

CHAPTER 5: THE EARLIER ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS BELOW COMPOUNDS 10 AND 11 A/II-K/11–12; L/11–14; M/10

The archaeological remains of the earlier Phases G/4 and H in squares A/II-k/11–12, A/II-l/11–13, and A/II-m/10 are discussed together here because this larger connected area was excavated deep enough to reach remains and features below and they are therefore older than Phase G/3–1. Because so few finds were made in this area the numbering system with loci will not be kept in this instance.

The adjacent squares were not excavated down to such a low elevation (around 3.80 to 4.00 m/NN) and thus, the plan of the archaeological features remains isolated from the other parts of the excavation to the south and east (see 271–288). Moreover, these squares were explored very early on in the history of the site (1966–1969) and only a few finds can be assigned to these earliest phases found on the *tell*. Nevertheless it seems important to at least sketch the architectural history of this part of the site because it shows a distinctly different character than the later Phase G/3–1.

Often it is difficult to be certain whether the one-room buildings existed at the same time or overbuilt each other, because they were never very well preserved and almost always incompletely traced due to the fact that the heavily sand tempered mud-brick walls were only one brick's width thick at the most and preserved only up to three or four courses at the most. Frequently preservation was even worse. An additional problem was the flooding of the squares by the ground water.

Several plans have been produced (Fig. 5.1, 5.4–5.5, 5.9) utilising the plan drawings of the listed squares⁴⁵⁷ and respective sections. The excavation history of the squares has been sketched in the particular chapters of Compounds 10 and 11 (see, 37–128) and will therefore not be repeated here.

The description of the architecture will again start in the north and move southwards. The numbering in the plan will start preliminarily again with [M1]

but with the respective pre-fixes **H**, **H-G/4**, **G/4**, and **G/3**. The same numbering system will be used for any hut numbers and the round silos. The discussion of the sections will be summarised here and the assignments used but the descriptions of the sections are to be found in the respective chapters and not repeated here.

A. THE STRUCTURES OF PHASE H – THE SILOS (FIG. 5.1)

The general floor level on which the mud-brick walls have been founded is around 3.80–3.90 m/NN and in some places as low as 3.65 m/NN, for example, the single oldest wall in square A/II-l/13.

In square A/II-k/12 the oldest features are represented by the silos H-1, H-2 and H-3. They are constituted by heavily sand tempered mud-bricks laid out as headers thus constituting half a brick's width wide wall.

Silo H-1 was preserved about two thirds with the western part running into the baulk between A/II-k/12 and A/II-k/11, which was not taken down in the course of the excavation. It was constituted by wall [H-M1]. The floor of the silo was paved in an irregular pattern with some bricks containing more mud than sand. The size of the bricks in the pavement was about 30.0 by 15.0 cm, but the bricks were very rounded and sometimes broken. They might have been reused. The floor level of the top of the brick pavement was at an elevation of 3.89 m/NN. On the eastern side of the silo some pottery and two very round ash accumulations were drawn into the plan. The bricks of the exterior wall of the silo have a size of 32.0–37.0 by 17.0 cm. The exact base level of the silo cannot be ascertained because the western section of A/II-k/12⁴⁵⁸ was not exposed below an elevation of ca 3.90 m/NN. The diameter of the silo was ca 2.95 m (= 5.6 royal cubits).

Silo H-2 was placed a little to the south east of silo H-1 at a distance of ca 0.5 m, which is hardly wide

⁴⁵⁷ A/II-k/11 pl. 6 – TDplan no 41; A/II-k/12, pl. 7 – TDplan no 54; A/II-l/11, pl. 4 – TDplan no 84; A/II-l/12, pl. 4 – TDplan no 97.

⁴⁵⁸ A62.

enough for an adult person to pass through, children could. In contrast to the first one, this silo was not paved (or the actual floor level was not reached) although the lowest elevation reached is at 3.83 m/NN. Again the sand tempered mud-bricks [H-M2] were laid out as headers and they measured approx. 35.0–40.0 by 16.0–17.0 cm. In the north east a second course of three bricks either strengthens wall [H-M2] or represents the remains of an older silo. The bricks might also have served as a step into the silo. The diameter of the silo is 2.75 m (= 5.2 royal cubits), i.e. of similar size as silo H-1.

Silo H-3 is only partly preserved, cut on the one hand by a pit in the northwest, and built over by other features on its eastern side. The diameter is approximately 2.75 m (= 5.2 royal cubits), again very similar to the two previously described silos. The position of Silo H-3 is again very close to Silo H-2 only 0.40 m east of it. Wall [H-M3] forms it and the bricks are of 25.0–35.0 by 15.0–17.0 cm. The building method as headers is the same as previously described. In the vicinity of the northern (reconstructed) border of the silo a collection of animal bones was recorded, which were assigned to Phase H.⁴⁵⁹

Finds in square A/II-k/12, pl. 6

Animal bones

Position: A/II-k/12, pl. 6. 2.0 m/E, 1.8 m/N, elevation not given but assigned to oldest phase of the settlement, Phase H.

Cattle: 1 fragment of calcaneus.

Sheep: 1 talus.

Sheep/goat: fragment of lower jaw, m[olar]1 breaking through; 1 fragment of a rib.

Pig: fragment of a rib.

Distribution of animal bones

cattle	sheep	sheep/goat	pig
1	1	2	1

To the south of these three silos a brick's width wide wall [H-M4]⁴⁶⁰ ran from the northeast towards southwest. It could not be included into any building scheme as it stops dead before it reaches the southern baulk of

square A/II-k/12. The recorded top level is at 3.99 m/NN whilst the base level is the same as for [H-G/4-M1]⁴⁶¹ (see below, 155–157), namely 3.80 m/NN. It is possible that this wall together with [H-M5] delimited access to the silos. Two very flimsy walls overlay [H-M4],⁴⁶² but it remains unclear whether they might belong to wall [H-M5] or another feature, which has since disappeared. They are just too badly preserved. These latter walls are only half a brick's width wide and therefore extremely ephemeral. It may be likely that the western one overlaid [H-M5] at right angles because the preserved top level is at 4.00 m/NN, but they are not visible in the southern section A26.

Wall [H-M5] probably also belongs to this oldest phase, which is later overlaid by two others constituted by [G/4-M11 and M12], because the preserved top of wall [H-M5] is at an elevation of 3.89 m/NN, but unfortunately was not recorded by western section A62.⁴⁶³ The southern section⁴⁶⁴ also does not record this wall. Therefore its base level would have been safely below 4.00 m/NN although its relation to other features cannot be ascertained. It was one of the widest walls in this area being one and a half brick's width. Because the mud-bricks were again heavily sand tempered as is characteristic for this phase they were badly preserved and measurements could not be taken.

