

2006

## EPV 002 Canuto Field Notes 2006

Marcello Canuto

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02/10/2006

Friday - after a full week of half-days, the Op 02 excavations in the Plaza and N. Plaza of S-002 have all revealed some aspect of the earthen/cobble floors of the site's final occupation.

In EEB's notes, the floor elevations from the various units have been recorded. So for ~~reference~~ reference to particular notes/units see the individual excavator notes & EEB's notes.

What appears to be salient about Ops 02/26-36 is that the El Cafetal plaza floor is not level throughout. In fact, much of the variation in floor/surface levels mirrors the modern surface variation at the site. It seems clear that there were no MAJOR / COORDINATED (centrally organized) efforts to even the plaza floor's elevation.

A plaza-floor topo map will be devised from the excavation data to compare w/ the modern ground surface. Any differences will indicate how the site was flooded/modified SINCE abandonment.

02/14/2006

2006-2-2

Op 02/26 Ally  
27 Edum  
28 Whitney  
29 Thomas  
30 John  
31 Jon  
32 Wileyda  
33 Cori  
34 Rocky  
35 Ertund  
36 Kate

37 Thomas	42 John C.	47 Cori
38 Whitney	43 Rocky	
39 Ertund	44 Wileyda	
40 Ally	45 Kate	
41 Edum	46 Jon P.	

Excavations today are completing their "stratigraphic course" that is, most of the units are now reaching the lowest sedimentary level - a rocky sandy layer filled with decomposing river cobbles. In all cases this layer ca. 80-120 cm bgs has been sterile and indicative of the natural level at which (likely) the river turned through this part of the valley, in its creep northward to its present location ca. 800 m N of El. Cafetal.

2006-2-3

Jim has been working around the site of El Cafetal gathering soil samples from outside the main plaza. These samples are ~~proving~~ relevant to the question of river movement. The soil profiles to the N of S-002 seem to be shallower than those to the South of the site. This pattern suggests to Jim that the soils to the South are older, ~~implying~~ suggesting that the river to the N of El Cafetal has crept away leaving dry certain areas only recently.

The lower sediment layer of the Op 02/26-36 units suggests that the landscape was uneven long before the site was constructed - it appears uneven because of the undulating nature of the river's deposits. As the river subsides and cepts northward, it leaves in its wake a rolling floodplain that would periodically be flooded. ~~As the river's~~ As the river's course became more distant, ~~the drier landscape~~ the drier landscape would eventually undergo soil formation processes that would "fill in" the landscape. Given the overall speed of such processes, one could perhaps estimate the age of the soil accumulation.

In any event, there is less soil accumulation to the N of S-002 than to the South of it.

2006-2-4

		Plaza floor	Sediment		
02	1	26	1000.07	X	1000.2
			27	998.90	
			28	998.90	998.92
			29	999.40	999.0
			30		999.69
			31	999.42	999.52
			32		
			33	999.02	998.95
			34	998.72	
N PLAZA			35	999.00	998.90
N PLAZA			36	998.72	998.89

Floor levels for Plaza of EC:

2006-2-5

Untitled

Marcello

I'm attempting to describe El Paraiso's site plan. in the 2003 informe you had described it as a QP3 plan, can you please explain what that is exactly?

also- do you think that final phase was more representative of copan or quirigua, or was it still a mix?

finally, do you think that the focal point of the site was patio 1/str1?

Thanks

mary

QP3 - Obceel quadrangular site plan

Typical of LMV LC sites dependent on Q.

Likely something having to do with elite family residences...

Final phase - multi-technological: Copan  
materially:

Focal point:

Str. 01 (Patio 01) was the center of the site  
Hence there were other ledges to S that were also decorated.

1) Mica Type

EC

thin mica

50%

feldspar: No

EP

black mica

30%

feldspar: yes / mica 5-2%

2) Sin mica type

EC

very rare - 15

EP

very rare - 5

3) Copen types

no-mica at all

totally distinct from local EPV material

A Copen piece might be Arundale (false Copen)

- A) Local sources are definitely different from Copen sources.
- B) EP and EC are using different mixes for micaceous types
- C) Mica levels in the Sin mica local wares also vary bet. EP/EC

2006-2-7

Charlie

archaeological sites

resources

Caves

modern roads

river flows

valley entrances

Las Delicias

Las Juntas

South to RA

---

Las Peñas

W to Copan

[ Victor Ullsa Las Delicias

981-66-77

El Oote

E to El Puente

Jorge + 2 more weeks  
begin Wednesday.

Mojá

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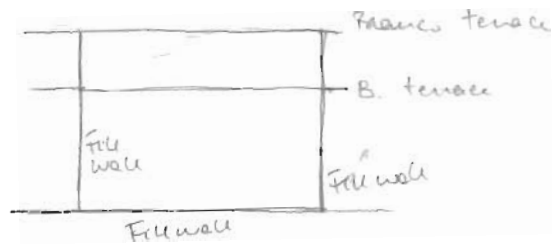
Clarissa 2 weeks from now

Guayabal PreClassic Martens

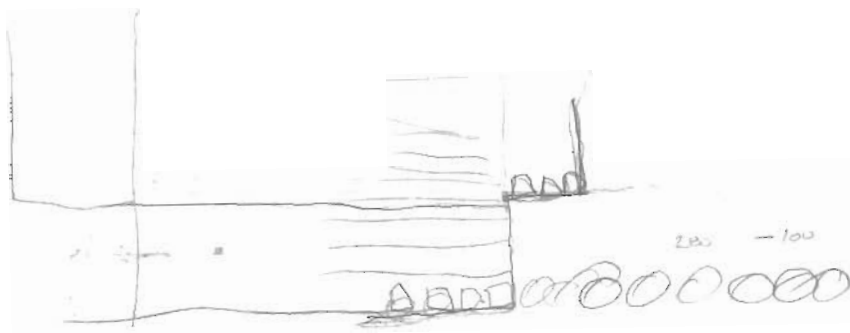


# El Paraiso excavations

9p 051  
←



Sentiaop is finding a series of fill walls that contain a loose matrix-less fill that is almost entirely (exclusively) composed of pebbles.



02/27/2006

2006-2-9

EES and MAC have decided to split some of the major responsibilities with note taking. MAC will be focusing on EP excavations while EES will emphasize much of S-002/Cafetal excavations.

At EP, several weeks of excavations have recovered ~~new~~ interesting facts of Str. 01.

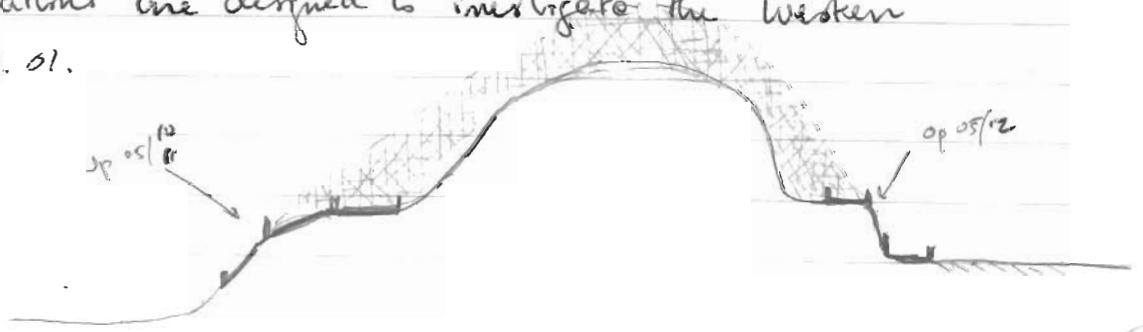
Currently there are 4 Sops open:

05/10, <del>11</del>	Santiago
05/11	Santiago
05/09	Jorge
05/12	Roberto

Excavations are meant to better define Str. 01 on its Southern and Western sides. These two facades have been only slightly investigated and no other limits for that structure are known. Moreover, given the extensive destruction to these sides, only excavation will allow us to determine the final phase's size and limits.

