

## &lt;CRUCIFORM BUILDING&gt;

183-

2

Figure 38: Alternative possibilities for the form of the vaulting  
and comparison with the Arch of Marcus Aurelius at Tripoli

Drawings A and B show the internal surfaces of two possible ways in which the Cruciform Building may have been roofed, using a cloister-vault and a cross-vault respectively. They have the same over-all height as shown, though it would be possible to reduce the height of B if the main cross-vaults were concentric with the barrel-vaults in the arms rather than springing from the level of their crowns. Solution A corresponds to the minimal volume of construction, and is that adopted in the reconstruction suggested. The type is attested in the so-called 'praetorium' at Mousmieh in Syria (Reference required).

Drawing D shows the suggested geometry of the Cruciform Building, based on its plan and the adoption of solution A for the vaults; drawing C shows a section through the Arch of Marcus Aurelius at Tripoli drawn to the same scale for comparison. A comparison of the two buildings reveals remarkable <sup>PROPORTIONATE</sup> correspondences of design, and where there are differences, these relate to the fact that the Arch is embellished externally, whereas the emphasis in the Cruciform Building at Sabratha is concentrated exclusively on its internal properties. The design of the Arch appears to embody two modules, of  $6 \frac{1}{2}$  (x) and 8 (y) Roman feet respectively. The (y) module alone is used in the design of the Cruciform Building. The <sup>INTERIOR</sup> narrower span of the Arch <sup>NE-SW</sup> (north-south, across the Decumanus Maximus) <sup>BOTH</sup> are equivalent to 3x, and the barrel-vault on either side <sup>HAVING</sup> has a depth of x. The total depth of the

[CHECK]

The span of the main arch &



## vi. The Roman Buildings

### (a). Materials and Method of Construction

The Roman buildings of the 'new' city constructed in the first century A.D. remained in use, with minor modification, until the mid third century A.D. (fig. 54). During this period the only new structures of note were Building L<sub>1</sub> (early second century) and Building W (early third century). A considerable degree of standardization was evident from the outset and the techniques used in any one building were applied with only minor variations to the others. Continuity with the preceding buildings of this quarter was observed in many respects, particularly in the widespread use of mud brick. The sand-filled foundation trench was further developed in this period and roofs remained flat.

For the character of the Roman buildings above foundation level the well-preserved Building H (fig. 17, pl. VI *a, b*) serves as the basic model. The major divergence in technique from the Hellenistic period was in the use of large block masonry for its socle walls. Whereas the Hellenistic buildings (see pp. 39-41) had relied on orthostatic construction, or more commonly, twin lines of small rubble blocks, for their socle walls, Building H used sandstone or limestone ashlar. Their size varied somewhat, but average dimensions were *c.* 1 m. long and 30-40 cm. high. The outer walls were 60 cm. wide, the internal walls 40-50 cm. wide. A maximum of three courses of blocks was preserved, to a height of *c.* 95 cm. The heavier, more durable, local limestone was used at foundation level and for the first course, while sandstone was used in the second course. The sandstone blocks were more neatly trimmed than the limestone blocks which, at foundation level, were left wider than the upper courses. Walls were generally not bonded into each other. A few re-used blocks had been incorporated but earlier masonry was most obvious in the less well-preserved buildings elsewhere. At foundation level in particular, very little newly quarried stone was used. In Building R<sub>1</sub>, for example, the foundations of its south wall consisted of fine rusticated limestone ashlar resting on an earlier wall (fig. 16) and clearly a variety of sources had been plundered to provide the stone used here, and elsewhere, in the first century A.D. redevelopment.

Returning to Building H, there was abundant evidence in its thick demolition level for the use of mud brick in the upper sections of its walls. As in the Hellenistic buildings, however, nowhere did the stone socle wall and the upper mud brick survive together. In this respect Building L<sub>1</sub> (fig. 20) can tell us more, for there an intact section of mud walling (pl. XXXI *a*) had fallen onto the floor of the south portico. The height of this building is known and the restoration drawing (fig. 57) shows that the preserved four courses (1.60 m.) of the south wall represent the actual socle height. All the other buildings of this period made considerable use of mud brick, as did the third century Building W (fig. 45*a*, pl. XXXI *c*). The 'Villa' at Ptolemais employed this material widely above a 1 m. high stone footing (Kraeling (1962), 119) and its use in the coastal cities of Cyrenaica would seem to have by no means been confined to the poorer buildings (1). For further discussion of the evidence from Sidi Khrebish, see p. 255 f.

