

College of Engineering
Department of Interior Design

History of Interior Design

2nd year – 1st Semester

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	Course Name	History of Interior Design
	Course Code	INDS 215
	Lecturer in Charge	Asst. Lecturer
	Department/College	Interior Design / Engineering
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	Time(in hours) per week	Theory: 2 h.
	Keywords	Pre-history of interior design, Dolmen, Barrows
	Objectives:	<p>At the end of this lecture, the students should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the Pre-History of Architecture. • Analyze the history of Mesopotamia.



Course Reading List and References:

- A History of Interior Design
by John Pile & Judith Gura



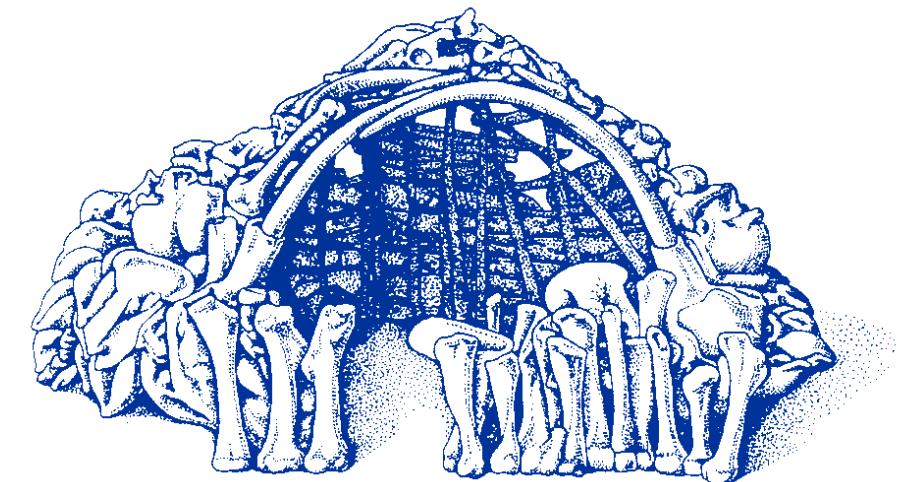
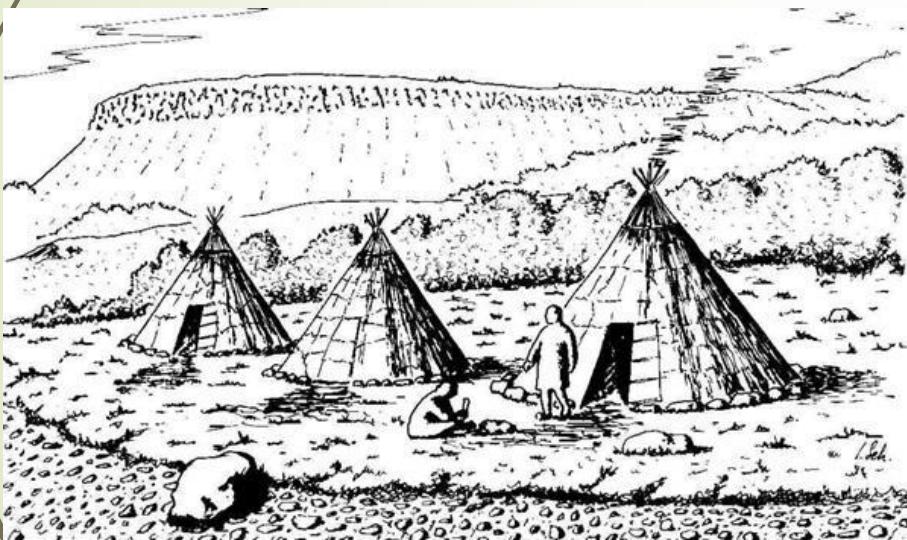
Pre-History and Early Civilization

► PREHISTORIC INTERIORS

- There have been human beings on earth for about 1.7 million years. The detailed record of events and developments that we call “history” stretches back for only about six or seven thousand years.
- Before the beginning of history we have only myths, legends, and guesswork to tell us what events occurred and in what order. Thus the questions of when and where people first learned to use shelters, and what the earliest shelters were like, have long been the subject of much speculation.

