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Coloured Ceramics of the Caliphs: A new look at the Abbasid pottery finds from the old Gözlükule excavations at Tarsus

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CHAPTER 5

RECONSTRUCTING THE ISLAMIC LAYERS OF THE 1935-1948 GÖZLÜKULE EXCAVATIONS

Undoubtedly, the American archaeologists of the 1930s who were primarily seeking the prehistoric deposits had less concern for the Islamic layers. Regardless of their scientific priorities, they obviously struck these later remains, in about three meters below the surface. The Islamic settlement that they uncovered on the Gözlükule mound was of important size.

This chapter includes the first study of the Islamic phase of the Gözlükule excavations. In the following pages, the Islamic strata on the hill, which has only been very summarily published until now, is reconstructed and analysed on the basis of its architecture to illuminate the nature of the settlement and its chronology, besides other issues. More specifically, the early Islamic building referred to as “the villa” is discussed in detail as an archaeological context. In order to do that, primarily, archival material belonging to the 1935-1948 Tarsus-Gözlükule excavations is used to put together the Islamic layer and its remains. These consist of unpublished documents such as original photographs of the dig from the archives of Bryn Mawr College (USA), excavation diaries, reports, inventory notebooks and maps among others. Most of these can be found in the digitised archive of the on-going Tarsus-Gözlükule Archaeological Project (TR).¹⁵⁸

This chapter is structured in four parts. First, an overview of the archaeological layout of the 1935-1948 Gözlükule excavations is presented including the deposits of each trench. Second, previous work on the Islamic layer is investigated to get a glimpse of earlier interpretations. In the third part, we will be zooming from the Islamic layer into the Islamic building: the “villa”. Hence, Virginia Grace, who excavated this place is introduced, together with her excavation report dealing with this area. Fourth, the Islamic villa is discussed in depth, by analysing the architecture in relation to its features and its finds, but also by comparing it to other similar constructions found in the Near East and Egypt.

1 The Gözlükule mound and the layout of the archaeological trenches

Overall, the archaeological research of the American team from Bryn Mawr College was designed to excavate certain areas on the mound. The Gözlükule mound was 22 meters high at its highest point and “over three hundred in length” (Goldman 1935, 527) (Fig. 5.1). The north, northeast and western parts of the mound were destroyed by modern buildings, while the southern part, being the steepest slope, was not disturbed by any construction (Goldman 1935, 527). Apparently, excavations in 1935 began on three points on the mound. On each point, a test trench was first dug until some remains were visible. If there were not any visible building activities, the trench was extended (Goldman 1935, 528-529). The elevations of the excavation levels were calculated according to the highest point of the mound lying at 22 meters in section A (Goldman 1935, n. 2, 529).¹⁵⁹

The excavations in 1935

¹⁵⁸ The digitised archival material of the old excavations are called here, the Tarsus Gözlükule Archaeological Project Digitised Archive (TGAPDA).

¹⁵⁹ This point of reference is in section A and it is marked by a circle on the plan of the mound. See: Fig. 5.1.

The first trench was trench 3 (2 by 30 m.) on the summit of the mound which was enlarged to become section A and consisted of an area of 675 m² at the end of the excavation season 1935 (Fig. 5.1).¹⁶⁰ It included “a fairly modern Turkish building and some fragmentary walls of the same period” (Goldman 1935, 529). Below these “Turkish” remains, two separated areas one in the north and one in the south appeared. These two areas were distinguished on the basis of the colour and consistency of the earth and the chronology of the finds. Between 8.39 and 5.20 meters of depth, the northern area revealed an important Roman layer which yielded numerous broken *terraccottas*, lamps, plaster moulds and ovens. This layer apparently produced mixed “Turkish and Arabic” glazed pottery. Further, Goldman added that this area included 29 “intrusions”, cesspits or drainage pits of Turkish and Arab houses, which were sometimes dug to a depth of more than four meters, and made the understanding of the Roman or earlier building activities difficult (Goldman 1935, 529-530).

Trench 4 was supervised by Ann Hoskin and was dug on the southwest of the mound (Fig. 5.1). Initially, it measured 2 by 17 m. and then was enlarged into about 450 m². The greatest extent of the area was disturbed by a war trench dug during the 1921 French military operations. Only the north area exposed archaeological remains. The northwest of the trench yielded an extensive Roman wall of approximately 56 meters (called “circuit wall”) (Goldman 1935, 537). The northern extension of trench 4 (10 by 15 m.) revealed Islamic and Hellenistic layers but the intermediate Roman stratum was not clearly detectable (Goldman 1935, 539-40). The Islamic layer included a long wall made from broken stone and tile in poured cement (constructed on an east-west axis and was circa 0.93 m wide and at least ten meters long). Two meters to its north, the wall of the Islamic structure faced a row of circular piers (six piers in total were unearthed) which were constructed in the same way as the wall.¹⁶¹ Goldman suggested that this row of piers continued in unexcavated areas and could be the foundations of an Islamic arcaded street. Apparently, some Islamic walls appeared in the north (Goldman 1935, 541).

Trench 5, in the northern part of section B, yielded the most important early Islamic remains and is discussed in more detail below.

Trench 6 was dug at the base of the mound in the south. It began as a trench for dumping earth, but yielded a considerable amount of Roman pottery and figurines showing significant similarities with the figurines that were excavated by the British traveller Baker in the 19th century. Even though these finds were not so well-stratified, Goldman connected them with a later layer associated with a temple, due to the fact that these were small votive lamps and pots (Goldman 1935, 249).

The excavations in 1936

The two main excavation areas on the Gözlükule mound, sections A and B, were created in 1936. In 1935, only trench numbers were employed. The following year, the trenches 4 and 5 were merged together and became section B.¹⁶² These yielded

¹⁶⁰ The trenches 1 and 2 were dug as part of the exploratory work on the mound in 1934, but were not included in the excavations (Goldman 1935, note: 1, 529). The Goldman publications do not include plans showing the layout of each trench, only a larger map. Therefore, I produced a new map with the approximate lay out of the trenches on the basis of the map of the Gözlükule mound from the 1950 Goldman publication (Fig. 5.1).

¹⁶¹ For more details, see, appendix of the diaries.

¹⁶² Trenches 4 and 5 were supervised by Ann Hoskin and Virginia Grace in 1935 and Margaret Woods, Franklin Daniel and Dorothy Cox in 1936.

mainly a mixed Roman and Islamic deposit. Goldman reported that Islamic graves were unearthed in both of these trenches by stressing the disturbances caused by the Islamic features on the Roman strata (Goldman 1936, 272). Although the Islamic remains were of substantial size there, unfortunately, very few information was recorded in comparison to the prehistoric strata.

There were Islamic layers in trenches 3 (section A), 4 and 5 (section B). Given the absence of the actual archaeological finds, it is difficult to provide an accurate interpretation about what the excavators meant by “Turkish graves” and “Turkish building” uncovered in trenches 3 and 4 (Goldman 1935, 530). These were either late medieval structures (12th - 14th century) or these remains could be contemporary with the Ottoman *türbe* (funerary monument) dated to the 14th century currently standing on the mound.¹⁶³ The Islamic remains had apparently a complicated appearance and the excavators did not fully investigate these structures. Trench 4 produced two buildings, a large number of pits and remains of walls and patches of floors.¹⁶⁴ Trench 5 revealed a larger settlement with several houses connecting to similar types of pits (e.g., cesspits or drainage pits) which were dug on a long street contemporary with the so-called “Islamic villa”.¹⁶⁵ These pits are typical of the Abbasid period as it will be explained below. The pottery assemblage of one of these pits “intrusion 17” which is situated in the southern part of trench 4, is included in the discussion about the features of the early Islamic layer.

2 The Islamic layer in the studies of the 1930s

Articles and unpublished original documents such as excavation diaries of the archaeologists Virginia Grace and Ann Hoskin were examined in order to understand the Islamic layer on the Gözlükule mound. There are two publications mentioning the Islamic structures uncovered in the 1930s, one by Goldman and one by Florence Day (Goldman 1935; Day 1941a). The Islamic find specialist Day devoted only few sentences to the early Islamic building activity: “On the tell, the Islamic layers lay about one meter below the surface, and extended down for another meter. Thus very little was found of the houses, just ground-plans and a few feet of walls. It was not possible to distinguish different levels for the Umayyad and Abbasid periods; evidently the same houses continued in use for a long time” (Day 1941a, 143). While this above mentioned description is pretty short, the excavation diaries and inventory books dealing with the Islamic remains (especially the diaries of Virginia Grace and Ann Hoskin of 1935) include comments of Florence Day about the stratigraphy, the layout of the buildings, the finds associated with different structures and the coins.

In a footnote in the 1950 volume on the Gözlükule excavations, Goldman explained that Islamic finds and layers will be published (Goldman 1950, n. 23). Day’s scientific approach to the Islamic finds was discussed in chapter two. This quote may reflect that her ideas about the architecture on the mound were underpinned by a similar premise: “Nothing was found of the famous city walls built by Harun al-Rashid, nor of the five city gates; nor of the tomb of Harun al-Rashid’s son, the caliph al-Mamun, who died on his return from a successful Byzantine campaign” (Day 1941a, 143). This sentence reflects some kind of disappointment about the medieval buildings of the Gözlükule mound. Day’s neglect of the Islamic architecture may be related to the fact that the Gözlükule remains were not as

¹⁶³ For more detail on the Ottoman funerary monument, see: Danişman 2005.

¹⁶⁴ For more details, see, appendix of the diaries.

¹⁶⁵ We will deal in more detail with the “Islamic villa” below.

prestigious as the early Islamic monuments of Tarsus built by the Abbasid caliphs which were recorded in historical sources.

Goldman's report on the Islamic building

Goldman provided some information about the Islamic building excavated by Virginia Grace in 1935. This structure was found in an area referred to as trench 5 situated in the centre of the mound (the area which the following years became section B). The original trench 5 measured two by 20 meters and was extended to an area of 385 m² at the end of the 1935 season. It was posited to the north of trench 4, and at the end of the 1935 season, the two trenches were separated from each other only by an area that was of the "width of the railroad". According to Goldman's report, late burials were uncovered underneath the surface (Goldman 1935, 545).

The Islamic building discovered in this trench was probably constructed on the late Roman stratum found in section B (Fig. 5.2). The relation between section B, trench 5, the Islamic structure and the late Roman remains is shown on the map (Fig. 5.5a).¹⁶⁶ The late Roman deposit was in the east of section B, extending to the north. Goldman specified that the late Roman constructions were not clearly discernable while the Islamic building activities seemed to have been carried out on top of these structures (Goldman 1950, 17).

The Islamic remains were discovered at 1,5 meters below the surface, the excavation level was created at 11 meters below the datum pointed in section A.¹⁶⁷ The architecture consisted of a street running south-north, on a slope (Goldman 1935, 546) (Tab. 5.1; Fig. 5.3). The western limit of the street was bordered by a thick wall made of large cut blocks, erected on a heavy foundation of stones and tiles embedded in a black cement (wall A). This wall was intersected by several other walls, delineating possibly rooms or open lots. The area included clay pipes that went under the walls connecting to deep drainage pits, at times closed at the top by beehive constructions (Fig 5.5b). A (relatively) large Islamic building, constructed from tile, stone and mortar was situated to the east of the street and measured approximately 12.70 m. by 9.70 m (Goldman 1935, 546) (Original plan: Fig. 5.4; new plan: Fig. 5.5c).

The largest room (Room 5) of the building had a cemented floor and a complex water system including a well, a basin and drains (Fig. 5.10 and 11). The well was made of brick and was 90 centimetres deep (well 4). It was found outside the large room together with a tank or basin filled with some greasy black substance. The recovery of these elements, lined with a pot full of black colouring matter (near the basin), lead Hetty Goldman to identify the Islamic building as a dyer's workshop (Goldman 1935, 547). Goldman stressed that this building was not demolished and the excavations were directed to the western side (Goldman 1935, 547).

Goldman's interpretation relating the building with a dyer's workshop is interesting considering that the remains of the trench 5 were generally associated with a commercial district with shops along the main road by Virginia Grace in 1935.¹⁶⁸

¹⁶⁶ The outlines of section B are different on different maps by Goldman, in figure 5.7, the different outlines are given based on figures 5.1 and 5.2.

