



## ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

# The Architectural Stucco Decoration from Hira in the Context of 8th-Century Greater Mesopotamia

CORSI A. 1,2\*

<sup>1</sup> Deutsches Archäologisches Institut - Berlin, Berlin, Germany

<sup>2</sup> University of York, York, United Kingdom

\*Corresponding author

## Abstract

Almost one century after D.T. Rice's excavations (1931), recent archaeological investigations at Hira (Iraq) are leading to a new understanding of the history of this somehow paradigmatic settlement. This paper focuses on architectural stucco decoration, a material that occupied an important place in publications related to the site since Rice's activities. Current investigations are indeed providing means for a reliable contextualization of the material, and a more articulated picture is emerging than that obtained in old excavations, consistently with the long history of occupation of the site. At an intra-site level, this paper will therefore aim at discussing finds from all the major campaigns (British, Iraqi and German), integrating them into the architectural and settlement analyses conducted by the ongoing Hira Research Project. Attributing specific stucco productions to different phases will indeed allow to gain new knowledge on diachronic developments. The periodization of stucco productions at Hira will also provide a starting base for a reconsideration of the broader supra-regional early Islamic landscape. Inter-site connections between Hira and late-Umayyad (e.g. Rusafa) and early-Abbasid sites (e.g. Salman Pak and Raqqa) will ultimately contribute to achieve a more nuanced picture of the decorative-architectural horizon of residential architecture in 8th-century Greater Mesopotamia.

## Keywords

Stucco, 8th century, al-Hira, Greater Mesopotamia, Residential architecture

## Session

8. Islamic archaeology

## Type of paper

Oral presentation