjambs similar to those found in Crete, while the absence of these in some doorways suggested to Blegen that hangings were also used Blegen and Rawson The floors of the Mycenaean palaces were coated with plaster that was decorated by means of an incised grid of small squares painted with nonfigural patterns.

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The absence of symmetry in the arrangement of the grid has been contrasted to The variegated stone of Minoan paved slab floors has been suggested as possible inspiration for these floors. A similar painted floor, but incorporating floral motifs, is known from the MBA Canaanite palace at Tel Kabri, where there are also Aegean-style frescoes, suggesting that the Mycenaean painted plaster floor had its origins in Crete or the Cyclades Niemeier and Niemeier Pedestals or platforms located opposite the hearths of the palaces indicate that a throne Linear B as to-no stood there, while other pedestals near doorways at Pylos may indicate guard stands. A narrow channel with depressions at either end, perhaps for pouring libations, was cut in the floor at Pylos near the pedestal for a throne. The Mycenaean palaces were also decorated with elaborate fresco programs, which included processions, heraldic animals, and agonistic scenes. Tombs Although the round or tholos tomb seems to evolve independently from humble beginnings in the western Peloponnese, the Late Helladic II period marks the appearance of monumental beehive or tholos tombs of ashlar construction. The earliest tholoi, built as free-standing monuments, were subject to roof collapse. Building them into the hillside in order to support the vaulted dome solved this problem. They dominated the landscape as unprecedented territorial and genealogical markers of wealth and power cf. The most famous and elaborately constructed tholos tomb is the so-called Treasury of Atreus at Mycenae. The Treasury of Atreus consists of a great chamber The corbeled dome of ashlar blocks is built of circular courses progressively extending inward and upward to a central, round capstone. Traces of nails in the interior are regarded as the remnants of bronze ornament rosettes? Although robbed in antiquity, burials would have been placed in a side chamber. More characteristic in the Mycenaean world is the use of chamber tombs carved into rock. The earliest LH III fortifications were modest, lacking the elaborate features of the Tiryns gate or the unique monumental sculpture of the rampant antithetic lions of the famous Lion Gate and Great Ramp leading up the citadel at Mycenae. Sections ranged to 8 m. Saw-cut and hammer-dressed conglomerate blocks were used for highly visible sections of the entrance systems, while the bulk of the wall was constructed of unworked limestone boulders. Although recent interpretations Maran argue that Mycenaean fortification walls were more about display, they certainly were also intended to help the city function as a place of refuge during times of stress. The initial fortifications begun in the 14th century in LH IIIA1 at Tiryns and twenty-five years later at Mycenae surrounded only a limited portion of each site, primarily encircling the megaron with simple entry systems: By their third phase, some eighty years later, around BC, both citadels had doubled in size, encompassing a much larger area. At Tiryns, the famous corbel vaulted galleries were added on the south and the east, and a complex series of ascending ramps and gateways was also added on the east. It was at this time at Mycenae that the famous Lion Gate with projecting bastion was constructed, and the west wall was extended to enclose Grave Circle A and the nearby Cult Center. At both sites, the entry systems would have served to spread out and diminish the effectiveness of an attacking force. In the west wall at Tiryns, a sally port that progressively narrowed inward would have served a similar purpose.

