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# Late Antique Residences at Golemo Gradište, Konjuh, R. Macedonia

## **Abstract**

The systematic excavations that began at Golemo Gradište in 2000 were the first major, legal investigations on the site itself. Through survey of the site, researchers had reached a number of conclusions and hypotheses about lines of fortification walls, location of gates, and roads associated with the site. But almost nothing was known about the buildings or the internal arrangement of the site, and there were questions about dating. Therefore, both on the acropolis (2000-2004) and on the northern terrace (2005-present), the first step was to set trenches in several places, to investigate the architecture and the urban plan and to establish a chronology of the settlement. Given the discoveries in those initial trenches, excavation was later focused on a few areas. One consequence of this approach was limited excavation in several areas that were probably residential (or a combination of residential with industrial or commercial), but only a few examples of extensively investigated residential complexes. [*excerpt*]

## **Keywords**

Golemo Gradište, archaeology, excavation, Late Antique Period, Macedonia

## **Disciplines**

Ancient History, Greek and Roman through Late Antiquity | Classical Archaeology and Art History | Classics

## **Comments**

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Carolyn S. Snively, Goran Sanev

## LATE ANTIQUE RESIDENCES AT GOLEMO GRADIŠTE, KONJUH, R. MACEDONIA

The systematic excavations that began at Golemo Gradište in 2000 were the first major, legal investigations on the site itself.<sup>1</sup> Through survey of the site, researchers had reached a number of conclusions and hypotheses about lines of fortification walls, location of gates, and roads associated with the site.<sup>2</sup> But almost nothing was known about the buildings or the internal arrangement of the site, and there were questions about dating. Therefore, both on the acropolis (2000-2004) and on the northern terrace (2005-present), the first step was to set trenches in several places, to investigate the architecture and the urban plan and to establish a chronology of the settlement. Given the discoveries in those initial trenches, excavation was later focused on a few areas. One consequence of this approach was limited excavation in several areas that were probably residential (or a combination of residential with industrial or commercial), but only a few examples of extensively investigated residential complexes.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> For an introduction to the site and the international project that began to work there in 2000, see the articles in note 3. The two areas investigated by the project are the acropolis and the northern terrace lying between the foot of the acropolis and the Kriva River. In this article the topographical term Golemo Gradište refers to the entire Late Antique settlement that surrounded the acropolis.

The RZZSK had conducted test excavations in and around the Rotunda in 1988; in 1995 it had carried out salvage excavations in K'šla, on the northwest side of the Kriva river from Golemo Gradište, for the railway line planned to run from Skopje to Sofia. The Macedonian-American pilot project dug tests at the Rotunda and on the acropolis in 1998.

<sup>2</sup> И. Mikulčić, Два безимени доцноантички града во Источна Македонија, *Зборник на Археолошкиот Музеј Скопје* 6-7, Скопје 1975, 122-130; V. Lilčić, Размислување околу убијацијата на Транупара, *Културно Наследство* 17-18, Скопје 1990-91 [1994], 33-47.

<sup>3</sup> The preliminary reports of the project in which residences are described include: G. Sanev, C. S. Snively, and M. Stojanoski, Excavations on the Northern Terrace at Golemo Gradište, Konjuh, 2007-2010, *Macedoniae Acta Archaeologica* 20, Skopje 2006-2008 [2011], 347-364; C. S. Snively, Golemo Gradište at Konjuh: Report on the Excavations in 2000, *Dumbarton Oaks Papers* 56, Washington DC 2002, 293-302; *eadem*, Golemo Gradište at Konjuh, Republic of Macedonia: Prolegomena to the Study of a Late Antique Fortification, *Niš & Byzantium* 4, Niš 2006, 229-244; *eadem*, Archaeological Excavations on the Acropolis of Golemo Gradište, Konjuh: 2000-2004, *Macedoniae Acta Archaeologica* 18, Skopje 2002-

