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ADALYA



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ADALYA

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The Abandoned Khan of Louroujina, Cyprus: A Case Study of a Vanishing Building Type

Marko KIESSEL - Sevinç KURT - Yasemin MESDA*

The village Louroujina (Lurucina), or Akıncılar, is located in the southern part of the central lowland, the Mesaoria, in the hilly Malloura valley. Today the once mixed but mainly Turkish Cypriot village is part of North Cyprus next to the Green Line, which has separated the north and the Republic of Cyprus since 1974¹. The Kitchener map of 1885 shows Louroujina on a secondary road branching from the main route from Larnaca to Nicosia, but remaining close to it (Fig. 1). The latter appears on maps since the second half of the 19th century². This diversion from the main road, leading to Dali (ancient Idalion), corresponds with the course of the Roman road from Larnaca (ancient Kition) to Politiko (ancient Tamassos)³.

The village's origins go back at least to the Venetian period (1489-1571) during which 186 'freedmen' (*francomates*) were recorded as inhabitants⁴. Louroujina belonged to the sphere of a nearby centre of agriculture and commerce – the latter based on the transportation by mules – midway between the capital and Larnaca: Athienou. It surely benefitted from its location in the Malloura valley. So the population grew from 129 taxable inhabitants in 1831 to 598 in 1881⁵. In the 20th century the overall growth of the village population steadily continued until it reached 1963 in 1973⁶.

According to di Cesnola, Luke and Gunnis, important figures for Cyprus research in the 19th and early 20th centuries, the village was once a centre of the 'Linobambaki' – Catholic inhabitants who converted to Islam after the Ottoman conquest (1571) in order to save their lives and property, but who secretly kept their Christian faith⁷. According to another author, however, these scholars neglected the fact 'that a new wave of Turkish families arrived to the village between the mid-18th and the early 19th centuries... which completely changed the

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¹ Kurt et al. 2013a, 133, fig. 1.

² Counts – Parvis 2012, 60.

³ Bekker-Nielsen 2004, 191-193, maps 17-19.

⁴ Counts – Parvis 2012, 57.

⁵ PRIO 2016; Counts – Parvis 2012, 60-61.

⁶ PRIO 2016.

⁷ Gunnis 1973, 327, 330; Families of Lurucina 2016 (1).

ethnic make-up of the village'. Census documents also confirm that the current population mainly dates from this new immigration⁸.

The time frame with which this study is mostly concerned spans the late Ottoman period in Cyprus (ending in 1878), the British Colonial period (1878-1960), and the initial years of the Republic of Cyprus (1960-1970s). Our research examined the abandoned khan of Louroujina with the background of the development of this building type in Cyprus. It was part of a TÜBİTAK project which focused on Louroujina to develop awareness for and attitudes of protection and preservation of the natural and built environment, revitalisation of the cultural heritage, and sustenance of the architectural heritage⁹.

The Khan in Cyprus

The 'khan' building type was introduced to the island after the Ottoman conquest of 1571¹⁰. It provided short-term accommodation for merchants and travellers and storage space for their goods, carts and animals. The building type therefore included storage spaces, stables, water reservoirs and guest rooms¹¹.

The (scholarly) literature on the khans of Cyprus is scarce. The disinterest in this building type goes back obviously a long time. Hence, none of the European travellers of the 17th and 18th centuries mentions any khan¹². At least nineteen khans once existed in the old town of Nicosia, more or less along the commercial east-west axis between the Paphos and Famagusta Gates¹³. Among them are the well-preserved ashlar buildings of the Büyük and Kumarcılar Khans with two-storey (arcaded) porticoes around a square or rectangle court. The porticoes gave access to storage and stables on the ground, and guest rooms on the first floors. Both khans correspond to typical Anatolian khans of the Ottoman period, e.g. in Bursa and Istanbul¹⁴. The other khans in Nicosia were of a rather plain, purely functional type, formerly widespread on the island, but mostly vanished without record or surviving today in a badly preserved, heavily altered situation. None of these khans were documented comprehensively concerning typology, building phases, building materials, functional aspects, and concerning their role for the cultural and economic history of the island. The building type was an essential element of a domestic and international network of commerce and trade which fostered contacts between various ethnic groups and which served as hubs of social/cultural exchange and of information¹⁵.

⁸ Families of Lurucina 2016 (1).

⁹ For the Tübitak project 112M417, carried out at Cyprus International University between 2012 and 2015, see: Kurt et al. 2013a, 131. We are grateful for their support. The authors also would like to thank C. Çakmak (M. Arch. cand.), İ. Mesda (M. A. Archaeology), O. Olukoya Paul (M. Arch.) for their assistance in data collection and for their invaluable contribution in preparing the drawings and images according to the instructions of the authors. The authors would also like to thank Mr. Hasan Barbaros, the Mayor of Louroujina, and the Rauf Family, the owner of the khan, for their support and for creating the opportunity for the researchers to conduct the field survey. The authors are indebted to Dr. J. Stubbs of Cyprus International University for proofreading this article.

¹⁰ Bağışkan 2009, 452.

¹¹ Stierlin – Vogt-Göknil 1965, 179.

¹² Yıldız 2009, 126-127.

Bağışkan 2009, 451-452; Bakshi 2012, 111-113, 115, fig. 3. For the origins of this east-west axis, see Coureas – Grivaud – Schabel 2012, 148.

Rizopoulou – Egoumenidou 2012, 296. For Bursa see Goodwin 1971, 54, fig. 49. For earlier khans in Bursa (14th/15th cent.) and Istanbul (after A.D. 1453), see Stierlin – Vogt-Göknil 1965, 178-180.

Concerning functional aspects, the most detailed publication on the plain khan so far is on the Haci Dimitri Khan in Nicosia; see Bakshi 2012, 119, fig. 5. On the socio-economic role see Bağışkan 2009, 451; Bakshi 2012, 114.

Six khans of the plain type existed in the Turkish quarter of Limassol around Ankara Street¹⁶. In Famagusta at least five khans existed of which none survived, being named after their Greek owners. These complexes, most probably of the plain type, consisted of a court-yard surrounded by ground-floor stables and storage rooms, and first floors with two to four guest rooms¹⁷. A plain but unusual type, lacking a courtyard but equipped with exterior porticoes and stables on the sloppy ground floor, is preserved in Kaleburnu/Galinoporni¹⁸. In other towns, such as Kyrenia, Larnaca, Morphou/Güzelyurt and Paphos, a number of khans must have existed too. However, records do not exist, according to the knowledge of the authors.

The first and biggest khan built in Cyprus is the Büyük Khan of Nicosia of 1572, which was originally a foundation (*vakf*) of Sultan Selim II, and later became state administered¹⁹. Apart from the Büyük Khan, only the Deveciler Khan is listed as Evkaf property. The other khans of Nicosia were built, owned and run privately²⁰. However, Jennings generally mentions the 'many' khans among the other buildings of Lefkoşa (Nicosia) as one source of income for the pious foundations²¹.

