The Danish-Jordanian Islamic Jarash Project

SEASON REPORT, 2006

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Project Summary

Project name: The Danish-Jordanian Islamic Jarash Project.
District: Jarash.
Duration: 28th July – 26th August 2006.
Numbers of workers: 35 staff, 25 workmen.
Cost of Project (in-field): JOD 8,550.00
Director: Professor Alan Walmsley, Carsten Niebuhr Institute of Near Eastern Studies, University of Copenhagen.
Representative: Mr. Aktham Abbadi.
Geographical location: The Congregational Mosque of Jarash, located in the southwest quadrant of the south tetrapylon area of the antiquities site.

Acknowledgement

The participants and staff of the 2006 season of the Islamic Jarash Project are most grateful to Dr Fawwaz al-Khraysheh, Director-General of the Department of Antiquities of Jordan, and would furthermore like to express our gratitude to the following individuals and institutions:

Mr Aktham Abbadi, Department of Antiquities’ representative and the DoA staff of the Jerash Office of antiquities
Mr Abdul Majid Mejali, Jerash office of the Department of Antiquities (restoration)
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The German Protestant Institute, for equipment
HE Mr Tawfiq Kawar, the Danish Honorary Consul General in Amman
Turkish Airways for their valued assistance.

The 2006 Season in Summary

The 2006 season aimed to achieve several objectives; foremost the continuation of the fieldwork carried out through excavation in the mosque and the adjacent buildings as well as a continuous exploration of the buildings that occupied the area before the mosque was constructed. Furthermore, the project involved the ongoing survey of the cardo and decumanus, the conservation of coins dated from the roman to the Islamic period, and a thorough study of the ceramic material recovered from the 2002 – 2006 season.

Excavation within the mosque was concentrated on the western half of the qiblah (prayer) hall, especially on two areas; one (Mo/14) containing a staircase leading to a small street, running between the mosque and the western adjacent building; the other (Mo/15) containing architectural features that indicated a later use of the mosque.

In 2005 an area west of the mosque consisting of a small street and adjoining buildings were partly excavated and the 2006 season saw the continuation of the exploration of this area. In particular two areas were thoroughly investigated; the area surrounding a small rectangular building half paved with large stone slaps and an adjacent drainage and tabun.
And the space between the roman market *macellum* and the building complex, uncovering a terrace wall.

A line of shops built along the north-south thoroughfare and contemporary with the mosque was further explored. The investigation revealed a subdivision of the shops into smaller rooms, where one of the shops containing several smaller areas in which the remains of a large in-situ storage jar was uncovered as well as 5 intact smaller ceramic vessels.

The 2006 season also saw the continuation of the investigation of the late Roman bathhouse that occupied this area before the construction of the mosque. Two important areas were explored; a sondage was dug into the floor of the basin in the cold water area, which was excavated last year, in order to uncover any pre-bathhouse structures as well as retrieving material that would be useful in understanding the time of construction. Numismatic as well as ceramic material that was retrieved from the sondage indicates a date of construction in the late 3rd century. Secondly, a trench was excavated towards the west to investigate the extent of the bathhouse in this direction; the major exposed features were the continuation of the east-west sewer as well as a pebbled walking surface and a mosaic floor.

The detailed planning of the paved streets to the north and east of the mosque was continued in the 2006 season, this year focusing on the north-south running thoroughfare the *cardo*, from the tetrakionion piazza towards the south.

As an addition to the fieldwork a through study of the numismatic and ceramic evidence were accomplished during the 2006 season. This involved cleaning of the excavated coins by a skilled conservator followed by an examination of the origins and date of the individual coins. The ceramic material was thoroughly studies to establish a ceramic sequence for the material retrieved from excavation. Both projects will continue in the upcoming seasons.
Detailed Reports on the Fieldwork
1. The Mosque

Square Summary for MO/9
Supervisor: Lars Roenje.

The aim of excavation in 2006 was to investigate the following:

1. Make a Sondage east of the semi-circular stairs (loc. 16) and north of wall 2 (loc. 10) butting both of these loci. The aim was to investigate the relation and building-sequence between the wall and the stairs (leading up to the eastern entrance).

2. Remove the rest of the tumble in MO/9.

3. Complete the excavation of the shops adjoining the east wall of the mosque.

MO/9 is situated halfway alongside the eastern wall (wall 1, loc. 4) of the mosque. The square is bonded to MO/10 by its southern boundary. The eastern limit reaches the stylobate alongside the Cardo, while the western limit is aligned with the eastern wall of the mosque. The northern boundary reaches MO/6 to the north-west. The square measures 11 meters north to south and 5.20 meters east to west.

Excavation commenced on 31.07.2006, establishing the Sondage butting the eastern limit of the staircase (loc. 16) and the northern facing of wall 2 (loc. 10). Three other loci (20, 21 and 22) were also established, dividing MO/9 from the southern facing of wall 2 (loc. 10) to the northern boundary of MO/10. These all contained a lot of tumble and were done on the basis of soil color, texture and the likelihood of contamination. Especially locus 21 seemed to be heavily contaminated by modern activity.

The excavation of the Sondage (of which all the soil was sieved) quickly started to yield interesting finds as well as differences in soil color. The differences in color made us divide the Sondage into new loci (three in all) as excavation progressed. Of most interest was the color change that ran in a straight line in the southern end of the Sondage and parallel with wall 2 (loc. 10). This new locus (loc. 24) was 0.45 meters wide and had a distinctive reddish color. We interpreted this to be the foundation trench for the construction of wall 2 (loc. 10). The foundation trench was excavated all through the season until we reached the Byzantine
pavement on which wall 2 (loc. 10) was founded. A mosaic floor (loc. 44) was uncovered and runs underneath the wall.

To establish the relation between wall 2 (loc. 10) and the semi circular stairs (loc. 16) we opened a new locus (loc. 41) to the west of the Sondage, situated between the wall and the stairs. This was done in order to trace the foundation trench for wall 2 (loc. 10) and more important to find out if the trench was running underneath the stairs. This soon turned out to be the case. The southern coursing of locus 16 is placed on top of the foundation trench for wall 2 (loc. 10) thus making it a later addition in the building sequence.

The finds from the Sondage consisted mostly of ceramic sherds, small pieces of glass, bone fragments, tiles and a few pieces of corroded metal nails. There were exceptions to this though, as we found some good finds in the form of a few roman coins, a broken oil lamp, a bone hair pin and a stone weight. These, the interesting finds, were all found in the beginning of the season. As excavation progressed the finds became scarcer.

The excavation of the area to the south of wall 2 (loc. 10) started out as being mostly a matter of exposing the tumble, clearing out between the stones and removing them accordingly. This work was severely hampered by the absence of the heavy wheelbarrow (the only one we have for transportation of large stones). When it finally did arrive it had a flat tire! It took us a couple of days more to get some one to fix this. A hand injury sustained by our only workman didn’t help either.

These obstacles aside, we did manage to get a good work momentum going by the end of the first week. The tumble stones that were removed from the square all had their condition and general state of decay evaluated in order to decide which ones were suitable for use in the reconstruction of the mosque. These were marked with the square number (MO/9) and the letter representing the area from which they were removed (A, B, C etc.). This was done to continue the “marking system” applied in the previous seasons. The stones of bad quality were placed at the dump.

Another system continued from previous seasons was the naming of the shops. These were also named in alphabetic order and we of cause kept this approach in order to ensure the best possible coherence between this season’s work and the work done in previous years.

In this manner we named two new shops in MO/9: Shop G and Shop H.
Shop G is situated in the southernmost part of MO/9 between Wall 3 (loc. 36) and Wall 4 (loc. 47).

Wall 4 (loc. 47) separates MO/9 from MO/10. The first locus established in Shop G was locus 22.

This locus consisted mainly of tumble from the collapsing walls (wall 1, wall 3 and wall 4), and the loose reddish terra rossa that had been used for packing between the courses of building stones.

We kept the locus number as long as we continued to encounter new layers of tumble and still didn’t see any change in soil color.

When the tumble became scarcer, the color of the soil also started to become more yellowish and locus 31 was established. The soil now became increasingly more compact and we anticipated that we had reached floor level or were just about to do so. Still we didn’t find anything to suggest the usage of the shop. The finds were pretty much the same as in the above tumble-layers, although less numerous, and consisted mainly of small sherds of ceramic, fragmented pieces of bone and occasionally a piece of glass.

In order to save time, as Shop H started to demand more attention and man-power, we made a cross-section (loc. 32) down the middle of Shop G, running from west (wall 1, loc. 4) to east (the stylobate).

We excavated 15 cm. further down to find out if anything new would come to light, but besides the left foot of a marble statue, we didn’t find anything that could answer our most urgent question: What kind of activity took place in Shop G.

At this point we had to leave Shop G and turn our attention to Shop H. We planed to return to Shop G at a later point in time, but the finds done in Shop H (the insitu ceramic vessels, the fire-pit and the separation walls) left us with no choice but to stay in this area.

