

Structure J-9.

Situation

This palace, one of the largest, in all its phases, bounded Court 2 on the southwest side. It is hard to say whether the Maya regarded it as facing one way or the other. For descriptive purposes we consider that it ~~faces~~ fronts away from the court,

because there is a ~~central stairway~~ centered triple doorway only on this side, and in latter ~~phase~~ phases, if not at the beginning also, symmetrical ~~stair~~ doorway placement/was less than perfect. Along the front

There was an <sup>open</sup> ambulatory about <sup>from which</sup> ~~10~~ m wide, <sup>probably another at the left</sup> and a stairway at the right, apparently gave access to the roof of Str. J-6, immediately below. From this, descent to Court 1

*There may have been been corresponding stairways at the center and other left.*

by circuitous routes was provided for, using the stairways ~~if~~ leading down by way of the platform Str. J-7 at the left; or those of Str. J-8 and J-5 at the right. There may

~~have been a central stairway~~ <sup>as well as side</sup> leading down to the J-6 roof. The front of this palace

commanded an intimate view of the sides and front of Court 1, and a magnificent vista

of the city beyond. Its placement corresponds strictly with that of J-2 on the court

below. The ~~rear~~ <sup>low</sup> plinth at the rear <sup>rises</sup> ~~feats~~ directly <sup>from</sup> on the Court 2 floor, as do <sup>those of</sup> the other

palaces. *of Court 2*

General Remarks

There seem to have been four (certainly three) successive phases, *apparently all with vaulted roof.* ~~Excavationz~~ The earliest, Phase D, is shown in Fig. , the later phases, C, B and A, in Figure . ~~Excavation~~ The walls rise well above the debris in the unexcavated portion, shown by stippling. This building, due probably to its massive proportions and perhaps also to a preponderance of slabs in wall masonry, is better preserved than any other palace.

Str. J-9-1st Phase D

In its earliest phase (Fig. ) the building consisted of two long parallel galleries separated by a medial wall. As restored by us there were no transverse end rooms, the medial wall joining the end walls where, in later phases, there were end ~~walls~~ doorways entering end rooms (Fig. ). The evidence for this is as follows.

The base course <sup>only</sup> of the left jamb of <sup>the</sup> doorway marked in Fig. was found below the "T" unit of walls which produced the end room in Fig. . Finished plaster (floor 2) turned up to this buried jamb, ran across the doorway, which is standard width, and turned up to the <sup>right</sup> other jamb, which ~~remained throughout~~. See section, Fig. . Evidence that this <sup>right</sup> jamb ~~remained~~ through all periods is the fact that <sup>a</sup> ~~one of its~~ <sup>single</sup> corner stones rises 25 cms from the lower floor, thus maintaining this surface at all times well above the <sup>jamb</sup> ~~later~~ floor of the <sup>higher</sup> next phase, and this higher floor also turns up against it. The lower floor (2) was followed under both <sup>finished surface of the</sup> medial and transverse members ~~parts~~ of the "T" wall of the next phase, <sup>and</sup> was shown to turn up to the left rear pier, ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~the~~ both on the rear and at both sides. Thence it was followed to the left jamb of the left doorway, below the fill-up wall of the next phase, the turn-up running <sup>thence</sup> down the short anta and along the inside of the end wall to a point <sup>from the corner.</sup> cm. From here toward the center this early floor breaks off on an irregular line running across the <sup>later end room</sup> Room and under the transverse wall. This broken line often approaches close to, but never encroaches on the area ~~believed to be~~ of double-line hatching in Fig. , <sup>confirming the</sup> The same situation obtained on the other (front) side of this area . The buried base course of the medial wall was found to be broken off as indicated <sup>Fig.</sup> on the plan. This break, is too near the end wall to permit placement of a transverse wall for an end room in this period, and the medial wall must therefore have joined the end wall, or have stopped short, an alternative indicated in Fig. . <sup>the surface of which was in excellent condition when the wall was built</sup> Failure of the <sup>2</sup> early floor, to reach the area of the end doorway of Fig. shows plainly <sup>doorway</sup> that this is a <sup>of the building in later</sup> later insertion. At the other end, working <sup>from</sup> the end room only,

Plan

<sup>floor</sup>  
 The corresponding to 2 had been destroyed except in the doorway, the final floor being lower in the room itself (see section, Fig. ). But under the transverse wall, while <sup>remnants of removed</sup> now ~~early~~ masonry was found, <sup>a</sup> this floor reappears, and on one side breaks off, on the other breaks off with a slight remnant of turn up, in each case where the medial wall formerly crossed the area now occupied by the end room. <sup>The notes indicate that this is a third floor, predating floor 2.</sup> Here fault lines in the end wall masonry probably indicate where the insertion of the end doorway, ~~xxx~~ which required building up the jambs with new masonry, occurred.

