

formed by three rows of pillars, is still to be seen. It is greatly to be regretted that it is no longer possible to determine the complete plan of this remarkable roof-comb, which is the only example of its kind.

Structure 28. Near by, but several metres in advance of it, stood a structure probably similar to the last — that is, consisting of a single chamber with three entrances in front — now, however, almost wholly fallen down. Only part of the rear wall is still standing. I found the three lintels among the débris, but they are without ornament.

Structure 29. This edifice surmounts a massive substructure and consisted of one great apartment, the façade of which with three doorways faced north-northeast, and it had three corresponding apartments in the rear. It is probable that this structure, at present badly demolished, was once adorned by a roof-comb, now fallen down, which was supported by the central wall.

Unfortunately the massive lintels of the entrances in the principal façade which I excavated were all without sculpture. I found only a circular altar on one of the landings of the stairway.

Structure 30 (Plate XLII, 1). Another massive substructure near by is crowned by a temple of two apartments, which is still very well preserved. The length of the temple is about 11 m. 30 cm.; breadth, 5 m. 40 cm.; height, exclusive of the fallen roof-comb, 6 m. The base and the main wall surfaces are plain. The doorways interrupt the façade, which faces north-northeast. The middle entrance, which is surrounded by a slightly projecting border of stone and stucco, is only 52 cm. wide, while the other entrances are 90 cm. wide.

The frieze has projecting lower and upper cornices. The stucco has fallen off of the actual frieze surfaces, but I think I am right in saying that on the façade side the frieze had three conventionalized serpent-faces, the eyes of which have been simplified to squares, and the mouth to a long rectangle. The undecorated frieze surfaces had each a little niche. My photograph of this structure shows two of the simplified heads and the little niche between them.

The stucco on the exterior of the structure seems to have been allowed to retain its natural yellowish-white color, but a broad red band ran all around the building below the projecting cornices of the frieze.

From the terraces in front of the temple, where I found a small circular altar but no stelæ, a monumental flight of steps leads far down to the approaches to the curved embankment, quite near the Labyrinth.

The lintels are of the finest limestone, which looks very much like lithographic stone, but they have no sculptures on the under side.

The steep triangular vaults of the two chambers are severely straight-lined, and slightly truncated at the top.

Two doorways lead from the vestibule into the rear apartment, the floor of which is on the same plane with that of the vestibule, while in Yucatec structures the rear chambers are generally one step higher than the vestibule. The vestibule is 952 cm. long, 480 cm. high, and 133 cm. broad; the rear apartment is 140 cm. broad.

The plan of this temple is here given (Fig. 55).

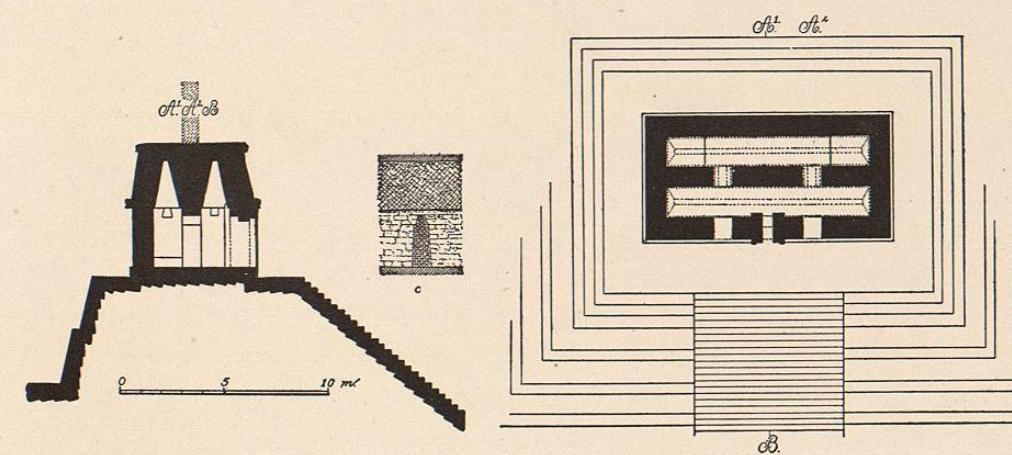


FIG. 55. — STRUCTURE 30: SECTION AND GROUND-PLAN (RESTORED).
c, form of interior doorways.

Structures 31 and 32. Leaving the structure last described and proceeding in a west-northwesterly direction — always keeping at a certain elevation — past numerous heaps of stones (remains of smaller edifices), two structures are reached, lying side by side, the strong walls of which, built of large blocks of stone, having partially resisted the encroachments of vegetation. The façades of the two structures have fallen down, and some of the gigantic lintels have slipped down the mountain side. I examined all the lintels, but found none with sculpture.

The traveller who wishes to visit these two edifices will do better to push forward on the curved embankment behind the Labyrinth in order to ascend the mountain of the Lesser Acropolis from that point. He will thus unfailingly reach the two structures.

IV. THE GREAT ACROPOLIS, WHICH CROWNS THE MOUNTAIN RIDGE FROM THE TEMPLE OF THE HEADLESS KETSALKOATL TO THE THREE DISTANT SOUTH TEMPLES.

