

OLYNTHIAKA

(PLATES 63–64)

1.

THE ALTAR IN THE “HOUSE OF MANY COLORS” (F -ii 9)

ALTARS, or evidence for their position, have been found in the court of at least ten Olynthian houses.¹ The altar was regularly placed more or less in the middle of the court, sometimes accurately centered, as in the Villa of Good Fortune.² The altar of F -ii 9, however, was set next to a wall between two doors into the kitchen complex *ghk*, probably because the court was small and a central altar would have been an inconvenience. The site of the altar is marked by the omission of the cobblestone paving in an area approximately 1.20 m. square, according to the text, but about 1.20 m. north to south by about 1.00 m. east to west by the plan.³ Of the “euthynteria,” as we may term it, on which the altar rested there was found only a fragment of one block with clamp holes along one side.

Of the upper part of the altar only the fragments of a gable “barrier” seem to have been found. The height of the “altar top” is given as 0.165 m.; the photo of the remains shows that this must refer to the height of the palmette acroteria at the ends of the pediment. What is preserved of this barrier is almost identical in design, angle of pedimental slope, and height of the end acroteria with the complete specimen found in A 10.⁴ Obviously, therefore, the restoration in *Olynthus*, XII (pl. 173.1 and p. 189) with a restored length of only 0.39 m. would produce, especially with a central acroterion like that of A 10 restored, a squat and crowded effect which is not possible (Pl. 63 c). The length of the gable barrier of the F -ii 9 altar should doubtless approximate that of the A 10 one, or about 0.62 m.

The fragmentary “euthynteria” block mentioned above was not found *in situ*, and in plan and photos has been fitted into the southeast corner of the gap in the cobblestones. It is much more probable that it should be placed in the northeast (or southwest) corner with its length running north to south (Pl. 63 b). In this position its width would be just about half the width of the gap in the cobblestones from east

¹ Houses A 3, A 10, A v 6, A vi 3, A vi 5, A viii 5, A viii 6 (?), F -ii 9, F -iii 9, the House of the Comedian, and the Villa of Good Fortune. Yavis, *Greek Altars*, St. Louis, 1949, p. 176, says there are only 6 or 8.

² *Olynthus*, VIII, pl. 85.2.

³ *Olynthus*, XII, pp. 189 f., pls. 158, 162.4, 163.1, 164.2, 173.1. The statement in the text is obviously an error, since the gap is *not* square.

⁴ *Olynthus*, VIII, pl. 81.2.

to west, and the clamp-cutting near its broken end would be about centered from north to south with one clamp-cutting symmetrically on either side.⁵ The depressed margin along the north side, as thus placed, measures perhaps 8 or 9 cms. wide, and the east margin perhaps 12 to 14 cms.;⁶ if restored symmetrically, as in our plan, the north-south dimension of the raised area, on which the base course of the altar evidently rested, would be slightly over one meter, while the east-west dimension would be about 0.75 m. The dimensions of the base course of the altar in A 10, whose gable end, as we have seen, is so remarkably similar to that found in F -ii 9, are 1.02 by 0.74 m. The coincidence is so remarkably close that I have used a replica of the A 10 altar in the restored drawing (Pl. 63 a). We may be confident that the long axis of the altar ran north to south, following the regular practice in Olynthian courtyard altars, in spite of the statement, without supporting evidence, in *Olynthus*, XII (p. 190, note 16) that the axis of this altar was "not north-south but west-east."⁷

The most interesting feature of the F -ii 9 altar, however, is the pair of rectangular bases set in the cobblestone pavement at the northeast and southeast corners of the gap (Pl. 63 b). They are mentioned in the text but left unexplained.⁸ Their position is certainly suggestive of a canopy supported at the outer corners by small posts and no doubt supported along the inner side against the adobe wall.

I find no mention in Yavis of covered altars.⁹ However canopies do appear over altars in several black-figure vases (Pl. 63 d), one in the Bibliothèque Nationale,¹⁰ and three in the British Museum;¹¹ in none of these are there any columns or posts, the canopies being merely horizontal roofs of small size projecting from a wall (Pl. 63 d, top right). But another similar piece of "entablature" (as the description terms it) is supported on one side by an Ionic column (Pl. 63 d, top left).¹²

A fourth-century Campanian vase (Pl. 63 d, bottom) depicts Cassandra seated on an altar, similar to those commonly seen in household scenes on other vases of the period, with a pillar on either side supporting a gable with acroteria and decorative animal figures.¹³

⁵ No dimensions are given in *Olynthus*, XII; from the plan (pl. 158), with which the photos seem to agree, it should be *ca.* 0.50 m. wide and *ca.* 0.80 m. long, as preserved.

⁶ As estimated from the plan (pl. 158); the text gives no dimensions.

⁷ Yavis repeats this error in his description (p. 180, #10), and his fig. 85 is not the gable of this altar but that of A 10 (his p. 179, #9, which is further wrongly attributed to A vi 5).

⁸ The dimensions of the bases are not given; by the plan they should be about 0.20 by 0.15 m. They are said to have "tenon cuttings on their west faces," but there is no diagram to make clear what is meant.

⁹ His section 34 deals with altars in small roofed shrines, but this is quite different from a roof built specifically to cover an altar.

¹⁰ *C.V.A.*, Bib. Nat. 2, pl. 64, 2.

¹¹ *C.V.A.*, Br. Mus. 6, pl. 97, 3, 10, pl. 98, 12.

¹² *Ibid.*, pl. 98, 7.

