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# CONVIVIUM

Exchanges and Interactions in the Arts of the Premodern World

*Seminarium Kondakovianum, Series Nova*

# CONVIVIUM

*supplementum 2025/2*

Exchanges and Interactions  
in the Arts of the Premodern World  
*Seminarium Kondakovianum, Series Nova*

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# MEDIEVAL YEGHEGIS, ARMENIA

History, Archeology, Society.

Local Multiplicities and Global Connections  
of a Rural Centre on the Silk Road(s)

Edited by  
**Zaroui Pogossian**  
& **Michele Nucciotti**  
with the collaboration of  
**Francesca Cheli, Leonardo Squilloni,**  
& **Veronika Džugan-Hermanová**

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# X. YEGHEGIS ATLAS OF MASONRY TYPES

**Abstract** / An Atlas of Masonry Types in Yegheghis analyzes construction techniques through materials, arrangements, and joint characteristics, identifying masonry types across centuries. Stratigraphic readings reveal phases from the ninth through the fourteenth century, highlighting technological exchanges with other locales and subsequent transformations. The findings provide valuable historical insights into the region's building practices and the transmission and endurance of construction knowledge.

**Keywords** / chrono typology, masonry types, stoneworking, toolmarks

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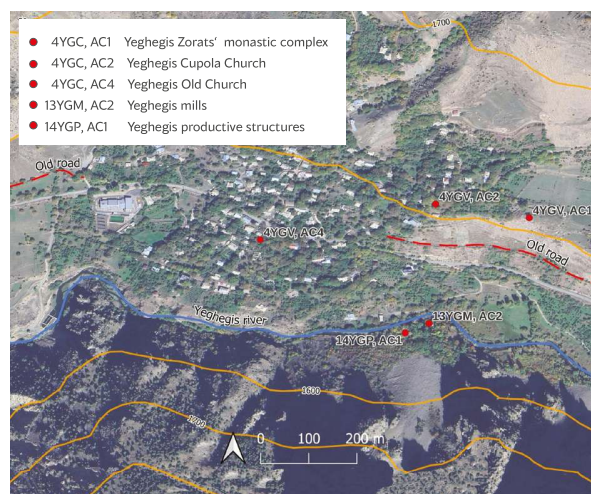
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## INTRODUCTION

The Atlas of Masonry Types of Yegheghis is a fundamental knowledge tool of the construction techniques used in the building of this village in the diachrony. The identification of masonry types is carried out through the analysis of certain essential parameters, which are: the characteristics of the construction elements (in particular the type of material used and the way in which it has been worked), their arrangement, and the characteristics of the joints and beds. The analysis of these elements makes it possible to define wall types, which reflect different ways of building. The possibility, offered by the stratigraphic reading of the buildings and their subsequent phasing and periodization, adds the chronological element to the spread of wall types. In this way, it is possible to identify their first appearances, the persistence and coexistence of several types, and sometimes the disappearance of some of them. The existence of a chrono-typological tool, realized on a territorial basis, becomes extremely useful for hypothesizing passages of workers, intertwining of technological skills, persistence, and interruptions of different know-how. In the following pages, the different wall types identified in Yegheghis will be presented analytically and described by means of sheets [fig. 1].

The territory of Yegheghis, geologically speaking, is extremely homogeneous, being completely immersed in basalt outcrops. All the types identified were made using local basalt, working the blocks in different ways, from simply split to roughly hewn and even squared and flattened. The tools identified are the chisel or pointed tools, some of which were already used in the quarry. The blocks are laid in horizontal and parallel, sub-horizontal and parallel courses. Joints and beds, when present, range from thin to wide. Another discriminating element is the presence or absence of the binder (earth or mortar). The stratigraphic readings revealed several well-defined chronological phases, within which we were able to place the different wall types: the ninth century, in which there is only one masonry type (MT7), a period prior to the twelve century (MT3a, MT3b), a period from the twelve century up to the



