

CHAPTER 8

South Group Excavations: Structure 5-1

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Fig. 8-1: Excavations at Mound 5 during the 2004 season.

Introduction

The work plan for excavating Mound 5 was initiated late in the 2003 season [Fig. 8-1]. Under the supervision of the directors, this investigation, denominated Operation 14, was the second one formally systematized by PACH during the 2004 season. Excavation work in that area of the site began at the end of June.

The first evidence regarding Structure 5-1 was discovered in the 2003 field season. A test pit denominated II-D-25 was arbitrarily placed, jointly with another pit (II-D-22) at the base of Mound 5, with the purpose of investigating the construction of the ancient building. In this pit we found a well built stone alignment oriented towards the north [Fig. 8-2] at 0.60 m below the modern surface of the ground, or in other words, in the third arbitrary lot of 0.20 m. Therefore, this trait was taken for: (1) some kind of hydraulic device, for example a retaining wall, or (2) a larger section of the wall

representing the southern boundaries of the ancient city. These pits were later refilled, and plans were made to further investigate this alignment in 2004.



Fig. 8-2: Discovery of one portion of the large platform, PACH 2003.

During the 2004 season, new pits revealed the continuity of the trait in a north-south direction. With the help of gradiometric surveys (see Chapter 4), other areas were investigated on top of, and around Mound 15, and after six weeks of work the vertical and horizontal dimensions of a large platform [Fig. 8-3a, b] were exposed. Time restraints hindered the excavation of the north and east façades. The north façade was excavated by Gutiérrez, Bazy and Cañada Cañada, the east façade was excavated by Gutiérrez and Bazy, the latter was responsible for drawing the plan and profiles of the façade; Cañada Cañada in turn, created plan drawings and profiles of portions of the west of the north wall of Structure 5-1.



Fig. 8-3a, b: (a) Plan view of Structure 5-1; (b) North wall of Structure 5-1 during the 2004 field excavation.

The methodology of excavation involved horizontal excavations to expose the architectural traits; this means that whenever the last basal stone of a wall was exposed, the vertical excavation was interrupted to avoid initiating the investigation of possible earlier structures or substructures. This was an important decision to make because, in addition to Structure 15-1 located in the northern section of the site, Structure 5-1 still remained as the second example of major architecture exposed in the ancient city. Thus, it was considered that collecting data fit to provide the physical dimensions of a structure that apparently corresponded to a building of a certain time or occupational phase was a necessary thing to do, prior to advancing in the search of answers to more specific questions related to water management and intensive agriculture. In the future, whenever we find structures with similar characteristics to those of Structure 5-1, we shall no longer need to excavate them in full, as in the present case. Besides, the 2004 research was unable to conclude all works planned due to time restraints, and many crucial questions regarding architectural details have remained unanswered, as is the case with the construction phases and its abandonment, or the function or functions of the structure.

The major characteristics of Structure 5-1 may be briefly described. First, emphasis should be made on the large size of this platform; even though the function or functions of this construction are uncertain so far, the size itself undoubtedly points to its past significance and probably reflects an administrative role or at least its public or corporate character. The ritual or religious significance is indicated by the orientation towards the four cardinal points and the probable stairway or ramp with a beam oriented to the east, the birth of the sun and the access to life. We can also mention the possible presence of a mask made with cobbles that forms a part of the east wall, found in Pit 14-66. We have also noted the unusual occurrence of large amounts of fired mud, manifested in the finding of apparent bricks precisely outside

the north wall and specifically in the large trait (Trait 14-R-6) of the central pits. We observed the rare division between light soil and dark soil immediately outside the east wall. Finally, we think it is important to mention the finding of a fragment of monument with cupped depressions located nearby at the outside of the southern beam's corner, which leads us to establish a comparison with similar monuments found outside many buildings, as is the case in Tak'alik' Ab'aj.

Location

The construction located under the surface of what can be seen as a convex shaped mound covered with earth, known as Chocolá's Mound 5, will be referred to as Structure 5-1 hereafter.

It is located at the southern section of the site, in the area surveyed during the 2003 field season, in land that is part of three different estates; however, most of the work was conducted within land that belongs to Mr. Felipe Carrillo, one of the successful bidders of the Empresa Campesina Agrícola de Chocolá. The plot may be reached by land through the road that connects to the main highway that goes to Santo Tomás La Unión, precisely at the place known as "el Aguacatal". Its satellite location is found in the UTM coordinates 1614697 N. and 669466 E.

Mound 5 is located at 16°14'690 North in latitude, and 6°69'470 West in longitude. The summit of this mound is at 749.4920 meters above sea level. Operation 14 was opened at Mound 5, located south of the settlement of the village of Chocolá, and it resulted in the discovery of Structure 5-1. It was conspicuously placed, with other mounds at the south (3 and 4) which most probably were directly related with one another in their spatial arrangement. Located between two brooks and forming an artificial space, this architectural compound is important with regard to the control of the entrance to the site through the coastal route to the Altiplano. In ancient times, Mound 5 would have been one of the first buildings with a panoramic view, fit to watch people who traveled along that route exchanging goods. Presumably, Mound 5 represents one of the largest platforms south of Chocolá. We know Chocolá was part of the ancient colonial route to the city of Santiago (Oscar Hauesler, personal communication). Let's consider for a moment the impact that seeing a large building generates: what goes through peoples' minds? What kind of building was this: was it military, and simultaneously the symbolic representation of a ruler? Was it related to corporate work? The visual objective was probably fulfilled, first due to the large dimensions of the mound, and second due to its cover, made of huge cobble stones (Gutiérrez, 2004).

Excavations

The methodology of excavation has been described in Chapter 5 of this report; however, we should outline that the grids generated for the system of controlled investigation were gradually developed according to our research requirements, and should be consulted in the grid map below [Fig. 8-4].

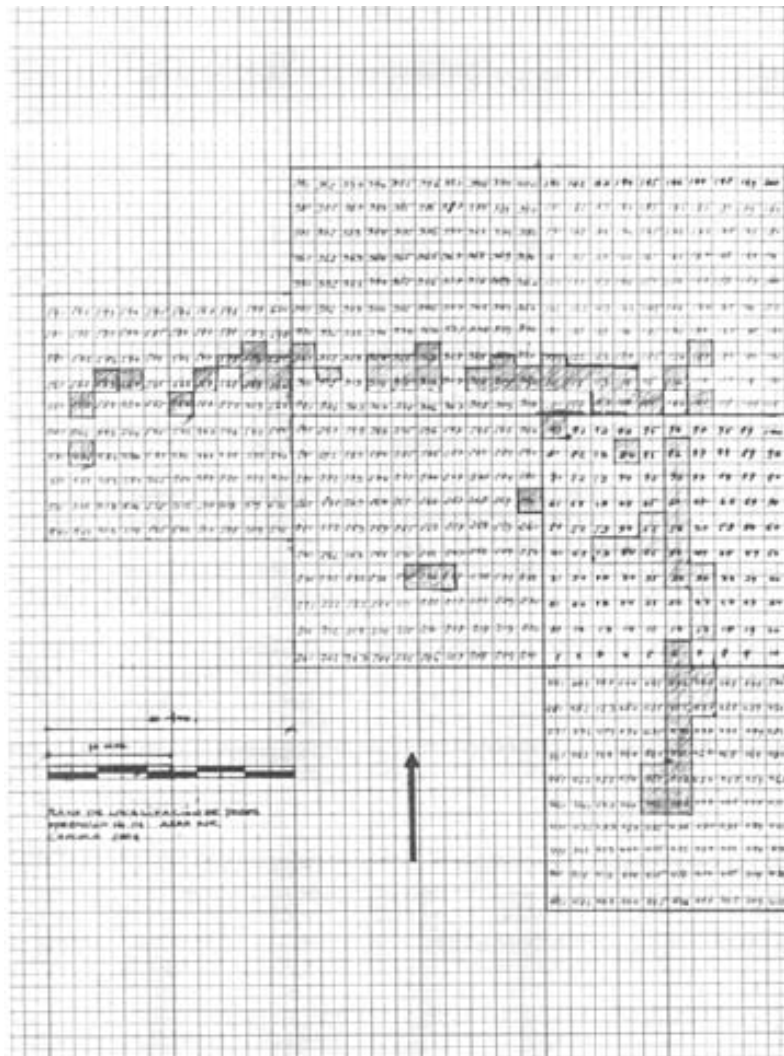


Fig. 8-4: Map of the grids showing those excavated in the 2004 season.

With this system of excavation, however, we faced difficulties to establish the grids due to the inadequacy of the terrain, as we were in the plots of a coffee plantation with its inherent inconveniences. Before tracing the grids with the station, the ground had to be cleaned. The earth on the surface was very disturbed by the continuous agricultural work, so the wooden stakes that marked the grids were not fixed, and required to be reset on a daily basis.

Upon tracing the 2 x 2 grid, the surface was measured at its 4 cardinal points. The Subdatum (SD) was used to take these measurements. The SD was marked in a fixed point, usually a tree, indicating its height from the surface, which we later converted into meters above sea level. The main reference for Mound 5 was Datum 1, or Benchmark (BM) 50, with an elevation of 742.3380 meters above sea level; this was located using a very precise GPS and calibrated with the Total Station, to define its precise location within the full map of the site. To reference the excavations described in this chapter, we have used the datums and subdatums (SD) (see the table below and Fig. 8-5).

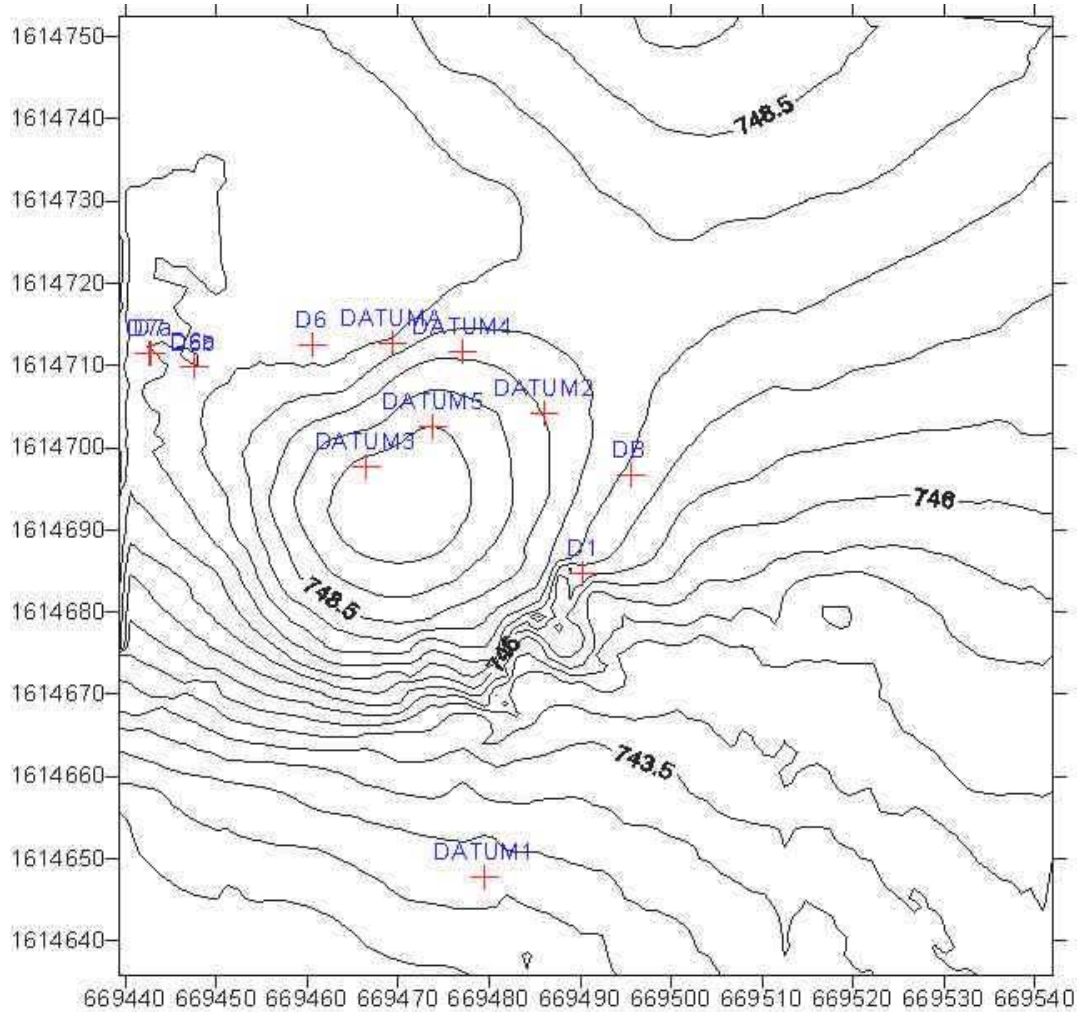


Fig. 8-5: Datums used in the excavations at Mound 5.

In the excavations, the following datums and subdatums were used¹:

DATUM	SUBDATUM	HEIGHT ABOVE THE SURFACE (m)	HEIGHT ABOVE SEA LEVEL (m)
2	1	1.00	747.5568
3	3	0.50	750.4920
4	2	1.00	747.5695
5			748.8735
DA	2	1.00	748.2397
D1			745.9076
DB	5	1.00	746.4237
D6	6	0.20	749.1366
D6a			749.0784
	D6b		748.1092
	D7		748.0077
D7a	7	1.25	747.0284

¹ All SDs were set by using the Total Station, and therefore worked like a datum.

Dimensions

The mound has large dimensions, considering that from the plaza level at the south to the plaza level at the north, there is an extension of 70 m, and in the axis of the plaza level at the west to the plaza level at the east there are some 78 m in length; therefore, we are talking of a total surface of at least 4,900 m². The civic and ceremonial spaces used, however, are larger since they have abutting plazas on the east and north façades, in addition to the terrace that extends to the south towards mounds 2 and 3. There is no adjoining plazas to the west, where there is a kind of small plain and then, 40 m from there, the terrain turns uneven and abruptly descends to one of the creeks; these creeks provide a year-round water supply, and farther away from the Chichoy River, they are a resource that probably supplied the people that guarded this strategic place.

Chronology

Preliminary studies conducted this season allow us to approximate the time of occupation of this platform to the Pre-Classic period. However, the central pit requires more excavation. For now, we may only refer to the outer remains, consisting of ceramics, that point to the Middle or Late Pre-Classic periods; on the other hand, the interior of the structure is yet to be investigated, further formal excavations should be conducted within the structure to help us solve issues regarding its construction and temporality.

Architecture and the Construction System

The large dimensions of the structure make its architecture very complex, as it was built with stone walls and mud fillings. Walls were made of rounded cobble stones extracted from the river banks. This may be observed in its north wall, which resembles a retaining wall and probably forms the upper body of the structure, its stones are voluminous, measuring between 0.30 to 0.40 m, and are arranged in five or six horizontal courses. At first sight, the stones of the upper course are the largest, while those of the remaining four courses below the surface seem to be smaller because their largest portion remains hidden in the interior of the wall and within the mortar used as a filling between one stone and the other.

Although most of the construction elaborated with cobble stones extracted from the river banks was well preserved, the other sections built by simply placing mud and taxcal (for example the floors) hardly differentiate from the natural layers, complicating our understanding of the architecture of the structure and our research work. Besides, it is important to mention that the location of the mound within the plots of the coffee plantations, which were sugar cane plantations in the past, has caused severe damage to the archaeological relics.

The stone course that finishes the top of the wall is at an almost perfect horizontal level, particularly one stone that appears to occupy its original position and is even carved to fit with another one, as if placed there by the builder to enhance some architectural detail. The mortar in-between the stones was prepared with light brown

earth with small stones that work like gravel, and therefore provide the cohesion and amalgam of the mix to firmly hold the stones together.

For what we know, this is a large, rectangular platform composed of one or several bodies with rounded cobble stone masonry. The mortar in-between the stones was prepared with light brown earth with small stones and taxcal pebbles. The use of stones of a smaller size is evident in some areas; these measure between 0.15 to 0.20 m and serve as support and/or as a wedge for the larger stones, filling in the small spaces between them. The foundation or base that supports the construction consists of a mix of taxcal with sand and tiny remains of micaceous material, and it is here where the stones of the first course were placed, from bottom to top. We consider this the original floor of the plaza, an architectural detail observed in the east profile of Pit 14-113 and confirmed in Pit 14-329. However, we need to excavate deeper into this level to support this hypothesis. The exhaustive revision of the details in Pit 14-113 allowed us to determine that the stones of the lower course are held together by a type of refill made of taxcal, which generally includes small traces of vegetal charcoal (we do not know if this is the result of intentional burning to strengthen this architectural feature which supports the five stone courses observed in that pit). This is apparently similar to what was discovered and described by Burkitt, and published in 1930 (Gutiérrez, 2004). The mound has a surface of roughly 1920 m² and a height of 5 m above the plaza level.

In some areas we observed the use of stones of a smaller size, 0.15 to 0.20 m that serve as a support and/or wedge for the major stones, also filling in the small spaces between the large stones. The foundation or base that supports the construction consists of a mix of taxcal and sand with tiny remains of micaceous material, and it is there where the stones of the first course were placed, from bottom to top. We believe this level is the floor of the north plaza; these details were observed on the east profiles of pits 14-112 and 14-113. Some spaces of the wall were filled with sand only, whenever the large and small stones formed spaces; this technique resembles some examples seen in the colonial constructions of La Antigua Guatemala.

The average height of the wall center is 1.25 m, from the base to the upper course; however, the east side of the wall ends in three rows of small stones forming some type of wedge, while on the west side, also ended with a wedge, only one stone was used. This is also the case in the façade that forms the east wall, where the southeast corner ends with just one stone course [Fig. 8-6].



