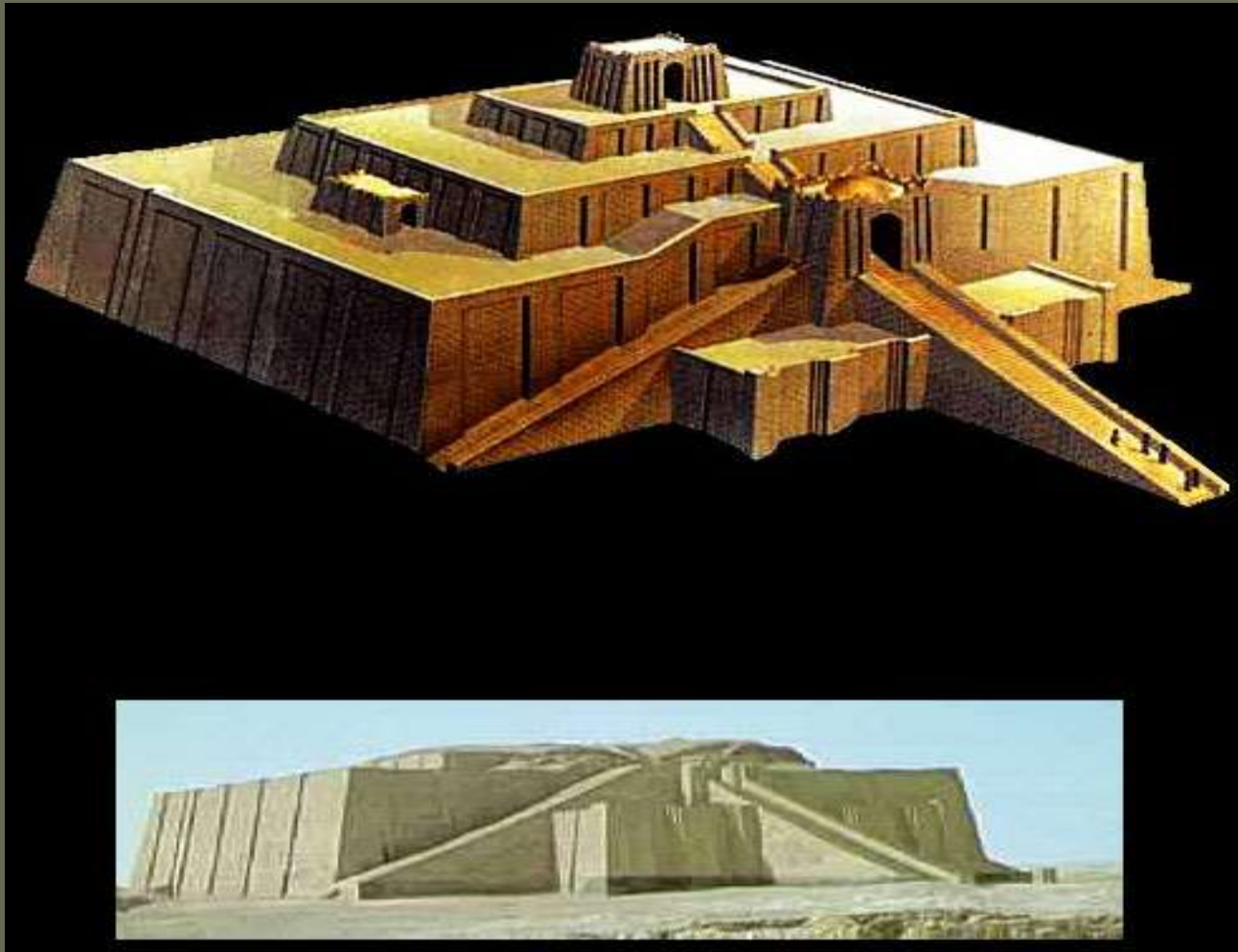


Ziggurat and Elamite



Sadaf Yahyai
Shadi Mahmoodi

ELAMITE

- The Elamite citizens → a nation who lived in Iran about 2500 years BCE at Awan (now called Shoushtar, a town in Khuzestan Province).
- Elamites influenced on other civilizations
 - the first wheeled pitcher (the first wheeled roller) was apparently invented by human beings at Elam.
 - the first arched roof and its covering which is a very important technique in architecture was invented by the Elamite and used in the mausoleum of Tepti-ahar around 1360 BCE

