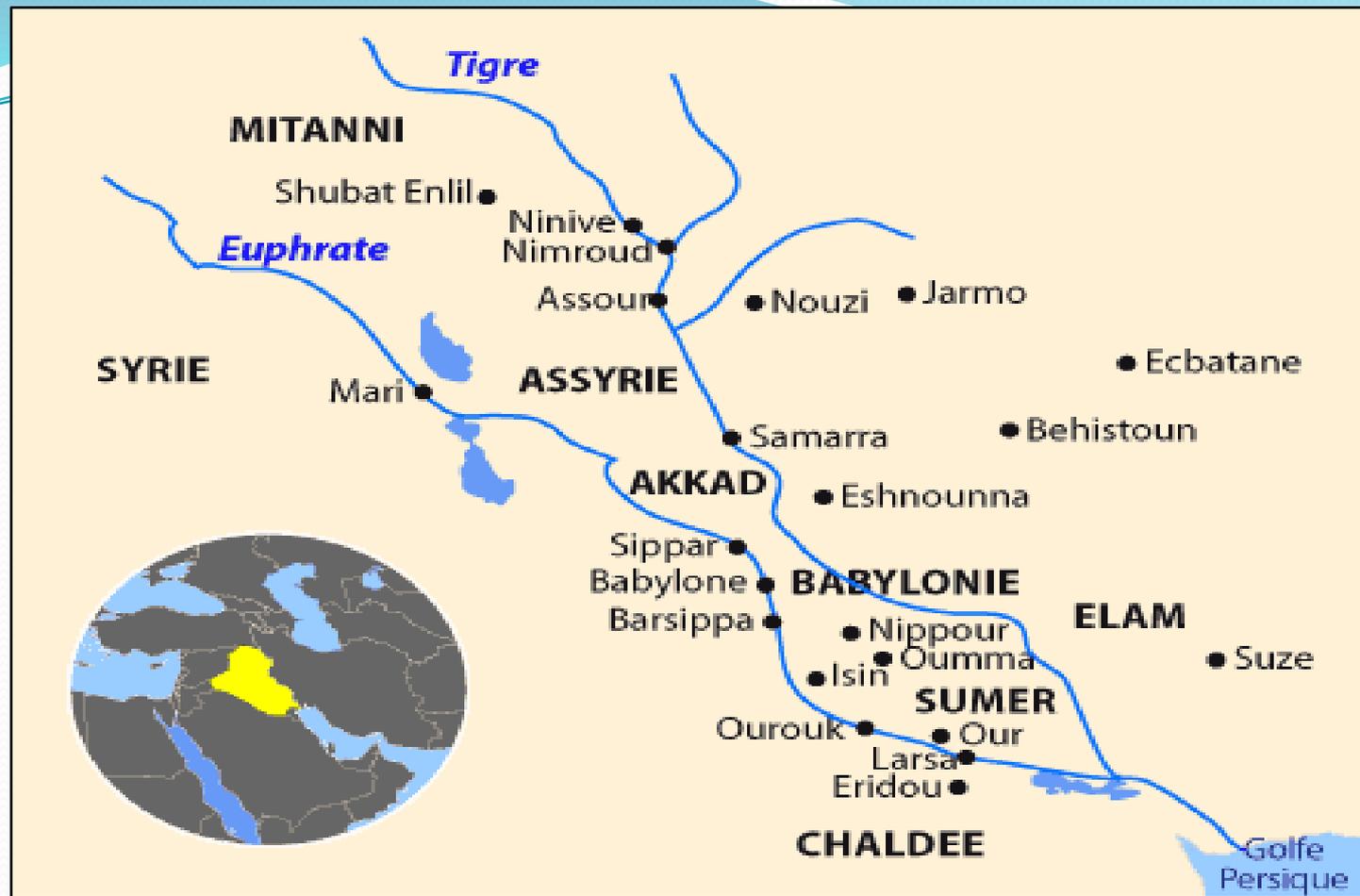


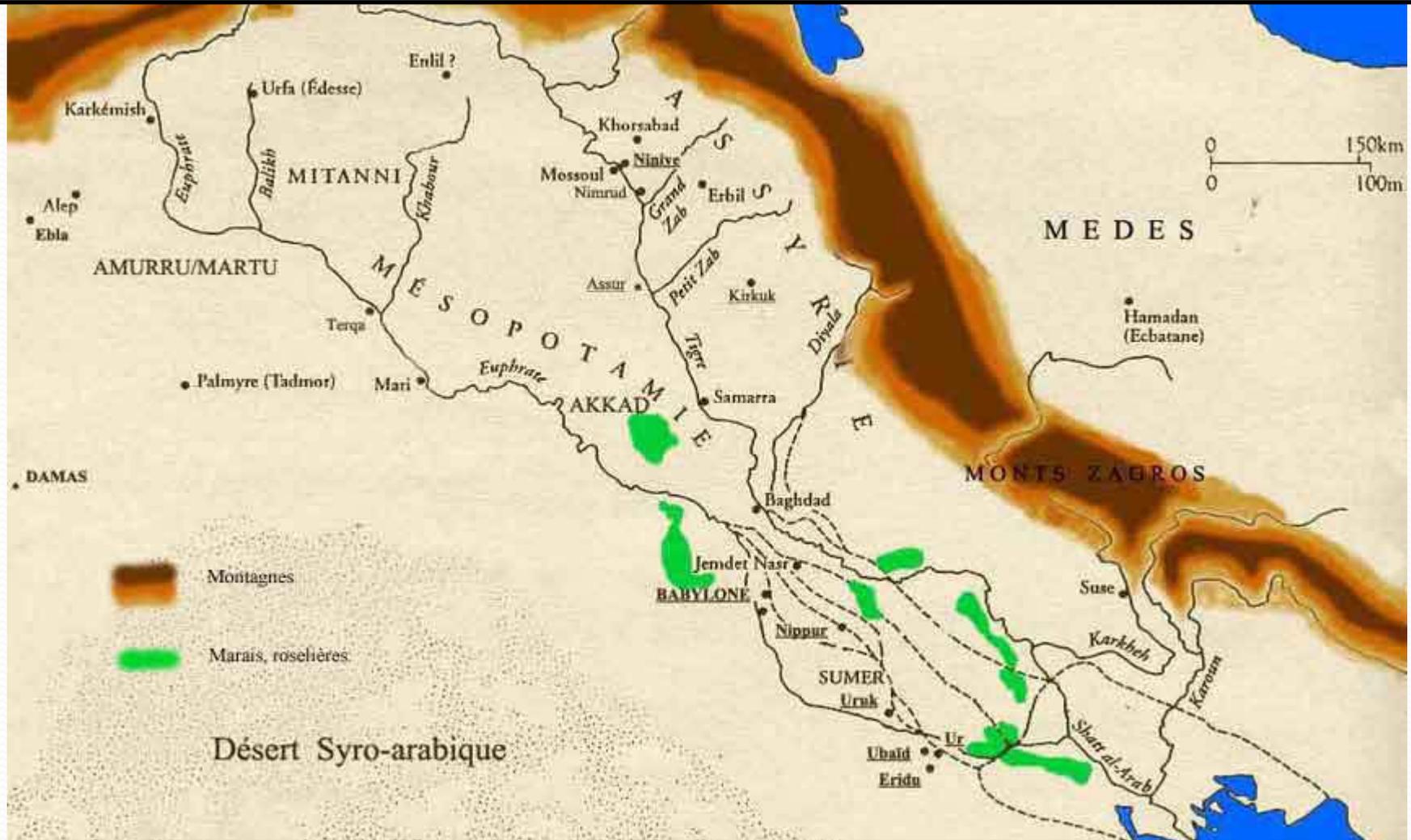
# The Mesopotamian civilization

**Achieved by:  
Dr BOUMAZA Ouafa**



Mesopotamia (in Greek, «the country between the two rivers»), one of the cradles of urban civilization, was located between the Tigris and the Euphrates, in the East Syria and in the South-East Turkey, it corresponds to the largest part of Iraq today.