Fig. 8-6: Southeast corner of Mound 5 ending in one stone course.

The inside presents material with different mixes of earths, evident in the colorations observed in the stratigraphic changes. Some of these mixes were probably subjected to special firing treatments, and these fired sections are more easily visualized, while the unfired areas blend with the other natural layers making it difficult to morphologically define the structure, consequently hindering the excavation works. The structure's position is conspicuous regarding the other mounds located south (3 and 4), which very probably are directly interrelated in their spatial arrangement, as they form a kind of line or corridor that runs on a north direction towards the higher section of the settlement. Farther north there is what we think is the civic-ceremonial center, with the largest group of buildings of what may have been the ancient great city of Chocolá, with the possible function of controlling the exchange of goods on their way to the central highlands.

Since the 2003 field season we have been observing the construction of elaborate mud structures present in mounds 15 and 2, places where we confirmed what Burkitt had stated in 1930, "that the mounds were of earth and that in excavating them only earth was found, that they were round and that it was not the case that they were constructions without corners, but rather, that these had already collapsed". After his personal experience in the highlands, he said that the mounds were made of earth and were rectangular pyramidal in shape; this was not observed in Chocolá due to difficulties in defining which ones were the façades.

His information only included profiles, diameters and heights, but there was no investigation on how the layers were arranged. This information would have helped to define possible forms. We know through research accomplished by the Museum of Tobacco and Salt from Tokyo, Japan, (Ohi, 1994) that there are architectural

features built with mud at K'aminaljuyú which present characteristics similar to those of Chocolá, such as the use of refined talpetate strata and layers of simple mud, or mud used as filling or agglutinant for other materials. The test pits from Cerro Partido (Mound 2) in 2003, revealed construction materials in earths and muds of grayish, and light brown coloration, with occasional patches of a reddish color or areas in black reflecting obviously burnt surfaces whose way or process of elaboration is unknown to us; surfaces exposed to heat present a constant thickness – 0.02 m – in the interior of the burnt areas large river stones or round cobble stones were found, the mortar was made of sand with mixtures composed of small stones that appear in colored taxcal of the red, yellow, green, blue type and their variants. This type of burnt areas was recurring in Mount 2 or Cerro Partido, as reported in Burkitt's work [Fig. 8-7], and as was later explored by Shook in 1978 and by Oscar Gutiérrez in 2003.



Fig. 8-7: Pit of 3.5 m below the surface of the refuse dump from Mound 2, showing the remains of burnt materials; below, round river cobble stones and the also burnt contact lines between the strata. PACH 2003.

The burnt sections form areas that resemble concave or convex upside-down bowls, these are superimposed causing the mud surfaces to elevate in the form of pyramids through the repetition of the construction process. This technique of surface burnings was observed in Structure 5-1 at Pit 14-56, where the last lot excavated shows the half that is close to the structure as having a burnt color with remains of charcoal, taxcal and small pumice stones. There is evidence of arrangements of this form of strata from the excavations at Cerro Partido in 2003 [Fig. 8-8].



Fig. 8.8: A sample of how the layers are arranged forming the concave and convex sections in the upper sections inside Mound 2 or Cerro Partido. PACH 2003.

Also, the thorough examination of details in pits 14-113 and 14-112 has allowed us to observe that the stones of the lowest course rest on a type of refill made of taxcal, where there generally are small traces of plant charcoal (we do not know if they are the result of intentional burning to strengthen this architectural feature that supports the five horizontal stone courses). Regarding this latter observation, there is an apparent similarity with Burkitt's discoveries and descriptions. We believe this could represent a continuous and long lived construction pattern. The research of the Tobacco Museum (Ohi, Oniaki: 1994:107) reports that the burning of buildings may have been caused by the violent end of a social era, but we believe this is not the case and that this could be an architectural construction pattern typical of the highlands and the southern coast, like in the specific case of the archaeological site of Chocolá.

In regard to these construction forms of mud and taxcal, Hiroshi Minami (1994) says: "some of them may be 10 m long and roughly 1.5 m high or deep, and may cross one another in a north-south or east-west direction"; these sections were filled with different mixtures of material, and their function was to join together or to attach the component shapes of these structural bodies. This type of construction system is also known from Mound B-V-5 at K'aminaljuyú, studied by the Miraflores Project and dated to the Middle Pre-Classic (Martínez et al, 1996:397). There are also other antecedents of mud constructions at Tak'alik' Ab'aj, such as Structure 5-12.

Stratigraphic Description

Because the excavations conducted in that season have not led us to truly deep levels, the stratigraphy seems to be very simple. However, the constraints derived from the rainy season, and the context of the coffee plantation parcels, previously sugar cane plantations, have hindered the identification of stratigraphic details or have made them fade away, and agriculture causes phenomena of removal of strata that are to be taken into account at the time of analysis. Consequently, each one of the archaeologists responsible for an excavation differed on the visual characteristics

of the stratigraphy; in any case, in most sub-operations the stratigraphy turned out as follows:

Layer 1 - Very dark brown layer of humus with coffee-tree roots and other organic material. It is found in arbitrary lot 1, from the surface.

Layer 2 - Dark brown earthen layer directly under the level of humus. It is found in arbitrary lot 1 and continues in arbitrary lot 2.

Layer 3 - Brown earthen layer with inclusions of mica, and scarce or abundant taxcal according to the floor's proximity. It is found in arbitrary lot 3 and down to the floor. The floor consists of an earthen light brown layer of a compact texture with plenty of taxcal in blue, yellow, red or orange colors. The amount of mica inclusions is larger.

Evidently, some pits present a more complex stratigraphy. This shall be described further on.

Trait Descriptions

Trait 14-R-1 north wall

This trait corresponds to the north wall façade of Structure 5-1, and was found in operations 14-111, 14-112, 14-113, 14-114, 14-314, 14-315, 14-316, 14-318, 14-319, 14-320, 14-321, 14-369, 14-379, 14-380, 14-578, 14-579, 14-580 [Fig. 8-9, 8-10, 8-11]. This part of the wall has an east-west orientation. Its structure, in Pit 14-111, is formed by five cobble stone courses, its height is of approximately 1.25 m, the lower stones on which these stone courses rest are 2.13 m below SD 2 of the mound, which is located 1.00 m above the natural surface, the upper level of the stones that crown the wall is at 0.94 m below the SD. Important note: in some sections there are five stone courses, while in others there are six, depending on the width of the stones forming the courses. The stones are irregular in size, as we found them in sizes from 0.12 m to 0.28 and 0.30 m; they show no signs of having been modified, but only of having been placed aligned as components that give shape to the wall.

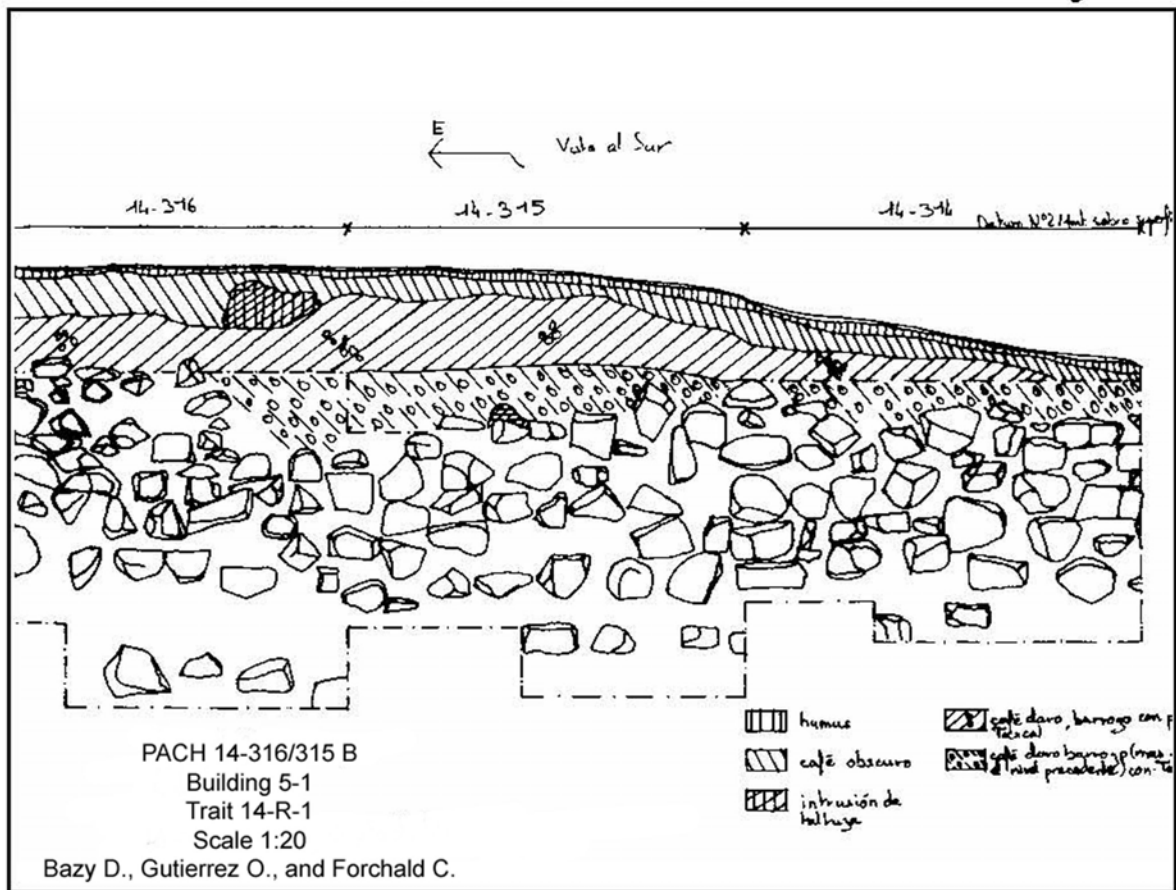


Fig. 8-9: Profile of trait 14-R-1 from pit 111-114 and 320.

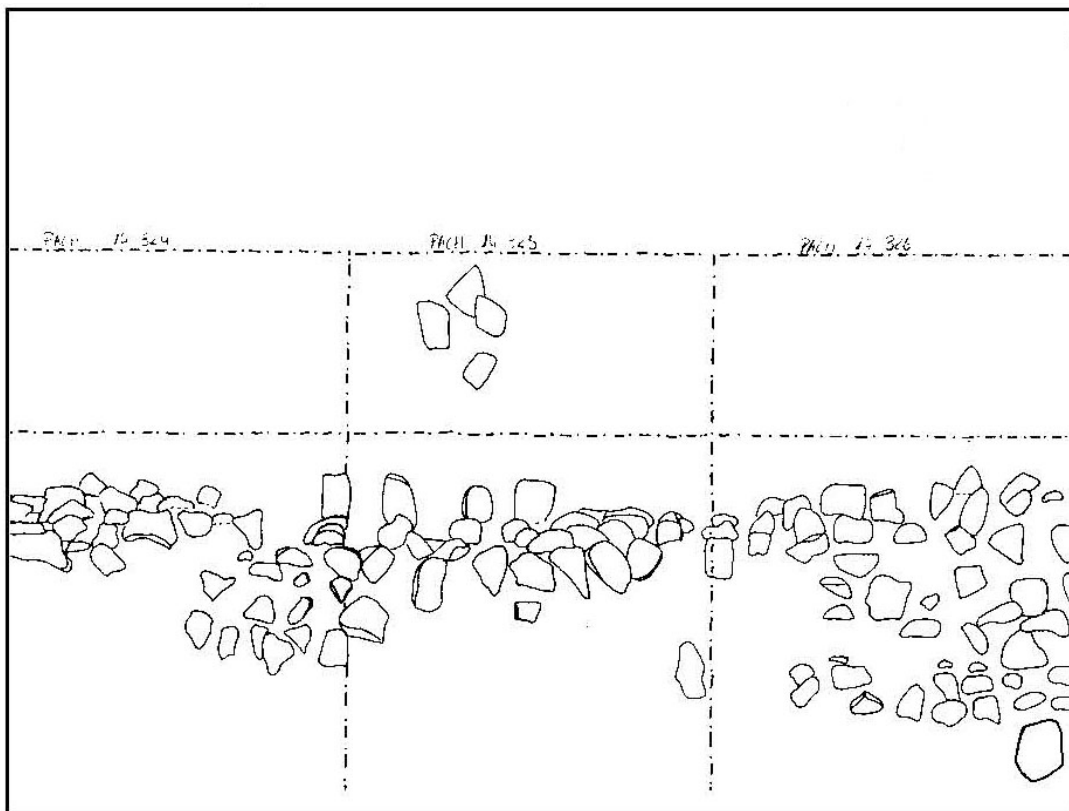


Fig. 8.10: Plan view of center of northern façade, trait 14-R-1.

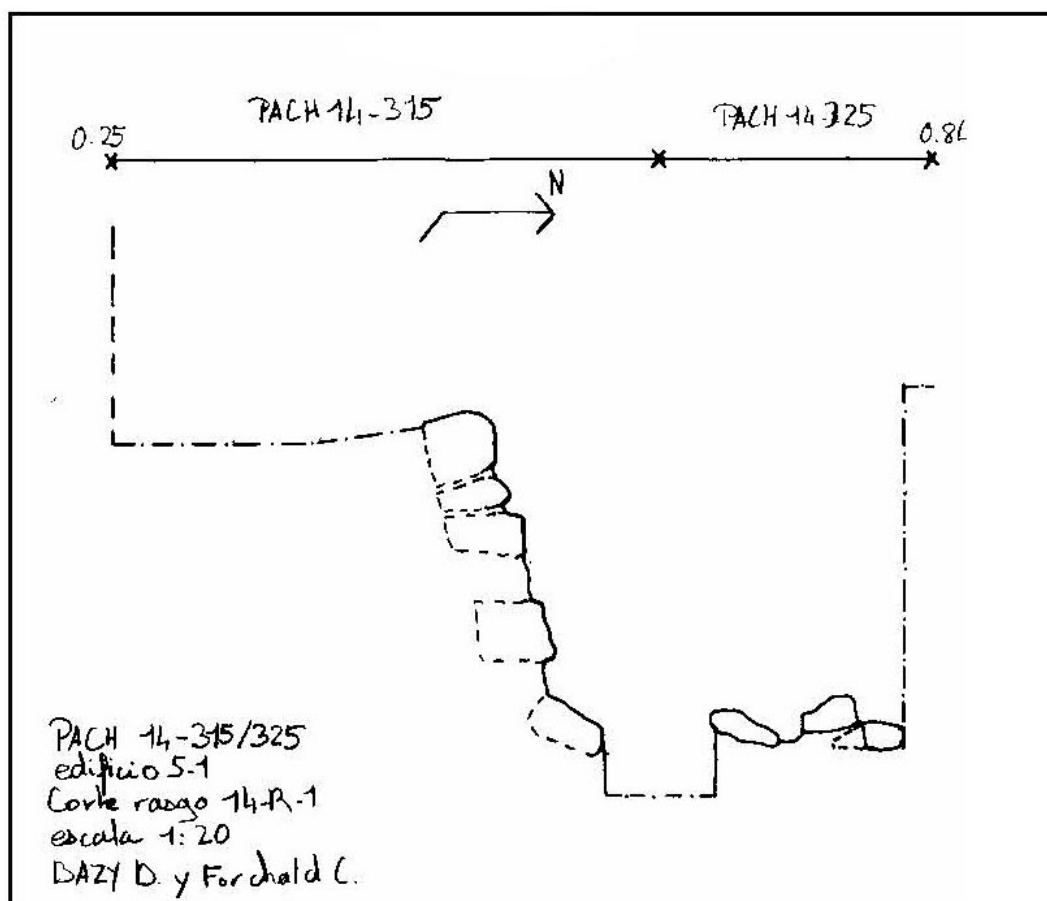


Fig. 8-11: Section of center of the façade, trait 14-R-1.

We believe that there is a plaza floor at the level of 1.91 m below the SD; this floor is probably located at the top of the deepest stone course found, but a follow-up of this trait will be necessary in future seasons of excavation. It was not possible to define the precise location of the floor in the first upper stone course of our excavation, but it is assumed that it may be at the level of 1.00 m below the SD.

In Pit 14-112 the wall tends to decrease its height in the east, to approximately 1.80 m below the SD. In Pit 14-113 the wall is even lower, reaching a height of 1.70 m below the SD, this is where we could observe how the structure that forms the wall is ended in a wedge shape with only three courses of small stones, the smallest ones present in the construction of the wall. At the northwest corner of the Structure, the wall begins to decrease in height from two stone courses to just a single one, and this is also the case with the southeast corner, which after presenting two courses, ends with only one stone course, this course is made of middle size stones relative to the general size of the rest of the stones. This architectural trait at the northeast corner was difficult to elucidate during the excavations because we anticipated it would form a corner; this is why we have considered it as atypical, different to those of the opposite corners in the west and south [Fig. 8-12]. The angle measured for the overall slant of the wall was of 45 degrees.

Trait 14-R-1 apparently makes a southward change of direction in the east profile that forms Pit 14-113, but there is no continuation or alignment in that way; on the contrary, we observed that the continuity of the façade of the north side of Structure 5-1 is abruptly ended.



Fig. 8-12: Northwest corner of Mound 5; wall ending in a single stone course.

Pits 14-318, 14-319, 14-320, continue the trait 14-R-1 along the east-west axis towards the center of Mound 5, 6 m further to the west. We know that this trait continued to the west through the excavations that were conducted from where we thought the central axis of the mound was. The total surface of the wall excavated in both directions from its center towards the east and west formed the great front façade in the north of Structure 5-1. The entire length of the north wall is of 44 m. In general, the wall consists of cobble stones extracted from the river and joined together with a mud amalgam, this particular wall features three different construction modes.

