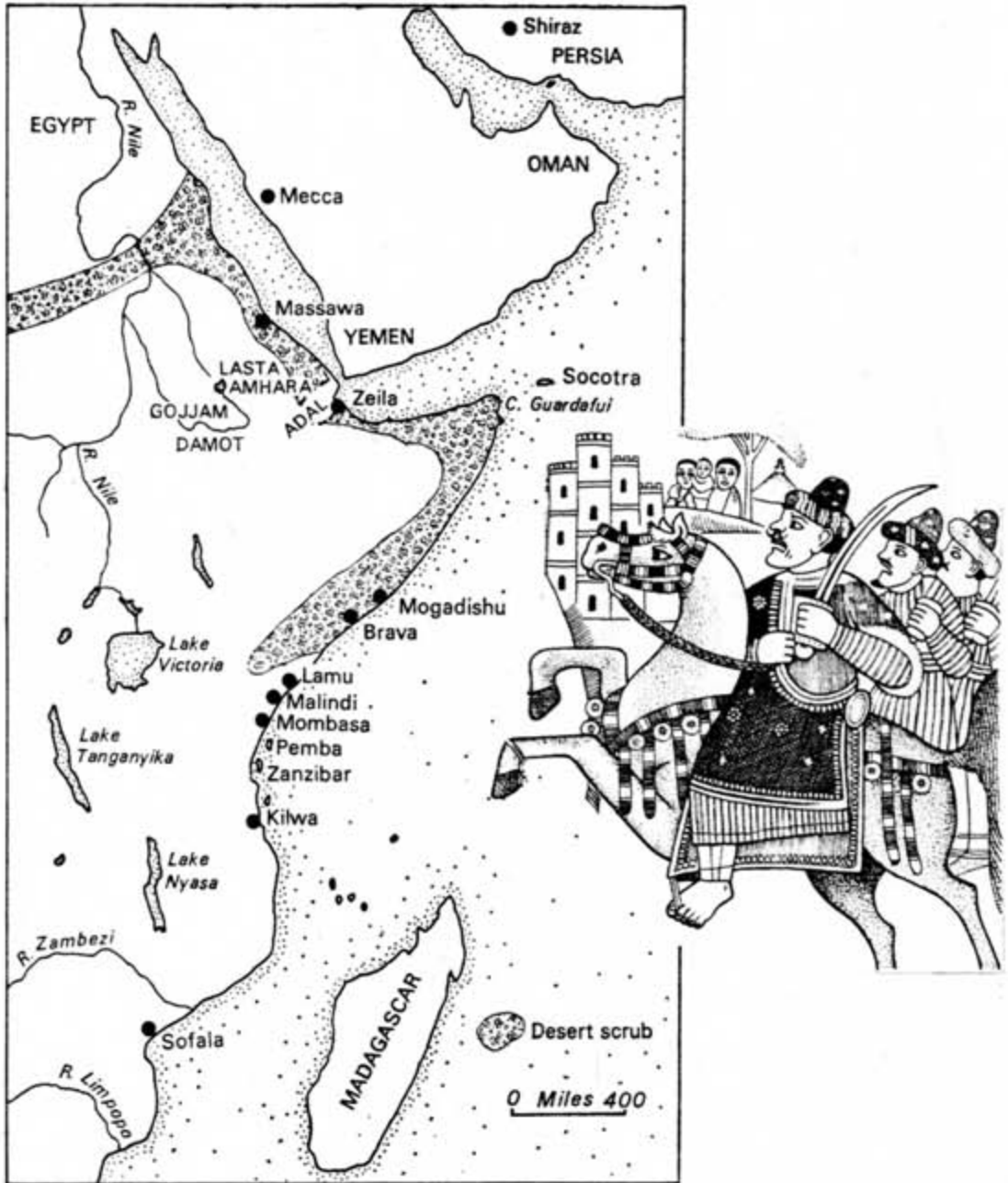


Gondar

Islam (16th century)

- After the rise of Islam Ethiopia was isolated for 100 years from the outer world= the surrounding belt of desert
- Mohammed Grag= made devastating invasions in 1527-1543= destroyed the Architectural heritages of the middle ages of Ethiopia



East Africa-Islam and Trade

Islam+ the Portugese (1520-1550)

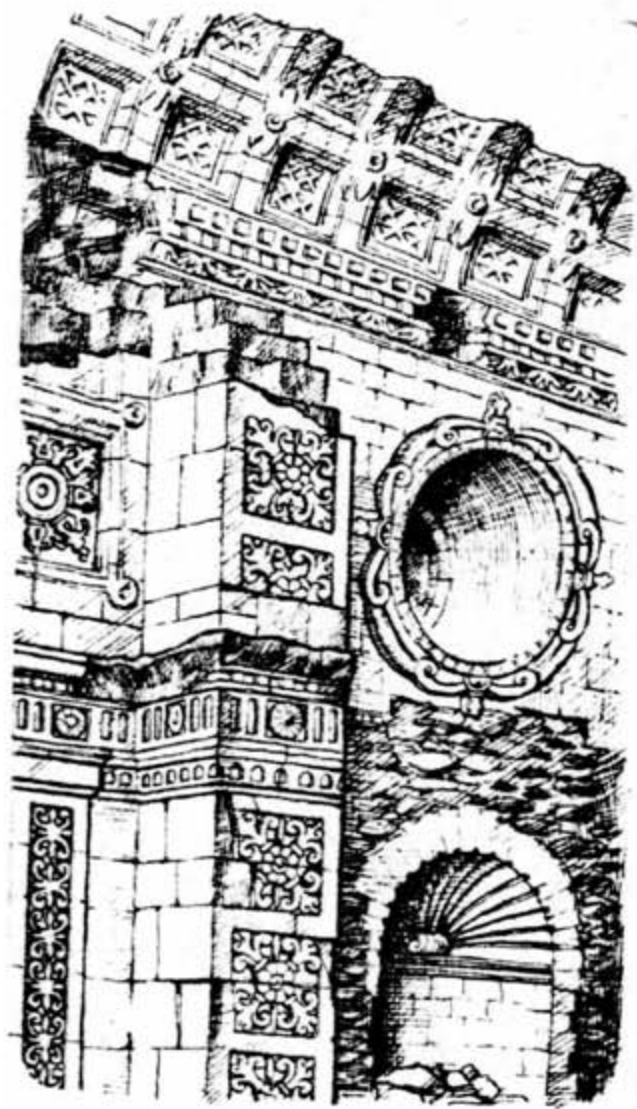
- The portugese assisted Christian Ethiopia against Musilim forces
- The battles were partly fought with firearms on both sides; the Musilim side acquiring weapons from the Turks
- The full impact of superior weapons & other technological innovations did not, however, reach Ethiopia until 300 years later

Building Art of the Portuguese & the Jesuits

- Relative peace = after the death of Ahmed Gagn in 1543
- The portugese assisted in construction also Indians brought from Portugese colony
- They taught
- The arts of burning lime
- Preparing good mortar
- Constructing true arches (ex bridges of lake Tana0

Building Art of the Portuguese & the Jesuits (1550-1630)

- Jesuit missionaries (the first third of the 17th century)= their base “Fremona” near Adwa
- The style is more local in character not contemporary Baroque (ex Gorgora on the shore of Lake Tana supervised by Pero Pais, a Spanish jesuit)

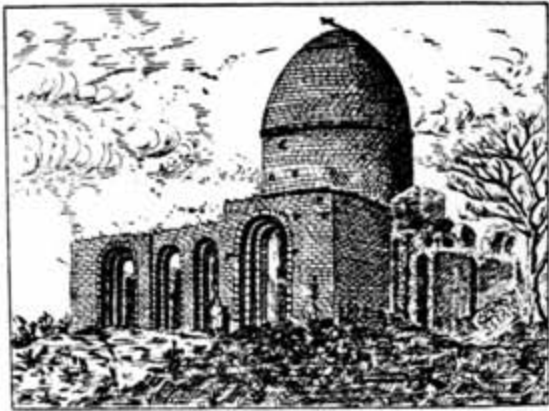


Early Structures of the “Gondar Style” 16th century

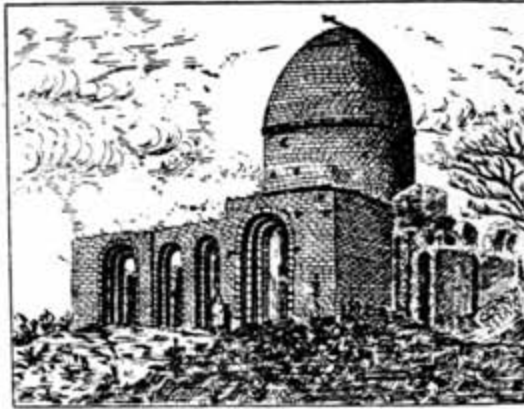
- ▶ The early structures that have a particular style than the castles & churches itself
- **Palace of Guzara** (60 km from Gondar, 1570, permanent seat of the Ethiopian Government)
- **The church of Barye Gimb**



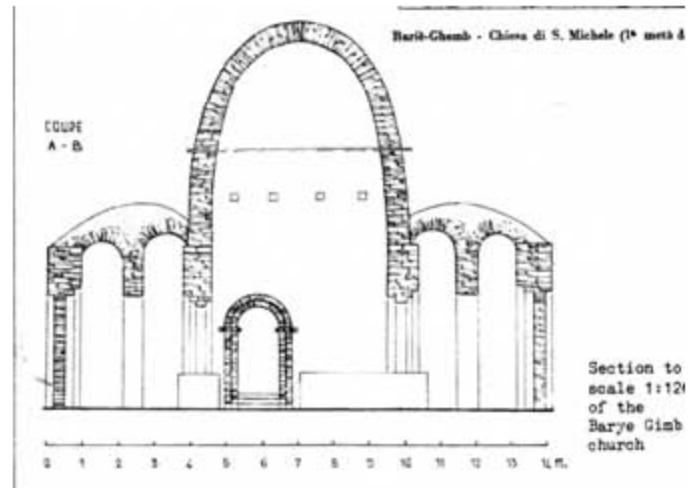
Castello di Guzarà - Regno di Serza Denghel (1563-1597)



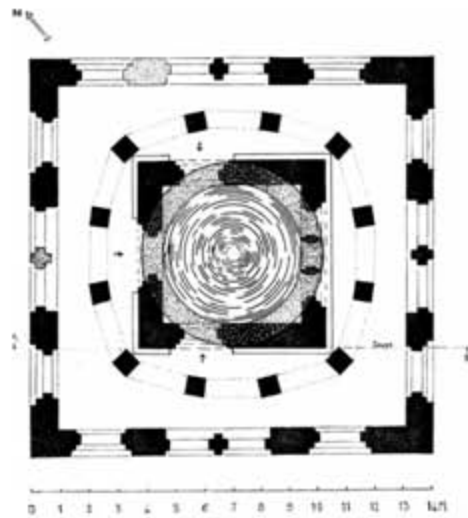
Bariè-Ghemb - Chiesa di S. Michele (1^a metà del sec. XVI)



Bari-Ghemb - Chiesa di S. Michele (1^a metà del sec. X



The Mikael Church of Barye Gimb



Plan de l'église Mikael de Bari-Ghemb.

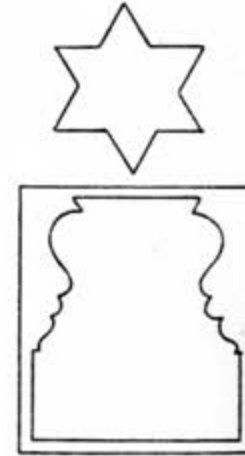
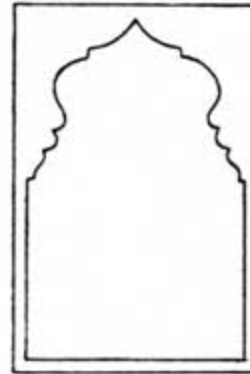
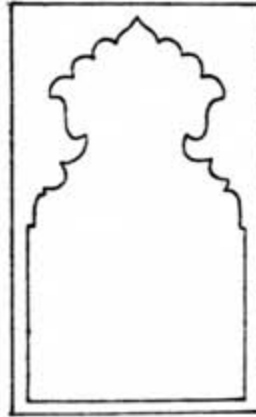
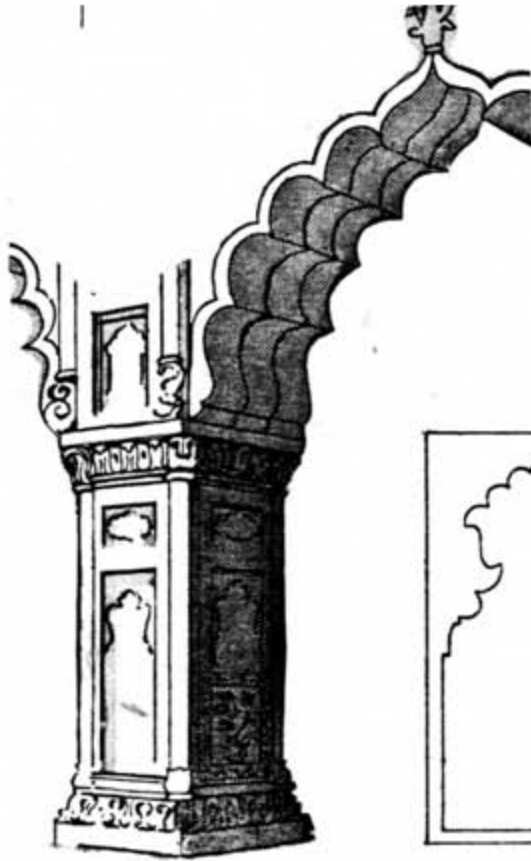
The Gondar Period, after 1630

- The reason to build new capital of Gondar at a place rather far to the north= invasion of nomadic people from the south

Fasiladas' Palace

- The main façade of the first & most solidly built palace at Gondar is one of the most well known architectural pictures of Ethiopia
- Some wall niches have ornamental shapes of Oriental character with parallels in the Islamic world

SHAPES OF ARCHES CHARACTERISTIC OF ARCHITECTURE
in the Islamic world, compare e.g. the
pillar of an Indian palace in the sketch
on the left.