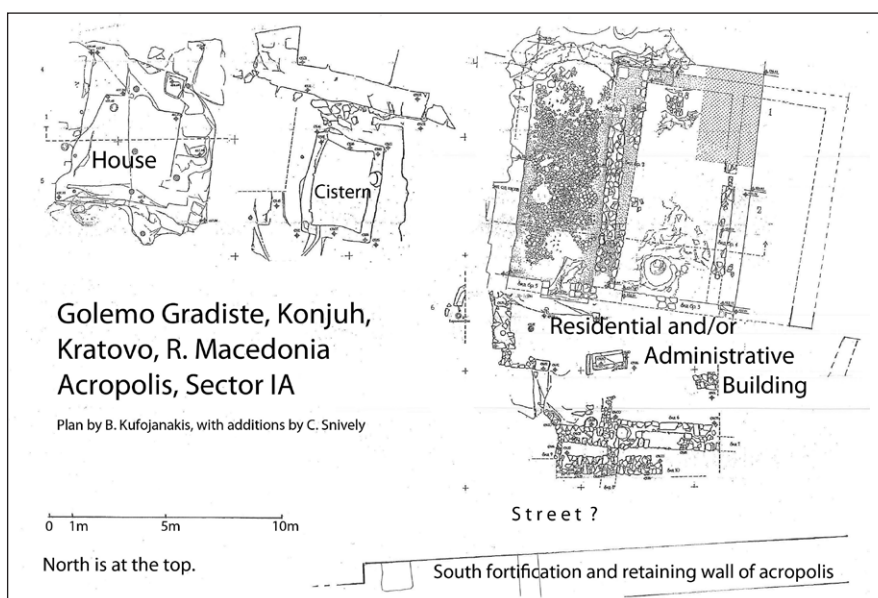


Fig. 1. Sector IA on the acropolis, the rock-cut foundations for a house and the residential/administrative building

Сл. 1. Сектор IA на Акропољу, темељи за кућу и резиденционале/управне зграде

A brief survey of probable residential areas includes Sector ID in the east half of the eastern plateau on the acropolis. In a 5 m wide strip from the exposed bedrock room at the north to the terrace/fortification wall at the south edge of the plateau, six rooms were partially investigated and identified as probably industrial and residential on the basis of the finds.<sup>4</sup> Two test trenches on the narrow northern plateau of the acropolis (Sector IC) revealed multi-roomed buildings that extended almost to the edge of the terrace and suggested dense habitation. The material pointed to residential and domestic functions and, in both Sectors IC and ID, gave a 6<sup>th</sup> century date.

On the acropolis (Sector IA), on the slope connecting the eastern plateau with the highest point of the acropolis, the well-preserved, rock-cut foundations of a small building were discovered. The space is roughly trapezoidal with entrance at the south; the interior width at north is ca. 3.3, at south ca. 4.5, and 4.0-4.5 east-west. Benches had been cut into the east and north sides. Fill that had washed in from the slope above the room provided no evidence for function or date. It appears that in the first phase, probably 6<sup>th</sup> century, rubble walls were constructed on bedrock foundations; one might assume a roof of wooden beams and ceramic roof tiles. In a later phase, a number of round holes cut into the

2004 [2008], 335-351; *eadem*, Golemo Gradište at Konjuh, 2005 and 2006 Seasons: The Northern Terrace, *Macedoniae Acta Archaeologica* 19, Skopje 2004-2006 [2010], 375-389.

<sup>4</sup> Snively 2008, *op. cit.* in note 3, 344, 345-346.

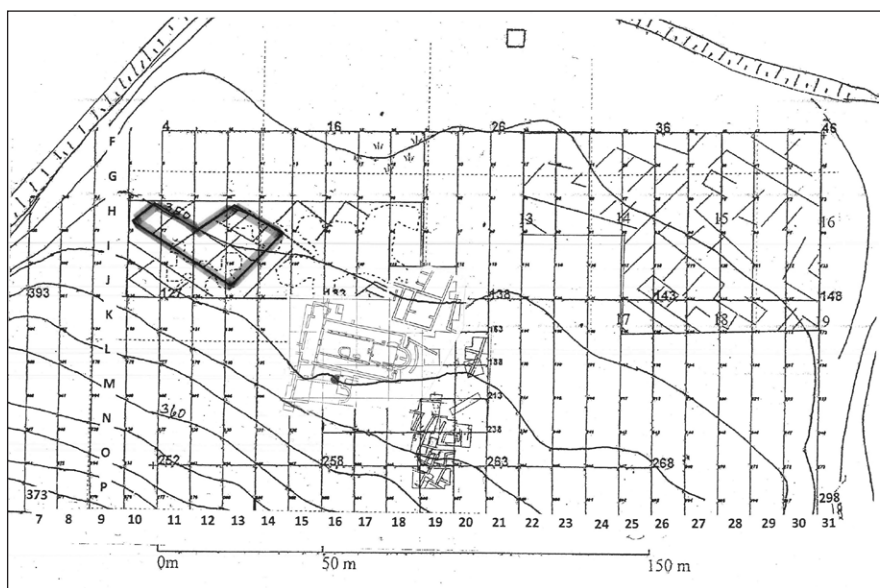


Fig. 2. Plan of the northern terrace, showing the residence near the west wall

Сл. 2. План северне терасе, резиденција близу западног зида

floor and bedrock wall foundations held wooden posts for some type of wattle-and-daub walls; the posts probably supported a pitched roof of relatively light material, perhaps thatch. (Fig. 1)

Ca. 12 m east of the house described above, once stood a larger and more elaborate building, identified as administrative or residential. The northern part of the building, ca. 14 m east-west x 11 m, consisted of three rooms in a row, Rooms 1, 3, and 3 from the west; Room 1 was apsidal at the north end. The west wall consisted of a bedrock foundation for a rubble wall; the other walls were built of stone and lime or mud mortar. Two phases were visible; in the second one a reconstruction of the wall between Rooms 1 and 2 closed two doorways between the rooms, and a new, north-south wall converted a large eastern room into Rooms 2 and 3. The floor of Room 1 consisted of a very rough mosaic of white and gray limestone pieces and red tile fragments. In Room 2 the floor consisted of bedrock filled in as needed for leveling with tile fragments; a hearth had been dug into the bedrock near the south wall.

