



**MISSIONE ARCHEOLOGICA
ITALIANA IN MALTA
1963-2012**



The Maltese archipelago and the sites investigated by the Missione Archeologica Italiana





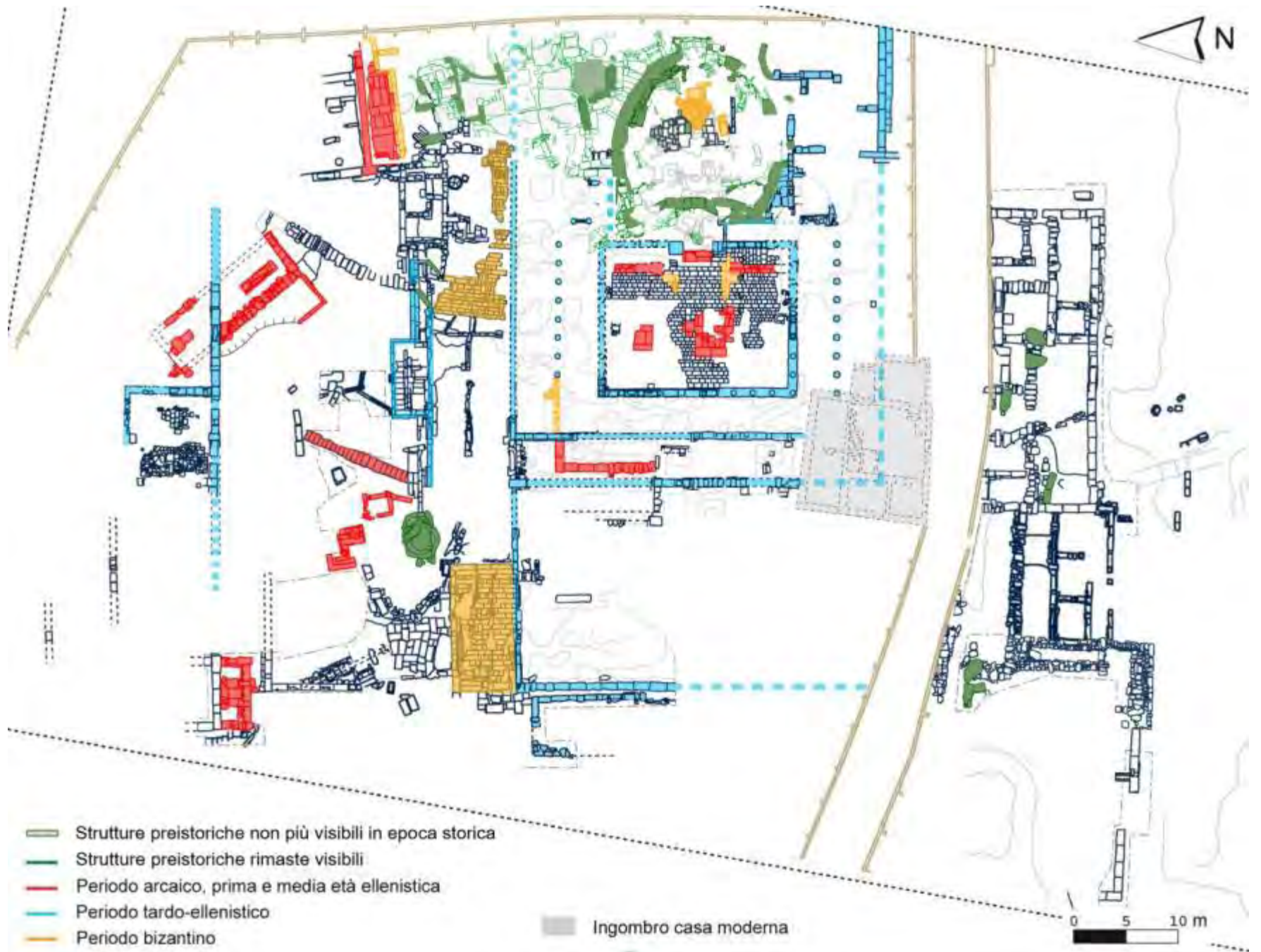
THE ASTARTE-HERA SANCTUARY IN TAS-SILG



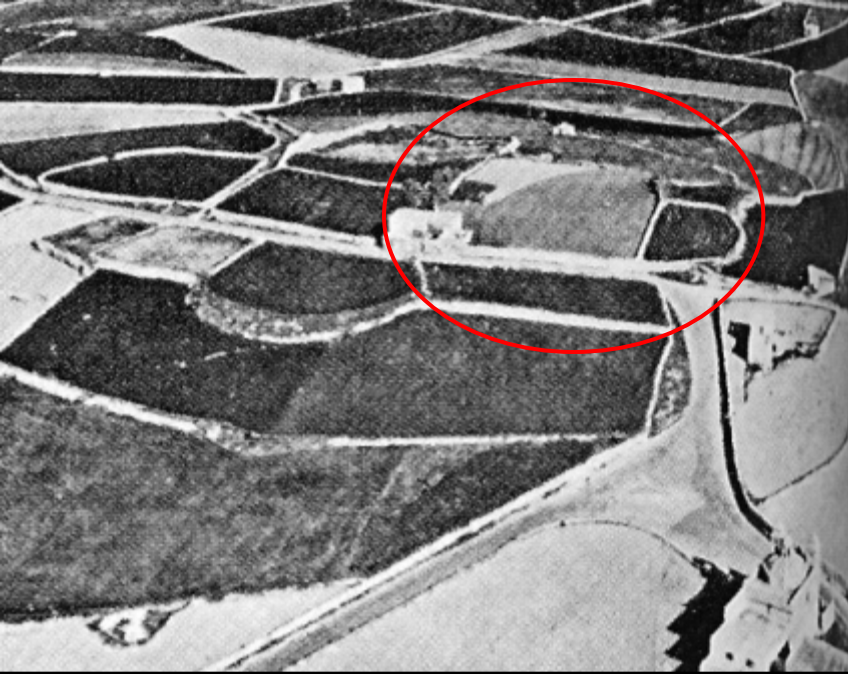


The Marsaxlokk Bay and the hill where the sanctuary was established

The Tas-Silg sanctuary and its main chronological phases



Aerial views of the Tas-Silg site



1963

2005





Virtual reconstruction of the Late Neolithic complex

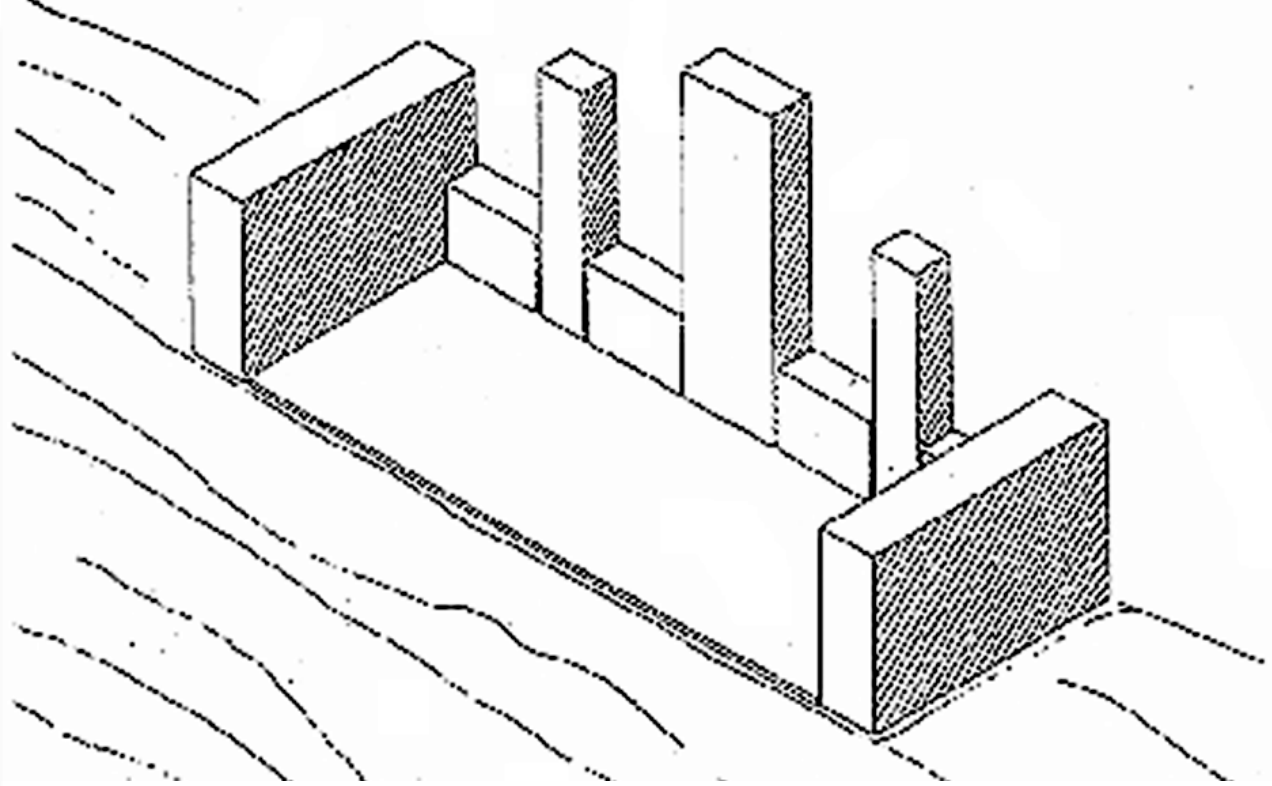
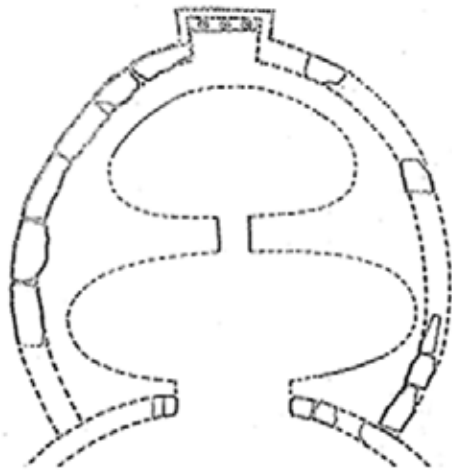