First mode of construction of the wall: The first mode can be found in pits 14-111, 14-112, 14-113 situated at the east edge of the north wall, and in Pit 14-320. Inside these pits, the construction mode can be characterized as follows: one or two stone courses that are larger at the top and the base to support the wall. Between the base and the top of the wall there are smaller cobble stones. The number of stone courses depends on their size and the height of the wall. The stones are irregular in size, and vary from 0.12 m to 0.28 and 0.30 m, and as we stated earlier, they were not cut or modified. The general incline degree of the wall is 45 degrees.

Second mode of construction of the wall: The second form is visible in pits 14-316, 14-315 and 14-314. It appears made up of 5 or 6 cobble stone courses almost aligned under some type of sloping wall with a 42 degrees slant, formed by a core of small stones. The stones of the wall itself are of a similar size, with an average length of 0.25 to 0.35 m. The slant of the wall in those pits is smaller, approaching a 90 degree angle. In pits 14-316, 14-315 and 14-314 the wall rests on one last stone

course with a flat base that protrudes some 0.20 m from the rest of the wall. Probably, the role of this course was to secure the base of the floor.

Third mode of construction of the wall: The third mode is found in the entire west half of the north façade. A drastic decrease in the height of the wall is noticeable from Pit 14-320. In fact, less than three courses compose the wall in this section, decreasing to just a single one at the west end. The stones are aligned cobble stones of a regular size. The height of the wall is gradually reduced towards the west from a maximum height of 0.70 m to 0.30 m.

From our present knowledge, we can state that the total length of Trait 14-R-1 of operation 14 is of 43.10 m. In general, the North wall presents an east-west slope of 0.02 m at its base. Precisely at this level it is possible to follow the same slope of the floor, which consists of light brown muddy earth with abundant mica particles and taxcal with yellow, red, blue and orange pebbles. This floor coincides with the base of the wall throughout most of its extension. Only the east end (Pit 14-113) seems to be different, due perhaps to some collapse that we will make an effort to explain later.

The east half of the north wall presents a total height that averages 1.20 m. The maximum height is 1.58 m and the minimum is 1 m. The west half presents a maximum height of 0.80 m while the minimum is 0.20 m.

Within the structure of building 5-1, our research was unable to expose any interior floor, but just like the base of the wall in the upper part, the ground continues sloping down westwards, that is down towards the river.

The east profile formed by Pit 14-113 presents an apparent change of direction of Trait 14-R-1 to the south, but there is no prolongation or alignment following that direction; on the contrary, the continuity of the north façade of Structure 5-1 is abruptly cut.

Trait 14-R-2, piled up stones in possible corner

This trait corresponds to an accumulation of apparently irregular stones which may have formed the northeast corner of Structure 5-1 [Fig. 8-13]. No alignments were found that suggested a rounded form, or a 90 degree angle; the trait is located at the east end of the north wall, a situation that did not allow us to define the probable original shape of the corner.

large stones, in comparison with the rest, suggesting that they constituted an important part of the façade that ends in the east. We made an inspection towards the north in the southeast corner of Pit 14-103 in an attempt to find the wall, but this search also proved unsuccessful.

The top of the stone accumulation is at a height of 0.90 m below the SD, and is made of larger stones; the small stones of the base are at a height of 1.10 below the SD, this detail is probably what is left of the rectangular crest of a beam that perpendicularly jutted out towards the east wall to form the east façade.

The feature that may have been an upper decorative corner, displays the presence of a stone approximately 0.60 m long with two faces that form a wedge with an angle that is smaller than 90 degrees. The corners rest on an apparent floor at 1.70 m below the SD. In Pit 14-103, the larger stones rest on the upper floor forming the final course of the wall that represents the north façade at a height of 1.07 m below SD 2.

In summary, our research failed to find alignments that would suggest a rounded shape, or that could directly form a 90 degree angle. The trait is found at the east of the north wall, a location that prevented us from defining the probable original shape of the corner. However, at first sight and in plan views or profiles, we were able to note the presence on the surface of two alignments of large stones with the same shape. They are located at a similar height of 1 m from SD 2 – as a continuation of the alignment that crowns Trait 14-R-1. The most southern alignment rests on a level of compact and muddy earth, light brown in color and with taxcal pebbles. It is located in the prolongation of Trait 14-R-1 forming a curve to the south. The second arrangement materializes with an alignment of stones of the same size than the previous ones. It forms a corner with a right angle towards the south from the east façade of the stones located 0.70 m away from the eastern border of Pit 14-113. The stone that crowns that vertical alignment defines a possible corner and is 0.60 m long. The last stones of the east-west profile are those that rest on the floor found at 1.70 m of SD 2 at Pit 14-113. Between those two stone alignments there is an irregular concentration of small stones.

In conclusion, the group of stones makes structural sense, but the excavation was unable to prove the existence of a corner, as no prolongation to the south was found. However, in Pit 14-84 we observed two stones apparently following the alignment of Trait 14-R-2 and placed in front of the last stones at the north end of Trait 14-R-3. They were found at 1 m from SD 2. From this we can infer that an inset corner may have existed. We keep in mind that no tests regarding such considerations could be carried out during the excavation. The reasons may be multiple: type of construction (partly made of mud, for example), the presence of a huge cohune palm tree, land disturbances as a consequence of the coffee plantation activities, or the intentional destruction to extract stones to be reused in other constructions.

Trait 14-R-3, east façade portion of wall

This trait corresponds to the wall aligned in a north-south direction that constitutes the northern half of the east façade of Mound 5. It begins at the northwest quadrant of Pit 14-76, towards the south. This is the northernmost part of the façade but this is also the place where its continuity towards north is lost. In the south, it is next to the northern portion of the ramp or stairway (Trait 14-R-4) that climbs to the top of the structure. The corner with the stairway is located at Pit 14-36 and is marked by the

presence of a large stone 0.40 m high. Thus, Trait 14-R-3 remains inside pits 14-76, 14-66, 14-56, 14-46 and 14-36.

Trait 14-R-3 is 9 m long and has a slant with an average 45 degree angle. The maximum height is 0.90 m, the minimum is 0.50 m. It extends from north to south with three superimposed rows of stones of a regular size (0.25 – 0.40 m long). The rows are separated from one another by a space of roughly 0.10 m. Like in the north façade, Trait 14-R-3 presents a slope towards the south of 0.2 m per meter. The floor level, composed of a light brown muddy earth with red, yellow, blue and orange taxcal, follows this slope more or less down to the base of the wall.

Like in Trait 14-R-2, we ignore so far the reason why the prolongation of this trait is absent. The base of the stone where the wall ends rests 1.68 m below the mark of SD 2. The largest stone that may have constituted the final portion of an architectural feature is located 1.45 m below the SD. These two stones are the end of the wall and are not similar to the material of the cobble stones, as they are easily broken and they show a rusty coloration (iron oxide). To the east of them, that is, in front of them, lie the last two cobble stones that mark the end of the south-north alignment. The end of this trait is seen on the west face of Pit 14-76, and reaches a height of 0.30 m from the north face of the previously mentioned pit; its upper faces are 1.65 m below SD 2, and the lower faces at 2.02 m. The stratigraphy of Pit 14-86 seems to corroborate the notion of a collapsed façade, or else it may suggest that the stones in that section of the trait were removed, as we observed another layer, previously identified as a component part of the building's filling, at the level of the last stones of the trait. This layer is a very muddy earth with abundant particles of mica and taxcal pebbles. Farther north in the pit, it blends with the natural stratigraphic layer of light brown earth with no taxcal [Fig. 8-14].

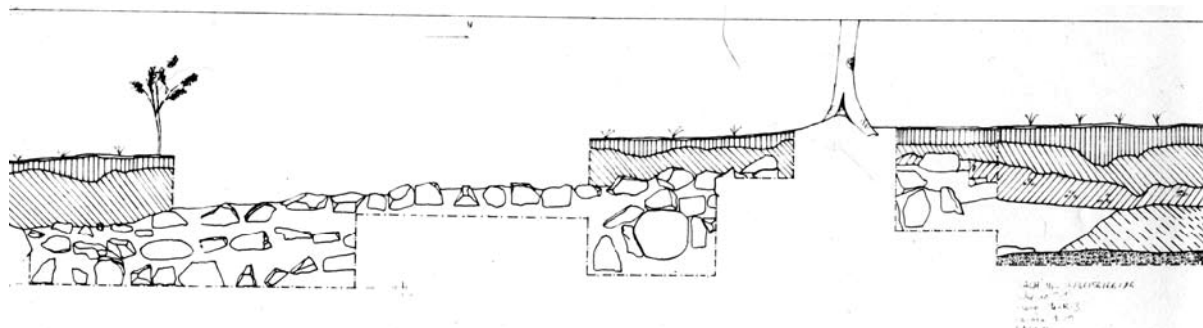


Fig. 8-14: Profile of Trait 14-R-3.

The last stones of the trait are well below SD 2, and consequently, they definitely do not correspond to the height of Trait 14-R-2. We should remember the presence, in Pit 14-84, of two stones located at a distance of 1 m from SD 2. We are under the impression that this placement indicates that they are the remains of a possible inset corner. Unfortunately, this last pit was not excavated further, while Trait 14-R-3 presents a slope towards the south. With that consideration and the fact that the last stones of Trait 14-R-3 are located at a lower level, we may assume that Pit 14-84 is to be deepened to find the missing portion, to properly understand the northeast corner of building 5-1.

Pit 14-66 presents three stone courses. The upper course is 1.46 m below the SD, and the lower course at 2.40 m. Two courses are observed, on top and below them there is a round stone of 0.50 x 0.50 m with an even face placed between two stones

of 0.30 m vertically, with a width of 0.20 m. This trait corresponds to the south-north wall alignment, and constitutes the eastern façade of Mound 5. It begins at Pit 14-76, in its north-west quadrant towards the south; this is the northernmost part of the façade but, once again, it is here where the north continuity is lost.

We ignore why it is not possible to detect the presence of additional wall remains corresponding to the corner, or remains of a wall continuing northwards. The base of the stone where the wall ends rests at 1.68 m below the mark of SD 2. The largest stone that may have constituted the final portion of an architectural feature is located 1.45 m below the SD. These two stones represent the end of the wall and they are not similar to the material of the cobble stones, as they are easily broken and their color is ocher (iron oxide), as if they had been burnt. Farther east from them, that is, in front of them, are the two last cobble stones with which the south-north alignment ends; this ending is located on the west face of Pit 14-76, and ends or finishes at 30 cm of the north face of the pit, while the upper faces are 1.65 m below SD 2, and the lower faces at 2.02 m (see profile of Trait 14-R-3 [Fig. 8-15]). Actually, the wall in this section ends with some sort of wedge (similar to the east corner of Trait 14-R-1), and therefore, it ends with a smaller size than the rest of the wall at the south.



Fig. 8-15: Trait showing the end of the wall that departs from the northern beam of Mound 5.

In Pit 14-66 it continues south of the wall and this time we observe three stone courses. The upper course at 1.46 m below the SD, the lower at 2.40 m; two courses are visible in the upper level, and below them there is a stone with particular characteristics and dimensions of 0.50 x 0.50 m, somewhat round in shape, with elongated type of stones at its sides placed in a vertical position; we feel this could be the support to form a figure (its position is almost in the middle between the beam of the north side and the east corner of the north wall's façade); this decorative feature or figure may have had a highly perishable finishing, having therefore disappeared [Fig. 8-16a, b].

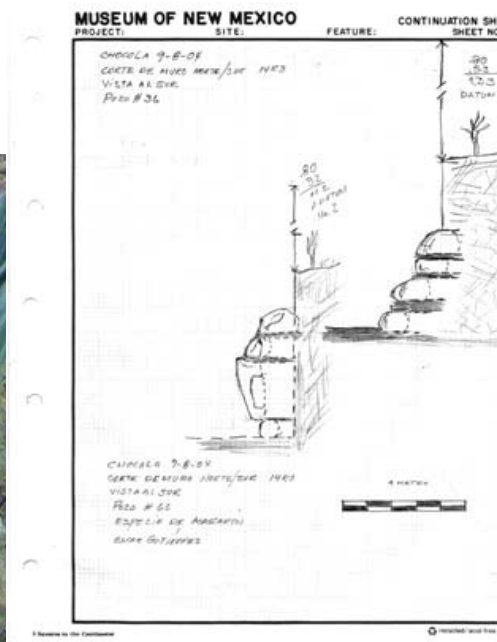


Fig. 8-16a, b: (a) Excavation of stone believed to have been a figure on the wall; (b) profile.

Pit 14-56 shows a continuation of the south-north alignment, of which only its upper stone course was found; its summit is 1.63 m below the SD in the northern section of the pit, while the upper face or floor that supports it is located at 1.82 m below the SD. As opposed to the south, the summits of the stones are at 1.64 m and the lower face at 1.84 m from the SD. These measures show a slight descent from north to south from this part of the wall. We have observed that the arrangement of the stones in the course covers the 2 m space of the pit with an average of five to six stones, depending on the size of the stones used (average length, 0.30 m).

Pit 14-46 was excavated to the lower level of the three stone courses; the upper part or apex is at a height of 1.71 m in the northern section, and the lower face of the last course is at 2.55 m below the SD. On the south side, the highest part of the first stone course is at 1.89 m, while the lower face of the last stone course, that is our third course, is at 2.57 m; all these measurements were taken with respect to SD 2.

Pit 14-36 is where our Trait 14-R-3 ends, as this wall crosses towards the east. On the north side of the pit, the apex of the upper stones is at 2.00 m, and on the south side at 2.05 m; the levels of the lower face of the stones forming the last course are found north, at 2.61 m, and also south, at 2.61 m (this data takes SD 2 as reference). On the east crossing, the corner presents a large stone that makes this point stand out, making it more noticeable.

Trait 14-R-4, north beam, eastern façade

This trait corresponds to the north beam of the east access to Structure 5-1. It is perpendicular to Trait 14-R-3, and its presence is visible in pits 14-36 and 14-37. On the contrary, it is observed that the cobble stone wall gradually descends eastwards with a slope of 0.75 m per meter, forming a ramp. But we shall see that the stairway probably has a series of 4 treads. The stone courses change from a group of 3 to just 1 from west to east. The size of the stones is similar to those of Trait 14-R-3.

The course of stones in the apex is 2.12 m below SD 2, and the lower faces of the lower course are at 2.66 m, while this small wall has a height of 0.55 m, measured in its westernmost section. The base of the wall is at 1.48 m from SD 4, resting on the probable floor of light brown muddy earth with particles of mica and taxcal pebbles of varied colors. The uppermost stone of this trait is at 2.12 m from SD 2, and the inferior faces of the lower course, are found at 2.72 m. The top portion of the wall is 0.60 m high, measured in its westernmost section. The lowest stone of the wall is at 1.40 m of SD 4, where the wall is 0.08 m high.

Trait 14-R-5, quadrangular stone accumulation

This trait is present in pits 14-37, 14-27, and seems to be the final portion of Trait 14-R-4; it is square-shaped, measuring 1.00 m x 0.90 m from north to south and from east to west, respectively. It is on top of the east portion of Trait 14-R-4. Its shape is almost square, with dimensions of 0.86 m from east to west, and 0.90 m from north to south [REDUNDANT?], being located at 0.86 m from SD 4, or 0.62 m from the floor. The stone core is small in size and rests on top of a layer of muddy, light brown earth, with little taxcal. The stones show signs of having been part of an area of light combustion. The probable function of this stone group may have been that of an altar (Miguel Orrego, personal communication, 2004). Inside Pit 14-27 and south of Trait 14-R-3, we noted the presence of several stones, though it is uncertain if they belong to the upper part of this trait, they rather look like the result of a collapse. The surface where they rest is at the same depth than the seat of Trait 14-R-4, at 1.48 m from SD 4.

The apex of the trait is located 1.96 m below SD 2. Towards the south, there are several fallen stones, though we ignore whether they belong to the upper portion of this trait, or are a collapse of a different part of the building; we assume it may have been the capping that marked the end of the beam, and descended down to the center of the east plaza. The surface where they rest is at 2.58 m from SD 2, the same depth of the seat of Trait 14-R-4. The continuity of this trait is not apparent. No traces of it were found in the north or the east, only the irregular stone grouping on the south side, which loses its continuity and is not connected with any other architectural feature. There is no other visible architectural element in its vicinity. One detail that caught our attention is that most stones were small in size, if compared with the remains of the other constructive features that form Structure 5-1; in other words, it was more skillfully and carefully built, and the area shows signs of having been used for light combustion.

Trait 14-R-6, fired mud

This trait [Fig. 8-17 a, b, c] was found in the central pit and in its western extension (14-235); it consists of several blocks of fired mud of a compact reddish earth present in lot 8 of Pit 14-236, and in lot 7 of pit 14-235, at a depth that varies between 1.13 m and 1.95 m above SD 3 at 0.50 m; apparently, these blocks are associated with the traits mentioned below, as they were found at the same elevation.