This situation has made the Mesopotamia a real fertility zone, which has obviously favored its development.



having no natural protective barrier, was an easy conquest for civilizations in search of power and territory;



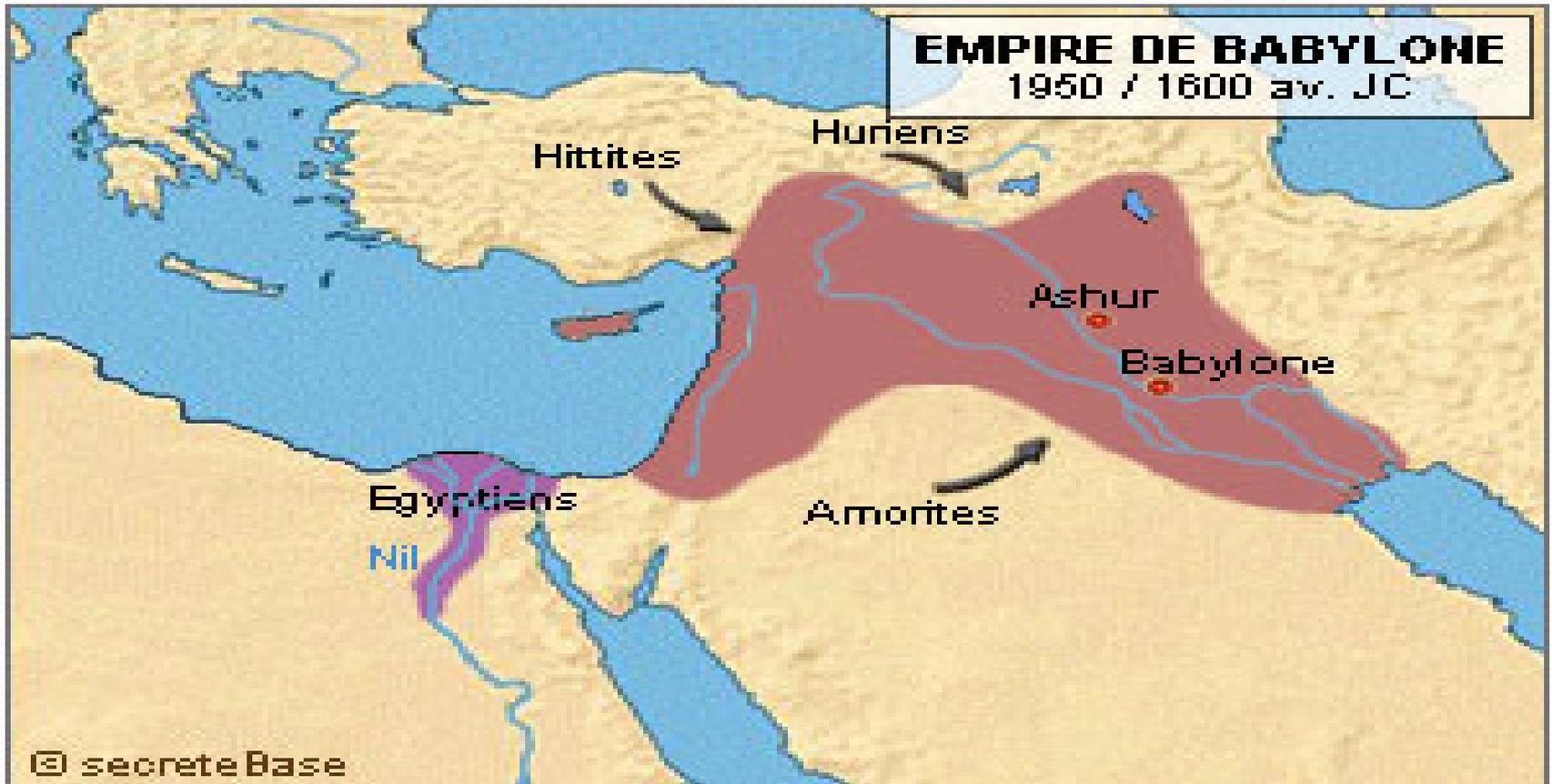
# The periods of Mesopotamia



*Sumérienne : 4000 à 2000 av J-C,  
capitale : Ur.*



*babylonienne: 2000 à 1800 av J-C,  
capitale : Babylone.*

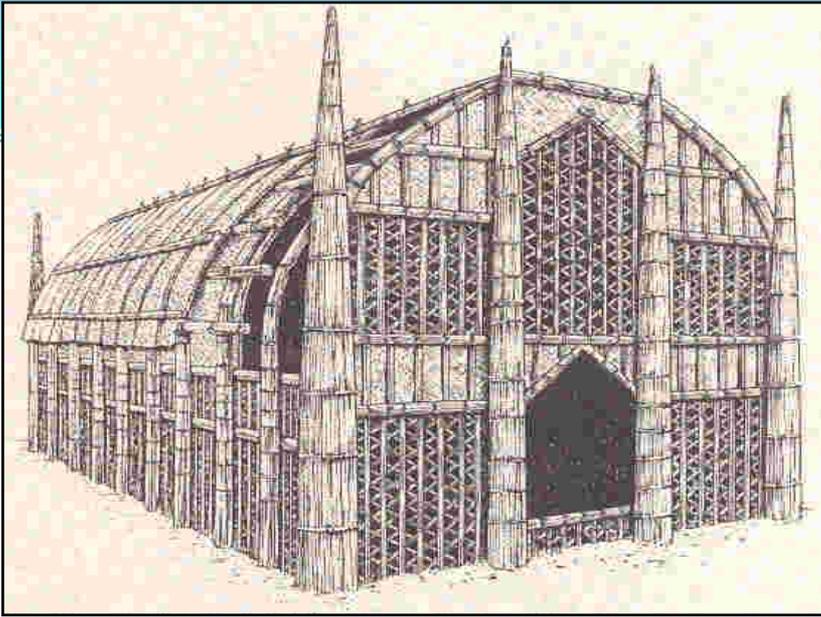


*Assyrienne: 1800 à 300 av J-C,  
capitale : Khorsabad .*





# Construction materials and techniques



Sumerians were handicapped by the lack of stone and timber. The bricks of dried earth, the only material at their disposal, required a certain ingenuity.

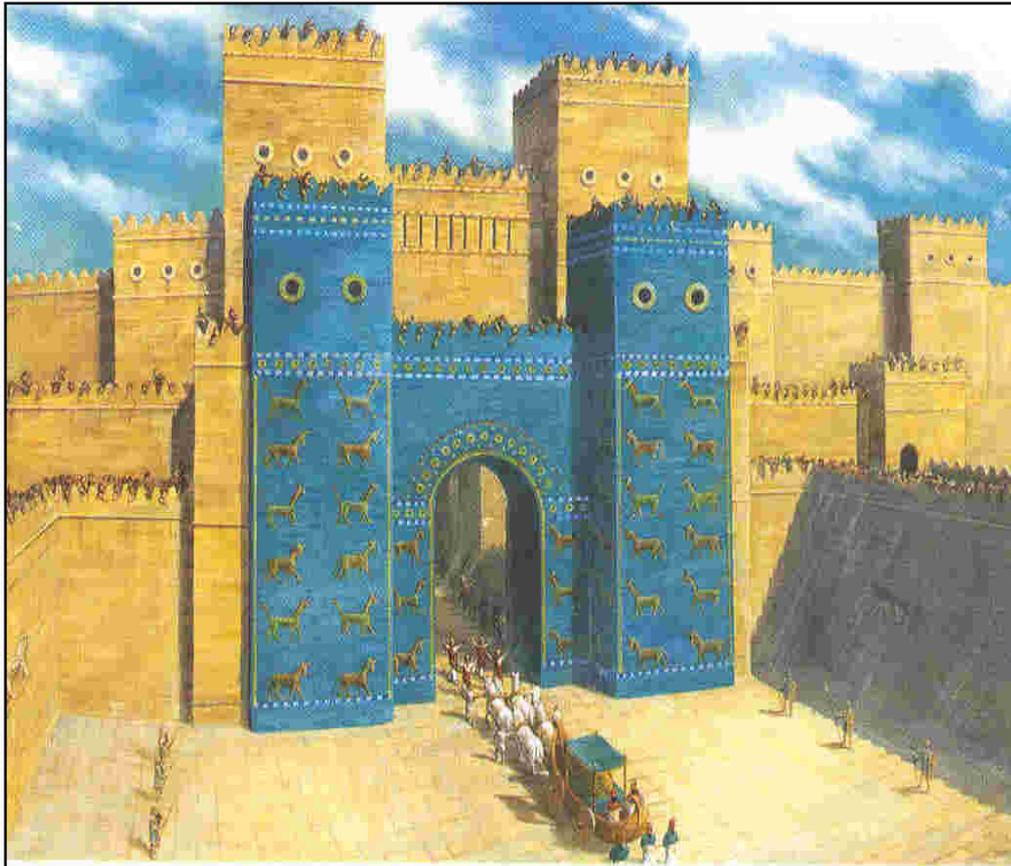
They were the first to use the vault and dome. Their cities were entirely surrounded by brick walls.