The demolition levels of Building H, as in every other Roman building, produced no roofing tile. It can therefore be assumed that roofs were flat or very slightly sloping as in the Hellenistic period. The materials of which they were built were probably identical (see p. 41). Flat roofs

(1) For the strength of mud brick as a building material see D. W. Robinson and J. W. Graham *op. cit.* (above n. 17, p. 27), pp. 228-9.



### PIERS OF THE SIDE ARCH

~~side-opening~~, including the framing of the principal opening, is equal to  $y$ , and the width of the ~~main~~ <sup>ROAD</sup> opening between the framing pilasters <sup>BAYES</sup> is approximately equal to  $2y$ . (Note that  $5x$  is approximately equal to  $4y$ .) The total width of the Arch on this axis is equal to  $5y$ . CRITICAL HEIGHTS IN THE ELEVATIONS TEND TO CONFORM TO MULTIPLES OF  $x$  AND  $y$ .

The geometry of the Cruciform Building, being based only on the  $y$  module, is more straightforward. The span of the lateral vaults is  $3y$ , the principal span across the centre of the building is  $4y$  and the depth of the lateral arms is  $y$ , giving a total internal width of  $6y$ . It is plausible to suggest that, as shown here, the whole interior was inscribed in a cube.

Figures 39 and 40: Reconstructed plan, cross-section A--A' and longitudinal section B--B'

There is a number of uncertainties of detail in these drawings, some of which might have been resolved if it had been possible to revisit the site. They are offered as a plausible rather than a necessary interpretation of the evidence.

Comparison of the plan in figure 39 with that shown in figure 36 draws attention immediately to the fact that at some time a small rectangular room has been cut out of the pier at the north-east angle of the building. This feature is puzzling as it seems to interfere seriously with the stability of the building and yet, as fragments of vaulting were found in the ruins overlying the Byzantine features (and evidence of an Arab presence: p. 000), the vault presumably [ remained intact until after the Arab conquest. The room must



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therefore have been cut out of the solid pier with some labour and at considerable risk. The room does not appear to have been original to the building, for its south wall is not quite on the right line, and it projects forward to overlie the stylobate of the south forum portico. Whatever the occasion for the construction of this curious feature, it seems likely to be connected with a corresponding (but free-standing) kiosk at the north-west corner of the Forum with which it forms a symmetrical pair on either side of the Capitolium. (See end-plan 2.) It is possible that further inspection may provide an answer. *(Could there have been gate-houses and quæstorian's lodgings??)*

It will also be apparent that whereas the entrance to the building was framed when excavated by two cipollino columns, the reconstruction shows in this position the rectangular marble pilasters which were later re-used to frame the apse of the church (pls. 00, 00). It is almost certain that this was the original [ arrangement, for one of the lateral engaged pilasters and its capital (with side and rear faces prepared for building-in) are preserved in the vaults of the Capitolium (pl. 00). The front of each of the [ pilasters was decorated with an acanthus- or vine-scroll (pls. 00, [ 00), the sides were fluted and the rear face plain. The order of the [ capitals is composite (pl. 00). [

The interior of the building was paved with marble, and traces of marble veneer were noted at the bases of the walls (pl. 00). The [ arms of the cross were framed by flat pilasters which are uniform in style with those at the entrance to the building: fragments of these are preserved in the Capitolium vaults (pl. 00) as are several [ composite pilaster-capitals (pl. 00), whose uncarved parts clearly [ confirm that they were used in this position. Above the capitals,



## (1). Other Hellenistic Remains

### *Insula II*

The east terrace wall of Building L<sub>1</sub> (figs. 20, 53) was built in similar style to the *opus Africanum* walls of Building I in Area R (p. 39). There was, however, very little genuinely Hellenistic material recovered from the lowest levels in this area of the site (Areas S and L) and traces of other Hellenistic structures were not found, despite a thorough investigation. Although an isolated building, of which the terrace wall may have formed part, perhaps stood here, there seems to have been no dense pattern of occupation.

### *Area T*

Deep soundings below the Roman Building T (fig. 30) produced Hellenistic occupation material but a well was the only structure (fig. 53). Further to the east Building BB (fig. 54) rested directly on natural sand, with no Hellenistic levels below. This suggested that *Insulae I* and *IV* represented the easternmost extent of Hellenistic occupation in this area. The proximity of the defensive walls may have restricted expansion.



the walls of the building were lined with an applied marble entablature: no fragments of the architrave-moulding can be definitely identified, but the Capitolium vaults now contain many pieces of cornice-moulding, including both straight runs (pl. 00, top row: note the re-entrant angle at the right-hand end of the left-hand fragment) and short projecting lengths where the entablature was broken forward over the pilaster-capitals (pls. 00, 00).

