

# Architecture

The old Kanesh citadel, the center of the Kanish Kingdom, is 500 m in diameter and 20 m higher than the Lower City. To the east of the citadel, the walls and palaces of the II and Ib levels were excavated. To the west and southwest of the Citadel, new monumental structures of the Old Assyrian Trade Colonies Age have been discovered. Of these, two buildings with fully preserved plans are the temple, one is the official warehouse building, and the third is a large palace. All the buildings on the hill were destroyed by a great fire.

**WARSHAMA  
SARAYI**

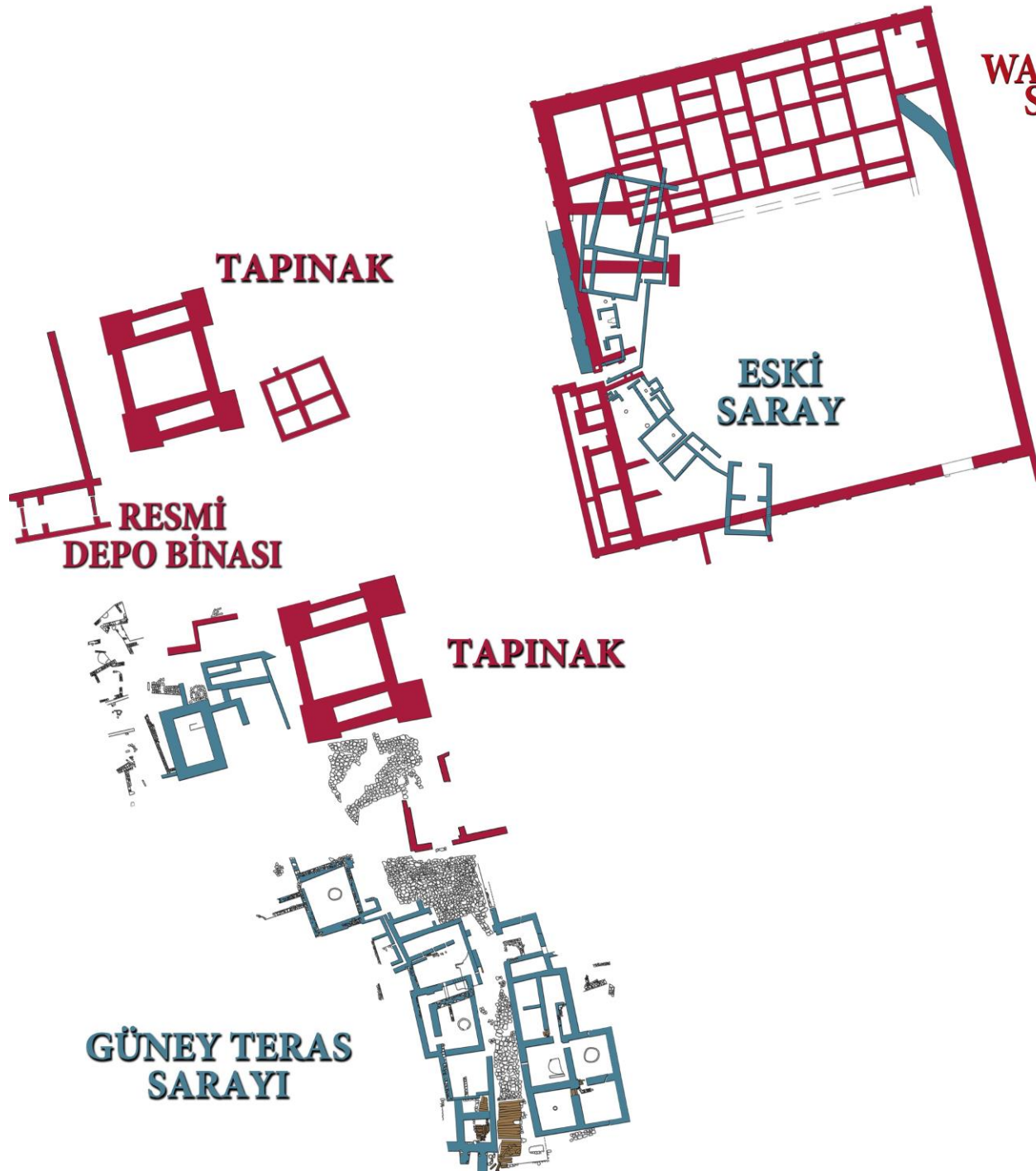
**TAPINAK**

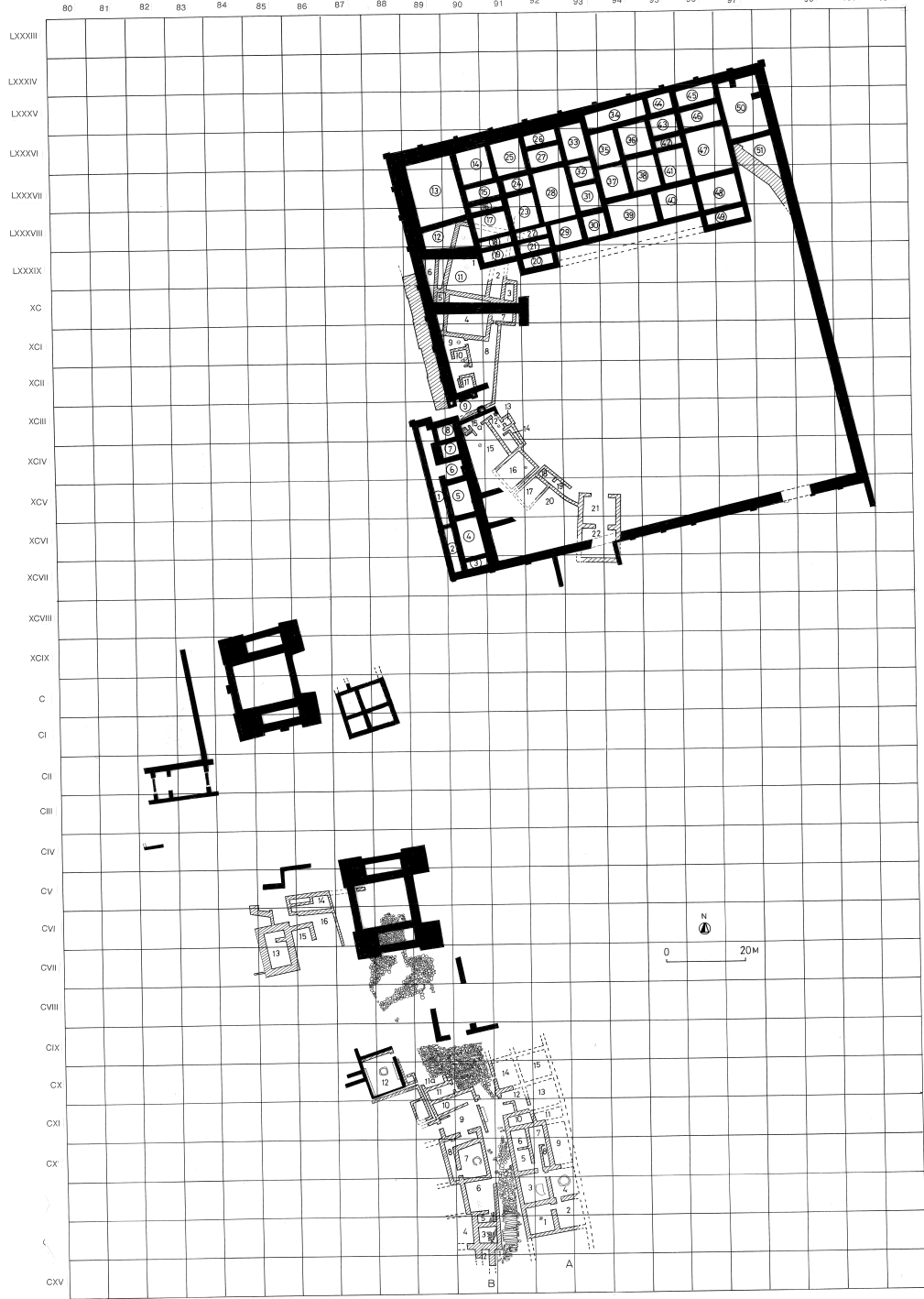
**ESKİ  
SARAY**

**RESMİ  
DEPO BİNASI**

**TAPINAK**

**GÜNEY TERAS  
SARAYI**

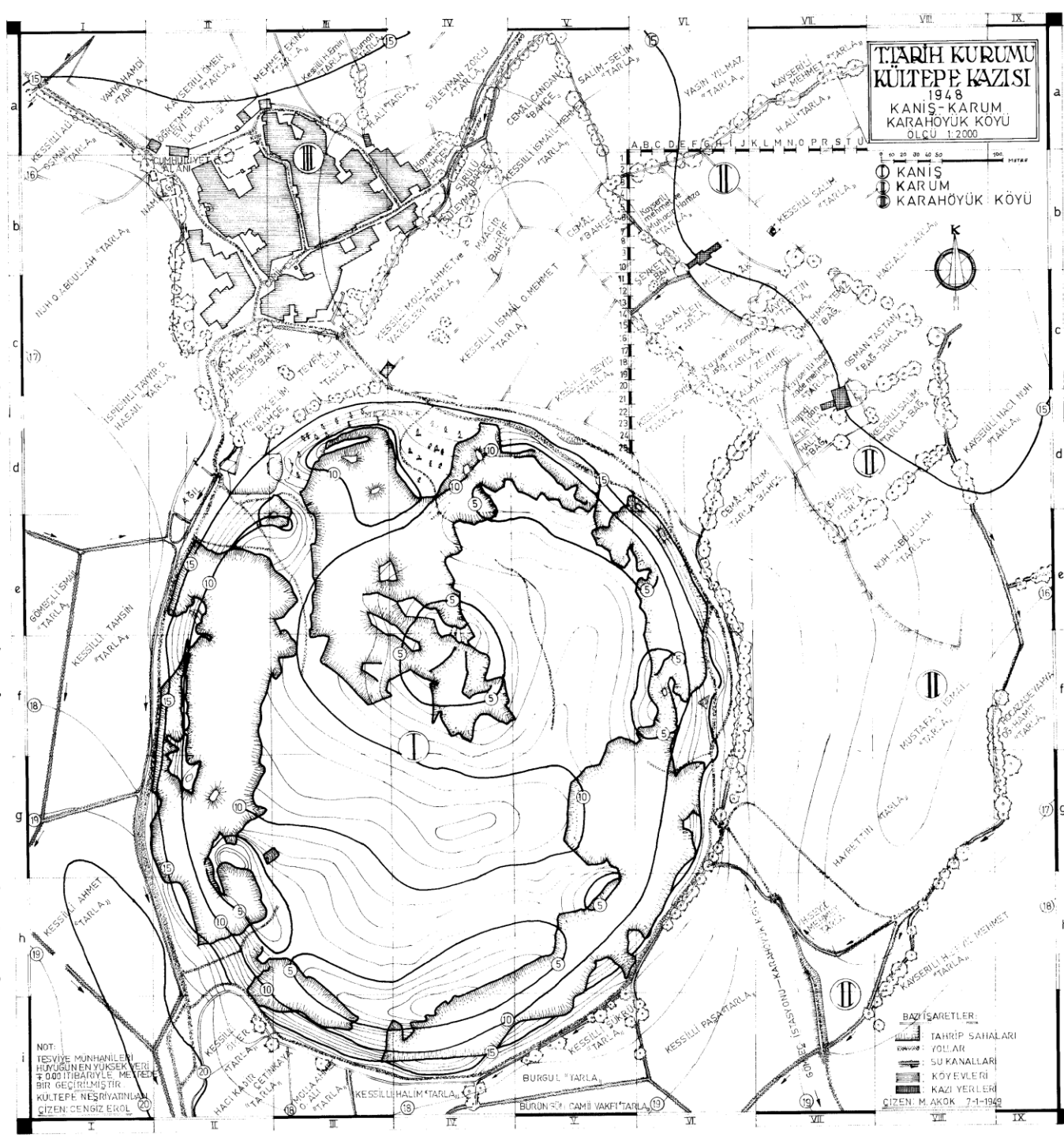




PLAN 11



