



Contributions to the Archaeology
Of Tikal, Naranjo-Sa'aal, Yaxha, and Nakum
Northeast Region of Peten, Guatemala

Cultural Development of the Monumental Epicenter of the Maya City of Naranjo-Sa'aal, Northeast Peten, Guatemala

Vilma Fialko

Instituto de Antropología e Historia de Guatemala

Departamento de Conservación y Rescate de Sitios Arqueológicos Prehispánicos

Introduction

The Institute of Anthropology and History of the Ministry of Culture of Guatemala has been carrying out extensive archaeological and conservation interventions at the ancient Maya city of Naranjo, located in the Yaxha-Nakum-Naranjo National Park, Northeast Peten (Figure 1)

Archaeological research started in 2002 under the direction of archaeologist Vilma Fialko, with the purpose of obtaining a broad view of the evolutionary process of the ancient Maya kingdom of Naranjo-Sa'aal. After an evaluation of the great extent of the city and its complexity, the activities have covered several phases and areas of intervention, briefly mentioned below:

1. Documentation of the extensive looting in the site between the years 1998 and 2001, where more than 100 important buildings suffered damages by multiple trenches, pits, and tunnels (Figure 2). Several royal funerary enclosures were badly sacked; some of them are located in temples and palaces of the Principal Plaza and in several Triadic Acropolis compounds distributed throughout the city. After sixteen years of constant field work, the documentation of the damage and the analysis of cultural materials abandoned by the looters is still in progress (Fialko 2005).

2. In order to reference the characteristics of space and the built environment of the monumental epicenter of the city, a topographic map was completed that accounts for 85% of the area (Quintana and Wurster 2004).

3. An additional survey and mapping effort related to the Naranjo hinterland, an area of 100 square kilometers, is still in progress. At present

1,026 residential groups have been mapped, representing more than 5,000 structures, most of them very badly looted. It is considered that the hinterland of Naranjo surpasses 400 square kilometers (Fialko 2009; Fialko et al. 2007).

4. The restoration process of 13 iconic temples and palaces located in the Principal Plaza, Central Acropolis (Royal Palace), and West Acropolis, is still in progress in order to guarantee their conservation and promote touristic visits (Fialko 2012).

An Overview of Naranjo-Sa'aal

Naranjo is located in the watershed of two larger river basins: the Holmul River (north) and the Mopan River (southeast) (Figure 3). Both correspond to natural routes which integrated the Maya world of the Peten with the corresponding region of Belize and ultimately with the Caribbean Sea. Naranjo is sheltered to the east by a moderately steep mountainous system, which at its base fragments into a system of natural channels formed by the effects of rainfall; these formations act as a natural defense of the city and buffer against the north wind, favoring a temperate climate that becomes moderately cold between the months of November and February. Some of the karstic elevations help to concentrate moisture in the La Pita bajo, located to the west of the city.

The ancient Maya of Naranjo apparently modified part of the eastern margin of the La Pita bajo incorporating a canal and a waterhole. On the northern sector of the bajo there is a stepped area possibly related to terraces. Another important

Naranjo water resource consists of three springs that even in present times flow constantly. It was due to these that old-time *chicleros*, *xateros*, and loggers knew the archaeological site by the name of El Manantial, and this designation is also seen on old geographic maps.

The most recent results of the surveys carried out on the hinterland of Naranjo makes it possible to estimate that the local territorial extent of the kingdom of Naranjo-Sa'aal approximates an area of 400 square km (Figure 4), while the area of regional sociopolitical influence and control was over 2,500 km², taking into consideration archaeological and epigraphic-historic information connecting Naranjo with ancient Maya kingdoms of Peten and Belize such as Yaxha, Tikal, Holmul, Witzna, Ucanal, Sacul, Buena Vista, and Xunantunich (Fialko 2015) (see Figure 3).

The monumental epicenter of the capital city of Naranjo occupies approximately three square kilometers, integrating no less than 112 major buildings with ceremonial, administrative, and residential functions for royalty and minor elites (Figure 5). The looting since 2002 has affected 27% of the buildings at the site, amounting to 253 trenches and tunnels, with 1,020 additional cases found during the survey process in the periphery (Fialko et al. 2007). The peripheral residential groups are associated with terrain conditioned in the form of terraces. Some quadrangle groups include palaces and minor temples apparently related to secondary or minor elites.

Due to the impossibility of carrying out a systematic description of all the looting in the short term, it was decided to select those buildings in the monumental center that required urgent stabilization (Figure 2). The depredations provided vital information about the process of cultural evolution of the city, evident in the vestiges of architecture, sculpture, ceramic, and lithic objects located in the rubble of substructures and funerary enclosures. Based on interventions in 42 major buildings together with the excavation of approximately 450 test pits for stratigraphic documentation, archaeology shows that the rulers of Naranjo, despite living almost constantly on the war path, did not halt construction in their kingdom's capital.

The archaeological investigations carried out in Naranjo have followed an approach that seeks to understand aspects of the growth process of the capital of a regional Maya state. Naranjo is strategically located in a geographic-cultural border area and had an enormous impact on other Maya states at the regional level. Important historic information is mentioned in 48 stelae (five of them recently discovered), two altars, and other

sculptures so far documented.

In order to carry out evaluations of the Naranjo evolutionary process, several levels of analysis have been envisaged, taking into consideration aspects of geographical context and the characteristics of natural resources that motivated the first occupants to settle at the site. The organization of archaeological information recovered from the earliest settlement (approximately 500 BC), over which fourteen centuries of continuous occupation are superimposed, stands on the following aspects of cultural evidence:

a) Adaptation to the landscape and its level of modification; b) architectural function and volume; c) craft production and development, manifested in the treatment of ceramic, lithic, bone, and shell objects; d) craft distribution in the local urban space and abroad; e) relationship of craft materials with ritual architectural contexts, such as the Triadic Acropolis compounds, which include pyramidal temples that seem to manifest the existence of a cult or belief system specific to the urban elite of Naranjo, and, f) the relationship of technically specialized objects with royal palace compounds representative of a solid dynasty that led the local political engine and later impacted the region through alliances and warlike projection sustained either on economic strength or the expansion of its ideological vision.

The Preclassic Settlement

Based on the results obtained by the excavation of test pits for stratigraphic control, plus salvage archaeology and specific archaeological research units, it was possible to determine that the natural landscape of Naranjo was originally characterized by the existence of at least eight hills of moderate height, which are now located under the West Acropolis, Central Acropolis, and six Triadic Acropolises (D-1, B-5, B-27, C-3, C-9, and C-10). Some of these hills include chultuns and small caves that still need to be investigated (Figure 5). Such holes in the bedrock seem to indicate the formal establishment of a cult ascribed to a belief system aimed at the veneration of ancestors and the domain of the underworld. The importance that was given to bedrock within the urban environment of Naranjo is evident in the fact that in some plazas instead of completely covering the bedrock with masonry and stucco floors, it was decided to leave it partially exposed, incorporated into the urban landscape.

The earliest occupants of Naranjo can be traced to Late Mamom horizon times; traces of them have been found in the north end of the city, at the hill on which the D-1 Triadic Acropolis was

built, where there is evidence of trash middens accumulated next to the second terrace of the causeway that leads to the top. Late Mamom trash was also detected at the B-5 Triadic Acropolis and below the two ballcourts (Figure 5).

Under the fill of the second terrace of the northern platform of the B-5 Triadic Acropolis, the remains of a low platform were identified, made with masonry and stucco floors and conditioned on a bedrock terrace. Later, during the Late Chicanel stage, it was covered when the first version of the pyramidal temple was built on top of the Acropolis hill. Finally, the Preclassic Mamom and Chicanel construction elements were partially removed during the initial part of the Late Classic period (Tepeu 1), when a large extension was made in the entire platform of the Acropolis (Figure 6).

Ritual evidence related to the earliest Chicanel horizon, which also could be part of a transitional complex of the Late Mamom horizon, appeared in the deepest fillings of the C-9 pyramid, in association with a small artificial cave that exists in the center of the structure. Between the deepest floor and the bedrock examples of *pomacea flagellata* shells were collected, as well as sherds very similar to Juventud red and Canhel unslipped ceramic types, combined with fragments of incense burners and obsidian and flint flakes (Figure 7)

The Chicanel settlement of Naranjo is manifested on an east-west urban axis that crosses throughout the monumental center, reminiscent of an old causeway or processional way originating in the west end next to the main reservoir. The causeway runs alongside important locations such as the north facade of the Central Acropolis, the south of the B-5 Triadic Acropolis, the northern sector of the E-Group complex, and the northern sector of the C-3 Triadic Acropolis, to finally end at the base of Pyramid C-9, considered as the *Witz* (Sacred Hill) of Naranjo (Figures 5, 15).

The Naranjo occupants during the Preclassic period were characterized by having developed two stages of settlement, corresponding to the Chicanel horizon. They are visualized as an Early and Late Chicanel occupation, clearly evident in earlier versions of buildings from the Astronomical Complex (E-Group type compound), formed by the Radial Temple of the Hieroglyphic Stairway (B-18) (see Figure 8), and the long Eastern Platform (B-20). The southern (B-24) and northern (B-19) temples of the Main Plaza also have Preclassic substructures.

Other locations with Early and Late Chicanel occupation are the Central Acropolis (Royal Palace) and two versions of pyramids under building B-15, also known as the Five Story Palace or House of the ruler. Additional Preclassic architecture

was found under the Eastern Patio and the main stairway of the Acropolis platform (Figure 9).