The southern part of the building had been badly disturbed and robbed out. It apparently consisted of a porch with columns in front of the entrance to Room 1 and of a courtyard with a central basin. At least three phases were noted, but the original construction of the whole building probably belongs to the second quarter of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, when the acropolis became a fortress. The entire north-south length of the structure was 18-19 m; a space of ca. 3 m between the building and the south fortification wall of the acropolis has been interpreted as a street.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* 339-340.

In the lower town on the northern terrace of the site, the Southern Residential Complex, the Episcopal Basilica, and the Northern Residence occupied three successive sub-terraces. To the east of the basilica, Trench 28 and Trenches 30, 30A (2007) and 8 (2005) uncovered parts of buildings whose function cannot be determined with certainty. Even further to the east, in Sector IIA, trenches in 2007 and 2008 revealed parts of buildings beside a stone-paved street, but their purpose was unclear.

Geophysical survey<sup>6</sup> of parts of the terrace in 2008 suggested that large buildings with spacious rooms in an orderly layout occupied the northern, more level area near the Kriva River. One structure known only from the geophysical survey is of interest, because most of its plan is visible on the scan. Located in the northwestern part of the terrace, only ca. 15 m east of the line of the fortification wall, it was ca. 35 x 20 m in size and had ten or more rooms. Streets bounded the building to east and south; four large rooms in a row were located beside the southern street, while smaller compartments were found to the north. (Fig. 2) This arrangement shows some similarities to the Northern Residence, to be considered below.

#### *The Southern Residential Complex*

The Southern Residential Complex occupied an irregularly shaped block, bounded on east, north, and west by Streets R, T, and S respectively. (Fig. 3) In the northern part of the complex, the western and central walls follow the orientation of Street S to the west while the eastern walls follow that of Street R to the east, resulting in oddly shaped rooms along the east side of the complex. But south of Rooms E, F, and H, the walls all follow the orientation of Street S. Two major phases are clearly visible in parts of the building, but more phases and sub-phases are possible. The complex has been dated to the 6<sup>th</sup> century on the basis of pottery.

The four rooms (A, B, C, D) that occupied the north end of the block were originally interpreted as a four-room house, although unexcavated baulks between trenches or left in order to remove earth obscured some of the wall junctions and doorways and left a number of questions unanswered. Room A, however, may always have been a separate unit. The east wall of the blind corridor that sheltered the entrance to Room A encroached on the west side of Street R. In Phase I that wall extended north only as far as the north side of Room A, where a stone slab marked a step down from street level into the corridor. At the east side of the corridor, opposite the threshold of the entrance into Room A, was preserved the brick and mortar built base of some feature, perhaps a table. In Room A, a floor of hard-packed earth at ca. 351.70 masl concealed two pithoi, buried in the floor up to their rims, near the northwest and southeast corners of

<sup>6</sup> Geophysical survey was carried out by members Andriana Dragovic and Nikica Korubin of the NGO Cultural Heritage and Archaeological Resource Management (CHARM) in 2008. See R. Thorpe, *Golemo Gradiste, Konjuh, Republic of Macedonia. Report on Archaeological Geophysical Survey*, Skopje 2008, at

[http://www.academia.edu/233572/GOLEMO\\_GRADISTE\\_KONJUH\\_REPUBLIC\\_OF\\_MACEDONIA\\_REPORT\\_ON\\_ARCHAEOLOGICAL\\_GEOPHYSICAL\\_SURVEY](http://www.academia.edu/233572/GOLEMO_GRADISTE_KONJUH_REPUBLIC_OF_MACEDONIA_REPORT_ON_ARCHAEOLOGICAL_GEOPHYSICAL_SURVEY).

the room. Other finds associated with the first phase included the bottom of a large pot, numerous glass fragments, animal bones, a carved bone handle, an iron hook attached to a wire, an iron bell, a column fragment (perhaps a table support), and a tiny (ca. 2 cm long) cruciform bronze box. In this phase there was definitely no direct communication with other rooms.

