

## The Development of Palaces in the Achaemenid Pasargadae

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**ABSTRACT:** The current research is focusing on knowing the urban developments that took place in the palaces in the city of Pasargadae during the Achaemenid era and the role of kings in changing them through different periods of time, especially the royal palaces. This research is shedding light on the most important urban changes that occurred for the palaces in the city of Pasargadae and the changes done by the Achaemenid kings in their development and prosperity. The scientific gap in relation to previous studies clarifies that other researcher dealt with the city of Pasargadae as a historical city and some of them dealt with the archaeological aspect of it. In the present research, the focus is on how they developed these palaces. The method of analysis used in this research is following the historical and descriptive aspects of these palaces and mixing them by highlighting the most important urban aspects of them. Results show the most important feature of our research which is knowing the most prominent methods that were used in the development of these palaces and how the Achaemenid kings were able to develop them and make them luxurious palaces comparable to the old ones.

**Keywords:** Development of Palaces, Achaemenid Pasargadae, Iraq

### INTRODUCTION

The strategy of the Pasargadae palaces is one of the true revolts in antique Near Eastern architectural antiquity, as a single-focal axis, such as had dominated epic architectural civilizations in the Near East for millennia, gives way to an open, symmetrical four-sided construction with no main axis and no fixed focal point. In the case of Palaces S and P, this new physical authenticity may reflect a new attitude to power, or at least to certain features of ritual display complicated in "property court." The long porticoes *in antis*, for example, were nearly definitely intended to accommodate outside greetings, and it could be argued that the open four-sided strategy of the construction was planned exactly to be valued in the location of strangely spacious grounds. At Persepolis and Susa, though, Cyrus' successors reserved in part the multi-axis strategy invented at Pasargadae even though the location of these constructions was no longer a paradisiacal garden, a condition that proposes a deeper association between the open plan of the reception halls and the growth of Achaemenid court tradition.

#### 1. Palace S (Reception Hall)

The monument is known as (Palace S) or (Pillared Palace) or (Reception Hall). This building is located

approximately halfway between Gate R and Palace P, about 1250 m northeast of Cyrus' tomb (Stronach, 1963).

This monument displays some of the most important basic elements, including: the single longitudinal column made of white rocks, as well as the three stone columns, which were painted repeatedly by the first visitors to the site. Both (Flandin) and (Kusti) published the first plan for the monument in 1840 AD. After them came (M. Diolafoa), who published another plan for the building in 1886 AD. Then followed by Herzfeld, where a new scheme for the monument appeared and was published in 1910. But the clearest and most accurate scheme is the scheme of Palace S, which was presented by Ali Sami in the year 1950 AD. The monument consists of a great colonnaded hall surrounded by four colonnaded porticos, as well as a long corridor inside the building, extending from the northwest to the southeast.

### **1.1. Column Hall**

It is a paved hall containing two rows of columns, and each row contains four columns. The interior of the hall measures 32.35 x 22.14 m. The foundations of the columns consist of two rectangular bases made of black stone, topped by a rounded protrusion (Nylander, 1966). The lower platform measures 1.43 x 1.43 x 0.47 m, the upper platform measures 1.24 x 1.24 x 0.36 m, while the rounded protrusion is 0.22 m high and has a diameter of about 1 meter (Nylander, 1966). As for the cylinders, they were made of white stone, and the upper part of them remains-to this day-is more than 13 meters high above the pavement level. While the height of the base is 1.04 m, and the height of the axle itself is 12.06 m (Stronach, 1965). As for the capitals of the columns, many and varied forms were found. The small remains of them were found through the excavations carried out by (Herzfeld) and it was assumed that there were four forms of the capitals of the columns carved there, each made of black stone. The closely shaped forms were hybrid forms of a horned lion, which was also known (but these forms have disappeared at the present time, and only what has been preserved by means of documentation by Herzfeld and the numerous photographs that he took). There were other forms, such as the beast and the bull, as well as the horse. However, no trace of these ancient monuments remains today.

### **1.2. Porticoes**

Four colonnaded porticos surround the pillared hall of Palace S, and on the northeastern side there is the portico of the great temple, in addition to two rows of pillars, each consisting of twenty-four pillars, measuring 53.65 x 9.60 m. As for the benches made of white stone, which are 46 cm wide and 44 cm high, they are located at the back of the hallway as well as on its sides. The foundations of the portico, made of black stone, consist of a wide stone base with a rounded protrusion above each of them. The cylinders were made of stone (Stronach, 1994). At the present time, none of these columns have been preserved.