The Preclassic Maya of Naranjo selected an area with a waterhole to build the architectural assemblage in the form of an E-Group (which includes buildings B-18 and B-20). Such a decision apparently was related to a cosmological concept, since the ceremonial space would be constituted in the navel or nucleus of the urban epicenter (Figure 5). In the stratigraphic tests carried out at the plaza level, it was possible to observe that the Maya gradually applied masonry fill on the residual mud of the aguada and later sealed it with a succession of seven stucco floors, until reaching a convenient level. At the east sector of the Plaza, on the finely paved area the first version of the longitudinal Platform B-20 was constructed, fronted to the west by its corresponding pyramid B-18-1.

Pyramid B-18, also known as the Temple of the Hieroglyphic Stairway, had stairways on all four sides (Figure 8). Inside the looting tunnels excavated at the level of the first section of the stairways on the west and east sides are vestiges of two Preclassic versions of the pyramid (Gómez 2003). The substructures known as B-18-1 and B-18-2 show similarity in construction with pyramids 5C-54-3 (Tikal) and E-VII-sub (Uaxactun), which correspond to similar contexts and chronology. Other examples of Preclassic radial pyramids can be seen in the clay scale models found in a ritual cache in the Maler Group of Yaxha (Morales 2001).

In relation to the West Acropolis (a second royal palace of the city), under the central patio were found several Preclassic low platforms, probably residential, organized on an asymmetric pattern (Fialko et al. 2019). In addition, at the eastern limit of the city were discovered two Preclassic pyramidal structures (Early and Late Chicanel) under building C-9, the Eastern Temple Pyramid of the monumental C-9 Triadic complex. In Naranjo during the Late Chicanel phase begins the tradition of placing stelae at the base of the temples, as was documented in the Eastern C-9 Triadic Acropolis, specifically in Temple C-9 sub 2, where three plain stelae were aligned in front of the western stairway (Figure 7). This practice also has been documented in the intermediate site of Kanajau, a Preclassic center located in the northern hinterlands of Naranjo.

One of the monumental Late Preclassic constructions of the Central Acropolis (Royal Palace) appears under the East Courtyard, evident in a pyramidal structure with a fine stairway perfectly stuccoed; it lies beneath a succession of nine stucco floors and occupies part of the interior fill of building B-15 (The Five Story Palace) (see Figure 9). This feature could be related to the

platform of the first version of the royal palace. In support of such assumption, there is a fragment of mural painting recovered under the fill between the previously mentioned substructure and the north palace (B-14) of the same East Courtyard (Figure 10). Over the floor that sealed the platform of the Preclassic royal palace was located a circular precinct housing an offering consisting of three altars, one possible potbelly effigy, a stone vessel, and what looks like a fragment of a scepter (Figure 11). Under the southeast corner of the Eastern Patio of the royal palace, there is evidence of a mutilated substructure associated with Preclassic floors and colored fills and clays which seem to be related to a first stage of the access stairway to the Acropolis (Figure 12).

Decorative elements of the Preclassic architecture of Naranjo are evident in a Late Chicanel substructure of the B-4 temple showing panels resting on facade walls, a curved type of balustrade, and corners recessed with deep moldings, all covered with thick stucco of yellowish color (Figures 13 and 14). The Preclassic walls were made with large limestone blocks placed in a horizontal lateral position, integrated with dense masonry that includes a black mud amalgam. The remains of two Preclassic low platforms were identified below the West Ballcourt.

The Early Classic Settlement

A large part of the Naranjo Early Classic constructions located in the monumental epicenter were demolished prior to the beginning of an intense construction program manifested in the Tepeu I phase of the Late Classic. In the epicenter of the city there were some concentrations of ceramics in buildings B-13 and B-8, as well as a few scattered sherds appearing in landfills of buildings B-18, B-19, and B-20. Important evidence of Tzakol ceramic materials was identified in looters' trenches related to the southern residential periphery.

The best evidence of Early Classic architecture was detected in the Central Acropolis (Royal Palace) under building B-15, and in the C-9 Triadic Acropolis that occupies the east end of the city (Figure 15).

Excavations at the Central Acropolis inside a looters' tunnel deep in building B-15 (the Five Story Palace) have provided us with remarkable evidence of three intact Early Classic palaces, which were part of the Royal Palace compound related to king Ajnuumsaaj Chan K'inich (Aj Wosaj). The palaces were buried under dense fills, after the death of the ruler, probably after AD 625 (Early Tepeu I phase). Each of the palaces was decorated with iconographic designs related to a

specific mythological scene (Tokovinine and Fialko 2019). The interior walls of the palaces named as Kolomte, Aurora, and Guacamaya included a variety of graffiti (Figures 16–18).

Another important Early Classic context was identified under building C-9, which is the eastern pyramid of the enormous C-9 Triadic Acropolis, located at the eastern limit of the city. The looters excavated a long tunnel inside the main axis of pyramid C-9, showing important older substructures inside. One of them is known as C-9 sub 3, corresponding to an Early Classic version of the pyramid. Excavations revealed that the west facade of the building has three sets of stairways, one central and two lateral. In the axis of the central stair was discovered Stela 48, one of the earliest monuments which shows a representation of king Ajnuumsaaj Chan K'inich (Tokovinine et al. 2018). In front of the southern lateral staircase, a red painted stela was erected (Figure 19).

An additional Early Classic context was discovered inside a looters' tunnel in building B-8, which is the eastern structure of the B-5 Triadic Acropolis. The Early Classic substructure still has the remains of a staircase decorated with a balustrade, painted in red and orange. Inside the building, the looters left behind three Early Classic black tripod cylinders broken in multiple fragments (Figure 20). The dramatic distortion produced by the looters' tunnel does not allow it to be ascertained whether the vessels correspond to a burial or to a dedicatory cache (Fialko 2004).

At the E-Group complex or Main Plaza of Naranjo, related to the large Eastern Longitudinal Platform (B-20), the looters exposed an Early Classic tomb with walls and vault completely covered with cinnabar (Figure 21). The tomb's top seal consisted of thousands of flint and obsidian chips. The few Tzakol-phase sherds found inside are consistent with the stratigraphic location of the enclosure, which was intruded into a section of a Late Preclassic substructure. Due to the vaulted style of the enclosure, it is likely to correspond to the end of the Tzakol III phase. Additional material consisted of a few green stone pieces that were part of a mosaic, as well as beads from a necklace made of shell and green stone. The skeletal remains and teeth are scarce and minimal, making it very difficult to determine the sex and age of the person to whom they correspond.

At the C-3 Triadic Acropolis next to a looters' tunnel fragments of Stelae 42 and 43 were recovered. The monuments, of which only the lower section survived, apparently were housed in a ritual cache, and later covered by fill from a remodeling construction of the Tepeu I phase (Fialko 1997, 2005; Mayer 2002:72) (see Figures

22 and 23). Recent investigations have resulted in finds of important sculptures such as Stela 44, located on the eastern stairway of Temple B-18, and Altar 2, located near the southern stairway of the same temple (Fialko n.d.). Particularly important are the Early Classic monuments recently found in association with Temple C-9. Stela 45 was documented in fragments, dispersed on the stairway of Temple C-9 sub 2 (Tokovinine and Fialko 2007). More recently, Stela 47 appeared near the northern limit of the stairway of Temple C-9 (Martin et al. 2016). Finally, Stela 48 was found erected on the stairway of Temple C-9 sub 3, accompanied by two plain altars (Tokovinine et al. 2018) (see Figure 19).

Additional remains of Early Classic floors and ceramic materials were identified in looters' trenches related to the elite residential periphery of the south side of the city.

The Late Classic Settlement

The consequences of the Naranjo-Caracol conflict at the beginning of the seventh century AD can be appreciated in urban and architectural aspects of the city. Archeological research indicates that Naranjo during the early part of the Late Classic period (Tepeu I phase) experienced an active moment in construction in all sectors of the epicenter of the city. The Naranjo buildings of this period are characterized by the excellence of their masonry, the fine plaster, and the brilliance of the red and orange color of the facades and rooms (Figure 24).

In the Central Acropolis, considered to be the residential complex of royalty, the palaces were largely built. The East courtyard was conformed by Palaces B-14, B-16, and B-17. The northeast courtyard already included palaces B-41, B-42, and B-43 (Fialko and Ramírez 2011, 2012). The Great Central Palace (B-15) gained its third level and functioned as an axis around which the various courtyards were distributed (Figures 25 and 26).

By the first part of the Late Classic, the East Ballcourt was built. At the E-Group complex, a new version of radial pyramid B-18 has been documented, which already includes at least the central rooms in the upper part (Gómez 2003; Morales and Fialko 2010); this version apparently was in use prior to the placement of the hieroglyphic steps in the central sector of the west side stairway (Figures 8 and 38). To the north and south of the E-Group complex appeared new versions of temples B-24 and B-19. Apparently something similar happened in relation to Long Platform B-20 (Figure 27).

The remarkable growth of the B-5 Triadic

Acropolis corresponds to the beginning of the Tepeu I phase. During this period, the bedrock surface on which the platform terraces of Temple B-5 rested was finally covered by a thick stucco floor. The base of the B-5 pyramid widens to sustain an upper platform that allows the construction of several rooms (Fialko 2004) (see Figure 28).

It was not until the final part of the seventh century that the first palaces in the Western Acropolis appeared, represented by Temple A-3 and Palaces A-1 and A-5 located in the central courtyard. The facade walls of Temple A-3 were decorated with large masks representing a stylized version of Tlaloc, the Mexican deity of the rain, also an important element of the iconography of warfare and sacrifice for the Maya (Figure 29).

Additional construction activity has been documented in the Triadic Acropolis A-15 and the main temple of the Triadic Acropolis D-1, where parapets and remodeling are also carried out on the access causeway (Figure 15).