Elamite Architecture

- Influenced by Mesopotamians
 - access to the temple on the top of the building was made through a single spiral or straight stairs rising from the ground to upper floors
- Four Ziggurats:
 - 1) Sialk Ziggurat
 - 2) Susa Ziggurat
 - 3) Haft Tappeh
 - 4) Choga Zanbil

Sialk Tappeh

- Has 3 platforms about 7500 years ago
- Sialk, and the entire area around it, is thought to have first originated as a result of the pristine underground water sources that still run today.
 - The *Cheshmeh ye Soleiman*



1) Sialk Tappeh

- First excavated by a team of European archaeologists headed by Roman Ghirshman in the 1930s.
- Discovered inscribed clay tablets dating back to the late 3rd and early 2nd millennium BC
- Records showing immigrants and conquerors passing through this region and settling near Baghe Fin
- Has revealed a vast number and variety of *pottery* and domestic implements of *clay*, stone and bone from as early as the 4th millennium BC



Haft Tappeh



Haft Tappeh

- “Seven hills” - in fact twelve
- Three parts have been identified:
 - A temple with the royal tomb
 - The palace area
 - The artisans' quarter



Haft Tappeh

- It may have been called Tikni
- The ruins of the ancient city of Haft-Tappeh lie on the plain of Khuzestan close to the ruins of ancient city of Susa and two kilometres from the Chogha Zanbil Ziggurat
- Contains fourteen major visible mounds
 - The largest rising about 17 m above the surrounding plain
 - its related extensions covering an area of about 1500 m long and 800 m wide
- Numerous clay inscriptions

Haft Tappeh

The temple

- Decorated with bronze plates and wall paintings
- 1500 and 1250 saw a divided and weak Elam
- Local potentates like Tepti Ahar were able to build up small states.
 - Haft Tepe was one of these



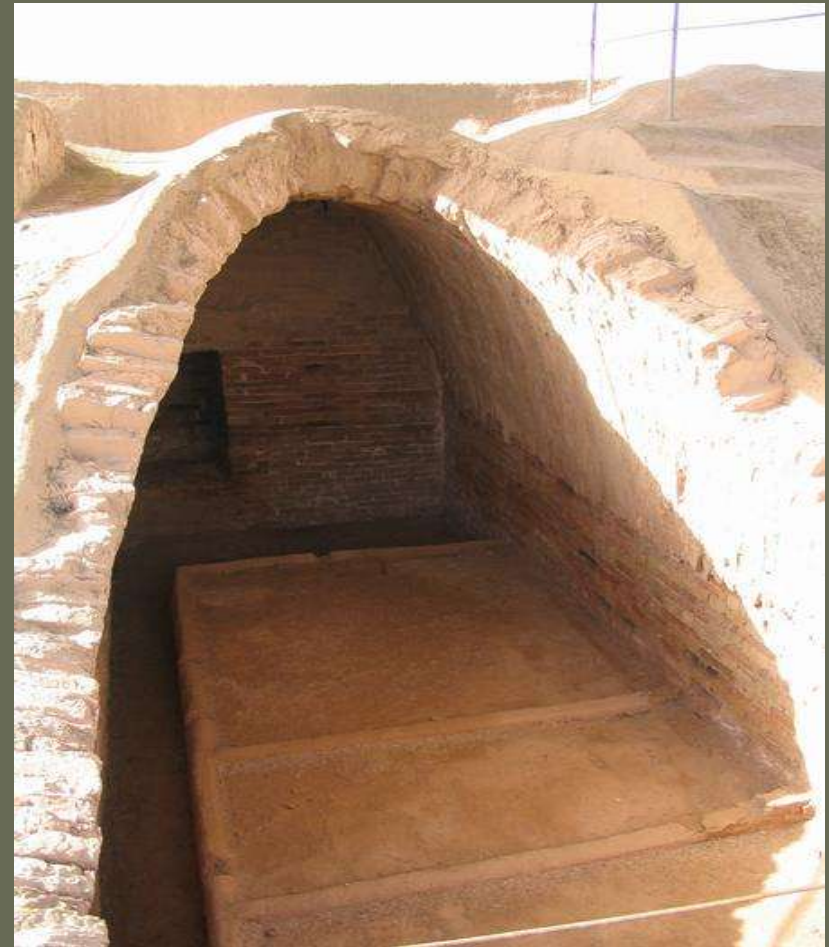


Haft Tappeh



Royal tomb

- contains the skeletons of twenty-one people, packed in ritual red ochre.
- There's a platform in it that covers a large part of the $10\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$ m of the floor of this room; the remainder is occupied by a channel.
- At the end of the room is a doorway that leads to the temple