We therefore don’t know if Shop G, which is very narrow (1.03 meters), really is a shop in its own right. Wall 4 (loc. 47) is separating this shop from Shop F (which is situated in MO/10), but that may only be an arbitrary division. The wall has not been fully excavated and the easternmost part of it may not be insitu wall-coursing but turn out to be tumble fallen from a higher level. If this is the case, it would more or less cut the length of the wall in half.

Only further excavation can determine this. But looking at Shop F (which is only 1.25 meters wide) lead me to think that F and G might in fact be only one shop, with the western area (butting wall 1, loc. 4) divided into two rooms. This would allow for an eastward "costumer-area" 2.28 meters in width. All of this is of cause only speculation on my part.
The excavation of Shop H started out in the same manner as Shop G. Several layers of tumble had to be cleaned up and removed. This is a tedious job, but pretty straightforward, and can be done quite swiftly if one knows how to handle and move heavy burdens (and have the right equipment available). At the beginning the shop was divided into two loci (20 and 21), as the eastern area seemed to be contaminated by modern activity. Later on the tumble, the finds, and the texture and color of the soil became more consistent with one another, and we decided to make the whole shop into locus 33. A few days later the rest of the tumble was removed and we encountered a rectangular feature, butting wall 2 (loc. 10). This feature (F# 4, loc. 34) was badly, almost sloppily, build but was naturally excavated as an independent locus. We hoped that we had found some kind of storage facility but the excavation of the inside of the feature yielded nothing more than terra rossa packing combined with “fist-size” stones. It may have been the foundation for a work-station of some kind, but nothing to suggest what kind of work was found. We then started to photograph and draw the feature in order to remove it.

When feature 4 (loc. 34) was in the process of being drawn a couple of new interesting features emerged in the southern part of the shop. These features (F# 5 and 6, loci 37 and 38) saw the light of day when we removed the collapsed part of wall 3 (loc. 36) from Shop H. They were small separation walls bonded to the lower coursing of wall 3 (loc. 36) and therefore build in the same sequence. A closer look at the bottom of feature 4 (loc. 34) showed us that it was constructed on top of a somewhat similar feature. We then removed feature 4 and found a new rectangular feature (F#9, loc. 46). This was situated almost upper sit from F# 5 and 6 and was constructed in the same “style”: A single coursing consisting of rectangular stones (approx. 25 cm. wide).

The feature was divided into two compartments in which we opened two new loci (42 and 43).
We continued excavation very carefully, using only trowel and brush, and fairly quickly we found five in situ ceramic vessels, all intact. These were given FO# 23-27. We then made a 1:10 scale drawing, took photos and excavated the vessels to a point where they could be lifted safely from the earth. The other compartment (loc. 43) turned out to be empty.
In the south-western part of Shop H we found another feature (F#9, loc. 46). This feature constitutes a small square room and are bonded to wall 3 (loc. 36) and butts wall 1 (loc. 4). Inside the room, and butting wall 3 (loc. 36) we found a fire-pit. The pit was made out of a large storage jar (FO#22) that had been placed upside down and had the base (or bottom) knocked out.

The inside of the pit was excavated as a separate locus (loc. 40) and all the ash was removed as a sample. All the other soil excavated from locus 40 was sieved but didn’t yield anything.

At this point in time the season was coming to an end and excavation had to be stopped. As always one could just use a couple of more days as there are a few areas where I would have liked to excavate a little further. But all in all I think we accomplished most of our goals in the sense of work progress.

I’m especially happy with the finds we did in Shop H, that the Sondage gave us the answers we were looking for and that we established that wall 3 (loc. 36) and F# 5,6 and 9 belong to the same building sequence. An Islamic coin found inside the coursing of wall 3 (loc. 36) may (if dated) provide us with some kind of timeframe for the construction of Shop H.

Especially if the dating of the coin match up with the dating of the ceramic vessels.

**List of assigned loci**

**Locus 19:** Sondage situated in front (to the east) of the eastern staircase (loc. 16) and butts wall 2 (loc. 10). The soil is light grayish brown.

**Locus 20:** Situated between wall 2 (loc. 10) and wall 3 (loc. 36). Butts wall 1 (loc. 4) to the west. Reddish brown soil. This locus contains a great amount of tumble.

**Locus 21:** Situated east of loc. 20 and butts S/E side of wall 2 (loc. 10). The soil is dark reddish brown and extensively contaminated by modern activity. This locus contains a little less tumble than loc. 20.

**Locus 22:** Situated in what is now called Shop G, between the loci 29 and 30. The soil is reddish brown.

**Locus 23:** Extension of wall 2 (loc. 10) to the east. This locus shows the packing used for the construction of wall 2 (loc. 10).
**Locus 24:** This locus is situated north of loc. 25, east of loc. 16 and west of loc. 26. The soil is dark brown. This is a locus change within the Sondage.

**Locus 25:** Situated north of wall 2 (loc. 10), south of loc.24, west of loc. 26 and east of loc. 16. The soil is reddish brown and the locus contains the foundation trench for wall 2 (loc. 10).

**Locus 26:** Situated north of loc. 23 and east of loci 24 and 25. This area is very contaminated by modern activity. The soil is light grayish. The locus was not excavated.

**Locus 27:** Locus butts the northern side of wall 2 (loc 10) and is to the south of loc. 28. The locus represents a narrowing of the foundation trench for wall 2 (loc. 10). The color is middle brown.

**Locus 28:** Situated just north of loc. 27. This locus contains a sloping deposit of compact terra rossa soil. This has been cut by the foundation trench for wall 2 (loc. 10).

**Locus 29:** This locus runs in an east/west direction across MO/9. It later yielded (as we expected) the remains of a wall (wall 3, loc. 36).

**Locus 30:** Locus is situated in the southern part of MO/9 and separates this square from MO/10. It contains (the not fully excavated) wall 3 (loc. 47).

**Locus 31:** Situated in Shop G, between loci 30 and 29. The color of the soil is reddish with hints of yellow.

**Locus 32:** Locus is a cross-section made in Shop G to establish if floor level was already reached in loc. 31. The color is yellowish.

**Locus 33:** Covers the area previous occupied by loci 20 and 21. The soil is reddish brown in color.

**Locus 34:** Is situated just south of (and butting) wall 2 (loc.10). This locus contains feature no. 4, which is a badly (or sloppy) build rectangular structure.

**Locus 35:** This locus is situated north of loc. 28, east of loc. 16 and west of loc. 26. The locus consists of sub-surface packing and/or tumble remains. It also contains deposits of soil dug up when the foundation trench for wall 2 (loc.10) was made.

**Locus 36:** This is the wall (wall 3, loc. 36) that separates Shop G from Shop H. It contains loc. 18.

**Locus 37:** This locus is a small separation wall (Feature 5) that is bonded to wall 3 (loc. 36).

**Locus 38:** This locus is a small separation wall (Feature 6) that is bonded to wall 3 (loc. 36).
Combined with feature 5 (loc. 37) the walls makes up a small compartment, possibly used for storage.

**Locus 39:** A small square in the SW corner of locus 33, encircled by wall 1 (loc. 4) and wall 3 (loc.36). The soil is reddish brown and the locus contains the “fire pit” (loc. 40 and FO# 22).

**Locus 40:** Contains the soil and ash situated inside the fire pit (made from a large storage jar, dug into the ground and given the FO# 22).

**Locus 41:** This locus is situated in the narrow angel between the semi circular stairs (loc. 16) and wall 2 (loc. 10). This is the locus that proved that the foundation trench for wall 2 (loc. 10) runs beneath the stairs (loc. 16).

**Locus 42:** This is the western storage compartment of feature 9, loc. 46. It was here we found the five insitu ceramic vessels (FO# 23-27). The soil is yellow brown.

**Locus 43:** This is the eastern storage compartment of feature 9, loc. 46. The soil is yellow brown.

**Locus 44:** The locus contains the insitu mosaic floor found beneath wall2 (loc. 10).

**Locus 45:** The feature within the locus (feature 8) is bonded to wall 3 (loc. 36) and butts wall 1 (loc. 4). The feature furthermore encloses the loci 39 and 40.

**Locus 46:** A stone feature (feature 9) that butts the southern side of wall 2 (loc. 10). This is the feature where the intact ceramic vessels were found.

**Locus 47:** Wall 4 is situated within this locus but has not been fully excavated. The dimensions of the structure may therefore be inaccurate. This is the wall that separates MO/9 from MO/10.

