"Fortress of Kilid-ül Bahir, Turkey" (Kilid-ül Bahir Kalesi, Türkiye), Secular Medieval Architecture in the Balkans 1300- 1500 and its Preservation, derleyen: S. Curcic ve E. Hadjitriphonos, Selanik, 1997

## TÜRKÇE ÖZET:

Çanakkale Boğazı, İstanbul'a seyreden gemilerin geçişine uygun iki stratejik boğazdan biridir. Fatih Sultan Mehmed döneminde (1451-1481) İstanbul Boğazı'nda Rumeli Hisarı ve Anadolu Hisarı-hisarpeçesinin oluşturduğu karşılıklı kale düzeninin bir benzeri 1461-62'de gerçekleştirildi. Çanakkale Boğazı'nda Kal'a-i Sultaniye ve Kilid-ül Bahir kaleleri karşılıklı olarak boğaz darlığını korumak amacıyla inşa edilmiştir.

Dönemin görgü şahidi Kritovoulos'un kalenin yapım aşamasına ilişkin izlenimlerinde inşaatın amacının özellikle Venedik gemilerinin geçişini engellemek olduğu ortaya çıkmaktadır. Onaltıncı ve onyedinci yüzyıllara ait çizimlerde ve minyatürlerde, ayrıca yabancı seyyahların yazılı beyanlarında Kilid-ül Bahir'in özgün durumu betimlenmektedir.

Mimari açıdan bakıldığında, Kilid-ül Bahir'in Rönesans askeri mimarisi kuramlarıyla uyum içinde olduğu görülür. Hem Osmanlı'da, hem de Avrupa'da kale mimarisinde ortaya çıkan gelişim, ateşli silahların ve top teknolojisinin savaşlarda oynadığı önemli role dayanır. Merkezi planlı düzenlenişi, denize hakim konumu, parapet, iç sirkülasyon ve özellikle de ateşli silahların kullanımına izin veren yonca biçimli dairesel dış duvarı ile Kilid-ül Bahir kalesi, Avrupa'da onaltıncı yüzyıl başlarında ortaya çıkacak olan Rönesans askeri mimarisinin adeta habercisidir. Yapı, 1530-40'larda İngiltere Kralı VIII. Henry'nin yaptırdığı kıyı kaleleriyle benzerlikler taşımaktadır.

Bütün bu özellikler, Osmanlı mimarisinde top teknolojisinin Avrupa'da yolaçtığı mimari gelişim mantığının Kilid-ül Bahir ile çok önceden kavrandığını ve uygulandığını göstermektedir.

