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# The Distribution of Domestic Architectural Types in Third Millennium Eastern Anatolia

Béregère Perello

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## Üçüncü Binde Doğu Anadolu'da Konut Mimarisi Tiplerinin Dağılımı

Berengere PERELLO

Erken Tunç Çağı'nda, Anadolu'daki yapısal farklılıklar gösteren konut mimarisi örnekleri arkeolojik olarak tesbit edilebilmiştir. Evlerin morfolojik çeşitliliğin oluşmasında, topografya, iklim ve yapı malzemesi gibi çevresel faktörlerin yanı sıra aile gibi sosyo-kültürel faktörler ve o dönem insanının teknik bilgilerinin sınırları da etkili olmuştur.

Doğu Anadolu'da konut mimarisi bilinen 21 arkeolojik alan vardır. Sözü geçen arkeolojik alanlar kurtarma kazıları sonucunda, Fırat Havzası'nda tespit edilmiştir. Ayrıca Malatya-Elazığ bölgesiyle ilgili de yeterli bilgi vardır. Öte yandan, Batman, Mardin ve Van yöresi hakkında bilgilerimiz eksiktir. Daha çok arkeolojik kazı yapılması gereken Erzurum bölgesiyle ilgili de bilgi yetersizdir.

Anadolu'da kabul edilen altı farklı mimari tipoloji vardır. Bunlar Tek Hücreli ve Çok Odalı olarak iki ana gruba ayrılır. Tek Hücreli evlerin ilk çeşidi, Yuvarlak Planlı Evler'dir. Malatya Bölgesi'nde toplam otuz tane ortaya çıkarılmıştır. Kerpiç duvarlarla inşa edilen evlerin çatıları, düz veya koniktir. İç mekân, tüm faaliyetler ve depolama için yetersiz kaldığından evlerin arasında kalan boşluklar yoğun olarak kullanılmış olmalıdır. İTÇ'da Anadolu'da nadir bulunan Tek Hücreli Ev tipi, Yakın Doğu'da 10. ve 12. Binyıl'da yaygın bir konut tipidir. Daha sonraları, bu plan, sınırlı bir alanda dönemsel olarak tekrar kullanılmıştır. Doğu Anadolu'daki İlk Tunç Çağı örneği bunlardan biridir. Bu dönemde Dairesel Planlı Evler'in aksine Yuvarlak Planlı Yapılar özellikle depo amaçlı yaygın olarak kullanılmıştır. Sonrasında ise Dikdörtgen Planlı Evler'le birlikte kullanılmışlardır. Dikdörtgen Planlı Evler ise özellikle Elazığ bölgesinde, İTÇ I, II ve III de kullanılmıştır. Güney Doğu Anadolu'da ise sadece İlk Tunç Çağı I'de görülmektedir. Bu plan tipolojisinin özelliği, yalınlığı ve dikdörtgen ya da kare tek bir odadan oluşmasıdır. Taş temelli ya da temelsiz kerpiç - tuğla duvarlarla inşa edilmiştir. Arkeolojik veriler, ahşap kirişlerle desteklenmiş kerpiç düz çatıları olduğuna işaret etmektedir. Duvarların ince olması evlerin ikinci katlarının olmadığını düşündürmektedir. Depolama ya da el sanatları gibi

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faaliyetler başka yapılarda yapılmış olmalıdır. Evin çevresindeki alan, evin eklentisi gibi kullanılmıştır. Ocak, tabak formlu seramikler ve tezgâh bu alanda tespit edilmiştir. Daha sonra kentsel yerleşimlerde, Dikdörtgen Planın yerini, Çok Odalı Evler'e bıraktığı düşünülmektedir.

Üçüncü plan tipolojisi Yuvarlak Köşeli Dikdörtgen Plan'dır, Malatya-Elazığ ve Erzurum Bölgeleri'nde tespit edilmiştir. Saz ve çamurdan inşa edilen evlerin, yuvarlak köşelerinin olması malzeme seçiminin sonucu olabilir. Duvarların kalınlığı, hafif bir çatı yapısı olması gerektiğini göstermektedir. Diğer taraftan etnoarkeolojik benzerlik, beşik çatı varsayımını desteklemektedir. Tek Hücreli Evler'de tek bir mekân olması, odanın çok amaçlı olarak kullanılmasına neden olmuştur. Depolamanın en azında bir kısmı, el sanatları, dinsel etkinlikler konut alanının dışında yer almıştır. Tek Hücreli Evler, dönemsel kullanılmıştır. Bu nedenle, yerleşimlerin yarı göçebe topluluklar tarafından kullanılan mevsimsel kamplar olduğu düşünülmektedir. Ancak bu varsayımın doğrulanması için daha çok arkeolojik kazı yapılması gerekmektedir.