Through the eighth century (Tepeu II phase), in spite of the political swings that involved frequent warlike events with other Maya kingdoms, the leaders of Naranjo had sufficient resources to continue building in their capital, as shown by the huge volume of the latest version of some of the eight Triadic Acropolises. Other Triadic Acropolises like B-10 and B-29, apparently built their own access causeways (Figure 15). Important construction projects appeared both in the sector of the monumental epicenter and in the residential and suburban areas. The tendency to verticality became prominent in construction of temples, pyramidal platforms, and terraces of more than 16 meters high made in a single effort, as with buildings C-4 and B-13. The construction of quadrangle palace compounds appears during the second part of the eighth century, as indicated by the B-5 temple which already includes on its upper platform a complex of vaulted palaces in the shape of a quadrangle (Figure 30). Another important quadrangle compound was documented in Group A-19 (Aquino 2004, 2005). The effect of monumentality was emphasized in the Triadic Acropolis complexes and especially the remodeling of the E-Group complex, where additional rooms were added on top of Temples B-18, B-19, and B-24 (Figures 27, 31). At the monumental Temple B-24 a remarkable effort is represented by the construction of gigantic masks on top decorating the north, west, and south facades and its corners (Figure 32). During the Tepeu 2 phase at the Western Acropolis the northeast and northwest patios were added (Figure 33). Something similar happened with the northeast and northwest patios added to the Central Acropolis (Figure 34).

During this period Naranjo had two royal palace compounds, located at the Central and Western Acropolis. Another important achievement was the addition of a fourth level and vaulted rooms at the four facades and corners of the Great Central Palace (B-15) (see Figure 26). The long north-south causeway linking the Triadic Acropolis compounds located in the eastern zone of the city was developed during Tepeu II times, when the massive appearance of the great pyramid-Witz (C-9) and its neighboring temples C-6 and C-7 became Naranjo's major architectural achievement (Figure 15). The West Ballcourt next to the causeway that leads to the Triadic Acropolis D-1 also belongs to this time period.

Despite that the Terminal Classic occupation in Naranjo was not too long, there are significant architectural features developed by the last rulers. For instance, it is evident that it was a trend to build complexes of quadrangles in the southwest area of the city (Figure 15). During the first part of the ninth century, remodelings are made in the larger quadrangles of B-5 and A-19, although it was necessary to reuse materials from some deteriorated buildings from other sectors of the city. The addition of an architectural feature characterized by a square block termed a podium, located in the central part of staircases of buildings, was used in Naranjo during the Terminal Classic and appears in buildings B-5, B-14, B-24, C-9 (Figures 30, 35), and Temple A-3, although in this last example, the building features three podiums: one central and two lateral (Figure 36). In relation of the Central Acropolis (Royal Palace), various construction efforts have been identified related to the Terminal Classic period. First, the three structures that comprise the fifth level were built on top of palace B-15. Secondly, the southern patio was constructed (Figure 26). Third, the northwest patio of the acropolis became sunken in style. It is important to mention that another sunken patio was formed in the northeast area of the Western Acropolis (second royal palace) (see Figure 37). An interesting feature added to Temple B-18 (Temple of the Hieroglyphic Stairway) during the Terminal Classic period was the addition of three towers on top of the temple (Figure 38). This feature functionally and stylistically is not a roof comb; instead, it could have had a symbolic meaning related to the triadic pattern of the E-Group complexes.

As a way to overcome the political collapse of the kingdom, the last ruler of Naranjo promoted a program of monument relocation in front of ritually significant buildings. Important Early Classic monuments corresponding to the venerated ruler Ajnuumsaj Chan K'inich were

rededicated as a part of a political revitalization movement. One example of such activity is evident in the displacement of Stela 38 and Altar 1 towards the top of the Triadic Acropolis D-1, a place where there was not any Early Classic construction. Another instance was the re-dedication of the recently discovered Stela 44 dated to the year 596, in association with the hieroglyphic stairway of Temple B-18 (Figure 38). A third documented case was the relocation of Stela 47 near the stairway of the last version of Temple C-9 (Figure 35). The last ruler of Naranjo-Sa'al did not hesitate to resort to the revitalization of one of the most revered Maya rulers of all time, to foster his power and political space.

Prior to the abandonment of the city a ritual ceremony was performed at the West Acropolis, consisting in the scattering of thousands of ceramic sherds and lithic fragments around the walls of Temple A-3, the building with the large Tlaloc masks, indicating the importance that this structure and its deity had in Naranjo.

After centuries of abandonment, Naranjo-Sa'al became a sacred city of the ancestors to the Maya of the Postclassic period. In the Central Acropolis was found a ceramic offering left by Itza visitors consisting of an Unslipped Chilo jar, which was cached into the frontal wall of palace B15A. Another Itza offering consisted of a Pastel polychrome plate with three modeled feet, which was left inside a chultun near the West Acropolis.

The historical value of the ancient Maya city of Naranjo-Sa'al, which since its foundation was considered a pilgrimage center, has been enhanced by the restoration of its noble and monumental ruins, now maintained to receive a new flow of visitors, this time from different countries around the world. However, in addition to the touristic interest, the most important aspect to consider in the near future will be the cultural appropriation of Naranjo by modern Maya religious specialists, interested on periodically visiting and practicing their ritual ceremonies, honoring the memory of their ancestors from the Prehispanic period.

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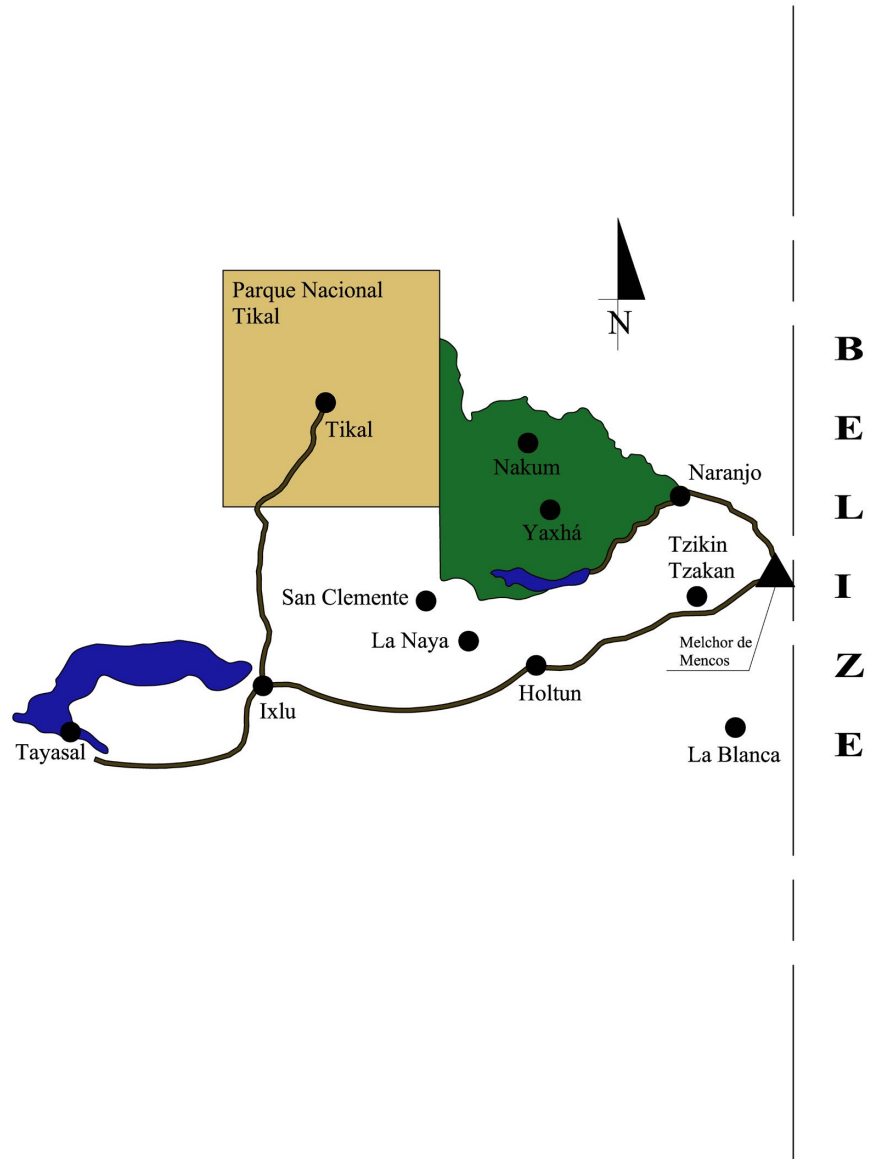


Figure 1. Location of Yaxha-Nakum-Naranjo National Park.



Figure 2. Looters' trenches and tunnels in building B-19.

