International Journal of Cultural Inheritance & Social Sciences (IJCISS)
Vol. 4 Issue 7, March 2022, ISSN: 2632-7597
Journal Homepage: http://ijciss.com/, Email: journal.ijciss@gmail.com
Double-Blind, Peer Reviewed, Refereed & Open Access International Journal

ARCHITECTURAL PLANNING IN CASTLES AND FORTRESSES DURING THE RAMESSIDE ERA (1292-1077 BC), AN ANALYTICAL AND COMPARATIVE STUDY

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Abstract
The research deals with Architectural planning in castles and fortresses during the Ramesside era (1292-1077 BC), an analytical and comparative study, and consists of several attempts, including:
First: The royal palaces: including the palaces of the eighteenth dynasty, represented by the palace of King Ay and Horemheb, the palaces of the nineteenth dynasty and the Ramesses era, represented by four palaces: the palace of King Ramses II in the Ramesseum temple in Thebes, the palace of King Merneptah in Memphis, and the palace of King Ramses III in MedinetHabu, and the second palace of King Ramses III in Memphis, where we find that this plan for the Palace of Merneptah and the palaces of Ramses III is the model that followed the planning of castles later.
Second: the temples, and despite the similarity between the plans of temples in the modern state, there is a difference in the planning of some temples, such as the Temple of Seti in Qurna, which was distinguished by the military planning just like castles, and among these temples is the Temple of Seti in Qurna.
Third: The castles of Ramesses in the northern delta region, and the castles of the northern delta, which are represented by: Boulbitine Castle in Rosetta and Pharos Castle in Alexandria, are among the most important of these castles, especially since the researcher has been able with scientific evidence to correct the history of the two castles.
The architectural study of the inner tower at the Boulbitine Castle, which was discovered through scientific excavations, as well as the study of the inner tower at Pharos Castle, contributed to the re-dating of these two castles, and to identifying all their architectural and defensive elements as the most important Egyptian fortifications on the Mediterranean coast. The researcher referred to the origins of their architectural elements, whose features changed in the following stages.
Keywords: Architectural planning, castles and fortresses,Ramesside era, Ramses II, Merneptah, Ramses III, Habu, Memphis, Boulbitine, Pharos.

First: the royal palaces
Despite what Noblecourtmentioned that only very few monuments remain in the royal palaces, and there is no homogeneity in their planning that allows us to form a comprehensive idea of them, however, he examines the ruins of the Great Palace built by Amenhotep III for himself and Queen Tiye on the west bank of the Nile, as well as the ruins of Amarnapalaces, which was built for Amenhotep IV and Queen Nefertiti, concludes that if we disregard the parts required by the living needs (great hall, columns, throne room, internal gardens, animal houses, etc.) the brick building by erecting the three main sections, this design we find In the royal palaces, the palace of Ramses III appears in MedinetHabu, and likewise the palace of Ramses II in Abydos [1-2].
However, the researcher saw that this very few of the remains of the royal palaces, which

date back to the era of the modern state, laid the foundations of architectural planning for these palaces and their architectural elements as well. Which appeared in palaces and castles alike, and confirm that the royal palaces were only military castles as well as their civil uses, and that all the architectural elements of the castles were represented by them, so that it is difficult to differentiate between the planning of the palace and the castle, so it was necessary to conduct a careful study of the planning of the palaces And the extent of its impact on the planning of the castles erected in the north of the Delta.

Despite the similarity between the plans of the palaces attached to the temples and the plans of the presidential palaces dating back to the modern state, there is a fundamental difference in the function of each of them, and this difference is due to the fact that the palaces attached to the temples were not intended for actual housing, but rather to provide a place where the king was allowed to wear certain clothes on special religious occasions and important ceremonies [3] and he supervised the construction work in the temple, as is the case in Seti I Palace next to the Ramesseum Temples [4], but he was distinguished by his military planning just like castles.