*Is this feature shown in your drawings?*

Above this entablature, the archivolts and all other internal surfaces and mouldings were probably rendered in plaster. Lighting was probably provided by windows in the lateral arms of the cross above the aediculae, and the facade above the entrance may have been left completely open apart from a grille or balustrade. Conversely, the west wall opposite the entrance, which is thicker than the side walls (1.50 m. rather than 90 cm.), was probably not pierced by a window, since the light from it would have shone in the eyes of someone entering the building.

Section B--B' shows part of the south portico of the Forum at its junction with the Cruciform Building. The portico must have carried a flat roof in order to fit beneath the eaves of the Basilica behind it. (See fig. 42.) The order of the portico is unusual in its proportions: the monolithic granite columns, with marble capitals and bases, have a diameter-to-height ratio of 1 : 8.67 (column-diameter 67.1 cm., total height 5.82 m.). The entasis of the shafts starts unusually high up, suggesting that they were in fact cut down from standard columns of a greater height (probably 6.04 m., ratio 1 : 9). The reason for this may have been either the necessity of conforming to the eaves of the pre-existing buildings around the



### (k). Area P (*Insula IV*)

As in Area J (*Insula II*) and Area R (*Insula III*) the Hellenistic buildings in Area P (fig. 53) had been almost completely submerged by the overlying Roman houses (fig. 52). Although isolated stretches of Hellenistic walls were revealed during excavation (fig. 48) it was not possible to allot sufficient resources to the recovery of a full plan. In any case, this would have required the removal of the later buildings.

The elements of the early plan which were recovered do not form a comprehensible whole (fig. 28) but enough survived to establish beyond any doubt that the building or buildings belonged to the same period of expansion which saw the construction of the neighbouring blocks. The walls in Area P were built on the same alignment and in the same style as most of the contemporary buildings. Pottery extracted from the lowest levels above natural sand associated with these structures was no different from similar deposits elsewhere (Deposit 31) and the three coins related to the early structures were all Hellenistic (1934, 1891, 1926a).

The eastern corner of *Insula IV* was probably represented by the corner of the Hellenistic building found under Room 1 of the Roman Building T (fig. 30, pl. V a). This wall aligned with a shallow sand trench found below the Roman street level in front of Building P<sub>4</sub> (figs. 29, 53). *Insula IV* may therefore be restored as c. 101 m. broad, identical to *Insula I* to the north.



Forum, or a desire to match the height of the porticoes surrounding the East Forum Temple (see p. 000). The intercolumniation of the portico (3.21 m., 4.78 diameters) is too wide for marble, and stuccoed timber architraves are likely to have been used. The termination of the portico against the facade of the Cruciform Building is uncertain: there are no traces of an engaged half-column in granite ( -- how easy would it have been to obtain such a thing?), but there are in the vaults of the Capitolium fragments of a decorated marble pilaster and of a Corinthian capital matching the order of the forum porticoes, which may have been used in this position (pls. 00, 00).

*COLS IN VITROVIAN BASILICA: I have girth measurement for 5 columns only, and my notes do not differentiate the rose-breccia from the Cipollino's --  $\phi$ s are 52.2, 52.5, 53.1, 53.4 and 46.6. This last is the only one measuring the pedicell columns in diameter. The others are, as you see, much the same as the cipollino in the X-form entrance!!*

{Text to be inserted as in previous version. The red breccia columns mentioned are two of the four supporting the altar canopy in the nave of the basilica. Of the six cipollino columns that you list, the two now at the entrance to the X-form bldg. are shown as fatter on all drawings in which they appear (from S.F.T.). Therefore red breccia for central aedicula?} {The inhabited scroll is part of the standard repertoire of the sculptors of Aphrodisias and Nicomedia, I believe, and therefore unlikely to be of local significance. I am sure that the building would make a very worthwhile study in the use of imported and standardized marble ornament, which unfortunately I cannot undertake at the moment!}

*Agreed I can confirm that they have  $\phi$ s of 51.8 & 53.7 as against 46-47 cm.*

*Yes, I'm sure you are correct -- it was just a thought!*

Figure 42: Front elevation of the Cruciform Building, with cross-section of the South Forum Portico and the Basilica



additional wall was slightly narrower (40 cm.) than the remains of the pre-existing walls and more roughly constructed. It rested on earth 25 cm. above the foundations of the east and west walls of Rooms A and B respectively. A rough stone paving was added within the room at this stage. Material sealed beneath this floor dated to the first quarter of the first century A.D.

