

## URBAN LAYOUT IN MIDDLE AND LATE BRONZE AGE LEVANT

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*The 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC is a multifaceted period which, from the beginning of the urban system in the Middle Bronze Age II to its end in the Late Bronze Age, is subject to numerous political, economic and cultural changes. These changes also affect the settlements leading to the emergence of different urban models: uniform and shared in the Middle Bronze Age III, heterogeneous and individual in the Late Bronze Age II.*

Keywords: Levant; Bronze Age; urban layout; city planning; public architecture

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The study of the urban planning needs an historical-archaeological approach that starts with the interpretation of archaeological data and the analysis of plans and is then supplemented and explained through historical information derived from written sources.<sup>1</sup> The necessity of this methodological approach is twofold: the historical approach is useful for overcoming the inherent limitation of archaeological evidence; the city reflects different relationships produced by a social, political, and economic structure that was established in a given place and time.<sup>2</sup> Following this approach, already inaugurated by Z. Herzog,<sup>3</sup> the sites chosen for this article have been subdivided according to their geographical, Northern or Southern Levant, and chronological, Middle Bronze III and Late Bronze I-II, association (tab. 1-2). This method shows how the urban features of a site are a direct product of its historical context. Among the elements that define a settlement as urban,<sup>4</sup> three have been selected to attempt to rebuild a satisfying model: size, fortification, and public architecture (palaces and temples). We can define the dominant urban pattern from the combination of these characteristics and changes over time and space.

In the case of the selected sites in the Southern Levant, more data are available to deduce topographical information, thanks to a richer corpus and the presence of extensive excavations. Otherwise, in the case of Northern Levant sites, less topographical data are available, because only few sites were excavated in an extensive way<sup>5</sup>. So, to try to reconstruct a general frame, for the Northern Levant selected sites, a comparison with some major Syrian sites (e.g. Ebla, Alalakh, Mari, Qatna) is needed.

The diachronic and geographic analysis of these sites will allow to recognize the urban layout of each period and area of the Levant, highlighting similarities, differences, and innovations through a comparative study.

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<sup>1</sup> Parr 1972; McC Adams 1978; Renfrew 1980; Yoffee 1982; Trigger 1984; Bunimovitz 1989; Bintliff 1991; Knapp 1992.

<sup>2</sup> Frangipane 2018, 13.

<sup>3</sup> Herzog 1997.

<sup>4</sup> Wirth 1938; Childe 1950; Sjöberg 1960; Mumford 1961; Wolf 1966; Tringham 1972; Kostof 1991; Owens 1991; Reader 2004; Smith 2007; Marcus - Sablof eds. 2008; Gates 2011; Frangipane 2018.

<sup>5</sup> Such as Ugarit, where about a sixth of the tell's surface has been excavated. (Yon 2006, 28; Luciani 2014, 512).

## 2. MIDDLE BRONZE AGE III

The Middle Bronze Age III (1650-1550 BC) is characterised by a cultural continuity with the previous period, resulting in minimal changes and numerous overlaps.<sup>6</sup> During the Middle Bronze Age II Syria-Palestine reached the zenith of urbanisation, as a result of a population and settlement growth, establishing large, fortified cities under the centralised control of a local king.<sup>7</sup> Thus, the established topographic characteristics were maintained in the subsequent period.

### 2.1. Northern Levant

During the Middle Bronze Age the northern region witnessed an intensification of settlement, resulting from an increase of urban and rural sites in both inland and coastal areas.<sup>8</sup> The prevailing settlement pattern involved sizable city-state controlling specific territories, accompanied by secondary satellite settlements within the territory of the former.<sup>9</sup> The cultural homogeneity of this period is also reflected in the adoption of a unified urban layout across all size classes<sup>10</sup> (tab. 1). It is not unlikely that medium and small sites emulated the layout observed in larger regional and provincial capitals such as Aleppo, Qatna, Mari, and Ebla.<sup>11</sup>

The process of urbanization, initiated during the Middle Bronze Age I-II, reached its peak in the Middle Bronze Age III. Cities undergo significant urban growth, reflecting the rise of prominent regional powers such as the Kingdom of Yamhad, with its capital Aleppo, the Kingdom of Mari to the east, and the Kingdom of Qatna, which held control over central Syria. This significant growth, both in terms of political influence and urbanization leads to the formation of imposing cities.<sup>12</sup> The urban layout often included an upper and lower city (Ebla, Qatna, Byblos) and featured a huge defence system. This system comprised an earthen rampart topped by a brick or stone wall of various types: simple wall, buttressed wall (Berytus)<sup>13</sup> or casemate-like wall (Kamid el-Loz and Tell 'Arqa)<sup>14</sup> and only in rare cases covered by a glacis (Byblos, Berytus).<sup>15</sup> These fortifications followed a rectilinear layout, giving the settlement a square shape, as in the case of Ugarit or Qatna.<sup>16</sup> Finally, access to the city was provided by monumental gates, mainly of the six pier's gate type.<sup>17</sup> The ubiquity of these defence systems in every settlement category, ranging from

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<sup>6</sup> Mazar 1990, 193.