Fasil Gimb



Fasil Gimb



Fasil Gimb



Fasil Gimb



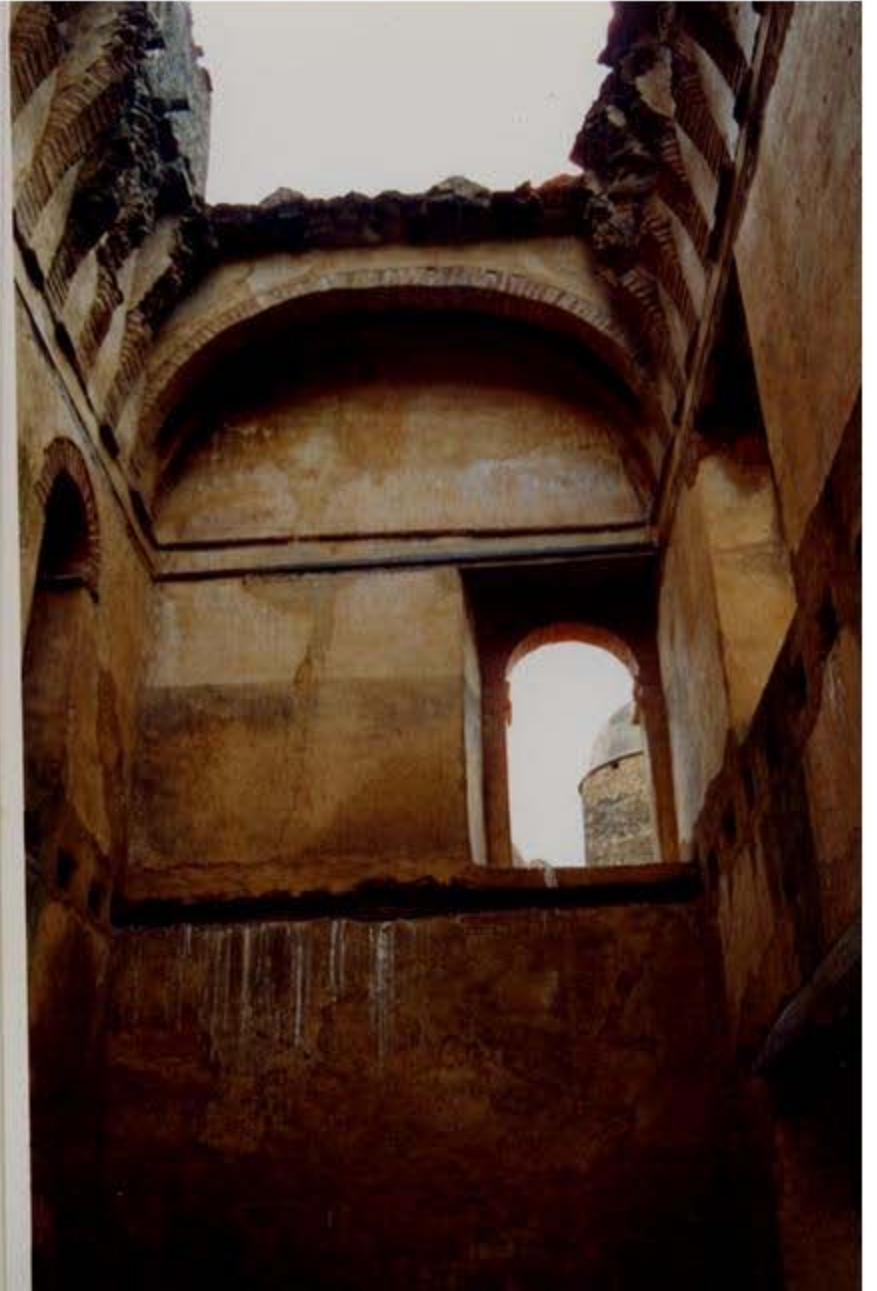
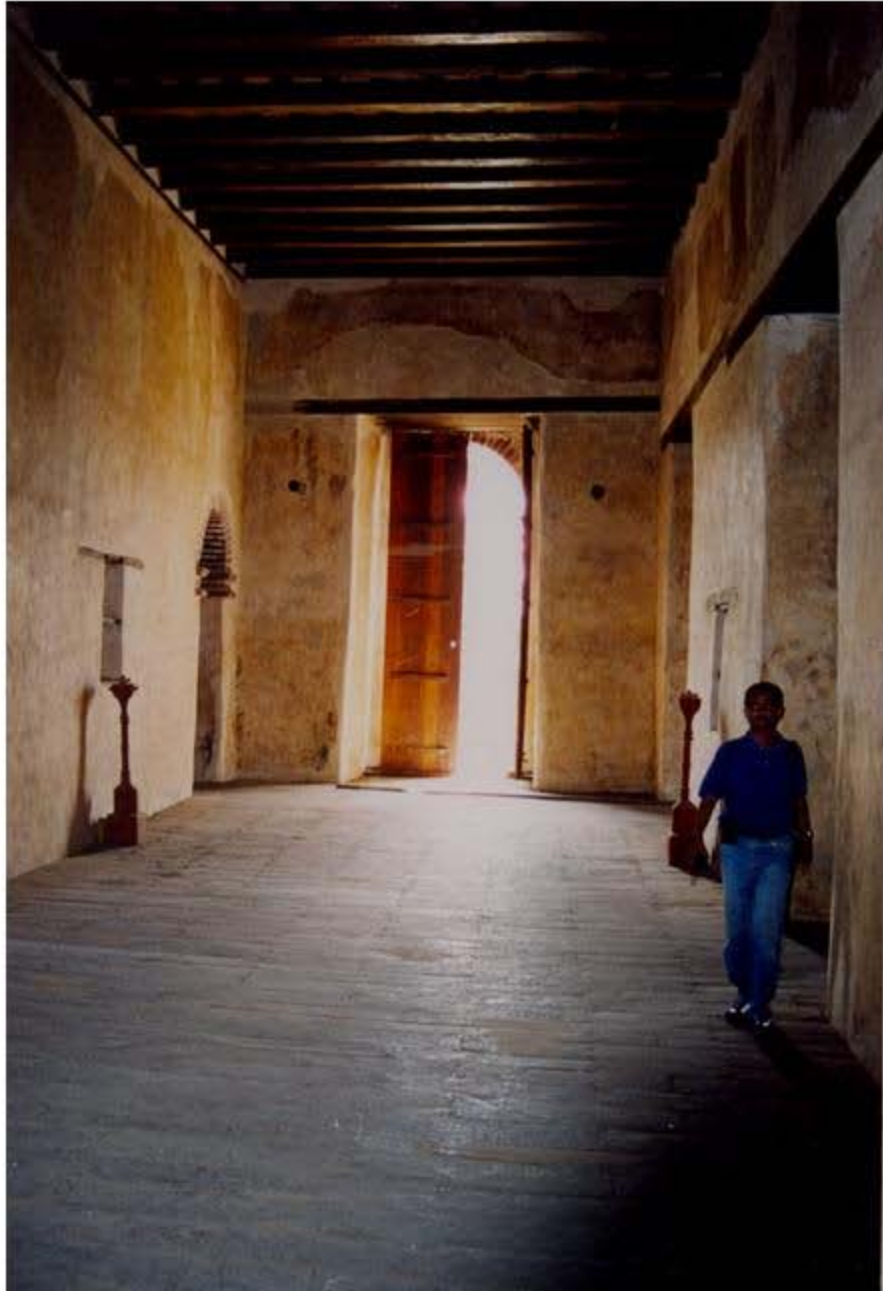
Fasil Gimb



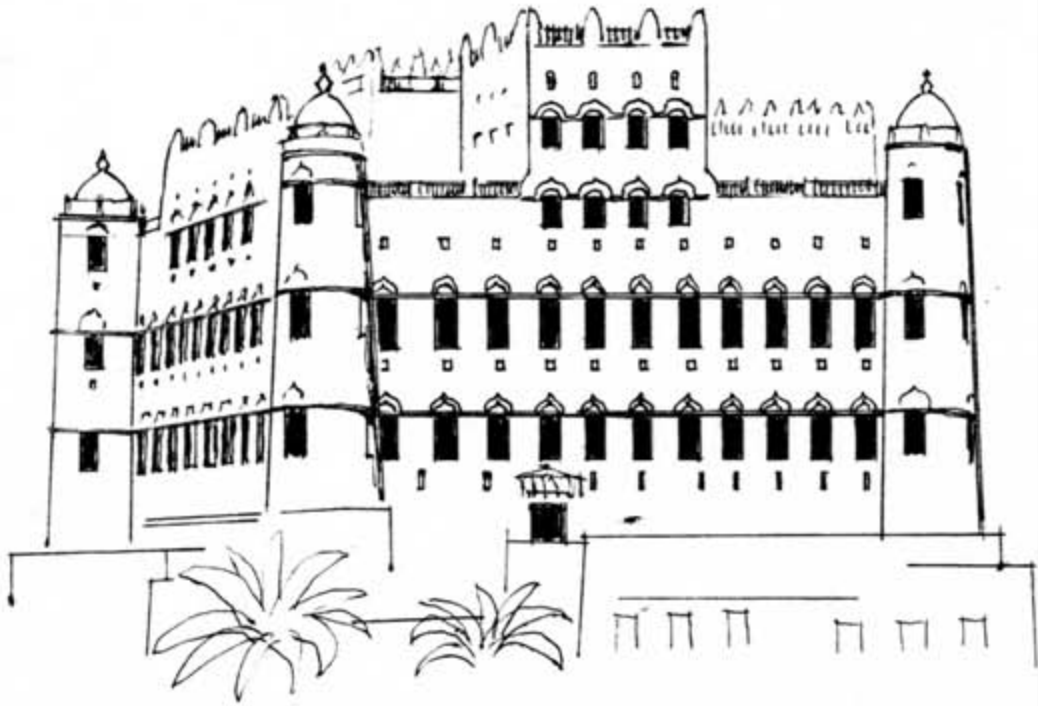
Fasil Gimb /spaces/



Fasil Gimb /spaces/



Connections with the East



- Similarities b/n the Christian palaces in Gondar & Islamic architecture in Southern Arabia have been observed

Connections with the East

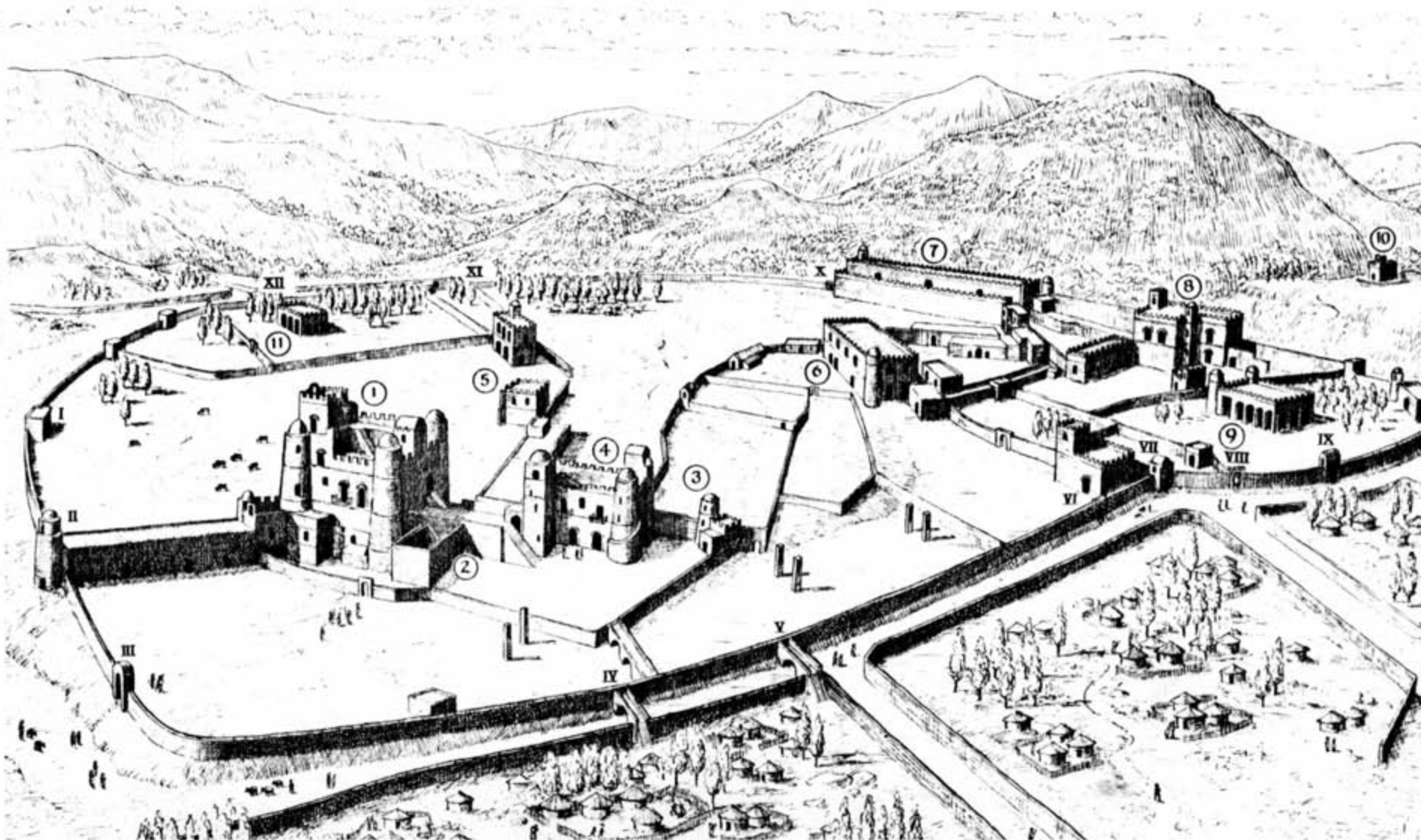
- Fasiladas employed Indian as his chief architects
- Connections as far as India may seem remote, some indirect influence through traded objects of art & handicraft & through individual Indians is quite possible
- Northern India had its greatest period of Indo-Islamic architecture (1540-1660) one century earlier than Gondar arc