¹³ *C.V.A.*, Mus. Campano 1, pl. 22, 3; *Arch. Anz.*, LIV, 1939, p. 470, fig. 13. Some of the details are difficult to see, due to surface deterioration of the white color.

The only altar, of which there are material remains, with evidence of a canopy known to me is one at Corinth (not mentioned by Yavis) of the III-II century B.C., a couple of meters east of foundations belonging to a small temple north of the Peirene Fountain. The altar is semicircular (nearly 4 m. in diameter), and forming a square enclosing it are four bases for Doric columns surely intended to support a roof.¹⁴ No attempt is made to restore the appearance of the whole, and no analogous altars are referred to in the publication.

The Olynthus altar provides us then with perhaps the earliest known remains of a Greek canopied altar. Our Plate 63 a suggests its general appearance, restoring a simple form of sloping, tiled roof.

2.

AN INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENT ON THE NORTH HILL

In *Olynthus*, VIII (pp. 128 f.) A xi 10 was treated as a more or less ordinary house. I would now like to suggest that it was in part, at least, used as some kind of industrial establishment (Pl. 63 f).¹

There are various features in which it differs from the ordinary house. More attention was given to the construction of the doorway of A xi 10 than to that of any Olynthian private house. Its combination of single and double doorways is found occasionally elsewhere,² but never do we have a solid threshold of well-dressed and well-fitted masonry extending across the full width of the doorways; and the depth of the wheel-ruts bears eloquent testimony to the amount of traffic passing in and out.

This doorway, moreover, does not lead directly into the court but into a broad, probably unroofed³ area, *i*, through whose length a cart could have passed—or even beyond, into *f*. The large room, *j*, about 7.30 by 4.90 m., adjacent to this passage on the east, contained a “Catonian” press in the southwest corner, the only one so far

¹⁴ *Corinth*, I, ii, pp. 9-13.

¹ Pl. 63 e and f are reproduced from Robinson, D. M. and Graham, J. W., *Olynthus*, VIII, *The Hellenic House*, Baltimore, 1938, pl. 102 with the kind permission of The Johns Hopkins Press and the authors. After writing this note I was pleased to find that W. A. McDonald has also made a similar suggestion, though without working it out,—“it is likely that some kind of commerce was involved” (in A xi 10), *Studies in Honor of D. M. Robinson*, I, St. Louis, 1951, p. 371, note 23.

² In House A 9, which may have been used for commercial as well as residential purposes, as suggested in *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 79; in A v 6; and in A viii 4, described in *Olynthus*, XII, pp. 21 f., where the threshold is said to be of dressed stone and to show wheel-ruts, though the plan shows only one large, perhaps roughly-shaped block of stone in situ in the large doorway and no wheel-ruts are indicated. For the doorway of A xi 10 see *Olynthus*, VIII, pp. 256 f., pl. 69.

³ Note the area of cobbling near the double-doors and the drain through the threshold; the wall between *h* and *i* would then be a screen wall two or three meters high.

recognized at Olynthus—or indeed, to my knowledge, in Greece;⁴ also two large terracotta pithoi,⁵ and a large bronze brazier.⁶

Rooms *cd* form the common Olynthian “oecus-unit,”⁷ it would appear, and the cobble-paved kitchen (*d*) here occupies the whole space instead of having a bath in one end as so often in such units in private houses. Off the large room, *c*,⁸ opens a room *g*, 3.70 by 3.20 m. or nearly 12 sq. m.,⁹ which may have been pressed into service as a bathroom but is far bigger than the normal Olynthian bathroom which is rarely as great as 4 sq. m.; and the gap in the northeast corner of the cement floor, *ca.* 1.70 by 1.20 m., though no doubt designed for some kind of terracotta basin, is much larger than the normal Olynthian bathtub, which measures *ca.* 1.00-1.25 m. long by 0.70-0.75 m. wide.¹⁰ The drain is also much more capacious than usual for a bathroom. Perhaps the room served as a laundry,¹¹ or in some connection with the operations carried on in room *j*.

The eastern half of the house seems to have been used largely, then, for certain industrial processes probably connected with agriculture. Possibly the owner had a large farm in the neighborhood of the city. The western half is laid out on the usual house plan: north rooms (*ab*), pastas (*e*), and court (*h*). The large size of the court and the finding of part of the rim of a very large pithos in it, and of two more pithoi *in situ* just inside the pastas, in combination with the fact that the two halves are intimately connected by doors between *e* and *f* and between *h* and *i*, suggest that one person owned the whole of A xi 10 and lived in the western portion and in the (probable) second-storey rooms, and permitted his business activities to overflow into the western half of the building.

3.

THE ANDRONITIS-GYNAECONITIS AND HOUSE WINDOWS

It is not my intention to discuss here the general question of the andronitis and gynaeconitis in the Greek house.¹ The evidence is still insufficient to permit one to draw a convincing picture of the general practice—if indeed there *was* any general practice!

⁴ For a description of the Olynthian press and literature see *Olynthus*, VIII, pp. 339-341.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pl. 77.1.

⁶ *Ibid.*, pl. 52.1.

⁷ For a discussion of the kitchen complex or “oecus-unit” see *ibid.*, pp. 185-199; Mylonas in *Olynthus*, XII, pp. 369-398; and my forthcoming article.

⁸ In *c* were found 56 loomweights, which is not an unusual number even in private houses.

⁹ *Olynthus*, VIII, pp. 129, 202.

¹⁰ The gap in the bathroom floor of B vi 2, for example, is *ca.* 1.30 by 0.75 m.

¹¹ As suggested *ibid.*, p. 202.

