

Framing Epirus and Southern Illyria in the Mediterranean context

THEATRICAL BUILDINGS AND CITIES BETWEEN 'HELLENISATION' AND 'ROMANISATION'

**Lesson for the course of *Classical Archaeology*
(professor: Rachele Dubbini)**

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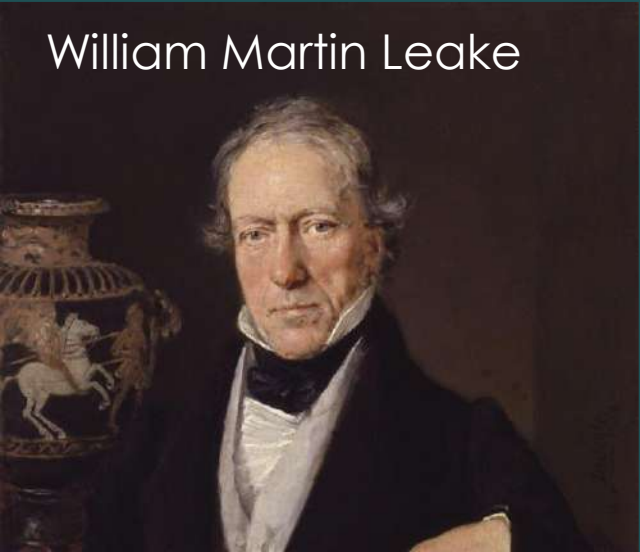
Defining the research

- ▶ **Methods**
- ▶ **Focuses**
- ▶ **Problems**
- ▶ ***Status Quaestionis***
- ▶ **Goals**

Ali Pasha of Ioannina



William Martin Leake



François Pouqueville



The time of travelers

« Pour ceux qui recherchent les traces de la civilisation et des arts, à Delphes finit la Grèce. Au-delà ce ne sont que des peuplades plus ou moins barbares [...] c'est déjà l'Épire qui commence. »

(Heuzey 1860, p. 225)

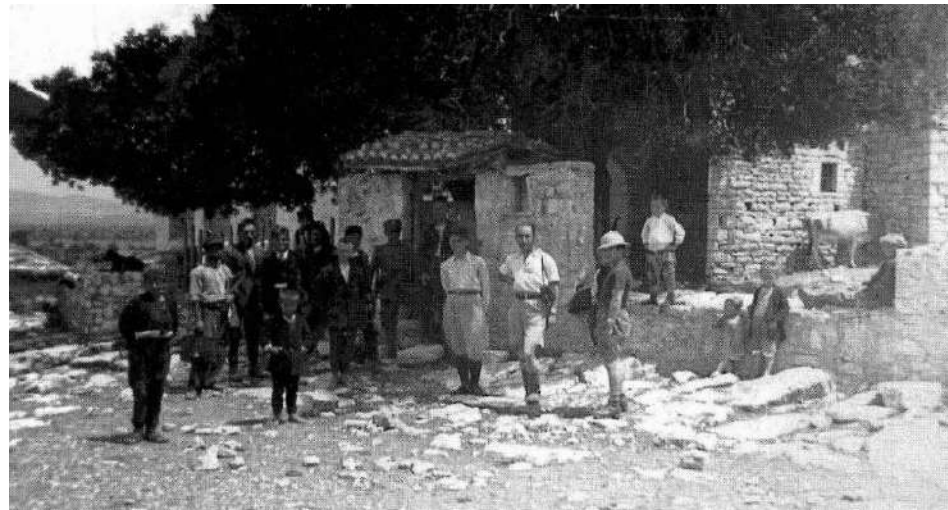
The time of excavations

« [...] j'ai tenté de mieux faire connaître l'histoire d'une région bien souvent négligée [...]. Sa position même rend, pourtant, cette étude pleine d'intérêt, car l'Epire est la mieux placée pour refléter les influences différentes venues de Grèce et d'Illyrie [...] »

(Cabanes 1976, *Avant Propose*)



Archaeological mission of Luigi M. Ugolini at Butrint (1928)



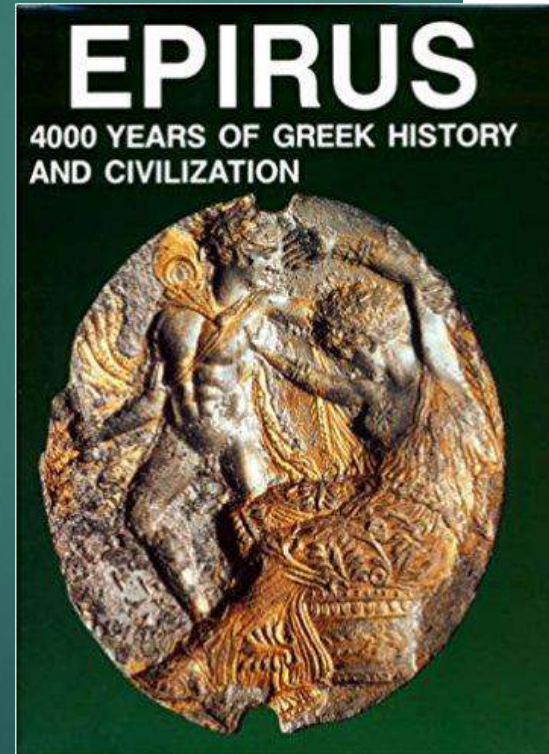
Archaeological mission of Leon Rey at Apollonia (1924)



Plan of Dodona after Costantinos Carapanos' excavations (Carapanos 1878, vol. 2, pl. III).

Status quaestionis

Monographic studies on Epirus



EPIRUS

*The geography, the ancient remains, the history
and the topography of Epirus
and adjacent areas*

BY
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Professor of Greek in the University of Bristol
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and Fellow and Tutor of Clare College
Cambridge*

OXFORD
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS
1967

Pierre CABANES

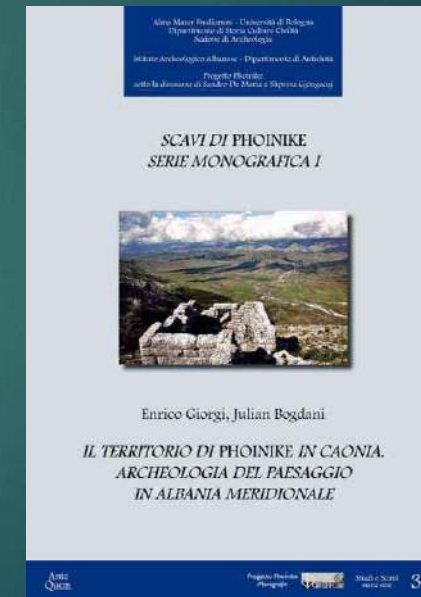
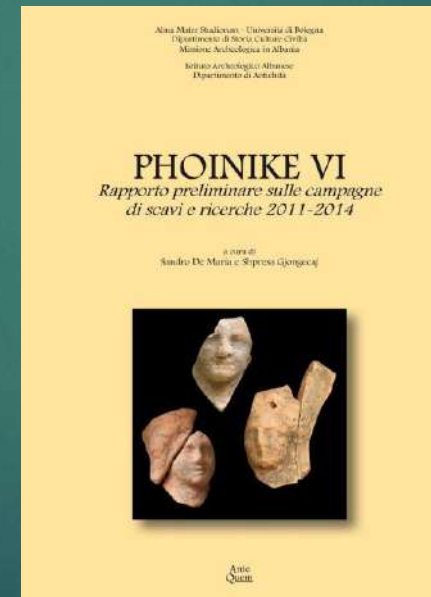
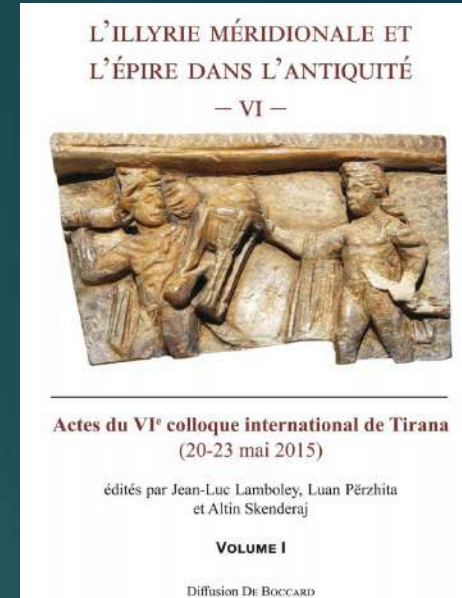
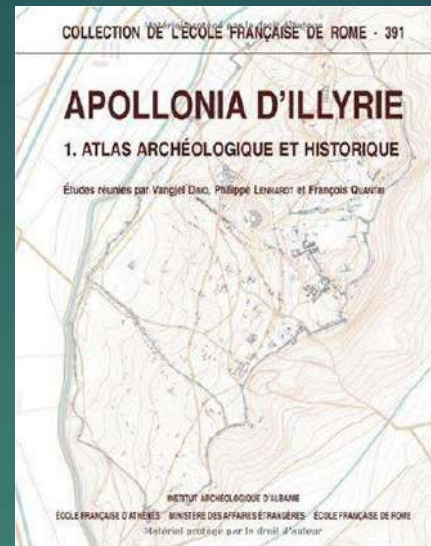
**L'ÉPIRE
DE LA MORT DE PYRRHOS
A LA CONQUÊTE ROMAINE**
(272-167)



Ouvrage publié avec le concours de la Faculté
des Lettres et Sciences humaines de Clermont-Ferrand

Status quaestionis

Some of the
more recent
studies on the
region



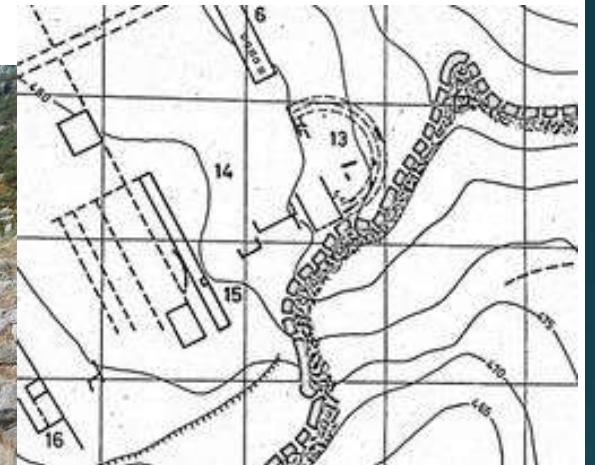
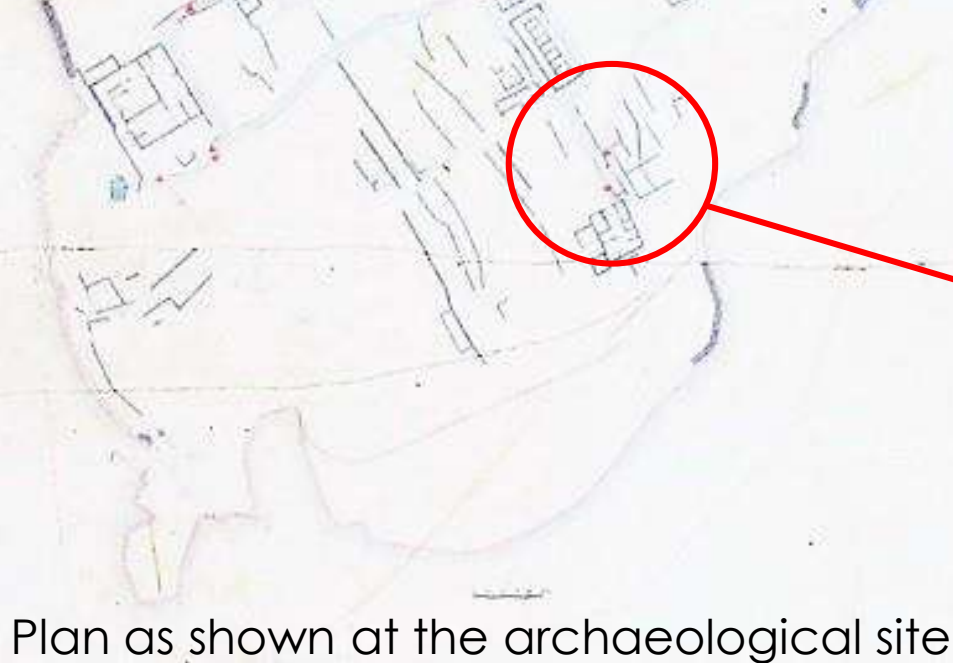
Theatrical buildings at the beginning of the research

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Theatre at Apollonia | 16. Theatre at Klimatia |
| 2. Odeion at Apollonia | 17. Theatre at Dodona |
| 3. Bouleuterion at Apollonia | 18. Theatre at Elea Thesprotike |
| 4. Theatre at Dimale | 19. Theatre at Dimokastro (Elina?) |
| 5. Theatre at Byllis | 20. Theatre at Rhiniassa (Elatia?) |
| 6. "North-West" theatre at Byllis | 21. Theatre at Orraon |
| 7. Theatre at Nikaia | 22. Theatre at Kassope |
| 8. Theatre at Orikos | 23. Odeion/bouleuterion /ekklesiasterion at Kassope |
| 9. Theatre at Antigonea | 24. Theatre at Ambrakia |
| 10. Theatre at Hadrianopolis | 25. "Small theatre" at Ambrakia |
| 11. Theatre at Phoinike | 26. Theatre at Argos of Anfilochia |
| 12. Theatre at Onchesmos | 27. Theatre at Nikopolis |
| 13. Theatre at Butrint | 28. Odeion at Nikopolis |
| 14. Theatre at Megalo Gardiki (Passoron?) | |
| 15. Theatre at Gitana | |



Τοπογραφικό διάγραμμα
General ground plan

Elea Thesprotike

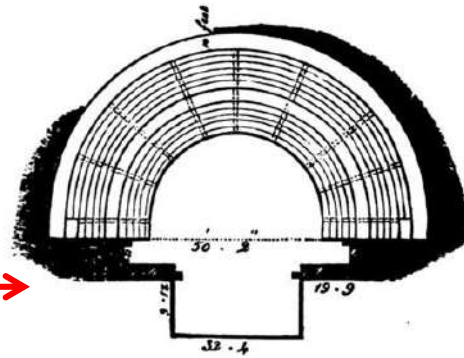
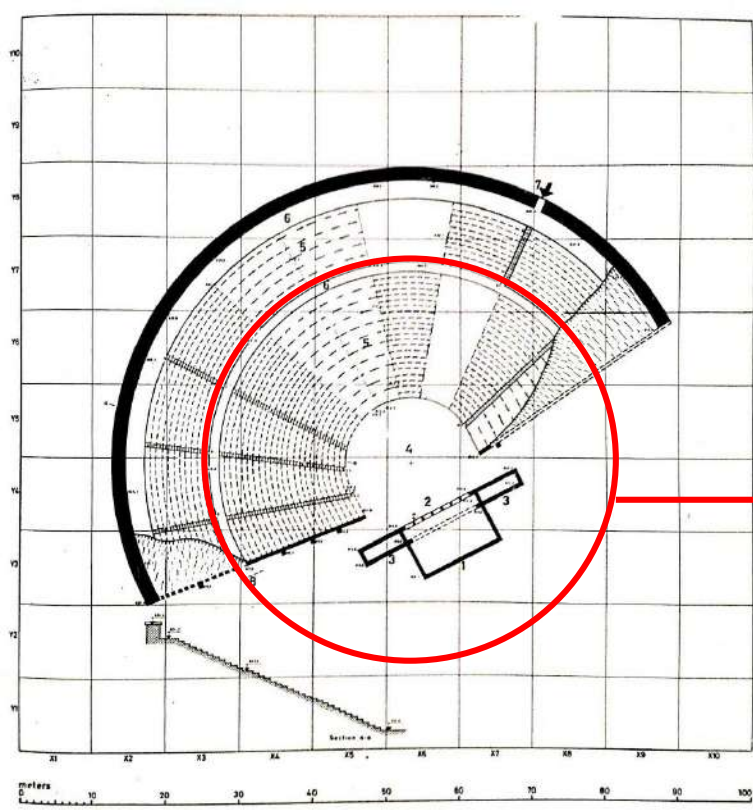


Detail of the plan
proposed by S.
Dakaris showing a
theater in the city
plan

Plan as shown at the archaeological site

Theatre at Kassope

- ▶ Drawing of the Theater located at Rhiniassa, (Zalongo) made by T. Smart Huges. At the time the site of Kassope was still unlocated (Hughes 1820, Vol. 2, p. 340).
- ▶ It is clear now that what Huges saw was a portion of the so-called Great theatre at Kassope (Riginos, Papakosta 2017).



Updated list of actually existing (or yet to be confirmed) theatrical buildings

Theatres in Epirus and Southern Illyria

Google Earth

Image Landsat / Copernicus

Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO

Legenda

- Hellenistic Theatres
- Roman Theatres

1. Theatre at Apollonia
2. Odeion at Apollonia
3. Bouleuterion at Apollonia
4. Theatre at Dimale
5. Theatre at Byllis
6. Theatre at Nikaia
7. Theatre at Antigonea
8. Theatre at Hadrianopolis
9. Theatre at Phoinike
10. Theatre at Onchesmos
11. Theatre at Butrint
12. Theatre at Gitana
13. Theatre at Dodona
14. Theatre at Kassope
15. Odeion/bouleuterion/
ekklesiasterion at Kassope
16. Theatre at Ambrakia
17. "Small theatre" at Ambrakia
18. Theatre at Argos of Anfilochia
19. Theatre at Nikopolis
20. Odeion at Nikopolis



100 km

Apollonia

Scheda del Sito Antico (Tavv. V-VI)

SCHEDA IDENTIFICATIVA SITO ANTICO	
Loc. Corr.	Pojani, Fier, Albania
Sito	Apollonia
Tp. Sito	Città
Descr.	Colonia corinzio-corinense, fondata circa una generazione più tardi rispetto ad Epidamno-Dyrrhachion (Strab. VII, 5, 8 e 316). Pausania tace il ruolo di Corinto (Paus V, 22, 4) ¹⁹¹ .
Fond. Data	Ca. 600 a.C.
Fond. Periodo	Colonizzazione corinzio-corinense di VII sec. a.C.
Fond. Età	Periodo preclassico
Cron.	Breve indicazione sul periodo di vita della città.

SCHEDA AMMINISTRATIVA SITO					
FA	FA.1 (a)	FA.3	FA.5 (e)	FA.5 (a)	FA.9
nFA	1	2	3	4	5
Un. Amm. Geo	Illiria Meridionale	Grande Epiro di Pindo	Illiria Meridionale - protettorato romano	Provincia Romana di Macedonia	
Cron.	Dalla fondazione come colonia corinzio-corinense (600 a.C.).	III sec. a.C.	Dal 229 a.C.	Dal 148 d.C.	Dal IV sec.
Osserv.	Regione oligarchica.	Dopo essere stata assediata da Cassandro (312 a.C.) e sotto l'autorità	Entra a far parte del protettorato romano ¹⁹² . Nel I sec. a.C. diviene civitas		Ripetute invasioni gotiche marcano l'inizio del declino della città e un

¹⁹¹ Per una sintesi storica sulla città di Apollonia, con relativa bibliografia: Cabanes 2008, 148-150. Si veda, inoltre: Dimo, Lenhardt e Quantin 2007.