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Johns Hopkins University Press Townsend: Princeton University Press Minneapolis, Minnesota: Although the two buildings were situated Fig. Reconstruction of view from gateway towards main gate by is used until today for buildings with a hearth room and a porch opening to H Sulze. Reconstruction of view a court although we do not know how they were designated at the time of from outer towards inner propylon by their use. How right DOrpfeld was to consider this type of building as a de- H Sulze. Reconstruction of view fining feature of a certain type of palatial architecture became apparent from inner propylon towards the Great a few years later, when the excavation by Christos Tsountas on the acropo- Megaron by H Sulze. The plan of the palaces in Crete was not dominated by a central building, but a large rect- angular court surrounded on all sides by architectural units. The excavation of the Knossos throne room a lso enabled the identification of a rectangu- lar field in t he floor decoration of both the Great and the Little Megaron of Tiryns as the p lace where orig inally a throne had stood S Just as later excavations have underlined the w ide distribution of the palatial plan first recognized at Knossos in other reg ions of Crete, the exca- vation directed by Carl W. Blegen at Pylos Messenia demonstrated that the palace complex built a round the megaron is a phenomenon also encountered, on the ma inland, outsi d e the Argolis 6 The resemblance of the architec tural complex uncovered a few years ago at Dimini shows that certain principles of palatial o rganizat ion were not restricted to the Pello- nese, but reached as far north as Thessaly 1 Thi s makes it probable that, in future, megaron palaces will also be uncovered in other areas of Central Greece. Even though the megaron-palace is the most w ell-known t ype of My- cenean palatial architec ture, there is evidence indicating that it became canonical perhaps as late as the 13th c. BCE, wh ile before that period a greater vari ability in palatial p lans may have ex isted. Furthermore, it seems that these different architec tural la youts of palaces should not be per- ceived a s stages of a linear evolution, but rather as the result of multiple transformations c aused by the agency of political groups ". No evidence of palatial architecture remains from the beginning of the Mycenaean period 17th and 16th c. BCE ; the funerary sphere may ha ve constituted the on- ly area of architectural monumentalization then. Nonetheless, it appears that during the 14th c BCE the significance of this si te was eclipsed by nearby Agios Vasileios, where ongoing excavations are uncovering a much larger and unquestionably palatial complex, whose most prominent feature so far is a large court surrounded by stoQS, while a central suite of rooms has as yet not been identified I". Th is recalls the suggestion that a palatial com- plex with a large central court resembling Minoan ones may have served as a predecessor of the megaron-palace at Pylos ". In Tiryns, there is reason to b elieve that the point of reference for and hearth indicated by dashed lines. Dobney - Wright Mycenaean palaces were administrative, economic, political, and relig ious c entres although these sectors of society often cannot be disen- tangled, since they were so closely interrelated. All palaces were integrated into a w ider architectural setting consisting of quarters used for storage, ad- mini strati on, artisanal activity, cult purposes, or for housing personnel The administra tive role of the palaces is reflected in the acti vities of a bureau- cracy using the Linear B-script to wri te early Greek texts on unbaked clay tablets These texts provide information about the structure of the palatial polities and demonstrate that the palaces took a st rong interest in certain sectors of the economy, but do not seem to have controlled all econom- ic a ctiv ity The palatial centres are also distinguished by the presence of art isans w ho manufactured a var iety of f in ished products consisting of raw ma teri als that were often obtained through long distance trade. The pala ces also had facilities for the bulk storage of commodit ies, such as wine and oil, in sufficient quantities so as to cover the needs of the perma- nent res iden t s of the palatial centres and those w ho visited them on the occasion of festivities 19 The c haracteristic form of the Mycenaean centres of the Argolis is the citad el in which the palace and parts of the surrounding settlement were forti fi ed wi th a massive Cyclopean wall, while other