<sup>7</sup> Mazar 1990, 197.

<sup>8</sup> Morandi Bonacossi 2014, 420.

<sup>9</sup> Burke 2014, 407.

<sup>10</sup> The sites are categorized into three groups: small sites, covering areas less than 5 hectares, medium-sized ones, ranging between 5 and 10 hectares, and large ones, exceeding 10 hectares. This classification is a simplification of the one proposed by R. Gonen (1984, 63) for the Southern Levant, as it excludes the categories of tiny settlements (less than 1 he), large settlements (between 10 and 20 he) and very large settlements (over 20 he).

<sup>11</sup> Burke 2014, 407-408.

<sup>12</sup> Morandi Bonacossi 2014, 420, 423-425.

<sup>13</sup> Badre 2001, 4.

<sup>14</sup> Marfoe 1995, 104; Thalmann 2006, 56.

<sup>15</sup> Badre 2001, 3; Akkermans - Schwartz 2003, 321; Sala 2013, 180; Morandi Bonacossi 2014, 416.

<sup>16</sup> Fig. 3. Burke 2008, 81.

<sup>17</sup> Burke 2008, 68.

large city-states to smaller centres (tab. 1), shows the necessity to build large defence systems. This need likely arose from increased conflict between city-states, but also for defence against the new war machines.<sup>18</sup> Moreover, these huge fortifications testify to the presence of a centralized power that was able to organise the manpower and provide the means, and that represented its strength and wealth in a kind of “political propaganda”.<sup>19</sup>

Usually, the acropolis was the core of administrative and religious buildings which took on a monumental character in this period (tab. 1). The palaces featured complex layouts with numerous rooms surrounding central courtyards.<sup>20</sup> An example is the MBP2 palace of Kamid el-Loz (fig. 4), probably inspired by Syro-Mesopotamian and Syro-Levantine<sup>21</sup> architecture, mirroring the large palaces of the regional and provincial capitals (Qatna, Mari, Alalakh, Ebla).<sup>22</sup> On the other hand, the temples displayed the coexistence of different building traditions, some of ancient origin, such as the tripartite building (Temple of the Baalat Gebal of Byblos)<sup>23</sup> and the broad room temple with indirect access (Temple T4 of Kamid el-Loz, fig. 4)<sup>24</sup>, and others of a new architectural type: the Tower Temple (Temple of Baal and Dagan at Ugarit).<sup>25</sup> In any case, the presence of monumental religious structures associated with palaces demonstrated a degree of control over the religious institution by local kings or governors.<sup>26</sup>

## 2.2. Southern Levant

The Southern Levant has also witnessed an increase in settlements during the Middle Bronze Age.<sup>27</sup> Moreover, the population grew in large urban centres (such as Gezer, Megiddo, Jericho, Hazor, Lachish), leading to phenomena of concentration and centralization.<sup>28</sup> The architectural and urban homogeneity in both the northern and southern Levant testifies that in the Middle Bronze Age II-III the South inherited the urban model of the Northern Levant, becoming part of the political and cultural *koinè* of the period (tab. 1).<sup>29</sup> Cities, in some cases characterized by an acropolis and a lower city (Hazor and Megiddo), were surrounded by huge fortifications of an earthen rampart surmounted by mudbricks or stone wall, as in the North, but here the use of the glacis and moat was more widespread (Achziv, Tell el-Ajjul, Tell el Far’ah [South] and Tell Batash).<sup>30</sup> Access was

<sup>18</sup> Battering ram, siege tower and composite bow (Mazar 1990, 198, 208; Burke 2008, 102).

<sup>19</sup> Burke 2008, 158; Charaf 2014, 438; Greenberg - Ashkenazi 2019, 17.

<sup>20</sup> Oren 1992, 113.

