

ITALIAN EXCAVATIONS AT JARASH 2002–2009: THE AREA OF THE EAST PROPYLAEUM OF THE SANCTUARY OF ARTEMIS AND THE ‘PROPYLAEA CHURCH’ COMPLEX¹

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Introduction

The first systematic investigations in the area of the eastern *propylaeum* were directed by George Horsfield on behalf of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem from 1925, and then from 1928 while Chief British Officer of the Department of Antiquities for Transjordan. Horsfield cleared the main colonnaded street of debris to facilitate visitor access to the ancient city. In the *atrium* of the church he found a Byzantine mosaic with an inscription mentioning the *diaconia* in the circular room on the northern side (Crowfoot 1938: 227).²

In 1928, during the first joint archaeological expedition of the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem and Yale University under the direction of J.W. Crowfoot, the mosaic was again uncovered and the northern half of the square excavated. New trial trenches were dug in the symmetrical southern room of the square and in the eastern half of the church.

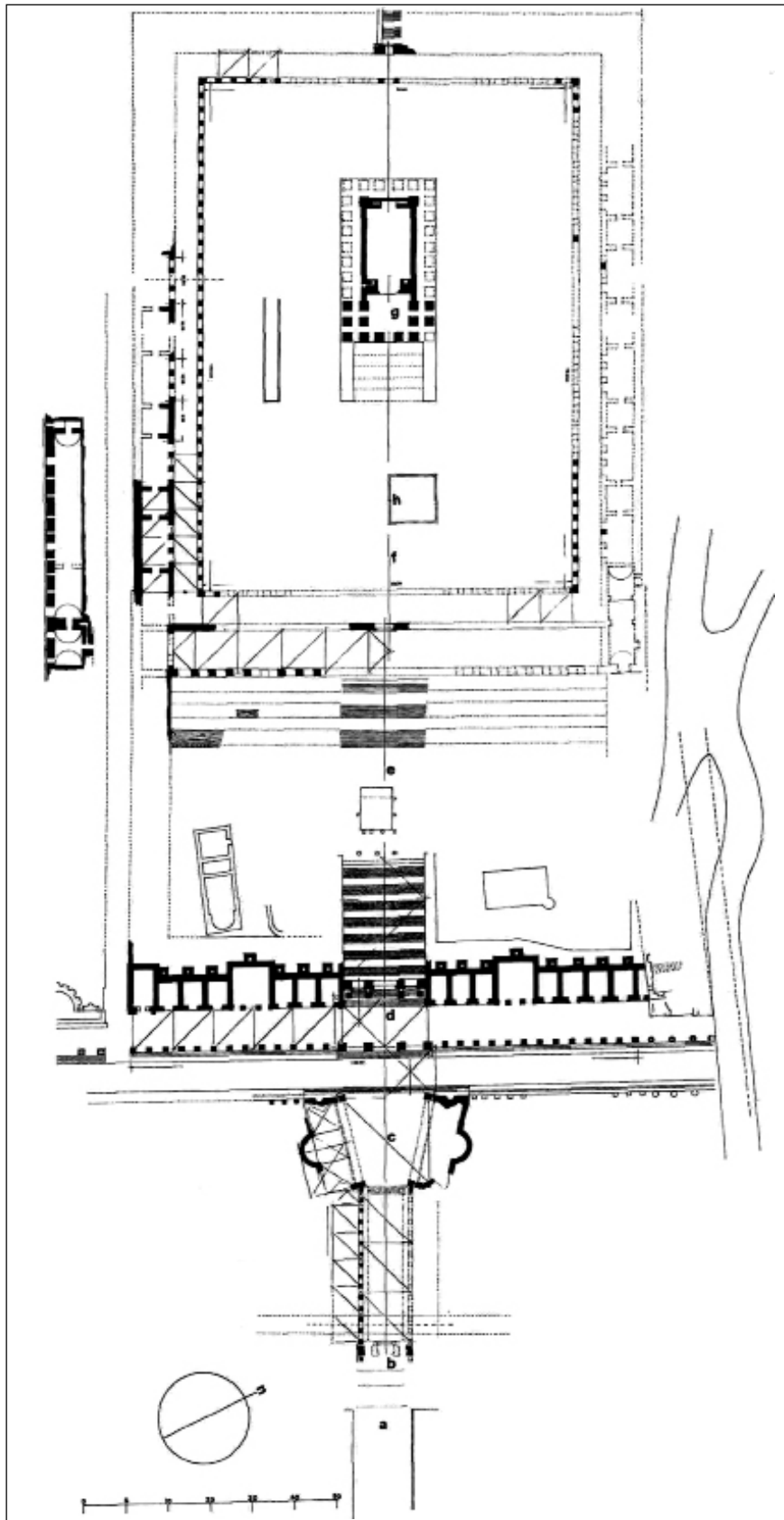
In 1934³, Stinespring completed the excava-

tion and survey of the church complex, called at that time the ‘Propylaea Church’ (Crowfoot 1935). Excavations were restricted to the *presbiterium* and to the clearance in the western sector of the church. Renewed excavations have been conducted at Jarash since 1977 by the Italian Expedition, specifically in the sanctuary of Artemis (Parapetti 1980: 1983-1984) and in the eastern area of the sanctuary in 1994 and again from 1999 until 2009 (Fig. 1).⁴

Despite the difficulty in understanding the sequence in an area where previous investigations and robber activity had already cleared a lot of stratigraphic evidence, the surviving contexts and structural relationships nevertheless allowed the identification of the main building and occupation phases. A brief report of the archaeological sequence is presented here, although more detailed contextual analyses will be documented in a final publication. Chronological indications are preliminary since the study of pottery and other finds is still in progress.

1. Six expeditions have been undertaken by the Centro Ricerche Archeologiche e Scavi di Torino under the direction of the architect R. Parpetti until 2008 and one by the association ‘Monumenta Orientalia’ in 2009. Team members for the archaeological campaigns were: the archaeologists M. Brizzi, (2002, 2003, 2005, 2008), M. Mastrogiacono (2002), D. Sepio (2002, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009), D. Baldoni (2003, 2005, 2007, 2008, 2009), L. Loots (2005); the conservators G. Bertolotto (2002, 2003) and W. Basilissi (2008, 2009); the pottery draftsman R. Cestari (2008, 2009). We also thank for their friendship and cooperation all the staff of the Antiquity Office in Jarash, in particular A. Mjelli for his assistance in the field.
2. The work of G. Horsfield at Jarash is briefly reported in the *Government of Transjordan Antiquities Bulletin*, no. 1 (1926) and following.
3. From 1930 to 1934 the excavations were managed by the joint expedition of Yale University and the Ameri-

- can School of Oriental Research under the direction of B.W. Bacon and M. Rostovtzeff. John W. Crowfoot, who was in charge of the study of the churches at the site, was not in the field in this phase of the project.
4. Excavation of the south-eastern side of the square happened in 1994. From 1999 until 2000, excavation of the southern building of the square took place. From 2002 until 2003 excavation of the south-western corner of the church and of the southern chapel was undertaken. From 2005 to 2007 clearing of the northern half of the square and completion of the nave and southern aisle of the church was undertaken. In 2008 excavations focused on the northern aisle and area east of the apse. In 2009, excavation of the northern aisle and the dismantling, consolidation, and restoration of the north-eastern pillar of the trapezoidal square were completed. The campaigns 1999-2000 were reported in Brizzi *et al.* 2001.



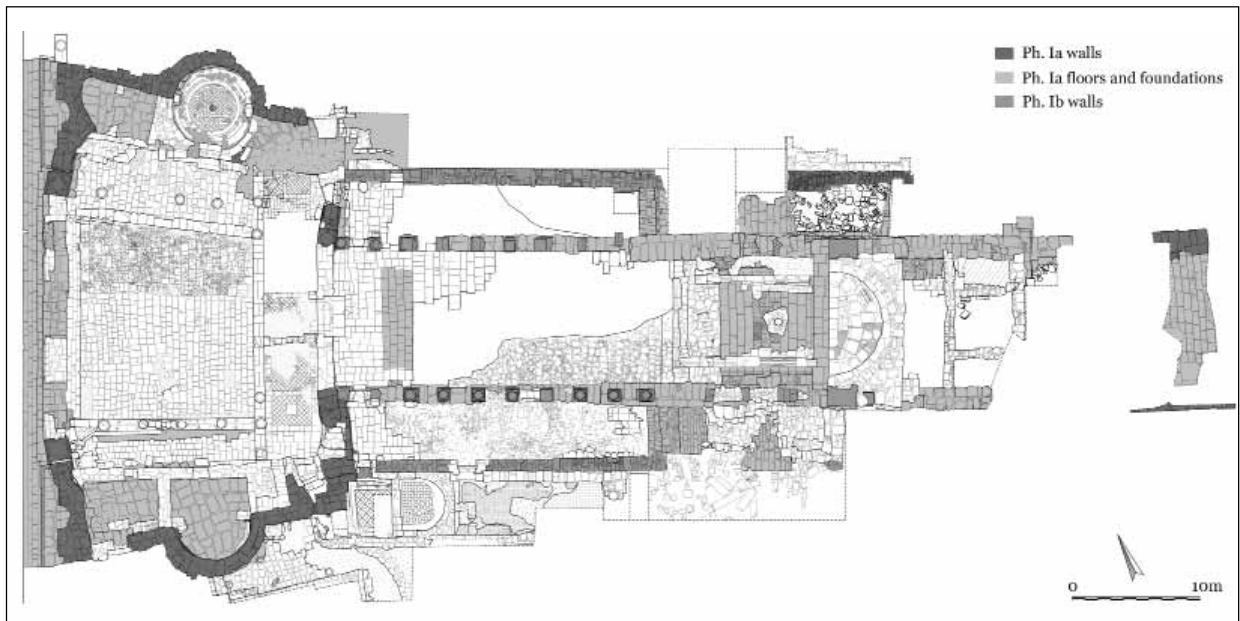
1. Jarash – the sanctuary of Artemis.

Phase 1a: the Construction of the Bridge on the *Chrysorhoas* and the Approach to the Sanctuary of Artemis, mid Second Century AD (M. Brizzi and D. Sepio) (Fig. 2)

No structures or contexts dated earlier than the construction of the *propylaea* of the sanctuary have been found in the area investigated.⁵ The urban redevelopment of this sector began with the construction of the bridge and the terracing of the natural slope, using a combination of walls made of regular stone ashlar masonry, vaulting and a massive platform of stone blocks east of the colonnaded street. The western end of the bridge, was however, is still *in situ*. Two parallel walls of limestone blocks bound with mortar define a roadway about 10m wide and 25m long, which climbs the steep slope of the Wādī Jarash.⁶ A paving of thick limestone slabs, placed at right angles to the walls, is also partially pre-

served.⁷ The paving rises sharply to the west and seals the extensive earth and stone fill of the bridge that is visible along the eastern edge.

