

ON THE DEVELOPED NEOLITHIC ARCHITECTURE IN BANAT

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The first studies concerning the neolithic architecture in Banat, published so far, described the excavations of the neolithic dwellings in Parța¹, the neolithic sanctuaries in Parța²; some reconstitutions of pit houses in Freidorf IV were made by Fl. Drașoveanu³ and there are also others for the neolithic and aeneolithic in Romania⁴. There were also some Romanian-English ethnoarchaeological expeditions between 1982—1986 and some ethnoarchaeological studies⁵.

This paper is based on the excavations in several neolithic settlements in Banat (Gornea, Zorlent, Bucovăț, Parța, Balta Sărată etc.) and on some of their researches⁶ and it is the result of the collaboration between the architect and the archaeologist. We tried to sketch an image of the neolithic architecture in these settlements, pointing out some types and making a few general remarks.

The proposed reconstitutions are based, primarily, on the excavations, but some details are also based on the analogies of the popular architecture (fig. 5) or, on some images of the constructions of the primitive societies (fig. 10), or even on the iconography of the neolithic area (fig. 18).

Hence these reconstitutions do not claim to be exactly, but very similar.

¹ GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR 1986—1987, pl. V/3; GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR — F. DRAȘOVEAN — S. LUCA 1984, p. 30 pict. 7 above, pl. XIII/A, XIII/above, p. 60; GH. LAZAROVICI 1989a, pict. 10, 12/4—5; P20: GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR — F. DRAȘOVEAN — S. LUCA 1984, p. 30, pict. 7 below, pl. III; GH. LAZAROVICI 1989a, pict. 11/2; P24: GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR — F. DRAȘOVEAN — S. LUCA 1984, p. 20, pict. 6; GH. LAZAROVICI 1989 a, pict. 12/1—3 P 25a=6×4,8 m: GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR 1986—1987, pl. V/3; GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR — F. DRAȘOVEAN — S. LUCA 1984, p. 20, pict. 6; P 25 b=5×3 m: GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR 1986—1987, pl. V/3.

² GH. LAZAROVICI 1986.

³ F. DRAȘOVEAN 1989, pict. 2.

⁴ MARINESCU—BÎLCU 1981; COMȘA 1987, p. 137, 182—185, pict. 30—35.

⁵ NANDRIȘ 1987, p. 222, pict. 8; APOLZAN 1985; BUTURĂ 1978, p. 78—95; VUIA 1975, p. 235—236, 335—345; GAGA 1984, p. 111, pict. 20.

⁶ GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR 1986—1987; F. DRAȘOVEAN 1989, p. 32; GH. LAZAROVICI 1977, p. 51—52; GH. LAZAROVICI 1979, p. 81—83, 145.

The first general remark is that, there is a natural evolution from simple to more complex forms, expressed by the transition from the little pit house to the big pit house, then to the surface dwelling more and more specializes. The way of this evolution does not concern only Vinča culture in Banat on the whole, but every settlement⁷, as an expression of passing from a quite temporary way of life to a grater stability of the settlement.

We pointed out some types, but this classification does not claim to be exhaustive, and each ones ought to be considered as having large limits:

1. **The hut.** It is just a shelter, sometimes even without side walls and seldom with hearts inside, and then they are not laid out. It is only made of vegetal materials, very few archaeological marks.

2. **The small pit house** is the most simple construction and consists of a pit, covered with a structure of rods thrustured around it, without any interior support. It is very often found, but sometimes it is difficult to make the distinction between this type and the domestic pit.

In the layers in the settlement of Zorlenț such a pit house was found. There was an oven inside that had the marks of several refittings. The difference between the two variants of the proposed reconstitutions (fig. 2 and 3) is the existence or non-existence of the ridge. It is probable that the type with the ridge would be more advanced than the first one. The appearance of the ridge causes a great change in the form of the house and it would be the most important reason for the leap from round plan to the rectangular plan of the house. Such a pit house could be used by a family with even more than one generation. If we make the analogy with the model found in Larissa in Thessalia (fig. 1b) where, under the basement of a house, three generations may be seen around the oven. The oven had its opening towards the entrance, the same as in the pit house in Zorlenț (fig. 4).

3. **The large pit house** is deeper in depth, about 1 m, and wider. It must have been much alike those used today by the shepherds. For instance, the one in fig. 5 is, an image of a pit house used a short time by the archaeologists themselves in 1973 at Bucovăț. Unfortunately, it was not the object of a systematic study in order to see how it conducts itself for a whole year time.

In the fig. 6 there is a plan of a pit house (B₆) in Moldova Veche, that had a semispherical oven delved into the wall and a hearth in front of it. The pit house had a N-S disposition, in order to be protected against the main winds, and the entrance in it was the southern side. The pit was 5,6 m in length, 3,2 m in width and 0,7—0,8 m in depth. It is dated in Vinča A2-Starčevo-Criș IVA (see also annexe A). In analogy of the Bucovăț exemple (fig. 5), the space around the pit might be also used for resting, cooking, storage or other domestic activities.

For the pit house, the roof leans directly upon the ground, but after the skill of raising structural walls is improved, another leap is made: to the surface dwellings.

4. **The one room dwelling** is the most widespread type in the neolithic in Banat, for instance, P24 and P25 in Parța (fig. 7 and 8). For P25

⁷ GH. LAZAROVICI 1979, p. 25—28.

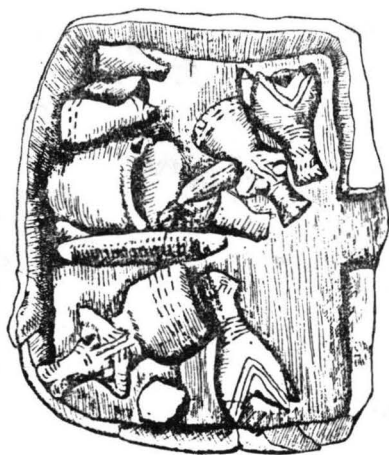


Fig. 1. Reconstrucția lui P 8 (Porța).

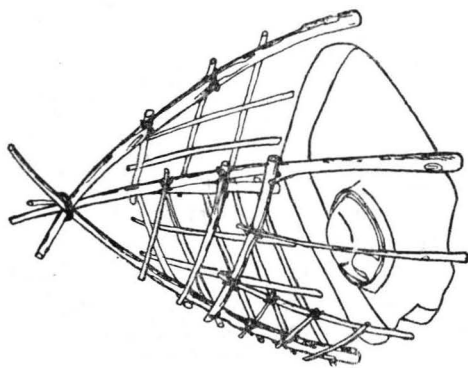


Fig. 2.

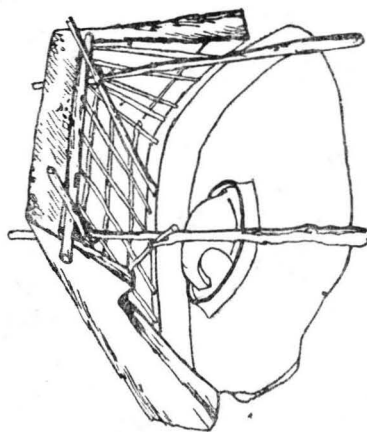


Fig. 3.

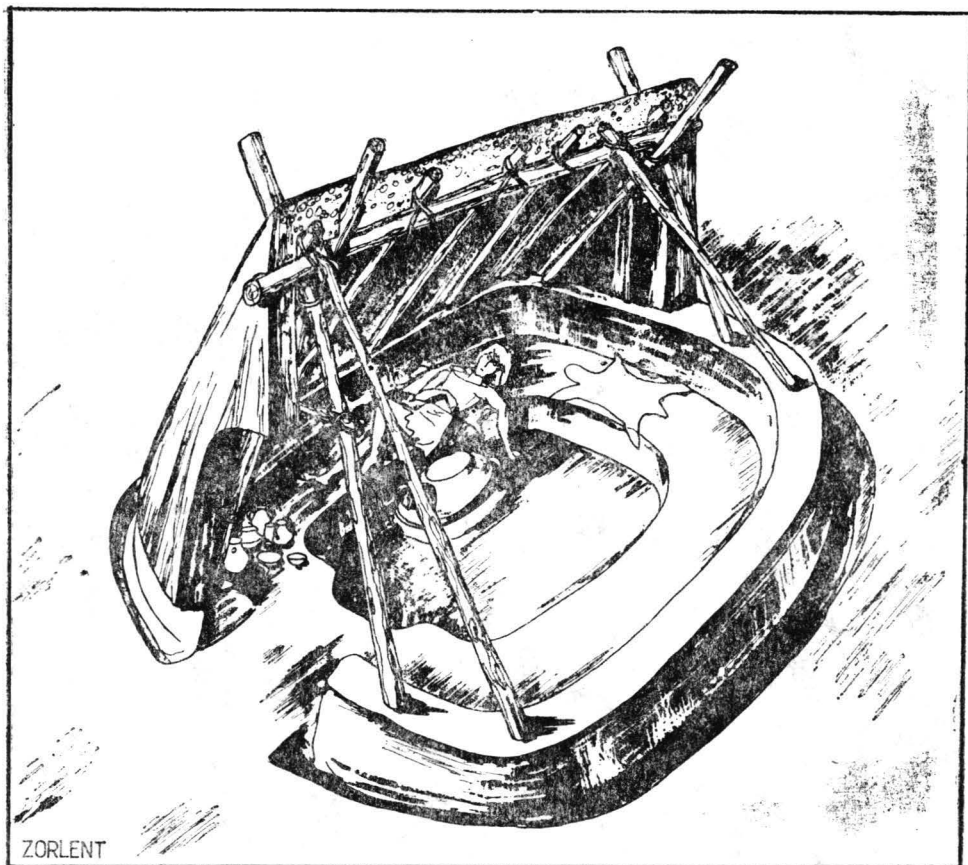


Fig. 4. Zorlențu Mare (bordei 6).

it is more probable that the entrance was the western side (fig. 9). More daub was found, only besides the northern wall, maybe this one was the most protected against the winds. The imprints in the daub show that the wall was made of splitted horizontal joists of 10—15 cm. The proper structure of the wall is made of wooden pillars and there is an horizontal wooden beam at its upper side, which supports the rafters from the roofing structure and, tying the pillars one to another, ensures the rigidity and the stability of the wall. This horizontal beam is another reason, besides the ridge, for the straightness of the wall and the rectangularity of the plan of the house.

Dwellings with one room and an oven inside were found, starting from the Starčevo-Criș culture, in the middle and late Čavdar⁸, Ovčarov-Garata⁹, Karanovo¹⁰ phases.

⁸ J. PETRASCH 1986, p. 37, pict. 2.

⁹ TODOROVA 1989, p. 23, pl. 3.

¹⁰ HILLER-NIKOLOV 1986; 1987; 1988, pl. 1, pict. 30; 1989, p. 4, pict. 1, 3—3, 10.