**List of Drawings**

**Drawing no. 6:** Profile drawing of Wall 2, locus 20. Scale 1:20.

**Drawing no. 7:** Plan drawing of Feature 4, locus 34 and Wall 2, locus 10. Scale 1:20.

**Drawing no. 8:** Plan drawing of Feature 8, locus 45. Locus 39, locus 40 and FO# 22. Scale 1:10.

**Drawing no. 9:** Profile drawing of Wall 4, locus 47. Scale 1:20.

**Drawing no. 10:** Plan drawing of Feature 9, locus 46. Locus 42 and 43. FO#: 23, 24, 25, 26, 27. Scale 1:10. Insitu ceramic vessels.

**Drawing no. 11:** Profile drawing of western balk of Sondage. Scale 1:20.


Drawing no. 14: Plan drawing of Mosaic floor (Feature 7, locus 44) found in locus 27. Scale 1:1.

Drawing no. 15: Final plan drawing of MO/9. Also showing Shop F in MO/10. Scale 1:20.

Harris Matrix Shop G

Harris Matrix Shop H
Square Summary for MO/14
Supervisor: Aicha Mellah

MO/14, which lies in the south western part of the Umayyad mosque, consists of a number of features and can be divided into three main areas; these are: the street, the sahn west portico and finally the prayer hall, which is the aim of this year's excavation. Upon commencing the excavation in 2006 exposed tumble and earth covered most of the prayer hall in MO/14 and thus the investigation of this area was of great interest.

This goal of this season's excavation in MO/14 was to excavate, investigate and document the south eastern part of the square, which includes the dominating in situ stone tumble.
Hence we will be able to examine the nature of the tumble and its relationship to the rest of the square. Furthermore the prayer hall will be investigated to reveal the nature of the fallen column shaft and the steps leading into the prayer hall through the western entrance.

The summary is divided into six sections, which are:
1. The collapse of stones (ashlars) and their significance.
2. The collapse of tiles in the western part of the prayer hall.
3. The fallen column shaft and the column" base".
4. The significance of the sub-floor packing.
5. The third step into the prayer hall (in the prayer hall) from the western entrance
6. Conclusion.

**Fig. 1** Square shot of MO/14 at the beginning of excavation season 2006.

**1. The collapse of stones in the prayer hall**
The tumble in the prayer hall dominates in space and the documentation and excavation of the previous is thus essential. The stone tumble consisting of ashlars (building blocks) were already identified in last season’s square summary (2005) and originally stem from the blocking wall (locus 7 wall 2) between the two piers (locus 16 feature 1 and locus 21 feature 2) running north-south and separating the prayer hall from the sahn and west portico. The précis reason for this blocking wall is yet to be identified, but it must be a later renovation of the mosque. None the less the blocking stones have collapsed in situ.
The first locus (loc.45) in the prayer hall was a clean-up locus and was thus only to got rid of the contaminated soil. Here very few ceramics were excavated, most interestingly were two pieces; one with a snake-like application, the other was a piece of red-on-buff
ceramics. The next locus subscribed was locus 46 and this included the stone tumble, which were documented, among other things, by being photographed and drawn on a 1:20 scale. The soil surrounding the ashlars was a loose greyish soil, where very few ceramic fragments and roof tiles were excavated.

![Fig.2 Shot of stone tumble in locus 46, the prayer hall.](image)

The pattern of the stone collapse is very significant, because it is of great help for reconstructing the nature of the collapse. The ashlars were give numbers (#15-80), and eight of these (#15-22) were identified as special stones, these will be further discussed in the next section.

Looking south of what would have been the blocking wall (locus 7 wall 2) of an arch, the first row of ashlars consists of, among others stone #17 and #16, which lie parallel to the northern baulk. The left stone (#17) tends to lie in an angle a bit to the east. Stone #16, which lies on the west side of stone #17 tend to orientate to the west, as if it tilted towards this direction, when the collapse took place. The majority of stones lying on the east side of the prayer hall have fallen with either their faces turning upwards or they just lie very irregularly and sporadically. The stone tumble continues into the east baulk and into MO/15.

The ashlars just south of #17 and #16 tend to lie more flat on the ground with their faces lying on the ground and with their back-faces turning upwards, or vice versa. These stones tend to lie parallel to the east baulk.

The ashlars west of #17 and #16 seem to lie less sporadically with some uniform pattern. They seem to orientate towards the centre of the prayer hall. Over viewing the total collapse of the ashlars, it is clear to see that the tumble is concentrated on the east side of the former blocking wall (locus 7 wall 2) and also in the eastern part of locus 46. A few smaller stones are located butting up against the fallen column (locus 51 feature 6).
The “special” stones:
As mentioned, eight of the ashlars were identified as “special” stones and are further defined and triangulated (all ashlars were levelled). There are three categories:
- Ashlar with man-made architectural hole (#15)
- Door jams, with their characteristic shape (# 20, 21 and 22)
- Ashlars with depictions/ mason’s marks (# 16, 17, 18 and 20)

A small rectangular stone (#15) with at man-made hole could have been used as a composite stone. It is located in the most western part of the tumble. At least three door jams (# 20, 21 and 22) were identified, due to their characteristic shape. The door jams were found in the southern part of the tumble, near the southern baulk. Stone #20 sticks out of the southern baulk, while # 21 and #22 lie on the north side of the fallen column (locus 51 feature 6). These might have been reused as filling stones and thus have had a secondary function than originally intended.

Finally a number of ashlars with some kind of depictive impressions were distinguished (# 16, 17, 18 and 19). These impressions were identified as mason’s marks in last season’s excavations (2005), but this season’s further excavation of these ashlars, which have revealed both “faces”, make me conclude that these impressions indeed were not mason’s marks.

ASHLARS WITH THE SPECIAL IMPRESSIONS.
The four stones with these impressions are interesting, because after excavating them fully and removing them out of the square it became clear that all of them had impressions on both their faces. This is quite exciting, due to the fact that this undermines the idea of the impressions being marks made by masons to identify themselves. First of all, mason’s marks are known to be small or at least easy and quick to make. The impressions on the ashlars take up the whole of the stones and must have been very
energy-consuming to make. The impression are cut approximately 0.5cm into the stone. Secondly, it does not seem rational to place these marks on both faces of the stone, if only one or none of the stones faces were visible anyway. Thirdly, why did only four of the stones have these impressions? One would expect to find this impression on every stone and not only on four of them. They also lay sporadically, with no familiar placement. There are two kinds of impressions and as the ashlars lay in the tumble, two of the stones had a “leaf-like” impression (stone #16 and #18). The last two had some kind of “square-like” impression (stone #17 and #19). These impressions were also found on a few stones in MO/15 (see square summary for MO/15 2006).

Another question is posed: are the impressions then decorative? This depends on the position of the stones as the lay on top and next to each other in the blocking wall. If we look at two of the stones (#16 and #17) they were further characterized for having remains of a white plaster coating found in situ. Stone #17 had plaster on three of its sides (E, W and N sides), while stone #16 only had plaster on one side (E). None of the stones had plaster of the “upper-faces”. This could indicate the upper face wasn’t visible. Stone #16 on the other hand had traces of plaster on the “lower-face”,

**Fig. 5** Two views of the same ashlar with the “leaf-like” impression displayed on both faces of the stone, located in the prayer hall (“special” stone #18).

**Fig. 6** Two views of the same ashlar, one face with a “square-like” impression the other face has a “leaf-like” impression, located in the prayer hall (“special stone #19).
and when it was removed from the square the plaster became visible, but it was very fragmented and almost crushed. This could indicate that the ashlers had been covered with plaster on the face, which would have faced the prayer hall, this would thus mean that the “upper-face” of the stone if fact wasn’t the face visible within the prayer hall. It was none the less the “back side”. One puzzling thing is though, why is there plaster on the eastern and western side, if these would have butt ed up against other stones? This is difficult to answer, and I do not have any immediate suggestions.

One thing is though clear and that is that I interpret these particular ashlers as stones reused from another context. In that other context they could have been decorative, but in this context the impression on the stoned did not have any immediate relationship to the mosque or the function of the mosque, thus they were not used as means of decoration in this Ummayad mosque context.

2. The collapse of roof tiles in the western part of the prayer hall.

Excavating in the western part of the prayer hall, it quickly became apparent that there was a change in soil colour and soil compactness from a middle compact greyish brown soil to a loose reddish terra rossa soil. The latter was then given locus # 47, and it was limited to this western part f the prayer hall. The reddish terra rossa soil had originally been infilling soil used in the western wall (locus 44 wall 7), but at some point it had spilt out onto the ground, maybe as a result of some kind of collapse. This soil was then excavated and a number of in situ roof tiles (tegula) appeared on top of a yellowish sub-floor packing.

Some of the roof tiles were sticking out of the sub-floor packing, but none the less the roof tiles were subscribed to locus 47, while the yellowish sub-floor was given locus 48. None of the tiles were complete; they
were all fragmented into larger or smaller pieces. Some ceramic pieces were found, but these were very rare.