Several walls to the south east of [H-M5] probably belong to a different structure constituted by [H-M13]. Because tomb A/II-l/12 no 2 cuts into the square from above, the connection between these walls remains unclear. Walls [H-M14], [H-M15] and [H-M16] constitute the south western corner of a building or an enclosure wall. This corner is equipped with a winding wall and their preserved tops are at an elevation of about 3.71 to 3.85 m/NN. Unfortunately they were not recorded in any section in order to obtain at least a relative idea of their succession. The silo⁴⁶⁵ visible in the corner [H-M14/H-M16], is probably cutting through this structure as the elevation is much higher (4.30 m/NN) and the mud-brick walls usually are not preserved to such a height. No additional evidence, such as sections for example, is available. Close to the western section of square A/II-l/12, below tomb 5 the fragment of a lower jaw of a sheep/goat was recorded and assigned to Phase H with some probability.⁴⁶⁶

⁴⁵⁹ J. BOESSNECK, TD III, 9.

⁴⁶⁰ Section A82, A/II-k/12 east, section no A82-41.

⁴⁶¹ Section A82, A/II-k/12 east, section no A82-39. This elevation is the lowest recorded.

⁴⁶² Not numbered because they are so short, see plan, Fig. 5.1.

⁴⁶³ A/II-k/12 west.

⁴⁶⁴ A26, A/II-k/12 south.

⁴⁶⁵ G/4-[M5].

⁴⁶⁶ J. BOESSNECK, TD III, 11.

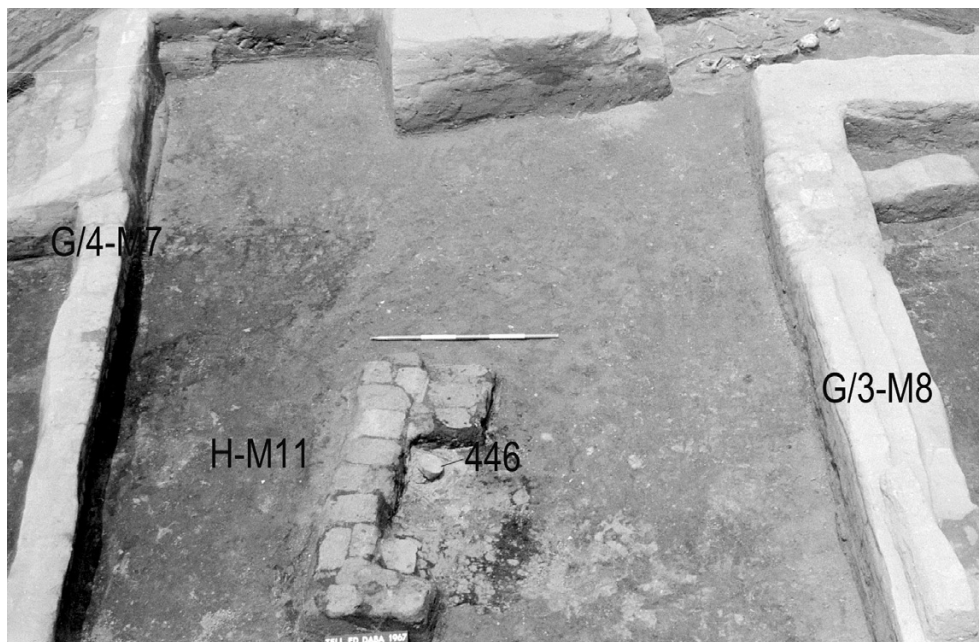


Fig. 5.2 A/II-l/11, pl. 4, View towards north-west, SW1027/59–60

The only walls probably belonging to this very early phase to the west of the Phase H silos 1, 2 and 3 are walls [H-M6] and [H-M7] another corner of a structure. Because the southern section of A/II-k/12 was not recorded, no further evidence for the sequence and placement within the phasing can be quoted. Whether the round silo in square A/II-k/11 belongs to this phase or later ones remains unclear as it is not connected by stratigraphy to any other structure.⁴⁶⁷ The preserved elevation of 4.17 m/NN may hint at Phase G/4 or Phase G/3. It is a little smaller than the other ones to the east: 2.25 m (= 4.3 royal cubits) which might suggest a different date for it.

Finally the sequence of the structures in square A/II-l/11 is also quite unclear, although the walls exhibit a low elevation for the base level (around 3.90–4.20 m/NN in the plan drawing and the southern section) but are preserved quite high up (4.34–4.50 m/NN). This could mean that several phases of walls were overlaying each other in the course of the same layout, thus the ‘hut’ was in use for a longer period in time, perhaps even up to Phase G/3. Nevertheless it is unusual for the site that mud-brick walls were preserved more than 5 or 6

brick courses on average. Here walls [H-M8], [H-M9] and [H-M10]⁴⁶⁸ must be mentioned that seem to form a rough rectangle but not exactly with perpendicular corners. The walls are all only one brick’s width wide and the eastern part was probably destroyed by a slightly later building. The base levels of these walls have been given as around 3.90 m/NN. A corner of a slightly later building protruding from the western section⁴⁶⁹ also seems to overlie wall [H-M9]. Within these three walls there was a rectangular structure that may perhaps have been a hearth although no massive amounts of ash are recorded in the plan drawing. The photo by contrast shows some ashy remains. One pottery vessel belongs to this phase, namely reg.no 446⁴⁷⁰ leaning against the eastern face of wall [H-M11], see Fig. 5.2. The general ‘floor’ level arrived at ranges from 3.90 to 4.10 m/NN across the ‘room’.

One further rather incomplete and very thin wall [H-M12] is situated to the west of the rectangle constituted by [H-M8], [H-M9] and [H-M10]. It was very short and only half a brick’s width wide and it seems to have continued below the later silo. It is difficult to assign these to any structure.

⁴⁶⁷ Cf. Fig. 5.9, [G/3-M27].

⁴⁶⁸ Section A31 A/II-l/11 south shows walls [H-M9] and [H-M10] as section no A31-47. The lowest level shown is at 4.20 m/NN but it could be much lower as wall [H-M9] shows a base level

at ca 3.90 m/NN in the plan drawing. Unfortunately the base level was not reached.

⁴⁶⁹ Section A56.

⁴⁷⁰ Drawn into plan A/II-l/11, pl. 4, TDplan no 84.

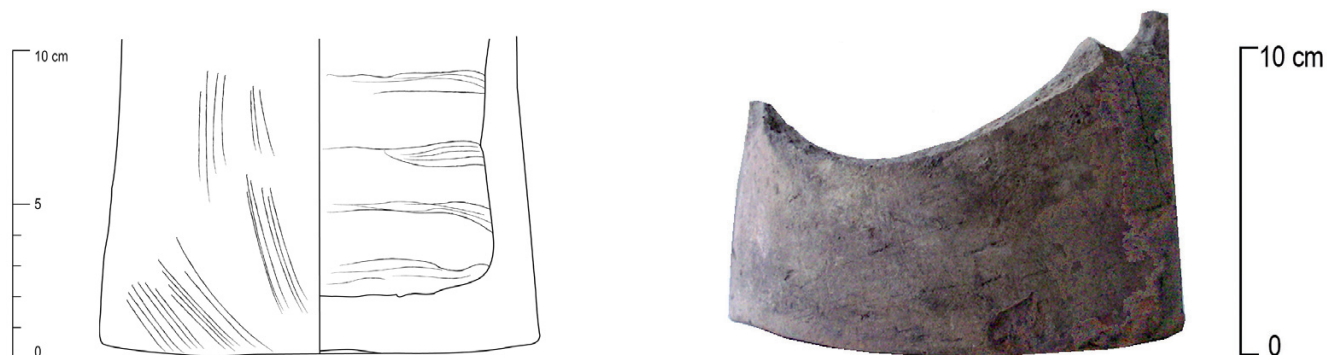


Fig. 5.3 Reg.no 446, Base of Marl C1 footed bowl, drawn and photographed by B. Bader, courtesy of KhM

Reg.no **446** (KhM, A 2326),⁴⁷¹ base fragment of a footed bowl. Position: A/II-l/11, pl. 4, 2.25 m/W and 4.0 m/S, elevation H1 = 4.08 m/NN, Phase H–G/4 (Fig. 5.3).