We consider that the above evidence is decisive proof that the building lacked <sup>earliest</sup> end rooms in this ~~first~~ period phase. While the possibility exists that there were doorways <sup>medial wall-end doorways</sup> across the ends of the medial wall (Fig. ) this is very unlikely, since they would be very <sup>medial wall doorways</sup> close to others known to exist, and unless extremely narrow, could not have been centered behind facade doorways, as were the others\*. The preferred restoration, Fig. , agrees

\*Disregard slight displacement <sup>re</sup> caused by probably caused by parallelgram perimeter. See Appendix .

*Obvious*  
 in this respect with practice at Palenque and Yaxchilan, and with other Piedras Negras <sup>doorways quite</sup> palaces; that is, where we have medial wall perforation, ~~xxxxxx~~ close to the ends, we do not <sup>medial wall-end</sup> also find ~~xxxxxx~~ doorways also.

The fundamental arrangement of the doorways is simple and symmetrical. There is a centered triple-doorway in the front facade, and triple doorways of the same dimensions <sup>approximate dimensions with</sup> near each end of the rear. These doorways are all of the same ~~dimensions~~ ( m), and there is a medial wall doorways of the same width centered behind each. Complete <sup>shown in broken lines in Figs</sup> symmetry at the rear is spoiled by an extra, somewhat narrower ( ) doorway, separated from the left <sup>trio</sup> triple unit by a section of wall only m long, which thus becomes an extra long pier. There is no sign in the masonry that this is a later insertion; but such signs are <sup>locking</sup> less than certain in the end walls <sup>left</sup> of the next period, <sup>where</sup> when we are sure insertion occurred. We failed to investigate the plater floor situation here. This doorway ~~xxxxxx~~ seems useless in this period, but very useful in periods B and A (Figs. ). <sup>This broken line</sup> Dotted lines <sup>possibly absent</sup> of the plans of Figs. and indicate the possibility that this doorway was absent until <sup>in this period, if so, it probably did not appear until Phase B or A.</sup> these periods.

Reflooring of Phase D. (Episode 1)

The walls and piers of this phase are associated with the floor numbered 2 in Fig . The finished surface of this ~~This~~ is about cm above the base of the walls and piers. At the base level is a layer of mortar, but we could not distinguish finishing plaster on it.

At the other end of the building the floor which corresponds - i.e., lying <sup>just below the door-filling masonry -</sup> is <sup>also</sup> about cm above the base of walls and piers. It appears ~~and~~ however, only ~~underneath the transverse wall~~ <sup>here</sup> under the filler masonry of the right rear doorway. <sup>at this end</sup> Here it was clear that in building the Phase C end room this floor had been removed, (~~Section~~)

but only from the area to be occupied by the new room (Section ) 1 and apparently also the area to be occupied by the new transverse wall.

Plaster on the jamb of the Phase D anta runs down below floor 2, surviving in the old doorway, to another floor, 3. Thus, in this doorway there are two floors, both of them preceding the filler

of the next phase, one of them at the base level, the other about

Two episodes are thus established for Phase D.  
cm higher. While this lower floor (3) was clear here, it could

not be followed out into the room and was probably largely destroyed

there when the later floor 2 was removed. It seems reasonable to

suppose that some such explanation accounts for our failure to find

finishing plaster at the base level at the other end of the building.

We conclude there were two episodes to be included in Phase D: the original construction with floor 3 at base level; and a second, when an entirely new floor, body as well as finish, was laid.

I. A. M.

No signs of interior fittings or constructions which might be assigned to this period were encountered in the excavated areas; however, what was probably the original floor (see below) is little known and traces of benches, etc., may survive there; Such traces on the final floor ~~xxxxxxx interior excavations~~ (~~episodic~~) of this phase would be very difficult to detect since it is only a centimeter or so below the floor surfaces of later phases. (fig. <sup>unless</sup> ~~3~~).