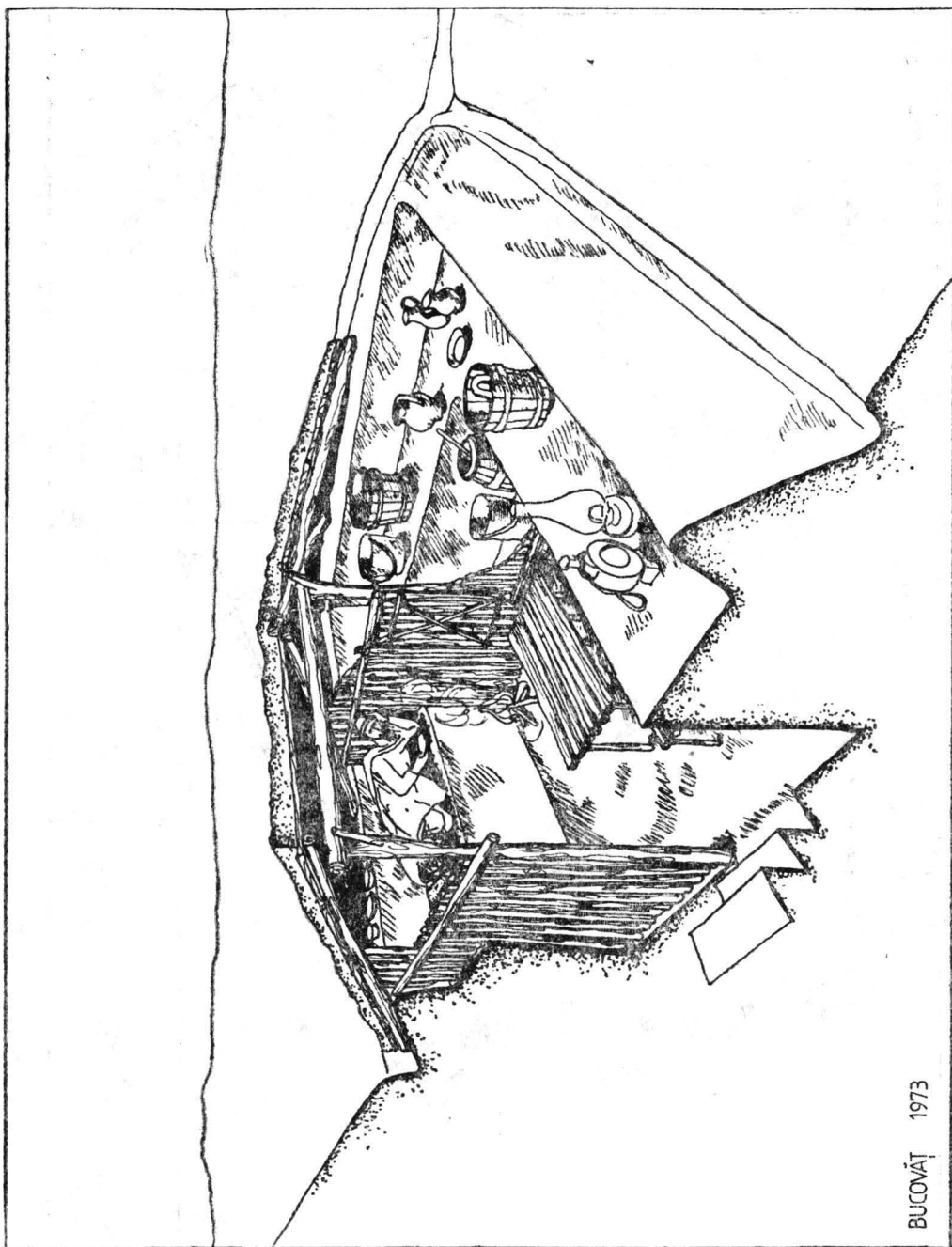


Fig. 5. Bucovăț. Image of a pithouse used in 1973.

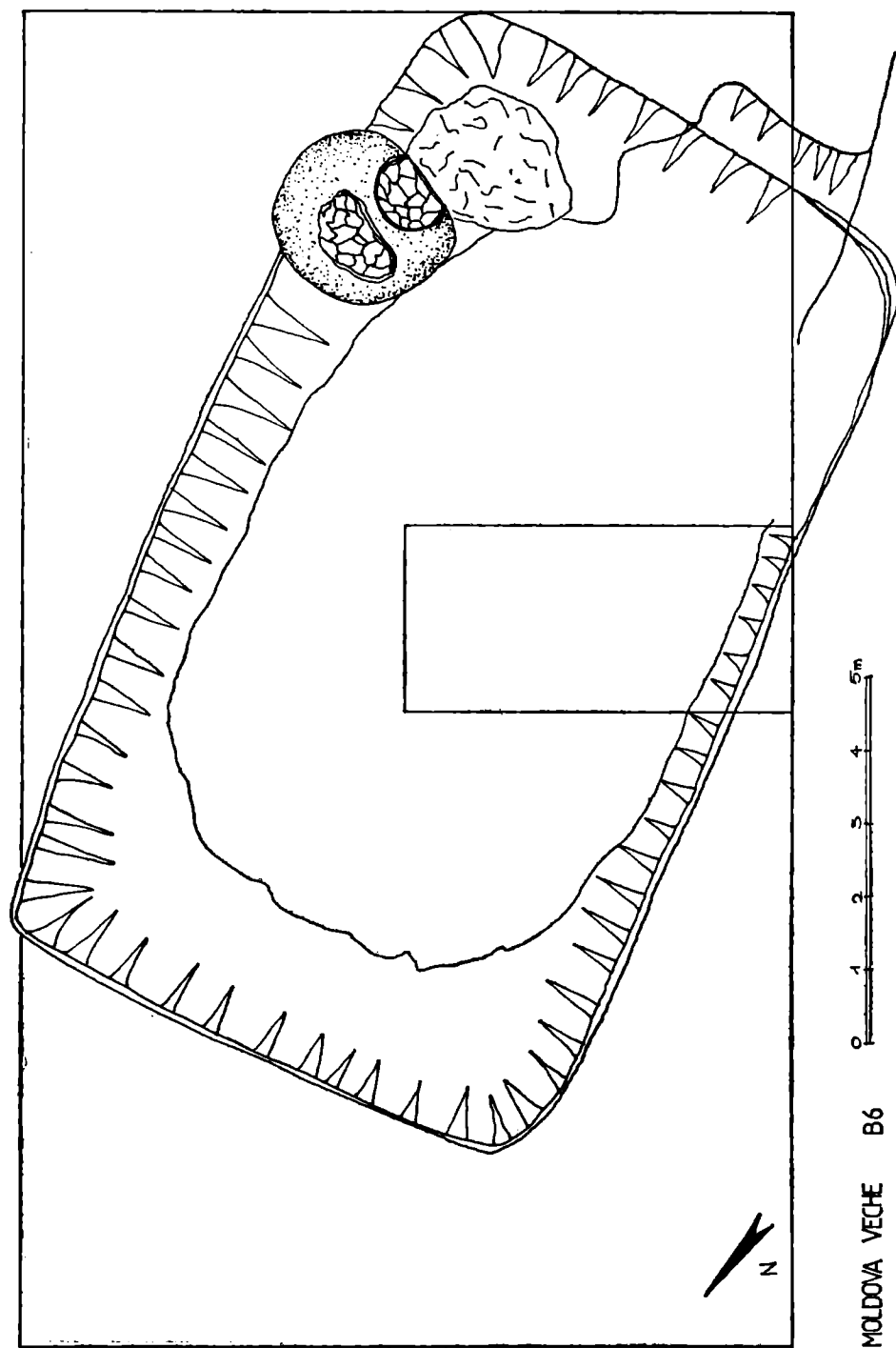


Fig. 9. Parța. The one room dwelling (P25).

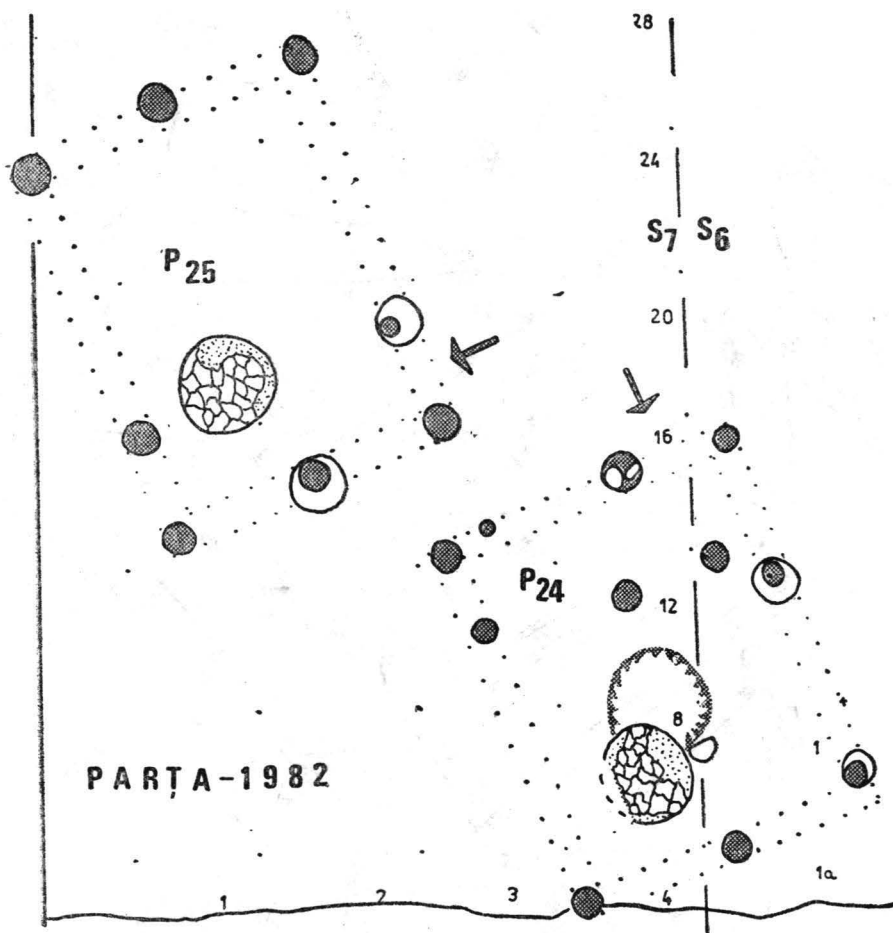


Fig. 7. Parța. The one room dwelling (P24—P25).

5. The storeyed house. The existence of a storey at these primitive constructions may seem not very similar, but there could be some reasons for its appearance. The existence of the fortification system leads to a continuous need of space, as the settlements developed in a steady perimeter. Moreover, raising a storey was not such a difficult technical problem using a wooden structure. There are many examples of the storeyed wooden constructions at the primitive societies (fig. 10) and even in the neolithic iconography (for instance the model of Căscioarele sanctuary). There are archaeological proofs too, for the moment the imprint of a child foot on a fallen „wall“, therefore this was, in fact, the storey floor (P40 at Parța). It is also noticed that, sometimes, as the house burns down, the storey slides down, the pillars and the storey floor is found, with its undisturbed structure, superposed exactly upon the structure and the various domestic objects of the groundfloor (P40 at Parța).



Fig. 8. Parța. Reconstruction of the one dwelling room (P24—25).