Pre-History and Early Civilization

- What is Pre-History?
- Cultures who lived before the time of writing and so of recorded history.
- According to the evidences, the earliest dwellings of ancient people were made from bones, stones, wooden frame with animal skin or tree branches.



► Pre-History and Early Civilization.

- Inorganic materials such as mud or (in cold climates) snow have limited lasting qualities, while stone, although very durable, is so difficult to work as to have had very limited possibilities for shelter building.
- These realities mean that the materials surviving from prehistoric times are largely small objects of stone such as arrowheads and spear points, or large arrangements of stones set up in patterns or assembled into structures.

Pre-History and Early Civilization.

► Dolmens and Barrows

- A **dolmen** is a type of single-chamber tomb, usually consisting of two or more vertical tomb supporting a large flat horizontal capstone (table).



Pre-History and Early Civilization.

- ▶ **Dolmens and Barrows**
- ▶ Most speculations assume that the larger sites, such as Stonehenge on Salisbury Plain in Britain, were used for **ceremonies or rituals connected with observation of astronomical movements; dolmens are more often linked to burial rites.**
- ▶ The arrangement of a large stone placed on top of two or three upright stones that makes up the many dolmens seems to have created the inner chamber of a tomb that took the form of an artificial hill.

Pre-History and Early Civilization.

- ▶ Where the earth has eroded away, the stone dolmen remains. Where the earth is still in place, it forms the kind of tomb called a **Barrow** in England.
- ▶ It is possible to go into the interior chambers of some of these surviving tombs.



Pre-History and Early Civilization.

- Scholars debate the various theories of the function of Stonehenge:
 1. It may have served to predict both lunar and solar eclipses.
 2. It may have been used to track seasonal changes, something essential to agricultural society.



Pre-History and Early Civilization.



Pre-History and Early Civilization.

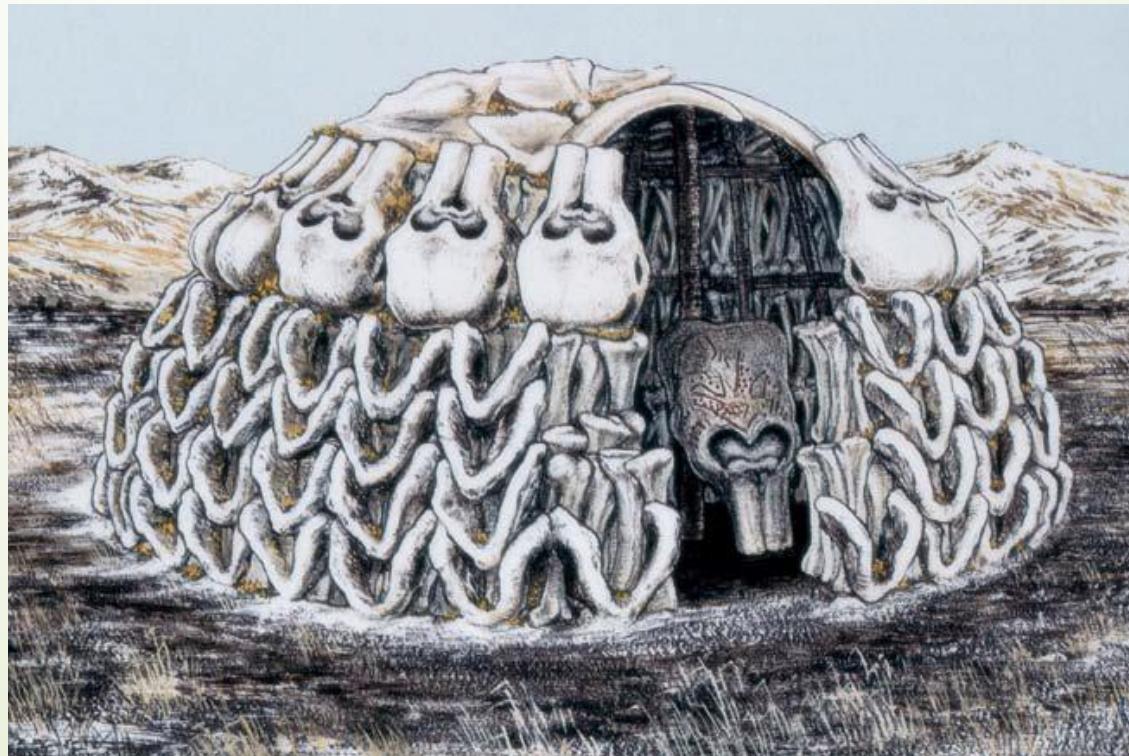
- ▶ **The First Permanent Settlements**
- ▶ The key inventions or discoveries on which civilization is built are the controlled use of fire, the invention of language, and the development of agriculture.
- ▶ Of these three it is agriculture, or fixed- base agriculture, as it is often called, that has most directly influenced the design of built shelter.
- ▶ With more people and the development of more permanent building types, villages and towns were established.