## Interior elevations.

The vaulting had <sup>largely</sup> completely fallen except over the three portions of ~~Phase~~ <sup>Phase</sup> and for short distances <sup>along</sup> of longitudinal vaulting adjacent to these, Phases A and B, which we believe were secondary; and except at the southeast sides of rooms 8 and 9 of those phases (Figs ). In Room 9 sufficient of <sup>soffits</sup>  what seems to be original vaulting remained to indicate that the ~~vaults~~ <sup>vaults</sup> of all phases were without niches. Soffits were somewhat irregular, but intended to be flat. The offset at the spring in Room 9 (Phase ) varies from nothing to the cap exposure about  about  cms; the vault height was surely about  m. No vault-beam holes were <sup>and elsewhere</sup> observed, and the amount of vaulting remaining in Room 9 seems to justify that conclusion that there were none, unless quite high.

We are bound to admit the bare possibility that none of the vaulting found found belongs to this earliest phase, since vaulting at either end, and some medial wall vaulting must have come down for the insertion of the end rooms of the next phase (see below). However, these vaults are low and on thick walls so that, with reasonable mortar cohesive strength, half-vaults could stand alone and there is no reason to suppose more was destroyed than necessary. This is strongly confirmed by differences in the masonry of the transverse vault of Room 8, known to be secondary, and the vaulting at the end of the same room, supposed to be original. The proportion of thin slabs in the secondary work is much higher. If the vaulting at the end of this room is original, the ends of the Phase D vaults were sloping. The surviving remnant <sup>See photos, Figs</sup> at the end is too badly displaced to yield an accurate slope, but was probably steeper.

PHOTOS

TAP

See table

~~See Cross Sections.~~  
Outside elevations.

The upper zone survives at the right front corner to a height of      cm,

It is inset      cm from the plane of the wall.  
where it is vertical and apparently has not been disturbed. Here the medial molding

is in good condition, except that plaster is missing. ~~No~~ The upper molding is nowhere

in place and is entirely hypothetical ~~as in~~ in Fig      . The roof height at center

flat

is clearly indicated by surviving areas of ~~flat~~ crushed stone ~~as~~ along the longitudinal

of Phases C,

center over the right transverse ~~and~~ wall, and over the partitions of Phases B and A

(Fig      ). These areas were not covered with building stone and it is therefore

certain there was no roof-comb. No signs of stucco decoration appeared in the debris.

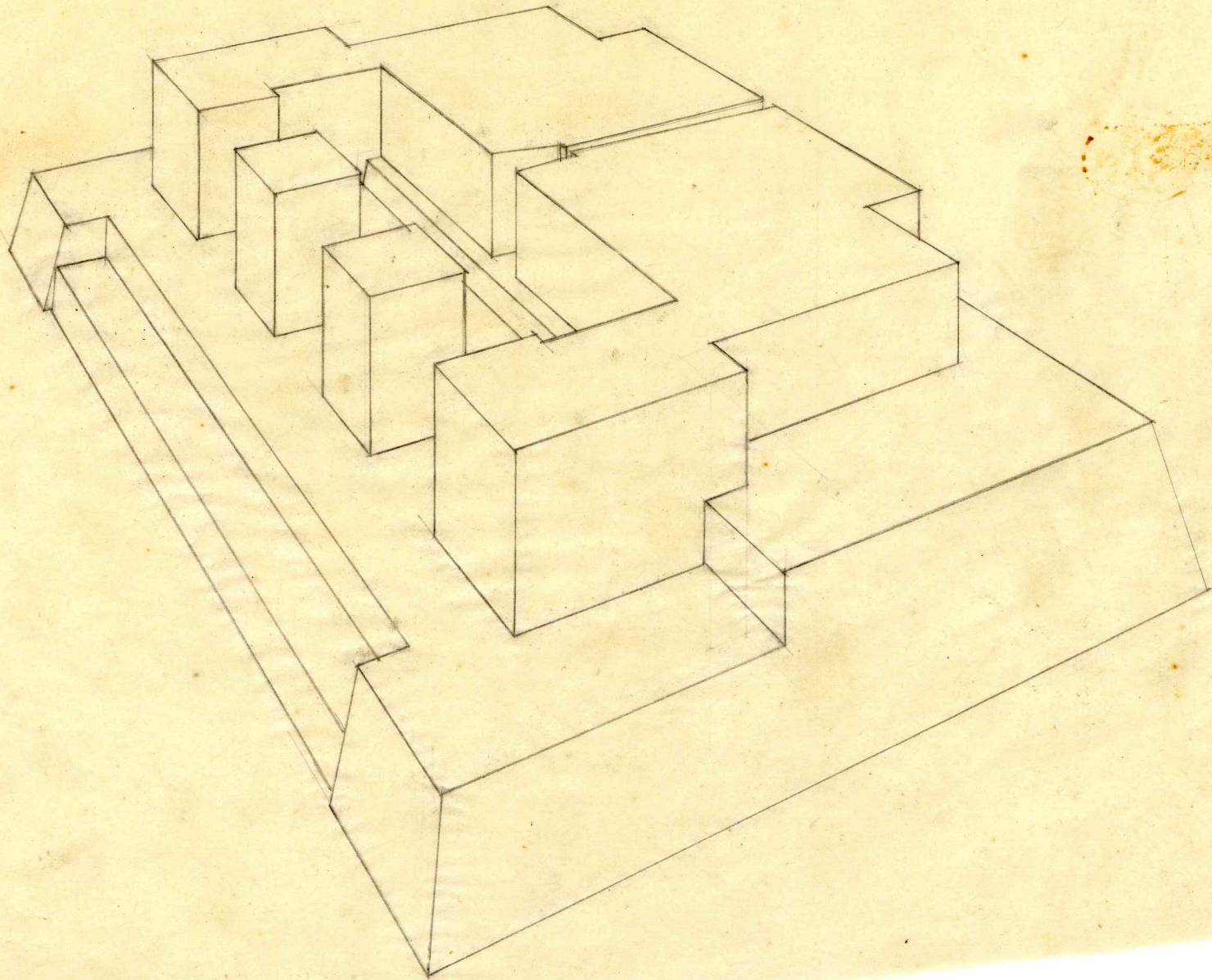
~~Perforated medial molding stones were not noted, but were not broken for.~~