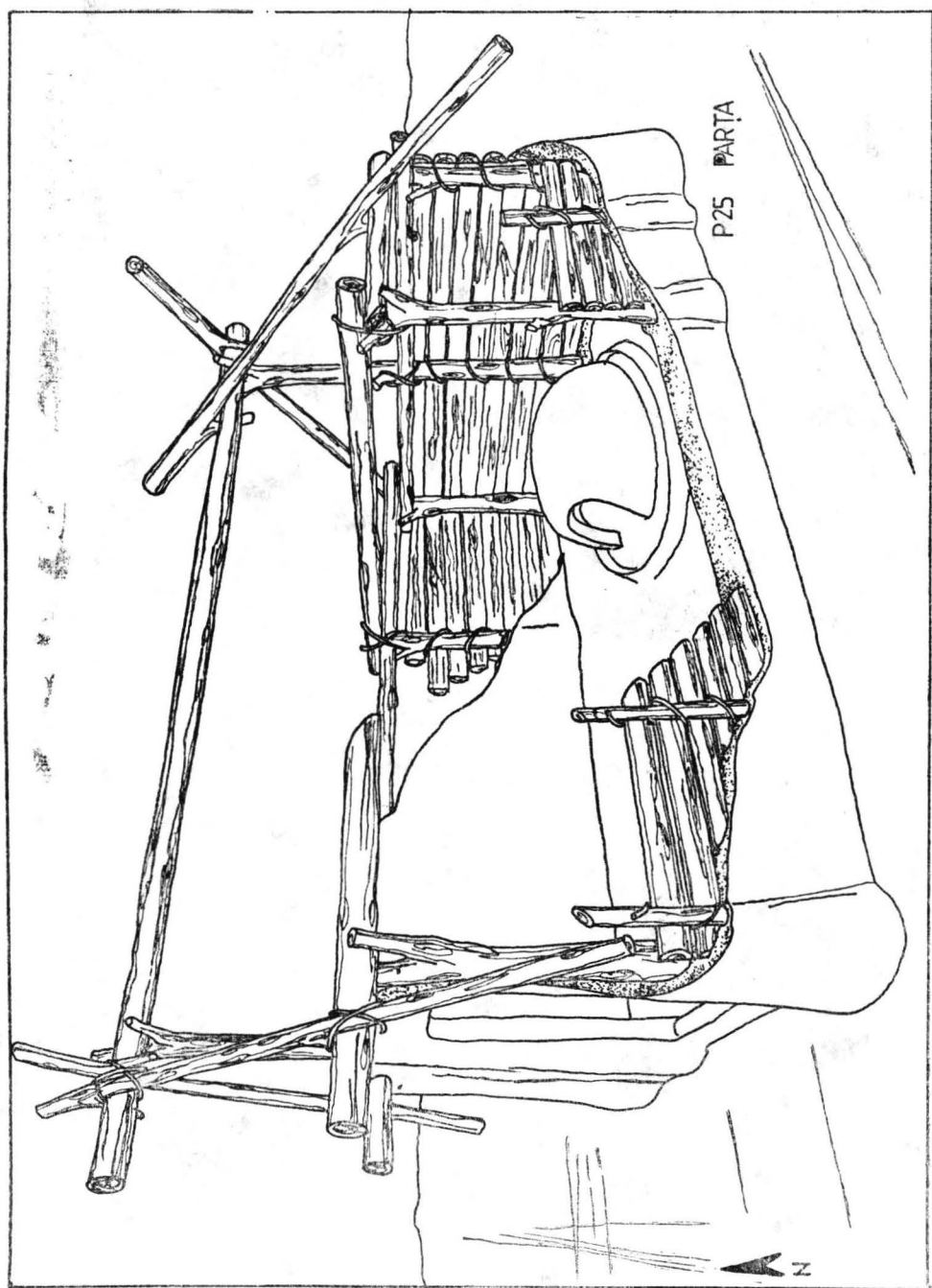
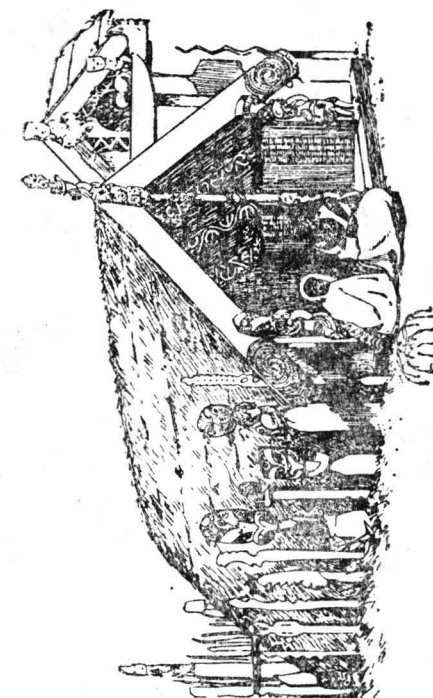


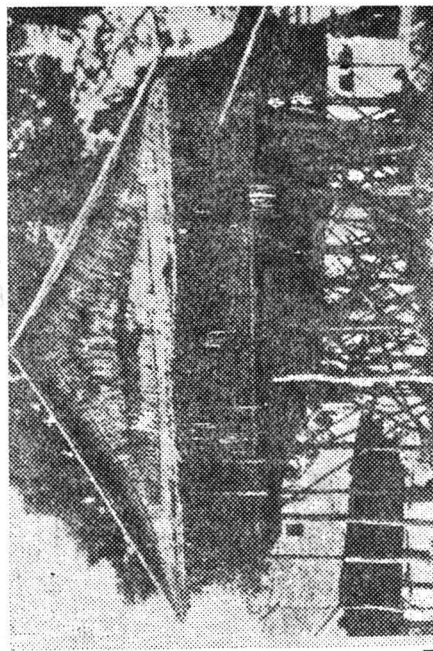
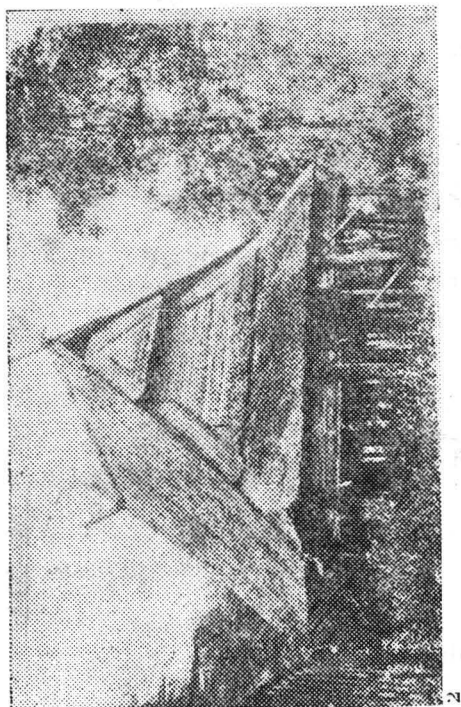
Fig. 9. Parta. The one room oduellung (P25).



2



3



4

Fig. 10. The Sanctuary from Africa and Oceania the storeyed wooden constructions

An example of a storeyed building is P20 at Parța, built nearby the sanctuary, after the same disposition and size. It was used and then destroyed together with the second phase sanctuary (fig. 11 and 12). It was 10 m in length and 5 m in width, with an E-W disposition of the axis and two entrances, the eastern and western sides. The great mass of daub found in the central part, between the two rows of wooden

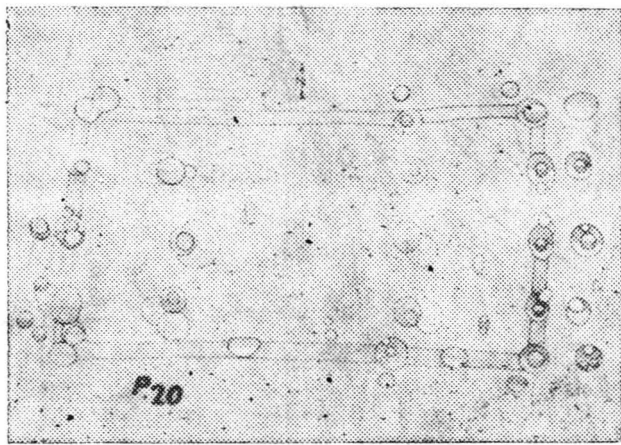


Fig. 11. Parța. Plan of dwelling nr. 8.

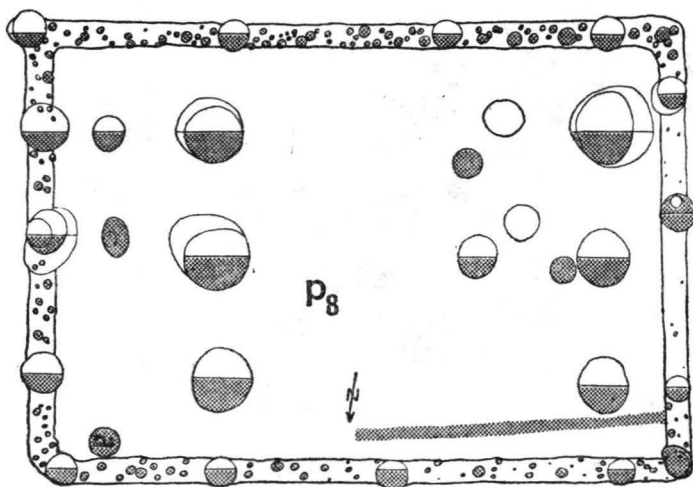


Fig. 11 b. Plan of dwelling nr. 20.

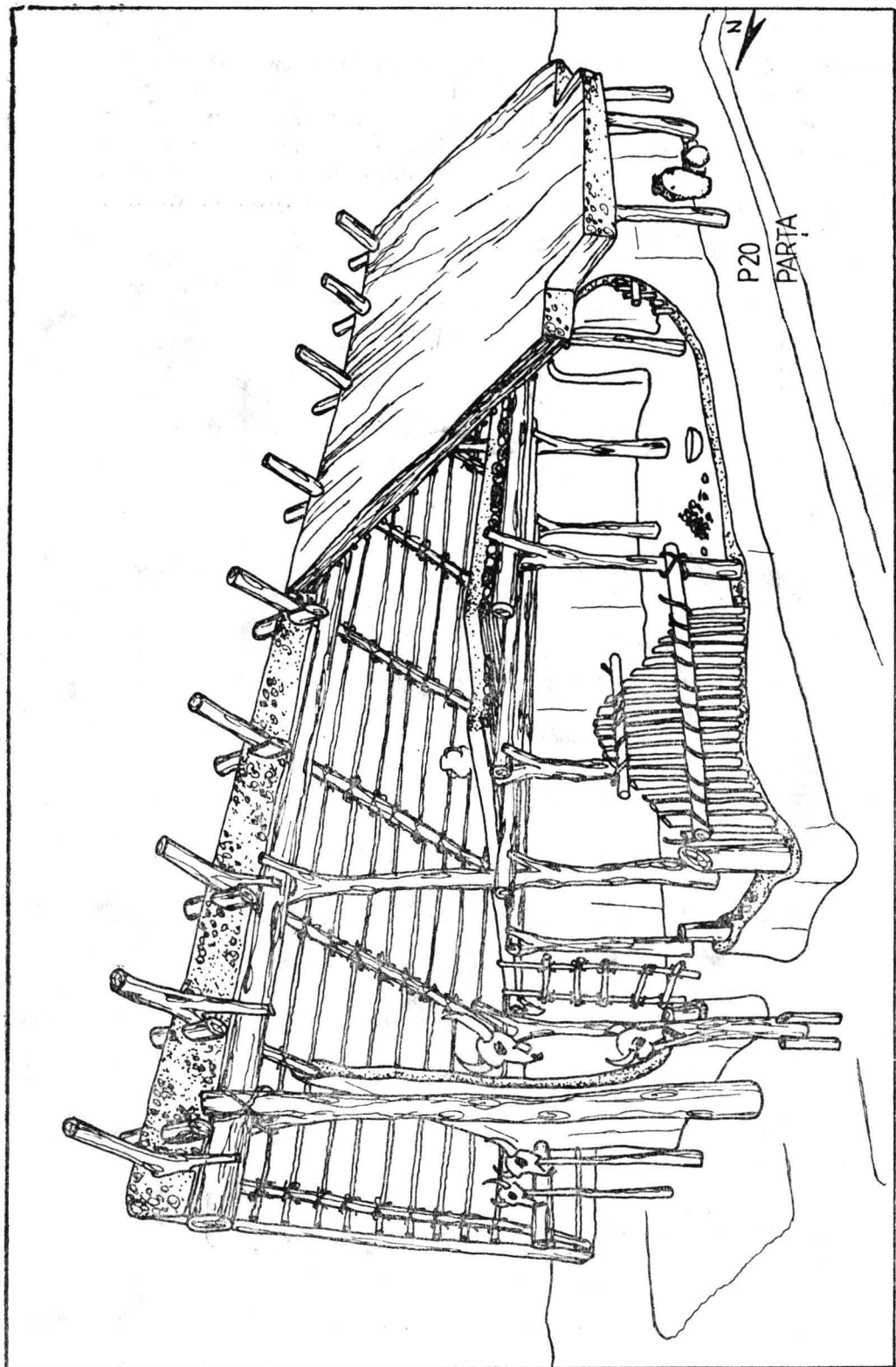


Fig. 12. Parta,

pillars, had the imprints of the big wooden crossbeams of the storey floor. It had a layer of daub with 10—15 cm thickness. Very few pottery pieces or other marks of a domestic life were found, hence it was considered to be a building with a special destination, probably in connection with the sanctuary. In analogy with some images of primitive sanctuaries, many of the pillars along the façade could be not structural, but just wearing totems or idols (fig. 10/3); but generally speaking when the marks of the pillars show that they were arranged in a line, it is more probable that they supported a beam and that they had a structural function. The structure of the walls is seen in the imprints of the daub that was found the northern side; the wall was finally about 25 cm thickness (see also annexe B). (Fig. 12).