<sup>21</sup> Asymmetrical plan, the presence of hypostyle halls, royal hypogea, the arrangement of the reception suite with the throne room and the widespread use of basalt orthostats are hallmarks of the Syro-Levantine construction. While the Syro-Mesopotamian constructions are characterized by tripartite plan with a central hall/courtyard flanked by wings with side rooms (Morandi Bonacossi 2014, 427-428).

<sup>22</sup> Morandi Bonacossi 2014, 427-428; Heinz 2016, 84.

<sup>23</sup> Sala 2015, 39.

<sup>24</sup> Heinz 2016, 92-93.

<sup>25</sup> Fig. 3. Yon 2006, 109.

<sup>26</sup> Greenberg 2019, 226.

<sup>27</sup> Mazar 1990, 197.

<sup>28</sup> Broshi - Gophna 1984; Panitz-Cohen 2014, 548.

<sup>29</sup> Panitz-Cohen 2014, 541.

<sup>30</sup> Tab.1. Mazar 1990, 204; Burke 2008, 80-81.

provided through the Syrian gate or six-pier gate.<sup>31</sup> Thanks to the extensive Megiddo excavation, it is possible to define a common urban layout for all these cities, which we can define as organized/planned (fig. 1).<sup>32</sup> The different sectors of the city were connected by a road system based on a main axis running along the perimeter of the tell linking the entrances, intersected by orthogonal roads and blind alleys directed to the city centre; this is reminiscent of the urban layout of sites such as Ugarit and Kamid el-Loz (figs. 3-4).<sup>33</sup>

The monumental palatine and templar buildings are the result of northern influence.<sup>34</sup> These buildings had a topographically prominent position, at the centre or on the acropolis of the tell, as in the case of Hazor and Lachish.<sup>35</sup> Nevertheless, by the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium BC, the phenomenon of palatial marginalisation is attested and will be fully developed in the Late Bronze Age (§3.1).<sup>36</sup> This is evident in Megiddo *Strata X-IX* (fig. 1), when the palace moved away from the temple to occupy an off-centre position, near the city gate.<sup>37</sup>

Sacred architecture underwent a double phenomenon: the religious tradition linked to the High Place was maintained (Gezer and Tel Mor),<sup>38</sup> while the introduction of a new temple type, the Tower Temple or Migdal (already begun in BM I-II)<sup>39</sup>, was noted (tab.1). This type originated from the circulation and revision of the temple *in antis* with a long-room plan, attested since the 3<sup>rd</sup> millennium BC in the northern Levant.<sup>40</sup> Instead, the adoption of the long-room typology, very different from the Palestinian broad-room tradition, made these buildings exceptional, giving them greater importance and visibility.<sup>41</sup> These new temples were incorporated into open worship areas bounded by a temenos designed for the performance of extensive religious ceremonies and rituals. The southern sanctuaries were characterized by the presence of the stela shrine, probably related to ancestor veneration and symbolically linked to the worship of the great Canaanite goddess *Ishtar*.<sup>42</sup>

### 3. LATE BRONZE AGE

The Late Bronze Age is usually divided into two phases: Late Bronze Age I (1550-1400 BC) and Late Bronze Age II (1400-1200 BC). The latter is renowned as a period of great internationalisation.<sup>43</sup> Although Late Bronze I has only been partially investigated in respect to Middle Bronze III and Late Bronze II, there is clear evidence of a continuous

<sup>31</sup> Kempinski 1992a, 133; Burke 2008, 68.

<sup>32</sup> Following the definition proposed by M.E. Smith (2007, 7).

<sup>33</sup> Loud 1948, 16; Wright 1985, 65; Kempinski 1989, 118.

<sup>34</sup> Oren 1992, 105, 113.

<sup>35</sup> Kempinski 1992b, 125-126.

<sup>36</sup> Wright 1985, 65; Nigro 1994, 420; Matthiae 1997.

<sup>37</sup> Loud 1948, 16; Kempinski 1989, 64; Oren 1992, 106.

<sup>38</sup> Dothan 1960, 124; Dever 2014.

<sup>39</sup> Mazar 1992, 161-162.

<sup>40</sup> Mazar 1992, 166; Sala 2007, 196; D'Andrea 2014, 51.

<sup>41</sup> Kamlah 2012, 516.

<sup>42</sup> Nigro 1996, 224-226; D'Andrea 2014, 51.