Kültepe is one of the biggest mounds in Central Anatolia, which has been destroyed the most. From the second half of the 19th century until 1928/29, the soil of the mound was used as fertilizer in the fields around it. In this process, the organic-containing mound soil was unconsciously excavated from the deep Hrozny excavation area, and for this reason, the mound was severely damaged. Meanwhile, the archaeological remains unearthed were destroyed. No excavations were carried out in Kültepe until 1948.

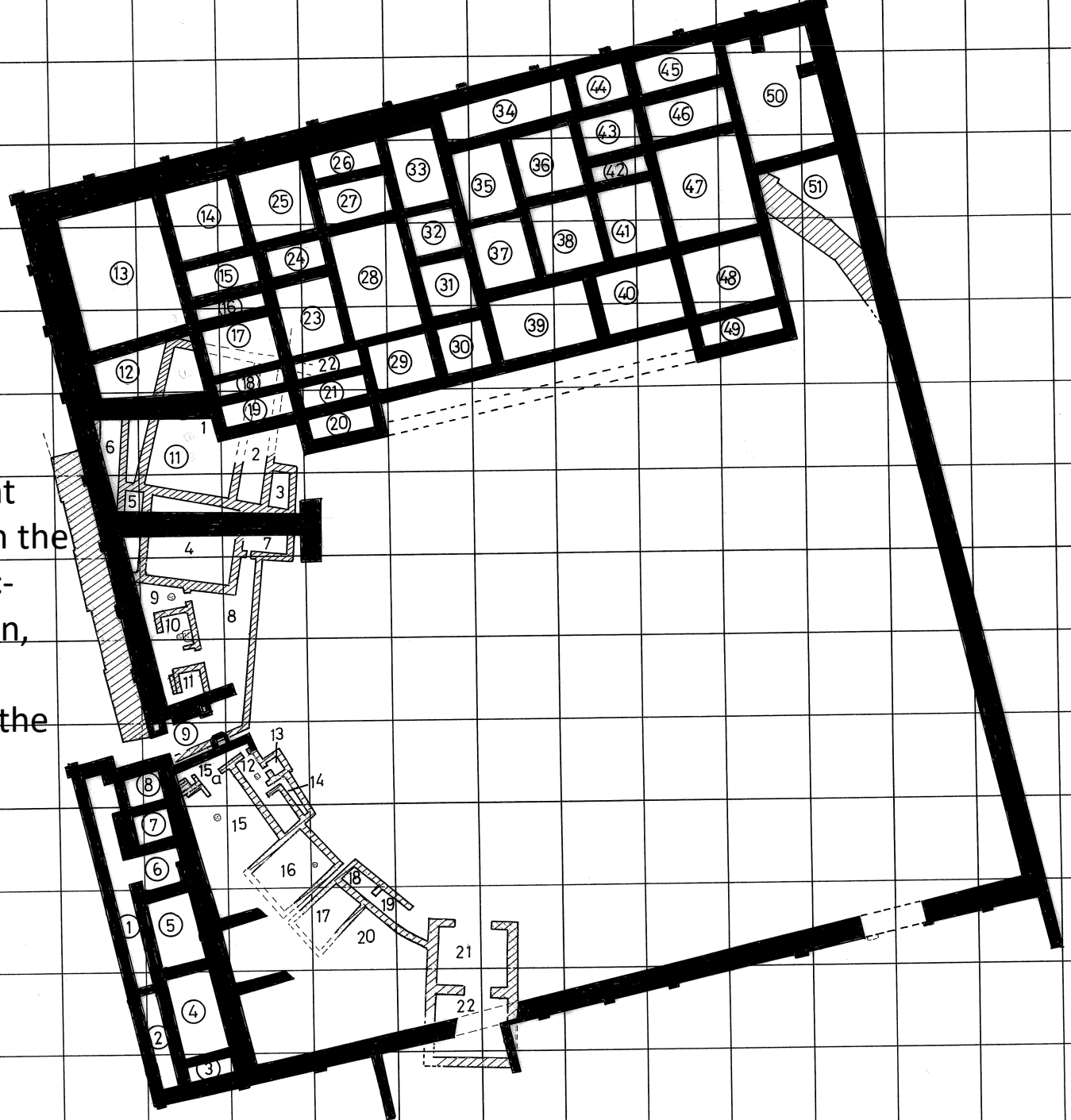




**Since B. Hrozný accepted that the palace belongs to the Hittite Imperial Age and was burned in 1200 BC, he believed that the Assyrian tablets should be searched deeper. For this reason, he removed the courtyard and the south wing of the palace and went down to a depth of 8 m in the deepest place.**







The palaces were burnt down and destroyed in the Late Hittite, Hellenistic-Roman eras. In addition, when each researcher excavated the citadel, the destruction increased.