The gradual decline and finally disappearance of this building type began in the British Colonial era (1878-1960) when European-type hotels began to emerge, at least in the bigger towns²². Another reason for their decline is surely the gradual modernisation of transportation in the first half of the 20th century accompanied by the establishment of a bus network and the asphalt paving of the roads²³. This motorisation reduced the duration of travel between the villages and towns, a circumstance that made accommodation along the travel route between Larnaca and Nicosia increasingly unnecessary. So the Deveciler Khan ('Camel-driver's Khan') in Nicosia was transformed from the final stop of camel caravans to the terminus of village buses²⁴.

Until the mid-1950s, however, many of the khans, at least in Nicosia, were still in use for accommodation and as places of ethnic coexistence. This is also indicated by the short text descriptions of the khans of Limassol 25 .

The Khan of Louroujina

The khan of Louroujina, although deserted, heavily damaged and rapidly decaying, is to a large extent preserved in its original state²⁶. It therefore offers the chance to study one of the few surviving khans of the plain type concerning its architectural details, building phases, and functional relations between the various buildings. It is situated close to the central square (Fig. 2)²⁷, and was part of a network of traffic between Larnaca and Nicosia. At least one other

¹⁶ Akif – Akif 2008, 61-64; Bağışkan 2009, 451.

¹⁷ Keshishian 1985, 105.

¹⁸ UNHCR 1995, 134-143. Concerning the structure of the building, this is so far the most detailed publication of the plain khan.

Gazioğlu 1990, 280; Jennings 1993, 46; Bağışkan 2009, 452; Yıldız 2009, 125-126.

²⁰ Bakshi 2012, 112, n. 16.

Jennings, 1993, 62. For the foundations of khans in the Ottoman world, see Stierlin – Vogt-Göknil 1965, 280; for the Evkaf system in Cyprus, see Yıldız 2009; Jennings 1993, 40-68.

²² Bağışkan 2009, 452; Markides 2012, 351.

²³ Keshishian 1985, 80; Keshishian 1990, 290-292; Markides 2012, 351.

²⁴ Markides 2012, 351.

²⁵ For Nicosia see Bakshi 2012, 114; Bağışkan 2009, 451-452; for Limassol see Akif – Akif 2008, 61-64.

²⁶ Kurt et al. 2013b, 475-486.

²⁷ For its location in the village see Kurt et al. 2013b, 478, fig. 2.

khan existed on that route, according to an oral source²⁸. It is not listed as an architectural monument to be protected.

Method, Sources of Research, and Objectives

The study is based on the measured, drawn and photographic architectural and archaeological documentation of the mainly unpublished remains of the khan (Figs. 3-6). The present documentation is more comprehensive and corrected in detail, compared to Kurt et al. (2013b) who focus on the preservation of the substance of the khan. Archival sources do not exist apart from two problematic cadastral maps of Louroujina of 1916 and 1967, which are discussed below. This is due to the private ownership, as in the case of the khans in Nicosia of which only the Evkaf properties – the Büyük and the Deveciler Khans – are well documented²⁹. The historical, typological and functional analysis of the documentation is thus supported by oral history, obtained mainly from Mr. Hasan Barbaros, the present mayor of Louroujina.

Finally, the limited scholarly literature that discusses examples of khans in Cyprus has been consulted, such as Bakshi (2012), Bağışkan (2009), Akif – Akif (2008) and UNHCR (1995), as well as literature that deals with the vernacular architecture of Cyprus, such as Ionas (2003). The building type is not discussed by Given (2000), Given – Hadjianastasis (2010), or Schriwer (2002).

The first objective of the study was to document the present state of preservation for one of the last surviving examples of this building type in Cyprus. The measured dimensions slightly differ at some points from the cadastral map of 1967 (a detail of the latter is shown in Fig. 2), obviously concerning the arched portico of Building G. This may have been caused by differing points of reference during measurements, as some of the floors are currently inaccessible, and due to collapsed or damaged walls. However, the dimensions of the portico of G certainly are wrong on the map of 1967. The urgency of the documentation is proven, for example, by the ongoing decay during the period of the project. Figure 7, taken in 2012, shows the first floor of Building F with the remains of a door, which indicates the access to the guest rooms of the inn from the courtyard. However, Figure 8, taken in 2014, displays the complete disappearance of traces of that door. Figure 5 shows the rear facade of Building A and to the right a small attached passage-way to a neighbouring complex. It almost completely collapsed in the spring of 2015 after heavy rainfall.

The second objective was to document this building type as representative of the generally endangered body of Cypriot vernacular architecture³⁰. The third objective was to reconstruct the chronology of the building phases of the complex and the functional relations of its individual parts. The focus of the architectural-archaeological analysis is the unclad Buildings A and B and the courtyard (Figs. 3, 6, 9-10). Examination of the other buildings was more problematic as their inner and outer walls are still covered extensively with plaster. In addition, the facades oriented to the village square have been whitewashed in recent years (Fig. 4). The plaster protects the endangered substance but disguises the history of the buildings. Additionally, some spaces are barely accessible due to the debris of collapsed walls, ceilings and roofs.

 $^{^{\}rm 28}$ Information from Mr. Hasan Barbaros, present mayor of Louroujina.

²⁹ Bakshi 2012, 112, n. 16.

³⁰ Dinçyürek – Mallick – Numan 2003, 1472.

General Typology

The typology of plan of the typical Anatolian khan, such as the square Büyük Khan³¹, differs from the plain khan, as documented in Louroujina and elsewhere in Cyprus, such as in Limassol³². The latter are not separate, free-standing structures, i.e. surrounded by streets on all sides, but are tightly inserted into the irregular, organic urban tissue. They lack the typical inner two-storey porticoes/arcades that would surround the central courtyard. Instead, they resemble the Cypriot vernacular courtyard-house complexes of their immediate neighbourhood³³. Moreover, the *dichoro* (Building E and to some extent also G) and *macrinari* (Building B) are typical elements of the courtyard-house complex, while Building A resembles the 'vestibule' type of entrance, after the house-typology of Ionas (Fig. 3)³⁴. Probably due to this circumstance as well as to private ownership, the khans of the Cypriot countryside were not discussed in the introductory chapters of Ionas concerning village buildings of public character³⁵.

A typological indicator for the plain vernacular type of khan may be the presence of a hall, which is equipped with a row of open arches facing the inner courtyard and serving as the entrance building to the complex and/or as storage for goods and carts. This element appears in the Deveciler Khan in Nicosia, in a khan in Larnaca³⁶, and in the form of Building A in Louroujina (Figs. 5, 9).