The parallel walls of the bridge abut a terrace wall halfway up the slope, oriented north-south and made of limestone blocks. This structure cuts the side of the bridge, but originally would have extended northward and southward creating a second terrace suitable for further building east of the colonnaded street.⁸ On the western end of the roadway, a mortar bedding layer is the only evidence of a staircase that originally linked the paving and the upper gateway.⁹ Beyond the terrace wall, two new parallel walls, identical to the eastern ones, continue the structure of the bridge westward for about 19m ending with the western-most arch of vaulting. A tunnel with a barrel vault, 4.2m wide is completely preserved.¹⁰ The vaulted tunnel has the



2. Jarash – the area of East Propylaeum of the Sanctuary of Artemis.

5. A few stone blocks and part of a terracotta water pipe, found on the bottom of a small trench in the atrium next to the main entrance of the church, are the only evidence of occupation of the area before the construction of the propylaea.
6. Before the construction of the present-day Amman-Irbid road (1950s), which passes beneath, the remains of the eastern pillar and the western shoulder of one of the arches of the bridge were also recognisable (see Pl. 24, photograph by Bonfils, in Kraeling 1938).
7. Some fire pits have been recognized in this area, probably from the September 1970 conflict.
8. The first terracing wall was unearthed in the eastern end

of an excavation by the Dept. Antiquities of Jordan in 2001, south of the 'Propylaea Church', in front of the monumental *Nymphaeum*.

9. More investigations are necessary before ascribing this staircase to the building phase of the bridge or to the subsequent phases of construction of the eastern gateway. It is also necessary to verify the presence, before the construction of the church, of any alternative passage beside the stairway to the lower perpendicular road.
10. The southern bridge is similarly constructed (see Parpetti 1983-1984: pl. VI).

double function of terracing the slope and keeping open a route situated at right angles to the direction of the route to the sanctuary. The vault is built of well-dressed ashlar of limestone. Its height however, is still unknown¹¹ as is the original structure that connects the two storeys together. The parallel walls continue to the west of the tunnel for approximately 20m before reaching an outcrop of bedrock, uncovered in the southern gallery of the portico. The connection between the bridge and the road was uncertain before the construction of the monumental *propylaeum* (phase 1c). The paving of the roadway running between the walls is preserved in a later phase, contemporary to the construction of porticoes along the street.

The two buildings that delimit the edges of the trapezoidal square were constructed during the same phase as the bridge and the west *propylaeum* of the sanctuary (Welles 1938: 404, n. 60 and 63). The plans of the buildings are nearly symmetrical.¹² They have two separate foundations comprising platforms of rough limestone blocks on regular courses, bound with sandy mortar mixed with ash, bed and rising joints are dressed only on the external and superior blocks.¹³ The plan of the platforms is trapezoidal with a semicircular rear extension in the middle, forming a massive broad basement. Five courses of blocks forming the southern platform have been uncovered except for the lowest course, which was probably assembled on the bedrock.

The buildings are constructed onto a central *exedra* with two asymmetrical wings, the western one of which includes a deep niche. Both the wings end in two *antae* connected by entablature spurs with projecting columns. The two buildings are set in the shape of a fan and correspond

to the width of the west *propylaeum* on the opposite side of the colonnaded street. Preserved elements of the architectural orders of the buildings help to reconstruct the original elevation, heavily transformed in the Byzantine period. The level of the square was 1.2m higher than the Byzantine *atrium* floor, at the same height as the *ambulacrum* of the west *propylaeum*. The square was accessible from the east and the west via two stairways.¹⁴ Between the pedestals of the *antae*, two *pulpita*, 1.4m higher than the square paving, occupied symmetrically the northern and southern sides of the square. These were completed at the back by the two monumental façades where three different Corinthian orders framed the central *exedra*, the western niche and windows (Parapetti 1982; Brizzi *et al.* 2001).¹⁵ The buildings are an early example, in a unique double version, of monumental façades designed to display honorary statues, often explicitly dedicated to the imperial cult and widely known throughout *Provincia Arabia*.¹⁶ Here the celebratory function of the monuments matches well with the commission from the provincial governor. The western facades of the buildings on the colonnaded street interrupt its eastern portico with two monumental fountains decorated with niches framed by spirally fluted columns, inscribed architraves and arcuated pediments.¹⁷

The double inscription mentioning Lucius Attidius Cornelianus, governor of *Provincia Arabia* in 150AD, provides a precise dating of the construction of the trapezoidal square (Welles 1938: n. 63). The contemporaneity with the construction of the bridge, clearly evident from the plans, does not have at the moment the support of finds from stratigraphic investigations and the study of other contemporary con-

11. Some post-Umayyad packed-earth floors have been reached in the tunnel 5.50m beneath the level of the colonnaded road.
 12. The most evident difference is the length of the buildings on the colonnaded street.
 13. Blocks with decorative bossed faces are partially visible on the southern external side of the southern platform, in this phase.
 14. A five stepped stairway is still preserved on the colonnaded street; on the eastern side the only evidence is the contact mark on the external walls.
 15. The reconstructions proposed in Crowfoot 1938: pl. 35, and Parapetti 1983-1984: pl. 4, must be rethought.
 16. These monuments are often assimilated into the typology of the Arabic *kalybé* (Ball 2000: 292-294; Segal

2001) but Butcher and Clauss-Balty are right to distinguish the three *kalybai* known in southern Syria from the variety of monumental façades even if built with a religious purpose (Butcher 2003: 360-361; Clauss-Balty 2008: 267-268 and 273-274). The traces of an enclosure between the western *antae* of the square, together with the presence of doors in the east *propylaeum*, give evidence of the function of this area as a day-time public area rather than a cardinal axis of the urban viability.
 17. The architectural reconstruction of the façade by R. Parapetti is unpublished. In addition to the location of the two inscriptions above the niches mentioning the *κρηναί*, two later (Byzantine?) basins beside the western façades indicate the protraction of a water supply near this monument.

texts is still in progress.¹⁸

Phase 1b: Completion of the Road Between the Bridge and the Trapezoidal Square, Second Half of The second Century AD (Fig. 2)

Portico colonnades were built along the first stretch of road after the bridge. Two walls, about 4m from the structures were added to the north and south of the road, effectively delimiting it.¹⁹ The walls run eastwards for 23m from the eastern part of the buildings belonging to the trapezoidal square. They are built in limestone ashlar of various sizes, positioned in regular courses. Re-employed blocks were observed in the foundation of the southern wall. East of these, the basement of the *ambulacra* is built of three vaults. The western vault of the bridge was extended northward and southward, then two parallel vaulted rooms were built between these and the L-shaped walls; finally, east of the tunnel, there is evidence of one of the probable two perpendicular vaulted rooms, as wide as the *ambulacra*.²⁰

Part of the original paving of the road, constructed in regular limestone slabs, is preserved on the *extrados* of the tunnel vault. In this area, a U-shaped small channel, carved into the limestone slabs, provides evidence of a drainage system along the southern, eastern and northern edges of the road, advancing the hypothesis for the presence of a roofed portico colonnade along these sides.

This arrangement was modified with the construction of the east *propylaeum*. An important work of restoration recognized in the north-eastern corner of the northern *ambulacrum* is datable to the beginning of the third century AD.²¹ This is a *terminus ante quem* for the construc-

tion of the porticoes that should have followed soon after the previous phase.²²

Phase 1c: Construction of the East Propylaeum, First Half of the third Century AD (Fig. 2)

The foundation of the east *propylaeum* cut the walls that delimit the roadway of the bridge, 15m west of the terracing wall described above at the top of the entrance stairway, demolishing the previous edifice. The two external pillars of the *propylaeum* are partially preserved and, between them, three lower thresholds for the opening of double doors are partially visible. This evidence and numerous elements of the original architectural decoration, reused in the Byzantine church, allow a preliminary reconstruction of the *propylaeum* as a triple triumphal arch.

The two lateral openings 2.90m high and about 0.90m wide have continuous fasciated frames and a rectangular niche or window above. Nine *voussoirs*, reused for levelling the apse of the church, probably belonged to the central portal. In this case, the central opening was arched with a span of about 4m. A pedestal, still *in situ* in the eastern side, indicates the presence of four projecting columns.²³ A similar solution could have decorated the western face of the *propylaeum* or, more likely, the external pillars were directly connected with the two colonnades rising slightly westward and delimiting the new porticoes of the road.²⁴

The pedestals of the two rows of columns, identical to the ones of the *propylaeum*, are set into cuts in the walls that delimited the pre-existing road. The columns take a standard form used for all colonnades; plain shafts in limestone, attic bases with plinths, and Corinthian capitals.²⁵

18. The filling between the two foundation platforms of the trapezoidal square was investigated in a small trench in 1994.

19. There is a dimensional relationship of 1:2.5 between the width of the porticoes and that of the road.

20. Whether direct communication existed between the bridge, and the north-south road passing in the tunnel through these vaulted rooms, must be verified in future excavations.

21. Dating comes from pottery found in the fill of the cut made for restoring the wall (see Fig. 10). The highest courses of the foundation have blocks of different dimensions from other parts of the structure.

22. This phase could be considered the second stage of works concluding a single project. It is difficult to determine if the colonnades reused in the Byzantine church belong to this phase or, more likely, to the fol-

lowing renovation with the construction of the east *propylaeum*.

23. R. Parapetti is studying the architectural reconstruction of the *propylaeum*. Elements of a broken pediment could also have belonged to this façade.

24. In the Byzantine era the construction of the *presbiterium* of the church transformed this area, removing the original columns. A segment of architrave preserved *in situ* in the eastern face of the southern pillar of the *propylaeum* could have originally belonged to a projecting column as well as to an uninterrupted colonnade. The position of the architrave was brought down to adapt this element to the height of different granite columns erected here.

