



2nd Year Architecture
2018/2019 second Semester

History of Architecture I

Lecture (3) :

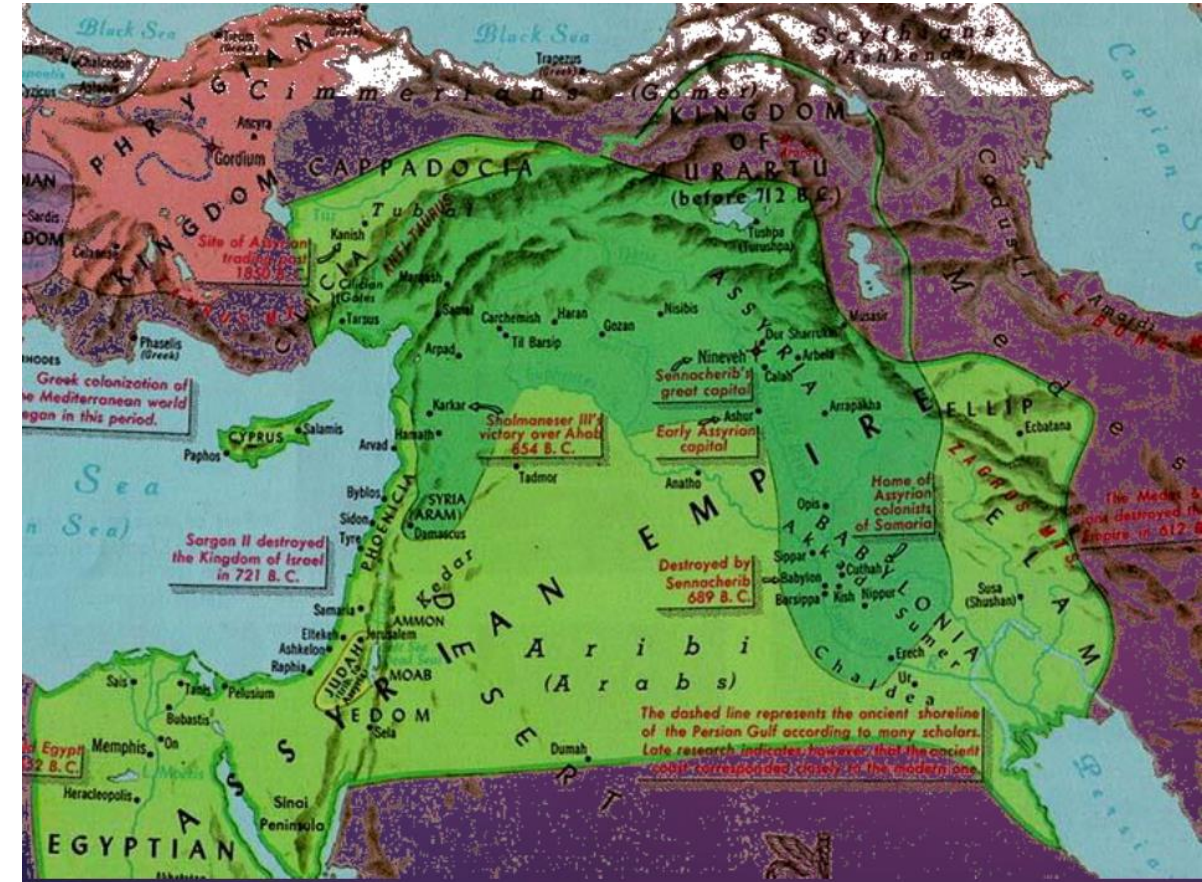
Mesopotamia 2

***by* : SEEMA K. ALFARIS**

Mesopotamia

Assyrian Culture (1350 – 612) B.C

- After **Hammurabi's death**, Babylon fell apart and **kings of Assur** controlled more of surrounding area and came to dominate .
- Assyrian reunited Mesopotamia and established **the first true empire with a great army** .
- Established many cities : **Assyria, Khorsabad (Dorshrokin) – Nineveh and Nimrud** .
- **Discovery of Iron** changed there lifestyles and daily life , replaced wooden wheels and applied to horse drawn chariots.
- **Discovery of Iron** made the **Assyrian army** most effective military force in that time ,because it used in weapons .
- **During the Assyrian periods, temples lost their importance to palaces**



Mesopotamia

Assyrian Culture (1350 – 612) B.C

- **Assyrian art** is characterized by the huge quantities of murals, sculptures and winged bulls.
- The huge winged bulls appeared to guard the gates and holding ceilings (used in external spaces).
- Most of murals and sculptures represent the character of kings and animals such as lions and horses ,(used in internal spaces).
- Assyrian Architecture Buildings were very high, that's related to the majority of using stone in construction .



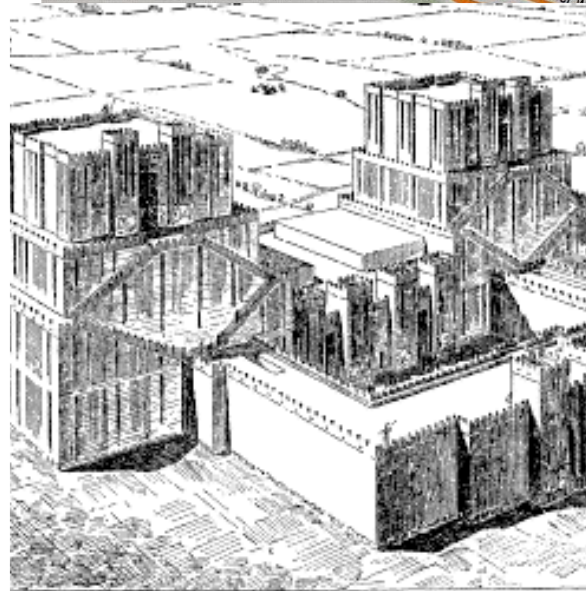
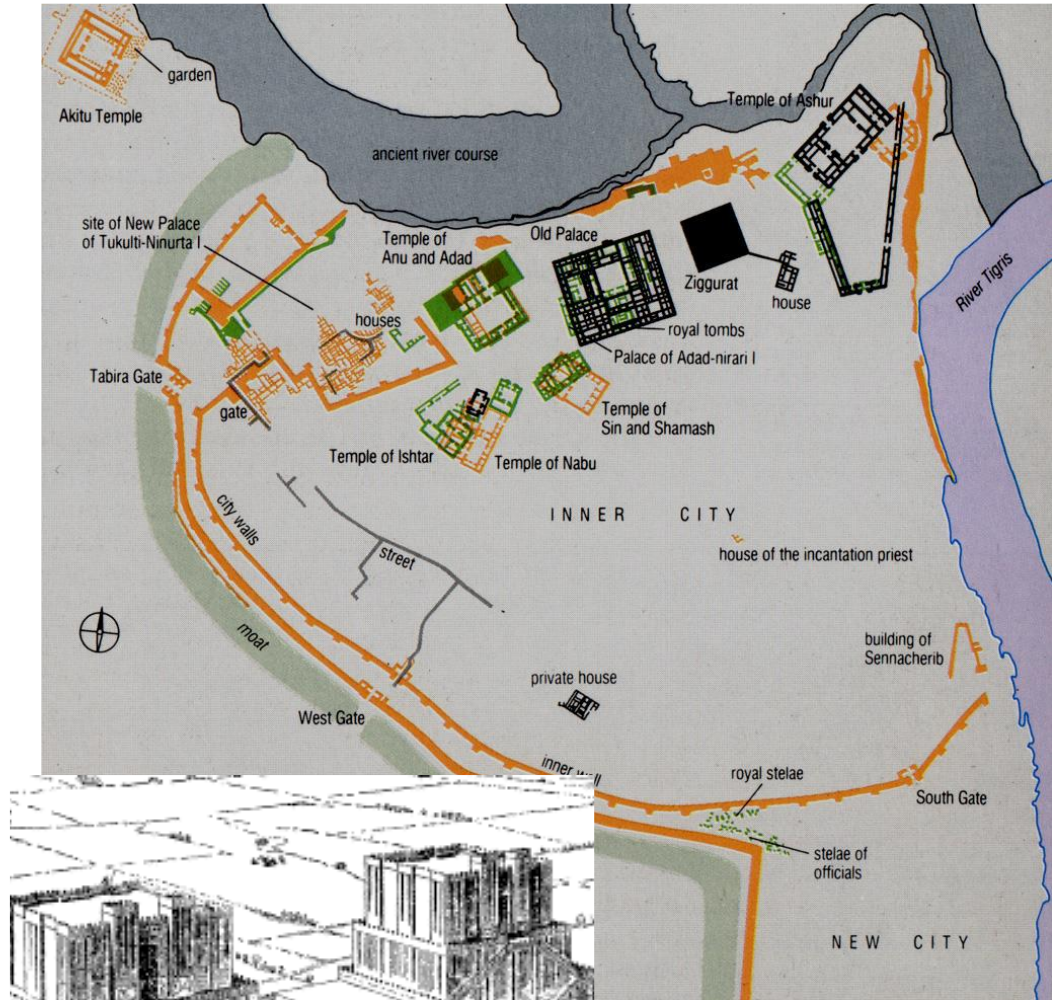
Winged bulls ³

Mesopotamia

Assyrian Culture (1350 – 612) B.C

1. Assyria city :

- One of the oldest Assyrian cities (early Assyrian capital) , most researchers associate the reason of choosing its location to the geographical factors , and also the height and natural of the rocky era (up to 12 meters edges of the river next door).
- Famous buildings : **Ashur temple (The Doubled temple)** .