Pre-History and Early Civilization.

- ▶ **The First Permanent Settlements**
- ▶ The most obviously desirable non-portable material for wall construction would have been stone, but stone was not always easily available.
- ▶ As a result, a substitute was invented: the **Mud-brick** made by compacting mud in a mold and drying it in the sun. It was used in much early building and is still used in modern times.

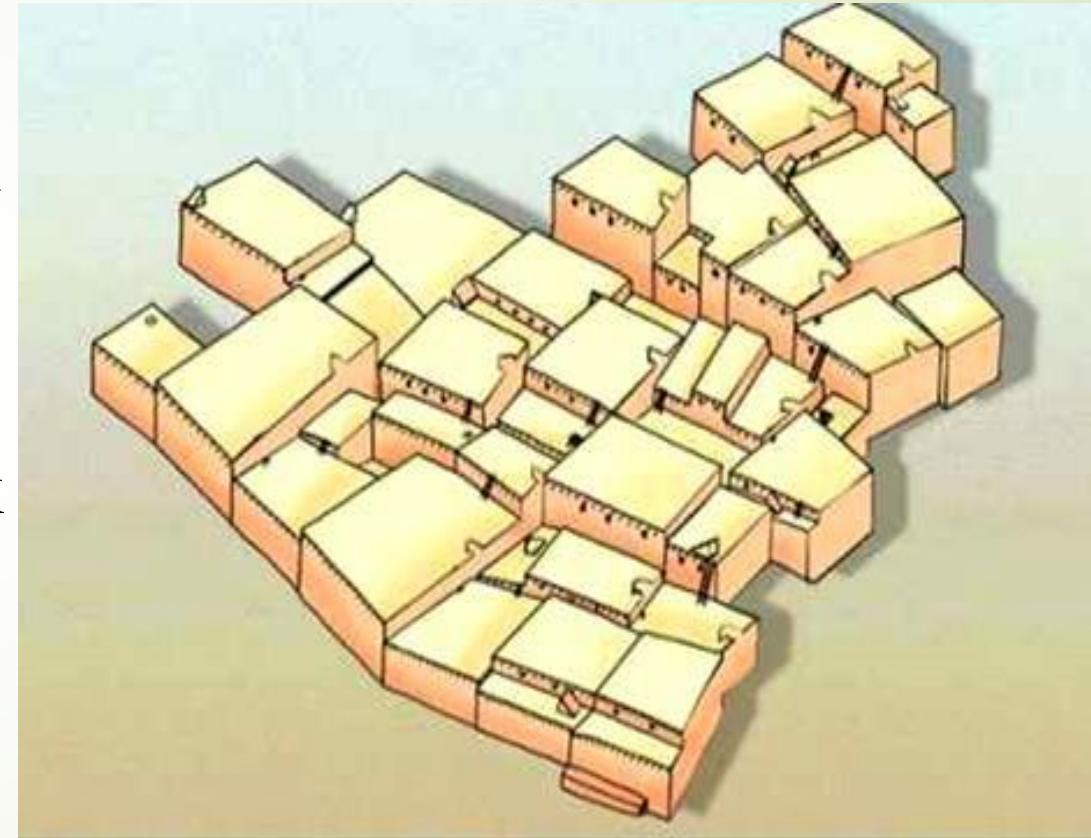
Pre-History and Early Civilization.