At Kanesh, the last phase of EBA I was reached and 18 building levels were identified. The last two building levels of the hill represent the Roman ( 1-2) and the Hellenistic (3) Age, which is seen as a building level. In these times, Kültepe was a small city under the shadow of Kayseri and an important part of Karum was a cemetery. 4-5. building levels represent the Late Hittite period. During the Assyrian Trade Colonies Era, Kanish was a very strong city surrounded by two intertwined walls and the center of the Kanish Kingdom. The contemporaneity of the Karum and the top floors with each other is as follows. Building levels 11-12-13 of the EBA III period represent. Building levels 14-17 represent the EBA II period.

Kanesh/Kaniş Yapı Katları

Karum Yapı Katları

6

Ia

7

Ib

8

II

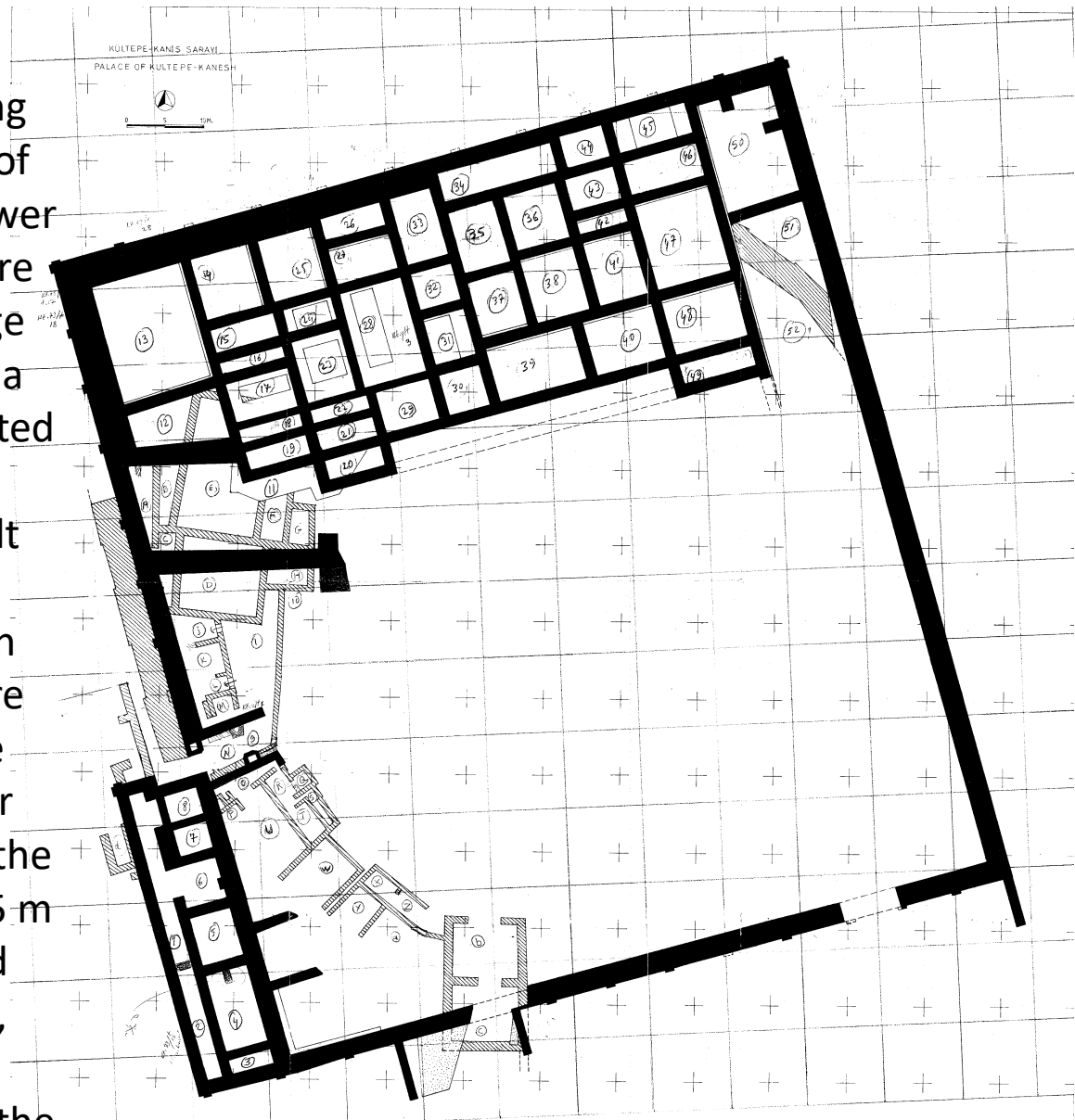
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III

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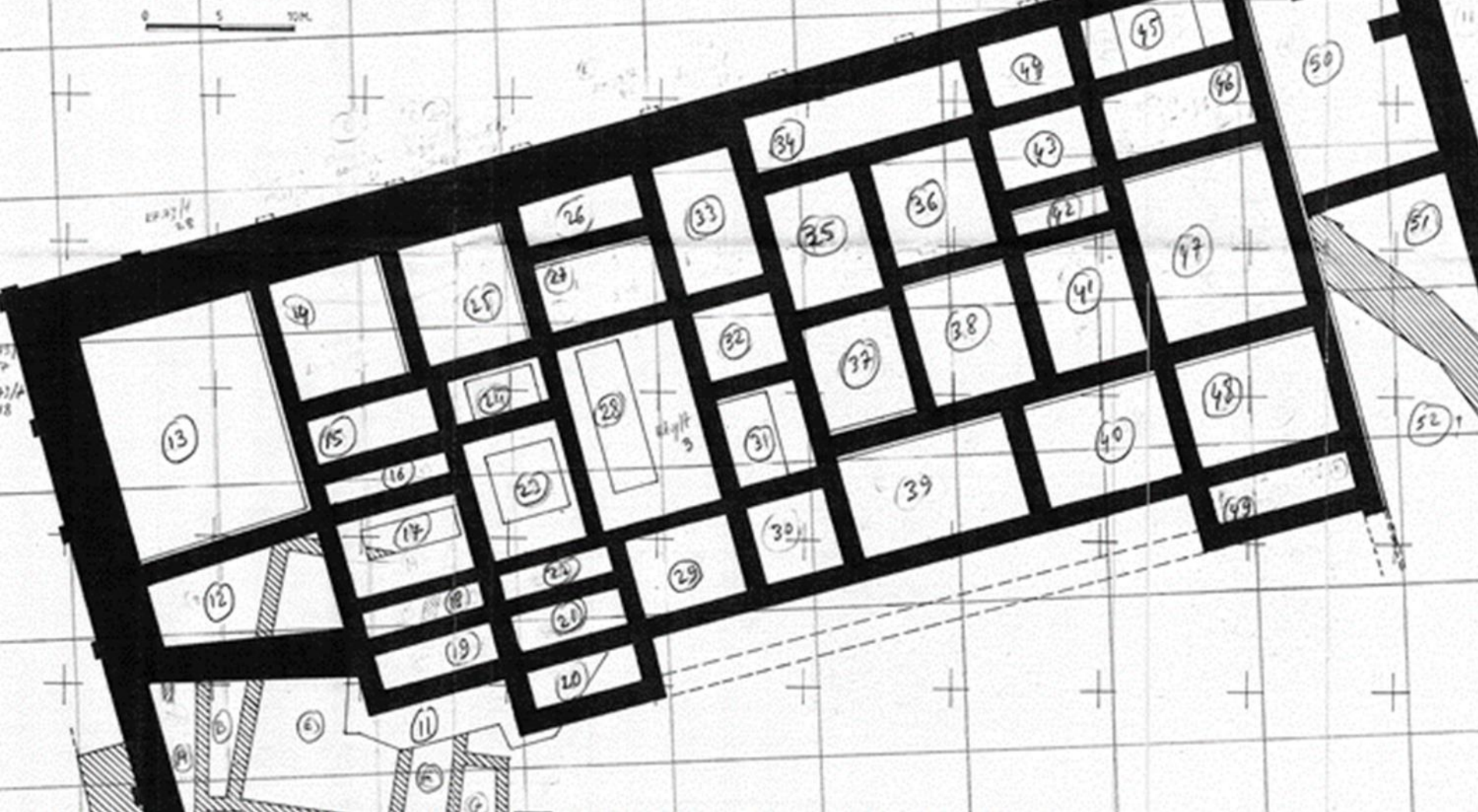
IV