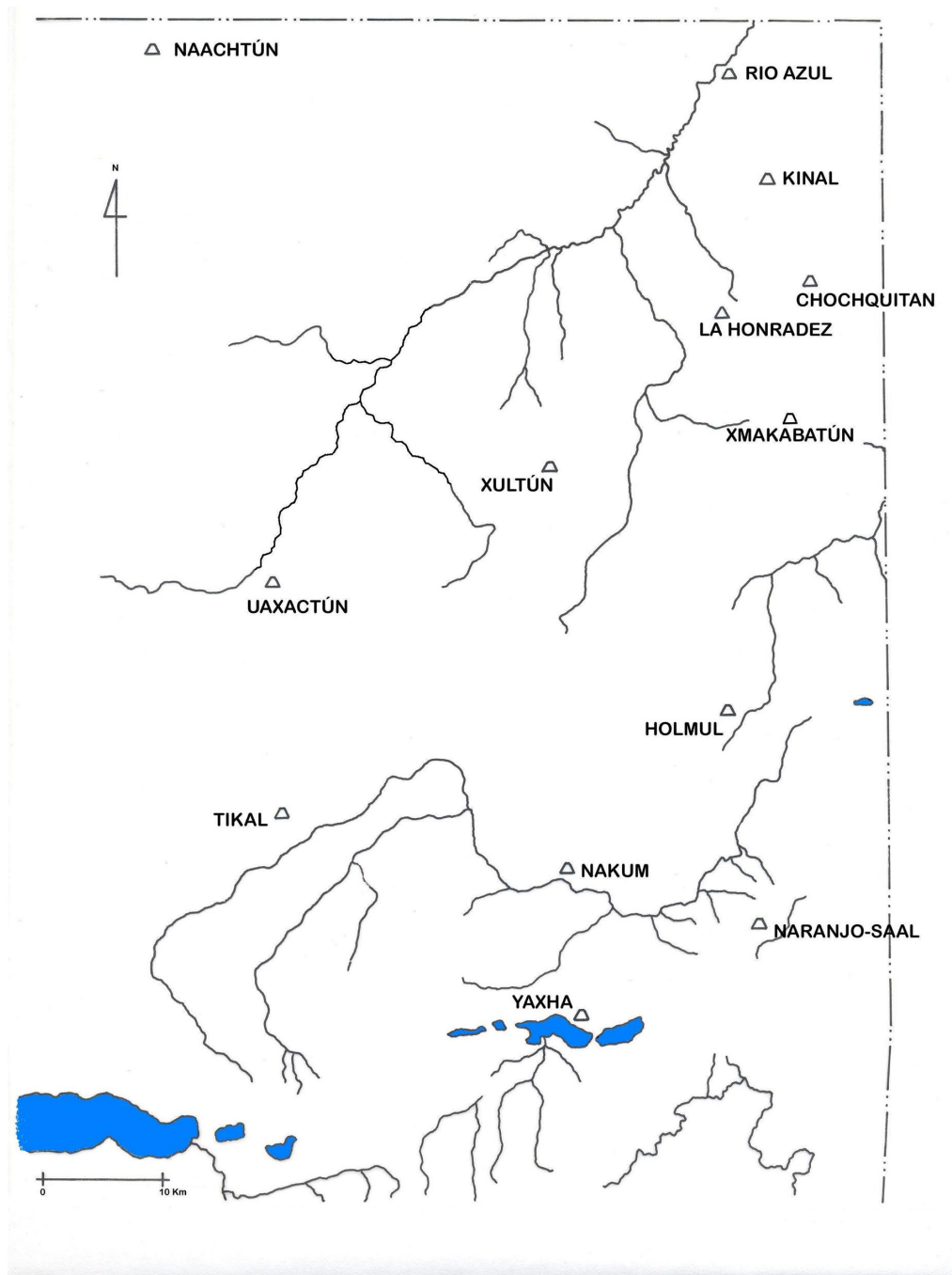


Figure 3. Naranjo-Sa'aal, geographical location.

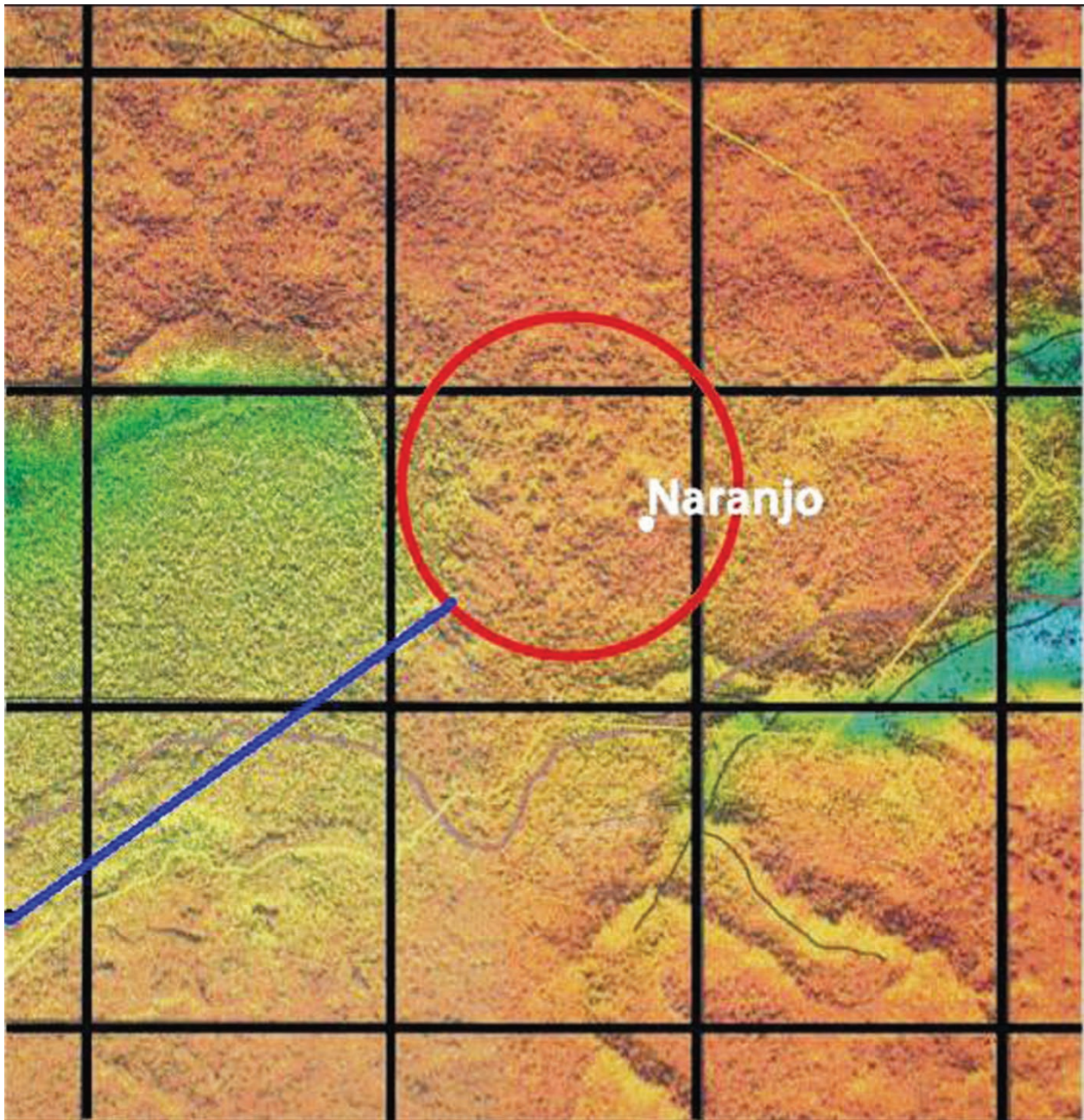


Figure 4. Naranjo-Sa'aal, territorial area.

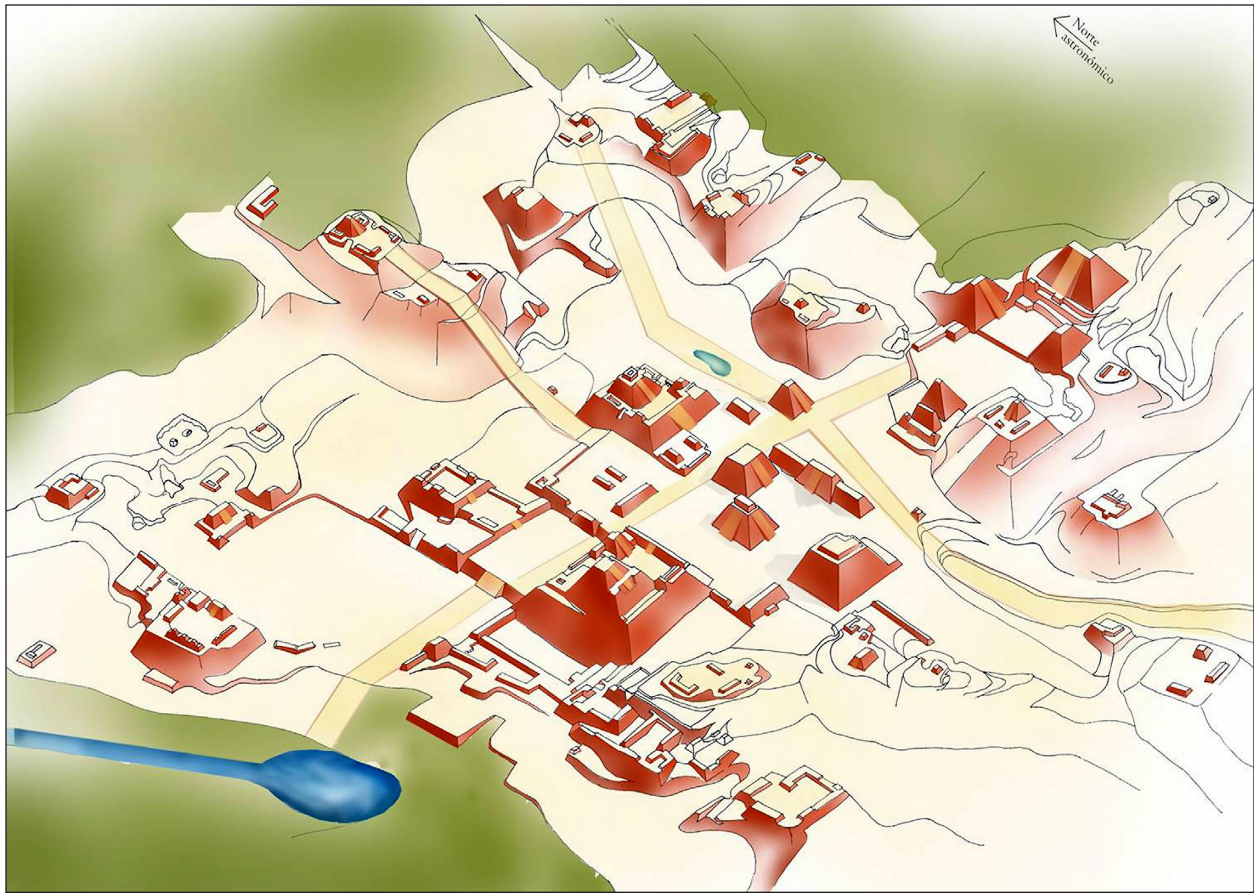


Figure 5. Naranjo-Sa'aal, monumental epicenter.

