

Should The Aigai Palace be more highlighted due to its’ direct and significant involvement in Greek History?

Historical Significance

>The palace was constructed under the reign of Philip II, between 350 and 336 BC.

>Located in the original capital of Macedon Prior to Pella, it was originally perceived by historians, to only serve as the king’s residence.

>Since these understandable misinterpretations, it has been realised the most prominent use was instead a public space that housed structures of Royal authority.

>It has been argued that the Aigai palace has served as the base-model for Hellenistic palaces, throughout Alexander the great’s territories, which in itself shows the significant impact which the palace has had, regarding the Hellenistic era.

>The official Macedonian heritage website still presents the first-thought assumption regarding purpose of The Palace.

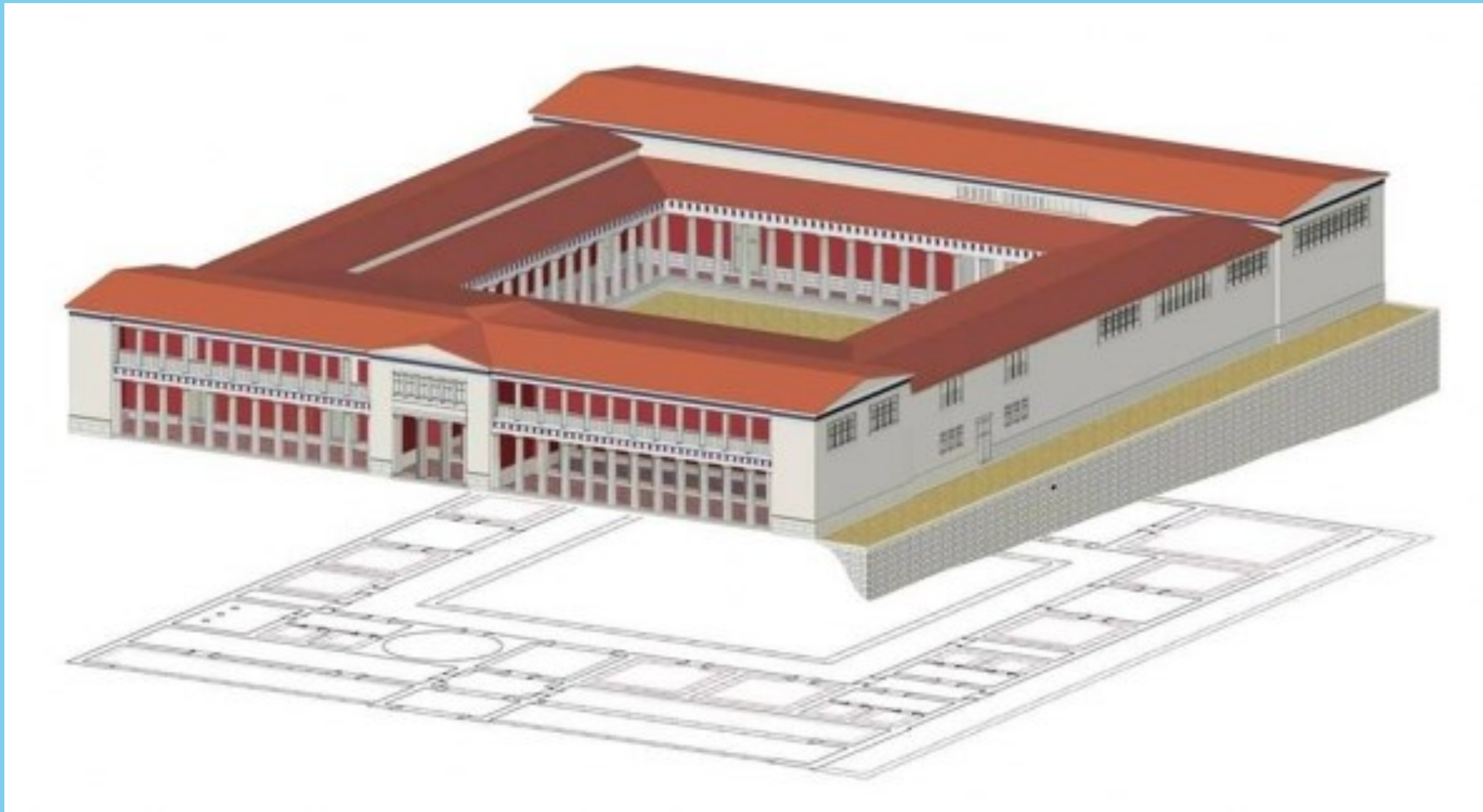
>The whole building was part of Phillip II’s program of reconstruction and urbanisation, which constitutes the architectural formulation of the enlightened despotism dogma.



Archaeology and Layout

>One online source states the palace appeared to have been destroyed by a natural disaster around 1 AD.

>The Ephorate of Prehistoric and classical antiquities has undertaken an integral study to in turn, undertake a restoration of the site, providing an accurate representation to visi-



>Presently, the palace walls have been restored to a height of 1.6 meters and the mosaics on the hall floors have been fully uncovered. The full resorted area measures over 12, 500 square metres, which gives a sense of the large scale. The palace was roughly three times larger than the Parthenon.

>The layout reproduces on a grand scale the plan of the ancient Greek 'oikia' (house) with an inner peristyle (columned courtyard) surrounded by rooms.

Argument

>Surprisingly, regarding restoration or general archaeological development, there have been few online updates since 2014. Granted it’s a slow development, but arguably as a site rival-ling the Parthenon, there should be as much professional analysis.

> The official Macedonian heritage website is out of date re-garding the previously mentioned misconceptions, which shows a lack of professionalism related to accuracy among promoters of the archaeological site.

>It should also be said there is a lack of moderns scholarship specifically about The Aigai palace, which is concerning con-sidering the importance of the site.

>It is likely that Phillip II would have resided or set foot in the palace on the day of his death in Aigai, which in itself is quite a haunting thought; the transfer of power to Alexander after his father’s death can be directly related to this site.

>Concluding, it seems the lack of publication regarding the site is due to the lack of evidence and primary material giving sufficient context to the site. However from an academic point of view, this is the second most important archaeological site in Greece, so there should be more discussion.

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