

# Çatalhöyük

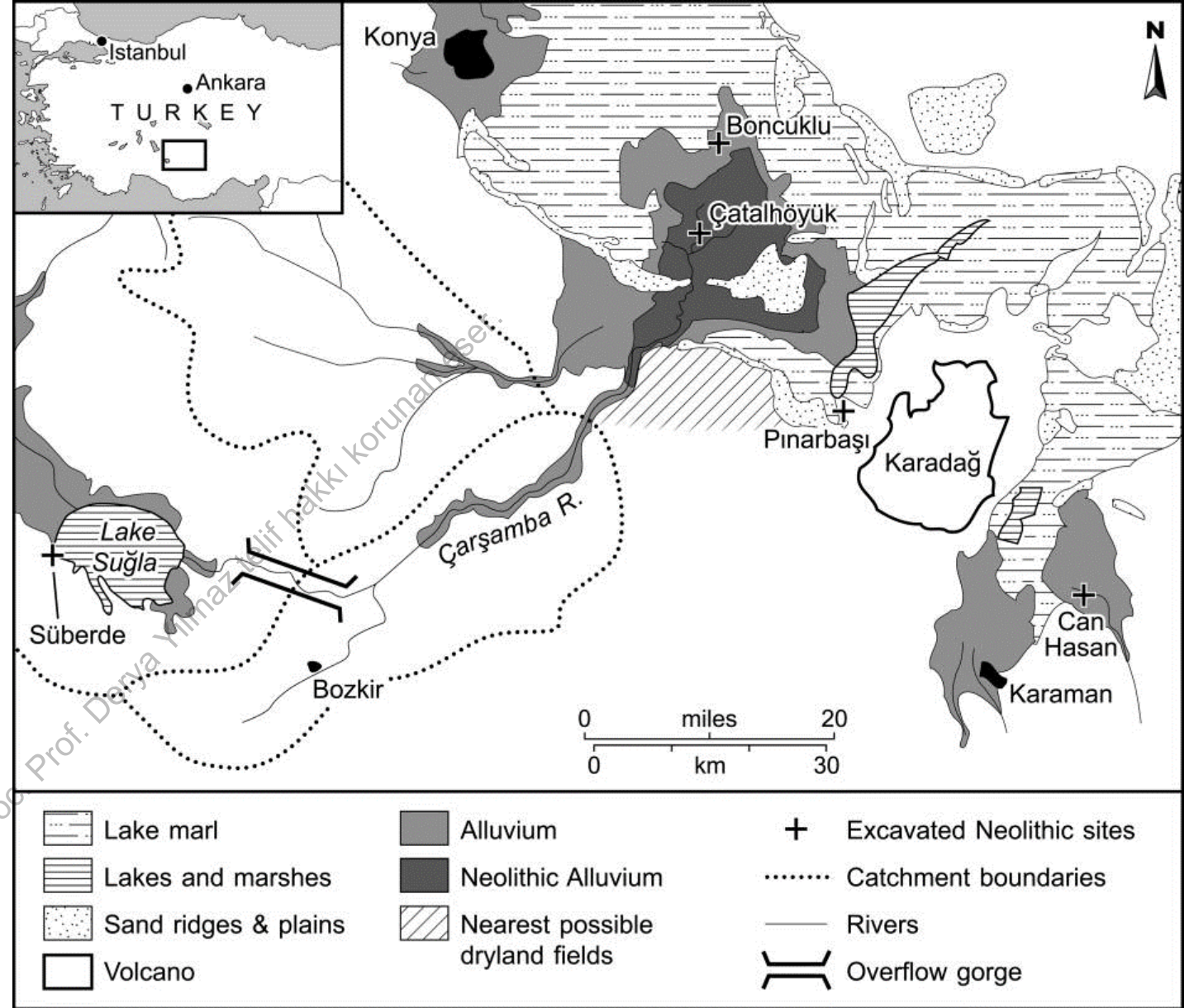
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Çatalhöyük is located overlooking the Konya Plain, southeast of the city of Konya Çumra district in Turkey, approximately 140 km (87 miles) from the twin-coned volcano of Mount Hasan.

Çatalhöyük, one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Since the 1960s, excavations have uncovered a densely packed Neolithic settlement which dates back 9000 years.



Çarşamba River once flowed between the two mounds, and the settlement was built on alluvial clay which may have been favorable for early agriculture.



Geomorphological map of the western Konya Plain, Turkey, including the Çarşamba river and the regional area.





Çatalhöyük was discovered by a team of British archaeologists David French, Alan Hall, and James Mellaart in 1958.



Çatalhöyük was excavated by James Mellaart between 1961 until 1965.



Between 1993 until 2018 Çatalhöyük was excavated under the direction of Ian Hodder.



The new period excavation project has been carried out by Umut Türkcan, the head of Turkish excavations, since 2018.



- Occupation of the West Mound of Çatalhöyük started later than its eastern counterpart and continued long after the desertion of the East Mound. The area between the mounds is today taken up by fields, but archaeologists believe it may once have been the location of the Çarşamba River. The mound is commonly associated with the Early Chalcolithic, the period where we first begin to see painted pottery. Available dates suggest that the mound was occupied between 5,900-5,600 BCE. Çatalhöyük is special in that it spans this Late Neolithic to Early Chalcolithic transition.



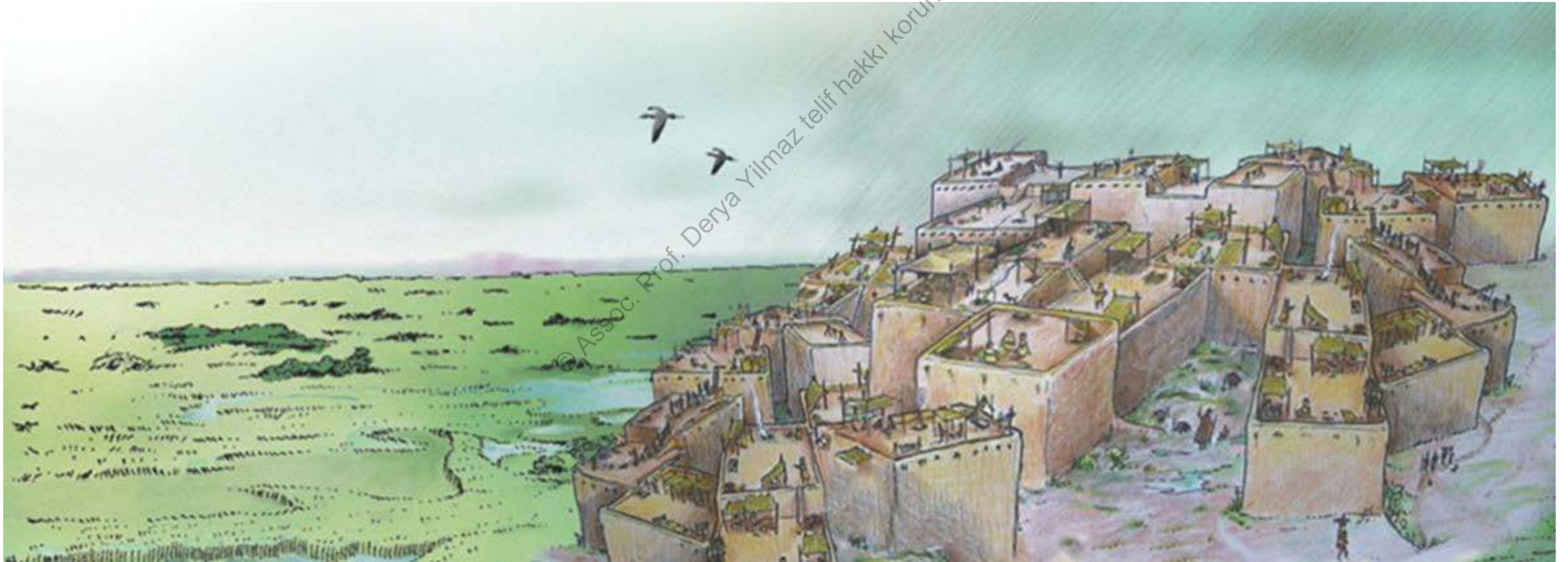
Excavation of a trench on the West Mound. Photo by Jason Quinlan.







- From 9,000 years to 7,400 BC when people first settled at Çatalhöyük. In this period, the site was situated in a wetland where the climate was moist and rainy. A wide range of resources was available including fish, water birds, and their eggs. On the drier ground there were agricultural fields, and herds of wild animals could be found roaming the plain.



Reconstruction of the settlement in its wider landscape. Illustrated by John Swogger.



UNESCO, önemli kültürel ve doğal alanların korunmasına adanmış uluslararası bir organizasyondur. UNESCO tarafından koruma altına alınan alanlar insanlık tarihinin başlangıcından yakın geçmişimize kadar uzanan sürece kadar yayılmaktadır. Bir alanın UNESCO Dünya Kültür Mirası listesine eklenmesi, onun korunmaya ihtiyacı olduğunu göstermektedir.

Çatalhöyük, UNESCO Dünya Kültür Mirası listesine 2012 yılında eklenmiştir. Bu, alandaki uzun yüzyıllar boyu süren yerleşim, sıradışı mimarisi ve eşitlikçi toplumsal hayatının önemini tanıdığıdır. Bugün Çatalhöyük, harita üzerinde görebileceğiniz, aralarında dünya çapında önemli olan pek çok diğer Kültürel Miras'ın içinde yer almaktadır.

Haritadaki UNESCO Kültürel Mirasları, 1000'i aşkın alandan sadece 15'i'dir.



UNESCO is an international organisation devoted to caring for cultural and natural sites of outstanding value. Cultural properties recognised by UNESCO include those dated from the earliest beginnings of human history to the very recent past. The addition of a property to the list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites recognises the need for its protection.

In 2012 Çatalhöyük was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This was in recognition of the site's extensive period of occupation, unusual architecture and egalitarian social organisation. Çatalhöyük now joins a long list of globally important sites, a few of which you may recognise on this map.