Above the floor were the remains of mud brick, roof tiles, stone debris, and a probable layer of fill. Although not identified as a floor during excavation, the floor of Phase II almost certainly lay at ca. 352.40/50, under another deposit of roof tiles and debris. The wall dividing Rooms A and B did not appear until after the removal of the upper deposit of roof tiles; it thus led to speculation that its western part might have been dismantled to provide communication with Room B in Phase II, but no threshold or other evidence for access was noted.

The floor in Room B at ca. 352.15 consists of a mix of stone slabs, smaller slabs, and a kind of *kaldrma* of small stones in beaten earth. It was certainly in use in Phase II, and it probably survived from Phase I. Along the south side of the room is a sunken area (351.90) with two stone slabs that may have served as steps. A few tile fragments are visible in the scarp of the sunken area and raise the possibility of an earlier floor and debris below the paved floor. On the other hand, a threshold at the east side of Room B, corresponding in level with the paved floor, provided access from Street R. In Phase II the east wall of the blind corridor was extended ca. 1.5 m to the north, and a similar wall of stones in mud mortar was constructed over the east wall of Room B and its threshold, apparently blocking access from Street R.<sup>7</sup> Fragments of an iron door latch or lock were found at the northwest corner of Room B, where it communicated with Room C. A threshold consisting of flat stones beside vertical stone slabs marked a doorway between Room B and Room D, but it is unclear whether there was direct communication between Rooms C and D.

Limited excavation took place in Room C. In the western part of Room D, the final event had been the collapse of the south wall (#11) to the north. Below

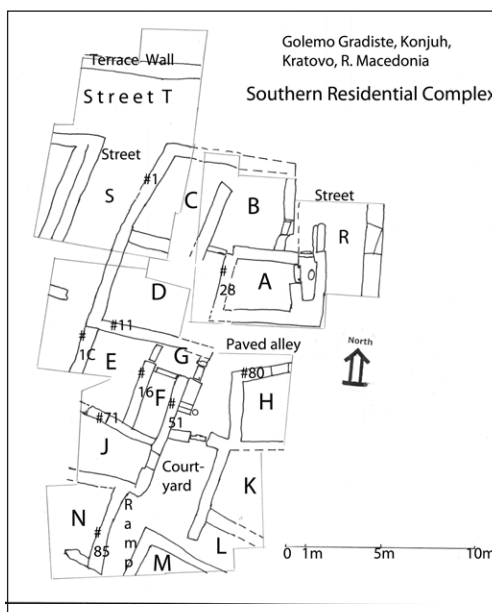


Fig. 3. Plan of the Southern Residential Complex

Сл. 3. План јужног резиденционалног комплекса

<sup>7</sup> It is possible that the extension of the blind entrance corridor and the blocking of the entrance into Room B belong to yet a third phase.



Fig. 4. Southern Residential complex: Room N in right foreground, with Wall 85 supporting the ramp behind it; from northwest. Note Wall 78 at upper left.

Сл. 4. Јужна резиденционални комплекс: Соба N у правом плану, уз зид 85. Напомена Wall 78 у горњем левом углу

the fallen wall, deposits of heavy stone debris and roof tiles covered soft yellow or light brown earth with some debris at 352.70/352.80. Several identifiable fragments of mud brick as well as a pithos lid and a rectangular ceramic plaque were found just above a floor of packed earth at ca. 351.75. The stratigraphy suggests the possibility of a second storey above Room D; the upper parts of the walls might have consisted of mud brick. In the northwest corner of the room, a large pithos, ca. 0.90 m high, apparently rested on (or had been set a few centimeters into) the packed earth floor. A piece of floor found at 352.10 at the eastern edge of Room D (or possibly in a separate corridor beside Wall 28) was not further investigated, so that questions about successive floors in Room D remain unanswered.

Immediately to the south of Room A, a stone-paved street or alley entered the complex from Street R and turned to the south; the alley came to an end at an east-west wall with a central doorway, which provided access to a courtyard, from whose southwest corner a second alley or ramp continued south and up the slope. The paved alley probably provided access to the southeast corner of Room D; it definitely communicated with Room H, with the three-room unit (E, F, G) to the west, and with the courtyard to the south. A stone tub or water trough in the alley raises the possibility of livestock. A solidly built staircase along the west side of the alley provided access to second storey units above the western rooms; it is unclear how much of the complex might have had a second storey.

Room G and the northern part of Room E, investigated in 2006, appeared to signal the discovery of a second house, which was of especial interest because of the relatively rich finds and the apparently undisturbed stratigraphy. Room G served as a vestibule, marked by threshold blocks on east, west, and south; one entered through an eastern doorway from the paved alley and could then move into Rooms F or E. Given the debris with substantial stone blocks, Walls 1C, 11, 16, and 51 had been solidly built and probably supported a second storey.



Fig. 5. General view of the Northern Residence, from the south; July 2011.