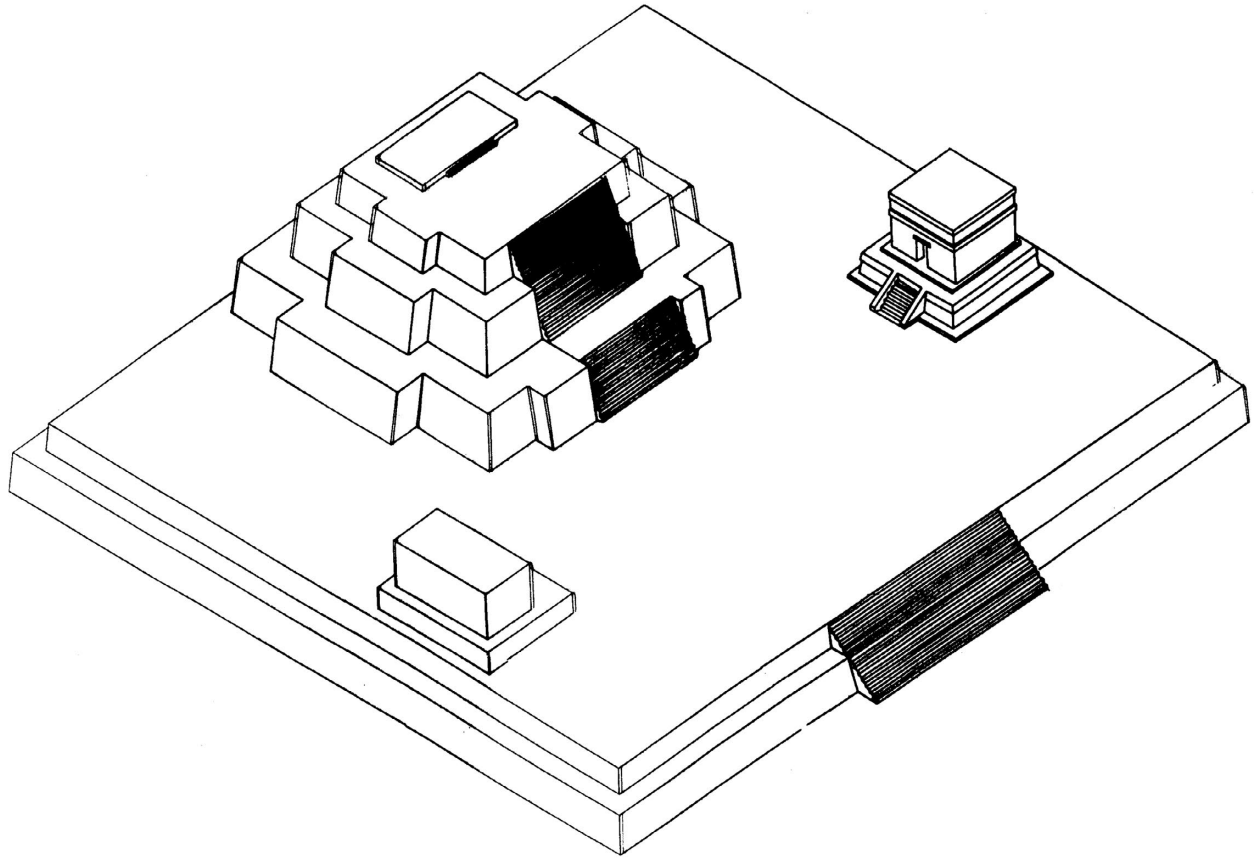


Figure 6. Triadic Acropolis B-5.

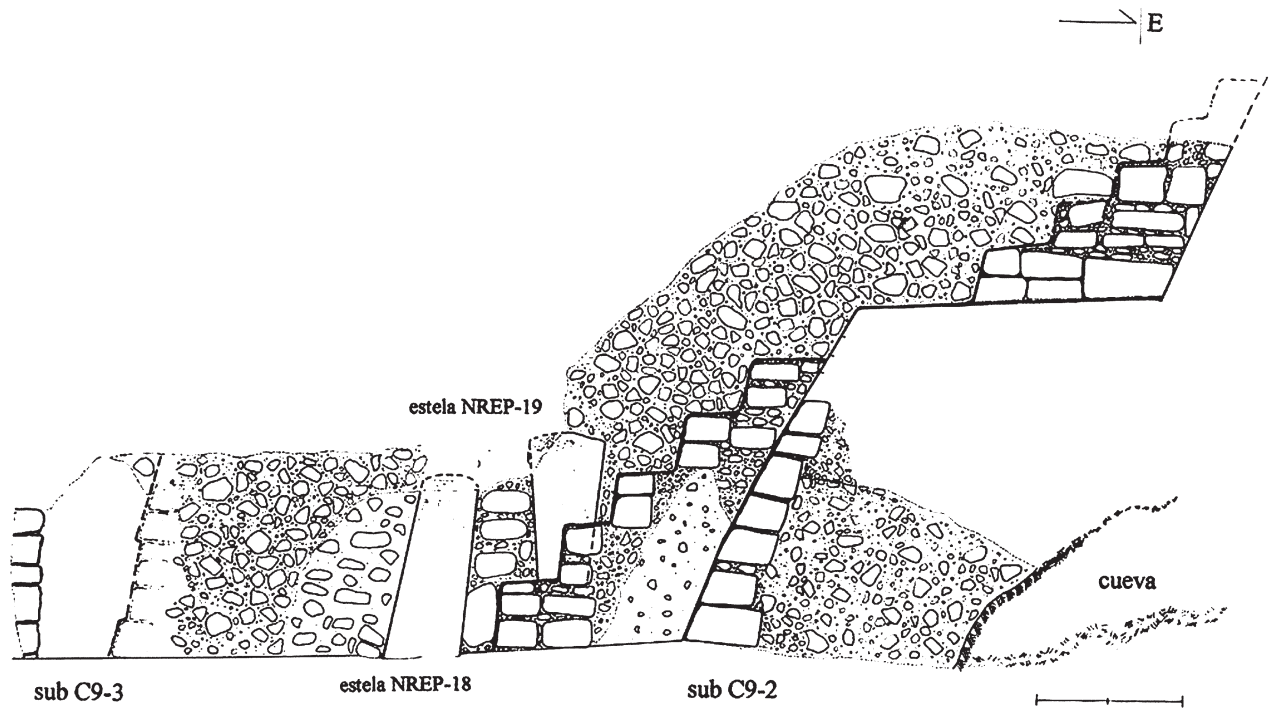


Figure 7. Building C-9, Preclassic substructures.

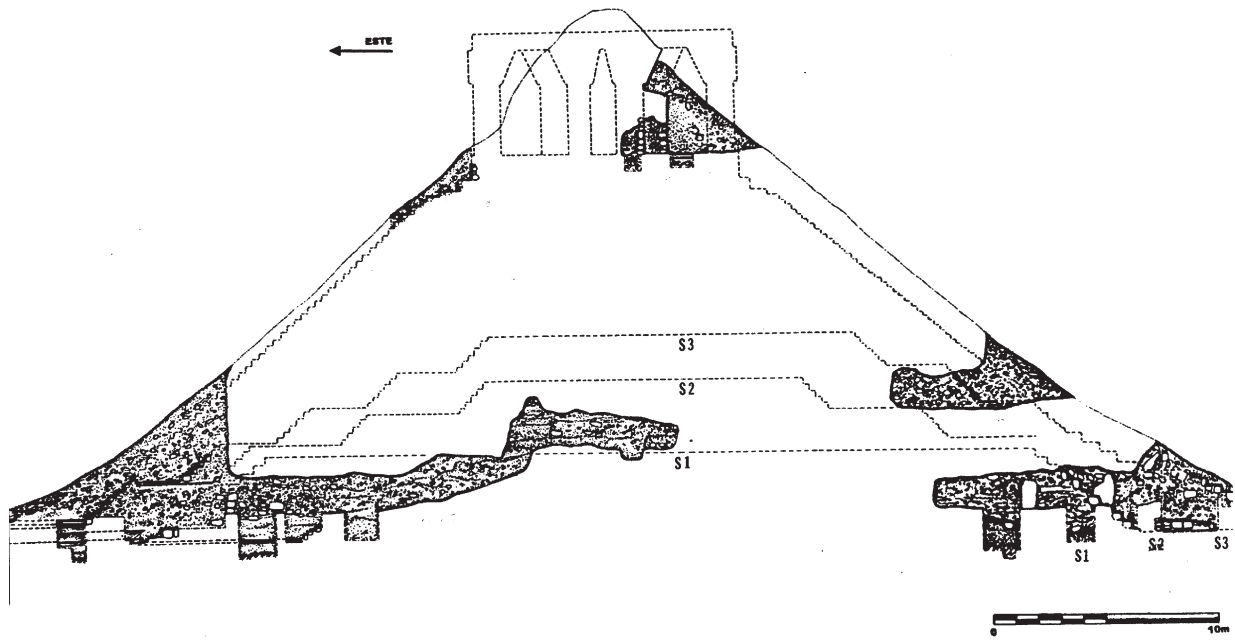


Figure 8. Preclassic versions of building B-18.