# SECULAR MEDIEVAL

# ARCHITECTURE in the BALKANS

## 1300 -1500

## AND ITS PRESERVATION

edited by

Slobodan Ćurčić  and  Evangelia Hadjitryphonos

## 10. FORTRESS OF KILID-ÜL-BAHIR, TURKEY
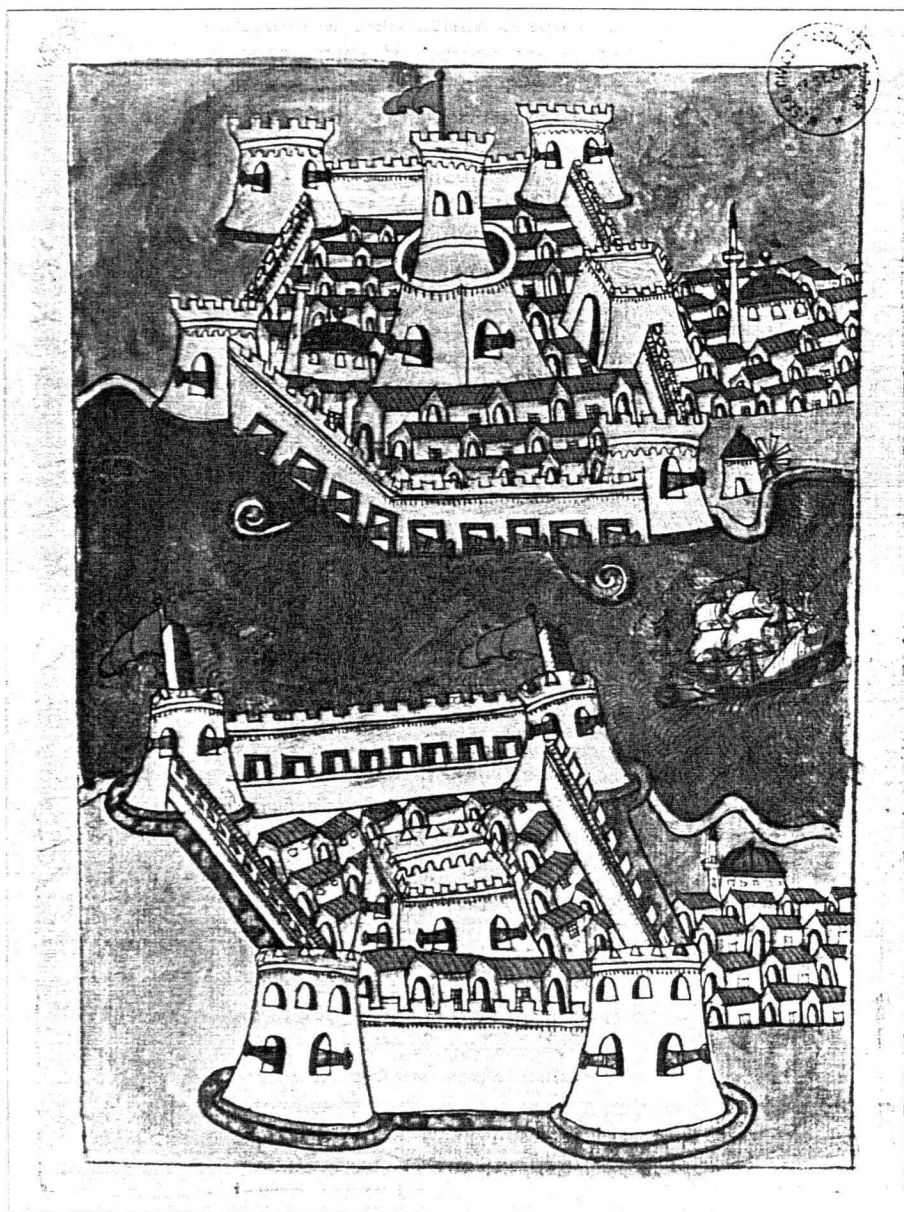


1. *Kilid-ül-Bahir and Çanakkale fortresses.*
   *Mémoires turques. 17th-c. MS., Museo Civ.*
   *Correr, Venice.*
2. *General view of main tower from southwest*
3. *Main tower, interior core*

The straits of Çanakkale (Dardanelles), once also known as "Bocca Romaniae", or "Il Braccio di San Giorgio", was one of the two strategic sea passages providing access to Istanbul. The narrowest point of the straits, between Madytos and Eleous (1250 m) was protected by two castles constructed on the opposite shores during the reign of Mehmed II (1451-81). The historian Kritovoulos of Imbros, a contemporary of the Sultan, describes the initiation of construction as follows: "...*having made this decision, the Sultan immediately sent men to examine the lay of the land and to ascertain the narrowest part and the swiftest current on the strait.*"

The first defences of the Dardanelles had been constructed at Sestos and Abydos by the Byzantine Emperor Justinian I (527-65) in order to control trafic through the straits. During the Crusades, the Pisan fleet managed to pass through the straits in 1193 and in 1203. Emperor John III Vatatzes (1222-54) regained the area from the Franks. In the early 14th c. the Catalan mercenaries began to plunder ships passing through the straits. At times they accomplished their goal together with newly emerging Turkish emirates in West Anatolia, such as Karesi and Aydınoğulları.

When Ottoman troops invaded Karesi Emirate in 1346, first Turkish military structures in Gelibolu (Kallipoli) were built. Bayezid I established a garisson to defend the Dardanelles in 1390, and erected two towers at the entrance of the harbour, observed by Clavijo, a Spanish envoy to the Byzantine court.

After the conquest of Constantinople, Mehmed the Conqueror strenghened the defences of his new capital by building two castles Kilid-ül-Bahir on the European side and Kal'a-i Sultaniye on the Asian side (1461-62). According to Kritovoulos: "*As quickly as possible he summoned Yakub, Governor of Galipoli and the Chersonese, Admiral of the entire fleet and commander of the whole shore, and charged him with the building of the forts, to be carried out as promtly as possible, together with all the responsibility for other things in this connection, without slackening speed*". The purpose of the undertaking was to "lock the sea", in other words to control the passage between Asia and Europe, by effective use of firearms. Architectural design of the Kilid-ül-Bahir reflects innovations in cannon technology.

