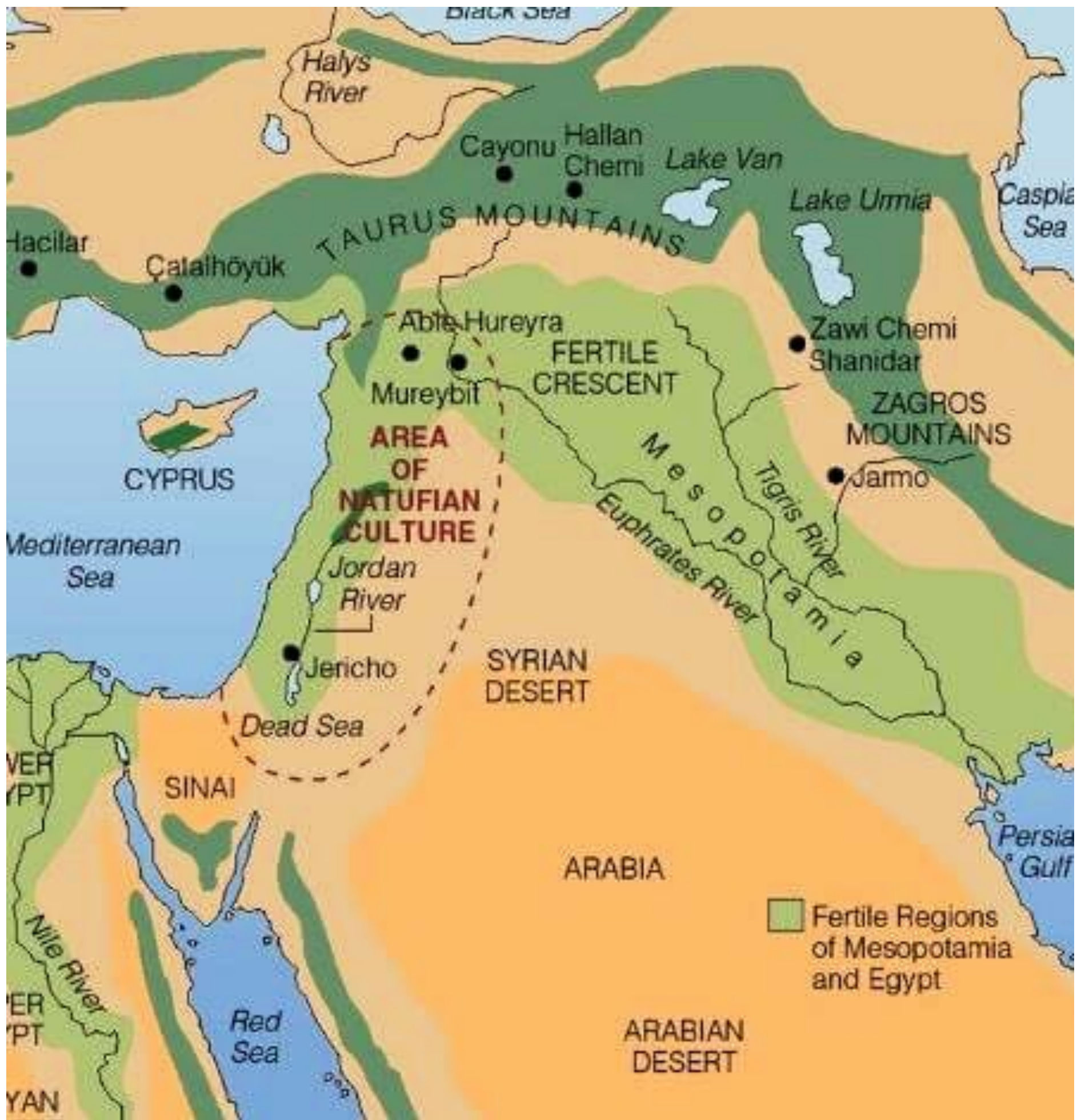


Periods of Art History I

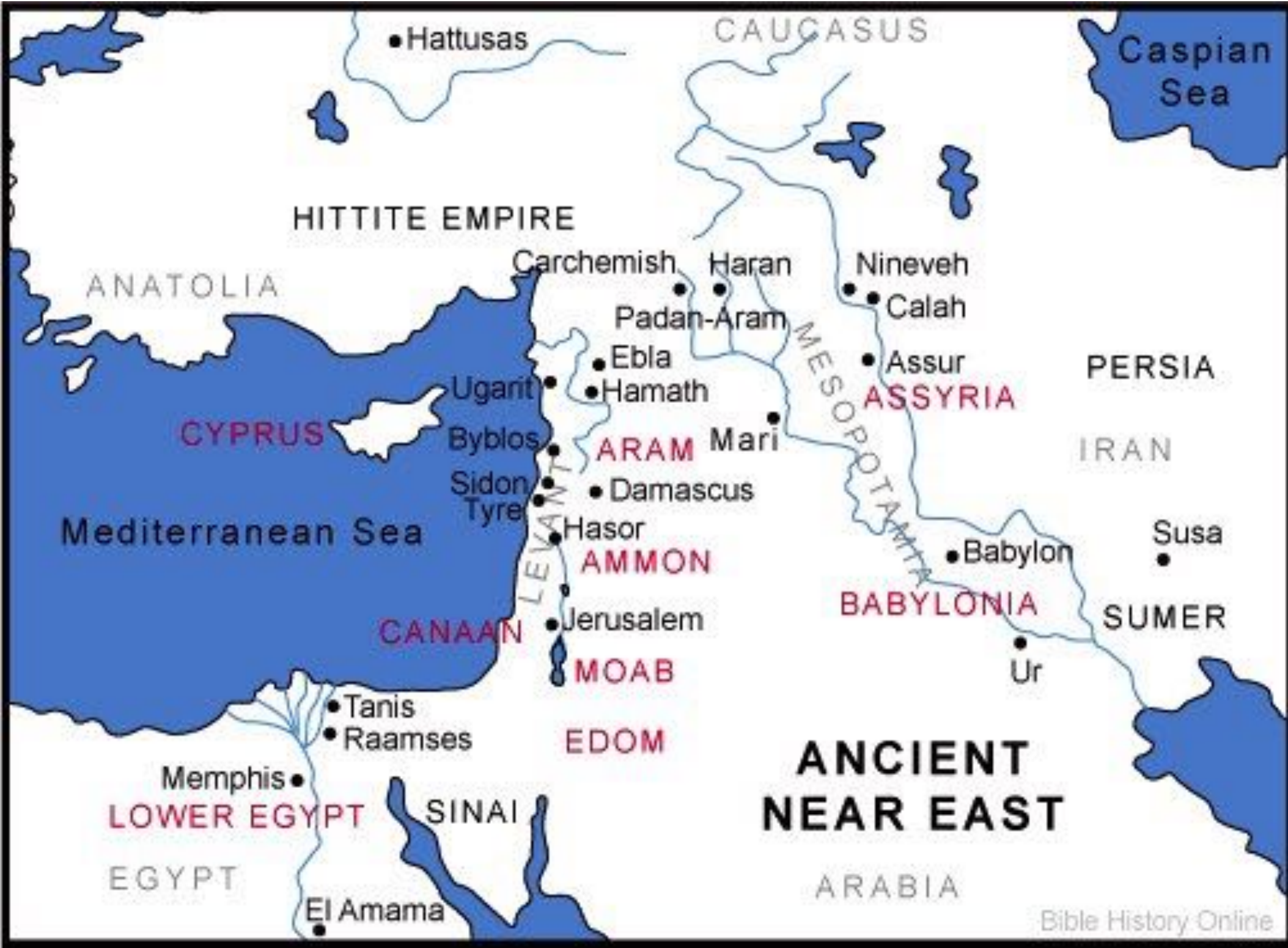
The history of art from Prehistory to Imperial Rome

Vladimir Ivanovici

The Ancient Near East



The Fertile Crescent

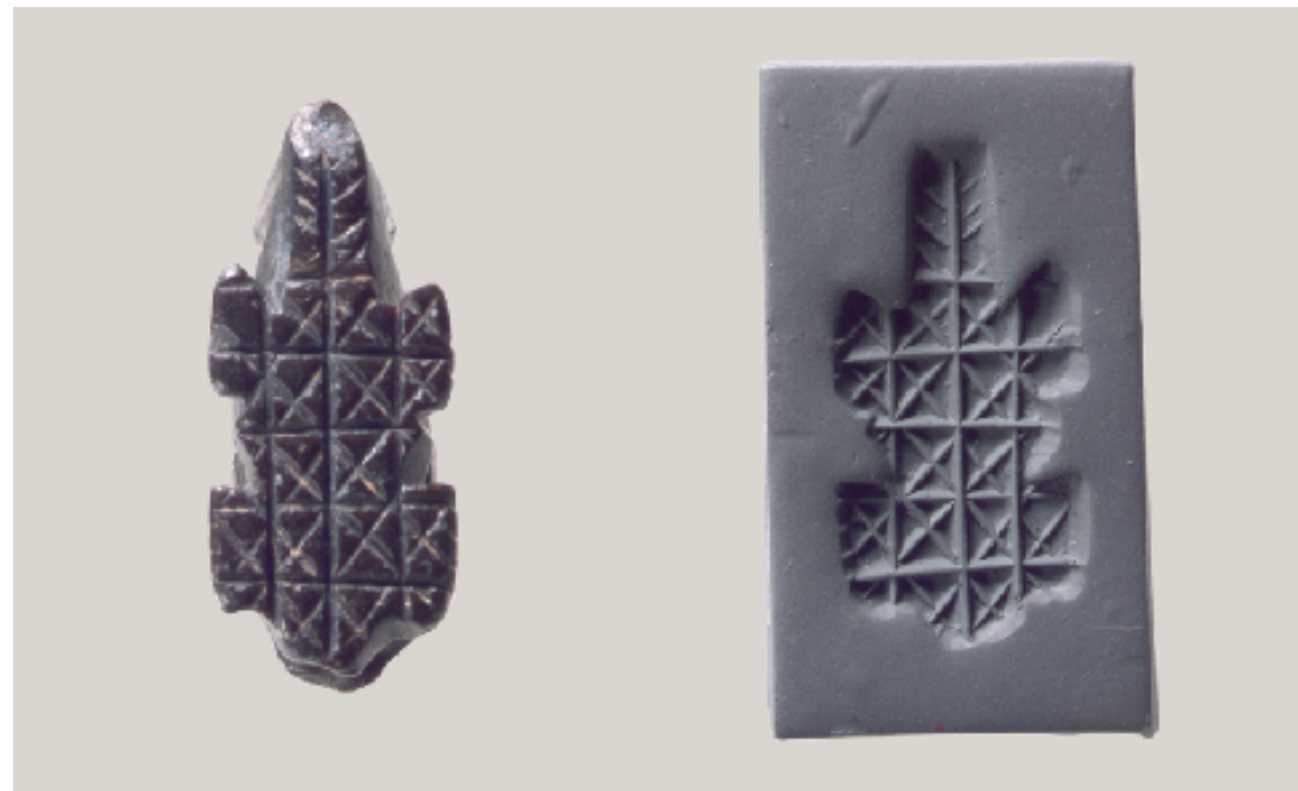


	CHRONOLOGY	CHARACTERISTICS
SUMERIAN	3,500 – 2,350 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developed in <u>Sumer</u> (<u>South Mesopotamia</u>). • Organized in independent <u>city-states</u> (Ur, Uruk, Lagash). • <u>Shared language and culture</u> (same civilization), but they were <u>not part of an empire</u>
AKKADIAN	2,330 – 2130 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3rd millennium BC: <u>new settlement in central Mesopotamia</u> : <u>Akkad</u>. • 2,330 BC: Akkadian king <u>Sargon I</u> <u>conquered Sumer</u>. Akkadian Empire: <u>a single leader for all the territory</u>. • 2,130 BC: <u>Akkadian Empire destroyed</u> and <u>Mesopotamia lost its unity</u>.
BABYLONIAN	1,800 – 1500 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,800 BC: Babylonian king <u>Hammurabi</u> <u>unified Mesopotamia again</u> (he ruled over the rest). He created the <u>1st law code</u> in history. • 1,500 BC: <u>Babylonian Empire destroyed</u> and <u>Mesopotamia lost its unity again</u>.
ASSYRIAN	1,300 – 625 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1,300 BC: <u>Assyrians</u> (inhabitants of <u>North Mesopotamia</u>) <u>unified Mesopotamia again</u>: Assyrian Empire ruled over a <u>huge territory</u> (from Persian Gulf to the Mediterranean Sea). They were <u>very fierce & cruel</u>.
NEO-BABYLONIAN	625 – 539 BC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 625 BC: Babylon <u>got independence from Assyria</u>: <u>Neo-Babylonian empire</u>. They <u>allied with the Persian empire</u> and together they <u>destroyed the Assyrian Empire</u>. • 539 BC: <u>Persians conquered the Neo-Babylonian Empire</u>. <u>End of historical independence of Mesopotamia</u>, which <u>became a province of the Persian empire</u>.