Material and Techniques

In contrast to the ashlar of the Anatolian-type Büyük Khan in Nicosia, a mix of building materials can be encountered in the vernacular khan of Louroujina. Proper ashlar appears only on several frames and lintels of the gates, doors, windows and arches³⁷. Otherwise, rubble stone was used for the foundations (as uncovered in Building B), more or less cut rubble stone for the elevation of single-storey buildings (like Building E), ground-floor walls (as in Building A, Fig. 11), or for the lower layers of adobe walls (as in the filling of the arches of Building A, Fig. 5).

The foundations of rubble stone are laid on solid bedrock. Their depth below the inner or outer floors depends on the uneven level of the bedrock, as in Building B where the bedrock slopes considerably from west to east within Trench B-A. Therefore the western wall has vanished nearly without trace, while the east wall survives with a deeper foundation below the inner and outer floors³⁸. Above the ground or floor level, the height of stone layers of a stone-founded adobe wall may reach to more than 1 m., as the wall of the small passageway building to the west of A demonstrates (Fig. 5)³⁹.

The thickness of the walls amounts to 0.40-0.60 m. Stone walls are built of two shells and the filling. At the top of the walls one layer of square stone slabs was laid as a basis for the

 $^{^{31}\;}$ Bağışkan 2009, 452-456; Goodwin 1971, 54, fig. 49; Stierlin – Vogt-Göknil 1965, 178-180.

³² For the remark on the typological difference, see Bakshi 2012, 114. For khans marked on cadastral maps of Limassol, see Akif – Akif 2008, 61-64 with appendix.

³³ Courtyard houses: Ionas 2003, 44-45; Given 2000, 7; Dinçyürek – Mallick – Numan 2003.

³⁴ Ionas 2003, 46-48, 53.

³⁵ Ionas 2003, 31-39. See above on the issue of ownership.

³⁶ Bağışkan 2009, 459, figs. 433-436; Rizopoulou-Egoumenidou 2012, 296-297, fig. 64; 351, fig. 44; Gazioğlu 1990, 357, middle figure.

 $^{^{37}}$ Standardized width of window frames of 0.23 m. or 0.26 m. For the technique of arches see Ionas 2003, 151-152.

³⁸ For foundations see Ionas 2003, 145.

³⁹ Ionas 2003, 147: 0.5-1 m.; Deviren 1999, 49: 0.60-0.70 m.

roofing material (Figs. 5, 11)⁴⁰. The mortar contains a considerable amount of lime or consists of the same adobe mix like the mudbricks⁴¹.

In Cyprus, adobe consists of soil and straw and is moulded by a wooden frame 42 . The size of the mudbricks measures to 0.45×0.30 m. and 0.05 m. thickness. It corresponds to one of two standard sizes which were usual to around 1910. Afterwards only the size of mudbrick as recorded in the khan survives. Because the measurements are equivalent to $1\frac{1}{2} \times 1$ feet $\times 2$ inches, Ionas suggests that they date back to the British Colonial period 43 . The adobe bricks are usually plastered inside and outside 44 .

The wooden lintels of bigger doors or gates consist of several timber beams as in Buildings E (Fig. 8) or A where the lintel is hidden behind the representative ashlar arch of the facade⁴⁵. The roofs consist of timber beams, which are covered transversely with reed, above which a layer of soil is laid and then covered with standardised ceramic roof tiles (Figs. 12-14). This roof technique corresponds to technique A+D after Ionas and D after Dinçyürek⁴⁶. The tiles measure 0.37 m. in length and 0.15-0.19 m. in width. Their usage in villages dates back to the British Colonial period and became more common after World War I⁴⁷. Like the typology of the plan, the construction material also classifies the Louroujina khan as a vernacular type. The size of the adobe bricks suggests that the khan as a whole does not date prior to 1878.

Basic Dating of the Complex

An inscription of the date '1882' exists on the central pillar of the double arch of the Building G, known as the coffee house (Figs. 3, 12). Such inscribed dates usually indicate the year of construction of a building. This inscription probably marks the beginning of the history of the khan. According to oral history, a mayor named Yusuf Rauf built the coffee house G and adjacent buildings, i.e. Building F and probably part of the group of buildings H. His son Ali, who died at the age of 80 in 1974 or 1975, was associated with the construction of the new additions, probably at least Building B which marks changes in the usage of A (Figs. 3, 14). Ali was born in 1894 or 1895. So the oral history and the date '1882' in Building G coincide.

The khan, with all its individual buildings, appears on a cadastral village map of 1967 without being marked as a khan (Fig. 2)⁴⁸. It is shown identically on a damaged cadastral map without a surviving date and caption, said to be of 1916⁴⁹. That the 1916 map is older in origin than the 1967 map is proven by the fact that a few details of neighbouring buildings of the khan which appear on the 1967 version are not shown on the 1916 map. The practice of surveyors was to add details to already existing maps rather than producing completely new ones. So the 1916 map contains details, added with a red pencil which do not even appear on the map of 1967. Black-and-white copies of this very map, as on the web site of Families

⁴⁰ Ionas 2003, 145-146; also 160, figure at the top.

⁴¹ Kurt et al. 2013a, 133.

⁴² Dinçyürek 1998, 26.

⁴³ Ionas 2003, 141.

⁴⁴ Ionas 2003, 143, 148; Dinçyürek – Mallick – Numan 2003, 1465.

⁴⁵ Lintels behind ashlar see Ionas 2003, 164, figure at the top.

⁴⁶ Ionas 2003, 160; Dinçyürek – Mallick – Numan, 1466, fig. 2.

⁴⁷ Given 2000, 7.

⁴⁸ Lourouijna Map 1967. The authors own a copy of it.

⁴⁹ Families of Lurucina 2016 (2). The authors possess a photo of this.

of Lurucina, do not make these changes comprehensible. If properly updated/edited and republished, the map would show the term 'revised' and a more recent date in the caption, just like the 1967 map or maps of the surroundings of the village⁵⁰. If this happened to the 1916 map (before the additions with red pencil), it cannot be further verified due to the missing caption. Therefore, on the basis of these maps and the inscription '1882', it cannot be ascertained that the khan complex as a whole had been built prior to 1916; only that all buildings had been built before 1967. Its final demise began with the division of the island in 1974 when Louroujina suddenly became peripheral and therefore lost its importance as a centre between Larnaca and Nicosia.

Building A

This two-storey building, through which the courtyard was accessed by animals and carts, is marked on the cadastral map of 1967 as 'arch-way/passage-way' (Figs. 2-3, 5, 9-11). It is equipped with a classicising ashlar gate. Two main phases of the building have been discovered.