¹⁹² Esso comprende anche Epidamno, Corcira, Issa e i territori fino all'ethnos degli Atintani.

		di Giaccia, re degli Illiri.	libera inventaria ¹⁹³	et	progressivo abbandono.
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Teatro (Tavv. VII-IX)

L'EDIFICIO: LA SCHEDA IDENTIFICATIVA

SCHEDA IDENTIFICATIVA DELL'EDIFICIO	
Ed.	Teatro di Apollonia
Tipo	Teatro-arena
Catg.	Ed. gr. + fasti romani
Caratt. Funz.	Edificio teatrale, successivamente modificato in arena per la rappresentazione di <i>munera gladiatoria</i> . Lo statuto di <i>polis</i> della città di Apollonia in un territorio dominato dalle organizzazioni territoriali (<i>keissa</i>) fa propendere per un'interpretazione delle funzioni del teatro che ne valorizzi gli aspetti classici dei teatri greci di epoca tardo-classica ed ellenistica. In età antonina, la costruzione di un <i>oideion</i> e un <i>bouleuterion</i> sono chiari segni di una specializzazione funzionale.
Cron.	Edificio in uso dalla sua fondazione (secondo terzo del III sec. a.C.) all'abbandono della città con successiva spoliazione.
Loc. Corr.	Pojani (villaggio)
Nazione	Albania
Regione	Territorio di Fier
Sito	Apollonia
Miss. Arch.	Leon Rey (anni '20 del secolo scorso); Hasan Ceka e Skender Anamali (1948); da Selim Islami e Vladimir Demitriovitch Blavinski (1958-60); A. Mano e B. Dautaj (dal 1971, scavo del teatro); École française d'Athènes e Istituto Archeologico di Tirana (missione archeologico-epigrafica franco-albanese dal 1993 sotto la direzione di Pierre Cabanes e Neritan Ceka. Attuali direttori: Stéphane Verge; Jean-Luc Lambolle, Belisa Mula; DAI e Istituto Archeologico di Tirana (missione albanese-tedesca attiva dal 2006. Direzione di B. Lahi e H. Von Hesberg. Indagini, scavo e restauro del teatro) ¹⁹⁴ .
Stud.	I principali studi sul teatro sono a cura di A. Mano e, attualmente, della missione albanese-tedesca ad Apollonia (vd. Bibliografia della scheda).

¹⁹³ Sembra per via dell'appoggio dato ad Ottaviano contro Antonio.

¹⁹⁴ Per i riferimenti bibliografici e una trattazione più dettagliata si veda il primo capitolo del presente lavoro.

The Database

Key concepts:

- Vocabulary
- Classification (typological, morphological, architectural...)
- Administrative Phases of the city
- Building Phases of the theatre
- Urban planning and Topographical Phases
- Function
- Sources

Why Theatres?

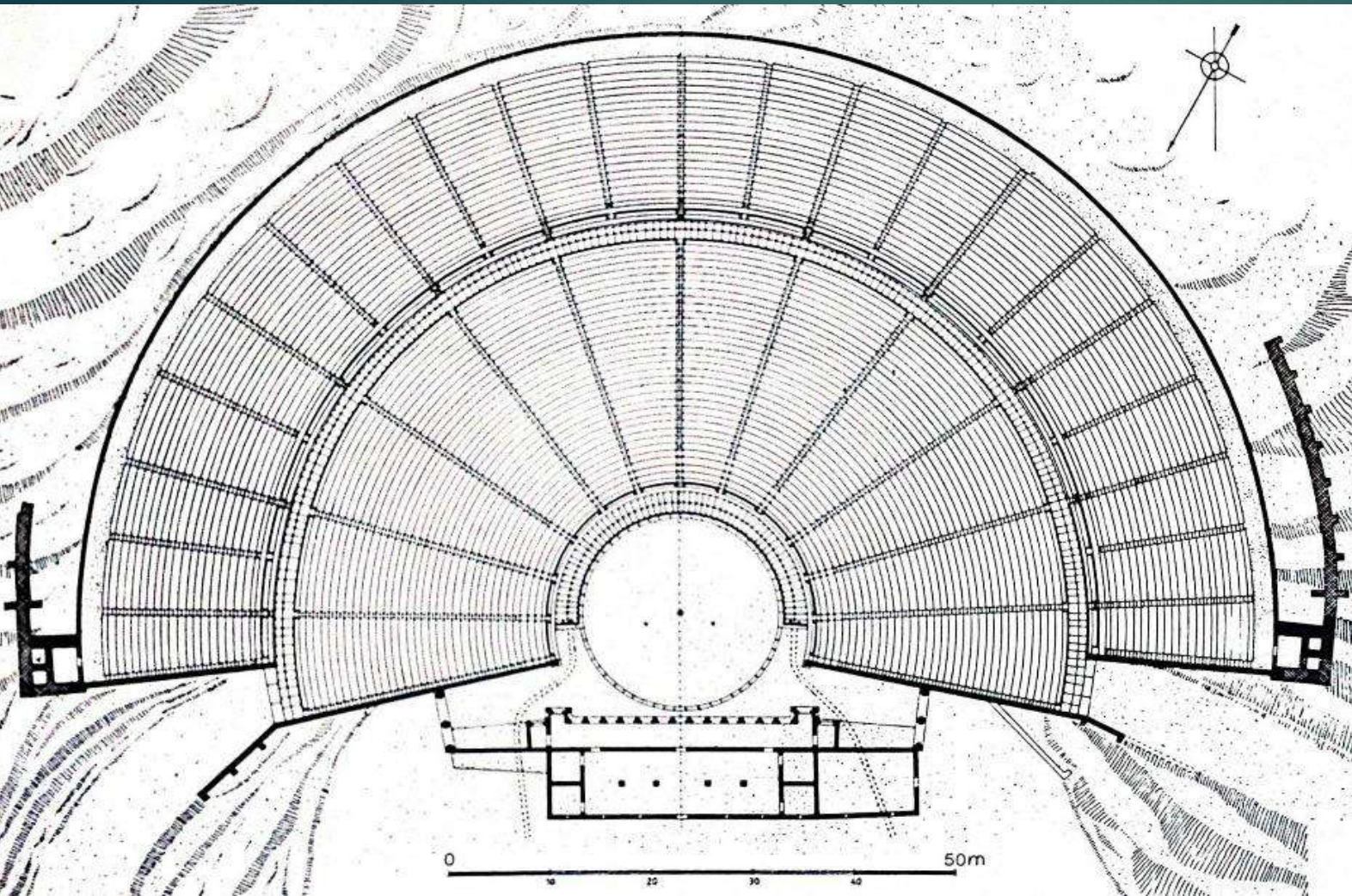
Main debated themes:

- ▶ Morphology
- ▶ Function
- ▶ Role in urban planning
- ▶ Greek theatres alterations in roman times

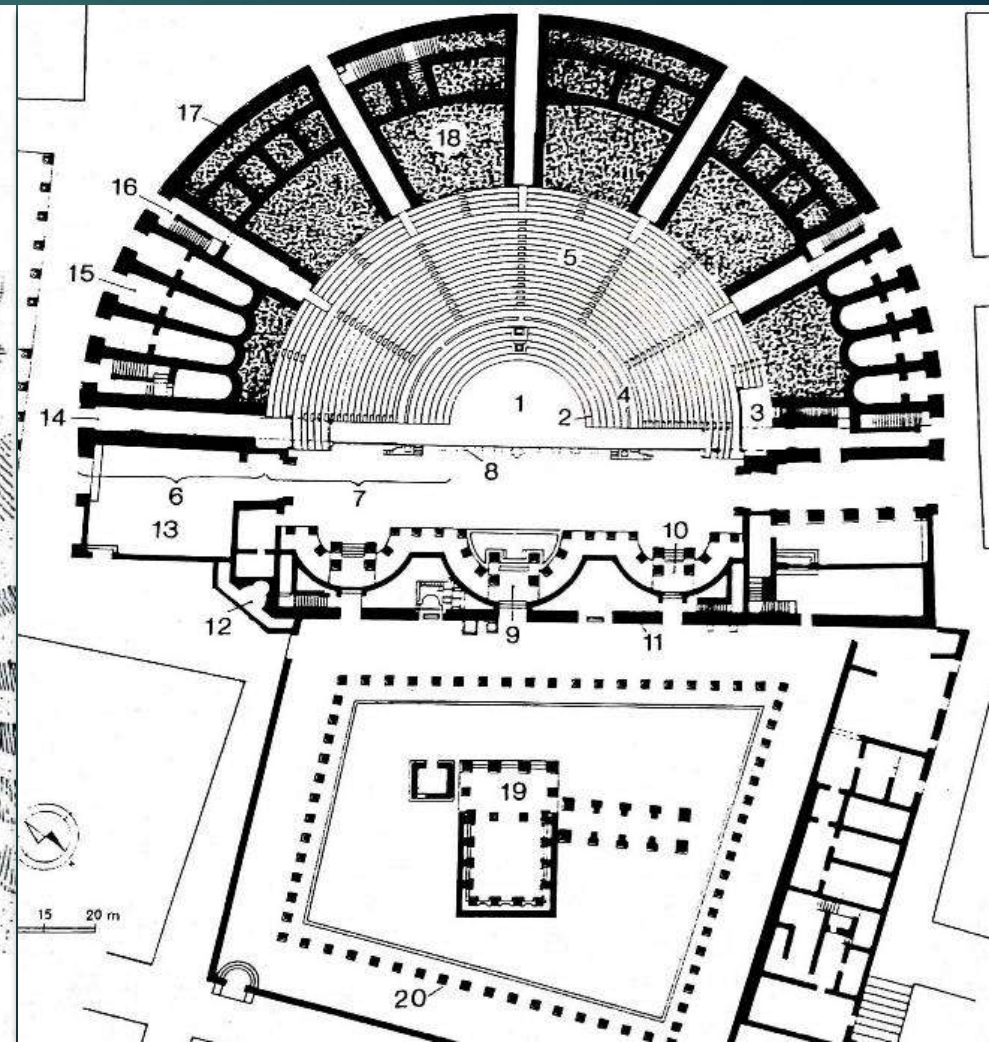
Greek and Roman Theatres

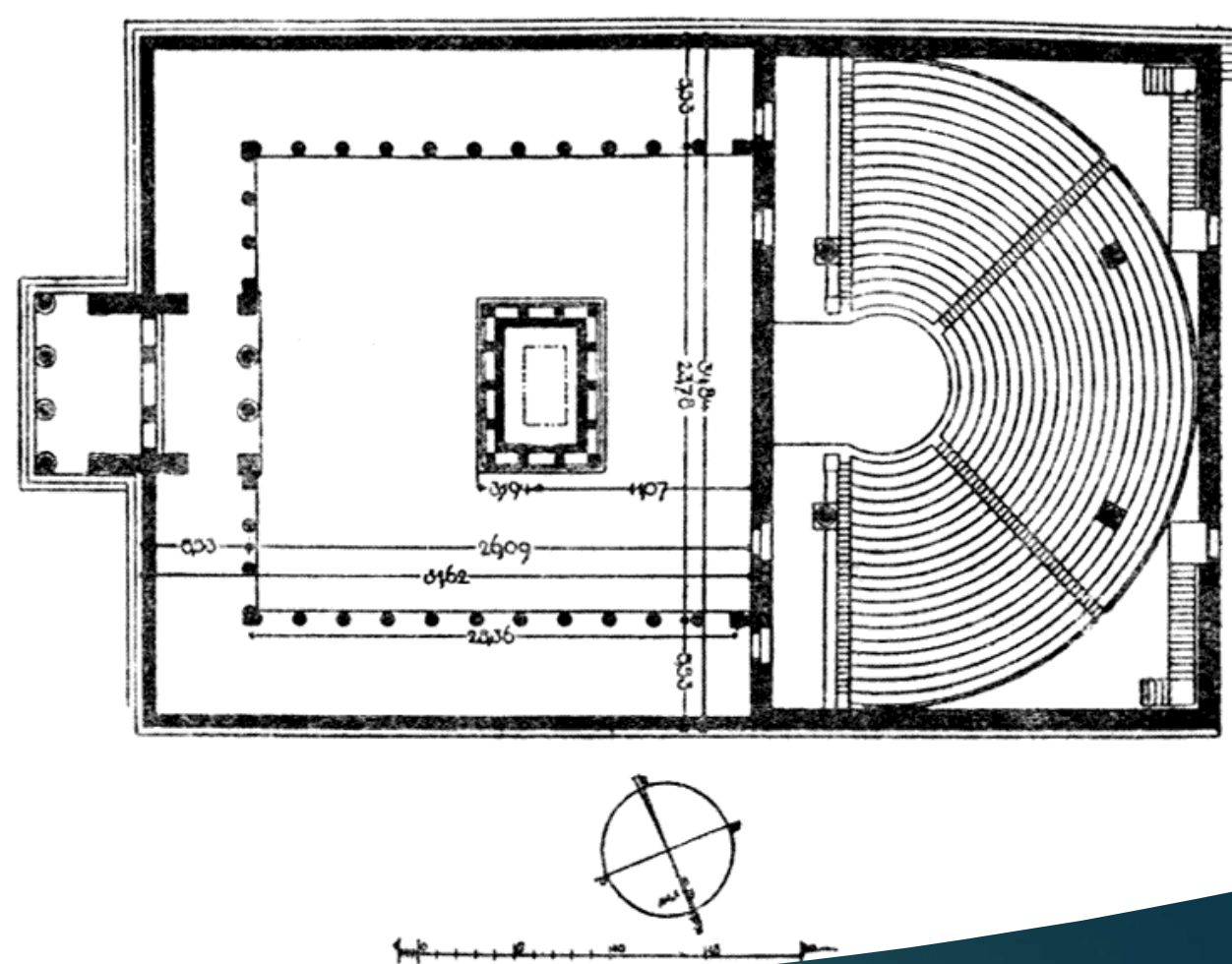
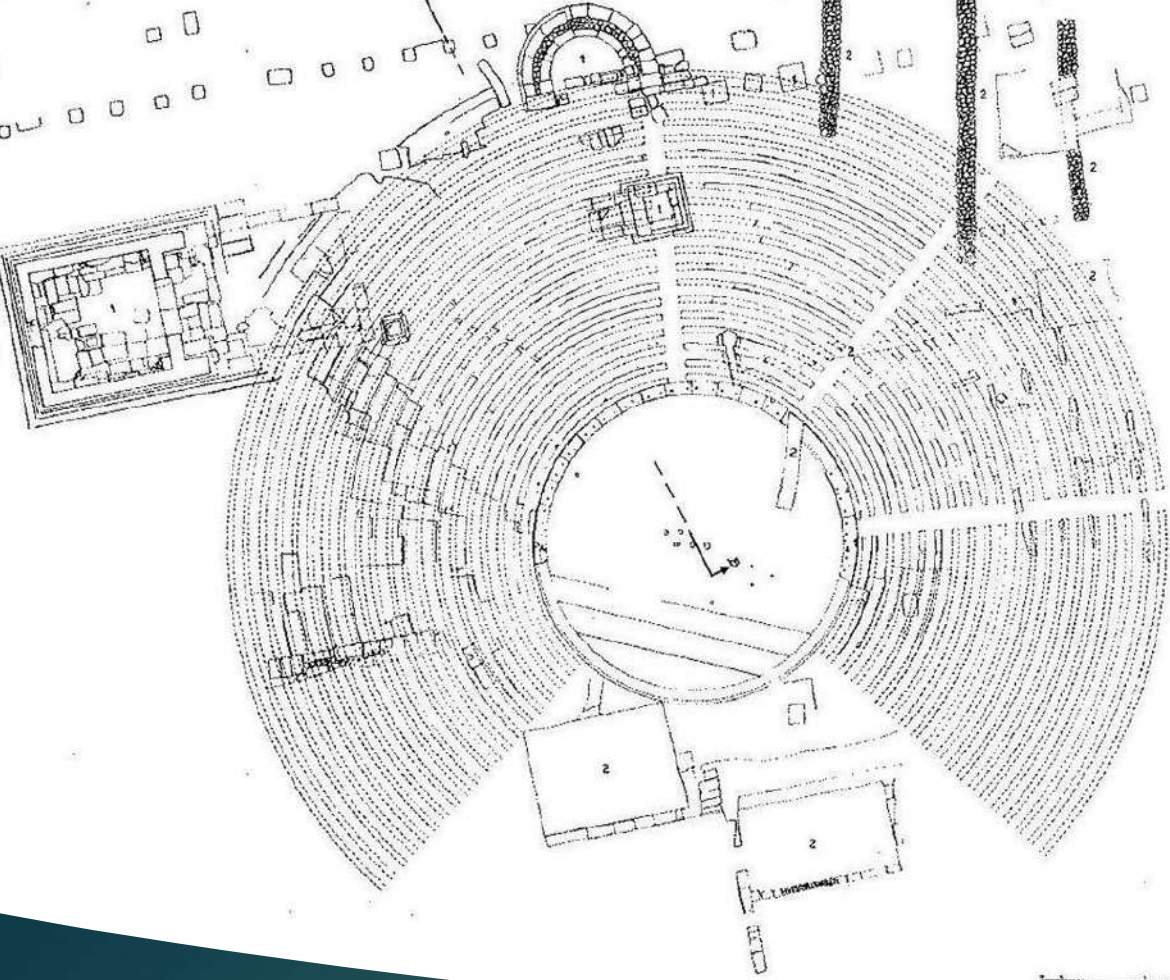
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Theatre at Epidaurus (*Dictionnaire III, Tav. 7.3*)



Theatre at Leptis Magna (*Dictionnaire III, Tav. 69*)





Ekklesiasterion of Agrigento (De Miro 2012)

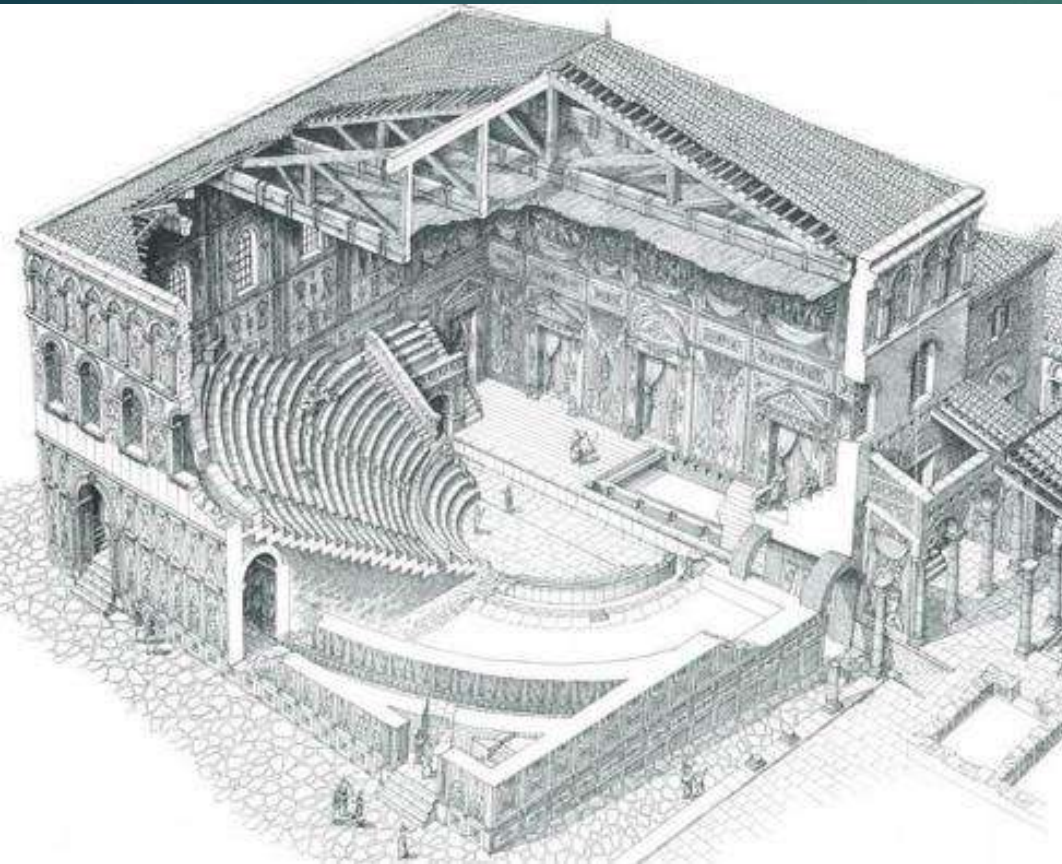
Bouleuterion of Miletus (I.I. Tolstogo. M.—L., 1948, s. 149)

The political function. *Ekklesiasteria* and *bouleuteria*: a morphological problem

What kind of performance?