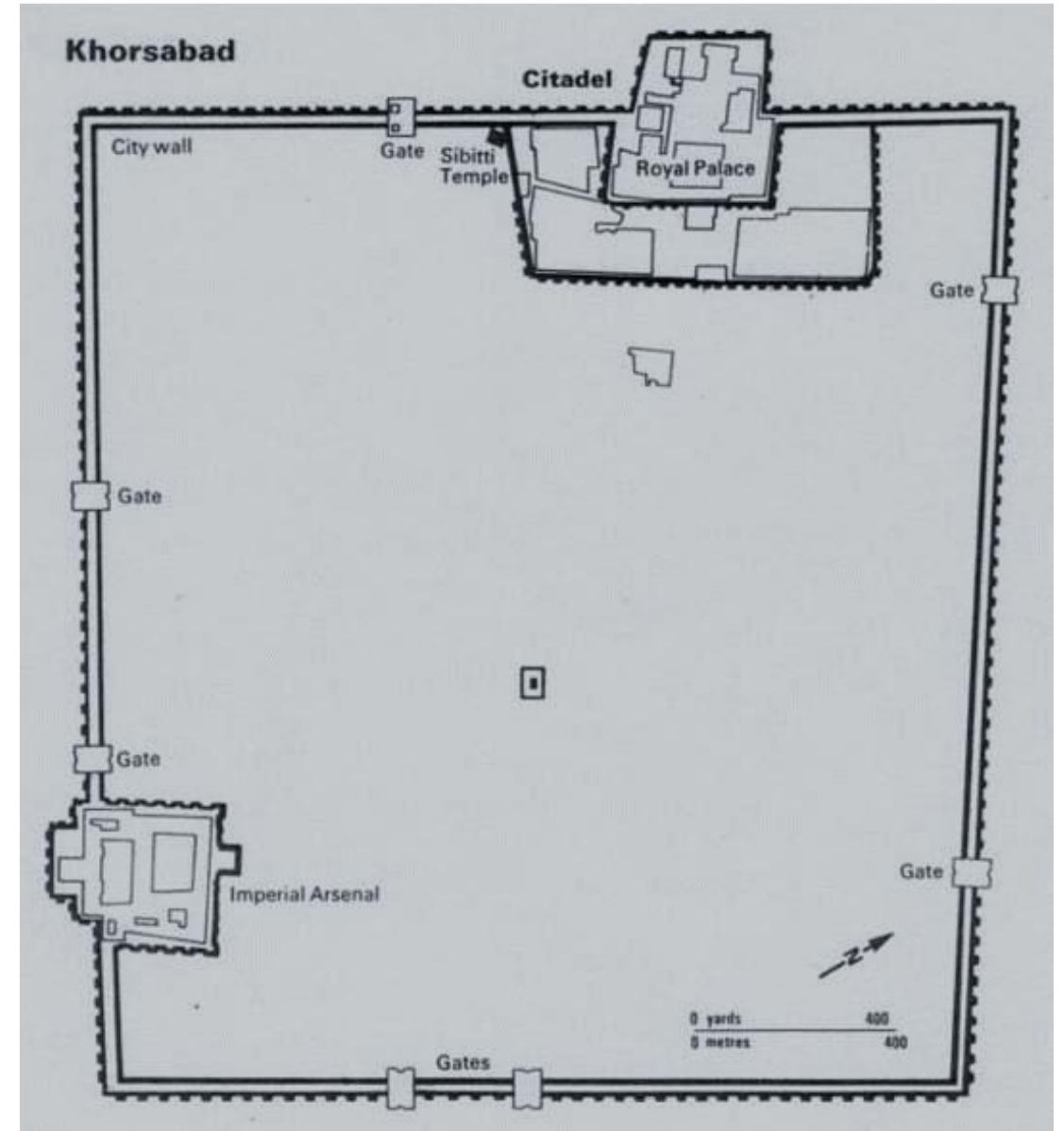


Mesopotamia

Assyrian Culture (1350 – 612) B.C

2. Khorsabad city :

- Khorsabad , The modern name of the ancient site of Dorshukin,
- Discovered in 1843 , was built by Sargon II in 722 - 740 BC. , he is on of the greatest Assyrian kings.
- (1760 * 1675 square meters) and surrounded by wall which is consists of 7 gates, each gate having a name of God, guarded by two winged bulls.
- Famous buildings : **Sargon Palace is located In the north west wing, which is a huge and large complex.**

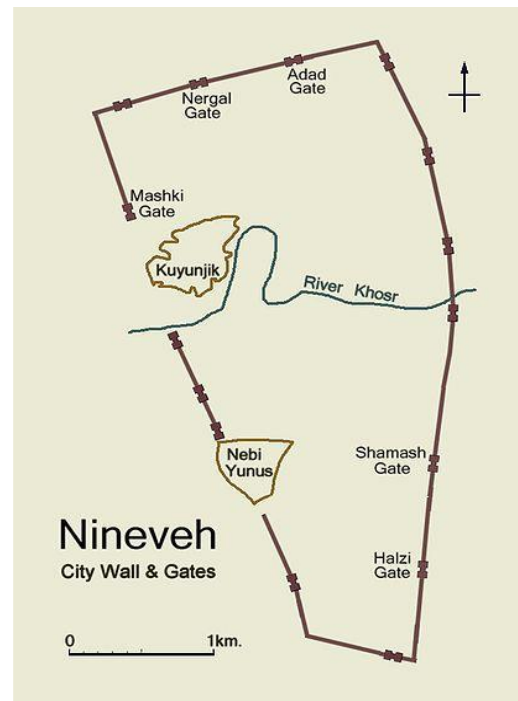


Mesopotamia

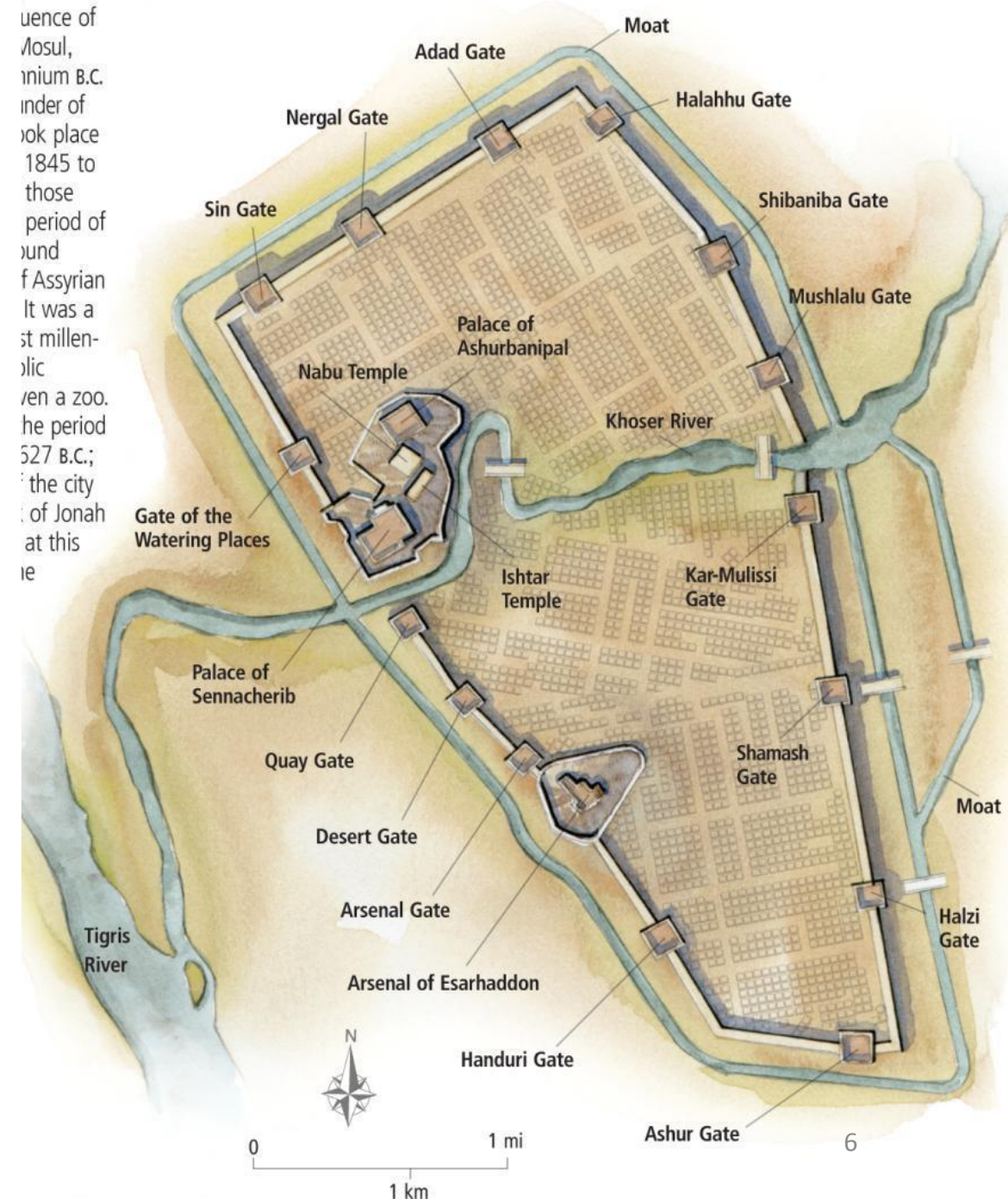
Assyrian Culture (1350 – 612) B.C

3. Nineveh city:

- After the death of **Sargon II** followed by the rule of his son **Sennacherib**, who moved the capital to Nineveh and since then became an important capital of the world and was famous for its palaces, temples and its irrigation projects.



fluence of Mosul, inium B.C. under of rok place 1845 to those period of und f Assyrian It was a st millen- olic ven a zoo. he period 527 B.C.; the city of Jonah at this e

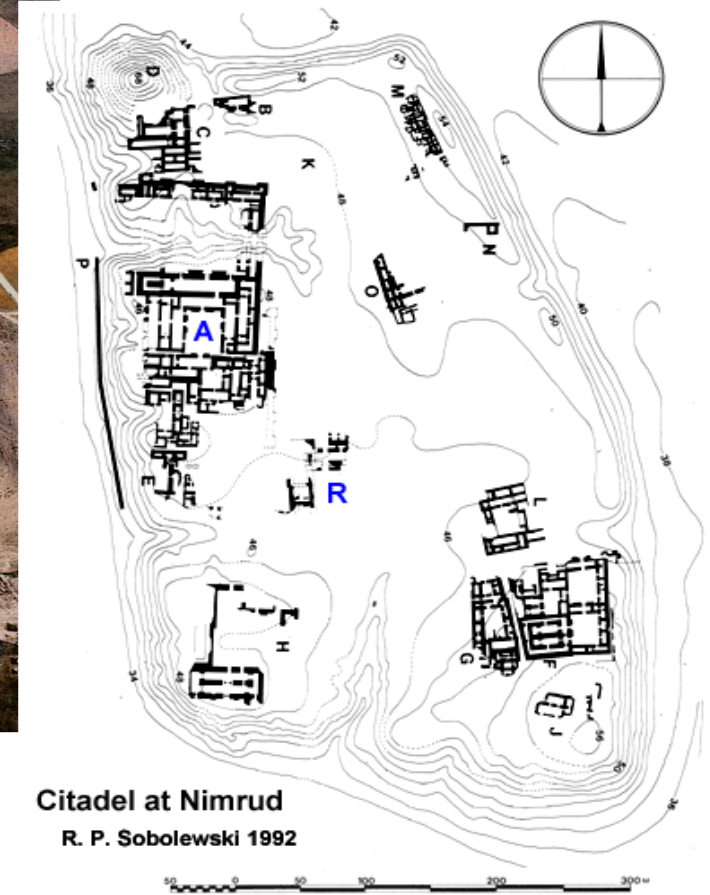
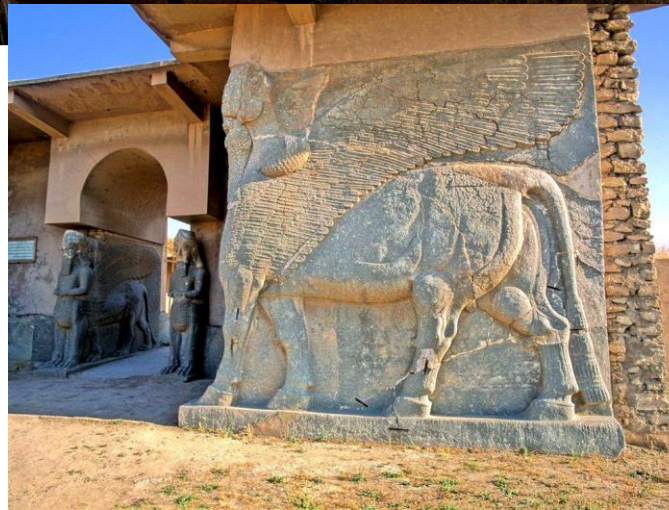


Mesopotamia

Assyrian Culture (1350 – 612) B.C

4. Nimrud city

- Assyrian city built by King Ashur Nasser Bal II, occupies an important strategic and defense position near The Tigris.
- A wall built around 3.5 square kilometers.
- It was considered a **political capital** because it contained many Of public buildings.