On the west three sides of Room G survived. To the north it had been destroyed by deep Roman foundations. The room had taken shape after successive building phases which could not be linked to developments elsewhere in the building.

The east wall of Room G stood to a maximum height of 1.44 m. It had been built in two stages. The original wall stood to a height of 67 cm. and rested on earth 15 cm. above natural sand. It was poorly constructed of small roughly squared blocks whose maximum dimensions were  $24 \times 10$  cm. The upper section of the wall was much better built of rather larger, more carefully squared blocks (max.  $37 \times 24$  cm.). It was separated in places from the underlying wall by up to 5 cm. of earth, although this did not form a continuous layer. This rebuilding itself had later been repaired, and bonded in with the late repair was the south wall of the room. Built in the same general style, the south wall stood to a height of 50 cm. and rested on a sand-filled foundation 85 cm. deep. The depth of this foundation trench paralleled the depth of the foundation trenches for the Roman buildings and was almost twice as deep as any of the other Hellenistic sand trenches.

#### *Dating Evidence*

Due to the particular problems associated with the excavation of this part of the site (see n. 1) only an outline chronology could be established for the Hellenistic buildings in Area R.

The early pits (A–D) contained a good group of pottery which dates to the Hellenistic period, probably to the second century B.C. (Deposits 4–7). The first buildings can thus be dated with a fair degree of certainty to the same period, on the analogy of other contemporary buildings in *Insulae I* and *II*. This receives support from the material from Pit E, a large, deep, ash-filled pit which utilized the hole left by the subsidence of the square, stone-lined well in Room C, Building 1 (fig. 25). This material (Deposit 8) was purely Hellenistic in date, as was the fill of the circular well to the south (Deposit 30). These deposits also suggested that the division of Building 1 into two properties, with Building 3 (the bakery) on the south, was an earlier rather than a later development. Levels underlying the ovens (Deposit 29) also produced solely Hellenistic material.

Within Building 1 there was no substantial deposit of comparable date, a fact possibly explained by later construction in the area. The Phase 3 developments in this building belonged to the early first century A.D., as Deposit 40, which consisted of finds sealed below the stone floor of Room 7, suggested. External levels in the open area surrounding Rooms F and G were of similar date (Deposit 41).

Building 1 was abandoned shortly after the Phase 3 reconstruction had taken place. A massive deposit of rubbish (Deposit 46) was dumped over the area and this can be dated to the Tiberian period. Building 3, however, seems to have remained in use rather longer. The oven fills and associated levels were dated to the first half of the second century A.D. (Deposits 75, 76). There was no dating evidence available from Building 2.

The lowest levels of Rooms A and B of Building 1 produced a coin of Ptolemy III (2003) and three coins of Ptolemy VIII (2010, 2016, 2219), possibly a truer indication of early occupation than the subsequent deposits suggested. Building 3 produced three coins, two illegible Ptolemaic issues (2179, 3704) and one illegible Hellenistic issue (2215) trapped between the earlier and later ovens on the south side of Room D.



{I do not wholly follow your comments about the base-sockets for the colonnades and their probable height. When you refer to the base-sockets in the entrance to the tribunal, do you have specific record of them, or are you referring to the master-plan, which I think shows the modern bases placed on the stylobate by Caputo?}

{I notice that you have raised the over-all height of the Basilica slightly from the previous version of this drawing: can you please give me the reasoning behind the dimensions now suggested

(including the tribunal)?} *No levels available for the tribunal. It was always treated as one with the testudo levels.*  
{Am I right in assuming that the whole of the section through the

Basilica, including the doorway to the Forum, is now drawn through the centre of the building?} *Yes.*

*The original basilica columns left edge outlines in the pavement bedding and the maximum size of column base is therefore reasonably determinable and corresponds with a col.  $\phi$  of 72 cm. This, I believe is the same as the  $\phi$ s of the cols. re-erected at the tribunal entrance. These 4 caps and the column drums have survived, presumably in that position, and I therefore show them as being identical with the testudo cols. My original 1/50 pencil drawing set out at the time on site shows not only the Caputo reconstructed cols., but full-size base cuttings on the stylobate. There are also dotted lines which might indicate a base size of approx. 90 cm x 90 cm. This could indicate a column size of approx. 65 cm.  $\phi$ . in this position at some stage, but without checking to see what the dotted lines actually represent it would be difficult to decide whether or not they are meaningful. Hence I made the cols. the same.*