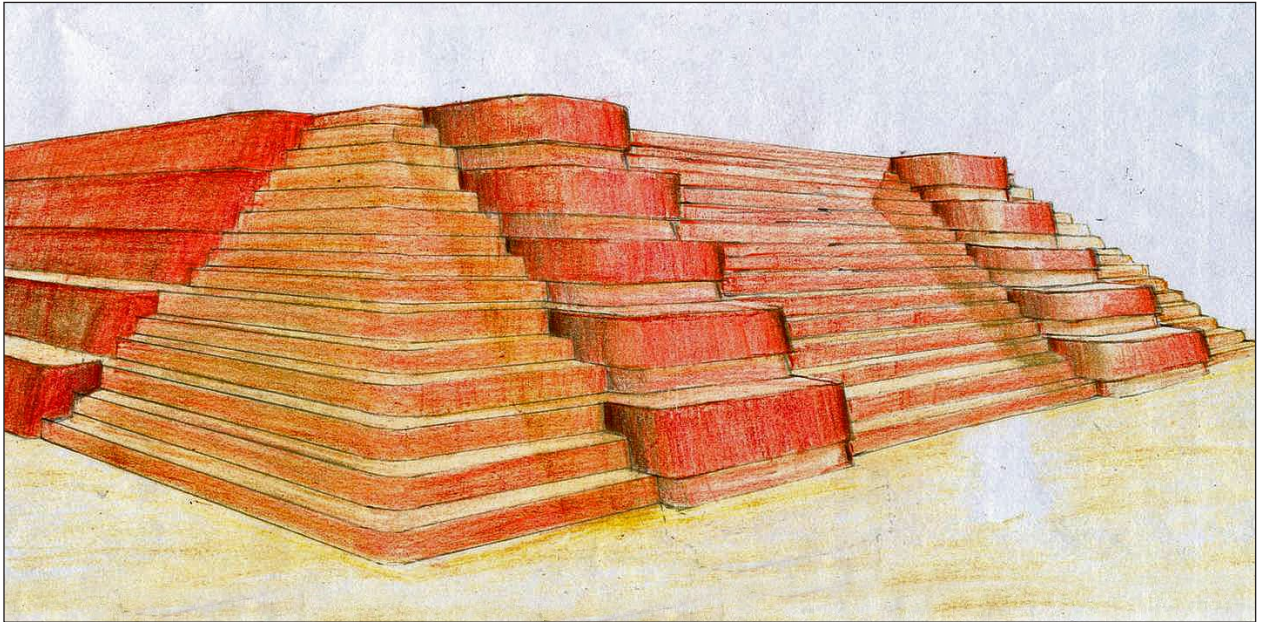


Figure 9. Central Acropolis, Preclassic platform.



Figure 10. Fragment of Preclassic mural painting.



Figure 11. An offering consisting on three altars, a possible potbelly effigy, a stone vessel, and a scepter.



Figure 12. Preclassic stratigraphic levels under the southeast corner of the Eastern Patio of the Royal Palace compound.



Figure 13. Preclassic deep molding and panel on building B-4.



Figure 14. Preclassic balaustrade on building B-4.

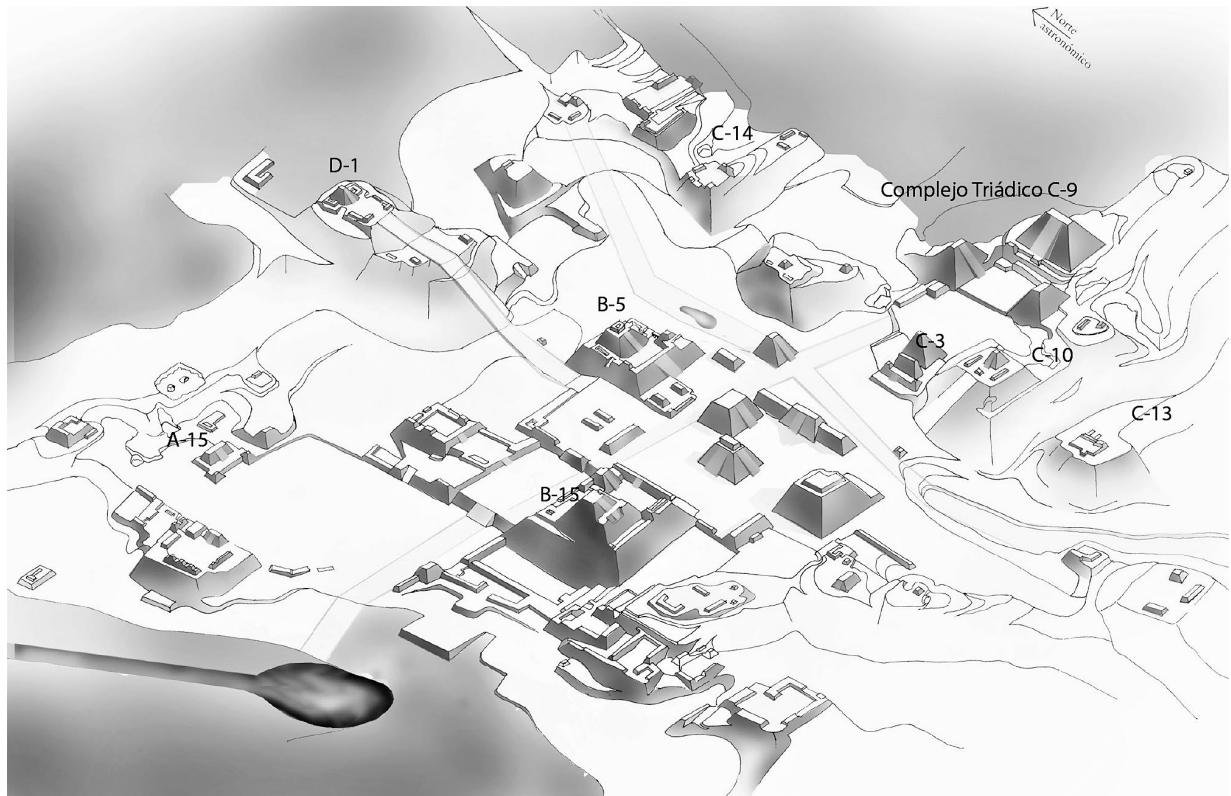


Figure 15. Location of the Triadic Complexes of Naranjo

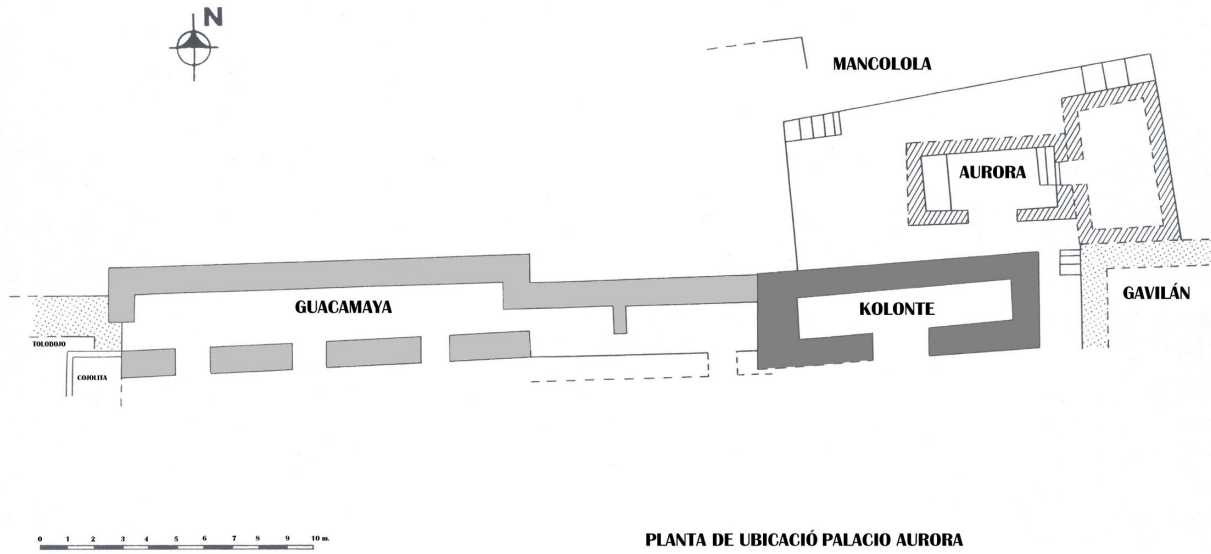


Figure 16. Plan of Early Classic palaces under building B-15.