Citadel at Nimrud

R. P. Sobolewski 1992

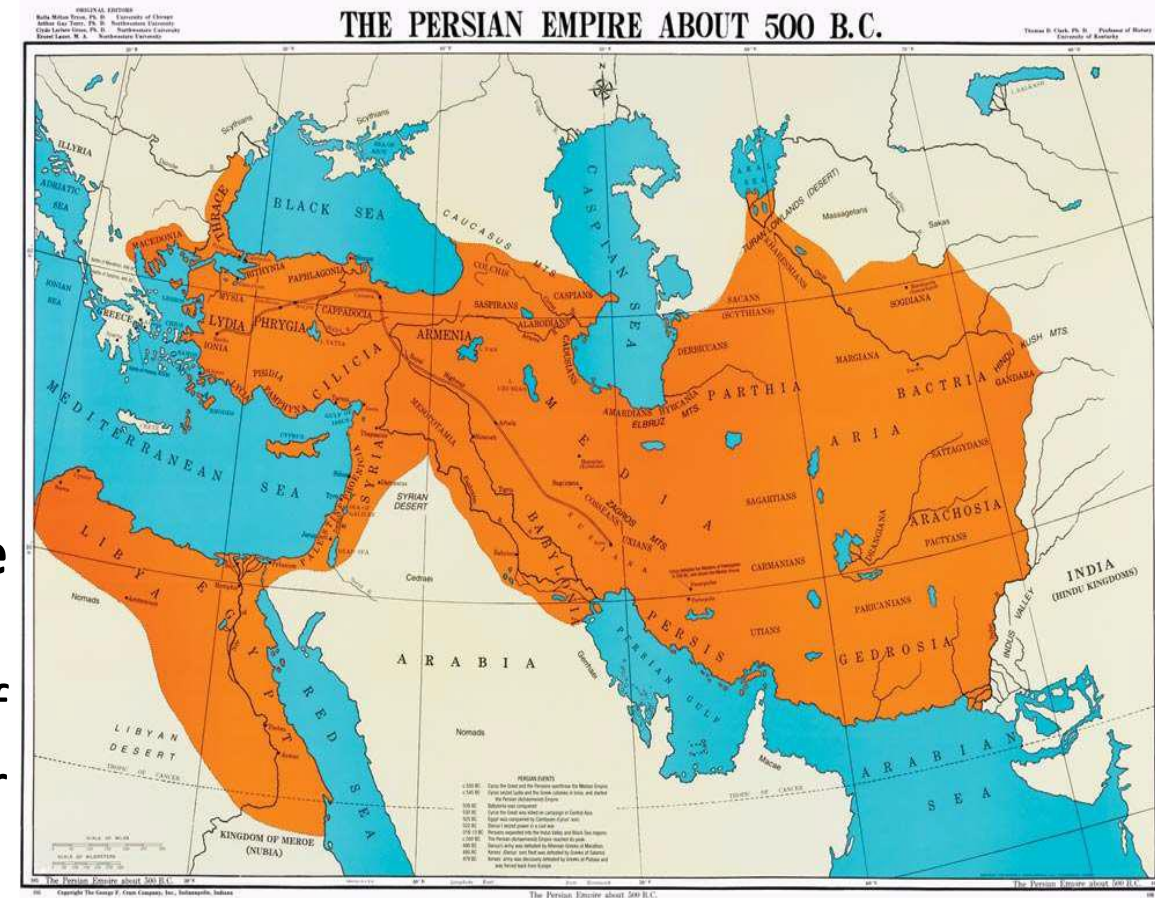
A = Northwest Palace

R = Central Palace area

Mesopotamia

Persian culture (539 – 330 BC)

- The Persian empire started in about 530 BC when **Cyrus the great** from the province of Fars swept over the region.
- conquered **the entire civilized world from Indus to Danube River with the exception of Greece .**
- They established **PERSEPOLIS .**
- Their Architecture have **no significant style (Quotation Architecture) .**
- Their architectural solutions were a **synthesis** of ideas gathered from almost all parts of their empire and from the Greeks and Egyptians
- Their materials of construction was also from different locations included **mud-brick from Babylon, wooden roof beams from Lebanon, precious material from India and Egypt, and Stone quarried columns from Greeks.**



Mesopotamia

Persian culture (539 – 330 BC)

- **Persian art** : they influenced by the art style of Mesopotamia specially Assyrian art , there mundane and most mural sculptures represent processions and Archer men .
- Used to decorate surfaces , staircases and edges(external spaces) .



Mesopotamia Architecture: Temples ,Palaces and Houses .

In all the Mesopotamia ages

Mesopotamia

Temples

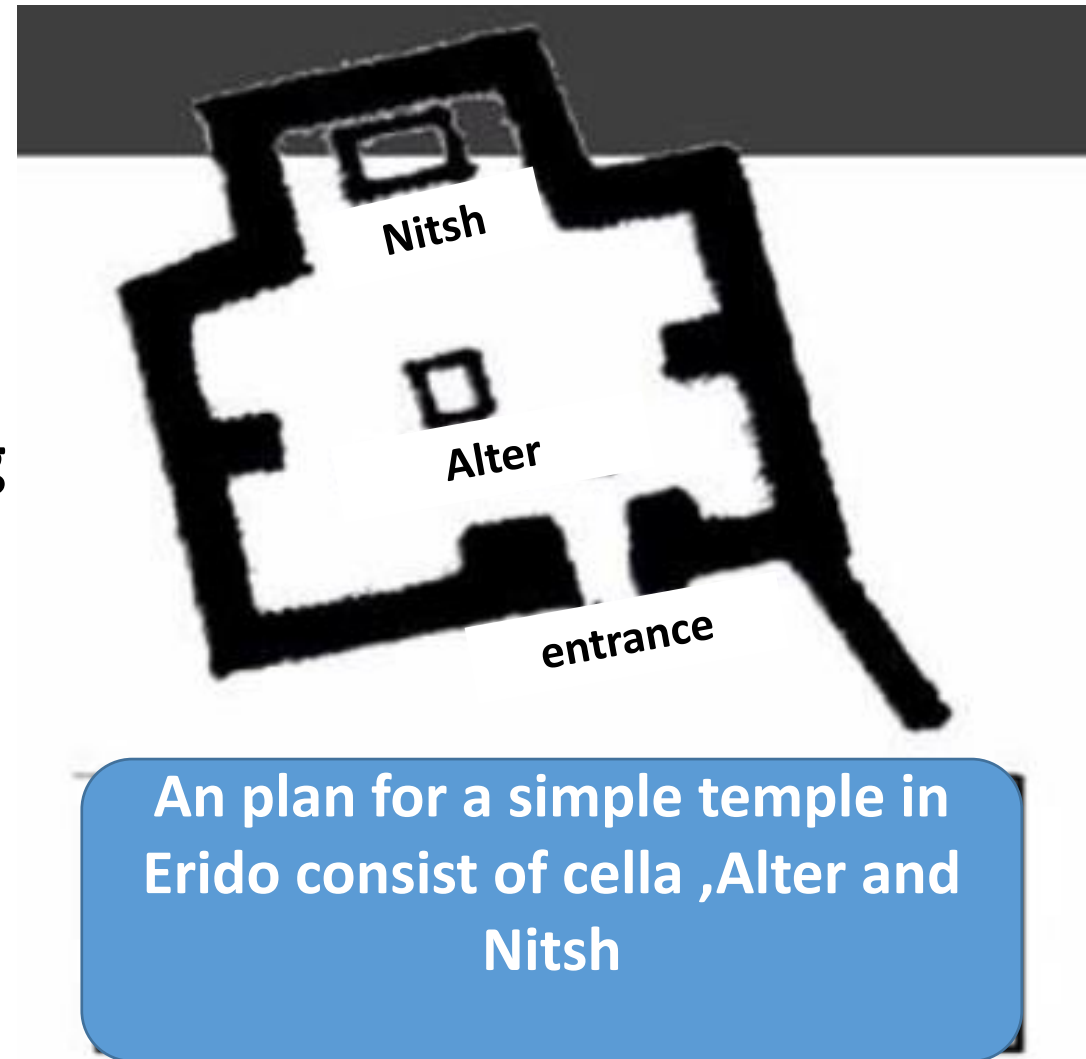
- Temple was one of the most important buildings styles in Mesopotamia Architecture because , of the natural of Mesopotamian society was very conservative , full of religious values and beliefs.
- Its represent the principal architectural monuments of Sumerian cities.
- Temple plays an important and fundamental role during the times when the religious and secular authorities were integrated .
- Temples are generally classified into **two main types** :
 - 1. Ground temples .**
 - 2. High temples(Ziggurats) .**

Mesopotamia

Temples

1. Ground temples :

- Represent the main type of Mesopotamia Architecture temples.
- This pattern is consist of a **simple building contain** :
 1. Small space called (Cella) .
 2. Place for sacrifices (Alter) .
 3. In the end a place made in the wall for the (Nitsh) .
- This pattern appeared for the first time in Eridu (Sumerian city) .



Mesopotamia

Temples

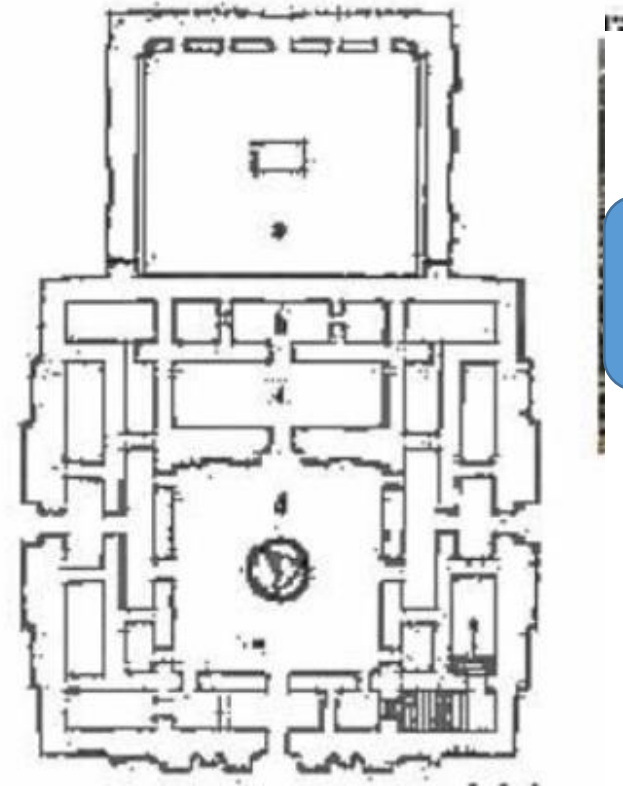
1. Ground temples :

- In general , later ages , this type has seen many developments , included several changes in its facilities , spaces organization , mass formation and detailed treatment, According to these changings , **Ground temple** classified into **two** main types :

1. Integrated with palaces , merged with the Governor's Palace .
2. Integrated with high temples (Ziggurat),



Temple at Ashnona beside the royal palace
A **(space-node)** connect between palace and temple to make king's movement easier to do his refigures rituals in the temple.