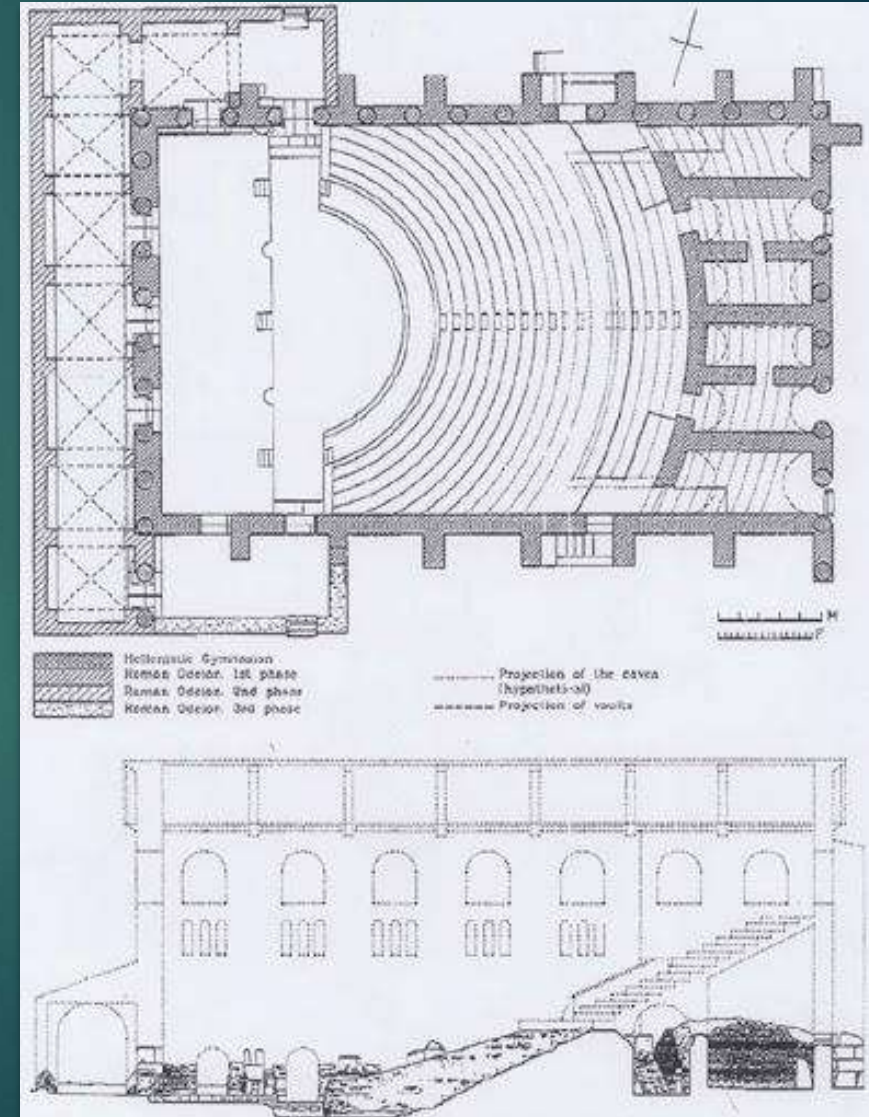
The Odeia

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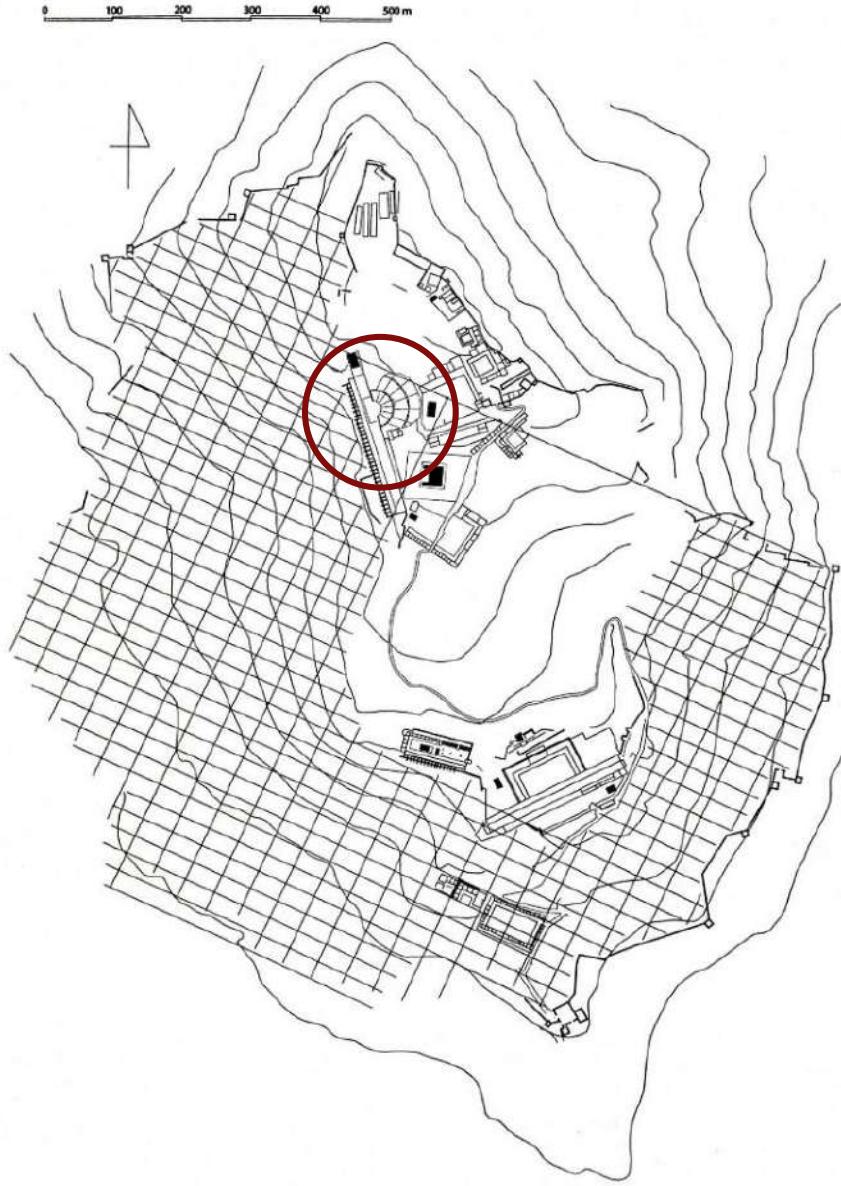


On the left:
Hypothetical
rendering of the
odeum at Pompeii
(<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.culher.2015.12.004>)

On the right:
Odeon of Epidauros
(from *Diazoma*)



Scenographic settings and strategic planning

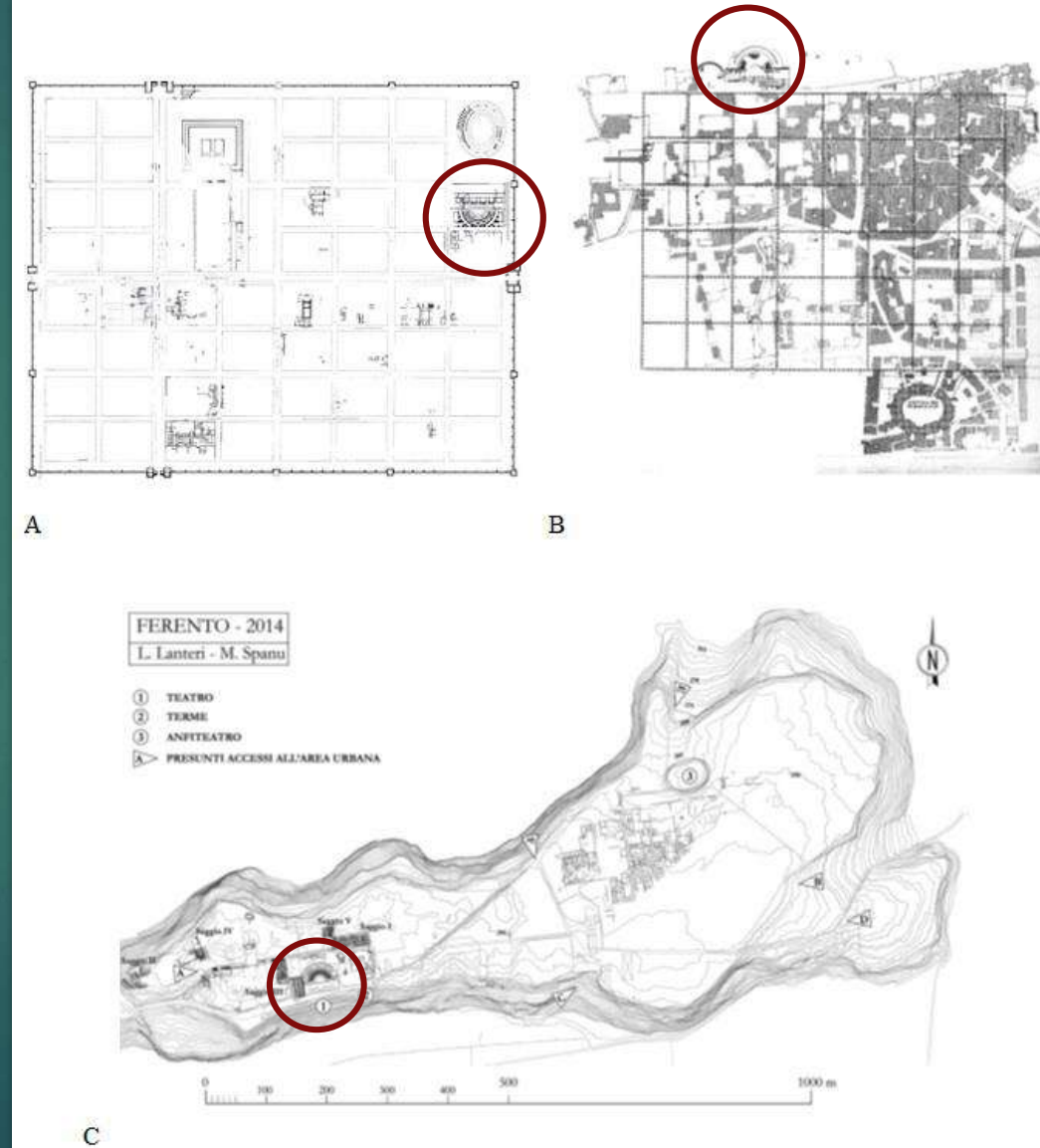


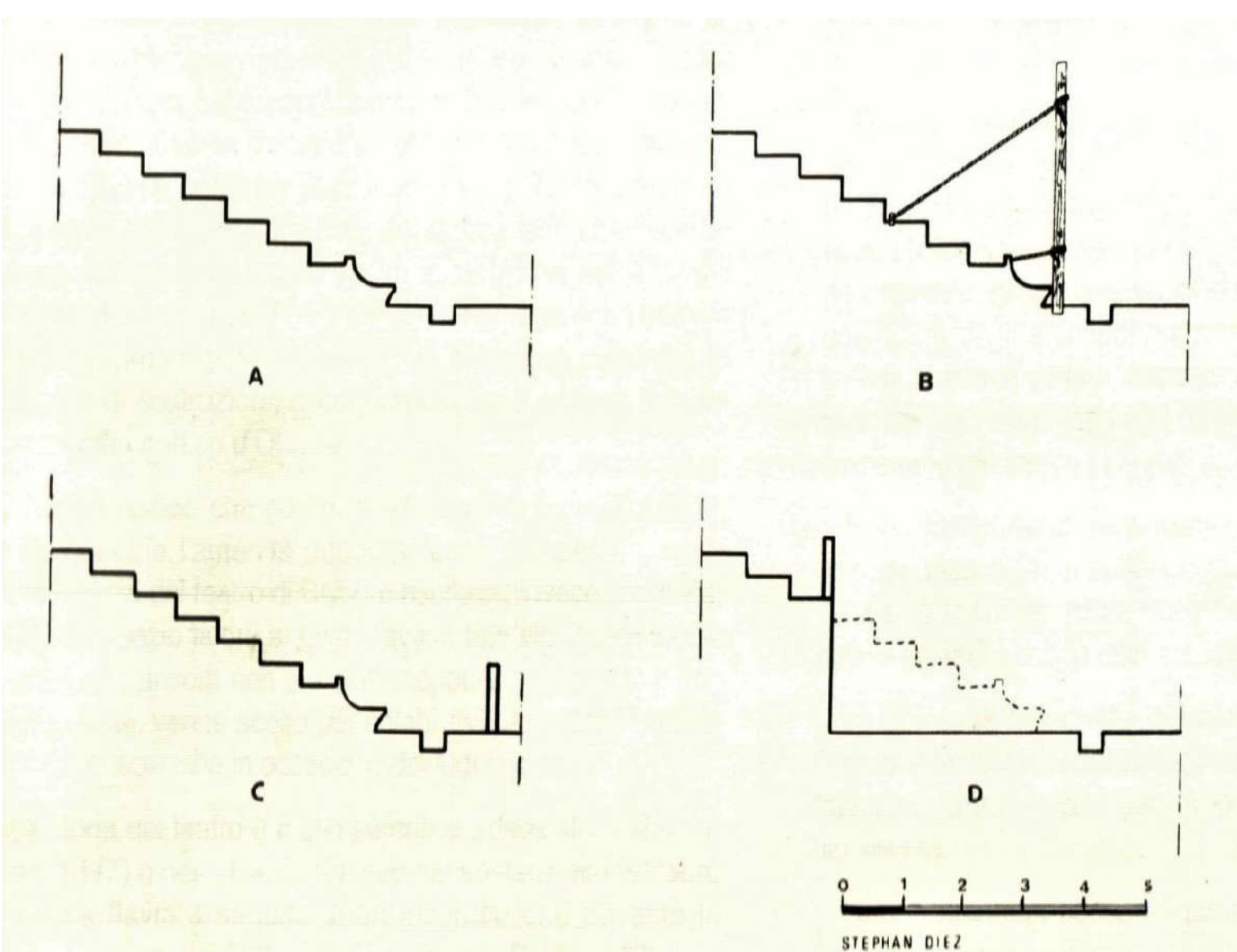
On the left:
Example of
Hellenistic setting
Pergamon (Kohl,
2007, 124, fig. 2)

On the right:
Examples of Roman
city planings

(A) Aosta (Mollo
Mezzena 1988); (B)
Venafrò (Capini, Di
Niro 1991); (C)
Ferento (Spanu 2014,
Fig. 17).

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Roman interventions on Greek Theatres

Examples of transformations concerning the *orchestra* and the *cavea* of a Greek theatre in order to perform *munera gladiatoria* and *venationes* (from Moretti 1992b, fig. 4)

Defining the territory, shaping the research

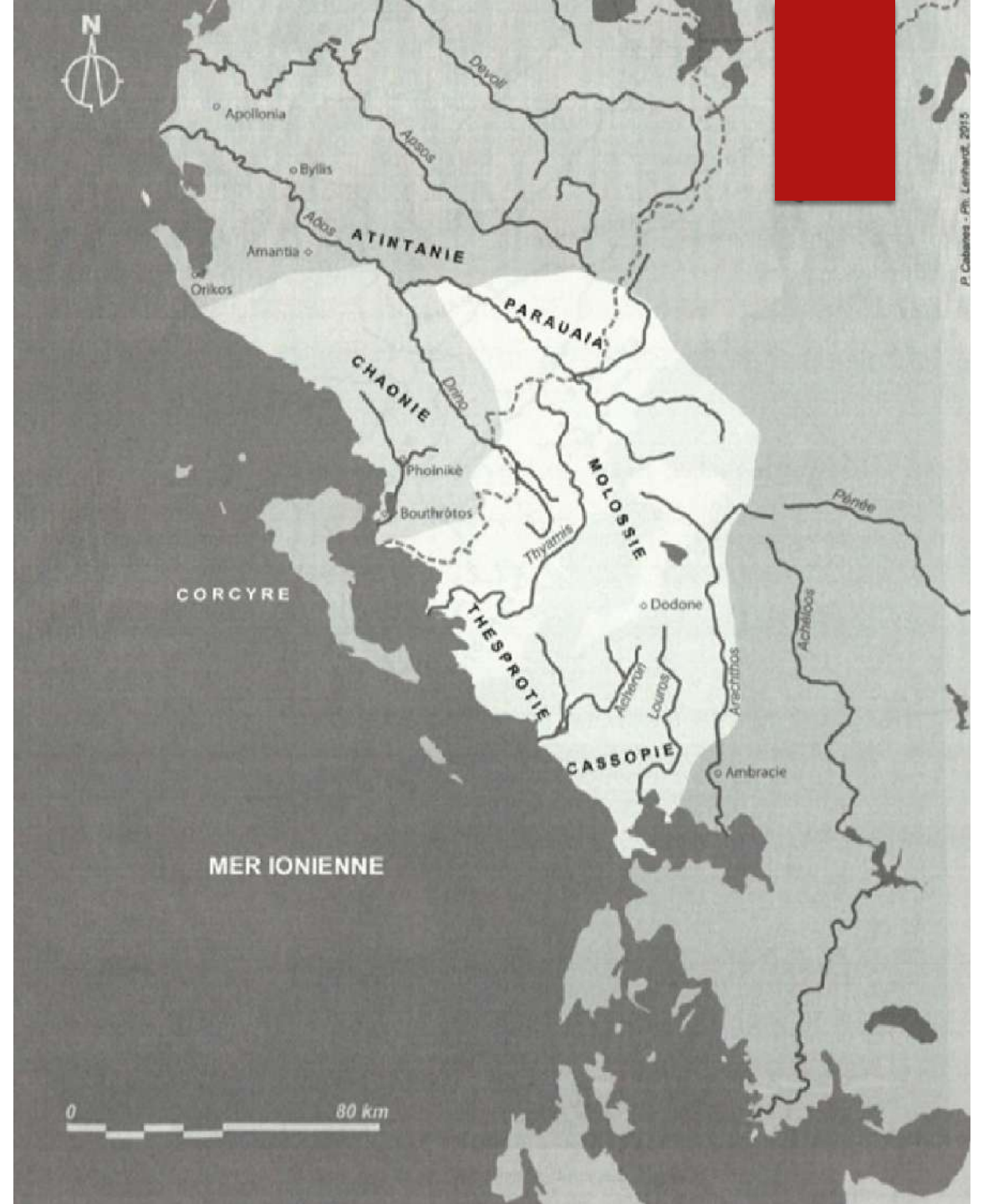
- ▶ Borders and *KOINA*
- ▶ *Polis* and *Ethnos*
- ▶ Urbanistic dynamics from the Hellenistic to Roman times

Epirote tribes borders at the end of the IV century B.C.