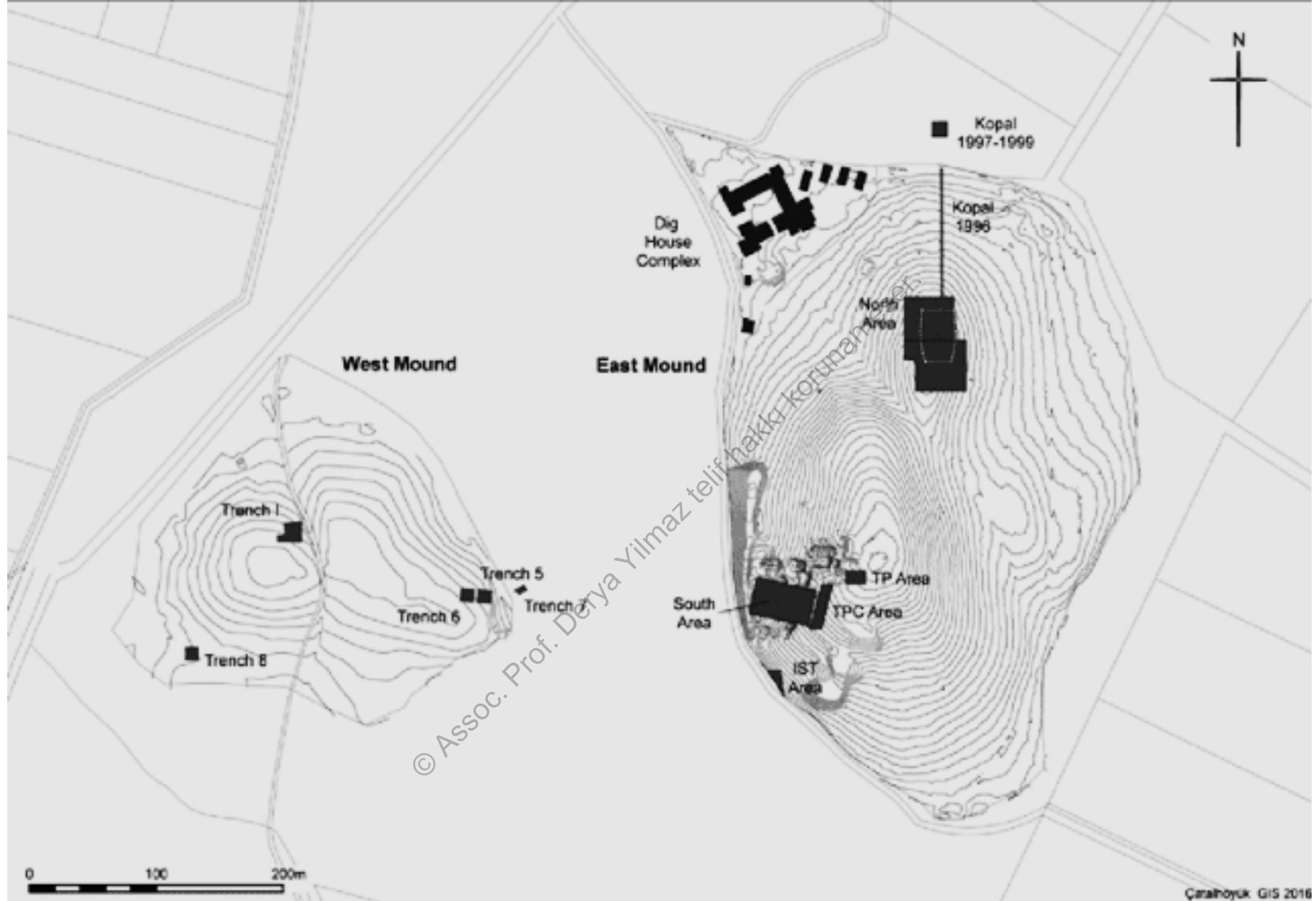
These sites are just 15 of over 1000 listed by UNESCO.

- 1 Çatalhöyük, M.Ö. 7100 - 6000 / Çatalhöyük, 7100 - 6000 BCE
- 2 Stonehenge, M.Ö. 3700 - 1600 / Stonehenge, 3700 - 1600 BCE
- 3 Giza Piramitleri, M.Ö. 3100 - 2650 / Pyramids of Giza, 3100 - 2650 BCE
- 4 Tarihi Kudüs Şehri ve Surları, M.Ö. 1004 / Old City of Jerusalem and its walls, 1004 BCE
- 5 Tsodilo, 1. yy / Tsodilo, from 1st Century
- 6 Kremlin ve Kızıl Meydan, 12. yy / Kremlin and Red Square, from 12th Century
- 7 Notre-Dame Katedrali, 13. yy / Cathedral of Notre-Dame, from 13th Century
- 8 Taos Pueblo, 13-14 yy / Taos Pueblo, 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Century

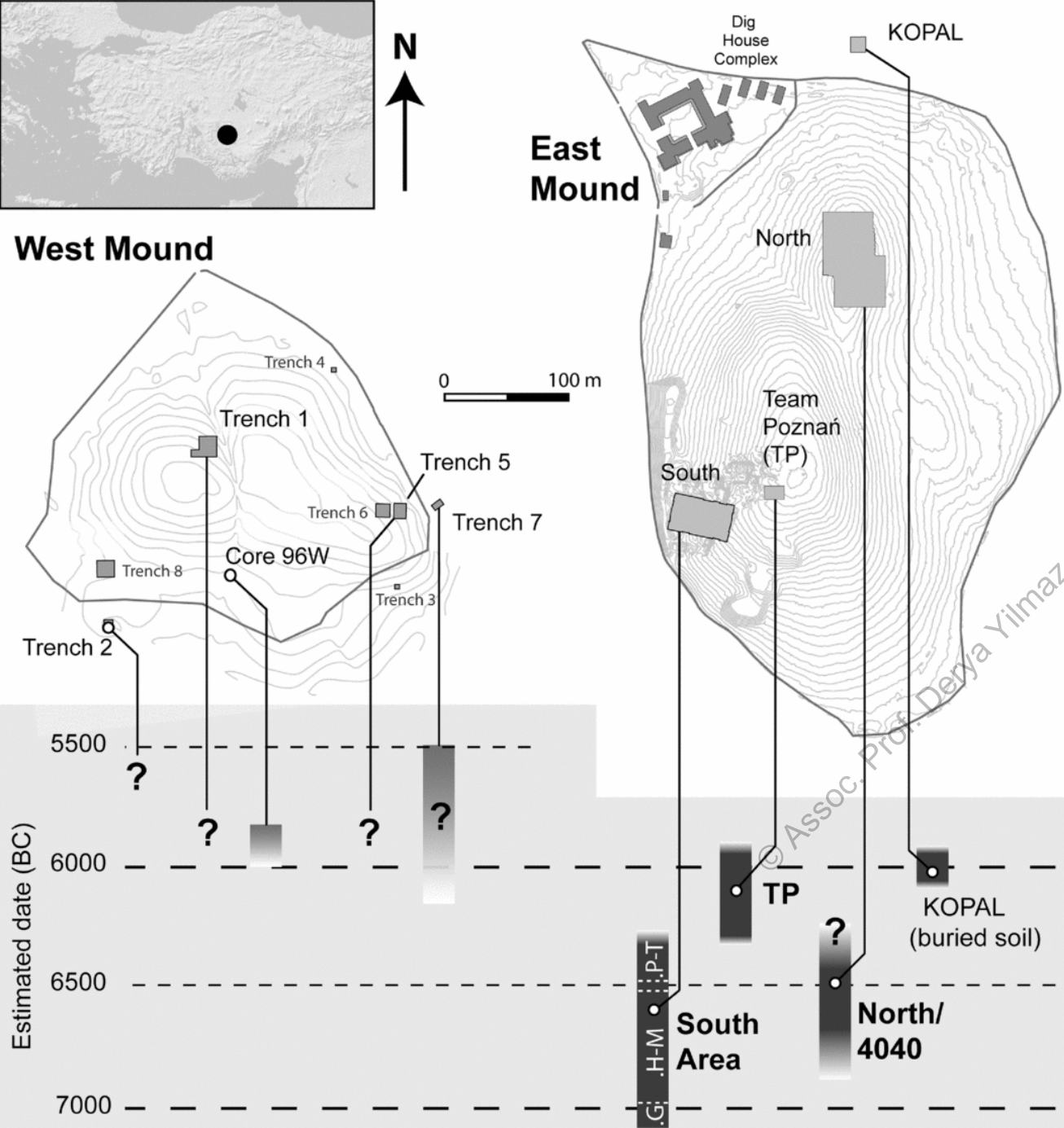
- 9 Machu Picchu, 15. yy / Machu Picchu, 15th Century
- 10 Taç Mahal, 17. yy / Taj Mahal, 1651 - 1648
- 11 Yazlık Saray, 1750'de ilk defa olmak üzere 1886'da tekrar inşa edildi / Summer Palace (Original 1750, rebuilt 1886)
- 12 Şangay Gwaay, 19. yy'da yerleşim terkedildi / Şangay Gwaay, 1880 - end of occupation
- 13 Grand Bassam, 1880ler / Grand Bassam, 1880s
- 14 Özgürlük Anıtı, 1886 / Statue of Liberty (Installed 1886)
- 15 Sidney Opera Binası, 1973 / Sydney Opera House, 1973

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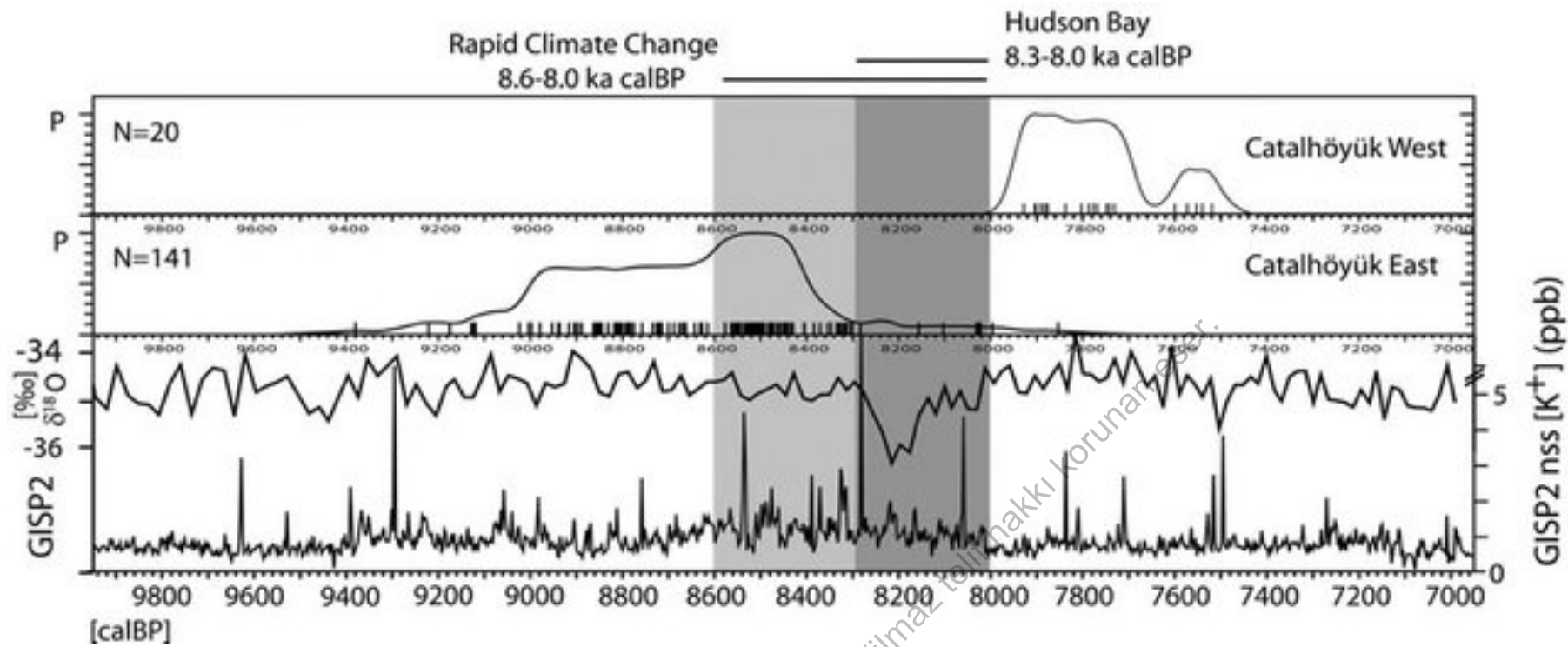
Plan of Çatalhöyük showing the East and West Mounds and major excavation areas  
[Credit: A. Bogaard et al., *Anatolian Studies*, 2017]