¹ I see no need to alter the brief presentation of the question in *Olynthus*, VIII, pp. 167-169. An asterisk beside a house number in this paper indicates that a plan of the house will be found in Pl. 64 a.

Regarding the andronitis and gynaeconitis in the Olynthian house I still hold the view that "no trace of segregated apartments, nor even of single rooms definitely set apart for the use of women, is to be found at Olynthus,"² and that "the andron was only *peculiarly*, and not *exclusively*, the men's room."³

In an article written after the 1938 excavations, of which he was the field director, Professor George E. Mylonas emphasizes—over-emphasizes, in my opinion—the separation of the andron, which with its "prostas" or anteroom he considers to form the "andronitis," from the rest of the house. He says that the andron "was placed usually in the front part of the house and [in F -ii 9*] almost next to the front door. The guests of the master could thus come and depart without going through the entire house, and the women could be out of sight if they stayed in the 'pastas' and inner rooms beyond it while the entertainment lasted. The 'andron' is separated by a solid wall from this private part of the house."⁴ Robinson has now adopted Mylonas' view and speaks of "the secluded *andronitis*, which was separated from the *gynaeconitis* by a solid wall and not by a doorway."⁵

I cannot help but feel that Mylonas has been carried away by what one would *expect* to be the practice, under the spell of the example in the finest house excavated in 1938, F -ii 9,* the "House of Many Colors," which appears to illustrate this theory so beautifully. In his restored plan⁶ the andron *d* (his plan is lettered differently) opens into the anteroom *f*, and this by a door in the opposite wall into the entrance *j*. If correct, the andron is indeed well isolated in this particular house. But the entrance from *f* into *j* is not certain, since the wall here is not well preserved.⁷ The normal position for the door into *f* would certainly be at right angles to the doorway into *d*,⁸ in other words, into the east end of the pastas, exactly as in A 1 and in the Villa of Good Fortune,*⁹ and the text does not make it clear that there is definite proof that the door was not so located in this case.

If this example is uncertain, B vi 5* does provide one clear instance of an andron opening directly on the entrance-passage, but in view of the rather odd layout and inferior quality of the rest of the house it can hardly be accounted a very significant exception.¹⁰ In any event its evidence is far outweighed by the contrary evidence, as will be shown.

Mylonas really invokes a double-barrelled explanation for the selection of a

² *Ibid.*, p. 169.

³ *Ibid.*, p. 172.

⁴ *Class. Jour.*, XXXV, 1940, p. 402.

⁵ *Olynthus*, XII, p. 188.

⁶ *Class. Jour.*, XXXV, 1940, p. 393, fig. 1.

⁷ Much more is preserved than is shown in the plan, *Olynthus*, XII, pl. 158, as can be seen from the photo pl. 164.1.

⁸ *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 177.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pl. 89 (A 1), pl. 84 (Villa of Good Fortune).

¹⁰ *Olynthus*, XII, pl. 106.

position for the andron: that it be near the front door, and that it be remote from the pastas and "inner rooms beyond," though he implies that the two statements amount to the same thing. Though often so, this is not always the case. For example in the "3," "5," and "7" houses, that is, those in the center of the north side of a typical Olynthian ten-house block (Pl. 64 a), the entrance must break through the north rooms and pastas in order to reach the court in the southern half of the house. We might therefore excuse the three actual examples of this situation which do show a close conjunction of andron and pastas, namely A iv 7, A vi 3,* and A vi 5,* on the grounds of unavoidable necessity. But even if we grant this concession, there still remains a considerable residue of androns embarrassing to Mylonas' theory, androns which do open on the pastas although they could easily have avoided this and still have been near the house entrance, namely A 1,* A vi 1,* A xi 9, B v 1, A viii 1,* A viii 2,* the Villa of Good Fortune,* and probably also A iv 7.

But if we reject, as I think we must, this part of Mylonas' theory, that the andron should be remote from the pastas,¹¹ is his dictum true that it is "placed usually in the front part of the house and almost next the front door"? My own view, as expressed in *Olynthus*, VIII (pp. 177-9), is not so different in effect but very different in the purpose ascribed to it: namely, that the andron was placed next a street in order that it could be lighted by a window or windows. Since by both "laws" the andron should be located next a street, in most cases we cannot tell which "law" is being obeyed. For example, a favorite position in the "1" and "9" houses, at the northwest and northeast corners of a block (Pl. 64 a) is at the northwest and northeast corners of the house, respectively,¹² which places it immediately adjacent to the door in the middle of the west and east sides respectively,¹³ but which also, be it noted, enables it to have windows on *two* sides.

It is the exceptional cases which must therefore be depended upon to decide the issue. Even one "1" house definitely favors my principle: A vi 1* has its andron on the north side next a street, but at the *northeast* corner, in other words, as remote as possible from the entrance.¹⁴ The location of the andron in the Villa of Good Fortune* is particularly significant since the house-entrance is in the normal position opening from the court to the street on the south, and since the planner had a free choice of location for the andron as there were no directly adjacent buildings on any side to prevent the insertion of windows. Thus if he had placed it in the southwest corner (where he actually placed a storeroom, *j*), it could have had windows on two sides *and* have been directly adjacent to the main entrance. Yet he actually put it remote from the entrance in the very *penetralia* of the house, in its northwest corner

¹¹ About 24 out of the 32 known androns are in the northern half.

¹² A viii 1, A ix 1, A x 1, B v 1, B xi 1, A xi 9, and F -ii 9.

¹³ *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 153.