Kilid-ül-Bahir could be described as the crystallization of Renaissance military theories, from the point of its central plan, offensive character and extensive use of artillery. The flower-like plan of the inner tower is surrounded by an enceinte, flanked

by another tower added during the reign of Süleyman I. An anonymous 17th-c. Venetian drawing shows the plan with a surrounding moat which separated the fort from its environs. According to Tournefort, the outer wall next to the shore was equiped with several cannon holes although no trace of this has been preserved.

The inner-fort has three half-cylindrical walls, ca. 7 m thick, and 18 m high, with a triangular inner-tower rising nearly 30 m in height. The wall-walk, ca. 6 m wide, was protected by a unusually shaped banquette. The arrangement of the central fort determined Kilid-ül-Bahir's total plan. Its architect remains unknown, but the geometric principles employed in its planning can be compared. to a degree, with Friedrich Barbarossa's fortifications in South Italy, especially with Castel del Monte.

The main difference between medieval fortresses and Kilid-ül-Bahir is apparent in the crucial shift from cold-steel warfare to firearms technology. With its counterpart in Anatolia and with its artillery power, Kilid-ül-Bahir had an offensive character. rather than traditional, defensive one. This modern attitude is evident in various architectural details. Outer walls, small strategic bastions for placing cannon, and its unique, aesthetic design, integrates functional, architectural and topographical characteristics, in the total design of this fortification.