- Çatalhöyük East and West, showing approximate previous dating estimates and uncertainty in the relationship between the mounds. Question marks without grey bars indicate estimates made in the absence of radiocarbon dates. (Plan courtesy of Çatalhöyük Research Project.)

Abandonment of the latest-known domestic building (building 33) is now securely dated to 6015–5905 BC at the east mound. More limited dating from shallower excavations on the north eminence indicates that it was abandoned by 6300 BC .

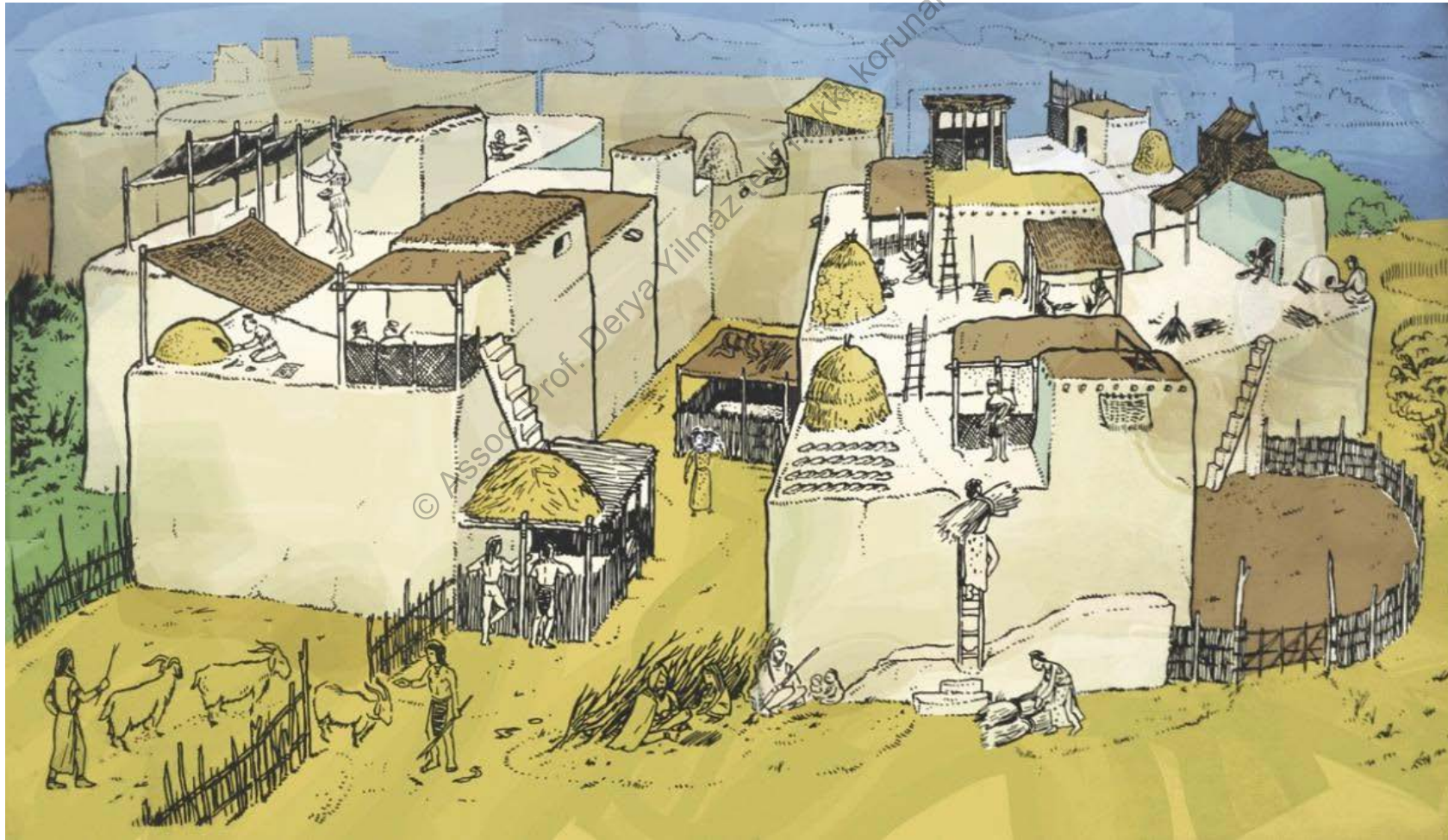




- The impact of Rapid Climate Change (RCC) on prehistoric communities at Çatalhöyük: The east mound abandonment, after a break the life starting at the west mound of Çatalhöyük.

The East and West Mounds at Çatalhöyük had an appreciable overlap in occupation around 6000 BC, although the exact duration remains undetermined. They should thus be seen as parts of a single settlement, with a gradual shift probably beginning within the latter quarter of the seventh millennium BC, and persisting until the first century of the sixth.

One of Çatalhöyük's most defining attributes was its inhabitants' gradual, continuous building and rebuilding of their houses. These houses were very important to all aspects of their lives: material, social and ritual. Houses were roughly rectangular and closely built together with no streets in-between. Instead, people moved around on roofs and accessed their homes down a wooden ladder via an opening in the ceiling.





plan of structures and possible transitions/ passages between them at the east mound.

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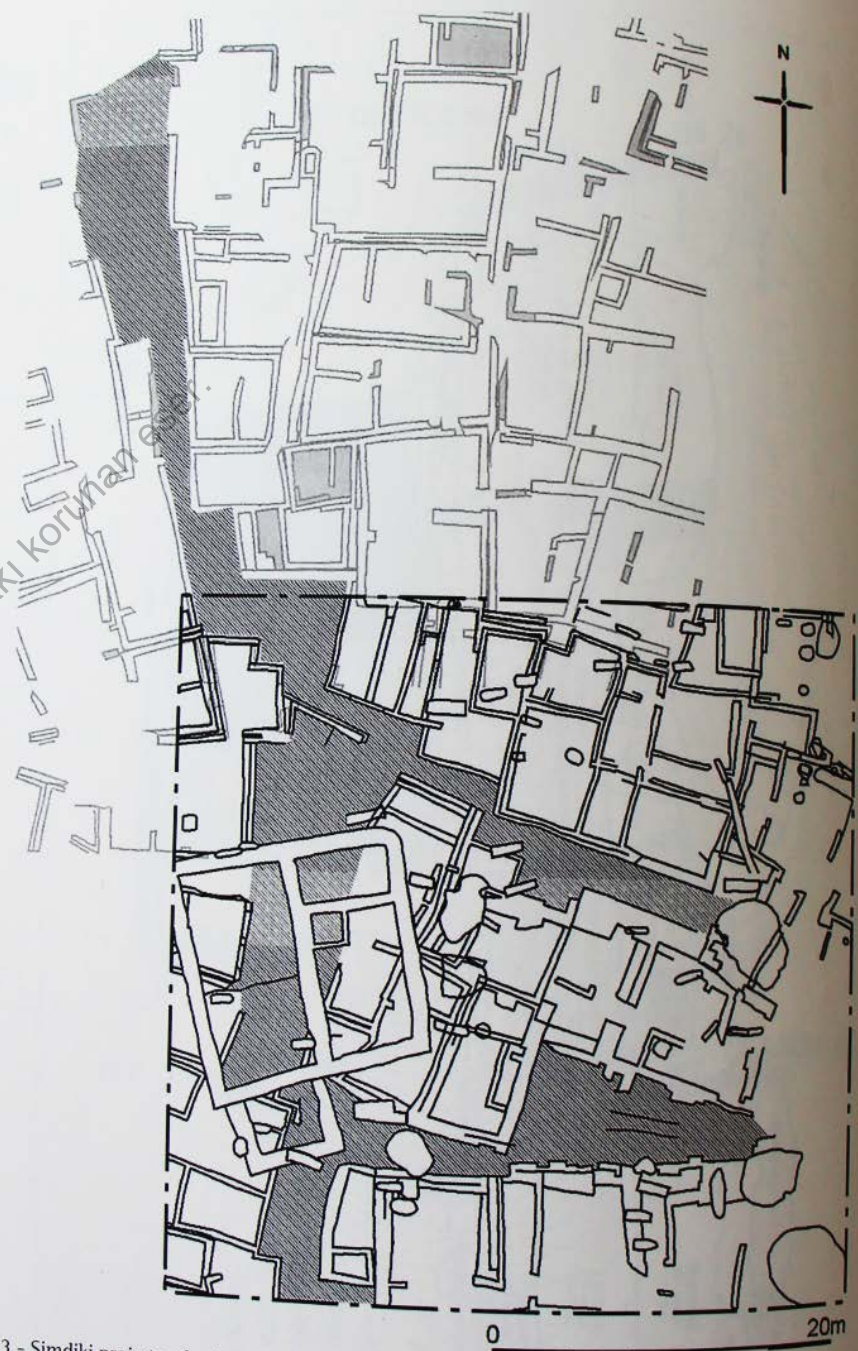


Fig. 3 - Şimdiki proje tarafından kazılan Doğu höyüğün kuzey kısmında, yapıların düzenlenişi ve olası "ara geçitler" (koyu renkli).