1. The Eighteenth Dynasty Palaces:

The style followed in the palaces attached to the temples was the portico, and the vestibule leads to a wide reception hall, and it preceded the square throne room, and as there were several sub-rooms on both sides, the main reception halls had a discrepancy in the number of columns [5].

The palace of King Ay and Horemheb forms a link between the temple palaces of the first half of the Eighteenth Dynasty and the palaces of the Ramesses temples [6] (Fig. 1). It is the simplest example of the ancient style of temple palaces, which is represented by the palaces of the temples of Ramses II in Ramesseum, and the palace of King Merneptah in Thebes, as well as the first palace of King Ramses III in MedinetHabu[6].

It is noted in the architectural planning of this palace that it consists of longitudinal and transverse sectors, and the most important characteristic of the facade is that in the middle there is an entrance that leads to the middle sector of the palace on the axis of the throne room, and on both sides of the facade there are two entrances that lead to the two side corridors of the palace.

The palace is divided from the inside into three main transverse sectors, the front of which is occupied by a transverse colonnade hall, containing eight columns in two rows and on its two narrow sides a corridor in which the two side entrances to the palace open [7]. Two rows, flanked on the east and west by rooms [8] (Fig. 2). This planning represents the main axis of the architectural planning of palaces and castles in the era of Ramesses and in all parts of Egypt, which had an impact on the planning of castles in the northern delta in Rosetta and Alexandria.

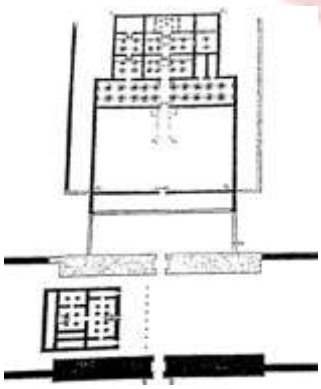


Fig.(1) plan of the temple during the reign of King Ay, from: Ali, Asma Hassan, Balconies of Transfiguration, p. 332.

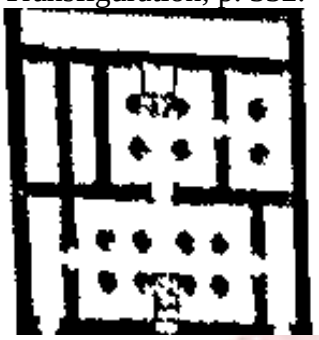


Fig.(2) The layout of the palace attached to the Temple of King Ay in West Thebes, from:Badawy, Alexander (1968). A history of Egyptian Architecture, fig. 93.

2. Palaces of the Nineteenth Dynasty and the Ramesside Era

The excavations that were carried out in the Ramesses temples in Thebes revealed that a number of palaces were attached to these temples, and this is a continuation of the palaces attached to the temples that appeared before, as well as other civil buildings, a group of civil buildings attached to these temples, and directly connected to them. The palaces are located within the walls of the temples [9-10-11].

It is located in front of the palace of King Ramses II in the Temple of Ramesses in Thebes, in the southern part of the horizontal axis of the first courtyard. It is similar in its planning to the first palace of Ramses III in MedinetHabu. The facade is distinguished by the fact that in the middle there is an entrance that leads to the central sector of the palace on the axis of the throne room, and on both sides of the facade there are two entrances that lead to the two side corridors of the palace.

The palace consists of a transverse lobby, in front of the facade, consisting of two rows of columns, each row with ten columns. The entrance is followed by a hall hall with sixteen columns in two rows that leads to the square throne room that is based on four columns in two rows, and on both sides of the first hall there are four halls, two in each On both sides of the second hall, there are six halls, three on each side [3] (Figs. 3-4).

