



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Walking through an Islamic city: thresholds and stairs. The macellum of Gerasa as a case study

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## Abstract

Through the architectural transformations of the ancient macellum and adjacent streets, this proposal explores the connective strategies that can be inferred from the Islamic structures inserted in different points of the old market. The reuse of the space took place after the devastating earthquake of 659/60, when it was decided to cancel part of the collapsed building, even without reusing all the architectural blocks, and to build new structures, not always solid: two vaulted rooms, with a new bearing wall (structure 1); a staircase, which played a central role in the new pedestrian flows towards the main colonnaded street, since the South Stenopos was definitely disabled as street when another two structures were built (structures 2-3), as the North stenopos was also disabled by the Friday's mosque. The blockage of entrances and raising of thresholds demonstrate that circulation inside the old building and its surroundings was completely altered, which forced the new inhabitants to consider new strategies for circulation and access to spaces that were previously public or open to pedestrians. A very complex system that contrasts with the regular structures located to the north of the macellum, where the Islamic buildings are simply superimposed over the collapsed central baths

## Keywords

cityscape, early-Islamic, pedestrian circulation, urban connectivity, stairs

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