*The Survey levels for the E F Temple enabled me to fix the height of the Forum Palace stylobate - some 4' 0" higher than my first interpretation of the levels, so I had to redraw the whole thing.*



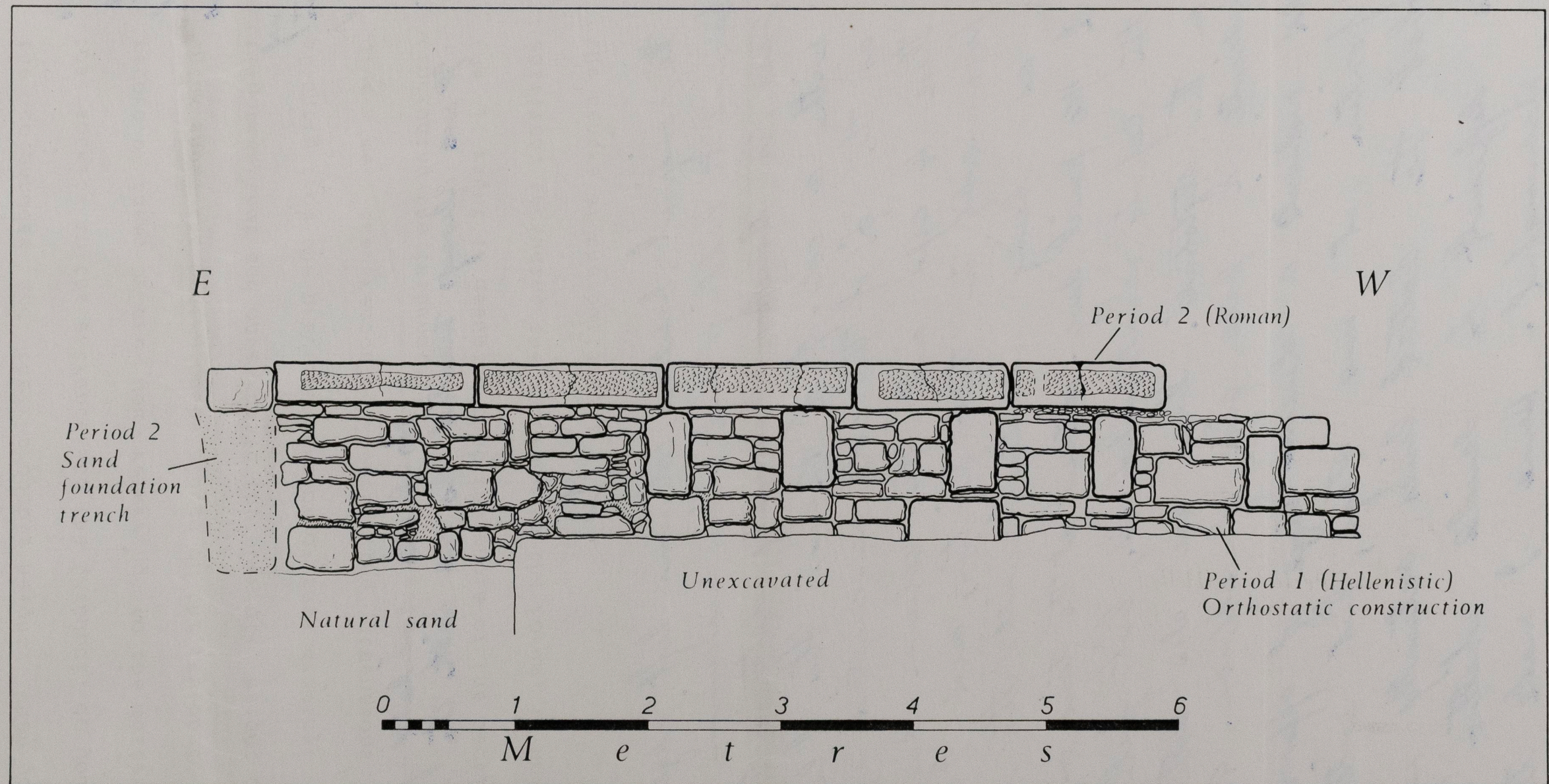


Fig. 16. Area R, elevation of main E-W wall.