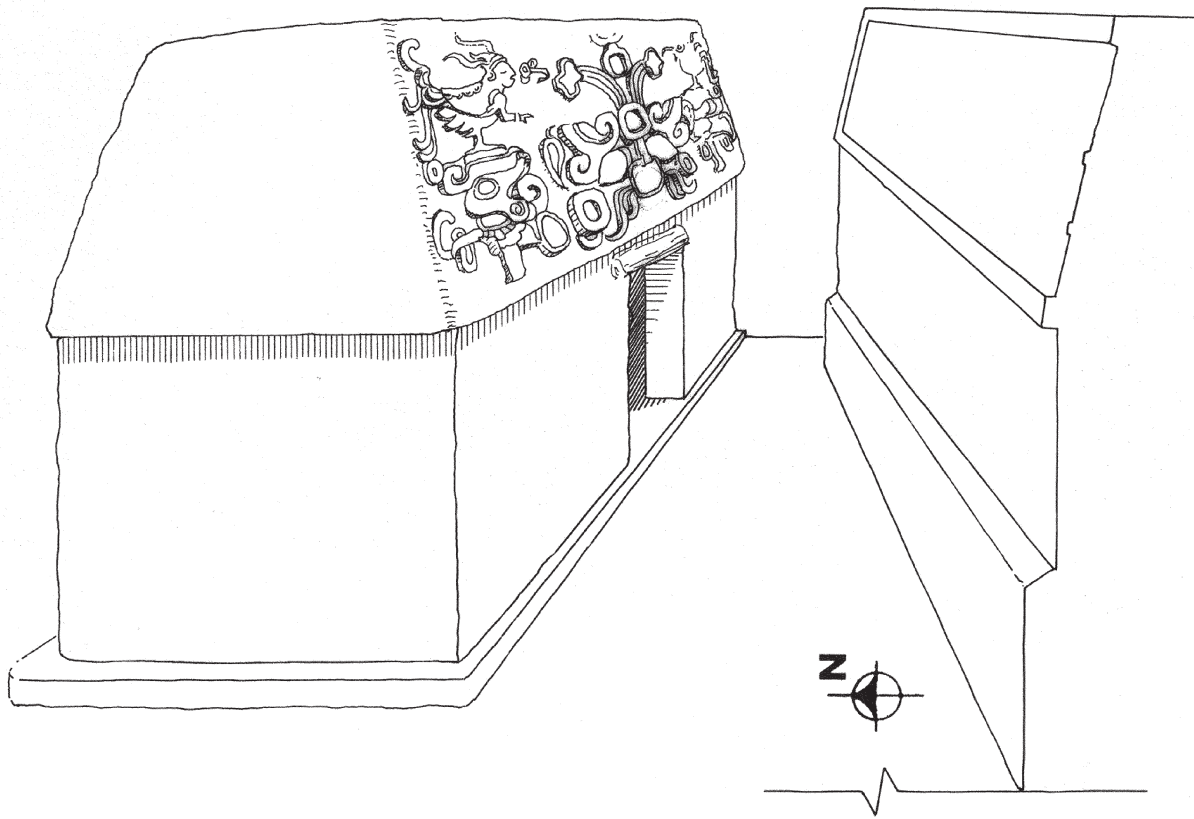


Figure 17. Early Classic palaces Aurora (left) and Kolomte.



Figure 18. Decorative friese on Aurora palace.

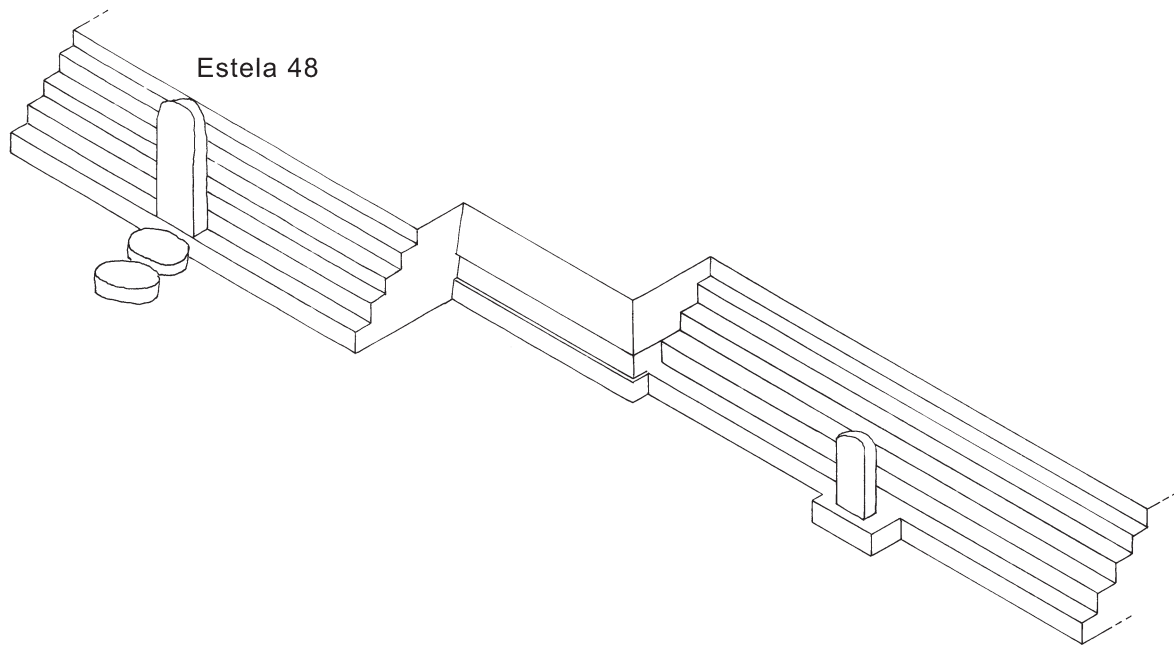


Figure 19. Early Classic building C-9 sub 3 and its Stela 48.

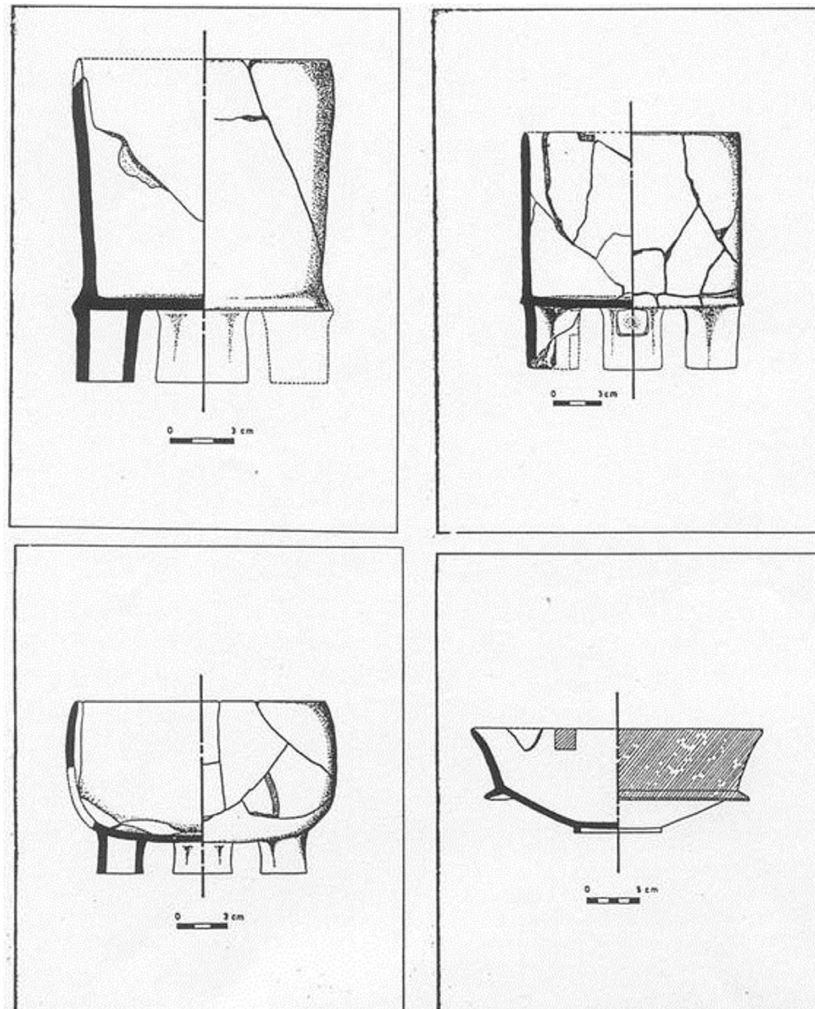


Figure 20. Early Classic, tripod cylinders from building B-8.



Figure 21. Painted tomb walls in building B-20.



Figure 22. Early Classic Stela 42.



Figure 23. Early Classic Stela 43.



Figure 24. Building B-15, third level room S-3.



Figure 25. Building B-15, northeast facade.

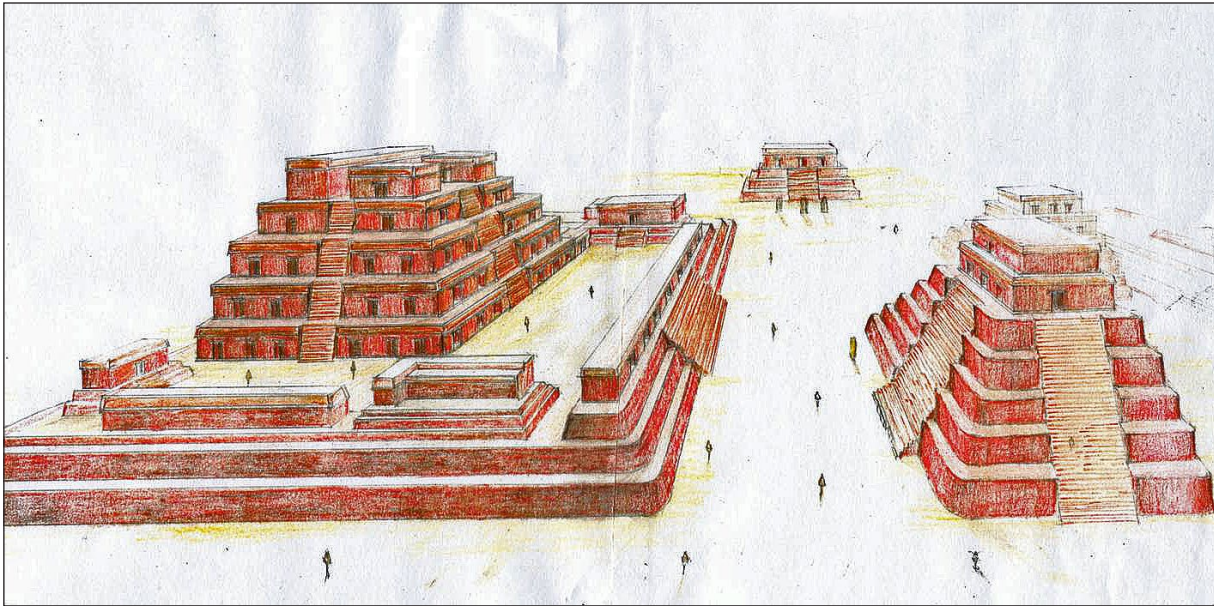


Figure 26. Idealization of Palace B-15 (Palace of Five Stories), and Temple B-18 (Temple of the Hieroglyphic Stairway).