However, clay bricks crumbled faster than stone, and Sumerian architecture left few remnants.

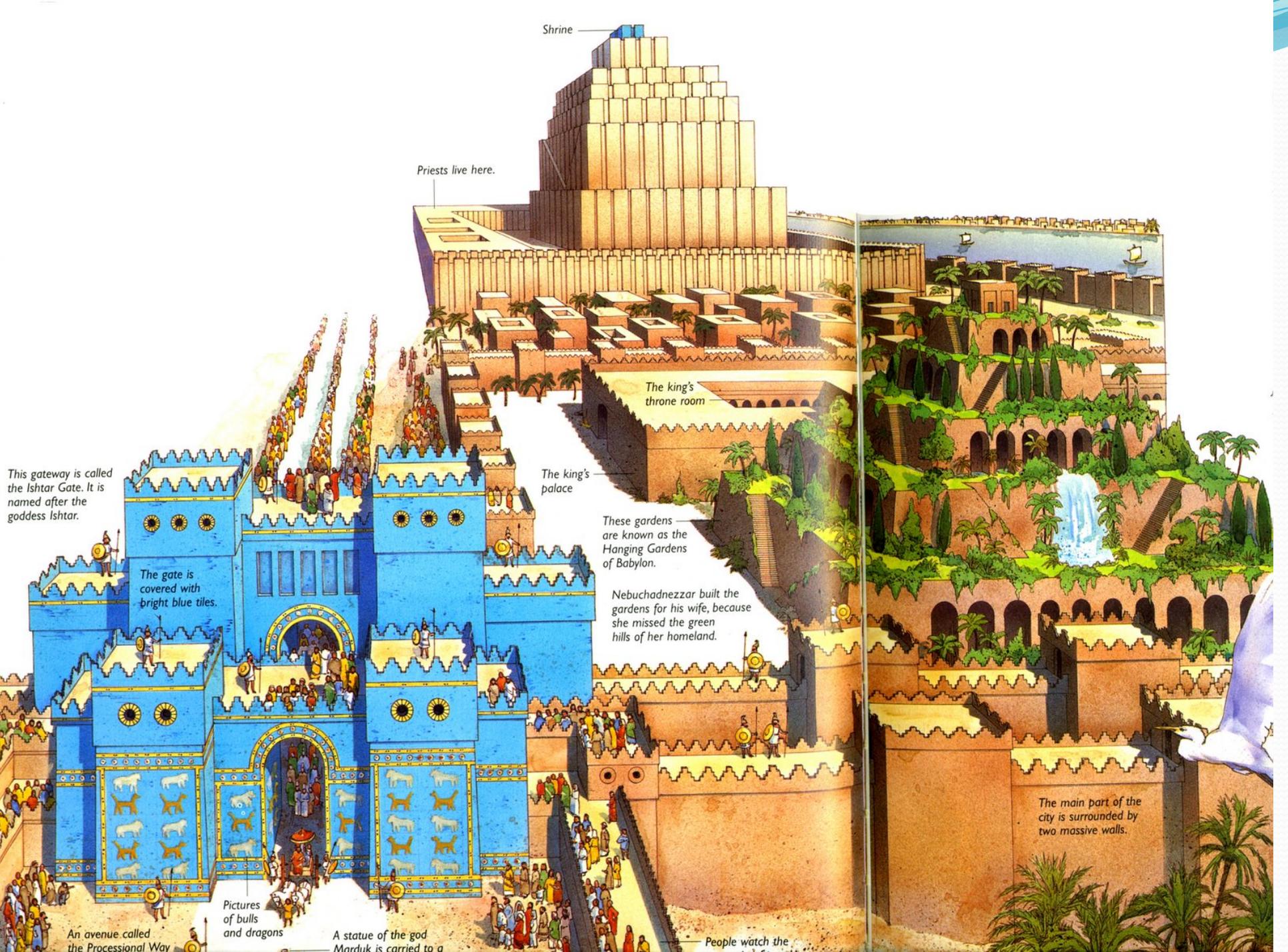


*ziggourat sumérienne*

On several occasions, the city of Babylon was destroyed and rebuilt. The buildings and the surrounding walls were built of **clay bricks, first dried in the sun before being fired.**



**Ishtar's door** opened onto the sacred way that led to the ziggurat . was decorated with **bright blue ceramics** that represented real and imaginary animals.



Shrine

Priests live here.

The king's throne room

The king's palace

These gardens are known as the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Nebuchadnezzar built the gardens for his wife, because she missed the green hills of her homeland.

The main part of the city is surrounded by two massive walls.

This gateway is called the Ishtar Gate. It is named after the goddess Ishtar.

The gate is covered with bright blue tiles.

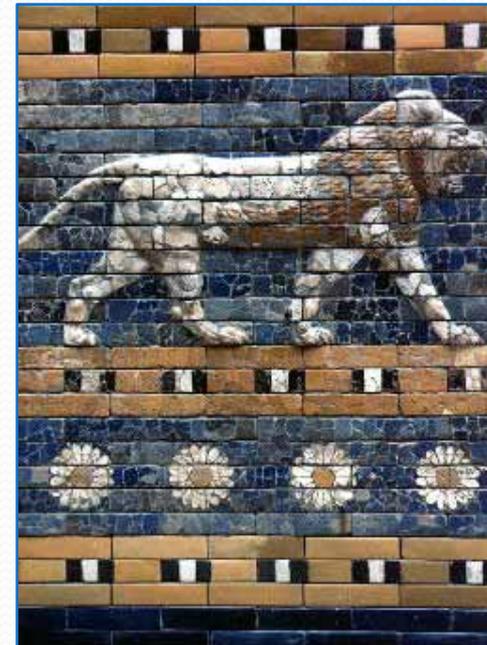
Pictures of bulls and dragons

An avenue called the Processional Way

A statue of the god Marduk is carried to a

People watch the

# La porte d'Ishtar au musée de Pergame



Assyrians build beautiful cities, with palaces and temples. using **clay bricks, but also stone and wood.**

he materials used for the walls **were (dried raw brick then fired, clay mortar, wood)** which were not very resistant. The **stone** was reserved for door sills, decoration, paving and column capitals.

. The "**Lamassu**", a winged hybrid creature, half-bull, half-man, was a rather widespread decorative element.