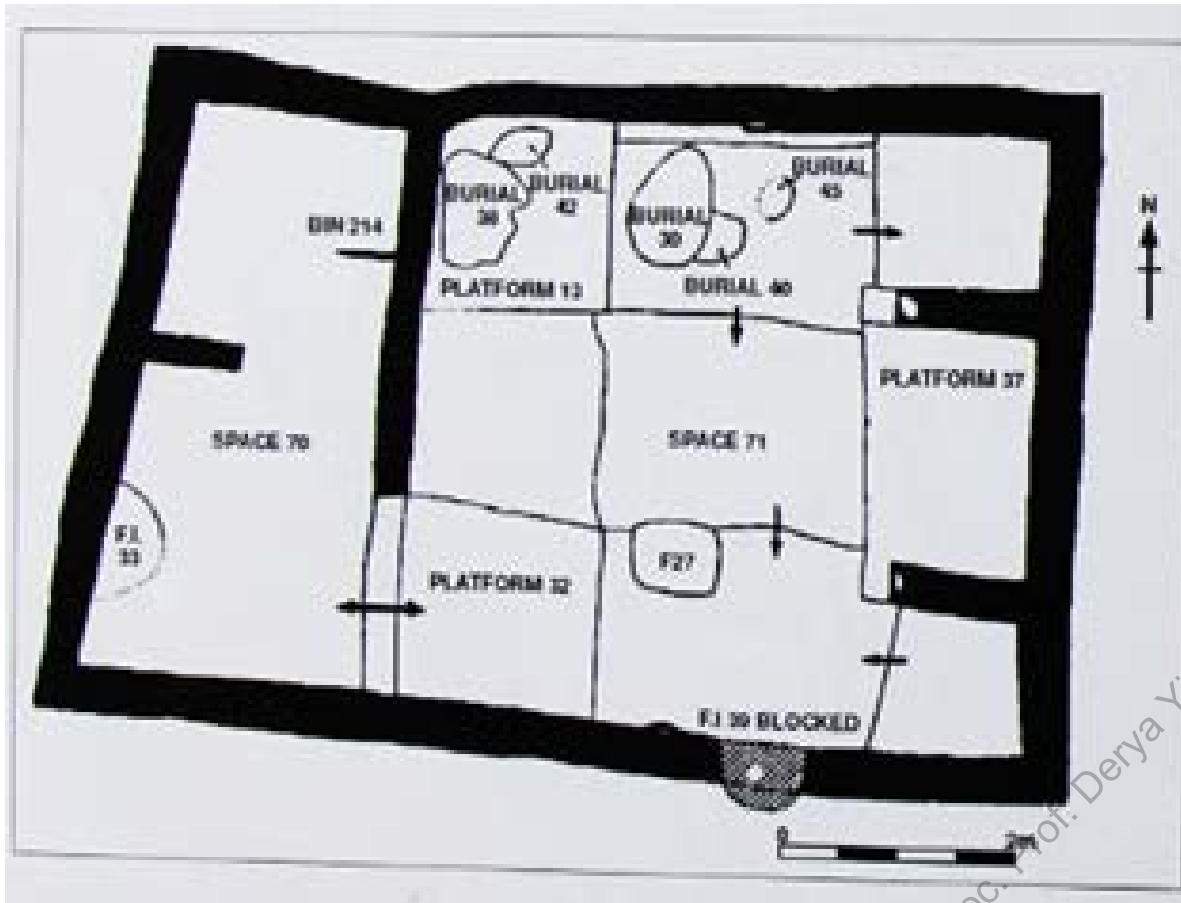
Çatalhöyük building 1 architectural phases from construction time to the end of occupation and leaving.

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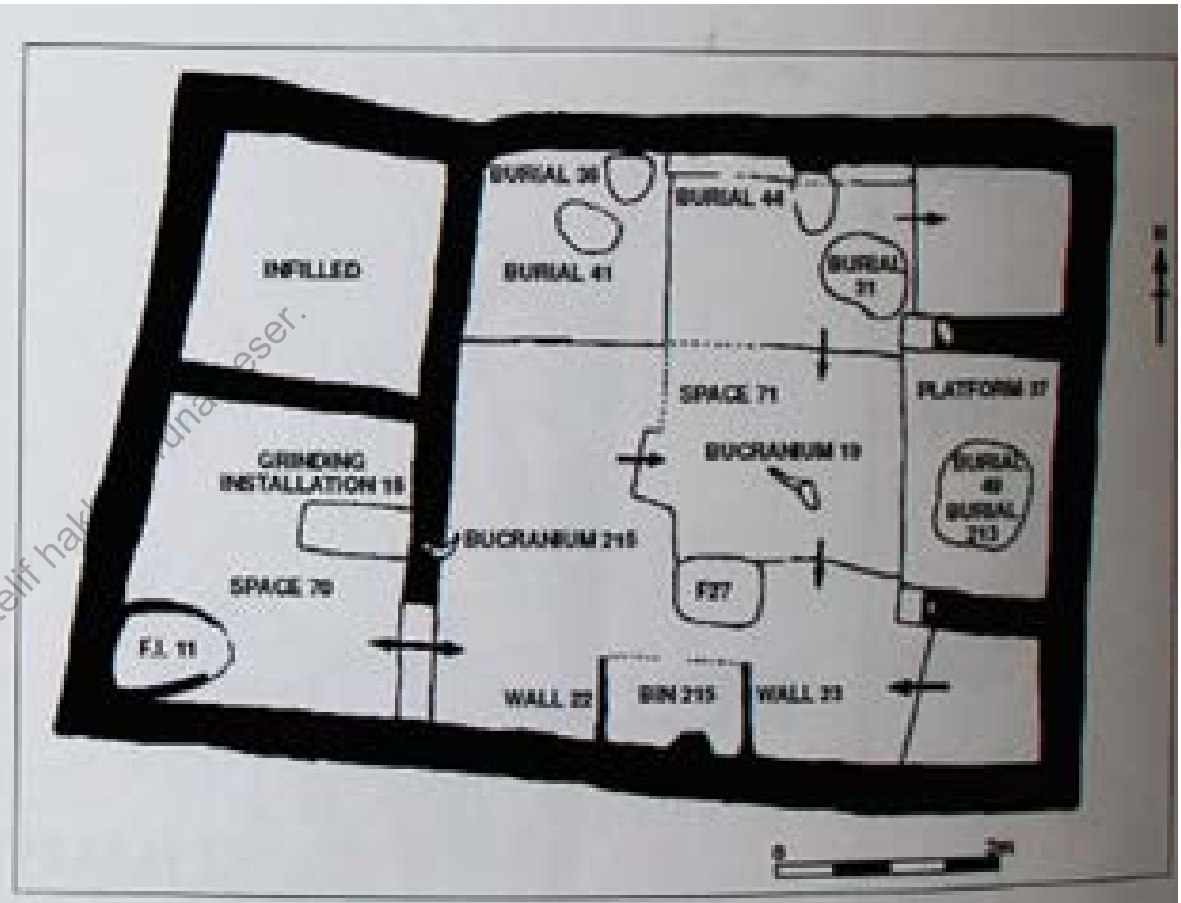
Building 1 Phase 1- Construction