Sections.

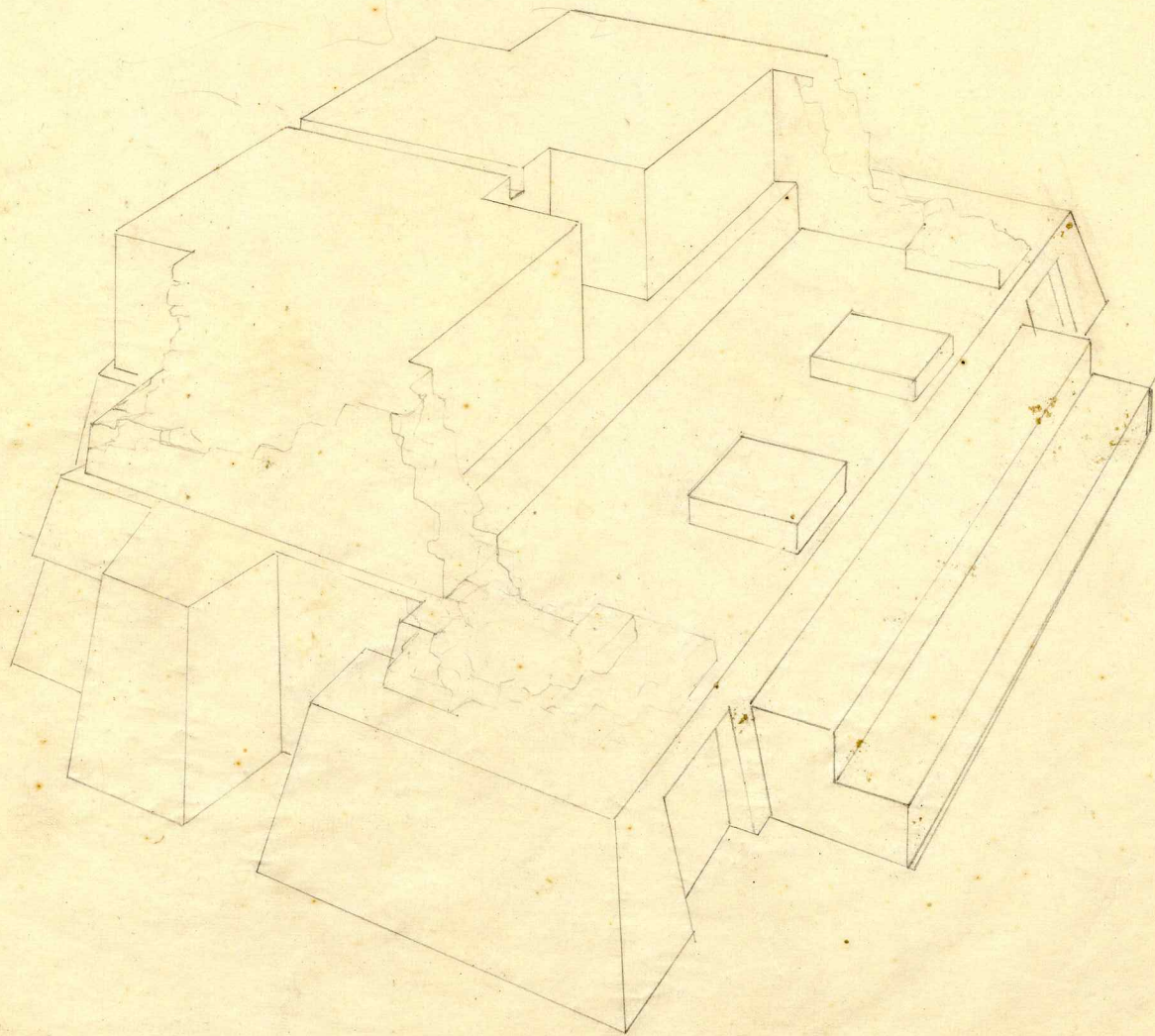
Cross sections of this phase would not differ from those of Fig.      except <sup>had</sup>