*Uruk, temple de Gareus*





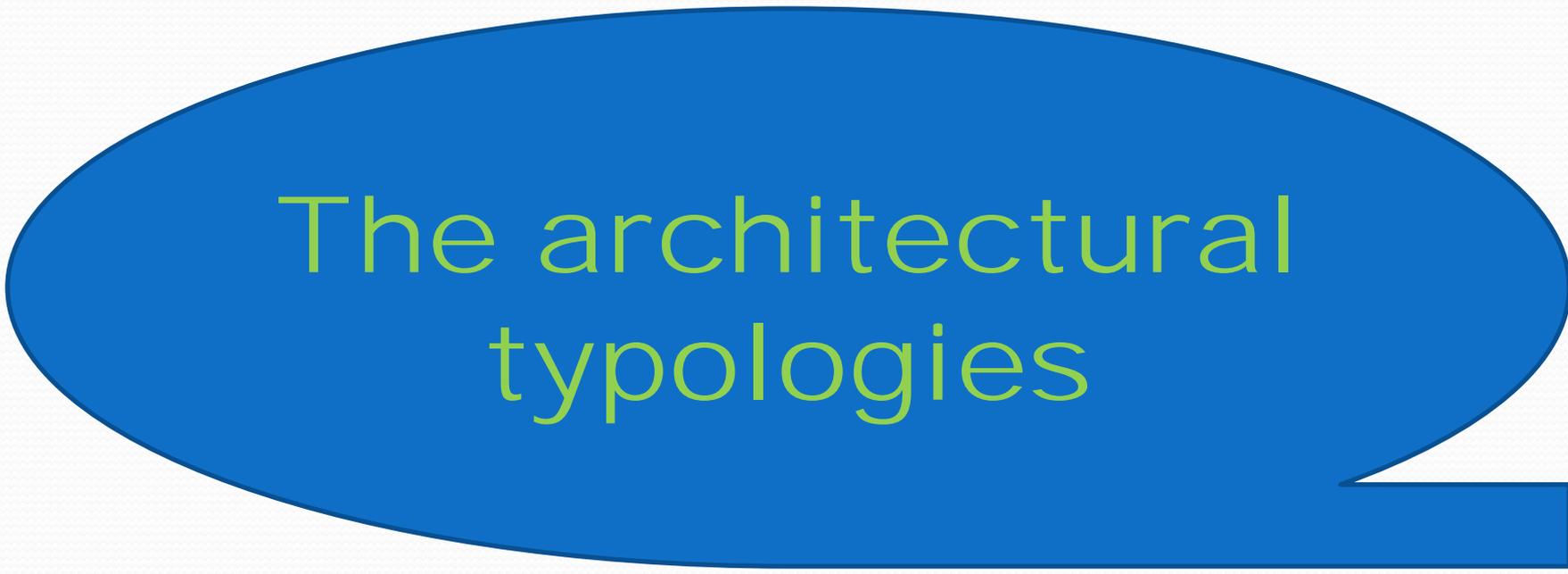
**Le lamassu**



**La brique émaillée**



# The architectural typologies





**Ziggourat**

# Ziggurat d'UR



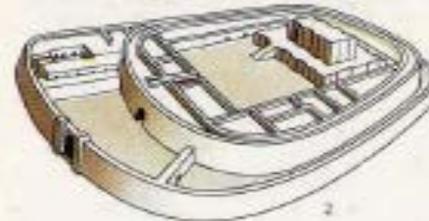
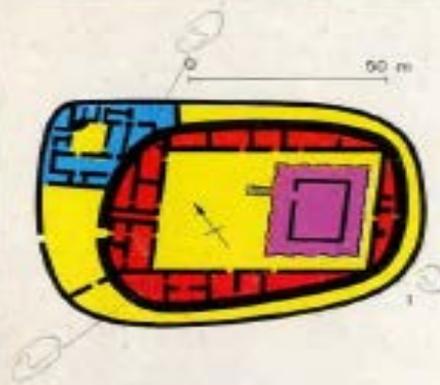
A ziggurat, or «height, summit, tower of a temple» of the verb *zaqâru*, «to be high»), is a Mesopotamian religious building in the shape of a pyramid with floors. Its function was to bring down the gods among men. It is from three platforms that this kind of buildings is called ziggurat, the maximum is seven levels.



**La ziggurat de Chogha Zanbil, Iran,  
seconde moitié du II<sup>e</sup> millénaire**

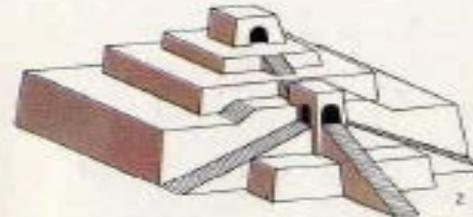
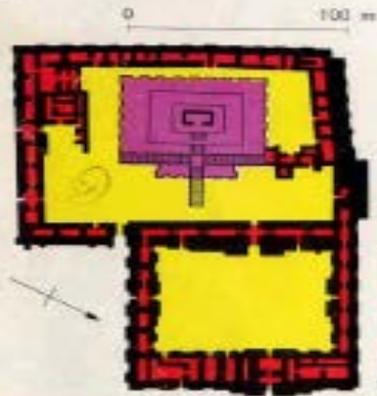


**Tour de Babel**



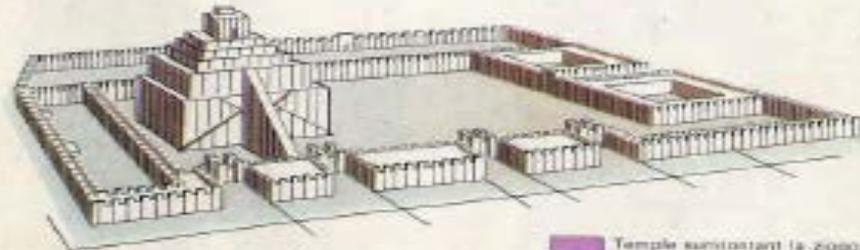
Chaféschi : Temple ovale

- 1 Plan
- 2 Restitution



Ur : Ziggourat du dieu-lune Nanna

- 1 Plan
- 2 Restitution



Babylone : Ziggourat Etemenanki

- Temple surmontant la ziggourat
- Espaces cultuels et annexes
- Bâtimens publics
- Cours

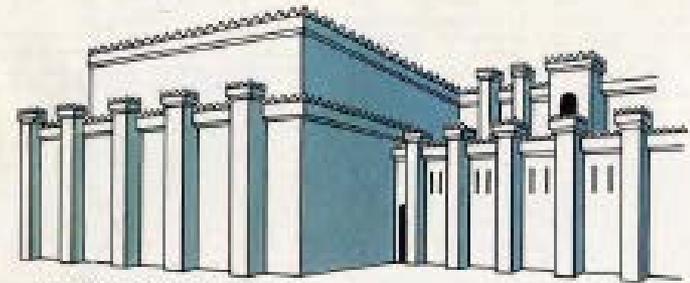
# Palaces

Belonged to **the governors**, they were large because the larger the size, the stronger the king.

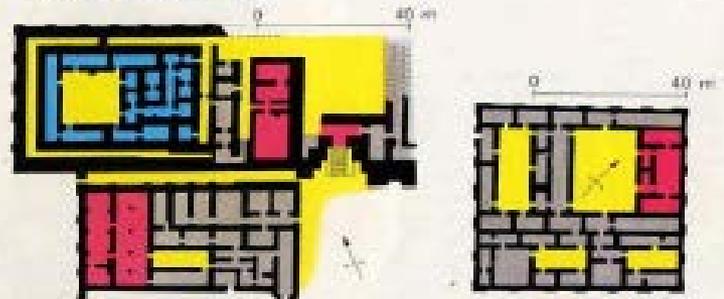
They were originally built as **houses**, larger, sometimes with a floor. They end up having a more **complex space**. Their plan is nevertheless **very variable** from one place to another.