- The First Permanent Settlements.
- Among the earliest known excavated structures are the frames made from mammoth bones found at Mezhirich (Ukrainian Republic), and dating to *c.* 15,000 b.c.



The First Permanent Settlements.

- ▶ Çatal Hüyük (near Konya, Turkey)
6500–5700. BC.
- ▶ One of world's early experiments in urban living.
- ▶ Mud brick and stone construction
- ▶ All the buildings at Çatal Hüyük were accessed from the rooftops.



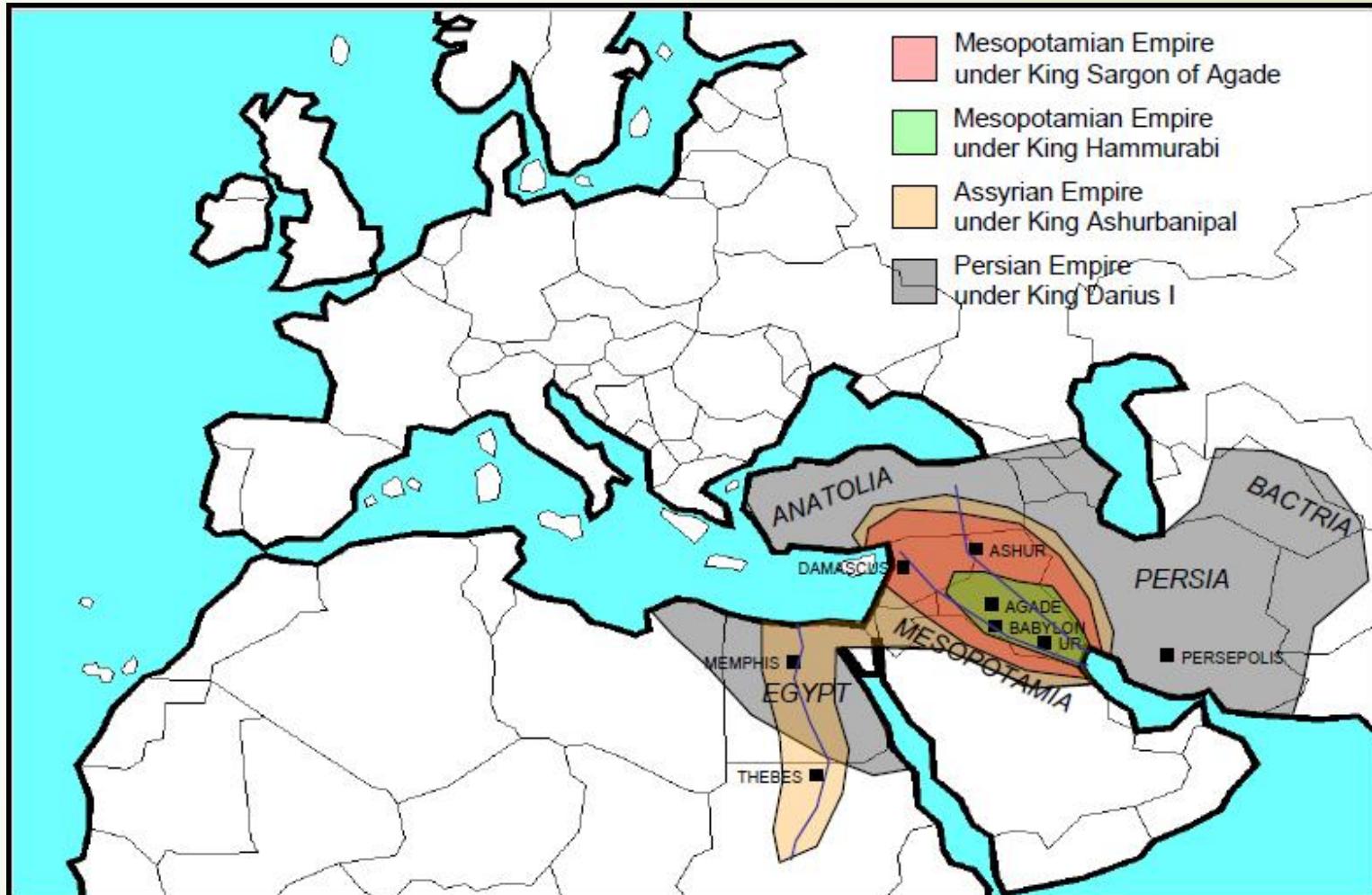
The First Permanent Settlements.