Agate pendant
with cuneiform inscription
(Nippur? 14th-13th century BC)



Text

- 1) [tam]-šil₄(LIŠ) ⁴Šin(30) bēl(EN) agē(AG[A]) e[lⁿ-li ...
- 2) MIN ¹Aḫu(ŠEŠ)-da/ta-[...]
- 3) MIN ¹Lig-deš-šir [...]
- 4) ¹Ia-mu₁ arad(ĪR) [ekalli(É.GAL) ...
- 5) ¹I-din-⁴Šamaš(UTU)₁ (?) ¹Šil-[li-GN ...
- 6) a-na ¹al¹-lal-[le-e ilī(DINGIR.MEŠ) rabūti(GAL.MEŠ) ⁴Nin-urta⁷]
- 7) [i]k-[ru-bu-ma ...



Position (*left*) and proposal for the reconstruction of the archaic altar by A. Ciasca (*above*).

Detail of the holes drilled in the rock, most likely pertaining the fencing of the sacrificial area





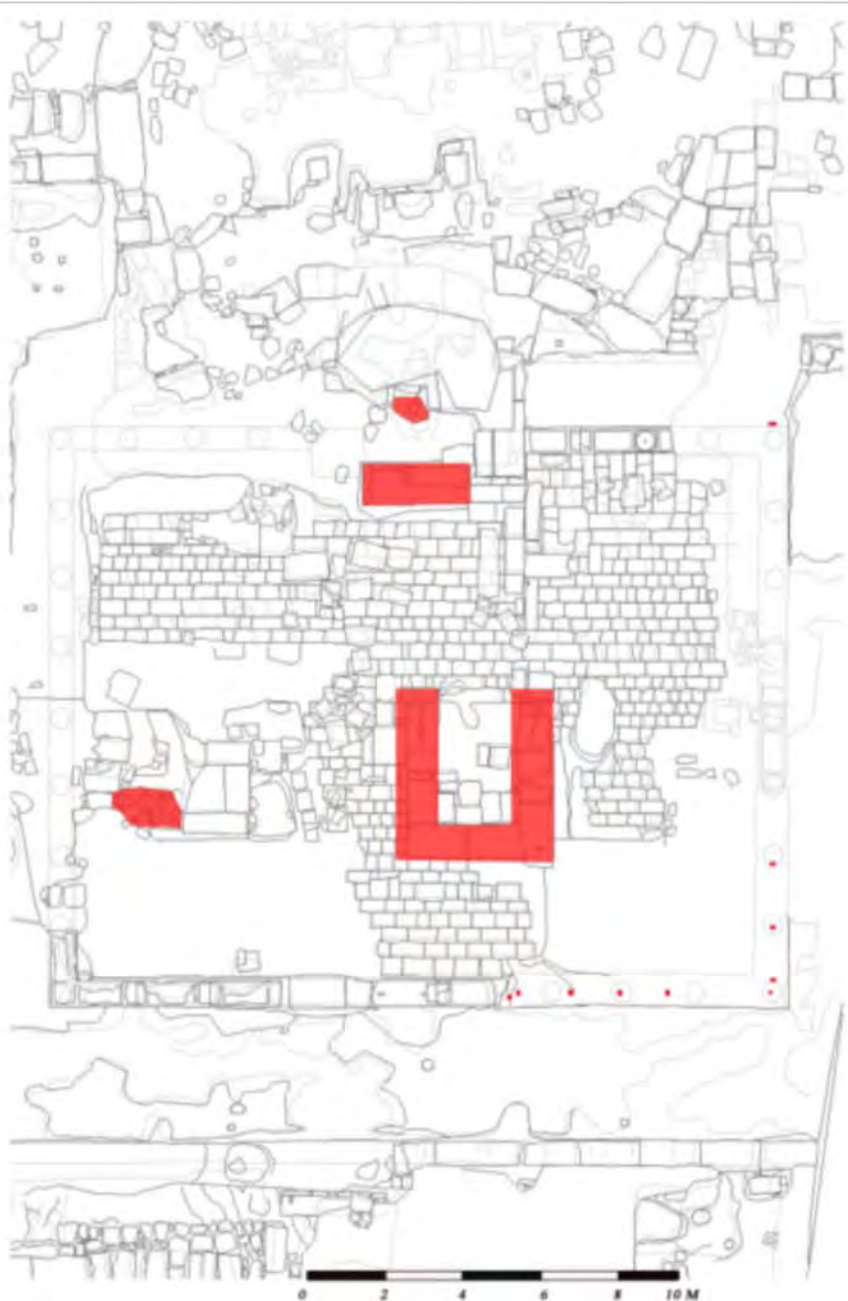
Archaic altar's slab and libations structure



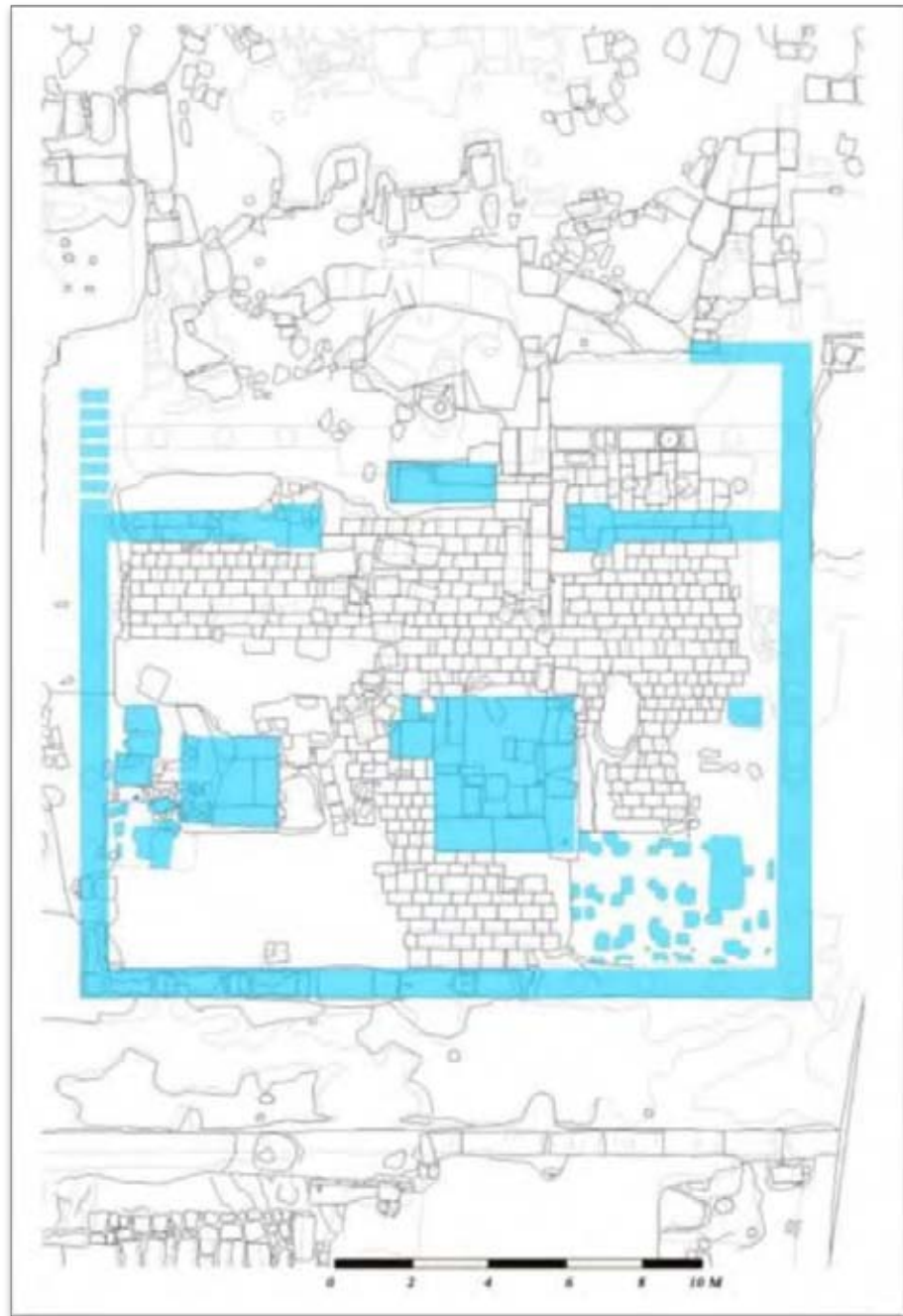
Votive model of a shrine with a goddess' image