B. Hrozny excavated the southern part of the palace and dug it down without drawing and photographing it. The western and eastern wings of the palace, which seem to have fewer rooms than the northern wing, were destroyed by Roman-Hellenistic Age structures. The northern wing and a small part in the west were excavated by T. Özgüç. It has 42 rooms in the north. Stone foundations were built as high as 2-2.5 m, and there are wooden posts 1.5 m apart between the mudbrick walls. Room floors are hard compacted earth. Doors were not found everywhere. Rectangular rooms are the largest at 15x11 m, the others are generally 6x7 m, 9.5x6.5 m or 8x9 m. Thick mudbrick walls and stone foundations, wooden planks, pillars, echoing debris filling the rooms and stairwells indicate that the palace had two floors.





This 100x110 m palace must have been planned in advance and built in a short time according to the plan. As in the Hittite structures, the passage to the courtyard is not via a colonnaded portico, but must be accessed through a corridor. There is no entrance gate to the north of the citadel. The function of the rooms is determined according to the finds unearthed in it. In this part of the palace, rooms 13, 28, 39-40, 47-48 and 50 should be ceremonial rooms and residence rooms.



In the other rooms there was no hearth, no oven, no large storage jars, no information on the altar or altar plinth. Some of the stamp seal-imprinted bullae were found scattered, most of them in-situ. 15, 17, 23-27, 11, 46 storage rooms, 16 staircase rooms, 31-38, 41-46 service, administration rooms, that is, the economic part of the tax office.



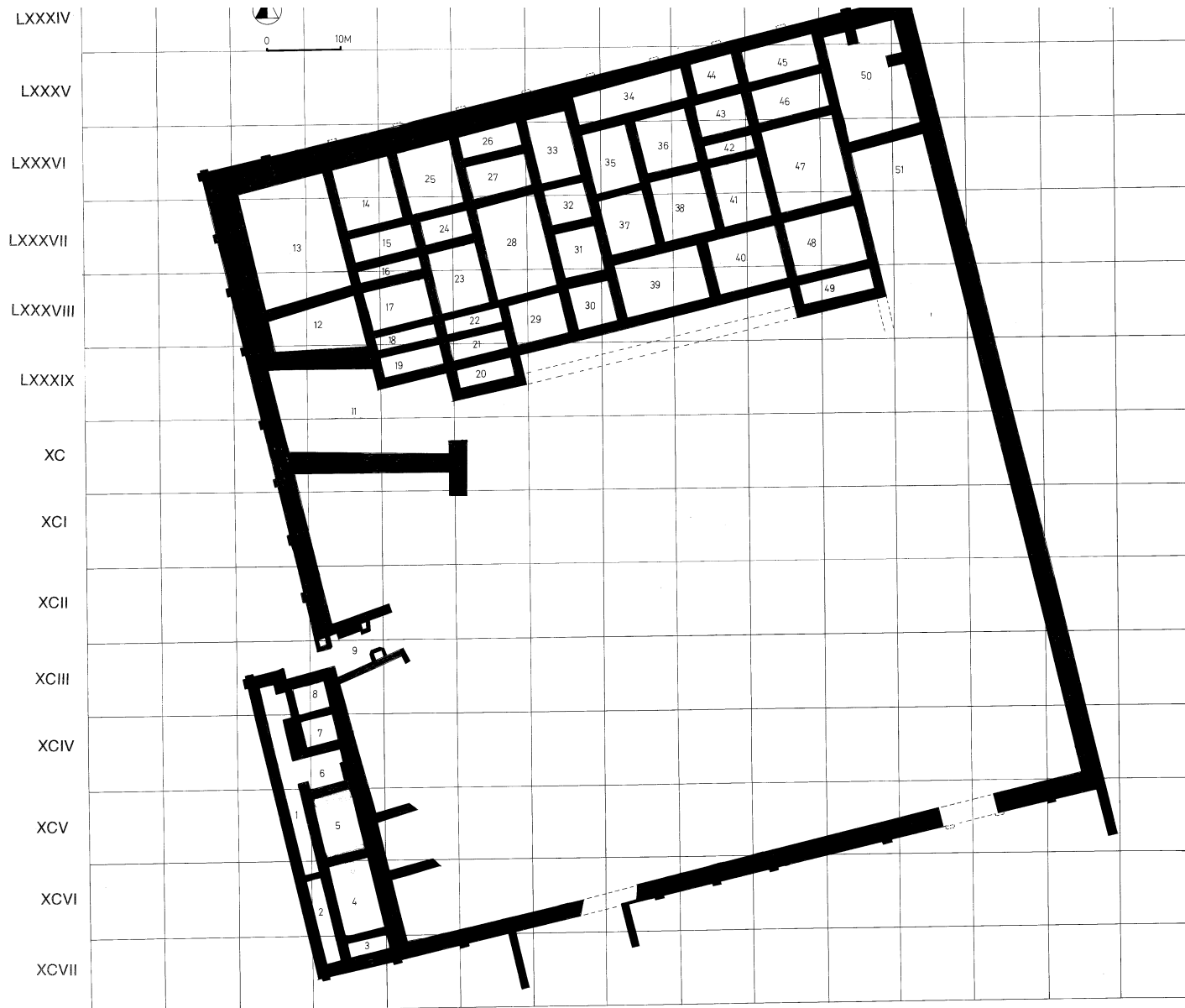


In the eastern part of the palace, the Early Bronze Age building remains come from just below it. The foundations of these structures were preserved in the courtyard.

