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Architectural Layout, Material, and Monitoring: Building D at Sapinuva Hittite City

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ABSTRACT

Building D, unearthed during the Sapinuva excavations, stands out as a significant structure due to its spatial layout and, specifically, its well-defined entrance configuration. Characterized by a rectangular plan, the building comprises an L-shaped circulation scheme and interconnected spaces. The recessed entrance arrangement on the western façade and the symmetrically positioned orthostats constitute the primary architectural elements that distinctly define the building's portal.

Certain architectural features and find assemblages within the structure provide a basis for various interpretations regarding the functional use of Building D. It is observed that scholars have attempted to establish a correlation between the space identified as a potential pool and the itkalzi (purification) ritual tablets discovered at Sapinuva; similarly, the figurative relief on the orthostat at the entrance is often integrated into functional assessments.

The construction techniques and material repertoire of the building reflect a composite system of stone foundations, mudbrick walls, and wooden structural elements. The in-situ preserved mudbrick masonry and plastered surfaces are particularly noteworthy regarding the building's extant architectural integrity. Furthermore, carbonized timber remains and beam holes provide critical data concerning both the utilization of wood and the structural wall-bonding system.

Photographic documentation from different periods and three-dimensional scans allow for the systematic monitoring of the building's transformation over time. These datasets are vital for documenting the deterioration observed in the mudbrick walls and evaluating their state of preservation. It is evident that the protective roofing implemented post-excavation has played a decisive role in the survival of the structure's material presence.

By focusing on the defined entrance arrangement, interior elements, and material characteristics, this study aims to evaluate the architectural configuration and the current state of Building D through field-based observations and monitoring data. Within this scope, the material properties and the conservation status of the structure are elucidated through the data obtained from the in-situ preserved mudbrick walls.

KEY WORDS:
Sapinuva, Building D, Mudbrick, Hittite Architecture, Architectural Monitoring