Phase 1 included four bays of which the exterior walls of the ground floor consist of stone, whereas the 'first' floor and the dividing walls between Rooms 1, 2 and 3 consist of adobe (the latter on stone foundation). The eastern bay (Room 1) communicated to the courtyard with a single window. The three western bays (Rooms 2-3) are defined by pointed, about 3.40 m. wide stone arches which face the courtyard (Figs. 5, 9). They are carried by 0.38 m. wide ashlar pillars with sculpturally emphasized capitals on the western and eastern sides of the pillars (Fig. 15). The eastern arch is part of the passageway between the court and the street. The two western bays connect to the street via two windows, whereas the eastern bay originally was supposed to open to it with one window (Room 1). Instead the void was closed with mud brick while building up the first floor. The lintels of the street-oriented ground-floor windows correspond with the last layer of the stone wall (Fig. 11).

The lower part of the western wall of Room 3, shared with a neighbouring passageway building, does not belong to the first phase of A because it is not joined with the stone walls and is different in technique. Most probably it is older, but this does not suggest that the passageway building as a whole is older too (Figs. 9, 13). Two stone-founded adobe walls with a door each divide Building A into a hall (3), passageway (2) and room (1) while being joined with the exterior adobe walls of the 'first' floor (Figs. 9-10).

The fact that the dividing walls consist of adobe and a low stone foundation instead of being built completely in stone on the ground-floor level like the exterior walls may lead to the suspicion that the adobe walls – and therefore also the joined exterior adobe walls of the 'first' floor – belong to another, later building phase. However, the authors think that in this theoretical case, the space of Room 1 would not make sense, which was originally supposed to have two windows on the ground floor, of which the one to the courtyard had been realized. This 'room' would have been a niche, fully open to the passageway, but additionally opened to the courtyard by a window.

The jointless connections between the stone walls of the ground floor, the adobe walls of the 'first' floor, and the neighbouring buildings/walls up to a height of about 1 m. below the roofline of A suggest that the neighbouring buildings had been built prior to Building

⁵⁰ Louroujina Map 1967; Families of Lurucina 2016 (3).

A, although the time span between the construction was not necessarily long. A final layer measuring around 1 m. of adobe up to the roofline then is joined in all four main corners of the 'first' floor of A (Figs. 9-10, 13). A real first floor on timber beams existed only in Room 1 and is no longer accessible. The ends of the beams are inserted into the eastern and western walls of Room 1, of which the first floor is lit by three windows (Fig. 10), one opened to Passageway 2. The windows of the 'first floor' of Hall 3 worked only as an additional source of daylight.

The exterior classicizing ashlar gate with its segmental arch belongs to a standard type (Fig. 11). Gates of ashlar might not date prior to the British Colonial period, according to Ionas⁵¹. As the lintel, consisting of several timber beams, is hidden behind the ashlar arch, the arch might be a later addition, replacing an older wooden framework.

In phase 2 the building experienced the closure of the two western arches with stone-founded adobe walls. The adobe layers of the filling of the middle arch display a joint of adobe-type of mortar and plaster with the dividing wall between Rooms 2 and 3 (Figs. 9, 14-15). The mortar was applied in order to ease the plastering of the corner and the protruding capital of the pillar.

The eastern wall of Building B, joined with the filling of the westernmost arch, may support the dating of the filling of the arches. It would be pure speculation to connect the barely legible inscribed date '1951' on the right exterior frame of the gate of Building A with the beginning of phase 2.

The floor in Hall 3 and Room 1 consists of a kind of (recent) mortar/cement and is slightly higher than the soil floor of Passageway 2. The floor of the courtyard in front of the door of building G is 0.40-0.50 m. lower than in Passageway 2, thus A is safe from the usual heavy rainfalls during winter. The S-formed indicators for accesses on the cadastral maps are generally unreliable: the access from A to the street is not shown (Figs. 9, 2).

The building of phase 1 served most probably as storage for carts and goods. Accommodation was possible on a first floor in Room 1. In phase 2 the building may still have been used for the storage of goods in a then closed Room 3. To drive in carts, the door connecting Rooms 3 and 2 was too narrow.

A similar hall, serving also the access, existed in Deveciler Khan in Nicosia. The closest equivalent can be seen on a drawing of a khan of unknown name in Larnaca⁵². The two-storey building, seen from the courtyard, consists of four bays. The left bay was apparently always closed, right of this bay follow three bays with pointed arches on the ground floor, originally open to the court. The arch on the very right had been walled off at a later date. The arch on the left served also as passage from the street through the exterior gate to the court, just as in Building A. The row of windows in the first floor suggests that guest rooms were allocated there, in contrast to Building A.

A rectangular structure is located in front of the building on the map of 1967 (Fig. 2): This was perhaps a water reservoir for animals of which no traces survived, comparable to the shape and location of such a reservoir in the Haci Dimitri Khan in Nicosia⁵³.

⁵¹ Ionas 2003, 64-65 with figure.

⁵² For Nicosia see Rizopoulou-Egoumenidou 2012, 296-297, fig. 64; Bağışkan 2009, 459, figs. 433-436, esp. 435. For Larnaca see Gazioğlu 1990, 357, middle figure.

⁵³ Bakshi 2012, 119, fig. 5.

Buildings B, C and Courtyard

On the map of 1967 the narrow Building B is marked as 'arch-way/passage-way'. Its first phase marks the end of phase 1 of Building A as its eastern wall is joined to the filling of the western arch of Building A (Figs. 2-3).

The upper elevations of the walls of both buildings have nearly vanished. (According to oral reports, the destruction was due to a fire in the 1990s, after which the material was reused elsewhere.) Their course, however, is partially understandable, despite the covering debris and vegetation (Fig. 14). The dividing wall between Buildings B and C could no longer be traced, despite examination through excavation. On the maps an access from B to C is indicated (Fig. 2). Approximately 6 m. in distance to the western arch of Building A, the elevation of the eastern wall was preserved best, which led to the decision to open up a trench (B-A, 1.5 m. wide, 11.20 m. long) at this point, directed east-west (Figs. 3, 6).

Within the interior of Building B the topsoil contained several roof tiles, reed and debris, including muddy soil, probably from the roofing material. Underneath, the remains of the collapsed eastern wall were found. Many of its stones, then in vertical position, were still joined by a limelike-clayish mortar. The height of the wall amounted to at least 1.80 m., according to the length of the collapsed remains. Towards the western wall only a few stones and muddy soil were encountered. Maybe the western wall equally had collapsed towards the west, i.e. not into the interior of the building. No traces indicate that Building B was two-storied. On the contrary, traces of a roof, sloping to the courtyard, existed in the middle of the elevation of the eastern adobe wall of the recently collapsed passageway building adjacent to Building A. A row of six little rectangle openings was all that remains of the timber roof beams.