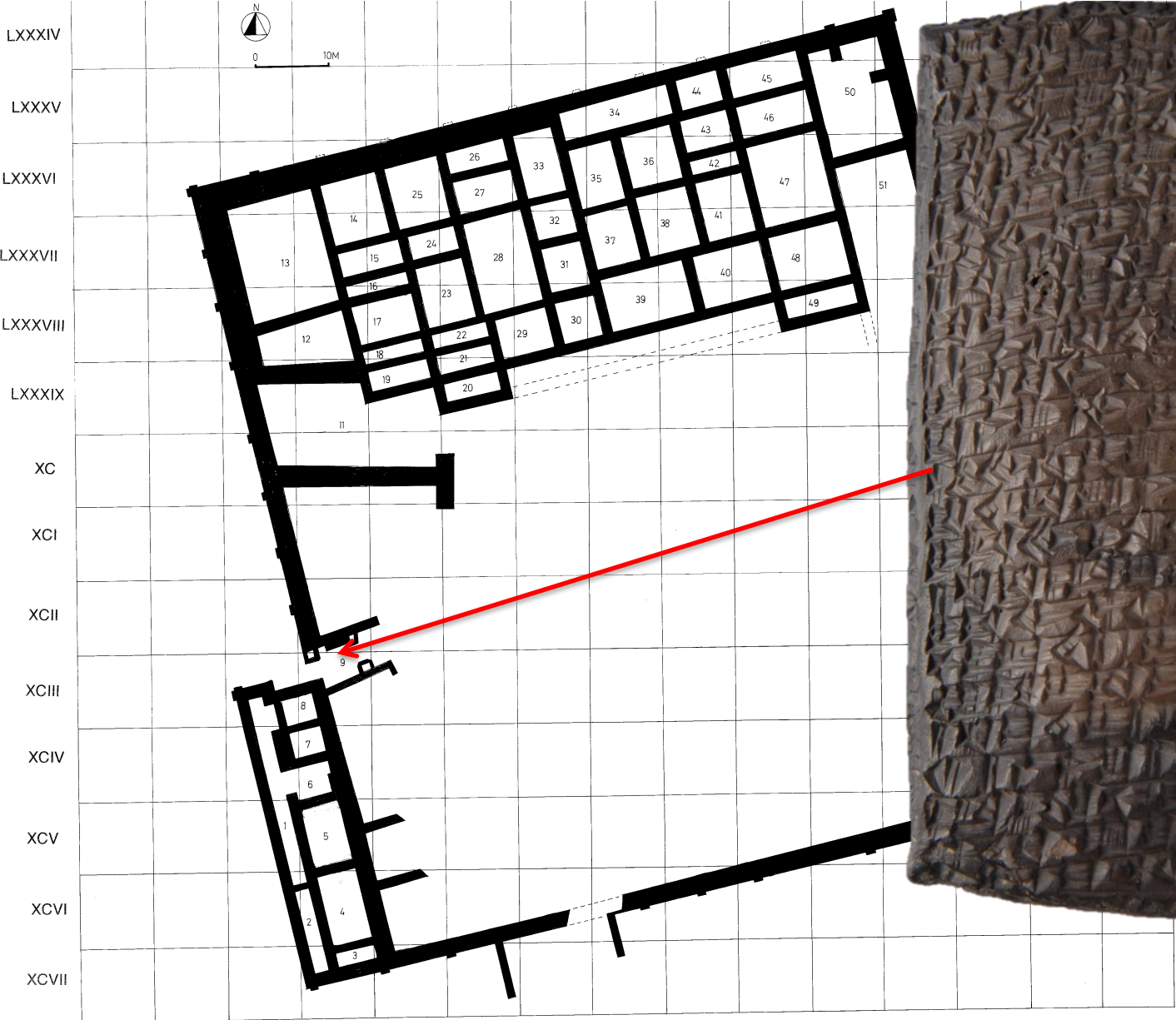


- Not many tablets were found in the palace, the small amount of Karum Ia and Ib pottery, the stamped bullae and the faience figurine dated to the 18<sup>th</sup> century BC caused this building to be called the Late Period Palace.
- 3 bullas in room 11; 7 in room 46; 8 pieces in room 12, 1 piece in room 25, 1 piece in room 14, 1 piece in room 29 and 1 piece in room 51 were found.

The entrance to the palace is in the west direction, it is the prototype of the later entrances in Boğazköy, the entrance is supported on both sides by stone towers facing each other, it has the same plan as those in Alişar.



This late palace is also called Warshama Palace. This letter written by Mama King Anumhirbi to Kanesh King Warshama was found at the entrance of the palace.