<sup>43</sup> Mazar 1990, 296; Sherratt 2014, 505.

settlement between the two periods, with the exception of Tell ‘Arqa, which is a fortified citadel in LB I and then declines to a village in LB II (tab. 2).<sup>44</sup> Topographical analysis must consider the two different political statuses of the northern and southern Levant: the former under Mittani and Hatti empires, the latter under Egyptian rule.<sup>45</sup> The constant contact and conflict between these powers resulted in different urban models.

### 3.1. Northern Levant

During the Late Bronze Age, the great homogeneity of the previous period disappeared, with a decrease in the number and size of settlements due to the political events that led to a fragmentation into small, partially autonomous states.<sup>46</sup> Despite the rule of the Hittite kingdom, it is likely that the larger settlements administered a limited territory, as evidenced by the sites of Ugarit and Tell Kazel.<sup>47</sup>

Usually, city-states maintained and refurbished the fortifications constructed in the previous period. Moreover, the earlier settlement system, featuring both an upper and lower town (§2.1), undergoes a decline as the lower city is gradually abandoned in favour of a settlement confined to the upper town.<sup>48</sup> Inside the citadel there were religious and secular buildings, as well as residential quarters (Ugarit, Kamid el-Loz, Tell Kazel) (tab. 2; figs. 3, 5).

The phenomenon of marginalization of the palaces was widespread in this period, marking a separation between the palatial area, the religious centre and the citizens (Ugarit, Kamid el-Loz) (figs. 3, 5). The causes are difficult to define; they could be related to the need for control and defence, the presence of a ruling dynasty with a military character, or the growing importance of the activities carried out at the gates.<sup>49</sup>

Moreover, the large size of the palaces points to a greater power of the ruling dynasty with an increased appearance, which at the same time isolated itself from the rest of the city by means of massive perimeter walls (Ugarit, Kami del Loz) (figs. 3, 5). A further innovation, visible in the courtyard palaces of Ugarit and Alalakh, is the introduction of a two-columned entrance porch, anticipating a typology widespread in the Iron Age (*Bit Hilani*).<sup>50</sup> In contrast, the religious areas seem to have undergone little change compared to the previous period, maintaining a prominent position in the town plan, in the centre, or in the upper part of the tell, and showing planimetric variability: “double temple” at Kamid el-Loz (Temple T2),<sup>51</sup> tower temple at Ugarit (Temple of Baal and Dagan),<sup>52</sup> long-room

<sup>44</sup> Mazar 1990, 239; Thalmann 2006, 512.

<sup>45</sup> Liverani 2011, 472.

<sup>46</sup> Sherratt 2014, 497-498; Luciani 2014, 511.

<sup>47</sup> The territory controlled by Ugarit included the port site of Minet el-Beida and Ras Ibn Hani (Yon 2006, 8), as well as the site of Tell Sukas which in the second half of the 14<sup>th</sup> century BC was included in the kingdom of Ugarit (Brown 2009, 148). Instead within the territory controlled by the city of Tell Kazel must fall the site of Tell ‘Arqa (Badre 2007-2008, 110; Liverani 2011, 473).

<sup>48</sup> Luciani 2014, 511.

<sup>49</sup> Nigro 1994, 333-334, 419-420. Moreover, this phenomenon may indicate the degradation in the relationship between the royal *élite* and the priestly class (Kempinski 1989, 167).

<sup>50</sup> Oren 1992, 114.

<sup>51</sup> Fig.5. Heinz 2016, 170.

<sup>52</sup> Fig.3. Yon 2006, 106-110.

temple at Tell Kazel.<sup>53</sup> The different sectors of the city were connected by a complex network of streets, consisting of the main street, side streets and dead ends. The most significant example of regular and defined urban planning comes from Ugarit (fig. 3). Here, there were two main axes: the perimeter roads,<sup>54</sup> running parallel to the edge of the tell, and the southern road, which provided direct access to the acropolis.<sup>55</sup> Deviating from this model are the smaller settlements of Tell 'Arqa and Tell Sukas, which are historically attested as satellite sites of the two large cities of Ugarit and Tell Kazel.<sup>56</sup> These represent a different urban layout: a small town without fortifications, as in the case of Tell Sukas,<sup>57</sup> or with a less imposing casemate wall, as in the case of Tell 'Arqa,<sup>58</sup> and with no public buildings, which did not suggest the presence of a strong and autonomous socio-political structure (tab. 2).

### 3.2. *Southern Levant*

The southern Levant underwent a settlement and urban crisis at the beginning of the Late Bronze I, which determined a decrease in the number of occupied sites.<sup>59</sup> Urbanism only resumed in the Late Bronze Age II, with the return of earlier planimetric features, although the general trend seemed to be an occupation limited to the top of the tell, as in the North.<sup>60</sup> Two different layouts can be identified: one on the coast and one inland.