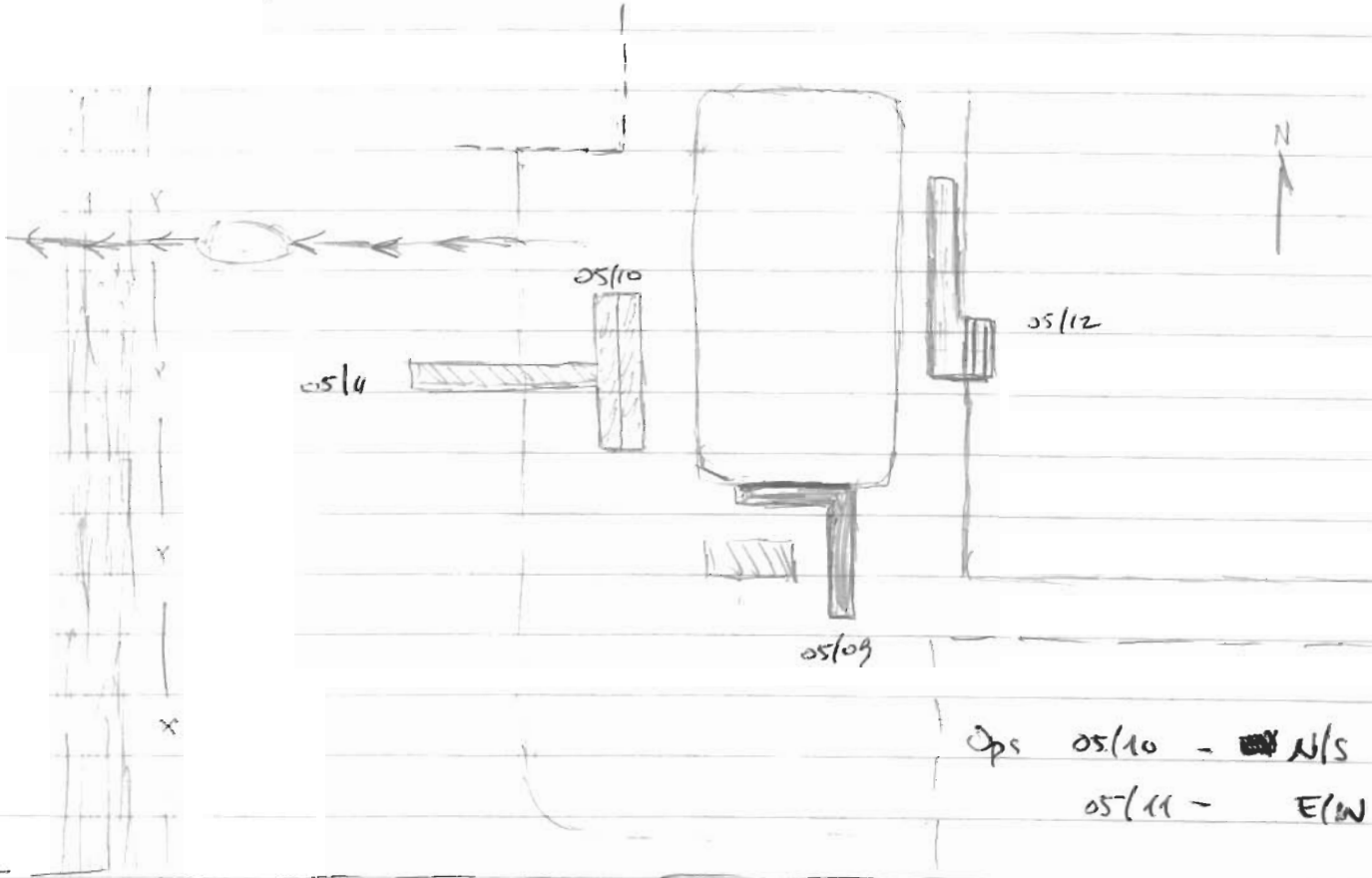
op 05/10  
05/11

These excavations are designed to investigate the Western side of Str. 01.

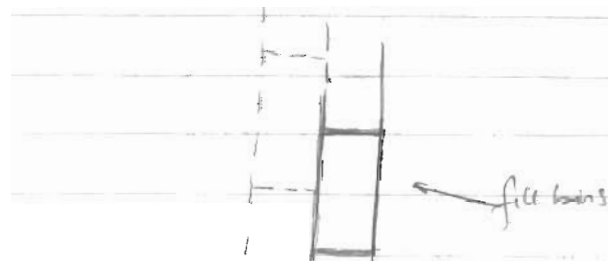


2006-2-10

There are two Seps in this area. One 05/ runs N-S along the trench breach. The other 05/ runs E-W down for the trench breach westward toward the sheet



Excavation to the west has revealed a fill pattern only partially understood in previous excavations of M-01. The western area seems to have been constructed using a dry packed fill with 2.5 x 4.5m fill bins. These fill bins are almost entirely devoid of artifacts.



05/09

Excavation to the south of M. 01 has revealed a multi-course wall, ca. 10 courses, that relates to the penultimate construction phase - BLANCO. Jorge Gaudin has been working on this unit following the southern limit eastward. This unit will eventually turn southward to reveal some of the flat area to the S of M. 01, the top of the NUBE platform, and the LUNARI floor.

It is hoped that between the S facade of BLANCO and the LUNARI floor a basal course of M. 01-Last will be encountered underlying the LUNARI floor, while the S fac. of BLANCO proceeds downward to another floor (DAPPER?)

Excavation along the S facade of M. 01 has revealed two different fill types - the well compacted flat-stone intermixed with orange clay matrix and the matrix-less fill of pebbles. The excavation's fill exposure was measured ca. 4m E-W with the matrix-less fill on the E end of the unit.

The excavation has revealed a ca. 4m extension of the S facade of BLANCO. It appears to be constructed in the same manner as the Blanco Steps on the E side of M. 01 - roughly shaped rocks held by a densely compacted wet-land clayey fill. This facade, furthermore looks to be constructed in sections, there are two clear vertical lines ~~to be seen~~ indicating that the stone courses align vertically.

The question, of course, remains whether this is indicative of a construction technique or of a multi-phase construction.

The BLANCO stairs were ~~initially~~ constructed, actually; misidentifying the ~~the~~ labelling of a BLANCO sub-phase CREMA. It is possible that BLANCO and CREMA are the same, given the recovery of a similar technique on BLANCO's S facade.