Çok Odalı Evler "Basit" ve "Karmaşık" olarak iki gruba ayrılmıştır. Basit Plan Şemalı Yapılar'ın özelliği her odanın sadece tek bir odaya açılmasıdır. Diğer plan tipine karmaşık denmesinin nedeni ise oda sayısının çok olması ve iç mekân düzenlemesinin karışıklığıdır. Basit Planlı, Çok Odalı Evler, 3. Binyıl'da Doğu Anadolu'da yaygındır. Kuzey Bölgesi, Malatya Elazığ Bölgesi, Güneydoğu Anadolu Bölgesi ve Van Bölgesi'nde, İTÇ'nin üç aşamasında da kullanılmıştır. Ana bir mekâna eklenmiş bir ya da iki kare veya dikdörtgen kanattan oluşmaktadır. Evler taş temeller üzerine kerpiç tuğlalarla inşa edilmiştir. Düz çatıyla örtülmüştür. Plan şemalarındaki çeşitlilik, kentsel planlamanın konut planına göre önceliğinin olduğu, yoğunluğu yüksek yerleşimlerde uygulandığını göstermektedir. Trapezoidal Planlı Çok Odalı Yapılar ise 3. Binyıl konut mimarisinde üç sebepten ötürü alışıla gelmemiş bir tipolojidir. Birincisi plan şemasının şekli, dairesel yerleşim planının sonucudur. İkinci neden ise İTÇ'de Doğu ve Batı Anadolu'da birlikte görülen tek plan tipidir. Son olarak, Doğu Anadolu'da sadece Pulur-Sakyol yerleşiminde bilinmektedir. Trapezoidal Planlı Evler'in %65'i iki odalıdır. Evler ortak ara duvarlar paylaşırlar. Kerpiç tuğladan, taş temelli ya da temelsiz olarak yapılmışlardır. Anıtsal mimari veya hiyerarşik yapılaşma izleri yoktur. Sonuç olarak çiftçilik veya büyük baş hayvancılıkla geçinen küçük bir topluluğa ait bir yerleşim olduğu düşünülmektedir. Karmaşık Çok Odalı Evler 3. Binyıl'ın son çeyreğinde, Güneydoğu Anadolu bölgesinde görülmektedir. Odalar arasında çeşitli geçişler barındıran karmaşık bir dolaşım sistemi ve sistemin toplandığı bir iç avlu vardır. Sadece kentsel yerleşimlerde görülen bu evlerin plan şemaları, yoğun kentsel planlamanın sonucu olarak uygun boş alanlara göre değişkenlik gösterir. Taş temel üstüne kerpiç tuğla duvarlı ve düz çatılıdır. İşlevsel açıdan farklı bölümlerden oluşan bir iç düzeni vardır. Bu düzende, temel evsel işlevlerin yanı sıra, depolama, sanat el işçiliği ve cenaze işlevleri de bulunmaktadır. Bu plan, 3. Binyıl'daki en üst düzey mimari düzenlemeyi ve karmaşık yapıyı temsil etmektedir.

Doğu Anadolu'da ayrı özelliklere sahip iki büyük kültür bölgesi, Toros sıradağlarının kuzeyinde yer alan Malatya - Erzurum ve Elazığ Bölgeleri ve güneyinde kalan Adıyaman ve Bilecik bölgeleridir. 4. Binyıl'ın sonunda Uruk Dönemi'nin sona ermesi ve TransKafkasya

kökenli toplulukların bu alanlara yerleşmesi iki ayrı kültür bölgesinin oluşmasında etkili olmuştur. Kuzey ve Güney Bölgeleri'nde bazı ortak plan tipleri olsa da aralarındaki farklılık daha çarpıcıdır. Bu çalışma, plan tiplerinin Doğu Anadolu kökenli değişimler sonucunda olmadığını, Kuzey'de Transkafkasya, Güneydoğu Bölgesi'nde ise Mezopotamya Kültür Bölgesi'nin etkileri görüldüğünü ortaya çıkarmıştır.