¹⁴ The owner could afford to sacrifice light on one side for the andron was exceptionally small and narrow, *ibid.*, pl. 97.

(where it could still, of course, have windows on two sides), and opening off the pastas!¹⁵

Even more instructive are the androns in the "2" and "10" houses at the southwest and southeast corners of a block (Pl. 64 a). These houses regularly have their entrance in the middle of the south side; we should therefore, by Mylonas' principle, expect the andron to be situated on the south side of the house. Yet in the only two satisfactory examples, A viii 2¹⁶ and B xii 2,¹⁷ the andron is placed in the northwest corner with a street on only one side, even though a southwest corner position would have put the andron next the main entrance and have allowed it to have windows on *two* sides! It seems necessary to conclude, therefore, that the designer deliberately sacrificed the opportunity to have windows on two sides in order to put the andron remote from the front door in the main and more private part of the house which opened on the pastas.

It is also noticeable that even where the andron *is* near the house entrance, that is in the "4," "6," and "8" houses (Pl. 64 a), where in order to be next the street it must be located in the southern half of the house, its anteroom is placed on the far side from the street thus compelling the male guest entering the andron to go almost to the pastas. Examples are A vi 4,* A vi 6,* and A vii 4.* The anteroom is not placed next the street because (according to my theory) the andron wanted a window on the street.¹⁸ And in other instances, where the andron entrance could have opened directly into the entrance-passage of the house simply by putting the door in another wall, the architect did not elect to do so: A 1,* A 6, A vi 3,* A vi 5 * *a* and *d*, and A viii 1.* The only exceptions are B vi 5 * and the problematical F -ii 9 * with which we started.

¹⁵ Note also that the other main rooms, the mosaic-floored suite *ef*, are placed in the northeast corner of the house.

¹⁶ The anteroom to the andron, *a*, of A viii 2 is not, as the text (*Olynthus*, XII, p. 15) implies, room *e*, but room *b*; like A vii 4 and several others this raised border evidently did not stop at the entrance (*Olynthus*, VIII, p. 174). There was certainly no door from the andron into *e* nor was *e*, as suggested in *Olynthus*, XII (p. 14) a porter's room (cf. *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 210 on the existence of such rooms in small private houses) for *h* is not an entranceway. Robinson claims (p. 14) that the entrance to A viii 2 was from the west, from Ave. A, into *h* because the A viii 1 entrance was so placed; in doing so he does not distinguish between the normal position for "1" (and "9") house-entrances and for "2" (and "10"), although this is explained in *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 153; he makes the same error with regard to F -iii 10. The base at the northeast corner of *h* is probably for a pillar supporting the stair-landing (see my article on the Second Storey).

¹⁷ Only the andron complex of B xii 2 has been excavated. F -iii 10 does have its andron on the south side but entirely outside the normal limits of the house and, in any event, not near the entrance (*Olynthus*, XII, pl. 190). If the andron in the House of the Comedian can be cited as an example of an andron near the door, yet it is a small and possibly "secondary" andron (see restored plan of the house, *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 64, fig. 3).

¹⁸ B v 1 does, exceptionally, place its anteroom next the street, for no good reason that I can see; but the andron still has one side adjacent to a street, and in any event is in the northern part of the house (*Olynthus*, VIII, pl. 103).

I therefore continue to hold the view set forth in *Olynthus*, VIII, and in my unpublished dissertation,¹⁹ that the andron was placed next to the street in order to receive light from windows, not for the purpose of male privacy. Logical as Mylonas' theory may seem, it does not coincide with the facts. And I must also reject the idea that the andron was secluded from the pastas and "private part of the house," which directly contradicted my first principle, "the natural one that the andron, being the most important room, should be in the northern half of the house, where the principal living quarters were regularly located."²⁰ When this meant that the andron could have no window on a street the principle was sacrificed; but it was not abandoned, as we have seen (A viii 2,* B xii 2), when it only meant giving up the opportunity of having windows on *two* sides.

4.

THE SEMI-ENCLOSED PORTICO AND WESTWARD ORIENTATION

The lack, or scarcity, of window-glass until late ancient times made the ancient house an "introvert." Windows were probably not infrequent at Olynthus even on the ground floor,¹ but even in good weather with opened shutters they can have admitted only a limited amount of light as they were, no doubt, of comparatively small size. Most of the light was obtained from an inner court which, being placed in the southern half of the house, allowed the slanting sunlight of winter to strike deep into the rooms or porticoes crowding around it, particularly on the north side where they were likewise best protected from the north wind by the house walls.²

The happy compromise between maximum light and minimum cold is not easy to attain and was a particularly acute problem in a northern Greek city such as Olynthus where the winter temperatures today often fall below freezing, and where the Polygyros hills to the north are too distant to afford much protection.³ The size of the court varies widely from a maximum of about 20%⁴ to a minimum of about 5% in the Villa of Good Fortune. Many factors besides the size of the court affect the amount of light available to the rooms, in particular (for the main north half of the house in houses of regular plan) the length and height of the pastas-opening on the court. Ordinarily rooms on the east and west of the court, as in A vii 4 (Pl. 64 a)

¹⁹ *Domestic Architecture in Classical Greece* (Johns Hopkins University, 1933), pp. 75 f.

²⁰ *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 177.

¹ *Olynthus*, VIII, pp. 264-266, and see the preceding part (3.) of this article.

² *Olynthus*, VIII, pp. 144-146.

³ There have been several light falls of snow during the excavations.