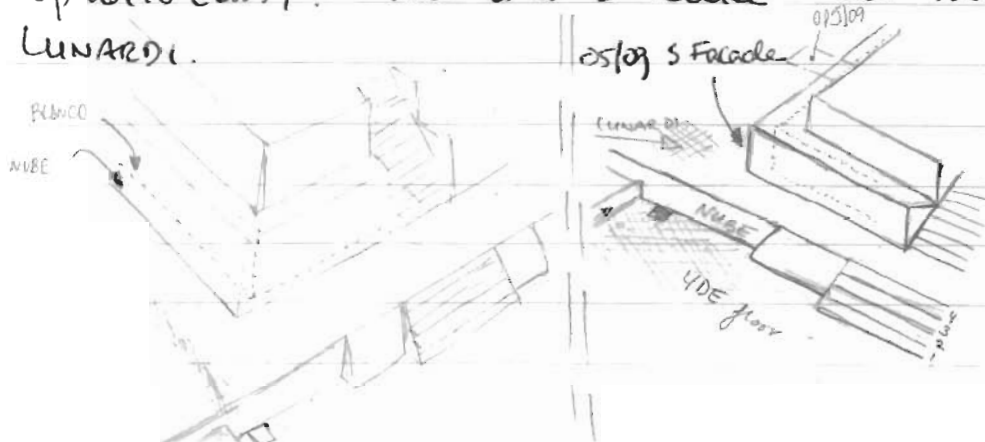
02/28/2006

Excavation in 05/09 has turned southward. It is progressing in the direction of Mh. 01 in order to determine where the limit of Mh. 01 - last might be ~~located~~ located.

At the base of BLANCO'S S facade, a plaster floor was encountered! In great state of preservation, this plaster floor extends BELOW BLANCO S facade, and is the first plaster floor directly associated w/ BLANCO phase. Given that it goes BELOW Blanco's facade suggests an even earlier date.

What excavation to the S is revealing is that there is a great deal of architectural change that likely relates to the final phase of Mh. 01's S facade. Excavation ca. 1m S of Blanco - S-facade is revealing a rather large concentration of flat-stones that are better aligned and fitted - to - one - another than the BLANCO facade.

As Jage has progressed, it is clear that he has revealed the Southern limit of Mh. 01 - last! This is likely a 4-6 course wall that sits on LUNARDI floor - revealed in 0p 06/10 (2005). This is a S terrace that runs on top of NUBE / LUNARDI.



What is becoming clear from op 05/09 is that the floor found running underneath BRANCO is roughly at the same level as St. 01 - S facade. This is peculiar since it suggests that LUNARDI was built w/ BRANCO (actually, from the stratigraphy, BEFORE BRANCO). If true, then how does LUNARDI (NUBE fit w/ the sequence of St. 01?

Was NUBE built after LUNARDI as an extension E of LUNARDI and a refacing to the E of the SW corner of Patio 1?

It would seem as if NUBE cannot be as late as initially thought unless there is some other facade running N/S to the W of NUBE for BRANCO's phase

LUNARDI must have extended E to another terrace so far undiscovered that was W of NUBE facade that runs N/S. Perhaps this "inside terrace" was then extended since St. 01 - last was enlarged.

2006-2-15

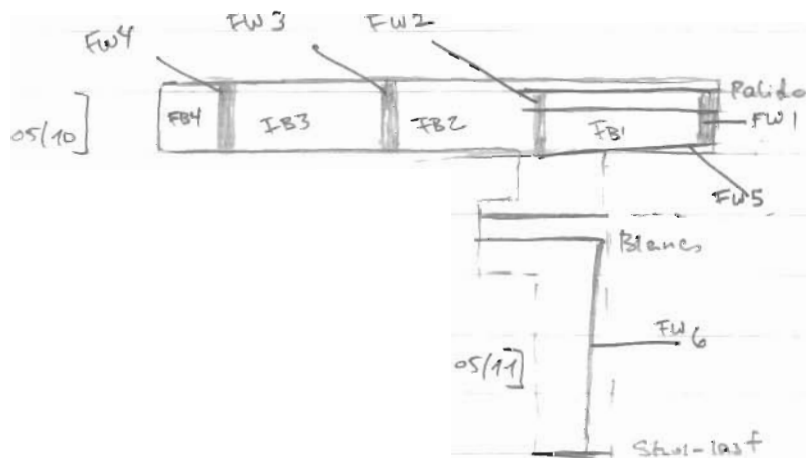
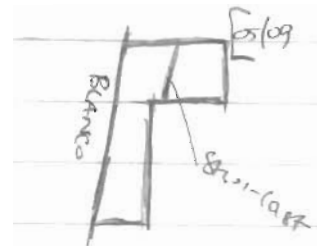
08/01/2006

Mapped the trench corners of 05/09, 10, 11, 12 this afternoon.  
We also recorded the newly exposed architecture from S-001.  
What follows is a quick summary of the naming and interpretations.

Nameds : S facade - Blanco  
Leonardi floor  
S facade - Shot-last  
E Steps 2, 3, 4, (5), 6, 7 - Sh. 01-last  
W facade - Palido, Blanco, Sh. 01-last

Fill walls 1-6

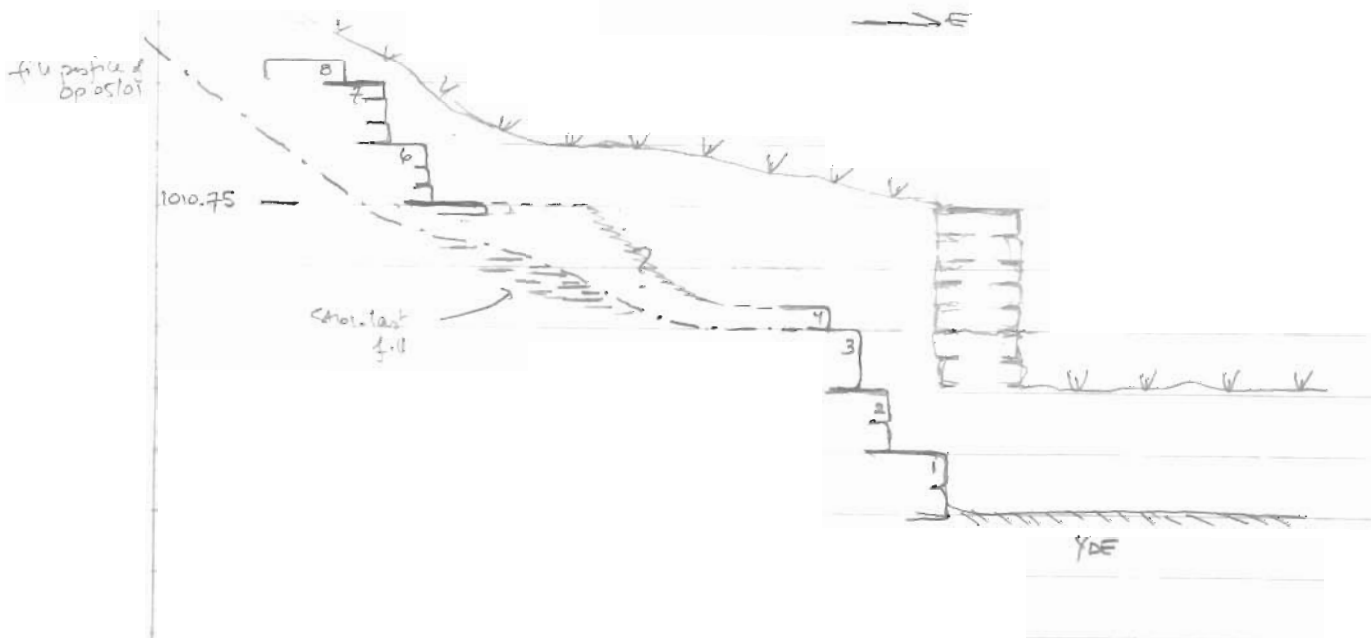
Fill bins 1-4





03/26/2006

Excavation at S-001 seems to be revealing a great deal of ~~unpreserved~~ unexpected preserved architecture along the E facade. It is clear now from Op 05/12 excavations, that the final phase of construction of Str. 01 - E facade was better preserved than originally thought.