Yüksek kesimler, Uruk döneminin bitişiyle, Mezopotamya kültüründen kopmuştur. Anadolu/Transkafkasya kökenli yeni bir kültür ortaya çıkmıştır. Karmaşık planlı evler yerini basit planlı yapılara ve küçük kırsal yerleşimlere bırakmıştır. Güney Doğu Anadolu'da farklı bir yerleşim sistemi oluşmuştur. 4. Binyıl'daki büyük yerleşimler terk edilmiş, nüfus küçük yerleşimlerde toplanmıştır. 3. Binyıl'ın ikinci yarısında ilk kentsel yerleşimler ortaya çıkmıştır. Yukarı ve aşağı şehir sistemlerini içeren yerleşim modelleri geniş alanlar kaplamıştır ve karmaşık konut mimarisi de bu kentleşme süreciyle birlikte var olmuştur.





# The Distribution of Domestic Architectural Types in Third Millennium Eastern Anatolia

Berengere PERELLO\*

## Abstract

A comparison of domestic architecture across Eastern Anatolia reveals fundamental differences in the development of domestic architecture in this region. This variance in house form can be attributed to a number of environmental factors, namely topography, climate and building materials, all of which can influence the morphology of houses. However, natural conditions such as these are not the only factor; house design was also affected by socio-cultural factors such as family composition and the limits of technical knowledge. I aim to categorize the different types of house plans known in third millennium BC Eastern Anatolia, with regard to their shape, size or building materials. The distribution of these categories of domestic architecture is analyzed and the reasons for this pattern of distribution across Eastern Anatolia is examined. Eastern Anatolia is composed of Erzurum, Malatya-Elazığ and Adıyaman sectors. Five different models have been found in this region: semi-subterranean (İmamoğlu (Late BA), Arslantepe (VI D2, Early Bronze Age IIIB)), rectangular mono-cellular with or without round corners (Taşkun Mevkii (phase 3), Değirmen-tepe (level III, level Ia-b) and Norşuntepe (lev. 16)), multi-cellular plan and extensive rectangular multi-roomed plan, organized around a courtyard (Titriş Höyük). Consequently, we will see that domestic architecture appears as a relevant tool in the studies of Anatolian societies, and of its relations with its neighbours.

Early Bronze Age<sup>1</sup> (IIIrd millennium) Anatolia was a heterogeneous entity, with several distinct domestic architectural types represented in the archaeological record from across the region. This variance in house form can be attributed to a number of environmental factors, namely topography, climate and building materials, all of which can influence the morphology of houses. However, natural conditions such as these are not the only factor; house design was also affected by socio-cultural factors such as family, and the

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1 EBA in the rest of the articles.

limits of technical knowledge. This article categorizes the different types of house plans known in the third millennium B.C. Eastern Anatolia, with regard to their planimetric characteristics. The distribution of these categories of domestic architecture is analyzed and reasons for this pattern of distribution across East Anatolia are examined.

## Chronological Frame

The EBA starts approximately at the beginning of the IIIrd millennium and ends around 2000 B.C.<sup>2</sup> It is divided in three sub-phases, called one, two and three. In the last thirty years, there has been a considerable increase in the number of reliable archaeological sequences. But our knowledge of the archaeology of each area has progressed in isolation. In order to compare sites it was first necessary to establish correspondence between sites (Fig. 1).<sup>3</sup>

## Geographical frame

In Eastern Anatolia domestic architecture is known from a total of twenty-one sites. These are principally in the Euphrates river valley as a result of archaeological activity in advance of the construction of dams. (Fig. 2). We have a good knowledge of the Malatya-Elazığ region. On the other hand, we lack information about the area around Batman, Mardin and the Van regions. Further excavations will also be needed in the Erzurum region which is also poorly known.

Six different architectural types can be recognised in Anatolia. These are divided in two major groups, mono-cellular and multi-roomed.

## Architectural types

### 1. Monocellular houses

#### A. Circular plan

Around thirty houses of circular plan have been discovered in the Malatya region. They come from three different sites: Arslantepe,<sup>4</sup> İmamoglu<sup>5</sup> (Fig. 3) and Norşuntepe<sup>6</sup>. The average diameter of a circular house is 4m. The minimum area of such a house is 5m<sup>2</sup> a maximum size of 22m<sup>2</sup>. These houses are constructed with mudbrick walls. The roof could have been flat or conical. Such houses have been discovered in small villages. The

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2 Mellink 1992; Sagona and Zimansky 2009.