[fig. 1] Yegheghis: the territory and the investigated sites

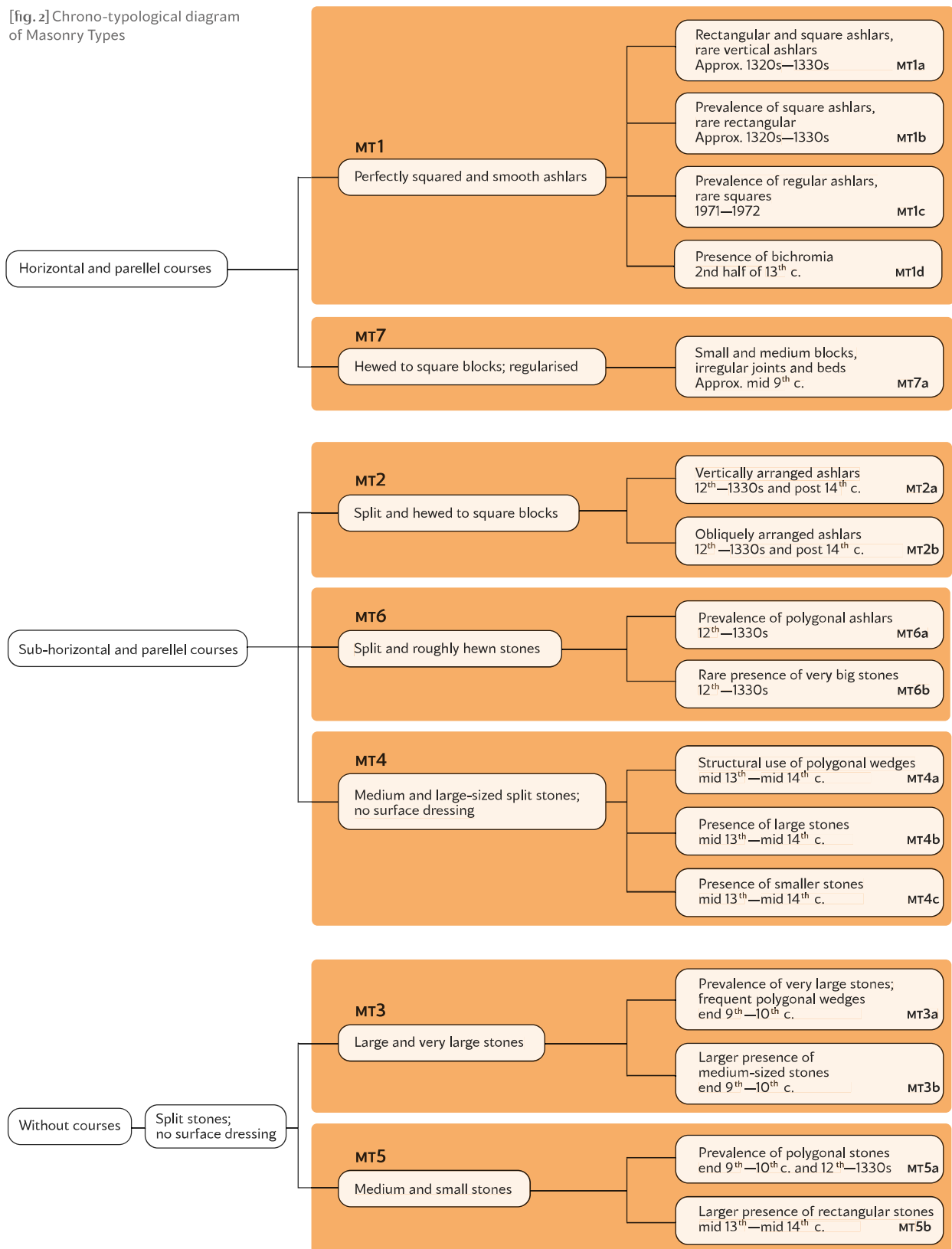
first thirty years of the fourteenth century (MT2, MT5a, MT6a, MT6b) and finally a period between the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, where the highest number of identified Masonry Types are to be found (MT1d, which chronologically lies in a period between the late thirteenth century and the fourteenth century, MT4a, MT4b, MT4c, MT5b) and a phase specifically located at the beginning of the fourteenth century (MT1a, MT1b). Finally, it is interesting to note that MT1c represents a subtype of MT1 and is a Soviet restoration from 1971–1972, which mimics the fourteenth-century masonry of the Zorats' Church in an extremely accurate manner [fig. 2].