Main tribes:

- Chaonians
- Molossians
- Thesprotians
- Kassopeans

(Cabanès 2016, Pl. 2)



Polis, Ethnos, Koinon

Traditional concepts:

- ▶ *Polis* → city-state
- ▶ *Ethnos* → federal state

How was Epirus organized?

- ▶ The *koina*
- ▶ The concept of *tribal poleis*
- ▶ The hierarchization of the settlements around some *poleis*



Leo Von Klenze's painting of Athens at the time of Perikles (1846)

Bibliographic references:

Cabanes, P. 1976, L'Épire, de la mort de Pyrrhos à la conquête romaine, 272 - 167 av. J.C., Besançon.

Hansen M.H. e Nielsen Th.H. 2004, An inventory of archaic and classical poleis, Oxford.

Lasagni, C. 2018, "Tribal poleis" in Northwestern Greece. In : S. Montel, A. Pollini (eds.), Besançon, 159-188.

Lasagni, C. 2011, Il concetto di realtà locale nel mondo greco. Uno studio introduttivo nel confronto tra poleis e stati federali, Roma.

Identity matters: Epirotes as barbarians

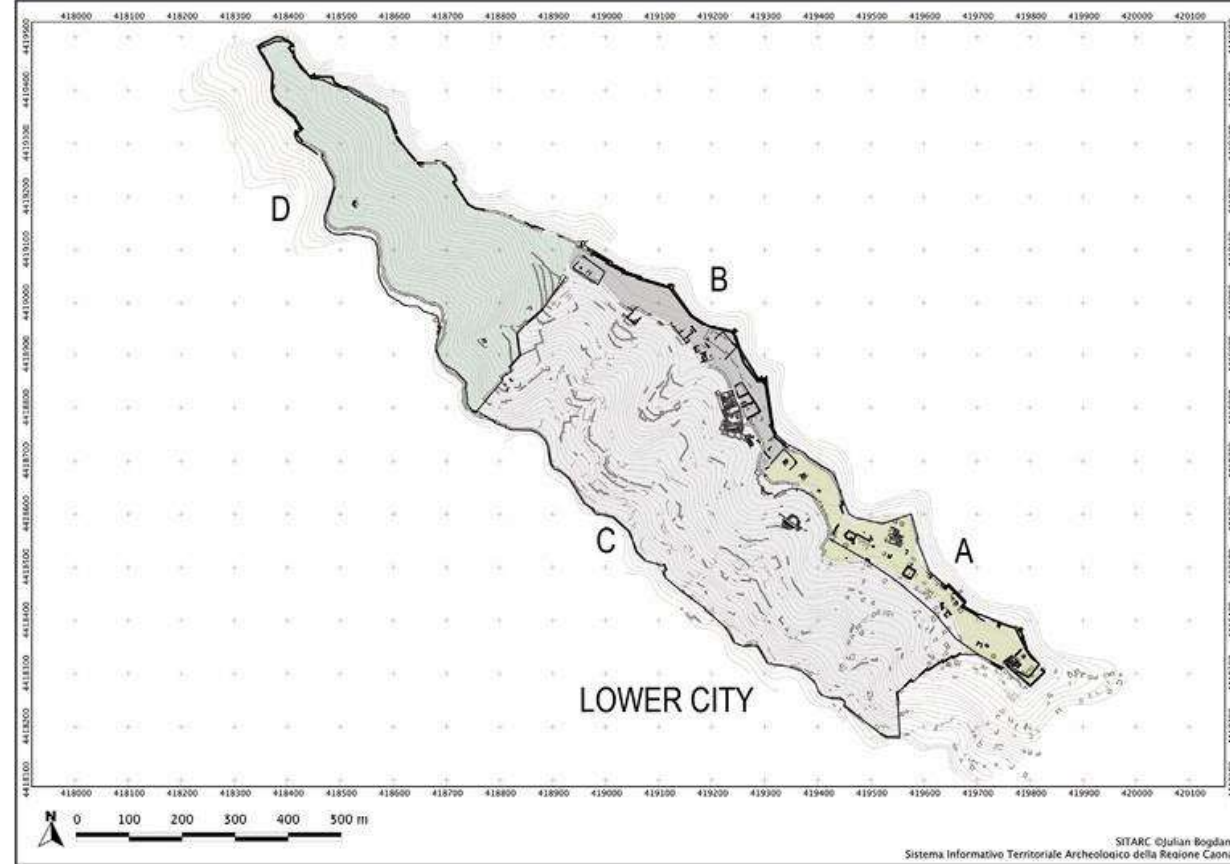
Thuc. II, 81, 4-5

4 καὶ οἱ μὲν Ἕλληνες τεταγμένοι τε προσῆσαν καὶ
διὰ φυλακῆς ἔχοντες, ἕως ἐστρατοπεδεύσαντο ἐν
ἐπιτηδείῳ· οἱ δὲ Χαόνες σφίσι τε αὐτοῖς πιστεύ-
οντες καὶ ἀξιούμενοι ὑπὸ τῶν ἐκείνη ἡπειρωτῶν
μαχιμώτατοι εἶναι οὔτε ἐπέσχον τοῦ στρατόπεδον
καταλαβεῖν, χωρήσαντές τε ῥύμη μετὰ τῶν ἄλ-
λων βαρβάρων ἐνόμισαν αὐτοβοεῖ ἂν τὴν πόλιν
5 ἐλεῖν καὶ αὐτῶν τὸ ἔργον γενέσθαι, γνόντες δ'

«[...] and the Hellenic troops as they advanced maintained their ranks and were on their guard until they encamped in a suitable place; but the **Chaonians**, who were not only confident of themselves but were also recognised as very excellent fighting men by the inhabitants of that part of the mainland, did not halt to make camp, but advanced with a rush along with the other **barbarians**, thinking that they could take the town at the first assault, and thus gain the glory for themselves.»

The oracular enquiry from Dodona

- ▶ What is the meaning of the word *polis* here?
 - It stands for the *koinon* (administrative)
 - It refers to the urban settlement closer to a city (urbanistic)
-
- ▶ What does this say about the identity concept of the *Chaonians* and/or the inhabitants of *Phoinike*?



Plan of
Phoinike
(Groma –
University of
Bologna)

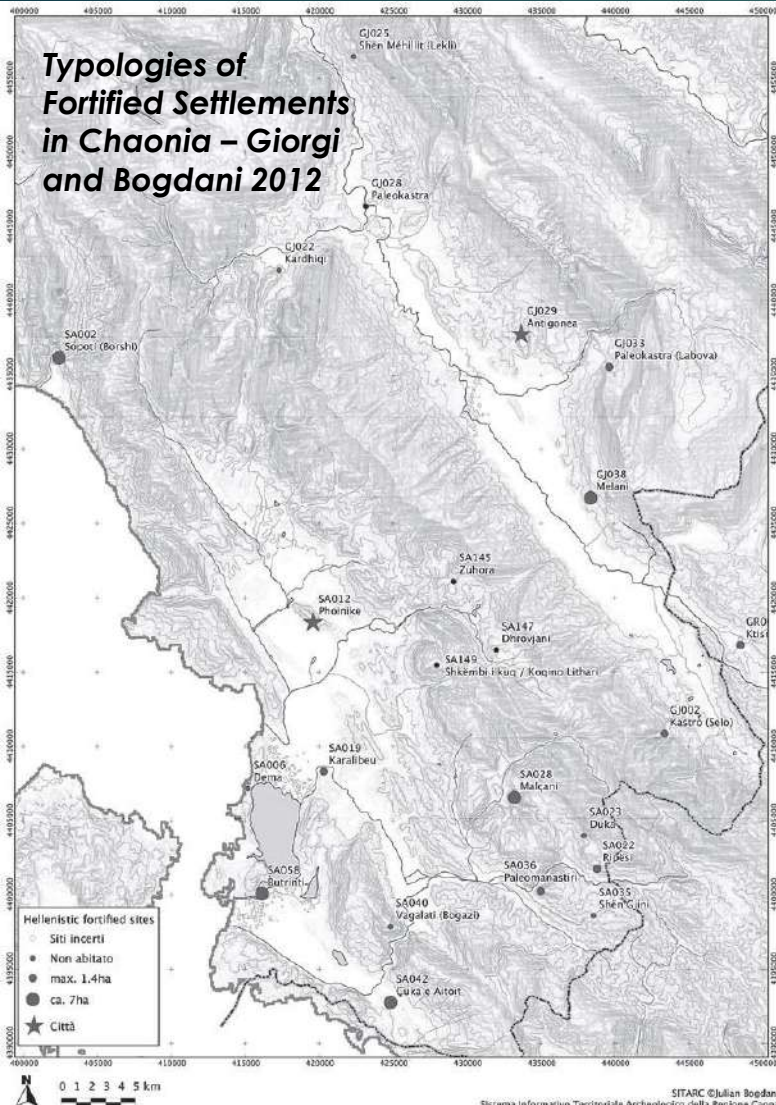
Text on the bronze tablet found in Dodona and dated 330-320 B.C.:

«ἀγαθαὶ τύχαι -- αἰτεῖται ἡ πόλις ἡ τῶν Χαόνων / τὸν Δία τὸν Νάον
καὶ τὰν Διώναν ἀνελεῖν εἰ λῶι/ον καὶ ἄμεινον καὶ συμφώτερόν ἐστι
τὸν ναὸν / τὸν τᾶς Ἀθάωας τᾶς Πολιάδος ἀγχωρίζαντας / ποεῖν»

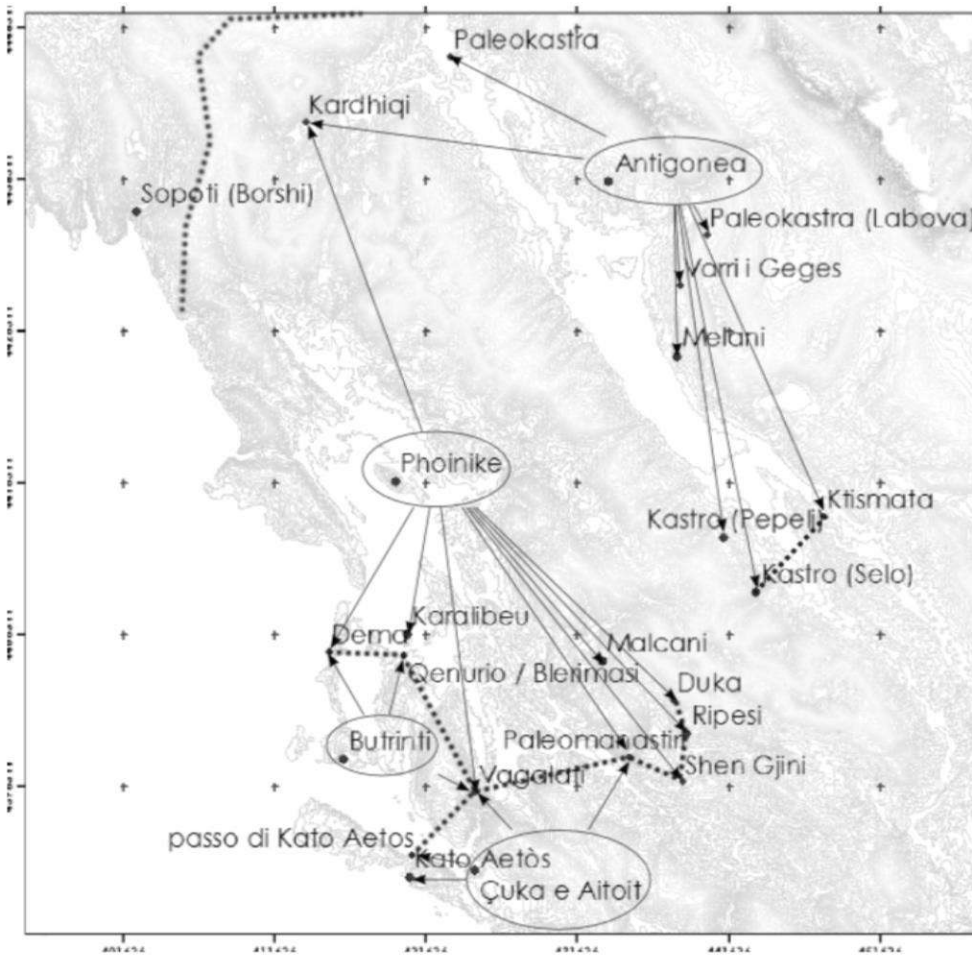
Settlements hierarchical organisation

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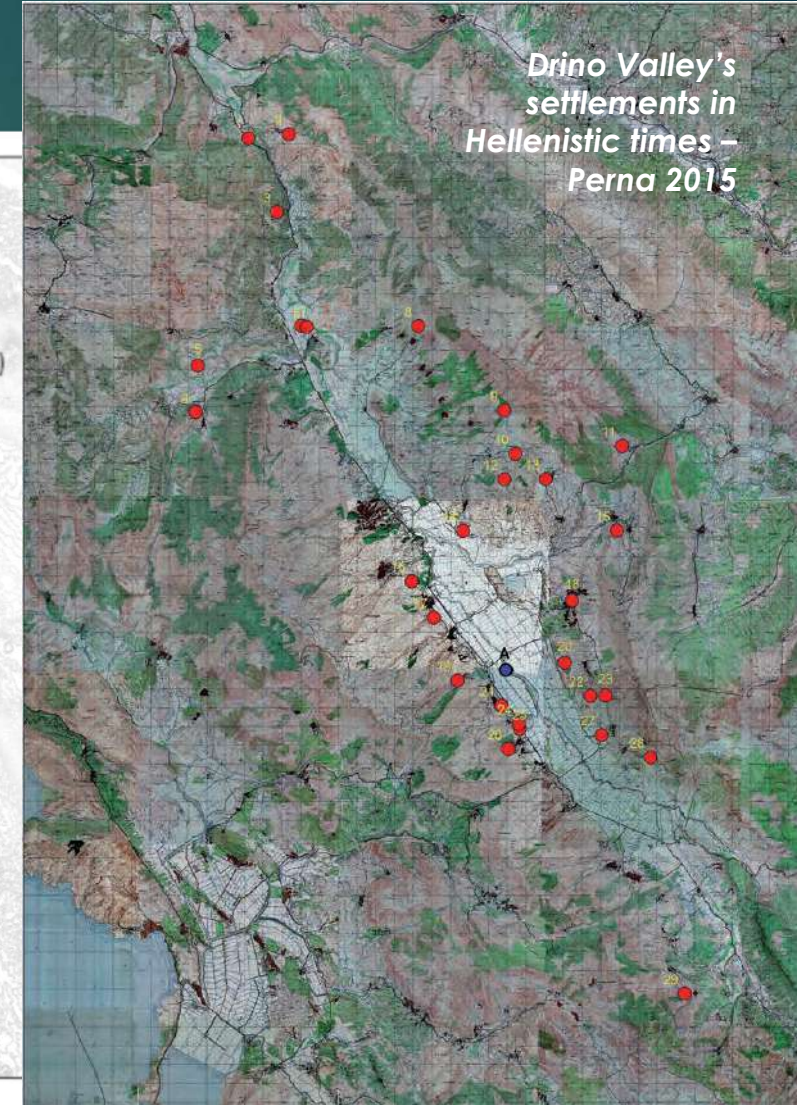
**Typologies of
Fortified Settlements
in Chaonia – Giorgi
and Bogdani 2012**



Organisation of the fortified settlements in the territories of Phoinike, Antigonea and Buthrotos following the interpretation of the University of Bologna (Giorgi and Bogdani 2012)



**Drino Valley's
settlements in
Hellenistic times –
Perna 2015**



The Great Epirus of Pyrrhus (306-272 B.C.)

Main territorial extensions:

- ▶ Territory of Byllis and Apollonia
- ▶ Atintania
- ▶ Akarnania

(Cabanes 2016, Pl. 3)



Koinon of the Epirotes: koina borders between 232 and 168 B.C.