Another example at Parța, P8 (fig. 13—15) was storeyed only the western side. For the same reasons as P20, it was also supposed to have a function connected with the sanctuary. An idol-bust was found inside and under the eastern basement, there were several small pottery pieces, probably ritual offerings at the beginning of the construction¹¹. The imprints in daub show that the wooden structure of the wall consisted in knitted rods and some of them had an oblique disposition, in order to increase the rigidity and stability of the wall (see also annexe C).

6. The several rooms dwelling has been pointed out only by excavations in large areas (Parța, Ostrovu Golu). The inner partition of the house may be linked to a functional specialisation of the rooms or to the fact that, the same dwelling was inhabited by several families, maybe related.

The example reconstituted in fig. 17 is that from Parța, layer 7b. P18 (fig. 18) was the first one discovered, but after the surface of the excavations was enlarged, it became obviously that it was just a part of a bigger house, with wattle and daub walls, which was even storeyed and which was called P43. The destination of the different parts of the house were quite visible in the oven area, the weaving loom area, the resting place, the storage place; there must have been also a sacred zone for the domestic rituals (an idolbust was found on the storey floor). The functional partition is also associated with the existence of the storey. The presence of a pit under the basement of the house and the bull skull, that was found fixed on the wooden structure of the wall and under the daub, maybe linked to magic rituals before and while the house was built (Fig. 16).

The P42 has the rows of the wooden pillars doubled: one row must have had the structure supported by the roofing system, and the other ones by the storey floor. It must be remarked that even on the storey floor, hearths and ovens were found (see also annexe D).

The oven or the hearth are the nucleus of the house and it must be in a functional connection with almost every other area.

¹¹ Z. KALMAR, during the excavations.

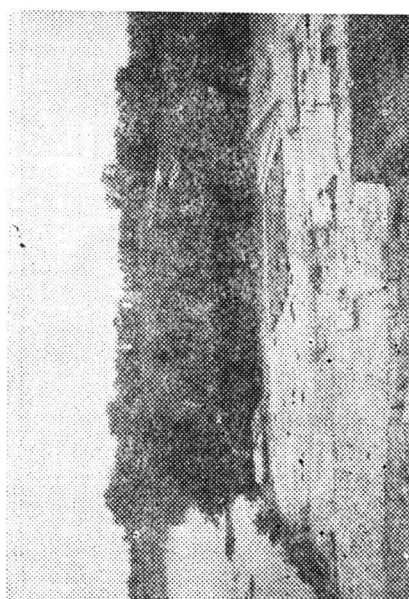
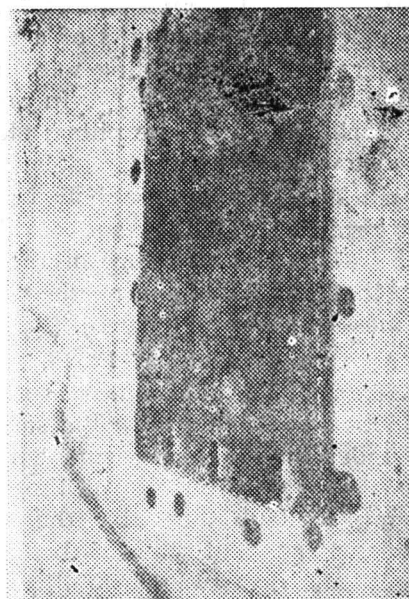
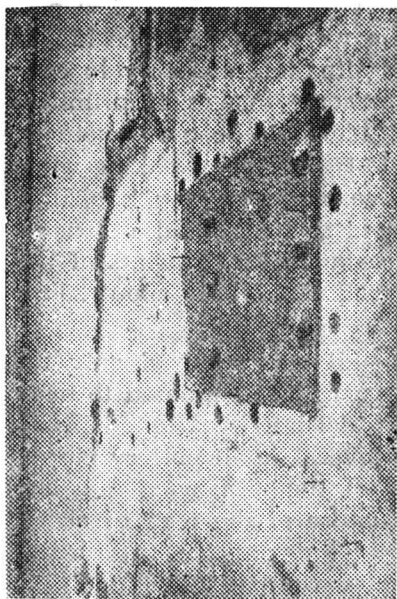


Fig. 13. Parța (—1,90, Platforma 8, fundații).



Fig. 14. Parța, P8.



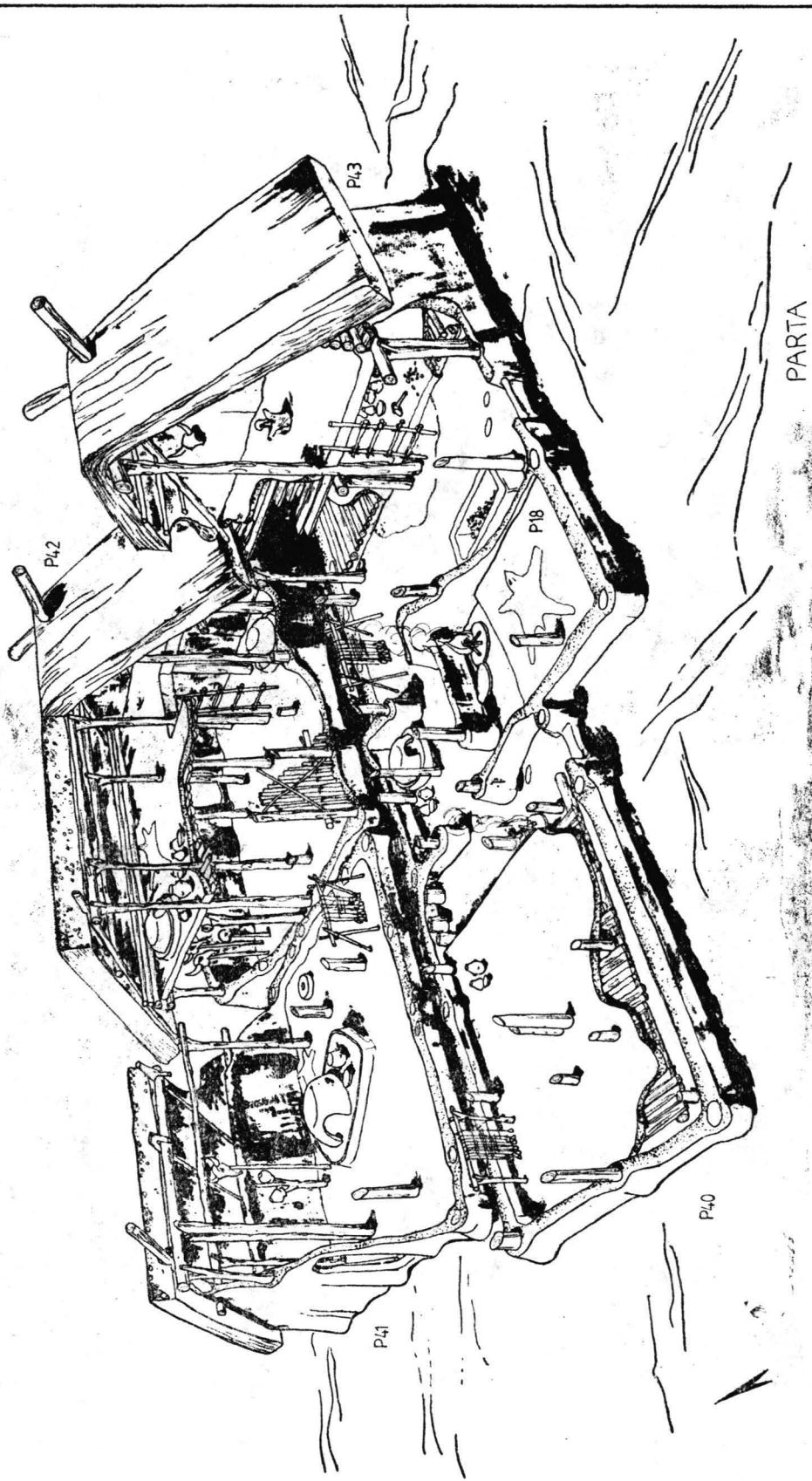


Fig. 17. Reconstruction of the Storeyed house from Parta (P40—P43)