M.N., E.P., L.S.

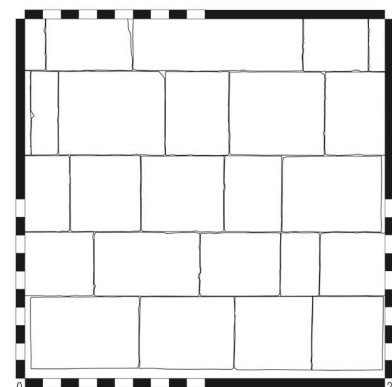
## MASONRY TYPE 1

Masonry characterized by perfectly squared and flattened ashlar, laid in horizontal and parallel courses, with thin (1–2 millimeters) joints and beds. The tool marks for smoothing, when visible, are chisel marks. The shape of the ashlar is rectangular and/or square, with the occasional presence of vertically placed ashlar (in MT1a and MT1b). Presence of washed mortar.

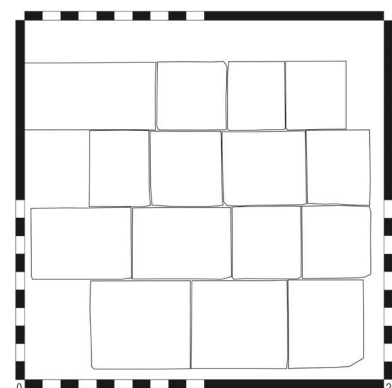
[fig. 2] Chrono-typological diagram of Masonry Types



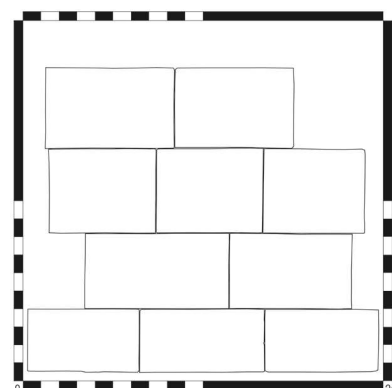
| <b>мт1а</b>            | <b>approximately 1320s–1330s</b>                                   |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                                                             |
| Arrangement            | horizontal and parallel courses                                    |
| Joints & Beds          | thin                                                               |
| Wedges                 | no                                                                 |
| Working                | perfectly squared                                                  |
| Surface dressing       | smooth                                                             |
| Tool                   | chisel                                                             |
| Ashlars                | rectangular and square, rare vertical ashlar                       |
| Dimensions             | Л 38–60 см Н 35–46 см                                              |
| Margin finishing       | not present or not visible<br>(when it is present, it is reworked) |
| Binder                 | leached whitish mortar                                             |
| МТ recognized presence | 4YGV, AC1, B1, E 1, 2, 3, 4                                        |



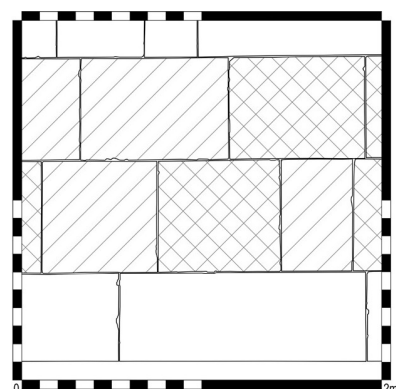
| <b>мт1б</b>            | <b>approximately 1320s–1330s</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                           |
| Arrangement            | horizontal and parallel courses  |
| Joints & Beds          | thin                             |
| Wedges                 | no                               |
| Working                | perfectly squared                |
| Surface dressing       | smooth                           |
| Tool                   | chisel                           |
| Ashlars                | square, rare rectangular         |
| Dimensions             | Л 30–36 см Н 33–46 см            |
| Margin finishing       | not present or not visible       |
| Binder                 | leached whitish mortar           |
| МТ recognized presence | 4YGV, AC1, B1, E 4               |