Note the large rooms along the east/right side and the corridor-blocked by two small walls- in left midground

Сл. 5. Општи поглед на северну резиденцију, са југа, јул 2011



The finds on or near the floor in Room G included two stone blocks very precisely carved as the base and capital of a mullion column; they point to a window, perhaps located in the second storey. A large stone disc, probably a pithos lid; one complete and one fragmentary bone handle; iron clamps and nails; an iron bell; and a marble slab, probably revetment, also came to light. Room E contained two medium sized pithoi in its northwest corner along with remains of other sizeable storage vessels; nails, clamps, and unidentified iron objects; a triangular bone ornament; an iron arrowhead; two column fragments that may have served as table supports; and a ceramic drain pipe beside Wall 16. Very rough stone paving was preserved in the eastern part of the room.

Room F, despite its large and elegant threshold block, turned out to be a narrow corridor; its major feature was a large pithos that had been sunk completely below the floor.<sup>8</sup> Wall 71, the south wall of Rooms E and F, did not bond with either Wall 16 or with Wall 51, the east wall of Room F and the west wall of paved alley and courtyard. Thus it is possible that Rooms G, E, F, and J once formed a unit, in which the corridor F would have allowed communication between the vestibule and Room J, although Room J had an eastern doorway directly into the courtyard; that entrance had been walled up and a large pithos placed in the northeast corner of the room in the final phase.

Room H preserved traces of a tile floor in the northwest corner. Three small broken pithoi came to light; the black ashy deposit found throughout the room, however, suggested the storage of some flammable material that burned fiercely but did not spread to surrounding spaces.

Rooms K, L, and M were not fully investigated. Room N, however, and the narrow street or ramp that continued south from the courtyard and up the slope presented an interesting sequence of events. A good quality floor of yellow, beaten earth (at ca. 353.75) appeared in Room N ca. 1.5 m below the surface of the ramp. A destruction occurred, marked by heavy stone debris above roof tiles on the yellow floor and by the partial collapse of Wall 85, which

<sup>8</sup> Now located in the courtyard of the Museum in Kratovo.

supported the west side of the ramp. Following that destruction, possibly by an earthquake, Room N was deliberately filled to approximately the same level as the ramp, apparently to support a partially reconstructed Wall 85. The latest surviving surface found in Room N sloped down gently from south to north (355.45-355.25) and lay at the same level as the ramp.

Continuation of investigation in the Southern Residential Complex might answer at least some of the questions it poses or could significantly change our present assumptions about the complex.

### *The Northern (Episcopal?) Residence*

On the lower level of the sloping northern terrace the largest and most representative structure so far known at the site has been investigated. It is a complex building with three rooms uncovered thus far along the east wall, a long corridor beside the west wall, and two entrances from the north side, oriented toward a space that resembles an interior courtyard with a colonnade. (Fig. 5) Besides the dimensions, the construction technique of the walls is impressive; although they were built of stone and mud mortar, the use of leveling courses and of tiles as decorative elements raises their quality above that of other buildings. The finds confirm that the structure had a residential character. Furthermore, given the location of the main city (episcopal?) church, immediately to the south, the possibility is not excluded that the residence served the church clergy.

#### Dimensions and Plan (Fig. 6)

During the seasons 2007-2011, a significant part of the building was investigated, i.e., an area of ca. 200 m<sup>2</sup>.<sup>9</sup> In fact, that is only the southern wing, because while the western wall (5) is 11.5 m in length, the situation at the east side is completely different. The length of the east wall (3), whose discovery in 2005 preceded the systematic investigation of the residence, measured 15.5 m, but that was only part of its total length. If the most recently discovered wall in the northeast corner of Trench 76 (2012) is indeed the north wall of the residence, the east wall will be an impressive 25 m in length. Of the remaining perimetral walls, the south wall (10) is 13 m long. The width of the walls is 0.60 m. Within these dimensions, the following arrangement of the building has emerged.

1. A long corridor or hallway 11.5 x 2.5 m, beside the west wall, between Walls 5 and 8. The entrance (Doorway 2) is at the north end, with a standard width of 1.60 m. At the south end of the corridor (in Wall 8) is Doorway 1, which leads into Room 2 in the southeastern corner of the residence. At a later time, two walls subdivided the corridor into three parts.

2. Room 2 is rectangular, 8 x 3 m in size. Walls 3 and 10 form its east and south sides; on the north is Wall 4 (2005), whose continuation to the west is attached to Wall 8 to form the north door jamb of Doorway 1. The middle part of Wall 4 is missing; probably an entrance once led into Room 3 to the north.

<sup>9</sup> For details of the history of excavation and of the older phases discovered in the area of the residence, see Sanjev *et al.*, 2011, *op. cit.* in note 3, 349-352.

Fig. 6. Plan of the Northern Residence; situation in 2011.