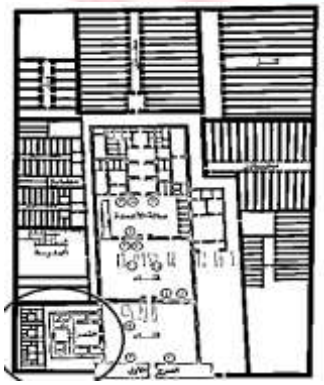


Fig.(3) Plan of the Ramesseum Temple and shows the palace, from: Ali, Asmaa Hassan. Transfiguration balconies in the palaces of the modern state, p. 337.

The outer buildings of the palace of King Merneptah in Memphis [12-13] were built with mud bricks, while the columns and the entrances to the doors were built with limestone. A

transverse hall based on two rows of twelve columns, and in the southern wall there were three entrances, and these entrances were made of wood. throne, and around the throne room there was a side room [14] (Figs. 4-5) [15].

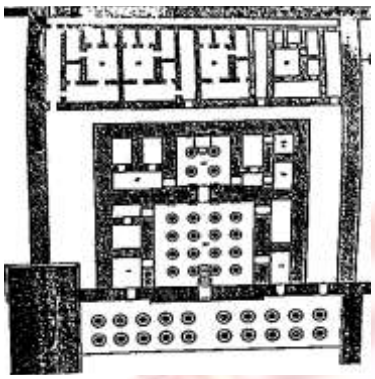


Fig.(4) Plan of the Palace of the Ramesium Temple from:Shukri, Mohamed Anwar (1986). Architecture in Ancient Egypt, p. 128.

Fig. (5) The palace of King Merneptah in Memphis

We can sum up the features of the architectural planning of Merneptah Palace, in particular the central section of the palace, which constitutes the throne room. Its roof rests on two longitudinal rows of three columns each, and on both sides of it are rooms, and behind the throne hall is a transverse corridor that leads to rooms as well. This layout consists of five longitudinal sectors, three of which are for the throne hall, and a sector on both sides. is located behind her.

This palace is also distinguished by the fact that the facade of the throne hall has an entrance in the middle that leads to the central sector, while two other entrances are located on both sides of the facade that lead to the rooms located on both sides of the throne hall, which represent the first and fifth sectors.

As for the palace of King Ramses III in MedinetHabu, the fortified temple of MedinetHabu is an example of other fortified models [11], and it shows great developments and features in the method of fortification in that period, and the closest assumption is that it was inspired by the fortifications of the Syrian castles that contemporary his reign [5]. The palace is located south of the open front yard behind the first edifice[14]. The plan of the temple is square, built of mud bricks, except for the facade, which was at the same time the southern wall of the first courtyard of the temple,the second palace was also revealed by Holscher.

The first palace of King Ramses III was built of bricks[3],the first hall is the official reception hall and the second is the throne hall.

As for the first hall, which represents the official reception hall, it is similar to the front

hall in the Amarna houses, and it contained (12) columns distributed in three transverse rows built of mud.

The second hall represents the throne hall. It is square behind the official reception hall and is linked to it by an entrance on its axis. It has four columns. Connected to the throne hall is a suite consisting of three rooms, the largest in the west, and connected to the throne hall from the east by a suite consisting of three rooms that differ from the other side, namely: A large room leads to two small rooms [14] (Fig. 6).

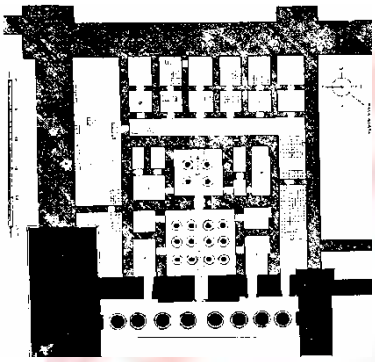


Fig.(6) The First Palace of King Ramses III in MedinetHabu, from:Shukri, Muhammad Anwar (1970). Architecture in Ancient Egypt, p. 129.

This palace is also distinguished by the fact that the facade of the throne hall has an entrance in the middle that leads to the central sector, while two other entrances are located on both sides of the facade that lead to the rooms located on both sides of the throne hall, which represent the first and fifth sectors.