- **ca. 8000–7000 B.C.** - The first evidence of domesticated grains and animals. **Baked clay female figures.**
- **ca. 7000–6000 B.C.** - The earliest **pottery** is made and used for preparing, serving, and storing food.
- **ca. 6000–5000 B.C.** - Some early types of handmade pottery, painted with **elaborate polychrome geometric designs.**
- **ca. 5000–4000 B.C.** - **the Ubaid** culture, distinctive painted pottery made on a slow wheel. As the culture spreads, local pottery styles are replaced throughout Mesopotamia extending into the eastern Mediterranean, Iran, and the Arabian Peninsula.
- **ca. 4000–3500 B.C.** - Smaller Ubaid villages gradually give way to fewer but larger settlements in the south. From this emerges the **Uruk** culture, marked by **mass-produced pottery made on a fast wheel or in a mould.**
- **ca. 3500–3000 B.C.** - **Cities** emerge throughout the region, with the largest concentration in the south, centred around monumental mud-brick **temples** set on high platforms. At the largest city, Uruk, walls and massive columns of some buildings are decorated with **mosaics** of coloured stone or clay cones embedded in plaster. Stone **carving** reaches new heights of artistry, with representations of humans, animals, and possibly deities. They are shown both in the round and in relief and range from tiny amulets to nearly life-size sculpture. The development of **cuneiform writing**, which uses a reed stylus to incise and later impress signs on clay tablets.
- **ca. 2900–2350 B.C.** - The first **palaces** are built throughout Mesopotamia during the Early Dynastic period, indicating a new emphasis on royal authority. Politically, the landscape is controlled by a series of rivalrous **city-states** ruled by Sumerian speakers. Excavated objects and texts demonstrate the existence of long-distance **trade** between Sumer and the Persian Gulf region, Iran, Afghanistan, and the cities of the Indus Valley.
- **ca. 2350–2150 B.C.** - From Akkad, a site yet to be identified, King Sargon unifies much of Mesopotamia and northern Syria through conquest. **Akkadian**, a Semitic language related to modern Arabic and Hebrew, becomes the *lingua franca* of the new administrative apparatus that maintains the world's first **empire**. The arts of this period acquire a new naturalistic dynamism.
- **ca. 2100–2000 B.C.** - After nearly two centuries of rule, the Akkadian empire disintegrates and local kings in southern Mesopotamia reassert their independence. In the city-state of Lagash, **Gudea** rebuilds many temples and installs finely carved diorite statues of himself to demonstrate his piety before the gods. When southern Mesopotamia is reunited under the kings of Ur, Sumerian is reintroduced as the administrative and literary language.

Main characteristics at a glance:

- **pottery**
- **cities**
- **temples**
- **cuneiform writing**
- **reliefs**
- **lapis lazuli**
- **statues**



Date: ca. 5600–5000 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia or Syria

Culture: Halaf



Period: Ubaid

Date: mid 6th–5th millennium B.C.

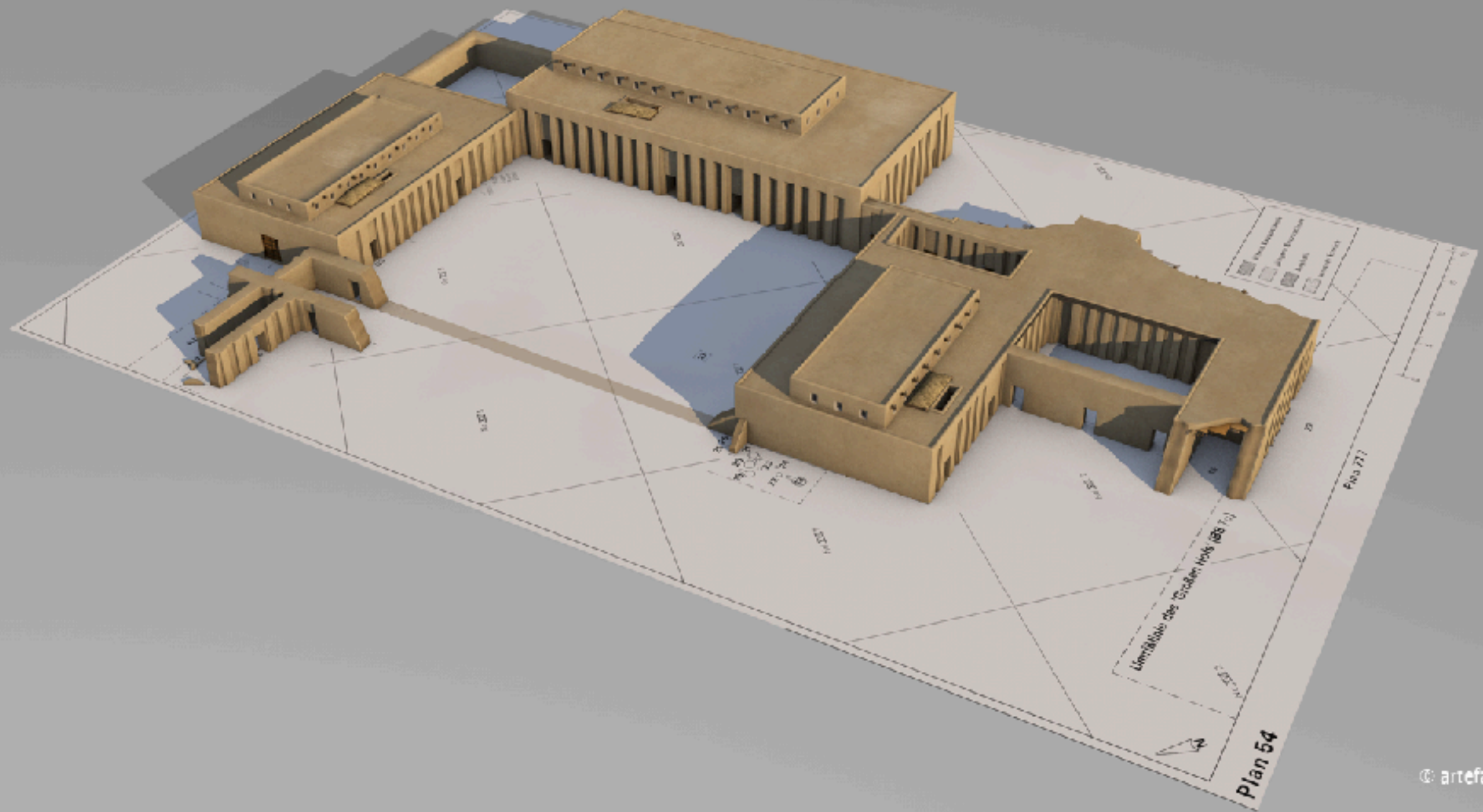
Geography: Mesopotamia, Eridu (modern Abu Shahrein)

Culture: Ubaid

Medium: Ceramic

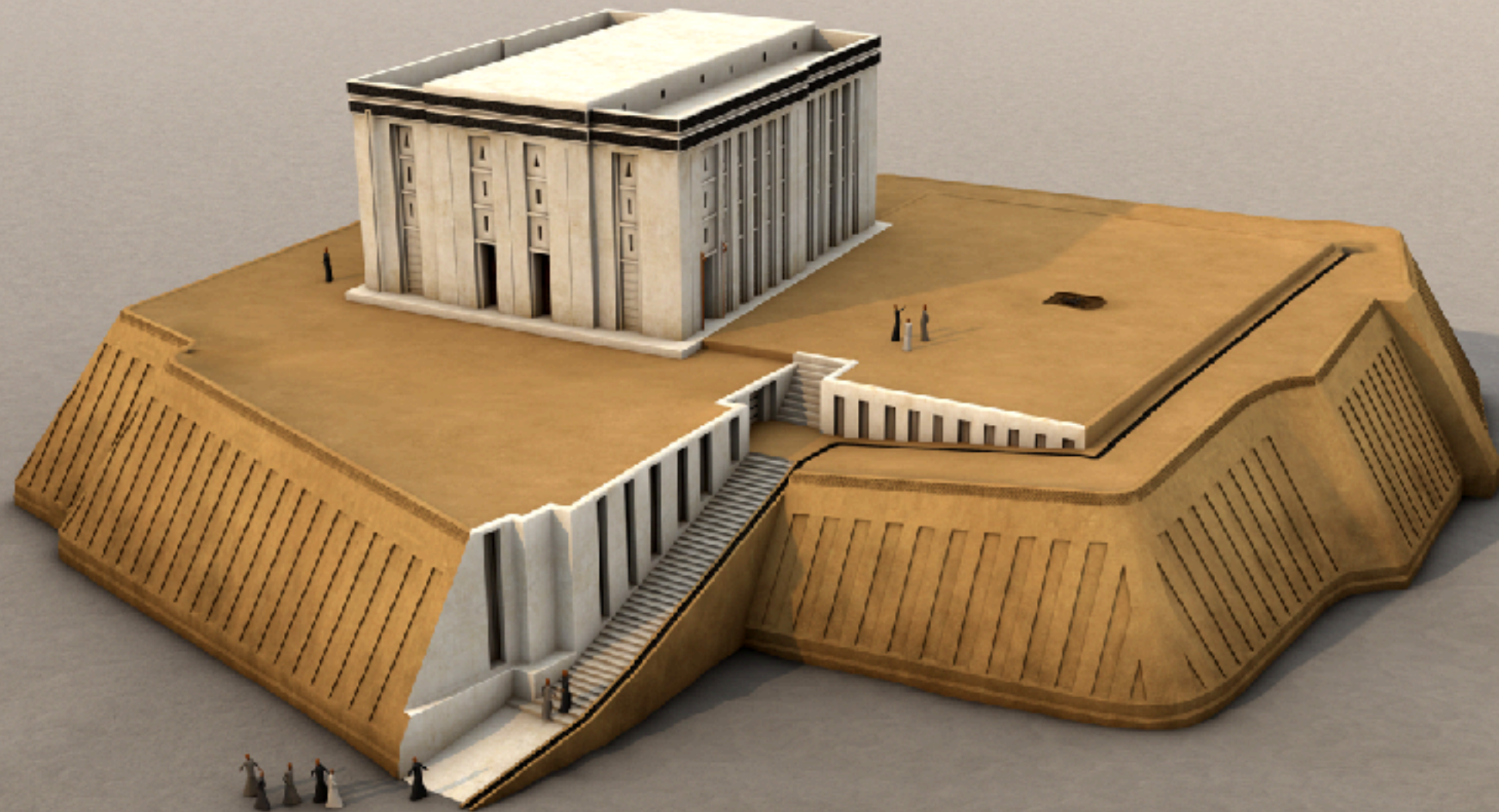


Uruk



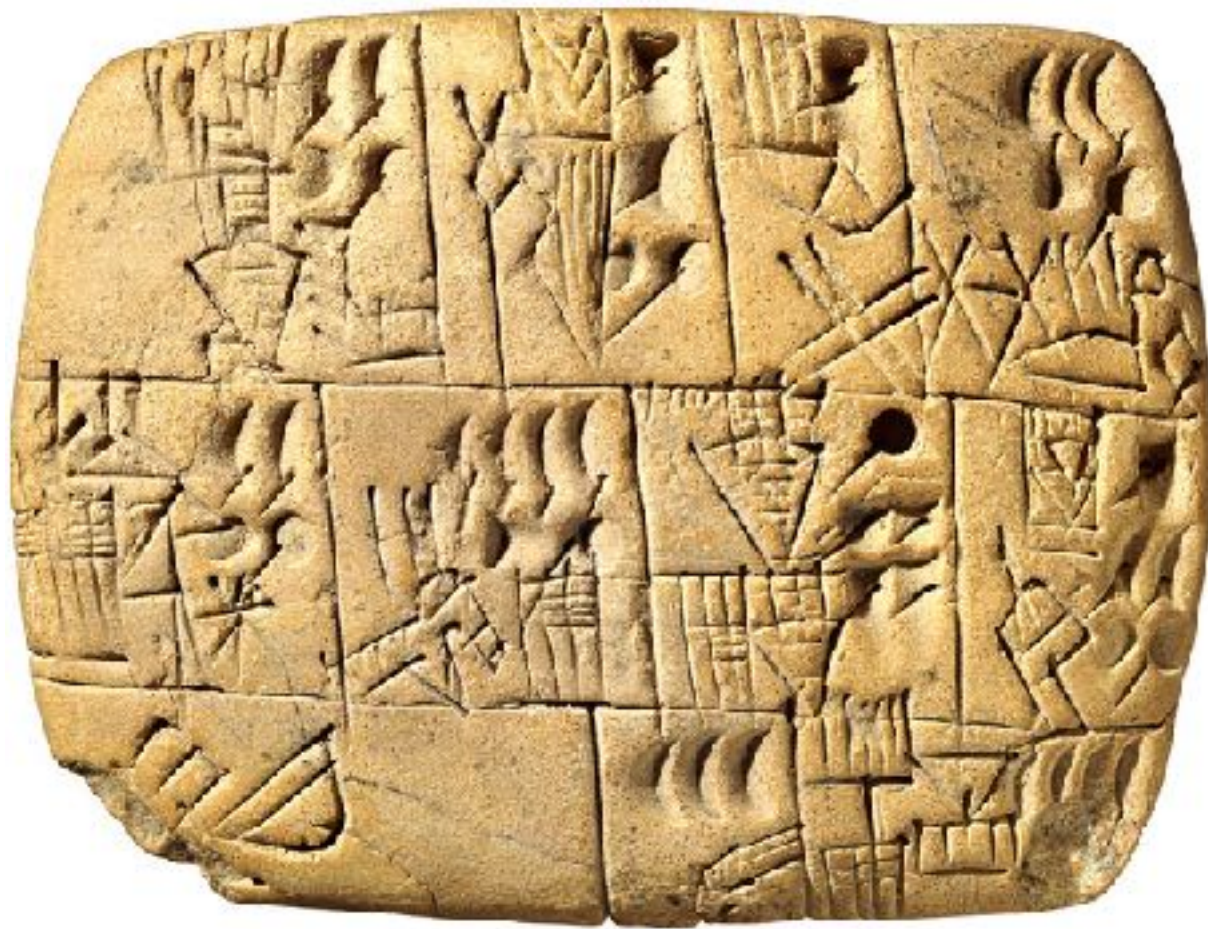
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Material: DAI