⁴ This percentage represents the unroofed area of the court relative to the rest of the house which it lighted; the percentage in A 9 is 19.8%, in A viii 2 perhaps 19.5%, and A vi 5 *ca.* 15.2%; *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 157.

and the Villa of the Bronzes, reduce the length of the possible opening of the pastas; but sometimes, even where rooms do not exist on one side, the length is deliberately curtailed by presenting a section of solid wall to the court, as in A vi 7 (Pl. 64 a).⁵

Too great a reduction of the *length* of the pastas-opening on the court, however, was undesirable as it darkened the rooms in the northeast and northwest corners of the house.⁶ Some architects therefore resorted to reducing the *height* of the opening by building an adobe wall between the lower part of the pillars. The opening was thus retained where it was most effective in admitting light and the warmth of the sun in winter when its rays were at a low angle, while the wall below shut out the cold floor-level draughts.⁷ The clearest instance of this practice is in A iv 9 (Pl. 64 c) where, adjacent to the central pillar is an 0.83 m. wide opening with a well-worn threshold, while the remains of an adobe wall rose, at the time of the excavation, to a height of 0.70 m. above the floor and 0.13 m. above the top surface of one of the bases.⁸ This construction of an adobe wall (of undetermined height) between pillars finds an almost exact parallel structurally in the "oecus-units" with the "pillar-partition" discussed elsewhere.⁹

Another example noted in the 1938 publication, E. S. H. 5, has a continuous rubble foundation with no bases as preserved (the eastern half of the house has disappeared), except for a single pilaster base at the west end with an adjacent opening fitted with a door; I still feel that "we must infer that the rubble foundation supported a solid adobe wall perhaps a meter and a half to two meters high, above which were short pillars reaching to the ceiling, with broad openings between."¹⁰ We should probably also restore a similar wall between I and II in many "oecus-units" lacking pillar-bases in the partition-wall.

The interpretation of E. S. H. 5 is confirmed by a well-preserved example discovered in 1938, the "House of Many Colors" (F -ii 9), the finest house excavated in that year (Pl. 64 a).¹¹ It was not recognized as such by Robinson who nevertheless wondered how the pastas and rooms to the north could have been lighted "since the only apparent source of light is the single door from the court." Yet the scheme is almost identical with that of E. S. H. 5: a pilaster base at the west end followed by an opening about a meter wide, then a continuous rubble foundation with part of

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 164.

⁶ Note how in A 10 the andron, *i*, was moved (in planning) several feet south from the line of the pastas in order that the open front of the pastas might continue on through and thus allow more light to reach room *b* (*ibid.*, pl. 88.2).

⁷ *Ibid.*, pp. 164 f.

⁸ *Ibid.*, p. 87.

⁹ *Ibid.*, pp. 190-194; *Olynthus*, XII, Excursus II (Mylonas); and my forthcoming article on the "oecus-unit," "Olynthiaka, 6."

¹⁰ *Olynthus*, VIII, pp. 164 ff. Note that the position of the westernmost base in A iv 9 proves that pillars did not always start at floor-level (Pl. 64 c).

¹¹ *Olynthus*, XII, pp. 189, 191.

an adobe wall still *in situ* for a length of over a meter and a half and to perhaps a height of 0.30 m. to judge from the photos.¹² The plan in *Olynthus*, XII (pl. 158) misleadingly omits this stretch of adobe and shows rubble extending to its western extremity. The text further states that the plaster facing this adobe continues across the jamb (at what height is not specified), showing "that there was no door in this opening"; whether the fact is correct or the inference cogent matters little for our reconstruction (Pl. 64 d), but pl. 164, 2 in the publication certainly seems to show a pillar base below the adobe wall at the east side of the opening. The lower part of the pillar standing on this base may have been completely encased within the adobe wall, as was probably done in some of the "pillar-partitions" of the "oecus-unit."

There are perhaps a dozen other possible examples¹³ of the "semi-enclosed" (as we may name it) pastas, but it is rarely possible to be sure, in cases where there is a considerable difference in the level of the pastas and of the court, whether a line of rubble between the bases is intended as a foundation for an adobe wall or merely as a retaining wall.¹⁴

The same type of windowed wall was also observed in a house, A xi 9, with a complete peristyle (Pl. 63 e).¹⁵ The court had a cement floor drained by a channel at one corner and surrounded on all four sides by a rubble foundation with no sign of pillar-bases, and no openings except for one in the center of the north side. The effect must have been remarkably like that in the famous Villa of the Mysteries at Boscoreale.¹⁶

A viii 5, excavated in 1938, is a very interesting but hitherto unrecognized example of the combination of a semi-enclosed pastas and a complete peristyle, the other three porticoes being of the normal open variety (Pl. 64 b, A). Pillar-bases remain on the north and west and have probably only disappeared on the south, where the cobble paving has been badly destroyed¹⁷ and the west half of the south foundation of the house has gone. On the east side is a long room with pastas-like proportions, with, instead of the usual row of pillar-bases, a continuous rubble foundation bordering the east of the court and extending beyond it to north and south. That this was really an open portico on the court is further shown by the form of the

¹² *Ibid.*, pl. 159.2, 160.1.

¹³ A-1, A 2, A v 1, A v 5, A vi 9, A vii 2, A vii 7, A vii 8, A xi 10, A vi 4, A vi 5, and the South Villa.

¹⁴ As in A vi 7 (*Olynthus*, VIII, pls. 37.2, 97) where the narrow and irregular line of dressed stone was clearly intended as a retaining-wall and not as a foundation for a wall.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 127, 165. Pl. 63 e is reproduced from Robinson, D. M. and Graham, J. W., *Olynthus*, VIII, *The Hellenic House*, Baltimore, 1938, pl. 102 with the kind permission of The Johns Hopkins Press and the authors.