Records: drawings: ZN 75/67 und 1B/67, redrawn by the author.

TG	II-c-2	m. – r.	Ha1	Bd. H.	ox	3
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Bd. = 14.2 (100% preserved), wd. = 1.1–1.5, H1 = 10.1 + x, H4 = 10.1 + x;

Natural surface colour (scum): 10 YR 8/4 very pale brown; interior also shows scum 10 YR 8/3 very pale brown. Section: wide light grey core, very thin oxidation zones; scum visible as a line. On the exterior smoothing marks from tool; on the interior circular finger marks around the walls and further finger marks across the base.

In square A/II-l/13 one very thin wall, **H-[M17]** of half a brick's width seems to belong to this phase, although no connection could be made to the western part of the excavation. The base level of ca 3.65 m/NN suggests this assignation. It runs from the eastern section⁴⁷² in a curved line towards the north and abruptly ends. The irregular shape may suggest a precinct or hurdle wall. The bricks are heavily sand tempered and were laid out as headers.

B. THE STRUCTURES OF PHASE H–G/4 (FIG. 5.4)

The general floor level of this “intermediate” phase that could not be well discerned is at about 3.90 m/NN or thereabouts. The distinction to Phase H is suggested because some of these structures overlay those of Phase H but were below those of Phase G/4.

Only two walls seem to belong to this intermediate phase in this part of the excavation. One of them [**H-G/4-M1**] is probably not much later than the Silos of Phase H but it directly overlies Silos H-2 and H-3, which may mean that they had fallen out of use by the time of the new wall. However, as the wall only straddles the southern parts of the walls of the silos, they might just still have been useable. Silo H-1 may still have been used after the building of these walls. Wall [**H-G/4-M2**] forms a rectangular corner of what might have been a building or – if Silo H-1 was indeed still in use – an open space. Whilst [**H-G/4-M1**] is one brick's width thick laid out as stretchers, [**H-G/4-M2**] is one and a half brick's width wide. The relation of the walls to one another in the north east corner of square A/II-k/11 is very unclear, because the excavation did not proceed down low enough to be certain, how many different walls overlaid each other. It is, however, clear that several consecutive walls were built there. The base level of [**H-G/4-M1**] is below 3.78 m/NN,⁴⁷³ whilst that of [**H-G/4-M2**] is

⁴⁷¹ Published in B. BADER, TD XIII, cat.no 50, 63.

⁴⁷² Section A88, A/II-l/13 east, section no A88-15 elevation 3.66 m/NN just above the ground water table.

⁴⁷³ Section A82, A/II-k/12 east, section no A82-39. This elevation is the lowest recorded.

below 3.90 m/NN.⁴⁷⁴ Section A62 may show one or two brick courses of [H-G/4-M2], on top of which a later wall was built.⁴⁷⁵

It is very difficult to synchronise these walls with the remainder of the structures in this area because the general base level of the phase could not be ascertained due to the ground water. In addition there are hardly any ceramic finds preserved that may help to date the relative phasing.

Finally there was the corner of two walls situated on the eastern edge of square A/II-l/13, now to the east of the structures just described. Whilst it remains unclear how this structure [H-G/4-M3] relates to the west and to the east the base level of 3.90 m/NN suggests that it belongs to this intermediate phase. How and if this building continued towards the east remains unclear due to the fact that the western section of square A/II-l/14⁴⁷⁶ only shows destroyed brick rubble in the relevant area and it is hard to ascertain whether some brick wall features with a preserved top at elevation of around 4.30 m/NN may belong to it or not [H-G/4-M4 and M5]. Fig. 5.4 shows a proposed reconstruction of this possibility.

The orientation of this one room building would be different to the other walls, but that does not necessarily speak against this reconstruction as other parts of the settlement show. The interior measurements of the one-room building would amount to 3.65 m by 2.05 m (= 7 by 4 cubits), if this reconstruction is correct. The exterior measurements are accordingly 4.35 by 2.75 m (= 8 1/3 by 5 1/3 cubit). No finds were recorded from these levels.

C. THE STRUCTURES OF PHASE G/4 (FIG. 5.5)

The description of the structures starts in square A/II-l/12. Slightly off towards the east on top of the older wall [H-M5] (cf. Fig. 5.1) from the oldest phase in square A/II-l/12 another wall was built, namely [G/4-M1]. The preserved top of this wall reached a level of 4.21 m/NN, whilst the wall below became visible at a level of 4.12 m/NN. This means that the base level

of the later wall would have been very similar. Unfortunately the northern profile is not preserved in the archive, so this hypothesis cannot be proven. The wall was built from sand tempered mud-bricks and is one brick's width wide. This wall perhaps continues to the south east (as wall [G/4-M3]) with a base level of ca 4.00 m/NN.⁴⁷⁷ This southern wall [G/4-M3] seems to be part of an undulating wall and is also one brick's width wide and built of sand tempered bricks. Because the continuation between those two is not perfectly preserved they have been numbered separately. This wall also seems to continue into square A/II-l/13, but there it continued as a straight wall towards the south east [G/4-M19]. Unfortunately the western section of A/II-l/13⁴⁷⁸ is no longer among the records, so the base level cannot be checked. There seems to be little doubt though, that these stretches of wall belong together.⁴⁷⁹ The preserved top reaches an elevation of 4.28 m/NN and 4.30 m/NN. At the southern section the base level of [G/4-M19] is at an elevation of 4.20 m/NN, which fits well with that of wall [G/4-M4] running almost parallel to the west. The continuation of [G/4-M1] towards the north is not easy to discern because the western section of A/II-k/12⁴⁸⁰ does not reach low enough down to trace that wall. If [G/4-M1] is just extended northwards it meets a stretch of wall in A/II-k/11, [G/4-M18]. This wall is also situated below the recorded elevation of the relevant section.⁴⁸¹

The perpendicular wall [G/4-M2] of 3.10 m length abuts or bonds into [G/4-M1] at right angles. No observation was mentioned if they were bonded or if one just abuts the other. On the northern side of this wall a pilaster of one brick's width protrudes from the wall. The distance between the pilaster and the south west corner is 1.63 m (~ 3 cubits). This relates to similar distances of the pilasters in [G/4-M4], see below. The continuation of this wall could not be traced but would have continued towards the north east. Thus, it remains unclear to which building these walls belong or if they are just precinct walls. The size of the bricks was recorded as 33.0–35.0 by 15.0 by 8.0 cm.⁴⁸²

⁴⁷⁴ Section A62, A/II-k/12 west. This elevation is the lowest recorded.