Underneath the collapsed wall an approximately 0.01 to 0.02 m. thick layer of loose, dark-brownish soil was discovered, from which a small animal bone was derived. This layer extended apparently on a 0.10 to 0.20 m. thick, hard layer of soil and lime which contained a few flat stone slabs. This layer was identified as inner Floor-level B (Figs. 16-17). It is 234.81 m. above sea level in Trench B-A, and 234.69 m. at the eastern wall next to Room D. The floor of D is 234.56 m. above sea level.

Towards the western wall of Building B the laid Floor B turns into bedrock, upon which a last stone of the vanished western wall remains *in situ*. The level of the bedrock slopes considerably on the site. In Trench B-A it declines from about 234.80 m. close to the western wall to about 234.20 m. east of the eastern wall of Building B (Figs. 6, 16).

The eastern wall displayed traces of the southern ashlar frame of a door or gate in Trench B-A – 6.20 m. distant from the filling of the arch of Building A. The remaining cubic stone of this frame S2 is laid onto two blocks of foundation and is linked to the adjacent wall by horizontal layers of small stones (Figs. 18-20). This method of adjusting the ashlar frames to the adjacent walls is a typical feature in the vernacular building tradition and can be seen also on the gate of Building A (Fig. 11). The outer floor level, corresponding to Inner-floor B but being slightly lower than B, was C (Fig. 16). The iron handle of a bucket derived from the surface of C.

Traces of the threshold, typically laid on layers of stone⁵⁴, belonging to Floors B and C have not been found. Neither have clear traces of the second northern frame of the door/gate been discovered in the additional Trench M-N, which could not be unearthed to the same depth as

⁵⁴ Ionas 2003, 164.

Trench B-A due to lack of time (Figs. 6, 22). The only indicator of the northern frame could be the presence of an apparently stronger foundation underneath Stone S4. The width of the opening between S2 and S4 amounts to about 1.40 m. The discovery of the remains of an iron locker-system in Trench M-N, measuring 0.50 m. in length, and due to its size surely deriving from a gate⁵⁵, only generally proves the existence of an opening at this spot.

Floor B extends on the two carefully-laid Layers D and E, consisting of slightly differently coloured soil and containing few fragments of stone (Figs. 16-17). These cover the older Floor F which differs in thickness in Sub-trench A'-B' due to the slope of the bedrock (compare Profile A'(2) – A"(2)). This slightly uneven floor, which is harder than Floor B, can be traced also outside Building B. It is of a greyish-brownish colour and contains a considerable amount of rubble stone (Figs. 16, 21). It is reminiscent of the typical surfaces of exteriors such as courtyards and village roads⁵⁶, which are more resistant to rain due to the inclusion of stone. However, nothing indicates that Floor F existed before the eastern wall of Building B was laid. In fact, the apparently undisturbed connection between this floor and the wall, east and west of the wall suggests otherwise (Figs. 20-21).

Outside of the building, the surface of Layer F reaches to the upper surface of the foundation of S2 (Figs. 19, 21). Most probably the first and older threshold, belonging to Floor F, is to be found in the first layer of stones above the foundation of S2, north of S2 (Figs. 19-20). This layer of stones corresponds to the stone slab on the exterior Floor F which was placed immediately next to the wall (Fig. 18). Its level (ca. 234.40-50 m. above sea level) fits approximately to the floor level of the passageway north-west of A. A possible reason for laying the second Floor B is the development of moisture on the lower Floor F. The gate of Building B and its framework – the documented southern one and the assumed northern one – was used in both building phases, but the threshold as the floor were raised in phase 2.

Assuming that the construction of B (and possibly C-E) should be associated with Yusuf Rauf's son Ali, who is said to be responsible for additions to the complex and who passed away in 1974/1975 at the age of 80, and assuming that the khan as a whole had been completed prior to 1916⁵⁷, then one would expect the construction of phase 1 to be completed just shortly before 1916 since Ali was just 21 or 22 years old in 1916. It is more likely, however, that Building B goes back to a date after 1916, also because of the uncertain date(s) of the revision(s) of the '1916'-map.

A badly preserved British coin, issued in 1955⁵⁸ and found in the exterior Floor F provides a *terminus post quem* for the construction of Floors B and C, and the second (lost) threshold of the gate. They cannot predate the year 1955. This corresponds to the piece of yellow polyethylene (plastic foil) from Layer E (Fig. 17; northern profile of B-A, next to the wall). Unfortunately, the coin does not provide a *terminus ante quem* for the construction of Floor F and for phase 1 of Building B, because it is uncertain when exactly the coin ended up in Floor F. So a date can be narrowed down only to a timeframe probably after 1916 and surely before 1967>.

⁵⁵ As Ionas 2003, 168, figure at the top.

⁵⁶ Ionas 2003, 29, 75.

⁵⁷ According to the dubious '1916' map; see Families of Lurucina 2016 (2).

Zapiti – Michaelidou 2008, 220, 226, nr. 36: Elisabeth II, 1955. Obverse: crowned bust of queen Elisabeth II right (nearly not readable); [QUEEN ELISABETH] THE SECOND. Reverse: Ingot-bearer left (only part of the ingot identifiable); in lower right field: value mark 5; [GOVE]R[NMENT O]F CYPRUS[+FIVE MILS+1955+].

Building B can be defined as *macrinari*, the first of the typical living spaces of vernacular courtyard houses. It is an enclosed rectangular space accessible in the centre of one of the longer sides. The interior may have been shared by people and animals. The usage of space was determined by the central position of the access. The type stands in the tradition of the near-eastern 'Breitraum'⁵⁹. The building most probably functioned as a stable or for storage.

Room D, Building E

The largely destroyed stone Building E was single-storied, as marked on the 1967-map. It lost its roof and western wall while the supportive arch has collapsed. Its southern and northern walls are attached, not joined with the western wall of Building F (Figs. 2-3, 7-8). This fact may indicate that E belongs to a different building phase than F. However, it may also simply be a consequence of the process of construction.

Its interior was divided by a single, east-west-oriented arch into a northern and southern bay. Therefore the slope of the roof must have been oriented to the north and south just as the roof of G. A 1.95 m.-wide preserved gate opens to the south. Its horizontal lintel consists of several timber beams. Another door, of which only its northern frame could be traced in the debris, connected the northern bay of E with D. It is not indicated on the cadastral maps of '1916' and 1967, although no traces suggested that the door had been walled-off at some time.

E is typologically a *dichoro* like Building G (actually two *macrinari* parallel to each other), the second of the typical living spaces of vernacular courtyard houses that could have been shared by people and animals⁶⁰. The separation of functions was marked by the position of the arch(es). The main access was located usually opposite of the course of the arch(es). According to the mayor of the village, E functioned as a horse stable.