¹⁶⁷ All leveling of the stratigraphy was measured according to the fixed point in section A corresponding to the highest point on the mound which was referred to as 0 (Goldman 1935, n. 2, 529).

¹⁶⁸ This information was available in the 1935 report of Virginia Grace on the Islamic layer of trench 5, p. 97 (Tarsus Gözlükule Archaeological Project Digitised Archive). From now on, this material will be referred as "TGAPDA, V.G., 1935, Trench 5 report".

Virginia Grace's report

Virginia Grace (1901-1994) was an American Classical archaeologist and an amphora expert with a special focus on stamped handles. Her education and her archaeological career overlapped with that of Hetty Goldman. In fact, she was trained in Bryn Mawr College (USA) where she studied Classics and Classical archaeology. Furthermore, in the early years of her career, Grace excavated at Halai, in Greece like Goldman but also in Pergamon in Turkey and Lapithos in Greece. She worked at the Tarsus excavations as a trench supervisor for the season of 1935 and visited the Institute of Advanced Study of Princeton several times in 1938 and during the Second World War. She also joined the Agora excavations of the American School of Athens in 1932 where she published her PhD on the stamped amphora handles. Travelling around the Mediterranean in Egypt, Cyprus, Greece and Turkey, she became an expert of stamped handles of amphorae. In 1989, Virginia Grace was awarded the gold medal for archaeological achievement by the Archaeological Institute of America.¹⁶⁹

Virginia Grace's 1935 excavation report about trench 5 provides important details regarding the Islamic layers. Grace describes the Islamic remains in this area in the following manner: "a street running north-south with buildings and entrances on either side. The buildings on the south half of the east side have not been dug, but the villa on the north was extended several meters to the east in order to trace its outline. The area was well-drained with pipes and cisterns, a fact leading to the supposition that the district was a commercial one with stores and shops. The foundations cut deep, particularly along the west side of the street, disturbing the earlier classical deposits".¹⁷⁰ In her interpretation, Grace maintained that the remains of the Islamic strata (buildings, streets and pits) were constructions of the same period. However, her dating may be inaccurate. To clarify this issue, the building phases are discussed below.

Grace's report offered also an insight into the excavation process and the layout of the trench 5. This place included six extensions (Fig. 5.3). Extensions 1, 2 and 6 were excavated lower than the medieval strata, while extensions 3, 4 and 5 were exclusively Islamic and were not dug deeper (Tab. 5.1). Because these last ones were dated only to the Islamic period, Grace unfortunately did not write a detailed excavation report on the progress of the dig, the stratigraphy and the finds, etc.¹⁷¹ Nevertheless, she kept a separate excavation diary for the Islamic building that she called "Villa Book".¹⁷² Hence, the Islamic "villa" is presented and discussed here as an archaeological context. Furthermore, by identifying the early Islamic ceramics that were found there, the pottery assemblages of this place are examined as to understand the chronology and the function of the building together with other questions.

3 Reconstructing the "villa" context

Why the villa?

As mentioned previously, the early Islamic occupation on the mound of Gözlükule consisted of an extensive settlement which was situated on the highest part of the

¹⁶⁹ Brown University: Virginia Grace in "Breaking Ground: Women in Old World Archaeology" (www.brown.edu/Research/Breaking_Ground).

¹⁷⁰ TGAPA, V.G., 1935, Trench 5 report.

¹⁷¹ In the 1935 report of trench 5, Grace stresses: "Extension 3-5 are entirely Islamic; only notes on Extension 1, 2 and 6 are included here" (TGAPA, V.G., 1935, Trench 5 report).

¹⁷² For the full transcription of this diary, see: Appendix 2.

mound, in the first three meters below the surface. Islamic remains were present in sections A and B but the best-preserved building was unearthed in trench 5 which became section B as of 1936. The large building referred to as “the Islamic Villa” is examined in the following pages (for the plan: Fig. 5.4; for the photograph of the building: Fig. 5.8).

This context was chosen for further analysis for several reasons. First, because the “Islamic Villa” is the only Islamic building that was completely excavated and documented acceptably. Second, because this building has the clearest plan and an excavation diary (i.e., “Book of the Villa”) dedicated to the excavations conducted there. Goldman stated that the building was left as it was. However, Virginia Grace’s diary notes reported that the building was removed in order to access the Classical strata. The remaining extensions in trench 5 (Extensions 1, 2, 4 and 6) yielded an Islamic layer as well, but the plan of the architectural layout was documented with less detail (Fig. 5.3).¹⁷³

Summary of the “Villa Book”

The “villa” was located to the east of the original cut and was situated in extensions 3 and 5. This complex was a rectangular building and was excavated in its entirety. Unfortunately, Grace did not provide any indications about its size in the excavation dairies, neither in the plan. For that reason, we shall stick to the approximate dimensions of the building given by Goldman in the 1935 excavation report. These consisted of a length of 12.70 m. and a width of 9.70 m. large (Goldman 1935, 546). From these measurements and the original plan, one can deduct that the rooms of extension 5 were not considered to be elements of the “villa” (Fig. 5.4). The appellation of “villa” stands for a domestic use. Grace attributed tentative names to the rooms, however, the function of these areas are not very clear.

The excavations of the “villa” started with extension 3, situated to the east of the street. This street which was found in extensions 2 and 4, ran north-south with rooms set on each side of it.¹⁷⁴ Almost each walled structure on this roadway had an intrusion (pit) associated with it (Fig. 5.6).¹⁷⁵ One of these pits (i.e., “intrusion 17”) lying in extension 2 produced a large amount of fine wares and is discussed as an archaeological context (Fig. 5.7).

Extension 3 showed a complex architectural plan with several rooms. The entrance of the “villa” was in the southwestern part of the building marked by a doorsill, continuing into a corridor paved with large stones. Goldman reported that it was 1.80 m. wide and was made of reused marble. The doorsill included a cement deposit, 0.35 higher than the paving stones of this area. This last place produced a coin dated to circa 750 CE (coin 234).¹⁷⁶ A broken coin dated to the 5th century was found on the east side of the doorsill, in a deposit of grey earth 0.10 higher than this area. There was one room on each side of this entrance which was followed by a corridor and a larger room (Tab. 5.2) (Fig. 5.5c).

¹⁷³ The general plan of trench 5 is useful in discerning the layout of the Islamic deposit, but it is still insufficient in understanding and interpreting the architectural remains.

¹⁷⁴ Unfortunately, measures are unknown.

¹⁷⁵ In the plan shown in Fig. 5.5b, all intrusions are drawn in green. There are at least 15.

¹⁷⁶ The numismatic evidence mentioned here was recorded in the “Villa Book” by Virginia Grace and the identification was made by Florence Day. These coins are not in the storage of the Gözlükule Archaeological Project making it difficult to reassess their dating. The information of the coins thus must be considered with vigilance. The full list of the coins uncovered in the “villa” is included in a list (Tab. 5.3).

A room referred to as “kitchen” was found to the north of the entrance (Room 2). This place measured approximately 2 m. long and 2 m. wide and produced a silver dirham of Saif al-Dawla (r. 944-967), found on the floor (coin 151). The floor of this area was sloping down to the east with a difference of 10 cm between east and the west parts. In the south of Room 2, two door postholes were cut in stone. These postholes were interpreted to stand probably for a double door belonging to the kitchen. The west part of Room 2 was paved with large stones which were covered with cement (this is shown on the plan). This cement layer was interpreted as marking a new level of habitation. Some tumbled stones in the south of Room 2 have led to the assumption that a staircase or an upper floor existed. A burnt patch contouring the inner walls and the floor of Room 2 produced some *in situ* domestic objects including a green glazed lamp and a strip of copper alloy metal. Also recovered was an important amount of animal bones (interpreted as sheep or goat), together with pottery sherds including glazed table wares such as Lustrewares and some monochrome green glazed ceramics.¹⁷⁷ Because of the burnt patch and the *in situ* finds, Virginia Grace associated this room with a kitchen.

A rectangular room twice as small than the kitchen was uncovered in the northwestern corner of the villa, to the north of the “kitchen” (Room 1). The excavation level there was at 11.78. Florence Day suggested that white flecks joining the cement facing the north wall of the villa indicated a period of habitation at this level. This area produced a bronze piece (a knife or a stud) and pottery including ruby Lustreware (mid 9th – late 9th century) and a coin of Ibn Tulun (r. 868-884) (coin 182). The numismatic and pottery evidence may be useful for dating this area. However, the contextual information of these finds is inconsistent. First, the ruby Lustreware is not inventoried, so one does not know if this find actually existed; second, the context of the coin 182 is unclear (i.e., the floor level is at 11.33 in diary but this floor is not on the map).¹⁷⁸

In the northwest of extension 3, outside the Islamic building, several pieces of Polychrome Painted Sgraffito Ware from the late medieval period were recovered (mid 12th - 14th century C.E.). This pottery evidence may suggest that the habitation period outside the “villa” may have at least lasted until the late medieval period or that it was reoccupied in that period.¹⁷⁹

To the east of the kitchen, a long and narrow space appeared which was named “corridor” with a floor at 11.76 (Room 4). In the north of the east wall of the corridor, a coin of Justinian I (r. 528-562) dated to the 6th century C.E. was found (coin 178), which may set the *terminus post quem* for this wall.¹⁸⁰ This area produced a rim piece of a White Opaque Glazed Ware with cobalt blue decoration vessel dated 9th century C.E. The level of this floor is similar to the floor of Room 1.

To the east of the corridor, a rectangular room was found and called “East Room” (Room 5). This room which demarcated the eastern limit of extension 3, was the largest of this extension. The walls were made of stones and especially the west and south walls of this room were thin, tall and tripped inward.¹⁸¹ Unfortunately, no dimensions were provided for it but it may have measured c. 6.20 by 3.45 m. The floor in the north lied at 11.60, while the stones in the south were posited at 11.07. An

¹⁷⁷ Virginia Grace’s excavation diary no: 2 called “Villa Book” 1935, April 22. From now on, this diary will be referred as V.G. “Villa Book” 1935.

¹⁷⁸ V.G. “Villa Book” 1935, April 25.

¹⁷⁹ Gözlükule inventory notebooks 1935-1936, 112-113.

¹⁸⁰ V.G. “Villa Book” 1935, April 22.

¹⁸¹ V.G. “Villa Book” 1935, April 22.

Abbasid coin dated to the 8th century was found (coin 324) in the northeastern corner of this room, and in the north wall of the villa, 0.25 below the top of the extinct wall. Another Abbasid coin, one of al-Mu'tadid (r. 870-892) was recovered (coin 325), approximately at the same level, slightly to the south. These coins could suggest that the building activity of this room started earliest in the 8th century C.E.¹⁸² The "East Room" produced numerous ceramics including high quality glazed wares and fine unglazed wares. The table wares included various types of ceramics with the Basra fabric such as Polychrome Lustreware, White Opaque Glazed Ware with cobalt decoration and White Opaque Glazed Ware with green splash. Further, an exceptional example of Splash Glazed Ware may have been found there, which was made from an extremely well-fired, very fine pink clay. Unglazed ceramics consisted of Unglazed Moulded Ware, a light utility fine ware used in the service of liquids, in the 9th and 10th century.