Structure 33. The Temple of Ketsalkoatl, whose head has been struck off (Plates XLII, 2, XLV, 1). Ascending now the remainder of the little stairway with small steps described above, one comes out upon the northern corner

of the terrace with the stalactite column. This column — thrown down, alas! by some vandal — has little vertical rows of glyphs incised in its depressions, the details of which are almost obliterated. I have found similar stalactite columns in front of other structures, which leads to the supposition that there must be an extensive stalactite cave near Yāxchilan from which the ancients procured their columns. This cave, probably concealed in the neighboring mountain range, is at present wholly unknown. It would be interesting to find it at some future time.

I found no circular altar, either before or behind the stalactite column; but on the mountain slope near the little stairway with the small steps, there lies a moderately thick, circular sacrificial stone, 140 cm. in diameter, probably the largest in Yāxchilan. The upper surface still shows traces of a circular ornamentation consisting of pictures and glyphs, but, as usual, it is so badly weathered that it cannot be photographed. It is not possible that this stone can have lain originally where it now lies; it was probably thrown down from one of the upper terraces by thoughtless persons.

From the plateau with the stalactite column, a broad stairway of a few steps leads up to the very last platform and to the temple upon it. This stairway is centrally placed with regard to the façade, and is interrupted below in the middle by a small projecting altar.

The principal façade of this temple faces northeast, and presents an imposing appearance to one who has some comprehension of the remote epoch to which it belongs, and is capable of appreciating the enormous difficulties under which people of that distant period must have performed their labors. This façade is all the more precious because it seems to represent the principal type of the religious architecture of this branch of the Mayas, another example of which it would be difficult to find in these wildernesses, owing to the fearful destruction caused everywhere by the luxuriant growth of vegetation.

This structure has, as usual, a somewhat projecting unornamented base. The principal wall surfaces are also plain. The high sloping frieze has a projecting lower cornice, which consists first of a course of sloping slabs, upon which are placed smaller slabs and stucco work, which together form a transition to the somewhat receding, backward sloping frieze-surfaces. The surface of the frieze is interrupted, on the façade side, by three high shallow niches. The central one is over the middle door; the other two are in the middle of the remaining surfaces to the right and left, which do not exactly correspond with the middle of the right and left entrances.

Each niche has a bracket consisting of an angular, simplified serpent's face; that is, two deep square eyes and an oblong mouth can plainly be recognized. By way of filling up the empty spaces, there are two little niches on each side of the square face. These brackets formerly supported figures made of small stones and stucco, one of which filled each niche. The figure

in the right-hand niche has entirely crumbled away, while the left-hand niche still plainly shows a personage of rank sitting Turkish fashion. The figure in the middle niche is still preserved in the main, but is difficult to describe; it seems to represent a corpse prepared for burial.

The surfaces between the large shallow niches, as well as those between the niches and the corners of the building, are filled out by a system of shallow niches of various sizes, some of them terminating at the top in a stepped arch. These latter contained in part small figures which have now for the most part fallen off.

The upper cornice seems to have consisted only of sloping layers of thin slabs of stone projecting very slightly. At the back and on the sides the frieze was treated in the same manner as in front.

Along the middle of the flat roof, which is flush with the upper edge of the upper cornice of the frieze, rises a lofty roof-comb which is the architectural transformation of what was originally a framework of skulls, (*tsompantli*). The masonry of the roof-comb is uninterrupted in the middle, but the remaining surfaces are perforated by small windows. This central piece of masonry shows a throne-bench upon which sits an extraordinary figure, whose thin limbs are out of all proportion to the portly cylindrical body. His legs hang down over the bench, while the arms are raised upward. The head seems to wear an animal mask with a tall, cruciform head-dress. It is difficult to determine whether this sculptured figure is meant to represent a corpse prepared for burial with mummy wrappings, or some mythical personage.

The rows of windows are joined to the massive central wall, two horizontal rows always forming a separate group or section. Three double rows are still preserved, and the beginnings of a fourth, making eight rows of windows in all. There are no means of determining whether the roof-comb was still higher, or whether the eighth row formed the finish. The windows of the first row are of the usual form, rather higher than they are broad, and number eleven on each side of the middle wall, making twenty-two in all. The windows of the second row are all T-shaped, and their little columns are broad enough below to admit of a very small rectangular window. The third, fifth, and seventh rows have, like the first, rectangular windows of equal size, but in the fourth, sixth, and eighth rows a rather taller window always alternates with a shorter one.

The length of the structure is 22 m. 18 cm.; breadth, 4 m. 88 cm.; height, exclusive of roof-comb, 7 m. The roof-comb — supposing it to consist of no more than eight rows of windows — is about 5 m. 75 cm. in height.

All the exterior surfaces and all the accessories are carefully covered with the natural yellowish-white stucco, the color of which has been retained. Under the first projecting course of slabs forming the cornice, a broad red band ran all around the structure, bordering likewise the three doorways in the façade as far down as the edge of the base. The breadth of the red