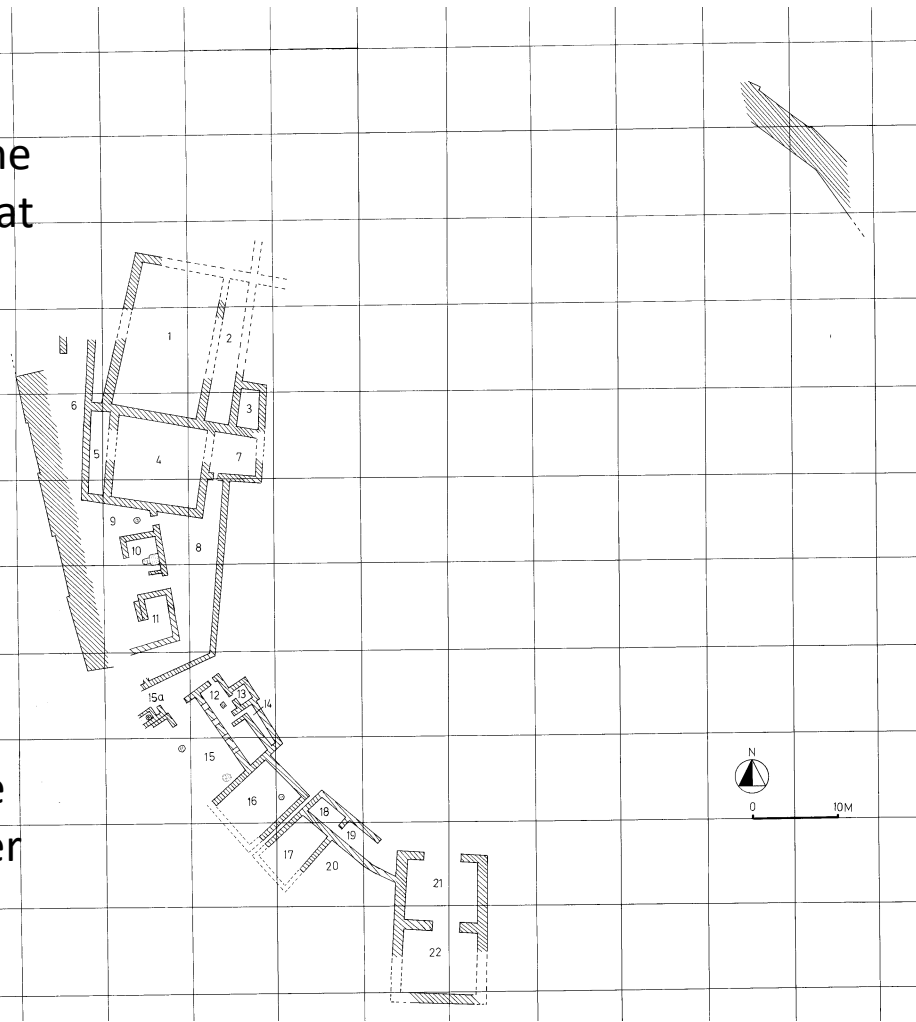




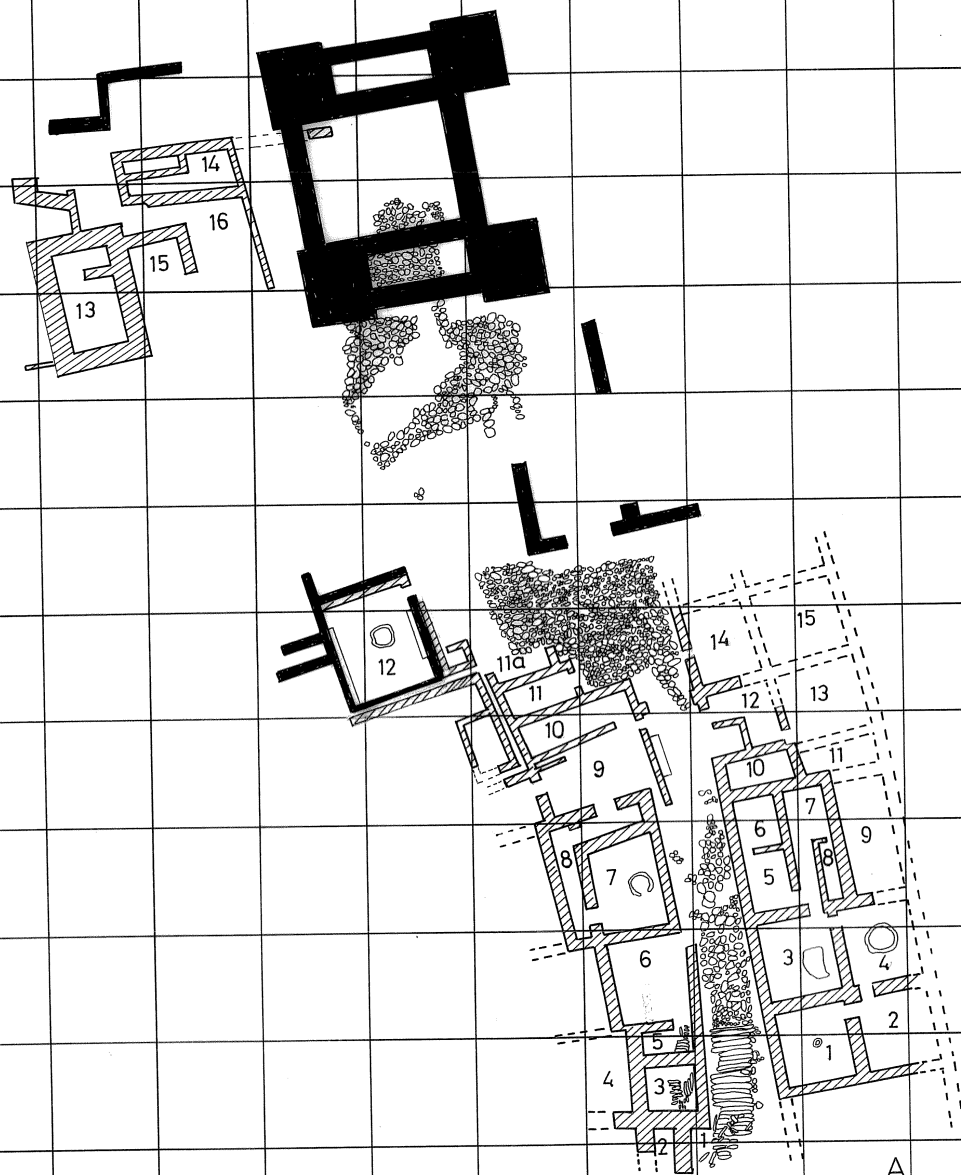


Tiny rooms connected to the city wall in the western part may have been added later, probably during the reign of King Anitta. Under these rooms, a potern structure was built in the north-south direction using the dry stone walling technique. Its so-called arch and walls made of large stones are different from the later Boğazköy example.

The lower Old palace is just below the Late Palace and the defensive wall. The main elements of Kültepe architecture are stone, mud brick, thick and thin plaster with plenty of trees, and the same in this palace. It has been very damaged. The great hall under the gate entrance of the Late Palace and the rooms around it must have been the administrative rooms of the palace. A hearth in the Karum II floor type and two broken tablet fragments were found in the rooms. These are fragments scattered from the late palace, likely because it was close to the Anumhirbi tablet. Painted and unpainted ceramics on the floor of the room are no different from Karum II level ceramics. It is understood from the density of the fire debris that this palace has two floors. Another tablet fragment, two bronze swords, are among the other finds. It was understood that the old palace was a complex consisting of at least three buildings. With the Karum II floor fire, the old palace and the city wall were burned, abandoned and never settled again. A late palace and city wall were built on it. Under this palace, structures belonging to EBA were unearthed.

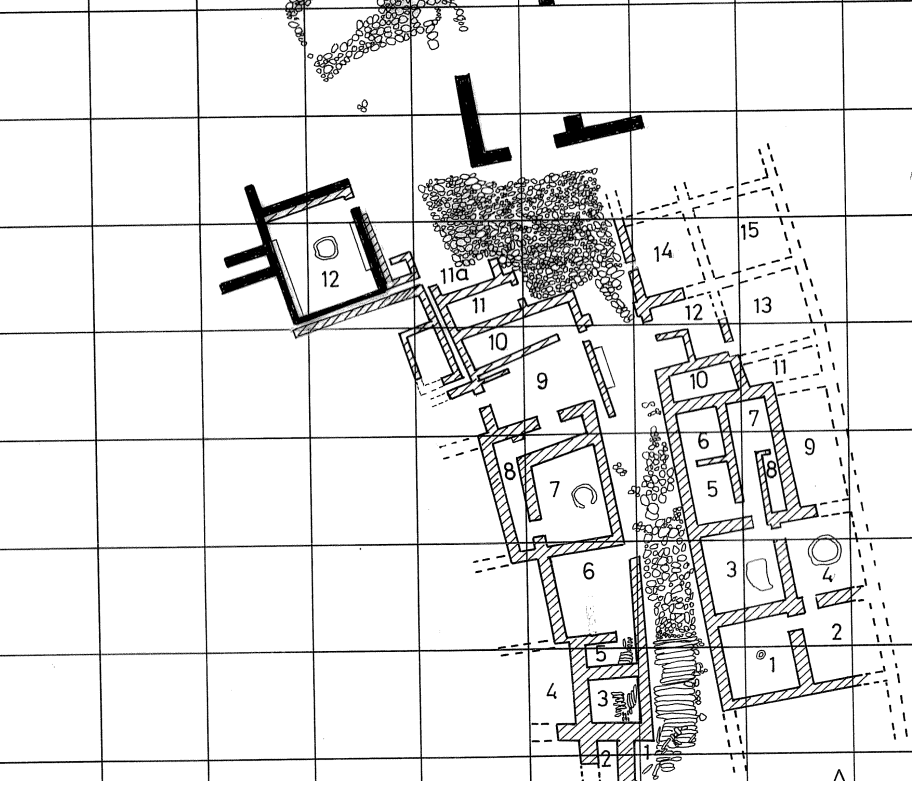


- Kaniş Palace is the center where the king and his family reside and where the country is administered, as it is everywhere else. However, in this age, kanish palaces have another important function: they are also big economic centers where foreign merchants bring their goods before sale, store them like a caravanserai, and prepare the trade tax, where they secure the product. In this system, large courtyards and storage rooms should play an important role. These palaces are the first place that the caravan coming to Kaniş applied to. The old fortification at the bottom was built under the foundations of the late fortification, on which late palaces were built. It has a 4 m wide foundation, without a rectangular vaulted room, with masonry walls, and has saw-edge protrusions like the city wall at Alişar.



The Palace on the South Terrace: It destroyed the late period structures and the city wall. It is slightly different in plan from other palaces. There are rooms on both sides of a 36 m long corridor. In the eastern wing, large furnaces for heating wheat pithoi were found. A part of the corridor is covered with more than 30 planks, and the remaining part in the open air is covered with stones. The western wing was destroyed by the Late Hittite structures. The west wing is similar in plan. A large number of pointed slingshots were found stacked in one room. Similar building materials were used with other palaces. There is no holy place in this palace, and its plan is different from the old Near East palaces. Three sections, corridors and two wings, a large open stone paved courtyard, probably connected with the destroyed continuation to the north. However, other structures were destroyed here.





The ground floor of the building, service, storage and living rooms were unearthed. The upper floor should be reserved for the royal suite and the reception halls. The building was evacuated before the fire, leaving nothing but food jars and a small number of pottery in the rooms. Two tablet bulla and Karum II floor ceramics were found in the fire debris. As in Karum II, Alişar III type food pithoi were also used more frequently.







