⁴⁷⁵ A62, section no A62-25.

⁴⁷⁶ A 71. The lowest elevation reached in this section is at 4.10 m/NN.

⁴⁷⁷ A83, section no A83-43.

⁴⁷⁸ A66.

⁴⁷⁹ M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, dated 1966, p. 58 mentions that the excavation reached the ground water at 3.68 m/NN, which

changed from day to day, especially in the summer, and when rice is grown in the vicinity.

⁴⁸⁰ A62.

⁴⁸¹ A77. The top of this wall is recorded as 3.89 m/NN which may just be possible to belong to the slightly more elevated stretch of wall further south.

⁴⁸² M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, dated 1966, p. 52.

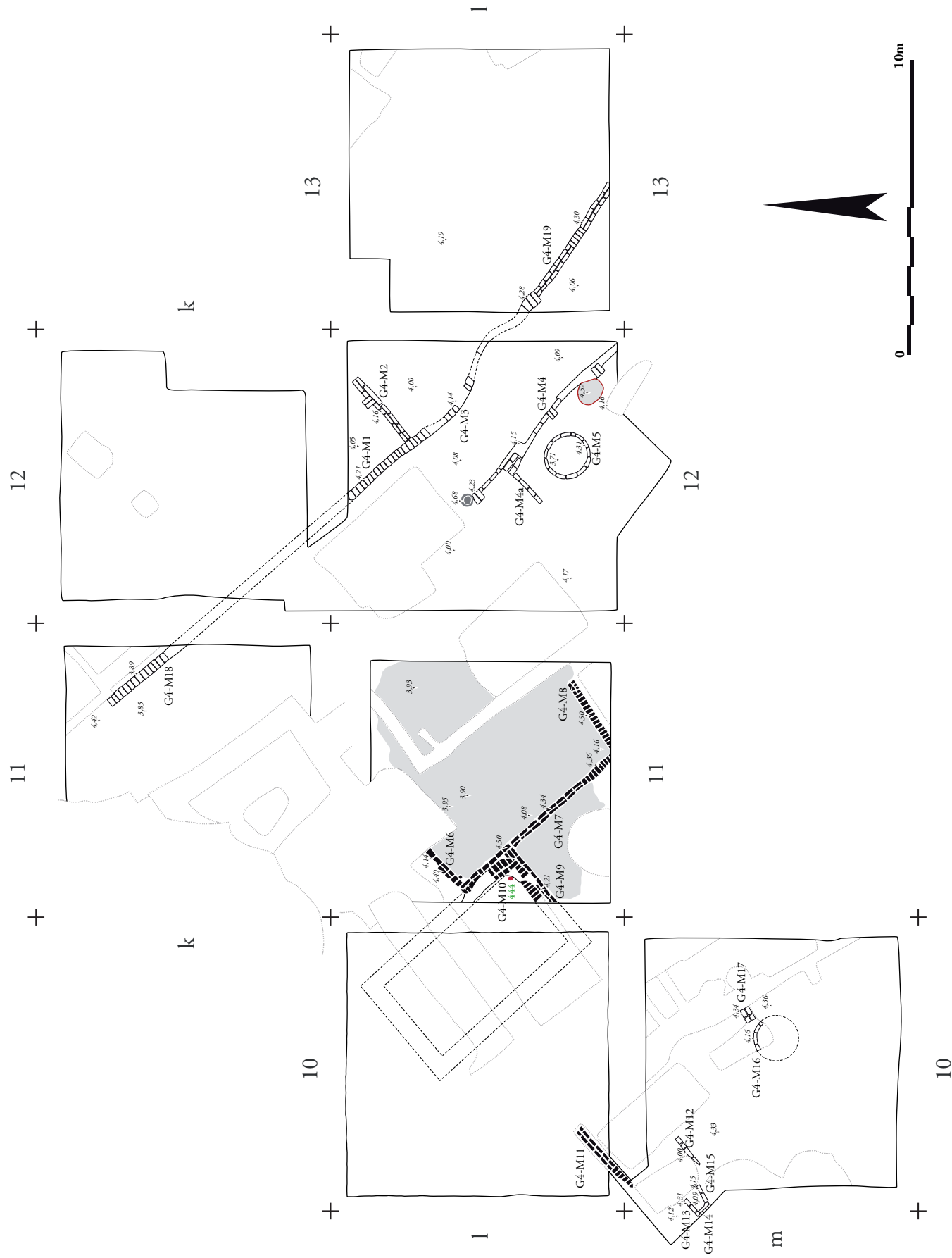


Fig. 5.5 Plan of architecture of Phase G/4, compiled by B. Bader, execution of graphics N. Math