Kilid-ül-Bahir may be compared with 16th-c. European fortifications, such as the castles of Walmer. Deal and St. Mawes constructed by Henry VIII of England. From the point of central planning, rounded outer walls, parapet and inner circulation, parallels between Kilid-ül-Bahir and the above mentioned examples can be drawn. As an early example of modern military architecture, Kilid-ül-bahir reflects the technology and aesthetic refinement of 15th-c. Ottoman architecture in general.
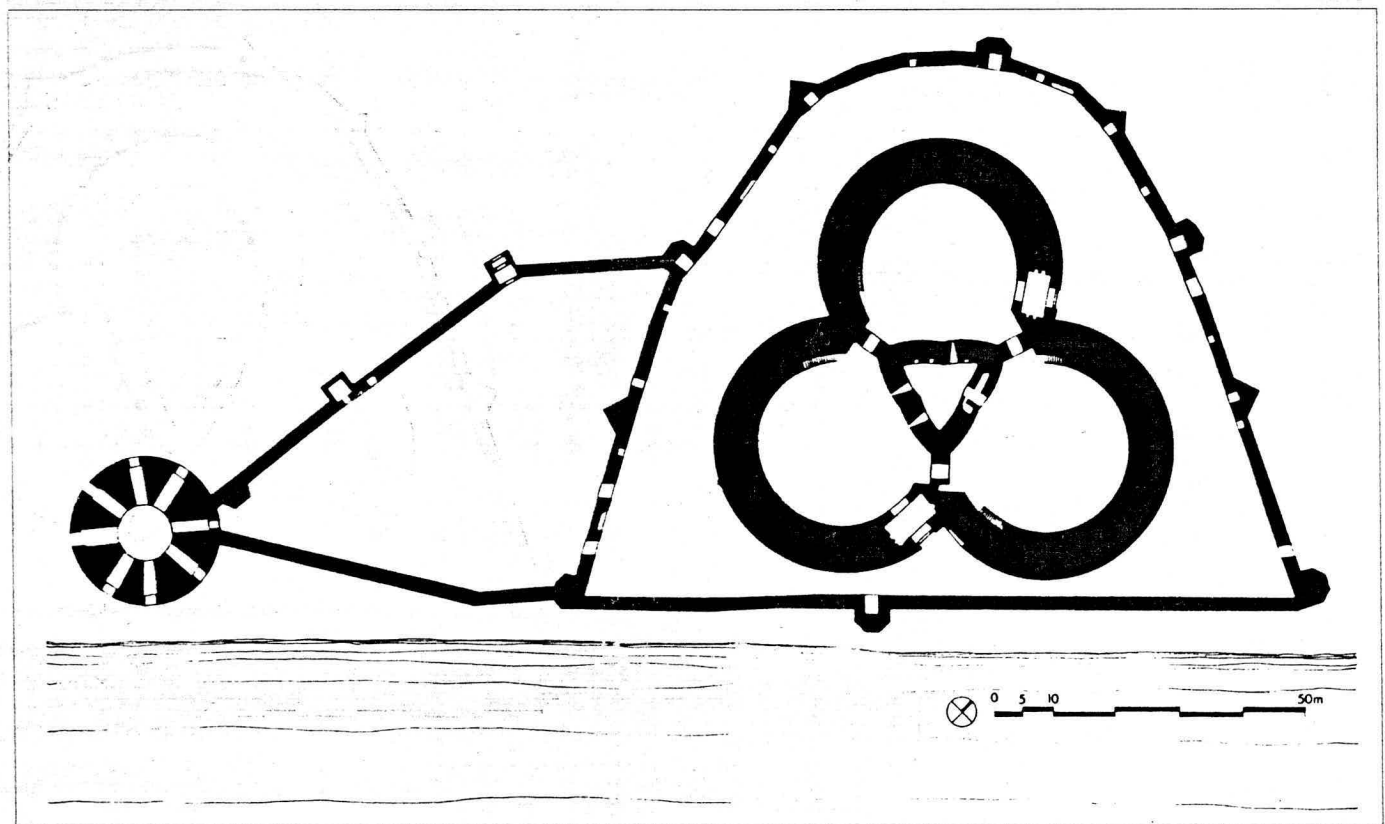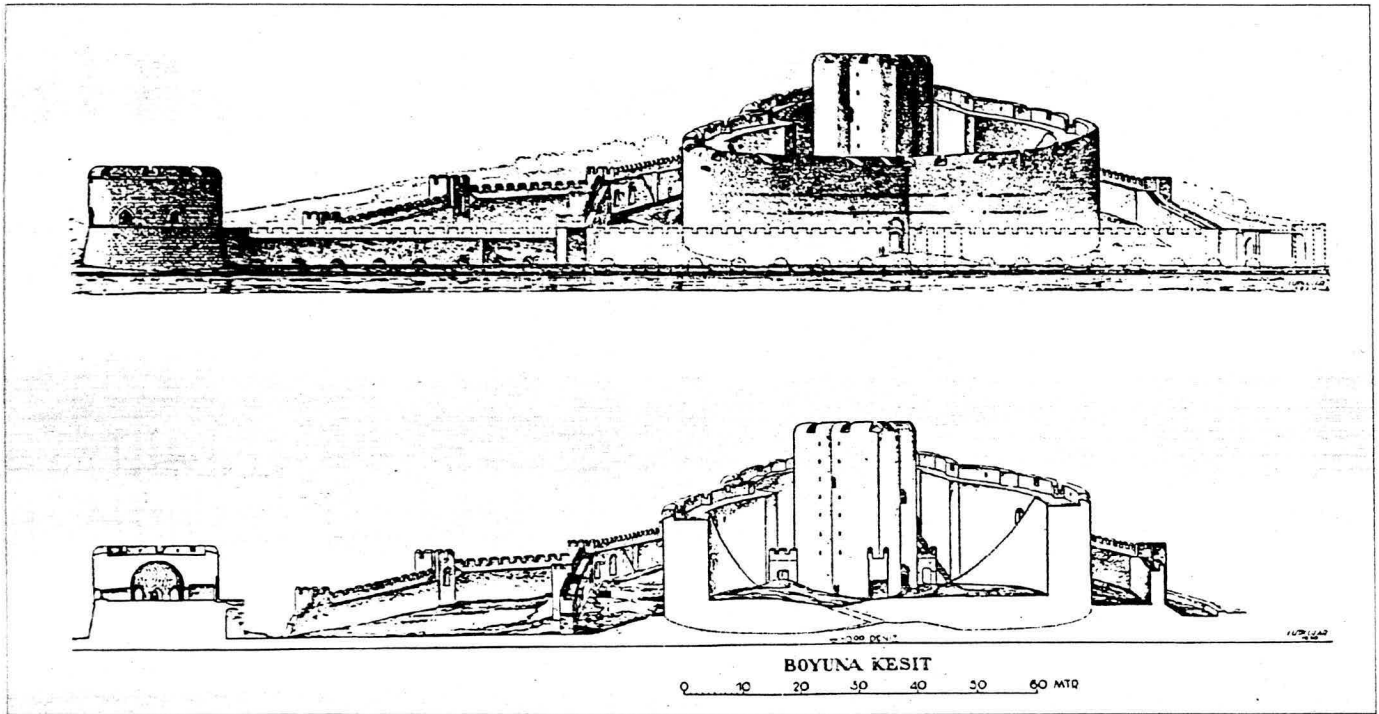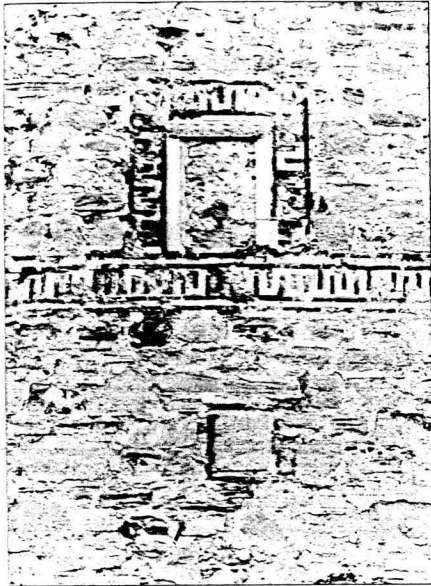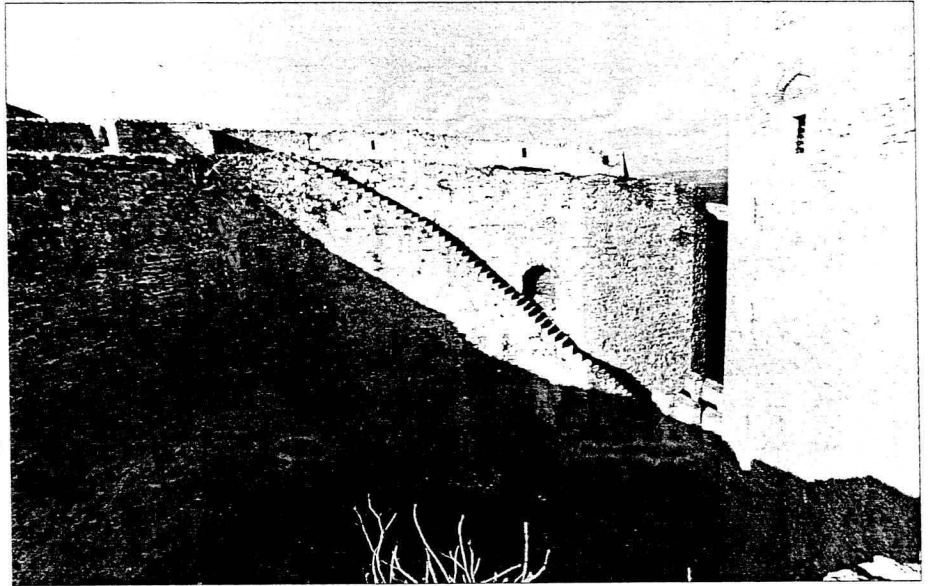
BURCU ÖZGÜVEN