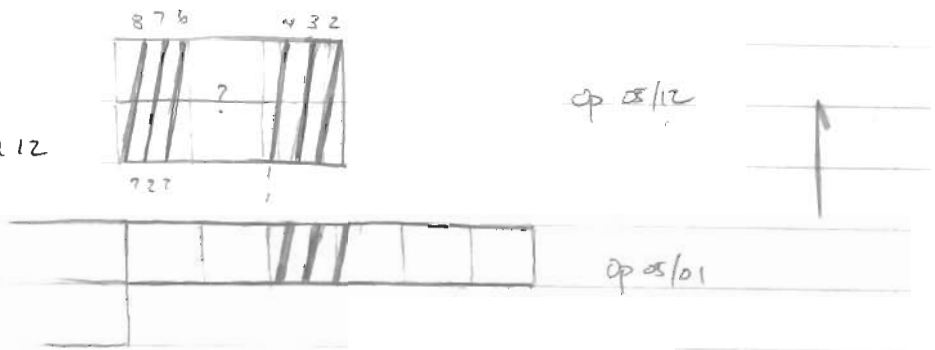
Excavations in Op 05/12 show that above Step 4 there is a ca 2m wide region of exposed fill, robbed-out architecture, and unseen disturbance that suggest the end of the preserved Str. 01 - last phase. Until 2006, all Op 05 excavations along the E facade have revealed YDE abutting 3-4 steps of what was ~~thought~~ thought to be the only part of Str. 01 - last that had been preserved.

→ However, JER's Op 05/12 excavations have proved otherwise.  
 1. 2004, excavation of Op 05/01 exposed the E facade of Str. 01 ca. 2-3 m south of Op 05/12. The excavation found 3 (not 4) lower

2006-2-17

steps and in some of the Mr. 01-last architecture. From the 3rd step westward, the excavation revealed only compacted fill that was interpreted as fill of Mr. 01-last. No evidence of higher steps (6-8) were revealed. Only the rough outline of the fill was revealed. Now, at the same E-W line (ca. ), Op 05/12 is finding other steps. How can this anomaly be explained?

In the side sketch, the plan of Ops 05/01 and 12 suggest the continuity between Steps 1-3 and discontinuity of Steps 4-8



needs some explanation. It is likely that Step 4 was just not well preserved. However, Steps 6-8 cannot be explained as easily. If the 6-8 steps continue on southward, then Op 05/01 either 1) missed the steps entirely, 2) found the exposed fill of destroyed steps, or 3) found evidence that the 6-8 steps end/terminate between Op 05/01 and 05/12.

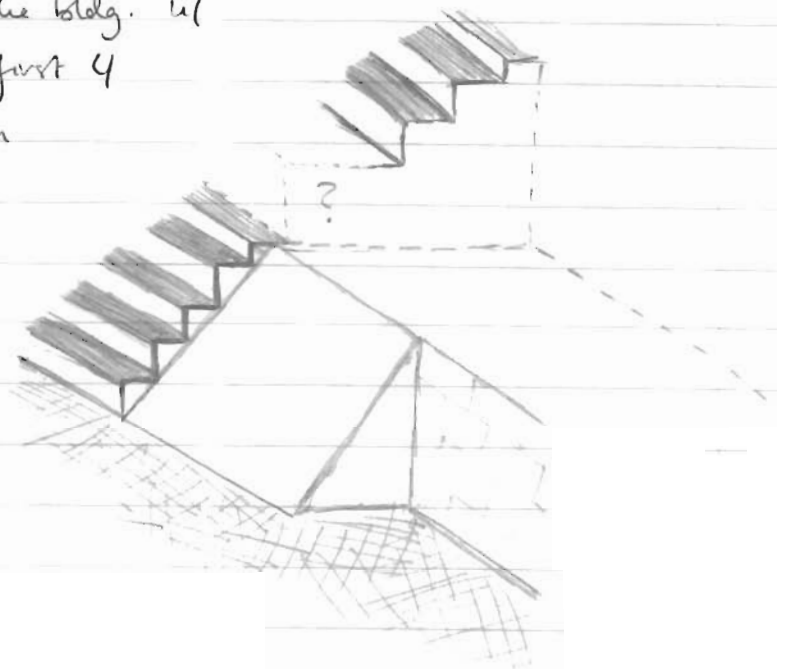
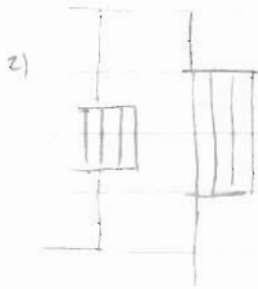
Excavation to the south of 05/12, in the area connecting the 2 Sops, should reveal which of the ~~following~~ scenarios is most likely.

Why does there exist a space (marked with a "?" in the above sketch) without any clearly preserved architecture between Steps 4 and 6? There seem to be several possible explanations for this anomaly.

1) there existed some platform/terrace landing that has simply fallen apart, or 2) this area was exposed for 80 years while the town was being settled (1890-1970) and was the source of stone for modern construction.

Steps 1-3/4 were likely buried by natural processes and therefore left Steps 4 and above exposed to the first settlers of EP. In fact, the old (modern) wall along the E facade of M<sub>101</sub> might have been built with stones robbed out of the Steps 4/5 level.

Do the upper steps 6-8 simply extend the stairs up the E facade of the bldg. w/ the same amplitude as the first 4 steps N-S? Or, do the upper steps extend ~~to~~ upward in a more restricted staircase



In other words, does the N facade of the upper steps (marked w/ "?") run the same line as the lower 4 steps<sup>(#1)</sup>, or does it run a more southerly line, creating a more restricted upper stairway<sup>(#2)</sup>?

03-07-2006

Today the excavations in EP continue in the 4 main Sops around M. 01. We have decided that John Compton (#28) will eventually work at EP replacing Jorge Gamboa (#4) and expanding research into Pablos 2 and 3.

SRR should be revealing on the E side whether the upper steps continue southward or not.

Excavations today are showing that the upper steps of M. 01 - last E facade do NOT continue much further S than the S limit of Op 05/12. While this fact is somewhat welcomed (as it suggests that Op 05/01 did not, in fact, destroy steps as it removed the E facade of M. 01), this fact also leaves open whether the tractor destroyed some steps or a terrace that the steps abutted to.