Сл. 6. План северне резиденције, ситуација из 2011. године

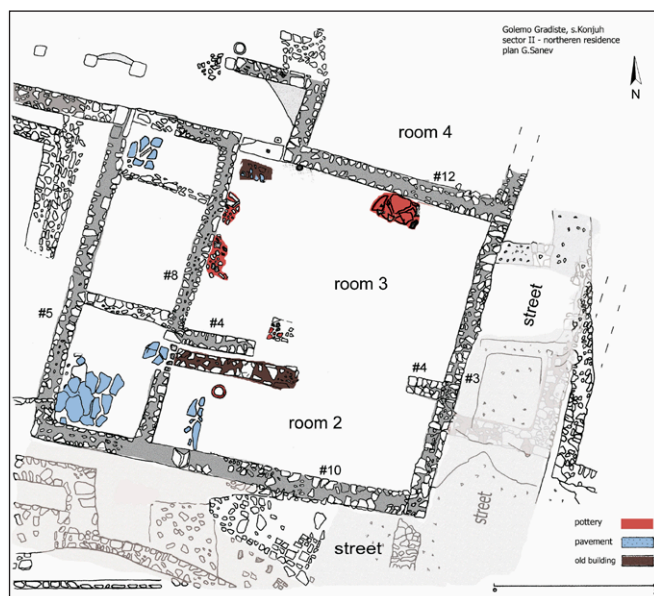


Fig. 7. The Northern Residence from the northwest; July 2011. Rooms 2 and 3 occupy the middle ground, while Room 4 appears at left.

Сл. 7. Северна Резиденција са северозапада, јула 2011. Собе 2 и 3 заузимају средину, соба 4 на левој страни



3. Room 3 is the largest room uncovered in the building so far. Wall 3 bounds it on the east, Wall 8 on the west, but on the north side is Wall 12 (2005), in which, beside Wall 8, is one more entrance/exit (Doorway 3), with dimensions, position, and orientation identical to those of Doorway 2. The rectangular room is 6.5 x 8 m in size. The discovery in 2010-2011 of four large storage vessels led to its being called the “Room with Pithoi.”

4. Room 4 is north of Room 3. Wall 12 divides the two rooms, which do not have a connecting doorway. As far as dimensions are concerned, in 2011 only the width was known, which according to Wall 12 at the south was 6.5 m. Walls 3 (east) and 7 (west) had been only partly excavated. (Fig. 7)



Fig. 8. The space north of the corridor, from the west; July 2010. Note the three square bases and the column base beside the wall at upper left. (The column in the left middle ground is not discussed in the text.)

Сл. 8. Простор северно од коридора, са запада, јула 2010. Обратите пажњу на три квадратна основа и колонаду поред зида у горњем левом углу



Fig. 9. The space between the Northern Residence and the Episcopal Basilica; from the northwest; July 2010. The north wall and northeast corner of the basilica are visible at the left.

Сл. 9. Простор између северне резиденције и епископске базилике, са северозапада, јула 2010. Северни зид и североисточно угао базилике су видљиве на левој страни

5. The courtyard with colonnade. To the north of Doorways 2 and 3, and west of Wall 7, a row of three bases for small columns (diameter 0.30 m) extended to the north at intervals of 3.30 m. Between the second and third base, a fallen column was found *in situ*; it had probably been broken during the destruction and therefore left where it fell. The other two columns are missing. Only a limited part of this area was excavated, in Trench 61; as a result, neither its dimensions nor its purpose is known. A row of three square column bases, of varying dimensions, ran to the west from near Doorway 2, ca. 1 m north of and parallel with Wall 4/09. These bases were discovered in Trench 43, but because the area to the north has not been investigated, both the purpose of these bases and whether or not they are related to the ones mentioned above remain unclear. (Fig. 8)

6. Streets. It is necessary to point out that none of the perimetral walls displays a doorway from the exterior. On the eastern side, in Trenches 5, 9, and 16, already in 2005 and 2006 the existence of a street with several succes-

sive levels was determined.<sup>10</sup> In Trench 17, outside the southeast corner of the residence, that north-south street appeared to intersect with one running west along the south side of the residence. But, although traces of pavement were noted outside the southwest corner of the residence, they did not appear in the middle, where part of the south wall (10) and probably also the street had been destroyed.<sup>11</sup> (Fig. 9)

### Finds

Fig. 10. The prehistoric remains, i.e., postholes and ditch, found immediately below the Late Antique floor level of the corridor, between the two later transverse walls; July 2009.