Choghazanbil

- Choghazanbil temple --> one of the three ancient monuments in Iran
- Built approximately 1250 BCE in Khouzestan (30 km southwest of Shoush)
- Resembles the architecture of the Egyptian pyramids and Mayan temples.
- Built by Dur-Untash (Untaš-Napiriša)
- Is the only surviving ziggurat in Iran and is one of the most important remnants of the Elamite civilization.



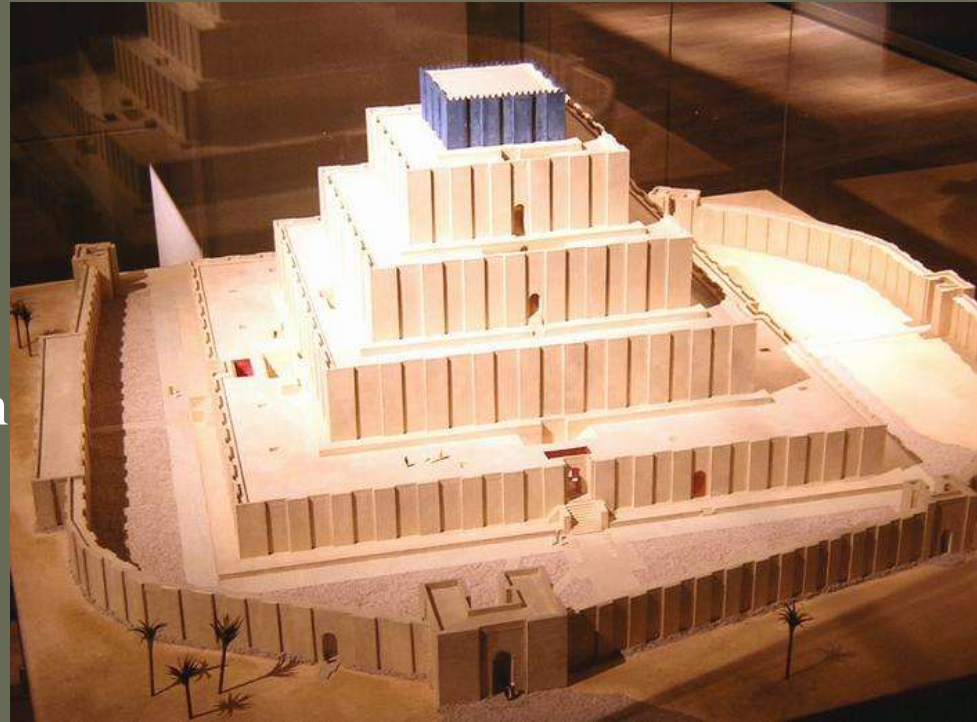
Choghazanbil



- The earliest building material was sun-dried mud brick. Baked brick was used for outer surfaces by the 12th century BC.
- It measures 105x105 m and was probably 52 m high
- 14 platforms built like short headless pyramids beside the temple of In-Shushinak where animals are sacrificed

Choghazanbil

- The building had five levels that were built on a vertical design
- There were small channels for water
- The temple of Inšušinak was on the top of the tower. It was believed that from this point he could ascend to heaven or come down to earth.
 - This idea is also present in the name of the Babylonian temple tower Etemenanki place of the foundation of heaven on earth.