In Room 5, a complex drainage system running north-south was uncovered including a well in the north-western part (Well 4). This brick-made well (0.55 m diameter) was posited to the south of the north wall of the villa, slightly higher than the floor there (floor level: 11.42). To the southeast of the well, a black area appeared which marked a drainage system.¹⁸³ When the west wall of "East Room" (Room 5) was removed, the drainage system emerged as continuing south (Fig. 5.10).¹⁸⁴ The north was levelled at 11.59, the centre at 11.44 and the south at 11.76. The drainage structure that lied under (or inserted in it?) the west wall consisted of a single row of broken tiles, running north-south on either side of some compact mixture similar to crushed porous stone. A tile covered drain was placed in the south of "East Room" and continued to the south wall. Toward the south, the tile covers gave place to a hard cement mixture that may have been a fill. Further south, near the southern wall of the room, the hard floor was replaced by soft earth which, was covered with the trough of the drain (0.15m diameter). West of this drain, at the point where the tiles broke off, another water hole was placed (Intrusion 22) with small tiles on top. The floor of the drain, paved with tiles, dropped steeply into Intrusion 23 in the corridor south of Room 5 (Fig. 5.11).¹⁸⁵

In the southwest of the building, a small rectangular room was found (Room 3). This room was called "the bath" and included an uneven floor irregularly tiled, varying between 11.43 at the west, 11.36 in the middle and 11.27 at the east.¹⁸⁶ Room 3 produced an Abbasid coin of Rustam b. Bardawa (r. 903-913). This coin which was found under the floor 0.10 m. below the southwestern corner of the villa (coin 183), may suggest a building activity in this sector that may have started in 10th century C.E.¹⁸⁷ The walls of the "bath" were low and damaged. The north wall was in line with the south wall of Room 5 while, the east wall was in line with the east wall of Room 2.¹⁸⁸

The area laying to the east of the villa (east of the "East Room") corresponded to extension 5. Goldman and Grace have not considered the rooms in this area as elements of the "villa". In fact, the rooms in extension 5 might be later additions to

¹⁸² V.G. "Villa Book" 1935, April 23.

¹⁸³ It is not clear if this drainage system is connected to the well to the north.

¹⁸⁴ V.G. "Villa Book" 1935, 23 April.

¹⁸⁵ V.G. "Villa Book" 1935, 23 April.

¹⁸⁶ It is not clear why this room was called bath: "In the SW quarter partly cleared what appears to be a bathroom" V.G. "Villa Book" 1935, 24 April.

¹⁸⁷ V.G. "Villa Book" 1935, 24 April.

¹⁸⁸ V.G. "Villa Book" 1935, 22 April.

the villa. This extension included from west to east: one corridor called “street” (Room 6), and two other square rooms, one to the north associated with the “0.80 floor” (Room 7) and one to the south called “East Street” (Room 8) (Fig. 5.12).

In the eastern part of the villa in extension 5, two heavy square constructions were found (Fig. 5.5c). The first seemed to mark the eastern limit of the villa in the north. The second one is placed on the southeastern part of the eastern wall of the villa, at the northeastern corner of the “East Street”.¹⁸⁹ Day suggested that these stone constructions might be later additions due to the difference of level (the stone level is 10.65). The layout of these stones as shown on the map clearly indicates that these were added later and thus were not connected to the rest of the building. These structures may perhaps be related to the later medieval activities on the site. Day also proposed that the two rooms in the east of the villa including the “0.80 floor” room (Room 7) and “the East Street” (Room 8) might be built later without clear explanation. Furthermore, she recommended that “East Room” should be called “Room with Stucco Revetment” because of the recovery of plaster which, was interpreted as “white cementy stuff” by Virginia Grace.¹⁹⁰ Her remarks seem correct; these are discussed further below.

The floors of these two rooms included a layer of white-greyish powdery earth. The north part of the eastern corner of the villa is associated with the “0.80 floor” laying 0.90 m. below the surface (floor level: 10.79). The floor of this room (Room 7) produced a patch of whitish soft fill made of tiles and pebbles in cement. The northeastern corner yielded one piece of White Opaque Glazed Ware with cobalt blue decoration. Two other pieces of pottery that probably belonged to the same vessel, are mentioned in the inventory notebook but are missing from the material in the storage rooms.¹⁹¹ As recorded on the plan of the villa, the 0.80 seems to extend in the north part of the corridor (Room 6). The same powdery earth deposit was struck in the corridor and it followed the same orientation. These could be the same floor.

The wall between Room 7 and Room 8 was described as being “very fine” and constructed with an alternation of stones and tiles. This wall produced a 5th century coin (coin 18), found to the south of the “0.80 floor” that may have provided a chronological frame for its erection. A similar area of floor composed of grey patches, appeared in the south room or “East Street” (which was called “the stucco revetment room” by Florence Day) (Room 8). This area yielded a large amount of material including a ledge-handled black jar, a green glazed lamp and fragments of stucco ornament (floor level: 11.50).¹⁹² Some of these finds such as the lamp and the pot were found upside down. Subsequently, Virginia Grace suggested that these had fallen from an upper floor or a plank along the wall.

Room 8 produced numerous fine wares. In the soft patch, south of the wall, an almost complete turquoise plate made from a very fine grained buff fabric (possibly Basra) and some pieces of a monochrome green jar were found together. In a floor referred to as “third floor”, a small piece of a rare turquoise Lustreware (c. mid 9th century), a sherd of Polychrome Painted Glazed Ware (c. mid 9th - mid 10th century)

¹⁸⁹ V.G. “Villa Book” 1935, 23 April.

¹⁹⁰ V.G. “Villa Book” 1935, 22 April. Florence Day’s note.

¹⁹¹ The sherd number 35.1779 can be found among the pottery sheets completed by Florence Day. Day identifies this sherd as a rim piece of a flat dish made of the Basra clay, a white opaque glazed painted with cobalt, manganese and turquoise.

¹⁹² Underneath this floor, two floors were struck consecutively at 11.60 and 11.70, however the correlation between the floors and the finds is not clear. For example, the ledge handled cooking pot was not recorded in the object inventories.

and a small monochrome green glazed handle were found. Several rim pieces of a large Polychrome Sgraffito Ware bowl (c. 10th - 11th century) came out from mixed earth. These table wares are similar to the fine wares found in "East Room" in extension 3.

Three Abbasid coins were excavated in extension 5. One broadly dated to the 9th century C.E. was recovered from the surface (coin 274). And two were found in the loose earth in the south (probably in "East Street", Room 8) identified as belonging to al-Mu'tadid (r. 892-902) (coin 306) and to the Abbasid type X (coin 305).

While comparative material -Abbasid domestic complexes- is rare, one may deduct that the inhabitants of this building were not so poor, judging from the high quality of the ceramics. Numerous other table wares were recovered from mixed earth of extension 3 and extension 5 including several pieces of Polychrome Sgraffito Ware (with incised birds) (c. 10th - 11th century), fragments of Splash Glazed Ware (c. 9th - 10th century) and White Opaque Glazed Ware with turquoise and black splash (c. 9th century).¹⁹³ Further, some pieces of monochrome green vessels were found.

In contrast to the western part of the villa (extension 3) which produced many coins, the finds of the eastern part (extension 5) are less numerous. The contextual information of the finds of extension 5 is less clear as well (the context of the finds is not recorded in the inventory notebooks).

Chronology of Extension 3 and Extension 5

In extension 3, on the one hand, despite the possibility of the continuous use of coins into later periods, one may propose that there are at least two habitation phases, in the 9th and 10th centuries, on the basis of the ceramic and numismatic evidence found on the floor of Room 2 (*dirham* of Saif al-Dawla, r. 944-957) and underneath the floor of Room 1 to its north (coin of Ibn Tulun, r. 868-884). On the other hand, the excavation diary does not provide enough information whether Room 2 included an earlier phase. It is also conceivable that these two rooms were occupied in the same period (if the coin of Ibn Tulun circulated in the 10th century). And unfortunately, although these areas produced large amounts of finds including ceramics, very few of these artefacts were kept and inventoried. The ceramic material of Room 5 was equally abundant and these were recorded relatively more carefully (maybe because the ceramic pieces were elaborately decorated objects). This room yielded a substantial amount of Abbasid fine wares including Unglazed Moulded Ware and different types of White Opaque Glazed Wares, all of which are dated generally to the 9th century. The floor levels of Room 1 (level: 11.78) and Room 5 (level: 11.60) as well as the pottery evidence may suggest that these two areas were inhabited before the 10th century. Furthermore, Room 2 (floor level: 11.25-11.15) and Room 3 (floor level: 11.19), which produced a coin of Rustam Bardawa (r. 903-913), may be contemporary.

The stratigraphy of extension 5 is less clear. The north and south wall of the "villa" are indeed not in the same axis as the walls of Room 7 and Room 8 (Fig. 5.4). The recovery of a stucco fragment and the layer of white earth which was spread from the north to the south might confirm Florence Day's suggestion of stucco elements decorating the façade of the building. Or maybe an internal niche was decorated with stucco frescoes. The numismatic evidence (coin of al-Mu'tadid and an Abbasid 9th century coin) and the pottery evidence (Abbasid table wares) may suggest the 9th -

¹⁹³ These Polychrome Sgraffito Ware bowls were probably found in Extension 5 as Virginia Grace mentions several sgraffito bird plates from this area. Unfortunately, this material was not inventoried. V.G. "Villa Book" 1935, 22 April.

10th centuries for the habitation level. The recovery of Polychrome Sgraffito Ware (c. 10th - 11th CE) from mixed earth posits the *terminus post quem* of extension 5 to the 11th century. Several floors are mentioned in the excavation diaries and the inventory notebook but the correlation between these two types of information is difficult.¹⁹⁴ The dating and lay out of extension 5 is examined in detail further below.

Intrusion 17

Now, we will turn to the context of Intrusion 17, which lied in the southeast of extension 2. The excavation diary did not offer sufficient information about this pit. It was found at the same level as the wall P and it was of the same type of Intrusion 16, i.e., a waterhole with a beehive pattern cover (Fig. 5.6-7). Intrusion 16 was located on the main street on the same axis as Intrusion 17. The pipe connected to Intrusion 16 was cut by wall P, suggesting to be older than the wall. It also may be that this latter was not a wall but the foundation of a sill. Be it as it may, this pipe was not connected to Intrusion 17.¹⁹⁵ Similar pits were uncovered on the mound of Gözlükule during the new excavations. Aslı Özyar suggested that this kind of pit, which includes stones laid like a beehive pattern on its top, is a drainage/cess pit (Özyar *et al.* 2013, 172).

Despite the lack of coins, this pit produced a substantial amount of fine wares. The table wares included many pieces of Polychrome Painted Glazed Ware (c. mid 9th – mid 10th centuries C.E.) which are probably regionally produced, some pieces of the probably imported Polychrome Lustrewares (c. mid 9th - late 9th century C.E.) and White Opaque Glazed Ware with cobalt decoration (c. 9th century C.E.) made of the fine Basra fabric. Further, Buff Unglazed Ware fragments were found belonging to closed shapes such as jugs used in the service of liquids. Most of these pieces were mould made. One exceptional piece was a very thin-walled jug (“Egg Shell”) with painted decoration (no. 35.1770) (c. late 8th – mid 10th centuries C.E.).

Due to the lack of detailed information about this pit (its relation with the other features and its content), it is difficult to date it. It is probably older than wall P since Intrusion 16 and the pipe connected to it are below it. On the basis of the pottery evidence, the *terminus post quem* of this pit is the late 8th century C.E. (Glazed Moulded Ware) and the *terminus ante quem* is the 10th century C.E. Furthermore, this cesspit, which is partially covered on the top, is probably older than the pottery assemblage it contains. This ceramic corpus can be generally dated to the 9th century, it is very similar pottery to the assemblage of the villa.

Discussion

What Grace and Day described as “Islamic villa” is a building with a domestic and an industrial character, extending by at least 12.70 m. of length by 9.70 m. large, located in the west of section B. This Islamic building did not stand alone, but belonged to a group of contemporary buildings; however, archaeological information about the other Islamic buildings was not systematically recorded.¹⁹⁶

Grace and Day associated this building with a “villa” probably on the basis of the finds. Hetty Goldman also suggested an industrial and commercial function. They seemed to be all right, however, in a wrong way. In fact, even though the pottery

¹⁹⁴ For example, as mentioned below several floors are mentioned in extension 5 in “East Street”. Similarly, in the inventory notebook, for the context of some sherds a “third floor” is mentioned, however, the level of the floor is not indicated (Gözlükule inventory notebooks 1935-1936, 102-103).

¹⁹⁵ V.G. Diary no: 1 1935, 9-10 April.

¹⁹⁶ The early Islamic settlement seemed to continue in section A, see: Appendix 2, Summary of the diaries.

evidence might probably support the characterisation of this structure as a “villa” or as a high status domicile, considering the points brought up below, one cannot bypass changes in the function of the building because it seemed to be employed at least for a century. Thus, a primary function related with craft activities may be considered first, which was followed in a second phase by an enlargement of the building into a domestic structure.