Building 1 Phase 2- Occupation I

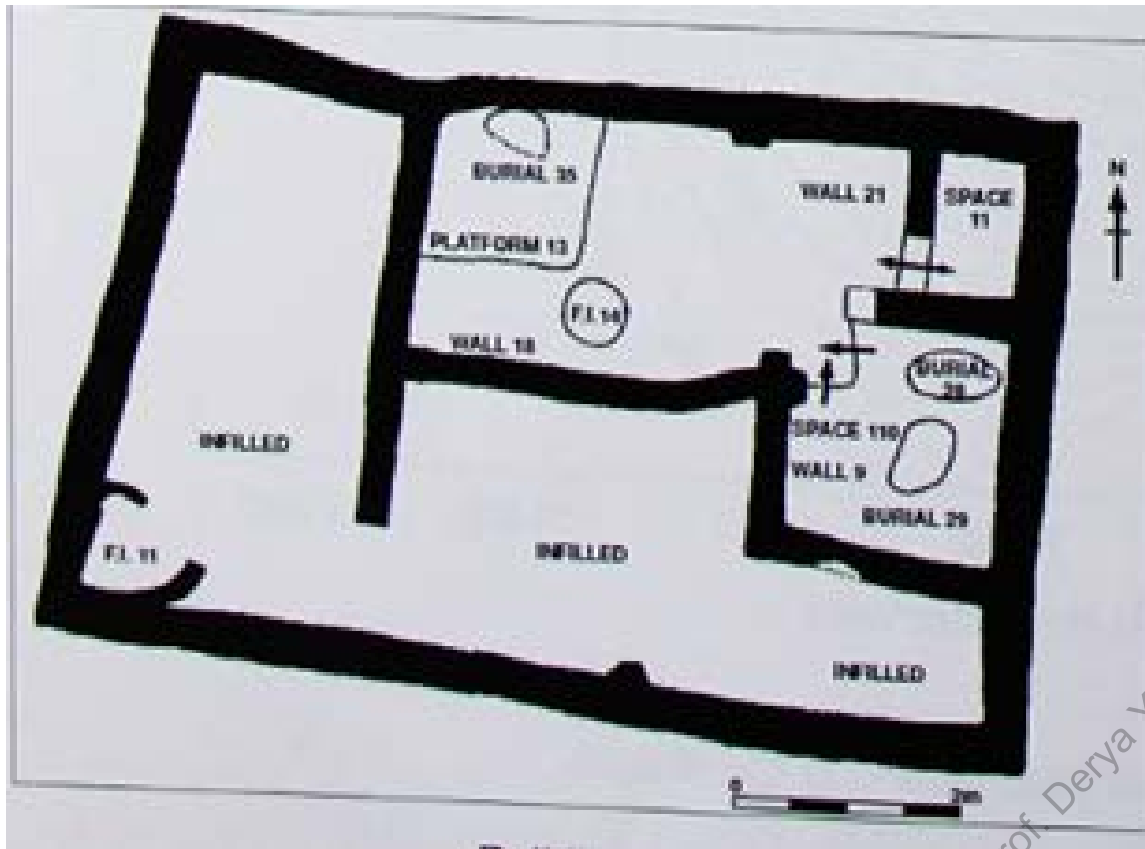




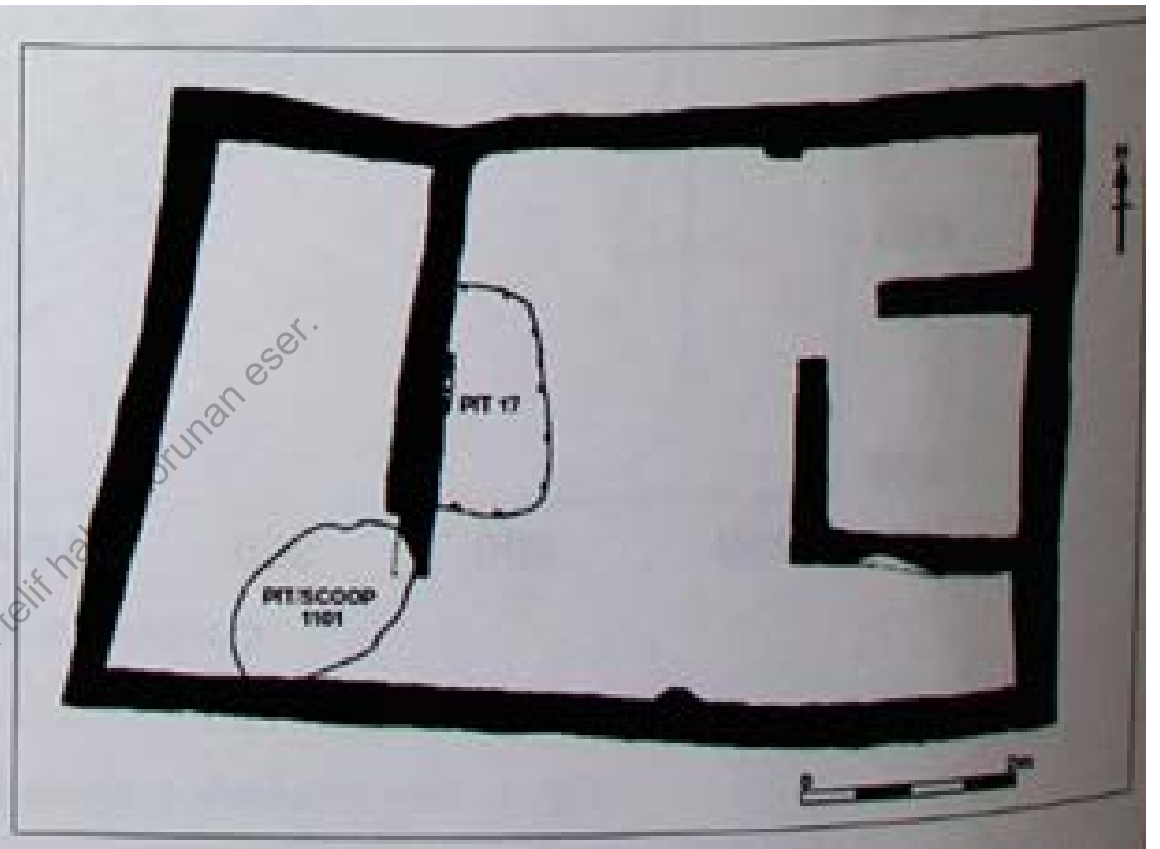
Building 1 Phase 3- Occupation II



Building 1 Phase 4- Occupation III

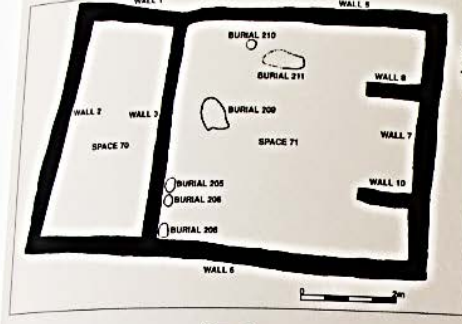


Building 1 Phase 5/6 Demolition and Abandonment/  
Occupation IV

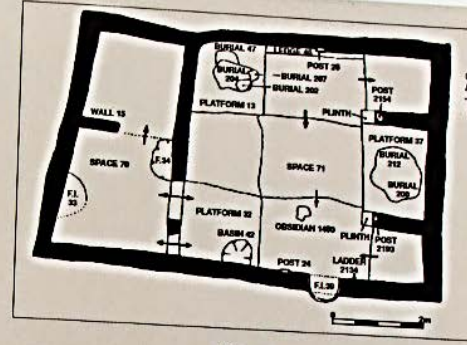


Building 1 Phase 7/8 Demolition and Abandonment  
/ Post- abandonment

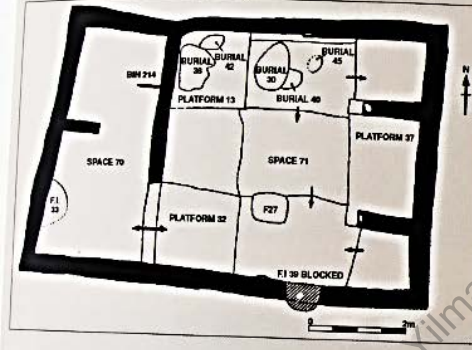
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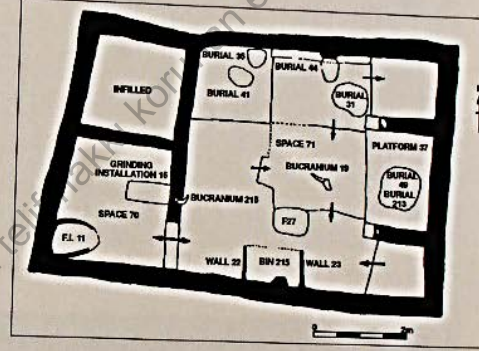
Yapı 1  
Evre 1 - Yapım aşaması



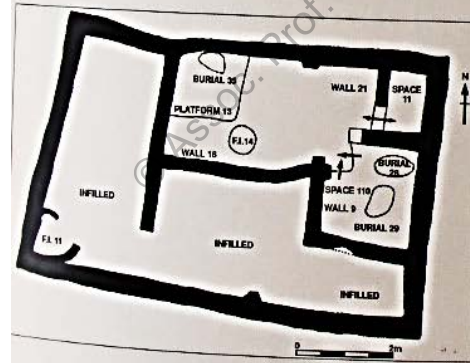
Yapı 1  
Evre 2 - İlk kullanım aşaması



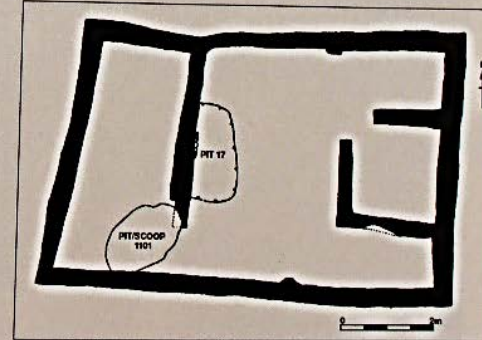
Yapı 1  
Evre 3 - İkinci kullanım aşaması



Yapı 1  
Evre 4 - Üçüncü kullanım aşaması



Yapı 1  
Evre 5/6 - Tahribat ve terk etme/ dördüncü kullanım aşaması



Yapı 1  
Evre 7/8 - Tahribat ve terk etme/terk etme sonrası

Fig. 4 - Çatalhöyük, Yapı 1'in sekiz kullanım evresinin çizimi.