3 We are looking forward to the results of the ARCANÉ (*Associated Regional Chronologies for the Ancient Near East and the Eastern Mediterranean*) project which aim at producing a reliable relative and absolute chronology of the entire Near East area, based on the synchronization of regional chronologies for the 3rd millennium B.C. (<http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/arcane/>)

4 Frangipane 1992, 185, fig. 1-2.

5 Uzunoğlu 1988, 216, fig. 2.

6 Hauptmann 1982, 51-2, taf. 33.

space between the circular cells is densely used probably because the houses were too limited for all activities and storage to have been inside while conical or pitched roofs did not afford roof space. The average number of inhabitants per housing unit must have been two or three. So, it is possible that one kin group occupied several units.

The monocellular house type is really infrequent during the EBA in Anatolia as well as more generally the Ancient Near East. Usually, circular constructions correspond to an archaic state of domestic architecture. But it was typical of the village of the Ancient Near East during the 10th and the 7th millennia B.C.<sup>7</sup> Later, this plan is cyclically reused in a limited area, the EBA example of eastern Anatolia is one of this example. If the round houses are rare, on the contrary, circular constructions are commonly used during the EBA, notably for storage (Dilkaya Höyüğü,<sup>8</sup> Tell al Judaidah<sup>9</sup>). Then, they are used simultaneously with rectangular domestic architecture.

### B. Rectangular plan

A second monocellular type adopting a rectangular shape has been discovered in Eastern Anatolia. This plan is known principally in the Elazığ region where they are used during the EBA I, II and III. It has been found at Han İbrahim Şah<sup>10</sup> (level VII) (Fig. 4); Korucutepe<sup>11</sup> (level D); Norşuntepe<sup>12</sup> (levels XXVI, XXIII, XXI, XIX); Taşkun Mevkii<sup>13</sup> (phase 2-3); Tepecik<sup>14</sup> (levels 7a-6); Yeniköy<sup>15</sup>. In the Malatya region, this plan has been discovered in Arslantepe<sup>16</sup> (levels VIC2, VID1, VID2) and Değirmentepe<sup>17</sup> (level II). In south-East Anatolia they are only used during the EBA I (Hasek Höyük<sup>18</sup>: levels 4, 3b, 3a; Hayaz Höyük<sup>19</sup>; Zeytinlibahçe<sup>20</sup>) after which they are replaced by multi-roomed houses. This plan is characterized by its simplicity, namely a unique room of rectangular or square shape. The walls are constructed of mud-bricks with or without stone foundations. The average area of these houses is 20m<sup>2</sup>. The data seem to support the reconstruction of a flat mud roof supported by wooden beams. A strong flat roof is the most cost-efficient roof type because the roof itself can be used as well as the floor. The narrowness of the walls probably indicates that these houses did not have an upper storey.

The limited area occupied by these houses has three consequences. First, some activities like such as storage or art and crafts take place in other buildings. Second, the area

7 Cauvin 1978, 23 ; Flannery 1972, 30-38.

8 Çilingiroğlu 1993, 480-481, res. 1-2.

9 Braidwood, Braidwood 1960, 5, pl.3A.

10 Ertem 1982, 75-6, pl. 39/1.

11 van Loon éd. 1978, 15.

12 Hauptmann 1982, 49-53, taf. 18/3, 19/3, taf. 30-4.

13 Helms 1973, 116-8, fig. 3; Sagona 1994, 6-7.

14 Esin 1982, 104, pl. 67.

15 Koşay 1976b, 186-7, fig. 119b, pl. 103/2.

16 Conti and Persiani 1993, 366-7, fig. 2-4.

17 Duru 1979, 22, lev. 10, lev. 24/1, lev. 69.

18 Behm-Blancke 1981, 17-18, 20-21, abb. 3; 1984, abb. 5; Schachner 1999, abb. 76.

19 Roodenberg 1982, 27-32, fig. 2.

20 Frangipane et al. 2002, 86-8, fig. 8-9; Frangipane and Bucak 2001, 115, fig. 8b-9.

around the house is used as an extension of the house itself. Indeed, hearth, plate-forms, and bench are usually found around the structure. Finally, we can assume that the flat roofs were also largely used mostly during summer time. This plan is used in village settlement where buildings are always placed in a compact block and often constructed with party wall. In an urban environment, this kind of plan tends to be replaced by multi-roomed houses.