As for the second palace of King Ramses III, we find the transverse hall, which is based on a row of four columns, leading to a narrow hall with two columns. The middle section includes the throne room, and the back section includes a living room with two columns. To the west of the throne room is a large courtyard in the rear of which there is a facade, and behind it is a hall. Behind the palace is a long transverse vestibule, which leads to three houses[15] (Fig. 7).

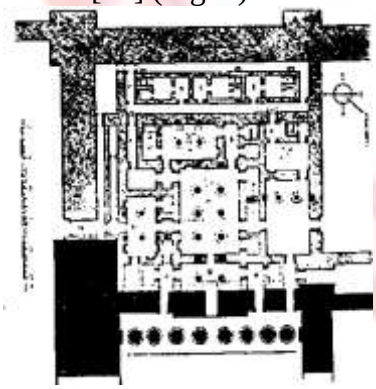


Fig.(7) The Second Palace of King Ramses III in MedinetHabu, from:Shukri, Muhammad Anwar (1970), Architecture in Ancient Egypt, p. 132.

Hence, we find that this planning of the Merneptah Palace and the Palaces of Ramses III is the model that later followed in the planning of castles.

Second: the temples

Despite the similarity between the plans of temples in the modern state, there is a difference in the planning of some temples, such as the Temple of Seti in Qurna, which was characterized by military planning, just like castles.

1. Temple of Seti in Qurna

It is noted in the architectural planning of this temple that it consists of longitudinal and transverse sectors, and the most important characteristic of the facade is that in the middle there is an entrance leading to the middle sector of the axis on the axis of the Holy of Holies, and on both sides of the facade there are two entrances leading to the two side corridors of the temple.

The temple is divided from the inside into three main transverse sectors, the front of which is occupied by a hall of transverse columns, containing ten columns in two rows, and on its two narrow sides a corridor opens to the two side entrances to the temple [7]. Two rows, flanked on the east and west by rooms [8] (Figs. 8-9) [16]. This planning represents the main axis of the architectural planning of palaces and castles in the era of Ramesses and in all parts of Egypt, which had an impact on the planning of castles in the northern delta in Rosetta and Alexandria.

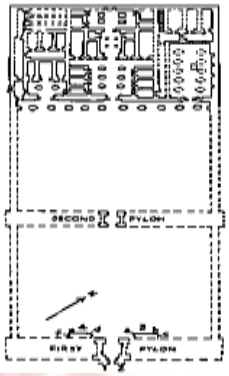


Fig. (8) Layout of the Temple of Seti in Qurna

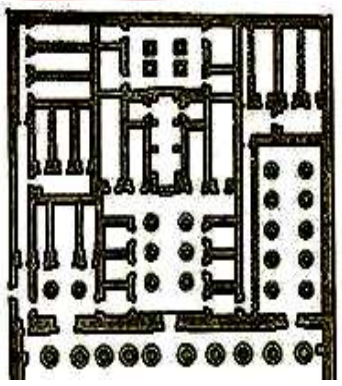


Fig.(9) Layout of the Temple of Seti (Holy of Holies) in Qurna, from:Temple of Seti I in Qurna, dated January 13, 2020, https://sites.google.com/site/cityamon/temple-of-seti-i

Third: The fortresses of Ramesses in the northern delta region

1. Boulbitine Castle in Rosetta

The architectural study of the inner tower discovered through scientific excavations contributed to re-dating this castle and identifying all its architectural and defensive elements as one of the most important Egyptian fortifications[17]. (Figs. 10-11).

Fig.(10). Rosetta Castle through recent excavations, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed (2017). Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, fig. 19.