25. The height of the column, from pedestal to capital, is 6.40m; the shaft is 4.84m high.

Standardization is also evident in the architrave elements, roughly adapted to the leaning colonnade.²⁶ Only the outer faces of the architraves are decorated apart from two terminal elements on the end face, which were found in the superficial debris of the western end of the church.²⁷

The construction of the colonnades are best associated with the restoration works mentioned above and can be dated from accompanying finds to the beginning of the third century AD.²⁸ The homogeneity of the architectural elements of the colonnades, with the order decorating the *propylaeum*, suggests that the whole area was renovated at the same time by an unknown commission. This chronology indicated by the stratigraphic contexts does not diverge from the comparative analysis of the architectural decoration. In particular, the capitals of the colonnades, carved with a low *kalathos* and the inferior row of adjacent leaves, can be considered a production of late Severan age.²⁹

Phase 2A: The Construction of the ‘Church of the Propylaea’, mid Sixth Century AD (Fig. 4)

In the Byzantine age the area was completely transformed with the construction of a religious complex consisting of a church, erected in the place of the *propylaeum*, a colonnaded roadway, and various buildings assembled around an *atrium* where the trapezoidal square had previously stood.

This transformation can be explained by a change in the religious and public function of the area during the Middle and Late Imperial phases. The end of the pagan cult in the sanctuary, and accompanying political changes in the administration of the city made property transferral easier, thus enabling an unknown religious authority to establish a complex in this important precinct.³⁰

The colonnaded roadway shows the original division in the construction of the church, including roofing of the central area. This created a central nave, 38.50 x 10.80m, with a semicircular apse, 8.15m wide at its eastern end with two aisles, which became the porticoes. The southern portico measured 38.30 x 4.50m while the northern portico measured 38.55 x 4.30m. The front of the church was constructed by cutting through the eastern corners of the two imperial buildings, assembling a wall in irregular ashlar masonry between the eastern *antae* of the trapezoidal square, incorporating the projecting columns in the masonry and removing the staircase for the entrance to the square. Two columns with bases and pedestals were moved closer to the unearthed foundations of the buildings as terminations to the western end of the colonnades of the nave. The façade includes a central portal, 2.77m wide, with an external fasciated frame; two minor doors were cut in the Antonine masonry, connecting each aisle with the front portico.

Only the external pillars of the east *propylaeum* were not dismantled. Between them a semicircular apse was built, reusing several elements from the masonry of the gateway and extending out east of the pillars for 3.50m. The external walls of the porticoes were restored or completely rebuilt, becoming the perimetric walls of the church. Most of the road paving was removed and the limestone slabs were reused for the pavement of the church, together with other reused blocks. The pavement, preserved only in the western part, inclines slightly. The slope of the pavement is partially offset by the raised area of the *presbiterium*, 0.40m above the level of the nave in its eastern end.³¹ The platform for the *presbiterium* is a rectangular structure, about 12.20 x 7m,³² in which reused elements were aligned in order to contain a filling of earth and

26. Despite the transformations that occurred in the Byzantine period, the position of five architraves in the southern portico is probably pertinent to the original colonnade.

27. The position of the last western pedestals, abutting the foundations of the buildings, is the result of the adaptation of the colonnade for the construction of the church in the Byzantine period (see also Fisher 1938: 128).

28. See Fig. 10.

29. See the decoration of the *scaena* in the second phase

of the north theatre in Jarash, dated to Severus Alexander’s reign after an inscription (Clark *et al.* 1986: 227). See also Freyberger 1988.

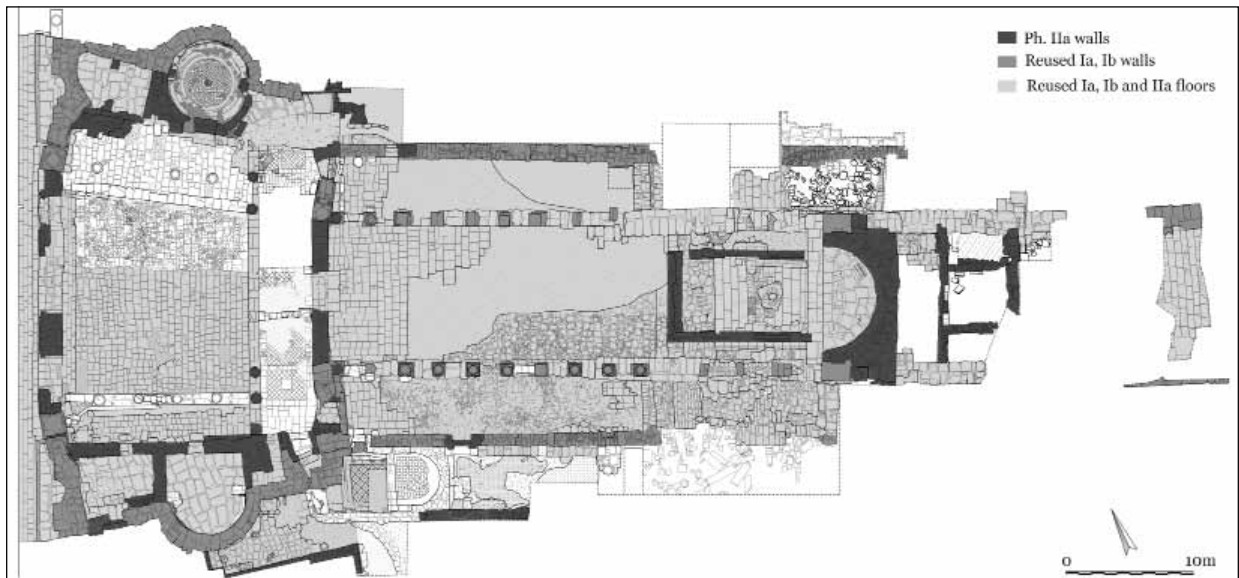
30. For property transfers between imperial administrations and religious authorities in eastern dioceses see Saliou 1994 and Saliou 1996.

31. The area of the *presbiterium* was dug in the 1930s removing the original floor and the filling.

32. The length of the *presbiterium* is obtained by doubling the circumference of the apse. At the intersection of the two circles are the *loculus* and probably the altar.



3. Jarash – the ‘Propylaea Church’ complex – the mosaic floor of the diakonia, from the south.



4. Jarash – the ‘Propylaea Church’ complex – Phase 2a.

stones.³³ This structure abuts onto the higher and wider podium in the apse and its western half is cut for assembling the small pillars and the screens of the *cancellum*.³⁴ A passage 2m wide is left between the *cancellum* and each colonnade. Two entrances to the *presbiterium* have

been recognized: one in the western side, on the central axis of the nave, and the other one in the southern side. In the *presbiterium*, 3.90m from the apse, positioned on the Roman paving and buried in the filling, a limestone basin 0.50m in diameter was placed surrounded by four dressed

33. An architrave from the Artemis *cella* can be recognized here together with seven pedestals belonging to the columns removed from the eastern ends of the colonnades.

34. No traces of the *synthronon* observed by Crowfoot

are preserved (Crowfoot 1931: 15); Duval supposes a wooden *synthronon* on the *voussoirs* set in the apse and on the rectilinear sides of the *presbiterium* behind the *cancellum* (Duval 2003: 94-95).

stones displayed to form a cross at the level of the higher floor (Crowfoot 1938: 231; Michel 2001: 266).³⁵ In correspondence with the *presbiterium*, the original columns were removed and substituted with at least two pairs of red granite monolithic shafts, without pedestals.³⁶

The area east of the church was occupied by two rows of rooms. A long rectangular hall linked to a small room to the north where *access* to three lower rooms was found.³⁷

West of the entrance, the area of the trapezoidal square was transformed into the *atrium* of the church, which formed an irregular trapezoidal court, 14.65m deep and 25.90m wide. The paving of the *atrium* was lowered by about 1.20m to the same level as the western threshold of the church. A paved floor made of small rectangular blocks was aligned along the perimeter of the court (probably the bedding platform for better dressed slabs). This is the only evidence of the court having been paved in this phase.³⁸ The two *pulpita* were also dismantled, removing about four rows of blocks and leaving the rear walls standing on the exposed and cut foun-

dations.³⁹ The ashlar from the dismantling of the platforms were used for the construction of two edifices north and south of the court. A wall was also erected between the western *antae* of the buildings. Three doors afforded the access from the colonnaded street and three steps were added onto the whole western side to reach the level of the threshold.

The façade of the church had a portico, 23m long by 4m wide, occupying the full eastern side of the *atrium* and constructed reusing eight columns situated between two half columns cut in the masonry of the two new edifices (Crowfoot 1938: 238).⁴⁰ There is evidence of a mosaic pavement in the northern part of the portico (Fig. 5), probably belonging to this phase. The southern end of the portico opens onto a narrow passageway cut in the Antonine masonry and closed by a door. The passage leads into a small adjoining room, which to its east joins with a long hall, 4m wide, paved by a mosaic with a simple geometric pattern (Fig. 6). This hall communicates with the southern aisle of the church through a door.



5. Jarash – the ‘Propylaea Church’ complex – the mosaic floor in the eastern portico of the atrium.

35. According to Michel the basin was a *loculus* for relics and indicates the position of the altar. This structure, now lacking the upper stones, was roughly restored with cement before 1977.

36. Fragments of the shafts were found collapsed to the south and north of the *presbiterium*, but they were not removed from there.

37. East of these rooms the excavation is still in progress and it is not yet possible to verify the presence of further buildings and of an access to this part of the bridge. Work in progress also delays the analysis of the lower area, the apparent uninterrupted use of the road passing in the tunnel under the *presbiterium*, or

the attribution of this area to the church complex during any phase of its existence.

38. Part of the pavement is still preserved in the southern portico. The stone slabs preserved in the northern half of the *atrium* in a later paving are likely reused from this earlier one.

39. The presence in the debris, collapsed after the earthquake of 749AD, of several elements of the architectural decoration of the Antonine buildings, testifies to the widely practised reuse of extant Roman walls in new building works the Byzantine period.

40. Only four columns were *in situ* in 1994.



6. Jarash – the ‘Propylaea Church’ complex – the mosaic floor of the southern hall.

The northern end of the portico is badly preserved. A probable reason for this is that it connected with a room, only partially excavated at present, that has a water pipe coming from its north end and which may have caused general dampness in the vicinity of the church aisle⁴¹. The northern edifice is oriented like the Antonine building with the central *exedra* transformed into a circular chamber, 6.30m in diameter, with a single door opening onto the *atrium*. The two pillars, built in correspondence with the joint between the earlier and the later masonry, probably shored up an arch as a connection between the two half-domes. The chamber was paved with a well-known mosaic (Crowfoot 1938: 228-29),⁴² which mentions the function of the building and

the precise date of construction (Welles 1938: n. 331).⁴³ The mosaic is orientated eastwards as is the whole complex (see Fig. 3).