Reconstruction of central area of Uruk

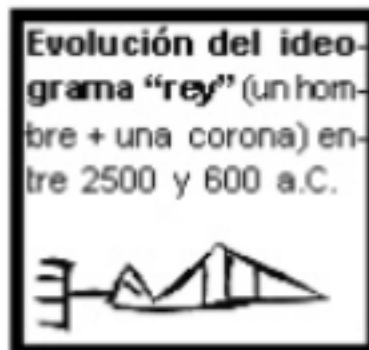
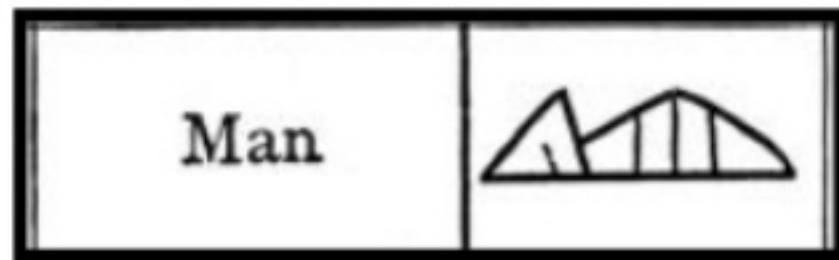


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Anu Ziggurat and the White Temple, Uruk, 4th millennium BCE



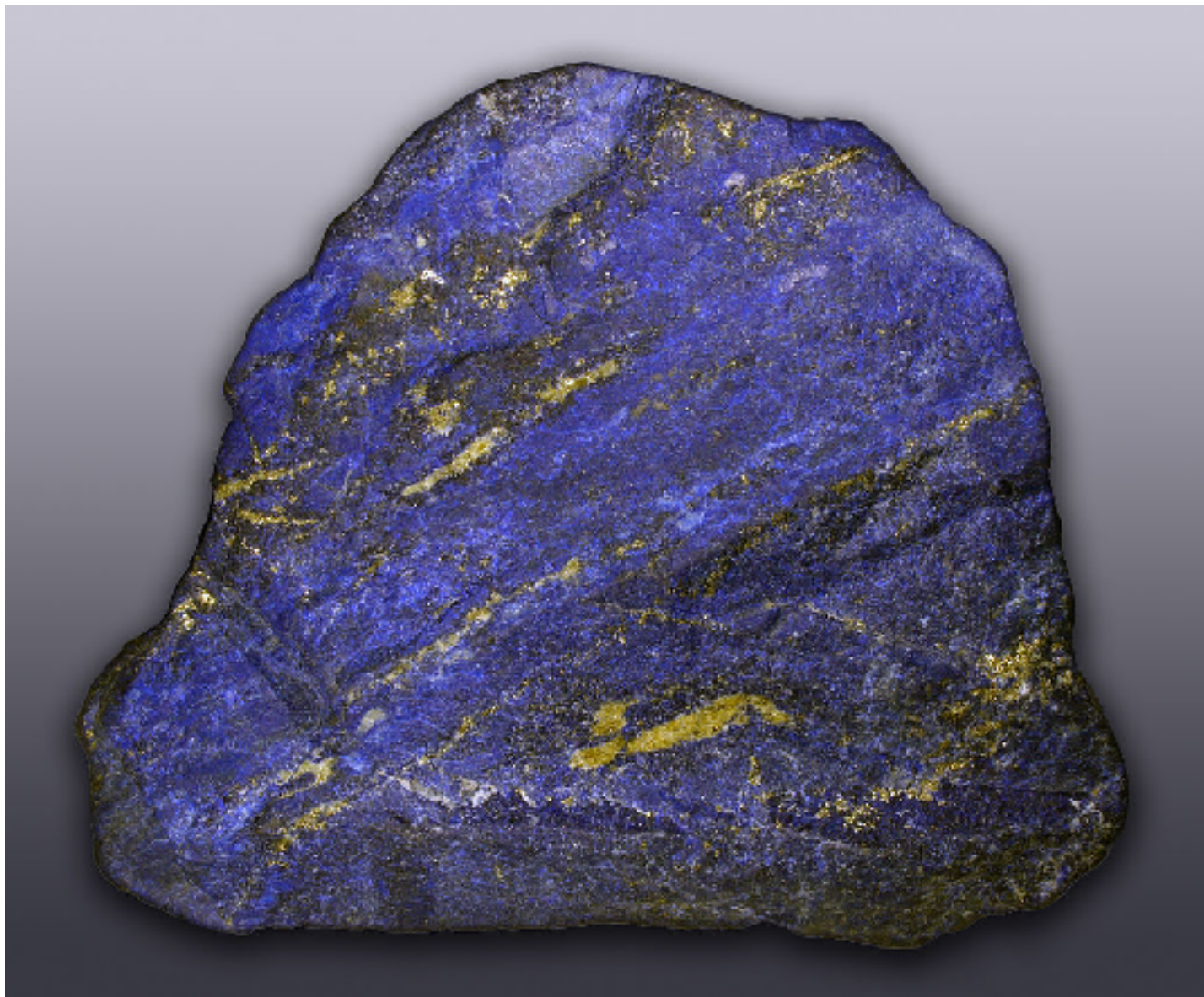
Ideograms, pictograms, and cuneiform writing



	MEANING	OUTLINE CHARACTER, B. C. 3500	ARCHAIC CUNEIFORM, B. C. 2500	ASSYRIAN, B. C. 700	LATE BABYLONIAN, B. C. 500
1.	The sun				
2.	God, heaven				
3.	Mountain				
4.	Man				
5.	Ox				
6.	Fish				

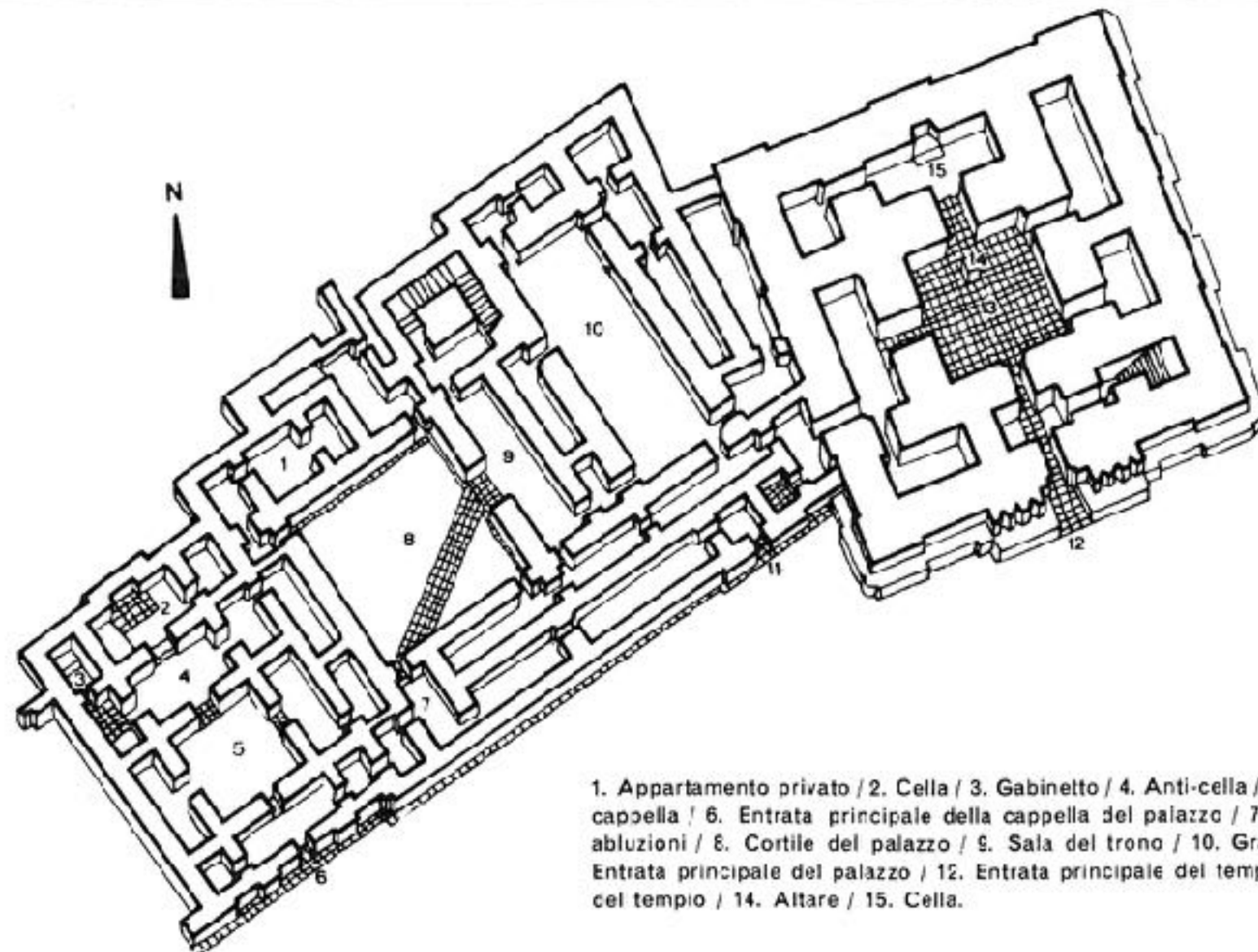


Gilgamesh as Master of Animals, grasping a lion in his left arm and snake in his right hand. Relief from the façade of the throne room, Palace of Sargon II at Khorsabad, 713–706 BCE.