Koinon of the Epirotes:
Chaonians, Molossians, Kassopeans

Territories with a stronger roman
influence:

Apollonia, Byllis, Dimale, Prasaiboi

(Cabanès 2016, Pl. 3)



Roman provinces

Borders after the creation of the Province of Epirus (capital: Nikopolis) – Trainean period

(Alcock 1993, Fig. 46)



The Mediterranean Context



On the right:
Two segments of the *Tabula Peutingeriana* showing Italy
and Greece
On the background:
A mosaic representing Odysseus (II century A.D. – Bardo
National Museum, Tunis)

The so-called ionic-adriatic *koinè*

- Role of the Otranto channel in the definition of an Adriatic *koinè* from the bronze age
- Corinthian colonies

Some bibliographic references:

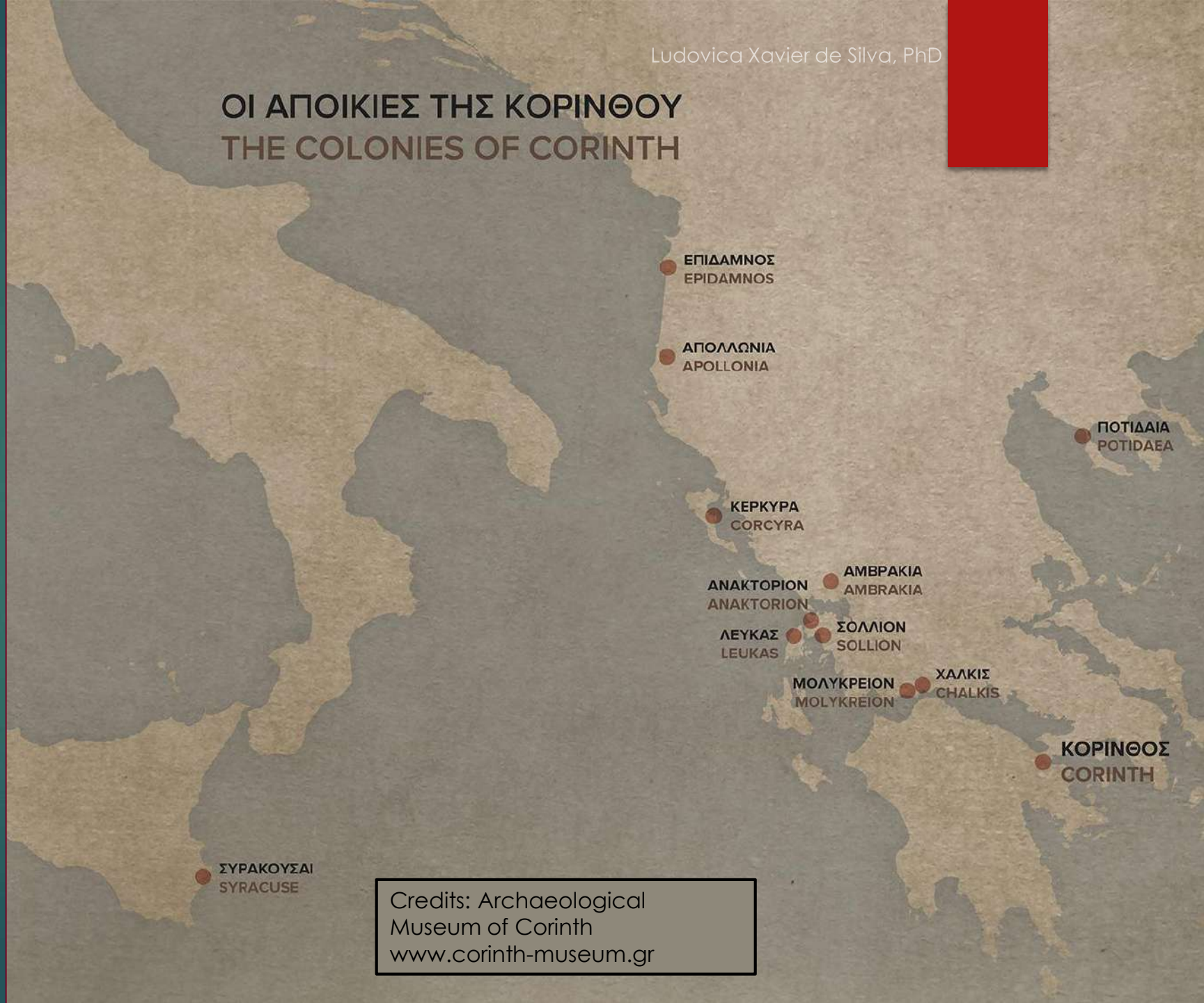
Lambole, J.-L., Castiglioni, M.P. 2015, Les Grecs en Adriatique, bilan et perspectives, Marion, Y, Tassaux, F. (eds.), Bordeaux, 149-160.

Lambole, J.-L. 1987, Le canal d'Otrante et les relations entre les deux rives de l'Adriatique, *IMEA I*, 1987, 195-202.

Lambole, J.-L. 1993, État de la recherche sur les relations sud-adriatiques. Bilan et perspectives, *IMEA II*, 231-237.

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ΟΙ ΑΠΟΙΚΙΕΣ ΤΗΣ ΚΟΡΙΝΘΟΥ THE COLONIES OF CORINTH



Credits: Archaeological
Museum of Corinth
www.corinth-museum.gr



Hellenistic Kingdoms and political networks

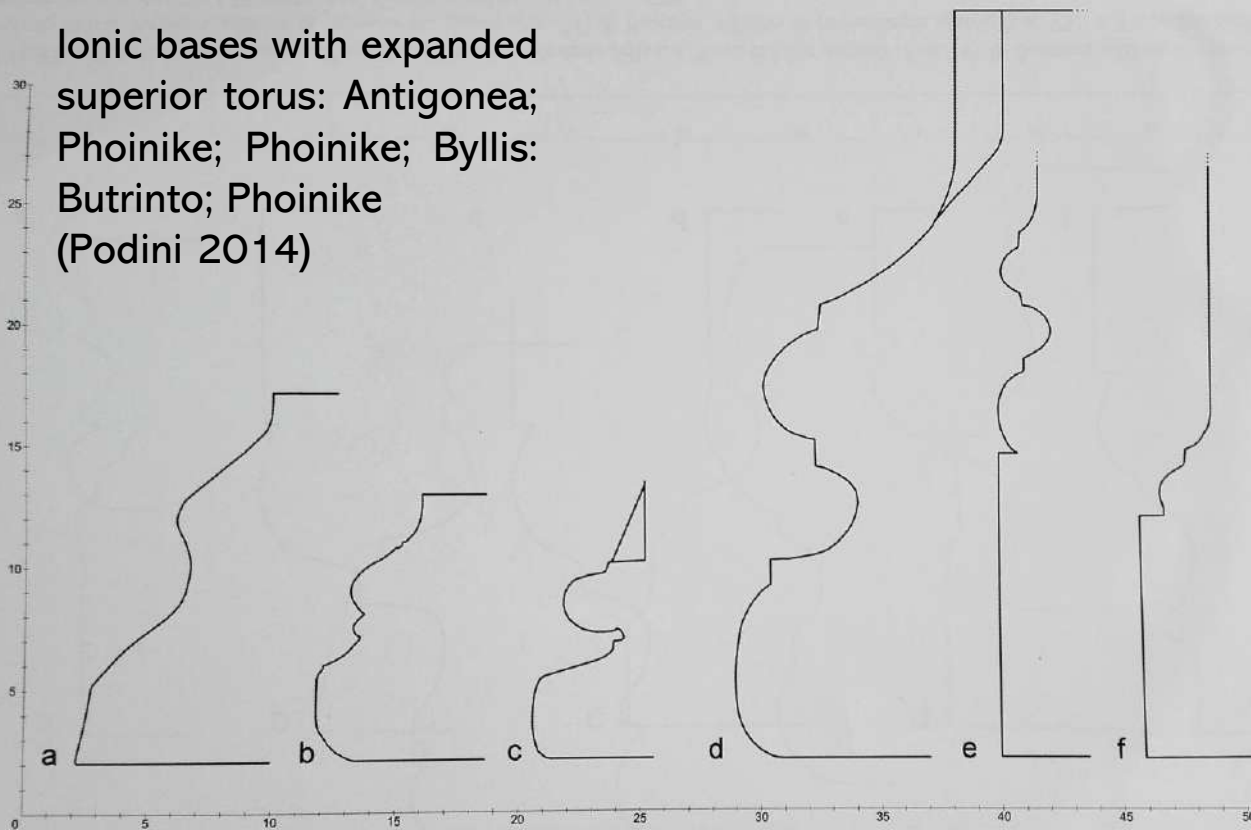
- ▶ Relationships between Magna Graecia and Sicily with the Hellenistic kings and generals from the Balkans
- ▶ Roman interventions in local wars and power balances
- ▶ Illyrian (230-33 B.C.) and Macedonian (214-148 B.C.) wars

The *octagonal order* and the definition of a regional architectonic style

Ludovica Xavier de Silva, PhD

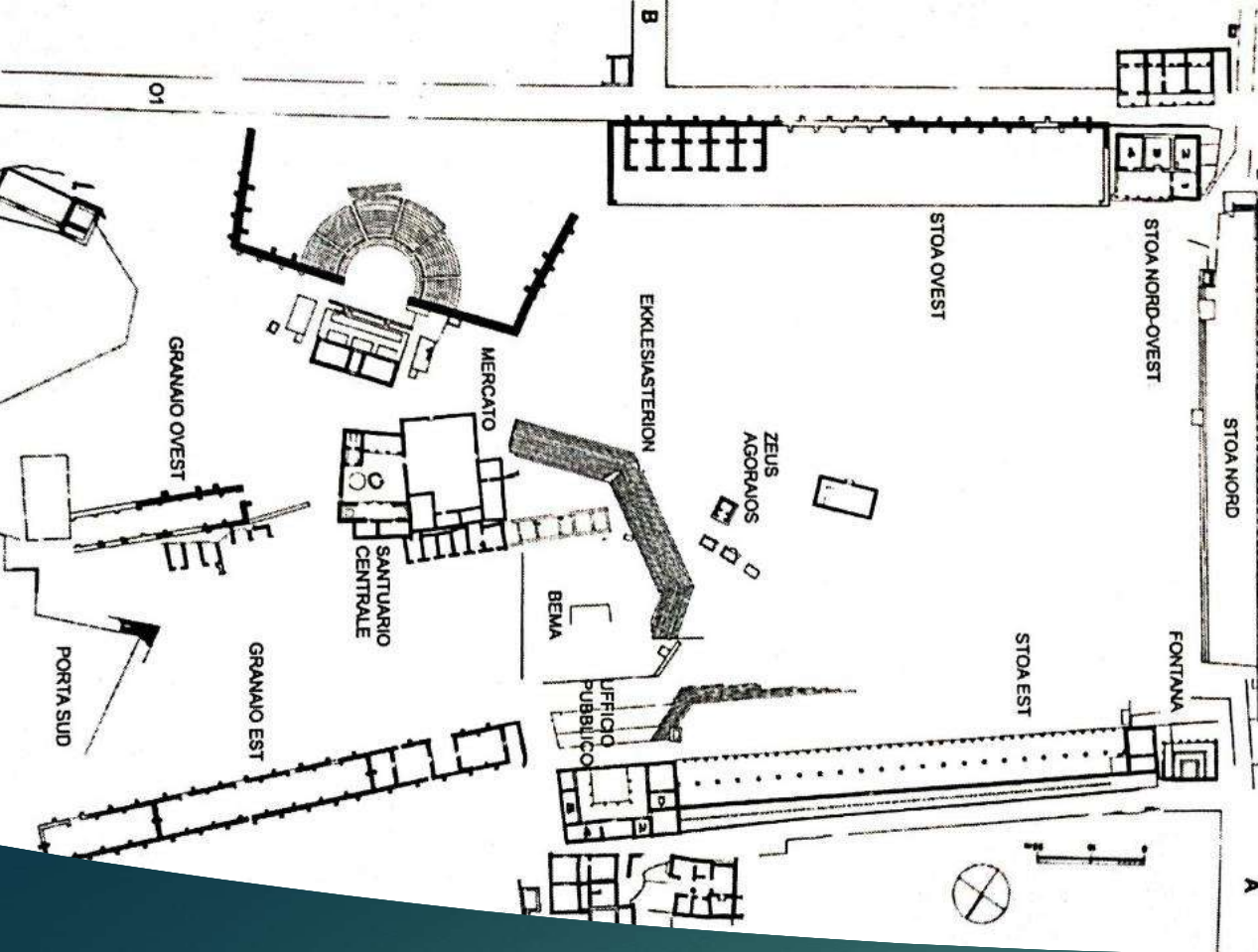
- ▶ Peloponnesian influence
- ▶ Strong link between the Peloponnesian area and the Macedonian kingdom
- ▶ Elaboration of a characteristic style

Ionic bases with expanded superior torus: Antigonea; Phoinike; Phoinike; Byllis; Butrinto; Phoinike (Podini 2014)

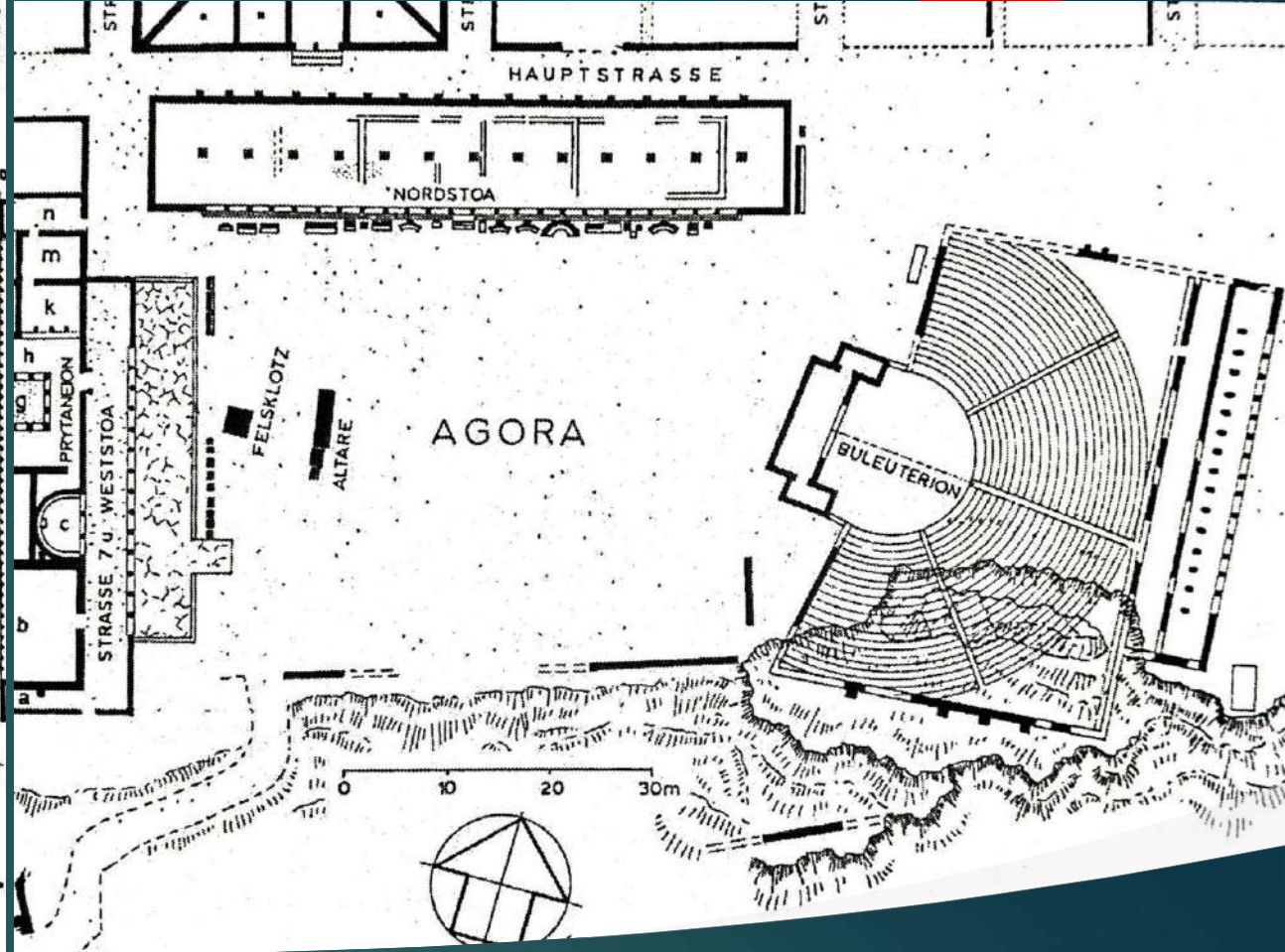


Some examples of the *octagonal order* in Epirus (Podini 2014)





Morgantina (Ampolo 2012)



Kassope (Hoepfner, Schwandner 1994).

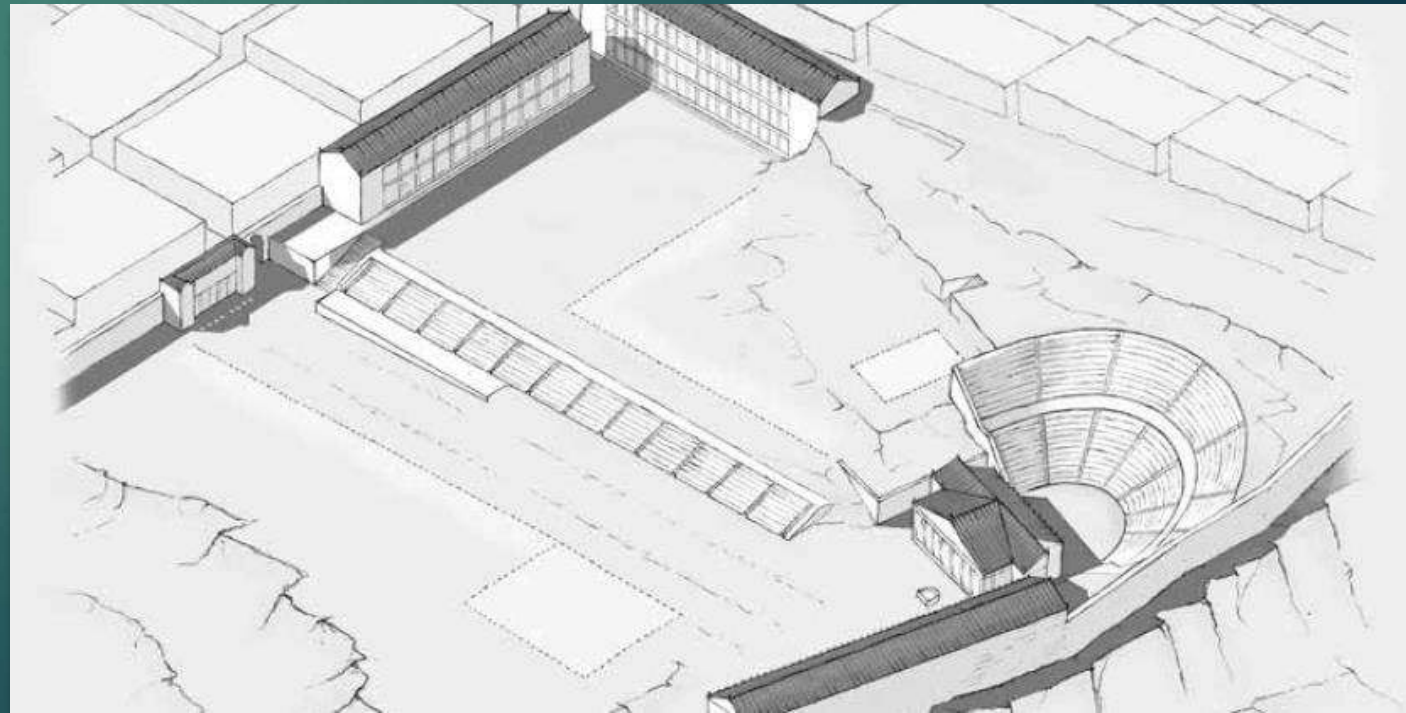
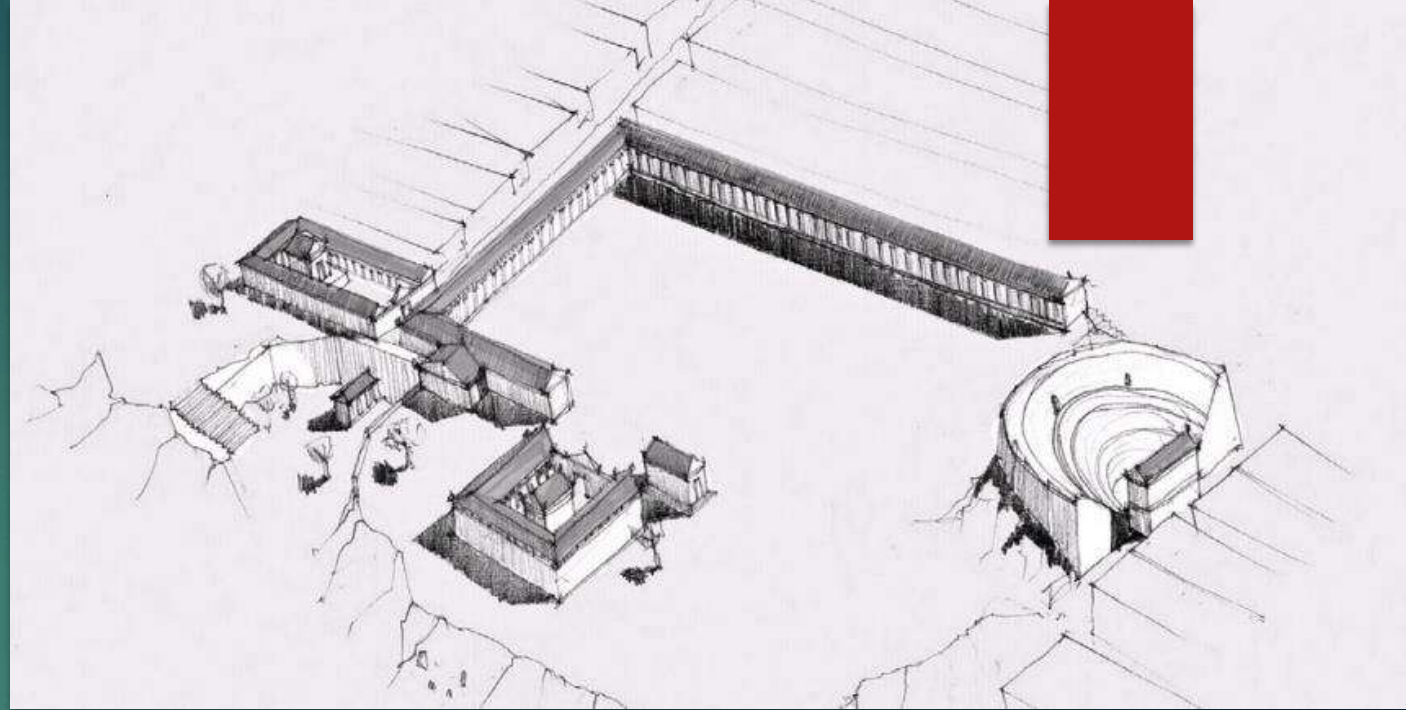
The urbanistic syntax: the agora space

1. Morgantina and Kassope

The urbanistic syntax: the agora space

2. Agrigento and Byllis

- ▶ Plan above: Hypothetical rendering of Agrigento's agora (A. Fino, Calìò 2019).
- ▶ Plan below: Hypothetical rendering of Byllis' agora (P. Baronio in Belli Pasqua, Përzhita 2017, Fig. 4).