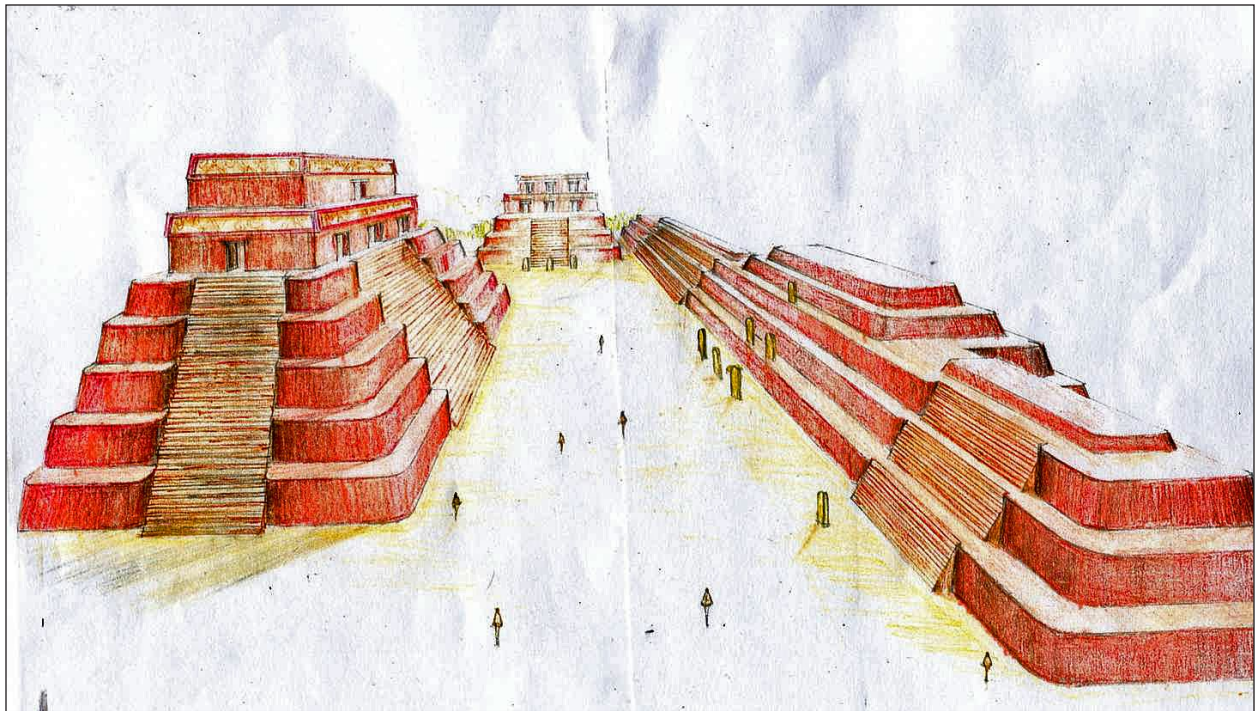


Figure 27. Late Classic Triadic Acropolis B-5.

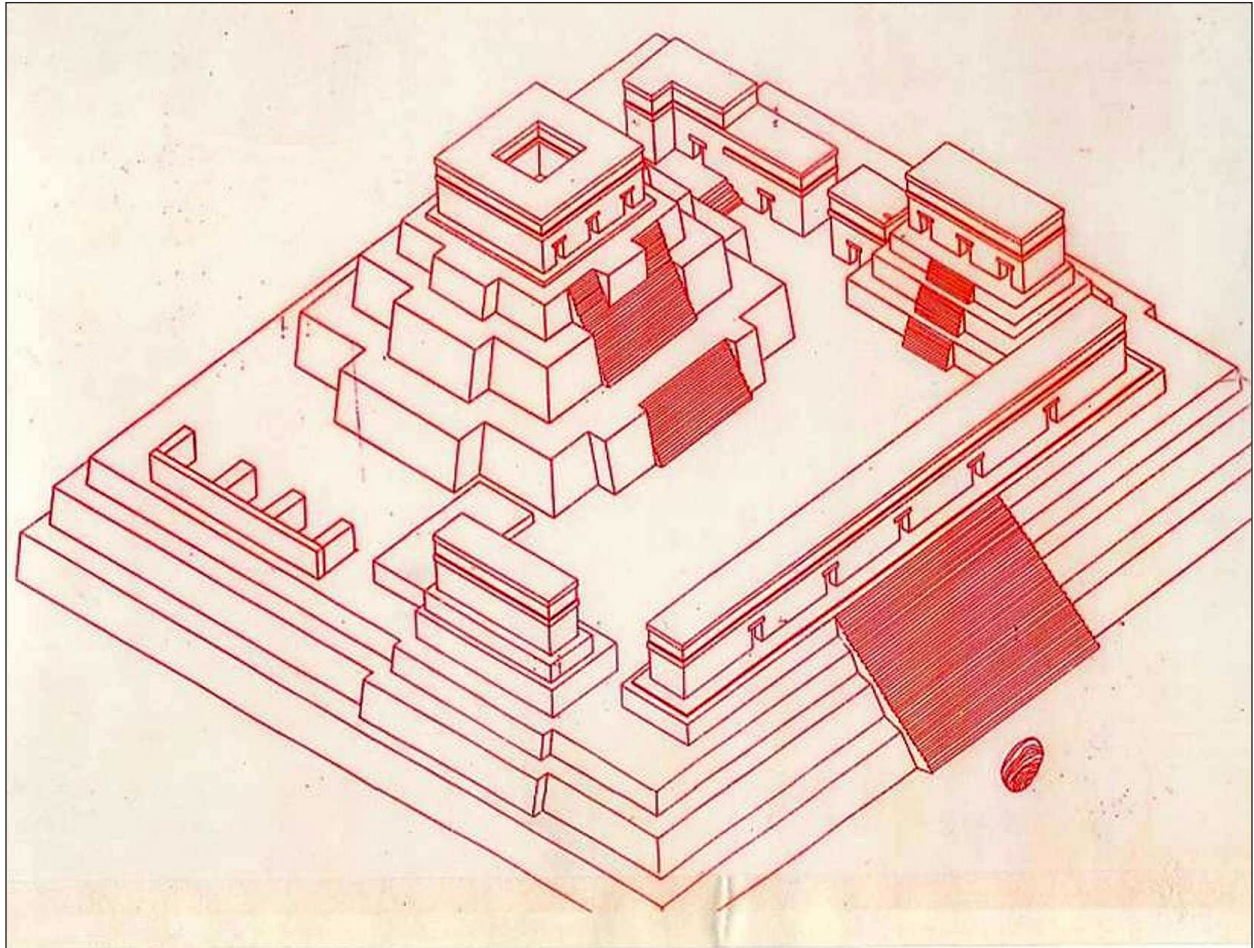


Figure 28. Late Classic E-Group complex.



Figure 29. Large Tlaloc masks on Temple A-3, West Acropolis.



Figure 30. Quadrangle palace on top of building B-5, Triadic Acropolis.



Figure 31. Lateral rooms added to Temple B-18, E-Group complex.



Figure 32. Big masks added on Temple B-24, E-Group complex.



Figure 33. General view of palaces of the central patio of West Acropolis.



Figure 34. General view of palaces of the northeast patio of Central Acropolis.

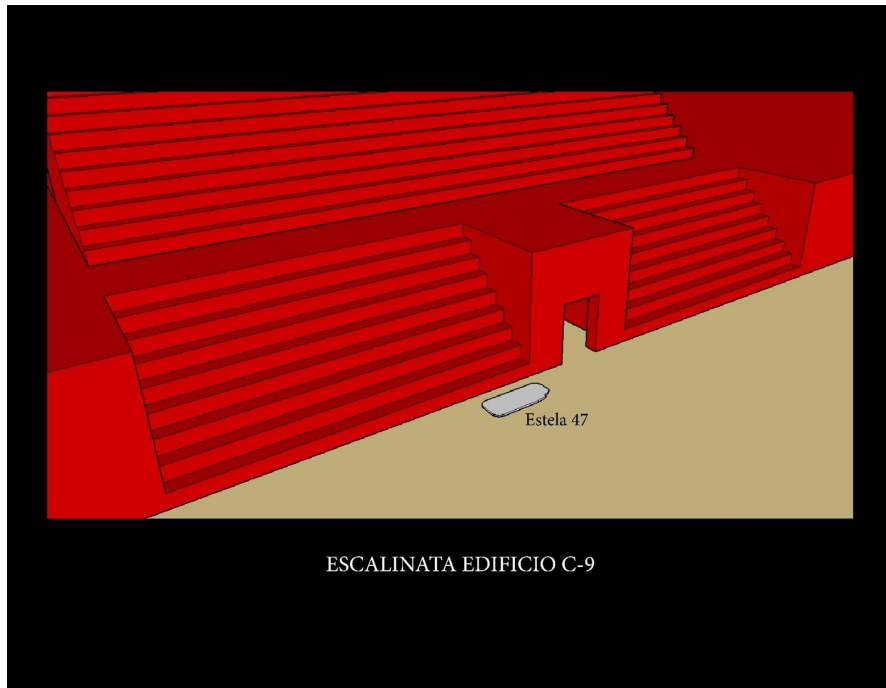


Figure 35. Detail of staircase and podium of Temple C-9.



Figure 36. View of staircase and podiums of Temple A-3.



Figure 37. Northeast sunken patio of the Western Acropolis.



Figure 38. Last version of Temple B-18, with the Hieroglyphic Stairway and Stela 44.