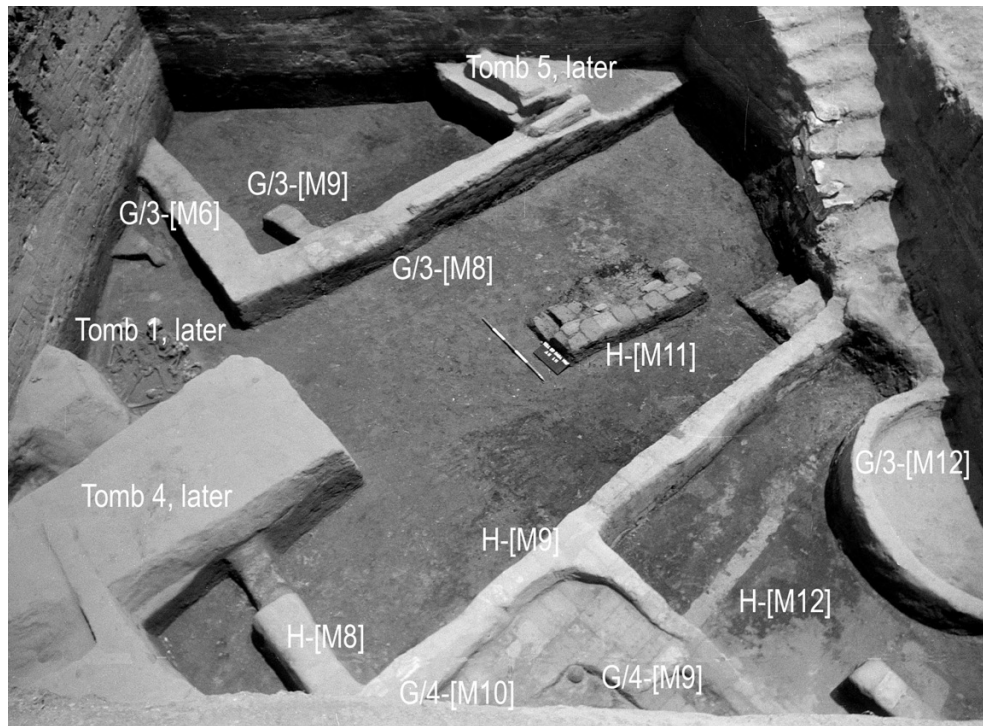


Fig. 5.6 View of A/II-l/11, pl. 4 towards the east, SW1027/55–56

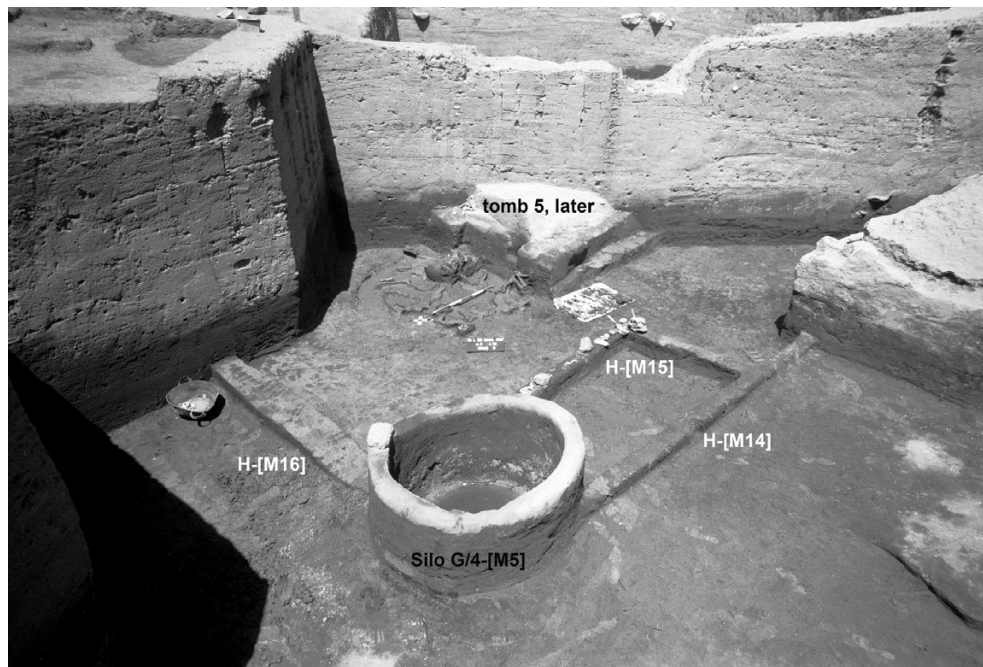


Fig. 5.7 View of A/II-l/12, pl. 4 towards north-west, SW1029/54

The continuation and relation of [G/4-M1] and [G/4-M2] to A/II-k/12 cannot be ascertained exactly because the northern section of A/II-l/12 is no longer preserved in the records. Given the length of the wall [G/4-M18], [G/4-M1], [G/4-M3] and [G/4-M19], if

they indeed, all belong together, it seems likely they were encircling a precinct or compound.

Towards the west a shorter stretch of a roughly parallel wall with four pilasters in the distance of 1.60 m (= 3 cubits), 1.35 m (= 2.5 cubits) and again 1.60 m

(= 3 cubits) was found to probably belong to this phase, [G/4-M4]. It is recorded in the eastern section of square A/II-l/12⁴⁸³ with a base level at 4.20 m/NN. At its northern end a round ‘mortar’ like stone feature was found. The top of this feature was at an elevation of 4.68 m/NN, which would either make it very tall or it was embedded in a kind of pedestal, perhaps built of mud-brick. Usually such features were made from limestone, although this object has not been described in any detail. The exterior diameter is ca 0.45 m, whilst the aperture is ca 0.27–0.30 m. The height remains unknown.⁴⁸⁴ A similar object is known from Compound 1, L [304] (see 2nd vol. in prep).

Perhaps below or adjacent to [G/4-M4] is wall [G/4-M4a], which turns perpendicularly towards the south west. It is too badly preserved to judge whether this short stretch of wall of 1.7 m just served as a shelter for the round silo south of it or if it is a precinct wall that was destroyed without further trace.

To the west of Wall [G/4-M4] in a distance of 0.55 m a round silo built of heavily sand tempered mud-bricks was situated. The silo had a diameter of 1.60 m, which corresponds to 3 royal cubits [G/4-M5]. The base level was not taken, because of the ground water table, but the preserved top is at 4.31 m/NN. As usual the feature was built from a single line of headers. The last feature belonging to this phase in this square is a round oven. It seems to have just been a pit with heavy ash accumulations. The top of it was at an elevation of 4.52 m/NN. Because the stratigraphic relation of the oven to the features around it remains unclear it may have been used in both Phases G/4 and G/3 (see 164, Fig. 5.9). Because three later tombs cut into the square and destroyed the archaeological remains, it is unclear which type of features or walls were situated further west and north of walls [G/4-M1] and [G/4-M4].

The walls [G/4-M6], [G/4-M7] and [G/4-M8] in square A/II-l/11 are the same as or built on top of [H-M8], [H-M9] and [H-M10]. Their unusually high degree of preservation supports the second hypothesis. It seems that the corner of a building formed by walls [G/4-M9] and [G/4-M10] actually lies adjacent to wall [G/4-M7], which was much better preserved. The base level of [G/4-M9] and [G/4-M10]⁴⁸⁵ is at an elevation of around 3.90–4.10 m/NN and thus quite similar to that of [G/4-M6], [G/4-M7] and [G/4-M8].

The plan drawing records a number of animal bones along the southern wall [G/4-M8] on an elevation of 4.16 m/NN. It must remain unclear whether these finds belong to a floor level or the later fill of the room, if indeed it ever was one. Because of the later building [G/3-M6] to [G/3-M9] (see below 163–164, Fig. 5.9) the eastern wall, if indeed it existed there, would have been destroyed. Not even an educated guess can be made to reconstruct this “room”.

To the south west of the features just described, in square A/II-m/10, a few features also seem to belong to this relative phase, namely the very short and flimsy walls [G/4-M11] to [M15], which are only half a brick’s width wide. Their destroyed state makes it difficult to reconstruct more complete features. The silo [G/4-M16] with wall fragment [G/4-M17] is the only obvious and identifiable feature here. Still the diameter of the silo could not be measured properly. The estimate is about 1.40 m, but that must remain very tentative.

Photo Fig. 5.6 shows square A/II-l/11 pl. 4, as it appeared during the excavation. Walls from Phases H, G/4 and G/3-1 appear at the same time. The numbering explains the various phases. Note that [H-M8] to [H-M10] are in the same position as [G/4-M6]-[G/4-M8]. The archival photo also shows the situation of the walls [G/4-M9] and [G/4-M10] in relation to the “building” [G/4-M6] to [G/4-M8]. In the middle of the foreground the hemispherical cup reg.no 444 in the inside corner of [G/4-M9] and [G/4-M10] is visible in its find position. It was deposited upside down.

Photo Fig. 5.7 shows the situation during the excavation in square A/II-l/12 pl. 4. In the middle of the picture the silo [G/4-M5] is visible cutting into the corner of the older ‘hut’ of Phase H [H-M14] to [H-M16], see Fig. 5.1. In the background the later tomb 5 can be seen. Also note how the ground water began to rise within the silo as the water would collect in the depression with the lowest elevation first.

The only find recorded was made in the presumed interior of wall [G/4-M9] and [G/4-M10], namely a hemispherical cup (see Fig. 5.5–5.6).