What does the collapse then tell us about what happened in the prayer hall? It is apparent that the collapse of the roof tiles had taken place, somewhere after the paving stones had been removed. Thus the sub-floor was exposed and the roof for some reason collapsed on top of the paving. The amount of time between the salvaging of the paving stone and the roof collapse is unknown, and whether the roof collapse and the stone tumble happened simultaneously or at two different points in time is difficult to say, but something could point towards that the roof collapsed first and then the walls caved in subsequently. This seemed more likely after the collapsed stones of locus 46 were removed and more yellowish sub-floor paving was revealed (locus 56). Excavating locus 56 a lot of roof tiles (tegula) were found and this only support that fact that the roof collapsed first and then the stone tumble of locus 7 locus 2.

It is not surprising that no paving stones were found, since it was normal procedure to salvage good paving stones and use them in another context.

3. The fallen column shaft and the column “base”.
The fallen column (locus 51 feature 6) was first given a locus and feature number this season. It is broken off in the west end, but otherwise it is more or less complete. On the east end of the column shaft, which would have been the lower part of the column, there is a rim turning slightly out, which makes the diameter of the east end a bit wider. The larger diameter was probably to give the column shaft more stability when it was standing upright.

The column is butted by the following loci; 45, 46, 53 and 56.

Excavating the eastern end of the column we expected to find the base of the column on, which it would have been standing. This was unfortunately not the case; instead an area of in situ mortar approximately 58cm x 58cm was traced (locus 55 feature 7). Due to the lack of time no further excavation took place in this area, so whether an actual base lies underneath the mortar is for next season’s excavation to investigate. The collapse of the column could have been simultaneous with the stone tumble; an exact timeframe is not possible as this point.

![Fig. 9 Fallen column (locus 51 feature 6) and mortar](locus 55 feature 7)

4. The significance of the sub-floor packing.
As already mentioned a yellowish sub-floor packing was traced in the western part the prayer hall, and is was later the aim to trace the packing in the rest of the prayer hall. And after the removal of the stone tumble is was not long before we traced the sub-floor. When this happened the whole of the prayer hall that consisted of this packing was given locus #
56. The western part of the prayer hall, earlier recognized as locus 48 was now merged together with locus 56. The packing was yellowish, but there were slightly different elements in the packing. Somewhere there was more chalk inclusions and the area near the western wall (locus 44 wall 7) was slightly more reddish, but otherwise it was the same packing. The excavation of the packing puzzled the situation a bit, because the thickness of the packing was in some cases over 20cm.

It was decided to excavate the packing from the northern end and carry on towards the centre of the prayer hall. This gave a stratigraphic profile of the packing layer and it came to show that there wasn’t just one layer, but at least three successive sub-floor packing layers. The colour of these layers was also significant. The upper layer recognized as the yellowish sub-floor packing seems much more reddish than the preceding layer, which is a yellow packing. This layer is also more compact and has fewer inclusions than the upper layer. The lowest layer was slightly lighter brownish yellow, but still differentiated from the two proceeding layers.

Furthermore, it was noticeable that the upper layer of packing (yellowish) was filled with fragmented roof tiles, and this was more or less in the whole of locus 56. The amount of roof tiles dropped drastically when excavating the next layer, which is the yellow packing. The same can be said about the earliest packing layer. It is clear to state that the uppermost layer is thus the most “disturbed”, due to the later collapse.

The several layers indicate that there was successive use of the prayer hall. This would also fit well with the fact that the 3rd mihrab was a later additional feature of the mosque. The exact relationship between the different layers and the rest of the prayer hall (further into MO/15), is quite interesting and will hopefully be exposed with further excavation.
5. The third step into the prayer hall (in the prayer hall) from the western entrance

Last but not least this year’s excavation exposed a 3rd step into the prayer hall, within the hall itself.

This was found on the 22 of August, two days before this season’s excavation had come to an end. The step was no entirely excavated, but it consists of at least four flat stones similar to the first two steps excavated last season.

The relationship between the steps and the sub-floor packing is of importance to understand at what stages the layers were created. Interestingly, to reach the 3rd step it was required to excavate through some sub-floor packing, in other words the step had at some point been covered with packing! This seems irrational, unless it is further evidence of more than one packing layer as already stated.

When comparing the different layers butting against the steps, it is certain to see that the earliest and lowermost packing layer butted the 3rd and lowest step and covered it, with the exception of approximately 5cm. This would fit well with the assumption that the paving stones were placed on top of this packing and butting the 3rd step so they were exactly levelled.

As some point the paving stone must have been removed so another layer of packing, this time more yellow and compact, was added. This layer covered the 3rd step. The third and uppermost layer is yellowish with a more reddish colour. Whether this reddish colour might have had some connection to the terra rossa soil, excavated earlier is difficult to say, but at least it is certain that this upper layer covered all but a small part of the 2nd step.
6. Conclusion:
The south-western part of the prayer hall (qiblah hall) must have been in use for a longer period of time. This is, among other things, attested by the amount of sub-floor layers found (and we did not even reach ground level). The later packing even covered the 3rd step into the prayer hall, and this would not make any sense unless this also points towards later additions in the prayer hall. In relation to this, the collapse of ashlars is also evidence of later modifications. In this case it is in the form of a blocking wall.
At some point the mosque went out of use, and this must have been some time before the collapse took place. And this is due to the fact that no paving stones were found, so these must have been salvage/removed before the incidence. Additionally, the stone tumble lies more or less directly on top of the later packing (in some places directly on top, and in other places the packing had to be traced). The tumble itself consists of reused stones, where amongst door jams and stones with impressions were found.

Work progress shots of MO/14 in 2006 (A-D)

A- 08/08/2006

B- 15/08/2006
C- 23/08/2006

MO/14 at closure of season 2006
D- 24/08/2006

Top plan sketch of MO/14, architectural loci at closure of excavation 2006.
List of assigned loci

**Locus 45**: The south east corner of MO/14 equivalent to the prayer hall. Clean-up locus.

**Locus 46**: The south east corner of MO/14 equivalent to the prayer hall, consisting of stone tumble. (Every ashlars of the tumble were given a number from #15-80).

**Locus 47**: A strip of soil in the west side of the prayer hall running north-south and located on the east side of the western wall (locus 44 wall 7, 2005). Significant from the rest of the prayer hall (loc.46), due to its lack of ashlars and reddish terra rossa soil.

**Locus 48**: Yellowish sub-floor packing on the west side of the prayer hall running north-south and located on the east side of the western wall (locus 44 wall 7, 2005). On top and sticking out of the packing were roof tiles (tegula), in situ.

**Locus 49**: Clean-up locus, situated in the centre of the south baulk on the east side of the western wall (locus 44, wall 7, 2005).

**Locus 50**: Locus situated in the centre of the south balk on the east side of the western wall (locus 44, wall 7, 2005).

**Locus 51 feature 6**: Fallen column shaft in the south eastern corner of the square.

**Locus 52**: Cutback of the west baulk.

**Locus 53**: South east corner of the mosque equivalent to the prayer hall. First locus after the removal of the stone tumble. This locus also includes the locus earlier recognized as locus 50.

**Locus 54**: Cutback of the east baulk.

**Locus 55 feature 7**: A square of mortar underneath the east end of the column shaft (loc. 51 feat. 6).

**Locus 56**: Yellowish sub-floor packing in the prayer hall. This locus includes the locus earlier recognized as loc 48.

**Locus 57**: Change in soil colour close to the eastern baulk. This locus is limited by a number of stones (not from the stone tumble) which lie around this dark soil.

**Locus 58**: Sondage in loc 56 that butts the 2nd pier base (loc. 21 feat.2) from west enclosure wall of the mosque.

**Locus 59 feature 8**: 3rd step into the prayer hall, belonging to the west entrance inside the prayer hall.
List of assigned features

Locus 16 feature 1: Westernmost pier (one course preserved) and pier base below, belonging to pier entrances to qiblah hall.

Locus 21 feature 2: 2nd pier base (no pier preserved above) from west enclosure wall of the mosque, belonging to pier entrances to qiblah hall.

Locus 31 feature 3: Pillar in prayer hall, the first at the west end of the north colonnade, butting the west mosque wall.

Locus 35 feature 4: Step belonging to west entrance to qiblah hall, outside west mosque wall.

Locus 36 feature 5: Step belonging to west entrance to qiblah hall, inside west mosque wall in northwest corner of prayer hall.

Locus 51 feature 6: Fallen column shaft in the south eastern corner of the square.

Locus 55 feature 7: A square of mortar underneath the east end of the column shaft (loc. 51 feat. 6).

Locus 59 feature 8: 3rd step into the prayer hall, belonging to the west entrance inside the prayer hall.

List of assigned walls

Locus 15 wall 1 equivalent to Locus 33 wall 6: Wall in west baulk, southern half of square, only upper course exposed.

Locus 7 wall 2: Infilling wall between the two westernmost pier entrances to qiblah hall.

Locus 13 wall 3: Possibly a modern farming wall, running east-west in the north baulk.