| <b>мт1с</b>            | <b>1971–1972</b>                          |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt (mainly black or dark red)         |
| Arrangement            | horizontal and parallel courses           |
| Joints & Beds          | thin                                      |
| Wedges                 | no                                        |
| Working                | perfectly squared                         |
| Surface dressing       | smooth                                    |
| Tool                   | chisel                                    |
| Ashlars                | rectangular, rare square                  |
| Dimensions             | Л 56–79 см Н 35–46 см (smaller than мт1а) |
| Margin finishing       | not present or not visible                |
| Binder                 | leached whitish mortar                    |
| МТ recognized presence | 4YGV, AC1, B1, E 1                        |



| <b>мт1d</b>            | <b>second half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century</b><br>(most likely 1273–1290) |
|------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | bichrome basalt                                                              |
| Arrangement            | horizontal and parallel courses                                              |
| Joints & Beds          | thin                                                                         |
| Wedges                 | no                                                                           |
| Working                | perfectly squared                                                            |
| Surface dressing       | smooth                                                                       |
| Tool                   | chisel                                                                       |
| Ashlars                | rectangular and square, rare vertical ashlar                                 |
| Dimensions             | ⊥ 64–82 cm и 50–63 cm (bigger than мт1a)                                     |
| Margin finishing       | not present or not visible                                                   |
| Binder                 | leached whitish mortar                                                       |
| MT recognized presence | 4γgv, ac2, в1, ε 1, 2, 4                                                     |

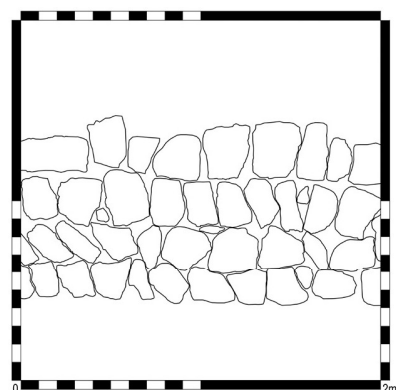


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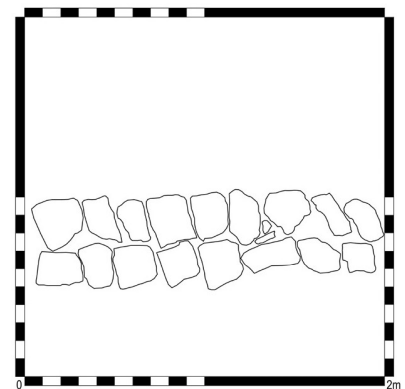
## MASONRY TYPE 2

Masonry characterized by square, rectangular split and hewn blocks placed in sub-horizontal and parallel vertical or oblique courses. The joints and beds are wide and there is an occasional presence of medium-small polygonal wedges without binder.

| <b>мт2a</b>            | <b>12<sup>th</sup> century – 1320s and post 14<sup>th</sup> century – before collapse</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                                                                                    |
| Arrangement            | sub-horizontal and parallel courses                                                       |
| Joints & Beds          | thick                                                                                     |
| Wedges                 | occasional, polygonal, small to medium dimensions (more frequent in joints)               |
| Working                | split and hewn to square                                                                  |
| Surface dressing       | absent, roughly regularized blocks                                                        |
| Tool                   | -----                                                                                     |
| Ashlars                | rectangular, vertically arranged                                                          |
| Dimensions             | ⊥ 15–23 cm и 23–32 cm                                                                     |
| Margin finishing       | absent                                                                                    |
| Binder                 | absent                                                                                    |
| MT recognized presence | 4γgv, ac1, в4, ε9                                                                         |



| <b>MT2b</b>            | <b>12<sup>th</sup> century – 1320s and post 14<sup>th</sup> century – before collapse</b> |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                                                                                    |
| Arrangement            | sub-horizontal and parallel courses                                                       |
| Joints & Beds          | thick                                                                                     |
| Wedges                 | occasional, polygonal, small and medium dimensions (more frequent in joints)              |
| Working                | split and hewed to square                                                                 |
| Surface dressing       | absent, roughly regularized blocks                                                        |
| Tool                   | -----                                                                                     |
| Ashlars                | rectangular, obliquely arranged                                                           |
| Dimensions             | Л 12–22 cm H 19–30 cm                                                                     |
| Margin finishing       | absent                                                                                    |
| Binder                 | absent                                                                                    |
| MT recognized presence | 4YGV, AC1, B4, E9                                                                         |