In the north-western corner, another direct access connects the *atrium* with a second room constructed in place of the Roman niche and partially keeping its irregular plan. The room is divided by two pillars abutting onto the middle of the northern and southern walls. A semi-circular landing reusing a large Roman ashlar was constructed outside of the door.⁴⁴

On the southern side of the *atrium*, parallel to the central axis of the complex, was a double-faced wall in irregular ashlar masonry delimiting two separate rooms. Before the Antonine *exedra*, a rectangular room was created, preserving the curved profile of the rear wall in the foundation courses, creating an apse.⁴⁵ The room was originally paved with a mosaic, as documented by small remnants, and the only door is west of the central axis. West of this room, a smaller trapezoidal room was created by cutting into the profile of the western Antonine wall. Here a second door was built in the southern wall, connecting the edifice with an area not yet investigated.⁴⁶ Part of a smaller semicircular landing situated in front of the door to the *atrium* is still *in situ*. East of the central room, a double flight of stairs was constructed from Roman platform ashlars, evidence of the presence in this phase of an upper floor in the southern edifice.

Archaeological investigations in the Artemis *cella* indicate that at the beginning of fifth century AD the temple was partially spoiled and then reused for a different function.⁴⁷ The date mentioned in the inscription of the *diakonia* (May 565AD) is the *terminus ante quem* for the dating of the construction of the *atrium* and of the church complex.⁴⁸ Finds from contexts in the

41. After the comparison with the church of St Theodore in Gerasa, these structures could have belonged to a baptismal font.

42. The mosaic was uncovered and consolidated in the 2005 expedition.

43. A summary of the discussion about the interpretation of the expression ‘*diakonia*’ in Michel 2001: 267, n. 924.

44. The flight of stairs starting from this landing probably belongs to the following phase, with a second flight southwards occupying the area east of the western wall, where there is evidence of a spoliation.

45. The room is circumscribed in the circumference of the Roman apse, but the different orientation of the new building makes an asymmetry between the eastern

and western walls.

46. The door reuses an architrave of the same type of a batch reused in a portico in the following phase, advancing the possibility of a later date for this entrance.

47. The excavation was completed in 1995, the processing of the finds is still in progress by M. Brizzi.

48. In contrast with Crowfoot 1938, 486 and Michel 2001, 267, the expression συνέσιη ἡ διακονία could refer to an interior setting other than the construction of the building itself. In this case the mosaic could belong to a later renovation phase documented by the construction of the northern portico, antedating the construction of the church complex (see phase 2b).

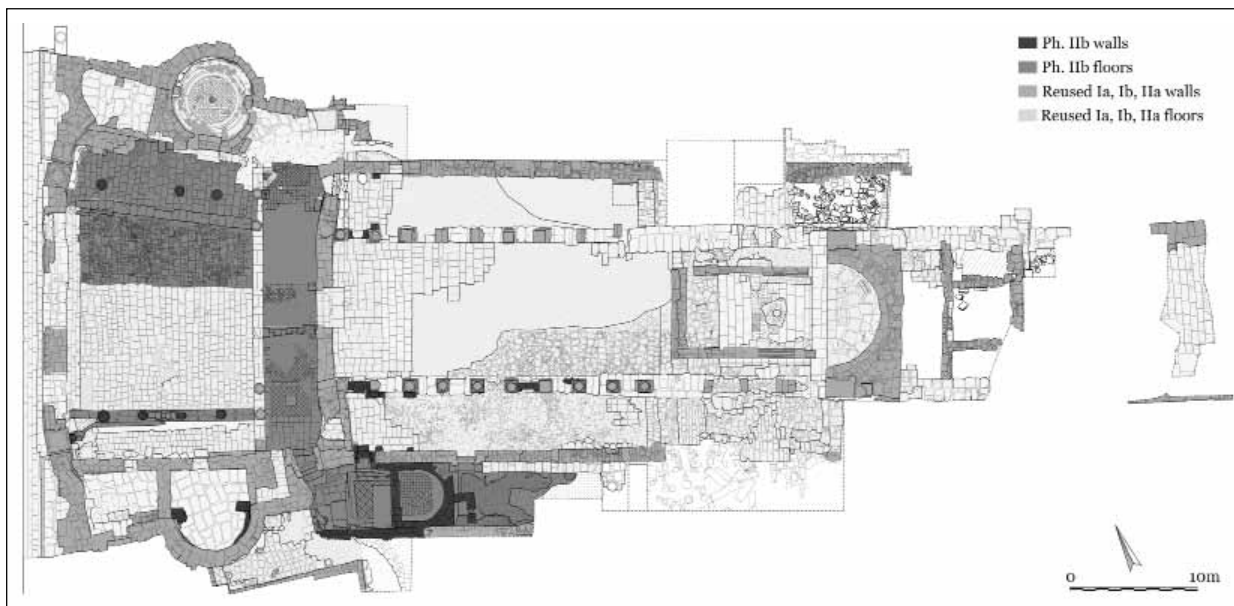
south-western room of the *atrium* and from the hall south of the church indicate a chronological range within the sixth century; a more precise dating will be possible after the complete processing of the finds.⁴⁹

Phase 2B: Second Half of the Sixth to First Half of the Seventh Century AD (Fig. 7)

Several renovations and changes in the original complex were identified in the period from the construction of the church until its desecration. These activities do not modify the original function of the complex. They are grouped together although they are not the result of a single planning but rather, should be considered as a series of works carried out over a century; evidence of the liveliness of the religious community here.

In the *atrium* two new porticoes were added in the northern and southern sides, probably not contemporaneously, obtaining more than 240 roofed square meters and reducing the area of the court to 205 square meters. The northern

portico is 6m wide, parallel to the front of the northern building. The paving of the gallery is about 30cm higher than the court, assembled by a platform of one course of irregular ashlar, where a pavement in thinner slabs, completely lost today, was probably originally set; the ash-lars of the platform are cut around the bases of the lower eastern portico columns. The entrance to the circular chamber was also rearranged with two steps. The southern limit of the platform was built in regular and larger blocks: this is the probable *stylobate* for four columns, aligned with the second column of the eastern portico.⁵⁰ A flight of stairs was built from the north-eastern landing, giving evidence of an upper floor in the northern edifice in this phase. The creation of this 75-square meter shelter in front of the circular chamber is a significant work linked to the function of the *diakonia* mentioned in the inscription.⁵¹ The charitable activities involved in this office were doubtless crucial for the whole complex and thus, gives a reason for these investments.



7. Jarash – the ‘Propylaea Church’ complex – Phase 2b.

49. The supposition of a relationship between the earthquake of AD 551 and the hypothetical interruption of the bridge with the construction of the church, advanced by Crowfoot 1938: 233, is neither denied nor confirmed, even if the distinctive use of the area in Roman times was not that of a transit way, and other passageways could have existed between the bridge and the lower terrace. Baylis 1999 advances that the

bridge was still in use after the construction of the church, but there is no evidence of any direct passageway between the church and the bridge for religious processions as the author argues.

50. All the bases found in this area were undoubtedly not *in situ*, they are all reused from different orders.

51. See n. 45, for the possible location of the mosaic in the early 2b phase.

In front of the southern edifice a portico was also constructed.⁵² It is about 3m wide, aligned with the first southern column of the eastern portico and reusing as a *stylobate* eight pairs of architraves belonging to two original orders. The earlier paving is cut for the setting of the *stylobate*; the new paving of the portico is completely lost but it was probably higher than the court and covered the *stylobate* itself. Four reused bases and one plain drum are still *in situ*. In the central southern room there were significant changes to the internal arrangement. The room is divided by two pillars constructed like two *antae* in the middle of the eastern and western walls, masking the asymmetry of this room. The western pillar still preserves the first of a set of limestone *vousoirs* found collapsed in the debris; the *vousoirs* made up an arch 4.30m high and had a simple linear decoration. The northern half of the room was covered in a white plaster with geometric and vegetal decoration. Painted Greek inscriptions mentioning supplications to God were found on collapsed fragments probably belonging to eastern wall (Del Corso and Mastrogiacomo 2007: n. 1, 2, 7). In the southern half of the room there is evidence of the removal of the mosaic and of a different plastering using a kind of hydraulic *opus signinum*. The stratigraphic analysis of the debris from the upper storey in both rooms of the southern edifice allowed for the identification of other fragments of plaster with Greek painted inscriptions (Del Corso and Mastrogiacomo 2007: n. 8, 9, 10 from south-western room and n. 11 from central room). The upper storey of the central room may have had the same plan as the ground floor and was enhanced by a structure that reused at least two monolithic plain shaft columns, 2.75m high, with a Corinthian capital. There is no other liturgical furniture in this edifice that could give a more precise idea of function. The presence of votive inscriptions painted in one or more rooms according to a coherent decorative programme

has a parallel in *Gerasa* in the Church of St. Cosma and Damian and could be identified with the documented Byzantine practice of the commemoration of supporters through votive inscriptions (Del Corso and Mastrogiacomo 2007: 204).

Subsequent to the construction of the portico, a terracotta water pipe was inserted into a ditch running alongside the *stylobate*. The pipe was made using *tubuli* 40cm long, preserved by the western wall of the *atrium*.⁵³ A column drum was reused as a spout holder to the central columns, where an L-shaped pipe element and a cut in the *stylobate* suggest the presence of a second terminal fountain.⁵⁴

The construction of the porticoes involved the renovation of the paving of the *atrium*. The northern part is paved by limestone slabs arranged in north-south rows, 0.40 to 0.80m wide. The other part of the court is paved with thicker slabs in a more random arrangement. Both pavings are later than the porticoes but only further investigation will clarify the sequence.

In the eastern portico the mosaic pavement was substituted with square red and white limestone tiles in a diagonal chess-board pattern framed by wider panels (Fig. 5). A coin found in the bedding layer of the pavement, a 12 *nummia* of *Phocas*⁵⁵, struck by the mint of Alexandria between 602AD and 610AD, gives a precise *terminus post quem* for this reconstruction. Only the western area of the church was stratigraphically preserved and provides evidence of activities that took place subsequent to the construction of the complex.

In both aisles, the space between the first two western columns and their stone thresholds was closed by walls 0.65 and 0.75m wide with L-shaped doorposts. The lower parts of three pairs of pillars, built directly on the pavement of the aisles, are preserved by the side of the second western column in the northern aisle and of the second and third columns of the southern one.⁵⁶ For the erection of the pillars, the masonry of

52. A more detailed description of the southern edifice in this phase can be found in Brizzi et al. 2001 and in Del Corso and Mastrogiacomo 2007.