Locus 10 wall 4: “West enclosure wall of mosque” in the northern half of MO/14 (in fact not the real west enclosure wall but, as it transpired in 2005, a later wall built parallel and against the original west closure).

Locus 29 wall 5: West wall of mosque running north-south, exposed only in south half of square, i.e. northwest corner of qiblah hall.

Locus 33 wall 6 equivalent to Locus 15 wall 1: East enclosure wall of the GO area building, running north-south in the west baulk of the square (south end), along the west side of the street GO and the mosque.

Locus 44 wall 7: West enclosure wall of the mosque running the full north-south extent of square, superseding and equivalent to locus 29 wall 5.
Square Summary for MO/15
Supervisor: Ian Simpson

Below: scale top plan (9m x 9m) of MO/15 showing architectural loci at closure of excavation in 2006.
Below: final square shot of MO/15 in 2005 (north is down).

Below: final square shot of MO/15 in 2006 (north is down).
The aim of excavation in MO/15 in 2006 was to continue excavating to the floor level of the mosque and then to remove the surrounding baulks. Only the first of these aims was achieved, while the baulks remain to be excavated. Excavation started by digging a level that in 2005 was left higher than the rest of the square, which consisted mostly of topsoil layers, before defining further loci corresponding to the architectural divisions in the square. Since a rough plan for MO/15 could be predicted based on other excavated squares the square was approached according to the major architectural divisions and is best summarised this way.

**Area inside mosque hall**

Following the topsoil layers, loose soil, with roof tile fragments appearing immediately, was excavated in the hall area. Little tumble was found in this area compared to the courtyard area, but two isolated patches of tumble were removed. One was by the south baulk, made up of overlapping stone looking like undisturbed collapse, the other against the east face of locus 11 wall 2, a dividing or supporting wall in the mosque hall, and may originate from this wall. At the beginning of the 2006 season the area inside the mosque hall in MO/15 was partly divided in two parts by this wall running north-south (locus 11 wall 2), partly exposed in 2005. Although roof tile fragments had already appeared, after removing the tumble and the topsoil layers a darker soil was encountered. Excavation in the whole area west of this wall inside of the prayer hall found a quite uniform layer of fine, dark, loose soil with a high density of roof tile fragments. This layer appears to represent the disturbed remains of the collapsed roof of the mosque, as found in many other parts of the mosque hall. No whole tiles were found, indicating they were salvaged in antiquity, and the dark soil may have formed from collapse associated material combined with a leeching down process from other soil layers above. Pottery sherds recovered were comparatively few. At this level are two isolated patches of paved floor of the hall (locus 22 feature 2 and locus 27 feature 6), consisting of five paving slabs in total, located near the entrances but not butting them. Excavation continued to find a compact yellowish layer of sub-floor packing which continues under the paving and extends throughout this part of the hall, butting up against the entrance foundations and the dividing wall to the west (locus 11 wall 2). The hard yellowish material appears to be the original bedding to support the paved floor. This was exposed and traced throughout the area but was not excavated.

Excavation of the entrances structures to the mosque hall exposed three pier foundation bases, all robbed of their piers, one foundation bracing wall (locus 44 wall 4) between piers (locus 42 feature 7 and locus 43 feature 8), and one inter-pier blocking wall (locus 10 wall 3) between piers (locus 32 feature 3 and locus 42 feature 7). The blocking wall is similar to the inter-pier blocking wall in MO/14 to the east, but less well preserved. Interestingly there is no evidence of a blocking wall between the eastern most pier in MO/14 and the western most pier in MO/15, although a baulk still needs excavating to confirm this. Without an inter-pier blocking wall here, the opening would have formed a central entrance to the west section of the prayer hall, with the dividing wall (locus 11 wall 2) marking its east side. Very shallow pit fills, darker in soil colour, were traced and excavated where robber trenches had been dug to salvage the good quality pier stones from above two of the pier foundation bases.

The south of the square was excavated slightly more to locate remains of the north colonnade in the hall. Two column foundation bases were found according to the expected
plan, with some cementing material still preserved on top for holding column bases or columns, neither of which were found at these points in the colonnade. The wall continues in the south baulk but not in MO/11 further to the south. The dividing wall (locus 11 wall 2) in the west of the square was first exposed in part in 2005. In 2006 the full extent of the wall in MO/15 was excavated. At its north end it is built over a pier foundation base of the entrances to the hall, and must have butted up against the pier, which has been robbed out. The well built, double coursed wall extends southwards where its lowest visible course butts up against a column foundation base (locus 35 feature 5), with the uppermost preserved course of stone continuing over the top of the base, although there is only one stone indicating this. The lowest course of the wall continues on the other side of the column foundation base. Interestingly, the wall line, although not fully preserved, runs over the middle of the column foundation base where a column would have stood. It is perhaps significant the wall is not preserved over the middle of the base, suggesting it butted up against either side of the column. The wall could also have been built in place of the column, running across the foundation base. An oil lamp was found above this base while excavating mixed deposits along the line where the wall was built. The lamp (field object no. 9) is a grey ware Middle Islamic lamp – further evidence of Middle Islamic occupation at the site.

The small area west of the wall in MO/15 is markedly different to the rest of the hall area in the square. Excavation here found a compact, clayey soil, yellowish in colour, which is probably a packing or bedding material. It is seems to be made up of more than one layer, representing more than one bedding or levelling for a floor surface which butts up against the west face of the dividing wall (locus 11 wall 2). No distinct top surface of the packing was discernable but is perhaps indicated where tumble stone and numerous small stones became fewer. The material contains very few finds, but of interest were tile fragment at a lower level in the layer, perhaps evidence for a roof collapse which was then buried when a new bedding of the same material was laid down over the top, representing a later re-levelling. This corresponds to the picture found during excavation in MO/14 to the west. It seems the west end of the prayer hall was either rebuilt or had a later construction phase, with its east limit demarcated by the north south dividing wall in MO/15. Comparatively large amounts of Middle Islamic ceramics have been found in the west end of the hall, but the chronology of the hall construction phases is not yet secure.

The south end of this compact soil layer was cut by a pit which can clearly be seen in the south baulk. The pit was also observed in MO/11 and MO/13, showing that a large pit was dug in the west end of the prayer hall. The east limit of the pit corresponds roughly to the dividing wall in MO/15, but certainly postdates it and the compact packing material. The pit was perhaps dug to clear out the west end of the hall in order to reuse it at some later point in time.

**Mosque courtyard area**

Excavation continued in this area, creating a section up against the wall (locus 2 wall 1) running east-west along the north limit of the square. The section showed the base of the wall was at the base of the single course of large dressed stones exposed in 2005 and was built over an area of loose soil with stone tumble, belonging to an earlier phase. The wall appeared to be a field wall, perhaps late Ottoman (Circassian) and included a feeding or water trough fashioned out of a reused capital. The wall was described in 2005. Judging
from old photographs, it may have been part of a field wall that extended around the Macellum area. After documenting the section with photographs (and drawings in 2005) the wall was removed. Excavation showed that this wall (locus 2 wall 1) was also built over an earlier wall looking structure (locus 9 feature 1) in the courtyard area. Locus 9 feature 1, partly exposed in 2005, was excavated to its base, showing that the structure was not particularly coherent, or perhaps very poorly preserved. The structure or wall was also built on loose soil and its base level was higher than ground level of the entrance structures to the mosque hall. Although its south end came close to the entrances, it did not butt up against them. Its north extent, in MO/15 at least, terminated about 50 cm from the north limit of the square. The evidence suggests the wall was much later than the mosque construction. After excavating a section around its base we removed the wall.

The surrounding area in this part of the square was quite uniform, containing scattered tumble stone and loose brown, quite granular soil. Finds were mostly roof tile fragments and ceramics. The tumble ended across the whole area at the same level, which corresponds to the top surface of the foundation structures of the entrances to the mosque hall. This level is probably the level of the mosque courtyard. No evidence of paving was found but this level is marked by a change to a harder soil without tumble. At this level the top surface of the remains of a wall belonging to the bath house was exposed in the northeast corner of the square, indicating the courtyard floor level was no lower than this. A bath house wall was also exposed in the southeast corner of the square, showing they had been dismantled to just below mosque floor level to construct the mosque.

**List of assigned loci**

**Locus 17**: Clean-up locus, top soil and mixed deposits.

**Locus 18**: Topsoil deposits and some stone tumble.

**Locus 19**: Mixed soil deposits with many tile fragments and some stone tumble.

**Locus 20**: Low density area of stone tumble with loose soil and some roof tile fragments.

**Locus 21**: Mixed soil deposits with two isolated patches of stone tumble.

**Locus 22**: Feature 2: Patch of two adjoining paving slabs.

**Locus 23**: Loose, darkish brown soil with tumble, in courtyard area.

**Locus 24**: Roof collapse layer of loose dark brown soil with high frequency of roof tile fragments.

**Locus 25**: Compact, clayey soil, probably a packing layer, in west end of mosque hall, possibly consisting of more than one layer representing more than one bedding or levelling for a floor surface.