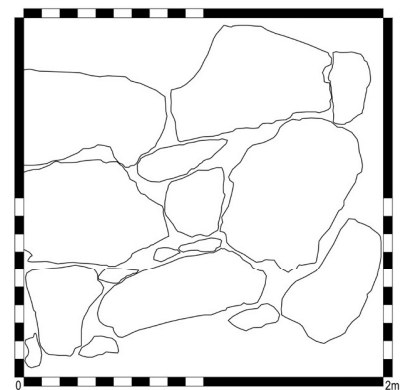


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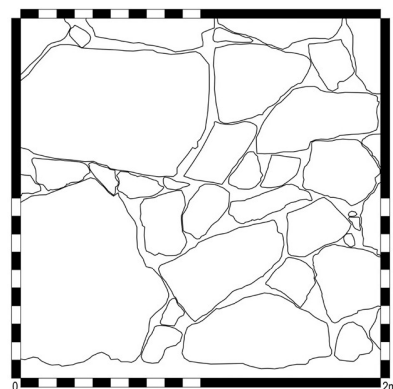
### MASONRY TYPE 3

Masonry characterized by medium to very large split stones, lacking courses, with wide joints and beds, and frequent polygonal wedges. Absence of binder.

| <b>MT3a</b>            | <b>end of 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> century</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                                                 |
| Arrangement            | without courses                                        |
| Joints & Beds          | thick                                                  |
| Wedges                 | frequent, polygonal                                    |
| Working                | split                                                  |
| Surface dressing       | absent                                                 |
| Tool                   | -----                                                  |
| Ashlars                | polygonal                                              |
| Dimensions             | big and very big                                       |
| Margin finishing       | absent                                                 |
| Binder                 | absent                                                 |
| MT recognized presence | 4YGV, AC1, B3                                          |



| <b>MT3b</b>            | <b>end of 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> century</b>         |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                                                         |
| Arrangement            | without courses                                                |
| Joints & Beds          | irregular                                                      |
| Wedges                 | occasional, polygonal                                          |
| Working                | split                                                          |
| Surface dressing       | absent                                                         |
| Tool                   | -----                                                          |
| Ashlars                | polygonal                                                      |
| Dimensions             | big and very big, with medium sized stones (more than in MT3a) |
| Margin finishing       | absent                                                         |
| Binder                 | absent                                                         |
| MT recognized presence | 4YGV, AC1, B2, B3, B6, B7                                      |

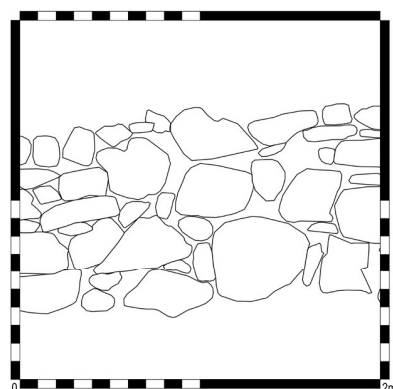


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#### MASONRY TYPE 4

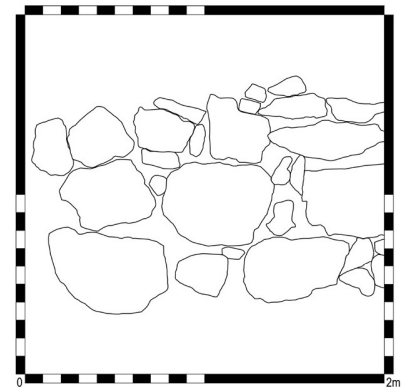
Masonry characterized by medium to large split stones, roughly laid in sub-horizontal and parallel courses. The joints and beds are wide, with polygonal wedges (structural in MT4a, less frequent in MT4b and MT4c). There is a structural use of polygonal wedges and earth binder is present.