Op 05/12's exposures southward will determine this question by revealing whether steps 6-8 terminate on a single S line or whether they are "cut" at different points creating a jagged southern termination that evinces the tractor's cutting action.

In Ops 05/10/11, Santiago is exposing some of the Blanco W-facade. Having exposed 3 W facades (Pablos, Blanco, M. 01 - last), Op 05/11 has not yet revealed the lowest layers on which the various terraces of each construction phase were built.

2006-2-20

The limiting factor on this W side is the water level. Outside of Mr. 01-Cust's w facade, water has begun to bubble upward. We have a pump, but excavation has been rendered rather complicated.

Santiago has also begun to excavate in Str. 01-last fill to reveal the BLANCO W-tenaces. The fill is like what has been seen elsewhere: dry pebble matrix-less Loose.

At the moment, both Palido / Blanco W tenaces are steep w/ short/small landings: that would have proved difficult to scale.

Santiago's excavations in front of the BLANCO W facade has revealed the existence of another landing w/ another facade.

Excavation will prove complicated here b/c water is also surging in this section of the Sop.



In Sop 05/09, excavations continue ~~to~~ following the Str. at east S facade. This excavation will help define how the S limit of Mr. 01 connected with the steps on the E side.

This unit is also designed to reveal how LUNARDI floor relates/integrates with the final and penultimate phases of Mr. 01. There is the possibility that LUNARDI / NUBEL / BLANCO are contemporary coming house with the architectural chronology thus far established.

03-08-2006

Excavations in EP will commence w/ an expansion along op 05/11 - expanding the 1m width to 2m. This expansion will allow Santiago to expose more of the Palido/Blanco/Str. 01. east W facades and better understand the level/floor/surface upon which they were built.

Op 05/09 will continue ~~to~~ E to encounter potential terrace facades parallel to NUBE.

Op 05/12 will further expose the upper stairs to the S to determine whether the upper stairs are as wide (N-S) as the lower steps.

It appears from first observations that these upper courses ~~are~~ <sup>termination</sup> seem to end, likely destroyed ~~by~~ by the tractor. While this ~~proves~~ <sup>proves</sup> op 05/01 ~~did not~~ <sup>did not</sup> destroy preserved steps, it does leave open the question of whether the upper stairs end or are destroyed.

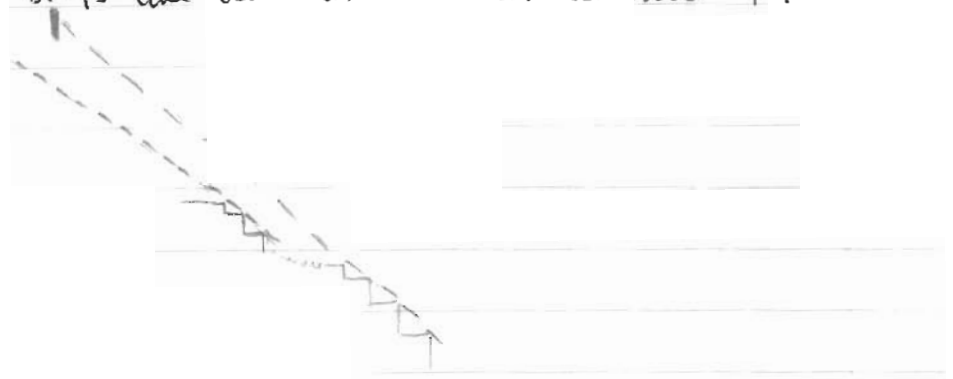
There is also another fantasy/possibility - center axis curved step in the upper steps. Op 05/12 is still too S to have expose the central axis of these upper steps - however, it will be important to do so.

- This afternoon John Crompton will join us at EP to map out the new unit extensions as well as help define his new units for his EP project. It is likely that he will focus on Pa 02/03 excavations aimed at gathering more archaeological data from the main residents of the site. It is also possible that he will cut into any red-splashed/stained area on the plaster floors of EP.

2006-2-22

Excavations are beginning to the S of the Op 05/12 S line. The upper steps do NOT continue further S to the Op 05/01 unit. However, there is not enough evidence yet to say how these upper steps terminate. What seems clear now however, is that the lower steps have a different angle (grade) than the upper ones.

The lower steps are angled to fit "well" with the small portion of exposed/surviving St. 01-Last E facade. The upper steps do not align along that gradient, nor do they constitute a continuous/parallel gradient. Perhaps, then, the steps are inset in the upper terraces. Moreover, the terrace exposure would also suggest that the upper steps are not as wide as the lower 4.

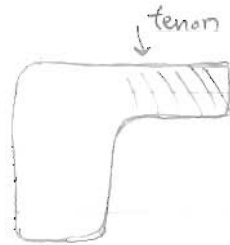


Op 05/10 and Op 05/11 - excavations are exposing more of BLANCO W fac.

In the post 3pm afternoon EFB, MAL, and John/Erland went to map at EP. This mapping was designed to lay out Op 06/11-12 for Compton, update the unit expansions of Op 05/09, 12, and re-map some of Op 05/12 architectural features.

Upon arrival, SEM and JRA reported finding sculpted tobe in Op 05/09 to the S of the M. 01- last S facade. SEM had done a plan drawing and was about to remove the piece when we arrived.

It is a tenoned piece that probably jutted out from the



building facade given its curved front section. It is clearly part of a larger mosaic since the design is not complete. As drawn, the piece's front side would be oriented "down" relative to the tenon. It could also be oriented "up", placing the round dots/balls on the left of the half-circle/Cantouche.

If oriented with the tongue-section pointing upwards, the 3 circles and the larger half Cantouche could compose a parrot-head eye (the same element in the ak'ot/dance glyph).

There are other pieces of tobe unrecovered from the Op 05/09 unit, so there is some chance that a companion piece will be found in close proximity. Only more excavation along this side will help determine this.

The preservation of this piece is much better than those recovered on the E side along the lower 4 steps. It is clear that these pieces on the S side were not as eroded b/c they were not located along a water-damage route.



2006-2-24

It is possible, therefore, that this side has ~~more~~ more blocks of sculpted tbc that sport this type/level of preservation.

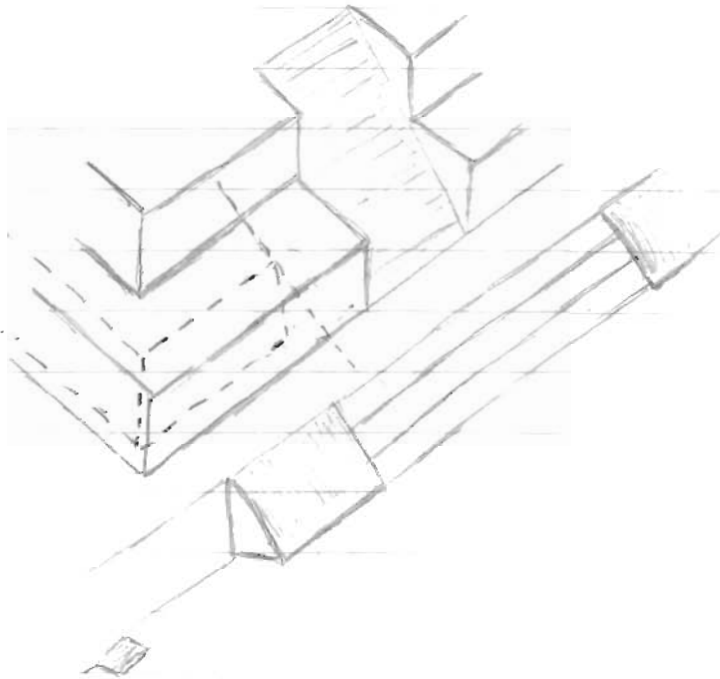
This piece was recovered within the fallen wall of Str. 01- East S facade. It seems to have fallen from further above, perhaps the Platform's superstructure, AFTER the S facade was collapsing. There are more tbc stones directly on the LUNARDI floor, so there is likely to be some mixing of superstructure collapse with substructure collapse.