walls and <sup>are</sup>  
for later interior/constructions there shown in elevation.

For further details see appendices      ,      ,      ,      .

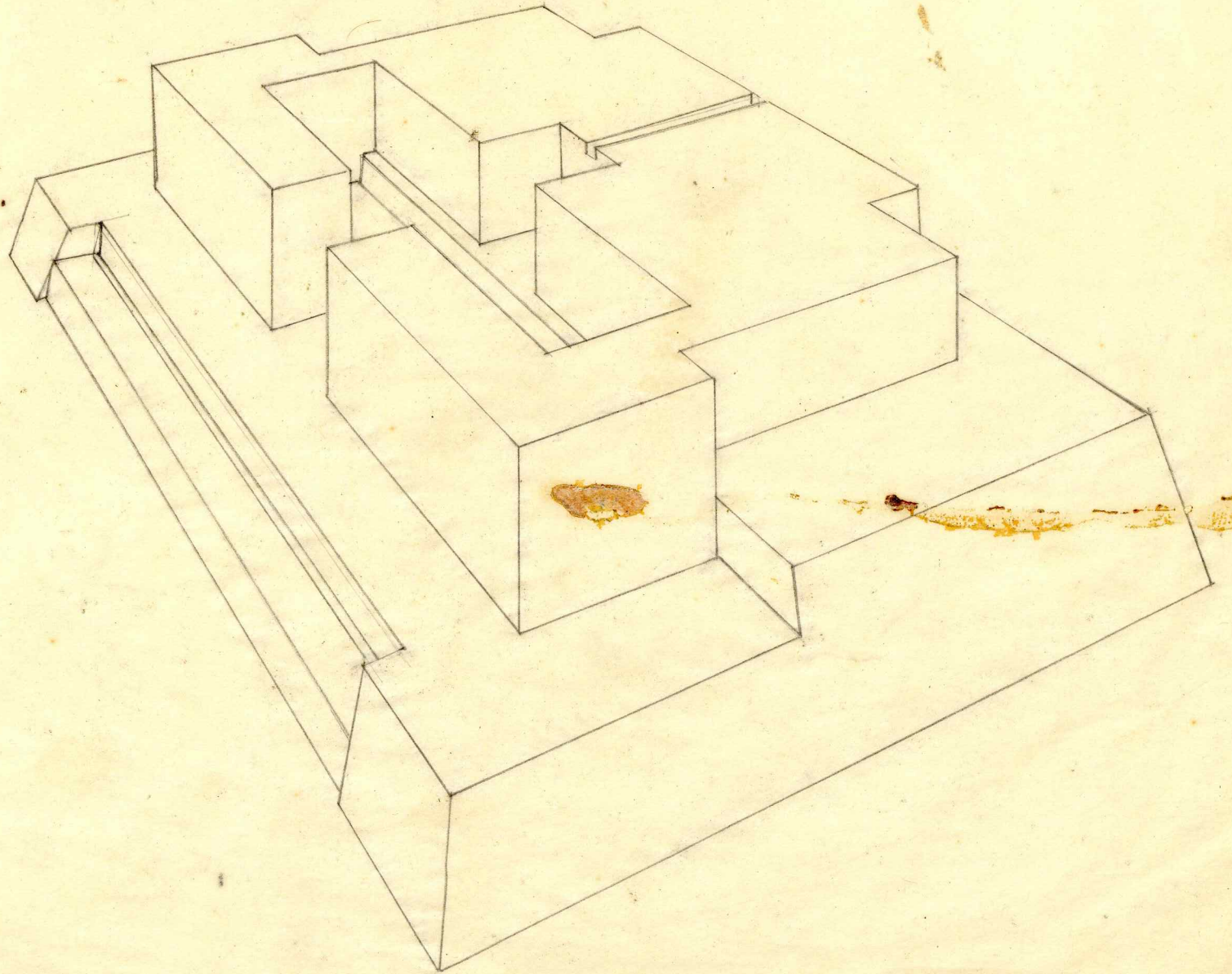