- It is thought that the doorless and largely window-less exterior walls of the connected structures formed the defensive perimeter for the community.



Early Civilizations

- Mesopotamia
- There are three great civilizations :
SUMER, BABYLON AND ASSYRIA.



Early Civilizations

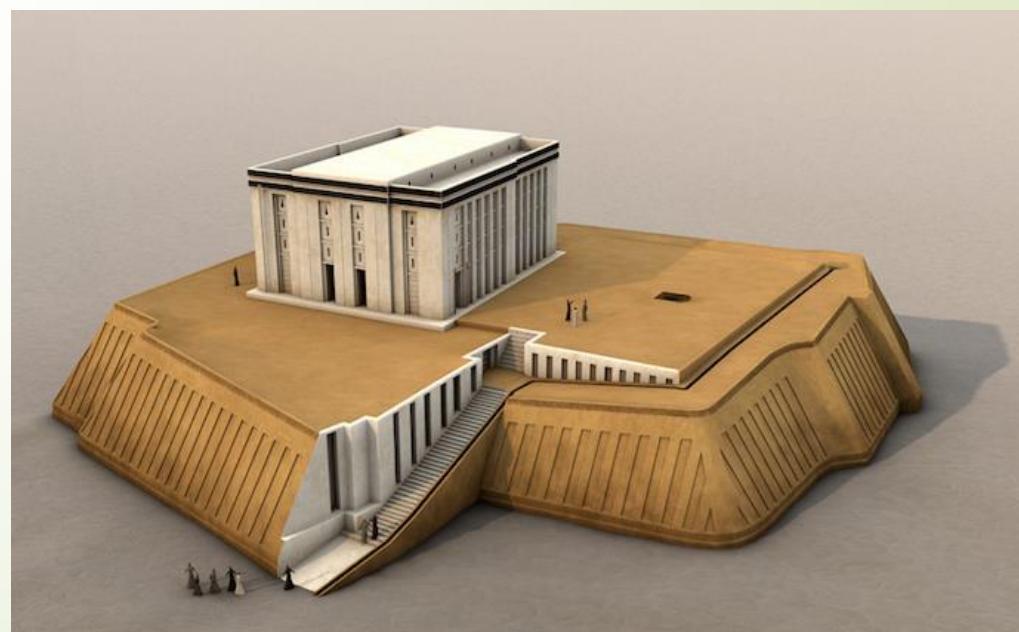
► Mesopotamia

- Unfortunately for the study of interior design, the available building materials were limited, with sun- baked mud brick the primary material of construction.
- Excavations at the site of the ancient Sumerian city of Ur have uncovered traces of 4000- year- old closely packed neighborhoods of houses, each having several rectangular rooms around an open central court.
- This house type has continued to be used in many warm- climate regions up to the present time.