**Locus 26**: Roof collapse layer of loose dark brown soil with high frequency of roof tile fragments.
**Locus 27**: Feature 6: Patch of three adjoining paving slabs, part of the paved floor in the mosque hall.

**Locus 28**: Pit fill of mixed deposits, which cuts partly into the sub-floor packing in the west end of mosque hall.

**Locus 29**: Pit fill of loose, darker, young soil, formed after a robber trench was dug to remove pier stones.

**Locus 30**: Loose soil and a small amount of tumble stone, over which field wall (locus 2 wall 1) was built.

**Locus 31**: Pit fill of loose, darker, young soil, formed after a robber trench was dug to remove pier stones.

**Locus 32**: Feature 3: Pier foundation base (west).

**Locus 33**: Mostly roof collapse layer of loose, dark brown soil and roof tile fragments, and some sub-floor packing in patches.

**Locus 34**: Feature 4: Column foundation base (east).

**Locus 35**: Feature 5: Column foundation base (west).

**Locus 36**: Cutting back of south baulk, mixed deposits.

**Locus 37**: Mostly a disturbed roof collapse layer of tile fragments and fine, loose, dark brown soil.

**Locus 38**: Loose, granular, dark brown soil in courtyard area, less fine than the equivalent level inside the mosque hall, with quite a few roof tile fragments.

**Locus 39**: Roof collapse layer of tile fragments and fine, loose, dark brown soil.

**Locus 40**: Mixed deposits, possibly part of pit fill, where wall (locus 11 wall 2) or a column once stood over column foundation base (locus 35 feature 5).

**Locus 41**: Loose, dark brown granular soil with stone tumble, over original courtyard level.

**Locus 42 Feature 7**: Pier foundation base (centre).

**Locus 43 Feature 8**: Pier foundation base (east).

**Locus 44 Wall 4**: Inter-pier foundation bracing wall.

**Locus 45 Wall 5**: East-west bath house wall.

**Locus 46 Wall 6**: North-south bath house wall.
List of assigned walls

**Locus 2 Wall 1**: Field wall running parallel to north baulk, removed in 2006.

**Locus 11 Wall 2**: North-south wall inside prayer hall, removed in 2006.

**Locus 10 Wall 3**: Inter-pier blocking wall.

**Locus 44 Wall 4**: Inter-pier foundation bracing wall.

**Locus 45 Wall 5**: East-west bath house wall.

**Locus 46 Wall 6**: North-south bath house wall.

List of assigned features

**Locus 9 Feature 1**: Short north-south structure, possibly a wall, in courtyard area.

**Locus 22 Feature 2**: Patch of two adjoining paving slabs.

**Locus 32 Feature 3**: Pier foundation base (west).

**Locus 34 Feature 4**: Column foundation base (east).

**Locus 35 Feature 5**: Column foundation base (west).

**Locus 27 Feature 6**: Patch of three adjoining paving slabs.

**Locus 42 Feature 7**: Pier foundation base (centre).

**Locus 43 Feature 8**: Pier foundation base (east).

List of numbers assigned to a stone number sequence in 2006

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### List of drawings for MO/15, 2006

**2006-MO/15-322**: Plan drawing of southern two thirds of square.


### Harris Matrix for MO/15, 2006

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![Harris Matrix Diagram]
2. Area GO

Square Summary for GO/1
Supervisor: Kristoffer Damgaard.

The 2005 season included the excavation of the northern baulk to the same level as the remainder of the square. This prompted the discovery of what appeared to be an area used for draining, presumably connected to water related activities conducted in the square room unit of GO2, as it lies in immediate extension of the tiled area. Although this feature extended from GO1’s northern baulk and into GO2, it was clearly preferable to excavate it as one whole, and the small section of the feature that belongs to GO2 was excavated and recorded as part of a feature in GO1. The other work conducted in GO1 was the complete excavation of the square’s southern half, which had been left standing in the 2005 season. These two areas will be described separately here.

Drainage pit (# 26, 31, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 39, 40, 41)

The upper strata of the presumed drainage pit had dark greyish brown colour and had a high density of ceramic sherds and broken bricks and tiles, including hypocaust tiles. Some of these may have originated from the brick lining of the pit discussed shortly, but many of them were clearly waste material. Upon the decrease in density of this material, the soil became moister and locus was changed. The new locus (# 31) was initiated by a polychrome deposit, including small patches of red, yellow, black and grey. This was followed by a more yellowish stratum with seemingly very low organic content. The upper levels of the pit were lined with reused bricks (# 33, 34); a standard means of isolating ones pit. Nevertheless, the lining appeared to stop at roughly the same level as the high density of organic contents and patchy soil.

In the yellow deposit the remains of a standing bread oven or tabun wall was discovered, and as excavation carefully progressed further down around this feature, it became clear that a significant part of it had survived (# 37, feature # 003). The feature was nonetheless extremely fragile and the material of its walls quite porous. In the upper deposit (# 35) a number of fragments of the tabun itself were discovered. Under these were deposits of dark grey (# 40, 41) and white ash (# 39, 41), which contained
modest amounts of ceramic and bone material – presumably unrelated to its original use. Below the ashy layers a cavity was discovered. This was presumed to be the tabun’s fire-box, but, due to time restrictions, it was decided to wait until the following season before excavating further and this remains undisclosed. Excavation was also continued around the tabun in order to determine its extent and condition. No poker hole was discovered. At the end of the season, the feature and drainage pit were backfilled with finely sieved sand. It should be mentioned that wall #3 (loc. 15) of GO2 had clearly been constructed on top of the tabun installation.

**Southern half of GO1 (# 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 38)**

In 2005 only the northern half of the GO1 excavation unit was excavated. This season excavations were extended southward to comprise the entire square. The initial locus (# 27) covered the entire southern half of the square and removed the light brown topsoil identified throughout the excavation area. Roughly 0.1 meters below the surface a row of stone was discovered running east-west through the entire square (# 28, wall 6). This was identified as a wall and the topsoil locus was changed and new loci defined according to their relationship to this wall. The area south of wall #6 (loc. #30, 32) was excavated in two spits, the upper being a light brown sandy soil with numerous cultural remains, and the lower being a darker, more compact and moister soil almost void of material culture. Following some excavation of this area, it was determined that both layers constituted part of the original fill, and that the wall (# loc.28) constituted a bracing wall retaining the soil of this constructed platform or terrace.

The wall itself also leans slightly southwards and is not of the same quality masonry as seen in the actual architecture. What appears to be the return of this terracing wall was
identified as standing freely south of the excavation area. The area south of wall 6 was backfilled at the end of the season.

The remainder of the square, i.e. between walls #3 and 6, was also excavated in two loci (#29 & 38). From the offset, the deposits on the north side of wall #6 were darker than the fill behind the bracing wall. The darker deposits correspond to those discovered north of wall #3 in 2005. The upper stratum (#29) was full of material, especially ceramic and bone. The lower constituted a cleaning locus (#38) and is currently thought to have been a walking surface between the GO complex to the north and the terracing to the south. Among the finds in this area were three coins, a bead and a gaming piece.

**List of assigned loci**

**Locus 26:** Sondage located in northern baulk and extending slightly into GO2. Presumed drainage area.

**Locus 27:** Topsoil of entire southern half of excavation unit.

**Locus 28:** Series of stones running east-west through the southern part of the square. Wall #6.

**Locus 29:** Area of topsoil north of wall #6.

**Locus 30:** Area of topsoil south of wall #6.

**Locus 31:** Sondage located in the northern baulk and extending slightly into GO2 (below locus 26). Presumed drainage area.

**Locus 32:** Area south of wall #6.

**Locus 33:** Brick lining in south-east end of drain sondage (loc.26 & 31).

**Locus 34:** Brick lining in northern end of drain sondage (loc.26 & 31).

**Locus 35:** Fill in tabun (loc. 37) discovered in the drainage sondage in northern baulk.

**Locus 36:** Sondage in southeast sector of drainage area. Does not include tabun.

**Locus 37:** Tabun discovered in drain area.

**Locus 38:** Cleaning locus in area between walls #3, 4 and 6.

**Locus 39:** Tabun (loc.37) contents. Ash with low organic content.

**Locus 40:** Tabun (loc.37) contents. Dark grey ash only.

**Locus 41:** Tabun (loc.37) contents. Speckled ashfill.
Square Summary for GO/2
Supervisor: Kristoffer Damgaard.

This excavation unit was largely excavated in the 2005 season. The work conducted in it in 2006 constituted more focused archaeological investigation of two aspects originally identified in 2005. This was done by laying out sondages in the relevant areas. The first sondage was laid out in the southernmost quadrant of the square building unit / room discovered in GO2 in 2005.