53. The pipe was probably supplied by the same aqueduct used for the Roman fountains on the colonnaded street and was still working in the post-Roman period as documented by basins built in close proximity.

54. A semicircular monolithic *malakia* limestone basin, found in the *atrium* in the 1920s, identical to the one

still *in situ* in the 'Cathedral' courtyard, could have belonged to this fountain and both could have been robbed from the niches of the fountains of *Attidius Cornelianus*.

55. Diademed bust of *Phocas* right, wearing *chlamys*. ONO + PPOV / I + B. In exergue ΑΔΕΕ. Diam. 1.4cm; weight 1.5g (analysis and description by D. Baldoni).

56. A seventh one is preserved by the fourth column of the southern aisle.

the perimetric walls and the pedestals of the colonnades were cut. As there is no evidence for the presence of walls, or for their removal, that could have enclosed a room and thus be associated with these thresholds, it is possible that these doors were the accesses through wooden staircases, to a mezzanine floor in the aisles supported by the arches.⁵⁷

An important transformation is documented in the hall south of the church, which was reduced for the construction of a single nave chapel, 10.50m long and 5.10m wide. A semicircular wall, 4.10m in diameter, was built between the southern wall of the church and the southern wall of the hall. The last one was restored and extended westward to include the narrow western room, adapting the nave of the chapel to its irregular plan. The threshold in the passage leading to the eastern portico was buried and a new one arranged at the northern end. A new direct access to the church was opened, next to the western end of the southern aisle. Evidence of extensive fill for raising the level of the chapel has been documented in a deep trench dug in the nave. The chapel had a raised *presbiterium*, paved by a mosaic with a geometric polychrome pattern (**Fig. 8**). The step preserved the cuts for the *cancellum*, with a central access 0.75m wide. Four quadrangular stone bases were found still *in situ* in the apse, providing evidence of the presence of the altar table here.⁵⁸ In the *presbiterium*, between the *cancellum* and the northern wall of the apse, one plastered bench is still preserved, whereas of the southern bench only some traces were recorded. The nave was also paved by a polychrome mosaic, poorly preserved and only in the south-western and north-western corners. Here the external band is decorated with acanthus scrolls alighted by a bird while in the corner, is the head of a man. No more than two bases of vessels were preserved in the western corners of the central panel, which was framed in a black line that probably generated vegetable scrolls all over the nave.



8. Jarash – the ‘Propylaea Church’ complex – the southern chapel, aerial view.

East of the chapel, the mosaic in the hall was roughly restored showing that this area was reused after the construction of the chapel. In the south-western corner, a small stone storage place held some pots. Traces of steps, leading eastwards to the lower terrace, were identified in the eastern part of the hall.

The end of the use of the church complex has been related to the evidence for a seismic event well documented in the chapel. Here some of the collapsed blocks have been found still *in situ* on the mosaic of the *presbiterium* (**Fig. 9**). Before the reoccupation, the debris was only partially removed, possibly just for rescuing the liturgical furniture. Evidence of collapsed structures has also been recorded on the floor of the eastern por-

57. The pillars are preserved wherever the paving of the church is not robbed, therefore it is probable that they were built along the entire length of the aisles. Evidence exists of tribunes in the aisles in the church of Horvath Hesheq in upper Galilee (Aviam 1990). The side doors of the church look like they were used until the desecration of the building.

58. A less likely guess is that the bases were used for a

ciborium (see Michell 2001, 233, in the chapel of the ‘Cathedral’). Another quadrangular stone base for a liturgical furniture has been found in the south-eastern corner of the nave, near the *cancellum*. The pattern of the mosaic in the apse should also be considered, where the central rear zone is undecorated: a liturgical furniture was probably foreseen here.



9. Jarash – the ‘Propylaea Church’ complex – Collapsed debris in the presbiterium of the southern chapel.

tico of the *atrium*, where the stone tiles preserved an unmistakable cracking by pointing shots.

In the church, the last activities before the addition of a packed-earth floor, might be identified with the decommissioning of the church; these are three building-lime heaps found on the paving of the church in the south-western corner of the southern aisle. This evidence suggests either that some works of restoration were begun in the church and never completed, or that, after the earthquake and the abandonment of the church, new owners restored the building just to use it as a storage facility, or for similar purposes.

In the southern edifice of the *atrium* a gap in the occupation of the rooms has been recorded. Layers of *eolic* sand, indicating a period of abandonment, were noted in many cuts made for Byzantine structures before the reoccupation documented by new floors and features in each room.

The earliest ruinous seismic events in the region, following the first decade of seventh century, were recorded in September 633AD, followed by two events in 659AD and 660AD (Russel 1985: 46-47).⁵⁹ We can assume that the church complex was suffered collapse brought about by one or more of the three earthquakes and, perhaps after an initial attempt to restore the function of the church, the whole complex

was converted for different uses.

Phase 3: Second Half of the Seventh to mid Eighth Century AD

The contexts and the structures belonging to the Umayyad period were systematically ignored and removed from the area without documentation in the excavations from 1926 to 1934. In these conditions it is difficult to reconstruct the sequence for the whole area when only isolated pockets of *in situ* material can be documented for this period, and primarily only in the recently investigated area.

After the desecration of the church and the despoliation of the whole complex, partially ruined by a seismic event, the area was probably divided into different functional purposes.

The southern part of the church and the chapel were incorporated into the property belonging to an unexplored residence south of the excavation area.⁶⁰ In the chapel the debris was razed and sealed by a packed-earth floor, extended to the southern aisle of the church. Finds from these pavements can be dated to the seventh century AD. It is likely that these areas were covered by provisional shelters relying on standing structures of the earlier phase.⁶¹ The side door of the aisle and the corridor to the *atri-*

59. We cannot definitely exclude localised earthquakes not recorded in known sources.

60. The northern wall of this building has been dug up. This structure collapsed northwards in the mid 8th-century earthquake and fine polychrome plaster frag-

ments, glass vessels and a stucco wall-lamp have been found in the debris.

61. There are no tiles in the aisle in the debris of the mid 8th-century earthquake, nor of the Byzantine roof nor of any reconstructed covering.

um were closed by limestone blocks. Benches in reused collapsed elements were set in the area of the chapel. A fireplace and a *ṭābūn* were found adjacent to the external wall of the southern *exedra*, where reused marble and limestone slabs paved an open area. At the moment of the earthquake of 749AD (Tsafirir-Foerster 1992; Ambraseys 2005) the area of the chapel and of the southern aisle were occupied by at least twenty large grey ware basins, containing a white powder rich in calcium carbonate, probably marble dust prepared for decorations in stucco or plaster coatings. A similar array has been found in the north-western corner of the northern aisle, including a packed-earth floor covering the whole area, a *ṭābūn* and a bench abutting onto the western wall of the church.

Scarce evidence of this phase has been left in the nave. In the eastern portico of the *atrium* the passage to the surviving main gate of the church was cut off by two small walls. This gave open access from the court to the nave, which was perhaps partially reconverted to a passageway.

In the southern edifice the rooms on the ground floor, the original pavements were replaced by packed-earth floors. In the central room a *ṭābūn* was found together with a small structure for storing pots. The upper floor collapsed in this room before the 749AD and the debris was never removed, but in the western room benches reusing architectural elements from this collapse were documented.

The porticoes of the *atrium* were partitioned by crosswise stone walls. In the gallery of the southern one, the stone paving was removed and substituted by a packed-earth floor. The colonnade was blocked up by walls in small limestone blocks bound together with earth mortar. In the western corner, several pit kilns have been documented in this phase. On the plaster of the northern wall of the edifice, close to the painted supplications described in the phase 2b, a graffito inscription in Kufic letters mentions a supplication to *Allah*.

In the gallery of the eastern portico a sequence of packed-earth floors covers the Byzantine stone tiles. Besides the two walls mentioned above, a third wall was built south of the north-

ern side door of the church, which had been transformed into a niche. In the southern half, two *ṭābūn* have been found in different levels and, in the south-eastern corner, a square platform in stone and earth, 2.45 x 2.85m and 30cm high, was built for an unknown purpose.

The subdivision of the roofed areas and the spread of the *ṭābūn* fireplaces in almost every unit are more appropriate for the putting in place of numerous workshops or shops than that of a permanent dwelling. Despite the gaps in the documentation of the area in this phase, a general view of the investigated contexts suggests that the court of the *atrium* maintained in this phase its connection with the colonnaded street and became again a public area where several artisans and merchant shops occupied the three galleries of the porticoes and the two edifices.

After the Earthquake of 749AD

The earthquake of 749AD destroyed most of the standing structures and made the whole area unusable. In contrast with other areas of the site, no Abbasid pottery was found here, and no other finds earlier than Mamluk have been recorded in the excavations. In the mid 13th century the pottery is associated with various traces of campfires and occasional pens and shelters for animals.

Concomitant with the arrival of *Circassian* refugees in 1878, was the practice of the reuse of building material and robbing from the ancient monuments.⁶² In the area of the '*Propylaea Church*' there is evidence of a systematic robbing of the stone slab paving from east to west.⁶³ It is possible that this spoliation was done in the first years of the 20th century and was resumed for a short period after 1934, the year of the last season of the American expedition.

Conclusions

The sequence that has been reported here is the result of ten years of investigations and analysis of documentation collected during archaeological fieldwork. The processing of finds is in progress and more interpretative study must be done. Although uncertainties and gaps could result in some changes in the phasing of

62. It lasted legally until 1946, when it was banned during the British mandate in Transjordan.

63. An iron lever was found in the first preserved eastern row of slabs.

contexts, the interpretation of the stratigraphic evidence, detailed above, will form the basis of future analyses and further choices in fieldwork, conservation and heritage management plans for each period it is possible to identify peculiar outcomes and uncertainties which have yet to be clarified. Among these are the as yet unknown natures of the urban organisation of the area before the mid second century AD.

The works managed to bridge the *Chrysoorhoas* and the terracing of the western slope of the city is probably part of a city-scale planning renovation that shaped the townscape of *Gerasa* until its urban end in the 8th century AD. However, the particular importance of these buildings, recognizable in the inventiveness of the design and in the accuracy of the realization, was always linked to the religious identification of a *via sacra* associated with the sanctuary of Artemis, the existence of which is probable even if we do not have any written or iconographic evidence. Nevertheless, there is a clear difference in the way in which this area was managed and used, setting it apart from the sanctuary, at the beginning of the fifth century AD, when the temple and the whole sanctuary were renewed for different uses. Instead, radical changes were made to the area of the east *propylaeum* more than a century later.