Ivory ear belonging to a chryselephantine statue, with hole for the earring.
It is likely to be part of the cult statue, life-sized



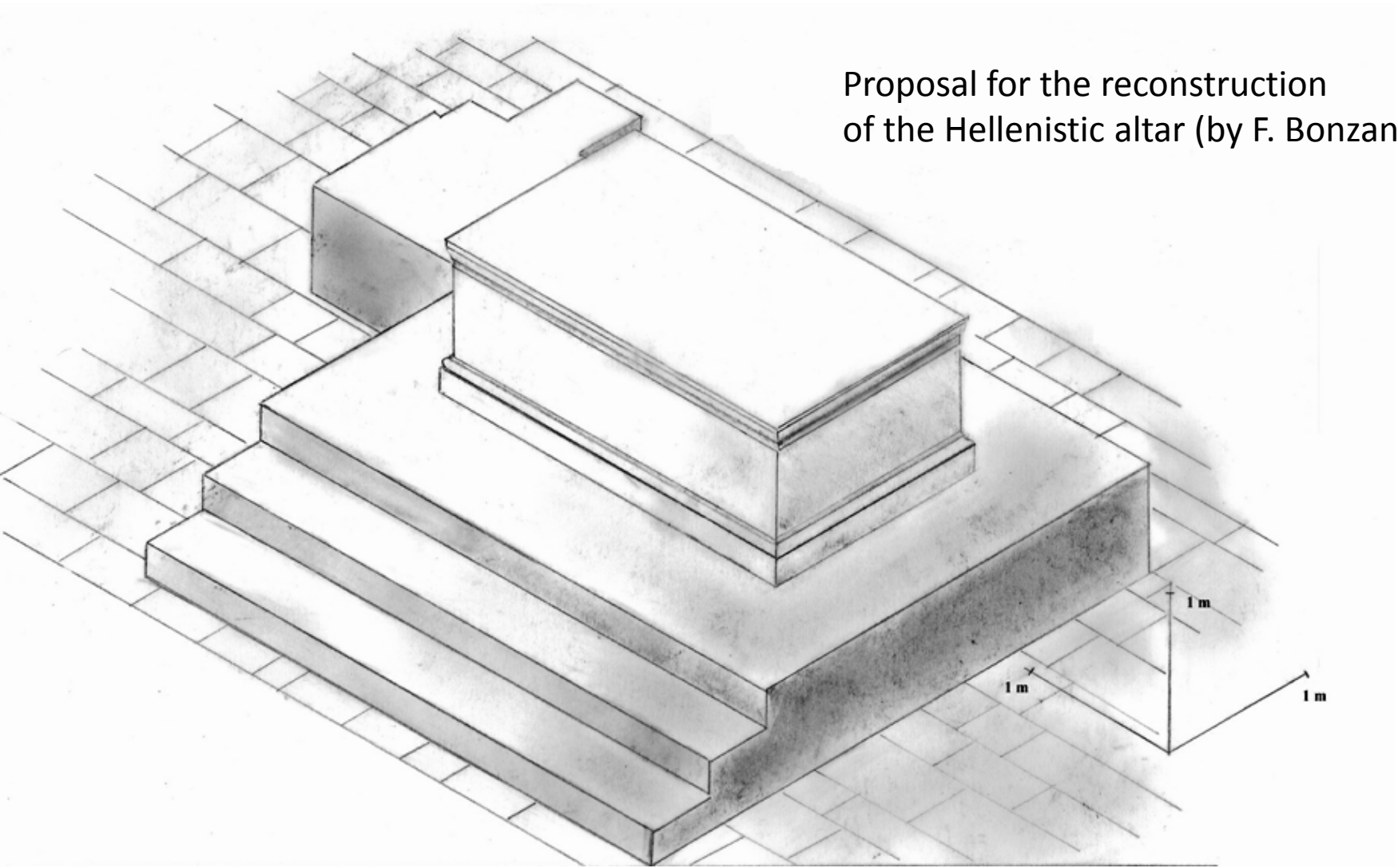
The area of the altar and of the archaic sacellum



Place of the second, Hellenistic altar, within the sacrificial space

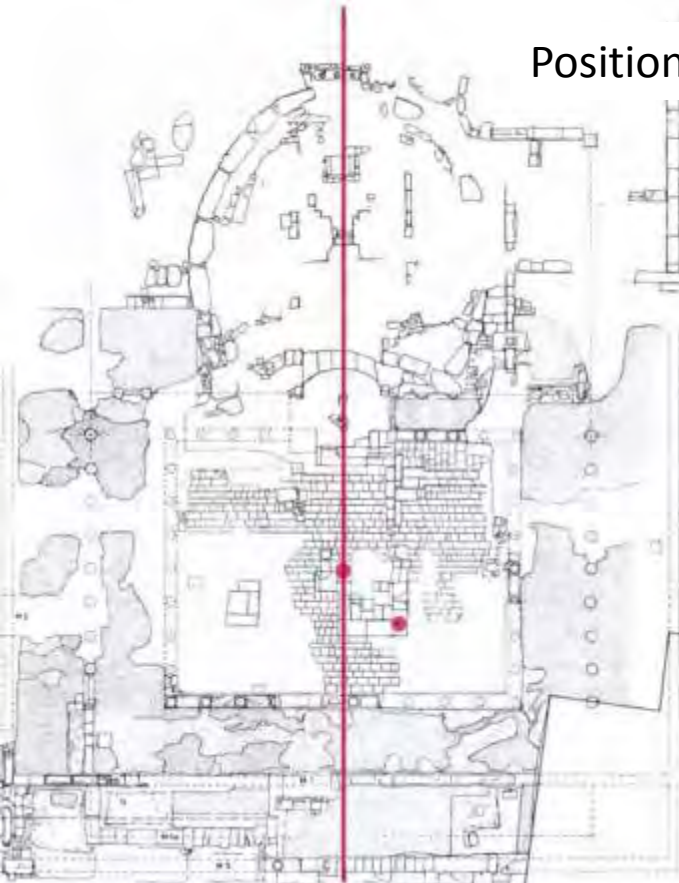


Crowning of the altar with the inscription
«to the Lady Astarte of Malta [this] is the al [tar...»



Proposal for the reconstruction
of the Hellenistic altar (by F. Bonzano)