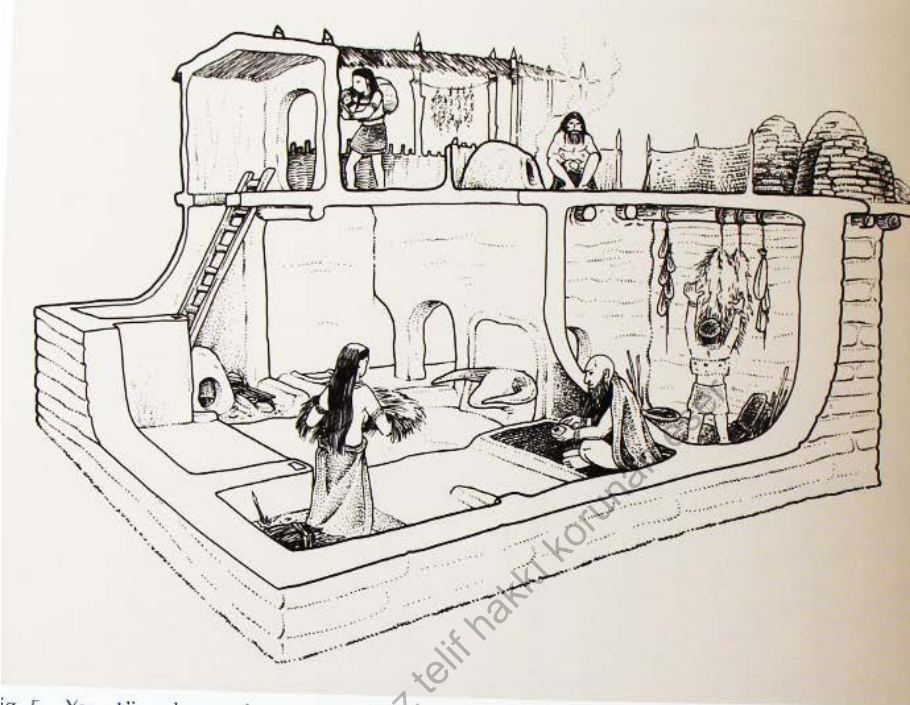


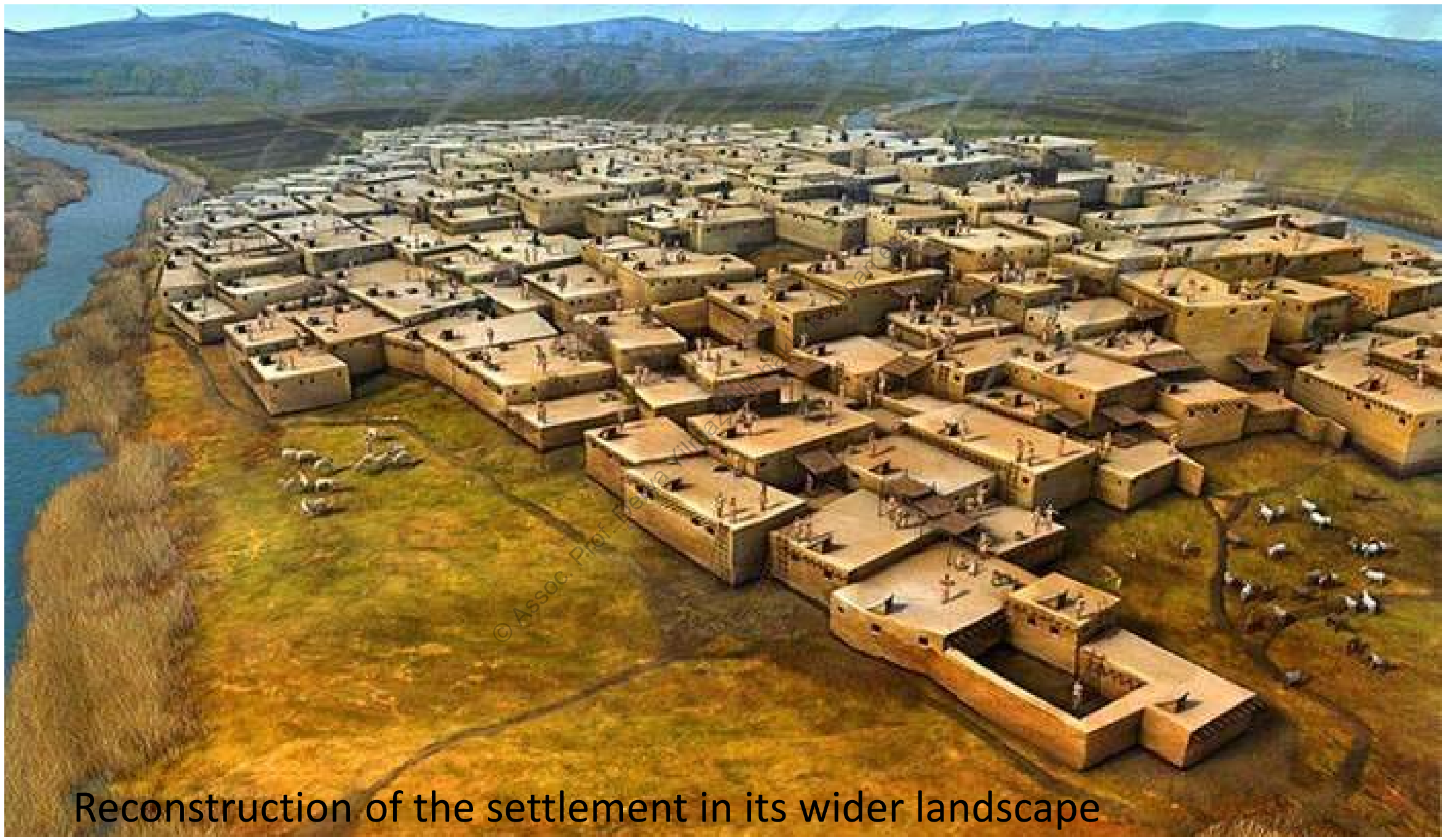
fig. 5 - Yapı 1'in rekonstrüksiyonu (John Swigger).



J. 6 - Yapı 1'in ana odasında, kuzeybatı sekisinin altındaki gömütler.

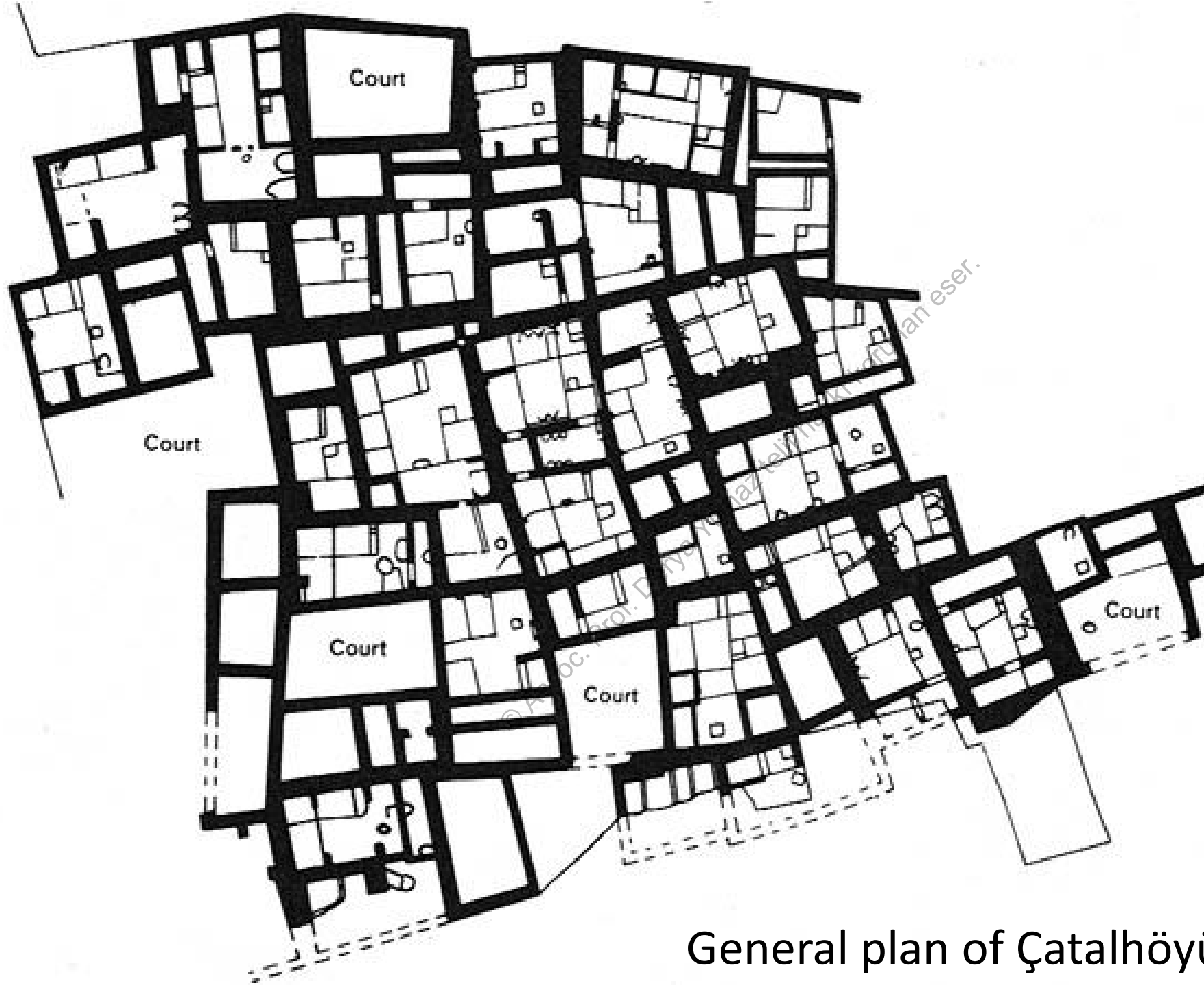
3D model of the entranceway to a house, showing the position of the oven below the ladder.  
Model created by Grant Cox.





Reconstruction of the settlement in its wider landscape





General plan of Çatalhöyük's houses.

- Why is Çatalhöyük an important Neolithic city?
- Magnificent examples of Neolithic art were found in the houses. Murals, figurines, plastered bull heads...







Deer and boar hunting scene, around which hunters are probably dressed in leopard skins.





Wall painting with bull hunting scene.



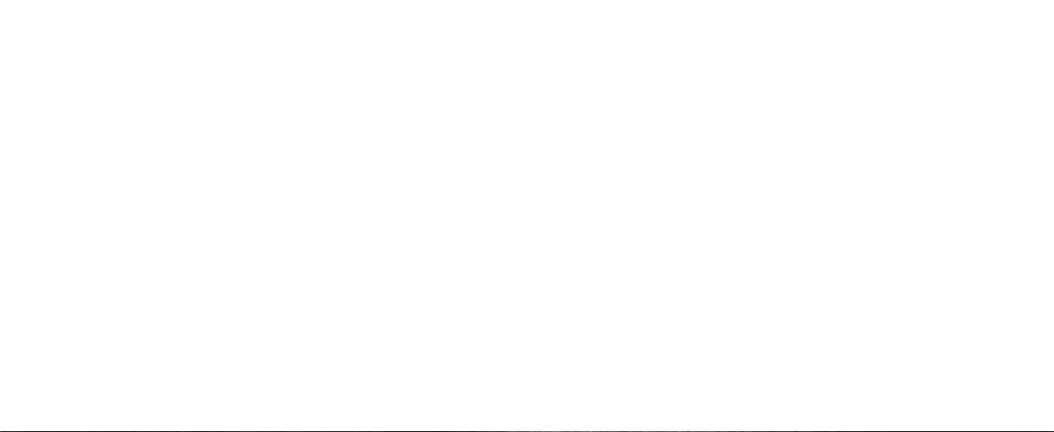


- In the early 1960s, archaeologist James Mellaart uncovered a mural at Çatalhöyük, the world's largest and best-preserved Neolithic site, which he interpreted to represent a volcanic eruption. Fifty years later, scientific tests done on pumice at the nearby volcano Hasan Dağ confirm that there was, in fact, an eruption between 9,500 and 8,400 years ago—a time span including the era that the mural was likely painted.





An animation of a mural with a model house and a depiction of headless people and vultures.



A virtual reality construction of an elaborate building at Çatalhöyük, Hodder 1999, Fig. 4





Overall view of the excavations in the Mellaart area on the East Mound



Flint dagger found in Building 3 at Çatalhöyük, with a bone handle carved in the form of a boar's head



The painting on layers of Wall plaster around the northwest platform in Building 1, space 71.