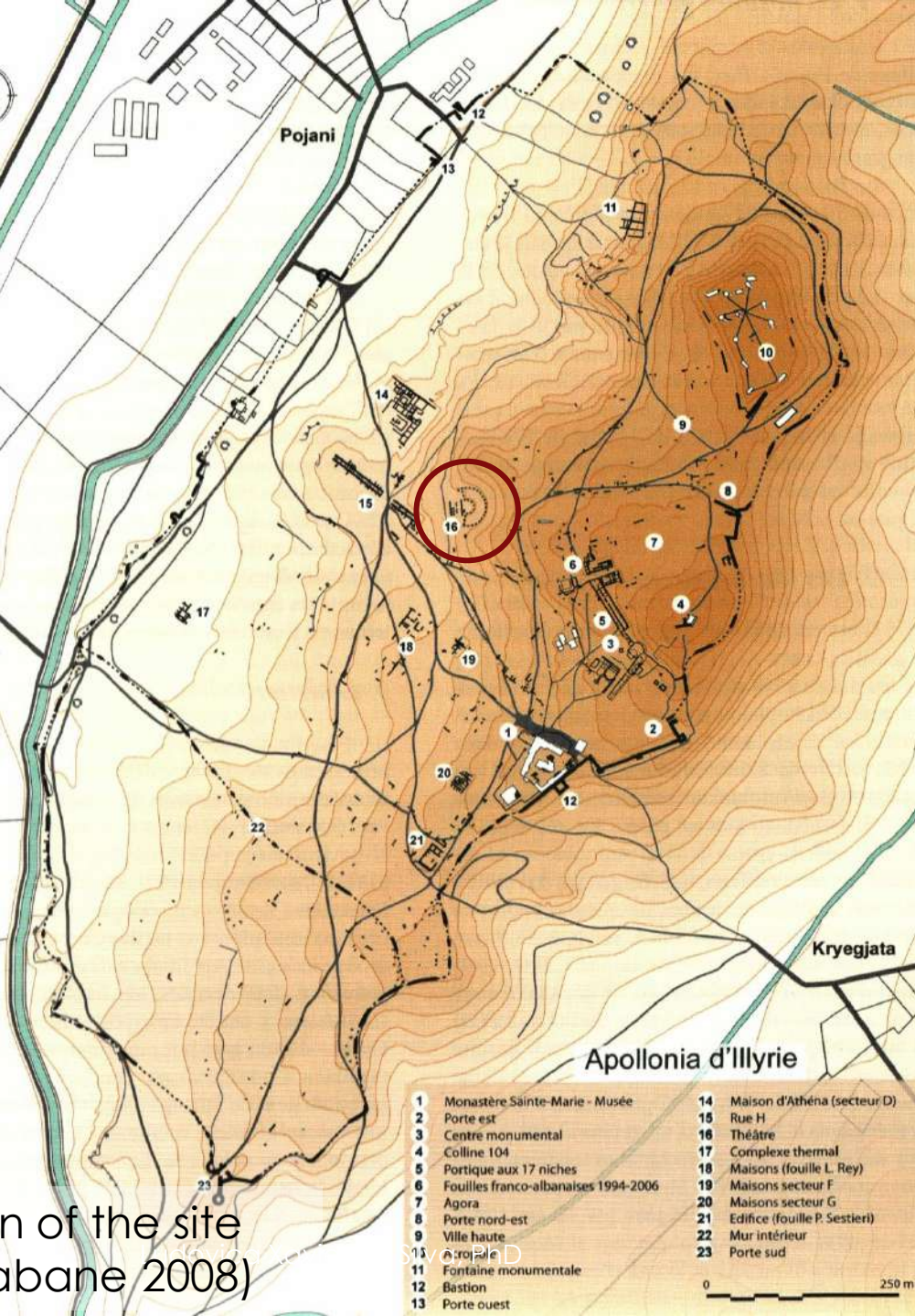
Epirus and Southern Illyria as an Hellenistic Kingdom

- ▶ The birth of a Kingdom is the driving force for the spread of a peculiar and identitarian architectonic and urbanistic style
- ▶ The result of this style is due from the interactions between the different Mediterranean actors during the Hellenistic era
- ▶ The relationship between Greece, specifically the Peloponnesian network, and Epirus and Southern Illyria remains strong
- ▶ The Adriatic-Ionic network plays its role too in the definition of an Hellenistic urbanistic-architectural syntax

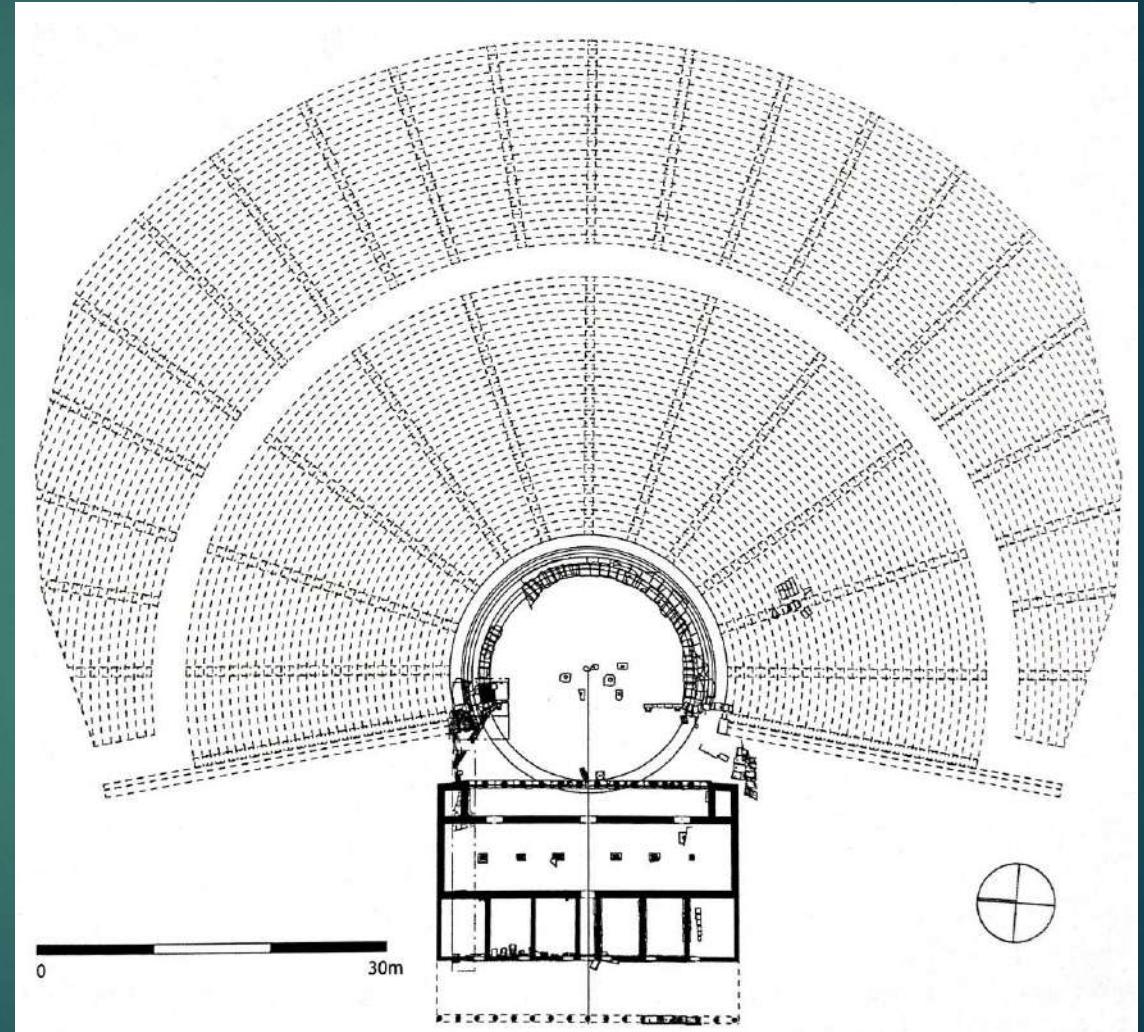


The most important Hellenistic Theatres of Epirus and Southern Illyria

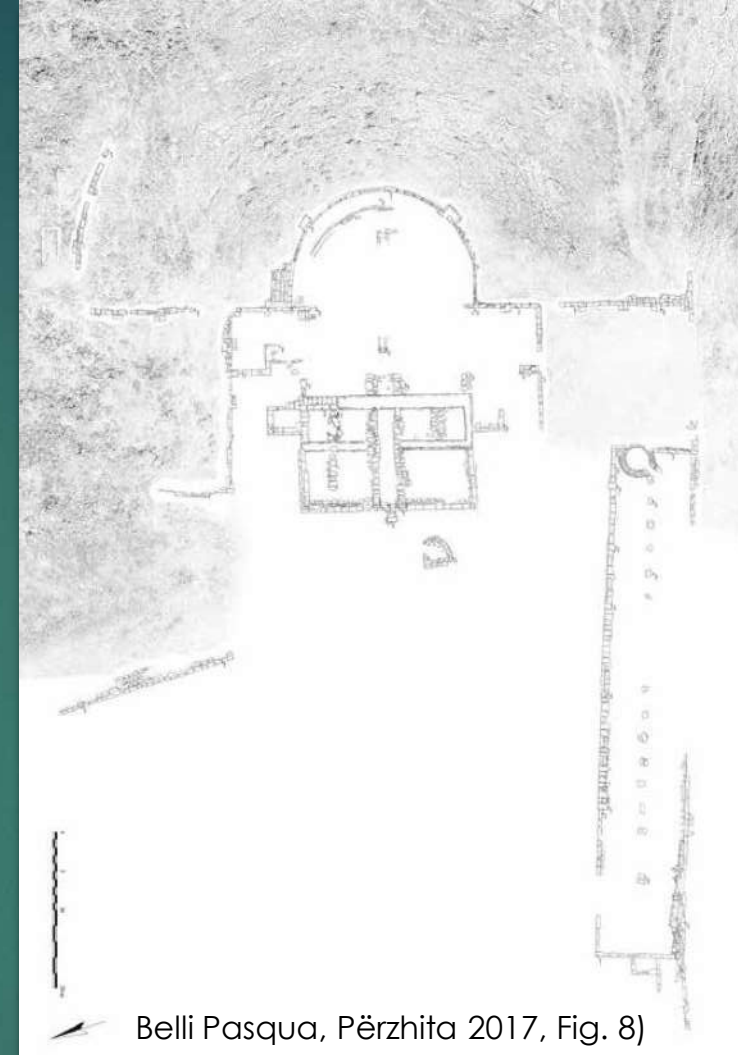
Theatre at Apollonia



n of the site
(abane 2008)



Plan of the theatre (Angelinoudi, Bäuerlein, 2008, Fig. 15)

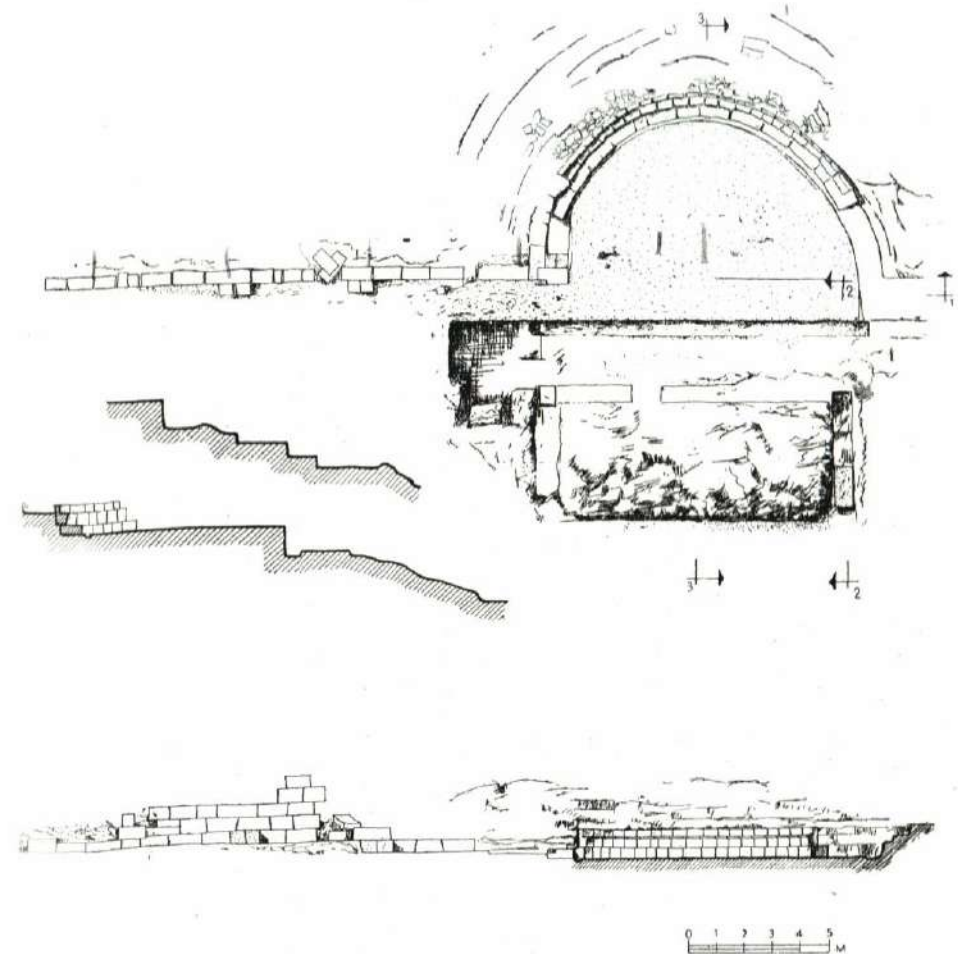
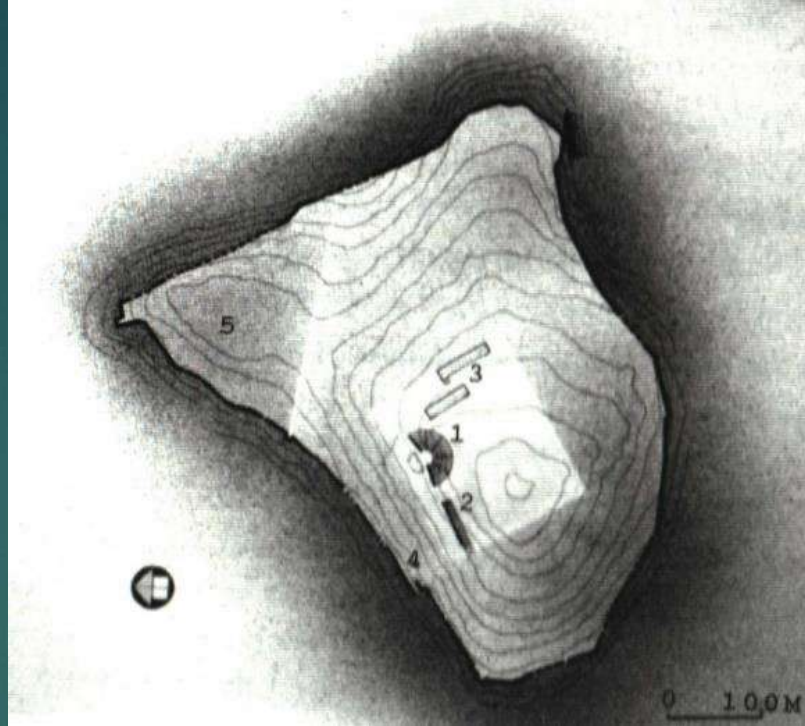


Belli Pasqua, Përzhita 2017, Fig. 8)