Much importance has been focused on the Antonine governor commission for the construction of the complex of the west *propylaeum* / trapezoidal square, probably repeated for the triumphal arch of the east *propylaeum* at the beginning of the third century AD. Further detailed analyses will verify the supposition that the area was used for an imperial cult.

Advances in the interpretation of the church complex have been achieved chiefly in the chronological identification of several transformations characterizing this complex in its rather short existence. In the *atrium*, a correlation between the developing architecture and religious activities has been theorised and further investigation of the boundaries of the complex to the south and north will help to confirm this hypothesis. Despite the interpretative uncertainties

due to the lack of stratigraphic information, the chamber of the *diakonia*, that has been object of an interesting interpretative debate since its discovery, has been established as belonging to this architectural sequence. The circumstances of the abandonment of the complex and the desecration of the church deserve exhaustive analyses in view of the fact that they are recorded in the particular historical background of the series of earthquakes in the mid seventh century AD and the rise of Islam. It will be interesting to examine whether Christian internal conflicts could have played a role in the process, not easily elucidated through the available evidence however.

The Byzantine complex is characterized by the transformation and the reuse of conspicuous Roman buildings or parts of them, together with an extensive use of *spolia*, both as bare building material and for decorative purposes. Hundreds of architectural elements have been recovered and recorded in the excavation of the complex. The completion of the study of these elements will make an important contribution towards understanding the economic and political administration of the city during the sixth century AD. Finally, there is the supposition that in the Umayyad phase the church area was divided into two wealthy residences, one to the north and one to the south. Moreover, the use of the atrium as a market area and the extension of the shops along the colonnaded street should be verified through further analyses of the site.

The Pottery Finds (D. Baldoni)

The excavations have yielded homogeneous assemblages of ceramics datable between the beginning of the third and the first half of the 8th century AD.⁶⁴ These are mostly sherds attributable to shapes that, though well known at Jarash, are of particular interest because they come from closed contexts, within a precise stratigraphic sequence.

The pottery of the late Roman and early Byzantine periods appears typologically similar to that of other centres in the immediate region of Jarash.⁶⁵ Although the still not extensively studied, the deposits of this period contain a certain

64. I would like to thank Ina Kehrberg for her valuable suggestions for dating the pottery, based on comparison with unpublished specimens from her excavations at Jarash. I am also grateful to Annalina Morelli

and to Massimiliano Munzi for helping me to identify the coins.

65. On the pottery of Palestine, see Crowfoot *et al.* 1957; Loffreda 2008.

quantity of imported vases, mostly *Terra Sigillata* from Asia Minor and Cyprus, but also especially, Africa, which are imitated locally.

From the sixth century AD there is a marked increase in the output of pottery from local workshops with peculiar shapes and types, rarely attested in other areas occurring, which continue without significant change even after the Arab conquest.

Among these are the so-called 'Jerash bowls' (Watson 1989; Uscatescu 1995, 1996), common from the first quarter of the sixth century AD to about the middle of the seventh century AD, which imitates shapes typical of African Red Slip Ware. Their development is paralleled with that the lamps with animal-head handles, the manufacturing of which continues for a considerable period of time, becoming exclusive in the Umayyad period.⁶⁶

The pottery of the following period is characterized by the presence of jugs and storage jars with white-painted decoration, and the broad diffusion of a particular type of basin of grey clay with thumb-impressed or combed patterns, which seems to have no parallels outside the region. Both types, which appear at the end of the Byzantine age, recur, with few variations, throughout the 8th century AD, together with new shapes characteristic of the fully developed Umayyad age, such as the light buff jars with red-painted decoration, or the handmade bowls with cut-out ornaments.

The overall picture that forms from even a partial and still preliminary analysis of the Gerasan material is of a rather closed society, gradually tending towards economic self-sufficiency and a the limitation of trade relations to a restricted geographical ambit. Towards the beginning of the sixth century AD imports of fine pottery apparently cease, and the common kitchen and tableware vessels, as well as the lamps, seem to have been manufactured entirely *in loco*.

In different categories of objects, the repetition of the same shapes and the manufacturing techniques for long periods highlights the phenomenon of typological lag that seems to indicate a certain conformism and accentuated cultural conservatism on the part of a clientele that

tended to stay with established traditions.

Despite its mass-production, the local pottery appears to be of generally high quality and fine manufacture. The thinness of the walls, mostly ribbed, found also in the modest cooking pots or large storage containers, suggests a remarkable ability in the use of the wheel by highly specialized artisans.

From the ensemble of material recovered in the course of the excavation, the study of which is currently in progress, some assemblages have been chosen from contexts particularly significant for their stratigraphic reliability and for their chronological location in the sequence of the main phases identified in the area. These are:

1. The deposits belonging to Phase 1c, the construction of the 'East Propylaeum'. These contexts belong to the fill of a trench cut for the restoration of the northern portico. They are datable to the beginning of third century AD.
2. The contexts sealed by mosaic pavements and the paving of the hall south of the church, both of which are Phase 2a and the paving of the nave of the southern chapel, which belongs to Phase 2b. These assemblages have yielded material datable to the mid sixth and the beginning of the seventh century AD.
3. Finally the contexts relative to Phase 3 are the occupation of the area before its definitive abandonment, from which come artefacts attributable to the first decades of the 8th century AD. The chronology of these is particularly reliable since they lie immediately beneath the collapse caused by the earthquake of 749AD.

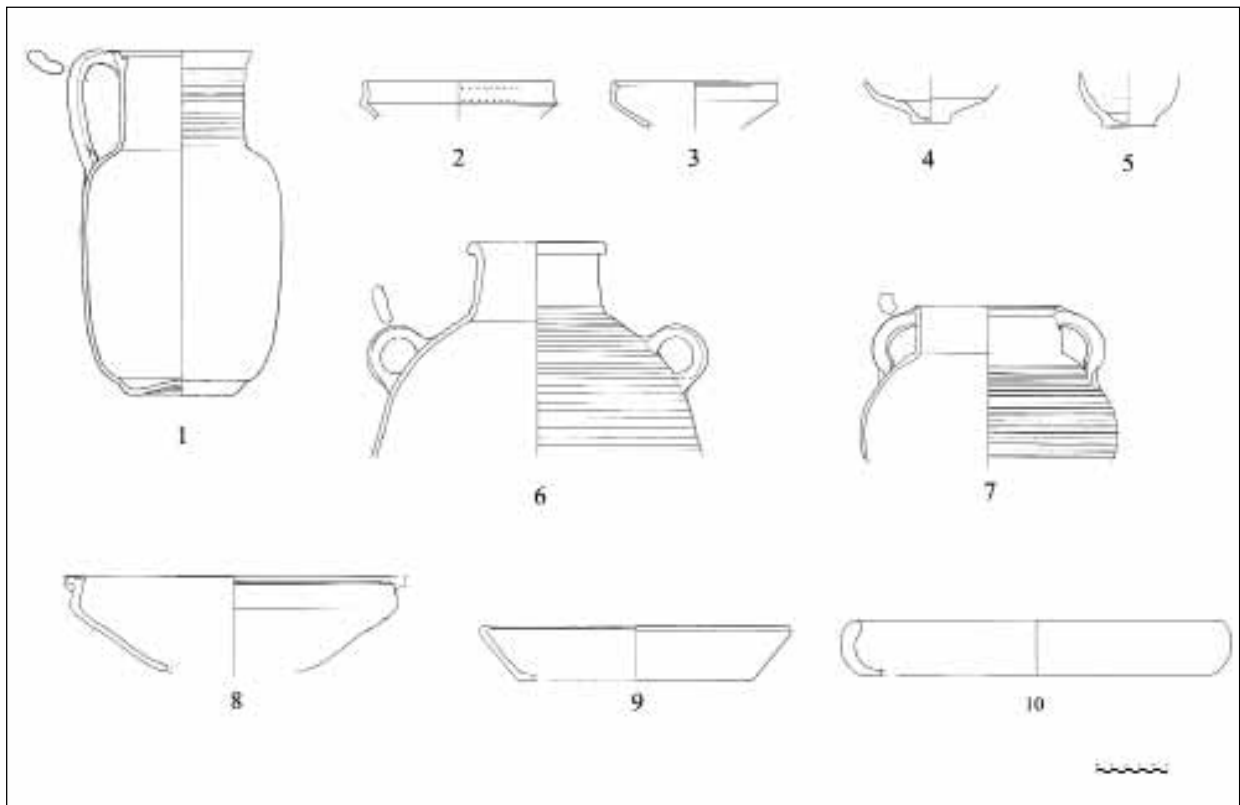
Contexts from Phase 1c (Beginning of the Third Century AD)

The material from the deposits of this period constitutes a homogeneous and well dated assemblage (**Fig. 10, Table 1**).

A significant quantity of reconstructable sherds was recovered indicating the existence of a pottery dump in the area.

Many sherds belong to table and kitchen vessels, which include types well attested at Jarash and moreover, are widespread throughout the Middle East. In general, they are very carefully

66. For a typology of the lamps of Jarash, see Kehrberg, in press.



10. Jarash – pottery from the phase 1c.

Table 1: Pottery from the phase 1c (context dated at the beginning of the third century AD) (Fig. 10).

| No. | Class | Form | Manufacture | Parallels |
|-----|----------------|-------------|--|--|
| 1 | Table vessel | Jug | Red clay (2.5YR 6/8); white grits; orange pinkish slip (5YR 7/4). | Rasson 1986, 67 fig. 17:1. |
| 2 | Table vessel | Bowl | Local imitation of Eastern Sigillata Ware. Red clay (10R 6/6); thin red slip. | Kehrberg 2007, fig. 2:4. |
| 3 | Table vessel | Bowl | Red clay (2.5YR 6/6); white grits; reddish slip (2.5YR 6/8). | Kehrberg 2007, fig. 6:89. |
| 4 | Table vessel | Juglet | Orange clay (5YR 6/6); white grits; pinkish slip (5YR 7/4) | Watson 1986, 367, fig. 3:4. |
| 5 | Table vessel | Juglet | Red clay (2.5 YR 6/6); white grits. | |
| 6 | Storage vessel | Jar | Orange clay (5YR 7/); white grits; pinkish-orange slip (7.5YR 7/6) | Clark and Falkner 1986, 249, fig. 20:8. |
| 7 | Cooking vessel | Cooking pot | Pinkish clay (5YR 7/4); white grits, reddish slip (2.5YR 6/6). Fired. | Clark and Falkner 1986, 249, fig. 20:2. |
| 8 | Cooking vessel | Pan | Red clay (2.5YR 6/8); white grits. Fired. | Uscatescu 1996, 108, fig. 38:23, group XVI, form 5; Kehrberg 2007, fig. 6:102. |
| 9 | Cooking vessel | Pan | Gray core (10YR 5/1); white grits; reddish slip (2.5YR 6/8). Fired. | |
| 10 | Cooking vessel | Pan | Local imitation of African Red Slip Ware (Hayes, form 181). Orange clay (5YR 7/6); white grits; thin red-orange slip. Fired. | Clark and Falkner 1986, 249, fig. 20:14; Kehrberg 2007, fig. 4:45-46. |

made; the hard-fired clay, with small quartz and limestone grits, is mostly reddish, sometimes tending towards orange or pink; the surface is covered with a thin slip in a lighter shade.