Reg.no 444 (KhM, A 2324), hemispherical cup (Fig. 5.8). Position: A/II-l/11, pl. 4, 4.25 m/S, 1.75 m/W, elevation H = 4.01 m/NN (see also plan 1:50).

⁴⁸³ A83, section no A83-41.

⁴⁸⁴ Measurements were taken from the plan drawing of A/II-l/12, pl. 4, scale 1:50.

⁴⁸⁵ A56, section no A56-37.

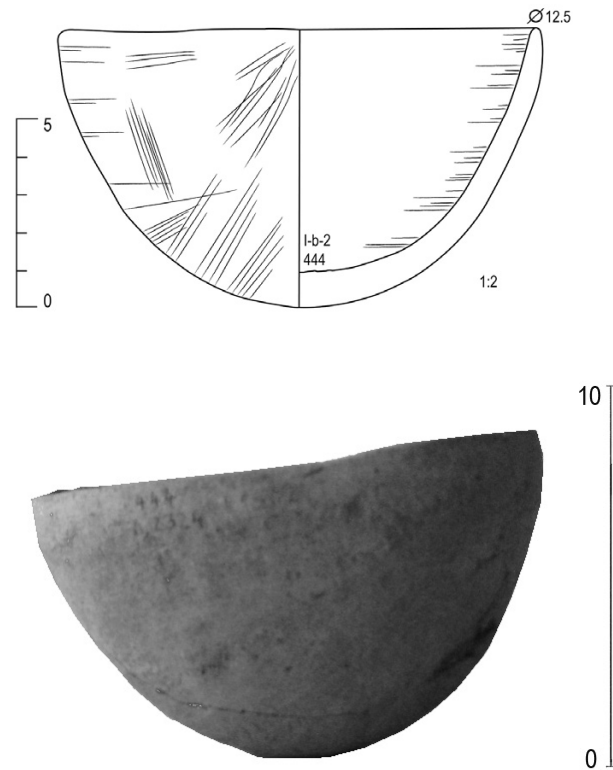


Fig. 5.8 Reg.no 444, hemispherical cup, drawn and photographed by B. Bader, courtesy of KhM

Records: B/W negative SW1037/40–41, ZN 1B/67, redrawn and re-recorded.

TG	I-b-2	mi	W1	Bd. gesp. g.	ox	2–3
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Rd.(in) = 12.0–12.5 (rim 100% preserved); max.d. = 12.8; wd. = 0.55; H1 = 7.4, VI 172.97.

Natural surface colour: 10 R 5/6 red exterior, 10 R 5/8 red interior. The surface is very reddish, so it cannot be decided if a red painted rim existed. In medium height a firing stain from the kiln suggests serial production of the type. On the surface a high admixture of quartz was noticed. No break because the vessel was intact. The exterior surface was not well smoothed. The central turning spiral is visible on the interior.

Finally the small and destroyed silo in A/II-1/14 may have also belonged to Phase G/4 although this cannot be proven beyond doubt, because it is not connected to any section or to any other structures in A/II-1/13.⁴⁸⁶ As usual this silo was built of a single line of headers. The elevation of the interior of the silo was at 4.21 m/NN, whilst the preserved top of the structure was at ca 4.23 m/NN, which probably means that only one brick course was preserved. The material consisted of heavily sand tempered brick material. The diameter can only be tentatively reconstructed because it was destroyed by tombs A/II-1/14-no 7⁴⁸⁷ and A/II-1/14-no 11.⁴⁸⁸ The silo belongs to a slightly smaller size class as it probably measured 1.50 m (~ 3 cubits).

⁴⁸⁶ Please note, that this silo is only shown in plan Fig. 5.9 due to space restrictions.

⁴⁸⁷ I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER, TD XVI, 192–199, Phase E/3.

⁴⁸⁸ M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 12 November 1976, p. 2, burial of two donkeys. M. BIETAK, Digging Diary, 10 November 1976: Dating from Phase E/3 or earlier, probably later than Phase G/3–1 because tomb no 7 of Phase E/3 is next to that pit and the pit itself cuts into structures of Phase G/3–1. M. BIETAK'S

observation was also that the pit only became visible in the lower elevations of the excavation of tomb 7 but not cut by it. No more evidence is available to suggest whether the 2 donkey burials belonged to any of tombs 7 and/or 8 in square A/II-1/14. No other potential tombs to which this pit might have belonged are close to it. I. FORSTNER-MÜLLER, TD XVI, does not mention the donkey burial pit.

