



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Wealthy Living in Assyria: Material Culture and Architectural Setting of Elite Residential Districts in Neo-Assyrian Cities

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## Abstract

Since AD nineteenth century, archaeological research in Assyria has focused on royal and administrative buildings located on top of acropolis mounds. However, a significant shift has occurred in recent years, with archaeologists directing their efforts toward understanding the urban layout of the lower towns, thus revealing their spatial division in residential quarters. This paper investigates the occupation of an elite residential district in the lower town of Nineveh, near the Adad Gate, during the Neo-Assyrian and post-Assyrian periods. We present the preliminary data from the excavations of the Iraqi-Italian Expedition at Nineveh, conducted by the University of Bologna and the Iraqi SBAH between 2019 and 2023 under the direction of Nicolò Marchetti. The excavation sectors, named A, B, and C, unveiled a series of elite residential units, as indicated by their architectural layout, which finds comparisons with the urban sectors at Assur, and by their rich assemblages of pottery and small finds. Our analysis extends into the post-Assyrian period as well, following the fall of Nineveh in 612 BCE, when this sector was reoccupied, in the case of the houses with a partial reuse of mudbrick walls, but also significantly abandoned, in the case of the earlier small palace.

## Keywords

Assyria, Architecture, Material Culture, Residential Districts, Nineveh

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