1. Palace of Fasiladas
2. Bath of Fasiladas
3. Small palace of Fasiladas
4. Palace of Iyasu I

5. Library of Tsadik Yohannes
6. House of Song of Dawit III
7. Palace of Bakaffa
8. Small palace of Empress Mentuab

9. Church of Attami Qeddus Mikael
10. Castle of Ras Mikael Sehul
11. Ruins of the church of Gimjabet Mar.
- I-XII. The twelve gates of the compound

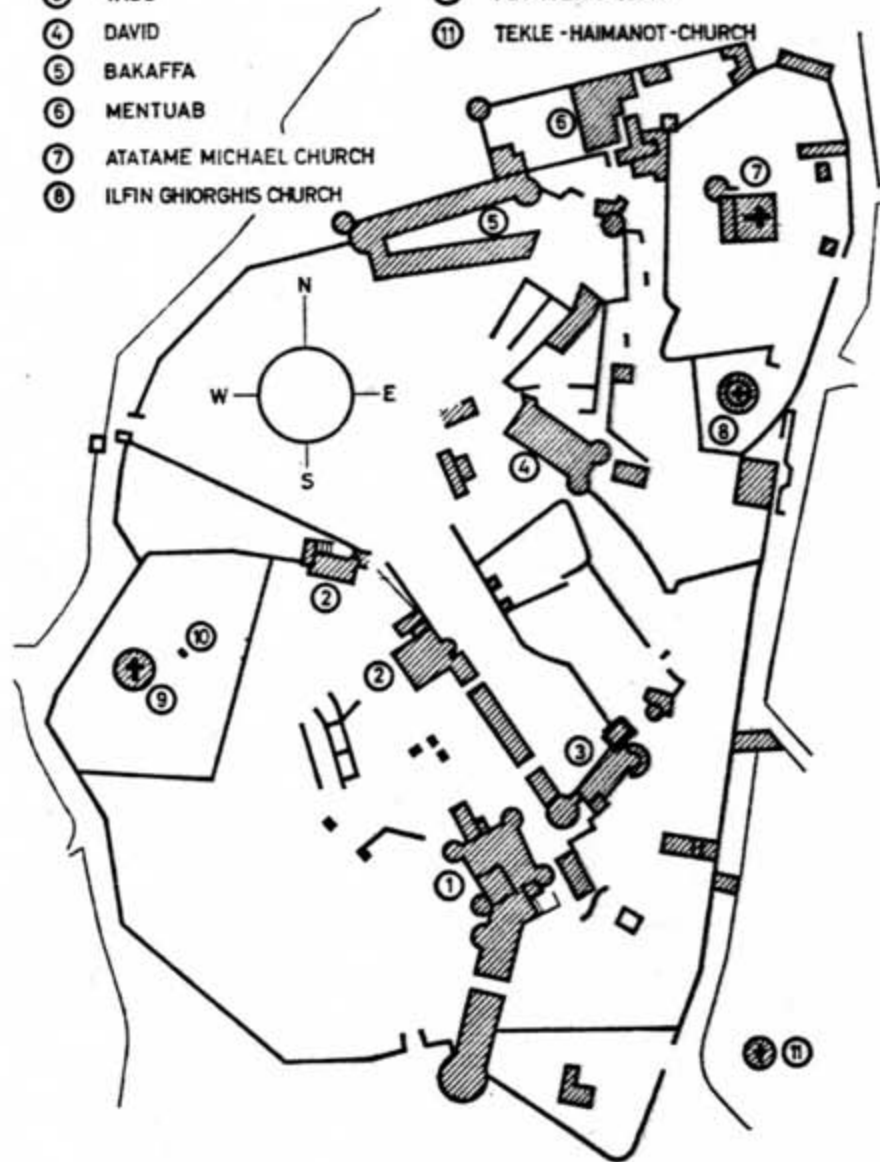
Picture redrawn by Eric Robson



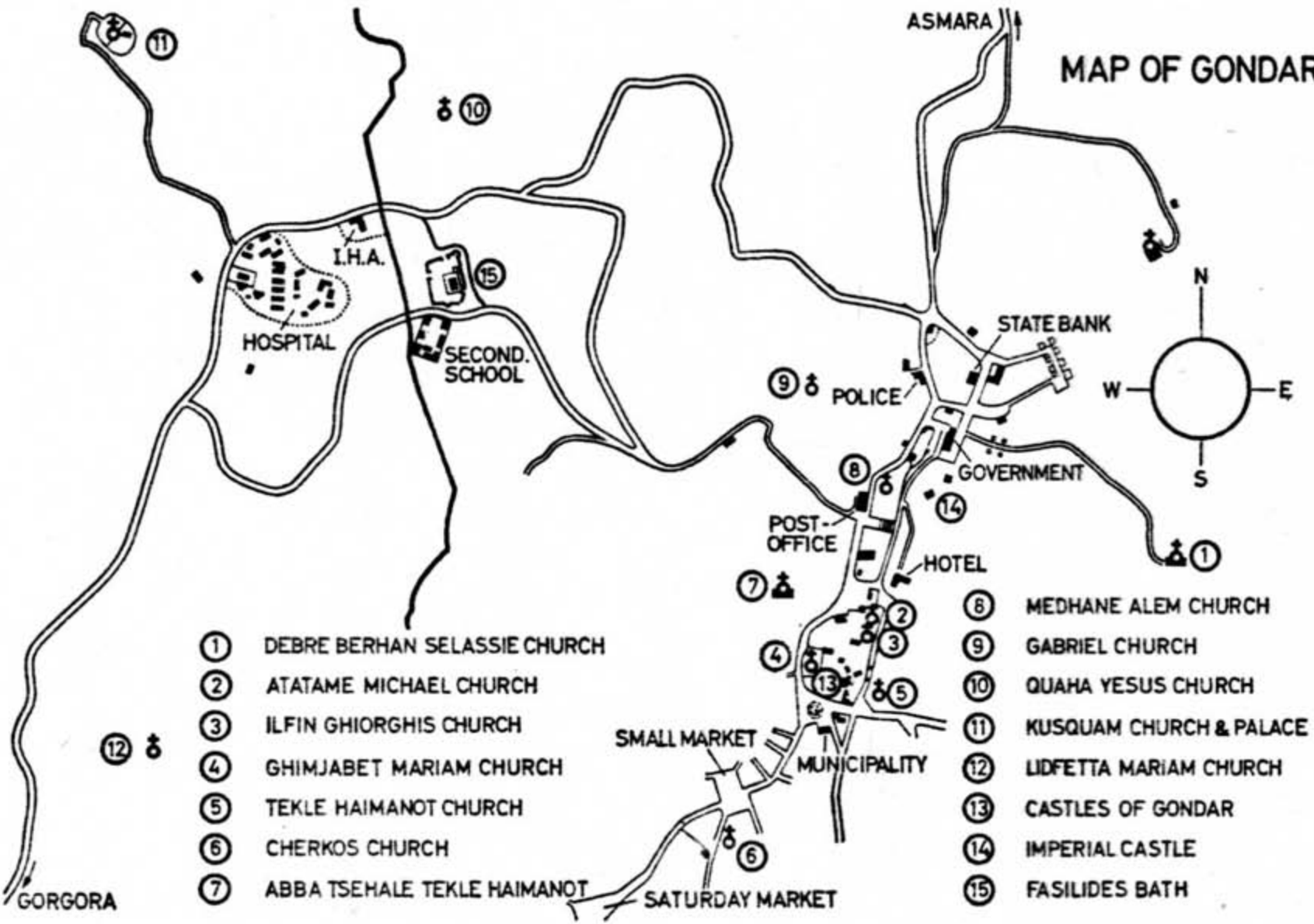
- ① FASIL
- ② TSADIK YOHANNES
- ③ YASU
- ④ DAVID
- ⑤ BAKAFFA
- ⑥ MENTUAB
- ⑦ ATATAME MICHAEL CHURCH
- ⑧ ILFIN GHIORGHIS CHURCH

CASTLES OF GONDAR

- ⑨ GHIMJABET MARIAM CHURCH
- ⑩ PLOWDEN'S TOMB
- ⑪ TEKLE - HAIMANOT - CHURCH



MAP OF GONDAR



- ① DEBRE BERHAN SELASSIE CHURCH
- ② ATATAME MICHAEL CHURCH
- ③ ILFIN GHIORGHIS CHURCH
- ④ GHIMJABET MARIAM CHURCH
- ⑤ TEKLE HAIMANOT CHURCH
- ⑥ CHERKOS CHURCH
- ⑦ ABBA TSEHALE TEKLE HAIMANOT

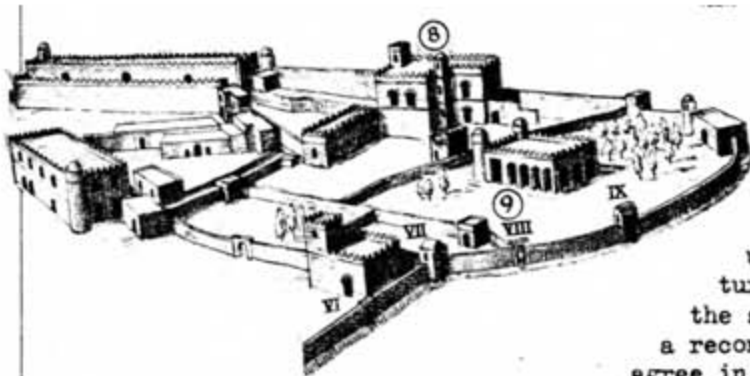
- ⑧ MEDHANE ALEM CHURCH
- ⑨ GABRIEL CHURCH
- ⑩ QUAHA YESUS CHURCH
- ⑪ KUSQUAM CHURCH & PALACE
- ⑫ LIDFETTA MARIAM CHURCH
- ⑬ CASTLES OF GONDAR
- ⑭ IMPERIAL CASTLE
- ⑮ FASILIDES BATH

Late Gondar Architecture, around 1750



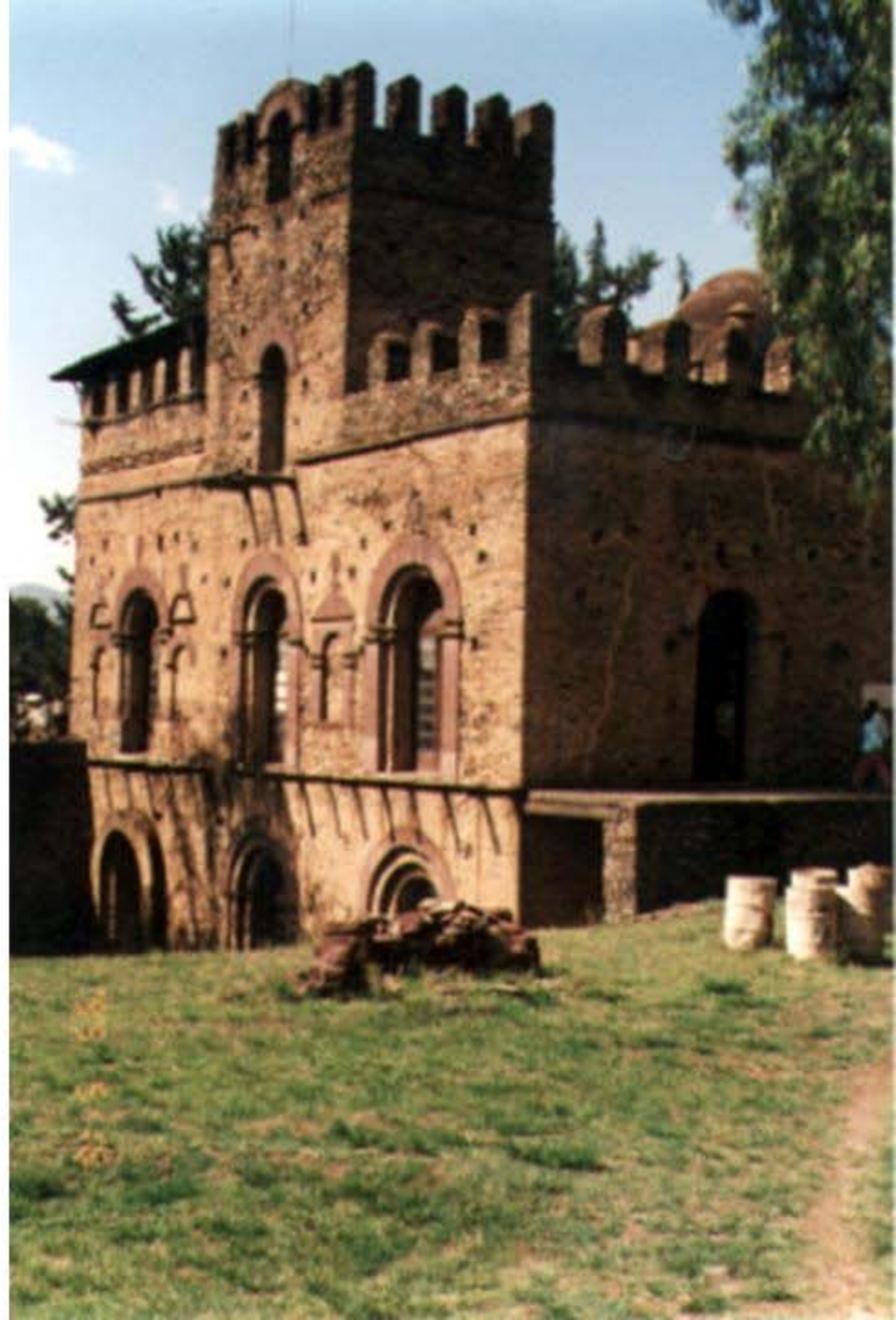
- More elegant & decorated of the Gondar buildings