Theatre at Byllis

Theatre at Nikaia

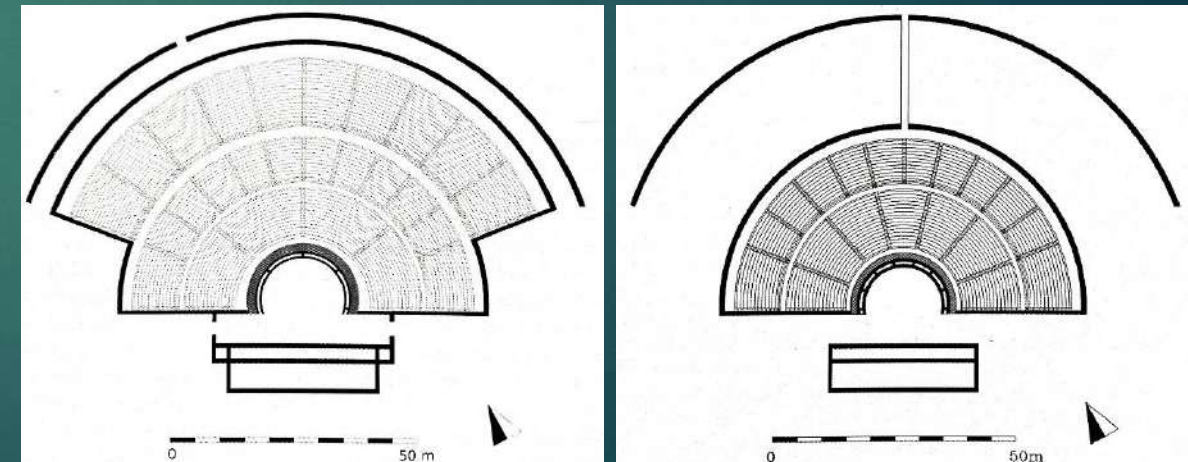
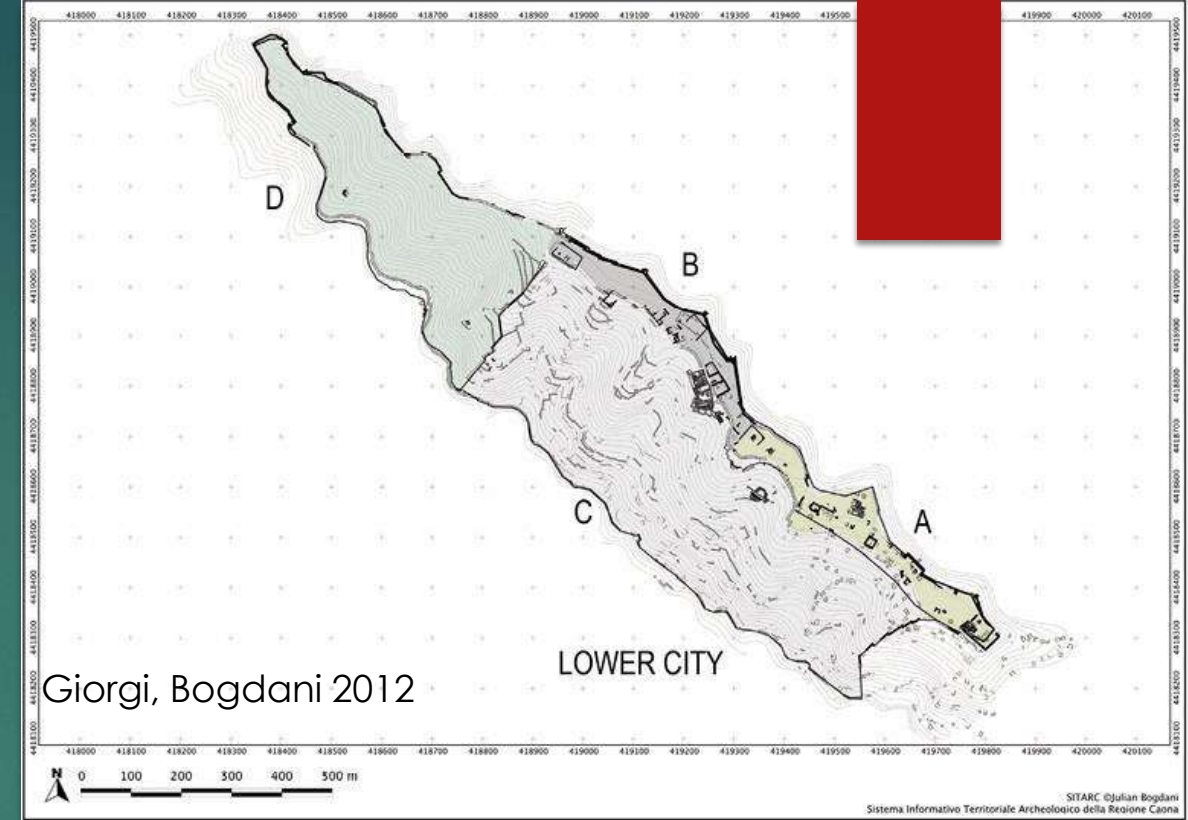
- ▶ On the left, above: plan of Nikaia (da Cabanes 2008, Klos, Fig. 2)
- ▶ On the right: plan of the theatre (Papajani 1979)



Theatre at *Phoinike*

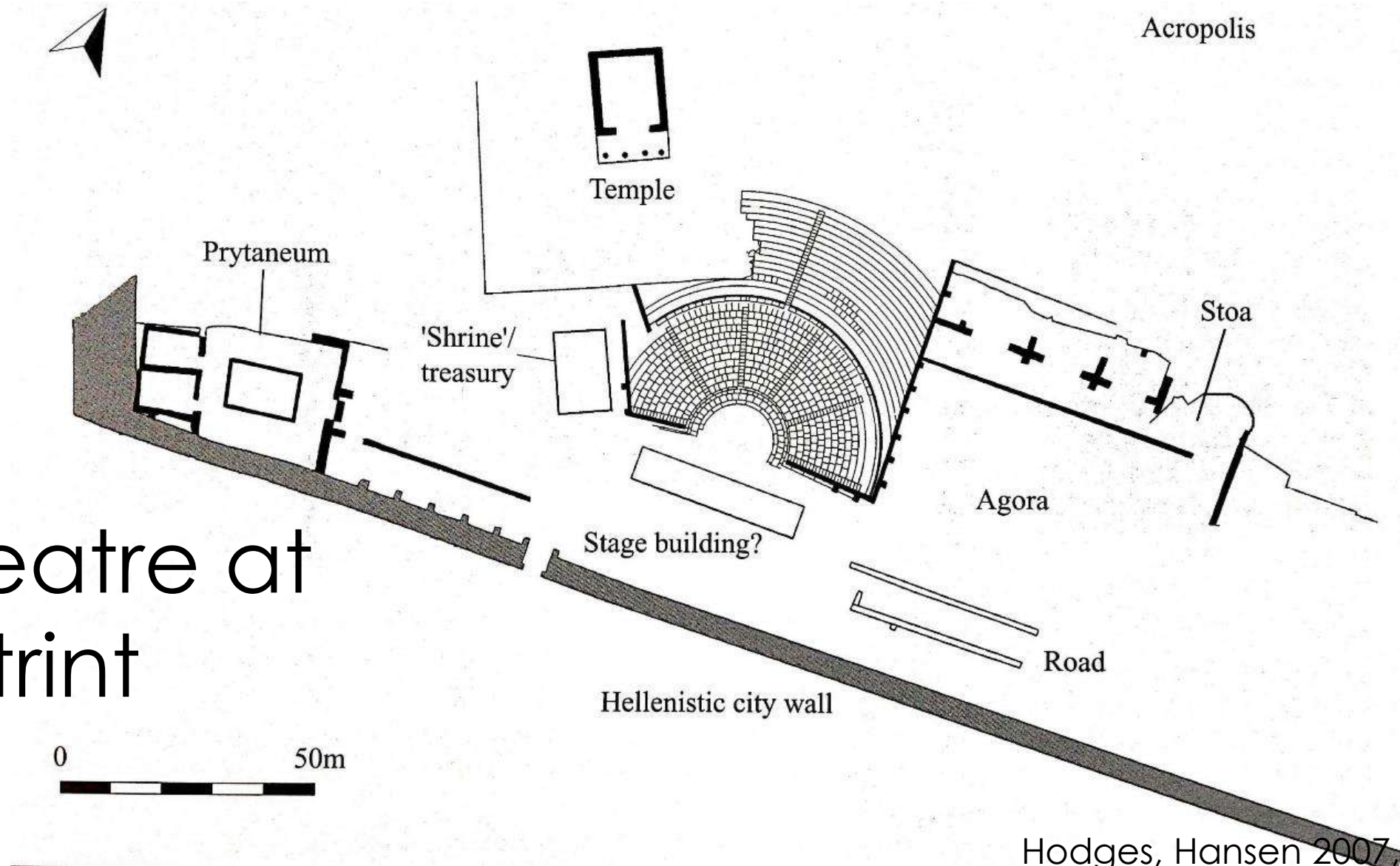


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Plans of the first and second phase of the theatre (E. Rinaldi; from Villicich 2018, Fig. 58 and 85)

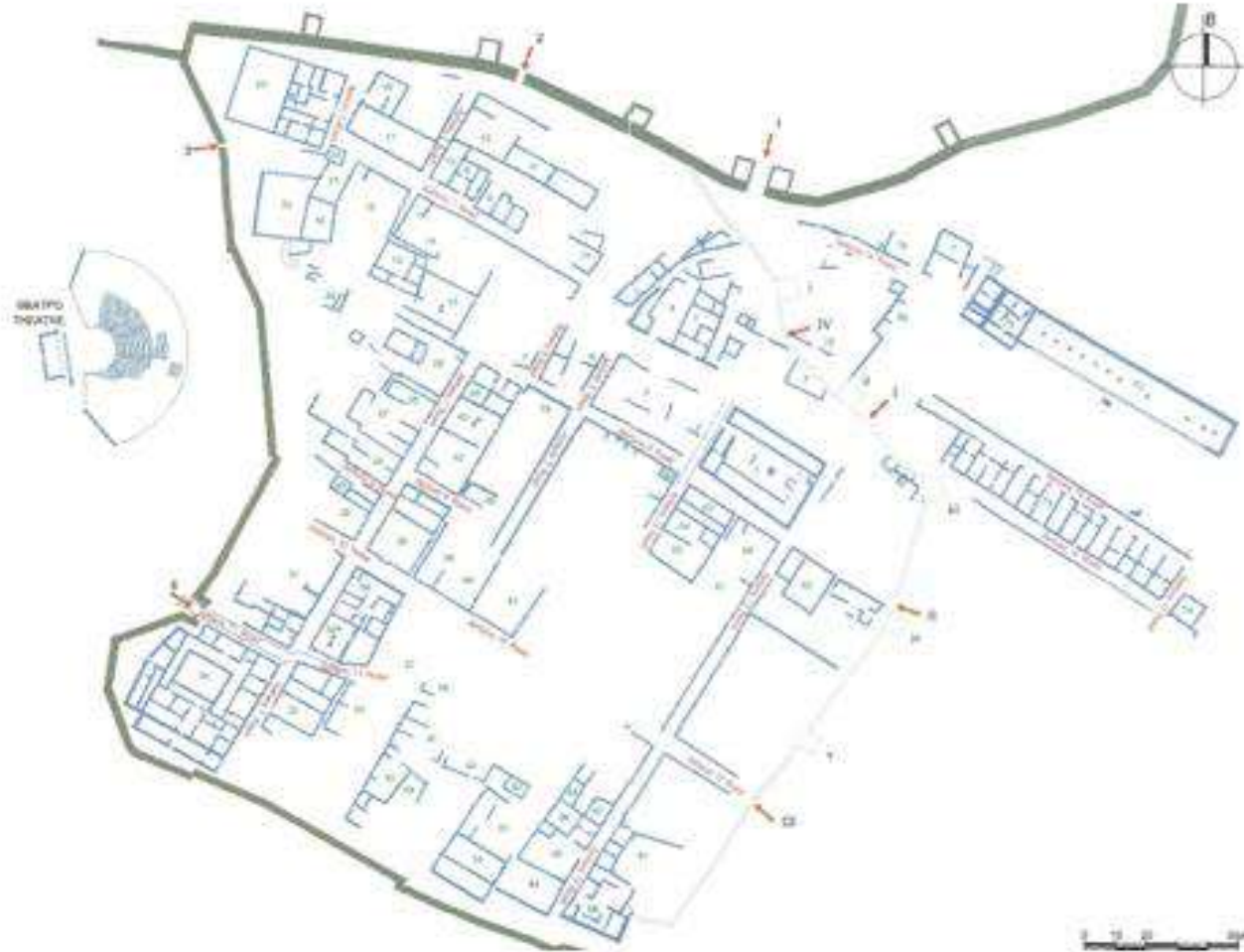
Theatre at Butrint



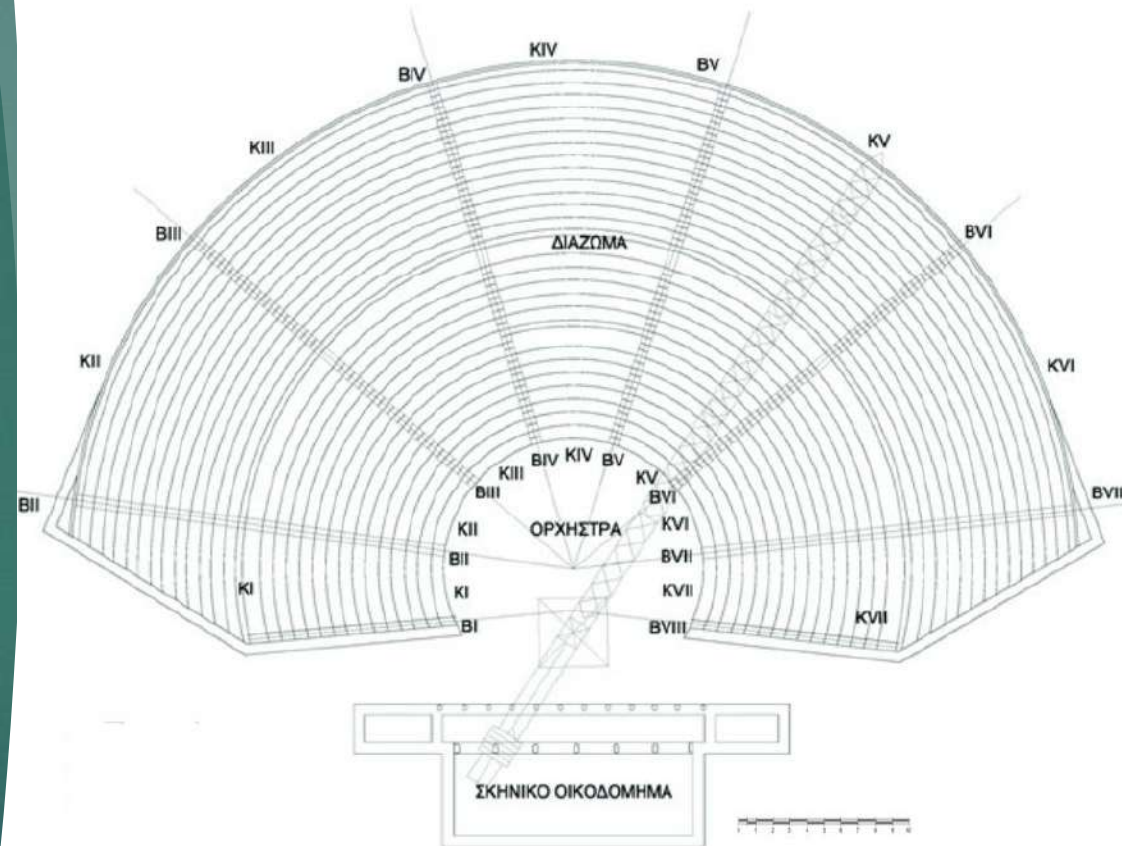
Hodges, Hansen 2007, Fig. 2.8

Theatre at Gitana

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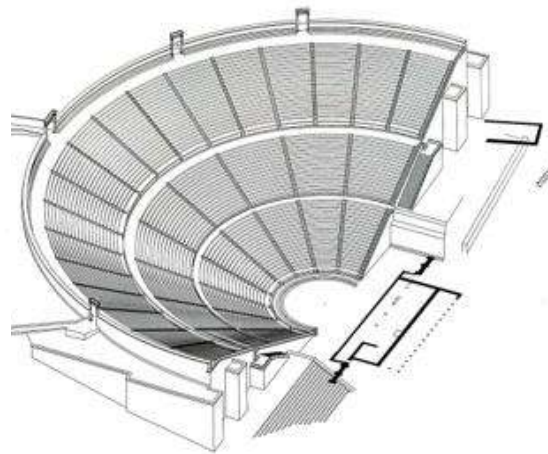
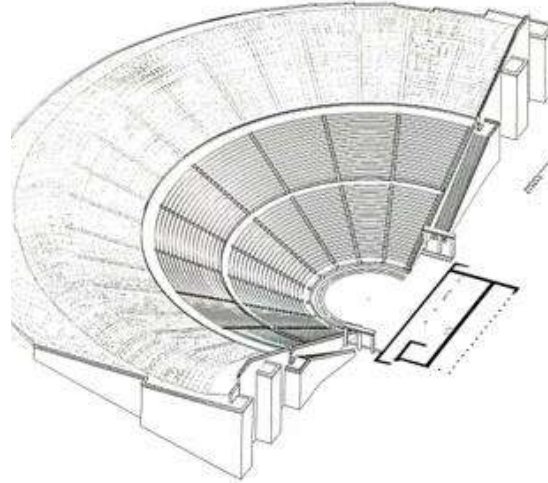
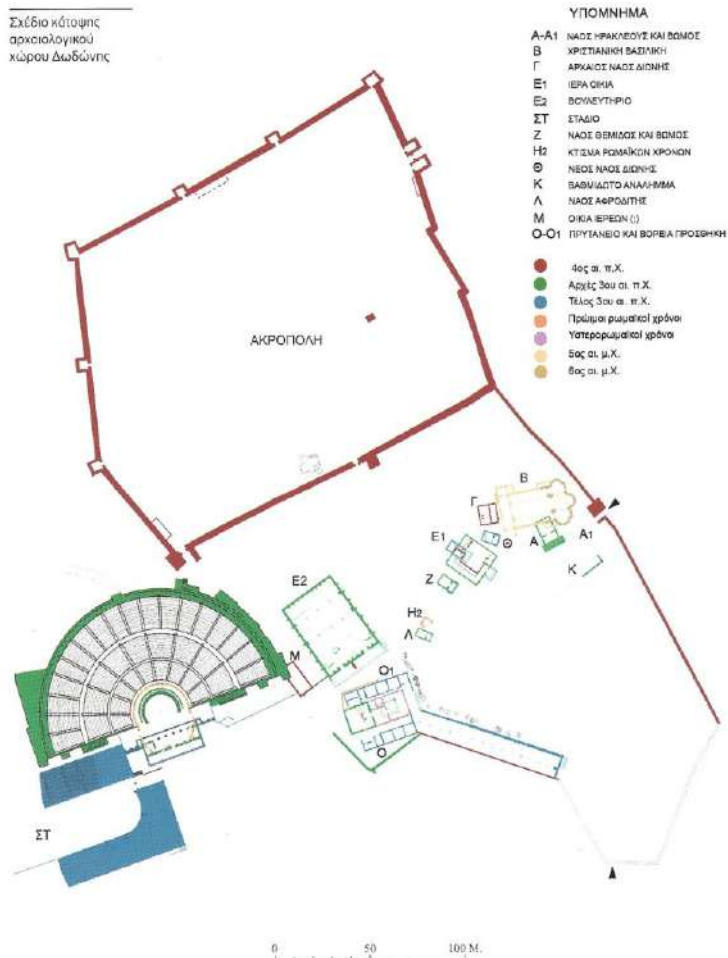


Plan of the city (Kanta-Kitsou 2008)



Plan of the theatre (Στο θέατρο των Γιτάνων 2015)