The coastal model was characterized by small settlements, with the exception of Achziv, Tell Dor and Ashdod (tab. 2). The main characteristic of these sites was the absence of fortifications, with the exception of a few sites such as Achziv, Jaffa and Ashkelon, where the previous fortifications were reused, and the sites of Tell Mor and Tell el-Ajjul where the fortresses were confined to the upper part of the tell (tab. 2). Within these cities, there were no palaces, but smaller structures defined as Residences, the seat of the local or Egyptian governor.<sup>61</sup> This model was not exclusive to the coast but was also attested inland such as at Beth Shean, Taanach, Tell Haror and Tell el Far'ah (South) (tab. 2). It was likely that coastal cities and sites located along the major trade routes suffered more from this control, given their closer commercial and economic ties to the pharaonic regime.<sup>62</sup>

The inland model is different and has much more in common with the North. Cities were medium to large, although there were also sites smaller than 5 hectares (tab. 2). These cities reused the fortification systems with walls limited to the upper part of the tell to define citadels. Only in three cases (Gezer, Hazor, Tell es-Safi) is a lower city attested. The use of defensive walls formed by the perimeter walls of dwellings and palaces located

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<sup>53</sup> Badre 2006, 67.

<sup>54</sup> Testified also in Byblos and Megiddo (Dunand 1958, 479-480; Kempinski 1989, 118).

<sup>55</sup> Yon 2006, 28, 85, 117.

<sup>56</sup> Badre 2007-2008, 110; Brown 2009, 148; Liverani 2011, 473.

<sup>57</sup> Riis 1970.

<sup>58</sup> Thalmann 2006, 74, 76.

<sup>59</sup> Gonen 1984, 63.

<sup>60</sup> Gonen 1984.

<sup>61</sup> Tab.2. Oren 1992, 115-117; Nigro 1994, 431.

<sup>62</sup> Panitz-Cohen 2014, 545.

along the edge of the tell (Megiddo, Lachish, Tell Batash) (fig. 2) became common, a feature that anticipates a widespread phenomenon in the Iron Age.<sup>63</sup>

These renovated citadels enclosed palatial buildings that retained the courtyard palace typology but were now reconstructed in close proximity to the gate, with the exception of the palaces at Hazor and Lachish<sup>64</sup>. The Tower Temple became widespread, and, as in the northern Levant, temples retained a central topographical and hence socio-political role. There were many similarities with the North, culminating in the site of Hazor, a city that did not conform to the southern trends and seemed to play a prominent role between northern Palestine and southern Syria.<sup>65</sup> Common features included the location of the palace on the acropolis and the presence of many temples in both the upper and lower city. These features, similar to the layout of the northern sites of Ugarit, Ebla and Qatna, demonstrate the power and control of the city over all levels of society.<sup>66</sup>

#### 4. CONCLUSIVE REMARKS

The diachronic analysis of the urban layout of the northern and southern Levant allows us to outline two different urban models that are the direct outcome of the historical, political and territorial context of the period. The Middle Bronze Age III Levant is characterized by a cultural *koinè* with urban homogeneity, consisting in the adoption of a common urban layout for all the regions and size classes; indeed, it seems that the secondary and smaller centres wanted to emulate the urban layout inaugurated in the large regional city-states. This model consisted of massive fortifications enclosing a lower and an upper city. The latter was the administrative centre, where the monumental palace and the main city temple were located. The cultural *koinè* is also evident in the use of common building types: courtyard palace and Tower Temple. The road system has been little studied archaeologically, but from the evidence of some sites, we can assume the existence of a well-planned urban layout characterized by a main road running along the edges of the tell.

Instead, the Late Bronze Age inaugurated a period of political inhomogeneity and fragmentation clearly visible in the adoption of different urban layouts. The northern Levant, thanks to the greater autonomy of its local kings, preserved and renewed the urban features of the previous period, with the sole exception of the beginning of the marginalization of the palace. The situation in the southern Levant was different. Here, the Egyptian repression and subsequent political events were decisive for the development of a dualistic urban model. The coastal cities inaugurated a new layout characterized by the absence of fortifications and the presence of patrician residences and fortresses, which we also find in some inland sites (tab. 2). This probably allowed the Egyptian empire to exert greater control over the cities both economically, by exploiting their location on the coast or along trade routes, politically by not allowing the emergence of a local dynasty, and militarily, by building fortresses and refusing to build fortifications.<sup>67</sup> The hinterland does not seem to have been affected by this phenomenon. Here, the settlements, albeit under

<sup>63</sup> Shiloh 1978; Kempinski 1992a, 137; Ussishkin 1997, 318; Mazar 1997a, 281.