¹⁶ Carrington, *Pompeii*, pp. 72 f., pl. IX.

¹⁷ The representation of the cobbling on the south side in the plan is misleading; compare *Olynthus*, XII, pl. 18 with pl. 19.1, 2.

cobbling of the court which extends in a band about one meter wide not only around the north, west, and south inside the line of the bases but also along the east side.¹⁸ It is highly improbable that, as suggested in *Olynthus*, XII (p. 27), there were columns (or even pillars) set directly on this foundation; well cut and set bases would hardly be used on the north and west and yet be denied the main portico on the east. Surely here again we have the semi-enclosed scheme.

In the remarks on the general plan of this house (*Olynthus*, XII, p. 26) there is no mention of its most remarkable feature: that this house, unique among all the houses yet excavated at Olynthus is oriented to the west rather than to the south! If one looks at the plan with north at the top the plan seems quite irregular (Pl. 64 b, A); indeed it looks like a double house divided on the line between *bk* and *cf*. But, turned with the east side to the top (Pl. 64 b, B), it immediately becomes intelligible: *f* is the *pastas*,¹⁹ and *dghij* the "northern" suite of rooms; the "southern" half of the house contains only the court and minor porticoes and the small room *b*.

Southward orientation was of course preferred in house architecture but westward was next best, and is found in some of the houses at Delos, such as House IV B (a "pastas" example), and the *Maison du Trident* (with complete peristyle), for house-lots were not ideally shaped on this rugged island.²⁰ A *pastas*-house at Kaulonia is oriented toward the east.²¹

The reason for the westward orientation of A viii 5 is no less interesting. It is evident that the planner of the house chose the inferior orientation in preference to breaking up the usual north series of rooms opening on the *pastas* by an entrance-passage which must, in the three central houses of the north half of the Olynthian block, be located in the north side of the house (Pl. 64 a);²² the end houses ("1" and "9") of the northern row always avoided this wasteful loss of space by an entry from the side on the east or west street.²³

Late parallels for the semi-enclosed peristyle were noted in *Olynthus*, VIII (p. 166) at Pompeii and Herculaneum, the Villa of the Mysteries, and the House of the

¹⁸ The center was left in hard-packed earth, it being very unlikely that the remains of stone slabs (part of a drain?) in the southwest corner originally extended over the whole surface (*pace Olynthus*, XII, p. 27). The purpose of the meter-wide cobblestone was evidently to catch the drip from the portico roofs and thus prevent erosion of the surface of the court; in A viii 9 the line of cobbling on the north side of the court begins *ca.* 0.60 m. from the line of pillars (only one *in situ*). Combining the evidence of these two, we may infer that the eaves overhung something greater than 0.60 m. and less than 1.00 m. Cf. *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 238.

¹⁹ The text does notice that *f* "resembles a *pastas*," and remarks that "it would almost seem that the *pastas* was transferred from the north to the east" (*Olynthus*, XII, pp. 27 f.).

²⁰ *Délos*, VIII, pls. III-V and XIII.

²¹ *Olynthus*, VIII, p. 150; *Mon. Ant.*, XXIII, 1914, pp. 806-825, pl. VIII.

²² *Olynthus*, VIII, pp. 152 f.

²³ F -ii 9 and F -iii 9 are good examples of this principle from the 1938 excavations (*Olynthus*, XII, pl. 196).

Mosaic Atrium, the latter with glass filling the spaces above the wall.²⁴ Other examples which have since come to my attention are the central section of the stoa on the south side of the agora at Priene, which is walled up to about half the height of the columns with a solid masonry wall to provide shelter from the cold north winds;²⁵ and the colonnade of "Building J," south of the Tholos in the Athenian Agora, of the late archaic period (*ca.* 500-480 B.C.).²⁶

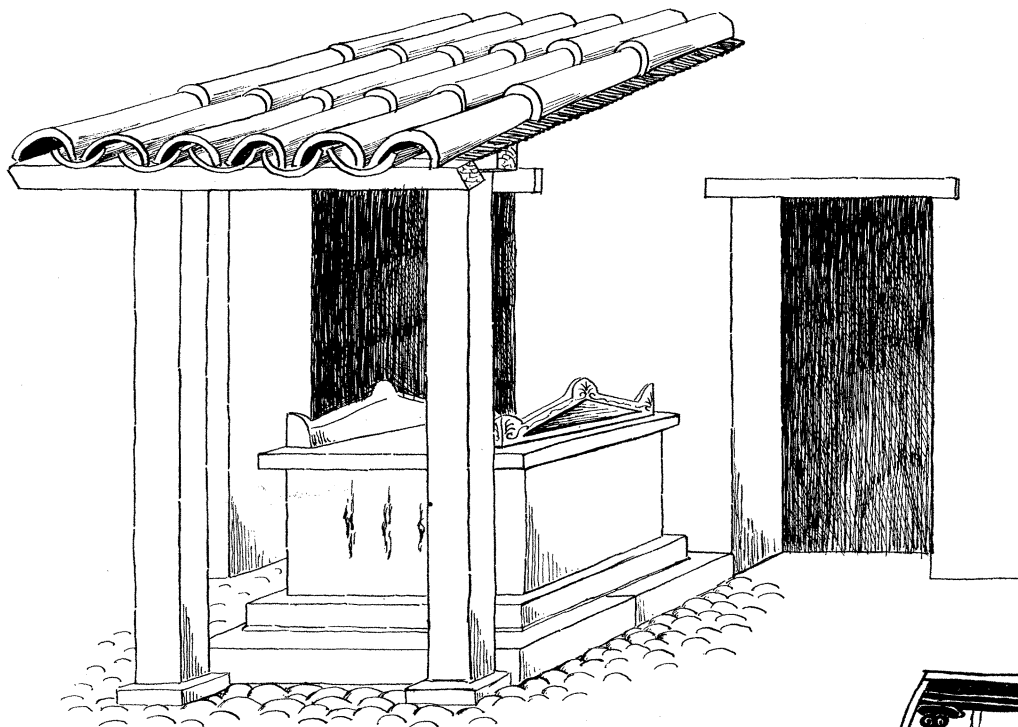
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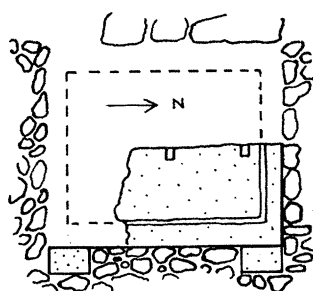
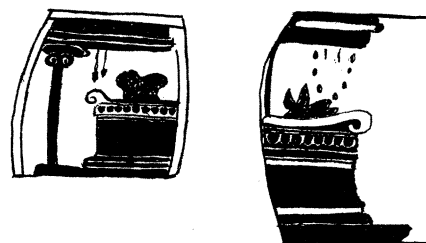
²⁴ Add also the House of the Menander (Maiuri, *Casa del Menandro*, figs. 34-37); and the Forum Baths (Maiuri, *Pompeii*, p. 47).