### **Rectangular plan with rounded corners**

The rectangular plan with round corners (sub-rectangular) has been discovered at the four sites of Malatya-Elazığ (Arslantepe: level VIB1; Değirmentepe<sup>21</sup>: levels IIIa and Ib; Norşuntepe<sup>22</sup> (Fig. 5): levels XIXb-XVI; Taşkun Mevkii<sup>23</sup>) and Erzurum regions (Sos Höyük: level Vc<sup>24</sup>). These particular houses were built with the wattle-and-daub walls and it is probable that the rounded corners were a consequence of this choice of material. These houses measure from 8 to 20 m square, with 14 m square on average. We have no clue as to the form of the roof, however, the thinness of the walls could only have supported a light roof while the ethnoarchaeological comparisons support the hypothesis of a gabled roof.

The mono-cellular units imply that each individual room was pluri-fonctional. The storage, or at least some of it, was within the house while other activities, such as rituals and arts and crafts, were ejected out of the domestic sphere. The periphery of the house was densely used.

Settlements in which these kinds of houses have been found were inhabited for a short period or exhibited discontinuous occupations. That is why we suppose that those settlements were seasonal camps used by semi-nomadic populations. Those houses were used for a part of the year as sedentary settlements and then were abandoned for months for transhumance. Consequently, those houses could be the expressions of a semi-nomadic way of life. However, we will need supplementary excavations to confirm this hypothesis.

There is not a previous example of this kind of plan in Anatolia. But, it is known in Transcaucasia since the middle of the 4th millennium. Indeed, similar constructions have been discovered in Georgia at Kvatskhlebi<sup>25</sup> and Khizanaant-Gora.<sup>26</sup> Those settlements are both typical Kura-Araks sites. They provided a great number of red-black-burnished ware which appears as a fundamental piece of the Kuro-Araks package. So, the houses discovered in Anatolia seem to be an imported element from Transcaucasia to Anatolia. Thus, as Red Black Burnished ware, this plan can be considered as a characteristic of Kura–Araks culture.

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21 Duru 1979, 69, 72, lev. 69/3, 71/a.

22 Hauptmann 1979, 70, taf. 40, pl. 26/1-3; 1982, 48-49, taf. 29-30; Schachner 1999, 182, tab. 61, abb. 120a.

23 Helms 1973, 116, fig. 3; Sagona 1994, 6.

24 Sagona et al. 1996, 33-36, fig. 4, pl. IX.

25 Sagona 1984, 36-41, pl. I-VIII, fig. 125-7; 1993, 464-7, fig. 5b-6a.

26 Sagona 1984, 40-1, pl. XV/3, fig. 128-9; 1993, 464-7, fig. 6b.

This Kura–Araks culture is clearly intrusive in Upper Euphrates (Arslantepe, Değirmentepe).<sup>27</sup> Indeed, in spite of the strong influence of the Transcaucasian sphere, artefacts prove that those settlements were occupied by natives and not Transcaucasian populations. Many elements have an Anatolian character. However, the situation seems to be different in Erzurum and the Van Region where very strong cultural homogeneity could infer same ethnical background.

## 2. Multi-roomed houses

Multi-roomed houses are divided into two groups, termed simple and complex. Simple plans are characterized by basic circulation which means that each room only opens onto one other room. The other type of plan is called complex because of the high number of rooms and the complexity of their internal organization.

### A. Simple pluricellular plan

The simple multi-roomed plan is very widespread in 3rd millennium Eastern Anatolia. From the northern region (Sos Höyük: level Vd<sup>28</sup>), the Malatya-Elazığ region (Arslantepe: level VIB2;<sup>29</sup> İmamoğlu: couche V,<sup>30</sup> Norşuntepe: level VIII;<sup>31</sup> Taşkun Kale;<sup>32</sup> Tepecik:<sup>33</sup> levels 5a, 4, 3, 2; Şemsiyetepe<sup>34</sup>), the south-east region (Hasek Höyük (Fig. 6): level 3b;<sup>35</sup> Tilbeşar: levels IIIB1-2;<sup>36</sup> Tilmen Höyük: level IIIf;<sup>37</sup> Zeytinlibahçe: EBA IB<sup>38</sup>) and also the Van region (Dilkaya Höyüğü:<sup>39</sup> levels Va-b-IV; Karagündüz Höyük<sup>40</sup>). This plan is used during the three phases of the EBA.