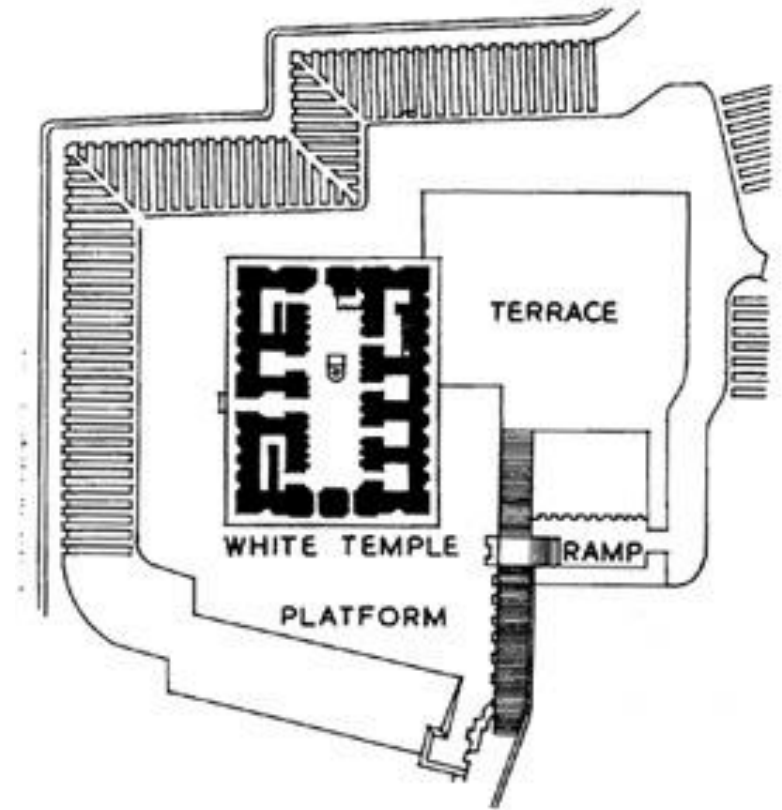
Temple and Ziggurat Tal al-Rammah near Nineveh .

Mesopotamia

Temples

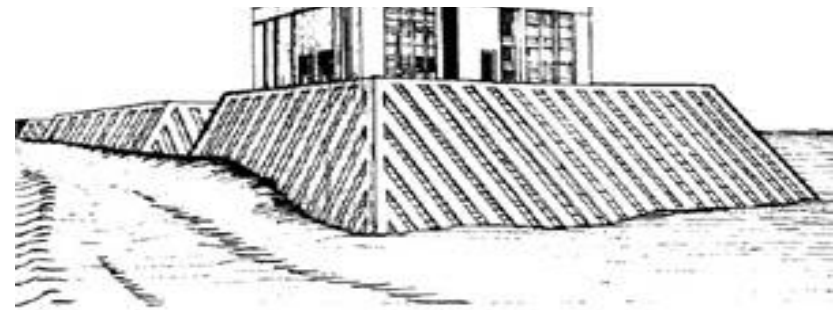
2. High temples :

- The basic idea of this type came from the result of repeated construction of the temples on the same sacred site, which over time led to the emergence of a plateau or a high artificial mountain with a new temple above it.
- There are **two main types of high temples**:
 1. The terrace temple:
 - A medium-artificial plateau, topped by the temple.
 - dedicated to the appearance of God to people in its symbolic form
 - example , the white temple in Uruk , the oval temple in khafaja.



White temple, Uruk - plan

Source: Sir Barnister Fletcher (1996)



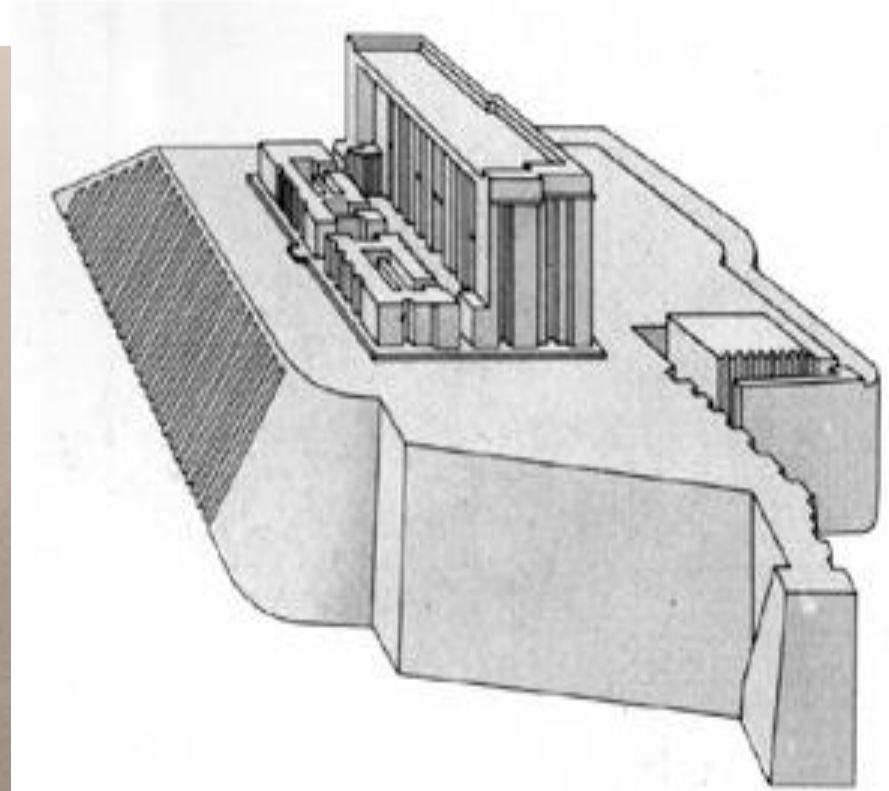
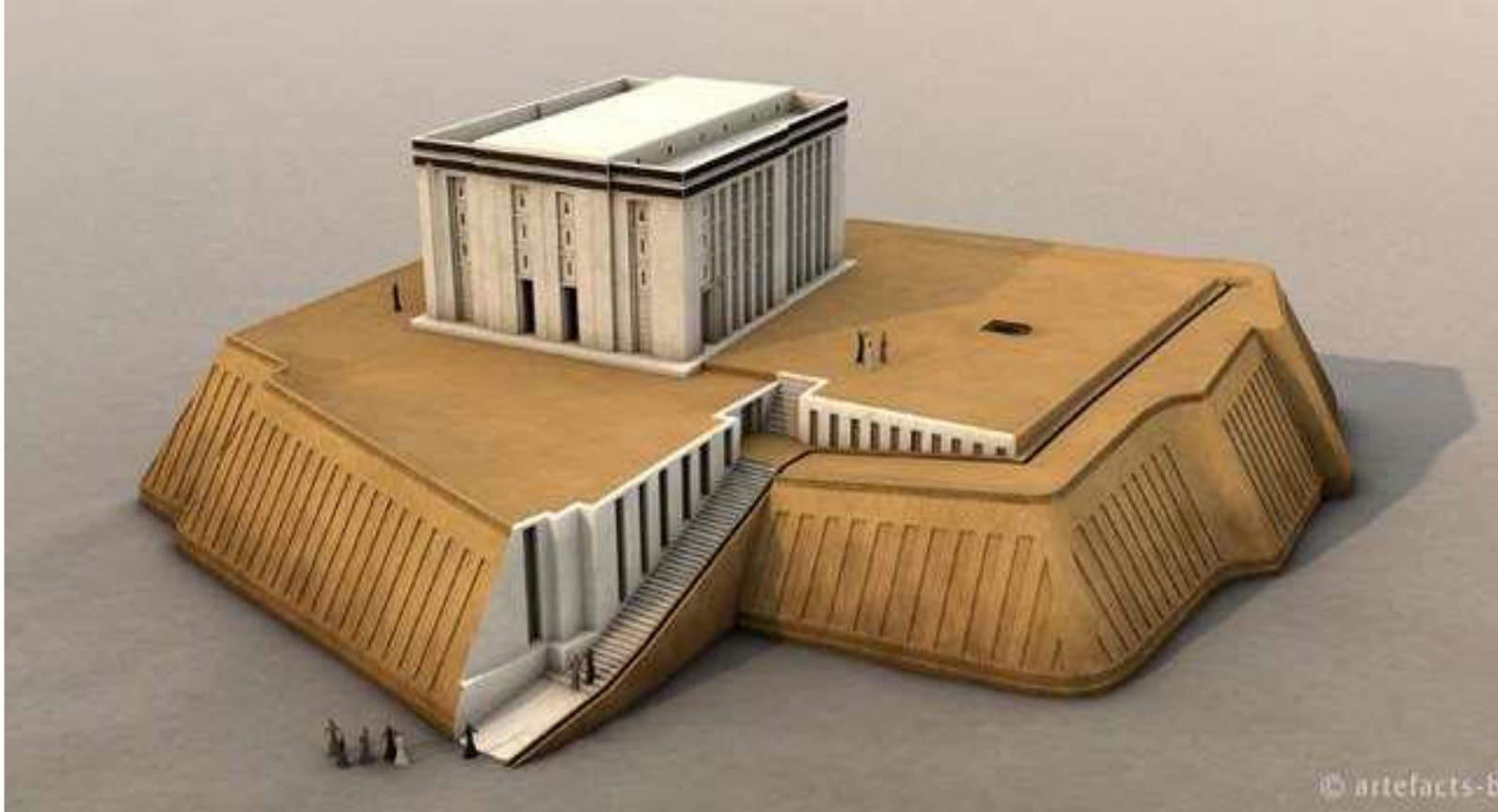
White temple, Uruk - view

Source: Sir Barnister Fletcher (1996)