The portico on the southwest side measures 32.10 x 9.60 m and is about twenty meters shorter than the portico on the southeast (Stronach, 1994). The pavement of the portico located in the southwestern part is well preserved, and this pavement contains two rows of columns, each consisting of fourteen columns of black stone columns, but only two are preserved so far. Each column has a double square base and contains a polished round protrusion with a small part covering it. The bottom part of the base measures 56 x 56 x 24 cm, while the top is 44 x 44 x 18 cm. The axle diameter is approximately 37 cm (Nylander, 1980). There are also two rooms surrounding the southwestern portico, but these two rooms have been stripped out at the present time and have become the same level as the foundations.

Each of the opposite arcades, located in the northwestern and southeastern parts of the column hall, measures 22.10 x 10.50 m (Stronach, 1973). These galleries were originally paved, and traces of the polished sidewalk are still visible to this day. Each portico contains two rows of columns, each of which includes eight columns, but only a very few traces of the bases have been preserved. As for the cylinders, they must have been made of wood or other perishable materials.

### 1.3. The Bas-Reliefs of the Entrances

There were four pairs of bas-reliefs adorning the four entrances to the colonnaded hall, and the two jambs (meaning the door jamb) were each the same shape in the opposite direction to them. These jambs are well preserved at the northwestern and southeastern entrances. However, the upper parts of the jambs were lost. The remains of the inscriptions on the left jamb of the northwest entrance show two legs and two bare feet belonging to a human, followed by an eagle-footed beast, and hanging between the feet of this monster is the end of an embroidered belt. These figures—which exceed the size and magnitude of the average person—can be identified as drawings belonging to a warrior wearing a cap with a horn on it, and this warrior raises his hand high in a gesture of threat and intimidation, and there is another inscription on the back of it in the form of a demonic lion, he holds a dagger in one hand and a scepter in the other (Askari Chaverdi, Callieri, Laurenzi Tabasso, & Lazzarini, 2016).

The inscriptions on the opposite side of the southeastern entrance are better preserved, and still stand at a height of about 80 cm (Askari Chaverdi et al., 2016). The left door pillar shows the lower part of a bare foot belonging to a human who wears a short skirt and a robe made entirely of fish scales.

The Assyrian comparison can be used again to reconstruct and better understand these inscriptions. The first drawing represents a demon wearing a robe made of fish scales, and the second drawing belongs to a bull man, who holds a disc in his hand and is topped by a candlestick.

The left door jamb at the southwestern entrance is incomplete and fragmentary and shows three feet belonging to two barefoot and long-clothed men, and three four-hoofed legs. Scientists' interpretations of this scene varied, and some specialized archaeologists believed that this scene represented men riding horses, while others suggested that this drawing shows an Egyptian delegation coming with a ram or a sacrifice.

As for the scholars (de Stronach), it was rightly suggested that they were executed by the chief Babylonian sculptor. The date is somewhat uncertain because skilled Babylonian craftsmen may have found their way to Pasargadae even before the conquest of Babylon in 539 BC (Mirza, Kalinjar, & Minor).

All eight inscriptions belonging to Palace S are in a very poor state of preservation, and an urgent and immediate solution must be found to preserve them. The erosion has become very fast and began the elimination of the remaining relics within a few years. Perhaps some of these inscriptions will disappear forever.

## 2. Palace P (Residential Palace)

According to (Stronach), the construction of Palace P began during the last years of the rule of Cyrus, i.e., between 535 and 530 BC (Stronach, 1963). Various comparisons show that, despite all the general features of the plan being presented within the plan of Palace S, the basic design of Palace P shows some elements of ancient Iranian architecture that were not used in other landmarks of Pasargadae. Rectangular pillars known from the sites (Yotatrin) and internal parts of the corners of the columns were found in (Teppe Nosh-i Jan) in Zakros, and that the hall with thirty columns is derived from the Median complex of (Goden Tepe) in the Kangaur plain (Stronach, 1963).

The P Palace has several names, including: the presidential palace, the private palace, or the royal palace of Cyrus the Great, as he calls it (Herzfeld). This structure has received wide attention and attracted the interest of both the first travelers, as well as the excavations and excavations that took place in the city of Pasargadae. The first person to excavate and excavate this palace was the scientist (i.e., Herzfeld) in 1928 AD. However, Herzfeld did not provide an accurate and detailed plan for the construction.

In 1950 AD, the scientist Sami carried out a complete excavation that included the entire structure and gave a detailed description of all the main stone elements found there. Finally, a scientist (De Stronach) re-examined Palace P in the sixties of the last century. The British survey of the palace gave accurate information about the state of the monument, which appeared in November 1963AD.