This hypothesis is supported by two main factors. First, there is the general building phase of the two extensions constituting the “villa”, extension 3 and extension 5. As it is going to be discussed in detail further down, extension 5 seems to be a later addition to the initial structures of extension 3 (rooms 1-5). Furthermore, the different features of Room 5 in extension 3, the long pipe system under the western wall of the room and the well to the north, might probably suggest an earlier industrial function. In the light of these structures, one could propose that the building in extension 3 is probably a smaller establishment of a crafts-person. Later, this structure might have been enlarged into a larger and more luxurious dwelling (with stucco ornaments).

In fact, the finds might help us to support the change in the size and the function of the building. Along with stucco fragments, the recovery of probably imported glazed table wares such as turquoise Lustreware or other White Opaque Glazed Wares with the fine Basra fabric may suggest that this building was probably used as a house by wealthy dwellers. However, because of the scarcity of literature dealing with domestic Abbasid architecture, almost no parallels for this building could be found. It is still noteworthy to mention some of the rare Abbasid domiciles unearthed in the Near East and Egypt. Several private houses in the palaces of Raqqa (Syria) and Samarra (Iraq) were excavated. These modules consisting of aligned rooms leading to a central courtyard are unfortunately not comparable to the settlement in Tarsus.¹⁹⁷ Other Abbasid domiciles are known from several other sites, Fustat (Egypt), Susa, Siraf (Iran) and Humeima (Jordan) (Fig. 5.13).¹⁹⁸

Although the Tarsus building is much smaller, the closest comparison can be made with the Susa and Fustat houses because of the irregularity of the building plan. The French excavations conducted at Susa have unravelled a large Abbasid house coming from the level 1 dated between 800-900 (Hardy Guilbert 1984). This building was composed of seven rooms leading to a central court and contained a bathroom, toilets and two large rooms (Hardy Guilbert 1984, 145). The dating and the number of rooms of the houses of Susa and Tarsus are alike even though these two cities are quite distant from each other.

Unlike all other houses including an inner court, the houses of Tarsus and Fustat C seem to be the few ones containing rooms reached by corridors. Unfortunately, the 1930s’ plan of the Tarsus building did not include any information about the doors of the rooms. As a result, one cannot come up with an accurate idea about the internal communication between the rooms of the villa. The Fustat C “house 3-3”, in particular, may provide a good parallel for Tarsus: the small size and the irregularity of the plan are points of similarity (Kubiak and Scanlon 1989, 19-20). In

¹⁹⁷ According to Herzfeld, apparently these were typical in Samarra but were unfortunately never published (Meyer 2004, 64). A new residential area was uncovered in the caliphal capital (Samarra) to the west of the minaret (Malwiya) by the Iraqi team directed by Tariq al-Janabi (Janabi 1983). Collectively referred to as “Abbasid popular quarter”, numerous domestic structures were discovered that followed the plan with courtyards (Janabi 1983, 308). The private houses in the palaces of princes are well-known in Raqqa, for example in the Palace B, C and D (Saliby 2004a, 2004b).

¹⁹⁸ For the Abbasid house in Humeima, see: www.uvic.ca/~jpoleson/Humayma.

fact, the Fustat house 3-3 is entered directly from the street, latrines with septic systems are positioned in the rooms closer to the street entrance like Tarsus. The two large rooms of this house display a rather irregular plan. The room far from the street entrance includes a plastered niche, which was presumably decorated (Kubiak and Scanlon 1989, 20-21). One major difference of the Gözlükule occupation with the Egyptian town is the nature of the settlement which is built there *ex-novo* after the 7th century Arab conquest. In Tarsus, we are dealing with a multi-period settlement mound; the early Islamic structures are erected on top of the late Antique strata. The so-called “proletarian district” uncovered during the American excavations at Fustat (Fustat C) included a complex residential area with rather small sized houses aligned on a long street which may recall the lay out of the Gözlükule remains in trench 5 (Scanlon and Kubiak 1989, plan II).¹⁹⁹ These Fustat buildings which were composed of two to four chambers, displayed rooms built consecutively, with, at times, an irregular plan differing from the modules opening to a central courtyard. Between the mid 9th and mid 10th century, these houses had two floors; at the end of the 10th century and beginning of the 11th century, only one storey was apparently used (Kubiak and Scanlon 1989, 4-31).

Another point of comparison of this Egyptian settlement and the one on the Gözlükule mound, is the sanitation system. Both at Tarsus and Fustat, latrines were included in the buildings. Numerous drainage pits were dug in the street and the houses. In Tarsus, the so-called intrusion 16 and 17 provide good examples of cesspits placed on the street, probably supplying individual buildings. In the simple houses of Fustat, the toilets were built directly below a pit whereas, more complex drainage systems were also found. These latter connected the pipes of domiciles with large canals built underneath the floor, leading into a communal cesspit (Milwright 2010a, 93; Scanlon 1970, 185-194; Kubiak and Scanlon 1989, 21-31). This elaborate system may shed light on the involvement of more specialised organisations in urban planning such as the municipality or other authorities (Milwright 2010, 93). Recent studies showed that the interpretation of the American excavations of Fustat which were made in the 1970s may occasionally require a re-evaluation.²⁰⁰ Nevertheless, this project contributed significantly to our knowledge of urbanisation in the early Islamic period. Ultimately, the architectural characteristics of Fustat bore witness that early Islamic (Abbasid - early Fatimid) domestic structures did not necessarily follow a singular plan, rooms centred around an inner courtyard. In Tarsus, on the mound, are we dealing with a regional adaptation of a widely spread Abbasid house plan? Research about the layers uncovered in the actual Gözlükule excavations will improve our understanding of Abbasid domiciles in southern Turkey.

¹⁹⁹ The dubious assessment of the Fustat C houses with a “proletarian district” is discussed below.

²⁰⁰ The “proletarian houses” excavated in Fustat C were interpreted by Scanlon and Kubiak as belonging to a poor neighborhood (Kubiak and Scanlon 1989). The material evidence which included imported wares such as fine Chinese ceramics do not seem to be consistent with this interpretation. Moreover, Scott Redford, who participated to these excavations did not agree with this initial interpretation either, whilst the archaeological finds associated with the structure do not seem to support it (personal communication with Prof. Scott Redford, 2016). The houses of Fustat A and B uncovered during these American excavations were revisited by the PhD candidate, Matthew Harrison of the University of Southampton. He delivered an interesting presentation on this subject: Reassessing the houses of Fustat: a social interpretation of legacy data, in Islamic Archaeology Day (27 February 2016, UCL Institute of Archaeology). His critical interpretation of the houses of Fustat, first, re-evaluated previous scholarships. Then, he attempted to recreate daily activities in these areas and to understand how these spaces were perceived by their inhabitants, by combining the spatial analysis of the archaeological features with written sources (Cairo Geniza documents).

The “Islamic villa” lies east of a street which runs in a north-south direction. The building consists of (e.g., 8) rooms. This building seems to be enlarged in a later period where Room 7 and Room 8 were added. The excavators tried to attribute certain functions to some of the rooms, therefore, one was characterised as a kitchen and another as a corridor. These first characterisations are not inaccurate while the pottery and other finds allow to support this hypothesis. Yet, some revisions may be needed. In fact, Room 2 was associated with a kitchen because the excavator Virginia Grace recorded a quantity of animal bones, a patch of burnt deposit with different kind of objects (clay lamp, a bronze stripe, glazed jar, etc.). However, the room has not yielded any cooking pots or other similar finds such as a *tannur* (oven) consistent with this function. Did the cooking activities take place elsewhere and this room was used for other activities related to food or crafts practices involving bone and leather working? Among the six domiciles excavated in Fustat C, one room in house 4-4 yielding a fireplace could be directly linked to cooking activities (Kubiak and Scanlon 1989, 21-24). This may recall the idea that kitchens were not a common feature of domiciles in the medieval period.

Room 8 was named “East Street” by Virginia Grace, but Day suggested it should be called “Room with stucco revetment”. Day’s suggestions may be likely, since the rooms in extension 5 (Rooms 7& 8) were filled with a soft whitish fill and some stucco fragments came from Room 8. It is probable that this room or some parts of it was decorated with stucco ornaments.²⁰¹ This kind of stucco architectural decoration was observed in Abbasid palatial architecture such as in Samarra and in Raqqa (Meinecke 1991; Saliby 2004a-b). The site of Kharab Sayar, situated in the vicinity of Raqqa in North Syria, has yielded comparable finds as well (Meyer 2004). Among other urban architectural structures, the excavations have uncovered a large complex of private houses. These dwellings which were decorated with large panels of stucco ornaments, were composed of an alignment of c. eight rooms opening to the front, and for some, to a central courtyard (Meyer 2004, 64). According to the style of the stucco decoration and the different building techniques such as stones, clay bricks and pisé (“stampflehm”), these remains were dated to the Abbasid period between the second half of the 8th and to the mid 10th century (Meyer 2004, 64).²⁰² Although unpublished, apparently, rooms with stucco decoration were recovered in the sounding carried out by archaeologist Kassam Toueir north of the commercial district of al-Raqqa in an extensive complex (Heidemann 2006, 42). Despite the fact that archaeologists have not reached an agreement regarding the function of these rooms, two functions were assigned, one commercial and one residential. Stefan Heidemann pointed that Kassam Toueir’s association of these stucco decorated rooms with Tahirid residences was wrong because the Tahirids lived in Khurasan. Heidemann suggested that these rooms could be shops although there is no firm evidence for his statement (Heidemann 2006, 43).

While we are not in possession of the real stucco decoration of the villa (we only have the inventory sheet), the style of the stucco of the villa, which consisted of geometric, tear-shaped patterns, recalls the “Samarra bevelled stucco style” in terms of decorative motifs, but, because it was executed on a flat surface (not slant-cut like the other stucco decorations). It can be compared with the stucco ornaments of the

²⁰¹ Other stucco ornaments are found among the 1935-1948 excavations finds.

²⁰² Other private dwellings found in the palaces in Raqqa or in the fort of Madinat al-Far were decorated with stucco ornaments, however these remains are dated earlier than Tarsus (late 8th century) and therefore are not included in the discussion. For more information about these houses, see: Saliby 2004a and 2004b and Haase 2001, 2006.

mosque of Ibn Tulun in Cairo as well (Creswell *et al.* 1940, 344, pl. 104c, 107b; Meinecke 1991, 232-233) (Fig. 5.14). These variations in styles and in technique are of course also indicators of local/regional production. It does not seem improbable that Tarsus produced its own stucco decorations.

The study of the inventory notebooks and the excavation diary “villa book” permitted to identify the ceramic finds of the villa. As mentioned previously, the archaeological finds were not systematically recorded. Subsequently, some finds which are documented in the excavation dairies do not appear in the inventory notebooks. Further, some finds which are recorded in the inventories and diary are unfortunately not physically found in the storage rooms of the Gözlükule Archaeological Project. In order to follow a systematic approach, only the ceramics recorded in the inventory notebooks have been included in this discussion and the quantification.²⁰³ Given these circumstances, the discussion of the pottery assemblage of the villa is only an attempt and could be far different from the picture of this archaeological context if one would be knowledgeable about all the pottery found in the villa. As a result, this present discussion about the pottery in context is more conjectural and speculative. It does not aim for completion in the reconstruction and in the mapping of activities or the different uses of the building.

The pottery assemblage of the villa is homogenous and predominantly includes fine table wares (Tab. 5.4; Fig. 5.15). The very small quantity of unglazed pottery could be linked with the selective retention of objects of the 1930s. The few unglazed ceramics of the assemblage are Unglazed Moulded Ware pieces used as a light utility vessel as well as on the table. The sherds seem to all belong to a conical necked jug (possibly the Jug A1 of Unglazed Moulded Ware in the Tarsus/ Gözlükule ceramic typology).