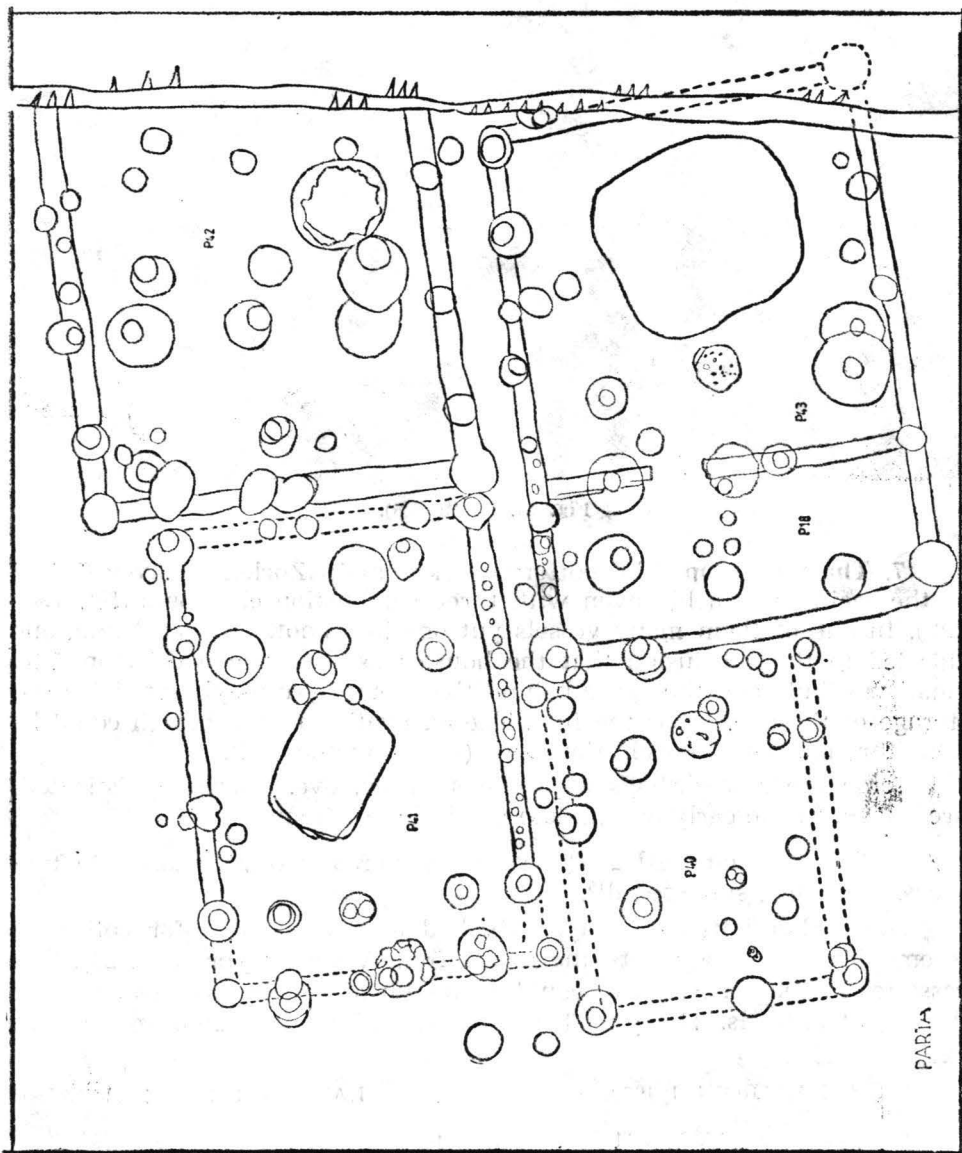


Fig. 16. Parța. The Storeyed house (P40, P41, P42 și P43).

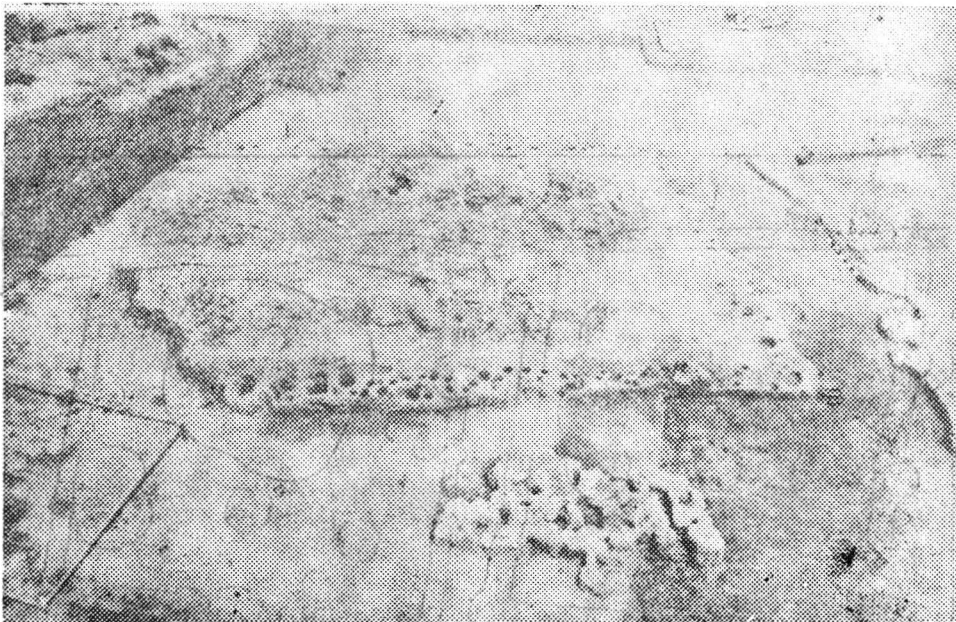


Fig. 15. Parța (P8).

7. The workshop. The pottery workroom in Zorlent¹², layer 6, had in the main room a big oven with three combustion chambers (fig. 19—19b). In one of them many vessels put one into another were found, and this led to the conclusion that the house was a pottery workshop. The small vestibule and the space behind the ovens were maybe used for the storage of the pottery or the fuel. The excavation of the hearth could be done through some holes in the roof¹³ (see also annexe E).

Some other workshops with ovens inside, even more sophisticated, are known in the early and middle neolithic in Oltenia¹⁴.

8. The sanctuary. At Parța were uncovered two sanctuaries in two successive layers, superposed¹⁵.

The earlier¹⁶ (fig. 20), layer 7b, had a unique space for collective ceremonies, in analogy with the model from Vounas-Cypre (fig. 21). The cassettes in the shrine area¹⁷ could be for burning the offerings and sacrificing of animals. The pit 63 was considered to be a „bothros“ where

¹² GH. LAZAROVICI 1979, p. 82, pl. I/E; GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR 1986—1987, p. 21, pict. 2.

¹³ ARCHEOLOGIA NR. 112/nov. 1977, p. 16—17.

¹⁴ NICA 1978; ELIS 1985

¹⁵ GH. LAZAROVICI 1982; 1986; 1989 a, p. 158, pict. 4; LAZAROVICI — KALMAR — DRAȘOVEAN — LUCA 1984.

¹⁶ GH. LAZAROVICI 1990.

¹⁷ GH. LAZAROVICI 1986, p. 14, 18; GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR — F. DRAȘOVEAN — S. LUCA 1984, p. 65, pl. XV.

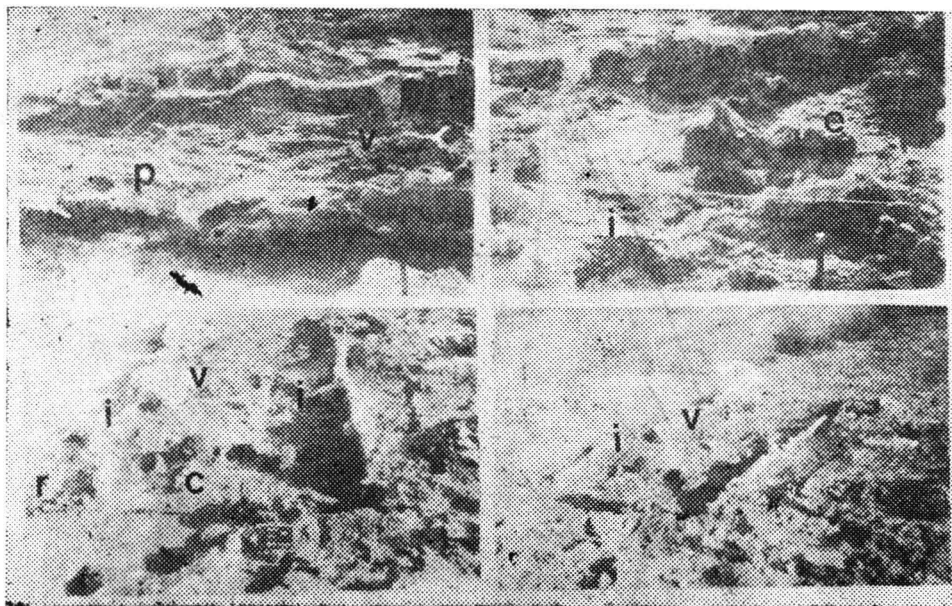


Fig. 18. Parța, P18/43.

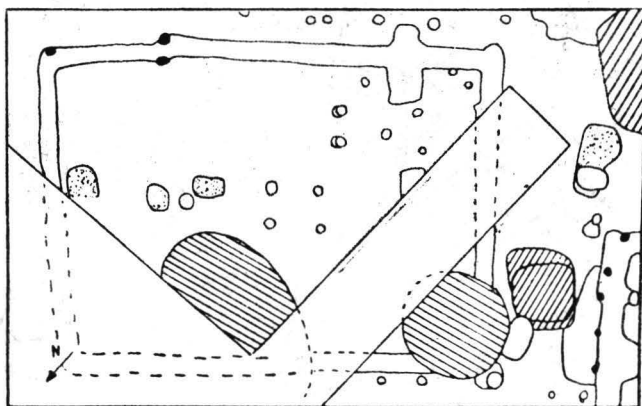
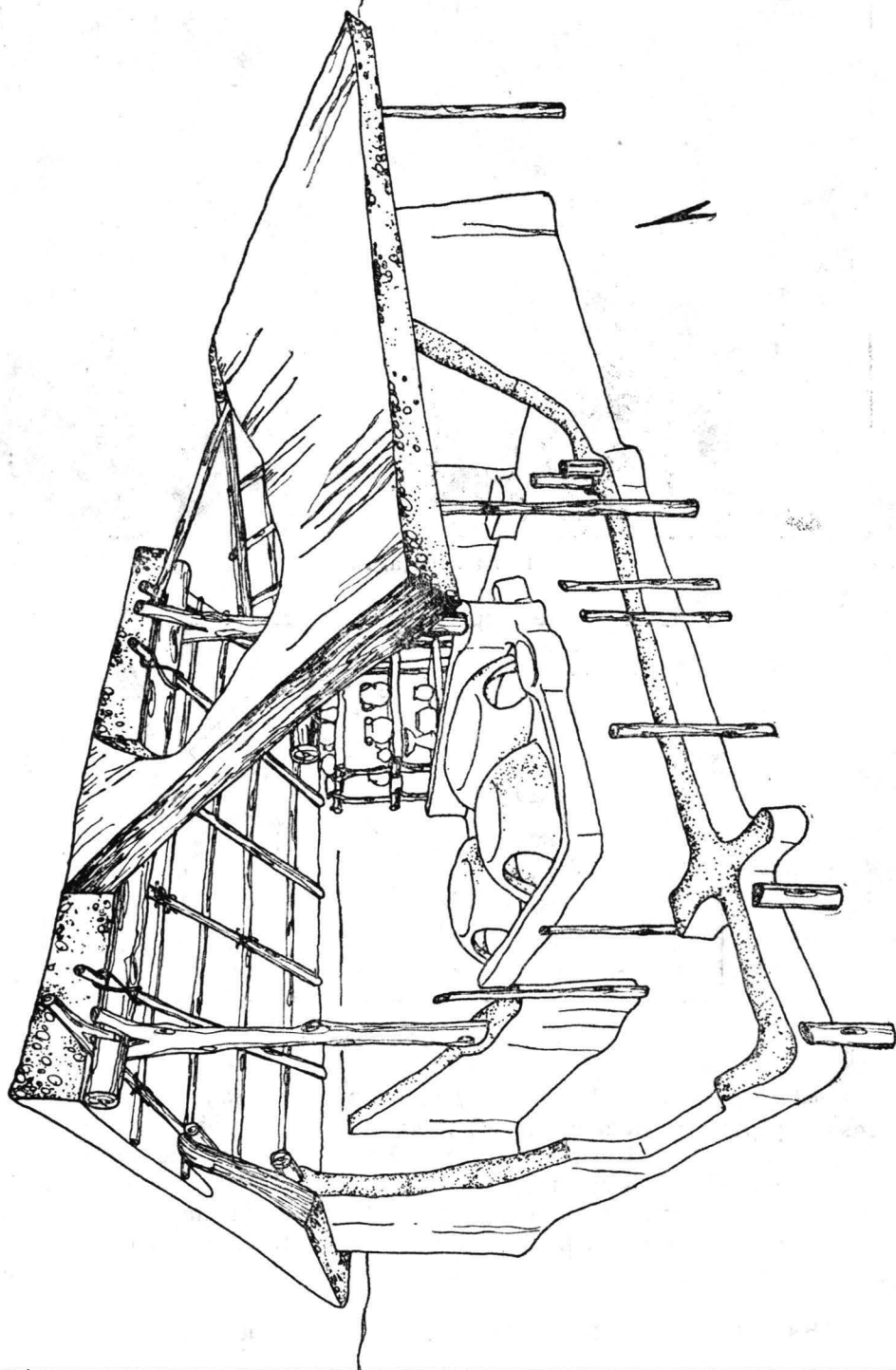
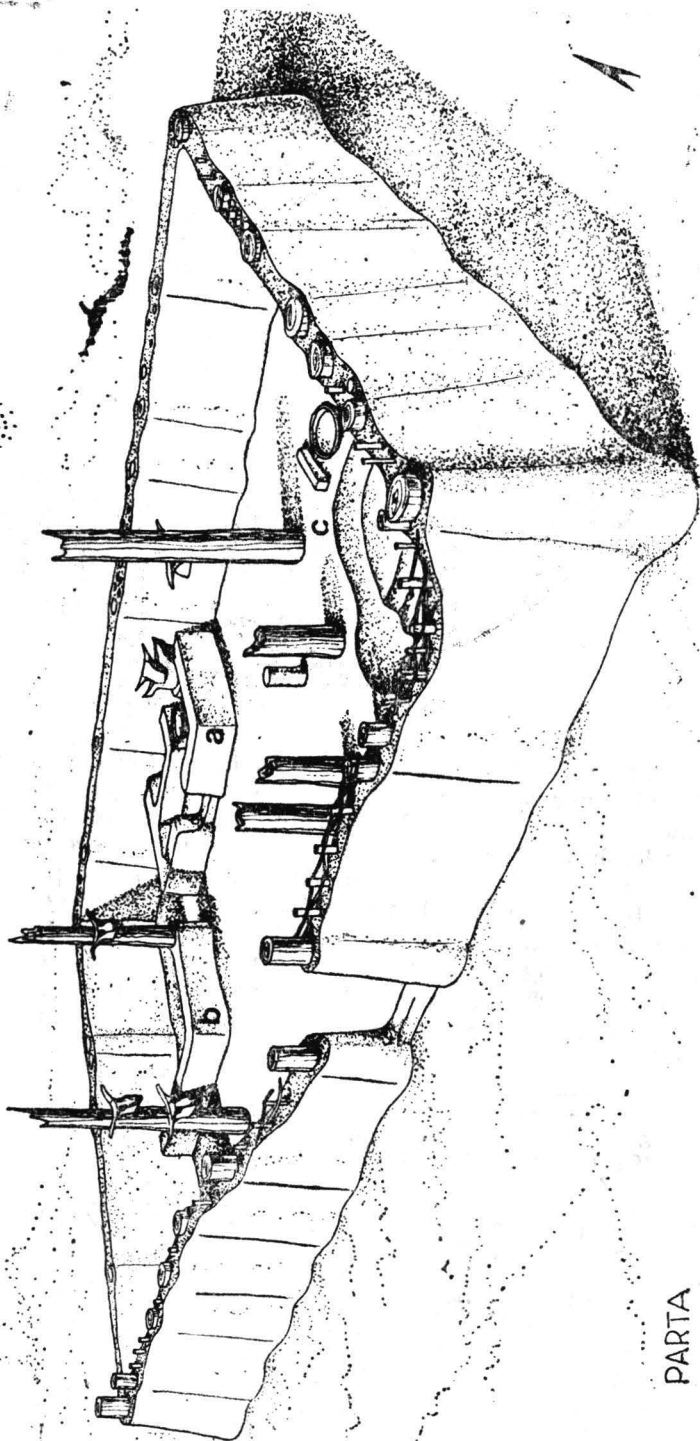