Position of the votive deposits preceding the building of the altar





Detail of one of the votive deposits



Traces of votive stones around the altar

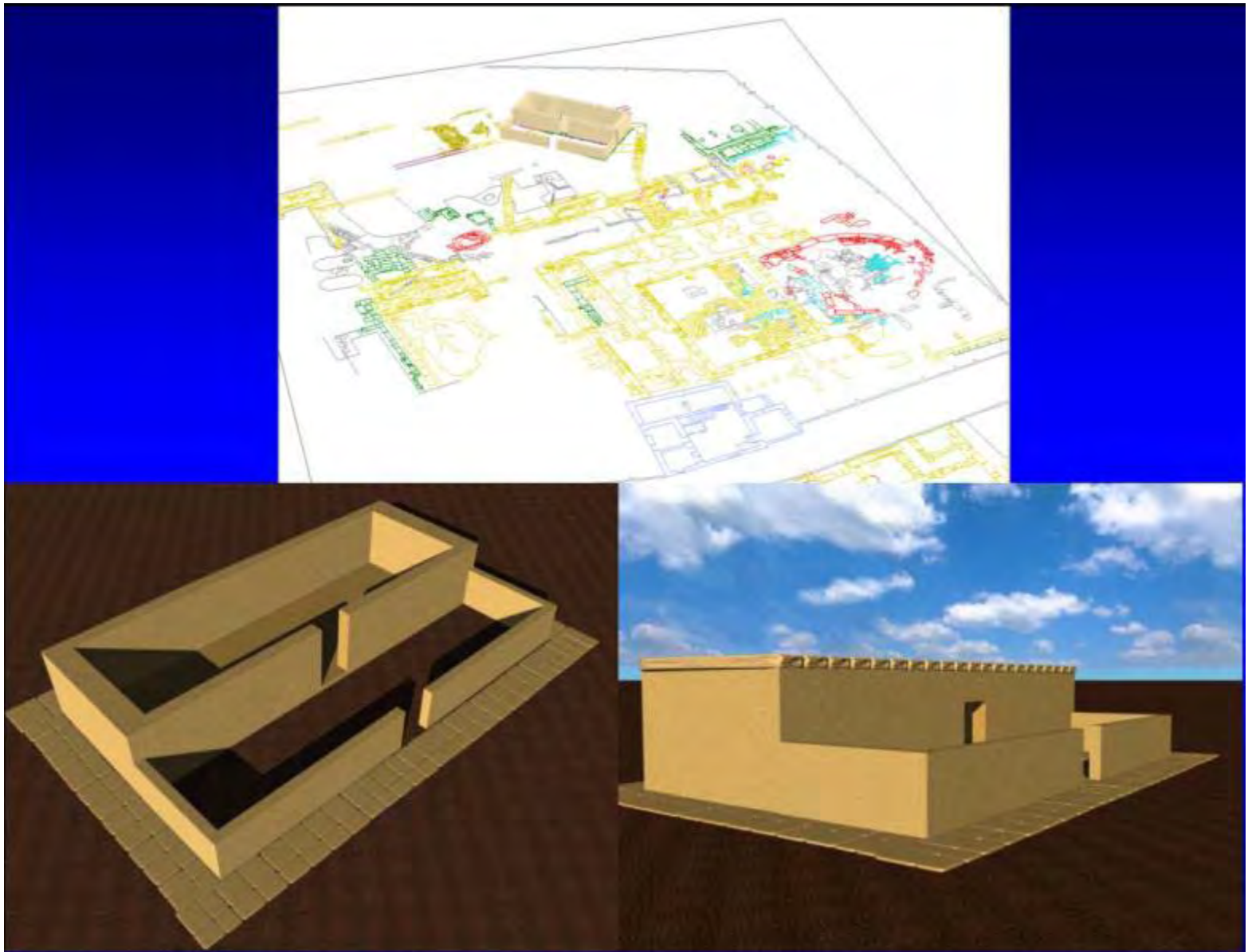


A few votive stones from Tas Silg

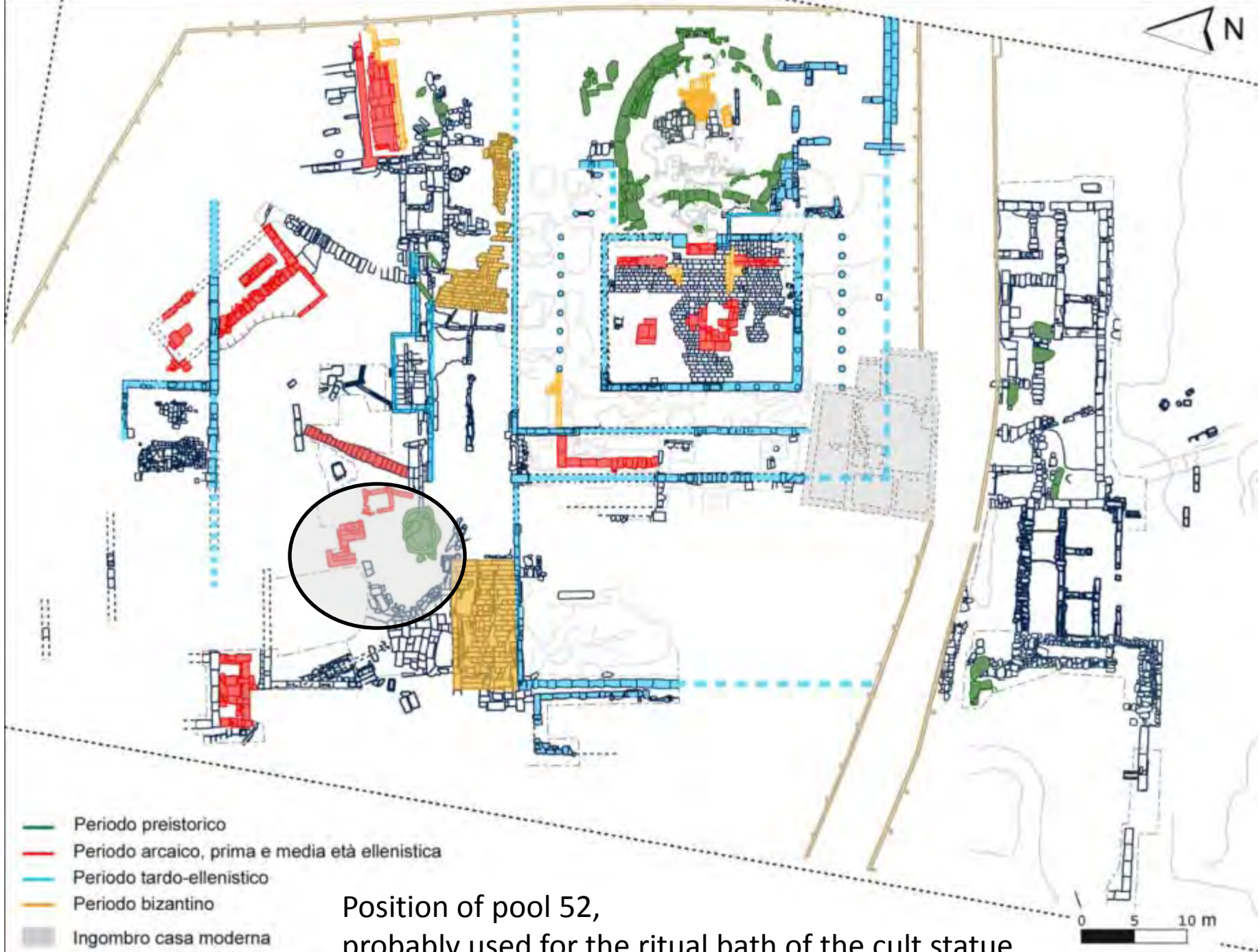


In red: altars in the northern area of the sanctuary



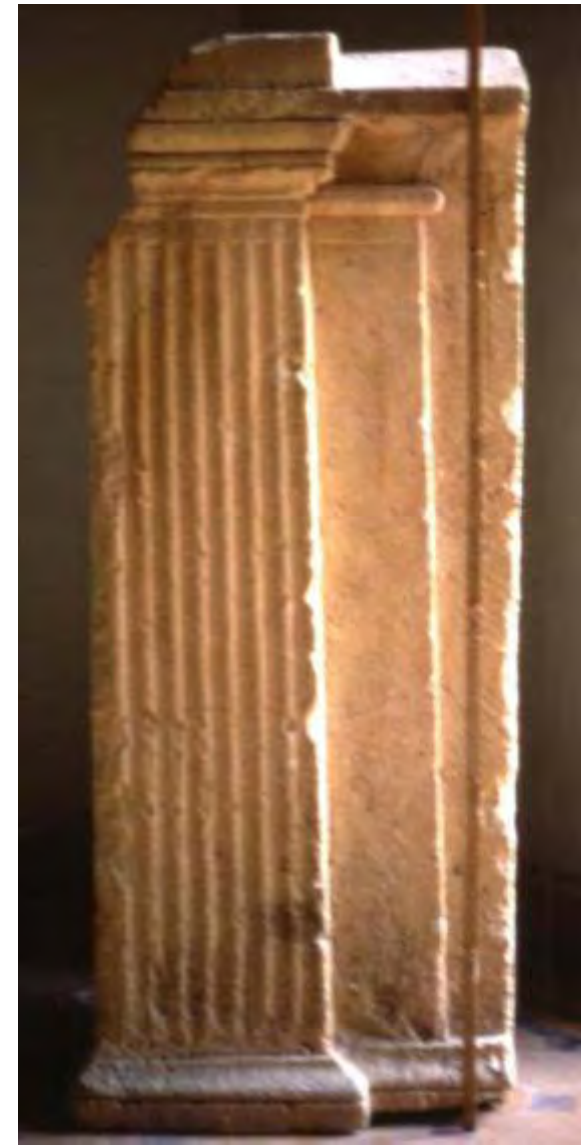


Reconstruction of the 4° century B.C. «altars»