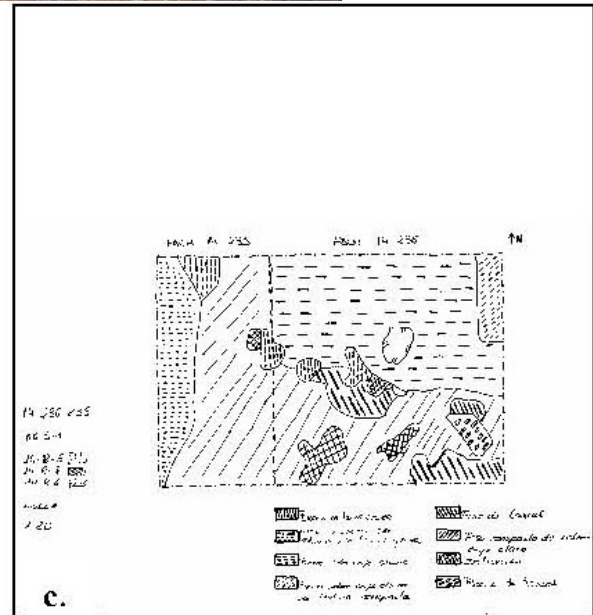
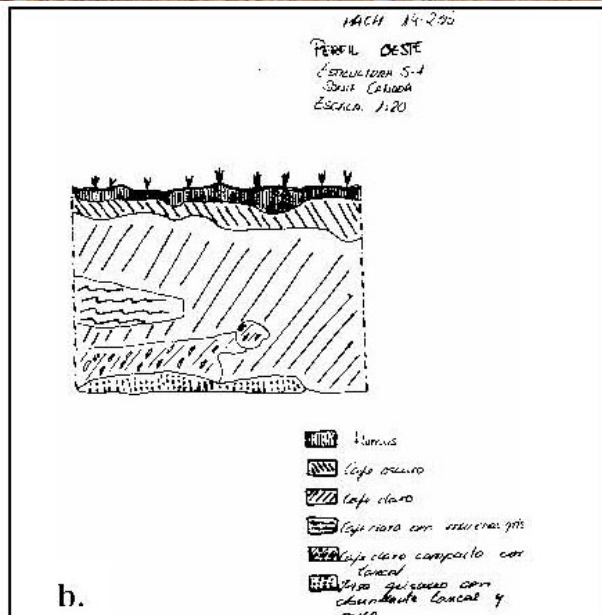


Fig. 8-17a, b, c: (a) Trait 14-R-6 found in pits 14-235 and 14-236; (b) trait profile; (c) plan view.

Trait 14-R-7, taxcal floor

This trait was found only in lot 8 of Pit 14-236. It consists of a taxcal floor with a gray hue and brown patches of a loose texture and just a few cm thick. The fragility of this possible floor is the reason why only few of its remains were found, very poorly preserved. It is located at an elevation of 1.95 m with reference to SD 3 at 0.50 m above the surface, in apparent association with Trait 14-R-6.

Trait 14-R-8, taxcal floor

This trait consists of a second floor that appears immediately under Trait 14-R-7, and extends along pits 14-235 and 14-236. This floor is of a greater consistency than the previous one. It is formed by a light brown earth with abundant taxcal and mica and its texture is consistent; it is well delimited. It appears at an elevation of 1.90 m with reference to SD 3, at 0.50 m above the surface, on the east section of Pit 14-236 and descending towards west to 2.00 m. In Pit 14-235 it once again begins to ascend to 1.90 m, to reach in its western end a maximum elevation of 1.79 m. Here, it is cut by a refill of gray earth with abundant taxcal.

Trait 14-R-9, south beam, east façade

This trait was found and defined as the possible beam of the south side of the east façade of Structure 5-1, and was located in pits 14-486 and 14-487. For what we know, the beam is 2.82 m long from east to west. But due to the presence of a large tree (a *volador*), its west part collapsed and it has been assumed that Trait 14-R-9 must have had a length similar to that of the north beam, that is, 4 m. It descends at a rate of 0.90 m per meter. The number of courses decreases from 3 to 1. The tallest part of the wall is at 1 m of SD 5, and the base of the trait is on the floor, at 1.52 m of SD 5. The lowest part is at 1.25 m of SD 5. Alike the north beam, its greatest height is of 0.60 m.

Close to the beginning of Trait 14-R-9, possibly a beam, lies the northeast quadrant of Pit 14-486, where half a stone metate was found showing an approximate diameter of 0.45 m, a concavity of 0.22 m in diameter, and a depth of 0.28 m, that is, it had a large capacity for the transformation of foods or other collectively used materials. The excavation level of 1.18 m to 1.38 m below the SD corresponds to the fifth lot of the pit, so in our view this constructive phase has many artifacts and represents a settlement of many years at the city of Chocó. This is where the materials that were turned into refuse were placed to increase the constructive volume of the building; such hypothesis could also include mounds 3 and 4; the opposite case would be that of Mound 2 intervened by Robert Burkitt between the 1920s and 1930s, as the amount of remains of ceramic and lithic artifacts proved insignificant, suggesting that there were very ancient constructions in the region, and particularly in Chocó.

This architectural trait (9) is the southern end of the possible stairway to access Structure 5-1 at Mound 5. It differs from the trait found on the north side because it lacks the almost one square meter capping, in a way that the structure presents two apparently different architectural features, but when incorporated to the building they both form the visual center of a possible entrance to the higher section of Structure 5-1, as well as the symmetrical arrangement exhibited by the south and north walls of the east façade from its beginnings at the beams.

Trait 14-R-10, access to the structure

This trait corresponds to the possible stairway to access Structure 5-1, and is located in pits 14-496 and 14-497 [Fig. 8-18]. For what we know, the stairway consists of

four treads. The treads are mud-made and the risers consist of edge-on standing stones and mud. The treads have variable dimensions and the risers are 0.20 m high, separated by a horizontal distance of 0.70 m that forms the treads; this type of detail was repeated in Pit 14-497. (Recommendation: it would be convenient in the following seasons to explore in this direction and towards the center of the structure for the full definition of the stairway to the summit of the mound).

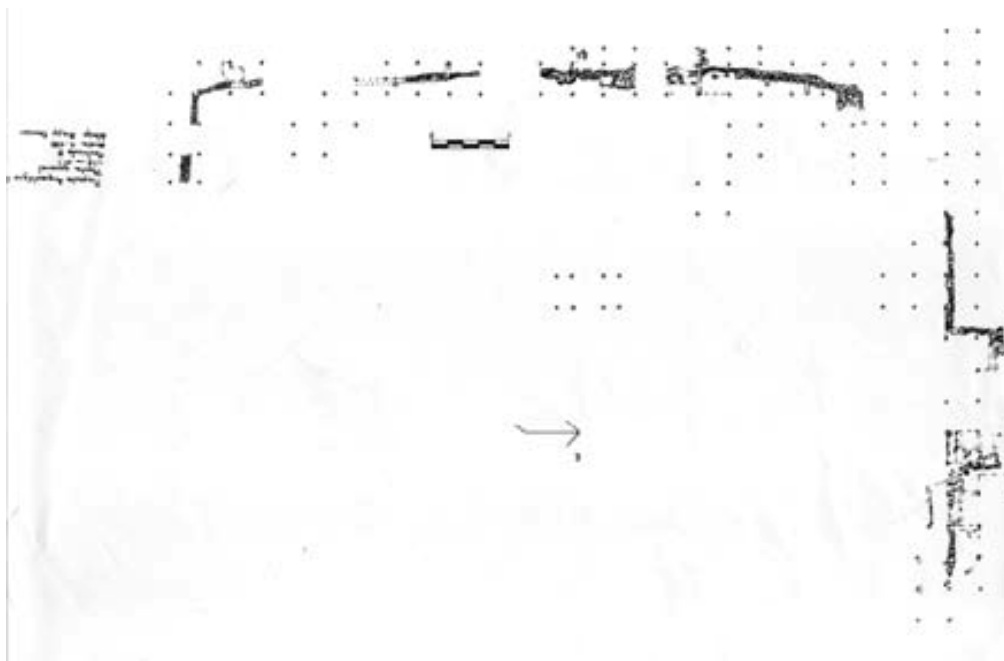


Fig. 8-18: Access and possible beams, east wall of Structure 5-1.

Trait 14-R-11, wall of east façade

This trait comprises the wall of the east façade in pits 14-476, 14-466 and 14-456; it begins on the south side of the southern beam towards the southeast corner of Structure 5-1, and is oriented in a south-north direction. This trait was lost in Pit 14-445, in what must have been the southeast corner of the structure. To the north, Pit 14-455 was excavated and stones found that did not follow the alignment to the east, where the east façade ends at level 5 (1.60 to 1.80 m) below SD 5; the excavation did not show either part of the trait we were trying to find. Pit 14-456 is the one that shows the last stone course ended with a single stone in the shape of a wedge, there where the trait should cross to form the supposed southeastern corner of the large Structure 5-1; this is where the continuity of our trait was lost, the trait that came from the north from pits 14-466, 14-476, 14-486, 14-496 and which would form the symmetrical part or architectural balance of the façade, with the wall section of the northern beam. This wall forms the symmetry with Trait 14-R-3, defining for the east façade a length of 38 m, including the two beams and the access area to the upper part of the structure, right at its center.

Trait 14-R-13

This trait corresponds to the west façade of the structure and represents the most extended point of the excavations conducted at Structure 5-1 in the 2004 season [Fig. 8-19a, b]. In view of the step and the apparent beams at the center of the east

façade of the structure, it would be advisable to place test units farther south, aligned with pits 14-532 and 14-552.

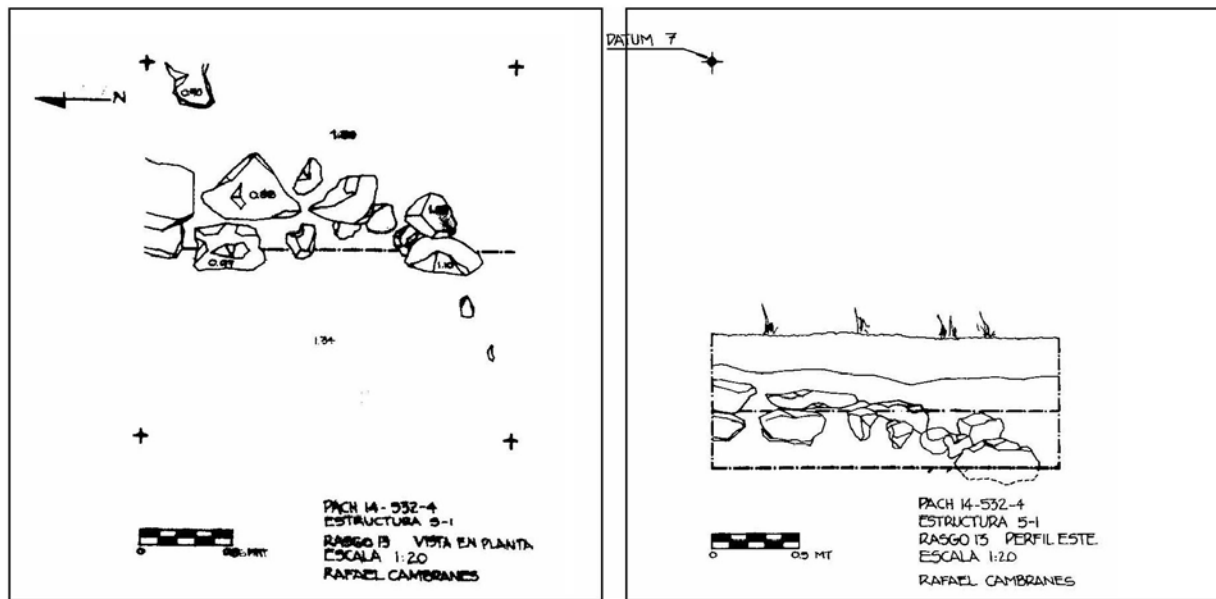


Fig. 8-19a, b: East façade near the northwest corner of the structure: (a) plan view of Pit 14-532; (b) profile of the pit.

Description of pits, northern and eastern wall

Pit 14-6

Three lots were excavated in this pit, with the purpose of trying to locate the existing discontinuous part of Trait 14-R-5. In lot 1, 12 ceramics were found. Lot 2 yielded one figurine, with just one part of the trunk, arm and neck, and we recovered ceramic 157, obsidian 5, taxcal and charcoal chunks. No architectural traces or evidences were found.

Pit 14-17

Four lots were excavated in this pit, with the purpose of trying to locate part of Trait 14-R-5, as its continuity to the south was lost, and finding step remains that climbed to the upper section of Structure 5-1; none of these traits was found. In lot 1 we found: ceramic 37 and obsidian 3; in lot 2, ceramic 119 and obsidian 8; in lot 3, ceramic 50 and obsidian 7; and in lot 4, ceramic 55 and obsidian 4.

Pit 14-27

Six lots were excavated in this pit, again with the purpose of locating a portion of Trait 14-R-5. One part or irregular grouping of collapsed stones from Trait 14-R-5 was found, in the south side of the pit; here, the continuity of the beam to the south of Structure 5-1 was lost. In lot 1 we found: ceramic 54 and obsidian 4; in lot 2 ceramic 58, obsidian 3, and taxcal samples; in lot 3 ceramic 86 and obsidian 8; in lot 4 ceramic 17; in lot 5 ceramic 24 and obsidian 2; and in lot 6, ceramic 13 and obsidian 2.

Pit 14-36

Six lots were excavated in this pit, and Trait 14-R-3 appeared on its west side following a south-north direction, gradually descending to the south and ascending to the north; this detail was observed in pits 14-36, 14-46, 14-56 and 14-66, having as well observed in lot 4 that the wall formed a corner that followed a west to east direction. A stone of a size larger than the others was the one that defined the crossing to the east. This trait, denominated 14-R-4, had three horizontal stone courses with an average height of 0.50 m. See description of traits. In lot 1 we found ceramic 35; in lot 2 ceramic 146 and obsidian 6; in lot 3 ceramic 26 and obsidian 3; in lot 4 ceramic 66, obsidian 7, and cut stones 2; in lot 5 ceramic 33 and obsidian 1; and in lot 6 ceramic 25 and obsidian 3.

Pit 14-37

This pit was excavated in five lots, and the purpose was to define the small wall that runs in a west to east direction, the east plaza of Structure 5-1. The alignment was found in the second lot, and in the third we confirmed that the stones were irregularly grouped and were smaller, compared to the rest of the others found; it was 2.5 m away from the corner. This new trait, defined as 14-R-5, was excavated to the floor. The trait ended in a square-shaped grouping. In lot 1 we have found: ceramic 40 and obsidian 2; in lot 2 ceramic 54 and obsidian 2; in lot 3 ceramic 39, obsidian 5, and taxcal samples; in lot 4 ceramic 63 and taxcal samples; and in lot 5 ceramic 14 and taxcal samples.

Pit 14-43

This pit was excavated in three levels only, and the initial intention was to check whether on top of Trait 14-R-3 there were steps to access the upper section, or a second upper body of Structure 5-1. What we were looking for was not found, but instead, just one stone with no apparent association was located that possibly collapsed from above intruding in the structure. In lot we have found: ceramic 31, obsidian 2, and taxcal 8; in lot 2 ceramic 137, obsidian 6, and taxcal 35; in lot 3 ceramic 45 and obsidian 6.

Pit 14-44

Four levels were excavated in this pit, again with the objective of finding steps or an upper body within the structure, but no architectural trait was found. The presence of ceramic and obsidian remains was high compared to other pits from outside the structure. In lot 1 we found: ceramic 31, obsidian 2 and taxcal 8; in lot 2 ceramics 50, obsidian 4 and taxcal 6; in lot 3 ceramic 77, obsidian 14 and taxcal 14; and in lot 4 ceramics 133, obsidian 17, taxcal 16 and one charcoal sample.

Pit 14-45

This pit was also excavated in four levels, with the purpose of locating either steps or an upper body within the structure. No construction features were found that responded to these architectural details. Like an interesting feature in this pit, in level 2 we found a fragment of glazed ceramic and one coin of one cent of Quetzal from 1964, indicating that we could consider a 40-year span for the formation of this level, or otherwise, the disturbance of the terrain at a remarkable scarce depth, caused by agricultural activity. At level 4, a reused, round-shaped sherd (black polished) of 1.5

cm was found, though we ignore for what crafting or ludic activity it was designed for. In lot 1 we found: ceramic 26, obsidian 2 and taxcal 10; in lot 2 ceramic 40, obsidian 8, taxcal 9, one fragment of glazed ceramic, as indicated above, and one cent apparently dating to 1964; in lot 3 ceramic 101, obsidian 6, carved stone 1, and taxcal 23; and in lot 4 ceramic 59, obsidian 14, taxcal 24, one charcoal sample, one ceramic tablet, two ceramic figures, and one stone with color.

Pit 14-46

This pit was excavated in seven levels, with the purpose of discovering Trait 14-R-3; as of level four we could observe the first horizontal stone course, and in levels five and six we confirmed the presence of three cobble stone courses. This trait extended to pits 14-56, 14-66 and 14-76; the last course rests on a material made of pebbles and taxcal, with light brown earth with abundant particles of mica and charcoal remains, similar to that on which Trait 14-R-1 rests, in pits 14-111, 14-112 and 14-113. We discovered one of the thickest utilitarian ceramics found along our excavations. In lot 1 we found: ceramic 30, obsidian 4 and taxcal 2; in lot 2 ceramic 72, obsidian 8 and taxcal 7; in lot 3 ceramic 51, obsidian 4 and taxcal 8; in lot 4 ceramic 45, obsidian 13, taxcal 80 and one charcoal sample; in lot 5 ceramic 45; in lot 6 ceramic 48 and obsidian 2; and in lot 7 ceramic 24, obsidian 2 and taxcal 18.

Pit 14-55

This pit was excavated in four levels, with the purpose of finding out whether there were steps or bodies inside the structure; here, we observed as well a strong presence of ceramic artifact remains. At levels one and two there was plenty of charcoal, but it was not collected because it was too superficial and we had the antecedent of having found glazed ceramic and one coin from 1964, a fact that pointed to a strong disturbance caused by agricultural activities.