03-09-2006

Excavations today will continue to the S and E of M. 01. After the discovery of some canned toba in Op 05/09 yesterday afternoon, Op 05/09 will be focused on to ensure that all/any more pieces of canned toba are recovered.

Moreover, Op 05/12 will be extended N and S in order to better contextualize architecturally the upper steps of the E facade. There is still the chance that the upper steps contain some decorative element along/shedding the central axis. Op 05/12 unit's extension N will expose this section today.

Moreover, as for the S limit of the upper steps, it seems as if they do terminate in a line, suggesting that they were NOT as wide as the lower 4 steps.



03-21-2006

Excavations in EP today began w/ the addition of John Coulson's excavations in Pa 03. John C. has left excavation of S-002-M-10 to Raquel and has begun to expose the Str. 05/09 Corner in Pa 03. The hope is that the NW corner of Pa 03 will have a large accumulation of sherds/artifacts concentrated there by the flooding action of the Q. Rosario

→ John's excavations are Op 06/11; 06/12

09 05/12

In the excavations to the E of Mr. 01, Robert continues to follow Steps 6-8 Northward. We have already passed the center axis of the structure and no ornamental architectural feature has been revealed. Op 05/12 will continue N to expose the stairs 6-8 until their termination, which is now thought to coincide w/ the termination of the lower 1-4 steps.

At the base of Step 6, many small pieces of tba, and a larger curved ("beak") piece ~~were~~ recovered.

Discussion today of this Suroq centered around the eventual location of the architectural probe to expose the lower floor SAPPER and define its relationship to BLANCO/Str. 01-1a. To accomplish this, it is most likely that a 2m probe will be located to the W of Step 4 and E of Step 6 in the "no-man's-land" area that connects the lower with the upper steps. Since that one has been so altered and robbed of original stone,

2006-2-27

it would seem the most ~~appropriate~~ appropriate area for a final phase-cutting prod. Moreover, the N extension of Op 05/12 is also designed to ~~determine~~ determine whether this area between Steps 4 and 6 is still preserved.

Op 05/09

To the S of M. 01, in excavation SubOp 05/09, Soubirgo will be numbering, photographing, and removing jettor M.01-final-S-facade stones. This S-facade has been heavily altered both by natural ~~processes~~ processes as well as tractor-scapes. It has therefore fallen out of position; ~~and~~ this state of preservation ~~creates~~ creates a problem for any excavation designed to "follow" the wall's orientation.

Soubirgo will therefore have to remove some of the articulated tumble to the S of M.01-final-S-facade to expose the lower in-situ courses that remain.

We will also expose some of the Blanco-S-facade by extending the excavations to the W. There is some lower (3?) course rustic wall abutting the Blanco facade that will be further exposed in this extension W.

Op 05/10 - 05/11

As for the excavations W of M. 01, the water-table problem has become difficult. It seems unlikely that we will be able to pump out as much water as what seeps in - leaving us with a permanent standing-water problem in the unit.

2006-2-28

03-22-2005

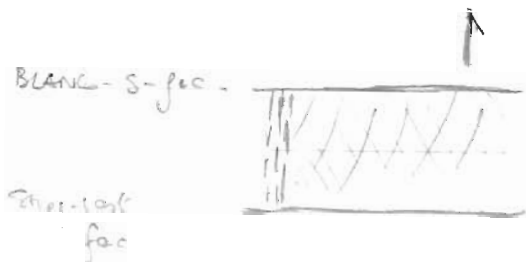
Excavations continue on the E/W and S sides of M. 01.

John C. has also commenced work in T-03; yesterday he recovered a great deal of modern material, even recent ceramics (Chinese?).

Today Senkrip decided to continue op 05/09 on both E and W.

He is following the BRANCO facade to the W on the LUNARDI floor.

Most of the fill to the S of BRANCO S fac. has been a loose matrix-less pebbly fill. To the W, SEM found a N/S wall that abuts the S fac. of BRANCO that is composed of the Sn. 01 cast phase stonies. Could this be a fire wall that enclosed the loose pebbly fill S of BRANCO?

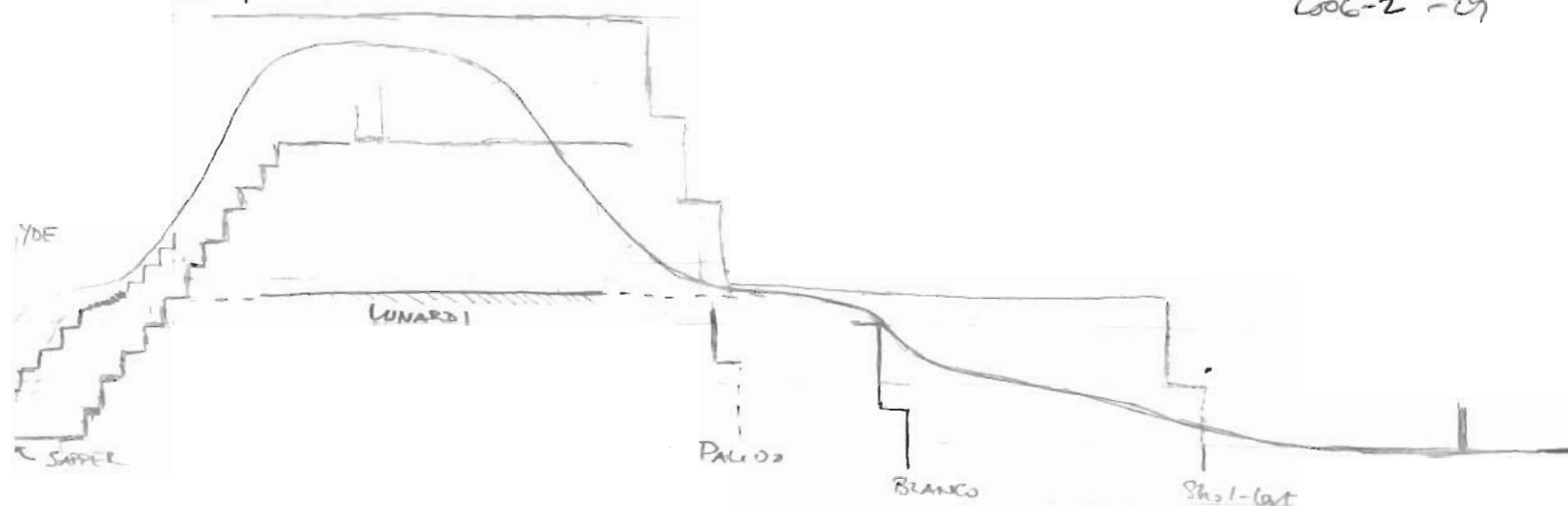


This wall is built on LUNARDI floor.