This was confirmed when remains of a built manger along the northern wall were unearthed from the soil and debris⁶¹. The bench-like structure is about 0.60 m. high (the original floor was not ascertained), subdivided into six equal compartments of which four are well preserved. The compartments are about 0.70 m. wide and deep and separated by bars about 0.10 m. wide (Figs. 3, 23).

In the outer corner between E and Building F, about 1 m. above ground level, a 0.87 m.-high niche with an arch was inserted into the wall of E (Figs. 3, 7). Its lateral ashlar frames are each 0.23 m. wide, a value which is encountered also on the frames of the western window and door of Building G, proving again the existence of standardised measurements. Such exterior niches are typical in the vernacular Cypriot architecture, for they often occur next to or underneath staircases⁶².

The almost completely destroyed Room D is marked on the 1967 map as 'passage-way'. Rests of a southern wall or of a door/gate could not be found. The room may have had the character of an access corridor as indicated by the legend of the 1967 map. Traces of a door connecting C and D, of which only the northern frame was still visible, were recorded. The door, which corresponded approximately with the door connecting D and E, was later walled

⁵⁹ Ionas 2003, 46-48; Kurt et al. 2013a, 134.

⁶⁰ For the *dichoro*, see Ionas 2003, 46-48; Kurt et al. 2013a, 134-135.

⁶¹ For the manger, see Ionas 2003, 100, 189, fig. 1; for the dichoro with a manger opposite the main entrance, see also Ionas, 199-201.

⁶² Ionas 2003, 94.

off (Figs. 2-3). Again, it is not indicated on the cadastral maps of '1916' and 1967, probably because it had been plastered over.

Building F

This is marked on the map of 1967 as two-storied, equipped with a large yard and a balcony on its eastern side (Fig. 2). The first floor in adobe is currently not accessible due to the partially collapsed western wall, roof and floor. The eastern wall with its three small windows is oriented to the village square. Its exterior facade has been restored (whitewashed), and two new single-storey rooms were added on the spot of the originally open yard (Figs. 2-3). In 2012 the western wall still displayed traces of a door in the first floor, which must have been accessible by a wooden staircase as no traces of a stone-built staircase survive. In 2014 the remains of this door had vanished completely (Figs. 7-8). The ground floor is not fully accessible due to debris from the first floor. A door allows access to its northern part, which is also equipped with a single window. The ground floor walls consist of stone except the southern adobe wall which is laid on a foundation of stone layers and which is shared with Building G.

The building must have served as a guesthouse for travellers. Access to the first floor from the courtyard corresponds to the usage of the Anatolian khans, of the typical Anatolian house, and of the majority of vernacular Cypriot courtyard houses⁶³.

Building G

This is a single-storey building as marked on the 1967 map, of which the roofing material – layers of soil and tiles – have largely vanished (Figs. 2-3, 7, 12). It is decorated with representative classicising ashlar doors (arched) and windows (rectangle), facing the courtyard to the west and the square to the east (Figs. 3-4, 7). Towards the village square the building is additionally equipped with a whitewashed, single-arched patio, marked on the map as an 'archway' (Figs. 2, 4). The arch of the patio is carried by about 1.20 m.-tall engaged pillars with sculpturally emphasized capitals. The access to the courtyard is not indicated on the cadastral maps of '1916' and 1967.

The western facade and the southern wall consist of stone up to an uneven line above the western door. They are completed with adobe up to the roof beams (Figs. 7-8). However, to the north stands an adobe wall on a stone foundation, which is partially shared with Building F and which still carries a lot of plaster. The left part of this wall is attached to or joined with the north-south-oriented eastern wall of F, the narrow side of the latter being visible on the photo documentation (Fig. 12). To the right, the adobe material of G's north wall looks different than on the left, but this impression might be deceptive. In any case, the tight connection between the two buildings suggests a parallel construction.

More traces of changes to building G's substance are evident in two walled-off doors with wooden lintels which can be seen in the plaster-less exterior of the southern wall (Fig. 3). The eastern one is partially covered by a north-south-oriented wall of the group of Buildings H. This stone wall is joined with the filling of the walled-off door. However, it displays a change of stone material from bottom to the top beyond about 0.40 m. in distance from the southern wall of G. This indicates building changes of parts of H as well. The short deviation to the

⁶³ Stierlin – Vogt-Göknil 1965, 179; Ionas 2003, 73-74.

south of the southern wall of G is not joined with the east-west-oriented parts of that wall. Possibly the present western facade of G, including the niche in the south-western corner, do not date back to the same phase like the other east-west-oriented walls and the eastern facade. The former exterior of the northern wall of G, which has been partially disguised by newer additions east of F (Fig. 3), displays an older classicising arched ashlar door into which a smaller door with a wooden lintel has been inserted. The older door was a third representative access to Building G which became unnecessary after the younger additions.

Similar to E, the building is typologically at first sight a *dichoro*, equipped with two east-west-oriented moulded arches on three low pillars, two of them engaged with the walls (Figs. 3, 12). The pillars carry sculpturally emphasised capitals, similar to the ones in A. The arches divide the interior into a northern and southern bay. The relation to the living space *dichoro* becomes also evident by the remains of a *souventza* on the western wall (Fig. 12), a moulded decorative cornice of stucco typical for the interior of a *dichoro*⁶⁴.

However, Building G was known among the villagers as a coffee house. The coffee house, considered a public building, is located in the heart of the village. In towns and villages it played an important role in the social life of the male population. Its roof is usually supported by arches⁶⁵. The street-oriented portico is a typical feature of coffee houses⁶⁶. In the vernacular tradition of private courtyard-house complexes, the portico usually appears facing the court-yard⁶⁷. Also, the location of the main access parallel to the orientation of the arches is not typical for the use of space in a *dichoro*⁶⁸.

The eastern arch carries the inscribed date '1882' above the middle pillar, which approximately corresponds to the oral history about the construction of the khan. G is the oldest, datable building of the complex. Eventually, it became the office of the mayor. The latest function before the decay of the building was a butcher's shop, according to oral history.

Group of Buildings H

The buildings south of G are grouped around a small court. They are marked on the map of 1967 mainly as two-storied (Figs. 2-3, 8). Access to the courtyard of the khan is not verifiable, and it is therefore unclear if the buildings originally belonged to the khan. If a connection to the khan existed, a residential function for guests as in F was most likely. The original substance changed: the parts facing the courtyard by decay/collapse, the parts oriented to the street/square by (whitewashed) restoration.

Conclusion

This study resulted in the architectural-archaeological documentation of a decaying complex of buildings. Despite the decay, it is largely preserved in its original state and offers therefore the chance to analyse in detail one of the few surviving khans of a plain, formerly widespread type in Cyprus, of which none has been documented comprehensively so far.

⁶⁴ Ionas 2003, 94-97.