At level four, precisely in the upper portion of the first stone course of Trait 14-R-3, three logs that formed some kind of hearth were found and sent to the laboratory for further analysis; however, we were uncertain on whether they were old or modern, as they presented very fine cuts to assume some kind of prehispanic work [Fig. 8-20]. In lot 1 we found: ceramic 57 and obsidian 2; in lot 2 ceramic 95 and obsidian 6; in lot 3 ceramic 90, obsidian 8 and one carved stone; and in lot 4 ceramic 19.



Fig. 8-20: Sample of three logs found on the upper part of the first stone course of the wall known as Trait 14-R-3.

Pit 14-56

This pit was excavated in four lots, with the purpose of locating Trait 14-R-3 in a south-north direction; this was the area previously excavated in 2003; at level four Trait 14-R-3 was found once more, but was not excavated deeper because it showed some kind of burnt diagonal with a material of two different tones that run in a northwest-southeast direction. The burnt section was at the west side abutting the structure, and contained remains of taxcal and small pumice stones; the lighter section remained outside the structure in this sector, though it probably introduced itself inside Structure 5-1. We believe this trait could be assimilated to those found in the excavations of Mound 2, as the contact lines between one color and the other are perfectly visible (Gutiérrez 2003) [Fig. 8-21]. In lot 1 we found: ceramic 8, obsidian 1 and taxcal 50; in lot 2 ceramic 32, obsidian 5, and a fair amount of taxcal, 142; in lot 3 ceramic 30, obsidian 5 and taxcal 5; in lot 4 ceramic 33, obsidian 1, charcoal samples 5 and carved stones 6.



Fig. 8-21: Pit 14-56: contact lines of the material showing two different colors.

Pit 14-66

Seven levels were excavated in this pit with the purpose of further exposing Trait 14-R-3 in a south-north direction. The second level showed the stones of the east wall alignment of pits 14-36, 14-46, 14-56, 14-66, providing the visual impression of going up to a level higher than that of the courses present on the south side. This trait presented again four horizontal stone courses, from level three to levels four and five, and in the latter one there is was stone that stood out among the others for its large size, 50 x 54 cm in height, occupying a space of three of the four courses that form the wall; at the sides there were vertically placed stones, apparently forming a pair of ears from a face; we believe this feature may have been an ornamental architectural detail (possibly a mask or some other ornament) [Fig. 8-16a, b]. Again, there is a repetition of the trait. Below the last course the layer changes to another one with a greater content of taxcal and taxcal pebbles, small pumices and a very light brown earth. In lot 1 we found: ceramic 49; in lot 2 ceramic 54 and obsidian 2; in lot 3 ceramic 40; in lot 4 ceramic 34; in lot 5 ceramic 34 and obsidian 3; in lot 6 ceramic 15 and one charcoal sample; and in lot 7 ceramic 6 and taxcal.

Pit 14-75

As a consequence of the loss of Trait 14-R-3 in Pit 14-76 to the north, we proceeded to explore this pit, assuming that the corner had made a turn towards the interior of the structure; at level three a large stone was found, without an association. We were unable to find the continuity of this trait to the north. In lot 1 we found: ceramic 17; in lot 2 ceramic 17; and in lot 3 ceramic 8.

Pit 14-76

This pit was worked in six levels, with the purpose of finding out whether Trait 14-R-3 continued northwards. At level 3 the first stone course appeared and continued through levels 4 and 5 where the second stone course appeared, with levels 4, 5 and 6 showing layers that changed to a lighter color.

At level six, no other stones were found. Here in this pit the south-north alignment of the wall was also lost.

In lot 1 we have found: ceramic 12; in lot 2 ceramic 28; in lot 3 ceramic 18; in lot 4 ceramic 24; in lot 5 ceramic 8 and taxcal 1; and in lot 6 ceramic 22.

Pit 14-84

This pit was excavated in three levels inside the structure, with the purpose of trying to locate the alignment lost in the north-east part of Trait 14-R-1 (north wall of the large platform); the amount of ceramic artifact remains was larger than that present in pits outside the structure. Neither the continuity of Trait 14-R-1 was found nor the continuity of Trait 14-R-3, assuming that both met right there to form the inset corner. In lot 1 we found ceramic 44 and taxcal; in lot 2 ceramic 89, obsidian 8, and one sample of glazed taxcal; and in lot 3 ceramic 61, obsidian 9, and taxcal.

Pit 14-86

This pit was excavated in seven levels, with the purpose of locating the continuity of Trait 14-R-3, aligned along pits 14-36, 14-46, 14-56, 14-66 and 14-76. No evidence of architectural remains was found. We believe that maybe this trait was destroyed by natural causes, like the roots of big trees, or the reuse of materials in other plaza sectors from Mound 5. In lot 1 we have found ceramic 42; in lot 2 ceramic 70 and one carved stone; in lot 3 ceramic 72 and obsidian 4; in lot 4 ceramic 43; obsidian 2, taxcal and one charcoal sample; in lot 5 ceramic 44, obsidian 2 and taxcal 28; in lot 6 ceramic 47 and taxcal 30; and in lot 7 ceramic 10 and an abundant amount of taxcal, 50.

Pit 14-91

This pit was excavated in three levels, with the purpose of finding out whether Structure 5-1, as of the upper level of the north wall, contained an upper body or steps that climbed to the south, considering that pit 14-111 showed in its south side a stone that suggested an alignment oriented that way; we found no architectural traits whatsoever that could be associated with the wall of the north façade of Structure 5-1. In lot 1 we have found ceramic 29 and obsidian 3; in lot 2 ceramic 75 and taxcal 30; and in lot 3 ceramic 88.

Pit 14-103

This pit was excavated in six levels, with the purpose of locating an architectural trait in the north side of Mound 5, as at the time of the previous excavation no trait was found that defined a constructive characteristic of Structure 5-1. From level 1 it showed three stones of regular size, including one of 50 x 30 cm; the second level also presented several river cobbles, with the constructive characteristic that the stones had not been joined together with mortar, giving the impression of having

been deposited without any relation to walls or other decorative forms. The southern section of the pit presented no stones deposition. The presence of ceramic artifact remains in level 4 was strong; they were seemingly domestic and quite thick, a sign that the construction was accomplished at a time when the community already had enough ceramic remains to achieve large constructive volumes. In lot 1 we have found ceramic 40 and obsidian 2; in lot 2 ceramic 39 and obsidian 4; in lot 2 just one sherd; in lot 3 ceramic 30, obsidian 5 and taxcal 6; in lot 4 ceramic 69, obsidian 3 and taxcal; in lot 5 ceramic 98, obsidian 7 and taxcal; and in lot 6 ceramic 80 and obsidian 6.

Pit 14-104

This pit was excavated in five levels, with the purpose of further gaining knowledge on the association of the stones found at Pit 14-103; also, and as of the first level, three stones were found with no apparent context association and irregularly arranged along a south-north direction, with a concentration towards the northwest portion of the pit; this pit was also excavated in a limited manner trying to find a wall alignment that showed the south-north alignment of the east façade. The architectural trait we were looking for was not found. In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 62, and obsidian 1; in lot 2 ceramic 34 and obsidian 3; in lot 3 ceramic 28, obsidian 6, taxcal and one charcoal sample; in lot 4 ceramic 16, obsidian 5 and taxcal 5; and in lot 5 ceramic 40, obsidian 10 and taxcal 30².

Pit 14-105

This pit was excavated in three levels, with the purpose of finding part of a trait exhibited in the survey analysis accomplished by Dr. David Monsees. It only showed in level 2 and on the west side of the pit, one stone in the shape of a wedge resting on a pebble and taxcal mortar. We found no feature that provided any information of an architectural character. In lot 1 we found ceramic 47 and obsidian 5; in lot 2 ceramic 48 and obsidian 13; and in lot 3 ceramic 16.

Pit 14-107

This pit was excavated in three levels, with the purpose of confirming the accuracy of the information provided by Dr. David Monsees through his analysis of radio penetrating waves; we neither found any architectural evidence that would give us information regarding the shape of our Structure 5-1. In lot 1 we have found ceramic 23 and obsidian 2; in lot 2 ceramic 34, and in lot 3 ceramic 28 and obsidian 2.

Pit 14-111

This pit was excavated in eight levels, with the purpose of locating the alignment corresponding to the stones irregularly arranged in Pit 14-112; in level three the first six stones appeared, aligned in an east-west direction of the northern façade, with an average length of 30 cm, and with the presence of stones in level four; in level five the size of the stones varied, as the course included eight stones and continued in lots six, seven and eight.

² In this pit two cards were written down with the different amounts of artifacts.

Lot eight marks the end of the lower stone course. In some areas there are five vertical stone courses; others show an apparent maximum of six, depending on the size of the stones.

In lot 1 we found ceramic 24, taxcal 26 and one metal fragment; in lot 2 ceramic 102, obsidian 4 and taxcal 27; in lot 3 ceramic 37, obsidian 3 and taxcal 14; in lot 4 ceramic 37, obsidian 3, taxcal 25 and one charcoal sample; in lot 5 ceramic 28 and obsidian 2; in lot 6 ceramic 18, obsidian 3, one black stone, taxcal 2, and metal fragments 2; in lot 7 ceramic 38 and stones 3; and in lot 8 ceramic 17.

Pit 14-112

This pit was excavated in nine levels, with the purpose of locating the continuity of the façade of the north face of Structure 5-1. Level two presented the first six stones in an east-to-west alignment, including one of a size larger than the rest, with its long side following a north-to-south direction. As to ceramics, there was one cream sherd with a red rim, and the handle of a very large and thick bowl, a ceramic artifact probably used to store grain or other types of food.

Level four was associated with ground taxcal material with small ceramic remains; it seemed as if it had been fired, and was associated with the base of the third lower stone course; it was located in the outer part of the structure.

Lots 5, 6, 7, 8, are consistent with the stone courses. One part of lots 8 and 9 correspond to the material where the stone courses rest, or in other words, the foundation.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 63, obsidian 2 and taxcal 19; in lot 2 ceramic 90, obsidian 16 and taxcal 30; in lot 3 ceramic 61, obsidian 3 and taxcal 14; in lot 4 ceramic 33; in lot 5 ceramic 42 and obsidian 1; in lot 6 ceramic 20 and obsidian 1; in lot 7 ceramic 53 and obsidian 2; in lot 7 ceramic 53 and obsidian 2; in lot 8 ceramic 28 and obsidian 2; and in lot 9 ceramic 14, taxcal 13 and one charcoal sample.

Pit 14-113

This pit was excavated in seven lots, with the purpose of locating the continuity of Trait 14-R-1, that is to say, the north façade and the possible crossing of the corner towards the side of the east façade. As of level one, we found an irregular accumulation of stones associated with the south pit, 14-103, but without defining any alignment or architectural form.

In level four, a search was conducted at the north side of the pit in an attempt to locate the corner, to no avail. In level five a portion of a figurine with female characteristics was found, representing the torso, but we ignore whether it was in a seated or standing position.

Level six presents a change in the material of the mix, now including abundant taxcal; thus, we believe this could be the floor that supports the last stone course.

Level seven could be the material refill, as it presents small taxcals with mica inclusions.

In lot 1 we found ceramic 108 and obsidian 12; in lot 2 ceramic 37, obsidian 4, and one metate fragment; in lot 3 ceramic 23; in lot 4 ceramic 78, obsidian 9, taxcal and one charcoal sample; in lot 5 ceramic 49, obsidian 8, taxcal 20 and the already mentioned figurine; in lot 6 ceramic 57, obsidian 1 and taxcal; and in lot 7 ceramic 10.

Pit 14-114

This pit was excavated in five lots. The purpose was to locate part of the façade of the north section or other architectural traits that could widen our knowledge on Structure 5-1; lots two and three revealed several stones on the west side of the pit, but with no association to the east. No architectural evidence was found to the east. We only found evidence indicating that the stones found were a part of the irregular accumulation present in Pit 14-113.

Level six showed evidence of a change in materials, with a larger amount of pebbles and taxcal.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 103, obsidian 5 and one carved stone; in lot 2 ceramic 88, obsidian 14; in lot 3 ceramic 35 and obsidian 13; in lot 4 ceramic 62 and obsidian 14; and in lot 5 ceramic 103, obsidian 14, taxcal 63 and one charcoal sample.

Pit 14-116

This pit was excavated in five lots. The purpose was to locate what was suggested as a part of a structure, in the magnetic study accomplished by Dr. David Monsees; this pit did show small amounts of taxcal in the upper levels, and in level three, three medium sized stones were found that were not forming a wall, and neither were they aligned in some way that could suggest they had rolled down from a higher part of the mound.

In level five, at the northeast side of the pit, a medium sized stone, seemingly carved, was found resting on mortar prepared with taxcal.

In lot 1 we found ceramic 37 and obsidian 3; in lot 2 ceramic 20 and obsidian 3; in lot 3 ceramic 30, obsidian 6 and taxcal 4; in lot 4 ceramic 44, obsidian 2 and taxcal 7; and in lot 5 ceramic 3 and obsidian 1.

Pit 14-118

This pit was excavated in three lots. Our purpose was to locate what was suggested by the gradiometric study of Dr. Monsees. Again, no evidence of an architectural character, or of any other character, was found. At level three we found an incised post-fire sherd, but burnt in its external part. The presence of ceramic artifact remains was not significant.

In lot 1 we collected ceramic 23 and obsidian 2; in lot 2 ceramic 43 and obsidian 10; and in lot 3 ceramic 32 and obsidian 4.

Pit 14-121

This pit was excavated in six lots. The objective was to make enough room to observe better the Trait 14-R-1 in Pit 14-111; levels one to six have only yielded

ceramic artifact remains, but no remains or evidence of architectural traits to complement the north façade of Structure 5-1; no collapsed stones were either found.

Level six yielded some interesting sherds, red, smoothed, with grooves.

Lot 1 has yielded ceramic 15 and taxcal 27; lot 2 ceramic 3, obsidian 4 and taxcal 9; lot 3 ceramic 7 and one carved stone; lot 4 ceramic 6, obsidian 5 and an abundant amount of taxcal, 102; lot 5 ceramic 16, taxcal 12 and one charcoal sample; and lot 6 ceramic 74, obsidian 9, taxcal 29 and one charcoal sample.

Pit 14-127

This pit was excavated in three lots. The objective was to locate the traits suggested in the study accomplished by Dr. Monsees. There were small taxcals at the first level and a stone in the second, with no architectural association. There was one piece of glass, showing disturbances very probable caused by contemporary agricultural works.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 17; in lot 2 ceramic 33, obsidian 4, glass 1 and metal 1; and in lot 3 ceramic 21 and obsidian 7.

Pit 14-235 (central pits)

Pits 14-235 and 14-236 were initiated to investigate the architecture and stratigraphy of the platform's center (large platform), to learn about the occupational sequence and to find out whether there were earlier constructions below the present building. Pit 14-235 was opened to observe the continuation of traits 14-R-6 and 14-R-8 found in Pit 14-236 to find out whether they were associated with other traits that would allow for their identification. A pit of 1 m in an east to west direction was opened, with 2 m in a north to south direction, with measures taken as of SD 3. In this lot we found Stratum 1 consisting of a humus level of dark brown earth with intrusions of coffee-tree roots. Stratum 2 consisted of a dark brown earth that extended along lot 2.

The third stratum begins in lot 3 and extends to lot 6, with a final elevation of 1.66 m. This level consists of a light brown earth with a loose texture (10 YR 5/8 of the Munsell color chart).

Lot 5 yielded the head of a ceramic figurine with Olmec traits.

Stratum 4 begins in lot 7 at 1.66 m; this stratum consists of dark brown earth with gray patches (10 YR 4/6 of the Munsell chart). Stratum 4 continues to an elevation of 1.71 m (within the same lot), where we observed a change of level with a very light brown earth and abundant mica (10 YR 5/6, of the Munsell chart), that formed Stratum 5. At the end of this lot we found Stratum 6 at 1.86 m; this stratum is consistent with stratum 5 of Pit 14-236, which forms the floor, with a compact texture and a light brown color (19 YR 4/6 of the Munsell chart).

This stratum was excavated to an elevation of 2.40 m (lot 10) and we observed it had not revealed all of its potential. One of the characteristics in this stratum was the scarcity of ceramics found, which would confirm that we were in front of a floor level; only one ceramic fragment was found, a dish with a rounded rim and grooves of

orange slip. In the remaining levels we recovered remains of ceramic, taxcal and obsidian.

In lot 1 we have found ceramic 4; in lot 2 ceramic 5 and taxcal 18; in lot 3 ceramic 8 and taxcal 39; in lot 4 ceramic 4; in lot 5 a figurine's face, in lot 6 ceramic 5 and taxcal 19; in lot 7 ceramic 6, obsidian 1 and taxcal 14; in lot 8 taxcal 34; in lot 9 taxcal 34; and in lot 10 ceramic 2 and taxcal.

Pit 14-236

We intended to excavate this pit to its sterile levels, but this was not possible due to time restraints; therefore, we could only reach an elevation lower than 2.10 m. The excavation of Pit 14-236 was initiated on July 20, 2004, under the supervision of Oscar Gutiérrez. A pit of 2 x 2 m was opened at the hypothetical center of the structure. Levels were taken as of SD 3. Stratum 1 was formed by one humus layer of a dark brown color with intrusions of coffee-tree roots. This stratum was formed by lot 1, with elevations of 0.51 to 0.71 m.

Stratum 2 includes lots 2, 3, 4, and 5, with an upper elevation of 0.71 m and a lower one of 1.51 m. This level was formed by a level of light brown earth.