Fig. 19. Zorlențu Mare. The pottery workshop.

the ashes were layed down. Many pieces of fine ceramic were also found inside, probably ritual offerings, therefore this pit was not a pit house, as it was considered at first¹⁸. Beside the pit C, under the big idol of the second phase of the sanctuary, it was a carefully arranged hearth. The entrance the south side could be prooved by the existance of the two big pillars of the door and by the big vessel with the human face found outside, beside it.

¹⁸ GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR 1986—1987, p. 19, pict. 1.





PARTA

Fig. 20. Parța. The Sanctuary 1.

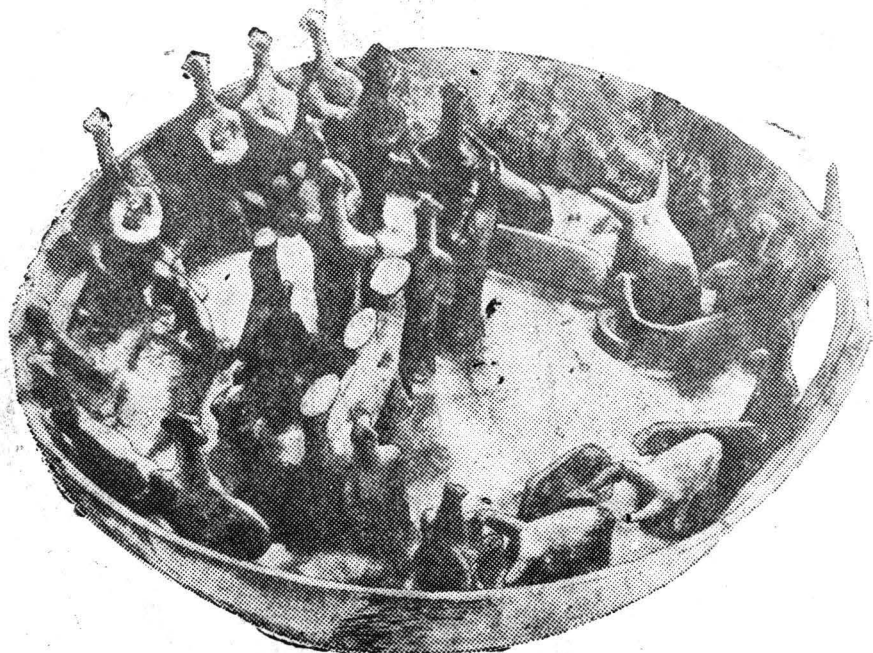


Fig. 21. The Sanctuary from Vounas.

The rebuilt sanctuary¹⁹, in a later phase (fig. 27—28), had a partitioned inner space, rigidity and geometrically organized, with smaller spaces. This was probably a consequence of setting up rituals led by a smaller initiated group and maybe only they were permitted to get inside the sanctuary. A certain dualism ought to be emphasised, expressed not only by the big idol, but even by the inner space of the sanctuary itself: the space is divided in two equal rooms by a wall, then each half has a raised hanging up floor, either of them being divided in two areas. This is another proof concerning the religious dualism, which will be taken again many of the future religions, with its roots in the neolithic culture²⁰.

¹⁹ Room A: GH. LAZAROVICI 1986, p. 13, 15—16; GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR — F. DRAȘOVEAN — S. LUCA 1984, p. 38—39, pict. 9 B; GH. LAZAROVICI 1989 a, pict. 19/1—2; the idol area: GH. LAZAROVICI 1982, p. 34—35; GH. LAZAROVICI 1989 a, p. 160, pict. 7—8; the big idol: GH. LAZAROVICI 1982, pict. 3, p. 5—11, 34—35; GH. LAZAROVICI — Z. KALMAR — F. DRAȘOVEAN — S. LUCA 1984, p. 51, pict. 11/2—7, III above; GH. LAZAROVICI 1989 a, pict. 8—9, 19/1—2; the shrine D (5.2×2.6 m), the middle wall, the bucrania, p. 16; GH. LAZAROVICI 1986 p. 14—17, pict. p. 17; eastern entrances: GH. LAZAROVICI 1982, GH. LAZAROVICI 1982 p. 36, pict. 16 nr. 2; LAZAROVICI — KALMAR — DRAȘOVEAN — LUCA 1984 p. 60, pict. XI/4; LAZAROVICI 1989 a pict. 14/1—3,7; offerings trays: LAZAROVICI 1989 a, pict. 4, 6, 8; „Oranta Mare”: LAZAROVICI 1982, p. 36—37, pict. 17; „Oranta Mica”: LAZAROVICI 1982, p. 37, pict. 18; LAZAROVICI 1990; a grinding mill at Banja: TODOROVIC 1977, p. 14, H; the ritual grinding: LAZAROVICI 1986, p. 16, nr. 12; LAZAROVICI 1989 a, p. 150, nr. 14; MAKKAY 1978; LJAMIC—VALOVIC 1982.

²⁰ M. ELIADE — *Istoria credințelor și ideilor religioase*, vol. I, p. 44—45, p. 404 nr. 12.

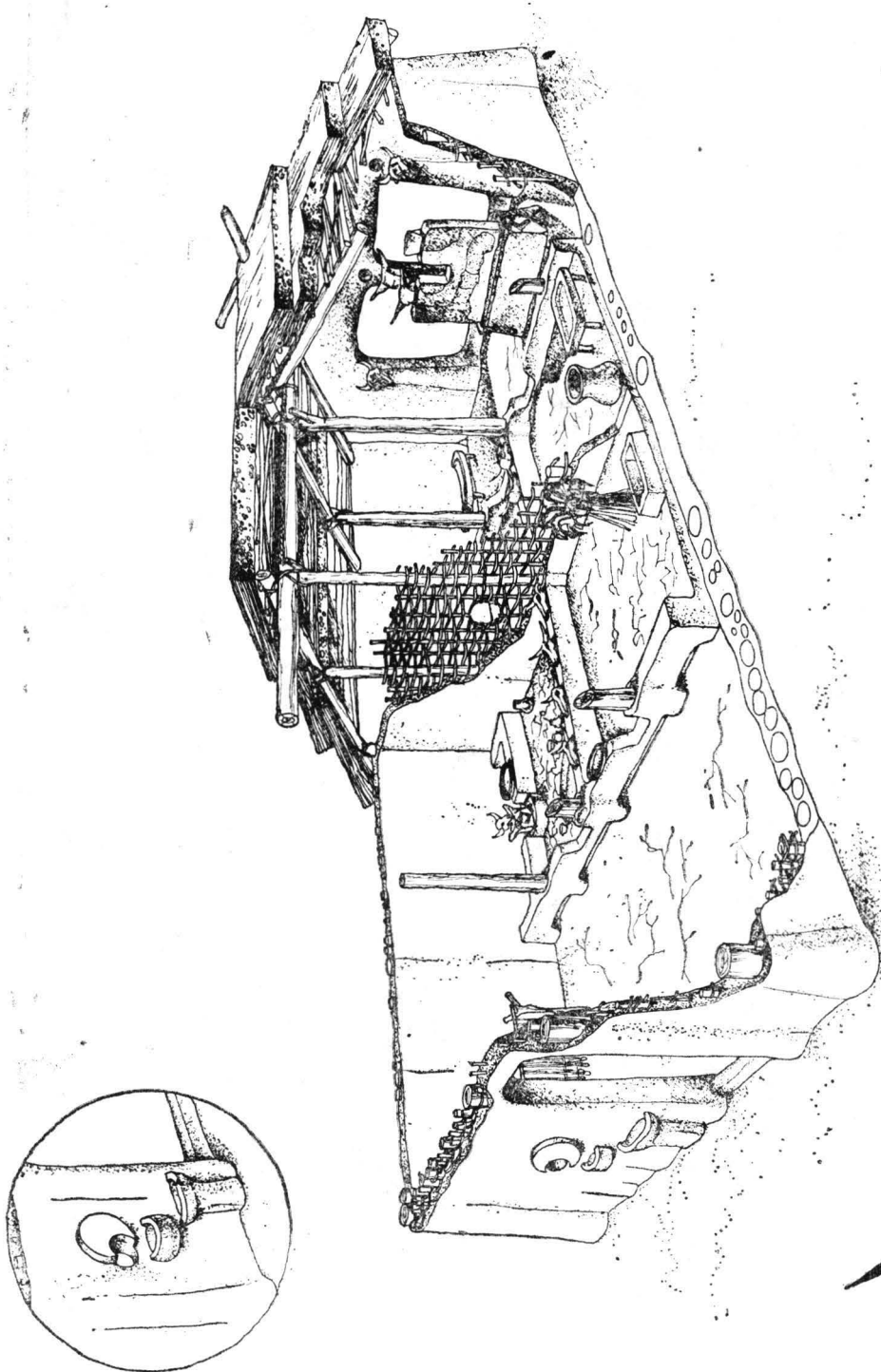


Fig. 22. Parța. The Sanctuary 2 (West room).