Early Civilizations

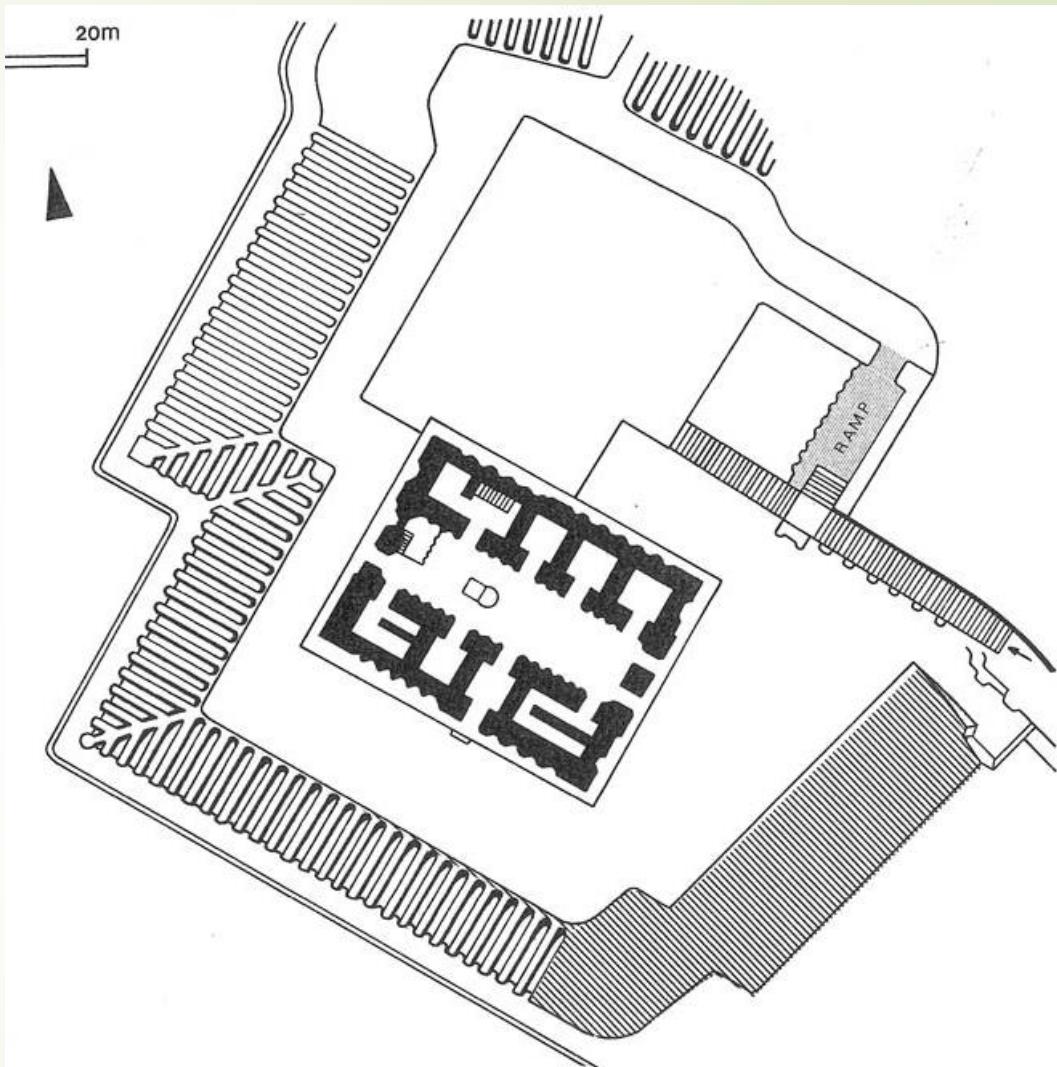
- ▶ **The White Temple in Uruk.**
- ▶ The ancient temple, viewed by its builders as a house of a deity, tended to be an enlarged and elaborated version of the local house type .
- ▶ The White Temple in Uruk, so-called because **of the traces that indicate that its walls were whitewashed**, was built **before 3000 b.c.**

White Temple and Ziggurat, Uruk (Warka), 3200 -3000 B.C.