Stratum 3 begins at lot 6 at a height of 1.51 m and extends up to the end of lot 7 with a height of 1.91 m. With the purpose of maintaining this level, a mound of earth was left in the east section of the pit. This level consists of a light brown earth of a more compact texture than the former level with abundant mica and taxcal.

At 1.91 m we observed a number of orange patches indicating a change of level, and we found ourselves in level 8, the last one excavated, reaching a level of 2.10 m. At this level is where the traits found in the central pit begin to be seen. We found a first floor of a grayish taxcal and loose texture probably corresponding to Stratum 4: Trait 14-R-7. This possible floor is very thin and is placed on a second, more consistent floor. This second floor is Trait 14-R-8, formed by a brown earth with reddish tones, very compact in texture and with abundant mica and taxcal, forming Stratum 5. We observed how the traits 14-R-6 and 14-R-8 have continuity in the west side of the pit, while Trait 14-R-7 could continue towards its east side. All levels yielded ceramic material, taxcal and obsidian.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 11; in lot 2 ceramic 22; in lot 3 Ceramic 6 and taxcal 25; in lot 4 ceramic 10 and taxcal 20; in lot 5 ceramic 18, taxcal 18 and one charcoal sample; in lot 6 ceramic 11 and taxcal 43; in lot 7 ceramic 10, taxcal 44 and one charcoal sample; in lot 8 ceramic 6 and taxcal 23; and in lot 9 ceramic 13 and taxcal 10.

Pit 14-237

In this pit two lots were excavated, with the purpose of locating an additional portion of Trait 14-R-6; the excavation was not completed due to time restraints in this season. Lot 1 yielded ceramic 8, and lot 2, ceramic 11.

Pit 14-270

In this pit six lots were excavated, in an attempt to locate steps or bodies within the structure. Only at level three a big stone was found, with no relation or association with other architectural features.

Levels four and five include taxcal, pebbles with light brown earth, and a probable floor level.

Lot 1 yielded ceramic 23 and obsidian 1; lot 2 ceramic 57 and obsidian 7; lot 3 ceramic 20 and taxcal 45; lot 4 ceramic 24; lot 5 ceramic 24 and obsidian 1; and lot 6 ceramic 26.

Pit 14-312

This pit was excavated in two levels. Lot 1 yielded ceramic 10 and obsidian 2; lot 2 ceramic 31, taxcal 15 and charcoal samples 4.

Pit 14-314

The objective of this pit was to observe the continuity of the north wall towards west. A 2 x 2 m pit was opened, with the elevations taken as of SD 2. The first arbitrary level corresponding to lot 1 is excavated, which consists of a humus level of a very dark brown color and abundant roots of coffee trees, and scarce ceramic fragments. We went down to a final elevation of 0.57 m. This level would represent Stratum 1.

The second level turns gradually lighter in color, indicating that the humus level has ended. It is here at this second level where the first uncut, rounded stones that formed the first course of the north façade were seen, which corresponded to lot 2. This second level formed Stratum 2, composed of an earth with a dark brown color.

Lot 3 marks the beginning of Stratum 3, composed of light brown earth with a loose texture. This level extends along the entire excavation of the north wall, to reach lot 7 at a final elevation of 1.77 m.

In lot 8 we observed a change of level that could represent Stratum 4; this new level was found at 1.88 m, and is characterized for presenting a much more compact texture with abundant taxcal and pebble. This stratum is formed by a dark brown earth. To proceed with the excavation we left a reference point of 50 m x 50 m. We confirmed that this new level extends to lot 9 and ends at an elevation of 2.10 m, where the last stone course was discovered. This last stone course juts slightly out of the other courses towards north, and it could be the base of a wall. We found this trait more clearly defined in 14-315. All levels included remains of ceramics, taxcal and obsidian.

Lot 1 yielded ceramic 12 and taxcal; lot 2 ceramic 18, obsidian 1 and taxcal; lot 3 ceramic 15, obsidian 1 and taxcal; lot 4 ceramic 12 and taxcal; lot 5 ceramic 12 and taxcal; lot 6 ceramic 16 and taxcal 39; lot 7 ceramic 18, obsidian 1 and taxcal 77; lot 8 ceramic 20 and obsidian 2; lot 9 ceramic 12.

Pit 14-315

This pit was opened with the purpose of observing the union of the north façade between pits 14-314 and 14-316, due to the change in the slope observed at Pit 14-316, in the shape of an apron. A square of 2 x 2 m was opened, with the elevations taken as of SD 2. Stratum 1 consists of a level of humus of dark brown earth with coffee tree roots that comprises lot 1, with elevations of 0.20 to 0.40 m.

In lot 2 is where Stratum 2 begins, with a light brown earth and a loose texture. This level is present up to the 2.00 m, corresponding to lot 9. Stratum 3 consists of light brown earth with gray patches and could be related to Stratum 4 of Pit 14-316. This new level is found at 2.00 m in lot 9. A reference point of this level was set, and excavation continued to 2.40 m in lot 11, where the last stone course of the north façade was finally discovered. This last stone course consists of four stones of a medium size placed about 20 cm farther north than the rest of the façade, thus remaining as the base of the wall. All levels showed ceramic material, taxcal and obsidian. One charcoal sample was recovered in lot 4 (0.80–1.00 m).

In lot 1 we recovered taxcal only; in lot 2, ceramics 33 and taxcal 13; in lot 3 ceramic 51, obsidian 6 and taxcal 36; in lot 4 ceramic 59, obsidian 6, taxcal 35 and a charcoal sample; in lot 5 ceramic 19, obsidian 1 and taxcal 14; in lot 6 ceramic 16, carved stones 2, and taxcal 19; in lot 7 ceramic 12 and taxcal 46; in lot 8 ceramic 15, obsidian 3 and taxcal; in lot 9 ceramic 17 and taxcal; in lot 10 ceramic 14 and taxcal; and in lot 11 ceramic 4 and taxcal 7.

Pit 14-316

The purpose of this pit is to observe the continuity of the north wall towards west. A 2 x 2 m pit was excavated, and elevations taken as of SD 2. The first level consists of a first level of humus of a dark brown color where the fragment of a *mano* was recovered as well as several ceramic and obsidian fragments that formed Stratum 1.

The next Stratum 2 consists of a light brown earth with taxcal. This stratum begins in lot 2 and continues to lot 7 with a final elevation of 1.58 m. In lot 3, at 0.64 m, the first stone of the north façade was found. We observed the presence of dark earth and a much more compact texture joining together the stones that formed the façade. This characteristic persisted along the entire north wall. The incline of the north wall was not so abrupt here as in the rest of the façade, forming some kind of talus with a 42 degrees incline.

At 1.38 m, in lot 6, the wall incline becomes more vertical and acquires the same slanting than the rest of the north façade. All of these lots include ceramic materials, taxcal and obsidian.

As of lot 7 the excavations at Pit 14-316 cannot be continued, because the north façade occupies the entire pit; this forced us to open Pit 14-326, to proceed with the excavation.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 41, obsidian 4, taxcal (one bag) and one *mano*; in lot 2 ceramic 48, obsidian 6 and taxcal 6; in lot 3 ceramic 42, obsidian 14 and taxcal (one bag); in lot 4 ceramic 31, obsidian 3 and taxcal (one bag); in lot 5 ceramic 16 and taxcal (one bag); in lot 6 ceramic 6 and taxcal 24; and in lot 7 ceramic 12 and taxcal 57.

Pit 14-318

This pit was excavated in seven lots, with the purpose of locating the continuity of the alignment of Structure 5-1's north façade. Level three yielded one piece of common, decorated glass, suggesting that this level was disturbed by modern, intensive agriculture in the surroundings of Mound 5. In level six we located the cobble stones that align with the north façade of the structure. Level seven shows an alignment farther out of the façade similar to steps, but we rather believe it is a collapse, though we do not fully understand the situation of this portion of the trait.

Lot 1 produced ceramic 94, one carved stone and taxcal 34; lot 2 ceramic 77, obsidian 8 and taxcal 46; lot 3 ceramic 27 and one glass; lot 4 ceramic 36 and obsidian 6; lot 5 ceramic 141, obsidian 9, taxcal and one charcoal sample; lot 6, ceramic 103 and one charcoal sample; and lot 7 ceramic 60, obsidian 6 and a charcoal sample.

Pit 14-319

Eight lots were excavated in this pit. The purpose was to locate the east-west stone alignment of Trait 14-R-1 at 1.40 m of SD 2 in Suboperation 14-320. In this pit, the first very large cobble stone appeared at a depth of 1.26 m as of SD 2, within arbitrary lot 6, and it was a smoothed stone. The first stone course was seen at a depth of 1.70 and 1.84 m from SD 2. It may be observed that inside the building the refill consisted of light brown earth with taxcal cores and with a compact texture. Even the exterior of the earth is of a light brown color composed of taxcal and mica, though the texture is loose.

Lot 1 produced ceramic 39 and taxcal 46; lot 2 ceramic 31, obsidian 3 and taxcal (one bag); lot 3 ceramic 36, obsidian 1 and taxcal 39; lot 4 ceramic 1, obsidian 1, taxcal 36 and one charcoal sample; lot 5 ceramic 61, obsidian 7 and taxcal (one bag); lot 6 ceramic 19, obsidian 1, taxcal (one bag) and one charcoal sample; lot 7 ceramic 31 and taxcal (one bag); and lot 8 ceramic 25 and taxcal (one bag).

Pit 14-320

This pit was excavated in five lots, with the purpose of locating the alignment that continued in Pit 14-111. Level three shows once more the alignment with seven cobble stones, level four shows the second and third stone courses, level five revealed the fourth stone course which are small and differentiate from the rest of the structure; we believe this is a different feature of an architectural character.

Lot 1 produced ceramic 64 and obsidian 9; lot 2 ceramic 111, obsidian 2 and taxcal 8; lot 3 ceramic 91 and obsidian 3; lot 4 ceramic 14; and lot 5 ceramic 21 and obsidian 1.

Pit 14-321

The objective of Pit 14-321 was to locate the west corner of the north façade of Structure 5-1. A 1 x 2 m pit was opened, with levels taken as of SD 2 at one meter from the surface (the elevation of drawings were taken from SD 6, but here, the heights will be indicated as of SD 2). The first level found is a humus level of a dark brown color with roots of coffee trees which extends along lot 1 and forms Stratum 1, with elevations of 1.26-1.46 m. This level exposed two large stones located in the

north-south axis of the pit, crossing it in its half. The stones found were at a height of 1.25 and 1.31 m. These stones seem to have collapsed from an upper course of the north wall which may have been altered by recent agricultural works conducted in the coffee plantation. Stratum 2 begins at the end of lot 1, at 1.46 m, and extends to the end of the excavation of the pit, at 2.56 m, in lot 6. The earth that forms this level is of a light brown color and a loose texture.

In lot 2 we observed the base of the stones described earlier, at 1.66 m, but no indication of other stones below these ones was detected.

Lot 3 presented three stones at the south of the pit, with an east-to-west alignment and at 1.48-1.64 and 1.78 m.

In lot 4 other stones were observed, aligned with those found on the east-west axis.

In lot 5 we found the second stone course in the southwestern section of the pit, while in the southeastern section only the already discovered course was found.

We went one lot deeper, lot 6, to verify that there was no stone alignment below the ones previously discovered. All lots have yielded ceramic materials, taxcal and obsidian. Charcoal samples were recovered from lot 2 and lot 5.

Lot 1 produced ceramic 5 and one carved stone; lot 2, ceramic 19 and taxcal 26; lot 3 ceramic 39, obsidian 1 and taxcal 61; lot 4 ceramic 23 and taxcal 44; and lot 5 ceramic 34, obsidian 2, taxcal 14 and a charcoal sample; lot 6 ceramic 13 and taxcal 36.

Pit 14-324

This pit was opened to help in the excavation of Pit 14-314; because the north wall occupies almost the entire pit, we were forced to open a new space at its north section in order to proceed with the excavation. A 1 m pit in a south-north direction and 2 m in an east-west direction was opened, taking the altitudes as of SD 2. A first level corresponding to lot 1 was excavated, descending 0.70 to 0.90 m, to find a humus level of a dark brown earth which forms Stratum 1.

Lot 2 is the beginning of Stratum 2, which consists of a dark brown earth with abundant taxcal and mica. This level extends to lot 7, with a final elevation of 2.10 m, where the excavation of Pit 14-324 was ended. All levels presented ceramic, taxcal and obsidian remains.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 6 and obsidian 1; in lot 2 ceramic 33 and obsidian 1; in lot 3 ceramic 33 and taxcal 45; in lot 4 ceramic 50 and obsidian 1; in lot 5 ceramic 37, obsidian 1 and taxcal 99; in lot 6 ceramic 48, obsidian 1 and taxcal 53; and in lot 7 ceramic 33 and obsidian 1.

Pit 14-325

This pit was opened in the north section of Pit 14-315 to facilitate the excavation of the northern façade. We opened a pit of 1 m in the south-north direction and 2 m in the east-west direction, with measures taken as of SD 2. The first level found was a humus level of a dark brown color with roots of coffee trees, with elevations of 0.55 to 0.75 m forming lot 1, denominated Stratum 1.

Stratum 2 begins in lot 2 at 0.75 m and consists of one level of light brown earth and a loose texture that extends to lot 8, with 4 stones that seem to be an old collapse of the north façade at a height of 2.07 m; as of their base, the earth changes to a more compacted texture with a more abundant content of taxcal and mica of a light brown color: this is Stratum 3, which goes down to an elevation of 2.35 m in lot 9. This is where the excavation was ended at Pit 14-325, upon reaching the base of the stones found. All levels presented ceramic materials, taxcal and obsidian.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 13; in lot 2 ceramic 24; in lot 3 ceramic 32, obsidian 5 and taxcal 16; in lot 4 ceramic 23, obsidian 1 and taxcal 27; in lot 5 ceramic 25, obsidian 2 and taxcal 27; in lot 6 ceramic 34, obsidian 5 and taxcal 29; in lot 7 ceramic 39 and taxcal 50; in lot 8 ceramic 39, obsidian 2 and taxcal; and in lot 9 ceramic 34, obsidian 3 and taxcal 23.

Pit 14-326

This pit was opened with the purpose of making room to proceed with the excavation of the northern façade of the structure observed in 14-316. The pit had 2 x 2 m, and the heights were taken as of SD 2. The first level corresponds to lot 1 and consists of a level of dark brown hums with roots of coffee trees. The elevation of this level exceeds 0.52 m, while the lower elevation is found at 0.72 m, forming Stratum 1.

The second level observed begins in lot number 2 at 0.72 m, and ends in lot 6 at an elevation of 1.52 m. We have called it Stratum 2, and it consists of dark brown earth with a loose texture.

As of lot 5 and at 1.32 m it was decided to open only one square of 1 m in a south-north direction, and 2 m in an east-west direction. Stratum 3 was found as of lot 7 at 1.52 m. This level consists of a light brown earth with a compact texture and abundant mica and taxcal. A reference point was left of this stratigraphic level at 1.92 m. At an elevation of 2.12 m in lot 9, we found a new change of level which would be Stratum 4. This stratum consists of an earth with a looser and sandier texture and of a much lighter color. The earth shows patches of a light gray color with abundant mica. At 1.77 m the stones seem to disappear under a refill of very dark brown earth, only to reappear at an elevation of 2.18 m. Stones are detected in this refill, but some 40 cm towards its interior, making excavation impossible. Lot 10, with an elevation of 2.32-2.52 m, we decided to excavate only a strip close to the north wall, to verify the continuity of the façade and to maintain the earth level found, which is very similar to the one located at the base of the façade of the pits previously opened. In this strip, the earth is still of a light brown color with gray patches. No other stone alignment was found below the previously discovered ones. All levels include ceramic remains, taxcal and obsidian.

Lot 1 produced: ceramic 14, obsidian 1 and taxcal 93; lot 2 ceramic 71, obsidian 4 and taxcal 31; lot 3 ceramic 62, obsidian 7 and taxcal 19; lot 4 ceramic 21 and taxcal; lot 5 ceramic 45, obsidian 2 and taxcal 47; lot 6 ceramic 32 and taxcal 60; lot 7 ceramic 54 and obsidian 3; lot 8 ceramic 31, obsidian 4 and taxcal 76; lot 9 ceramic 36, obsidian 4, taxcal 18 and one sample of earth; and lot 10 ceramic 20, obsidian 2 and an abundant amount of taxcal 93.

Pit 14-329

An exploration was made, 1 m wide from north to south, to locate the continuity of the stone alignment found in Pit 14-319. In Pit 14-9, arbitrary lots were excavated down to the probable floor. It was in the eighth arbitrary lot where the first two stone courses of Trait 14-R-1 began to appear.

Lot 9 presented the last stone course of the north façade, resting on a level of muddy earth of a very light brown color, with abundant blue, yellow, red and orange taxcal. The stones that apparently collapsed from the wall are placed on this probable floor, thus confirming the reality of this trait. In fact, we failed to locate the presence of Trait 14-R-1 closer to the surface because it collapsed in ancient times.

In lot 1 we have found ceramic 3, obsidian 2 and taxcal (one bag); in lot 2 ceramic 44, obsidian 2 and taxcal (one bag); in lot 3 ceramic 31, obsidian 2 and taxcal (one bag); in lot 4 ceramic 37, obsidian 3 and taxcal (one bag); in lot 5 ceramic 39, obsidian 4 and taxcal (one bag); in lot 6 ceramic 47, obsidian 3 and taxcal 18; in lot 7 ceramic 40, obsidian 4 and taxcal (one bag); in lot 8 ceramic 38 and taxcal 11; and in lot 9 ceramic 48 and taxcal (one bag).