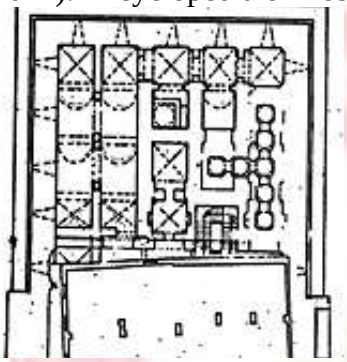


Fig.(11). The inner tower of the Rosetta Castle through recent excavations, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed (2017). Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, fig. 19.

The inner tower is located in the center of the castle, close to the northern wall (Fig. 12) [18], and the plan of the castle is a wall with an entrance in the south that leads to a transverse hall whose roof is based on a row of six columns, and ends in the east and west with two rooms on each side, and around the courtyard is a shed carried on A row of columns on all four sides of the open courtyard (Fig. 13).

Fig.(12). Rosetta Castle, from: Norden (1801). Voyage d'Egypteet de Nubie, lll, p. 162

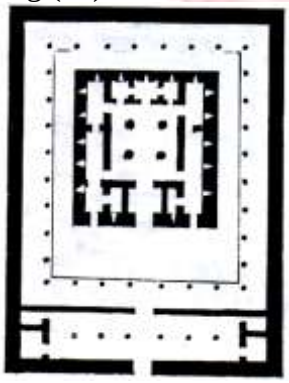


Fig.(13). Merneptah Castle in Rosetta, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed (2017). Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, fig. 69.

In the middle of the southern facade is the main entrance, and on both sides of it are two entrances that lead to two corridors east and west, representing the first and fifth sectors of the tower.

After studying and carefully examining the remaining elements of this tower, the researcher reached the origins of its architectural elements, which changed its features in the following stages. They were provided with two square-shaped towers, and the outer walls are distinguished by their support with a triangular support wall, and this wall and the walls of the castle were also reinforced with columns of granite, basalt or marble (pls. 1-2), extending in width of the walls similar to those of Pharos Castle [19-20].

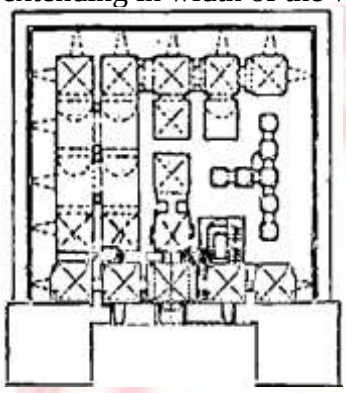


Fig.(15). the inner tower of Boulbitine Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed (2017). Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, fig. 54.

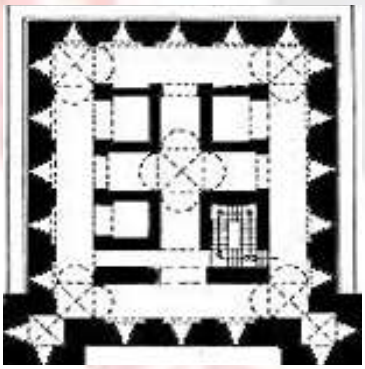


Fig.(16). Rosetta Castle, second floor, From: Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed (2017). Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, fig. 57.

Pl. (1). The inner tower of Rosetta Darwish castle, from:Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 36.

Pl. (2). The western section of Rosetta Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 37.

A retaining wall was built for the tower on three sides (pl. 3), which is triangular in shape with bevels from the top. This wall was connected to the wall of the tower by partitions of granite, marble and basalt columns of various shapes and sizes brought from ancient ruins (pl. 4).

Pl. (3). The western section of Rosetta Castle, from: Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, plate 38.

Pl. (4). Reinforcement of the outer wall of the inner tower of the Rosetta Castle, from: Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, pl. 51.

The outer walls are characterized by the presence of piercings (pl. 4) that were openings for the entry of light and air into the tower (pl. 5).

Pl. (5). The inner tower of the Rosetta Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, pl. 39.

