

A program of International cooperation Italy-Israel

The Masada project was developed as an on-going research collaboration between the Department of Interior Building and Environment Design of Shenkar College of Design and Engineering, the Department of Architecture of the University of Florence and the Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering of the University of Pavia. Beyond the research aspects, the project has didactic aspects as well. The project, consisting in a proposal for digital documentation of Masada cultural heritage sites.

- II -

DIGITAL SURVEY IN ARCHEOLOGY

STEFANO BERTOCCI SANDRO PARRINELLO REBEKA VITAL

MASADA NOTEBOOKS

REPORT OF THE RESEARCH PROJECT 2014

VOL. II

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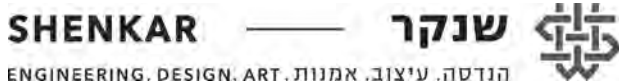
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*On cover: General view of the point cloud
and three-dimensional processing about
Herod's Palace area.*

Elaborated by Marco Benedetti.

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A JOURNEY THROUGH SOME HERODIANS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

One of the objectives of the mission of 2014 concerned to the verification of the possibility is a defining adequate comparisons for the study of the architecture located on the Masada acropolis with the purpose of reaching a better comprehension of the site which is characterized by the ruins of a conspicuous number of buildings that seem distinguished by a large morphological complexity. Our mission in Israel has ended with a tour focused on the visit of some of the most representative sites belonging to the vast Herod's program for the construction of fortress and fortified Palaces during his reign (37 – 4 BC)



Map of the first century A.D. showing the position of Masada and the palaces of Herod.

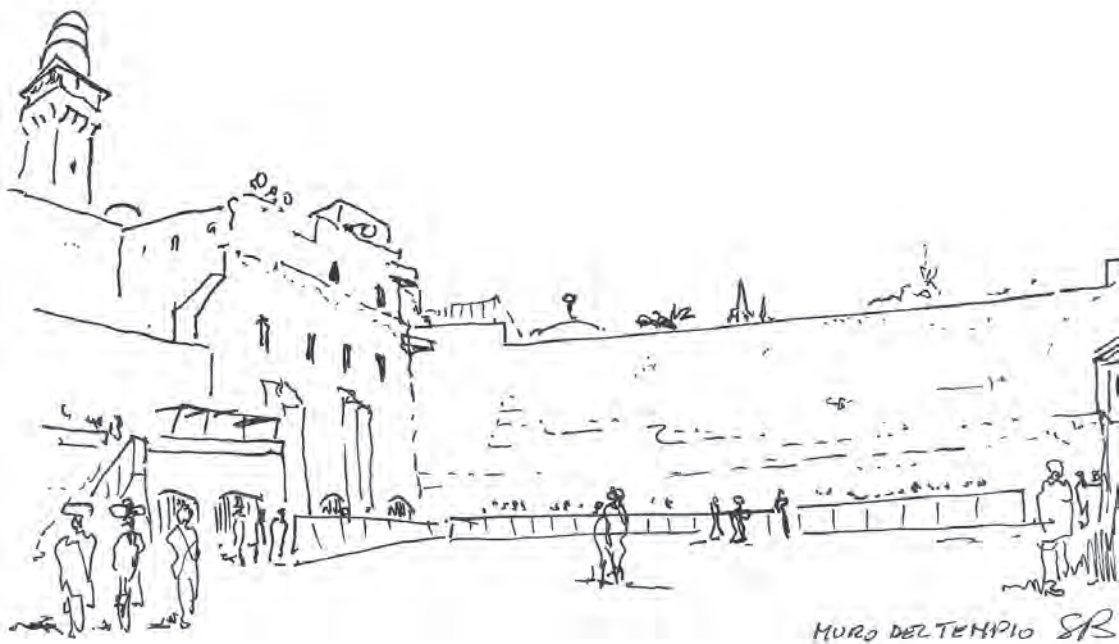
Drawn by I. A. Richmond

*Drawings by:
Stefano Bertocci,
Sandro Parrinello,
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Sara Bua*

THE JERUSALEM ARCHAEOLOGICAL PARK - DAVIDSON CENTER



Plan of Jerusalem



MURO DEL TEMPIO SR

Herod began the restoration of the ancient temple in 20 or 19 B.C.

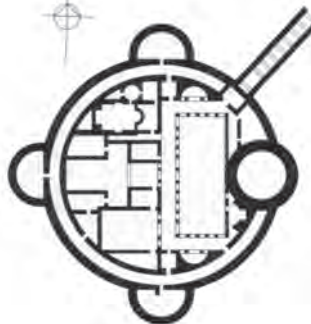
In the Temple of Herod the inner sanctuary was very similar to that of the Temple of Solomon, but larger in elevation; on the contrary, the outer buildings, surrounding the main temple, were expanded. Since the ancient Temple stood on the hill east of the city, the upper floor of the hill was expanded by retaining walls carried out at the sides: in this additional space, three porches were built, one higher than the other.