The areas are differentiated: **residential space reception room, shops, administrative rooms, etc.**

# Architecture Le Palais mésopotamien

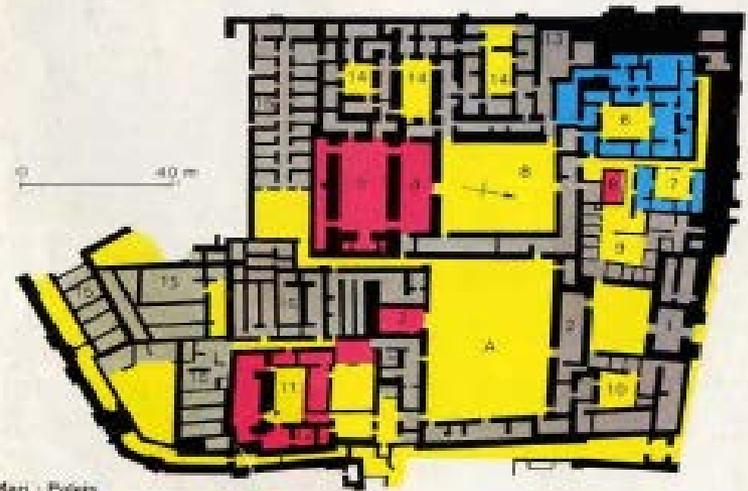


Kish : Palais A (restoration)



Kish : Palais A

Ur : Palais Echursag



Mari : Palais

■ Représentation, culte   
 ■ Appartements privés   
 ■ Administration, magasins   
 ■ Cours

**Cour intérieure du palais de Zimri-Lim à Mari, Haute-Mésopotamie, XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle**



# Houses

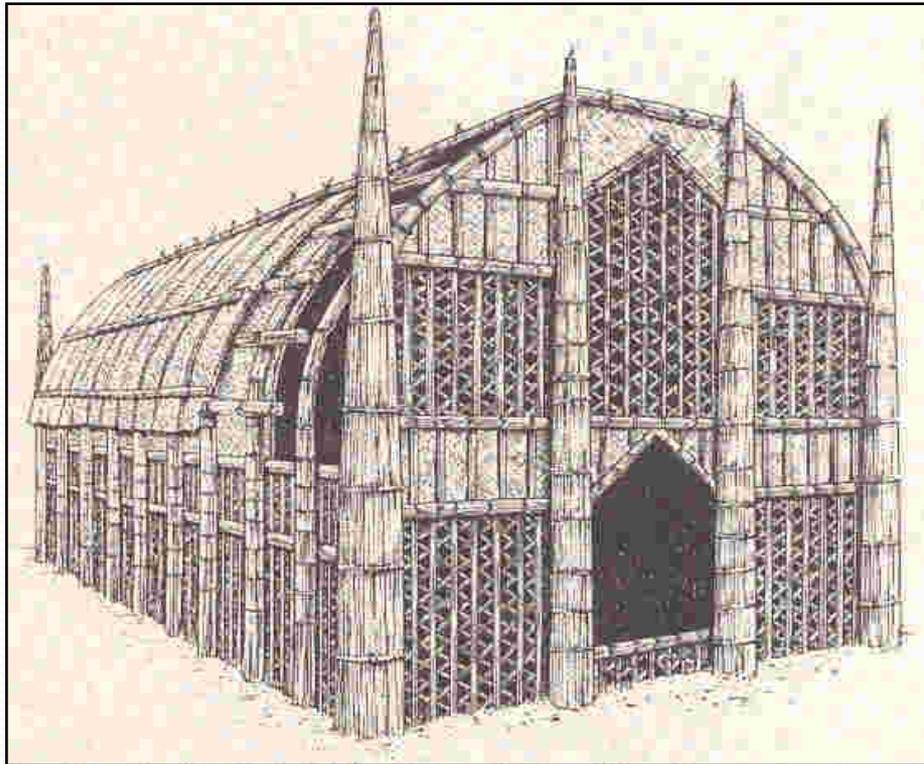
The first houses were **circular**, then appeared a more assertive **brick plan**. From the street, this central space was accessed through a vestibule, and the rest of the residence was organized all around.



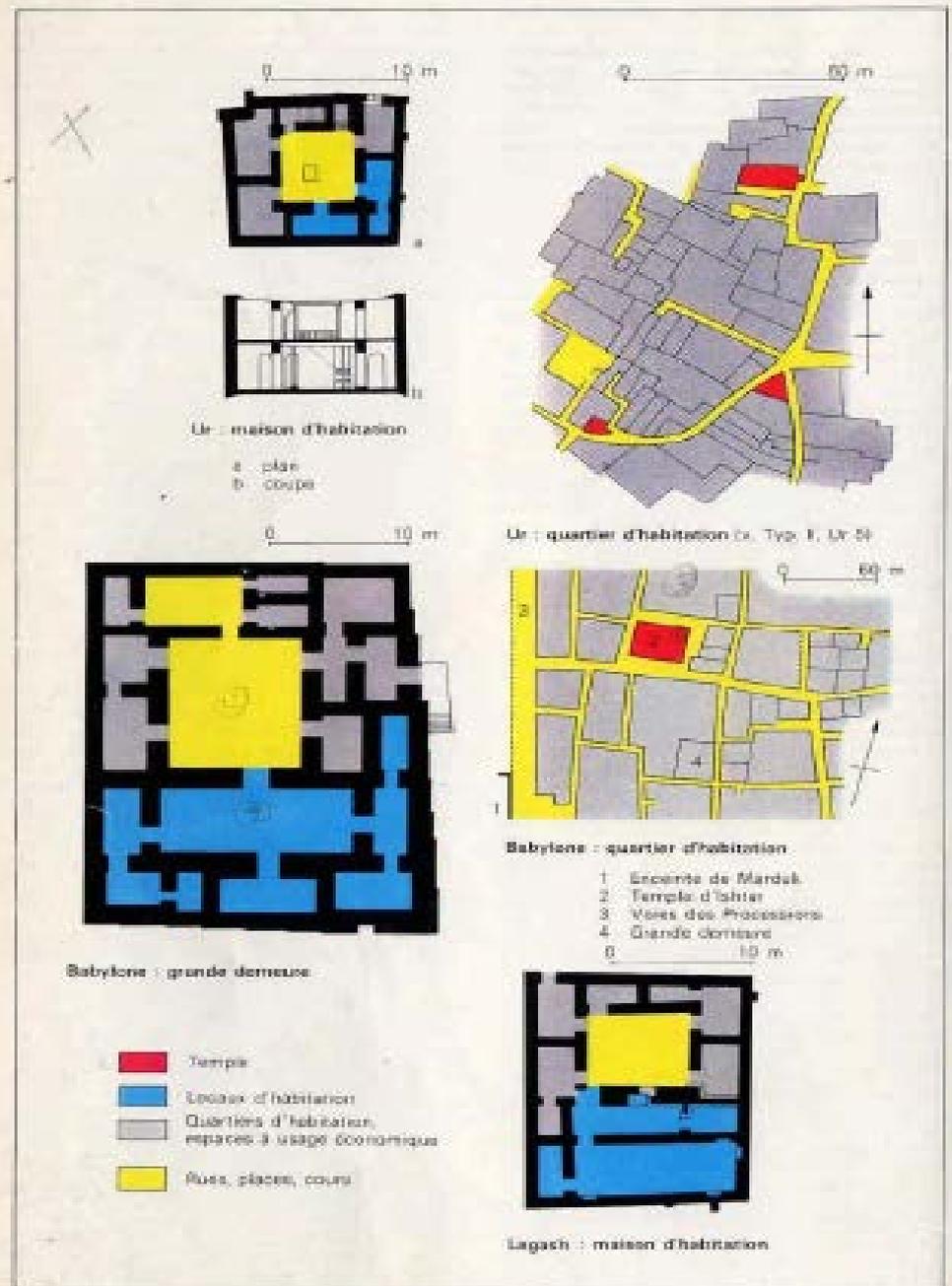
**The central space is at the heart of domestic life.**

Each house had a kitchen, and depots . There were latrines, and sometimes bathrooms.

The houses often had to have **a floor** that was rather used for the private sphere; there was the bedroom or bedrooms.