The north-western half of this room was paved by variously sized marble and stone slabs, whereas the other half consisted of a hard stamped earth surface. The sondage extended across half of this earth surface. The quadrant was excavated in a number of loci (# 36, 38, 40, 41), but consisted almost entirely of a packed fill layer with a high density of natural limestone inclusions. Included in the sub-surface packing was some ceramic as well as bone material. The most noticeable finds were an almost intact Umayyad oil lamp with a pseudo-Greek inscription (loc. 36, F.O.# 011) and two substantial worked building ashlars (loc. 38). The latter may have part of a collapse, or may indeed have been placed there so as create a more solid foundation for the subsequent structure. By the end of the season, a depth of 0.55 meters below the original surface had been reached.

The second sondage extended northeast between wall #1 and the northern baulk and dug into what is perceived as a hard stamped earth walking surface dating to the early Islamic period. This sondage had two primary objectives: 1.) To identify earlier walking surfaces related to the GO building; 2.) to ascertain whether wall # 1, i.e. the small square room discovered in GO2 in 2005, was dug into the identified walking surface using a foundation trench, or whether the extant surface butts against the wall thus superimposing it.

The loci of the sondage (# 37, 39) yielded a decent amount of ceramic and bone material, including a well preserved sherd of Kerbschnitt ware, dating the strata to the late Umayyad – early Abbasid period. Also discovered was an iron poker. No foundation trench was identified, although the soil in immediate proximity to the wall was less compact and slightly moister than the rest of the sondage. The hydrated soil may well be related to moisture moving along the walls in winter, whereas the compactness would seem to have something to do with the fact that one does not walk so close to a wall. However, even
though it seems clear that the hard stamped earth surface butts wall #1, at a depths of approximately 0.3-0.4 meters, no earlier surface has been identified yet.

List of assigned loci

Locus 36: Sondage extending from the southern corner of the interior of the square building unit.

Locus 37: Sondage extending diagonally from wall # 1 (loc. 9) to the north baulk.

Locus 38: Sondage in southwestern quadrant of room / building unit in GO 2.

Locus 39: Sondage extending diagonally from wall # 1 (loc. 9) to the north baulk.

Locus 40: Sondage in southwestern quadrant of room / building unit in GO 2.

Locus 41: Extension of sondage (loc. 38 & 40).

3. The Bathhouse

Square Summary for Mo/1
Supervisor: Louise Blanke.
The objectives of this season in Mo/1 were to finish the excavation of the basin in the Frigidarium, which was begun by Anne Hansen during the 2005 campaign. Thereafter a selected area of the floor in the basin was removed in order to make a sondage into the foundation of the bathhouse with the expectation of finding material that could help understand when the bathhouse was constructed. The latter objective was based on the assumption that the Frigidarium basin was part of the original bathhouse structure and therefore the foundation would contain material that was older than the entire bathhouse structure.

Two “islands” of soil remained in the basin after last year’s excavation, these were removed fairly quickly due to the knowledge gained last year that the basin was filled up in one go and therefore didn’t contain natural accumulated deposits. Three loci were used for the removal of the eastern island (356, 358, and 359) and two for the removal of the western (357 and 360). Similar to last year a vast quantity of coins was found in the deposits, most of these were smaller Roman coins. In order to limit the amount of paperwork it was decided that the small Roman coins (each locus and each day at a time) should be bagged together without the otherwise mandatory field object number, triangulation etc. Larger coins were still bagged and documented separately.

The excavation of the remaining basin uncovered a small lead drain (locus 361) in the SE end of the basin, leading into the major east-west running sewer. This is the first in situ lead drain that has been found in the bathhouse. It is quite common in other bathhouses to use lead for wastewater drainage.
After documenting the excavated basin, the westernmost 1/3 of the floor slabs was removed in order to excavate the sondage. The floor consisted of large marble slabs (locus 344) founded on a solid foundation. Immediately below the stone slabs was an approximately 15 cm thick layer of plaster (locus 364) constructed on app. 2 cm thick tiles, which then was situated on a 15 cm thick layer of cement (locus 366). Attached to the cement was a large coin, which in cleaned condition clearly could be identified as being a Philadelphia city coin, dated to app. 220.

The erosion of the coin indicates that it was in use for no longer than 20 years or so. This sets the construction of the bathhouse back to the late 3rd century and probably even the middle of the 3rd century. This dating completely changes my initial ideas regarding the time of the construction of the bathhouse, as I originally believed that it had its origin in the 6th or even 7th century. Below the cement was compact soil containing large boulders, fist size stones, clay, and numerous ceramic sherds (locus 367 and 368). Combined these layers were app. 80 cm thick.

The last layer to be excavated was locus 369, which contained the same inclusions as the above lying layers except from an almost complete lack of ceramics. Besides from finding datable material the original ambition of this sondage was to either establish the existence of an earlier building or find bedrock. Unfortunately we had to give up on this matter since...
the foundation walls of the bathhouse were build as steps and the sondage therefore got narrower as the excavation continued downwards. This combined with the size and weight of the boulders and the dept of the sondage made it to dangerous for the workmen to continue the excavation. Therefore the work in the sondage stopped app. ½ meter below the level of the cardo at a point where the foundation of the north bathhouse wall (locus 370) still had not stopped. Anyhow we gained very useful information form this sondage, firstly from the dating of the coin; secondly from the size of the foundation wall, which indicates that the bathhouse was a massive building; and thirdly that the bathhouse most likely was the first structure to be build at this spot.

This was the last season of excavation in Mo/1 as all aspects of this part of the bathhouse has now been attempted documented and interpreted. The excavation of the bathhouse will from now on continue in surrounding areas, as further excavation is required in Mo/17 (see summary below) and a trench between Mo/1 and Mo/3 would be most interesting in order to uncover the connection between the shops and the bathhouse.

**List of assigned loci**

**Locus 356:** Fill layer situated in the south east corner of the basin in the frigidarium.

**Locus 357:** Fill layer situated in the south west corner of the basin in the frigidarium.

**Locus 358:** Fill layer situated in the south east corner of frigidarium basin.

**Locus 359:** Fill layer situated in the south east corner of frigidarium basin.
Locus 360: Fill layer situated in the south west corner of frigidarium basin.

Locus 361 (Feature 65): Lead drain situated in the south east corner of frigidarium floor, leading to main east west running sewer.

Locus 362: Cleaning locus covering entire north western part of Mo/1.

Locus 363 (Feature 66): This locus was defined in order to make a full description of the frigidarium basin.

Locus 364: Concrete layer in frigidarium basin foundation.

Locus 365 (Feature 68): Plaster lining running along the edges of the frigidarium floor.

Locus 366: Cement layer in foundation below western end of frigidarium basin.

Locus 367: Soil layer below west end of frigidarium basin; part of bathhouse foundation.

Locus 368: Soil layer situated below western end of frigidarium basin. Part of the bathhouse foundation.

Locus 369: Foundation fill below western end of frigidarium basin.

Locus 370 (Wall 16): Foundation wall in northern end of sondage in frigidarium.

Locus 371 (Wall 17): Foundation wall in southern end of sondage in frigidarium.

List of Drawings
#29: Eastfacing section of sondage. (locus 367, 368, and 369). Scale 1.20.


#31: Southfacing section of sondage. (locus 370). Scale 1.20.

#32: Northfacing section of sondage. (locus 371, and 369). Scale 1.20.


List of Samples
Locus 364: Three lumps of cement were taken from the foundation of the basin.

Square Summary for Mo/17
Supervisor: Louise Blanke.
The primary objectives of excavating westwards from the bathhouse were to establish the extent of the building in this direction. Mo/17 was laid out as a regular 10 by 10 metre square in accordance with the established grid system in the excavation; therefore it does not correspond with the layout of Mo/1. I estimated that it would not be possible to excavate an entire 10 by 10 metre square in the 4 weeks available and therefore decided to excavate a three metre wide trench running east-west, which was situated in the centre of Mo/17. This was done in order to excavate the continuations of some of the existing walls in Mo/1; these were locus 8, 92 and 93, and thereby hopefully determine the extent of the bathhouse by following these central walls. Furthermore, it was not clear whether the pebbled walking surface (locus 11) belongs to the bathhouse or was part of the mosque courtyard paving.