These plans comprise of one principal room and one or two annexes of square or rectangular shape. The arrangement of the subsidiary rooms shows great diversity. These houses occupied between 20 to 50m<sup>2</sup> and contain between two and four rooms. The walls are constructed with stone foundations and mud-brick substructures. This plan is covered with flat roof. With regard to functions inside the house, we can assume that the division of the house indicated a need to organize the internal space more clearly. But the multi-rooms reflect on the one hand the requirement for more space and on the other limitation of the area that could be spanned by available timbers. This plan is always integrated

27 This presence is also intrusive into Iran and also into the Amuq.

28 Sagona et al. 1996, 33-36, fig. 2.

29 Frangipane 1994, 213, fig. 3; Frangipane, Palmieri 1988, 534-5, fig. 5-6a.

30 Uzunoğlu 1988, 216, fig. 2.

31 Hauptmann 1976, 76-8, pl. 35/2, pl. 60; 1979, 68-9, pl. 23a.

32 Sagona 1994, 11-2, fig. 15.

33 Esin 1982, 97, 100-2, pl. 67.

34 Darga 1989, ill. 1.

35 Behm-Blancke 1981, 17-18; 1984, abb.5; Schachner 1999, abb. 76.

36 Kepinski-Lecomte et al. 2006, 255.

37 Duru 2003, 53-4.

38 Frangipane et al. 2004, 41-42, fig. 13-4.

39 Çilingiroğlu 1993, 480-481, res. 1-2.

40 Sevin 2000, 410-416, çiz.4.

in densely occupied settlement. The variety of shapes indicates that the urban planning having priority on the house planning.

### **B. Trapezoidal plan**

Trapezoidal plan is peculiar in the corpus of the houses of the third millennium for three reasons. First, the shape of this plan is the consequence of the shape of the settlement itself which is circular (Fig. 7). Second, the trapezoidal plan is also the only plan of the Early Bronze Age which is known from both Eastern and Western Anatolia (Demirci Höyük,<sup>41</sup> Karaoğlan Mevkii<sup>42</sup> and Küllüoba<sup>43</sup>). Finally, in Eastern Anatolia, there is only one example attested at Pulus-Sakyol.<sup>44</sup>

The site of Pulus-Sakyol occupied an area of 50m in diameter and covering almost 2800m square. The houses adopted an elongated plan composed of one, two or three rooms set in a row. The trapezoidal shape is the consequence of settlement organization. The entry is always on the shortest side of the trapezium. The average area of trapezoidal houses is 55m<sup>2</sup>. Sixty five per cent of these houses comprise of two rooms. All the houses share party walls. They are constructed with mudbrick with or without a stone base. There is no indication of an upper storey. There is a lack of monumental architecture or any proof of hierarchical organization. This village seems to have been occupied by a small community of farmers and cattle-breeders.

The site of Pulus is so far unique in Eastern Anatolia where long plan houses are unknown contrary to western Anatolia,<sup>45</sup> where they are the standard. However, the artefacts do not support any influence of western Anatolia. Indeed, as long as the materiel is involved, Pulus-Sakyol is a typical Eastern settlement. Consequently, the presence of this plan in Western and Eastern Anatolia is not the expression of a common cultural background. It appears as an identical answer to equal problem, namely, the need for small non-hierarchical community to construct rapidly and with the least effort.

## **3. Complex pluricellular plan**

The complex pluricellular houses are only present in South-East Anatolia (Kurban Höyük,<sup>46</sup> Tilbeşar,<sup>47</sup> Titriş Höyük;<sup>48</sup> Fig. 8). They appeared in the last quarter of the 3rd millennium (EBA III: 2700 B.C.).

Firstly, this plan is characterized by its large size and the great number of rooms. Indeed, houses measure 175m square on average and contain about thirteen rooms. Secondly, the

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41 Korfmann 1983, 194-209, abb. 343.

42 Topbaş et al. 1998, 21-25.

43 Efe 2003, 268-70, fig. 2. This plan is used for the first time at Küllüoba in western Anatolia during the last phase of Late chalcolithic.

44 Koşay 1976a.

45 Perello 2008.

46 Algaze et al. 1990, 62, 193, 430-1, fig. 123.

47 Kepinski-Lecomte 2001, 211-3, fig. 4.

48 Algaze et al. 1995, 21-2, fig. 2; Algaze and Poumelle 2003, fig. 6; Matney and Algaze 1995, 40-2, fig. 10.

circulation system reaches a complex level because of the multiplicity of the passages between the rooms and the presence of an internal court. This court, which appears as the meeting point of the circulation system, occupies 20% of the internal space. It provided light and air.

The shape of the house shows great variability. It seems that it is accommodated in order to fit into the free space available within the dense urban planning. In fact, this plan has only been discovered in urban settlements and it is perfectly adapted to it.