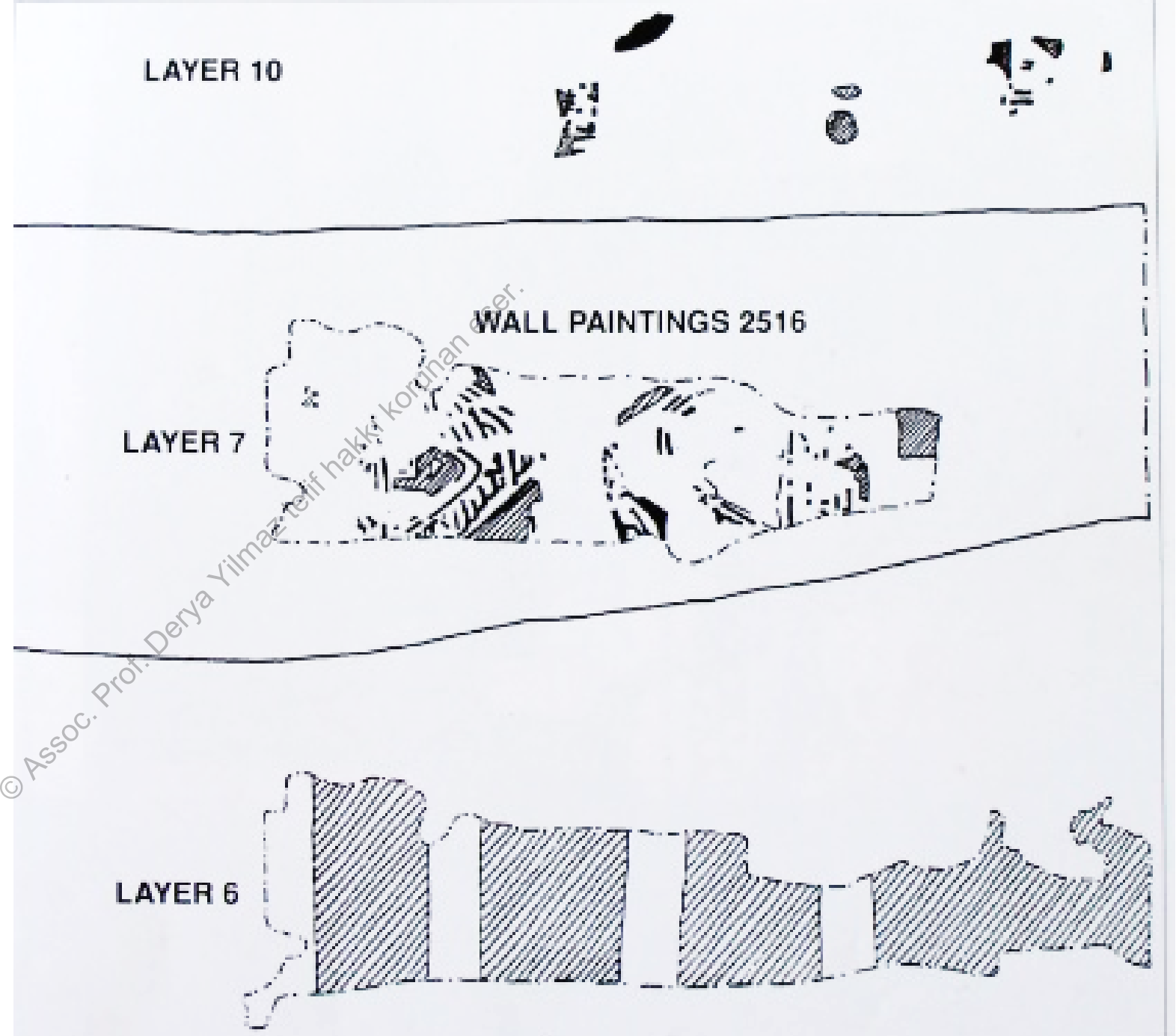




Fig. 7 - Çatalhöyük'te çoklu duvar sıvası (Wendy Matthews).

cross-sectional view of multi-wall plaster.

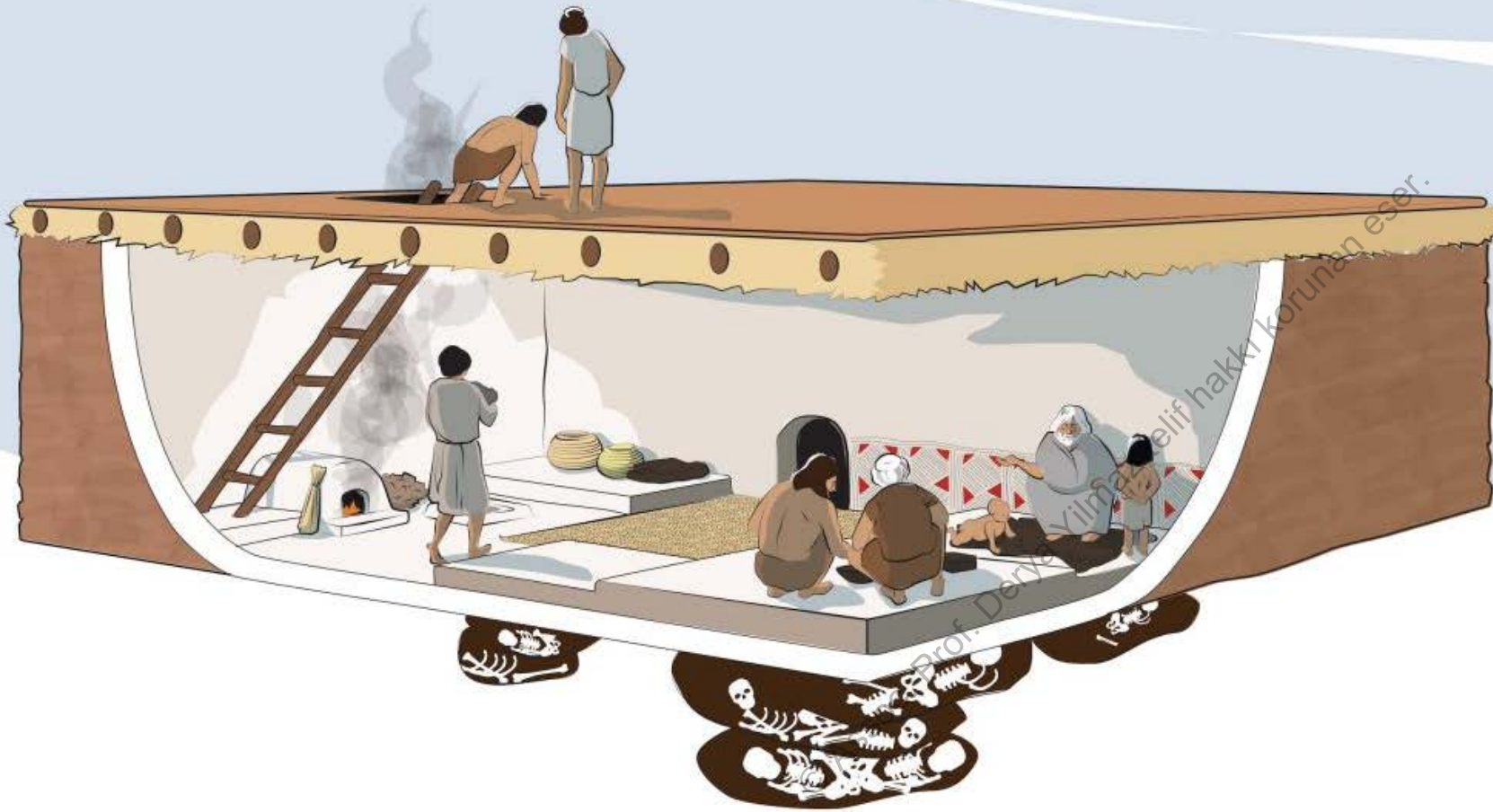


- The plaster in the main room of the houses was renewed frequently, less plaster in the back rooms. This is due to the smoke of the fire in the main room.



Experimental firing of an oven inside a reconstructed building (Photo: Jason Quinlan)





Daily life took place both at the settlement of Çatalhöyük and away from it, in the surrounding landscape. Men and women led very similar lives, with analysis of human skeletons showing generally identical diets. Infant mortality was high, as were the risks for women during childbirth. However in general, people lived healthily and actively.

They ate a varied diet containing both animal products such as fish and beef and plants such as barley and wheat. Remarkably, upon their death, people were buried under the floors of houses. The bodies were often tightly bound in a flexed position and placed in a simple grave with few or no artifacts.

All of the dead, old people, women, men, babies were buried under the platforms of the houses in hoker position.

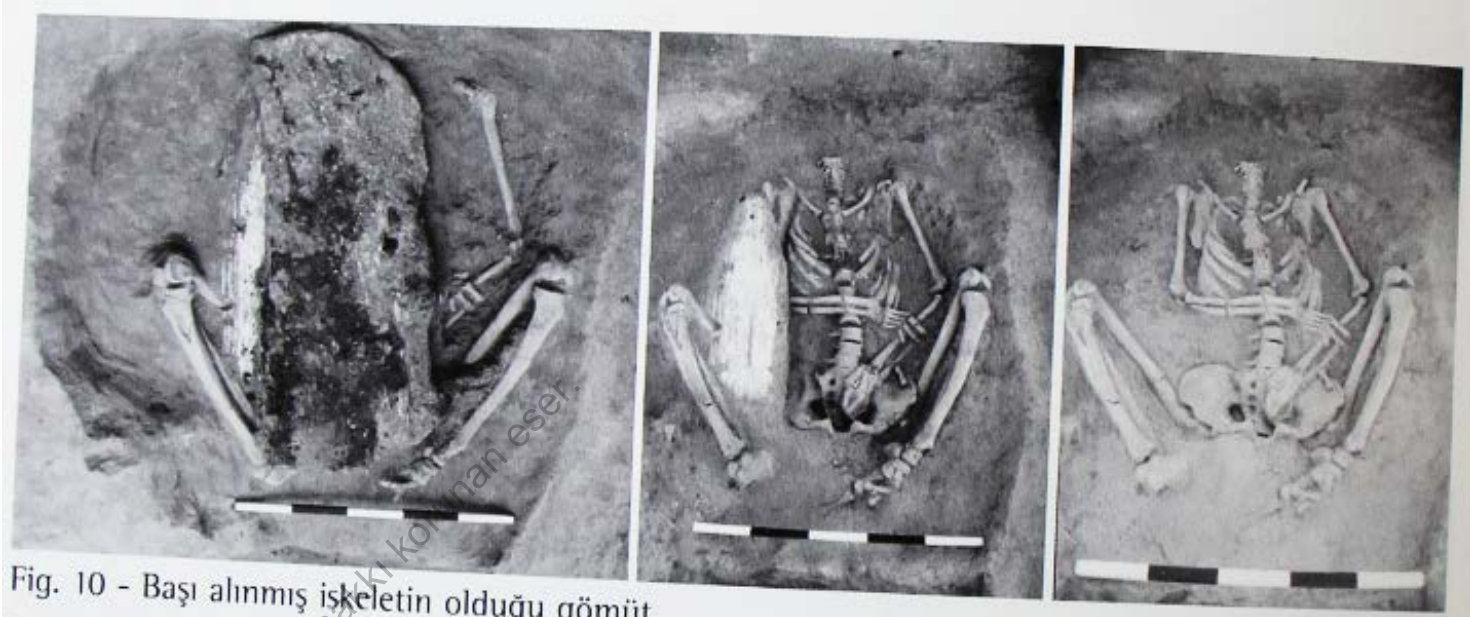


Fig. 10 - Başı alınmış iskeletin olduğu gömüt.



Fig. 11 - Sıvalı kafatası a) Yapı 42'deki mezardan, b)Rekonstrüksiyon (John Swogger).

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A baby burial hoker position with bracelets and anklets.



- Yapı 6'dan bilezikli ve halhallı bebek gömütü.