<sup>64</sup> Oren 1992, 110-112.

<sup>65</sup> Na'aman 1981, 183; Hesse 2008, 183.

<sup>66</sup> Susnow 2022, 166.

<sup>67</sup> Whose construction was perhaps considered an act of rebellion: Glock 1968, 166.

Egyptian control, seem to benefit from a greater autonomy and show a greater homogeneity in the architectural choices. In fact, the defensive system is reused, and the road network retains its organization. The common palatine and templar typology were adopted, although the former were reduced in size and placed on the periphery, an indication of the changed political situation in the region.

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Fig. 1 - Topographic map of Tell el-Mutesellim/Megiddo Stratum IX (Middle Bronze Age III); 1) Palace 2134; 2) Six pier's gate; 3) Stone layers under temple 2048; 4) Residential quarter (Loud 1948, figs. 381, 401, 408).



Fig. 2 - Topographic map of Megiddo Stratum VIIB (Late Bronze Age II); 1) Palace 2041; 2) Six pier's gate; 3) Palace 5020b; 4) Temple 2048; 5) Residential quarter (Loud 1948, figs. 383, 403, 409).



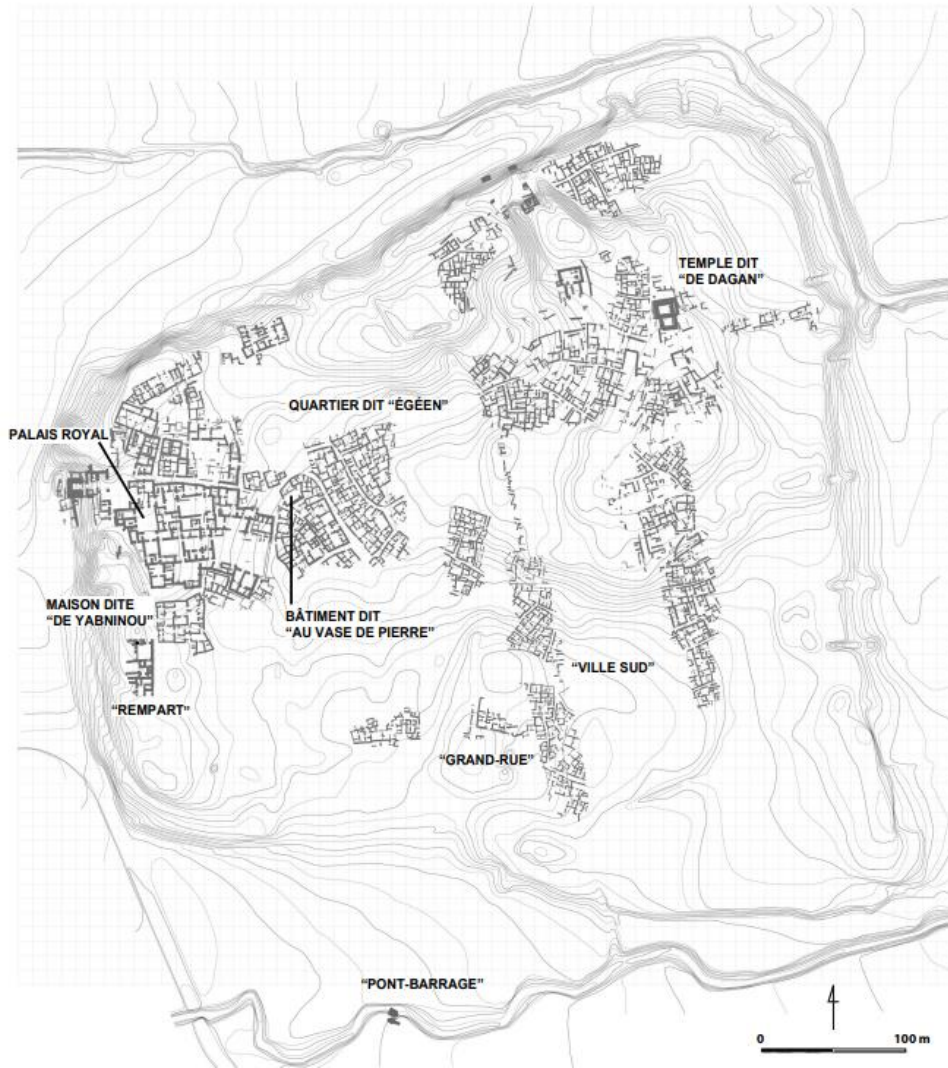


Fig. 3 - General plan of the tell of Ugarit (Haydar *et al.* 2013, 443, fig. 1).