The shape that recurs with greatest frequency is a globular cooking pot with ribbed surface vertical handles attached from the lip to the shoulder and a usually convex and knobbed base (**Fig. 10:7**). There is a groove on the rim, probably to receive a lid. The absence of traces of burning on some of the examples examined suggests that these may have been used also for storage.

The cooking vessels include numerous pans, some of which have a carinated body with flat horizontal rim, and a vertical handle (**Fig. 10:8**). Others have flaring walls and a flat rim protruding inwards (**Fig. 10:9**). One of these, covered with a thin reddish-orange slip, imitates the Hayes 181 of African Red-Slip Ware, characterized by a low, wide body with flat base, and curving walls (**Fig. 10:10**).

Imitations of shapes that belong to the contemporaneous imported *Sigillata* are produced in large quantities at Jarash especially between the second and the beginning of the third century AD. The most common type is the carinated cup with vertical, slightly concave rim, sometimes decorated with small impressed motifs reminiscent of some examples of Eastern *Sigillata* (**Fig. 10:2**).

The most common pottery found in the levels of this period is the standard Jarash 'red-ware'. A cylindrical jug with flaring mouth (**Fig. 10:1**), some globular juglets (**Fig. 10:4-5**) and a small carinated bowl with a groove underneath the rim present a reddish or reddish-orange clay (**Fig. 10:3**) and a thin slip that ranges from pinkish-beige to orange to red.

Contexts from Phases 2A and 2B (From mid sixth to the Beginning of the Seventh Century AD) (Fig. 11, Table 2).

Most of the vessels of these phases have very thin and well-fired ribbed walls; the clay is generally red with small quartz and limestone grits; the surface is covered with a slip that ranges from pink to reddish to brown.

The tableware, found in smaller quantities than the kitchen vessels, includes some conical cups with outflaring rims (**Fig. 11:4**) and espe-

cially bottles (**Fig. 11:1**) and jugs, with circular (**Fig. 11:2**) or trifoliate mouths (**Fig. 11:3**).

Numerous fragments come from the dishes known as 'Jerash bowls' (**Fig. 11:5-6**), typical of the local late Byzantine production, which have a painted decoration in white or purplish-brown on the inner surface. Their iconographic repertory includes floral and animal motifs and human figures, of stereotyped design but rich in detail, executed directly on the red-orange slip or on a central disc painted white. The red clay, with grey core, is rather porous owing to the presence of numerous white grits.

The cooking vessels have shapes already seen in late Roman pottery, such as the pot with everted rim and carinated shoulder (**Fig. 11:8**) or the globular two-handled pot, with narrow mouth, which is distinguished from the earlier ones by the convex profile of the neck (**Fig. 11:7**).

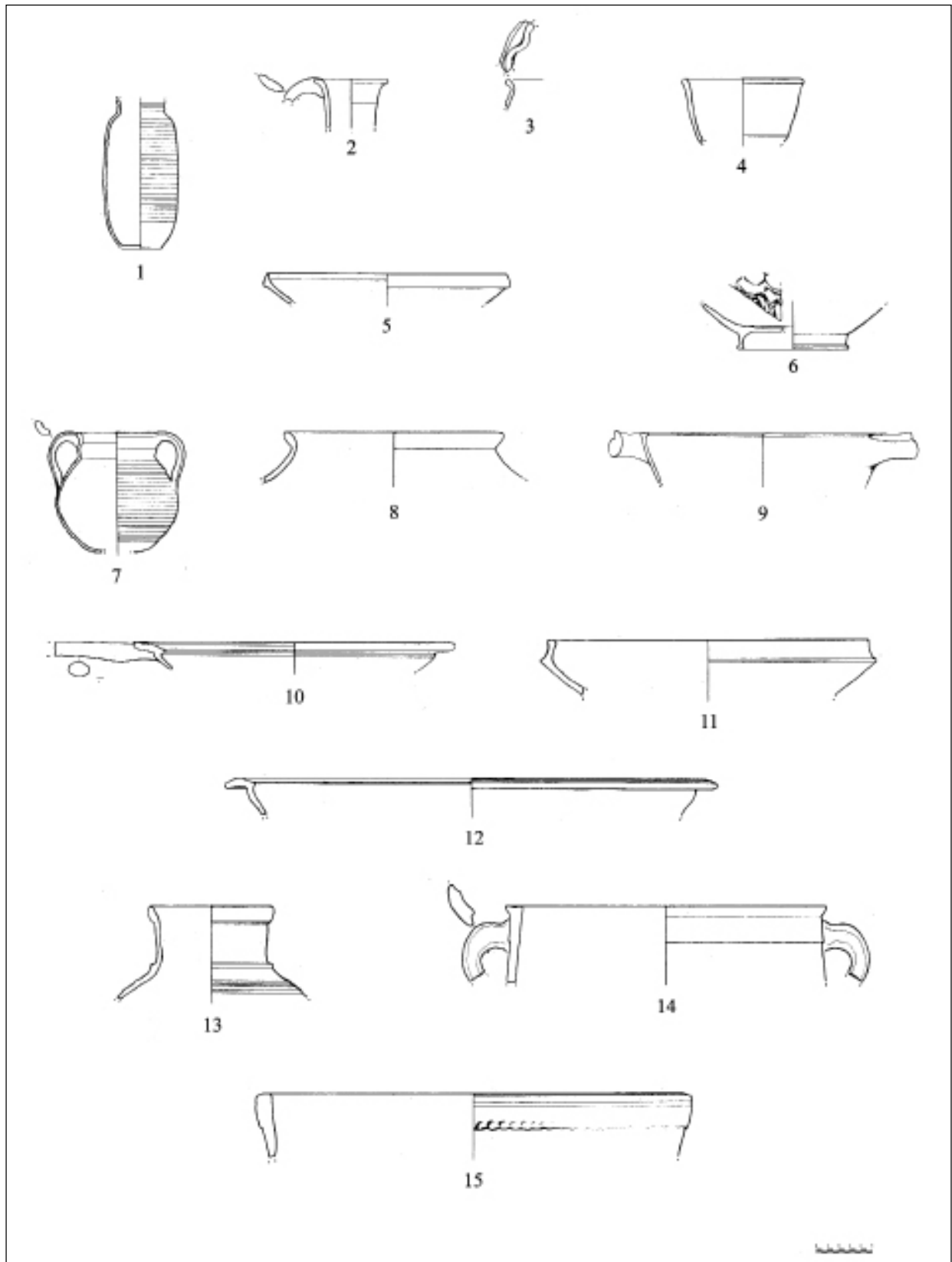
With these are often associated "casseroles" with convex base and horizontal handles attached at the rim, which is flat and thickens very slightly on the inside (**Fig. 11:9**). Also found are carinated pans (**Fig. 11:11**) and various kinds of frying pan (**Fig. 11:10**) including a type with broad flat rim and a long horizontal handle bent back at the end; one of the most common types in the sixth century AD.

The kitchenware also includes a kind of large bowl with broad out-flaring grooved rim, (**Fig. 11:12**) of a type very common at Jarash and traditionally assigned to the third century AD.

The discovery of similar specimens in contexts dated to the end of the seventh and the beginning of the eighth century,⁶⁷ however, attests the long duration of this type, with small variants only in the shape of the rim and, in some cases, the characteristics of the fabric.

Among the very common storage vessels is the amphora of the type, Late Roman 5/6, from whose shape, derive the amphorae with painted decoration typical of late Byzantine and Umayyad age (**Fig. 11:13**). This vessel typically has a bag-shaped body with ribbed surface, two handles attached vertically to the shoulder, and a cylindrical neck with sharp groove at the base terminating in an outflaring thickened rim.

Handmade grey ware basins, which would become widespread in the Umayyad period, have a rim in the form of a flattened band and



11. Jarash – pottery from the phases 2a and 2b.

Table 2: Pottery from the phase 2a and 2c (contexts dated from the mid sixth century to the beginning of the seventh century AD) (Fig. 11).