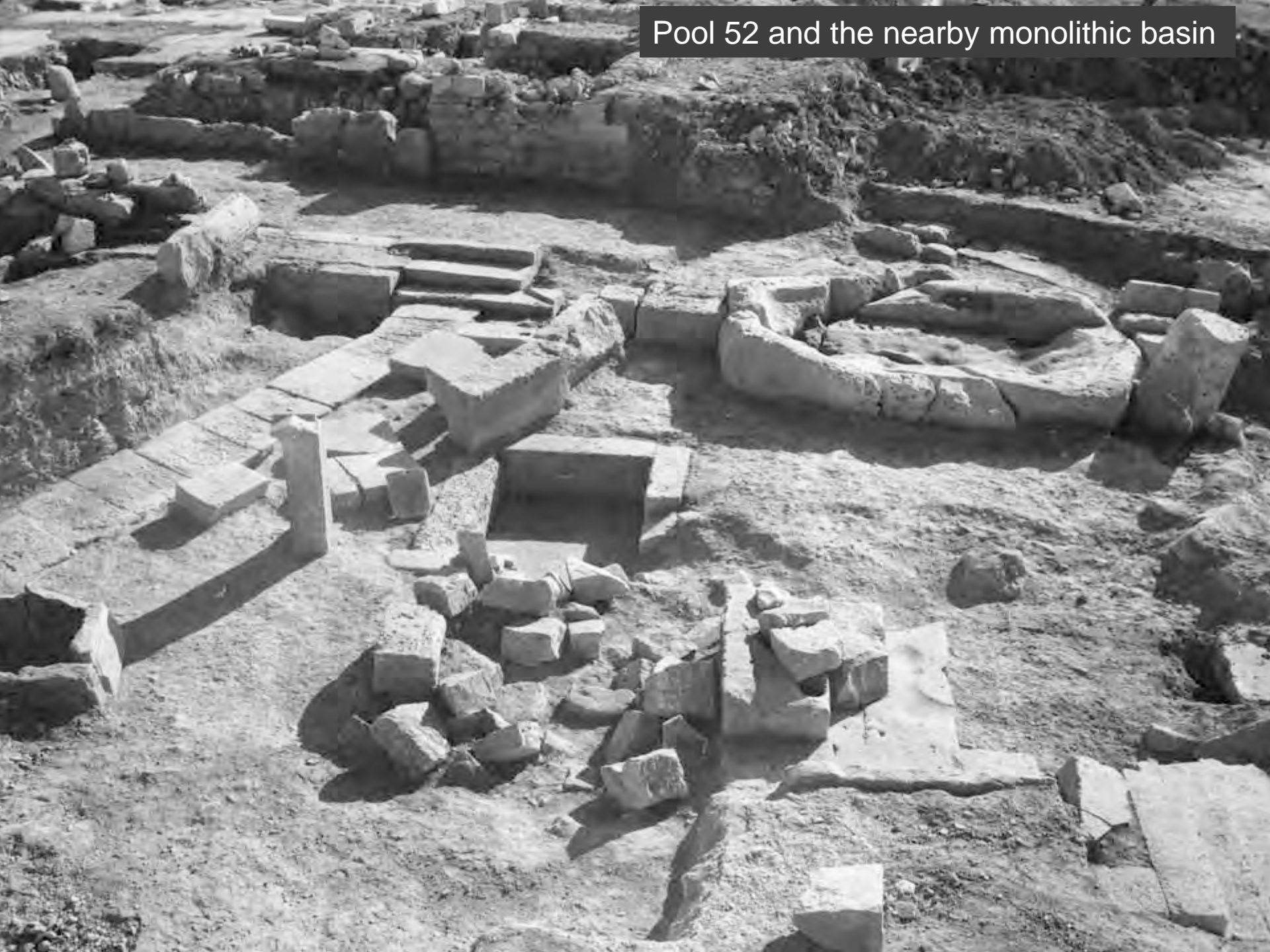


Pool 52



Small pillar possibly belonging to the fence of pool 52

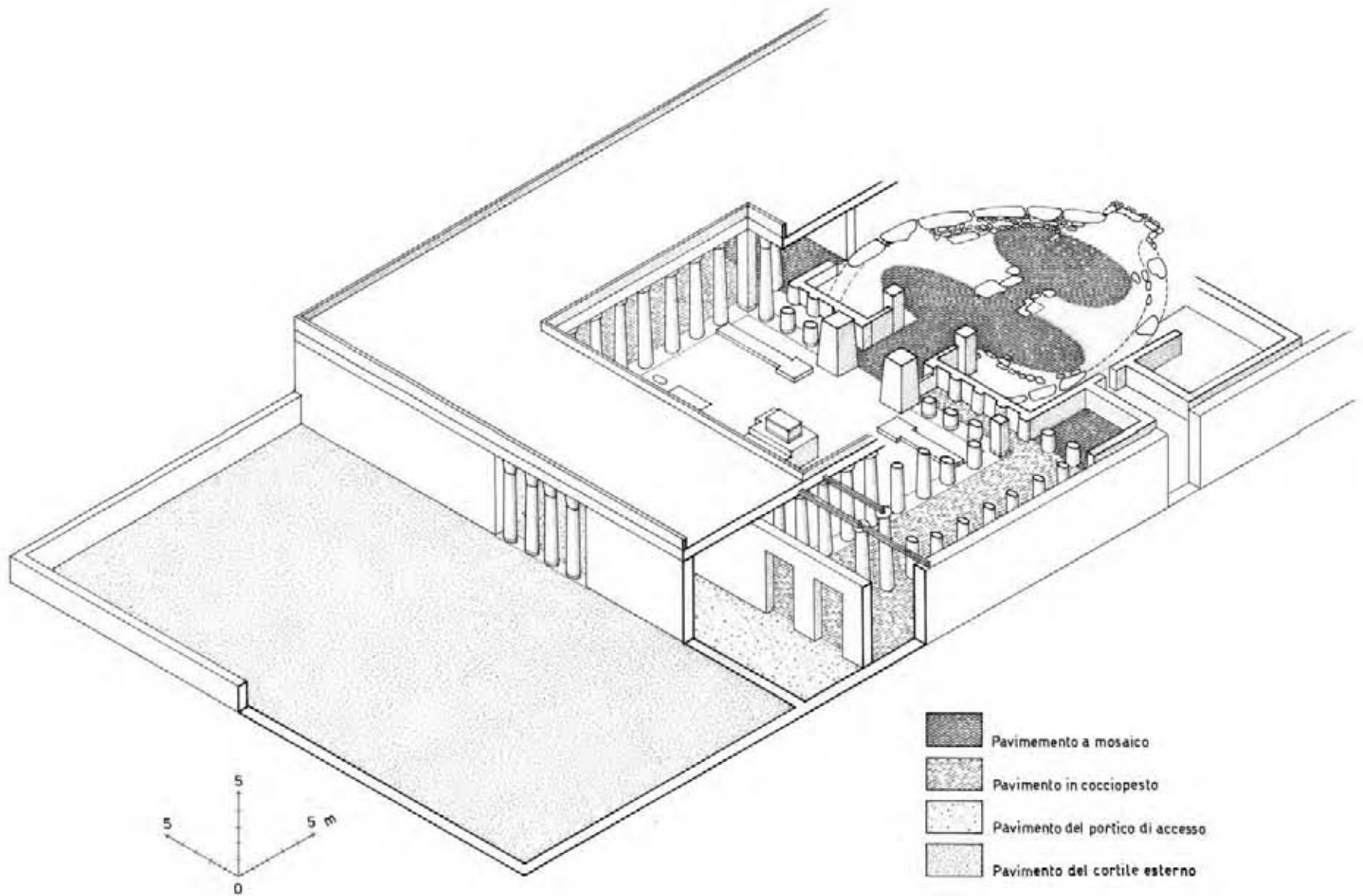
Pool 52 and the nearby monolithic basin





Some of the inscriptions in Punic writing from the sanctuary



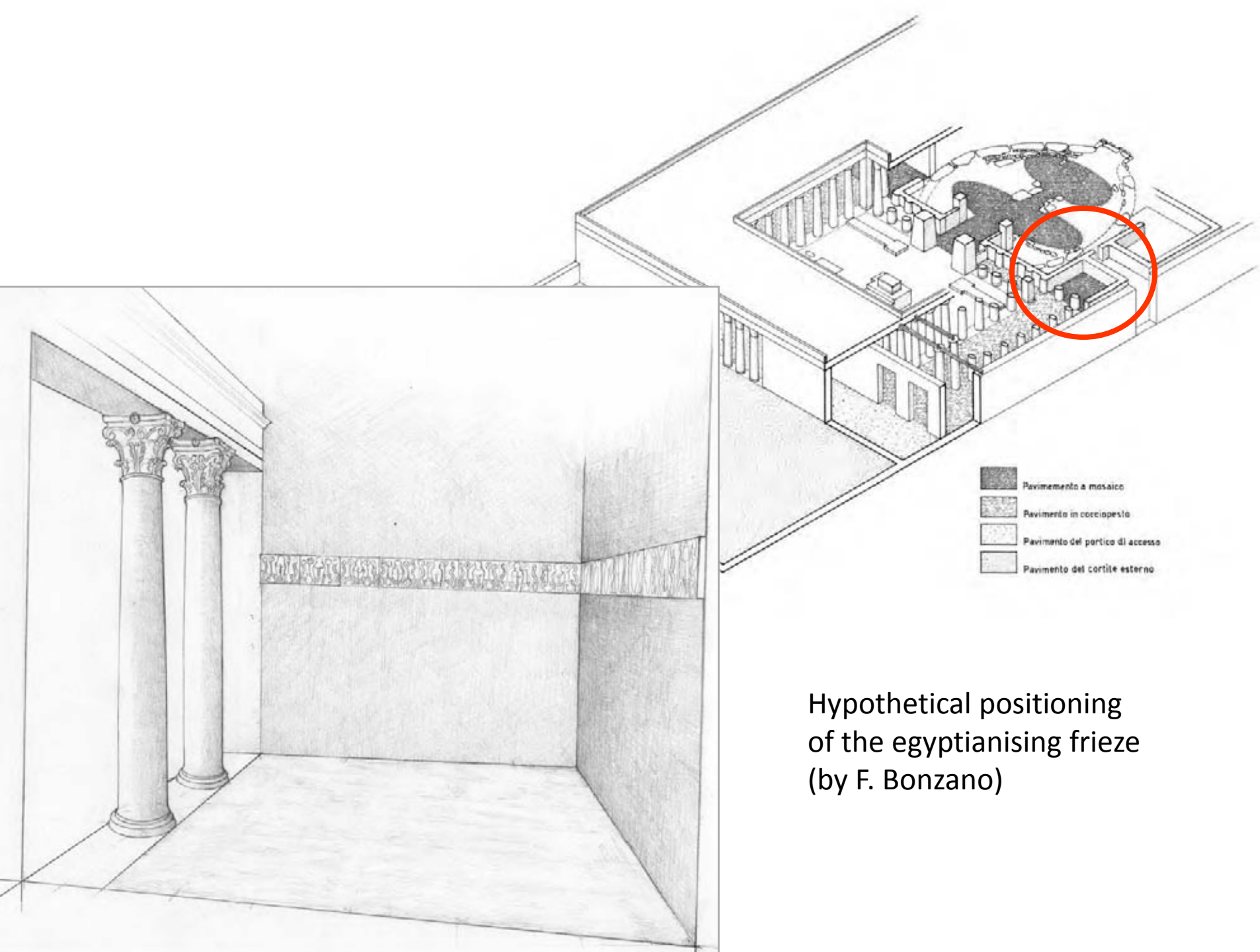


Axonometric projection of the appearance of the sanctuary's central area after the renovation of late 2nd – early 1st century BC