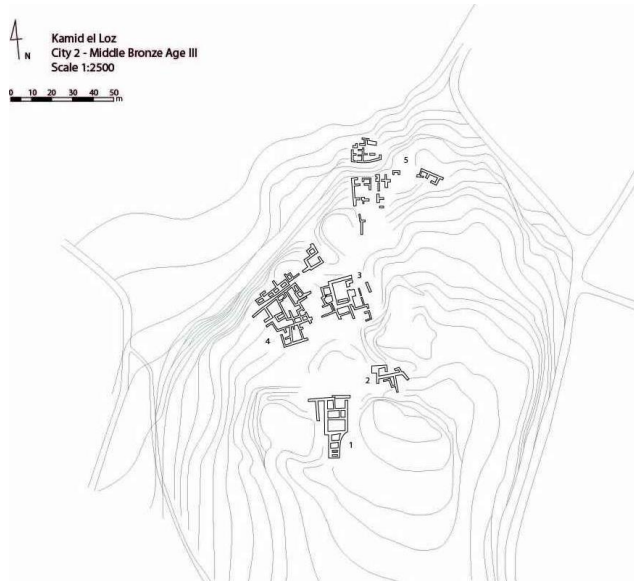


Fig. 4 - Topographic map of Kamid el-Loz City 2 (Middle Bronze Age III); 1) Palace MBP2; 2) Administrative area; 3) Temple T4; 4) Residential area west; 5) Residential area north (Heinz 2016, figs. 94, 108, 110, 113).

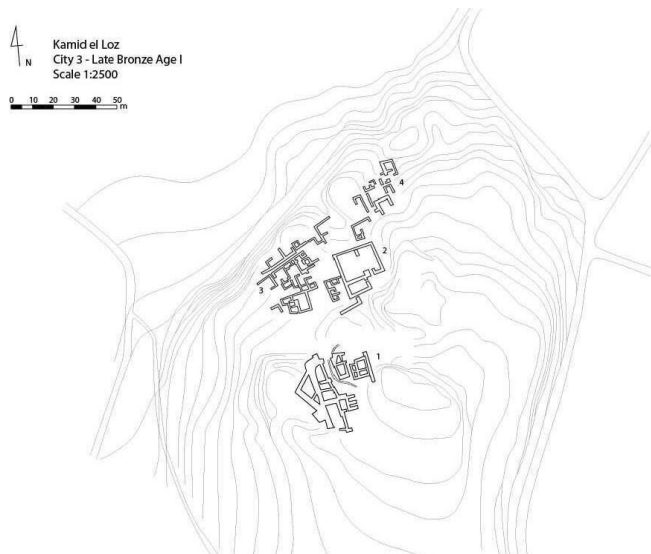


Fig. 5 - Topographic map of Kamid el-Loz City 3 (Late Bronze Age I); 1) Palace P4; 2) Temple T3; 3) Residential area west; 4) Residential area north (Heinz 2016, figs. 161, 196, 197, 212, 113).