The Palace of queen Mintiwab

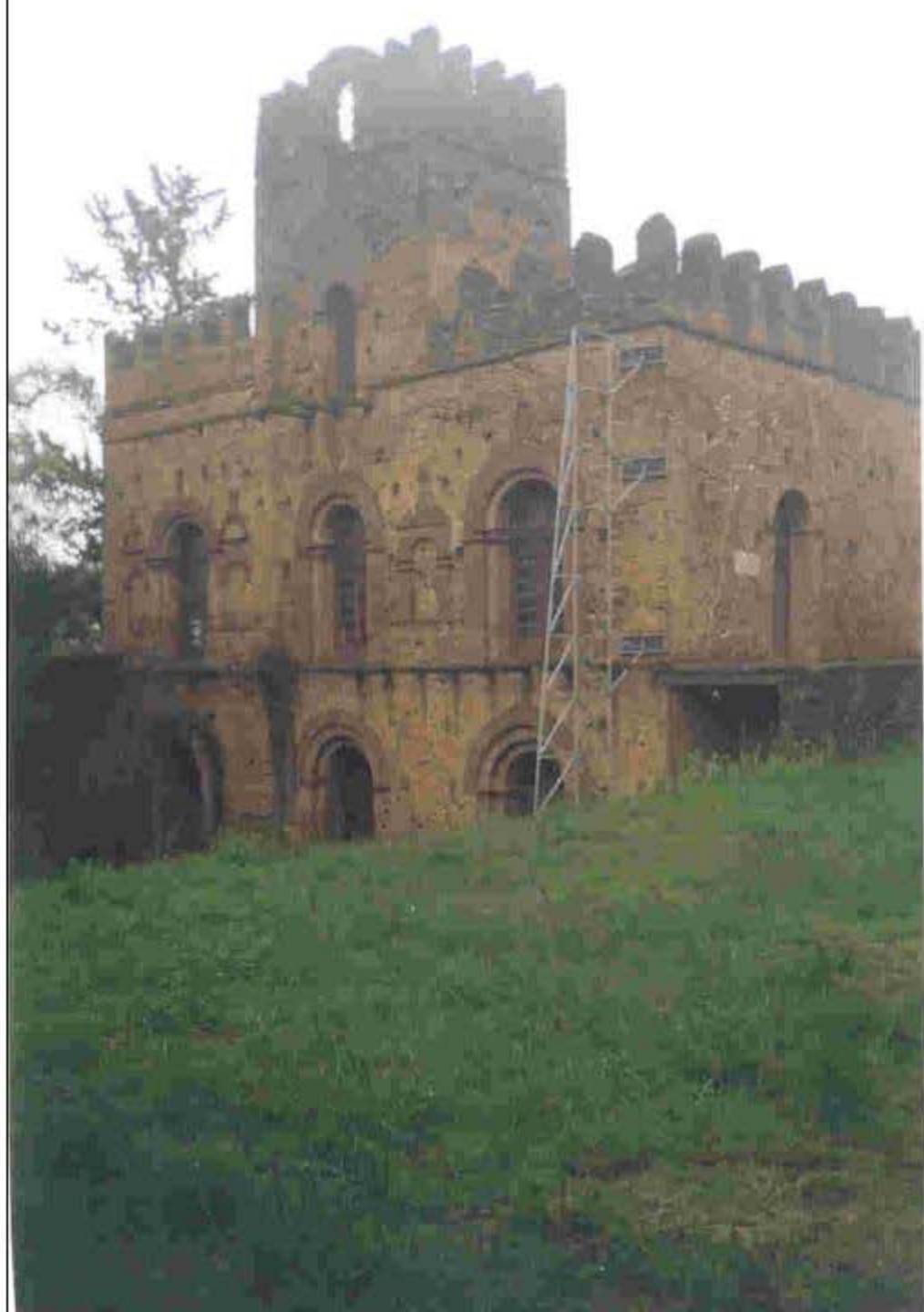


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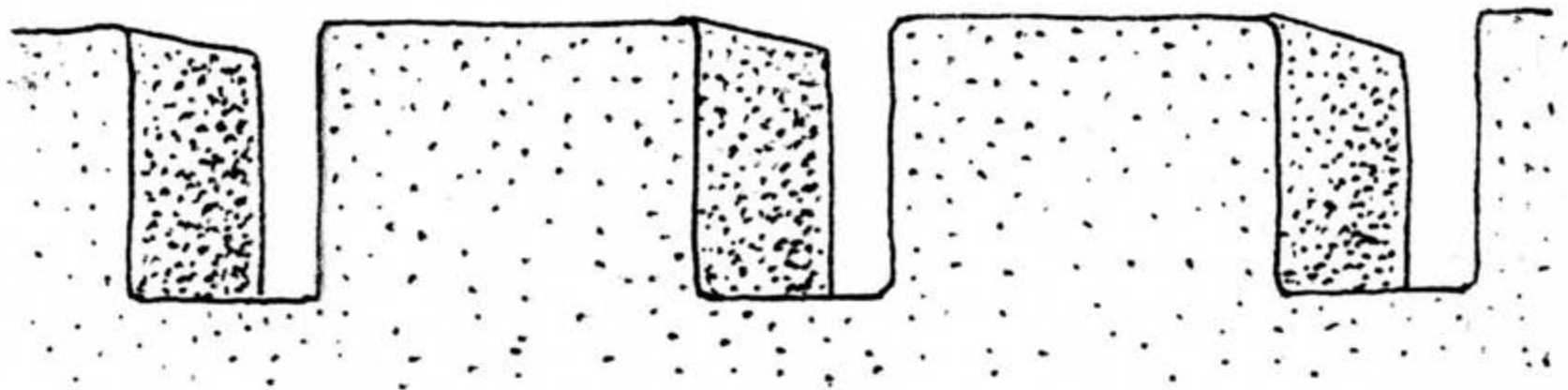
Facade Treatment */mentuab/*



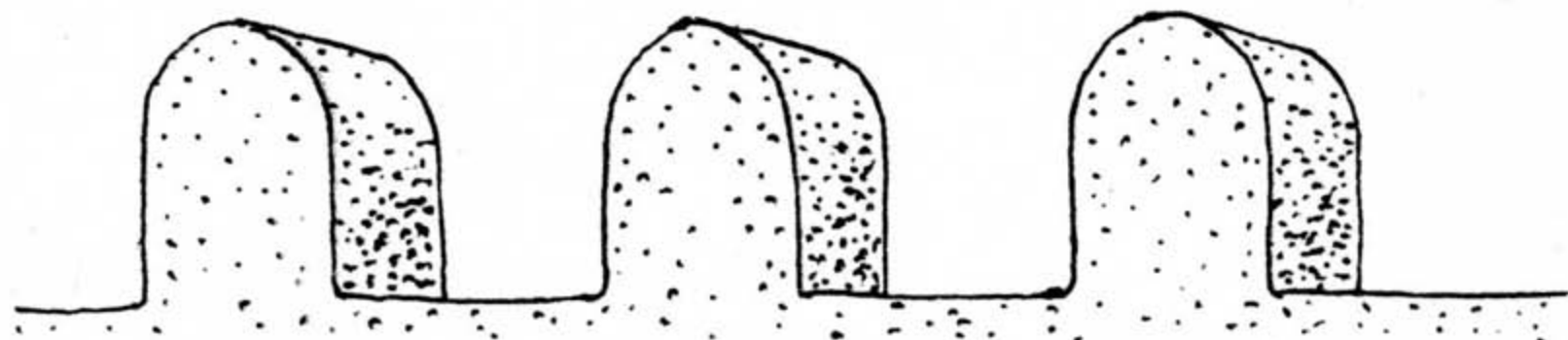
Mentuab



- **Most Gondar “Castles”= are not real castles or fortresses primarily constructed for defence, but rather imposing palaces serving as symbols & as useful spaces for the Imperial court**



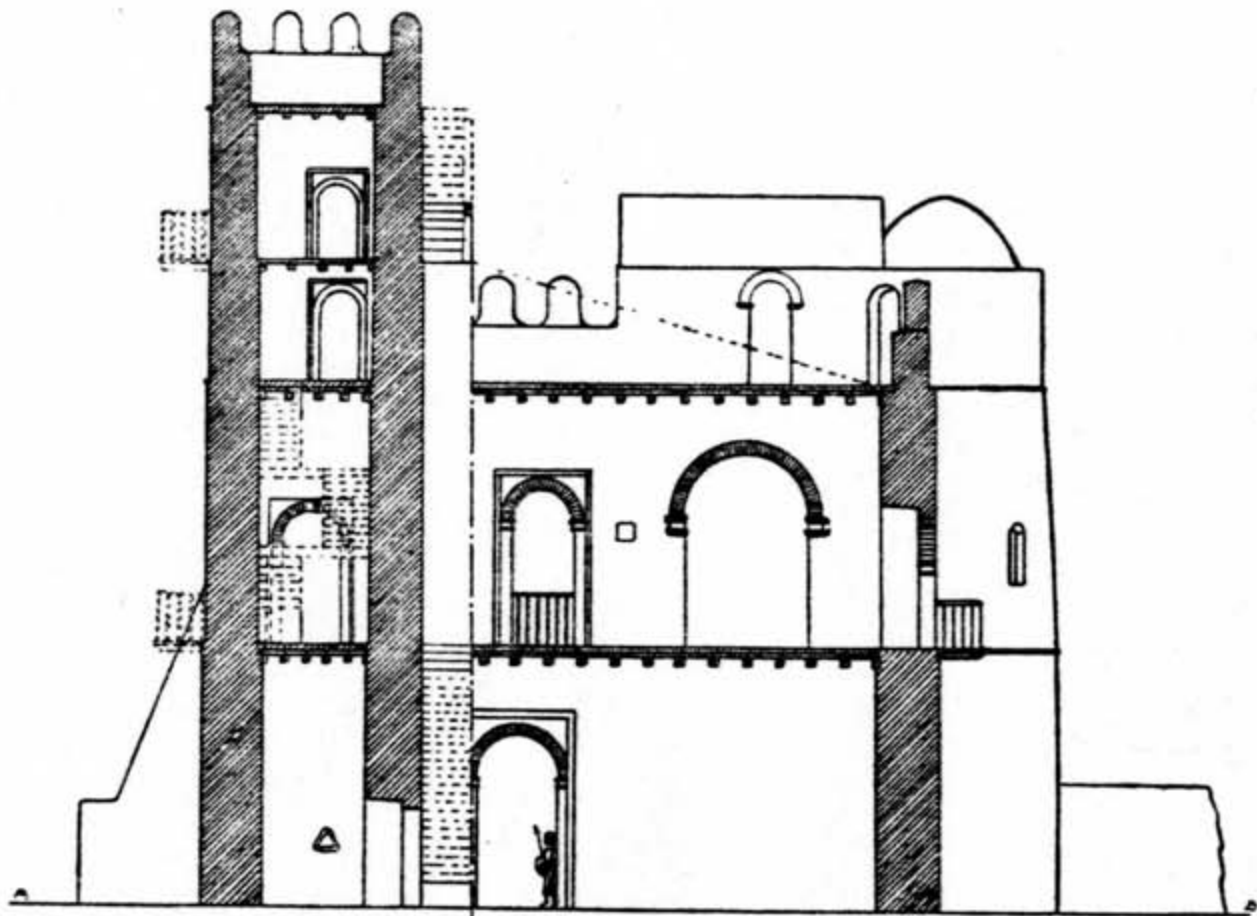
Battlements for real defence (open parts narrower than protecting parts) as used in various parts of the world already thousands of years before the Gondar period in Ethiopia.



Battlements mostly for decoration and visual expression of power, as in Gondar.