PARTA

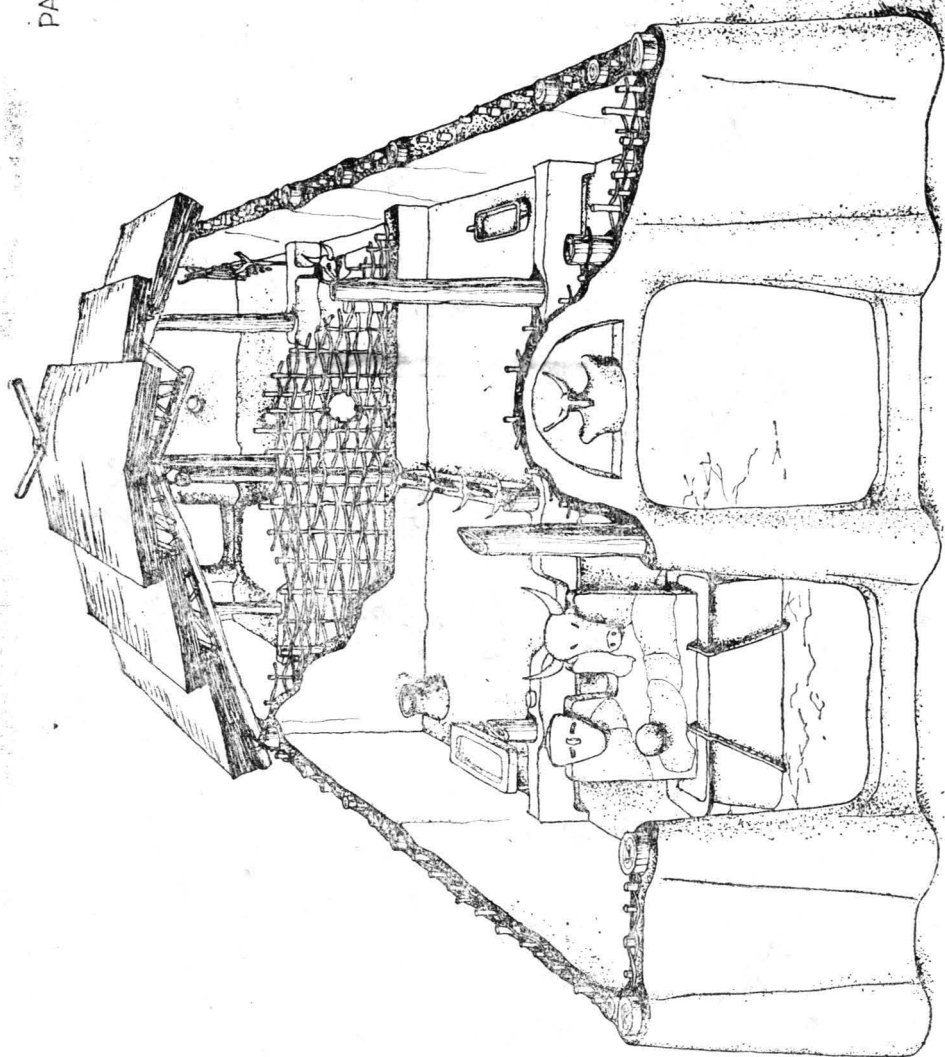


Fig. 23. Par[ea]. The Sanctuary 2, est room.

This reconstitution was possible because, after the sanctuary was burnt out, the remains were systematically demolished, covered and kept as sacred areas, and so, ruins were quite well preserved.

9. The fortification system. Almost every excavated settlement was fortified.

The Parța system had two (later 4) "V" shaped trenches, one smaller on the internal side and one larger on the external side. The system is completed with a stockade made of big vertical stiff pillars, fixed at 50—70 cm in depth and at 40—60 cm between (fig. 24) them. In the proximity of the stockade, 15—20 m inside there are no constructions.

Other fortification ditches are known at Suceveni, Bylani, Altheim, especially of the popular architecture (fig. 25/4).

If the constructive activity of the neolithic age is called "architecture", then it has to be considered an evolutive phenomenon, a single whole with three features:

- a. the building technique (structural principles and materials)
- b. functionality (how the space is used)
- c. the aestetical purposes and the significance of the space.

a. The constructive system, especially the roofing system, is the first one to determine the form of the house. The roofing system can be inferred sometimes from the position of the pillars, following a certain constructive logic, then making the complete image with the analogies, especially of the popular architecture (fig. 25'/4).

A row of pillars that seems to be obviously straight, certainly it will support a beam and it is also logical that the central row supports the ridge. In some advanced examples (the sanctuaries of Parța, P20, P8 etc.) there are straight line rows on the both directions and the constructions are almost perfect rectangular.

The structure of the wall, usually consists of the perimetral rows of pillars, completed with wattle and daub. In the previous examples there were many ways to make these walls (fig. 9, 12, 16—17, 20, 22—23, 25/5) again. In analogy with popular architecture, the walls could also be made of daub only²³.

The storey floor could lean on a separate structure (for instance P42 at Parța) or on the same pillars which supported the roof and on the perimetral walls (fig. 12, 14—17, 19b).

The ground floor could be adjusted with clay only, but the most efficient for isolation is the hanging up floor, which had a real wooden structure of beams, generally with a perimetral support (fig. 18, 14, 14).

b. The same space of the dwelling shelters a various kind of activities: resting, cooking and consuming, storage of the food, processing and storage of many sorts of goods (even if it is very probable that many activities were carried outside the house). Perfecting these activities leads, for the reason on efficiency, to the specialized constructions (the sanctua-

²¹ J. PAVLŮ 1983—1984, p. 74—76, 78, 80; J. PAVŮK 1986, p. 231, pict. 3; MÜLLER—KARPE 1974, 470 B; H. BECKER—O. BRAASCH—J. HODGSON 1985, p. 41; H. BECKER—J. PETRASCH 1984, p. 32; FANSA—THIEME 66, p. 229.

²² J. PETRASCH 1986 a, p. 218; J. PAVLŮ 1983—1984, p. 76, 78, 80; J. PETRASCH 1986, p. 40; GH. LAZAROVICI 1990 pict. 6.

²³ R. O. MAIER 1979, p. 14.

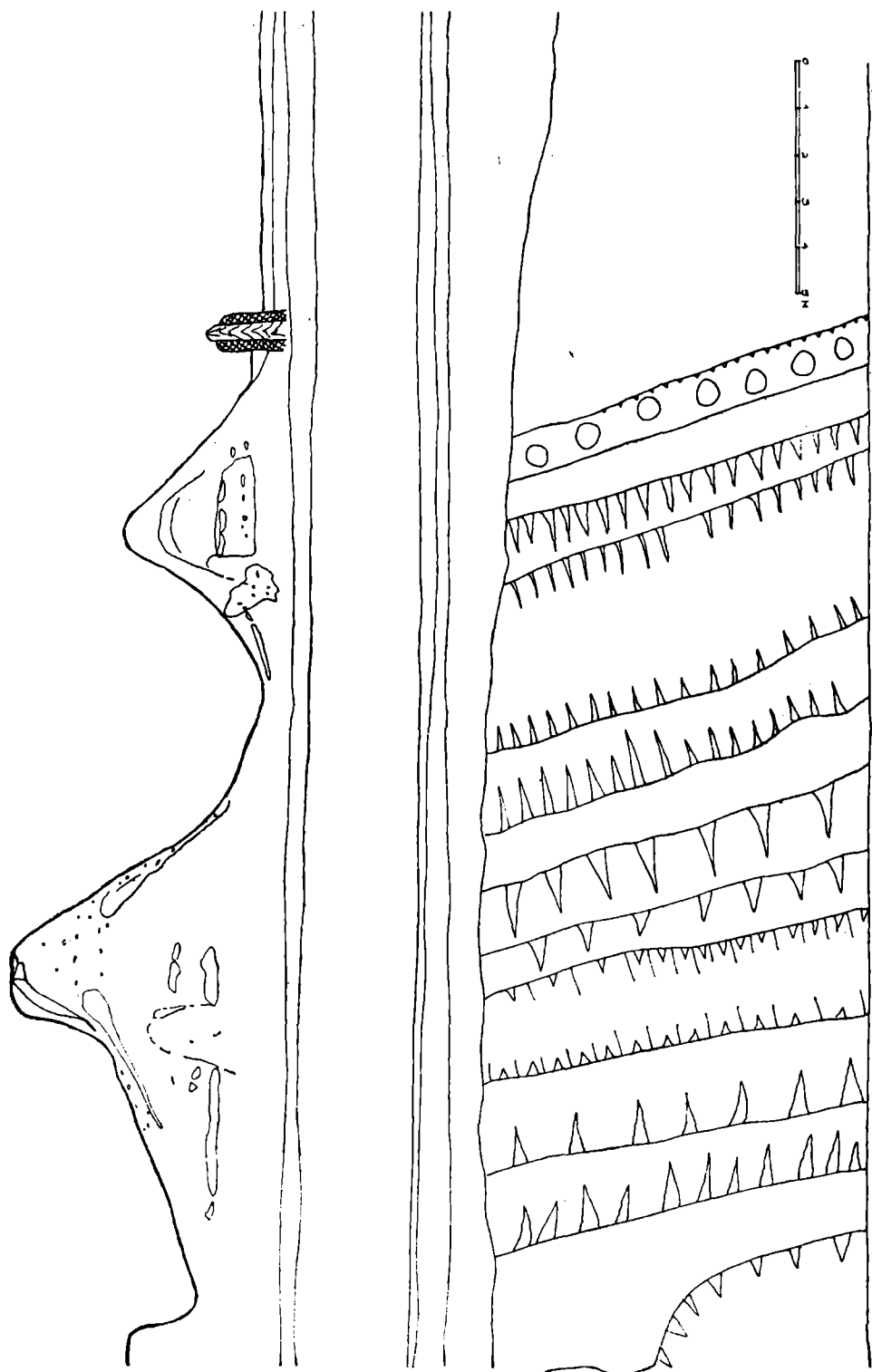
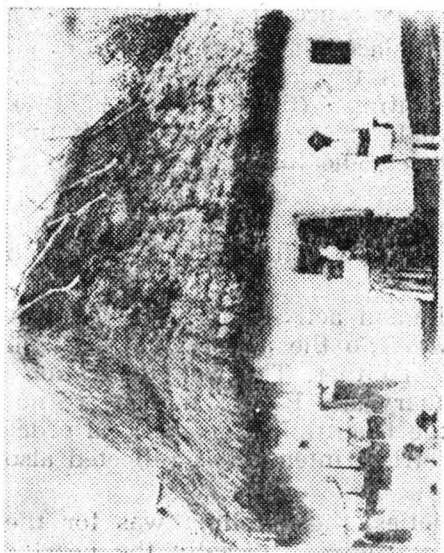
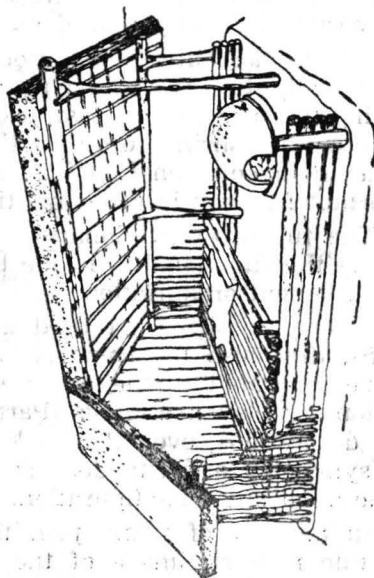


Fig. 24. Parța. The fortification system.