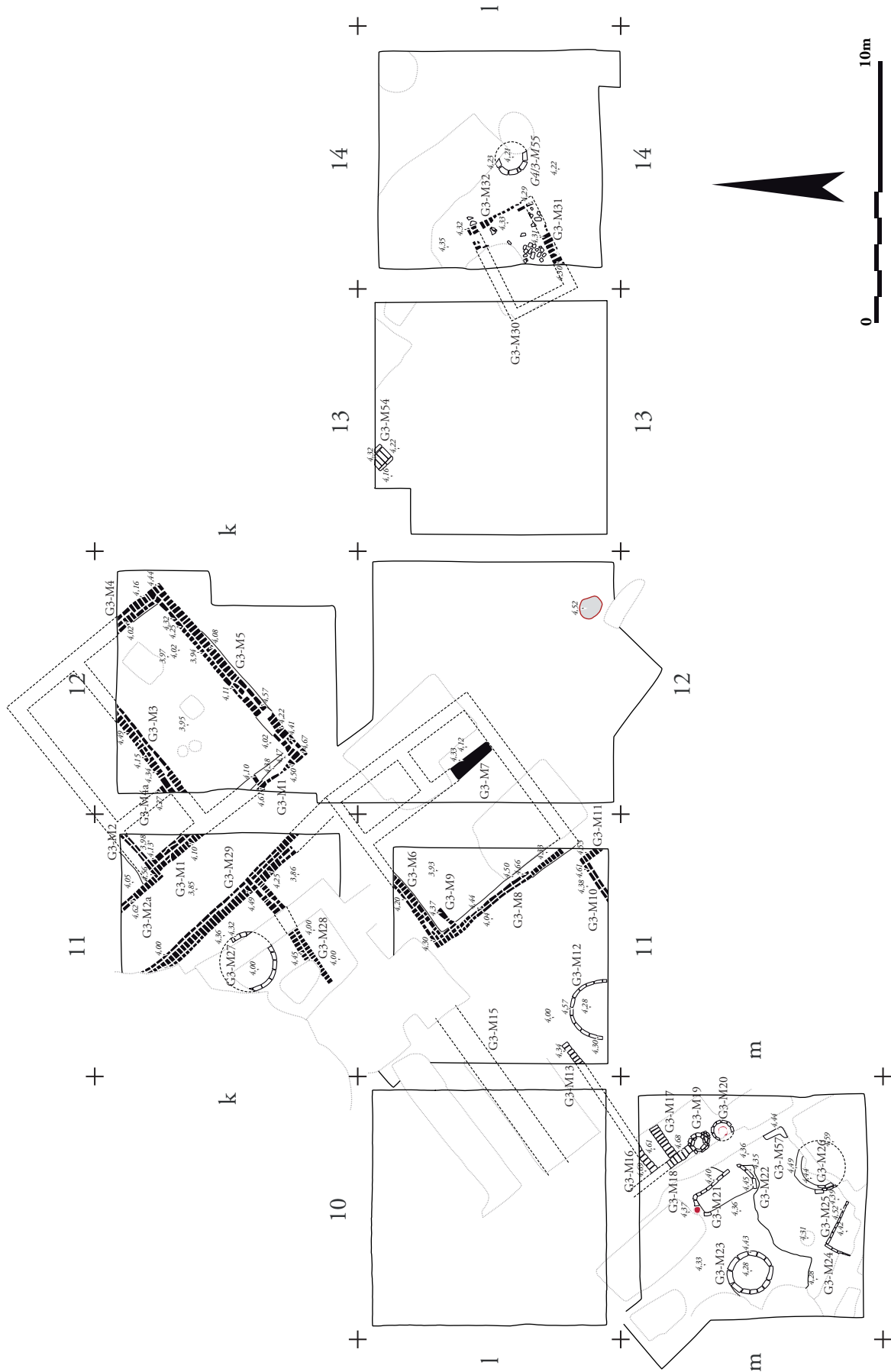


Fig. 5.9 The architecture of Phase G/3, compiled by B. Bader, execution of graphics N. Math

D. THE STRUCTURES OF PHASE G/3 (FIG. 5.9)

The structures described here as Phase G/3 lie immediately below those, which were first published by M. BIETAK as plan 2 in *Tell el-Dabca V*.

This part of the settlement as far as it was explored was only very loosely built up, it seems, although in a more ordered manner than the previous Phases H and G/4. There are hardly any irregular precinct walls unlike the situation before. As far as preserved and the phase assignment ascertained there are only a few irregular and not aligned walls in squares A/II-k/11 to 12, A/II-l/10 to l/14 and A/II-m/10 and m/14. The one- or two-room houses preserved show the same NNW orientation with only a few exceptions. Unfortunately the excavation frequently could not be taken to low enough elevations to clarify points of uncertainty in the archaeological exploration. This was mostly due to the rising ground water, which made further excavation impossible in the 1960s without vacuum pumps. Other obstacles were the later temples and tombs with their wide foundations and pits, which severely destroyed the lower levels.

Again the description begins in the north of the area discussed here. It seems that Compound 10 (see chapter 2) already existed in Phase G/3, mainly along the same lines as in Phase G/2–1. Because the base levels are quite low (between 3.90 and 4.00 m/NN) it seems very likely that there was at least one older phase. Walls [G/3-M1 to M5] constitute this building and a dividing wall in room L [117] may have been constructed in this earlier phase, [G/3-M4a]. It remains unclear (from the section) if this wall was destroyed or fell out of use at the same time as [G/3-M3] or earlier. It is likely that the installations within Compound 10, which have been described above, existed from the beginning and were used throughout. No finds could be assigned to the earlier phases, because what was found within must have belonged to the last use of the area or rubbish filling even after abandonment.

To the west of Compound 10 another part of a building, called Compound 10a⁴⁸⁹ was found. It is formed by walls [G/3-M28] and [G/3-M29]. In the northern space, constituted by these walls, a rounded silo,⁴⁹⁰ [G/3-M27], had been built. Like the walls of

Compound 10, the walls consisted of sand tempered mud-bricks of similar dimensions. It seems that wall [G/3-M28] was built in bondage with [G/3-M29]. The preserved tops of the walls varied in elevation from 4.25 to 4.49 m/NN, while the base levels were at ca 4.00 m/NN.⁴⁹¹ Only four brick courses were preserved at the most. Wall [G/3-M29] (or a wall along the same lines) continues to the south east and is just about visible in the western section of square A/II-k/12 (no section no A62-00). This feature may belong to a hypothetical continuation of this wall (see Fig. 5.9). The continuation cannot be proven to exist because the relevant areas of the western sections of A/II-k-l/12 as well as the northern section of A/II-l/12 were disturbed by a sizeable, later tomb cutting in from above (A/II-l/12-no 2⁴⁹²). The silo was built of half a brick's width bricks laid out as headers as is usual for the earlier phases at the site. The diameter of the damaged silo is about 2.30 m equalling ca 4.4 cubits. The preserved top is at an elevation of 4.32 m/NN and the elevation within was at 4.17 m/NN. A base level has not been taken. The floor did not show brick pavement.

To the south of Compound 10a another rectangular feature with the same wall thickness of 1 1/2 brick's width had been built and it is roughly aligned along the same lines as that building. It is constituted of walls [G/3-M6], [M7], [M8] and [M9]. Only the western half of this building (in square A/II-l/11) is preserved with base levels of ca 3.95 to 4.10 m/NN. The bricks are quite irregularly laid out according to the plan drawing, thus it is possible that these mud-bricks were re-used. The preserved tops of the walls vary in elevation from 4.20 to 4.66 m/NN. Base levels are given around 4.00 m/NN in the plan drawing. There are only two possible installations within this building, namely a short wall [G/3-M9] adjacent to the western wall [G/3-M8] and a possible inner wall [G/3-M7]. Unfortunately the eastern part of the building, if indeed it is one, was destroyed badly by later tombs. The initial trial to use [G/3-M7] as an exterior eastern wall failed, because there were no traces of such a wall in any of the relevant sections. But the continuation of [G/3-M29] might actually represent the original eastern wall of this southern "building". This cannot be proven because it was destroyed by a tomb, namely

⁴⁸⁹ Chapter 2, 45, 61.

⁴⁹⁰ This is the same silo mentioned earlier as perhaps belonging to Phase G/4 or G/3, see footnote 467.

⁴⁹¹ A77, section A77-39.

⁴⁹² M. BIETAK, TD V, 180–190, Phase E/1.

A/II-l/12-no 2.⁴⁹³ Similar problems occur for the southern wall, which was destroyed by tomb A/II-l/12-no 5.⁴⁹⁴ But also otherwise no traces were left further to the east except [G/3-M7]. That it cannot continue for the whole length of the room has its reason as it does not appear in the eastern section of A/II-l/11 (A78). If the width between [G/3-M29] and [G/3-M8] corresponds to the original width of the building (group of buildings) the outside measurement⁴⁹⁵ is 6.30 m which equals exactly 12 cubits, and is a very common measurement in simple architecture at the site.⁴⁹⁶ The interior measurement of the room is 5.25 m, which equals exactly 10 Egyptian cubits. Thus, the walls had a planned width of 1 cubit (= 0.525 m), which equals one and a half brick's width. The north south extension of Compound 10a in square A/II-k/11 is 7.0 m (= 13.3 cubits) as measured along the exterior walls (in the preserved western part) and on the interior it is 5.95 m (= 11.3 cubits). This building might have destroyed the eastern part of the older building west of it, although it is not entirely clear whether the rather irregular feature constituted by walls [G/4-M6] to [G/4-M8] really belonged to a closed structure or just to a precinct wall (see Fig. 5.4). Whether Compound 10a continued further to the north, past A/II-k/10, remains unclear, but seems at least unlikely considering the average size and distribution of the compounds in this area in this phase.⁴⁹⁷ The corner of wall [G/3-M8] and the southern wall of the building is also not preserved due to a pit of a later tomb cutting it. For this reason the continuation of this wall remains also uncertain. To the south of this building at some distance a rounded oven is preserved. It just seems to be an accumulation of ash with a preserved top of 4.57 m/NN. This means it could have been in use over a long time. Thus, this oven is also mentioned in Phase G/4 (cf. Fig. 5.5, 160). No finds were recorded that may be connected with these structures.