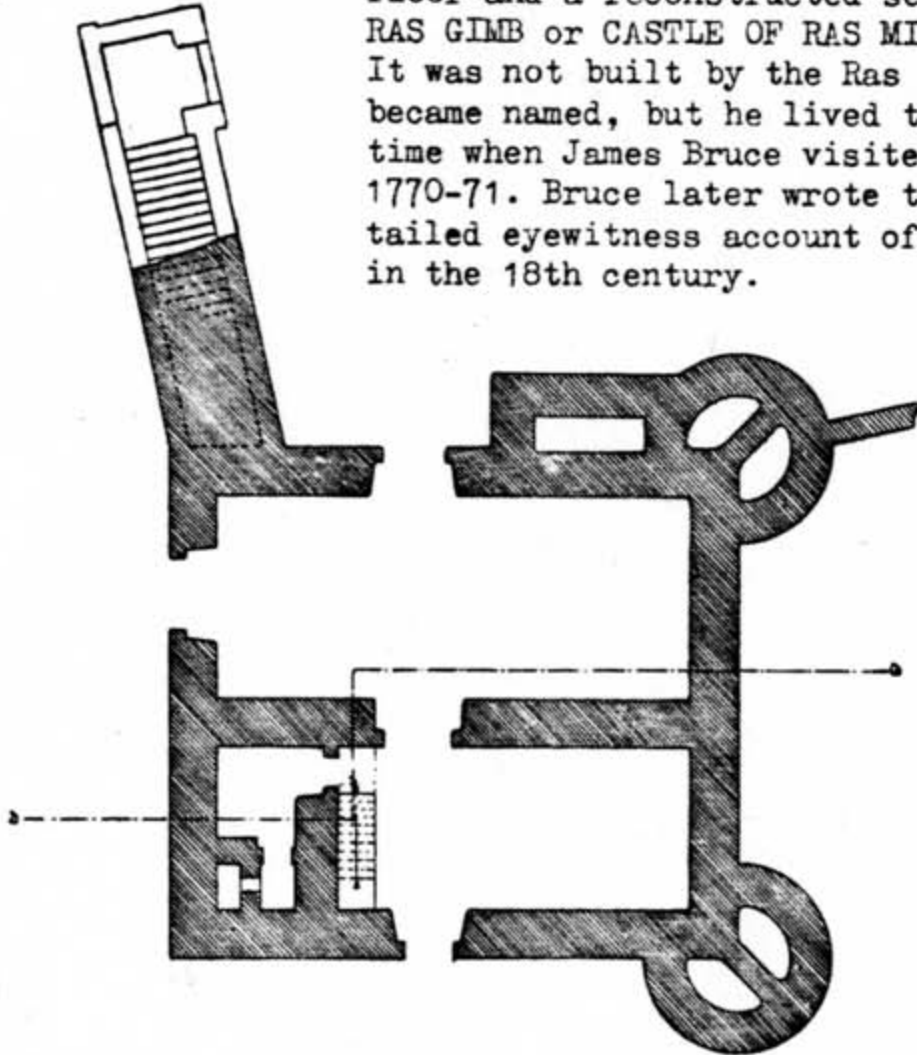
“Gondar Style” - Uniform Throughout its Period (17th & 18th)

- No important differences of architecture b/n the first large structures & the late ones of Gondar(ex Ras Gimb or Castel of Ras Mikael Sehul, out side the imperial cmpd)**
- The continuity with in the “Gondar style” is as obvious as its fundamental difference from the preceding Aksumite- Mediveal tradition**



Castello di Ras Micael-Sehul. — Sezione. Ricostruzione ideale.

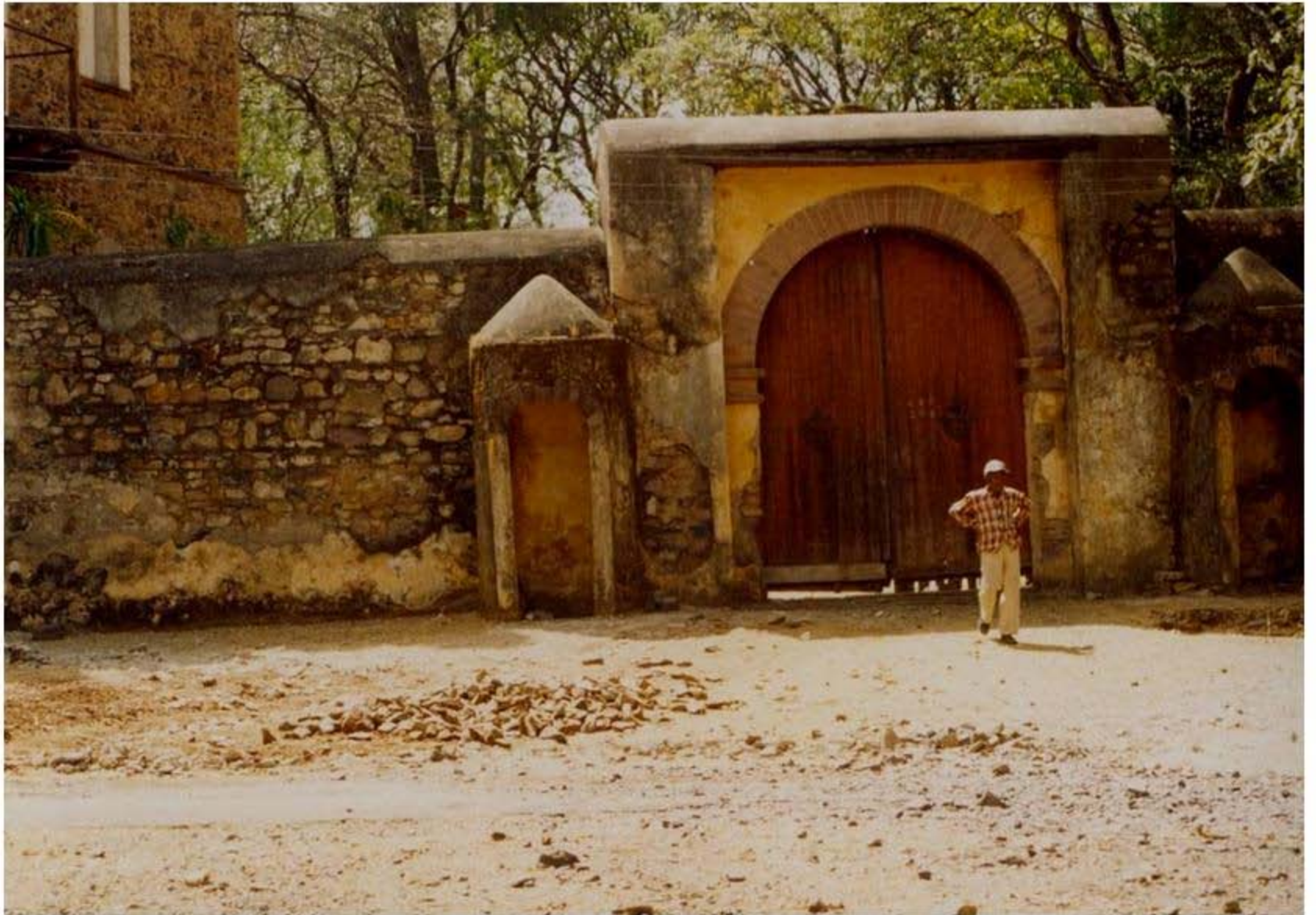
These drawings show a plan of the ground floor and a reconstructed section of the RAS GIMB or CASTLE OF RAS MIKAEL SEHUL. It was not built by the Ras after whom it became named, but he lived there at the time when James Bruce visited the town in 1770-71. Bruce later wrote the only detailed eyewitness account of life in Gondar in the 18th century.



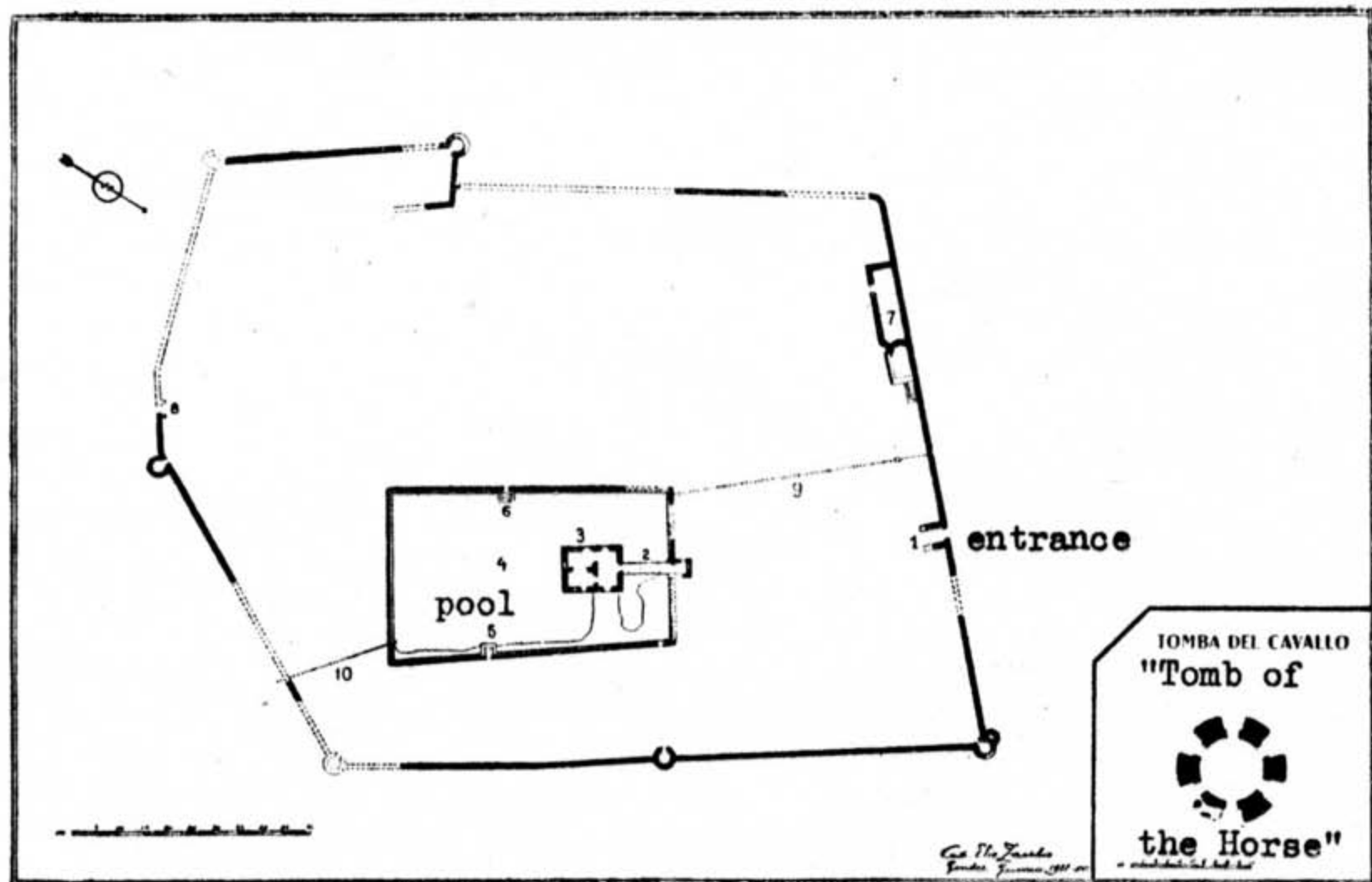
Mikael suhul



Mikael suhul

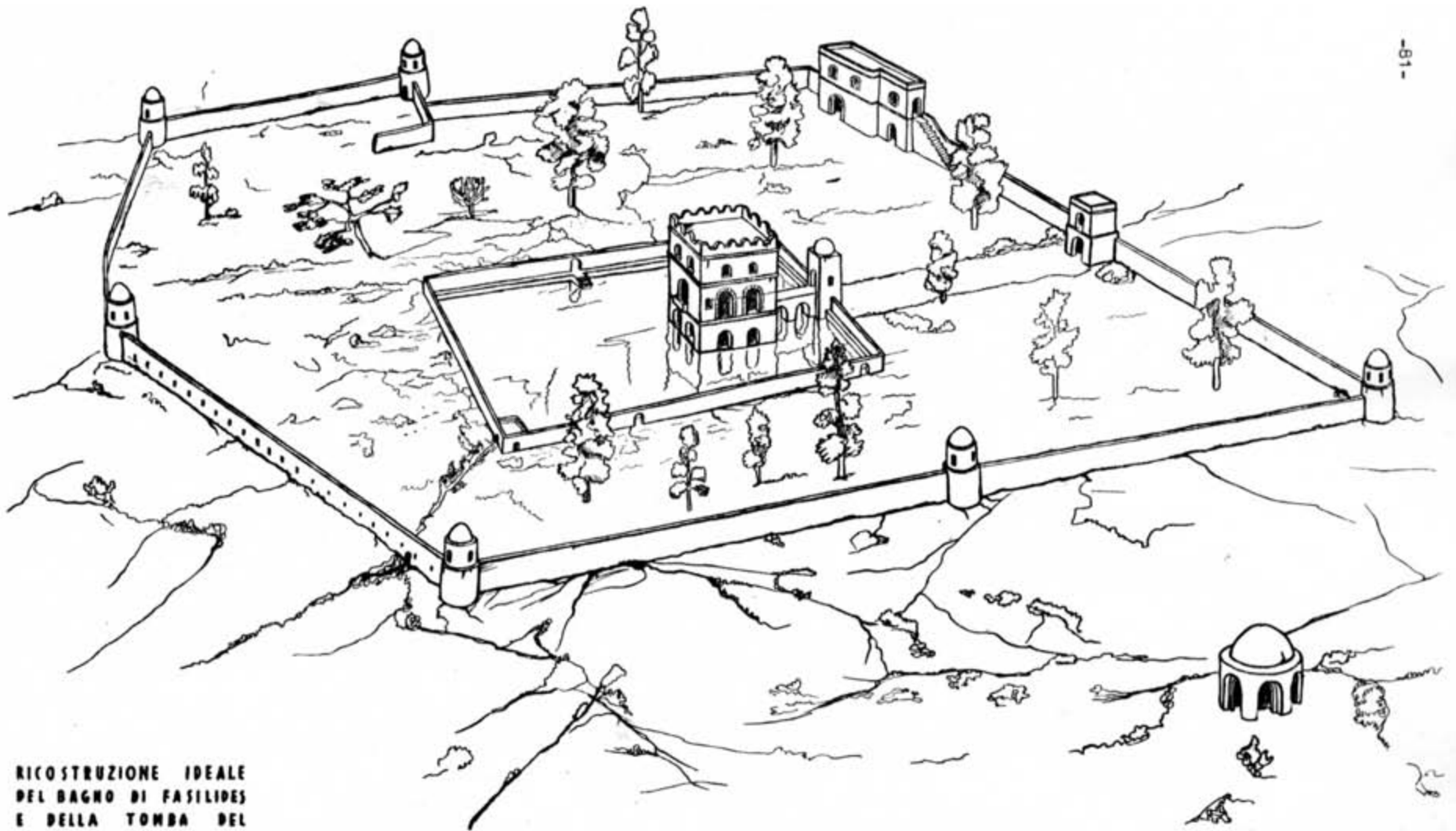


Bath of Fasiladas



PLANIMETRIA DEL BAGNO DI FASILIDES

Bath of Fasiladas



RICOSTRUZIONE IDEALE
DEL BAGNO DI FASILIPES
E DELLA TOMBA DEL
CAVALLO IN GONDAR



- Situated in an open place outside the compound
- Design is non-symmetrical in Gondar Architecture, also in Fasil's Bath

Design is often non-symmetrical in Gondar architecture, and so also in the pavilion of "Fasil's Bath".