Сл. 10.  
Праисторијски  
остаци испод  
касноантичког  
пода коридора,  
јула 2009



It is interesting to note that from the first phase of the residence, except for the pithos in Room 2, all the small finds were discovered in Room 3, the “Room with Pithoi.” Fragments of four pithoi were found. They rested on the floor: three beside the middle part of Wall 8, but the fourth and largest pithos stood next to the north wall, where its sides were supported with stones. Furthermore, an important hoard of twelve coins was discovered just behind the fourth pithos, together with a carved bone object that resembles the handle of a very large comb. The coins were mostly from the mid-6<sup>th</sup> century (Justinian I) and of various nominal values, i.e., of 16, 20, and 40 *nummi*, except for one from the time of the emperor Valens? (367-375).

Other finds included fragments of window glass, iron nails, a few bones, and potsherds. To our surprise, several items from the Bronze Age came to light; sherds of a dark gray, burnished dish, with incised decoration, were found in the southeast corner of Room 2, under the foundations of Wall 3. Two more

<sup>10</sup> Snively 2010, *op. cit.* in note 3, 379.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 380. Other walls and features were also found at a higher level between the south wall (10) of the Northern Residence and the north wall of the basilica.

items from the same period were discovered at a deeper level, ca. 1 m north of Doorway 2; one was a massive bronze bracelet with a fine green patina. These were not, however, the only prehistoric artifacts from the northern terrace.<sup>12</sup> The ones mentioned above were isolated and without context, but investigation between the two later walls in the western corridor revealed a situation that confirmed the existence of prehistoric deposits under the residence. A layer of beaten earth with north-south rows of post holes appeared immediately below the level of the hypothetically paved corridor. Through the middle of the trench in the same direction ran a shallow channel with ash and animal bones. (Fig. 10) Thus far it has not been possible to provide an explicit explanation of this situation. But this deposit indicates that the other prehistoric items were not merely chance finds; together they provide an important piece of evidence for the history of the region and the settlement of the terrace; they suggest that the whole Northern Residence and probably the entire lower town were built directly over prehistoric (Eneolithic) deposits, which were disturbed or destroyed during the digging of foundations for the Late Antique structures.

The opportunity should be taken also to mention a wall whose preserved top was discovered at floor level in Room 2, running east from Doorway 1 and parallel with the west part of Wall 4. Its purpose is not clear, and our assumption has been that it did not function as a part of the residence but existed before the construction of the residence. Another such wall appeared at Doorway 3, under the level of the threshold and preserved only 0.7 m in length.<sup>13</sup>

#### *Construction phases/Chronology*

At this stage of investigation, the term “phase of construction” is not entirely appropriate, because in fact we are dealing with one primary phase of existence of the building and a possible secondary phase. The three perimetral walls (3, 5, 10) are from the first period, and they show no indications of rebuilding, although, until the east wall has been completely uncovered, we cannot say if this is true also for the northern part of the residence. In this first period, stone slabs paved the corridor; they are preserved at Doorway 2 and to a considerable extent in the southwest end of the corridor. Traces of paving were found also in the west part of Room 2, but it was probably only partially paved, given that in the central part of the room a pithos was found, completely dug into the floor and with a round stone slab forming a lid. No pavement was noted in the “Room with Pithoi.” There the earthen floor lay at a level lower than that of Room 2; because of the damage to or dismantling of Wall 4, neither a doorway nor steps that could have connected the two rooms were found. In the southern half of the room were the remains of a small oven or kiln, in which appeared tiles with traces of burning around them.

<sup>12</sup> Their existence was confirmed already during investigation on the northern terrace in 2003, toward its northern side near the Kriva River. See Snively 2010, *op. cit.* in note 3, 376; Sanev *et al.* 2011, *op. cit.* in note 3, 352.

<sup>13</sup> Other early walls were noted in 2006, below the floor level of Room 4 (Trench 15); see Snively 2010, *op. cit.* in note 3, 380-381 and Figs. 4 and 5.



Fig.11. Room 2 of the Northern Residence, from the east; July 2010. Note the west end of Wall 4 at right, with the early wall immediately south of it. Stone paving at the south end of the corridor is visible at the top of the photo; remnants of paving and the top of a pithos may be seen in Room 2.

Сл.11. Соба 2 северног резиденцији, са истока, јула 2010

As far as the final abandonment and destruction are concerned, the demolition of the greater part of south Wall 10 and the smashed roof tiles beside it and in Room 3 mark the end of the use of the residence. The coin hoard discovered next to the fourth pithos in Room 3 dates the event in the third quarter of the 6<sup>th</sup> century, with a *terminus post quem* of ca. 560 AD.

Our conclusions about phases as well as the sequence of destruction depend heavily on the interpretation of events in the western corridor. One hypothesis is that the two, later, dividing walls were built to support Wall 5, the west wall of the corridor and of the southwest wing, which had been shifted out of line by an earthquake; the corridor and Entrance 2 lost their functions. Smashed roof tiles found in the south part of the corridor and across Entrance 1, where no paving was preserved, indicate that the removal of architectural elements had already begun or was happening at the same time as the closing of the corridor. The residence continued in use, but damaged and without the corridor.