It was found that the inner tower of the castle consisted of four floors, the upper floor of which represented a corridor topped by circular balconies, and parts of the first and second floors remained (Pls. 6-7), and the entrance was leading to the garage (the corridor leading from the outer door to the hall in the middle of the building the first square of the central sector of the five sectors of the tower, which was directly facing the entrance, and with two entrances on the eastern and western sides, and clearly visible in the western wall of the southwestern room, a clear concavity was found in the southeast room, reminiscent of the one in the southwest room in the inner tower of Pharos Castle.

As for the third and fourth rooms of the central sector, the fourth room has three entrances, the first in the west and leads to the first sector in the west, and the second entrance leads to the east.

The tower contained a cistern occupying the second room of the first sector, and the first, second and third rooms of the second sector.

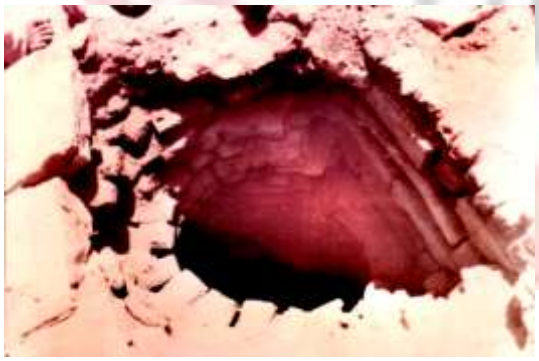
Pl. (6). The inner tower of the Rosetta Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 40.

Pl. (7). The inner tower of the Rosetta Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 41.

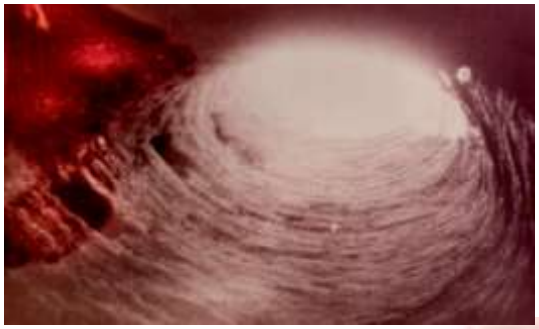
Pl. (8). The inner tower of the Rosetta Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 42.

Pl. (9). the inner tower of the Rosetta Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 43.

This cistern is considered one of the most elaborate architectural masterpieces. It consists of seven chambers (Plate 10-11). Its walls were covered with a thick and smooth layer of mortar, and another layer was placed on the floor. The cistern is descended through a reed (a hollow cylindrical building topped by a wheel). To draw water from the cistern) built of bricks. The cistern rooms are connected to each other by arched entrances connected by strings of granite columns that extend horizontally with the line of the legs of the arches above these entrances (Plate 12),shallow domes surmount the rooms.



Pl. (10). Tank hatch in the inner tower of the Rosetta Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 46.



Pl. (11). Tank hatch in the inner tower of the Rosetta Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 47.

Pl. (12). The cistern in the inner tower of Castle Rosetta, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 48.

As for the second floor of the tower, it consisted of rooms in five longitudinal and transverse sectors, in addition to the stairwell in the southeast, and there is a corridor representing the first sector in the east and north and the fifth in the west and south, revolving around the rooms of this floor adjacent to the outer wall (Pl. 13).

Pl. (13). The staircase in the inner tower of the Rosetta Castle, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, plate 49.

2. Pharos Castle

The fortress was erected in the northern part of the island of Pharos, directly overlooking the Mediterranean Sea from the north, east and west (pls. 14-15).

Pl. (14). Castle on the island of Pharos, Date of citation 5/1/2020
http://thewallsofalex.blogspot.com/2013/07/blog-post_7.html

Pl. (15). Castle on the island of Pharos, Date of citation 5/1/2020
http://thewallsofalex.blogspot.com/2013/07/blog-post_7.html

The inner tower is located in the center of the castle, close to the northern wall (Figs. 33-34). A plan was drawn up for this castle, which was surrounded by a wall with an entrance in the south that leads to a transverse hall whose roof rests on a row of twelve columns, and ends in the east and west with two rooms in each On one side, and around the courtyard is a shed carried on a row of columns on the four sides of the open courtyard.
The main tower was square in shape, and the outer corners were provided with round fortified towers [21-22] (Fig. 17).