Bath of Emperor Fasil



Bath of Emperor Fasil



Bath of Emperor Fasil

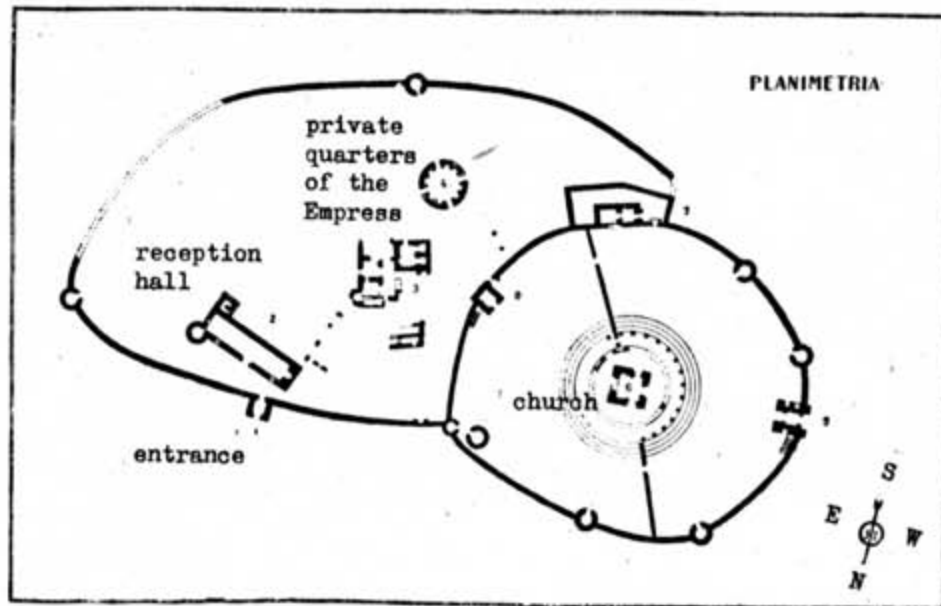


Bath of Emperor Fasil

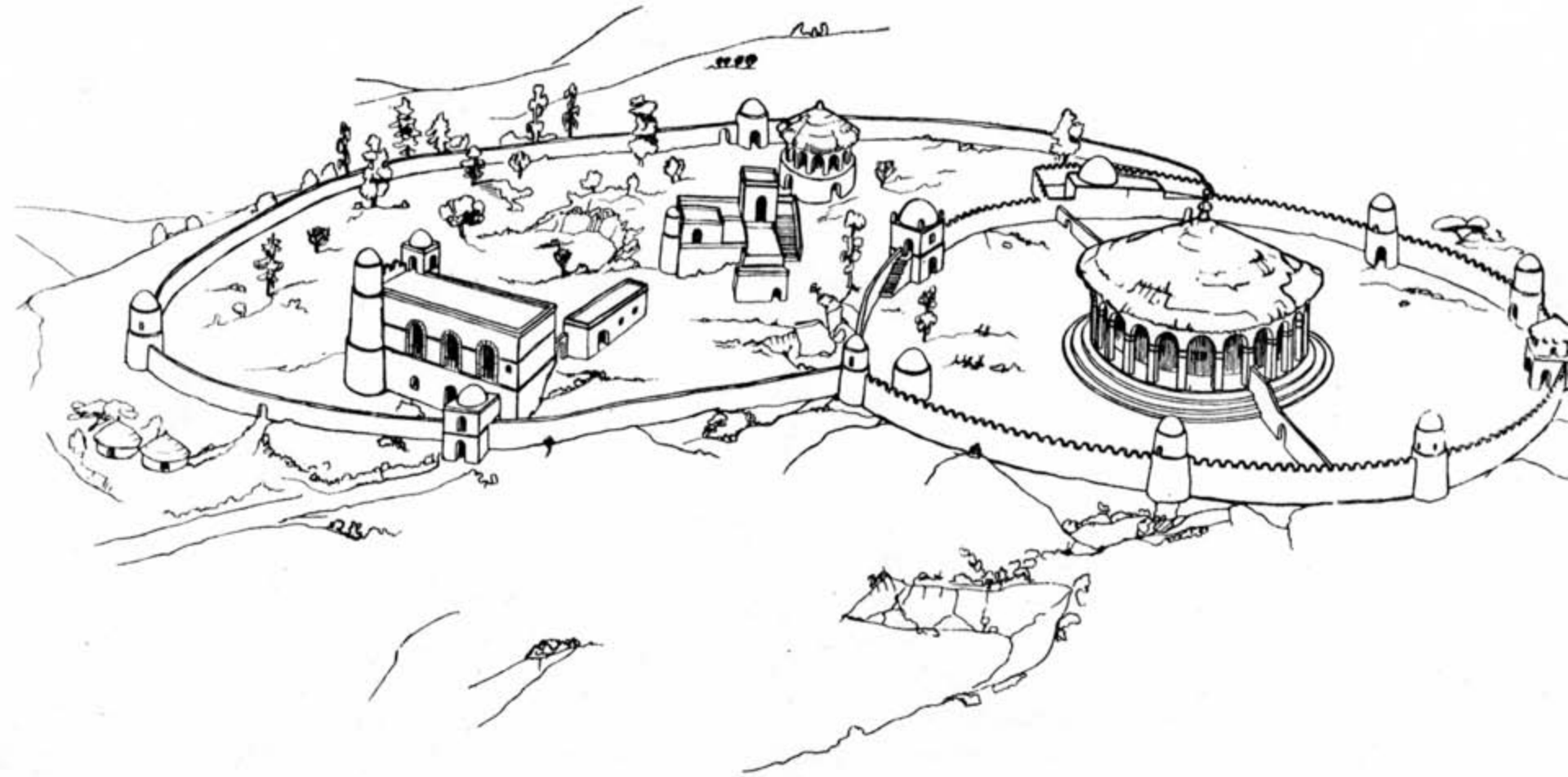


Kuskwam Palace & Debre Teshay Church (1750)

- The Kuskwam compound, secluded kind of monastery on a hill over- looking the plain with “Fasil’s Bath”, contained the headquarters of Empress Mentuab in her later days & was seen in full use by the traveller James Bruce in (1770-71)



ABATIA E CASTELLO IMPERIALE DI CUSQUAM

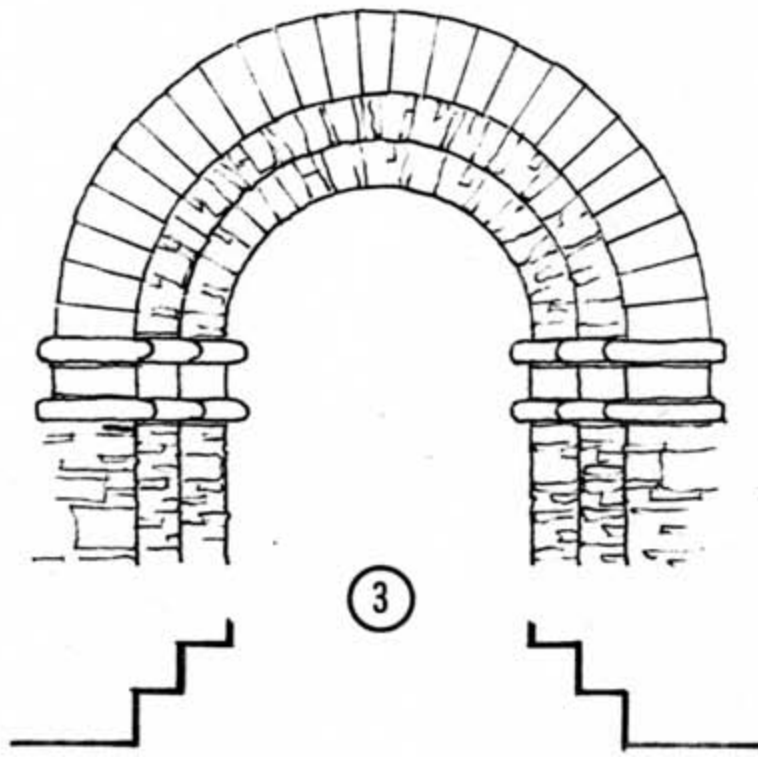
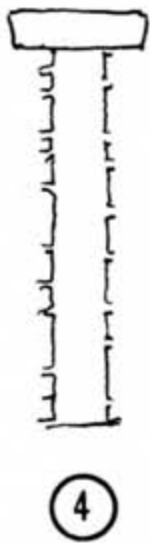
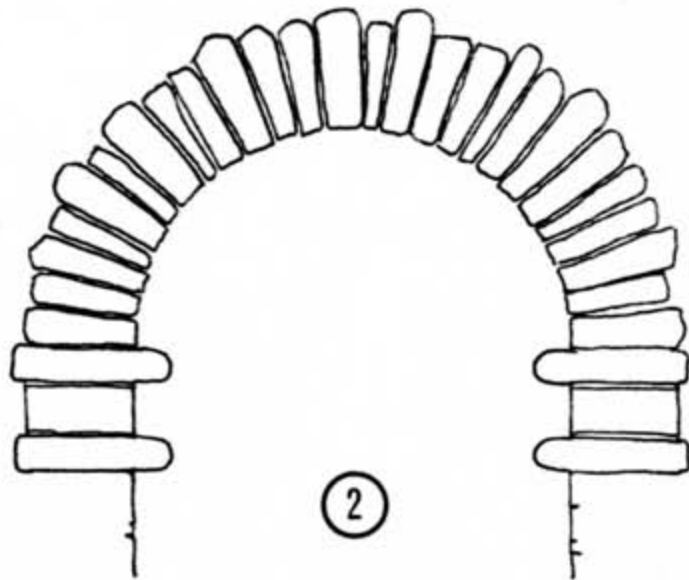
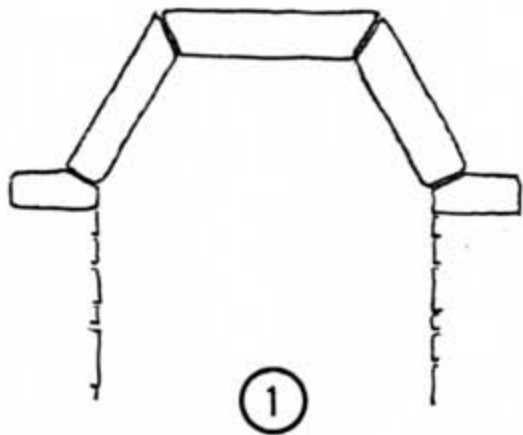


Qusquam



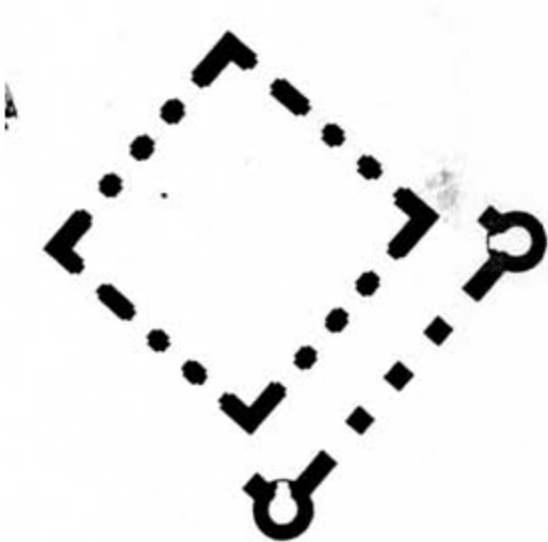
Gondar Arches

- Are semicircular or sometimes lower (but never higher) than half a circle
- Often stand out visually by being of a different & more easily cut kind of stone, “wine red” instead of black stone or light plaster as for the walls

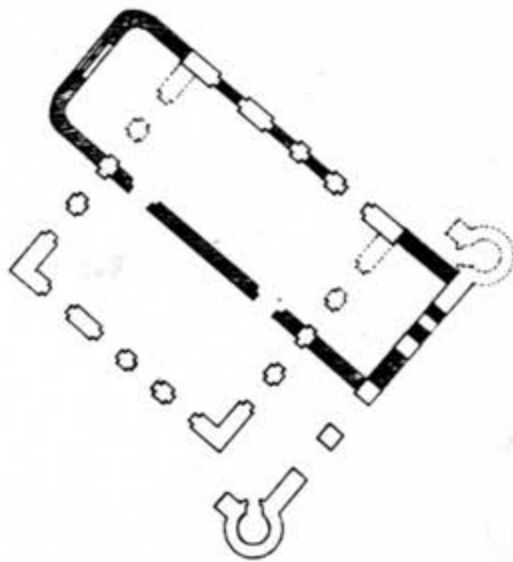


Churches of the Gondar Period

- The majority of the many fine churches in Gondar were destroyed at one time or another & were destroyed at one time or another & if rebuilt, often became reduced & simplified (ex= Attatami Qedus Mikael inside the Imperial cmpd)