An alternate explanation is that the stone paving of the corridor was damaged and partly removed, but the corridor continued to function as an integral part of the residence. The two transverse walls in the corridor were constructed much later, after earth had covered the destroyed building; a cellar was created

by digging out the earth from the central part of the corridor, re-using its east and west walls, and constructing cross walls against earthen banks at north and south.<sup>14</sup>

This brief and still very preliminary survey of residential architecture from the anonymous city on the Kriva River provides a glimpse of how the inhabitants of varying economic classes were housed in the 6<sup>th</sup> century in a provincial urban setting. Considered together with evidence from, for example, Caričin Grad and the very recently excavated southwest quarter at Stobi, the residences from Golemo Gradište suggest that people were living in relatively prosperous settlements and in comfortable and sometimes luxurious circumstances into the second half of the 6<sup>th</sup> century.

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КАСНОАНТИЧКА РЕЗИДЕНЦИЈА НА ГОЛЕМОМ ГРАДИШТУ,  
КОЊУХ, Р. МАКЕДОНИЈА

Археолошка истраживања на локалитету Големо Градиште, започета у 2000 години, су прва већа и систематска истраживања на овом локалитету. Из ранијих рекогносцирања овог краја постоји више закључака и хипотеза истраживача, које се односе на правце фортификационих зидова, на локацију капија, на путеве, па и на идентификацију овог непознатог касноантичког града. Ипак, скоро ништа се није знало о архитектури, унутрашњој организацији или карактеру појединачних објеката, а ту су била и отворена питања њихове датације. Истраживање урбанизације и хронологије овог града је почело сондирањем на акропољу (2000-2004) и касније на северној тераси (2005-2013). Откривен је велики број објеката, који су резиденцијалног карактера или су били комбиновани - резиденцијални и комерцијални или производни.

Неколико сонди на источној половини акропоља показале су густо насељавање до саме ивице терасе. Објекти имају више просторија, а налази сугерирају да се највероватније ради о грађевинама резиденцијалног карактера које потичу из прве половине VI века. На стеновитом терену се виде удубљења за греде и друга прилагођавања стене т.ј. трагови њеног обрађивања за различне потребе домаћинства. Код једне од већих грађевина у сектору И-А, јасно су видљиве три и више фаза конструкције, са остацима подова на стени, нивелираних кречњаком (вапненцом) и ломљеном тулом.

У доњем делу града, на северној тераси локалитета, истраживања су дала пуно више информација о резиденцијалној архитектури. То су позиције Јужног резиденцијалног комплекса, Епископске Базилике и Северне резиденције, у сектору II, као и сегменти куће поред улице у источном делу терасе, у сектору II-А. На највишем делу терасе је Јужни резиденцијални комплекс, који претставља један неправилно обликован стамбени блок, ограђен са три улице са његове источне, северне и јужне стране. Ради се вероватно о неколико објекта, сваки са 1 до 3 просторија. Откривене степенице сугеришу постојање другог спрата код делова ових кућа, а њихови зидови су

<sup>14</sup> The fact that the north wall has a well-built south face but a very rough north one and the south wall has a smooth north face but an irregular south one suggest that they were built as retaining walls against earthen banks in one of several, poorly-preserved, post-Late Antique phases of use.



били највероватније од непечене туле на горњем и од камена на доњем спрату. Бројни питоси и други складишни судови, фрагменти стакла, алатке од гвожђа и ексери и слично, скоро су стандардни налази резиденцијалних објеката. Зидови овог комплекса откривају две фазе, које припадају VI веку али није искључено да су објекти имали и још неку обнову.

Северна резиденција је највећа и најрепрезентативнија грађевина која је досада истражена на локалитету. Налази се одмах испод Епископске Базилике што наводи на помисао да је можда имала функцију епископске резиденције. Укупна величина и изглед објекта још нису познати. До сада су откривени 200м<sup>2</sup>, са дугачким ходником на западној страни, четири просторије, под поплочан каменим плочама и унутрашње двориште са колонадама. Иако зидови користе блато за везивање, техника изградње је импресивна. У самој конструкцији, за нивелацију горњих редова зидова се користе опеке. Од налаза, скоро сви су били откривени у просторији 3, међу којима је, иза једног од четири питоса, било откривено мало депо са 12 новчића, углавном од средине VI века.

Овај кратки и још увек прелиминарни преглед резиденцијалне архитектуре непознатог града на обали реке Крива допуњује делимично наше поимање живота различитих економских класа у провинцијским градовима у VI веку. Узимајући у обзир и налазе из Царичиног Града, као и веома скорашња истраживања у југозападној четврти у Стобима, резиденције са локалитета Големо Градиште показују да су људи у другој половини VI века живели у релативно имућним насељима и у конфорним и понекад луксузним условима.