The first was accessible to anyone, and was therefore called the “atrium of the Gentiles”, being able to be frequented by pagans. Passing a railing and climbing beyond some steps, one entered in “inner atrium,” protected by thick walls and divided in two parts: the outer part was said to be the atrium of women, where Israelite women were allowed, and the innermost was called the atrium of the Israelites, accessible only to men.

Proceeding and stepping up further, there was the hall of priests, where the altar of burnt offering was located, and finally, after some more steps, the holy of holies, which is reserved only to the high priest. The northwest corner of the Temple was conjunct with the Antonia Fortress, built by Herod.



HERODIUM



Herodium or Herodion is a truncated cone-shaped hill, located 12 kilometres (7.5 mi) south of Jerusalem and 5 kilometres (3.1 mi) southeast of Bethlehem, in the Judean desert.

Herod the Great built a fortress, a palace, and a small town in Herodium, between 23 and 15 B.C., and is believed to have been buried there.

Herodium is 758 meters (2,487 ft) and he is believed above sea level, the highest peak in the Judean desert.

The palace itself consisted of four towers of seven stories, a bathhouse, courtyards, a Roman theatre, banquet rooms. Once Herod died and the Great Revolt started, Herodium was abandoned. The site was occupied and partly restored as a fortress in the Crusader period.

Plan of Herodium





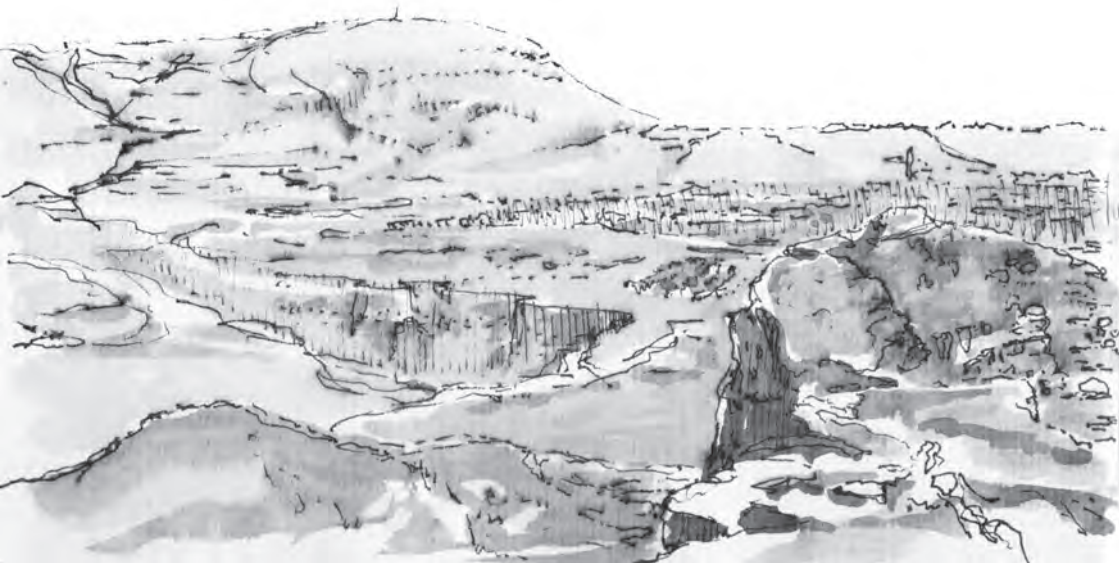
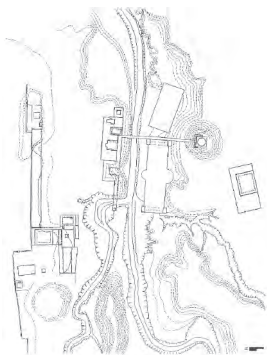
WINTER PALACES AT JERICO