شكل ١٦ - المنطقة R، ارتفاع السور الرئيس الممتد من الشرق الى الغرب.



have the same over-all height as shown, though it would be possible to reduce the height of B if the main cross-vaults were concentric with the barrel-vaults in the arms rather than springing from the level of their crowns. Solution C is that found in the fourth-century Arch of Janus in Rome, based on semi-circular arches forming groins across the diagonals; solution D is the pendentive dome, as employed in A.D. 203 in the Arch of Septimius Severus at Lepcis Magana. Of these ~~four~~ alternatives, A ~~or B~~ seems the most likely to have been employed, and ~~A~~ is that adopted in figures 39, 40 and 42: it is the solution which corresponds to the minimal volume of construction.

Figures 39 and 40: Reconstructed plan, cross-section A--A' and longitudinal section B--B'

There <sup>is</sup> are a number of uncertainties of detail in these drawings, some of which might have been resolved if it had been possible to revisit the site. They are offered as a plausible rather than a necessary interpretation of the evidence.

Comparison of the plan <sup>in figure 39</sup> with that shown in figure 36 draws attention immediately to the fact that at some time a small rectangular room has been cut out of the pier at the north-east angle of the building. This feature is puzzling as it seems to interfere critically with the stability of the building, and should therefore be interpreted as a late feature inserted after the vault had fallen. And yet, as fragments of vaulting were found in the ruins of the building, the vault must still have been standing in the Byzantine period when the building served as a baptistery. On the other hand,

The colored plan shows the angle of this structure overlapping the stylobate of the Forum S. Paulino & contemporary with the Curia stage of the building. The South wall of the structure is not quite (beveled) on the line of entrance flank wall and the remaining wall

I will send you the original in case you wish to include the other two solutions.

And is similar to the system adopted in the so-called 'praetorium' at Monsiwich, Syria

I feel increasingly that this has to be original

is not wide enough to suggest that it is part of the original structure (should be not less than 86 cm thick). The jointing and foundations would have to be examined to be sure of this.



*I would, on the face of it, see this room as a late modification but before the collapse of the vault and forming a contributory factor leading to its failure.*

the projecting room is built in line with the front of the Capitolium, and forms a symmetrical pair with a corresponding (but free-standing) kiosk at the opposite side of the temple. (See end-plan 2.) This suggests that it should have been an integral part of the re-development of the Forum in Period III (i.e. original to the Cruciform Building). Both Daykin and Ward-Perkins (see fig. 37) clearly regard the room as secondary, but further inspection is called for. It will also be apparent that whereas the entrance to the building was framed when excavated by two cipollino columns, the reconstruction shows in this position the rectangular marble pilasters which were later re-used to frame the apse of the church (pls. 00, 00). It is almost certain that this was the original arrangement, for one of the lateral engaged pilasters <sup>a capital</sup> is preserved in the vaults of the Capitolium (pl. 00). <sup>a capital</sup> The front of each of the pilasters was decorated with an acanthus- or vine-scroll (pls. 00, 00), the sides were fluted and the rear face plain. The order of the capitals is composite (pl. 00).

The interior of the building was paved with marble, and traces of marble veneer were noted at the bases of the walls (pl. 00). The arms of the cross were framed by flat pilasters which are uniform in style with those at the entrance to the building: fragments of these are preserved in the Capitolium vaults (pl. 00) as are several composite pilaster-capitals (pl. 00), whose uncarved parts clearly confirm that they were used in this position. Above the capitals, the walls of the building were lined with an applied marble entablature: no fragments of the architrave-moulding can be definitely identified, but the Capitolium vaults now contain many pieces of cornice-moulding, including both straight runs (pl. 00,

*yes -  
indeed.*

*a capital  
also shows  
side & back  
prepared for  
building in.  
(my site dug.)* →

NOTE THIS:  
CLEAR IN  
CERTAIN PHOTOS.

*phot S253*

[ III b. 15, 2

[ 3

[ 4, 5

[ 6

[ 6A

[ 7

[ 8

[ 9a



top row: note the re-entrant angle at the right-hand end of the left-hand fragment) and short projecting lengths where the entablature was broken forward over the pilaster-capitals (pls. 00, 00).

[ 96, 10

Above this entablature, the archivolts and all other internal surfaces and mouldings were probably rendered in plaster. Lighting was probably provided by windows in the lateral arms of the cross above the aediculae, and the facade above the entrance may have been left completely open apart from a grille or balustrade. Conversely, the west wall opposite the entrance, which is thicker than the side walls (1.50 m. rather than 90 cm.), was probably not pierced by a window, <sup>since</sup> the light from which would have shone in the eyes of someone entering the building.