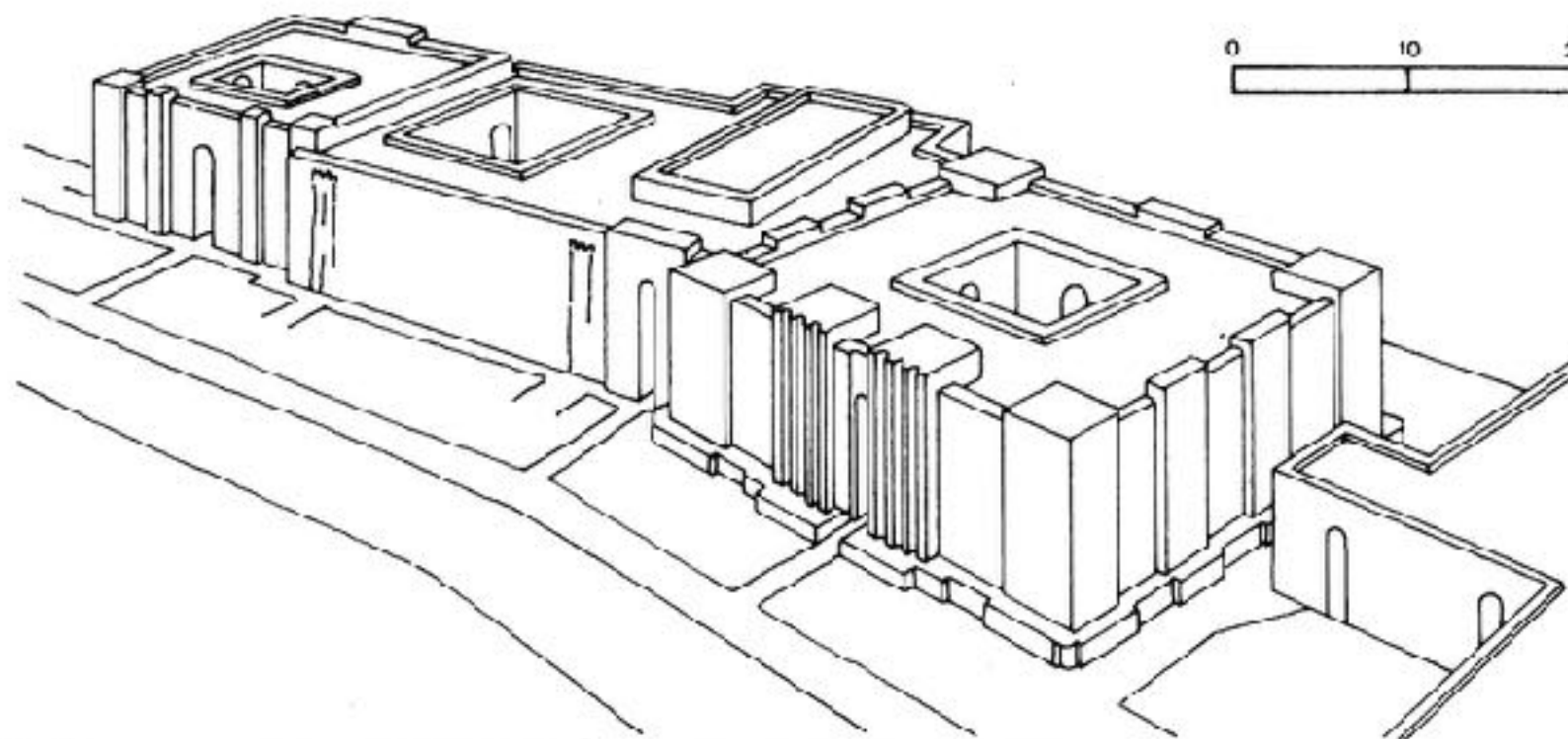


Lapis lazuli

Sumer



1. Appartamento privato / 2. Cella / 3. Gabinetto / 4. Anti-cella / 5. Cortile della cappella / 6. Entrata principale della cappella del palazzo / 7. Tavola per le abluzioni / 8. Cortile del palazzo / 9. Sala del trono / 10. Grande sala / 11. Entrata principale del palazzo / 12. Entrata principale del tempio / 13. Cortile del tempio / 14. Altare / 15. Cella.



0 10 20 30 m.

The palace and temple of Tell Asmar.



Standing female worshiper

Period: Early Dynastic IIIa

Date: ca. 2600–2500 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia, Nippur

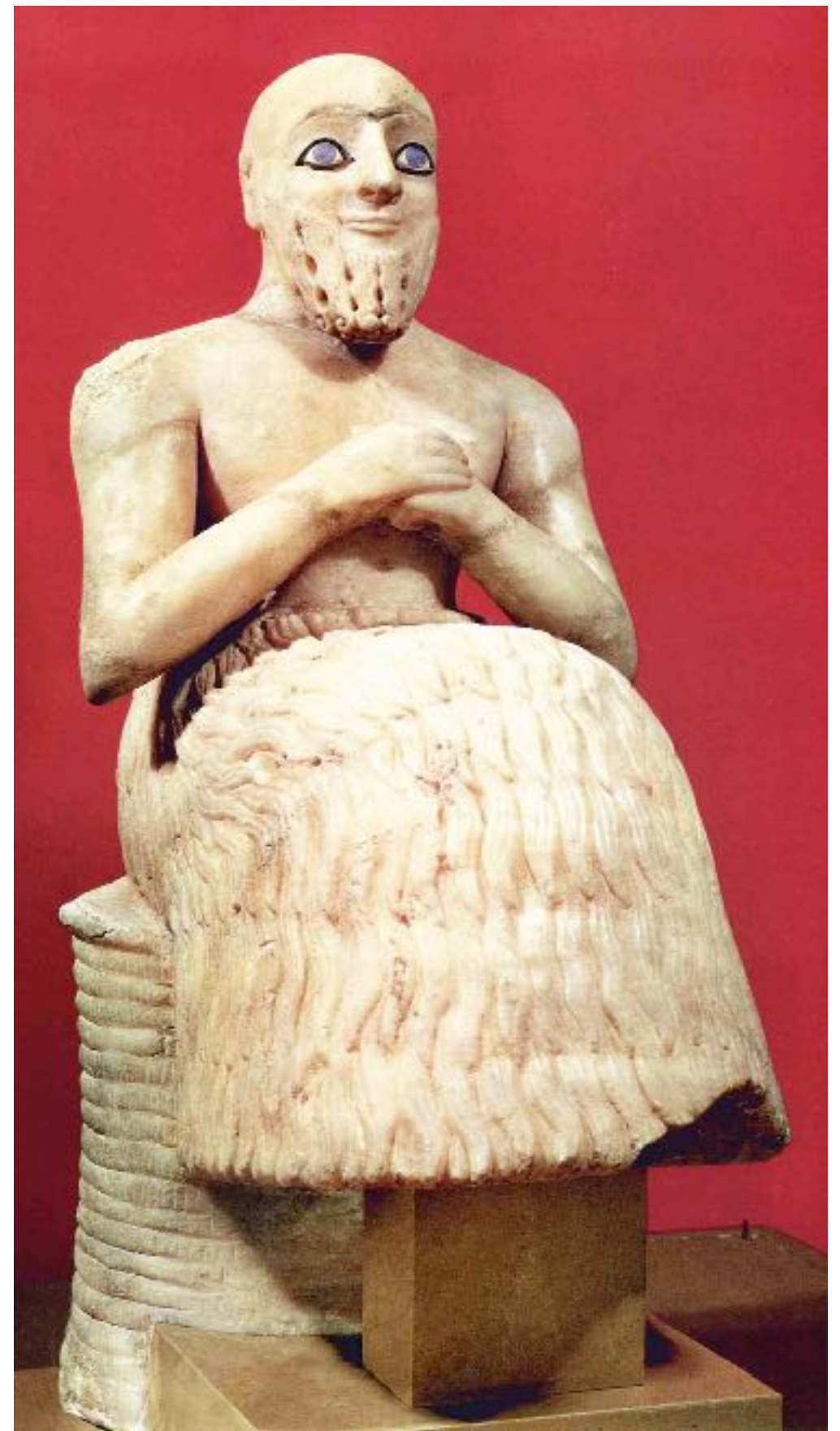
Culture: Sumerian

Medium: Limestone, inlaid with shell and lapis lazuli

Dimensions: H. (24.9 x 8.5 x 5.4 cm)



Female figure, c. 2600 BCE, Nippur



Irak Ebiḫ-il from Mari, Syria, c. 2500 BCE



Sumerian votive statuettes from the Temple of Abu, Tel Asmar c. 2700 B.C.E.



“I created my royal monument with a likeness of my countenance of red gold (and) sparkling stones (and) stationed (it) before the god Ninurta my lord”

Ashurnasirpal on installing his image in Ninurta’s temple in Nimrod



Characteristics and attributes of divine figures

Illustrations after those by Tessa Rickards

Characteristics that help distinguish deities from other human figures include:

- ▶ **Horned headdress**
Images 16, 20
- ▶ **Flounced robe**
Images 15, 16
- ▶ **Activities and settings, such as libations or the presence of a temple façade**
Images 17-19
- ▶ **Animal attributes or cosmic symbols**
Images 15-23

Symbols and attributes of selected Mesopotamian divinities include:



Inanna/Ishtar, the goddess of sexual love and war; a rosette or star; weapons emanating from her shoulders; or a lion. Inanna is the Sumerian name of the goddess, while Ishtar is her Akkadian name.



Sin, the moon god; a crescent moon



Adad, the storm god; forked lightning; a bull

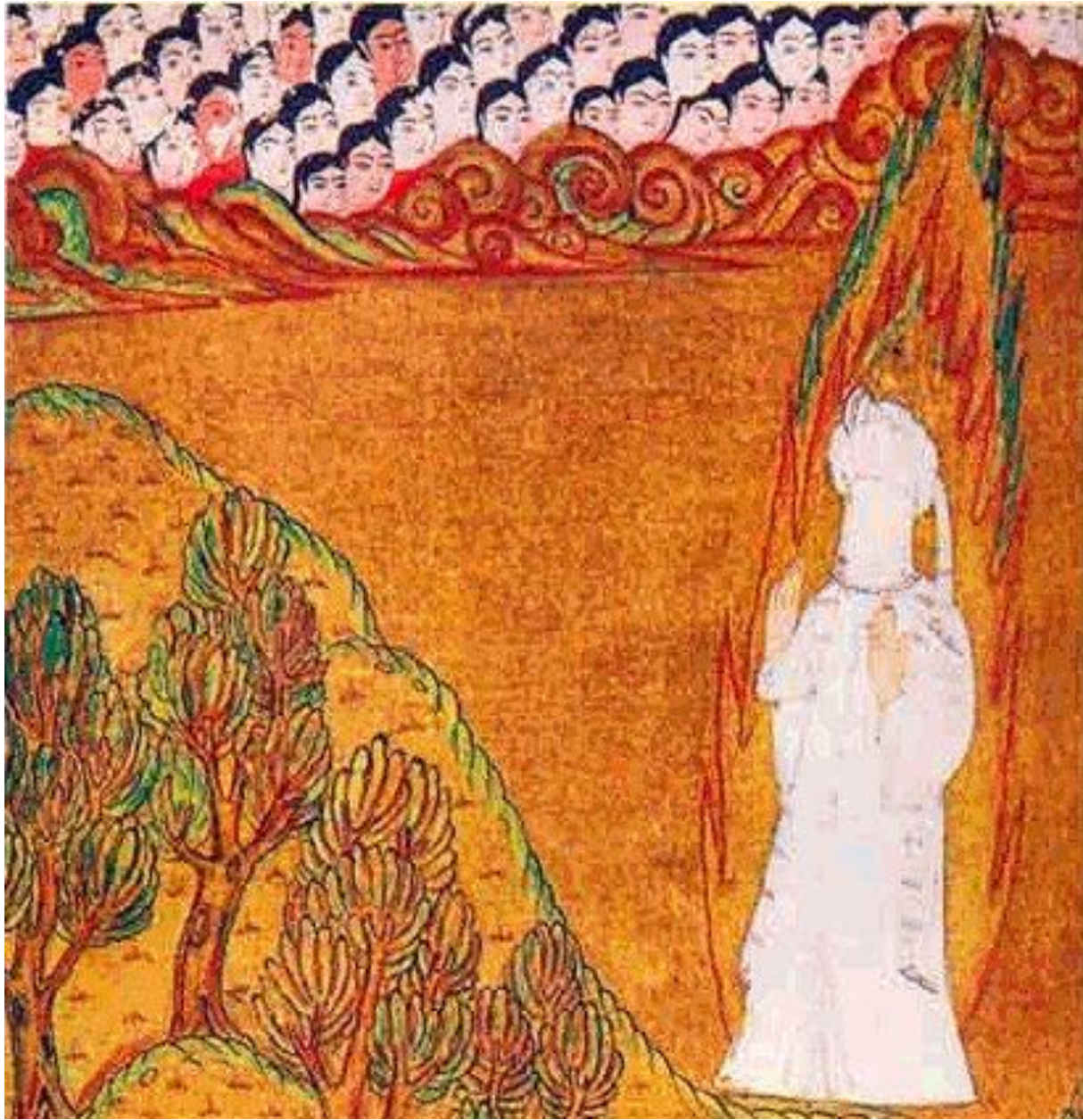


Shamash, the sun god and god of justice; a sun disk; rays emanating from his shoulders; a saw



Ea, the god of wisdom and sweet waters; a creature with the forepart of a goat and tail of a fish, called a goat-fish; streams of water emanating from his shoulders or from a vessel held in his hands