| <b>MT4a</b>            | <b>mid-13<sup>th</sup> – mid-14<sup>th</sup> century</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                                                   |
| Arrangement            | rude, sub-horizontal and parallel courses                |
| Joints & Beds          | thick                                                    |
| Wedges                 | frequent, polygonal, structural                          |
| Working                | split                                                    |
| Surface dressing       | absent                                                   |
| Tool                   | -----                                                    |
| Ashlars                | polygonal, rectangular                                   |
| Dimensions             | decreasing in higher courses                             |
| Margin finishing       | absent                                                   |
| Binder                 | earth                                                    |
| MT recognized presence | 14YGP, AC1, B1, E inward south                           |

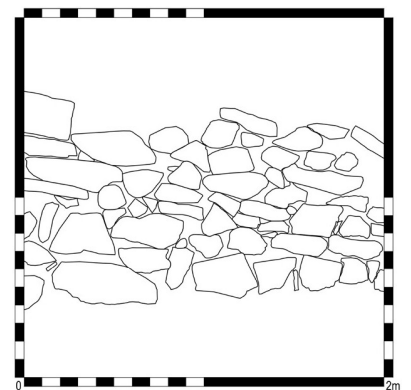




| <b>MT4b</b> <b>mid-13<sup>th</sup> – mid-14<sup>th</sup> century</b> |                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype                                                            | basalt                                    |
| Arrangement                                                          | rude, sub-horizontal and parallel courses |
| Joints & Beds                                                        | thick                                     |
| Wedges                                                               | polygonal wedges are less frequent        |
| Working                                                              | split                                     |
| Surface dressing                                                     | absent                                    |
| Tool                                                                 | -----                                     |
| Ashlars                                                              | polygonal                                 |
| Dimensions                                                           | very big                                  |
| Margin finishing                                                     | absent                                    |
| Binder                                                               | earth                                     |
| MT recognized presence                                               | 14YGP, Ac1, B3, E inward north            |



| <b>MT4C</b> <b>mid-13<sup>th</sup> – mid-14<sup>th</sup> century</b> |                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype                                                            | basalt                                    |
| Arrangement                                                          | rude, sub-horizontal and parallel courses |
| Joints & Beds                                                        | thick                                     |
| Wedges                                                               | polygonal wedges are less frequent        |
| Working                                                              | split                                     |
| Surface dressing                                                     | absent                                    |
| Tool                                                                 | -----                                     |
| Ashlars                                                              | polygonal                                 |
| Dimensions                                                           | medium/small                              |
| Margin finishing                                                     | absent                                    |
| Binder                                                               | earth                                     |
| MT recognized presence                                               | 14YGP, Ac1, B2, E inward south            |

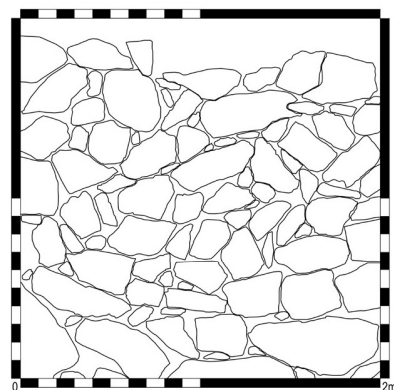


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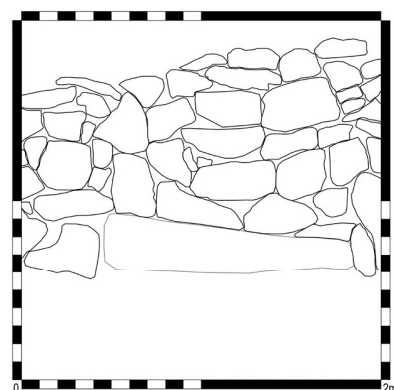
## MASONRY TYPE 5

Masonry characterized by polygonal blocks of small to medium size, placed with total absence of courses; joints and beds are wide, absence of binder, and rare polygonal wedges.