To the E

03-29-2006

2006-2-09



Elevation check this morning w/ Seahags revealed some interesting possible correlations among some of the architectural features revealed in Ops 05/09, 05/10, 05/11.

It would appear that LUNARDI's elevation ca. 1010.2m coincides with the top of Step 4 of M. 01-last.

1010.20m	Lunardi floor:
1009.95	Top of Blanco W terrace:
1009.55	Top of Palios W terrace:
1010.16	Top Step 4

Step 4 has been mostly destroyed, losing 1-2 courses for much of its length; however if reconstructed, its landing would be at ca. 1010.25m. This elevation is consistent w/ the LUNARDI floor to the S of M. 01-last - S facade.

This coincidence suggests that Step 4/Lunardi compose a landing that surrounds the S and E facades of M. 01. This would also ~~involve~~ involve

the irregular Step 4 → Step 6 area exposed by Roberts in Op 05/12 meaning that Steps 1-4 are a flight of stairs from Pa 01 floor to a LUNARDI/NUBE terrace landing, from which a second flight of stairs commences that lead up to Sh. 01 - summit.

The disarticulation (architecturally) of Steps 1-4, from Steps 6-9 also suggests that LUNARDI, NUBE, STEPS 1-4, the TACUD Slope are all constructed earlier (when BLANCO was still exposed, for instance). No intervening architecture between NUBE and LUNARDI has been revealed (yet?) that would allow for some phases to be inserted among the

- Steps 1-4
- LUNARDI
- NUBE
- TACUD slope

set of architectural features.

If these 4 features (SILIN/T) are contemporaneous with one another, ~~they are also~~ they are also NOT contemporaneous with Sh. 01 - last's construction (Steps 6-9, S facade). What does this imply about EP's development?

Most immediately, the plaster floor - LUNARDI is associated with BLANCO and possibly PALIDO. These features suggest that EP had a Copan connection from the beginning of its existence. It was graced with architectural and spatial features and attributes typical of a Copan-affiliated site from its earlier phases. Therefore, the last phase of construction at EP was NOT a remodeling alteration of the site's organization or style. Perhaps it was magnified and further elaborated,

but its basic patterns/characteristics were rooted in a long-standing affiliation w/ Copan. This integration w/ Copan is buttressed by the ceramic evidence as well. What will be important for analysis is the material recovered on LUNARDI floor to the S of the final phase terrace. This material is final occupation phase of the Shor/04 area and should be comparable w/ the above-Lottorp material, to the W of Sh. 01.

The one characteristic/feature that remains ~~exclusively~~ exclusively associated w/ the final phase of Sh. 01 is architectural sculpture. Although few pre-final phase contexts on Sh. 01 have been explored, there is little indication of sculpted facades in BLANCO/PALDO. This pattern may not hold, and eventually sculpted facades for BLANCO/PALDO will be found; however, for now it is possible to suggest that the final phase of Sh. 01 was characterized by a new sculpted facade program. TOBA is NOT limited to the final phase, however.

Op 05/09

Excavation to the South of Sh. 01 has revealed a floor cut of LUNARDI that runs N/S. The floor cut is west of LUNARDI. The floor cut runs underneath the BLANCO facade, which suggests that BLANCO was built long after LUNARDI was laid down. Could ~~the~~ LUNARDI have seen land w/ PALDO phase? likewise, why was BLANCO built immediately the floor cut leaving a portion of it exposed?

Excavation will progress S to expose the LUNARDI floor to the S of the final phase of Sh. 01 - this excavation will see if the cut continues S.



April 10, 2006

Excavations in El Paraiso have continued successfully for the past week. Some of the original questions regarding the architecture have been addressed, but some of the ~~still~~ same first posed unknowns remain.

1) Floor cut in Op 05/09 - LUNARDI

This floor cut seems to continue across the southern facades of both BLANCO and Mr. 01-final. This fact suggests that the floor was not cut ~~between~~ <sup>after</sup> BLANCO and Mr. 01 final.

Why would the floor be cut after BLANCO - and then allowed to stay cut after the construction of Mr. 01-last?

Further probing below BLANCO facade proves that LUNARDI was cut BEFORE BLANCO facade! In other words, the construction of Mr. 01-last straddling LUNARDI's cut was a replication of BLANCO's construction. LUNARDI was ~~not~~ laid and then cut before BLANCO was even constructed.

a) Was ~~the~~ LUNARDI cut at all? Could it have simply eroded?  
If so, why did it erode in such a straight N-S line?  
Why only in that section of the site?

b) Did something - some architectural feature - get ripped out before BLANCO's construction? If so, they countenanced an area w/out plaster floor for 2 construction phases - allowing an exposed area to act as the SW access to the site.

Q Did they simply end the construction of LUNARDI to the S as an example of the barrier (limit) of the elite space to the E/N?

Plaster flooring as a boundary marker would be consistent with many other potential diacritic markers of identity, suggesting that there was some formalization of space as well as access control AND usual cues of separation.

Lithupfoss, in fact, does not extend many meters W of M.09, suggesting that Patio 2 was not a critical/emphasized space. The LUNARDI edge might reflect a similar de-emphasis of the W/SW sides of the site. What is curious about this pattern, however, is that the W facade of M.01 would have been the most visible and potentially ostentatious part of the construction. We know that BLANCO's superstructure faced E, inwardly. Would this site have literally turned its back to the valley?

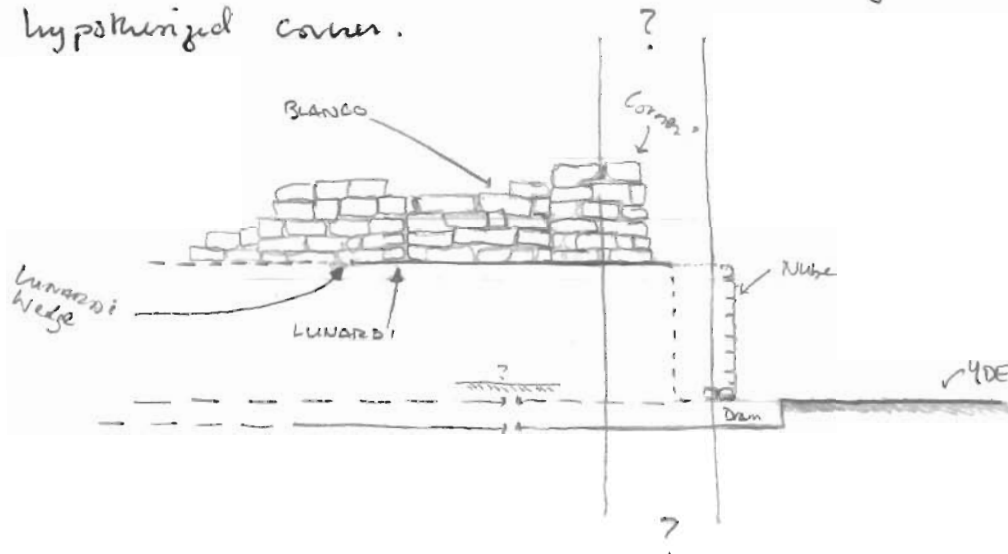
It is likely that Sns 5/9 and perhaps M.8 were heavily decorated with bbe sculpture. Perhaps they would have represented the Snos's of Rio Anticillo with EP's Sh.01 as a non-public fr-local-consumption bldg. that was not meant to be extensive but intensive. Perhaps the E-wind / inward focus of M.01 would result in the architectural de-emphasis of Sh.01's W and SW facades and corners.