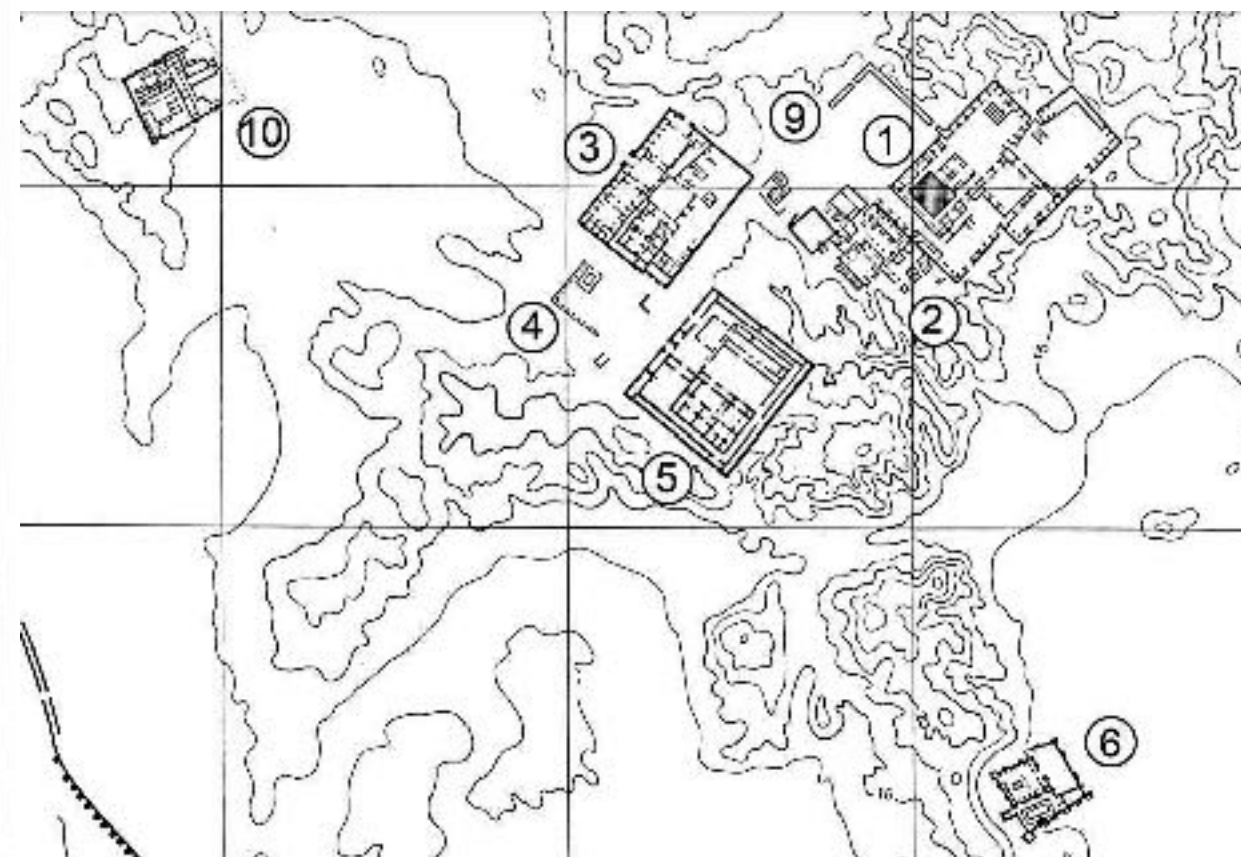
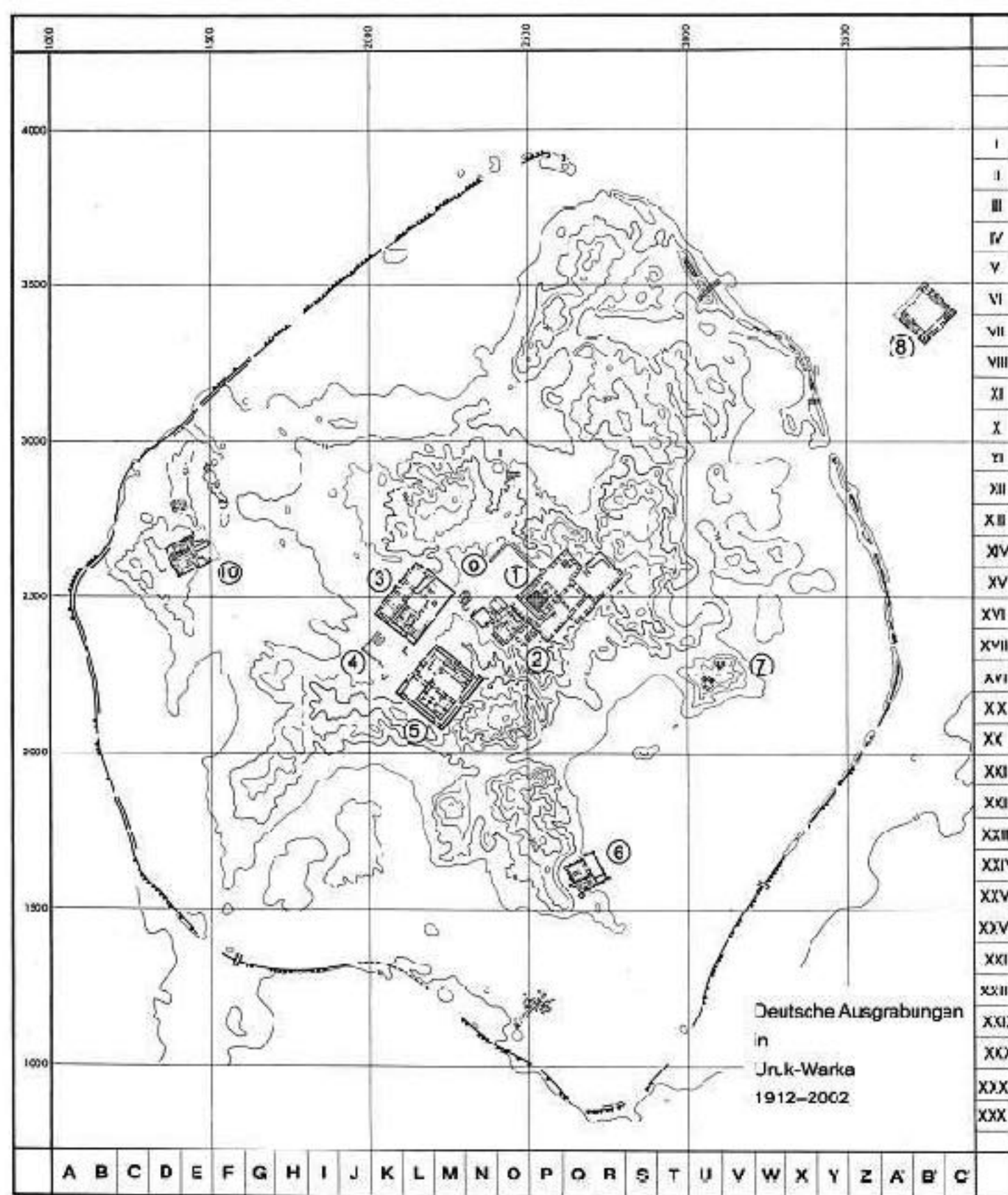
Statue of the god dLAMA from Ur, ca. 1800 B.C.E.



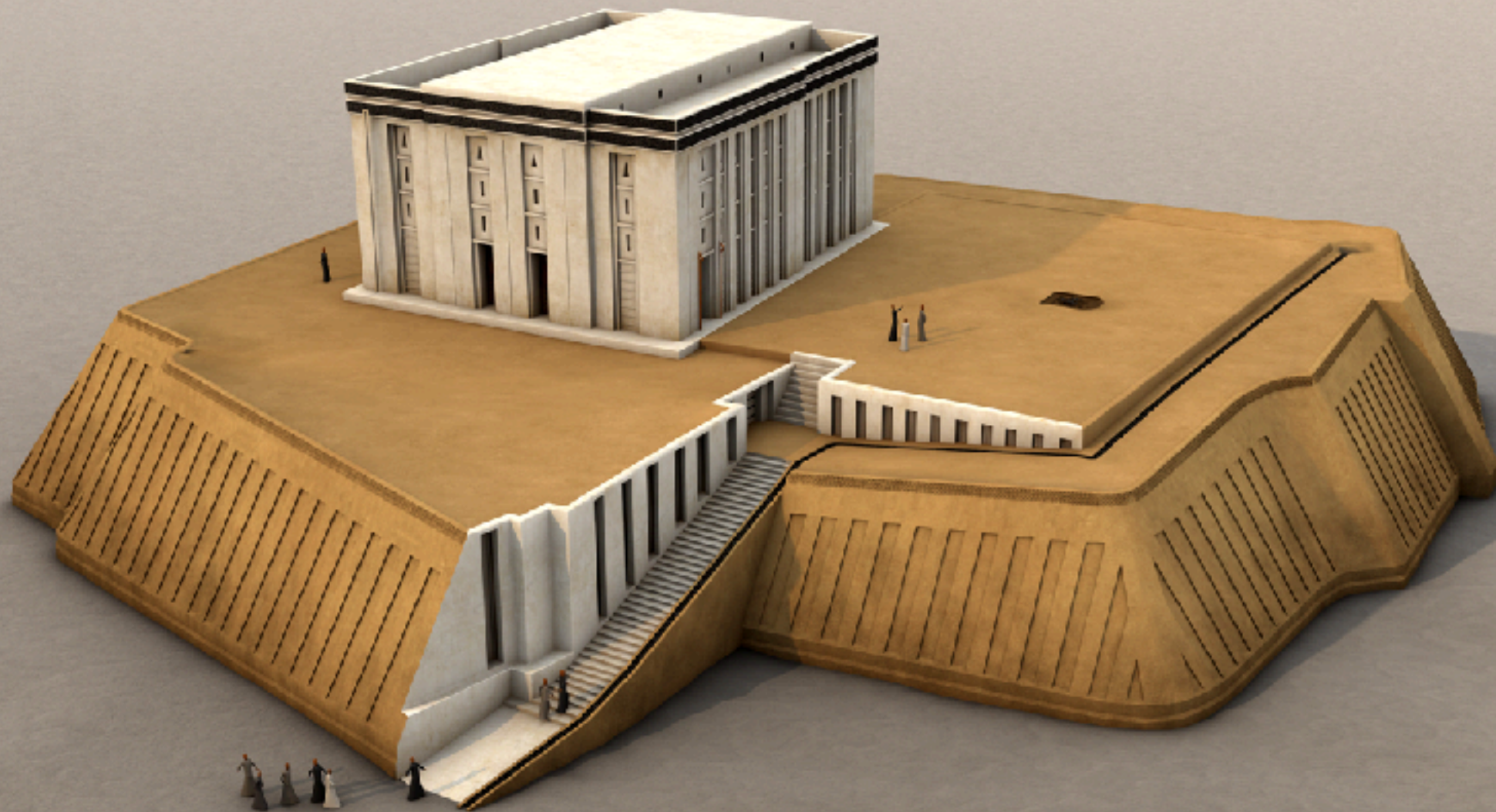
Mahomet receiving visions



The Roman sun-god

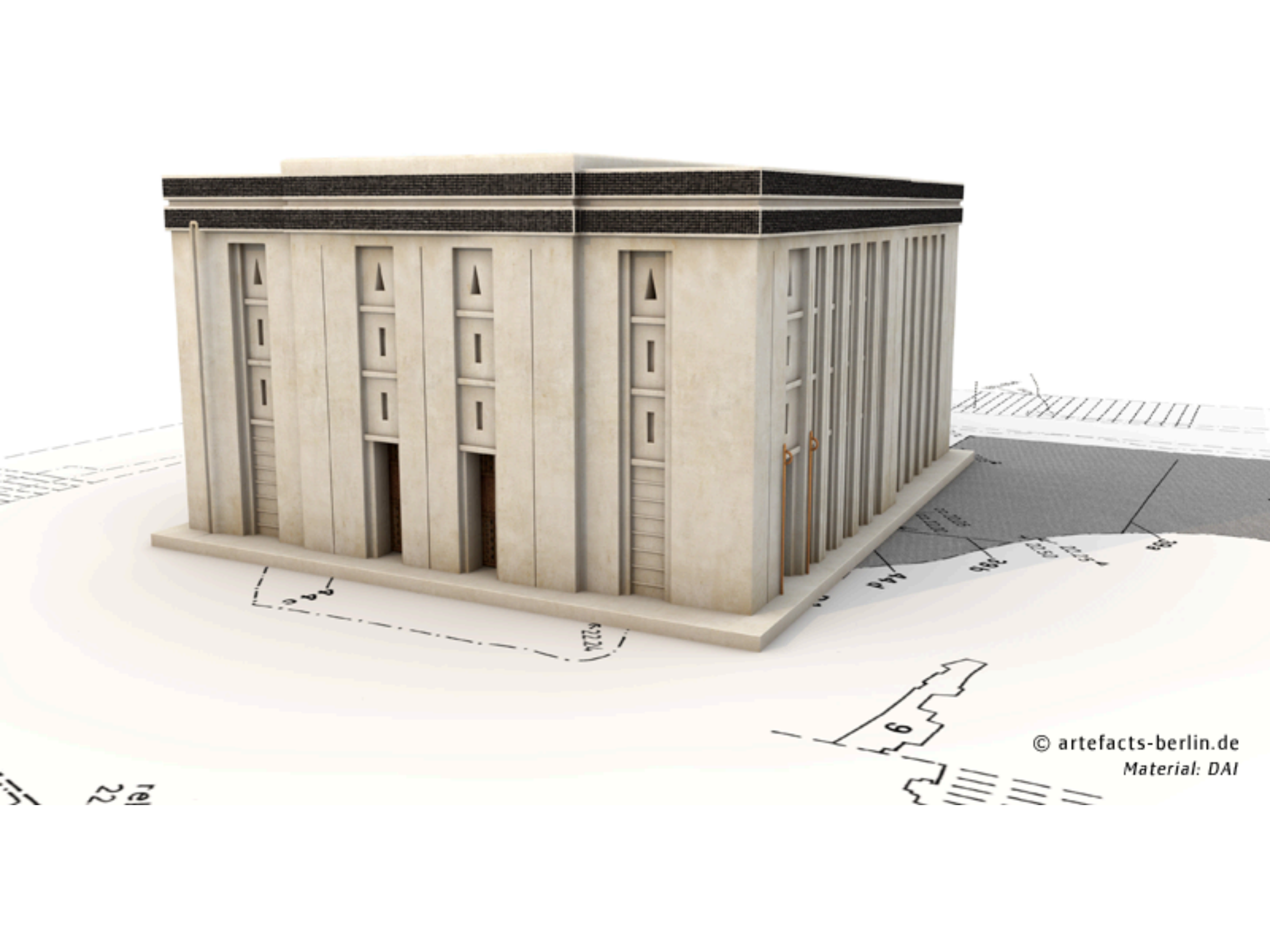


- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Eanna-Bezirk mit Zikkurat | 6 Gareus-Tempel |
| 2 Archaische Gebäude | 7 Ausgrabungen in V XVIII |
| 3 Bit Resch mit Anu-Antum-Tempel | 8 Bit Akitu |
| 4 Anu-Zikkurat mit Weßem Tempel | 9 Expeditionslager |
| 5 Irigal | 10 Sinkaschid-Palast |