Section B--B' shows part of the south portico of the Forum at its junction with the Cruciform Building. The portico must have carried a flat roof in order to fit beneath the eaves of the Basilica behind it. (See fig. 42.) The order of the portico is unusual in its proportions: the monolithic granite columns, with marble capitals and bases, have a diameter-to-height ratio of 1 : 8.85. The entasis of the shafts starts unusually high up, suggesting that they were in fact cut down from standard columns of a greater height. The reason for this may have been either the necessity of conforming to the eaves of the pre-existing buildings around the Forum, or a desire to match the height of the porticoes surrounding the East Forum Temple (see p. 000). The intercolumniation of the portico

8.67

[ 11 a. 12

(3.25 m., 5 diameters) is too wide for marble, and stuccoed timber architraves are likely to have been used. The termination of the portico against the facade of the Cruciform Building is problematic owing to the uncertainty about the projecting room set in the

Col. d = 67.1  
Col. base + Cap =  
4.75 + 27 + 80 =  
5.82 m. but  
needs verification

What height?  
6.039 m.

OK new data.  
Suggest 3-20 m.  
My Basilica  
Drawing shows  
Centres varying  
from 3.13 to  
3.28. Over  
the whole  
Colonnade still standing  
(48-20 m) the span  
averages 3.21333



corner-pier at this point (above, p. 000). If the front of the building was as shown in the reconstruction-drawings (without the forward projection) an engaged column or pilaster would suit the spacing of the portico. There are in the vaults of the Capitolium fragments of a decorated pilaster and of a Corinthian capital matching the order of the forum porticoes which may have fulfilled this function (pls. 00, 00).

[ 4 f

would not  
this pilaster  
have been  
Granite to  
match the cols.?

[ 11a+b, 12

#### Figure 41: The order of the aediculae

I have come to  
the conclusion  
that the original  
H of the plinths  
was 27 cm  
higher than I  
have shown  
in the sections.

i.e. 1 m 55 cm.  
high. This would  
bring the top of  
the aediculae  
to the arch  
spanning line.

Six Cipollino  
Cols. survive  
I believe:  
2 on plinth  
2 at entrance  
2 Church-  
cubiculum.

During the lifetime of the Cruciform Building, two of the three aediculae were wholly removed and the third was substantially remodelled. The original height of the plinths (and indeed their precise dimensions in plan) is therefore not certain, but the character of the architectural orders that they carried can be confidently reconstructed by identifying the individual parts. The aediculae were framed by columns of red breccia or cipollino: four of these were subsequently used to support the altar-canopy in the church (p. 000 and pl. 00), whilst two remain (more or less) in position. Two of the Corinthian capitals that they carried survive atop their columns in the church (pl. 00). Various pieces of architrave can be identified, standing loose in the Cruciform Building (pls. 00, 00), built into the late steps in front of the surviving aedícula (pl. 00) and used for the re-facing in marble of the steps in front of the western apse of the Basilica (pl. 00). The frieze is decorated with an inhabited acanthus-scroll containing the foreparts of wild beasts and of huntsmen armed with spears (pls. 00, 00). Finally, there are a number of fragments of the highly ornate

*cipollino? and possibly also red breccia*

*such columns*

[ m b 3b | m b 16

[ 13

[ 14, 18

[ 18

[ m b 17

[ 15

[

This reminds me of the decorative theme of the Atrium Baths, Lepais (-Contemporary I believe). Could this indicate continuities to the work by the same animal traders for whom the baths were built?



cornice (pl. 00). The upper surface of the cornice-blocks is rough, indicating that there was no pediment above. In the absence of any fragments suggesting a coffered ceiling, the interiors of the aediculae may have been open behind the entablature.

[ 16

Yes I feel  
they were open  
tho' I have  
indicated ceilings  
of wood.

Figure 42: Front elevation of the Cruciform Building, with cross-section of the Basilica

The architrave above the entrance to the Cruciform

In conjunction  
with the portico  
roof.

Building was probably of wood. If so, it is possible that the frieze above was composed of marble veneer decorated with putti supporting festoons. A suitable length of such frieze is preserved in the vaults of the Capitolium (pls. 00, 00, middle row), which JBWP has attributed to the Temple of Serapis (p. 000); but the Cruciform Building seems to have an equal, if not stronger claim. Two hands of markedly differing competence are detectable in the carving of the frieze, and it may be that the inferior version was used for the inner face.