| <b>mt5a</b>            | <b>end of 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> century and 12<sup>th</sup> century – 1320s–1330s</b> |
|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                                                                                           |
| Arrangement            | without courses                                                                                  |
| Joints & Beds          | thick                                                                                            |
| Wedges                 | rare polygonal wedges                                                                            |
| Working                | split                                                                                            |
| Surface dressing       | absent                                                                                           |
| Tool                   | -----                                                                                            |
| Ashlars                | polygonal                                                                                        |
| Dimensions             | medium/small                                                                                     |
| Margin finishing       | absent                                                                                           |
| Binder                 | absent                                                                                           |
| MT recognized presence | 4YGV, AC1, B2, B8                                                                                |



| <b>mt5b</b>            | <b>mid-13<sup>th</sup> – mid-14<sup>th</sup> century</b> |
|------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                                                   |
| Arrangement            | without courses                                          |
| Joints & Beds          | thick                                                    |
| Wedges                 | rare polygonal wedges                                    |
| Working                | split                                                    |
| Surface dressing       | absent                                                   |
| Tool                   | -----                                                    |
| Ashlars                | frequent, rectangular                                    |
| Dimensions             | medium/small                                             |
| Margin finishing       | absent                                                   |
| Binder                 | absent                                                   |
| MT recognized presence | 13YGM, AC2, B1, E inward south                           |

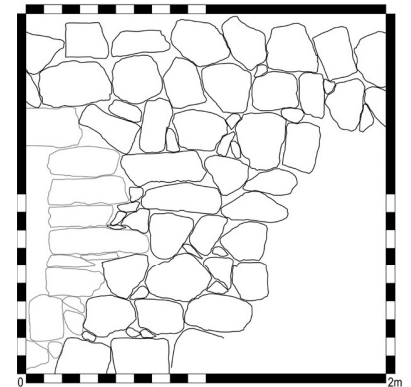


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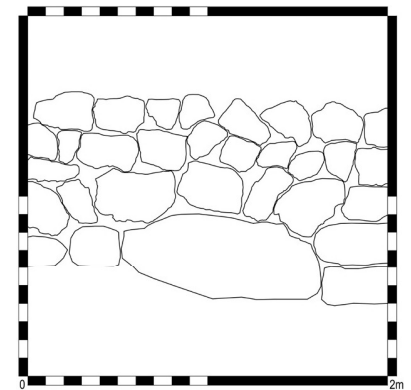
## MASONRY TYPE 6

Masonry characterized by split and roughly hewn stones, laid in sub-horizontal and parallel courses, with irregular joints and beds. The earth binder is washed out, and rare wedges are present.

| <b>MT6a</b><br><b>[gia MT8 and MT9]</b> |  | <b>12<sup>th</sup> century – 1320s–1330s</b>             |
|-----------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype                               |  | basalt                                                   |
| Arrangement                             |  | sub-horizontal and parallel courses                      |
| Joints & Beds                           |  | irregular                                                |
| Wedges                                  |  | occasional                                               |
| Working                                 |  | split and roughly hewn                                   |
| Surface dressing                        |  | regularized                                              |
| Tool                                    |  | quarry tool                                              |
| Ashlars                                 |  | sub-quadrangular and polygonal, occasionally rectangular |
| Dimensions                              |  | medium/small                                             |
| Margin finishing                        |  | absent                                                   |
| Binder                                  |  | absent                                                   |
| MT recognized presence                  |  | 4YGV, AC1, B8                                            |



| <b>MT6b</b><br><b>[gia MT10]</b> |  | <b>12<sup>th</sup> century – 1320s–1330s</b> |
|----------------------------------|--|----------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype                        |  | basalt                                       |
| Arrangement                      |  | sub-horizontal and parallel courses          |
| Joints & Beds                    |  | irregular                                    |
| Wedges                           |  | rare polygonal wedges                        |
| Working                          |  | split                                        |
| Surface dressing                 |  | absent                                       |
| Tool                             |  | quarry tool                                  |
| Ashlars                          |  | polygonal                                    |
| Dimensions                       |  | big                                          |
| Margin finishing                 |  | absent                                       |
| Binder                           |  | absent                                       |
| MT recognized presence           |  | 4YGV, AC1, B9                                |