The glazed vessels mainly consist of open forms including bowls, dishes and plates. These can be broadly classified into two groups, the imported wares and the regionally produced wares. Distinguished by their fine grained buff-yellow fabric commonly referred to as “Basra fabric” or the “Samarra fabric”, the imported pottery corresponds to different classes of White Opaque Glazed Wares including Lustrewares, White Opaque Glazed Ware with cobalt decoration and with green splash. Moreover, two other vessels characterised by a very fine fabric (which might probably be associated with an Iraqi origin), should be mentioned: one Splash Glazed Ware rim fragment made of a very fine grained pink fabric and a monochrome turquoise glazed plate made of a fine buff fabric. The probably regionally produced ceramics include Polychrome Painted Glazed Ware and some of the Monochrome Green Wares all of which are characterised by a relatively coarser calcareous fabric firing buff to orange-red. Other kinds of coarser Opaque Glazed Wares and Polychrome Sgraffito Ware pieces are found as well.

The highest amount of pottery that was systematically recorded was concentrated in two of the largest rooms of the villa in Room 5 (“East House”) and Room 8 (“East Street”) (Fig. 5.16-18). The other large room, Room 7 and the rest of the villa produced few sherds that were inventoried. The area next to the well 4 which should be rich in objects for storing and keeping liquids including pottery have yielded few ceramic finds. Can this be related to the function of the area which was

²⁰³ For the ceramic finds that were inventoried in the 1930s but are now absent in the storage rooms, the ceramic sheets of Florence Day were consulted. However, for the quantification, because the vessels could not be physically examined, only an estimate weight based on comparison with similar vessels is provided.

hypothetically associated with crafts? This may also be due to sweeping of the floors and waste material.

Unlike Room 5 mainly producing imported fine table wares, the assemblage of Room 8 had both imported wares and regional productions such as Polychrome Painted Glazed Ware (Fig. 5.19). Room 8 contained the largest and heaviest pottery assemblage with a diversified repertoire of forms. Larger and chunkier vessels such as a pot with a glazed handle, probably employed for utilitarian purposes (keeping liquids, etc.) was found among the table wares. This mix of the pottery finds may be resulting from dumps. In the excavations notes taken in the first days of digging in the extensions 3 and 5, it is explained that the area is marked by fallen walls and roof pieces from an upper floor of the villa. It is not entirely clear which extension it is referred to, however.²⁰⁴ Subsequently, it is difficult to relate these finds to the place they were found and thus, to make assumptions about the function of the respective rooms, in particular, Room 8.

The plan of the villa drawn in the 1930s is not very rewarding for understanding the communication between the rooms while very few entrances to the rooms are provided. Nevertheless, general remarks can be made. The rooms which are closer to the entrance are smaller and may be dedicated to toilets and craft-related or commercial activities among others, in an early phase. Judging from the quantity and the quality of the pottery material (even though this may be waste distribution), the largest rooms- Room 5 and Room 8- may have been employed in dining and probably other daily routines requiring additional space in a later phase. The centrality of Room 5 is obvious. The excavator recorded the walls surrounding this room. In concordance with the plans of other Abbasid houses, one may very hypothetically associate this central room with a “revisited internal courtyard”. In fact, even though it is enclosed with walls, it is easily accessed via corridors and it is placed in the middle of the building. In addition to being used by the dwellers of the villa, the pottery assemblage which contained exclusively imported ceramics might suggest that this room might be used for guests as a reception room if it was a room. Similarly, Room 8 which produced different kinds of table wares including coarser pottery could perhaps be a room with a more private function, restricted to the dwellers of the villa if these finds were *in situ*. The corridors seem to ensure the communication between the different rooms but they might equally be employed in crafts activities.

Regarding the building activities of the “villa”, the hypothesis is that the building may have had two main successive phases: an early one, possibly related to craft activities and, a second one, which is more domestic as mentioned previously. Some archaeological features might probably support this hypothesis. For example, the greasy basin and sewer system found near well 4 in the northwest part of the building and the tiled area called “bathroom” in the southwest of the complex might be structures related with industrial activities. The corridors (Rooms 4 & 6) include pits, a well connected to a drainage system and a stone lined circular structure (southeast of Room 6). This circular structure seemed to be built either under or in relation to the Room 8, in the corridor. These corridors which provided circulation rooms might have served for industrial and crafts activities, as mentioned above. The possible change in the function of the building in a later stage is reflected on the alignments of the north and the south walls of extension 3. These facades are in fact cut in extension 5 by the enclosure of a new and more costly space. The walls follow new directions and the area is built with new techniques and decoration. The wall

²⁰⁴ V.G. “Villa Book” 1935, 16 April.

between Room 7 and Room 8 was described as being very fine, using bricks. Furthermore, stucco ornaments may hint in the changing function into a high-status dwelling. The presence of fine wares may also support this as seen above.

The highest amount of ceramics came from the mixed context of Extensions 3 and 5. This mixed context might have been caused by at least two reasons. The first is the uncareful excavation methods of the old excavations such as the unsystematic recording and digging which are particularly common when dealing with post-antique finds. The other reason might be the disturbances caused by later building activities such as the damage of the French military operations after the First World War or those of the later occupation in this area (e.g., the later “heavy square constructions”) and on the mound. Recent archaeological investigations have shown that the settlement on the mound was made of terrace fillings. Accordingly, the mixed context of the “villa” might have been caused by late medieval or later occupations employing the soil of earlier strata for fills or other building activities.

The use of the building was dated by coins and pottery found on the floor of some of the rooms. These finds come probably from the final phase of use and the abandonment of the building. In the few cases where coins and pottery can be associated, they agree in a general date of the 10th century for the abandonment of the building. The earliest phase of use appears to date to the 9th century, as attested by the coin of Ibn Tulun (r. 870-892) and glazed table wares such as Polychrome Lustre wares (mid 9th century) or White Opaque Glazed Ware with cobalt blue decoration (9th century). An Umayyad stratum cannot be distinguished. The Polychrome Sgraffito Ware pieces (“Port Saint Symeon”) dated between the mid 12th and the 13th centuries, might suggest that a late medieval habitation might have existed outside the context of the “villa”.

Regarding the building activity in general in trench 5, there are at least two habitation phases. As we have seen above, the intrusion 16 and the pipe connection appeared to be older features than wall P. This might correspond to the first habitation phase. Judging from the orientation of wall P (which seems to be in line with the “villa”), it is possible that wall P is contemporary with the villa. Wall P and the “villa” could be part of the second habitation phase. However, judging from the fact that wall P together with wall P-P’ which appears to be a later addition to the existing west wall of the villa, one could argue that wall P-P’ may be later than the villa.

The building phases of the “villa” are not easy to understand, since it was not recorded accurately. Nevertheless, some features of the “villa” can be more easily dated. For example, the “heavy square constructions” located at the eastern part of the building do not seem to be connected to the building and could be of a later period (the stone level which is at 10.65 seems to be consistent with this phasing). Further, as discussed earlier, the two rooms in extension 3 could be later additions as well (Room 7&8).

The stratigraphy within the “villa” (extension 3) is more complex. The tiled drainage system connected to the well 4 found underneath the west wall of Room 5 was probably constructed earlier than the wall. Although it is not recorded on the map, the photograph of the building (Fig. 5.8) shows that the north of extension 5 includes stone paving (Room 6 and Room 7). These look similar to those lying at the entrance of the villa and in the “kitchen” (Fig. 5.9). Could this be the same floor? This is difficult to determine, as the northeastern part of the building is a later addition to the original structure of the building.

The Islamic occupation on the western slope of the Gözlükule mound brings new information about Abbasid settlement in areas that are politically distant from the

heart of the Abbasid Caliphate. With its singular plan, the “Islamic villa” which might have had a primary craft-related function represents an important example of Abbasid architecture other than private dwellings in palatial complexes. The enlargement and change in the use of the building might probably be related to a possible growth in the settlement on the mound. Some pieces of pottery that were found in this context helped to understand the building. The following chapter investigates the entire early Islamic ceramic corpus of the old Gözlükule excavations.

CHAPTER 5 FIGURES

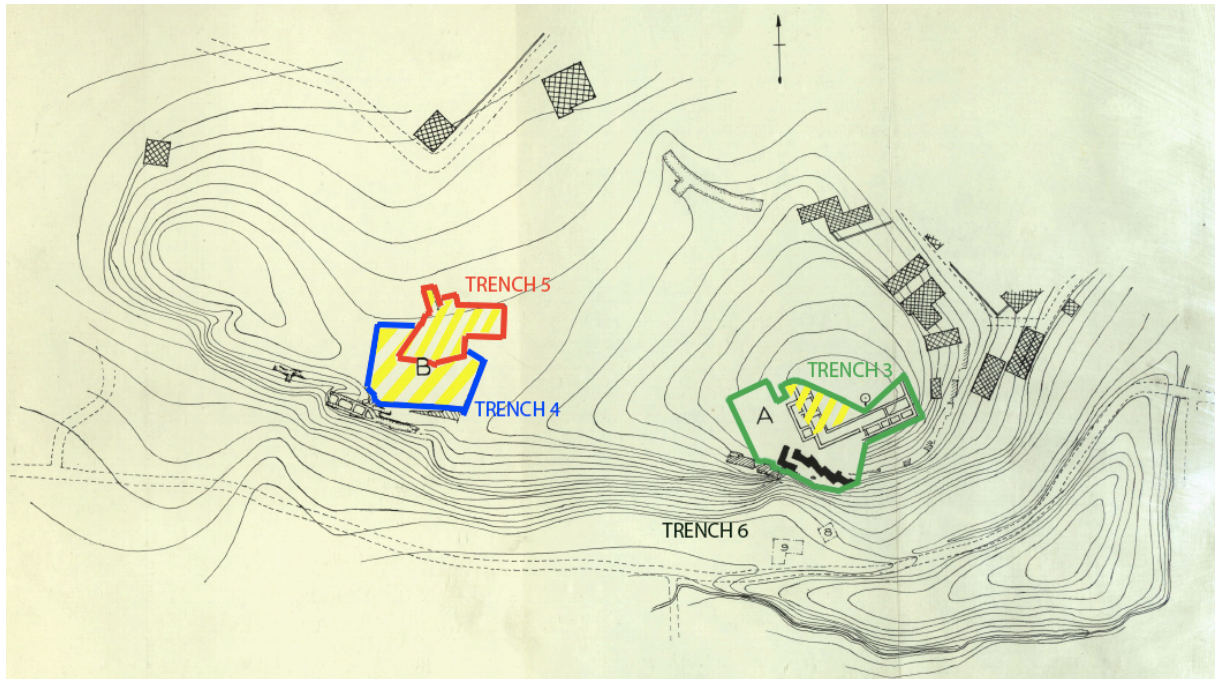


Fig. 5.1 Gözlükule Mound contour map as published by Goldman, showing section A and section B, scale 1:100, contour interval 1 m. (cross-hatched: modern building; dotted walls: Roman; hatched walls: early first millennium B.C.E; outlined building in section A Hittite; solid wall third millennium B.C.E.) (after Goldman 1950 vol. 1, Plan 1). The limits of the trenches were deducted from original documents such as excavation maps and diaries and therefore these represent estimations. The yellow hatchings in the trenches show the approximate layout of the Abbasid settlement

