

Patrizia Camatta
Summary of PhD Dissertation

The Temple Terrace of Tell Mozan/Urkesk (Syria)
Architecture, Typology and Comparative Analysis of Mesopotamian High Temples

The dissertation is primarily the architectural study of the Temple Terrace of Tell Mozan, offering the complete and accurate surveying and documentation of the structures in the excavated southern portion of the monumental complex. The work offers an attempt at understanding the development of the structure and its construction techniques and construction phases.

The Temple Terrace of Tell Mozan is one of a series of temple terraces excavated in Greater Mesopotamia. Constructing a temple in a higher position and separating it from the other profane structures is a common feature of human beings. The many temple terraces excavated in the Mesopotamian region have very similar features to the Temple Terrace of Tell Mozan, however the latter is characterized by particular features. This peculiar issue is an important aim of this research and in order to find similarities and differences regarding the construction techniques, chronological and typological classification of the building, Mesopotamian temple terraces are collected in a catalog and the construction techniques of substructures, foundations, abutments, walls, staircases, ramps are compared and discussed also in relation to the urban context.

A reconstruction proposal of the Temple Terrace of Tell Mozan allows the visualization of the hypothesis of how the complex appeared to the ancient population of Urkesk. This enables further hypothesis as to how its spaces were used. This research also attempts to understand the Temple Terrace in the urban texture of the ancient city of Urkesk.

The dissertation consists of following chapters:

1. Introduction
2. Tell Mozan
3. Brief review of the excavations at the Temple Terrace
4. Analysis of the architecture of the Temple Terrace
5. The sacred raised space in Mesopotamia
6. Reconstruction proposals
7. Conclusions

Appendices:

Catalog of high sacred spaces

Plates with photographic documentation and drawings