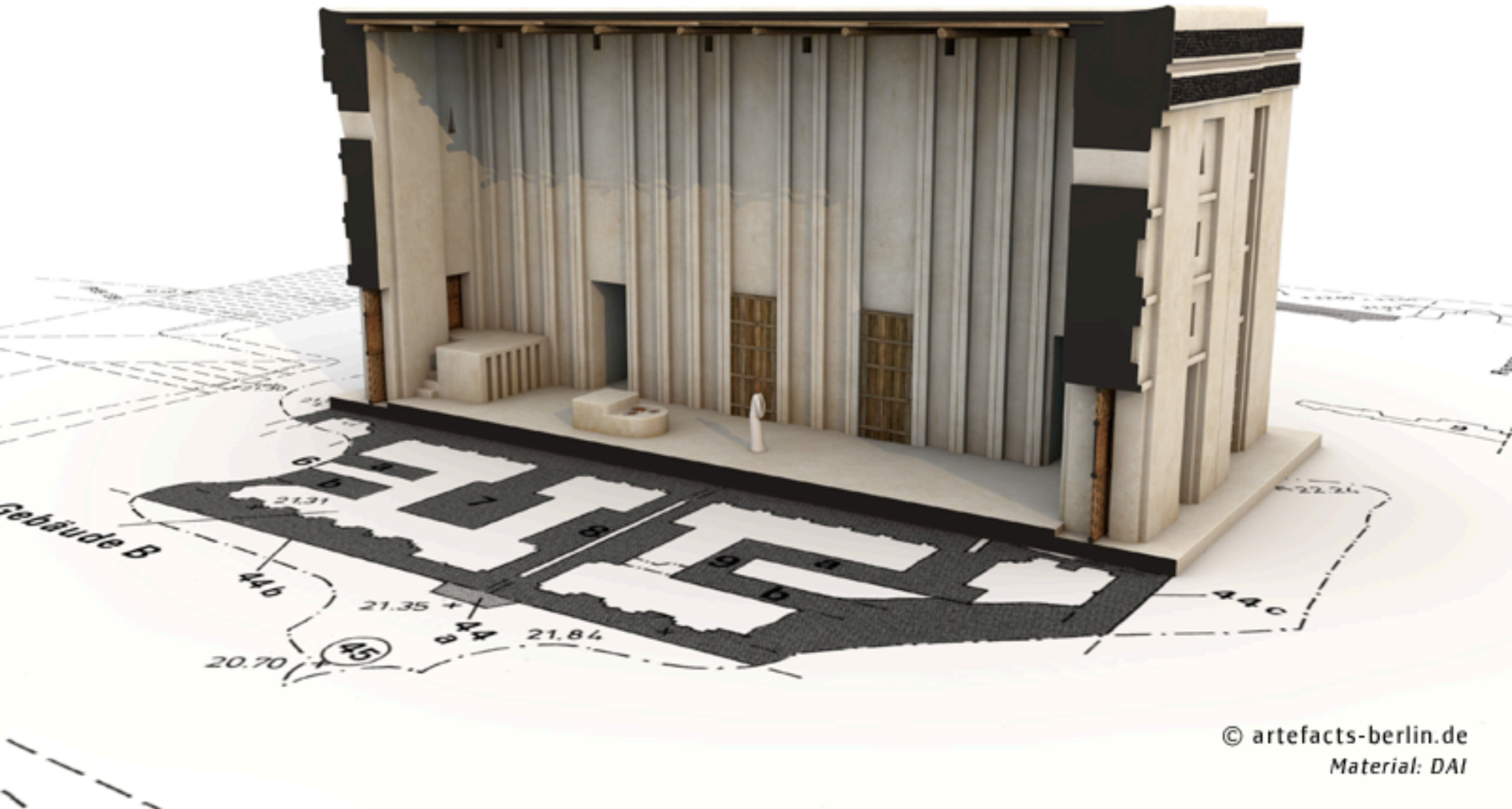


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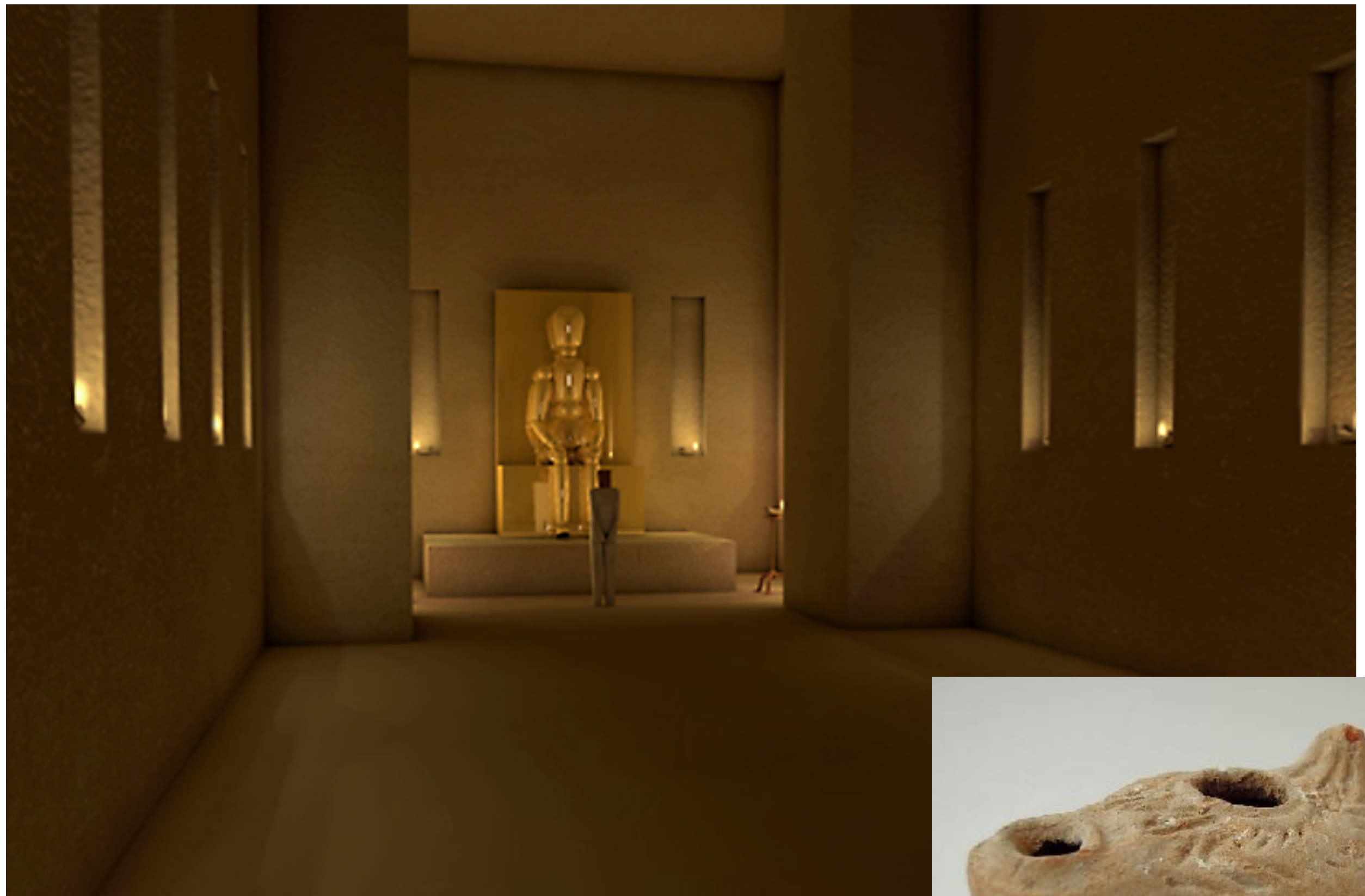
Anu Ziggurat and the White Temple, Uruk, 4th millennium BCE



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Material: DAI



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Material: DAI





Akkad



FIGURE 17

Victory stele of Naram-Sin. The Akkadian king Naram-Sin is the largest figure in the scene. He wears a horned crown, an attribute of divinity, and treads upon the bodies of defeated enemies. Astral symbols of the gods Shamash and Ishtar appear in the sky above. Mesopotamia, Sippar; found at Susa, Iran. Akkadian period, reign of Naram-Sin, ca. 2254–2218 B.C. Limestone; 78 ¾ × 41 ⅝ in. (200 × 105 cm). Musée du Louvre, Paris