On the 5th August locus 1 was opened and defined as topsoil covering the entire trench. Even though this locus consists of several different deposits it was clear that they were all modern and could therefore be removed as one in order to go downwards quite fast. The ground was sloping from west towards east and therefore in order to level out the area the excavation was begun in the western most part. On the 6th we reached a layer of sweilah sand covering the entire trench; this was defined as locus 2. Since the context continued to be modern below the sweilah sand there was no reason to change the locus number, therefore locus 2 was defined to continue for app 30 cm. Locus 3 was defined due to a change in the soil type with an appearance of clay and plaster inclusions, the layer did though contain modern material among these a bullet. Locus 4 was the first layer that was not clearly contaminated; it was the paving of the mosque courtyard. It consisted of hard packed yellow clay with plaster inclusions, which is the same material as has been found the rest of the mosque. It sloped towards the east and thereby towards the centre of the courtyard; the western end of the layer is much compacter and thicker than the eastern end. The mosque paving was documented and then removed. The trench was then divided into two different loci namely locus 5 towards the west and 6 towards the west. It became obvious quite soon that locus 5 was actually below locus 6, therefore 6 was removed and 5 was defined as covering the entire square. This context contains a high quantity of fist size stones, and was thereby interpreted as being a constructed packing, deposited in order to level out and stabilise the area before the mosque courtyard surface was constructed. Therefore it continued all the way down to the top of the bathhouse walls. During the excavation of this locus several walls and features appeared. Firstly wall locus 10, which runs NNW to SSE, secondly wall locus 11 running N to S and finally the stoned paving locus 7. This means that the structures below the mosque courtyard were torn down to a level just below the surface. On the 17th August locus 8 was defined as a soil
layer to the west of wall locus 10, this was done due to clear changes in the soil inclusions as there were hardly any more stones in the layer. An arbitrary locus change was made to the west of wall locus 10 from locus 5 to 9, even though these loci contained the same material.

During the excavation of locus 9 parts of a mosaic floor (locus 14) appeared; it is limited to a north central part of the trench, butting wall locus 10. On the 19th August locus 9 was changed to 12 in the centre of the trench and 13 in the easternmost end, this was done due to very obvious changes in the colour, compactness and inclusions in the soil. The excavation of locus 13 uncovered the continuation of the sewer walls (locus 92 and 93 in Mo/1) from Mo/1 these were defined as locus 15 and 16, the latter of these appears to continue all the way to wall locus 10, the relationship between the two is though not quite clear. Locus 15 turns stops where locus 11 begins and the sewer apparently turns left. While excavating locus 12, a corner of a small wall appeared, this runs from wall locus 10 and then turns south. It is defined as locus 18. The east west running sewer (15 and 16 in Mo/17 and 92 and 93 in Mo/1) slopes towards the cardo and therefore it would be reasonable to assume that the newly discovered part of the sewer slopes in the direction of the east west running branch. The purpose of this sewer might be to collect waste water from the caldarium.

Unfortunately it was not possible to establish the connection of wall locus 10 with the bathhouse. My first assumption was that locus 10 was the beginning of a new building and the mosaic floor (locus 14) was the paving of a laneway between the two. This assumption was based on firstly that the wall locus 10 and wall locus 11 are not in line with each other, and secondly that both walls are very thick and looks more like outer walls with the
purpose of carrying great weight than walls next to each other in the same building. Two
features does though indicate that this is not the case, firstly that the mosaic due to the
quite fine stones that has been chosen looks more like an indoor feature than an outdoor
walking surface, and secondly the currently confusing aspects of the sewer, which would
have run below the mosaic, and thereby below app 20cm of soil.

Therefore it is at the moment not possible to determine the exact relation between the
walls and further excavation in this area is therefore required. In order to follow the sewer
and perhaps its relation to the southern part of the bathhouse it would be interesting to
open the southern part of Mo/17 and at the same time it would be necessary to excavate
the northern part of Mo/17 in order to be able to get better impression of the actual size of
the frigidarium, and the connection to the wall locus 10.

List of assigned loci
Locus 1: Topsoil covering entire trench.
Locus 2: Modern deposit containing sweilah sand, covering entire trench.
Locus 3: Mixed deposit containing modern contamination covering entire square.
Locus 4: Mosque courtyard paving consisting of hard packed yellow clay and plaster
inclusions. Slopes from west towards east. Covers entire trench.
Locus 5: Subsurface packing below locus 4 containing numerous fist size stones. Covers
entire trench.
Locus 6: Loose dark brown soil in eastern end of trench.
Locus 7 (Feature 1): Stone paving belonging to the bathhouse. The phasing of this is still
quite unclear.
Locus 8: Soil layer stretching from wall locus 10 towards the west.
Locus 9: Soil layer that stretches from the easternmost part of the trench to wall locus 10.
It contains several stone inclusions and might be the same as locus 5.
Locus 19 (Wall 1): Wall running NNW towards SSE. It consists of two rows of stones with fist size stone packing in between. Whether this is part of the bathhouse or a neighbouring building is still not clear.

Locus 11 (Wall 2): N-S running wall, which is related to the paving locus 7 and is bonded to wall locus 19.

Locus 12: Soil layer in the centre of the trench.

Locus 13: Soil layer in the eastern end of the trench.

Locus 14 (Feature 2): Mosaic floor butting wall locus 10. It is not clear how (If at all) this is related to the bathhouse.

Locus 15 (Wall 3): Southern sewer wall in trench. This is a continuation of wall locus 92 in Mo/1.

Locus 16 (Wall 4): Northern sewer wall in trench. This is a continuation of wall locus 93 in Mo/1.

Locus 17: Clayish locus situated to the west of wall locus 10.

Locus 18 (Wall 5): South-west corner wall of sewer.

Locus 19 (Wall 6): Continuation of wall locus 8 in Mo/1. This wall is bonded to wall locus 11 and butted by paving locus 7.

List of Drawings
#1: Eastfacing baulk. Scale 1:20.
#2: Northfacing baulk. Scale 1:20.
#3: Southfacing baulk. Scale 1:20.
#4: Mosaic floor (locus 14). Scale 1:1
#5: Plandrawing of trench. Scale 1:20.

Photography Summary
Photographer: Ian Simpson.

Overview of registered images
Registered digital images in 2006:

|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|

Approximately **531** registered digital images created in 2006.

Registered black and white images in 2006:

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Approximately **318** registered black and white images created in 2006.

Registered images of coins:

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*NB. Digital images 2474–5 (coin cat. no. 1807) are missing, despite being entered on registration sheets. However, black and white images 2891–4 for coin cat. no. 1807 should be available.

Registered images of ceramic finds:

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Notes on photo registration and photography in 2006
The starting photo numbers in 2006 began at 2201 for digital images and 2701 for black and white images, jumping forward a number of records from the last photo numbers of 2005.

Digital images were created in jpeg and Canon raw formats. For jpeg images the highest camera resolution setting was used. The purpose of creating raw format images was to gain more control and produce higher resolution images for shots that were likely to be used for publication, but this practice was not carried out consistently. Raw format images were processed in Adobe Photoshop CS2 and three separate image file formats were saved for each raw image: raw, tif, and jpeg. Tif files were generated in Photoshop from the raw images, while jpegs were produced in ACDSee 8 from the tif files, since this gives a better quality jpeg conversion than converting in Photoshop.

Changes were made to the layout of registration sheets. Page numbering was added in the lower right corner, using separate numbering for digital and black and white registration sheets. The page number year in brackets, currently 2006, needs to be updated for future use by editing the form in FileMaker. On the black and white registration sheets an additional frame numbering system was introduced, which is a frame countdown number, written in brackets immediately after the roll/frame number. This provides an extra check that the numbering sequence for a roll of film is being followed correctly, and proved useful. A file Format field was added to the digital images registration sheets, not entered in the FileMaker database, but useful for the photographer to help check whether transferred images correspond to registered images. Lists of abbreviations concerning Type, Period, and Format fields on the registration sheets are now included at the bottom of the sheets.

Digital images were not altered when transferring from the camera to computer or subsequently. However, during the first few days some vertical images were automatically rotated by default photo transfer settings in ACDSee until this setting was changed.

A list of information missing on photo registration sheets has been made so that square supervisors can see where they need to add the missing registration information. This mostly concerns missing locus numbers.

Photography of coins found the use of a close-up +4 dioptre macro filter attached to the objective lens was restrictive. Greater magnification, using a +10 dioptre filter or a true macro lens, would utilise more of the frame and allow focussing closer to the subject.

When increasing the depth of field to focus whole objects, small apertures made spots visible somewhere in the digital camera or lens (e.g. IJP_D2533 at f/32 and IJP_D2673 at f/20). Digital camera may need cleaning. Alternatively, avoid such small apertures or clean up image digitally.

A wider angle lens for aerial shots from the boom would be useful for capturing a wider image. However, this is not a problem when using the crane since it provides more height.

Scales used in the field could be painted with matt instead of gloss paint, which might prevent reflecting sunlight and the paint bubbling up and turning soft in the heat. Alternatively use plastic or metal scales.
General pictures from 2006 season

General view of eastern part of prayer hall.
Mo/14 and western part of prayer hall.

In-situ ceramic vessels in Mo/9
Architectural element with Greek inscription.

Mo/14 before removal of wall tumble.
Cleaning before photo.

Removal of stone floor slab in Mo/1.
General view of south western part of excavation.

Removal of floor slap in Mo/1.
View of Qibla wall and prayer hall from area GO.