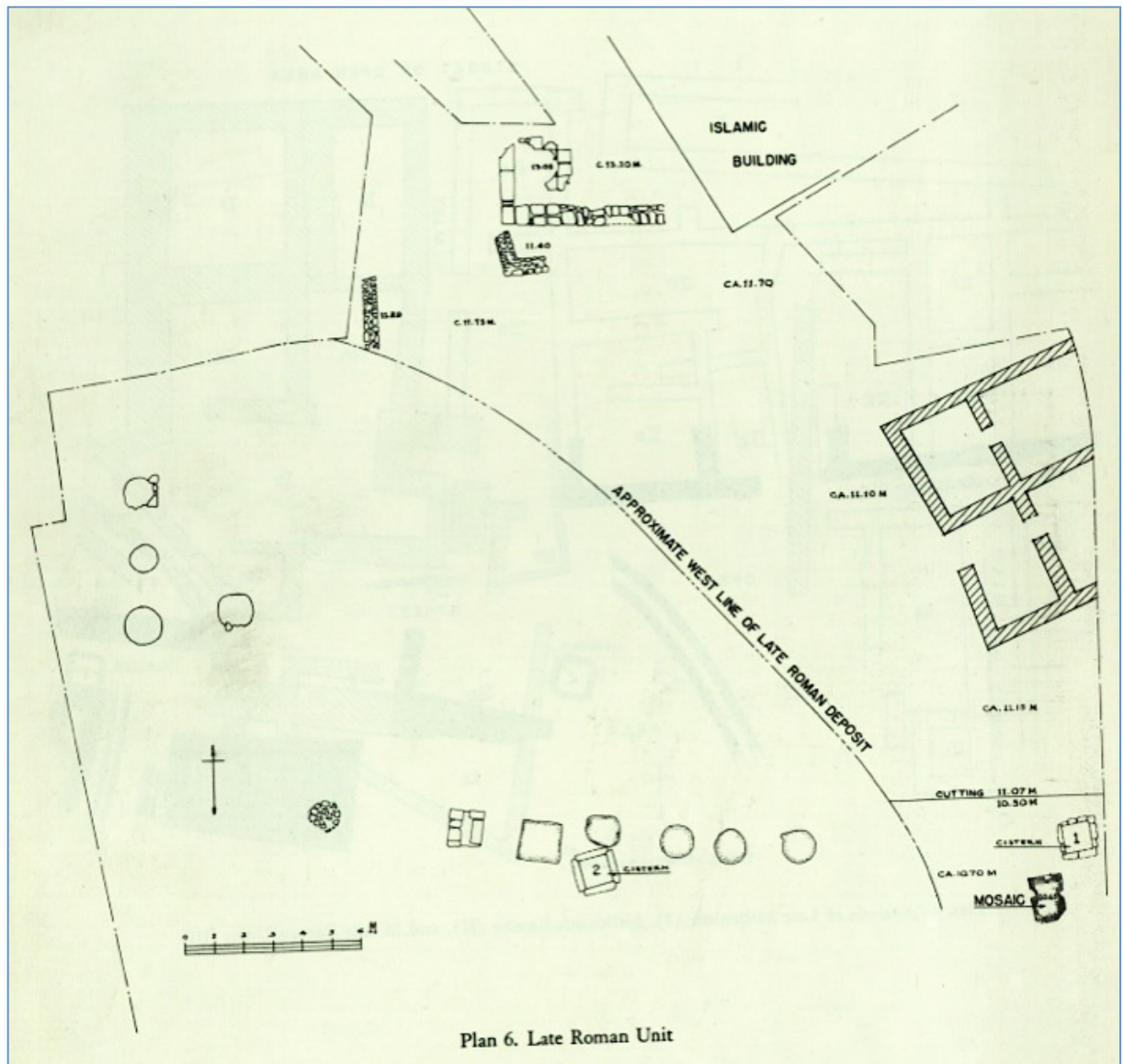


Fig. 5.2 Goldman's plan of the late Roman level in section B with the indication of the location of the Islamic building in the northeastern part of the section (Goldman 1950 vol. 1, Plan 6). The north arrow is different from that in figure 5.4.1

Extension number	Period	Dimension & location
Original cut	Islamic and earlier	Original cut: 2 m. x 20 m.
Extension 1	Islamic and lower	West of southern part of original cut
Extension 2	Islamic and lower	"roadway", east of southern part of original cut
Extension 3	Islamic	"villa"
Extension 4	Islamic	Northern part of "roadway"
Extension 5	Islamic	East of "villa"
Extension 6	From Islamic until 6 th century	West of extension 1

Tab. 5.1 Extensions excavated in trench 5 by Virginia Grace

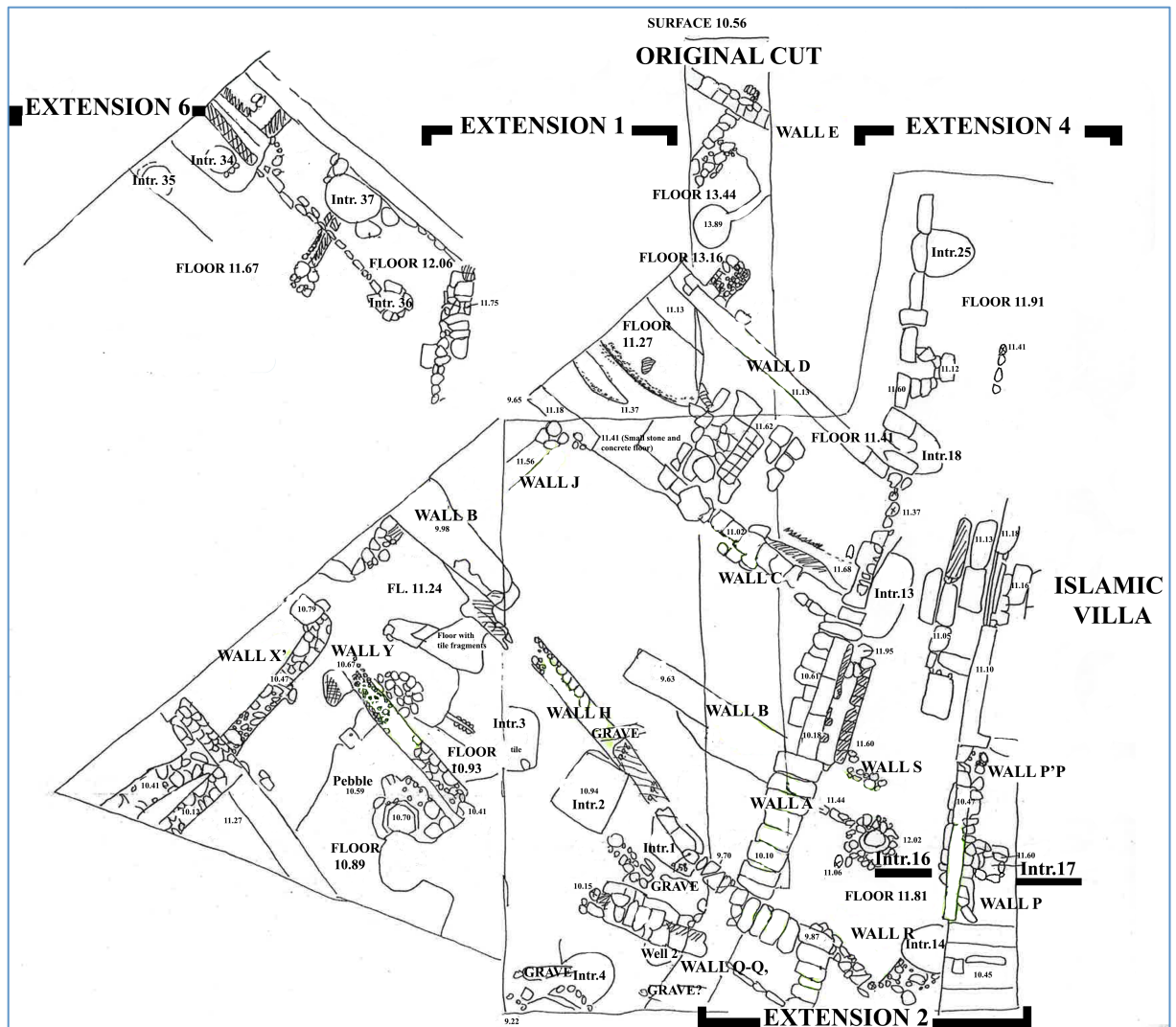


Fig. 5.3 Map of trench 5 (section B) drawn by the architect Dorothy Cox (scale probably 1:100) (From Tarsus Gözlükule Archaeological Project Digitised Archive, Virginia Grace, 1935, Trench 5 report)

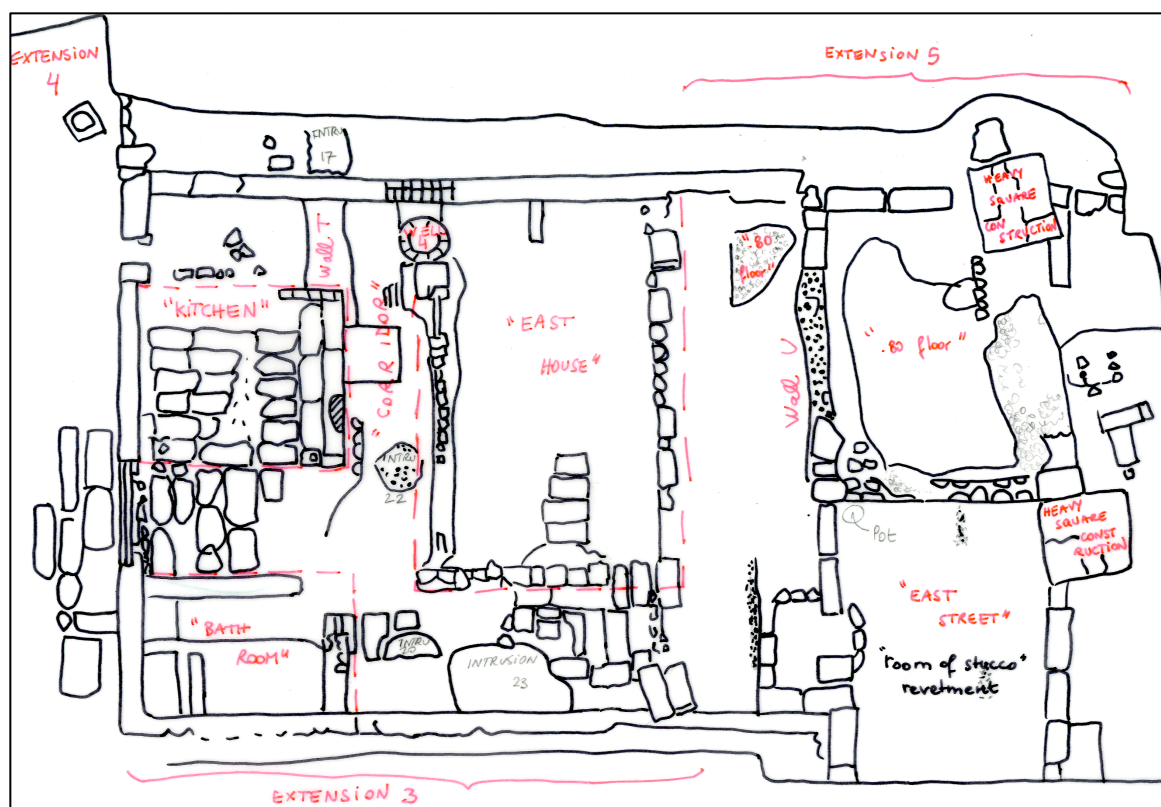


Fig. 5.4 Original plan of the “villa” made by Grace (scale c. 1:100) (V.G. “Villa Book” 1935, 251-252)

Room name given by Grace or location in the building	Corresponding room number
Room in Northwest of villa, North of “kitchen”	Room 1
“kitchen”	Room 2
“Bath Room”	Room 3
“Corridor”	Room 4
“East House” or “East Room”	Room 5
Corridor East of “East House” or “East Room”	Room 6
“0.80 Floor” (“0.50” Floor) Room	Room 7
“East Street” or “Room with the stucco revetment”	Room 8

Tab. 5.2 Correspondence of rooms between the map of Grace and the new map



Fig. 5.5a Plan of trench 5 in section B showing the early Islamic layer with the late Roman stratum (synthesis of Fig. 5.1, Fig. 5.2, Fig. 5.3 and Fig. 5.4). The limits of the plans on Fig. 5.2 and Fig. 5.3 are different and so are the indications of the north. Therefore, the scale and the north are approximate



Fig. 5.5b Plan of trench 5 showing the early Islamic layer with the long street (in the centre), rooms/dwellings on each side. The “villa” is on the northeast (synthesis of Fig. 5.3 and Fig. 5.4)



Fig. 5.5c New plan of the villa, close up of Fig. 5.5b



Fig. 5.6 Extension 2 from the South, wall A to the left, wall P to the right. Photo T470 “Medieval Street from South, Intrusion 16 in foreground” (Bryn Mawr Gözlükule Photo Archive)



Fig. 5.7 Extension 2. Photo T155 “Drain broken through by wall P’, Intrusion 16 in foreground, Intrusion 17 in background (Bryn Mawr Gözlükule Photo Archive)