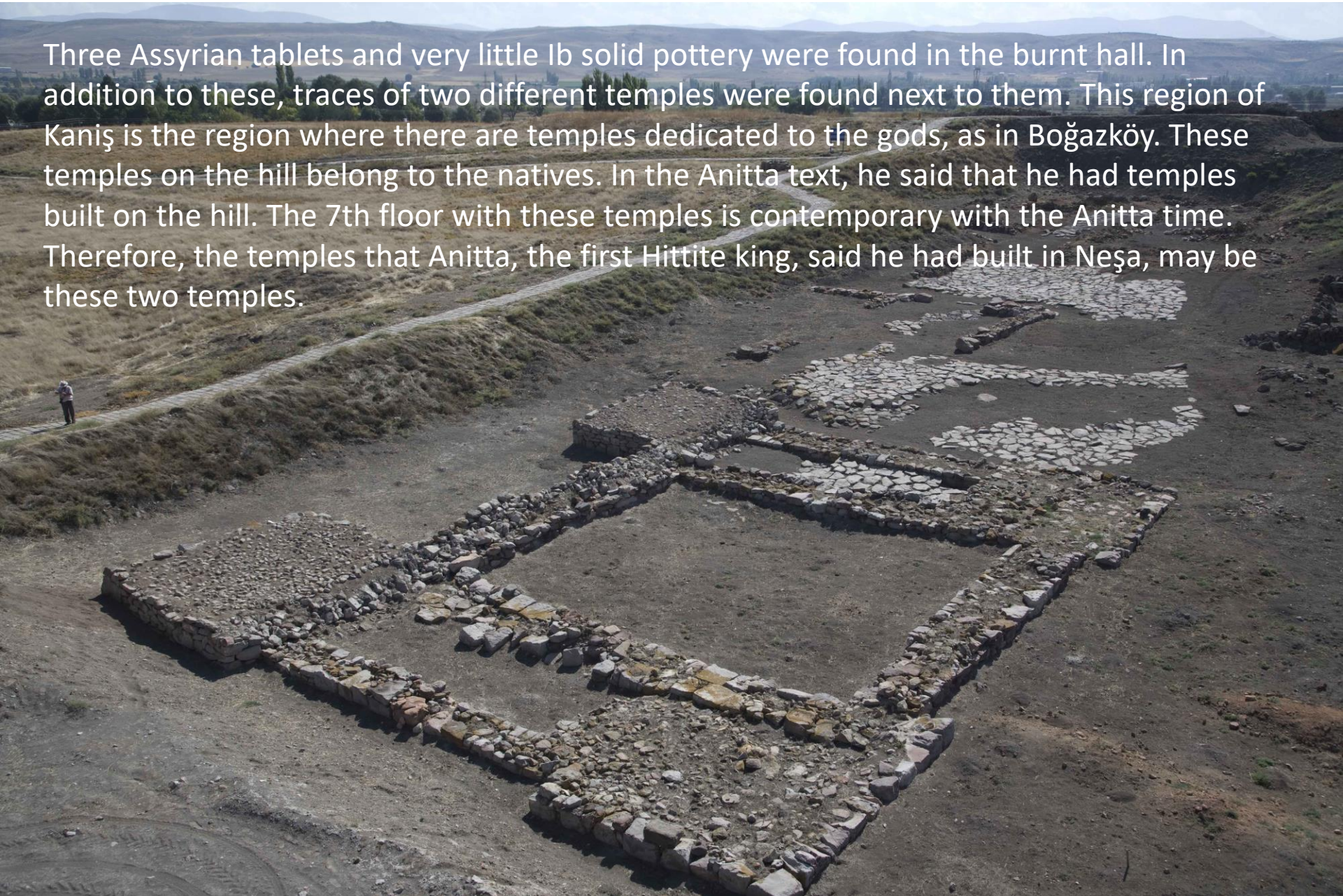


## WARSHAMA SARAYI

There are two temples. As dimensions and plan it is similar. It has a rectangular plan of 27x22 m and has four towers at each corner. There are upright stones such as orthostats on the foundations at the rectangular corners, the oldest of the Hittite orthostats. The mudbrick wall rises above them, and this style of construction is common to all Ib large buildings. There is a narrow earth-based room measuring 3x10 m on both sides. The most important place of the temple is the great hall, measuring 14x12.3 m. The entrance is on the east. Wooden pillars were found burned in the main hall and entrance.



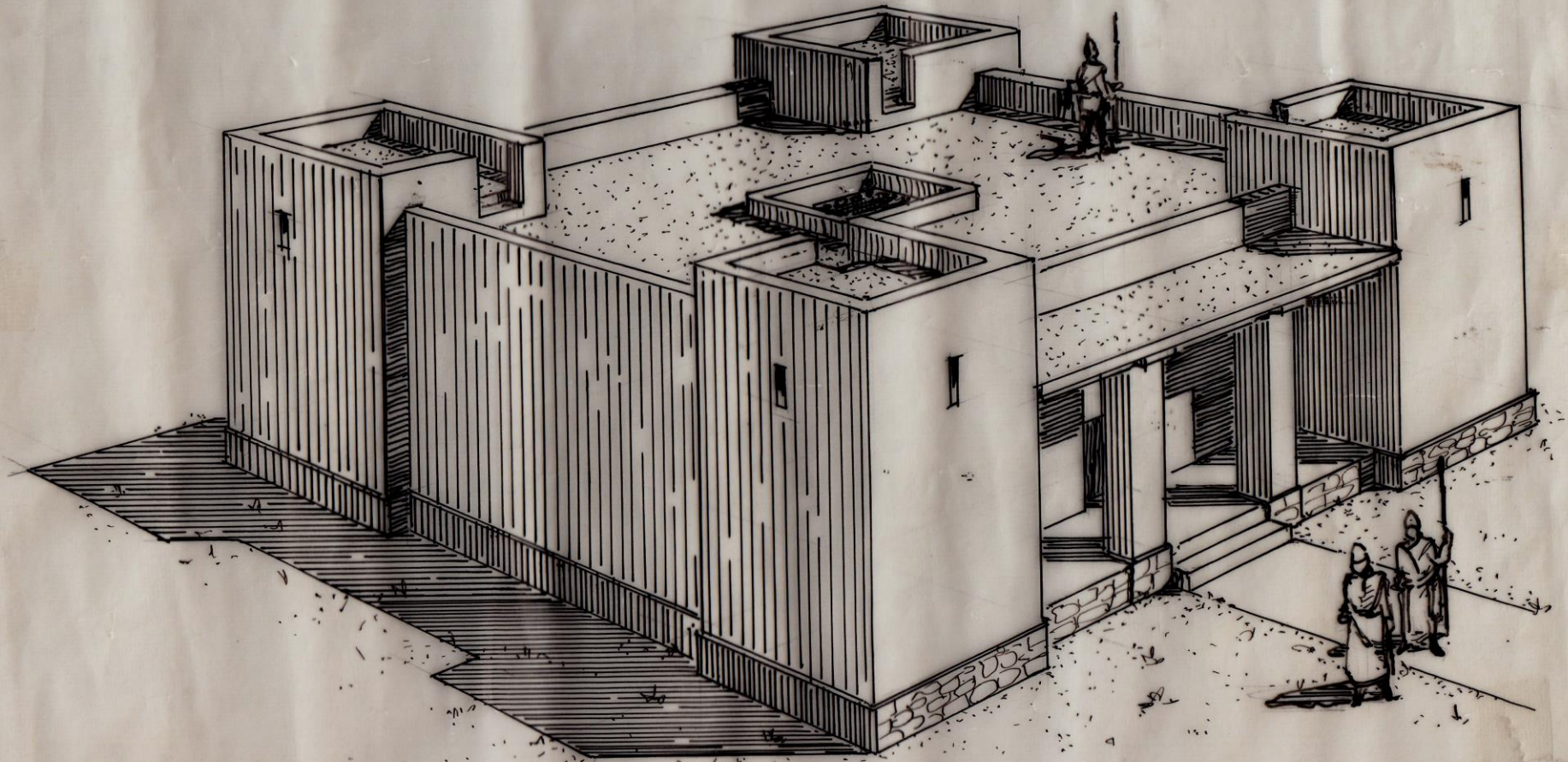
Three Assyrian tablets and very little Ib solid pottery were found in the burnt hall. In addition to these, traces of two different temples were found next to them. This region of Kaniş is the region where there are temples dedicated to the gods, as in Boğazköy. These temples on the hill belong to the natives. In the Anitta text, he said that he had temples built on the hill. The 7th floor with these temples is contemporary with the Anitta time. Therefore, the temples that Anitta, the first Hittite king, said he had built in Neşa, may be these two temples.