[ 9a+b

[

As in the case of the Cruciform Building, the reconstructed section through the transverse axis of the Basilica makes no claim to be anything more than plausible. It has been assumed that the capitals found in the entrance to the tribunal were <sup>i</sup>uniform with those of the main colonnades (see p. 000).

[ III 6.12

Cuttings for the base of these cols. show a base size of (max) 1.10 m. The base sockets of the main Testudo order show one of 1.13 m. Tho' some are 1.23 m square (indicated by the <sup>Further comment on Basilica to be added when I have your final opinion</sup> pattern imprints of the marble slabs). This suggests a col HT inc. Cap & base of 9 x a  $\phi$  of .814 cms. maximum — i.e. 7.32 m. as against 6.498 as shown. — roughly 82 cm. higher. Would the difference have been worth it??? Could be, I suppose!



THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE BUILDING (See figs. 36 and 37)

A summary ~~xxxxxx~~ description of the later history of the Cruciform Building has already been given above in the words of JBWP (p. 000 and fig. 37). There is no evidence for the date when the building was transformed into a curia, nor as to the extent of the alterations which accompanied this change of use. the essential feature of this phase was the insertion around three sides of sandstone blocks on top of the original marble paving, raising the floor in three shallow steps to a level 35 cm. above the central area. (See/pls. 00 and 00.) Whether the lateral aediculae still existed in this phase or had already been removed, it is impossible to say. The fact that so much of the marble used in the original building was available to the restorers of the church in the Justinianic period (Basilica Period IV) may indicate that it remained in position until then.

The Byzantine alterations were undoubtedly more far-reaching, not least because the building became a quarry for the restor<sup>er</sup>es of the church. The lateral aediculae were certainly removed then if not before, and their plinths made flush with the floor. (Note the outline of the southern aedacula, just visible in the background of plate 00.) A cruciform font set in an octagonal casing was sunk in the centre of the floor, and the whole floor of the building was made good to the previously raised level around the walls. This resulted in the raising of the floor across the entrance to the building also, necessitating the addition of steps leading down to the level of the former (but now undoubtedly fallen) south forum portico (pl. 00). I have the impression that the Cruciform Building was pillaged of its ornament before the idea was conceived

Please  
Excuse.  
~~I agree.~~  
~~I have to~~  
~~sections of~~  
~~this. My notes~~  
~~show it flush~~  
~~with the main~~  
~~floor.~~

The problem of attributing a date to the rectangular room cut out of the pier in the NE corner of the building has already been discussed: if the room is not original, it may have been contemporary with the alterations just described.



of using it as a baptistery: this would explain why the rectangular pilasters at the entrance (which were presumably still in place, for they would have broken if they had fallen) were replaced by cipollino columns in the same position. The latter were, however, in place before the floor of the building was raised, for their bases are enveloped by the inserted steps. The aedicula opposite to the entrance was retained and remodelled to contain a throne

~~According to Daykin?~~ The reconstructions presented in figures 39 and 40 suggest that its height (pl. 00): ~~the present height of the plinth may be original to the~~ ~~was reduced by 27 cm. for this purpose.~~ ~~second-century building (thus Daykin in figures 39, 40) or it may~~

~~have been raised at a later date (thus JBWP in figure 37). Steps~~ were added in front, making use of one of the former aedicula-architraves, and a shallow apse was hollowed out of the thickness of the rear wall of the building behind. A cistern set in the floor just inside the entrance <sup>to the bldg.</sup> (see fig. 36) is

The former south wall of the Cruciform Building, towards the Basilica, has all but disappeared (pls. 00, 00), and its line is crossed by a surface gully of undetermined date. An access to the church through this wall was undoubtedly created when the building became a baptistery: it is most likely to have been made against the eastern edge of this arm of the building, directly opposite to the stairway which was now inserted in the north side of the basilica apse (see fig. 35 and pl. 00), but the presence of the gully mentioned above suggests that there was a wider opening in this wall at some time when the building was still in use.

JBWP has recorded the presence of an early arabic graffito scratched on the concrete surface of the font (Ward-Perkins & Goodchild 1953, 12) -- one of the few surviving traces of occupation following the arab conquest.

original  
The down  
section shows  
this, I think.

I now feel it  
may have been  
cut down then

see earlier.  
It depends whether  
the aedicula  
council considered  
with the main  
interior council  
or came below it.

to the font, which  
was provided with an  
inlet pipe ~~to~~ on this  
side. [ 17