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BOYUNA KESIT

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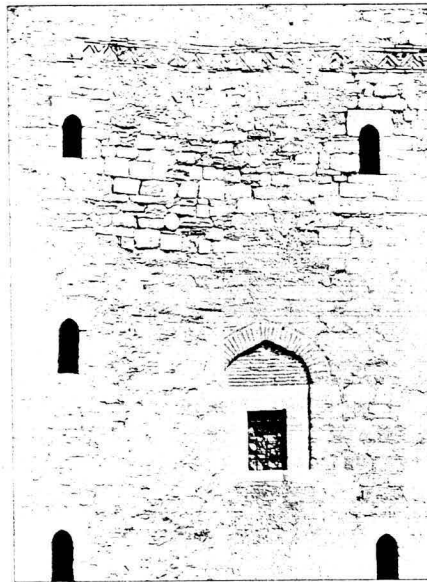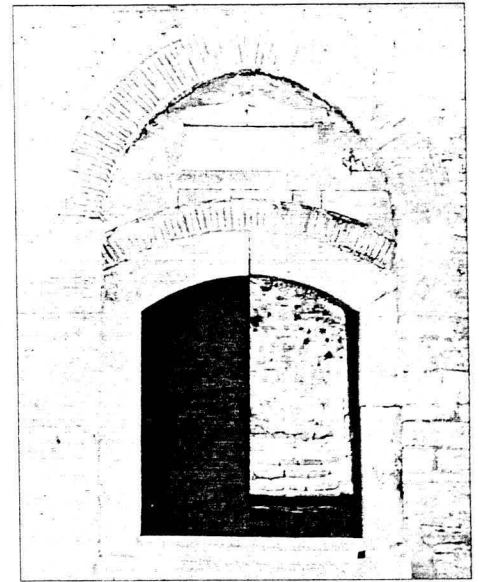0  5  10                    50m
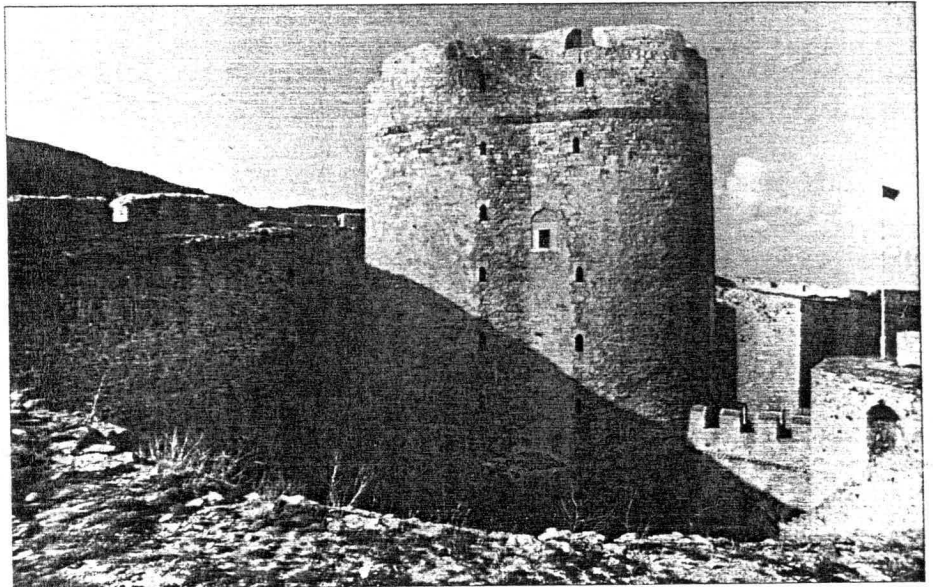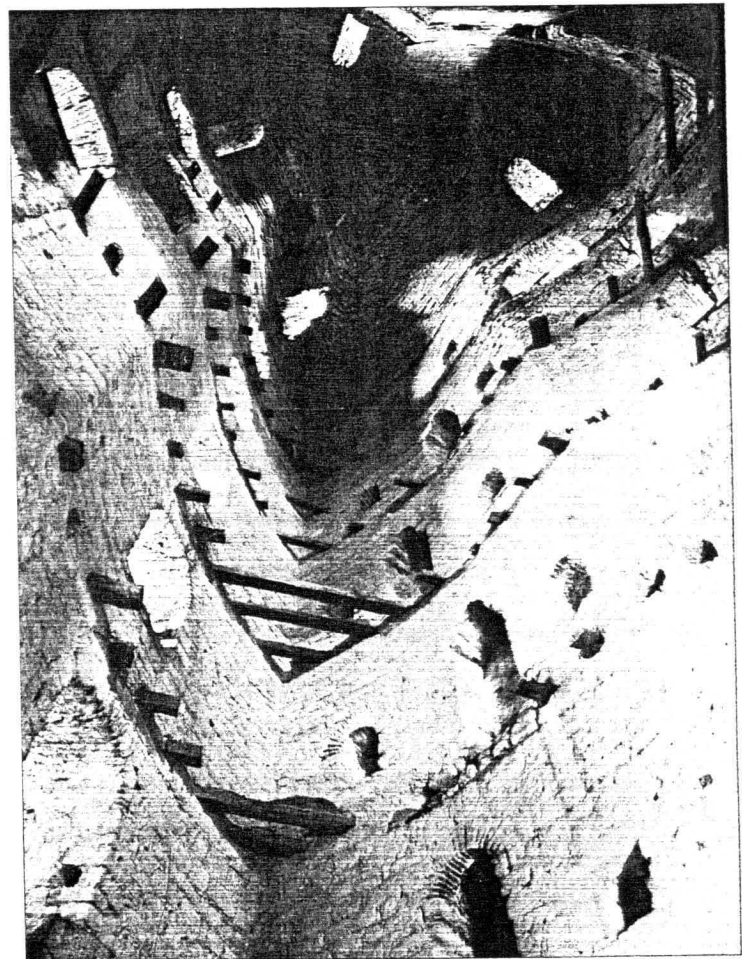
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4. *Southeast elevation and section looking*
   *northwest*
5. *Plan*
6. *Decorative panel*
7. *Inner northwest courtyard*
8. *Main tower windows*
9. *Main gate*

*Credits. Ćurčić, S.: 5 (drawn by Kelly, J.). Kalebodur
Archive: 2, 3, 6-9. Museo Civ. Correr, Venice.: 1.
Utkular, I.: 4.*