Neo-Sumerian



Statue of Gudea

Period: Neo-Sumerian

Date: ca. 2090 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia

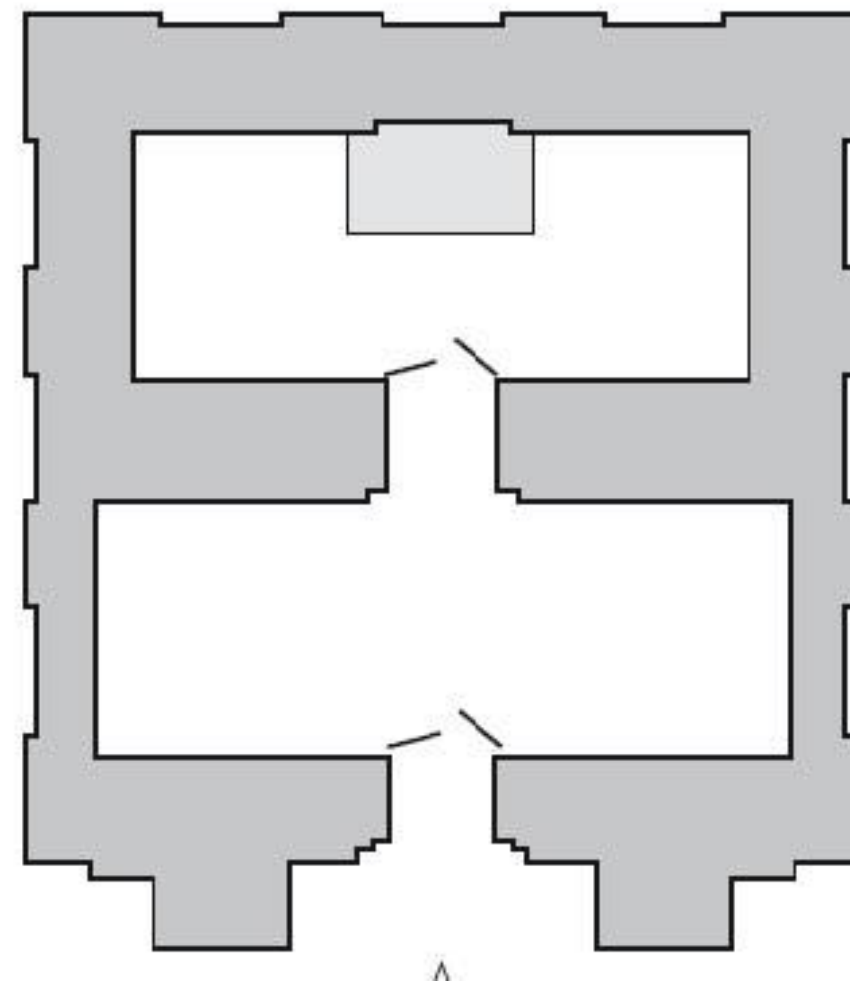
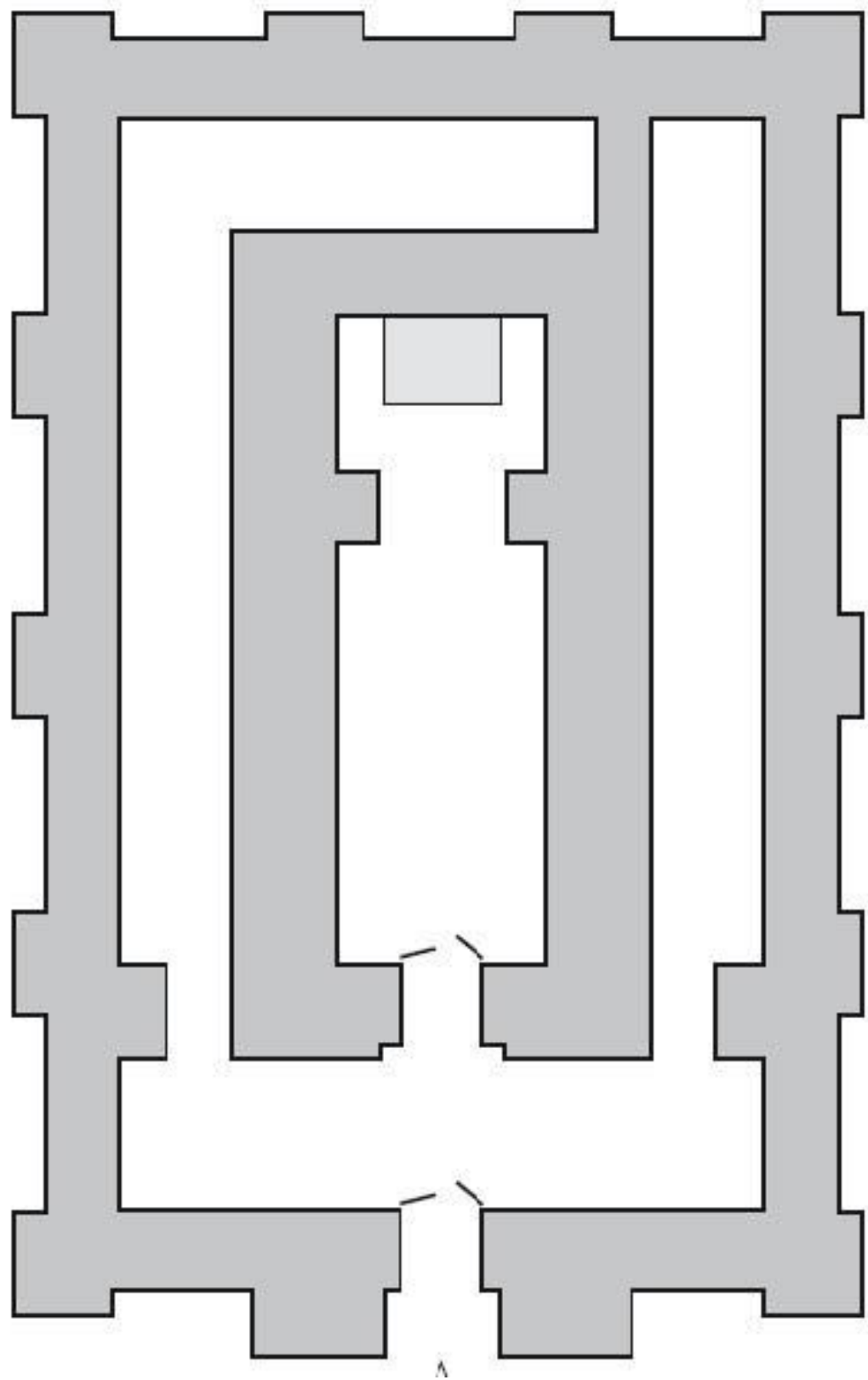
Culture: Neo-Sumerian

Medium: Diorite

Dimensions: 44 x 21.5 x 29.5 cm



Model of the great ziggurat of Ur, Sumer, c. 2000 B.C.E.



Generic temple plans





Old-Assyrian



Cylinder seal and modern impression: goddess leading a worshiper to a seated deity

Period: Middle Bronze Age–Old Assyrian Trading Colony

Date: ca. 20th–19th century B.C.

Geography: Central Anatolia

Culture: Old Assyrian Trading Colony

Medium: Quartzite

Dimensions: 2.21 cm



Stamp seal with bird of prey with two horned animals caught in its talons

Period: Middle Bronze Age–Old

Date: ca. 18th century B.C.

Geography: Central Anatolia

Culture: Old Assyrian

Medium: Black steatite

Dimensions: 2.72 cm



Furniture support: female sphinx

Period: Middle Bronze Age–Old Assyrian

Date: ca. 18th century B.C.

Geography: Anatolia

Culture: Old Assyrian

Medium: Ivory, gold foil

Dimensions: 12.7 x 10.4 cm

Middle- and Neo-Assyrian



Northwest Palace, Nimrud, Ashurnasirpal II (r. 883–859 B.C.E.)



Human-headed winged bull (lamassu)

Period: Neo-Assyrian

Date: ca. 883–859 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia, Nimrud

Culture: Assyrian

Medium: Gypsum alabaster

Dimensions: 313.7 x 67.3 x 309.9 cm



Relief panel

Period: Neo-Assyrian

Date: ca. 883–859 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia, Nimrud

Culture: Assyrian

Medium: Gypsum alabaster

Dimensions: 229.9 x 214.6 x 15.2 cm



Relief panel

Period: Neo-Assyrian

Date: ca. 883–859 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia,
Nimrud

Culture: Assyrian

Medium: Gypsum alabaster

Dimensions: 234.3 x 233.7 x 11.4 cm

Relief fragment: siege of a city by Assyrian troops

Period: Neo-Assyrian

Date: ca. 704-681 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia, Nineveh

Culture: Assyrian

Medium: Gypsum alabaster

Dimensions: 53 × 65.4 cm





**Threshold pavement slab
with a carpet design**

Period: Neo-Assyrian

Date: ca. 7th century B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia

Culture: Assyrian

Medium: Gypsum alabaster

Dimensions: 83.8 x 73.7 cm



Furniture plaque “woman at the window”

Period: Neo-Assyrian

Date: ca. 9th–8th century B.C.

Geography: Syria

Culture: Assyrian

Medium: Ivory, glass

Dimensions: 6.4 x 4.5 x 1.2 cm



**Furniture plaque carved in high relief
with two Egyptianizing figures**

Period: Neo-Assyrian

Date: ca. 9th–8th century B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia, Nimrud

Culture: Assyrian

Medium: Ivory

Dimensions: 12.4 x 7.7 x 1.1 cm



**Furniture or cosmetic box plaque
with a winged youth**

Period: Neo-Assyrian

Date: ca. 8th–7th century B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia, Nimrud

Culture: Assyrian

Medium: Ivory

Dimensions: 5.9 x 2.8 x 3.6 cm

Babylon



Basalt stele with the Law Code
of King Hammurabi of Babylon (1792–1750 BC).





Panel with striding lion

Period: Neo-Babylonian

Date: ca. 604–562 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia, Babylon

Culture: Babylonian

Medium: Ceramic, glaze

Dimensions: 97.16 x 227.33 cm



Animals



Head of a ram

Period: Late Uruk

Date: ca. 3500–3100 B.C.

Geography: Southern Mesopotamia

Medium: Ceramic

Dimensions: 12.7 cm



Cylinder seal and modern impression: male worshiper, dog surmounted by a standard

Period: Kassite

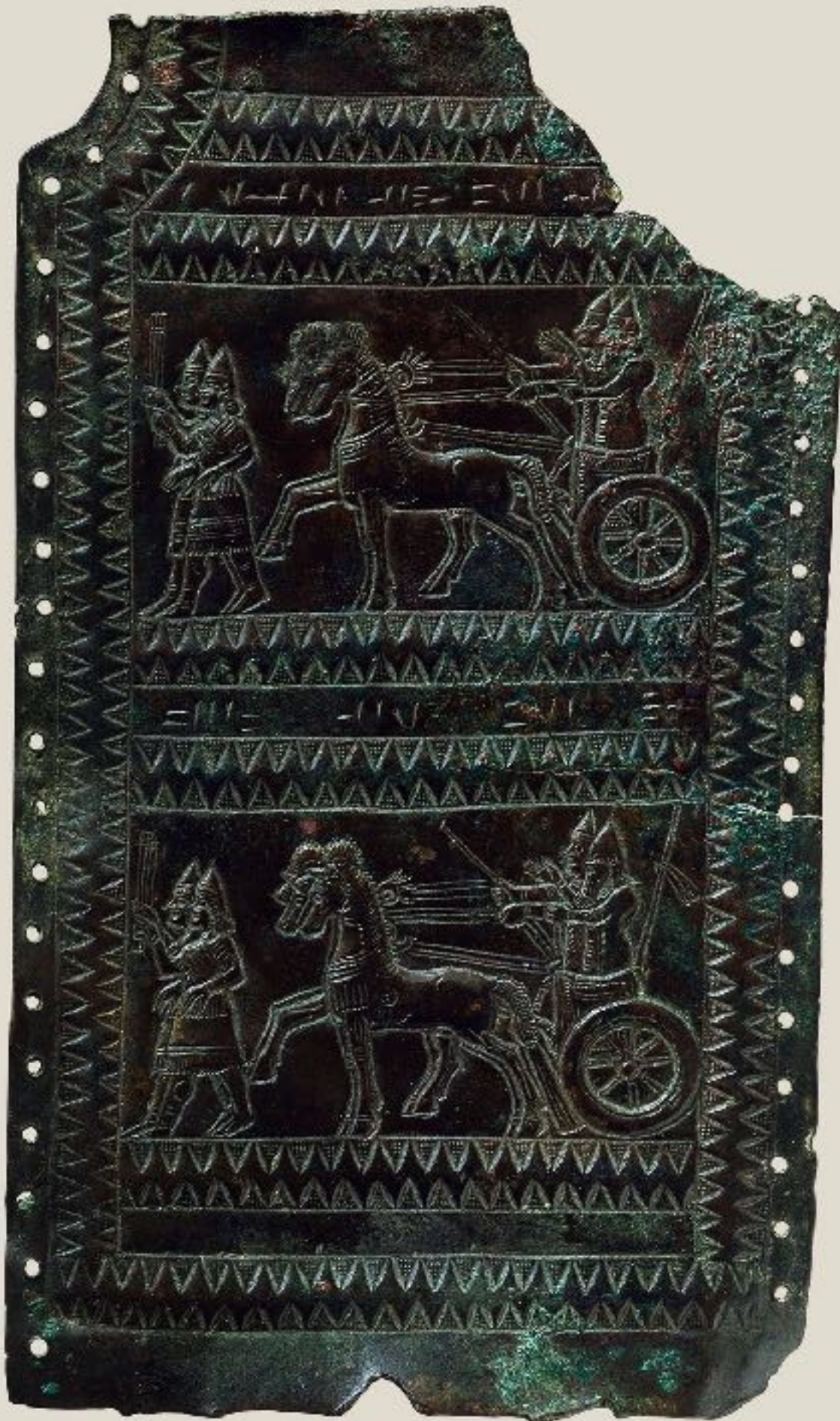
Date: ca. mid-2nd millennium B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia

Culture: Kassite

Medium: Carnelian

Dimensions: 2.46 cm



Plaque fragment with chariot scenes inscribed with the Urartian royal name Argishti

Period: Iron Age III

Date: ca. 713–679 B.C.

Geography: Urartu

Culture: Urartian

Medium: Bronze



Statuette of a man with an oryx, a monkey, and a leopard skin

Period: Neo-Assyrian

Date: ca. 8th century B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia, Nimrud

Culture: Assyrian

Medium: Ivory

Dimensions: 13.5 x 7.6cm

**Top fragment of a kudurru with a
mushhushu dragon and divine symbols**

Period: Second Dynasty of Isin

Date: ca. 1156–1025 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia

Medium: Limestone

Dimensions: 16.5 x 10 x 18.4 cm





Kneeling bull holding a spouted vessel

Period: Proto-Elamite

Date: ca. 3100–2900 B.C.

Geography: Southwestern Iran

Culture: Proto-Elamite



Vessel terminating in the forepart of a fantastic leonine creature

Period: Achaemenid

Date: ca. 5th century B.C.

Geography: Iran

Culture: Achaemenid

Medium: Gold

Dimensions: H. 17 cm

Incense burner

Date: ca. mid-1st millennium B.C.

Geography: Southwestern Arabia

Medium: Bronze

Dimensions: 27.7 × 23.7 × 23.2 cm



Images of power



Ashurbanipal (ca. 668–627 b.c.) grasps a lion

From Nineveh, Palace of Ashurbanipal, Neo-Assyrian period,

Dimensions: 63.5 Å~ 71 cm.



Molded plaque: king or a god carrying a mace

Period: early Old Babylonian

Date: ca. 2000–1700 B.C.