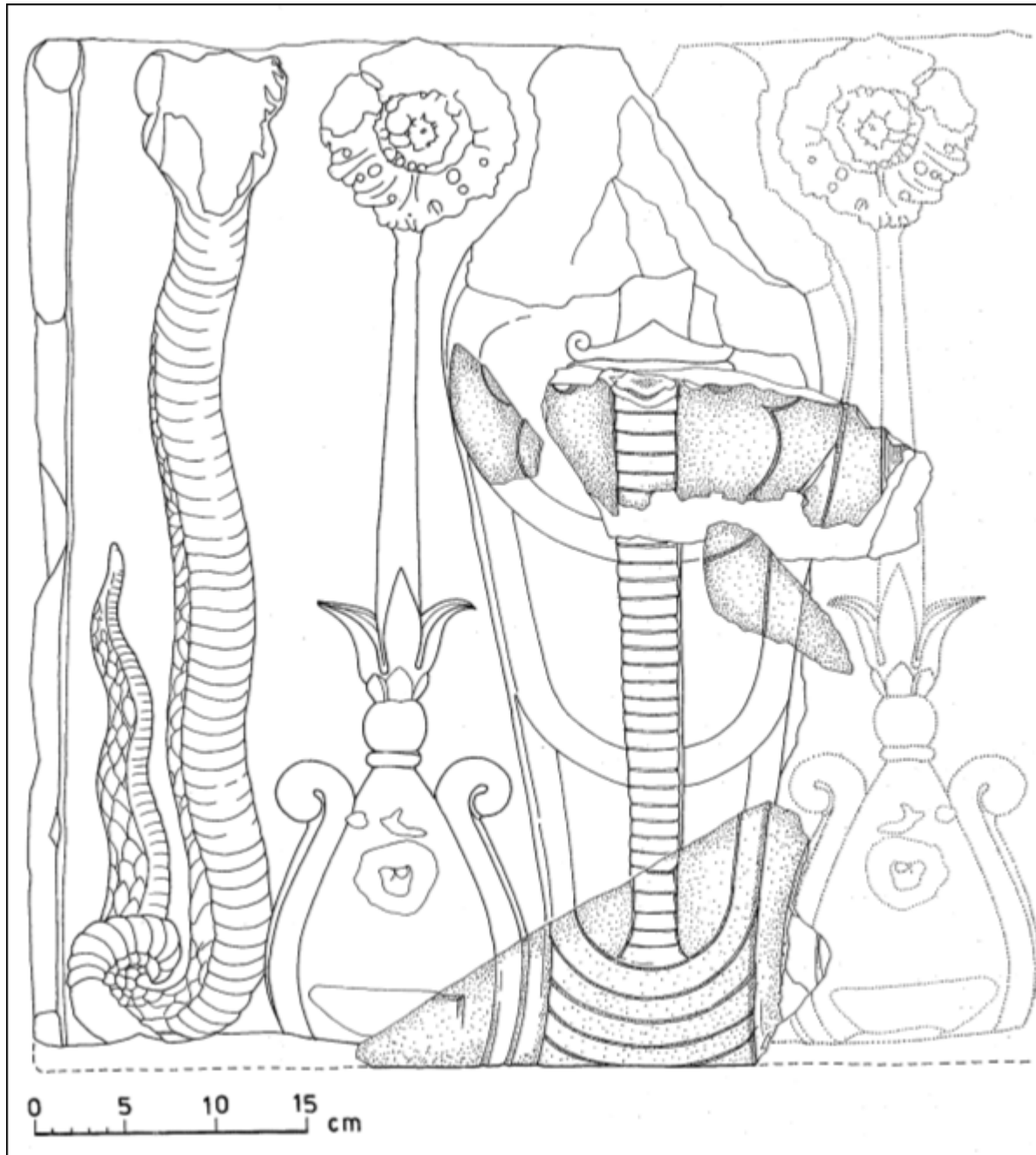


Inscriptions in Greek writing,
with dedications to *Hera*

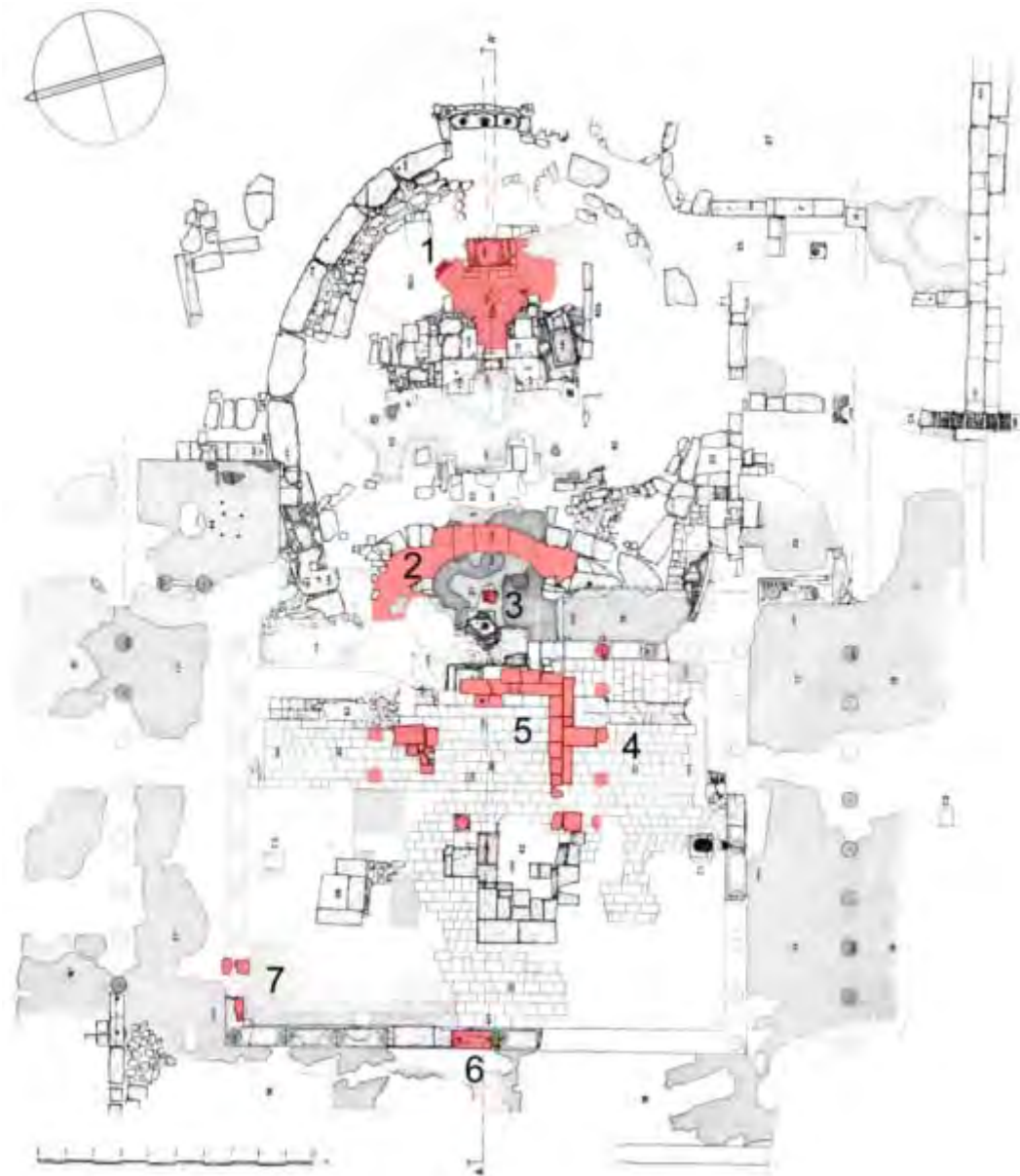




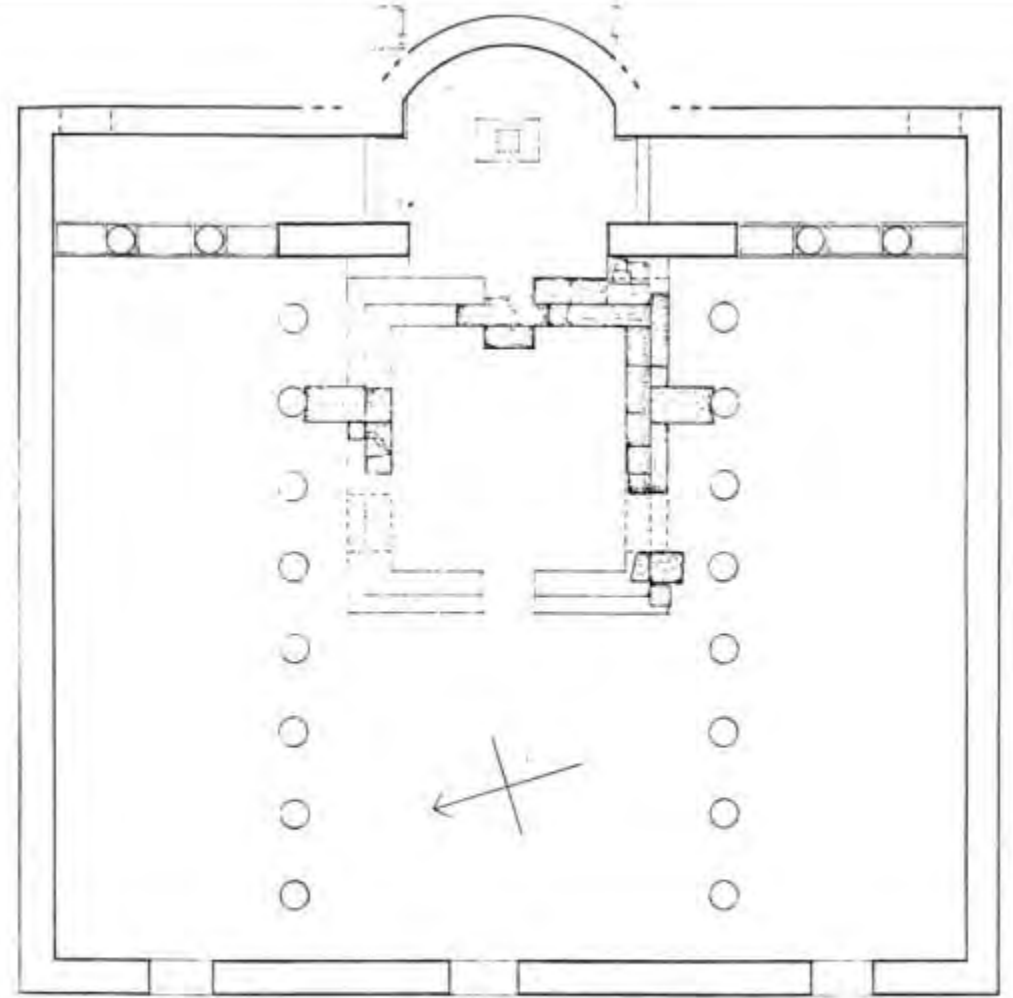
Hypothetical positioning
of the egyptianising frieze
(by F. Bonzano)