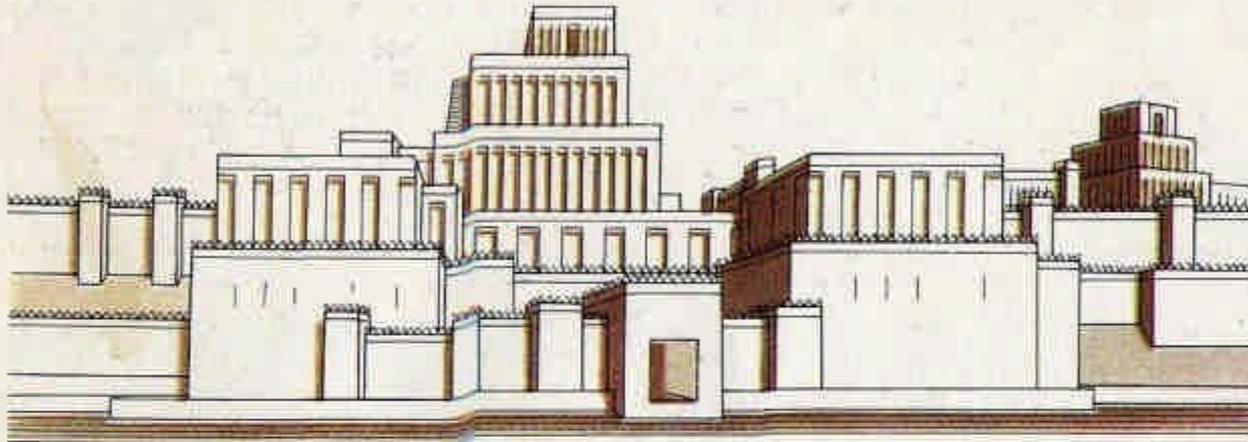


Urbanisme  
Tissus urbains  
Maisons d'habitation

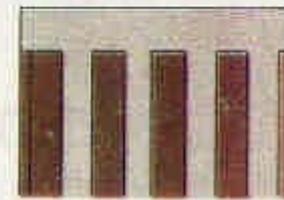
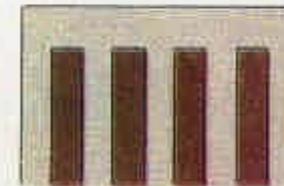
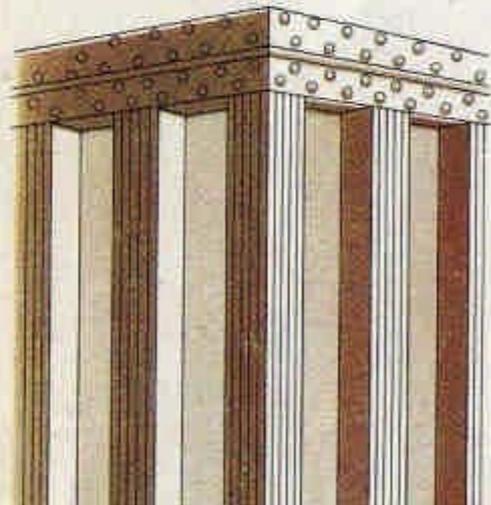


Morphologie du quartier et types d'habitat

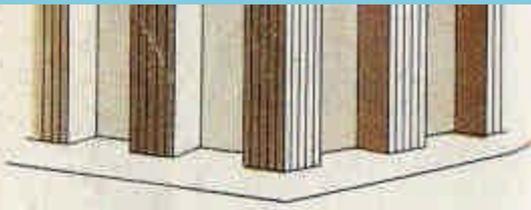
82 Mésopotamie / Formes de construction



Assur : la ville du Nord-Est (rest(ution))



Plan des murs : variation.



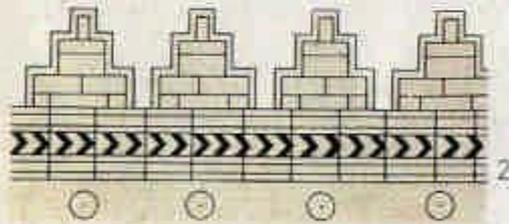
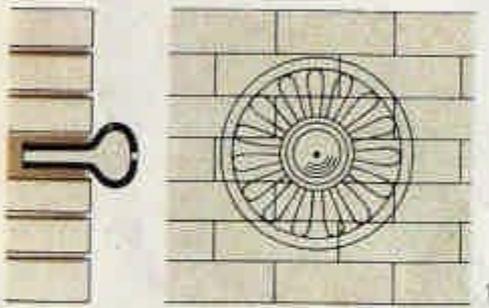
Angle du temple