²⁵ Rostovtzeff, *Social and Economic History of the Hellenistic World*, pl. XCIII.

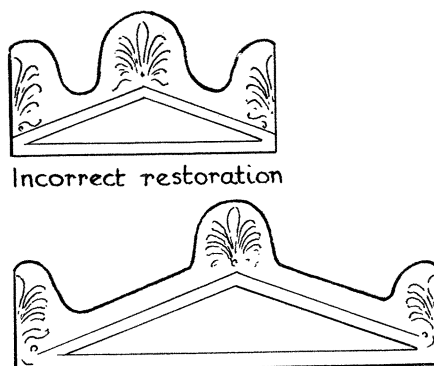
²⁶ H. A. Thompson, *Hesperia*, Suppl. IV, *The Tholos of Athens*, figs. 26, 32, and p. 36, "the intercolumniations were closed, at least in their lower parts, by screen walls."



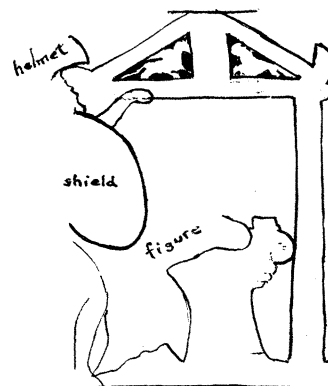
a. Restoration of the altar in House F -ii 9