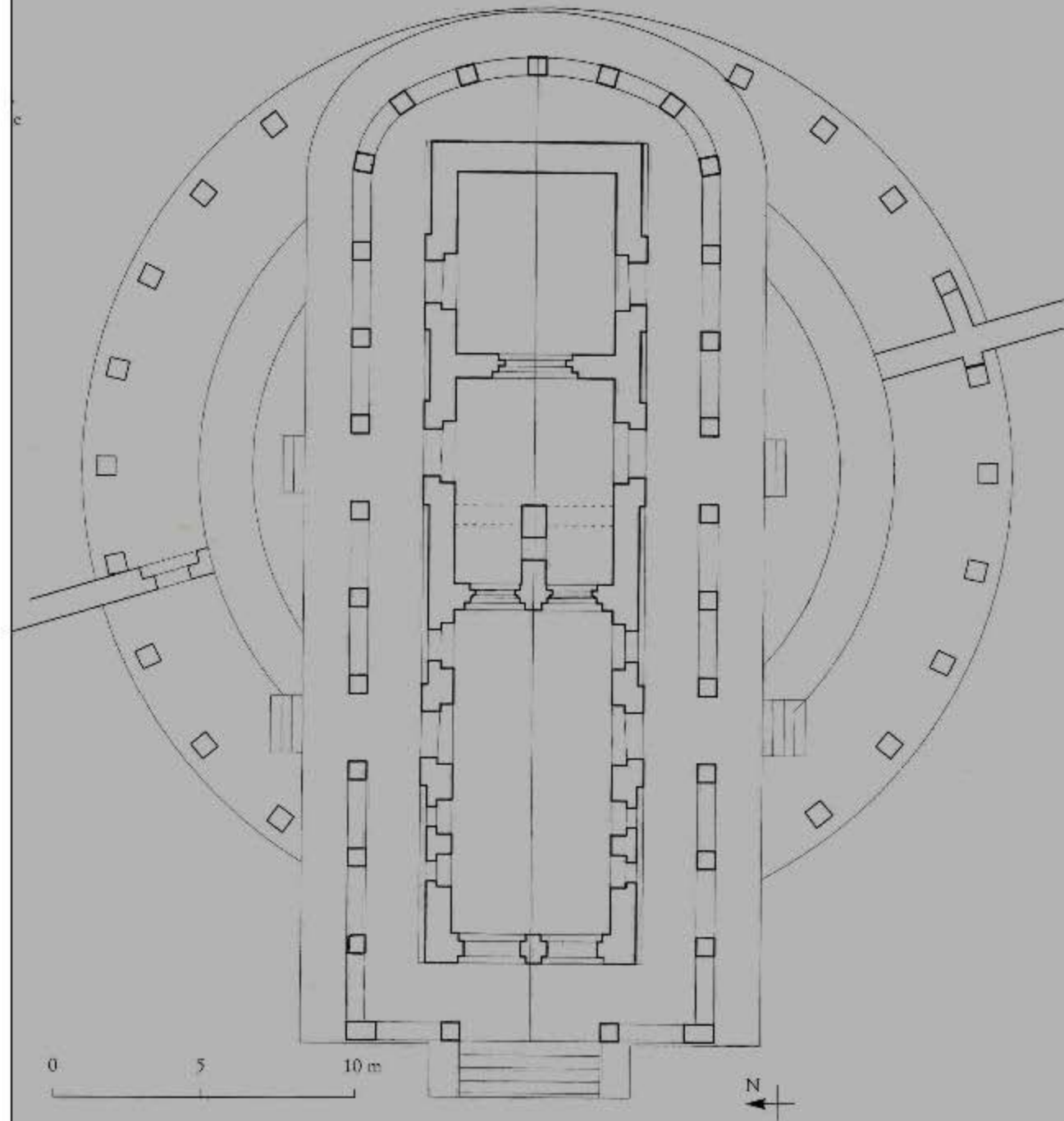


A plan comparable to a palace



Re-erected

Debre birhan selassie



Debre birhan selassie

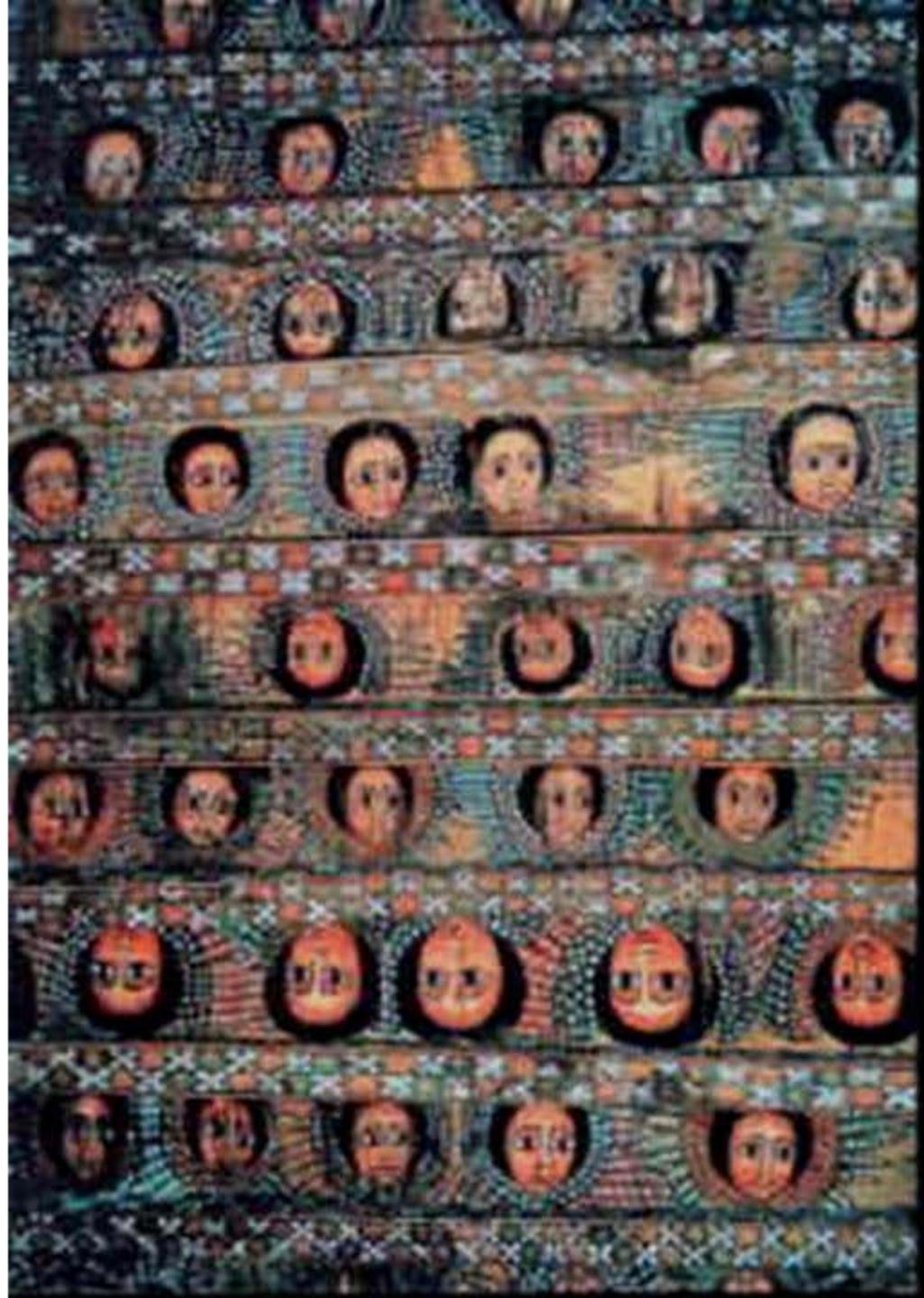


Debre birhan selassie





Debre
birhan
selassie
Painting
Styles



Debre birhan selassie

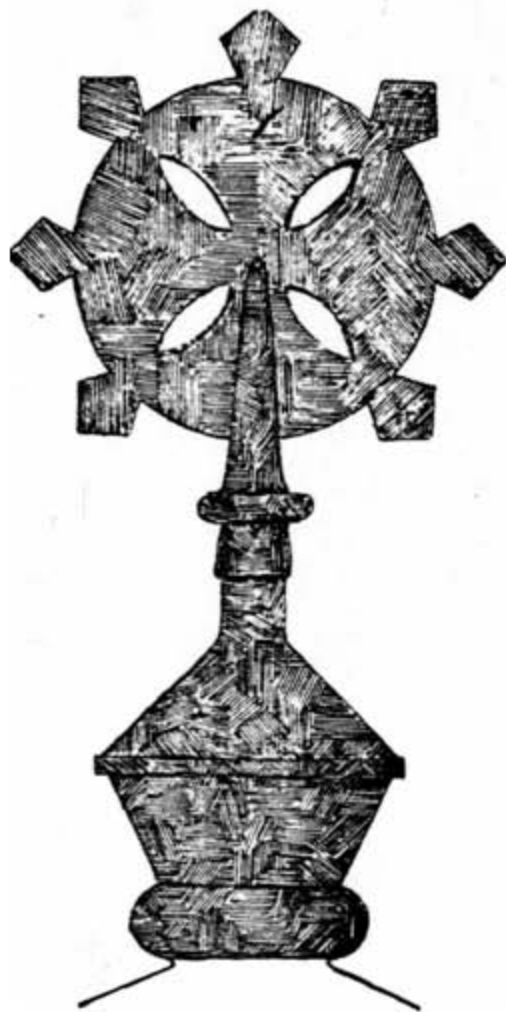


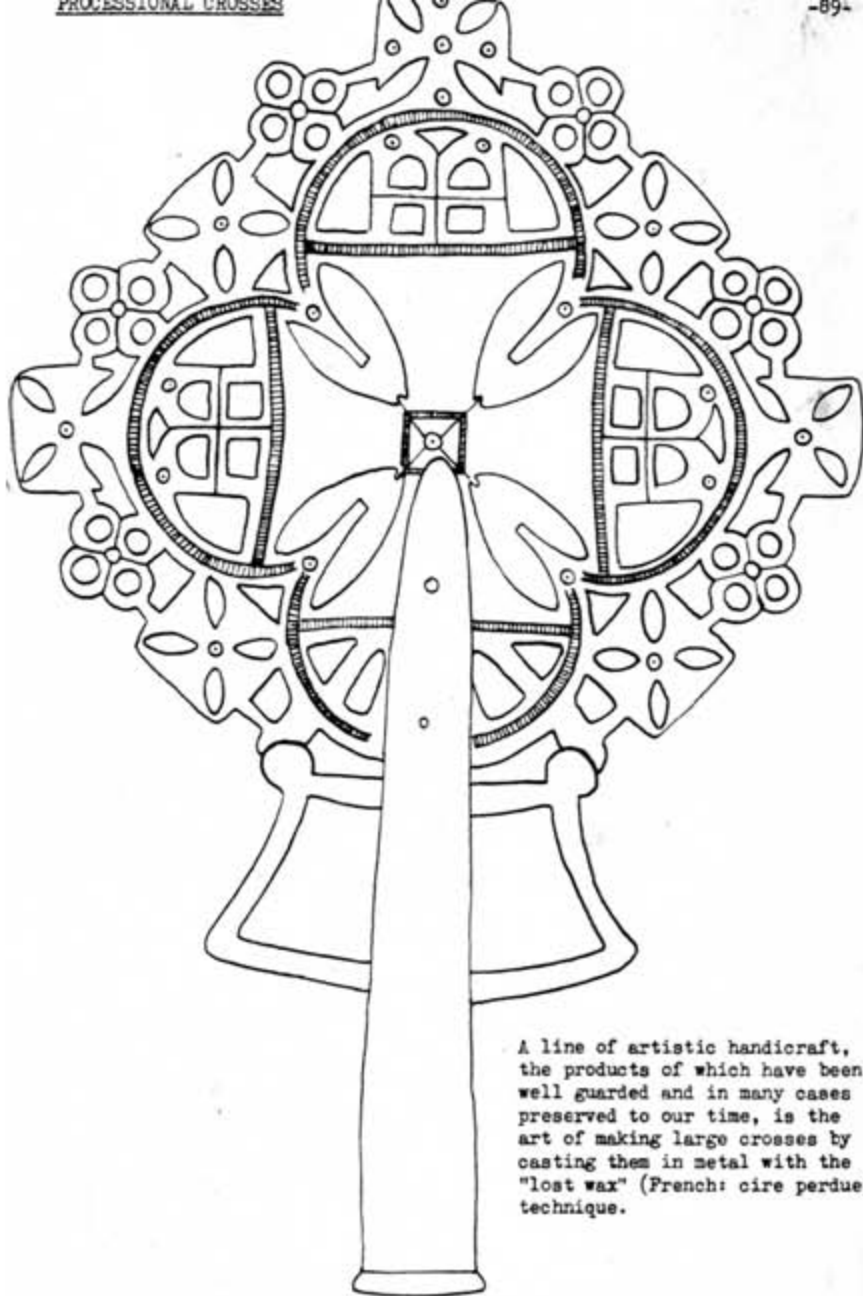
Gondar Crosses

- The cross symbol, being a very central the central theme of the Christian culture, was often treated in decorative manners during the Gondar period
- The influence of these designs is not known, but it has been vivid, at least, that they are not Portuguese

Gondar Crosses

- The birth story of Gondar cross, designs is not known, but it has been proved, at least, that they **are not Portuguese**





A line of artistic handicraft, the products of which have been well guarded and in many cases preserved to our time, is the art of making large crosses by casting them in metal with the "lost wax" (French: cire perdue) technique.

This example is comparatively small (the drawing shows actual size) and is a brass cross from Gojjam of the 18th century. The original, and other fine crosses, can be studied in the museum of the Institute of Ethiopian Studies, Addis Abeba.