Number	Coin and date	Extension	Context
coin 234	coin, Abbasid, circa 750 CE	Ext. 3	doorsill
coin 151	silver dirham, Saif al-Dawla (r. 944-967), 10th CE	Ext. 3	kitchen floor
coin 182	coin, Ibn Tulun (r. 868-884), 9th CE	Ext. 3	under loose fill, north of kitchen floor
coin 178	coin, Justinian I (r. 528-562), 6th CE	Ext. 3	North of East wall of corridor
coin 324	coin, Abbasid, 8th CE	Ext. 3	in East Room, in northeast corner of East Room, North wall of the villa, 0.25 below the top of the wall
coin 325	coin, Abbasid, al-Mu'tamid (r. 870-892), 9th CE	Ext. 3	<i>idem</i> but slightly to the south.
coin 184	coin, Abbasid, 9th C.E.	Ext. 3	under the floor of 'East Room', intersection of East and North wall, 0.40 below the sill of the door
coin 183	coin, Abbasid, Rustam Bardawa (r. 903-913), 10th CE	Ext. 3	southwest of ext. 3, west of 'East Room'
coin 18	coin, late Antique, 5th CE	Ext. 5	wall between 0.80 floor room and 'Room of Stucco'
coin 273	coin, unidentified Islamic	Ext. 5	0.85 below to the East of '0.80 floor'.
coin 274	coin, Abbasid, 9th CE	Ext. 5	surface to the East
coin 306	coin, Abbasid, al-Mu'tadid (r. 892-902), 9th CE	Ext. 5	south in loose earth
coin 305	coin, Abbasid X type	Ext. 5	south in loose earth

Tab. 5.3 List of coins of the Islamic building (V.G. "Villa Book" 1935, *passim*)



Fig. 5.8 Islamic building from the East (Goldman 1935, fig. 39)



Fig. 5.9 Photo T151 “Villa from South/West on April 24 1935”, the marble doorsill of the villa is on the left side of the photo (Bryn Mawr Gözlükule Photo Archive)



Fig. 5.10 Photo T459 “Trench 5, Extension 3, Villa, drainage in “East Room”. Looking from North, well 4 in the foreground (Bryn Mawr Gözlükule Photo Archive)



Fig. 5.11 Photo T152 “Waterworks in “East Room” of villa” with the excavator Virginia Grace. Looking from the Southeast of Extension 3 (Bryn Mawr Gözlükule Photo Archive)



Fig. 5.12 Photo T156 with workman “Trench 5, Extension 5, from South showing the 0.50 floor (0.80 floor) and stones”. In foreground is “East Street” before it was excavated (Bryn Mawr Gözlükule Photo Archive)

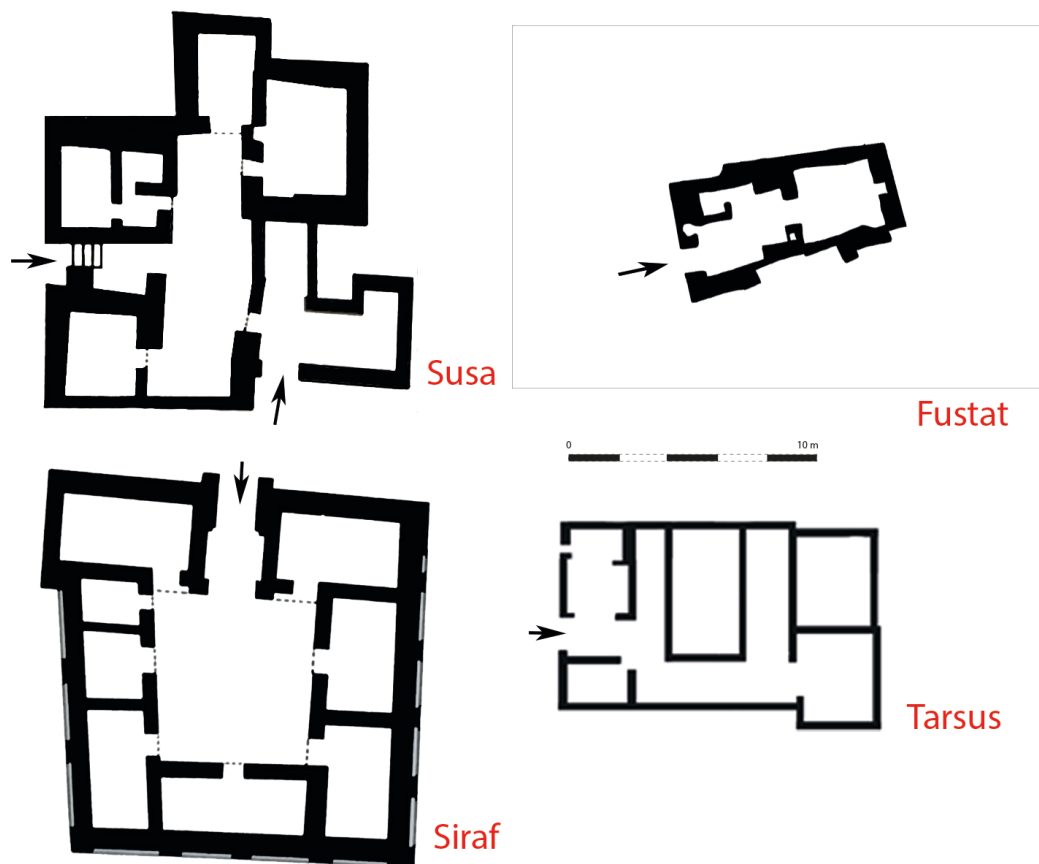


Fig. 5.13 Abbasid houses in Susa and Siraf (Iran), Fustat C-house 3-3 (Egypt) and Tarsus (Turkey) (after Hardy Guilbert 1984, fig. 38, 203)

POTTERY: REGION: Tarsus SITE: Gözlu Kule SECTION: T5, Exp. 5 UNIT: "East Street" LOCATION: soft patch south of .80 floor. DEPTH: PHOTO: No.

CLASS: Stucco DRAWING: CATALOGUE: 35.1602 a, b NOTE REFERENCES: VC p 216, 217 5-6-35

PERIOD: Make: Condition: No. of Sherds:

SHAPE: Body: Rim: Neck: Base:

Handles: max. depth of cutting - .018 Lugs: Drilled holes .026

MEASUREMENTS: Hit: Max. width: Walls: Misc: 2 curved M

CLAY: a) Length one side: .605 other: .605 Color: { Outer: original with a border .195 Inner: " " inside " .143 Surface: { Outer: original thickness .03 Inner: Texture: Temper: { Type: Description: Firing:

DECORATION: Technique: 0.65 20 Unit length - .375

Patterns: b) rectangular ends: b) restored length .615, 62

REMARKS: Technique - akin to the "Schüßschnitt" but surfaces are flat, & the slopes are not diagonal, but curving. Was cut, curved, while wet, with knife

Initial: F. & D.

Fig. 5.14 Find sheet of the stucco piece uncovered in "East Street". The inventory sheet was completed by Florence Day (Tarsus Gözlükule Archaeological Project Digitised Archive)

The villa: classes of pottery	
OGW L	Lustrewares
OGW C	Opaque White Glazed Ware with cobalt decoration
OGW Gr. Spl.	Opaque White Glazed Ware with green splash
OGW imi.	Opaque White Glazed Ware Imitation with green or turquoise and black splash
PPGW	Polychrome Painted Glazed Ware
P. Sgr.	Polychrome Sgraffito Ware
Spl. G	Splashed Glazed Ware
M Gr.	Monochrome Green Ware
M Turq.	Monochrome Turquoise Ware
Ung. Mould.	Unglazed Moulded Ware

Tab. 5.4 Abbreviations of the classes of pottery of the villa

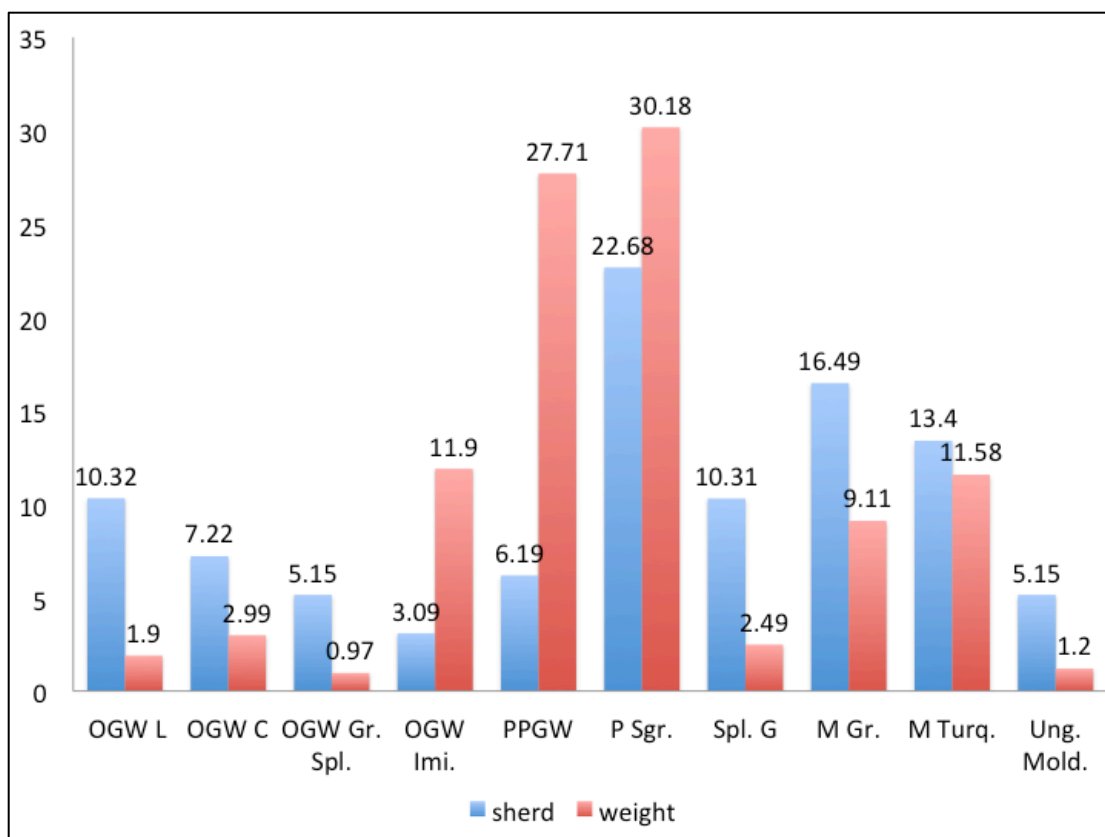


Fig. 5.15 Distribution of the classes of the villa ceramic assemblage according to sherd count (blue) and weight (red)