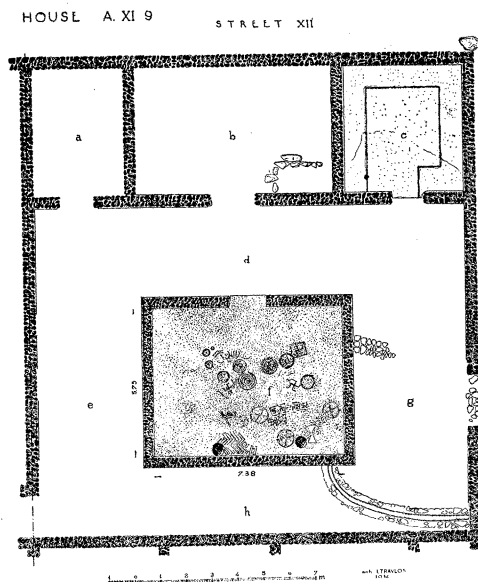
b. Plan of altar area in House F -ii 9



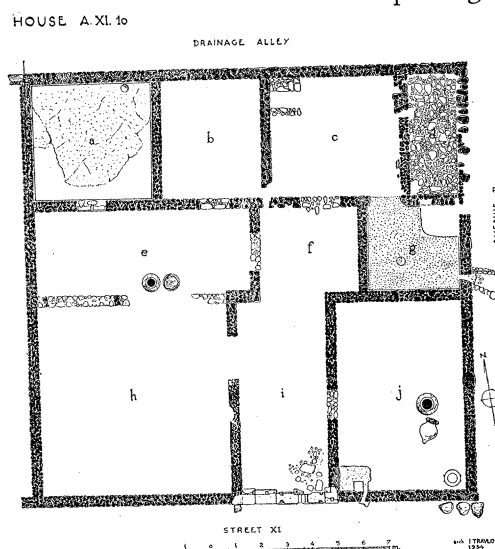
c. Altar pediment from House F -ii 9



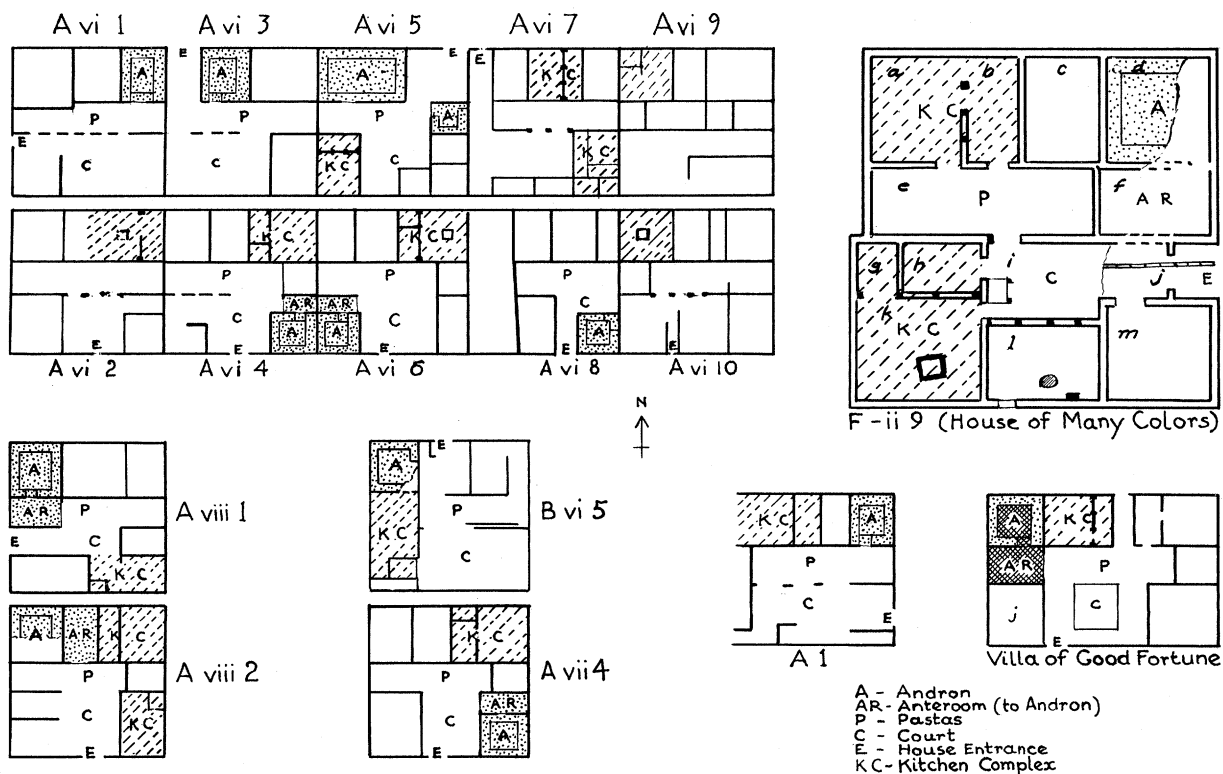
d. Altars from vase-paintings



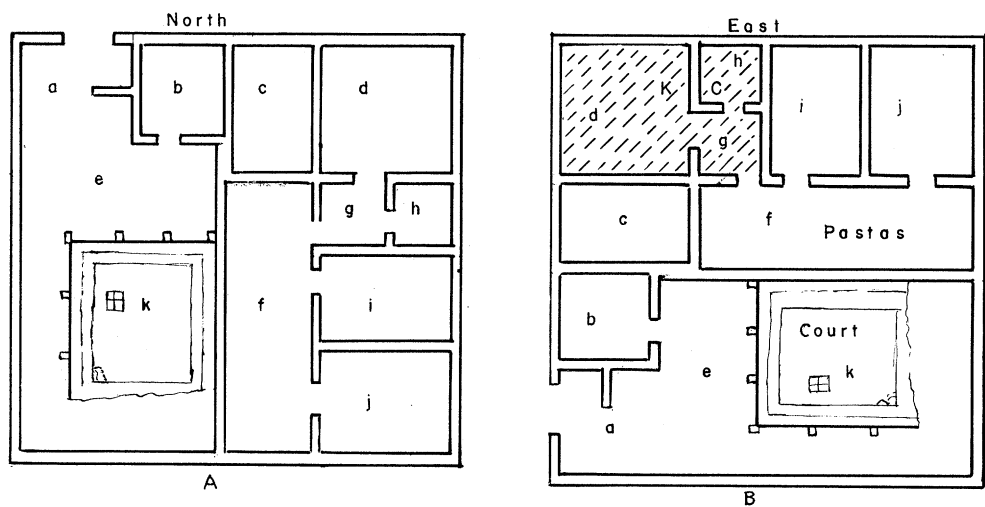
e. Plan of House A xi 9



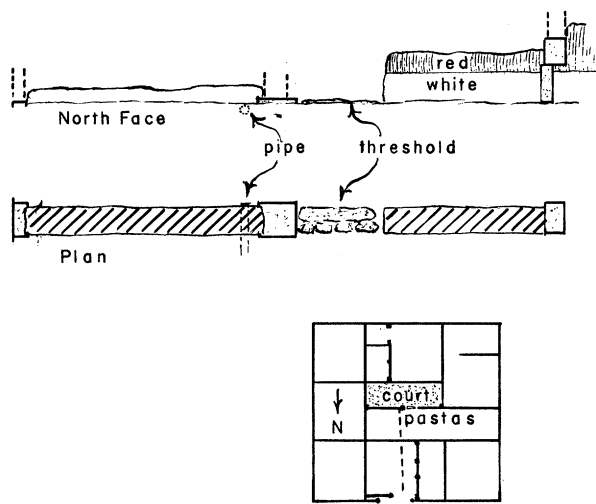
f. Plan of House A xi 10



a. Sketch-plans of various Olynthian houses to illustrate location of androns and of kitchen-complexes



b. Plan of A viii 5 with two orientations



c. Sketches to indicate the nature of the wall between the pastas and the court in House A iv 9