Region	Size	Sites	Fortification	Fortress	Residence	Palace	Temple	Bibliography	
NORTHERN LEVANT	<5 he	Berytus	x					Badre 1997; 2001	
	5-10 he	Byblos	x			x	x	Montet 1928; Dunand 1958; Sala 2013; 2015	
		Tell 'Arqa	x					Thalmann 2006	
		Kamid el-Loz	x				x	Heinz 2016	
	> 10 he	Ugarit	x				x	Yon 2006	
		Sidon						x	Doumet-Serhal - Chahoud 2013
		Tell Kazel	x					Badre - Gubel - al-Maqdissi 1990	
SOUTHERN LEVANT	< 5 he	Jaffa	x					Peilstöcker - Burke 2011	
		Tell Mor					x	Dothan 1960	
	5-10 he	Achziv	x					Prausnitz 1975	
		Ashdod	x					Dothan - Porath 1970	
		Tell Abu Hawam		Small village					Dever 1997
	> 10 he	Ashkelon	x					x	Stager - Schloen - Master eds. 2008
		Tell el-Ajjul	x				x		Stewart 1974; Winter 2018
	< 5 he	Beth Shean				x			Mazar - Mullins eds. 2007
		Beth Shemesh	x						Grant 1929; Bunimovitz - Lederman 2013
		Beit Mirsim	x				x		Albright 1936
		Tell el Far'ah (South)	x						Petrie 1930; Lehmann 2018
		Tell Jemmeh	x						Ben-Shlomo - Van Beek eds. 2014
		Tell Mevorakh	x		x				Stern 1984
		Jericho	x					x	Marchetti - Nigro 2000
	5-10 he	Megiddo	x				x	x	Loud 1948
		Shechem	x				x	x	Wright 1985; Campbell ed. 2002
		Taanach	x			x			Sellin 1904; Lapp 1967; 1969
		Tell Batash	x						Mazar 1997b
		Tell Kinrot	x						Pakkala - Münger - Zangenberg 2004
	> 10 he	Tel Keisan	x						Briend - Humbert eds. 1980
		Ekron	x						Dothan - Gitin 1987; 2018
		Gezer	x					x	Dever 1967; 2014
		Hazor	x				x	x	Ben-Tor ed. 1989
Lachish		x					x	Tufnell - Inge - Harding eds. 1940; Tufnell - Baden - Bate 1958	
Tel Haror		x				x	x	Oren - Morrison - Gilead 1986; Oren 1993	
Tel Dan		x						Biran 1994; Biran - Ilan - Greenberg 1996; Biran - Ben Dov 2002	
Tell es-Safi		x						Maeir ed. 2012	

Tab. 1 - Summary table of topographical features of Northern and Southern Levant sites during the Middle Bronze Age III.

Region	Size	Sites	Fortification	Fortress	Residence	Palace	Temple	Bibliography		
NORTHERN LEVANT	<5 he	Tell Sukas			x			Riis 1970		
		Berytus	x					Badre 1997; 2001		
	5-10 he	Byblos	x				x	x	Montet 1928; Dunand 1958; Sala 2013; 2015	
		Tell 'Arqa			Village				Thalmann 2006	
	>10 he	Kamid el-Loz	x				x	x	Heinz 2016	
		Ugarit	x				x	x	Yon 2006	
Sidon							x	Doumet-Serhal 2016		
		Tell Kazel	x				x	Badre - Gubel - al-Maqdissi 1990		
SOUTHERN LEVANT	<5 he	Jaffa	x					x	Peilstöcker - Burke 2011	
		Tell Mor			x				Dothan 1960	
		Dēr el-Balah				x			Dothan - Brandl 2010	
		Tel Nami						x	Artzy 1991	
	5-10 he	Achziv	x						Thareani - Jasmin 2016	
		Ashdod				x			Dothan - Porath 1970	
		Tell Abu Hawam	x					x	Gershuny 1981; Dever 1997	
	> 10 he	Ashkelon	x			x			Stager - Schloen - Master ed. 2008	
		Tell el-Ajjul			x	x			Petrie 1933; Albright 1938	
	<5 he	Beth Shean				x			x	Mazar - Amitai-Preiss eds. 2006; Mazar - Mulins eds. 2007
		Beth Shemesh					x			Grant 1929; Bunimovitz - Lederman 2013
		Beit Mirsim	x				x			Albright 1936
		Tell el Far'ah (South)				x				Petrie 1930; Lehmann 2018
		Tell Jemmeh	x							Ben-Shlomo - Van Beek eds. 2014
		Tell Mevorakh							x	Stern 1984
	5-10 he	Jericho	x				x	x		Bienkowski 1986
		Megiddo	x				x	x		Loud 1948
		Shechem	x				x	x		Wright 1985; Campbell ed. 2002
		Taanach				x				Sellin 1904; Lapp 1967; 1969
		Tell Batash	x							Mazar 1997b
	>10 he	Tell Kiriath	x							Pakkala - Münger - Zangenberg 2004
		Gezer	x				x			Dever 1967; 1986; 2014
		Hazor	x				x	x		Ben-Tor ed. 1989
Lachish		x				x	x		Tufnell - Inge - Harding eds. 1940; Ussishkin 1997	
Tel Haror					x				Oren - Morrison - Gilead 1986	
Tel Zeror						x			Ohata ed. 1967	
		Tell es-Safi	x		x		x		Maier ed. 2012	

Tab. 2 - Summary table of topographical features of Northern and Southern Levant sites during the Late Bronze Age.