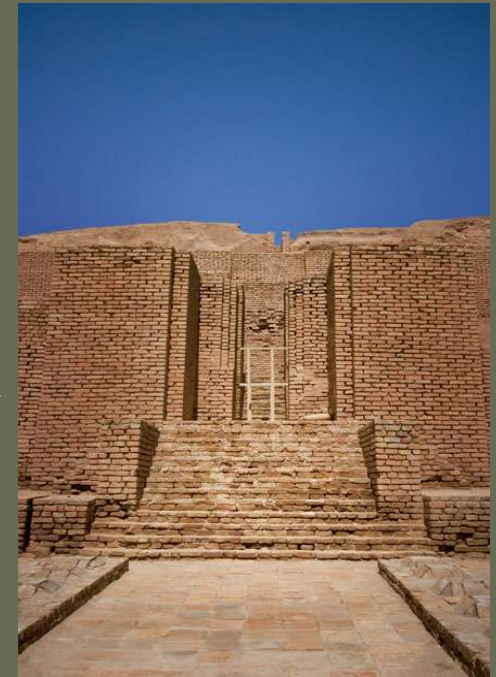


Decorative Art of Choghazanbil

- Use of animal horn to adorn the building and other artworks (Husa)
- Giant horns made of bronze ornamented the building.
- At the two sides of the stairs in the ziggurat, statues of animals were raised
 - A most important statue was the fabulous Griffin which is an imaginary beast with an eagle's head and a lion's body.
- The wooden doors of the prayer niche is decorated with pipe-like glasses in black and white colors
- Use of enameled tiles with white and black glass enamels and deep green, blue and azure brick enamels which renders special gaiety to the building.
 - The Elamites were the first to invent the enameled tile in the Middle East.
 - 350 years the Assyrians discovered that art

Stairs of Choghazanbil

- Access was made in several stages from inside the building through a roofed stair which resembled a tunnel.
- Access to the first floor was made through four gates but only a single stair led the visitor to the second floor.
- The Elamite architect had used two innovations:
 1. the visitors had to ascend the stairs in three stages. Thus a pedestrian was able to rest at the stations built in the stairs.
 2. In order to allow the visitor to watch the area around the temple, had removed the roof of the rest stations.



Choghazanbil

- On the brick facing of the ziggurat starting from the lowest point to the highest point between each 10 layers of bricks, there is one layer of inscribed bricks
- inscriptions on these bricks are brief and nearly similar. They mention:
 - the name of the founder of the building (his genealogy and title)
 - to which god the building is dedicated
 - damn those who decide to destroy the building
- with the exception of the brick inscriptions found in Choghazanbil none of the brick or stone inscriptions mention the name of gods
 - demonstrates the significance of the ancient tablets

I, Untaš-Napiriša, son
of Šutur-Nahhunte,
king of Anšan and
Susa [...] rebuilt the
temple of Kiriša, lady
of Lyan, my goddess



This is one of the
entrances to the
complex, in the south-
eastern part. It was built
from tiles, but the outer
walls were made of
bricks.

- The water surface is 60m below ground level
- King Untaš-Napiriša ordered the construction of a 45 km long channel, to get water from the Karkheh



- The water of the river Karkheh was not healthy
- It was led through several basins; this picture shows the first and largest

Choghazanbil and Palaces

- Around Choghazanbil ziggurat the remains of three royal palaces, several family vaults and a private house have been discovered.
- In one of the palaces on the last layers of bricks a thick coat of asphalt has been laid.
- In order to lead the rainwater to the surrounding areas from the ziggurat, cavities have been dug in the bricks and drain pipes have been installed and coated with tar.
- In one of the palaces a bath containing a shallow basin was spotted on the floor which is led to outside through a culvert



Religion and Choghazanbil



- Tuga festival,
 - Honor the god Shimit
 - On May 8 each year
 - a fat cow was sacrificed to the god.
- Gushum
 - Held at the beginning of fall
 - A fattened sheep was sacrificed at the temples of Pinikir and Kirisha.
- A number of burnt human skeletons and bones have been discovered in the tombs in Choghazanbil



- Near the ziggurat was the Royal Road from Susa to Persis
- Travellers like Cyrus the Great, Darius I the Great, and Alexander the Great
 - the building is not mentioned at all in any of the sources that mention these people
 - Perhaps, Aššurbanipal destroyed the tower, or perhaps it fell apart when no Elamite was left to take care.

Modern buildings resembling ziggurats

Sacramento river bank pyramid California



Secret Intelligence Service building Vauxhall, London



Hodges Library, UT Knoxville



Ziggurats at the University of East Anglia