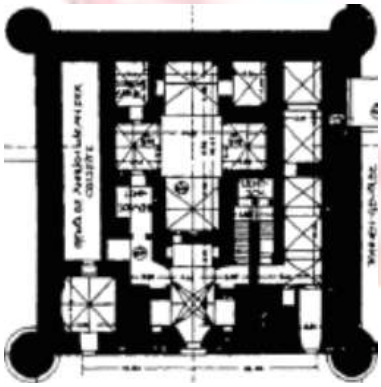


Fig.(17). First floor in Alexandria Citadel, from: Thearch, Hermann (2009). Pharos, pl. 5.

The main facade is located on the southern side and in the center is the entrance block, and in the four corners are four cylindrical towers and the lower parts are inclined inward and supported by transverse granite and marble columns that cut through the lower section to strengthen the foundations of the towers. It is surmounted by circular bands representing

column heads that protrude from the walls, and they are made of marble and granite, with the purpose of relieving the loads on the castle walls (Plate 16).

Pl. (16). Alexandria Citadel (Photo by the researcher)

The facades of the walls are interspersed with small windows for the rooms [22], and the distinctive architectural style appears at the top of the bases of the walls and towers by placing columns as links.

The central castle tower consists of three floors and the entrance block is preceded by an ascending staircase and in the middle of it is the entrance. The facade was surrounded by two entrances, each leading to the first and fifth sectors of the tower. Each entrance was adjoined by a semi-circular stone tower with a base protruding from the wall of the tower (Pls. 17-18-19). The stone and the tower end at the top by a balcony with balconies, each of which is held by a semi-circular arch.

Pl. (17). Pharos Castle, view from the southwest, from: Thearch, Hermann. Pharos, pl. 62.

Pl. (18) Pharos Castle from the southeast, from: Thearch, Hermann. Pharos, pl. 65.

Pl. (19). Pharos Castle from the south, from: Thearch, Hermann. Pharos, pl. 66.

As for the other facades, four circular ligaments of marble and granite begin, protruding from the walls, for the purpose of relieving the loads on the walls of the castle. A row of rectangular pointed niches tops this, and the facades end with a row of balconies, similar to the one on the main facade.

First floor

The entrance hole in the middle of the main facade of the tower leads to the entrance bunker. The southern wall of this bunker is topped by a door opening, and the northern wall is topped by another opening (Figs. 18-19).

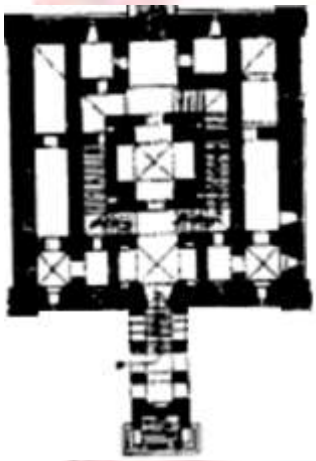


Fig.(18). Pharos Castle, ground floor, from: Thearch, Hermann (2009). Pharos, pl. 7

Fig.(19). First floor in Alexandria Citadel, from:Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed. Encyclopedia of Rosetta, 1, fig. 31.

Inside the tower, on the ground floor at the bottom of the tower, there was a large drinking water cistern for the tower guards, fed by pipes [20].

This cistern was built, consisting of a vaulted roof supported by columns, often arranged in several rows and several floors on top of each other. It bears the domes of the roof [22]. Above the cistern, it spanned decades, bearing four sturdy internal supports, like those above it in the inner square of the walls. Above this cistern there is a large square central hall, and on this hall there is the entrance to the tower standing at the top. It seems that this hall was located in the middle of the square, surrounded by a corridor and small rooms, and through doors it was possible to reach from the corridor to the many rooms surrounding a circle from the outside.