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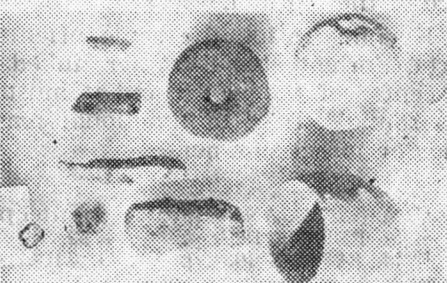
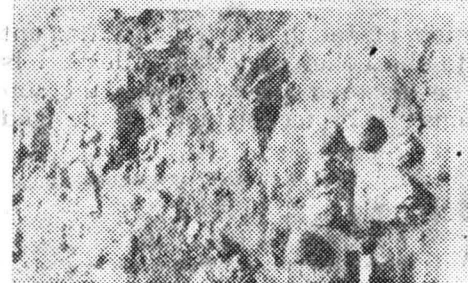
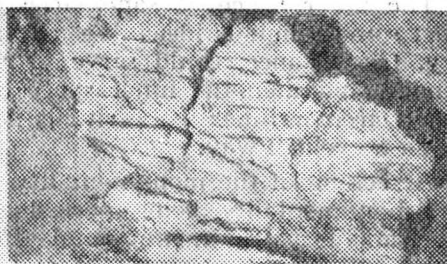
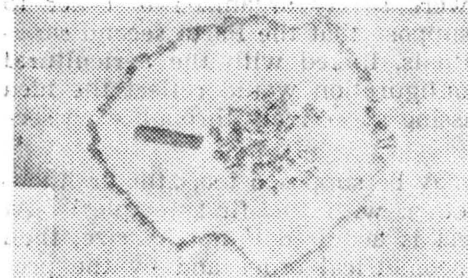


Fig. 25: 1. Parja; 2. Popular architecture; 3. Parja (P24).

2

ries, the workshops) or to the specialized organization of the house (for instance P18—P43 at Parța, fig. 17). Probably some activities, especially those that needed special installations, reserved their own space inside the house, for the moment the weaving, the loom being usually installed in a corner for along a wall opposite the entrance (fig. 17, 19b).

The fundamental installation, the fireplace (the hearth or the oven) lays usually in front the entrance (and in this case the oven has its opening toward it) or at least nearby the entrance (fig. 1, 2—4, 9, 17, 19b). The domestic shrines or idols that were found near them, prove that besides their common function of cooking and heathing, they had also an important function in the domestic rituals.

The future excavations will have to answer to other questions concerning the functionality inside the house and the functional relations in the settlement organisation.

c. The primitive art used all the human activity forms to express itself²⁴, thus also the constructive activity. So the aesthetic purpose can not be separated to the magic symbolism either. The wall decorations, incisions or clay mouldings (Parța sanctuary and P3—4), in fact are not pure decorations, even if a seeking of the beautiful, a geometrical order and symmetry are intended. This geometrical intention is reflected also in the inner space configuration.

In analogy of many primitive societies, the dwelling was for the neolithic man an image of the universe itself²⁵. Especially the hearths were invested with special significances²⁶ and this is reflected in the important position they had in the inner space organisation.

The inner space of sanctuaries were surely organized in order to reflect some religious ideas. We may suppose that the Parța second sanctuary, for instance, could serve to rituals, linked with the agricultural calendar, and then the inner space configuration would reflect the idea of the „circular time“²⁷, the rituals passing succesively through each section, in a cyclical way.

A seeking of the monumentality may be supposed too, „the architectural monumentality being born together with the first temple“²⁸. At Parța sanctuary this monumental effect is acquired if not by size, then by the quite perfect symmetry and geometrical order and by the presence of the big idol.

Keeping inside the same orientation of the houses, the settlement (Parța, Zorlenț etc.) is rather linked to the belief that the settlement is the center of the world and it must be disposed after the way the sun goes round²⁹, than to functional reasons, as protection against the cold winds or torrid summers.

²⁴ M. S. KAGAN — *Morfologia artei* p. 249.

²⁵ M. ELIADE 1981, p. 43—44, 52.

²⁶ M. ELIADE 1981, p. 44; G. CHARACHIDZE *Prometeu sau Caucazul* p. 131, 202, 204—205.

²⁷ M. ELIADE 1981, p. 42—43; Romanian popular customs which are based on the idea of „Circular time“: I. GHINOIU — *Vîrstele timpului*, București, 1988.

²⁸ S. GIEDION — *La naissance de l'architecture*, p. 13, 145—146.

²⁹ A. LEROI—GOURHAN *Gestul și cuvîntul*, p. 144—145.

But a more profound knowledge on the whole neolithic civilisation is necessary to draw some conclusions concerning these reconstitutions.

The architecture, hence the organisation of the built environment, wears the marks of entire life way.

ANNEXES

A. B6 — Zorlent: It was found at the northern end of the section 10 and it was entirely studied. The orientation N—S of the axis protected it from the main winds (Coşava E—W and Gorniac W—E). The entrance was on the southern side, in the southeastern corner. The oven was dugged in the eastern wall; it was 90 cm width, 80 cm in depth, 50 cm height, being almost spherical and it was laid out with clay. Its mouth was 37 cm width and 25 cm height. The hearth of the oven was at about 20 cm above the floor level of the pit and and was very well laid out by several refittings, and the hearth in front of the oven was at about 10 cm above the floor level. A triangular shrine (which was also used as a lamp) was found inside the pit (Fig. 2—4).

B. P20 — Parța: It was 11,6 m length and 6 m width (including the pillar pits width). The entrances were on the eastern wall, near the north-eastern corner and on the western wall near the southwestern corner. A great number of pillar marks could come from a doubled structure, because of the existance of a storey or of a hanging up floor. Above the fallen mass of daub of the central part and under it many sling balls and pottery fragments were found. But the pottery stuff is still ten times scarcer than the average. The wall structure that is seen in the northern side, near the northeastern corner, consisted of horizontal rods, at 25—30 cm one to another, which tied the proper structure of the wooden pillars ant the many vertical rods thrustes between them. There are more than 2—2,5 m between two successive wooden pillars (fig. 11—12).

C. P8 — Parța: The layer of daub wreckage was 30—50 cm thickness. The rectangular plan was 7,20—7,30 m length and 5,60 m width. The northern wall had a wattle and daub structure. In the southern wall, between the wooden pillars, there were oblique joists, with a different inclination from one interval to another (one interval to the left, the following to the right). On the storey floor on the western side was found some small pottery, with a fine paste. There were many sling balls on the ground floor, near the entrance (fig. 1, 11b, 12—15).

D. P18/P43 — Parța: There was a room on the western side (P18), a hall in the middle and a room with a storey (and a cellar?) on the eastern side.

P18 had wattle and daub walls, which were torn to pieces and tumbled down inside while the house burnt out. The lower part of the walls still stand up on 30—50 cm height (fig. 18). The room had four areas: a hall at the entrance, the oven zone on the right, near the northern wall, the hearths area on the left and a sleeping place on the southern side. Near the oven were found some vessels and some fishing net weights. A passage of 60 cm width beside a pillar led to the other areas, which were separated by a wall of 60 cm hight and 10 cm thick-

ness with a light wooden structure. The two hearths were "8" shaped. The sleeping place was on a platform of 6—8 cm height (fig. 6—18).

P18/43. The room in the middle had a clay fitted floor and in the southwestern corner there was a wattle and daub cassette with carbonized cereals inside. In this room there was very little daub wreckage. The eastern half of the eastern room had a hanging up floor, with an E—W disposition of the wooden beams. Upon them were found, some sling balls, pottery fragments and a very burnt stone bludgeon. Under the hanging up floor there was a pit with carbon residues at its upper side. The storey floor structure consisted of splitted joists, with a N—S disposition. In the southern wall wreckage, bull skulls were found, especially foreheads disposed so that a part of the foreheads and horns could stay out of the daub and be visible. The horns were very burnt and only carbonized remains were found. One of the bucrania was near big wooden pillar, probably it was fixed on it. In the bank of river, above the wreckage, among the daub remains was found an idol-bust with painting marks and white paste incisions (fig. 18).

P40. Had the foundation at about 40—60 cm depth. There were two hanging up floors. The storey floor had a structure of splitted joists, the biggest of them being of 45 cm thickness, the average of 25—30 cm thickness and some of 8—15 cm diameter were unsplitted. This floor had 4—5 layers of clay refittings. Between two of them was found the imprint of a child foot. Upon the last layer there were two vessels with human figures relief and some architectural elements (considered by Drăsoveanu to be archways). The ground floor consisted of splitted horizontal joists too, of 10—35 cm width, with the straight face above. On this floor and under the storey existed an weaving loom installation, some ceramic fragments and two shell beads. The two floors were perfectly supposed, probably the storey floor slides down the pillars during the fire. They laid on 2/3 of the room surface. On the storey floor Drăsoveanu also remarked a light oven, very damaged by the downfall (fig. 17).

P41. (layer 7 b) had the same structure as P40, but it was not storeyed. It also had a hanging up floor on 2/3 of the room, on which were found many vessels and a necklace too. At 1 m of this one, there was a human skeleton, probably a woman, who must have died during the fire. In the southeastern corner among the daub wreckage there was a weaving loom installation and Drăsoveanu also found a "moon" which, after its position, seemed to have been fixed on the wall (fig. 16—17).

P42. On the storey floor were found many vessels (a big amphora, amphorettes, trays etc.) and a light oven in the northwestern corner. On the ground floor, in the southeastern corner, there was a hearth of an oven, with 5 layers of refittings. The structure of the storey floor was similar to the hanging up ground floor of P40. The structure of the northern wall was overturned inside and consisted of knitted rods, tied here and there with cross rods or joists. This wall had 3—4 refittings (fig. 16—17).

E. The workshop — Zorlenț stands near a small „square“. There were some pits in layer 4 (Vinča B₁), but the 1964 excavations had disturbed a part of the construction. This one was rectangular, 7,4 m long,

4,8—5 m width and it had three areas: a hall of 1,2 m width, the ovens zone of 4 m width and a 2,2 m width area for storage or drying of the vessels. One of the ovens had its mouth towards SE and the other two towards SW. The pillar marks along the lateral façade might have supported a large cave. The vitrifying in the oven cupola show that the temperature was over 700°C (fig. 19—20).

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