| No. | Class | Form | Manufacture | Parallels |
|-----|------------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| 1 | Table vessel | Bottle | Red clay (2.5YR 6/6); white grits. | Uscatescu 1996, 122, fig. 78:457, group XXVI. |
| 2 | Table vessel | Jug | Red clay (2.5YR 6/6); white grits. | Uscatescu 1996, 125-126, fig. 79:471, group XXVIII, form 3B. |
| 3 | Table vessel | Trifoliate jug | Red clay (2.5YR 6/6), gray core; white grits; reddish-brown slip (10R 6/4). | Uscatescu 1996, 128, fig. 80:482, gruppo XXIX, form 4. |
| 4 | Table vessel | Bowl | Red clay (2.5YR 6/6); white grits. | Uscatescu 1996, 96, fig. 68:329; group XIII, form 11A. |
| 5 | Table vessel: "Jerash bowls" | Plate | Gray core; white and gray grits; reddish slip (10R 6/6). | Uscatescu 1996, 73, fig. 51:170, group X, form 13; Watson 1989, fig. 1, form 8c. |
| 6 | Table vessel: "Jerash bowls" | Plate | Bird painted in reddish-brown over a white disk. Gray core; white and gray grits; thin red-orange slip. | Uscatescu 1996, 72-73, fig. 50:169, group X, form 12A; Watson 1989, fig. 1, form 7a/7f. |
| 7 | Cooking vessel | Cooking pot | Red clay (2.5YR 6/6); white grits; gray slip (5YR 6/1). Fired. | Uscatescu 1996, 135, fig. 83:510, group XXXIV, form 3D; Pierobon 1983-1984, fig. E:1. |
| 8 | Cooking vessel | Cooking pot | Red clay (2.5YR 6/6); white grits. Fired. | Uscatescu 1996, 136, fig. 84:522, group XXXIV, form 3H; Pierobon 1983-1984, fig. C:15. |
| 9 | Cooking vessel | Casserole | Pinkish clay (5YR 8/4); white grits; pinkish slip (5YR 7/4). Fired. | Uscatescu 1996, 107, fig. 74:389, group XVI, form 1B; Bujard and Joguín 2001, fig. 1:9; fig. 3:20. |
| 10 | Cooking vessel | Pan | Red clay (2.5YR 6/6); white grits; brown slip (5YR 6/1). Fired. | Uscatescu 1996, 110, fig. 75:401, group XVII, form 3D. |
| 11 | Cooking vessel | Pan | Red clay (2.5YR 6/6); white grits; pinkish slip (5YR 7/4). Fired. | Uscatescu 1996, 92-93, fig. 67:322, group XI, form 2B. |
| 12 | Kitchen vessel | Krater | Gray core (5YR 5/1); white grits; brown slip (5YR 6/2). | Uscatescu 1996, 105, fig. 72:379, group XV, form 8; Pierobon 1983-1984, fig. E:12-14.s |
| 13 | Late Roman 5/6 amphoras | Amphora | Pinkish clay (5YR 7/3); white grits. | Uscatescu 1996, 161, fig. 94:616, group XXXVII, form 10. |
| 14 | Basins | Basin | Pinkish-gray clay (7.5YR 7/2); white grits. Handmade. | Uscatescu 1996, 148, fig. 88, 561, group XXXVI, form 6A. |
| 15 | Basins | Basin | Thumb-impressed ridge below the rim. Brownish clay (5YR 5/3); white grits; light brown surfaces (5YR 7/3). Handmade. | Uscatescu 1996, 146, fig. 87:549, group XXXVI, form 2B. |

a body in this phase, with rather thin, flaring walls, smaller than that of the later ones (**Fig. 11:14-15**). The decoration consists of bands of combed wavy lines made with a comb or, as in the case of one of the specimens found, thumb-impressed patterns applied beneath the rim. The pottery of this period is characterized by brownish or pinkish grey clay, compact and hard-fired, of a lighter shade on the surface.

Contexts from Phase 3 (First Half of the 8th Century AD) (Fig. 12, Table 3)

The vessels belonging to the contexts of the stratigraphic sequence datable to the full-blown Umayyad period, present few significant variants from the point of view of technique and shape with respect to that of the previous period.

The continuity of the shapes and of the working processes that characterize Jarash pottery, even after the Arab conquest of the city, seems to point to a gradual assimilation of the local uses and traditions.

Among the material worth noting from the deposits of this period are some storage jars with bag-shaped bodies and thin walls, partially ribbed, with two handles attached to the shoulder and a concave knobbed base (**Fig. 12:1-2**). The fabric, which has a grey core, is generally rather porous owing to the presence of numerous grits. The surface is decorated with wavy bands, spirals, and branches painted in white over brown slip, or in dark red on pinkish slip. The short cylindrical neck of one of the specimens examined is decorated with a thumb-impressed ridge (**Fig. 12:1**).

Containers of this type, which constitute a variant of the Late Roman 5/6 amphorae, are attested to at Umm ar-Raṣāṣ (Alliata 1991: fig. 7:37), at Pella (Walmsley 1995: fig. 6:6), and in numerous other centres of the region, in contexts dating between the seventh and the 8th century AD (Riley 1975: Pp. 26-29, 46-47; Hayes 1980). Particularly interesting is a group of vessels found *in situ* on the floor. They are large handmade grey ware basins, with wide conical bodies, flat bases, and two small vertical handles on the central part of the wall. The rim, generally protruding and rolled, is applied later and

wheel finished (**Fig. 12:3-4**).

On their inner surface are often evident the fingerprints of the potter who modelled them, in addition to traces of cloth, probably used for smoothing or to keep the clay moist during work. On the outside there is almost always a decoration consisting of combed incised (**Fig. 12:4**) or cut-out patterns in various combinations (**Fig. 12:3**), these last are characteristics, albeit not exclusive, of the production of this period. These appear very similar to the specimens of the late Byzantine to early Islamic age, from which they differ only in the greater thickness of the walls and the more rounded shape of the rim (**Fig. 12:14-15**). The blackish colour of the fabric too, homogeneous and hard-fired, distinguishes them from the earlier ones, which are characterized by a light grey clay, tending towards beige or pinkish grey.

It is likely that vases of this type, which recur with great frequency at Jarash in all the Umayyad deposits, were widely used outside domestic contexts also, for example, in shops, to hold grains and other goods or, as attested to by the specimens that came to light beneath the collapse of the church walls, for different building activities.

Inside the large basins abandoned on the pavement of the building at the moment of its destruction was found a conspicuous quantity of marble dust, which must presumably have been used for the plastering of walls.

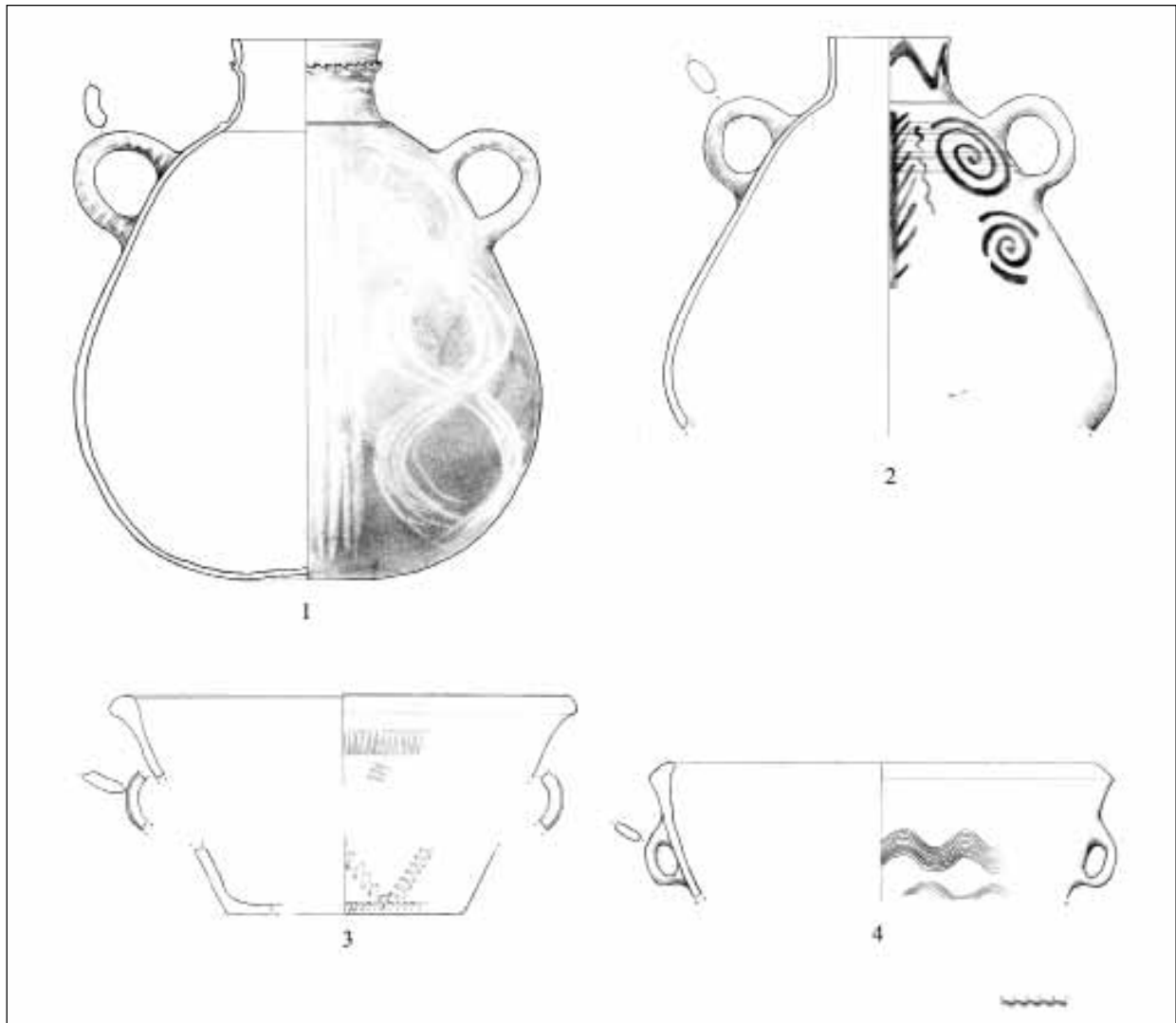
The evidence emerging from examination of the material of this phase provide further confirmation, at least in the first century of Islam, of the full integration and peaceful coexistence among 'conquerors', 'converts' and Christians.

The frequentation of the area seems to come to an end almost entirely after the earthquake of 749AD, as shown by the sporadic presence of material later than that date, which consists of rare fragments of Mamluk and late glazed pottery.

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67. See, for example, the material from the trial trenches in the terrace of the temple of Artemis in Pierobon

1983-1984: p. 98.



12. Jarash – Pottery from the phase 3.

Table 3: Pottery from the phase 3 (contexts dated in the first half of the 8 eighth century AD) – **Fig. 12.**

| No. | Class | Form | Manufacture | Parallels |
|-----|----------------|-------|---|--|
| 1 | Storage vessel | Jar | White painted decoration; thumb-impressed ridge on the neck. Gray core; white grits; brown slip (7.5YR 6/4). | Smith 1973, 233-234, fig. 45:281. |
| 2 | Storage vessel | Jar | Red painted decoration. Gray core; white grits; pinkish slip (7.5YR 8/4). | Daviau and Beckman 2001, 268, fig 4:19; Humbert 2001, fig. 9. |
| 3 | Basins | Basin | Cut-out decoration on the wall. Traces of white paint on the rim. Light gray clay (10YR 6/1); white grits; dark gray surfaces (7.5YR 5/). Handmade. | Uscatescu 1996, 152, fig. 110:791, group XXXVI, form 21A; Schaefer 1986, fig. 8:11. |
| 4 | Basins | Basin | Combed decoration on the wall. Brown-grayish clay (7.5YR 6/2); white grits; dark gray surfaces (7.5YR 5/). Handmade. | Uscatescu 1996, 169, fig. 114:831, group XLII, form 4; Schaefer 1986, fig. 8:7; Humbert 2001, fig. 11. |

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