The walls are constructed with mud-brick on stone foundations. The asymmetrical shape, the presence of a court and the density of the blocks suggest that these houses were covered with flat roofs.

The multiplicity of the rooms infers a will to organize internal space and to dedicate a specific space to each function. In addition to classical functions such as kitchen activities, sleeping, and reception, the domestic sphere also possesses storage, arts and crafts and funerary functions.

This plan incomparably achieves the highest level in its architectural organization and the value of its construction at this period. Moreover, this is the only complex plan discovered in 3rd millennium Anatolia. However, this plan is not Anatolian; it does not result from the evolution of a local plan. This plan, typically Sumerian,<sup>49</sup> is well known and widespread in Mesopotamia since Dynastic Archaic I. This apparition in Anatolia in the 2nd half of the third millennium is a tangible proof of the importance of cultural exchange between these regions. Indeed, at that time, the Upper Euphrates region represents the most northern zone of the Mesopotamian world.

### **Eastern Anatolia: one region, two cultures**

The material culture had revealed the existence of two different sectors in Eastern Anatolia set on each part of the Taurus,<sup>50</sup> our study of domestic architecture confirms this distinction. Indeed, the analysis of the distribution of domestic architectural types across Eastern Anatolia (Fig. 9) shows that a distinction can be made between the north side of the Taurus (Erzurum, Malatya, Elazığ regions) and the south side (Adıyaman and Birecik regions). This division corresponds to the highlands of Eastern Turkey (from Kars-Erzurum on the north to Malatya-Elazığ on the south) and the lowlands of North Syria which includes South-east Anatolia from Urfa and Diyarbakır on the north to Mossoul, Alep and North Iraq on the south.

This division is a novelty of the 3rd millennium. Indeed during the 4th millennium those regions have numerous contacts. They appear as a single wide entity. The end of the 4th millennium is marked by two simultaneous events; namely the collapse of the Uruk system and the arrival of the Transcaucasian populations. Those two elements totally overturn the society of this region.

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49 Matney, Algaze 1995, 41-42 ; Vallet in Algaze, et al. 2001, 25-30, fig. 4.

50 Marro and Hauptmann ed. 2000.



While north and south regions share some common plan (monocellular and pluricellular rectangular plan), it is the differences that are more striking. Within the northern region there are the circular plan, the rectangular with round corner plan and the trapezoidal multiroomed plan. On the other hand, none of those plans are present in the southern region but the complex plan appears during the last phase of the EBA. Our study shows that these plans do not come from local development but are the consequences of external influence, namely, the Transcaucasian world in the northern region, and the Mesopotamian sphere in the south-East region.

In the highlands, the collapse of the Uruk system resulted in the interruption of contact with Mesopotamian urban centers. In the meantime, the Transcaucasian populations arrived in a peaceful migration. Indeed, there is no evidence of violence or destruction. Thus, EBA I presents a new culture which combines local and Transcaucasian elements. The complex plan typical of the 4th millennium (Değirmentepe-Malatya,<sup>51</sup> Tülintepe<sup>52</sup>) are abandoned and replaced by simple village organization and basic domestic plan. The EBA II and III, will see the continuation of contacts with the Caucasian world and the come-back of relations with the Mesopotamian area. This period also see the emergence of urban settlements (Norşuntepe, Levels VI-VII; Korucutepe and Tepecik).

In South-East Anatolia, the collapse of the Uruk system is followed by the abandonment of major sites of the 4th millennium and the emergence of modest settlements. The second half of the 3rd millennium is characterized by the apparition of the first urban settlement as Kazane Höyük or Tiriş Höyük. These large urban sites generally comprised Upper and Lower city elements and occupied extensive areas (100h for Kazane, 43h for Tiriş Höyük). This development of urban settlement goes hand-in-hand with the emergence of complex domestic architecture.

In conclusion we can say that domestic architecture appears as a relevant tool in the studies of Anatolian societies, and of its relations with its neighbours. This is quite surprising if we considered that usually, the way to construct and the choice of a house shape is inherited from ancestral knowledge and, as a consequence, is quite hermetic to external influences.

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51 Esin, Harmankaya 1988 : 107, res 2.