### **2.1. Column Hall**

The palace consists of three main parts: the central hall, which is surrounded by two large hallways that form the letter H in English. The interior of the pillared hall is 31.10 meters long and 22.10 meters wide. It contains five rows consisting of six columns, separated from each other by spacers of 2.35 m in size. The stone bases consist of double platforms and a horizontally grooved round protrusion, while the diameter of the cylinder is about 69 cm and may have a height of 10 m (Stronach, 1965). However, there are currently no records preserved in this palace.

### **2.2. Southeast Portico**

Stronach named the southeast portico (Porch of the Throne), a stunning and impressive portico, 72.52 meters long and 9.35 meters deep. The sidewalk consists of a single stone path built of black and white stones. There are two rows of twenty columns with two pairs of doorposts, but only one of them is preserved to this day. Today, most of the traces of the columns have disappeared, and scientists currently only have the base foundations of piles of dark yellow stones.

The parts of the lower foundations that survive to this day and rise above the level of the pavement enabled scientists to reconstruct the two-colored stone base, which is smaller than all the main column bases, but like them. With the complete absence of stone remains, the scientist (Stronach) assumed that it was possible that the cylinders were made of wood.

### **2.3. Northwest Corridor**

This portico is not a temple, and it is a short portico, which means it is a miniature copy of the southeast portico, but with smaller dimensions. It is 44.85 meters long and nearly nine meters deep (Stronach, 1965). It contains two rows of columns, and in each row of twelve column bases, only one of them is complete. There is also a double square foundation, and there is also a round grooved protrusion, and these last two are well preserved. The cylinders were made of wood. Our unpaved room encircles the western corridor, and they share the same internal dimensions, which are 9.65 x 7.15 meters (Stronach, 1965). Nothing remained of these rooms except their stone foundations.

### **2.4. Column Pillars (Supports)**

At the southwest end of the southeast portico, there are columns which are still standing today and undamaged. It stands 6.14 meters above the pavement level. This pillar is the only surviving pedestal of Palace P and is one of a pair of pillars that once surrounded the southeast portico. They consist of two overlapping blocks. On their inner side, there is a trilingual CMA inscription engraved within a frame with dimensions of 90 x 40 cm. The written phrase is: "I am Cyrus, King of the Achaemenids." (Shekofteh et al., 2019) Other inscriptions have been found on the southeast portico of Palace S, and there is also a winged goblin in Gate R, the latter of which has completely disappeared.

### **2.5. Bas-Reliefs of the Pillared Hall**

There are four inscriptions-poorly preserved-adorning the inner side of the jambs made of limestone. These jambs connect the colonnaded hall with the porticos. These inscriptions were discovered during the Herzfeld excavations in 1928 AD and were partially restored in 1950 AD. There is a scene drawn on each jamb showing the king, followed by a footnote, leaving the hall. The upper part of the inscriptions has completely disappeared, and there are now only small and scattered parts that are attributed to the upper parts. A short trilingual inscription CMc, written in Old Persian, Elamite and Akkadian, which represented the royal form, was found in the folds of the king's robe: "Cyrus, the great king, Achaemenid."(Stronach, 1994) Moreover, from the number of remains of inscriptions found in Palace P, it can be assumed that a trilingual inscription may have been present on the top of each upper part of the pillars above the portrait of the king. The inscriptions are now in a poor state of preservation. As for the jambs, they are protected to some extent due to the presence of metal roofs that were built to protect them, but the problem of corrosion is also faced, especially the winged shape of the gate R, which is exposed to other dangers such as violent winds and rain.

### Conclusion

A correct clarification of the date of the inscriptions from Pasargadae is energetic. Amongst other things, its consensus with Strabo's clear statement that "Cyrus held Pasargadae in honor since he there occupied Astyages the Mede in his last fight, moved to himself the empire of Asia, originated an urban, and built a palace as a commemorative of his conquest" (xv.3.8). It also consensus with the opinion, already touched on protected archaeological estates, that most of the main buildings at the place took place between 546 and 530 BCE (as well as a further perception that Cyrus' monumental structures do much to reproduce the design of his far-flung defeats). In addition, a correct interpretation of the estimated date when manuscripts were created discloses the existence of a previously anonymous second moment of royal structure activity at Pasargadae (no doubt situated inside the first two periods of the reign of Darius), when Palace P assumed its last form, when Gate R and Palace S were also emblazoned, and when, in all probability, Cyrus' imposing stone stage on the western cross of the Tall-I Takht.

### CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts to declare.

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