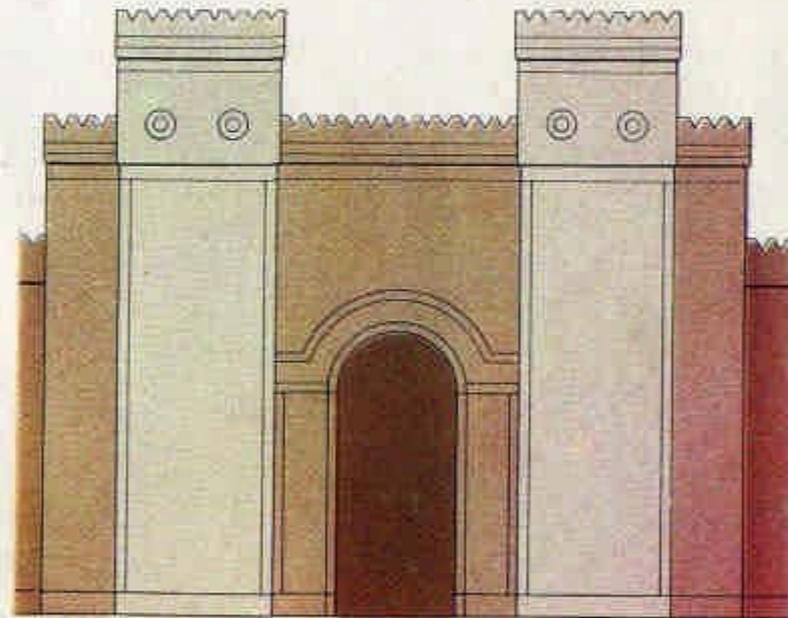
Uruk D



Borsippa



Assur : 1 Rosette avec pommeau de brique  
2 Crènaux des murs d'enceinte



Babylone : Porte d'Ishtar



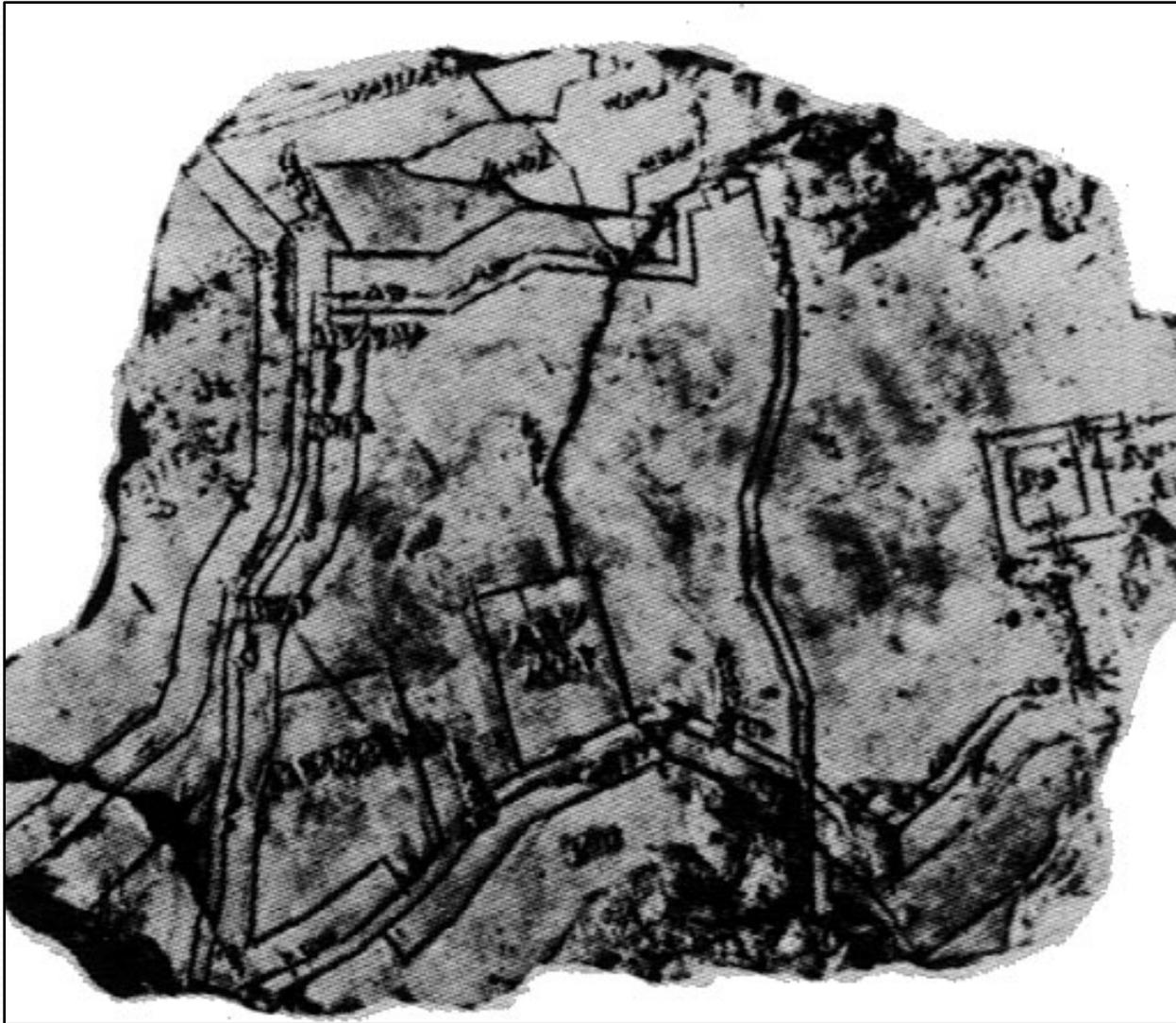
# Organization of Mesopotamian Cities

In Mesopotamia, the largest buildings are temples, where kings are considered high priests of **the City-State**,

During the construction of the Mesopotamian cities, great care was taken of **the orientation** of this one in relation to the stars, this allowed to know the decision of the gods, the stars symbolizing the divinities.

Almost all the cities are built **near rivers**, in order to provide water resources for the city.

*Tablette sumérienne de la ville de Nippour*



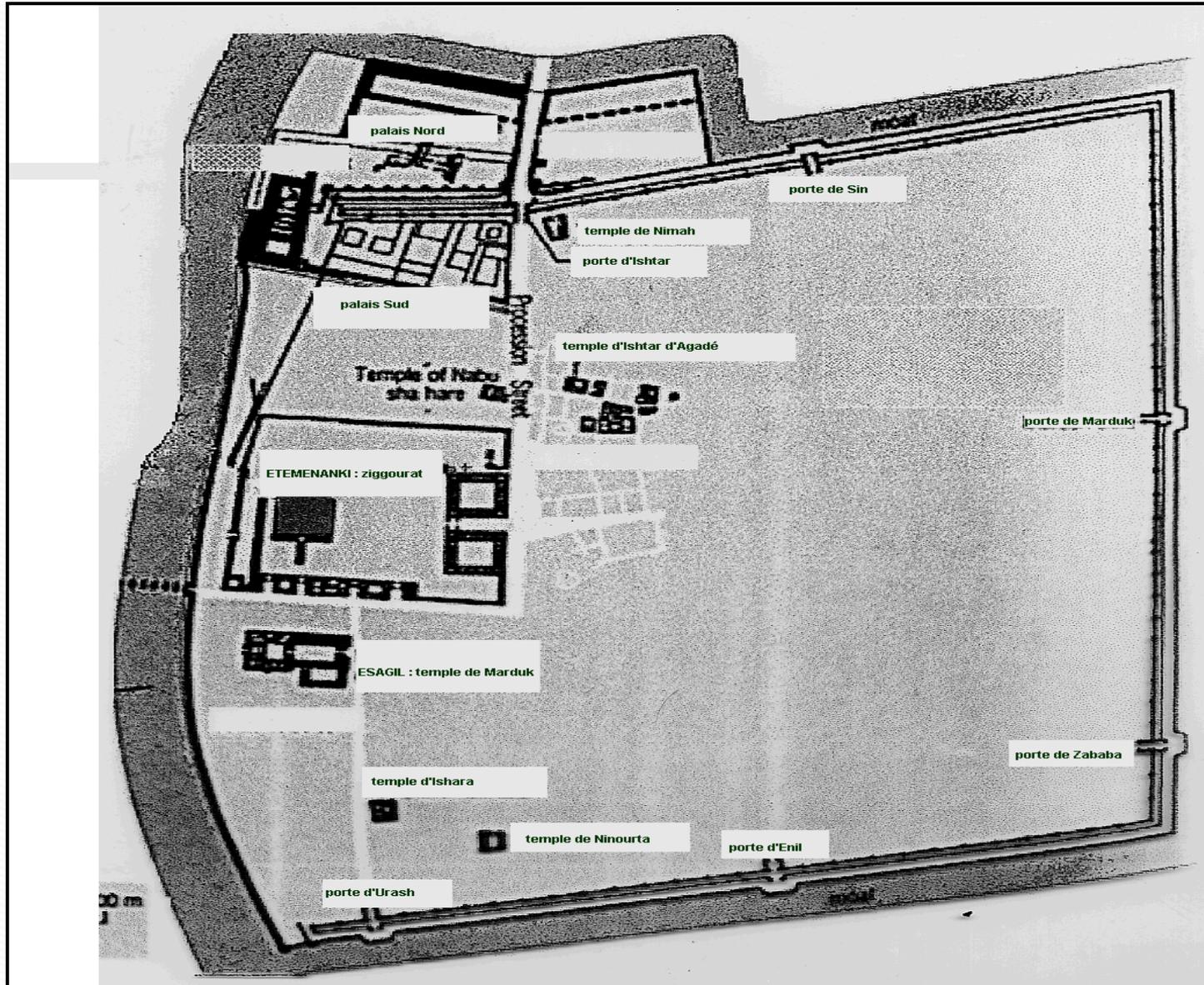


Mesopotamian cities are protected by **external walls**, these are pierced by **several doors**, which can sometimes be large, whose **location and name have been identified**.



The most important axes present in large cities are generally a **hierarchical network**, which ranges from major axes joining **smaller arteries, alleys and dead ends**.

# Plan de la ville de Babylone







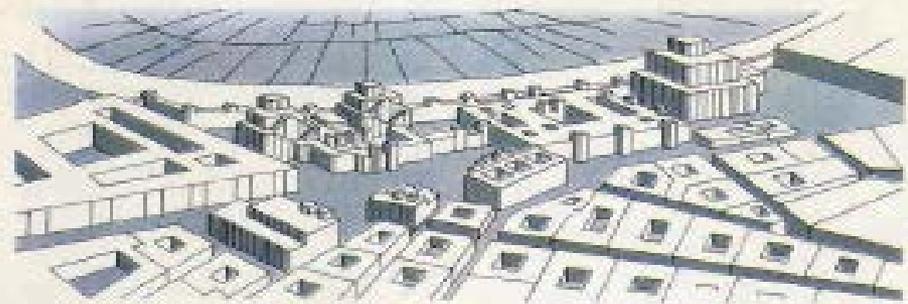
*Enceinte de la ville de Babylone*



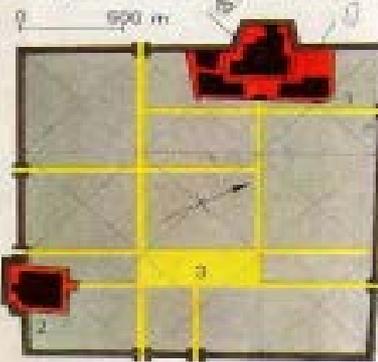
The **center of the cities** center was often reserved for the **palace** and the main **temple**. Small streets delimited various **residential blocks**.