⁶⁵ Given 2000, 6-7; Ionas 2003, 31-39, esp. 36. On the origins of the kahvehane in the Ottoman world in the 16th century, and its frequent relation to vakfs, see Yıldız 2009, 126.

⁶⁶ Given 2000, 7.

⁶⁷ Kurt et al. 2013a, 138.

⁶⁸ Ionas 2003, 46-48.

The complex of Louroujina combines two functions: 1) as a khan which was an important element of rural and urban transportation and economy being found only in towns and villages of outstanding size and importance and/or of convenient location, and 2) as a coffee house which was the centrepiece of (male) social village life. The importance of the village Louroujina, between Nicosia and Larnaca and in the wider sphere of Atheniou, is confirmed by the presence of the khan. The importance of the complex within the village is proven by its central location and inclusion of the coffee house.

Neither archival documents nor oral history were able to contribute considerably to the understanding of the building complex, which is remembered by the people rather generally. This fact – besides the decay – is evidence of the low value of this once-important building in peoples' mind in the recent past, and it explains to some extent why the building type in general has vanished from the towns and villages without leaving many traces.

The complex displays a fusion of several typologies: of the typical Anatolian khan, of the vernacular courtyard house complex, including the residential near-eastern 'Breitraum' types, the *macrinari* and *dichoro*, and of the vernacular coffee house. Apart from the residential spaces and the public space of the coffee house, several buildings for the storage of vehicles, goods and animals are identifiable.

On the basis of two cadastral maps it can be only ascertained that the associated buildings had been completed by 1967. The inscribed date '1882' in the coffee house G, which is the oldest datable building, corresponds approximately to the oral history about the beginnings of the khan. The date also corresponds with the thesis that the specific size of the adobe material indicates that construction of the complex began during the British Colonial period (after 1878). The dimensions of the mudbricks also prove the existence of standardisation in the Cypriot vernacular just like the width of ashlar frames, the shape of the ashlar gate of Building A and the size of the roof tiles.

A date for the construction of the newer building B (-C) and phase 2 of building A can be narrowed down, on the basis of available data, only to a timeframe of probably after 1916 and surely before 1967>. Because Building B marks the end of phase 1 of Building A, a narrower timeframe may be concluded from the change of function of Building A. It had been a semi-open space for the storage of carts and goods in its first phase. In phase 2 the storage of carts was abandoned as the building was transformed into an enclosed space.

Now this fact may reflect the general development of Cypriot khans during the 20th century, examined on the basis of data from the capital. According to this data, the original function of the khans, namely the accommodation of people and transport animals and the storage of goods and carts, declined in the first half of the century. This is due to the emergence of other type of hotels and the increase of motorisation, although the accommodation of people continued in Nicosia at least into the 1950s.

Most probably declining demand for storing transport vehicles and animals led to the change of the function of building A through the construction of Building B. And this decline emerged most probably close to the middle of the 20th century in Louroujina. Phase 1 of Building B marks therefore not only the beginning of phase 2 of Building A but also of phase 2 of the khan in general.

The value of the complex is based on the extent of its preservation, on being an exponent of the generally endangered vernacular architectural heritage of the island, and on its role as an essential element of the agricultural/economic, social and cultural history of the island.

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Özet

Metruk Lurucina Hanı (Akıncılar, Kuzey Kıbrıs): Yok Olan Bir Yapı Tipi Üzerine İncelemeler

Bu makalede Kuzey Kıbrıs'ta Lurucina (bugünkü Akıncılar)'daki bir yapı kompleksinin mimari ve arkeolojik belgelemesi sunulmaktadır. Bir miktar tahribata karşın, büyük oranda orijinal halinde korunmuş olan kompleks, Kıbrıs'ta basit tipte hanlardan günümüze ulaşan bir örneği ayrıntısıyla inceleme fırsatı sunuyor. Eskiden yaygın olmasına karşın bu tip hiç bir zaman kapsamlı şekilde belgelenmemiştir. Yapı kompleksinde iki işlev bir aradadır: 1) yalnızca kentlerde ve çok büyük ve önemli köylerde ve/veya uygun lokasyonlarda kırsal ve kentsel nakliyat ve ekonominin önemli bir unsuru olarak han işlevi, ve 2) (erkek-merkezli) sosyal köy yaşamının kalbinde yer alan kahvehane işlevi. Ne arşiv belgeleri ne de sözlü tarih, bu yapı kompleksinin anlaşılmasına katkıda bulunabildi. Komplekste birkaç tipolojinin kaynaştığı görülür: 1) tipik Anadolu hanı, 2) Yakın Doğu 'Breitraum' konut tipleri macrinari ve dichoro da dahil vernaküler avlulu ev kompleksi, ve 3) vernaküler kahvehane. İki kadastro haritasına dayanarak söz konusu ilintili yapıların 1967 yılına kadar tamamlandığı söylenebilmektedir. Kahvehane G'nin üzerinde yazılı '1882' tarihi, sözlü tarihe göre hanın kurulus tarihine yaklaşık karşılık gelmektedir. Bu tarih ayrıca, kesme taş çerçeveler, A yapısının kesme taş kapısının şekli ve çatı kiremitlerinin ebatları gibi kerpiç malzemenin ebatlarının da 1878 sonrası İngiliz koloniyal dönemine karşılık geldiği teziyle uyum içindedir. Daha yeni olan B Yapısı, ve A Yapısının ikinci evresinin inşa tarihi içinse sadece 1916 sonrası ile 1967 öncesi şeklinde geniş bir yelpazeden söz edebiliyoruz. Nakliye araçlarının ve hayvanlarının depolama talebinin ortadan kalkması, A Yapısı'nın işlevinde, B Yapısı'nın inşa edilmesiyle değişikliğe yol açmıştır. Bu durum aslında Kıbrıs hanlarında 20. yy.'da gözlenen genel gerilemeye işaret ediyor olabilir. Kompleksin değeri, iyi korunmuşluğunda, adanın genelde tehdit altında olan vernaküler mimari mirasının güzel bir örneği olmasında, ve adanın tarımsal/ekonomik, sosyal ve kültür tarihinin temel bir unsuru rolünde yatmaktadır.