Mesopotamia

Temples

2. High temples :

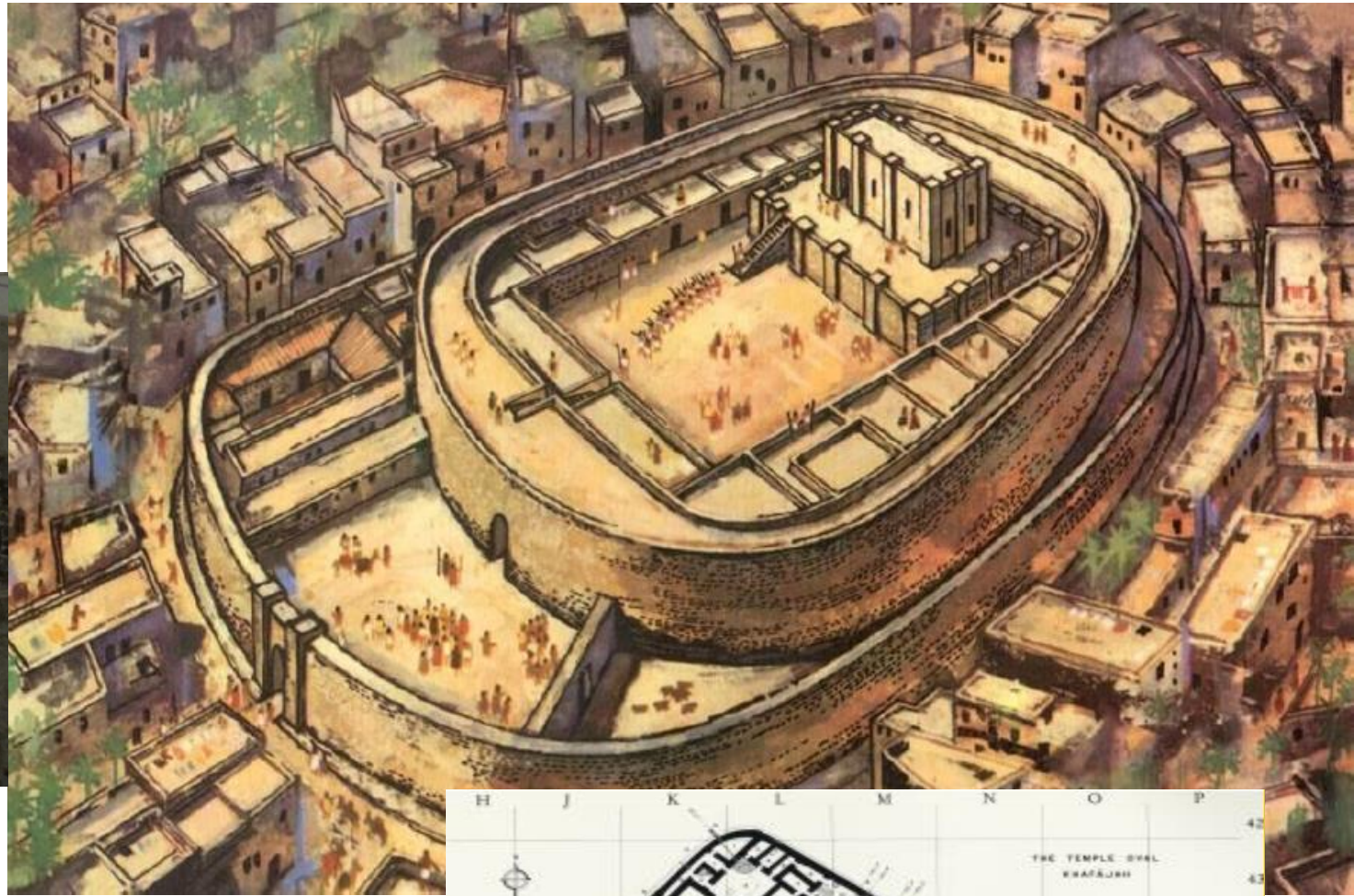


White temple, Uruk - View

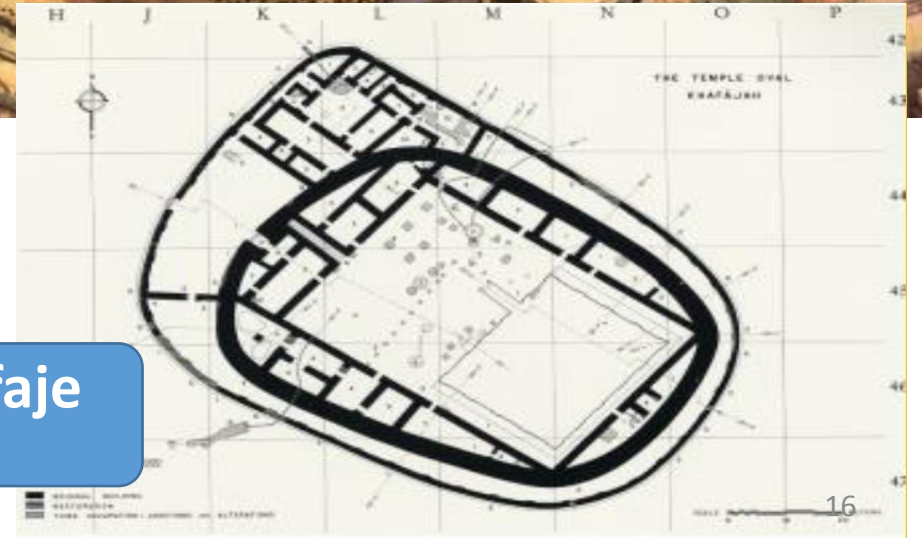
Source: *Great Architecture of the World* (2000)

Mesopotamia

Temples: 2. High temples :



Oval Temple- Khafaje



Mesopotamia

Temples:

2. High temples :

2. Ziggurat:

- The terrace temple has replaced **The ziggurat**.
- It derives from the verb zaqaru, 'to be high'.
- These buildings are described as being like mountains linking Earth and heaven , The God house when he descend to earth.
- A huge artificial hill from mud-brick consist of gradient layers and its faces are covered with stone or colored glazed brick and with a distinctive geometric design.
- The ziggurat is generally a three layers building like great ziggurat in ur , five layers like Kessites ziggurat . Babylon Ziggurat is seven layers,
- The great ziggurat in ur is the first and oldest one known in Mesopotamia.

Mesopotamia

Temples:

2. High temples :

2. Ziggurat:

styles and classification of ziggurat according to location and shape :

- First Style : The rectangular tower:

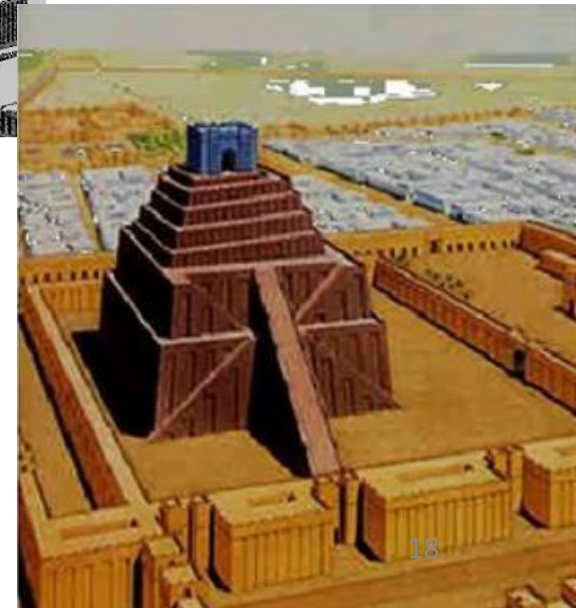
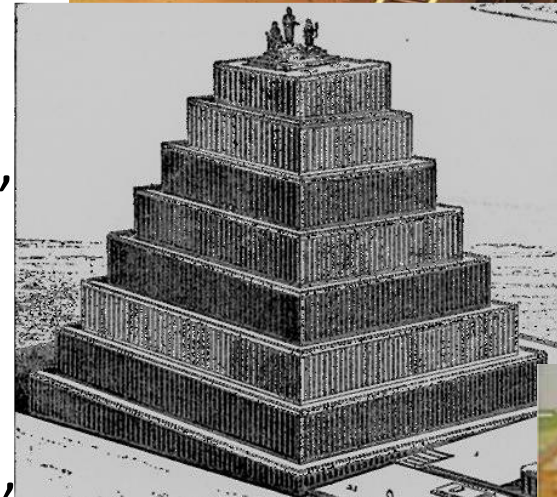
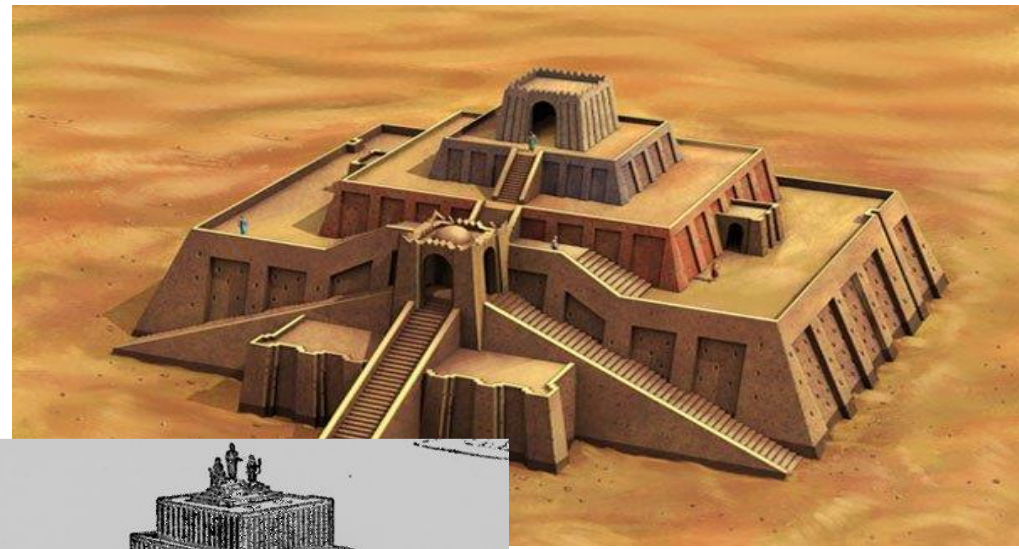
it can be found in the southern part of Mesopotamia, such as great ziggurat in Ur and Kessites, it use one stairway in the front and the two sides.

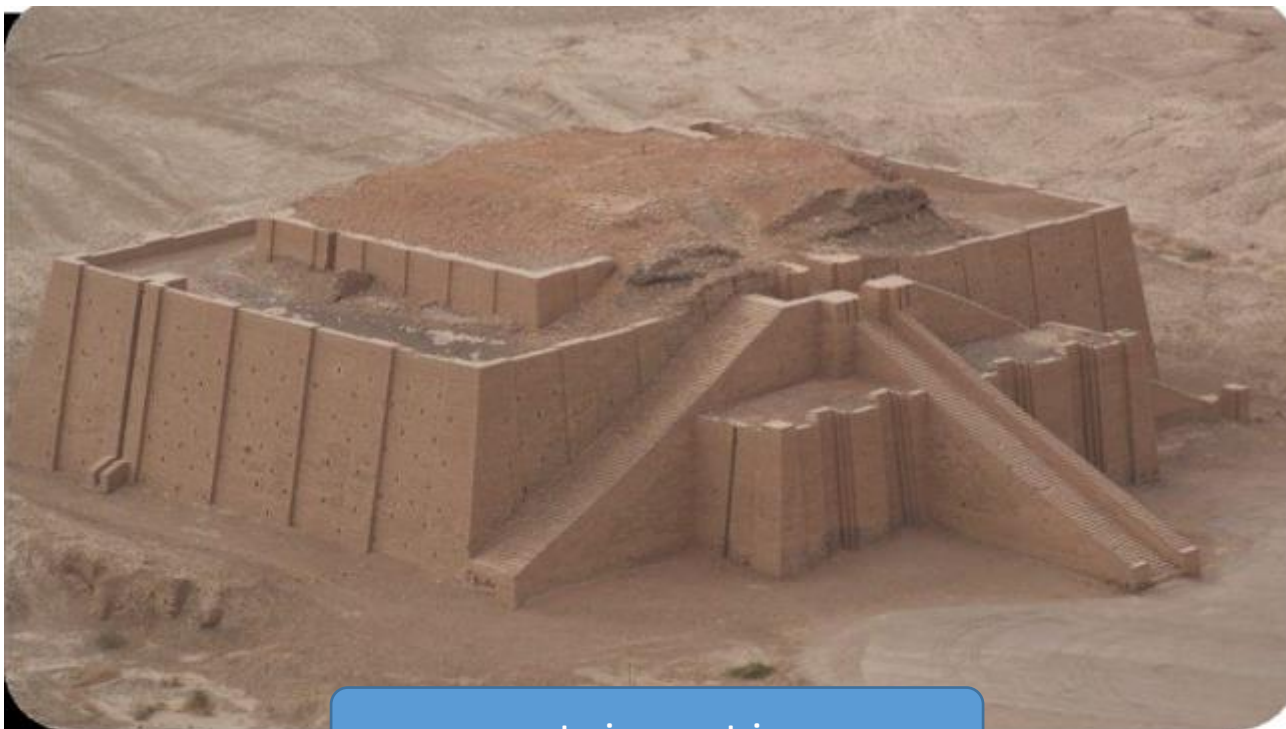
- Second Style: The Square tower:

It can be found in the northern part of Mesopotamia, such as Assur and Khorsabad Ziggurats , it used only ramps on this type.