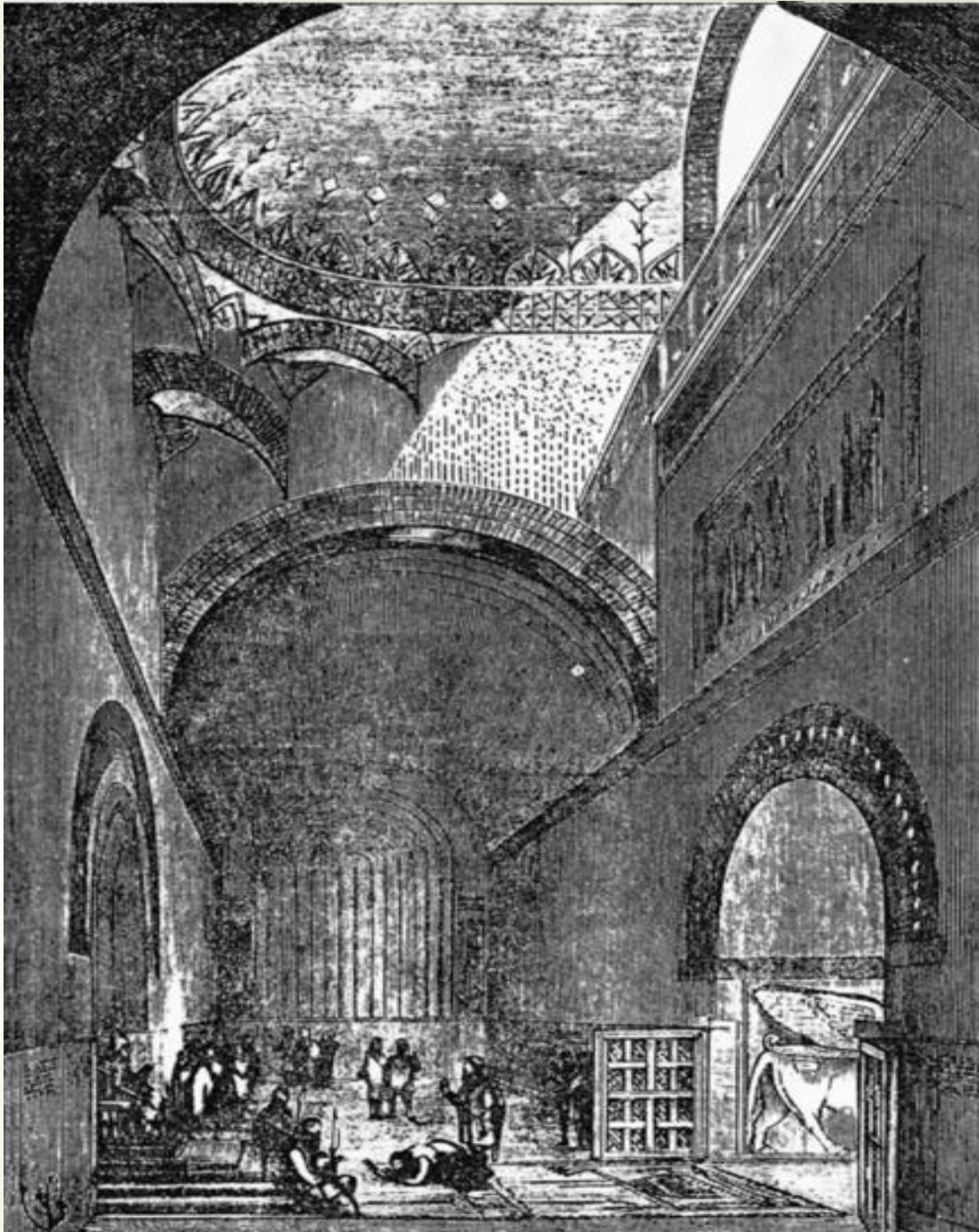
Early Civilizations

- ▶ The White Temple in Uruk.
- ▶ It is a rectangular block with a number of rooms surrounding a central space that may have been a covered or open court.
- ▶ Deep walls have thickened vertical bands to aid in strengthening the inherently weak mud brick.
- ▶ Even earlier construction in Uruk includes fragments of walls surfaced with an elaborately patterned studding of small cones of clay painted in black, white, and red; the mosaic- like designs suggest the zig zag and diamond forms of woven textile patterns.



Early Civilizations

- ▶ Much later, Assyrian cities included vast and complex palaces with plans that can be studied as they survive in excavated remains.
- ▶ Large rooms in the palace of Sargon in Khorsabad (720 b.c.) are thought to have had vaulted roofs and possibly made use of half domes.
- ▶ Glazed tile in rich colors was used as a surface material, and enough examples of these decorations survive to give some basis for imagined reconstructions.





THANK
YOU
FOR
YOUR
ATTENTION