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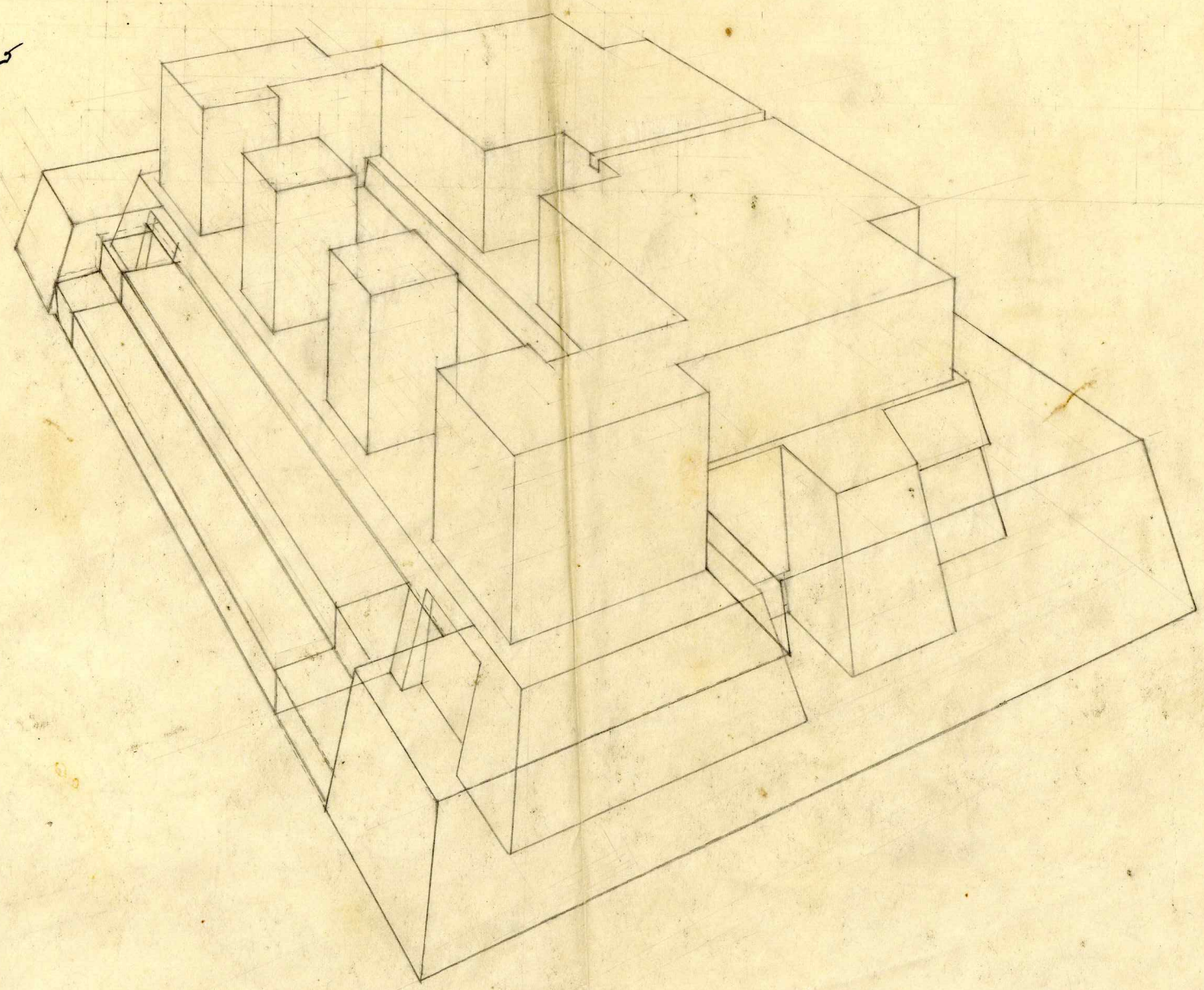


J-29-Perisp.

J-29



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