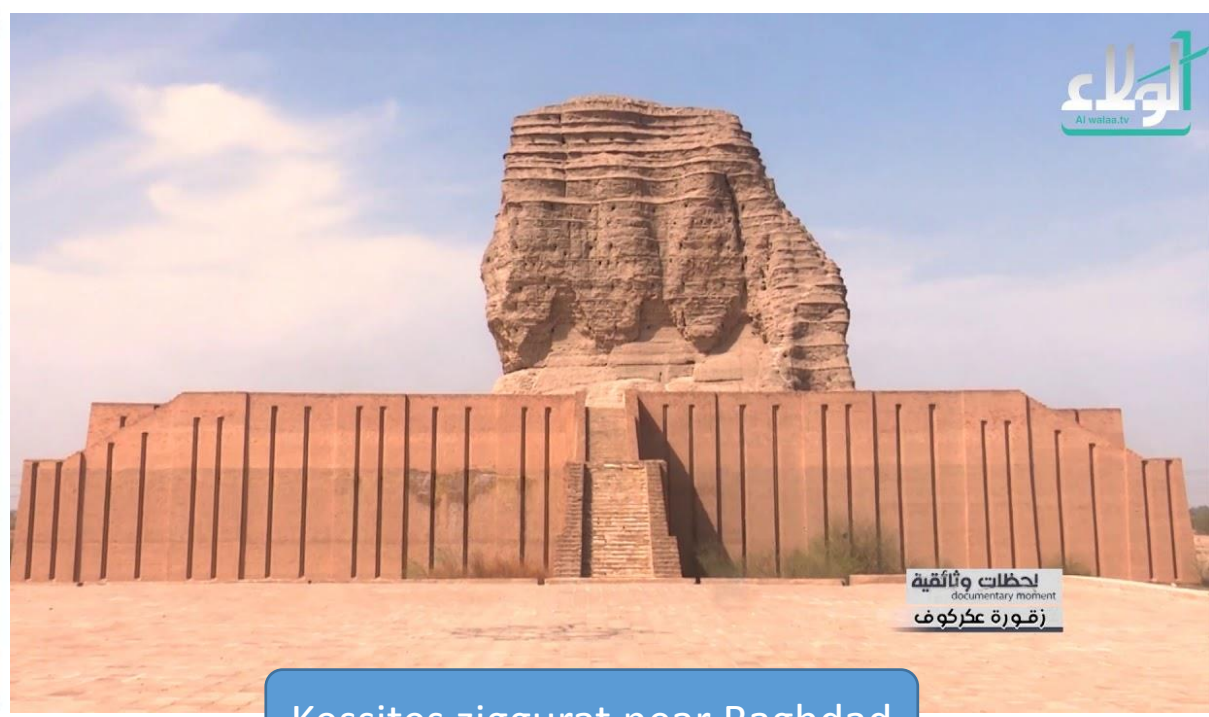
- Third style: The Integral Tower:

It can be found in the middle part of Mesopotamia, has a square base as the second type, but stairs used to reach to the first layer and ramps to the rest of the layers. (Babylon ziggurat).



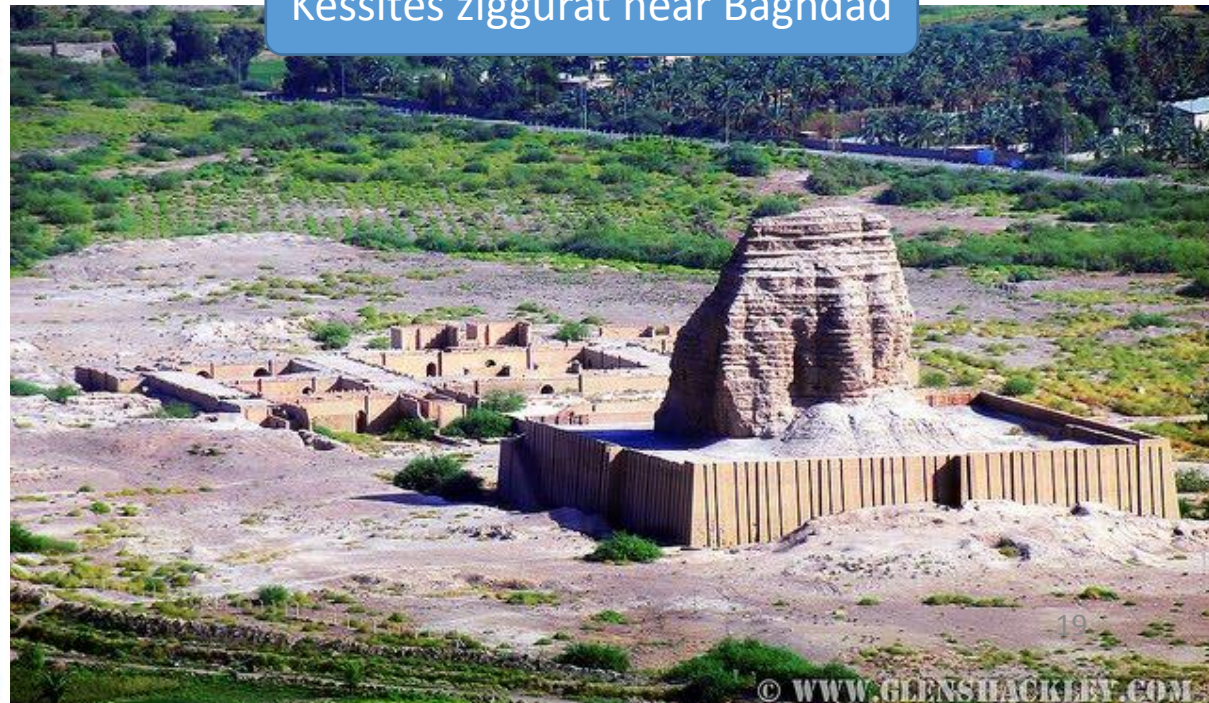


great ziggurat in ur



لحظات وثائقية
documentary moment
زقورة عكر كوف

Kessites ziggurat near Baghdad



Mesopotamia

Palaces

- Palaces appearance was from the **Dawn of the Sumerian breeds (4500-2000B.C)**
- Palace development start with the change of the political hegemony centers and **the separation between the legislative power and the religious authority .**
- **After this change the palace became a new powerful construction style** in Mesopotamia Architecture.
- Palaces have evolved and reached the peak of their development in **the Assyrian period.**
- Important palaces takes mostly **the northern corner** of the city to face the fresh wind, Its four corners are oriented toward the four holy universes corners or slightly deviated from them .

Mesopotamia

Palaces

- There are two types of palaces:

1. Royal Palaces:

- It began to develop as a distinctive Architectural style in Assyrian architecture in particular, where the clear distinction between the Royal Palace and the King's residence and as a center of government and other palaces .

2. Minor palaces:

- Residence palaces for the Crown Prince or for senior officials of the palace, which was developed by **the Assyrians** and extended in the Babylonian Architecture, but on a narrow scale .

The Assyrian cities are known for having more than a secondary palace, some of them within the borders of the main fortress, some outside its borders, as in the palaces of Khorsabad, Nimrud and Nineveh.

