CHAPTER SIX

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES IN BUILDING 600

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Introduction

Building 600 yielded artefacts and architectural elements that date to both the Iron Age and the Late Byzantine–Early Islamic periods. In certain instances, it was not possible to ascertain the period to which certain features belonged. For example, a boulder mortar door socket could have been in use during the final Iron Age II occupation (Stratum VII) in Building 700 and later reused. On the other hand, dressed stone door frames were probably designed specifically for use in Building 600 or reused from a Byzantine structure located elsewhere on the site or in its neighbourhood. Other elements, such as a lintel engraved with crosses, may also be in secondary use, although the Byzantine building to which these features originally belonged has not been excavated. At the same time, the small hoard of post-reform coins recovered under the floor in Room 605 was clearly in situ. So too, the mosaic floors were an integral part of the Early Islamic structure. This chapter discusses briefly the architectural features which were either in place or were found scattered throughout the debris inside Building 600,¹ along with those in topsoil layers outside the structure.

Beginning in 1992, large architectural elements, such as threshold stones, vaulting stones, reused column drums and worked stones identified during excavation were labelled, registered, and preserved in a lapidarium on the site (Table 6A).² Some of these features, along with ceramic roof tiles,³ also received an object number consisting of

¹ See discussion of various rooms in Chapter 3 and the Locus List on DVD for precise locus information and location in B600.
² Not all categories of architectural element were identified during excavation. These same categories are now in use by the Wadi ath-Thamad Project, southeast of Madaba.
³ All roof tile fragments with their measurements and colour codes are included in the objects database on the accompanying DVD.
the Site+Field+Square/Pail#.Object# (for example, Socket Stone TJ D14/9.1169). Additional elements including lintels and stone door-frames recovered during succeeding seasons were registered, either as loci and/or as architectural elements. A few items with object registration numbers are included in the discussion of architectural features, since their function is otherwise unknown. Parallels cited here are samples only; no attempt was made to be exhaustive.

Table 6A. Registration Codes for Architectural Features.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Base</th>
<th>Capital</th>
<th>Ceiling Slab</th>
<th>Column</th>
<th>Columnette</th>
<th>Decorated Masonry</th>
<th>Drain</th>
<th>Door Jamb</th>
<th>Drum</th>
<th>Floor Tile</th>
<th>Hewn stone/toolmark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>CP</td>
<td>CS</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>CM</td>
<td>DM</td>
<td>DR</td>
<td>J</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>FT</td>
<td>H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lintel</td>
<td>Paving Stone</td>
<td>Pilaster</td>
<td>Roof Tile</td>
<td>Rope-marked Stone</td>
<td>Staircase step</td>
<td>Threshold</td>
<td>Vousoir</td>
<td>Vaulting Stone</td>
<td>Window Stone</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ceiling Slabs

Eleven large, limestone ceiling slabs (D22:14; see Figs. 3.2; 6.1:1), linking Walls 6013 and W6015, were found in situ above Corridor 617. These slabs are similar to those above R616 (D13:30; D13:60) and distinct from vaulting stones which extended from the voussoirs of one arch to those of another (see below). Ceiling Slabs D22:14 were lozenge-shaped and measured ca. 0.97–1.33 × 0.40–0.60 m, and 0.15–0.20 m thick.

Columnettes

One fragment of a small marble column (or possible pilaster) was present in the debris of Room 606. This columnette is fluted on the diagonal (spiral fluting) and may have been part of the furniture of an earlier building. In its present condition, it is broken and retains traces of mortar on the back side and edges.