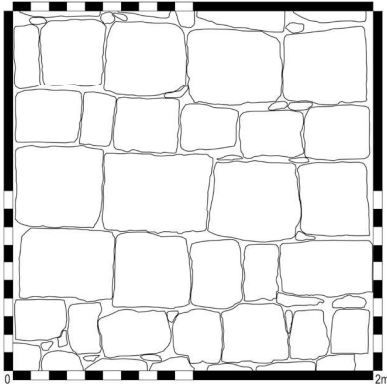


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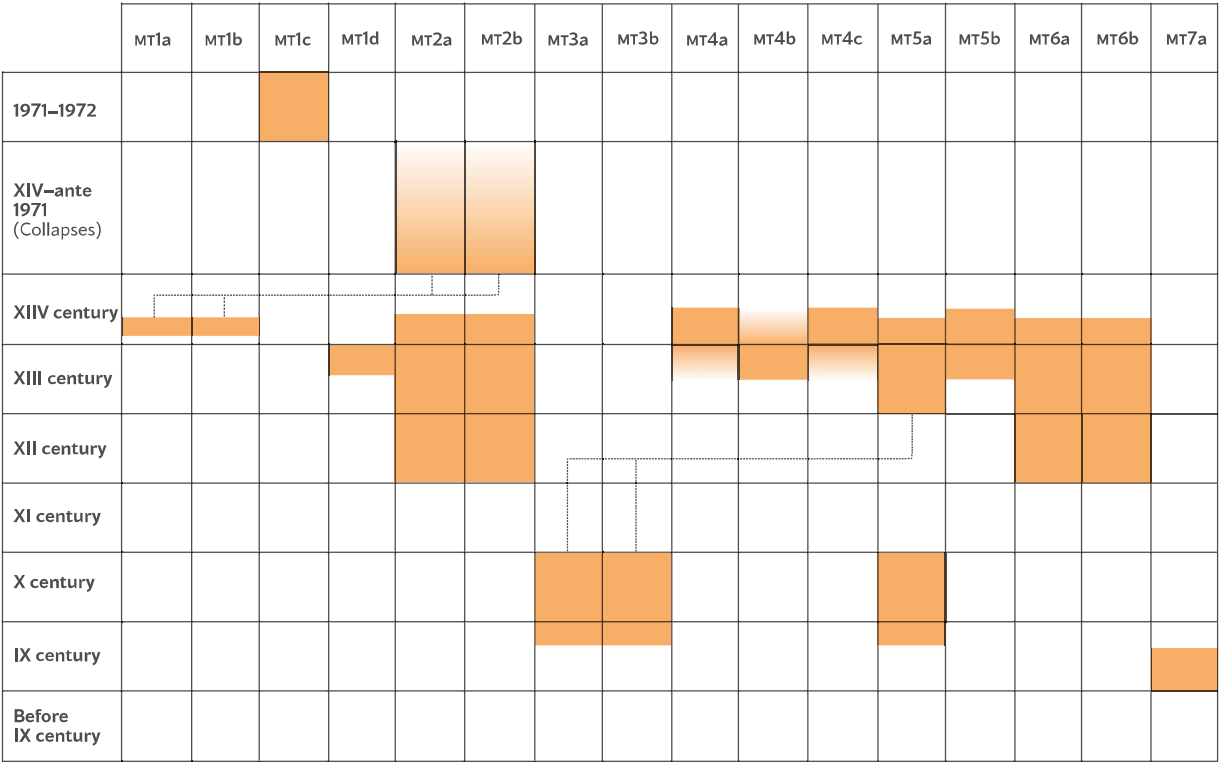
### MASONRY TYPE 7

Masonry characterized by roughly hewn and regularized stones, arranged in horizontal and parallel courses, with medium-wide joints and beds, rare polygonal wedges, and washed binder [fig. 3].

| MT7a                   | approximately mid-9 <sup>th</sup> century |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Lithotype              | basalt                                    |
| Arrangement            | horizontal and parallel courses           |
| Joints & Beds          | medium/thick                              |
| Wedges                 | rare polygonal wedges                     |
| Working                | roughly squared                           |
| Surface dressing       | regularized                               |
| Tool                   | quarry tools/chisel?                      |
| Ashlars                | rectangular and squared                   |
| Dimensions             | medium/small                              |
| Margin finishing       | absent                                    |
| Binder                 | leached                                   |
| MT recognized presence | 4ygv, AC4, B1                             |



M.N.



[fig. 3] Chronological distribution of Masonry Type