Pit 14-445

This pit was excavated in four lots, with the purpose of locating the southeast corner of Structure 5-1. The pit was excavated down to lot 4 to follow the continuity towards south of Trait 14-R-11 (east façade). In this pit, the large roots of a *volador* (Myrobalan) and a laurel disturbed the entire stratigraphy and probably threw down the only alignment of the east façade in continuation of the course exposed in Pit 14-455. No evidence of construction was detected here. However, the composition of Stratum 3 would suggest that in this pit we are inside the structure's refill. It consists of muddy earth of a light brown color with cores of pebble and taxcal. The composition is identical to the one observed in Pit 14-319 behind the north wall. Stratum 3 is seen from arbitrary lot 3 at a depth of 1.60 m as of SD 5.

In lot 1 we have collected ceramic 5; in lot 2 ceramic 22 and obsidian 2; in lot 3 abundant ceramics, 123, and a charcoal sample; and in lot 4 ceramic 21.

Pit 14-455

This pit was excavated in five levels or lots, with the purpose of locating the southeast corner of Structure 5-1. In level three we found three stones with the appearance of a corner, and we believe this is a trait that is repeated at the northwest corner of the structure. Although it apparently turns to the west, this could not be confirmed in levels four and five. The stones rest on pebble and taxcal with a light brown earth.

Lot 1 yielded ceramic 13, obsidian 1 and glass 2; lot 2 ceramic 17; lot 3 ceramic 33; lot 4 ceramic 24 and one charcoal sample; and lot 5 ceramic 6 and taxcal 11.

Pit 14-456

This pit was excavated in three levels. We excavated down to arbitrary lot 3 with the purpose of following the Trait 14-R-11 (east façade) from Pit 14-466. In arbitrary lot 2, between 1.34 and 1.54 m, there are three cobble stones in the continuation of the

north-south alignment of Trait 14-R-11. The objective was to locate the south-north alignment of the structure's east façade. Apparently, this is where the trait of the alignment at the south side of the structure ends, precisely in level two and with one single stone; as we may see, the continuity of the wall was lost. This trait, apparently simple, is in our belief what defines the size and particular shape of this body of the structure, which we assume may have had several lower bodies that will require to be excavated in the future.

Lot 1 produced ceramic 20; lot 2 ceramic 23 and obsidian 5; lot 3 contained no artifacts.

Pit 14-466

This pit was excavated in four lots down to arbitrary lot 4, with the objective of following the east façade from Pit 14-476. The objective was to keep trying to locate the south-north alignment of Trait 14-R-3 on the south side of the east façade. In lot 2 at a depth of 1.38 m from SD 5, we saw the first cobble stones following the same alignment than Trait 14-R-11.

Lot three revealed the first stone course, a trait that is repeated in Pit 14-476 to the north, associated with a gray earth with pebbles and taxcal. The rest of the pit presents a light brown earth with mica remains. At the base level of the last stones in lot 4, we observed the presence of a sample of burnt baked earth.

Lot 1 yielded scarce ceramic; lot 2 ceramic 47; lot 3 ceramic 53, obsidian 3, and one charcoal sample; and lot 4 ceramic 24 and taxcal.

Pit 14-476

This pit was excavated in six levels. The objective was to locate the wall of the east façade more to the south, having found in level two a five-stone alignment which corresponded to the trait at the north of the beam, that is to say, Trait 14-R-3; in our belief, this may be the symmetrical part on the south side.

Levels five and six have shown taxcal and pebbles.

In lot 1 we have recovered ceramic 31; in lot 2 ceramic 46; in lot 3 ceramic 49 and one carved stone; in lot 4 ceramic 22; in lot 5 ceramic 17 and one carved stone; and in lot 6 ceramic 15 and taxcal.

Pit 14-486

This pit was excavated in six levels down to lot 6, with the purpose of locating Structure 5's east façade. Our objective was to continue searching for the south-north alignment of the east façade. In level five we found the remains of the façade alignment that had been destroyed by the roots of a *volador*; this pit also showed what we think is the south beam of the structure's east side access, which opens to the huge plaza (it is the largest and flattest part in the surroundings of the mound) that probably existed at the east of the mound. The first stones of that façade appeared in lot 4 between 0.88 and 1.08 m from SD 5. Then in lot 5 Trait 14-R-9 was found. This is the possible southern beam of the entrance located at the east of Mound 5. In this same arbitrary lot, at 1.36 m from SD 5 a grinding stone was found

(Monument 25), cut in its half. The base of the beam is located at a depth of 1.56 m as of SD 5.

The finding of the remains of the façade alignment led us to consider that the access to the Structure is located in pits 14-496 and 14-497, corresponding to the steps; in level six the base or foundation of the beam was located. In level five of this pit we found one half of a grinding stone with a 50 cm diameter. A cultural artifact that was used, in our view, to prepare large quantities of grains and other foods and which is consistent, besides, with the large size of sherds and handle remains of a very thick pottery; therefore, possibly, and very close to Structure 5-1, there was a space for the preparation of food, if we consider that mounds 2, 3 and 5 may have been precisely the areas of access and rest of the city of Chokolá, plazas where people engaged in the exchange of goods for consume, comfort and luxury in such a complex society as the prehispanic society was, using such spaces to spend the night.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 9 and obsidian 1; in lot 2 ceramic 22 and obsidian 1; in lot 3 ceramic 31 and obsidian 1; in lot 4 ceramic 37, obsidian 1, and one charcoal sample; in lot 5 ceramic 35, taxcal 27 and one charcoal sample; and in lot 6 ceramic 9.

Pit 14-487

This pit was excavated in four levels to arbitrary lot 4, with the purpose of following the south beam or Trait 14-R-9 towards east. The two beam alignments appeared in lot 4, at a depth between 1.20 and 1.40 m. The beam seems to continue towards the east in Pit 14-488. The objective was to locate the continuity of the south beam towards the east at the plaza.

At level four two stone courses were found associated with the beam. The beam ends at east, at 55 cm from the east face of the pit.

Lot 1 produced ceramic 13; lot 2 ceramic 67 and obsidian 4; lot 3 ceramic 18, and lot 4 ceramic 30 and obsidian 3.

Pit 14-496

This pit was excavated in five levels with the objective of locating the east face of Mound 5 and the possible south beam of the entrance, as well as finding the access to the stairway between the two beams of the structure. In lot two at a depth of 0.55 m as of SD 5 we observed the first cobble stones following a north-south alignment similar to that of Trait 14-R-3, and we found as well the evidences of the constructive system in one stone that aligns with Trait 14-R-3.

In lot 3 at 0.66 m of SD 5 and 70 cm away from the trait we found a couple of stones placed in a vertical position, which may have possibly formed the riser of the stairway (Trait 14-R-10).

In lot 4 at 0.92 m of SD 5 and at 0.72 m more to the east of the second stone alignment, we found other stones in a vertical position that corresponded to a second step, or else formed another tread.

Level five shows another apparent step in a fourth cobble stone alignment 0.50 m more to the east and at a depth of 1 m of SD 5, running parallel to Trait 14-R-3.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 35 and taxcal; in lot 2 ceramic 54, obsidian 4, taxcal 17 and one charcoal sample; in lot 3 ceramic 18 and obsidian 2; in lot 4 ceramic 20, obsidian 1, one *metate* fragment, taxcal 13, and a charcoal sample; and in lot 5 ceramic 29, obsidian 2 and taxcal 21.

Pit 14-497

This pit was excavated in five arbitrary lots with the purpose of finding out whether what we identified as stairway treads in Pit 14-496 is still a stairway in this pit. Here the stones were very disorderly placed; therefore, that section of the mound needs to be further excavated to accurately define the form of the stairway or ramp. Only in level three we observed constructive evidence of the south beam made with cobble stones.

Level four revealed several stones which look like a collapse or are a part of a step located in Pit 14-496. Level five exposed additional stones but with no apparent architectural connection, so their function could not be properly defined.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 20, obsidian 1; in lot 2 no artifacts were found; in lot 3 ceramic 67, obsidian 11 and two charcoal samples; in lot 4 ceramic 63 and obsidian 5; and in lot 5 ceramic 31.

Pit 14-532

This pit was intended to investigate the west façade of the structure. It was excavated in four lots. In lot 1 we found ceramic 9, obsidian 1 and taxcal; in lot 2 ceramic 43 and taxcal 13; in lot 3 ceramic 41, obsidian 2 and taxcal; and in lot 4 ceramic 14, obsidian 3 and taxcal.

Pit 14-552

This pit was opened to proceed with the investigation of the west façade of the structure. It was excavated in four levels. In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 5 and taxcal 40; in lot 2 ceramic 52, obsidian 2 and taxcal 33; in lot 3 abundant ceramic, 89, and taxcal; and in lot 4 ceramic 42, taxcal, one charcoal sample and one burnt baked earth sample.

Pit 14-556

The first square opened was square number 14-556, as in that part of the structure we found an elevation of the ground that led us to believe we had come across a new trait. A 2 x 2 m pit was opened, and measures taken as of SD 6. We descended three lots in this pit containing two differentiated strata. Stratum 1 corresponds to a layer of humus with an elevation of 0.16-0.36 m. Stratum 2 is formed by lots 2 and 3 and presents a final elevation of 0.76 m. This level is made of a light brown earth. The excavation was ended at this level of the pit with no constructive evidence observed. All levels produced ceramic materials, taxcal and obsidian.

Lot 1 yielded ceramic 20, obsidian 2, and taxcal 9; lot 2 ceramic 12, obsidian 1 and taxcal 28; and lot 3 ceramic 29, obsidian 1 and taxcal 14.

Pit 14-563

This pit was opened to proceed investigating the west façade of the structure. It was excavated in four levels. In lot 1 we found ceramic 5 and taxcal 14; in lot 2 ceramic 17 and taxcal; in lot 3 ceramic 52, obsidian 1 and taxcal 4; and in lot 4 ceramic 34 and obsidian 3.

Pit 14-564

In this pit the study of the west façade of the structure was continued. It was excavated in three levels. In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 3 and taxcal; in lot 2 only taxcal; and in lot 3 ceramic 42, obsidian 1 and taxcal 56.

Pit 14-567

Pit 14-567 was opened with the purpose of locating the northwest corner of the building. A square of 2 x 2 m was excavated and measures taken as of SD 6. There was a first level that formed Stratum 1. It was a layer of dark brown humus with elevations of 0.28-0.48 m, integrating lot 1.

A second stratum begins in lot 2 and extends to lot 3, with an elevation below 0.88 m. This level is composed of a light brown earth.

Stratum 3 consists of a dark brown earth which comprises lots 4 and 5, with a higher elevation of 0.88 m and a lower elevation of 1.28 m. Excavation of this pit was ended in this level without having found any evidence of construction. All levels yielded ceramic materials, taxcal and obsidian.

In lot 5 with an elevation of 1.08-1.28 m there was a piece of modern crystal, indicating a contemporary intrusion in the excavated levels.

In lot 1 we recovered ceramic 1 and taxcal 2; in lot 2 ceramic 5 and taxcal; in lot 3 ceramic 28, obsidian 3 and taxcal 13; in lot 4 ceramic 18 and taxcal 13; and in lot 5 ceramic 81, obsidian 6, taxcal 18 and a charcoal sample.

Pit 14-569

This pit was opened with the purpose of discovering the northwest corner of the building. A pit of 2 x 2 m was opened, with the elevations taken as of SD 6. Stratum 1 consists of a first layer of humus found in lot 1, at an elevation of 0.35-0.55 m.

Lot 2 marks the beginning of Stratum 2, consisting of a light brown earth that extends to lot 4 at an elevation of 0.95 m. This is the level of Stratum 3, where the color of the earth switches to a dark brown that extends to lot 5 at 1.35 m, where the excavation of the pit is ended with no constructive evidence found except for the south face of the stones that were seen in the section of Pit 14-579. Like we may observe from previous descriptions, the north façade gradually decreases its size to a single stone course. This has led us to believe that we were very close to the northwest corner. This is the reason why several pits were opened with the hope of locating said corner, but no evidence of it was found.

In lot 1 we have recovered ceramic 4 and obsidian 1; in lot 2 ceramic 16 and taxcal; in lot 3 ceramic 28, obsidian 3 and taxcal; in lot 4 ceramic 41 and taxcal 35; and in lot 5 ceramic 81, obsidian 6, taxcal 18 and a charcoal sample.

Pit 14-570

Pit 14-570 was opened with the objective of locating the northwest corner of the building. One 2 x 2 m square was opened, with heights taken from SD 6. Lot 1 shows an elevation of 1.22-1.42 m. It consists of a layer of humus of a dark brown color, which forms Stratum 1.

The following level is formed by a light brown earth which extends to lot 4, with a final elevation of 2.02 m, where excavation of the pit was ended without having found any constructive evidence. These lots form Stratum 2. All lots contained ceramic remains, taxcal and obsidian.

In lot 1 we have found ceramic 32, obsidian 2 and taxcal; in lot 2 ceramic 29, obsidian 5 and taxcal; in lot 3 ceramic 28 and obsidian 1; and in lot 4 ceramic 34 and obsidian 4.

Pit 14-578

Pit 14-578 was opened with the purpose of locating the northwest corner of the building. A 1 m square with a south-north direction, and 2 m with an east-west direction were opened. Heights were taken from SD 6. A first level of humus comprising lot 1 was excavated, with elevations of 1.10-1.30 m that formed Stratum 1. Stratum 2 is formed by a dark brown layer with elevations of 1.30-1.50 m that form lot 2. The excavation of this pit was interrupted, as we found no constructive evidences. All levels contained ceramic remains, taxcal and obsidian.

In lot 1 we have found nothing but taxcal; in lot 2 ceramic 26, obsidian 3 and taxcal.

Pit 14-579

Pit 14-579 was opened with the purpose of locating the northwest corner of the building. A 2 x 2 m square was opened, with heights taken from SD 6. There was a first layer of humus which comprised the entire lot, with elevations of 0.77 m to 1.17 m, forming Stratum 1. This lot revealed the only three stones we were to find as evidence of the north façade, located at a height of 1.06, 1.05 and 1.08 m adjacent to the southeast section of the pit. The last stone towards the west presented three flat faces, which led us to consider a possible corner stone and to open Pit 14-569. Stratum 2 is formed by a light brown earth that extends from lot 2, with an initial elevation of 1.17 m, to lot 3, at a height of 1.37-1.57 m. This is where excavation stopped, as no other constructive evidence was revealed besides the three stones we have referred to. All levels contained ceramic remains, taxcal and obsidian.

In lot 1 we found ceramic 16, obsidian 4 and taxcal; in lot 2 ceramic 32 and taxcal; and in lot 3 ceramic 14, obsidian 1, and taxcal.

Pit 14-580

Pit 14-580 was opened with the purpose of locating the northwest corner of Structure 5-1. In this pit a square of 1 m in a south-north direction, and 2 m in an east-west

direction were excavated. The heights were taken from SD 2, 1 meter above the surface (in the drawing, the heights are taken from SD 6, but here they shall be presented from SD 2). We found a first layer of humus of a dark brown color which comprises lot 1, with heights of 1.51 to 1.71 m, forming Stratum 1.

In lot 2 we found a darker brown earth that extended to lot 3, with an upper elevation of 1.71 m and a lower one of 2.11 m. This new level would form Stratum 2. Lot 2 revealed the first stone course, aligned with those found at square 321. These stones were found at a height of 1.88 m.

As of lot 4 we found a new change of color in the earth, indicating Stratum 3. This stratum consists of a light brown earth that extends to an elevation of 2.51 m corresponding to lot 5, which is the last one excavated. In lot 4 (2.11-2-31 m) we found the second stone course, formed by four stones of a large size, whose base rests at 2.51 m. All lots include ceramic materials, taxcal and obsidian. In lot 4 we collected a charcoal sample (211.2-31 m).

In lot 1 we have collected ceramic 3 and taxcal; in lot 2 ceramic 14, obsidian 2 and taxcal; in lot 3 ceramic 1 and taxcal 22; in lot 4 ceramic 12, obsidian 1 and one charcoal sample; and in lot 5 ceramic 13, obsidian 1, taxcal, and one sample of earth.

Conclusions

1. In pits 14-43, 14-44, 14-45, 14-55 and 14-84, test excavations were conducted in the attempt to detect architectural traits or to locate the steps that climbed from the façade in front of the east plaza, but our efforts proved unsuccessful, as no traces of such features were found.
2. In pits 14-91 and 14-270 test excavations were conducted, also trying to locate the architectural traits or steps that ascended from the façade at the front of the north plaza; those features were neither found and our search proved unsuccessful. However, it helped us to define and understand that Structure 5-1 had at least one body from the floor level of the plaza or from the base found, probably the upper body, provided other lower bodies existed, as in fact we still ignore whether there is a substructure.
3. Structure 5-1 at Chicolá was built with stones, mixed with different types of materials including sands, taxcals or other earths which are to be specified through lab analysis. This is evident because of the occasional presence of different colors; some most probably have undergone firing treatments and are very easily observed, but this is not the case with those that have undergone combustion, as they are easily mistaken with the remaining strata.
4. We are also aware of the fact that several portions of Structure 5-1 have complemented their architectural construction with boulders or river cobbles, to achieve the stability of other materials, like mud, or the mixes of different types of materials and taxcal. This material forms that which defines the façade walls, beams, and stairway accesses.
5. We suggest that mounds 3, 4 and 5 are a part of the controls established to access Chicolá; there is a creek that provides a water supply all the year round, and besides, the mounds are located in the flat portion where the city begins, with a direct access to the road that would lead to the ceremonial mounds, beginning with Mound 2 or Burkitt's Mound, which has in its north

base a large plaza, and then with the next mounds located at a similar distance, northwards, where there is a large concentration of structures in the tallest geographical area of what would be the city of Chicolá, which ends where the mountain itself begins.