Geography: Southern Mesopotamia

Culture: Isin-Larsa–Old Babylonian

Medium: Ceramic

Dimensions: H. 12.1 cm, W. 7.1 cm



Male standing figure.

Early Dynastic I-II period, ca. 2900–2600 b.c.

Mesopotamia, excavated at Eshnunna (modern Tell Asmar)

Gypsum, shell, black limestone, and bitumen;

Dimensions: 29.5 cm.



Statue of Gudea, King of Lagash
c. 2144 - 2124 B.C.E.

Period: Neo-Sumerian

Date: ca. 2090 B.C.

Geography: Mesopotamia

Culture: Neo-Sumerian

Medium: Diorite

Dimensions: 44 x 21.5 x 29.5 cm

FIGURE 16

Attributes of royalty

As shown in *Relief of King Ashurnasirpal II* (detail, image 19)

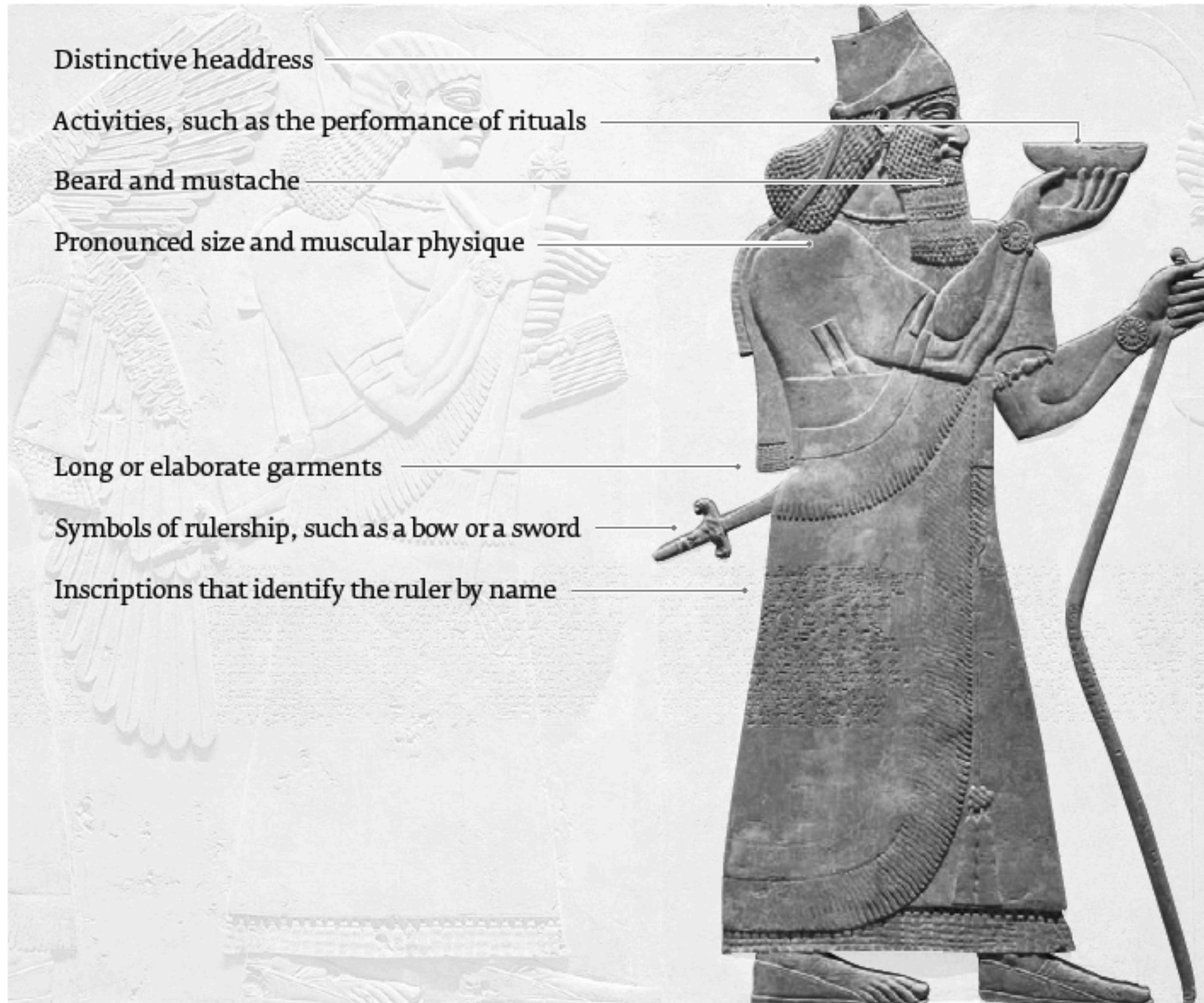
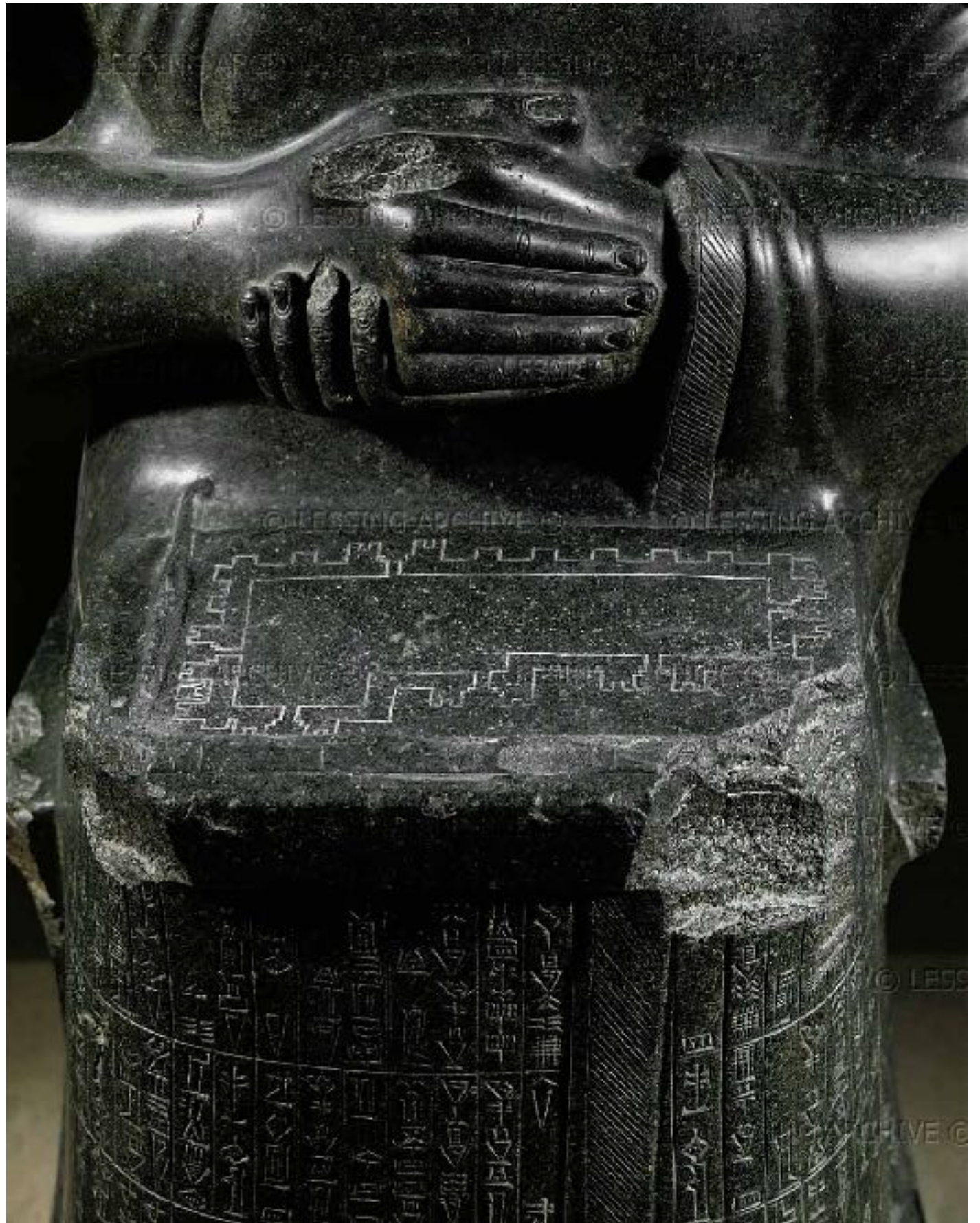
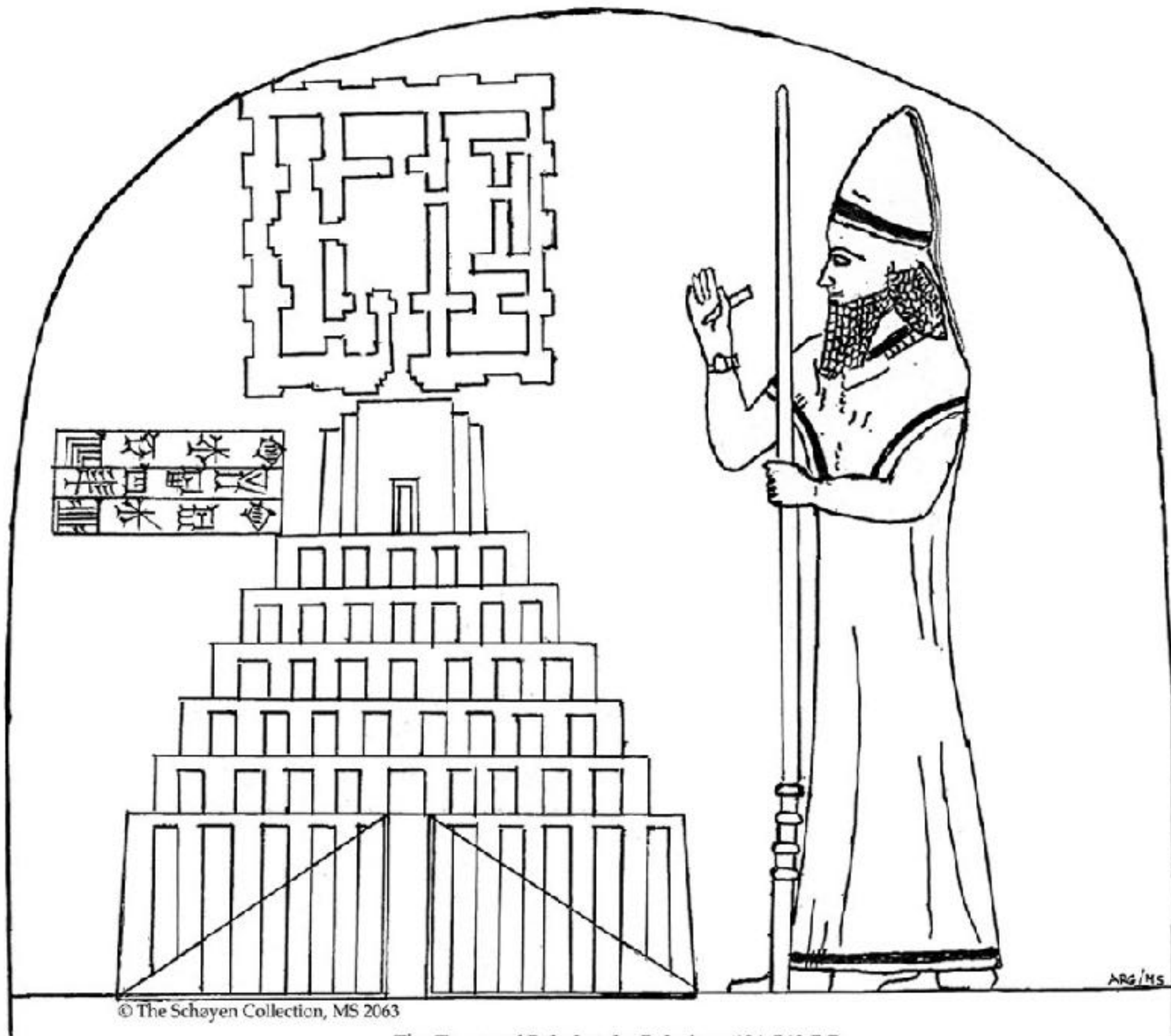


FIGURE 17

Victory stele of Naram-Sin. The Akkadian king Naram-Sin is the largest figure in the scene. He wears a horned crown, an attribute of divinity, and treads upon the bodies of defeated enemies. Astral symbols of the gods Shamash and Ishtar appear in the sky above. Mesopotamia, Sippar; found at Susa, Iran. Akkadian period, reign of Naram-Sin, ca. 2254–2218 B.C. Limestone; 78 ¾ × 41 ⅝ in. (200 × 105 cm). Musée du Louvre, Paris







© The Schøyen Collection, MS 2063

The Tower of Babel stele. Babylon, 604-562 BC.
Reconstruction by Martin Schøyen after an original drawing by Andrew George