architectural complexes remained outside of the fortification. Similar fortified palatial centres also seem to have existed in Attica and, at least to some extent and in slightly different form, in Boeotia, while in Messenia, Laconia and Thessaly citadels of this kind have not been ascertained. Mycenaean palaces were not always built on the highest part of a hill, but in most cases topographical - ly exposed points were chosen as building plots, which suggests that the palaces were meant to be visible from far away. The Palaces were "per- 14 Maran 20 16 15 Kilian a. Digital reconstruction of the view across the central hearth towards the throne. The architectural layout of the palaces guided visitors to move in a certain direction. Although the prominence of processions suggests significant communal participation. The structuring of the routes used for ritual movement is a reflection of the hierarchical political order culminating in the wanax and the associated ruling elites 2B which. Wright Tholer Moron 24 Sendoll Stacke r - DAVIS 25 Wright Moron - Popodimijriou - Tholer 27 Moron 28 Tholer Wardle Wordle 20 Such a wish for exclusivity is also manifest in Tiryns, where starkly contrasting sensory impressions created by the elaborate architecture and artfully employed changes of direction appear to be the archaeological correlates of differentiated rights of access that came into play as a gradually diminishing group of participants in a procession neared its destination. This staging of exclusivity reached its climax in the Throne Room, which was dominated by the ceremonial hearth and offered very limited space to participants " At the turn of the 13th to the 12th c. BCE the Mycenaean palaces were destroyed and subsequently not rebuilt. Only at Tiryns in the early 12th c. BCE a narrow megaron was integrated into the ruin of the Great Megaron fig 4 so as to reuse the place of the throne and also the Great Court as well as a hypethral altar within it were reused 32 By contrast, the rest of the palace was not rebuilt and left as a ruin which shows that the activities of the Post-palatial period aimed at reclaiming only such points that had been of the highest political and religious significance in the former palace. The way how the inhabitants intervened into the ruin of the destroyed palace established a new tradition of exalting the past and using it as a source for gaining legitimacy under new political and social circumstances that lacked the pronounced hierarchies of the Palatial period. Joseph Moron - Ulrich Tholer We would like to express our deepest gratitude to A Papadimitriou, who kindly provided the aerial photographs from the Photographic Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Argolis, and to M Kostoula for the faithful translation from German into Greek of the text and the digital processing of the figs. Moron Moron la. Moron l b. Müller , pi 1. Photographic Archive of the Ephorate of Antiquities of the Argolis photo: Fig 3 Digital 3D model A Wand. Model of the Citadel of Tiryns: Maran Surrounding area Google Earth. The Origins of the Mycenaean Palace, in J. M Sanders ed ,! Fit for a King? The Buildings and their Contents, Princeton. Die Bauwerke von Tiryns, in Schliemann , Le système palatial en Orient, en Grèce et 6 Rome: Zur Funktion der mykenischen Residenzen auf dem griechischen Festland in R. MaiDuviou , A8i va, Dos Megaron im Megaron. Festschrift für Jörg Schofer zum The Case of Building T. Aegaeum 22 Liege, Maran. J Mycenaean Citadels as Performative Space. Architecture, Ideology and Social Practice, Geschichte: Forschung und Wissenschaft Charakteristika von antiken Machtzentren. Menschen - Kulturen - Traditionen 3. Moron, J 5. Tiryns and the Argolid in Mycenaean Times: Moron, J 6. The Persistence of Place and Memory: Oriental and European Archaeology 3, Rahden. Akten des internationalen Kongresses vom 3. Moron, J - A Papadimitriou - U. Mycenaean Up To Date. Die Architektur der Burg und des Palastes. Feasting and the King at Mycenaean Pylos, Hesperia Nelson, M C The Architecture of Epáno Englianos. Thesis, University of Toronto. Orientalia Lovaniensia Analecta Die Fresken des Palastes, Tiryns 2, Athen. Tiryns - Der prahistorische Palast der Könige von Tiryns. Duhoux - A Morpurgo Davies eds. A Companion to Linear B: Louvain-la-Neuve, 1 IS-Bennet Economy and Administration. Society and State in the Aegean Bronze Age. Liege and Austin, L Davis Animal Sacrifice. Archives, and Feasting at the Palace of Nestor. U Constructing and Reconstructing Power: The Palace of Pylos. Moron - C Juwig - H. Ideology and Social Practice, Geschichte: Forschung und Wissenschaft 19, Hamburg. Anmerkungen zur Bewegungsrichtung in mykenischen Palastmegara, in O. Tsountas, C - I. Wardle, K A Location and Status, in E. Where was the "Cult Centre" at Mycenae?

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