



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# Walking in the outer space: an analysis of the use of baked brick pavements in the courtyards of Neo-Assyrian Nineveh

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## Abstract

Recent archaeological research conducted by the Iraqi-Italian Archaeological Expedition at Nineveh, directed by Nicol Marchetti on behalf of the University of Bologna and the Iraqi SBAH, has brought to light, within five campaigns, several baked bricks courtyards from different buildings in the Neo-Assyrian lower town. Several ways of paving are attested in Neo-Assyrian layers. While royal buildings featured baked bricks or stone slabs, and occasionally mudbrick floors, domestic buildings mostly employed beaten earthen floors. Since baked bricks possess enhanced mechanical properties, their presence is frequently associated with outdoor spaces. In this study, an analysis of the employment of baked bricks in courtyards will be carried out, with reference to Areas A, B, C, E Top, H and V at Nineveh. Different building contexts will be examined, from domestic to small palatial-type residencies. Bricks morphology, their position and the building techniques used in paving courtyards will be investigated. Our evidence will be set within a general framework, including the regional and, possibly, provincial spheres, to highlight differences and similarities in the knowledge of Neo-Assyrian builders. The purpose of the paper is to inquire the reliability of specific architectural criteria to define culture and their contribution in identifying the Neo-Assyrian cultural space.

## Keywords

Assyria, Baked Bricks, Architecture, Building Materials, Courtyards

## Session

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