As for the eastern and western wall of the entrance architrave, each entrance is at the top of each entrance, the floor of each entrance rises from the floor of the entrance. It is noticeable that each entrance in the northern, eastern and western wall is solid. The entrance to the eastern wall and the western wall of the entrance hall is adjacent to a door opening, and the eastern door opening leads to the eastern wing of the first floor of the tower, and the western door opening of the first floor leads to the two western sectors of the tower.

The second floor is characterized by rooms and corridors that revolve around the central hall. (Figs. 20-21-22) [23].

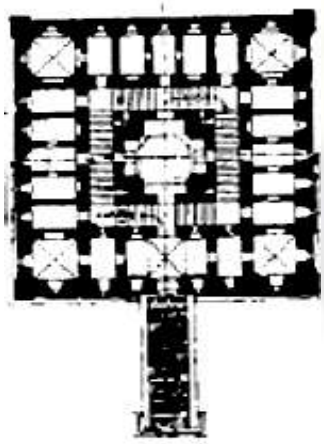


Fig.(20). Pharos Castle, upper floor, from: Thearch, Hermann (2009). Pharos, plate 7.

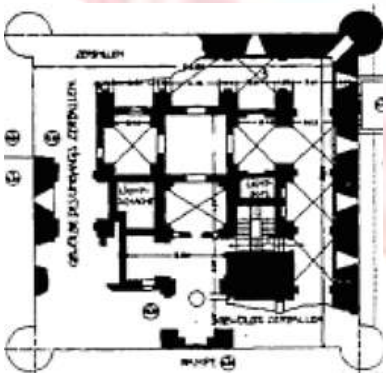


Fig.(21). the second floor of the Alexandria Citadel, from: Thearch, Hermann (2009). Pharos, plate 5.

Fig.(22). the second floor of the Alexandria Citadel, on the authority from: Darwish, Mahmoud Ahmed (2017). Encyclopedia of Rosetta, fig. 32.

Conclusion

- Study included: Architectural planning in castles and fortresses during the Ramesside era (1292-1077 BC), an analytical and comparative study.
- The research dealt with the importance of studying military fortifications in ancient Egypt, and the extent of development in the architectural planning and architectural elements of castles and fortresses throughout Egypt, as the researcher is concerned with studying these fortifications considering their importance in protecting the Egyptian borders, and as models for castles and fortresses in Egypt, and their planning and elements were Architecture had a great impact on civil and religious architecture in ancient Egypt, where palaces and temples took the planning of castles as well.
- The research dealt with a study of castles and fortresses that consist of royal palaces, temples and castles.
- The study of the royal palaces included the palaces of the eighteenth dynasty, represented by the palace of King Ay and Horemheb, and the palaces of the nineteenth dynasty and the Ramesses era, represented by four palaces: the palace of King Ramses II in the Ramesseum temple in Thebes, the palace of King Merneptah in Memphis, and the palace of King Ramses III in the city of Habu, and the second palace of King Ramses III in Memphis, where we find that this plan for the Palace of Merneptah and the two palaces of Ramses III is the model that followed the planning of castles later.
- It included the study of fortified temples, which took the planning of castles, such as the Temple of Seti in Qurna, which was characterized by military planning just like castles.
- The study included the castles of Ramesses in the northern Delta region, which are represented by: Boulbitine Castle in Rosetta and Pharos Castle in Alexandria, which are two of the most important Egyptian castles, especially since the researcher was able, with scientific evidence, to correct the history of the two castles.
- The architectural study of the inner tower of the Citadel of Boulbitine, which was discovered through scientific excavations, as well as the study of the inner tower of the Citadel of Pharos, contributed to the re-dating of these two castles, and to identifying all their architectural and defensive elements as the most important Egyptian fortifications on the Mediterranean coast. The researcher referred to the origins of their architectural elements, whose features changed in the following stages.

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