To the south west the north-east corner of a building/courtyard was excavated [G/3-M10] and [G/3-M11] but cannot be followed further, because the squares further south have not been explored down to this level because Mortuary Temple I was left standing.⁴⁹⁸ That corner may have belonged to a building is

equally likely as a courtyard. The base level of these walls is at approximately 4.15 m/NN or below. The true base level cannot be ascertained because it was not reached. The walls were relatively well preserved up to an elevation of 4.53 and 4.61 m/NN. The distance between the corners of the “buildings” [G/3-M7] to [G/3-M9] and [G/3-M10] and [G/3-M11] is 0.5 m at the most. Wall [G/3-M10] was almost in one line with the hypothetical southern wall of the “building” reconstructed in square A/II-l/11–12, which at least indicates a building tradition.

Half of a rounded silo is situated at the southern baulk of square A/II-l/11, [G/3-M12]. The base level is at an elevation of 4.10 and 4.30 (or below) m/NN, respectively. It was preserved up to a level of 4.30 and 4.57 m/NN. The floor was not preserved in the section and filled with broken bricks and ashy deposits. No paved floor was preserved and no floor was distinguishable in the southern section of A/II-l/11 suggesting it had been destroyed at one point before being filled with broken bricks and ashy deposits.⁴⁹⁹

Wall [G/3-M13] might belong to [G/3-M16] and will be considered together with it (see below, 165).

Structures of Phase G/3 in Square A/II-m/10

To the south west of the later oven installations a short stretch of wall [G/3-M13] ran towards the south west along the same line as [G/3-M16], cf. Fig. 5.9. They were hypothetically connected as precinct wall, which may divide the silo [G/3-M12] from the remainder of the precinct to protect valuable grain storage.

However, there is a parallel wall, equally thin (only one brick's width wide), which cannot be extended towards the north east, because it would run over the silo mentioned before. The base level cannot be ascertained because it was not reached in this area of the section [G/3-M17].

The only wall with a known base level relevant for Phase G/3 in this square is [G/3-M18] which begins at an elevation of at least 4.25 m/NN or even lower. At the eastern face of [G/3-M18] the two walls [G/3-M16-M13?] and [G/3-M17] abut. It is unclear whether these walls actually were built in bondage or if they

⁴⁹³ M. BIETAK, TD V, 180–190, Phase E/1.

⁴⁹⁴ M. BIETAK, TD V, 51–60, Phase F.

⁴⁹⁵ Measured from the exterior of the wall to the exterior of the opposite wall.

⁴⁹⁶ Cf. B. BADER, On Simple House Architecture, *passim*.

⁴⁹⁷ Cf. B. BADER, On Simple House Architecture, *passim*.

⁴⁹⁸ M. BIETAK, TD V, 27.

⁴⁹⁹ This information was extracted from the description of the section.



Fig. 5.10 A/II-m/10, pl. 6, colour slide TD917, the two ovens [G/3-M19] and [G/3-M20] enclosed by sand brick installations

just abutted and were thus added at a later stage. Close to the southern end of [G/3-M18] were two round oven installations (see Fig. 5.10) that seem to conform to the usual hearths/cooking installations that are sometimes found in the settlement, e.g. in square A/II-o/15 (volume 2, in prep). The description and photographic material suggest that these ovens or hearths [G/3-M19] and [G/3-M20] consisted of the base of a large ceramic vessel, around which a line of sand tempered bricks were laid out as headers. Some ashy deposits were found around these installations. The photo (Fig. 5.10) also suggests a few more rounded structures to the south of installations [M19] and [M20], but no further information on them comes forward. Whilst these structures were laid out in the area of the later entrance corridor to Compound 11, they must have belonged to a completely different lay out because there is not enough space for the hearths and an entrance corridor.⁵⁰⁰ As no finds were reported from this area it remains again difficult to add these archaeological layers in a meaningful way to the surrounding structures, even more so because neither to the west nor to the east did the excavation proceed far enough down

to provide more evidence for or against the current reconstruction. These structures suggest a more divided and specialised plan than in the later Phase G/2–1.

Similarly, nothing can be said about the sequence of walls in the eastern section of A/II-m/10 (A74) and the western section of A/II-m/11 (A55) because they were not recorded down to the elevation necessary to gain clues about base levels and the relationships of the walls to each other.

Towards the west, in square A/II-m/10, half of an irregular structure constituted by a half a brick's width wall [G/3-M21–22] was unearthed. It was not very well preserved because immediately below it – at an elevation of the preserved top of 4.16 m/NN – was another rounded silo [G/4-M16]. The difference between the preserved top at 4.16 m/NN of the structure below and the preserved top of the irregular structure at 4.40–45 m/NN affords it 0.29 m at the most, which would probably equal two or three brick courses at the most. At the northern limit of this structure the base of a ceramic vessel was drawn into the plan. It was not possible to identify this vessel but it is very likely that it contained the animal bones described by

⁵⁰⁰ Cf. M. BIETAK, TD V, plan 2.

J. BOESSNECK because only in planum 6 a vessel with the description “situated immediately south of [the later] tomb 8” was found. The bones were identified as being derived from cattle, namely “parts of a pelvis with the acetabulum interstice open”.⁵⁰¹

Two more rounded silos probably belong to Phase G/3, because their base level and that of the preserved tops of the walls corresponds quite well to the irregular structure mentioned above (base around 4.20 m/NN, tops of walls around 4.45 m/NN). The ground plan of silo [G/3-M23] is completely preserved and was built as usual by headers laid out at half a brick’s width. The diameter is ca 1.70 m (equals ca 3.2 Egyptian cubits). Of silo [G/3-M26] just a short distance to the south east too little was preserved to measure a reliable diameter.

Finally, in the south western part of the square the corner of a structure is preserved constituted by [G/3-

M24] and [G/3-M25]. Again this is a very flimsy structure built of headers at half a brick’s width and it is possible that this structure was either used as a limitation wall or that it served as some sort of rectangular silo comparable to that of Phase G/2–1 adjacent to the eastern wall of Compound 11 (L [111]).

In the far east, in squares A/II-l/13–14 the smallish rectangular structure already mentioned in the transitional Phase H–G/4 (Fig. 5.4, 5.9) may have still existed in Phase G/3 because it seems to have a physical connection to the older phase of Compound 1 further east (see vol. 2, in preparation), which only consisted of the core building, the earlier northern precinct walls and the short, slightly curled enclosure wall on the eastern side (see chapter 9, Fig. 9.6, 287). It is very denuded and consists of a few stretches of walls [G/3-M30] to [G/3-M32].

⁵⁰¹ J. BOESSNECK, TD III, 12, „Aus einem Vorratsgefäß südlich von Grab 8, Stratum G“.