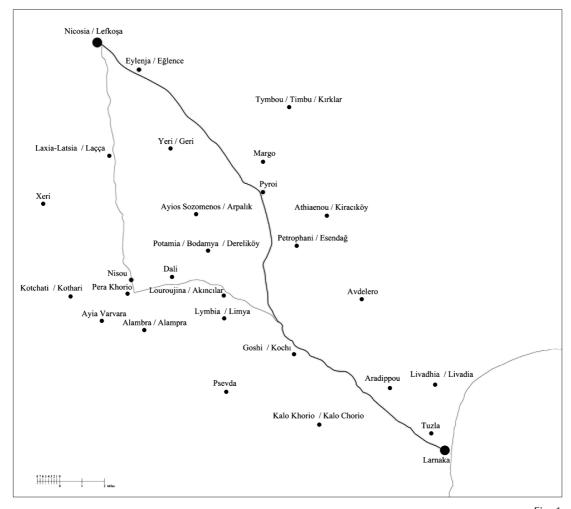




Fig. 1 Regional map of Cyprus with Louroujina midway between Nicosia and Larnaca (Authors' creation based on 1885 Kitchener map)

Fig. 2 Louroujina/Akıncılar, detail of cadastral 1967 map, area of main square, khan in centre (plots 222-224)

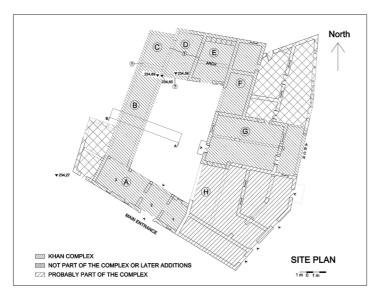


Fig. 3 Louroujina Khan, ground-floor plan



Fig. 4 Khan, east elevation of Building G towards main square; restored facades of Building F on right (with later additions) and group of Buildings H on left

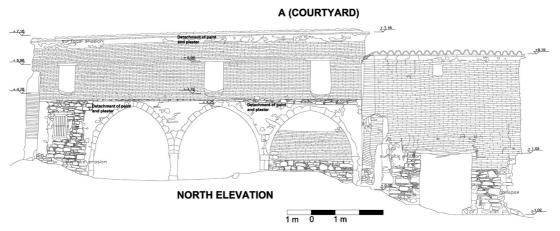


Fig. 5 Khan, north elevation towards courtyard; left: Building A; right: unassociated passageway to neighbouring complex

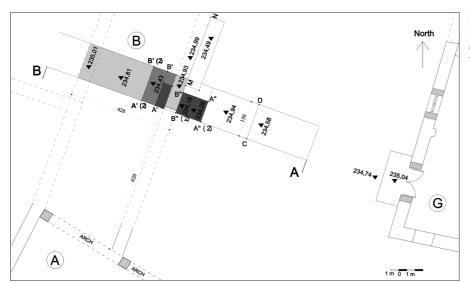


Fig. 6 Khan, Building B, courtyard and Trench B-A



Fig. 7
Khan, view towards east, over destroyed Building
B to unrestored facades
of Stable E (left in front),
Guesthouse F (two-storey,
with rests of door on first
floor), Coffee house
G (center), H (right).
In front of G unrelated
square structure



Fig. 8
Khan, view towards east over destroyed Building B
and trench markers onto unrestored facades of
Stable E (left in front),
Guesthouse F, Coffee house
G (center), H (right), A (far right) and unassociated passageway (far right/in front)

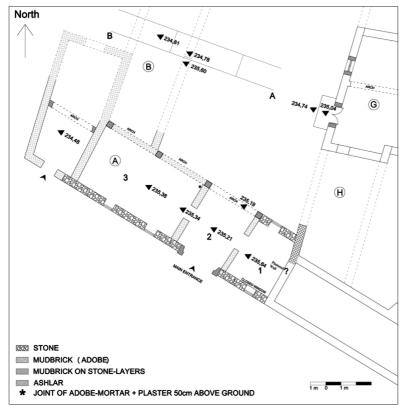


Fig. 9 Khan, Building A, ground-floor plan

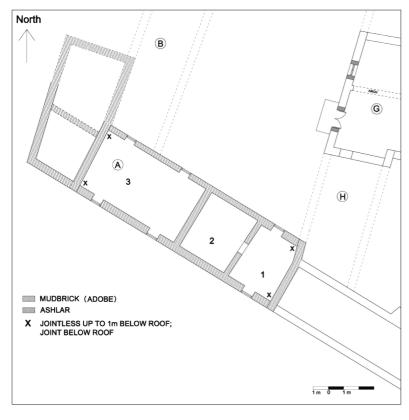


Fig. 10 Khan, Building A, 'First-floor' plan, level above stone wall and arches of ground floor



Fig. 11 Khan, Building A, south elevation towards street; left: unassociated passageway



Fig. 12 Khan, Building G (coffee house), view from southern bay towards northern wall, *souventza* (cornice) on wall to left, middle pillar reinforced by concrete cover



Fig. 13 Khan, Building A, view into south-west corner and of western wall of Room 3 shared with unassociated passageway



Fig. 14 Khan, destroyed Building B, view towards south onto north elevation of Building A; right: unassociated passageway, slight traces of walls of B under debris and vegetation

15 est elle lar tal

Fig. 15 Khan, Building A, rest of filling of middle arch and ashlar pillar with capital

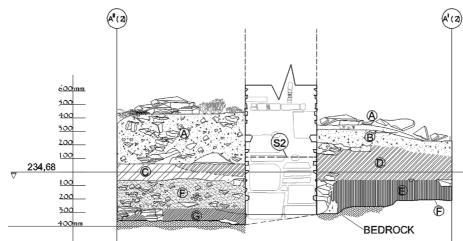


Fig. 16 Khan, Building B/ courtyard, Trench B-A, detail; drawing of south profile A'(2) – A" (2) over east wall of B, exterior and inner floor levels C, B and F



Fig. 17 Khan, Building B, Trench B-A, view towards west with excavation next to eastern wall, until A' (2) - B'(2); Inner floor Levels B and F



Fig. 18 Khan, Building B/courtyard, Trench B-A, view towards south; right: eastern wall of B, far right: inner floor level B; Left of ashlar Block S2 (rest of frame of door/gate): exterior floor level F with stone slab next to the wall

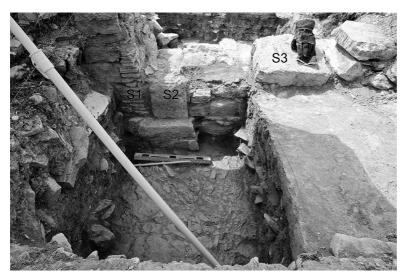


Fig. 19 Khan, Building B/courtyard, Trench B-A, view towards west onto eastern wall of B; bottom: bedrock



Fig. 20 Khan, Building B, Trench B-A, view towards east onto the east wall of B, left: floor level F, bottom: bedrock



Fig. 21 Khan, courtyard/Building B, Trench B-A, view towards south. South profile B"(2) - A"(2) east of eastern wall of B with floor levels C and F; right: ashlar Block S2



Fig. 22 Khan, courtyard/Building B, Trench M-N next to eastern wall of B, view towards west



Fig. 23 Khan, Building E, Unearthed remains of a manger along northern wall, view towards west