The Islands of Lake Tana

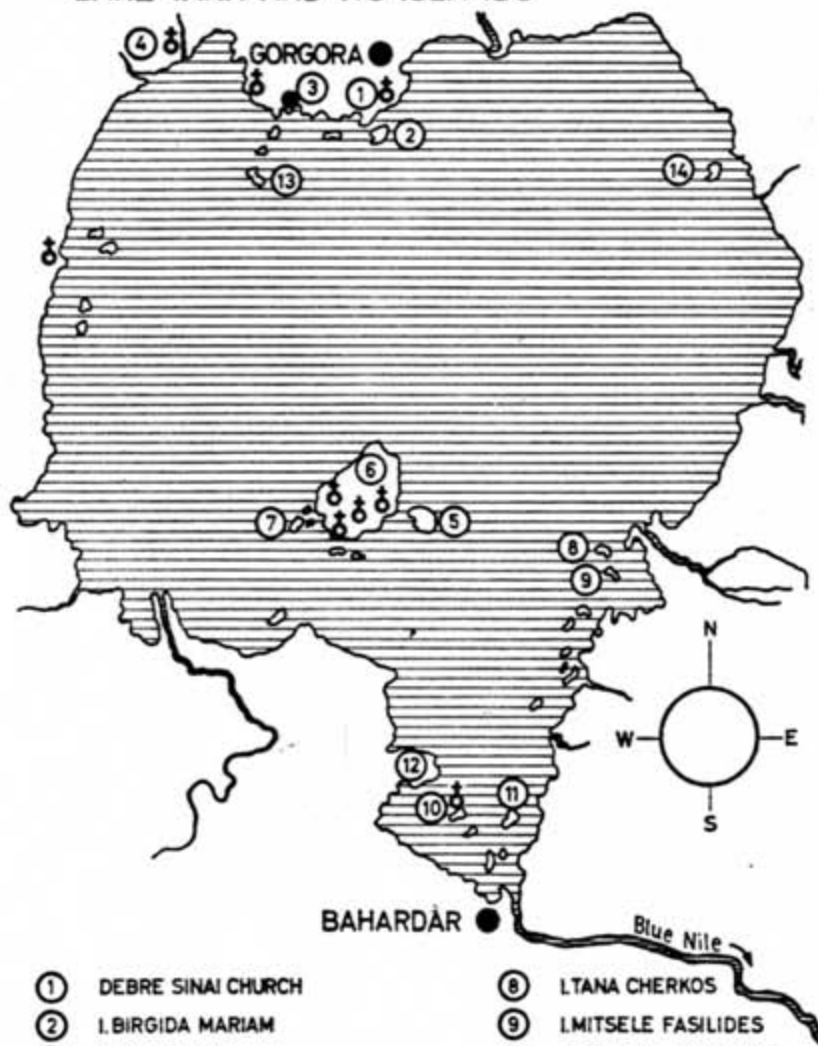
- The monasteries & churches on the islands of Lake Tana were more secluded than the buildings on the mainland
- They were often successful in hiding & protecting manuscripts & valuable art objects when there was looting of castles & churches in & around Gondar

The Islands of Lake Tana

- Only a few preserved manuscript, however, are older than the 17th century
- Emperor Fasiladas & some of his predecessors were buried on Islands in Lake Tana



LAKE TANA AND ITS ISLANDS



- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| ① | DEBRE SINAI CHURCH | ⑧ | LTANA CHERKOS |
| ② | I. BIRGIDA MARIAM | ⑨ | LIMITSELE FASILIDES |
| ③ | MANENDABA | ⑩ | I. KEBRAN and ENTONS |
| ④ | OLD GORGORA (PORTUGUESE CASTLE) | ⑪ | I. DEBRE MARIAM |
| ⑤ | I. DAGA ISTEFA NOS | ⑫ | ZEGHIE |
| ⑥ | I. DEK | ⑬ | I. GALILA |
| ⑦ | I. NARGA | ⑭ | L MITRAHA |

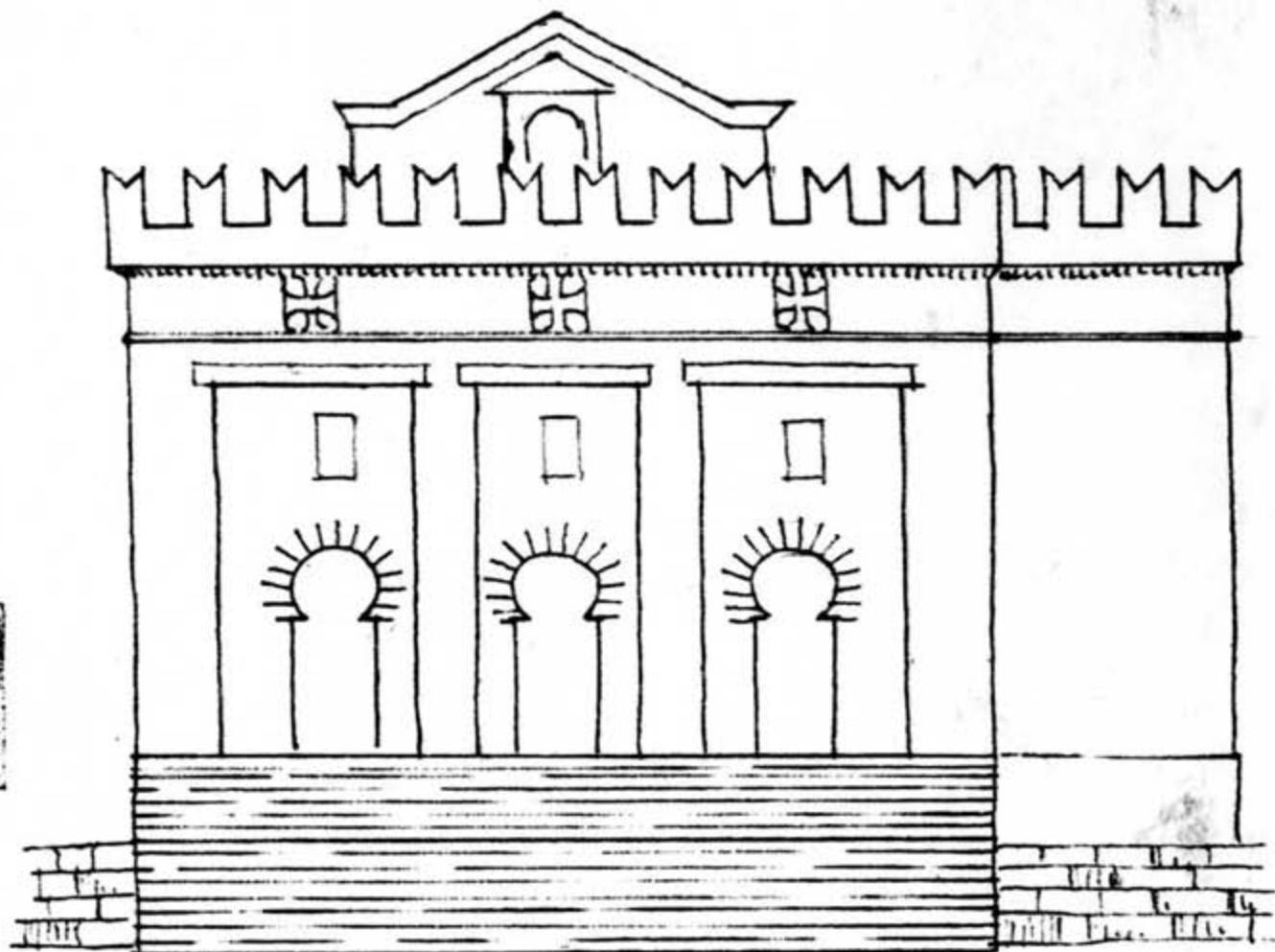
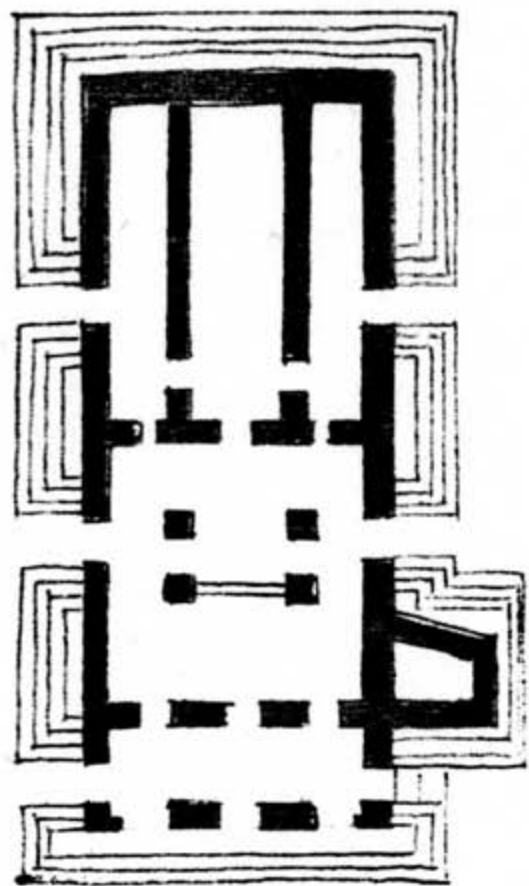


The Cathedrals of Aksum

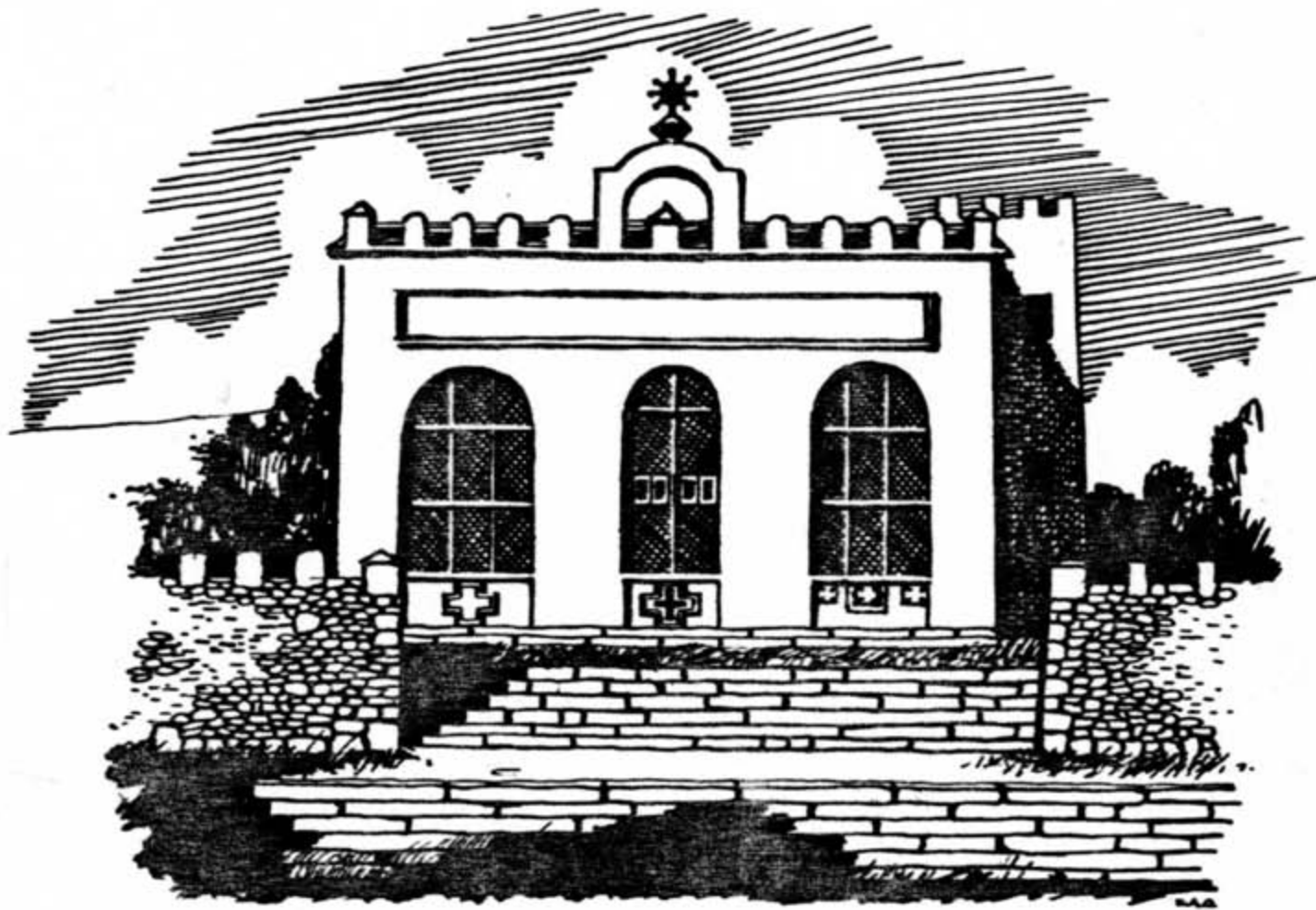
- The cathedral site at Aksum is venerated as a particularly holy place
- Here may once have stood a pre-Christian temple
- During many centuries there was a Christian cathedral built in Aksumite technique & said to contain less than 3815 “monkey-heads”. It had five isles & seven chaples; all was destroyed by Moslems in 1535

The Cathedrals of Aksum

- A smaller but still imposing church was re-erected in 1611-1620, the now standing Old Zion Cathedral (this is an early & isolated application of what became “the Gondar style”)
- There was inaugurated in 1965 a second & modern New Zion Cathedral (a kind of Byzantine style-a wide dome- the first large concrete shell)



Re erected Old Zion Cathedral 1611-1620
According to a visitor



Church of St. Mary of Zion-Axum

New Zion Cathedral