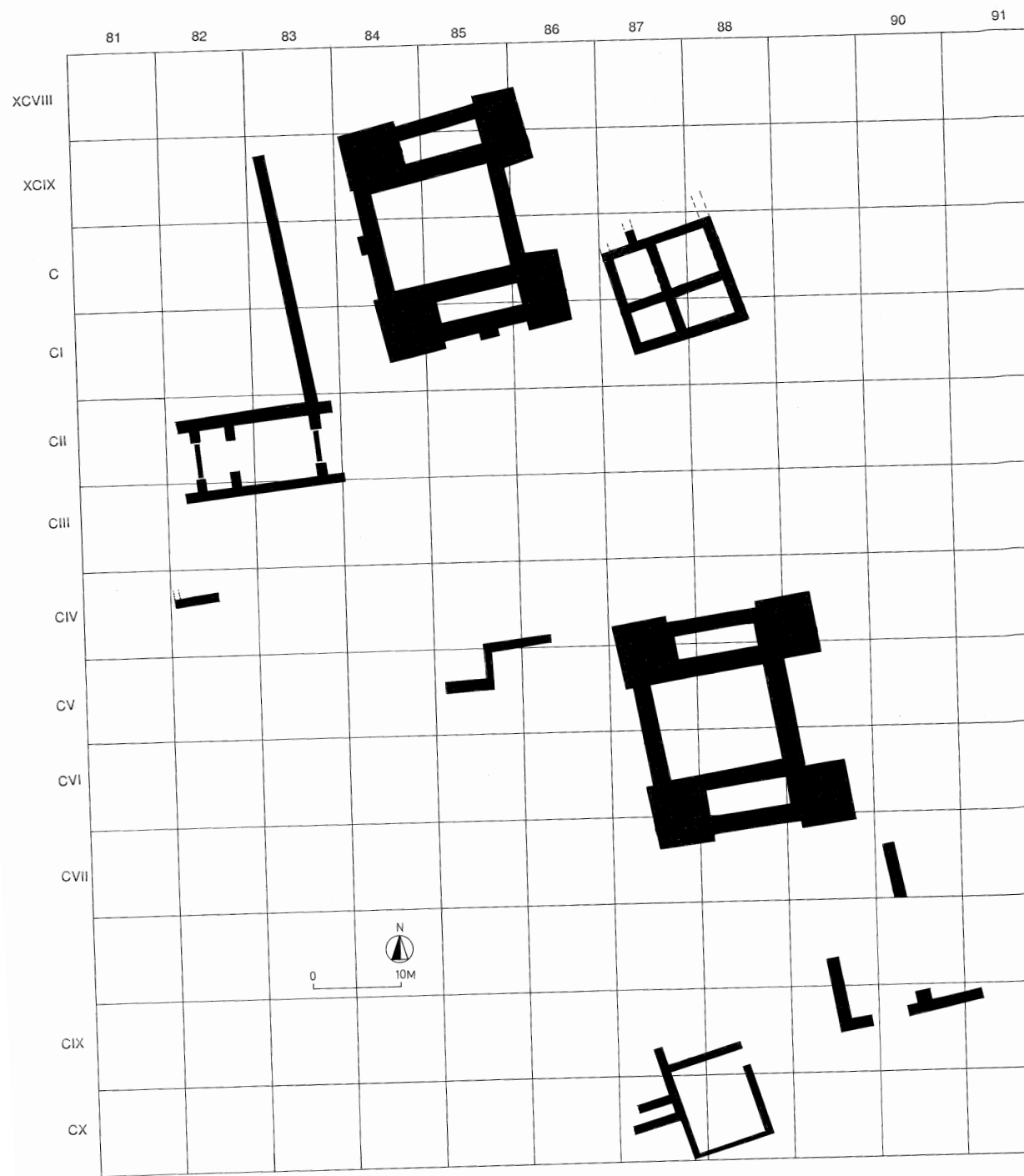


KÜLTEPE



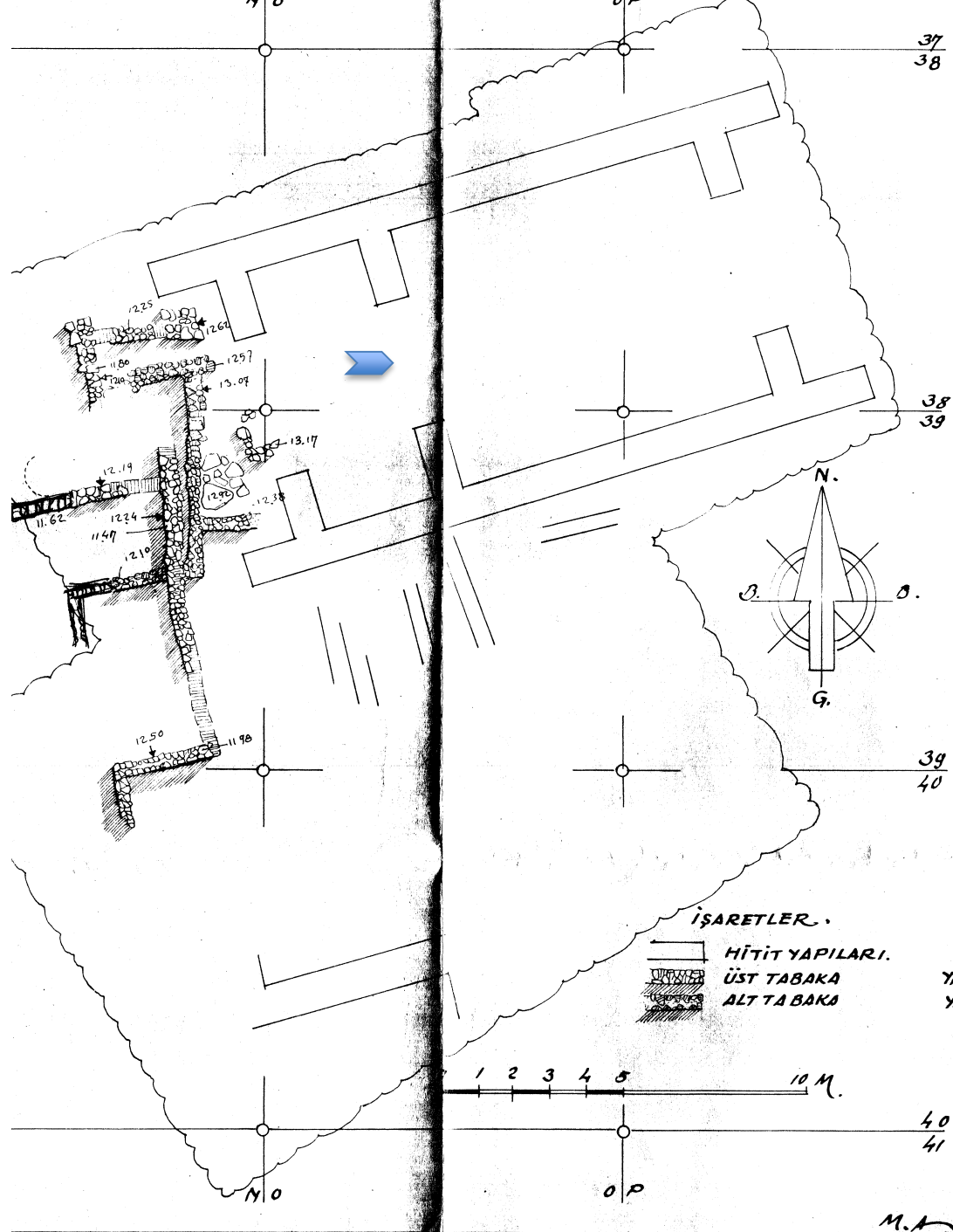
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The official warehouse building measures 18x7.5 m. A unique building in terms of its contemporary plan with the Kanish Ib floor. It is similar to the megaron architecture, which is foreign to Central Anatolia. It has two rooms, the largest of which is 8.70x7.5 m and the smallest is 7.5x3.20 m.



PLAN 8

In the middle of the great room, a spearhead was found on the floor with the inscription King Anitta's Palace. This spearhead confirms Anitta's historical personality as the king of the 1b floor. A large number of unprocessed obsidian was found in the small room of the warehouse building. In this period, it was an important material used especially in the production of vases, drinking bowls and other objects.













SCALE: 1/1000

INDIC. AREA  
MURTA GARD



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SCALE: 1/1000

INDIC. AREA  
MURTI GARD