6. Pit 14-66 is a part of the excavations conducted to expose Trait 14-R-3, which presented a stone formation with the appearance of a mask that probably decorated the east façade, considering that ideological and religious issues also had a place at the city of Chicolá.
7. Pit 14-37 allowed us to appreciate some sort of square which marks the end of Trait 14-R-4 and which opens to the east plaza; this architectural trait could be some sort of altar.
8. Pit 14-43 helps to understand that Structure 5-1 includes at least one body from the plaza floor, but we ignore whether there is a substructure at its deepest part below the walls we already know of.
9. We know that the stairway exists as an access to the upper part of Structure 5-1 in the east façade, in pits 14-27, 14-17, and 14-497, with a 10 m width.
10. We know that the upper body of Structure 5-1 was investigated by applying a symmetric deduction; its east façade is 38 m long, its north façade is 44 m long, and its approximate height is of 6 m.
11. Pit 14-486 during the excavation revealed a portion of the south beam, a metate of a considerable size which could be related to the handling of large amounts of grain or other foods requiring a previous preparation process in relation to remains of ceramic artifacts (thick sherds and huge handles) inferring the existence of large storing bowls, all of which suggests a peripheral activity area, previous to the construction of Structure 5-1, as the artifacts remains referred to were used as refill for the constructive volume. Both artifact remains suggest an exchange of goods in the study area through a storage center, which would be pointing to a society with luxuries and comforts of other types.
12. Pit 14-45 contained a round sherd of approximately 1.5 cm in diameter, though we ignore whether it was manufactured as a toy for children or as a part of some craft activity. It is a reflection of the social or craft-related life of those who inhabited Chicolá.
13. We consider that the building of Structure 5-1 served a function of security and control at the entrance of Chicolá, like some sort of guard with the corresponding features that prevented any external intrusion; let's keep in mind that ethnohistoric accounts refer to garrisons in cities like Uxatlán or Iximché for the Postclassic period. Therefore, it would not be a remote possibility the existence of this habit of guarding the city gates since earlier times in the development of prehispanic societies.

Recommendations

Future field seasons should include the following excavations:

1. Intensive excavations in specific areas, such as the part bordering the wall, to determine whether there are floors under the plaza, or excavations closer to the center of the plaza at east or north, to find out whether there is some other body or structure besides the one we already know of, Structure 5-1;
2. Excavation of the stairway to access the upper part of the structure, as treads and risers of this architectural trait were detected in Pit 14-486;

3. Excavation of the southwest corner of Structure 5-1;
4. Excavation of the section corresponding to the access stairway in the east façade of Structure 5-1;
5. Excavation of the plazas located east and north, to find the floors that would provide us with information on remodeling, integration and floor levels;
6. Excavations of the sections located under the walls of the east and north façades, to determine whether there is only one body in Structure 5-1, or on the contrary, there is more than one body;
7. Excavation of the walls corresponding to the south and west façades, as we were able to detect only the beginning of walls that are initiated at the northwest and southeast corners;
8. Excavation of specific pits down to the natural level to determine the possible construction date of Structure 5-1;
9. Excavation in the tallest part, to determine the constructive phases of Structure 5-1;
10. Excavation of middens, to try to locate as much evidence as possible regarding the date of construction of Structure 5-1.

PIT, LOT, ELEVATION AND STRATUM

PIT	STRATUM	LOT	ELEVATION	DESCRIPTION
14-6	1	1	0.45-0.65	Dark brown, humus, organic material, pebble
	1	2	0.65-0.85	Dark brown
	2	3	0.85-1.15	Light brown, micaceous remains
14-17	1	1	0.79-0.87	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.87-1.07	Light brown
	2	3	1.07-1.27	Light brown, pebble, taxcal
	3	4	1.27-1.47	Light brown, pebble, taxcal
14-27	1	1	0.42-0.62	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.62-0.82	Light brown
	2	3	0.82-1.02	Light brown
	2	4	1.02-1.22	Light brown, small amount of pebble
	2	5	1.22-1.42	Light brown with taxcal and pebble
	2	6	1.42-1.62	Light brown with taxcal and pebble
14-36	1	1	1.31-1.51	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.51-1.71	Light brown
	2	3	1.71-1.91	Light brown, small amount of pebble
	2	4	1.91-2.11	Light brown, small amount of pebble
	2	5	2.11-2.31	Light brown, small amount of pebble, micaceous remains
	2	6	2.31-2.51	Light brown, small amount of pebble, micaceous remains
14-37	1	1	0.48-0.68	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.68-0.88	Light brown
	2	3	0.88-1.08	Light brown
	2	4	1.08-1.28	Light brown, with pebble
	2	5	1.28-1.48	Light brown, with pebble and micaceous remains
14-43	1	1	0.49-0.70	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.70-0.90	Light brown
	2	3	0.90-1.10	Light brown
14-44	1	1	0.72-0.92	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.92-1.12	Light brown, occurrence of taxcals

	2	3	1.12-1.32	Light brown, intrusive areas of sand
	2	4	1.32-1.52	Light brown, no pebbles, mica
14-45	1	1	0.96-1.16	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.16-1.36	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	3	1.36-1.56	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	4	1.56-1.76	Light brown, with pebble
14-46	1	1	1.19-1.39	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.39-1.59	Light brown, pebble
				Light brown with pebble and micaceous remains
	2	3	1.59-1.79	
	2	4	1.79-1.99	Light brown, taxcal and micaceous remains
	2	5	1.99-2.19	Light brown, no taxcal found
	2	6	2.19-2.39	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains
	3	7	2.39-2.60	Light brown, burnt taxcal
14-55	1	1	0.87-1.07	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.07-1.27	Light brown, pebble
				Light brown, micaceous remains, small amount of taxcal
	2	3	1.27-1.47	
	2	4	1.47-1.62	Light brown, micaceous remains, pebble
14-56	1	1	1.14-1.35	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.35-1.54	Light brown
	2	3	1.54-1.74	Light brown
	2	4	1.74-1.94	Light brown, micaceous remains
14-66	1	1	1.17-1.37	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.37-1.57	Light brown
	2	3	1.57-1.77	Light brown, pebble
	2	4	1.77-1.97	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	5	1.97-2.17	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	6	2.17-2.37	Light brown, abundant micaceous remains
	2	7	2.37-2.57	Light brown, abundant micaceous remains
14-75	1	1	0.89-1.09	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.09-1.29	Light brown
	2	3	1.29-1.49	Light brown with micaceous remains
14-76	1	1	0.99-1.20	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.20-1.40	Light brown color
	2	3	1.40-1.60	Light brown color
	2	4	1.60-1.80	Light brown color, pebble
				Light brown color, significant micaceous contents
	2	5	1.80-2.00	
				Light brown color, pebble, taxcal, small pumice stone
14-84	2	6	2.00-2.20	
	1	1	0.68-0.88	Humus, organic material, pebble
	2	2	0.88-1.08	Light brown
	2	3	1.08-1.28	Light brown color
14-86	1	1	1.00-1.20	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.20-1.40	Light brown
	2	3	1.40-1.60	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	4	1.60-1.80	Light brown, pebble, small stones
	2	5	1.80-2.00	Light brown, pebbles, micaceous remains
	3	6	2.00-2.20	Light brown, taxcal
	3	7	2.20-2.40	Light brown, taxcal, and micaceous remains
14-91	1	1	0.18-0.40	Humus, organic material

	2	2	0.40-0.60	Light brown
	2	3	0.60-0.80	Light brown, pebble
14-103	1	1	0.58-0.78	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.78-0.98	Light brown
	2	3	0.98-1.20	Light brown, micaceous remains Light brown, pebble, taxcal, micaceous remains
	3	4	1.20-1.40	
	3	5	1.40-1.60	Light brown, micaceous remains, pebble
	3	6	1.60-1.80	Light brown, micaceous remains and taxcal
14-104	1	1	0.71-0.91	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.91-1.11	Light brown
	2	3	1.11-1.31	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains Light brown, micaceous remains, pebble, taxcal
	3	4	1.30-1.50	
	3	5	1.50-1.70	Light brown, micaceous remains
14-105	1	1	0.88-1.08	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.08-1.28	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains Light brown, pebble, sand intrusion, micaceous remains
	2	3	1.28-1.48	
14-107	1	1	0.88-1.08	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.08-1.28	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains
	2	3	1.28-1.48	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains
14-111	1	1	0.43-0.63	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.63-0.93	Light brown
	2	3	0.93-1.13	Light brown, pebble
	2	4	1.13-1.33	Light brown, pebble
	2	5	1.33-1.53	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	6	1.53-1.73	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	7	1.73-1.93	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	8	1.93-2.13	Light brown, micaceous remains
14-112	1	1	0.50-0.70	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.70-0.90	Brown color, micaceous remains
	2	3	0.90-1.10	Brown color, micaceous remains, pebble
	2	4	1.10-1.30	Brown color, area of fired taxcal
	2	5	1.30-1.50	Brown color, micaceous remains
	2	6	1.50-1.70	Brown color, micaceous remains
	2	7	1.70-1.90	Brown color, micaceous remains, pebble
	2	8	1.90-2.10	Brown color, micaceous remains, pebble
	3	9	2.10-2.30	Brown color, micaceous remains
14-113	1	1	0.73-0.93	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.93-1.13	Light brown
	2	3	1.13-1.33	Light brown, pebble
	2	4	1.33-1.53	Light brown, pebble
	2	5	1.53-1.73	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	6	1.73-1.93	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains
	3	7	1.93-2.13	Light brown, taxcal, micaceous remains
14-114	1	1	0.78-0.98	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.98-1.18	Light brown, pebble
	2	3	1.18-1.38	Light brown, pebble
	2	4	1.38-1.58	Light brown, pebble
	3	5	1.58-1.78	Light brown, pebble, taxcal, micaceous remains

14-116	1	1	0.73-0.93	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.93-1.13	Light brown, micaceous remains, small amount of taxcal
	2	3	1.13-1.33	Light brown, micaceous remains
	3	4	1.33-1.53	Light brown, taxcal, micaceous remains
	3	5	1.53-1.73	Light brown, micaceous remains
14-118	1	1	0.88-1.08	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.08.-1.28	Light brown, small amount of taxcal
	2	3	1.28-1.48	Light brown, micaceous remains
14-121	1	1	0.60-0.80	Humus, dark brown, pebble
	2	2	0.80-1.00	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	3	1.00-1.20	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	4	1.20-1.40	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	5	1.40-1.60	Light brown, micaceous remains
	3	6	1.60-1.90	Light brown, pebble, taxcal
14-127	1	1	0.89-1.09	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.09-1.29	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains
	2	3	1.29-1.49	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains
14-235	1	1	0.46-0.66	Humus
	2	2	0.66-0.86	Dark brown
	3	3-6	0.86-1.66	Light brown
	4	7	1.66-1.71	Dark brown with patches
	5	7	1.71-1.86	Light brown with mica
	6	7	1.86-2.40	Compact floor
14-236	1	1	0.51-0.71	Humus
	2	2-5	0.71-1.31	Light brown
	3	6-7	1.51-1.91	Compact light brown
	4	8	1.95	Taxcal floor
	5	8	2	Compact floor
14-237	1	1	0.65-0.85	Humus
	2	2	0.85	Light brown
14-270	1	1	1.04-1.24	Humus, organic material
	2	2	1.24-1.44	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	3	1.44-1.64	Light brown, micaceous remains, pebble, taxcal
	2	4	1.64-1.84	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains, taxcal
	3	5	1.84-2.04	Light brown, micaceous remains, taxcal
14-314	3	6	2.04-2.24	Light brown, taxcal, pebble, micaceous remains
	1	1	0.37-0.57 m	Humus
	2	2	0.57-0.77 m	Dark brown
	3	3-7	0.77-1.77m	Light brown
14-315	4	7-9	1.88-2.10 m	Compact light brown
	1	1	0.20-0.40 m	Humus
	2	2-9	0.40-2.00 m	Light brown
14-316	3	11	2.00-2.40 m	Light brown with patches
	1	1	0.37- 0.57 m	Humus
14-318	2	2-7	0.57- 1.58 m	Light brown
	1	1	0.25-0.40	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.40-0.60	Light brown, small taxcals
	2	3	0.60-0.80	Light brown, micaceous remains, pebble

	2	4	0.80-1.00	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains
	2	5	1.00-1.20	Light brown, pebble
	2	6	1.20-1.40	Light brown, micaceous remains, pebble, taxcal
	3	7	1.40-1.60	Light brown, micaceous remains, taxcal
14-320	1	1	0.41-0.60	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.60-0.80	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	3	0.80-1.00	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	4	1.00-1.20	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	5	1.20-1.40	Light brown, micaceous remains
14-321	1	1	1.26-1.46 m	Humus
	2	2-6	1.46-2.56 m	Light brown
14-324	1	1	0.70-0.90 m	Humus
	2	2-7	0.90-2.10 m	Light brown
14-325	1	1	0.55 7 0.75 m	Humus
	2	2-8	0.75-2.07 m	Light brown
	3	8-9	2.07-2.35 m	Compact light brown
14-326	1	1	0.52- 0.72 m	Humus
	2	2-6	0.72-1.52 m	Dark brown
	3	7-8	1.52-2.12	Light brown
	4	9	2.12-2.52	Loose light brown
14-445	1	1	1.25-1.45	Dark brown, humus, organic material
	1	2	1.45-1.65	Dark brown, pebble
	2	3	1.65-1.85	Light brown, pebble, abundant taxcal
	2	4	1.86-2.05	Light brown, pebble and taxcal
14-455	1	1	0.80-1.00	Dark brown, humus, organic material
	1	2	1.00-1.20	Dark brown
	2	3	1.20-1.40	Light brown, pebble
	2	4	1.40-1.60	Light brown, pebble and taxcal
	2	5	1.60-1.80	Light brown, pebble and taxcal
14-456	1	1	1.14-1.34	Dark brown, humus, organic material
	1	2	1.34-1.54	Dark brown, pebble
	2	3	1.54-1.74	Light brown, pebble, mica
14-466	1	1	0.75-0.95	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.95-1.15	Dark brown
	2	3	1.15-1.35	Light brown, micaceous remains, taxcal
	3	4	1.35-1.55	Light brown, pebble, taxcal
14-476	1	1	0.52-0.72	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.72-0.92	Light brown, pebble
	2	3	0.92-1.12	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	4	1.12-1.32	Light brown, pebble, micaceous remains
	2	5	1.32-1.52	Light brown, micaceous remains, pebble
	3	6	1.52-1.72	Light brown, pebble, taxcal, micaceous remains
14-486	1	1	0.28-0.48	Dark brown, pebble, organic material
	1	2	0.48-0.68	Dark brown, pebble
	2	3	0.68-0.88	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	4	0.88-1.08	Light brown, pebble
	2	5	1.08-1.28	Light brown, taxcal
	3	6	1.28-1.58	Light brown, micaceous remains, taxcal
14-487	1	1	0.59-0.80	Dark brown, organic material, humus

	1	2	0.80-1.00	Dark brown, pebble
	2	3	1.00-1.20	Light brown, micaceous remains
	2	4	1.20-1.40	Light brown, micaceous remains
14-496	1	1	0.08-0.28	Humus, organic material
	2	2	0.28-0.48	Dark brown
	2	3	0.48-0.68	Dark brown, pebble
	2	4	0.68-0.88	Dark brown, pebble, small amount of taxcal
	2	5	0.88-1.18	Dark brown
14-497	1	1	0.38-0.58	Humus, organic material, dark brown, pebble
	1	2	0.58-0.78	Dark brown, taxcal pebbles
	2	3	0.78-0.98	Light brown, pebble, small amount of taxcal
	2	4	0.98-1.18	Light brown, micaceous remains, pebble
	2	5	1.18-1.38	Light brown, micaceous remains, pebble
14-532	1	1	0.54-0.74	Humus
		2	0.74-0.94	Dark brown pasty mud
		3	0.94-1.14	Dark brown sandy mud
		4	1.14-1.34	Light brown mud
14-552		1	1.68-1.88	Humus
		2	1.88-2.08	Dark brown mud
		3	2.08-2.28	Dark brown mud
		4	2.28-2.48	Light brown mud
14-556	1	1	0.16-0.36	Humus
	2	2-3	0.36-0.76	Light brown
14-563		1	1.30-1.50	Humus
		2	1.50-1.70	Dark brown mud
		3	1.70-1.90	Dark brown mud
		4	1.90-2.10	Loose dark brown mud
14-564		1	1.00-1.20	Humus
		2	1.20-1.40	Dark brown mud
		3	1.40-1.60	Dark brown mud
14-567	1	1	0.28-0.48	Humus
	2	2-3	0.48-0.88	Light brown
	3	4-5	0.88-1.28	Dark brown
14-569	1	1	0.35-0.55	Humus
	2	2-3	0.55-0.95	Light brown
	3	4-5	0.95-1.35	Dark brown
14-570	1	1	1.22-1.42	Humus
	2	2-4	1.42-2.02	Light brown
14-578	1	1	1.10-1.30	Humus
	2	2	1.30-1.50	Light brown
14-579	1	1	0.77-1.17	Humus
	2	2-3	1.17-1.57	Light brown
14-580	1	1	1.51-1.71	Humus
	2	2-3	1.71-2.11	Dark brown
	3	4-5	2.11-2.51	Light brown