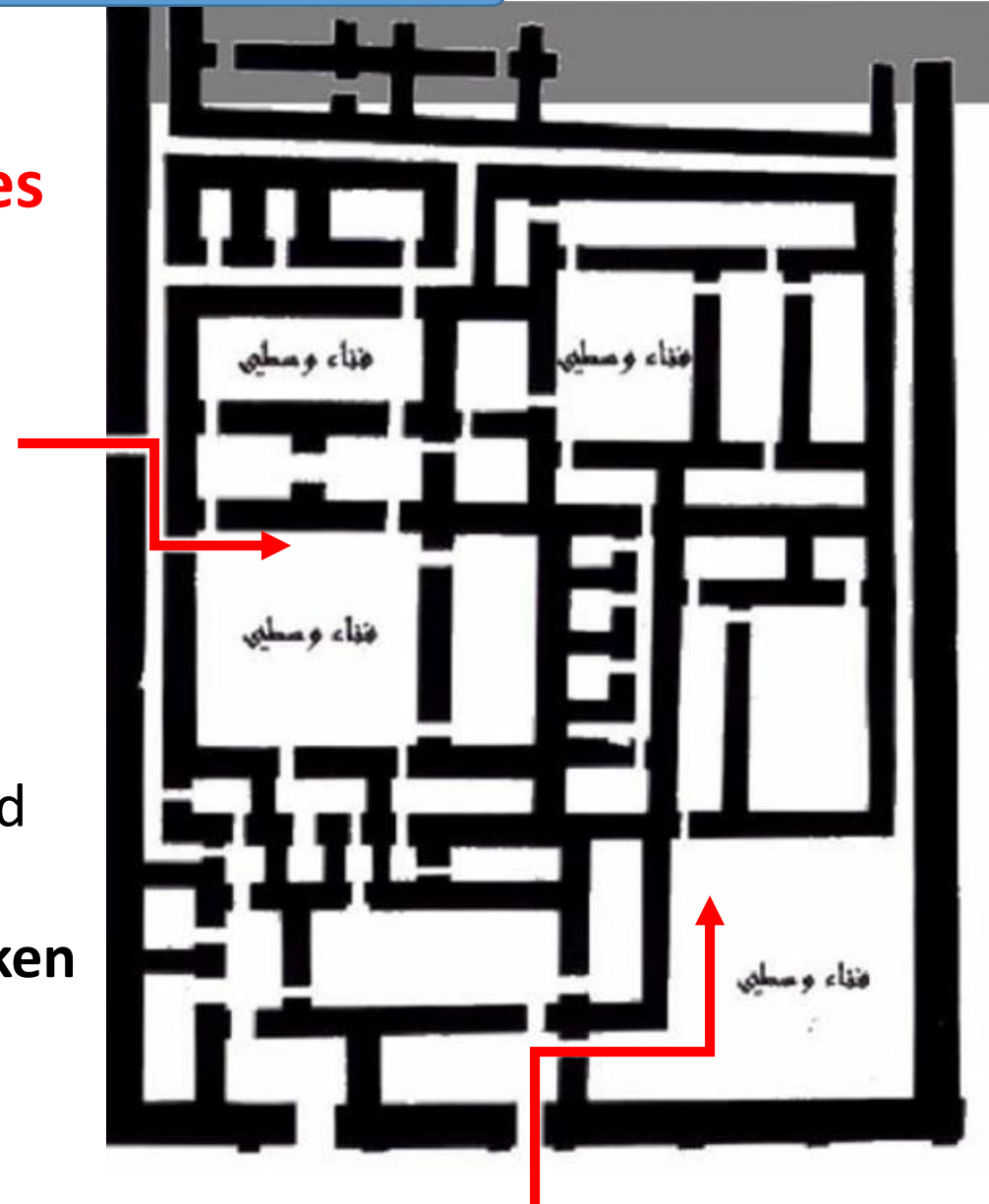
Mesopotamia

Palaces

North palace in Eridu: the first appear of courtyard Hierarchy

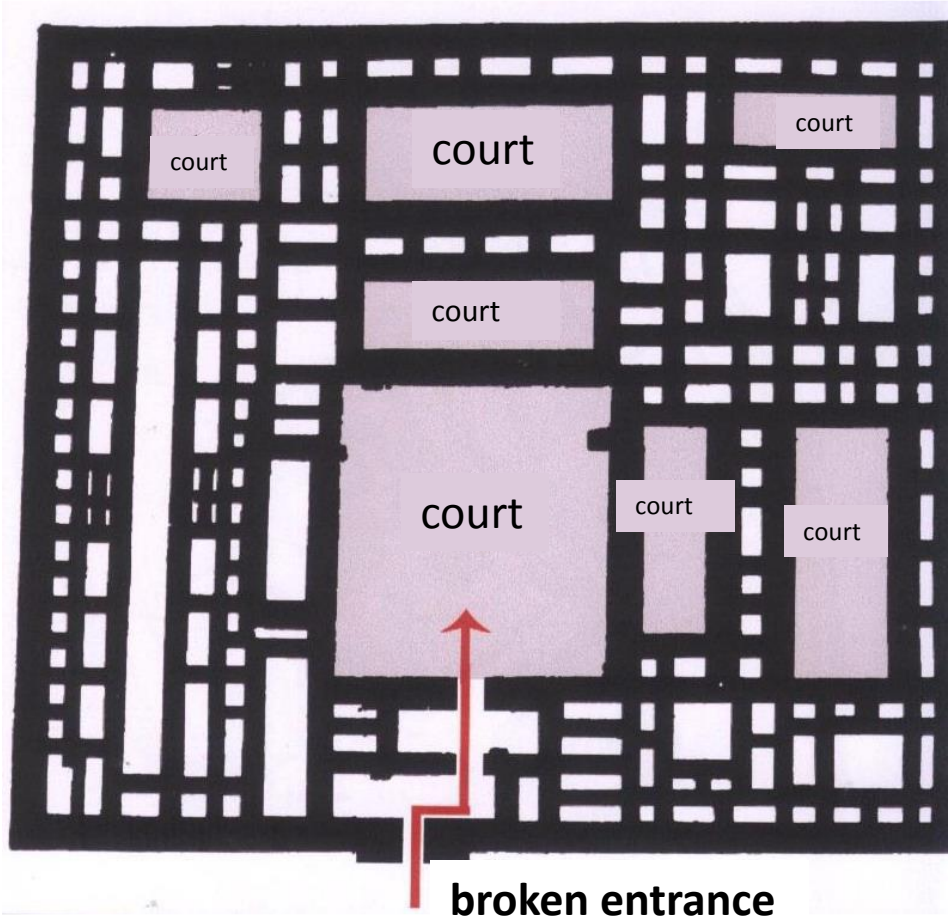
The basic components of Mesopotamia palaces In general according to their importance:

- The main reception hall
- Throne Hall
- The entrance space is the separation (**space –node**) between public and internal space.
- Inner palace spaces
- The property was distinguished by the fact that the towers were surrounded by mythical animals (winged bulls and statues)
- It was characterized by a **series of sequential or broken entrances** down to the main public space and the palaces also contained service spaces
- A special temple as in the royal palace in Khorsabad



broken entrance

Mesopotamia Palaces

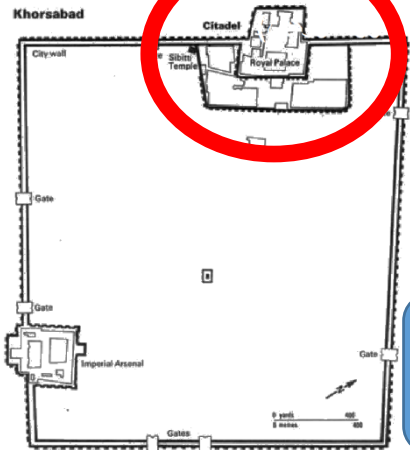
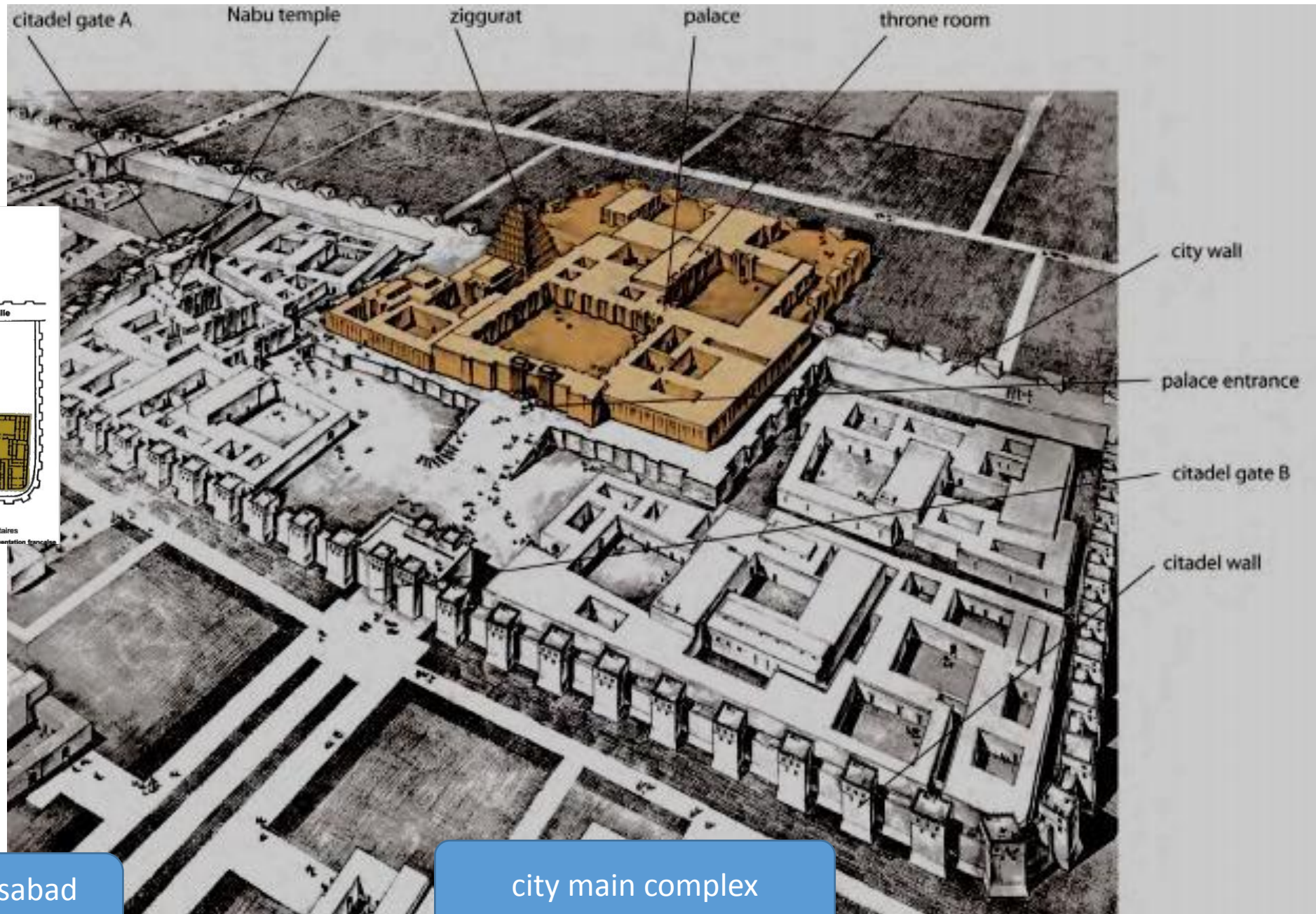


Nar am-seen palace in Assur

Mesopotamia

Palaces

Sargon palace:



Khorsabad city plan

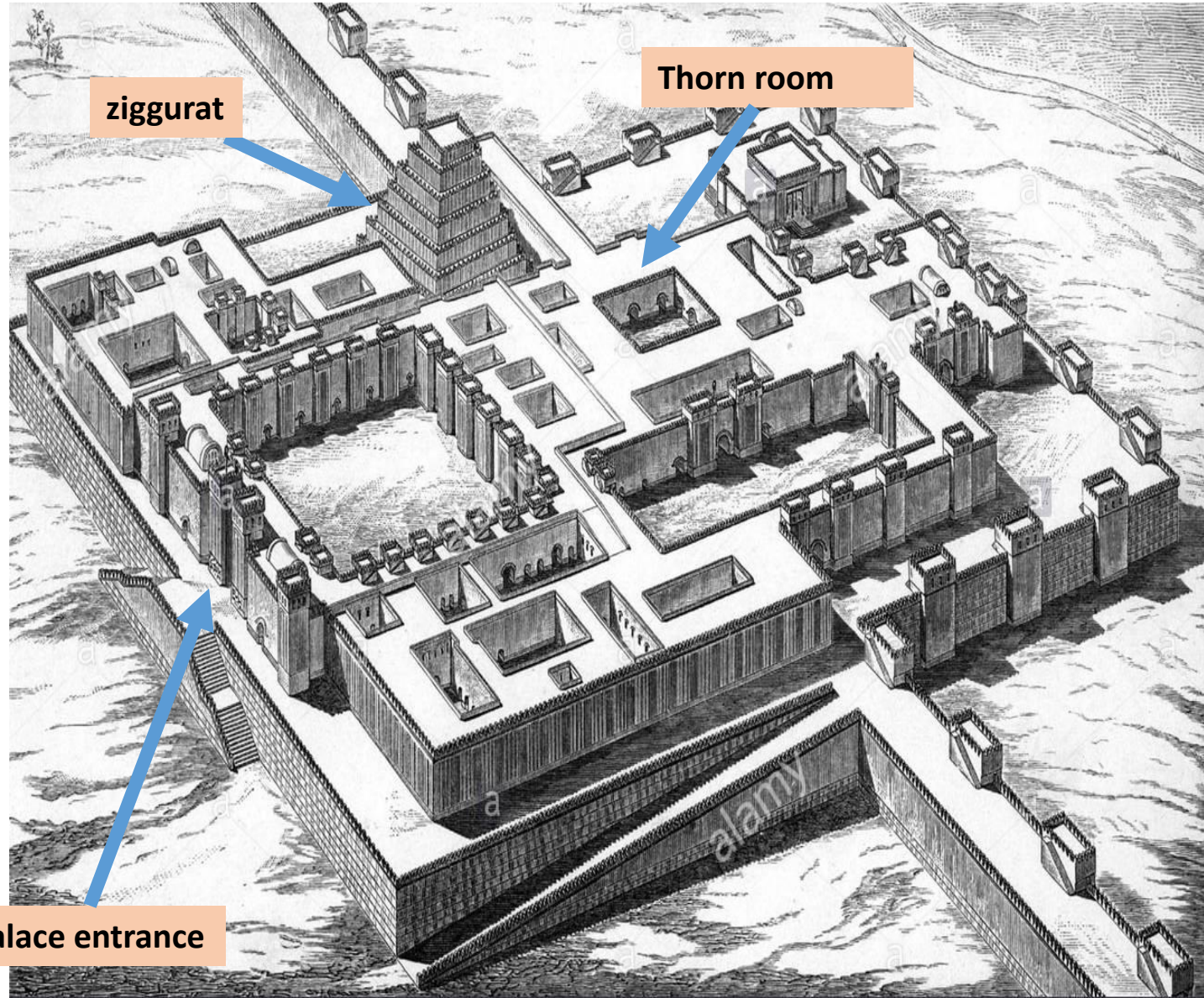
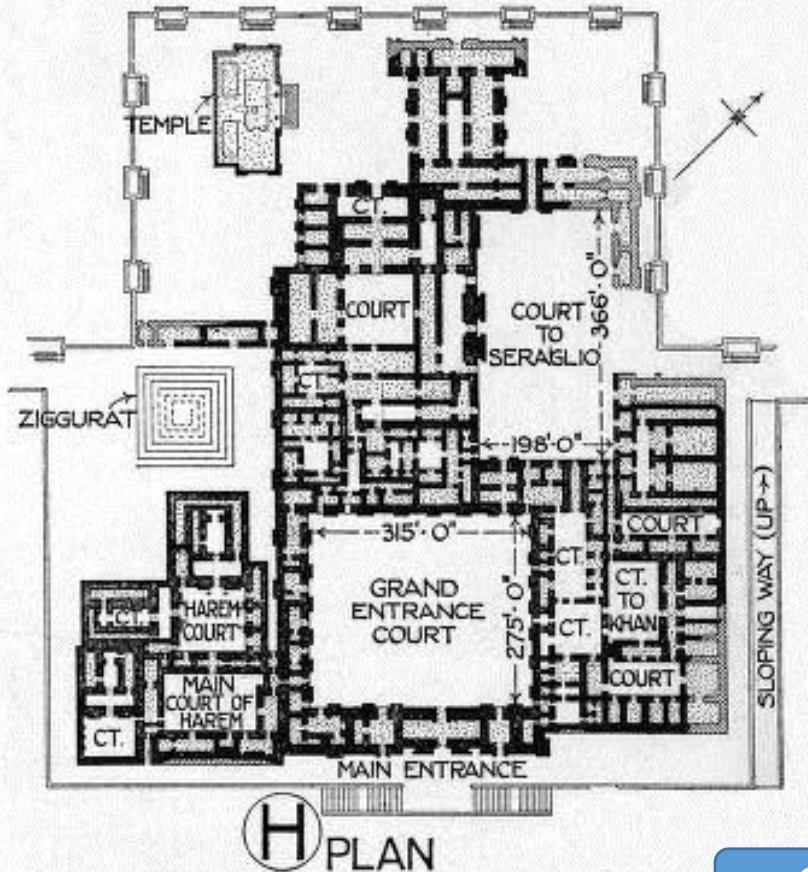
city main complex

Mesopotamia

Palaces

Sargon palace:

Seven stepped Ziggurat



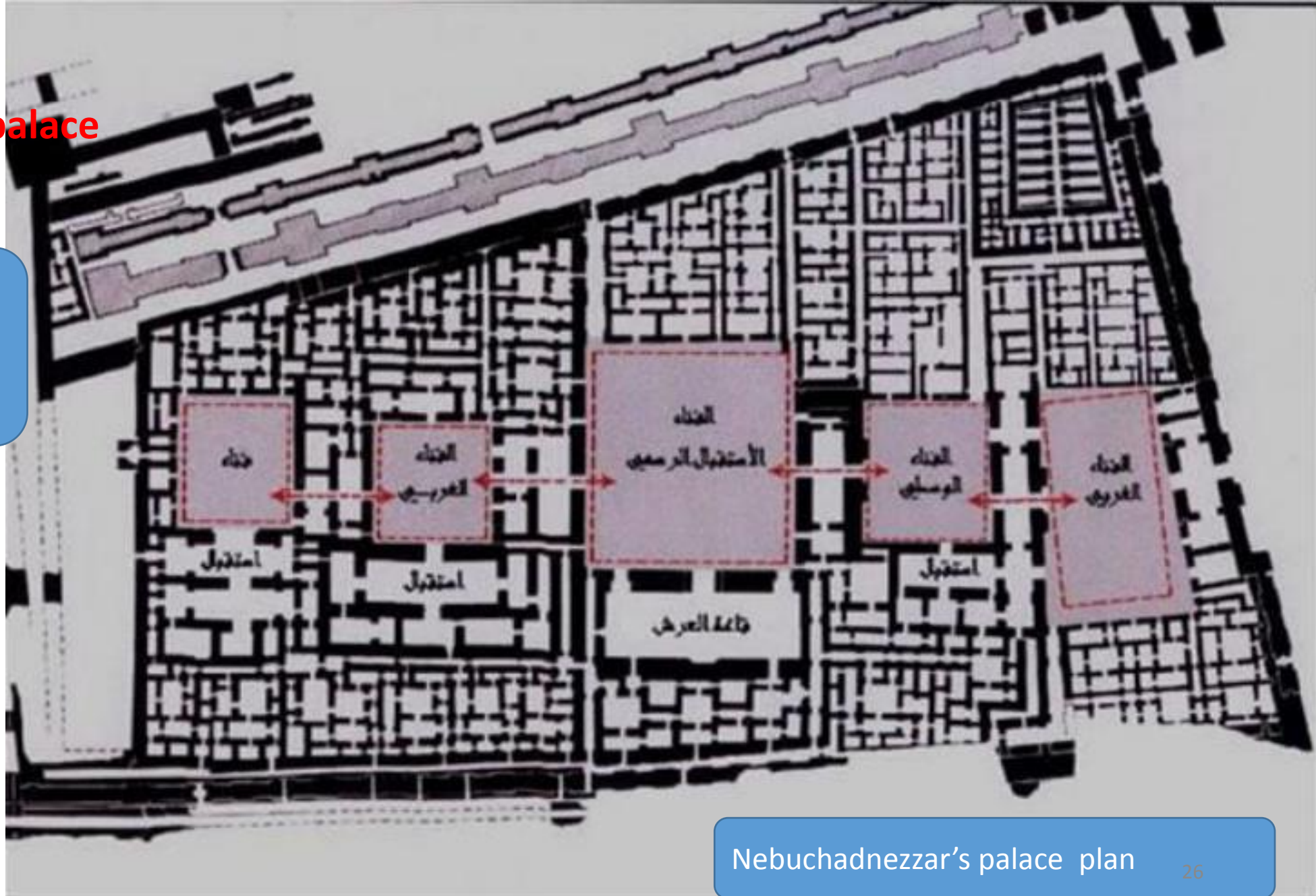
Sargon palace plan

Mesopotamia

Palaces

Nebuchadnezzar's palace

Note: the main courtyard is facing the throne room and the Hierarchy in the size of courtyards



Nebuchadnezzar's palace plan

Mesopotamia

Palaces

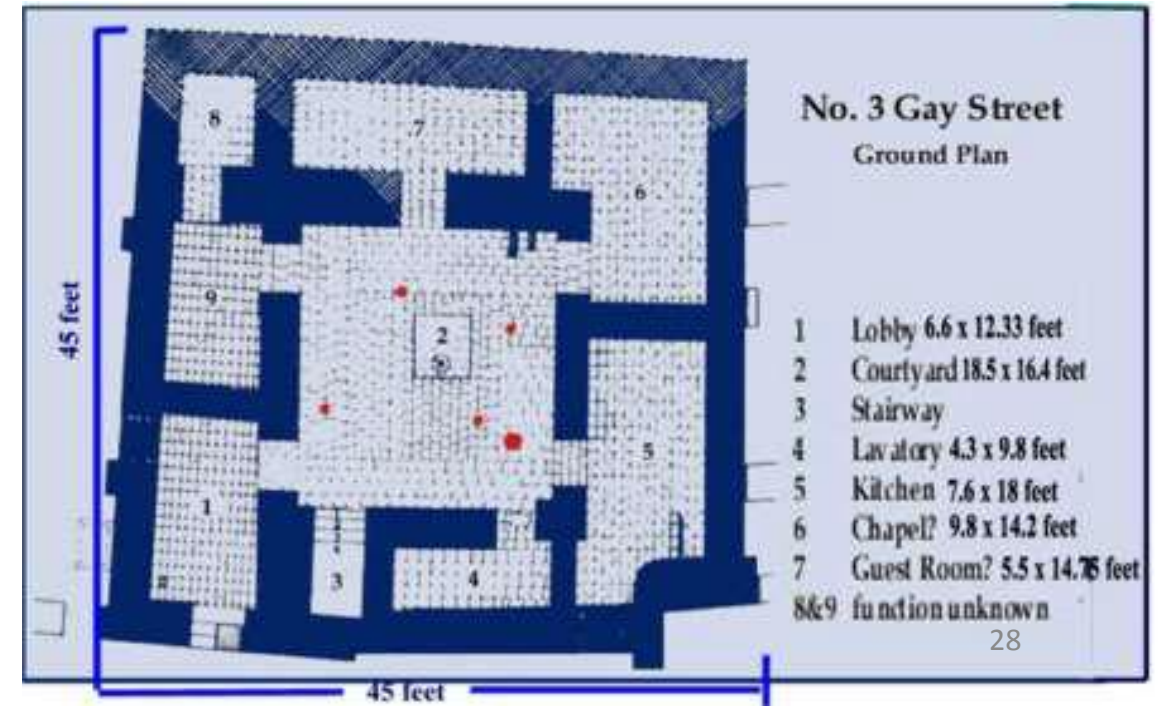
Nebuchadnezzar Palace :



Mesopotamia

Houses:

- **Courtyard** – Need for privacy, climate
- The **central court** was **brick paved** and **slopes toward a central drain**.
- The **stairs** and the **lavatory** were opposite to the guest room across the courtyard .
- The family lived on the second level in a layout essentially duplicating the ground floor
- **Roofs** were made of **mud** layered on **mats** which were placed on **wooden panels**



THANK YOU ...