

Summary

The "Megaron"

In Hellenic land on the west coast of the Aegean Sea, the forms of Neolithic and Bronze Age habitations were trapezoid or with an apse, whereas in Anatolia on east coast of the Aegean Sea, they were trapezoid and rectangular. In the course of time, the habitation type with an apse became peculiar to Hellenic land, and that with a rectangular form, also called "Megaron" to Anatolia. And while the Anatolians did not adopt the building type with an apse, the Hellenus used, towards the end of the Bronze Age, the megaron type, especially in the main rooms of the palaces built for their Achaean lords, a practice which leaves no doubt about the direction of influence, since the Cretean "megaron" is merge into the other spaces of villa; and unlike the Achaean, it is not isolated and does not contain a hearth.

These two important facts are also the determining characteristics of Trojan megarons, dating back to the 3rd millenium B.C., and the tradition of this building type is sustained until the end of the Bronze Age without any interruption, so much so that, coming together with its ante-room, as seen only in the Castle of Troy, and through her influence, on the west coast of Anatolia: This continuation of tradation and practice in building have not yet come to light in another settle-ment or area. The "megarons" observed in Poliochni on the west coast of Anatolia and, further to the east, in Kültepe, in the last phase of the Early Bronze Age, identical to those with multi-ple rooms in Troy in that they have the appearance and function of a "main room" in the center of habitation and this should be considered with the influence of Troy in mind. If "the hous-es with main rooms" excaveted in the Hittite capitol, as well as the hillamars in front of the cult rooms of temples of the Imperial Period of Hattusas, were also products of this influence, their being associated with the Trojan "Megaron having an ante-room" should not be suprising.

The examples to solve this riddle are excepted to come from the sixth layer of Troy, which is contemporaneous with the Achaean-Hellens and the Hittites. However, complete destruction of the castle complex, where the Great Megaron was situated, by the later settlements as Troy is likely to foil this expectation.

The importance of the Trojan megaron stems from its role in constituting the nucleus of "Hellenic Temples" which started to take shape in the 7th century B.C. It is not possible to cor-relate the essential elements in the plan of these temples, which are basically composed of a rec-tangle with an ante-room, with the Hellens own tradition of building; since the Hellenic temples of the Geometric Period are the works of their own Bronze Age tradition, notable by their use of circular forms in the rear with its apse. By the mid-7th century B.C., their sudden transforma-tion into rectangular shapes, together with all of them having one role of columns around their periphery in imitation of the second phase of the Temple of Hera, Samos, is only made possible through Anatolian-Ionic influence. Besides, it is not possible to explain why the temples of Eretria and Thermos in Hellenic land are compesed of a "Long House" without an ante-room, exactly like the Ionian temple at Samos in Anatolia, by any means other than the result of this influence form the Anatolian-Ionic. The temple of Artemis, Ephesus, an example from the 8th century Geometric Period, forming a peristeros with a row of columns, also confirms this influence. Moreover, it confirms that the so-called "Hellenic temple architecture" was actually created on the Anatolian coasts of the Aegean Sea and in Ionia, as well as the fact that the fondations of the western civilation's style of architecture, were established not in Hellenic land but on the soil of Anatolia, and that their creators were earlier Anatolian people not the Hellens.