Reconstruction of the marble Egyptianising frieze (by F. Bonzano)



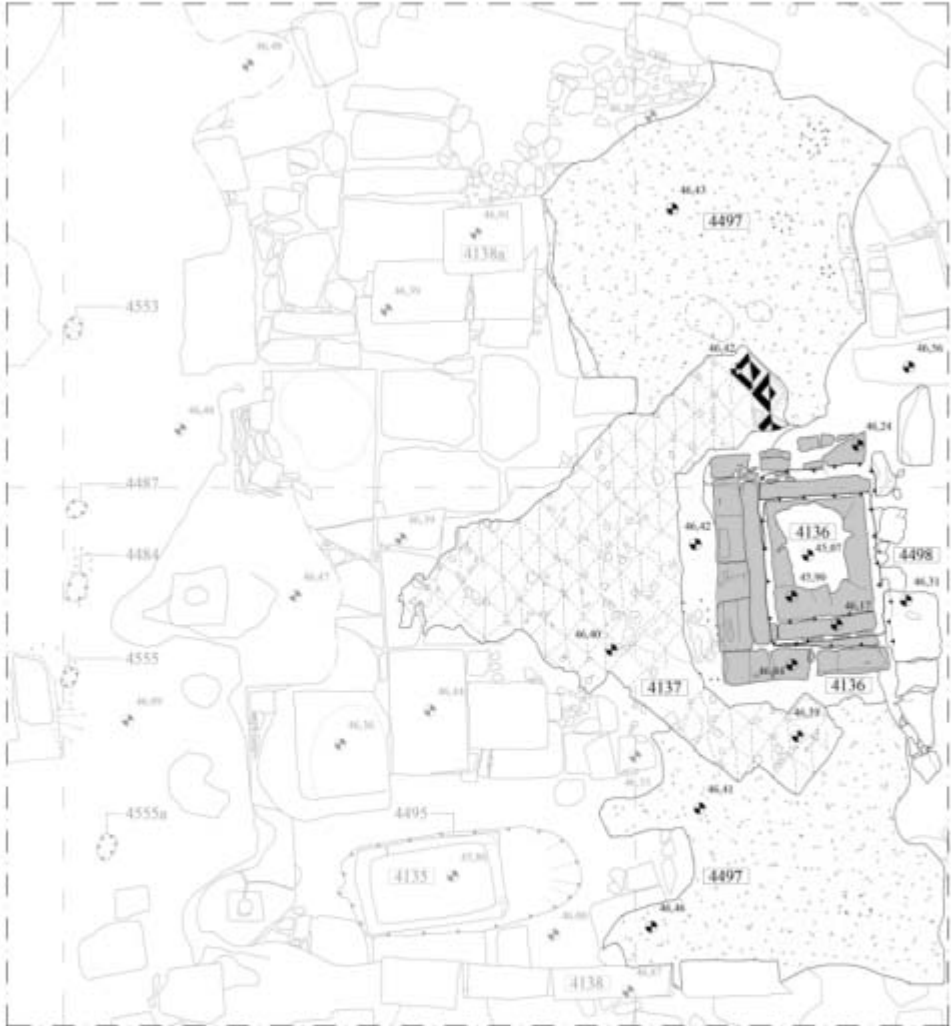
In red, the structures belonging to the christian complex



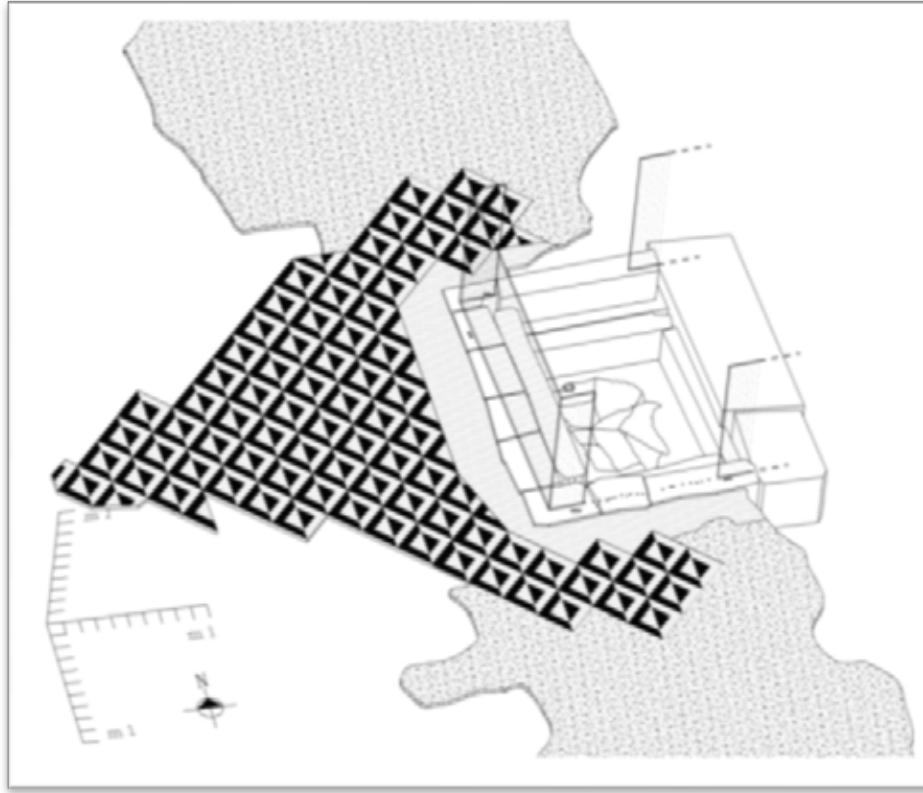
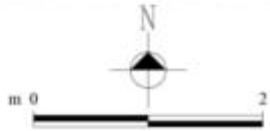
M. Cagiano de Azevedo's proposal
for the reconstruction of the Byzantine Church and baptistery



Remains of the baptistery



- Preparazione in malta
- Elementi costruttivi del Battistero
- Pavimento in cocciopesto
- Rattoppo pavimentale
- Evidenze fuori fase