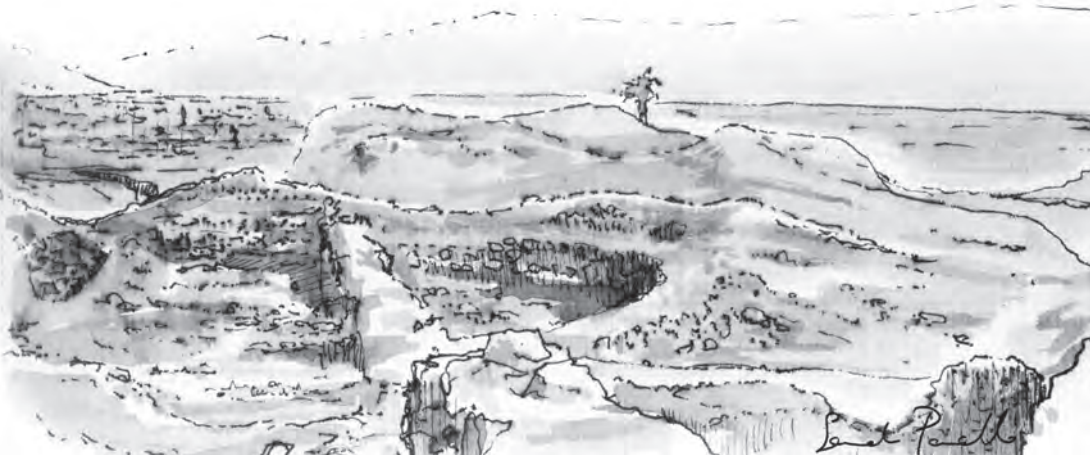
The Hasmonean royal winter palaces are a complex of buildings from the Second Temple period, which were discovered in the western Jericho valley, near the entrance to Wadi Qelt and to the Roman path going down from Jerusalem to Jericho. A strong earthquake in 31 B.C. destroyed the palace. On the site of the palace King Herod built an artificial tell. On the raised mount he built his second palace. The establishment of the mount resulted in coverage of the Hasmonean palace, and thus parts of it were preserved.

The second palace (north of Wadi Qelt) along with the first palace (south of Wadi Qelt) - served Herod for residential and ceremonial purposes.

The palace was a rectangular building, 86 by 46 meters. In the center was an open courtyard with perimeter columns and a central pool draining the rainwater. In the palace were a magnificent hall, a luxurious bathhouse, and a pair of deep pools, which were apparently ritual baths.

Plan of Herod's Winter Palaces at Jericho





CAESAREA MARITIMA

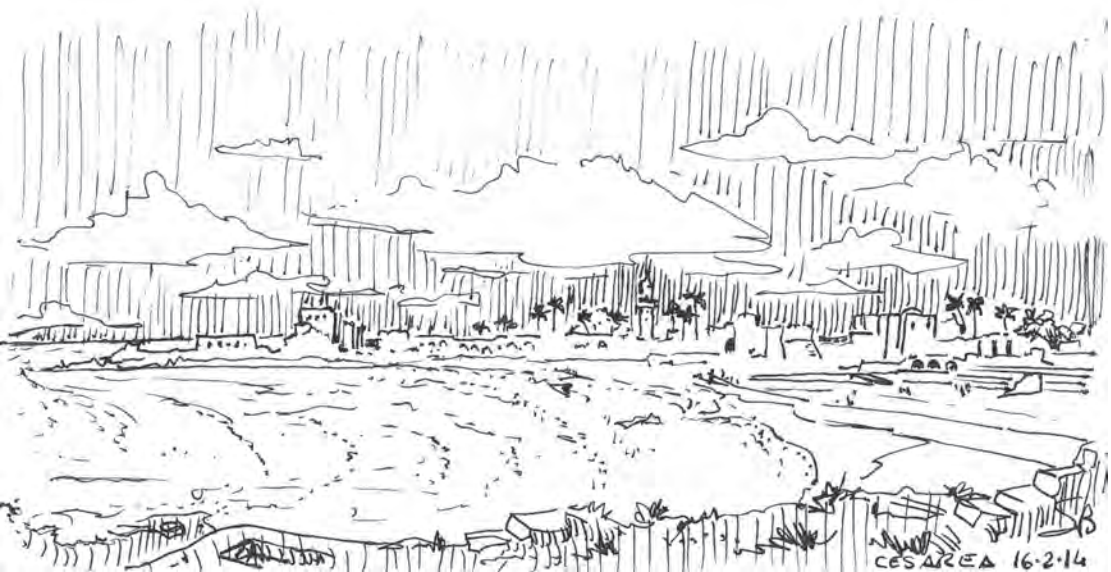


Herodian Plan of Caesarea Maritima



Caesarea Maritima is a national park on the Israeli coastline, near the town of Caesarea. The ancient Caesarea Maritima was built by Herod the Great about 25–13 B.C. The city has been populated through the late Roman and Byzantine era.

Caesarea Maritima was named in honor of Augustus Caesar. The city became the seat of the Roman prefecture soon after its foundation. Caesarea was created as administrative and commercial centre with the big harbor, storerooms, a large temple dedicated to Augusto and Rome, public buildings, a large hippodrome, a theatre and the Promontory Palace of Herod. The town was occupied rebuilt and fortified in the crusaders period.



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