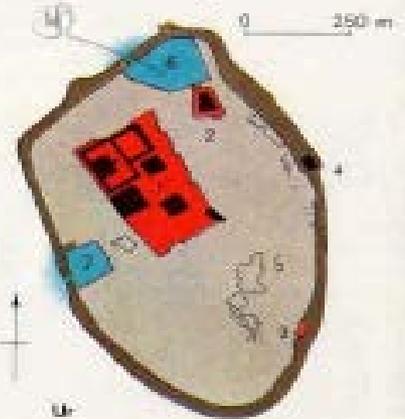
Urban residences The largest are true miniature palaces, sometimes up to **1,000 m<sup>2</sup>**. The average size is between **100 and 200 m<sup>2</sup>**, but there could be smaller houses.



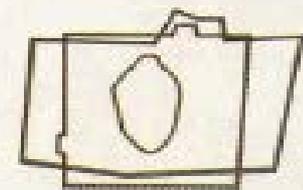
Assur : partie nord de la ville (restituée)



Dour-Sharroukin (Khorosabad)



Babylone



Comparaison par superposition

- Babylone
- Dour-Sharroukin
- Uruk

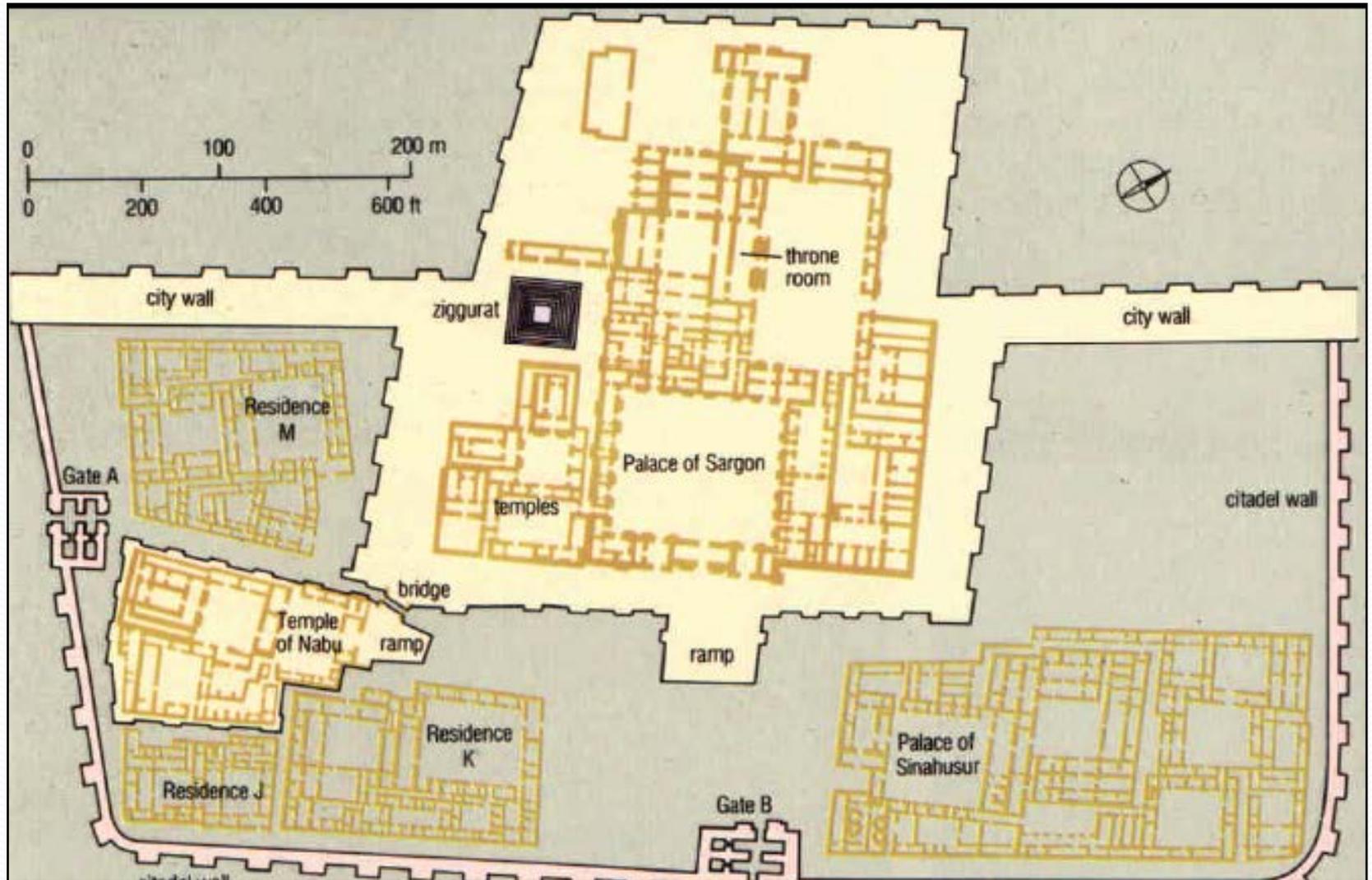
- Centres politico-religieux
- Aires d'habitation
- Rues principales, places
- Fleuves, canaux, ports
- Murs, enceintes des villes

Urbanisme  
 Les plus grandes villes de  
 Mésopotamie:  
 ASSUR  
 KHORSABAD (Dour  
 Sharroukin)  
 BABYLONE



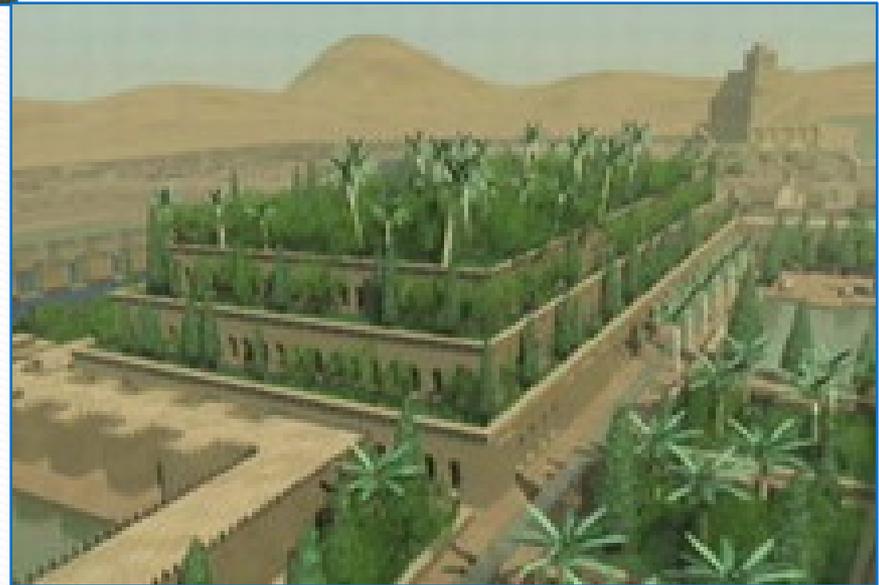
**Babylone**

# Plan de Khorsabad





## Les jardins de Babylone et Ninive





Conclusion

The essential characteristics that emerged from this civilization are as follows:

- The birth of the state city.
- The affirmation of the mass that immobilizes power (religious + political).
- The affirmation of verticality (increasing verticality).
- Determination of the right angle and development of the rectangular plane.
- The ziggurat was governed by an axis symmetry, the palace does not obey any law of symmetry.
- Building materials: clay brick, sun-dried clay, fired clay, stone and colored ceramics.

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