Aspects of Vernacular Architecture in Postpalatial and Early Iron Age Crete

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only touched on the actual planning and execution of the relief scenes.

An examination of the Zakros Sanctuary rhyton reveals new aspects of the planning of such relief scenes. The top and bottom reveal incised setting lines used to lay out the composition in broad outline; the tips of rosette leaves at the bottom mark where vertical lines converge. The entire scene is arranged around a single vertical axis (as on the Harvester Vase), and three successive stages in the carving are visible.

Changes in the final execution are apparent in details: the rectangular altar, for example, was originally planned to be narrower but then was extended farther to the right; one agrimi atop the shrine was recarved on different lines than its preliminary sketch. Since the left and back sides of the vessel are executed more summarily than the front and right, the carver is likely to have worked from the front around to the right. These alterations and sketched initial outline probably indicate that the peak sanctuary shown is a generic rendering, based on considerations of symmetry and grid patterns, rather than the depiction of a specific shrine. Other architectural representations on stone vases may be topoi as well.

These technical observations about the importance of preliminary sketches and positioning lines extend to other stone vases, sealstones, and frescoes, and help document the considerable overlap among artistic media, and perhaps even areas of craft specialization, in Neopalatial Crete. Individual craftsmen may have worked with equal facility in a variety of media while sharing both a common iconographic vocabulary and sculptural techniques.

**Sculpting the Terrain: Architectural Modification of the Landscape in Early Minoan Crete:** Carol R. Hershenson, University of Cincinnati

Beginning in the Early Minoan IIA period, sturdy stone walls capable of retaining a massive fill appeared in Crete; this technical innovation gave the Minoans an unprecedented ability to modify the landscape.

The new technology is most frequently documented in large terraces that provided broad flat areas within hillside sites. The earliest large terraces seem to have functioned originally as open courtyards; the discovery that such a terrace could provide a flat platform for a building was apparently made later.

The published examples of Early Minoan terrace walls are double-faced, and, except for their width and the extent of the area enclosed, are indistinguishable from exterior building walls. Several large EM terraces have survived at Knossos, and the large EM structure at Palaikastro may also be interpreted as such a terrace. The discovery that a finished interior face was unnecessary on a terrace wall for the purposes of either strength or aesthetics seems not to have been made until MM I at the earliest.

This Early Minoan technical innovation continued to have repercussions into the Neopalatial period, when the terraces served not only as large public courtyards but also as flat building plots for the most elaborate houses; it appears then to have been a mark of the status of those buildings.

**Aspects of Vernacular Architecture in Postpalatial and Early Iron Age Crete:** Margaret S. Mook, College of William and Mary, and Donald C. Haggis, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Vernacular architecture in Postpalatial Crete exhibits a distinct diversion from the domestic architectural traditions of the Neopalatial period. In Neopalatial Crete, house designs are frequently dependent on Minoan palatial models and all house styles have a complexity that is seldom seen in the ensuing periods. Changes in vernacular architectural plans have emerged by the beginning of Late Minoan III, and include single-room dwellings and axially planned two- or three-room houses; they are found island-wide and continue and develop through the Early Iron Age. Standard features of these architectural types are defined and documented from LM III through the Late Geometric period, and subtypes varying from these standard plans are also identified.

The selection of house type and construction technique in vernacular architecture relies on regionally specific environmental factors, such as locally available materials and topographical demands. Ethnographic study conducted by the authors at modern settlements in the Kavousi area, contiguous to the ancient sites of Kastro and Vronda, provides an interpretive framework for analyzing the regional characteristics of ancient construction techniques and the architectural syntax and function of the houses at these two sites. The purposes of this paper are 1) to define the vernacular house types on Crete from LM III through the Early Iron Age; and 2) to present a case study of these house types at Kastro and Vronda, where environmentally dependent aspects of the vernacular architecture can be identified and interpreted with the aid of ethnographic data.

**The East Building of the Kastro: A Late Geometric House in East Crete:** Jennifer Tobin, Bilkent University

During the 1989–1990 season of the Kavousi Project in East Crete, a large multiroomed structure was uncovered on the Kastro, an Iron Age settlement located at ca. 700 masl. The well-preserved building is an impressive house of the Late Geometric/Early Orientalizing period. The rooms are uniformly rectangular with walls of simple schist and mud packing, preserved in places to a height of 3 m. The five-room structure stretches approximately 20 m north to south along an east-facing terrace, each room communicating with another by means of well-built doorways whose thresholds in many cases display pivot holes. A curious phenomenon is that several of the doors have been carefully blocked, reflecting a narrowed use of the building before it was abandoned. Several rooms present interesting features: a kitchen with a paved floor and oven; a large room with a massive threshold leading to the outside; a smaller room with three niches built into its western wall; and a large room off the kitchen with a central hearth flanked by column bases and a well-built platform in the northwest corner. The features in this last