## 2) Drain (Nube / yde and LUNARDI

Excavation to the E in Op 05/09 is revealing more LUNARDI floor leading directly to the NUBE facade. Given what we have revealed about LUNARDI's relationship w/ BLANCO and St. 01-Last, we have had to reconsider the YDE/NUBE/DRAIN date.

As mentioned earlier in the notes, if there is no facade between the E West of Op 05/09 and NUBE, it will be clear that LUNARDI was built w/ NUBE (and by association YDE and DRAIN). If this is the case then EP was built with a spatial plan fully framed with subsequent constructions following an original scheme.

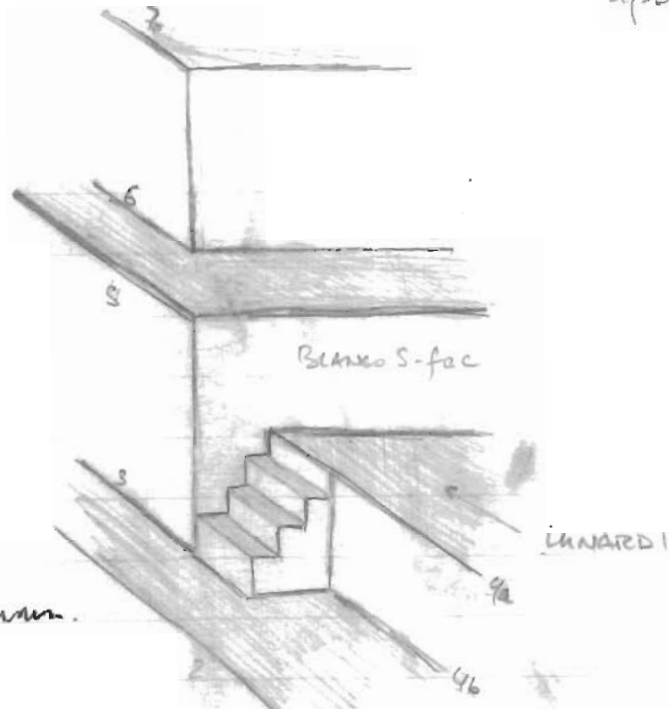
The drawing below suggests some possibilities based on what is currently known. St. 01-Last is NOT shown though it coincides w/ BLANCO though perhaps will continue further E than BLANCO's hypothesized corner.



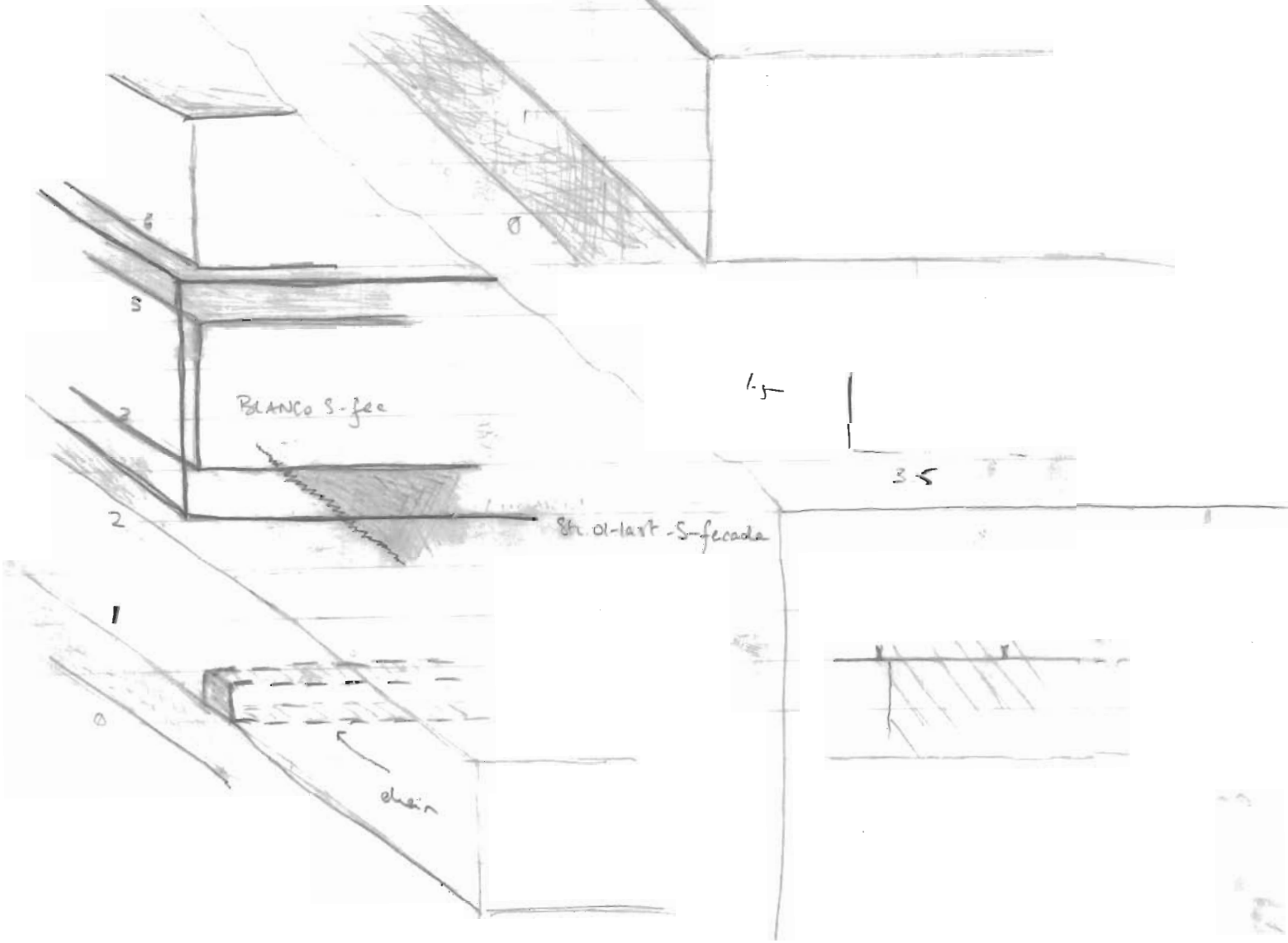
2006-2-35  
apogonotics

Two potential scenarios for the line to the S of BLANCO and the floor cut.

Top scenario, the floor is not cut, rather ends at stairs; excavation in floor cut area will help determine this version.



4a - floor cut - as facade



7006-2-36



POP

5/22/54

5/22/54

VIDE

1850

SAMPOR

Handwritten notes and scribbles on the right side of the page, including a large "3" and other illegible markings.