52 Esin 1976 : lev. 90.

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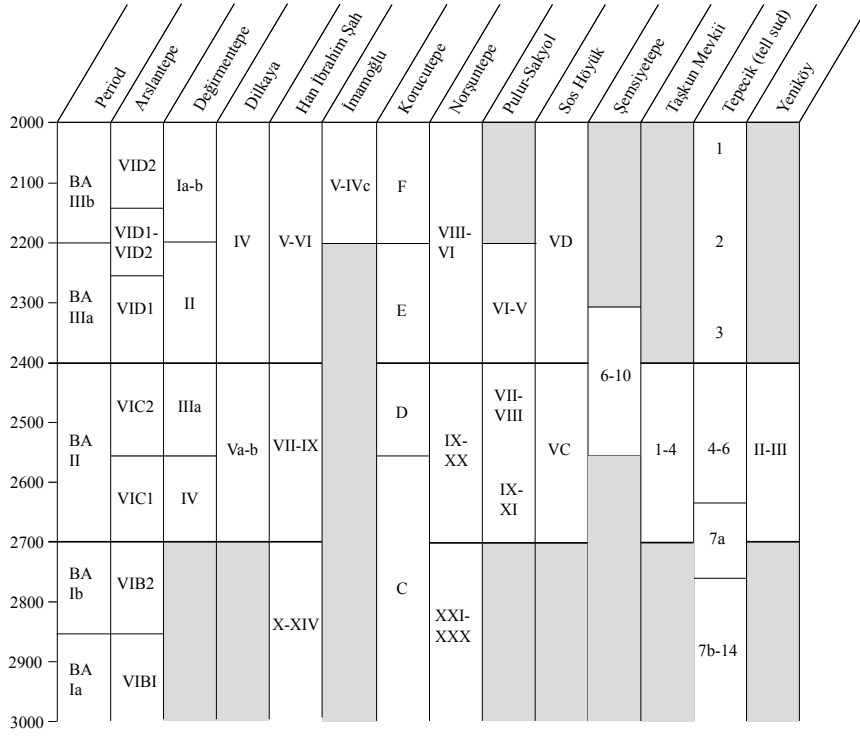


Fig. 1 3. Bin yıl kronolojisi  
Third-millennium chronology



Fig. 2 Doğu Anadolu ve komşuları  
Map of Eastern Turkey and neighbouring regions. (Courtesy of the MOM, Lyon)

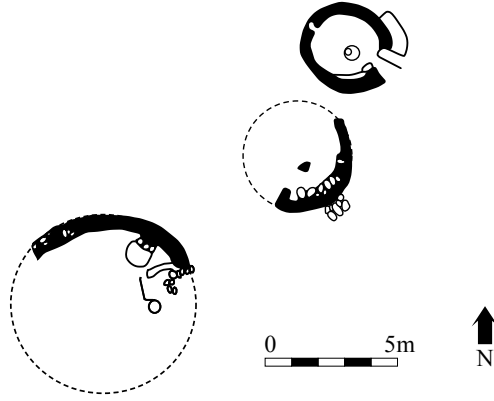


Fig. 3 İmamoglu: ETÇ IIIb, Tabaka IVc.  
İmamoglu: Early Bronze Age IIIb, level IVc. (Uzunoglu 1998: plan 2)

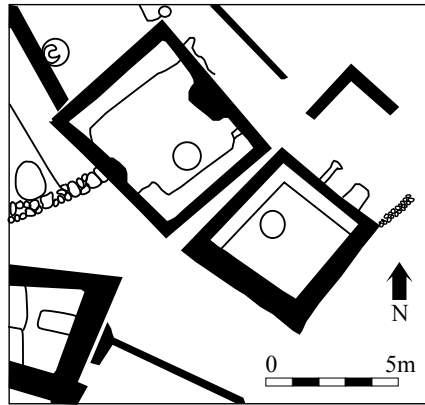


Fig. 4 Han İbrahim Şah: Sektör B, Tabaka VII  
Han İbrahim Şah: sector B, level VII. (Ertem 1982a: Lev. 39)

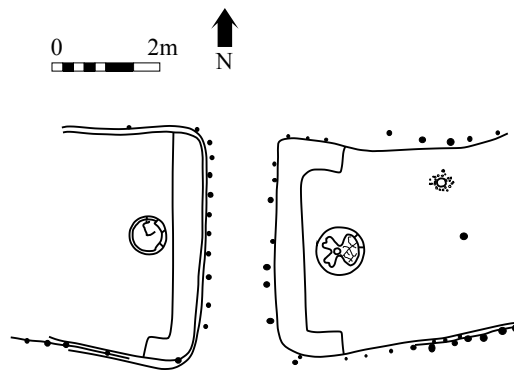


Fig. 5 Norşuntepe: Sektör XVI.  
Norşuntepe: level XVI (Hauptmann 1979: taf40)