Almost Complete (Figs. 2 & 33) . Clay. Low to Medium Baked. H.2.7 cm, L 6.6 cm, W. 4.6 cm. This is the second amulet type stamp seal with the other (Leopard Seal) from 2003. Despite this extraordinary piece have been found with a minor damage of the forelegs, it is possible to identify the missed parts and to make a reconstruction of the overall form. The all paws below the head seem to have been intentionally broken on the same level. The small tail is also emphasized between the legs.

Clay. Non-Complete. H.1.2 cm, L 4.2 cm, W. 3.3 cm. Low to Medium Baked. There is slip on the surface. The seal had been very much damaged and worn away in some parts that the complete seal form cannot be distinguished. The form seems to be composed of small projections with slight curve on their sides. Handle is broken and almost lost. The piece in such a condition seems to have been already discarded before its deposition. The seal face is decorated with three grooved spiral patterns of which one of them at the edge are set between other spirals.

Clay. Complete. H.2 cm, L 4.4 cm, W. 1.9. The complete seal face form is curving ellipsoid that is also a common shape in the assemblage. The seal face is very flat. The seal face is composed of five grooved curving parallel patterns that are also identical to the seal face form. Two round grooves are set between the curving edges and the last curving linear pattern.



Clay. Complete. Low Baked. H.1.6 cm, L 1.8 cm, W. 1.1 cm. Burnished. seal face form is oval. Some tiny pores can be distinguished on seal face as vegetative inclusion remains. The surface is crunchy because of low baked or maybe not baked. The seal face pattern is composed of two broad spiral patterns following each other. The center of grooved patterns has been cracked into 3 mm. Deep.



Fig. 12 - Yapı 17'de ocak üzerindeki dolguda bulunan kırık başlı kil figürin.



Fig. 14 - Çatalhöyük'te çok sayıda bulunan küçük figürinlerden bir örnek.



Fig. 13 - Fig. 12'de gösterilen ile benzer bir baş, aynı yerde ama daha sonraki bir evreye ait ocak ile ilişkili olarak bulundu.





Artefacts found at Çatalhöyük : obsidian, bone tools and clay figurines.



Example of a painted pot found on the West Mound.

Photo by Ingmar Franz.

A pot found in trench 1 of the West Mound at Çatalhöyük which has basket-like features.



Clay seated goddess flanked by two lionesses.

marble goddess figure



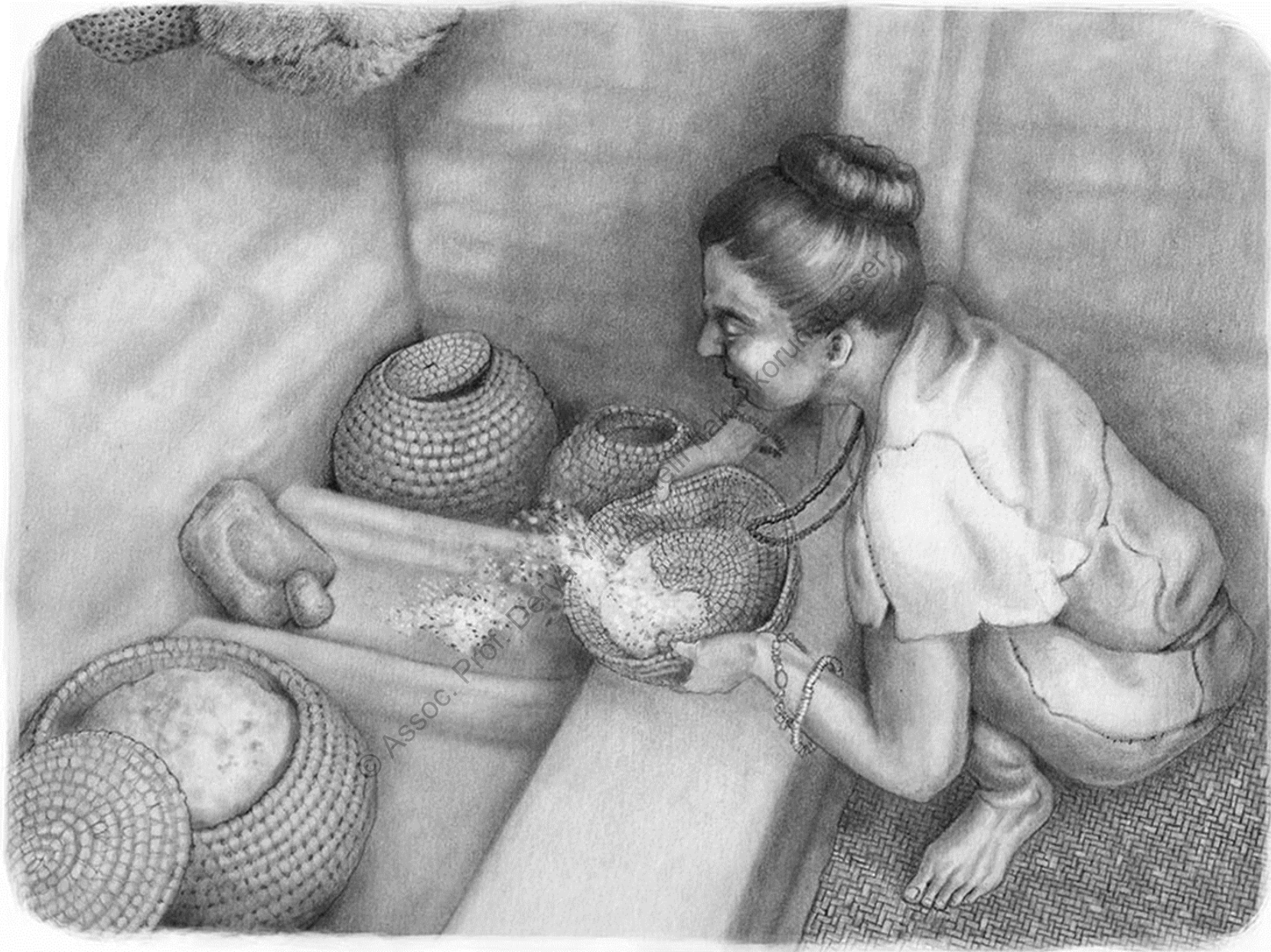


3.5 liter container very well-polished big pot.



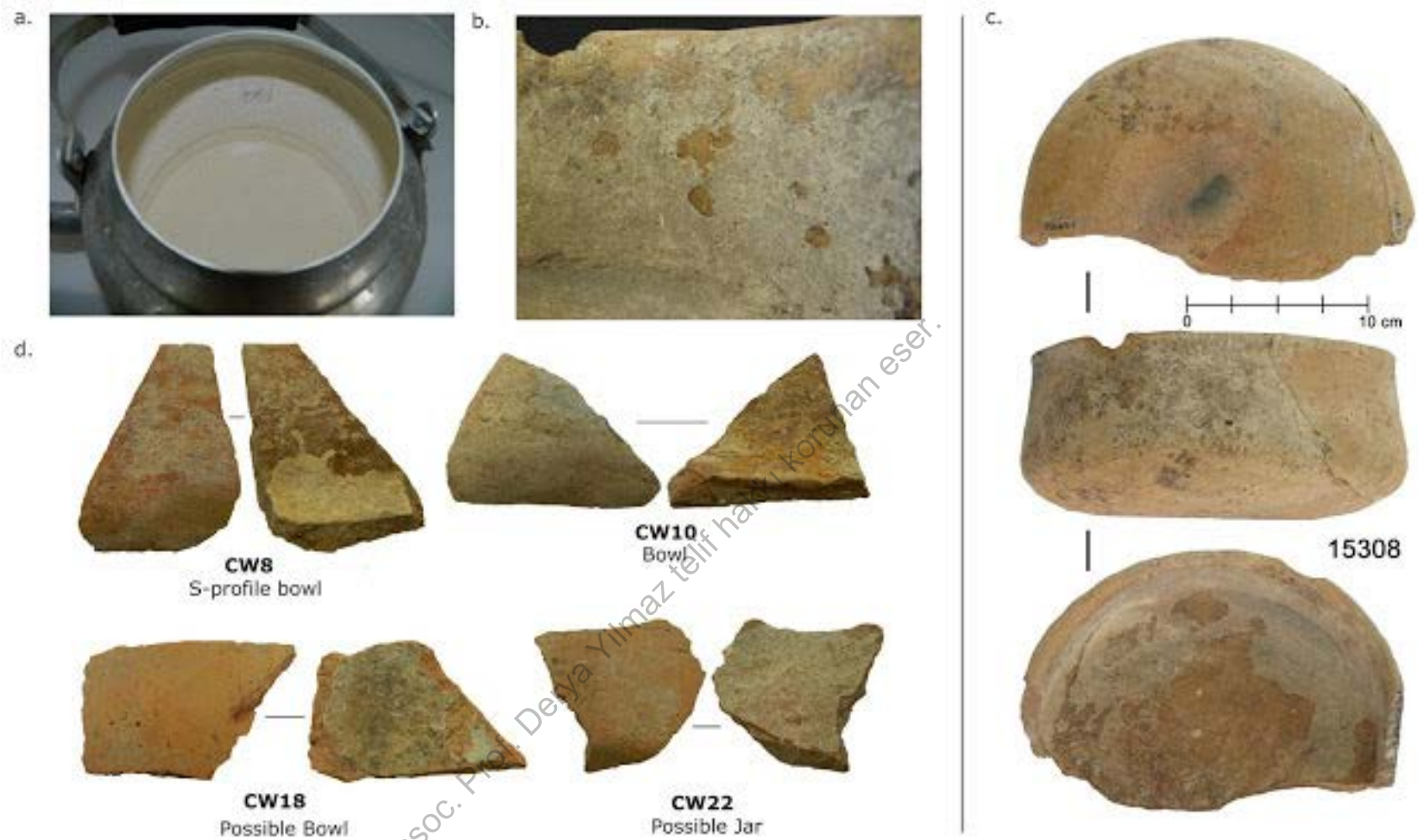
Pot with notch decoration

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A reconstruction of a woman at Çatalhöyük using baskets. Illustrated by Kathryn Killackey.>





Ancient proteins from ceramic vessels at Çatalhöyük West reveal the hidden cuisine of early farmers. Knowledge of the diet of people living in the prehistoric settlement of Çatalhöyük almost 8000 years ago has been complemented in astonishing scope and detail by analyzing proteins from their ceramic bowls and jars.



A piece of fabric which was used to shroud the body of a baby buried under the floor of a house consists the latest impressive find from the prehistoric settlement of Çatalhöyük, near Konya, in Turkey. Dating 9,000 years ago, it is thought to be the earliest sample of clothing ever found to-date.

*linen cloth from Çatalhöyük. Photo: Scott Haddow/3w.catalhoyuk.com*



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