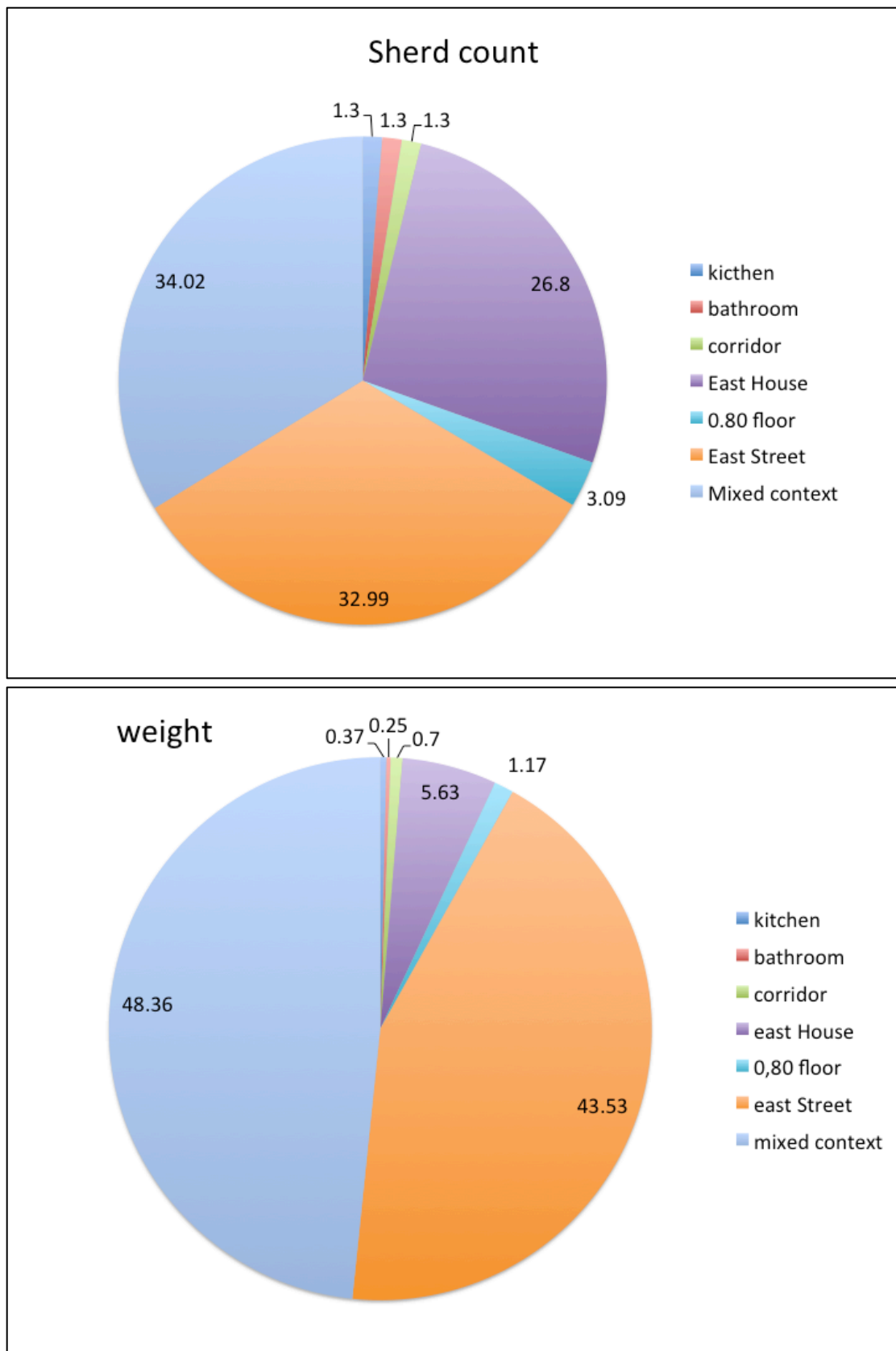


Fig. 5.16 Distribution of the pottery in the rooms of the villa according to sherd count (top) and weight (bottom)

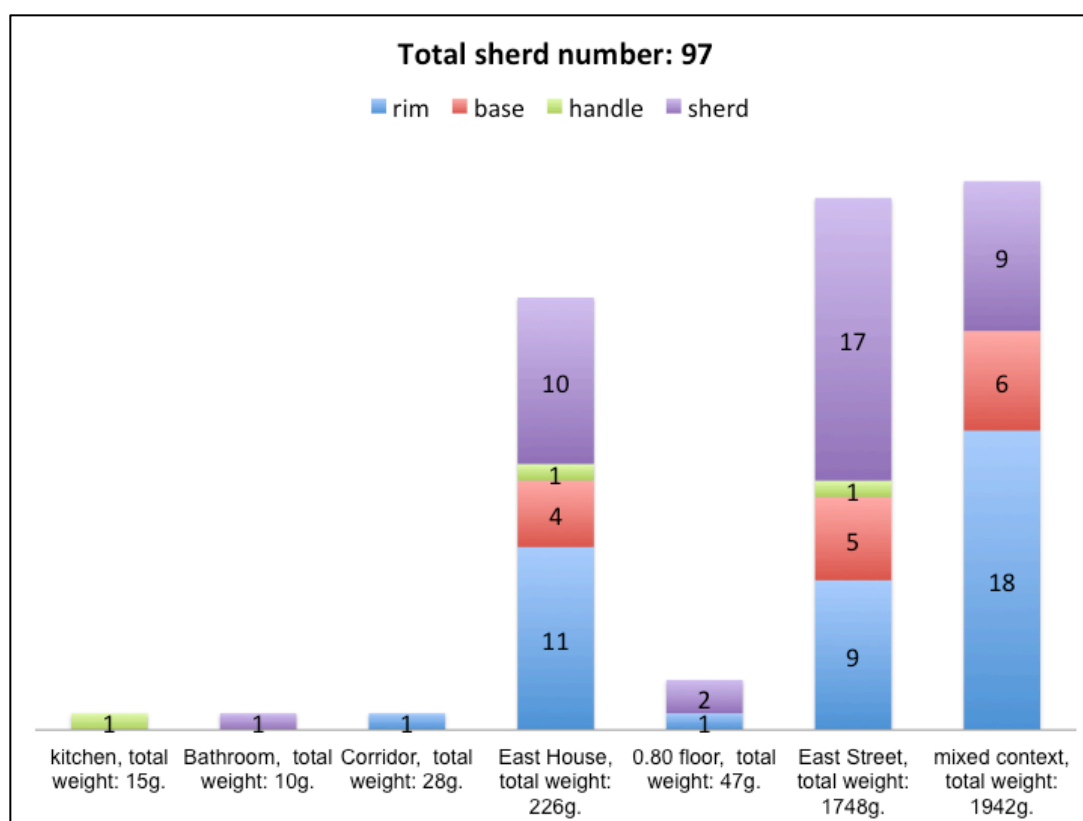


Fig. 5.17 Distribution of the pottery in the rooms of the villa according to sherd count (number of rim, base, handle and body pieces) and weight

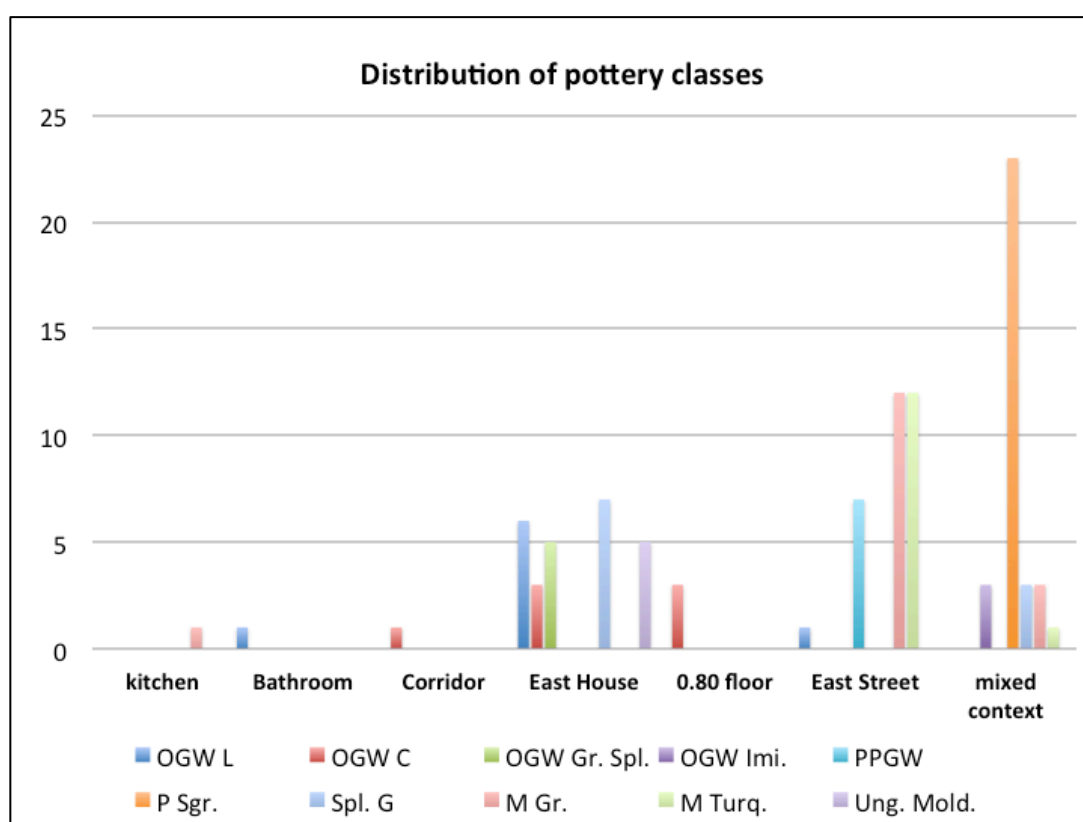


Fig. 5.18 Distribution of the pottery classes in the rooms of the villa (based on sherd count)

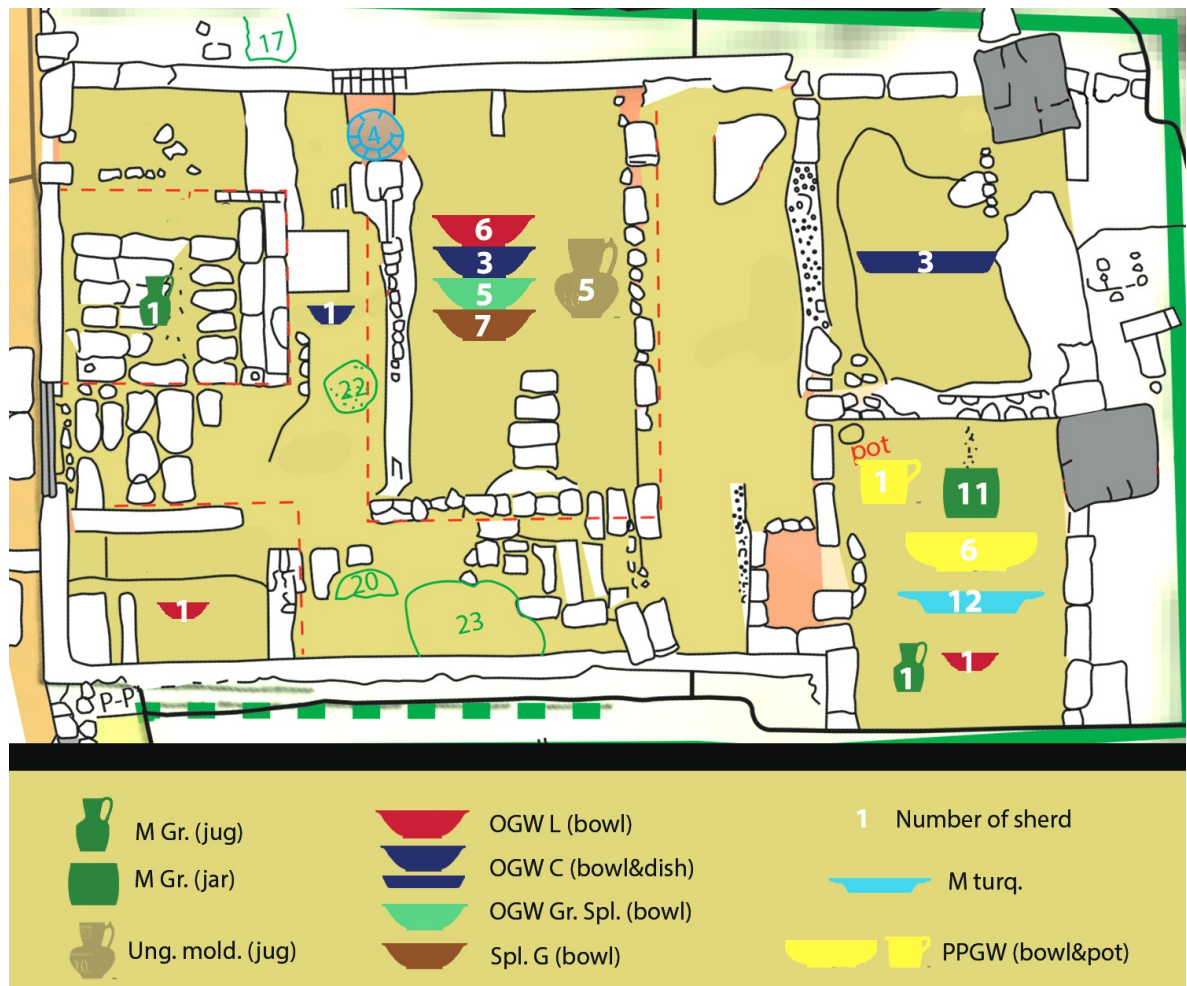


Fig. 5.19 Distribution of the pottery classes in the rooms of the villa (based on sherd count)