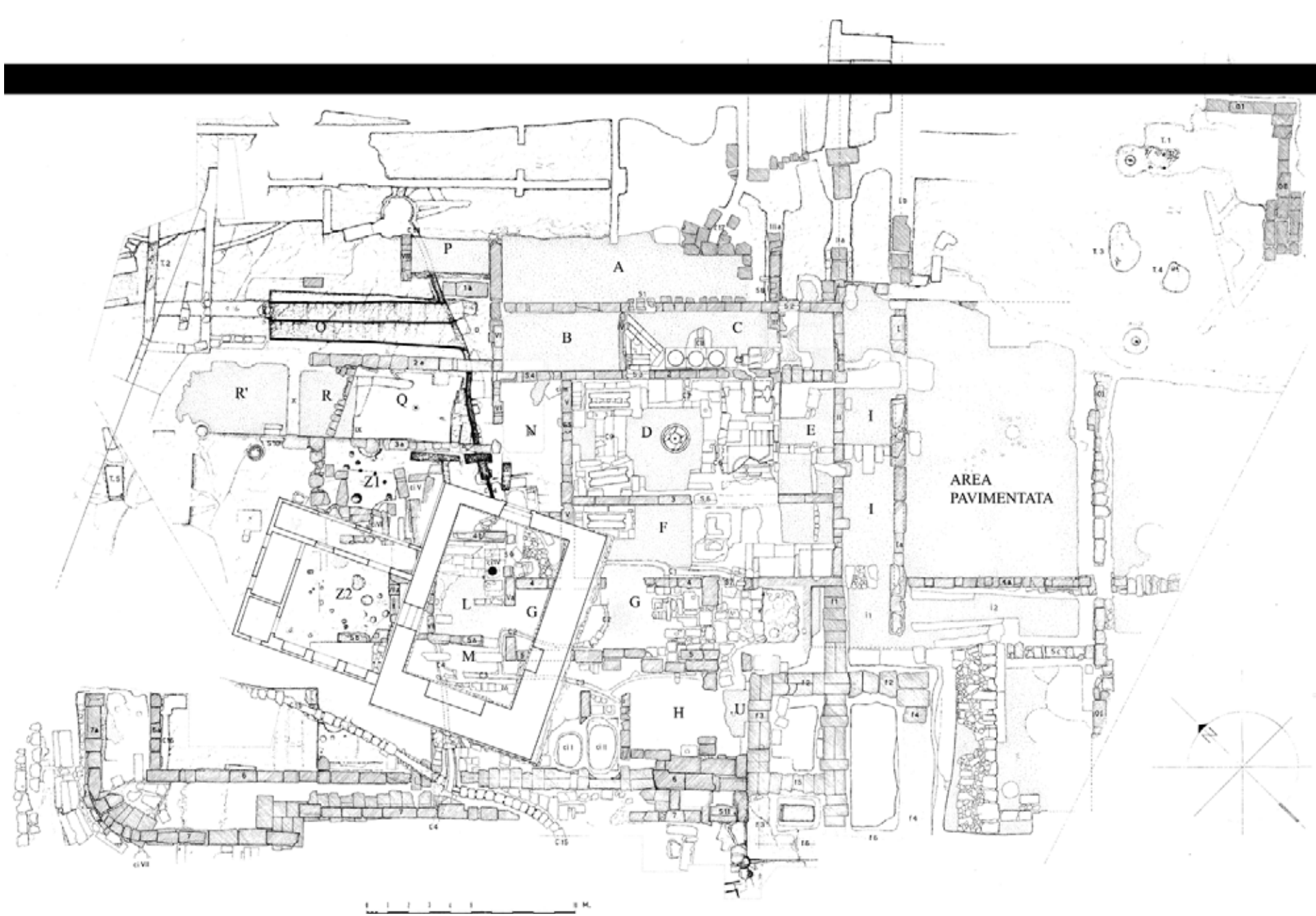
Plan and reconstruction of the baptistery (by C. Bonetti)



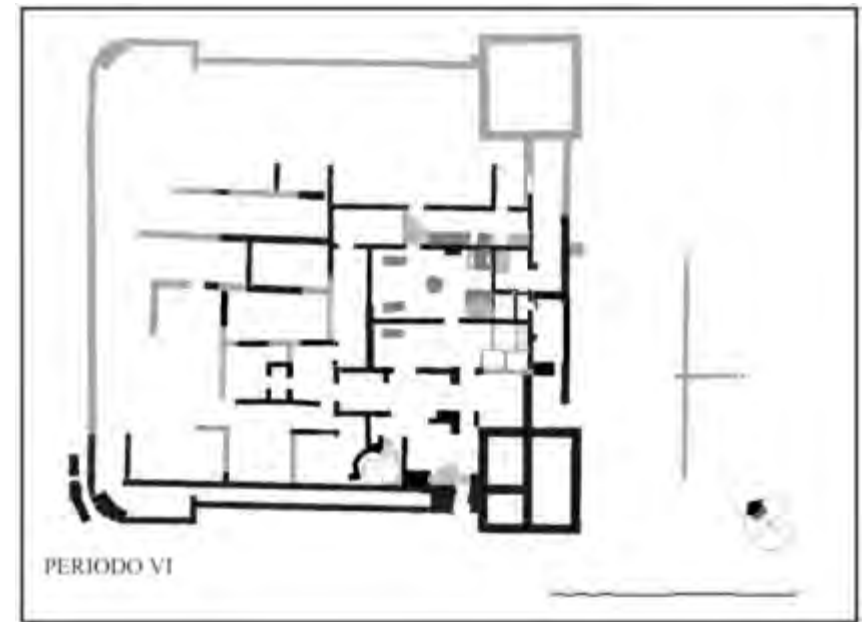
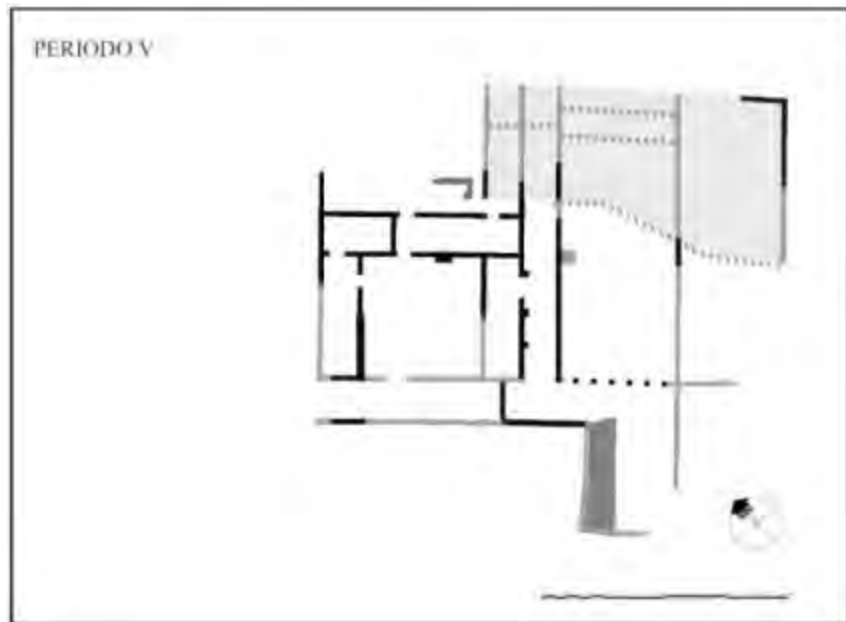
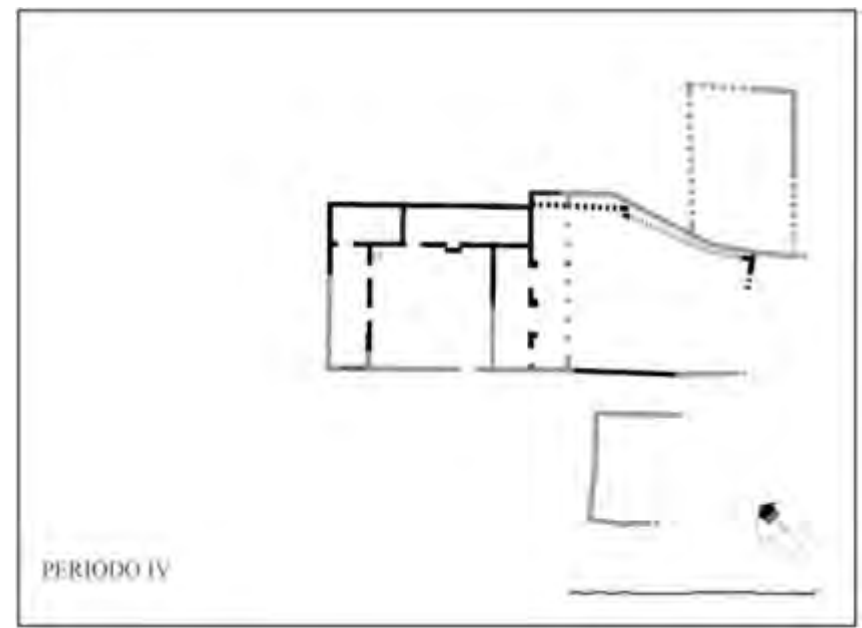
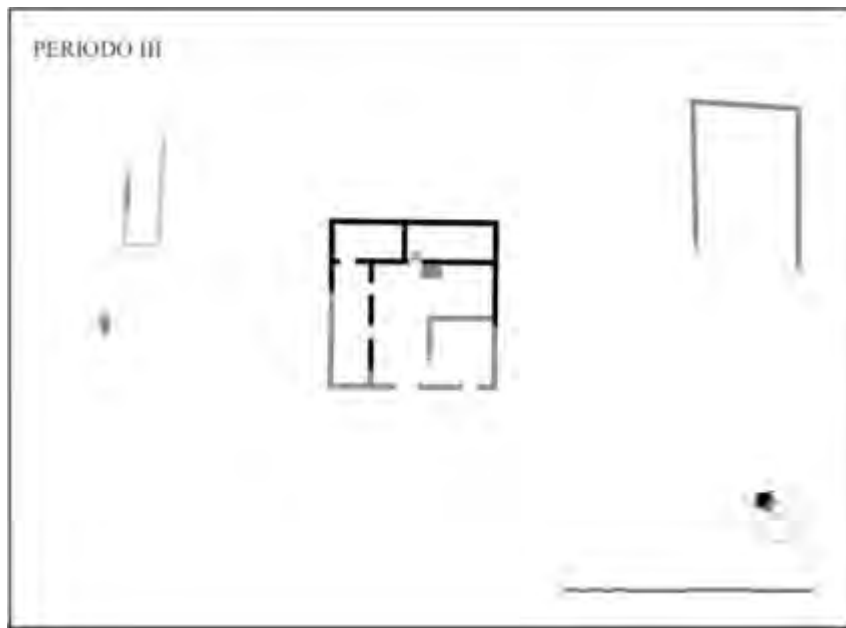
Tremissis of Constantine IV (670-674 d.C.)

THE FARM-VILLA OF SAN PAWL MILQI





Overview of the site



Subsequent building phases of the complex from 2nd Century B.C. to 4th A.D.



San Pawl Milqi church, built upon the villa-farm complex

General views of the site