Σχέδιο κάτοψης
αρχαιολογικού
χώρου Δωδώνης



Theatre at Dodona

- ▶ On the left: Plan of the Sanctuary at Dodona (K. Soueref 2014, ΔΩΔΩΝΗ ΔΙΑΧΡΟΝΙΧΗ)
- ▶ On the right: First and second phase of Dodona's theatre (Antoniou 2014, Figg. 3-4)

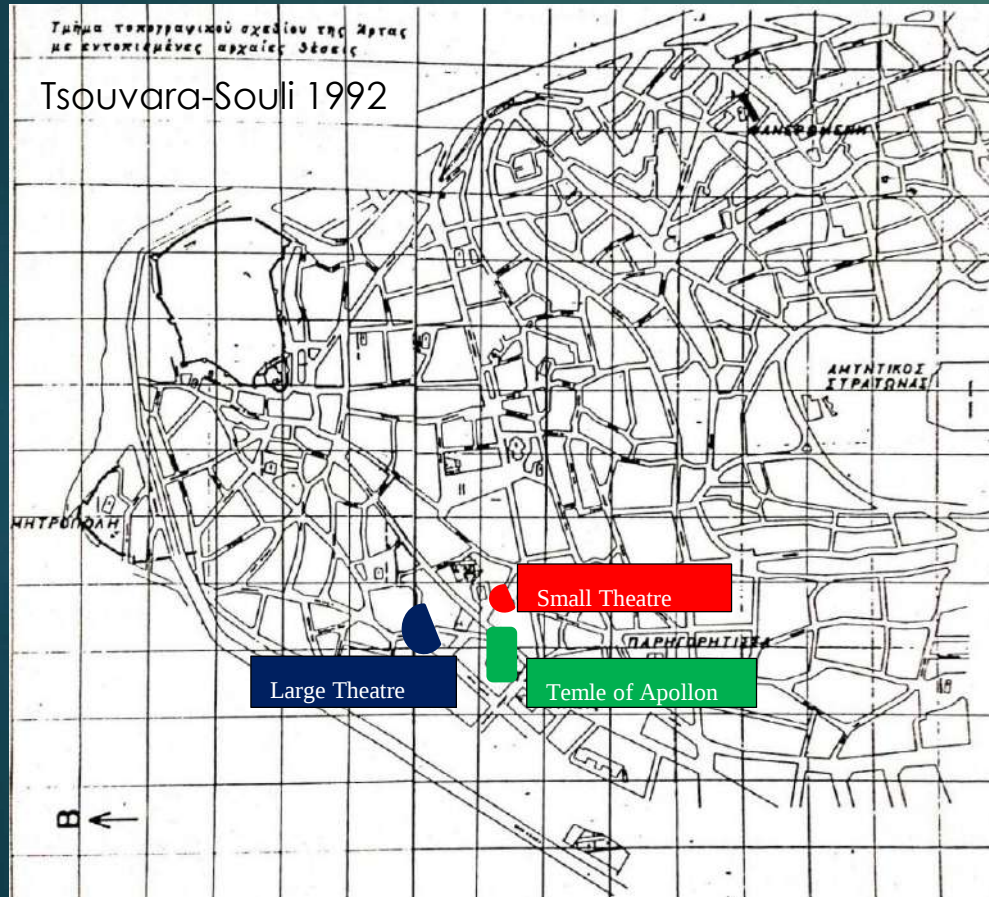
Kassope Theatre and «Small Theatre»

Ludovica Xavier de Silva, PhD

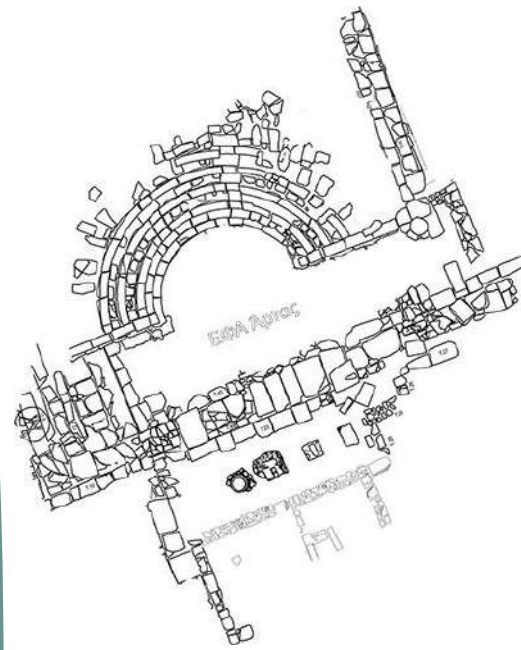


Hoepfner, Schwandner 1994, Fig. 63

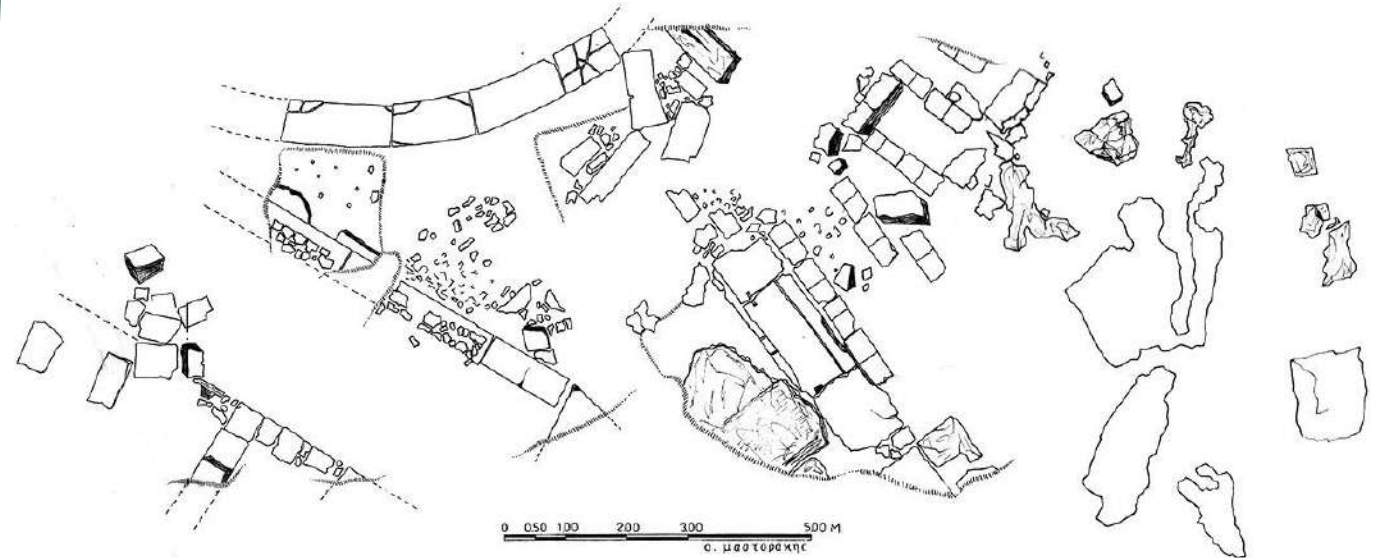
Ambrakia: «Large» and «Small» Theatre



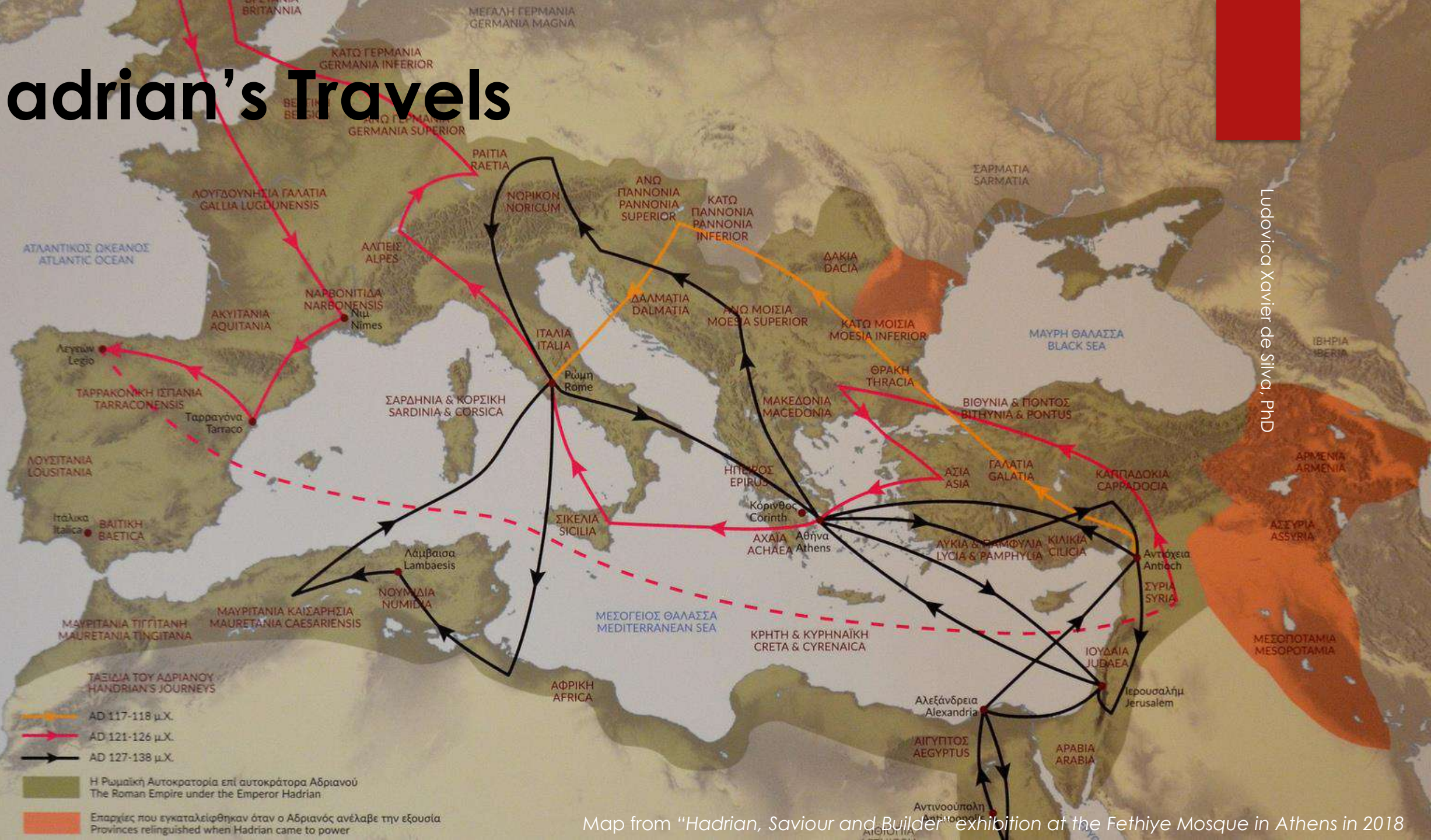
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Above: Small Theatre (Plan from the Ephorate of Arta)
Below: Large Theatre (Plan from the Ephorate of Arta)



Hadrian's Travels



Ludovica Xavier de Silva, PhD

Map from "Hadrian, Saviour and Builder" exhibition at the Fethiye Mosque in Athens in 2018

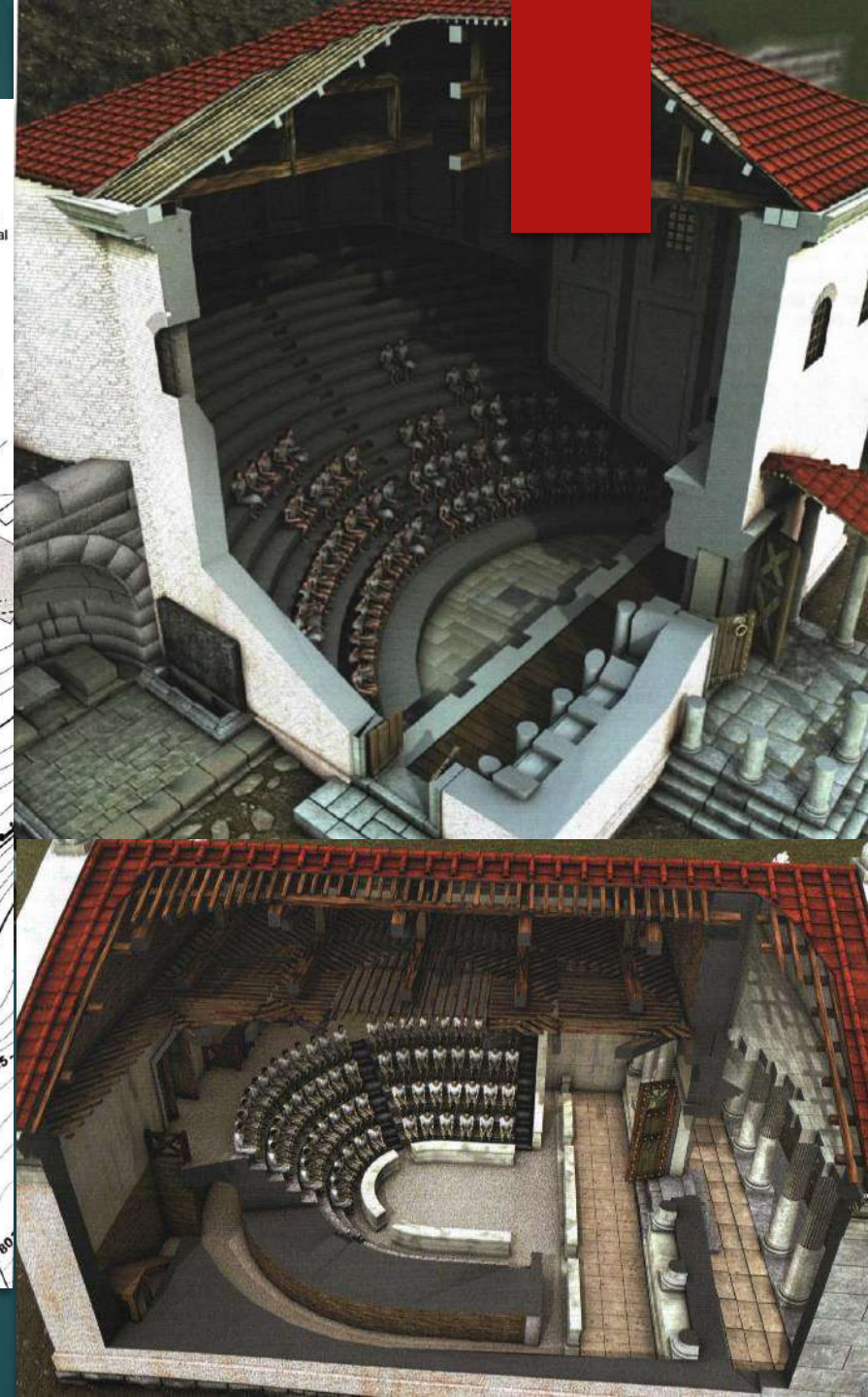
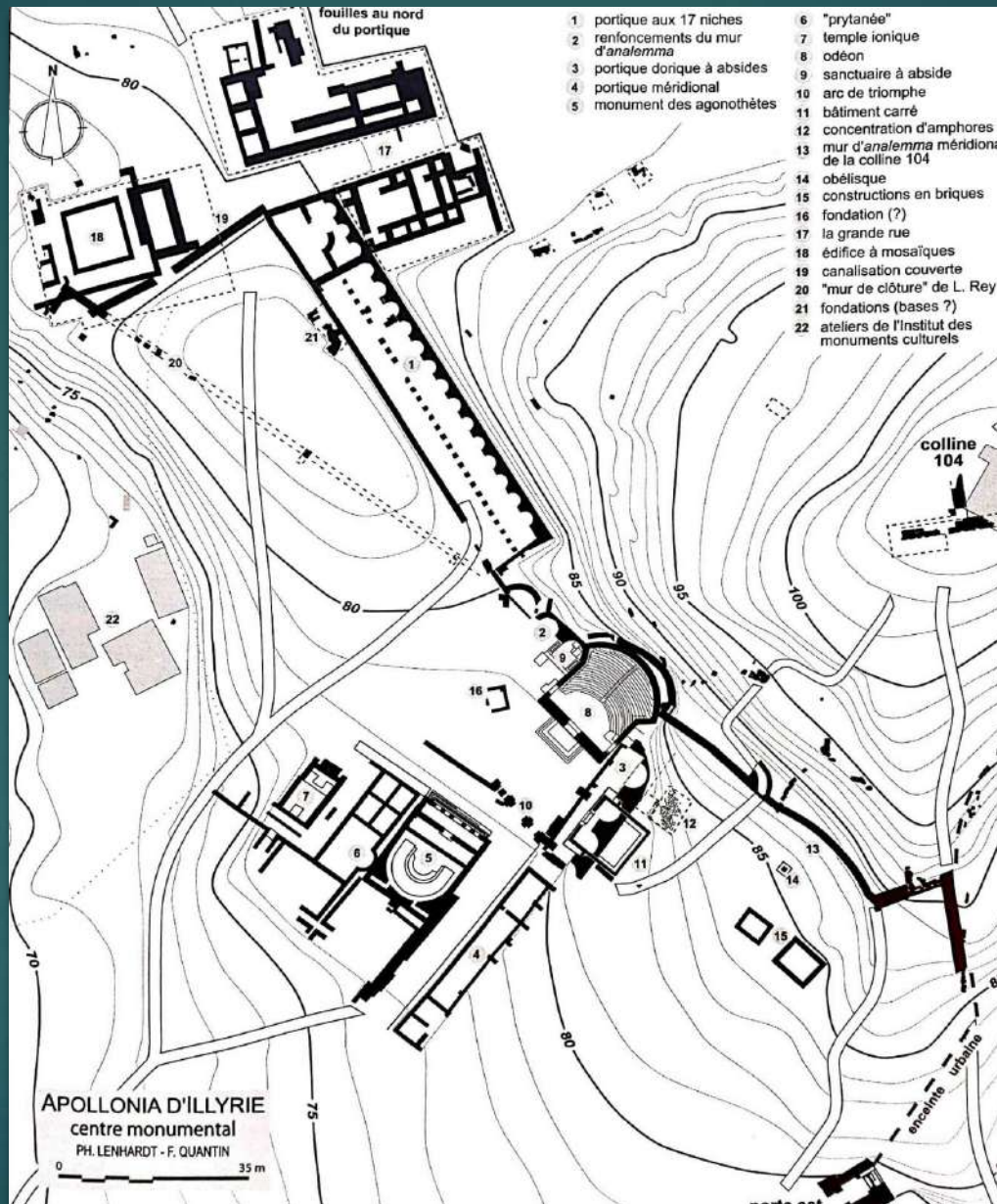
A detailed Roman mosaic from the 2nd century AD, depicting a theatrical performance. The scene shows several figures in elaborate costumes, including a central figure in a blue and white tunic with a large, ornate headdress. The figures are arranged in a dynamic pose, suggesting a dance or a dramatic scene. The mosaic is made of small, colorful tiles in shades of blue, white, red, and brown. The background is a light, textured surface.

Roman Theatres and renovated Greek Theatres

Ludovica Xavier de Silva, PhD

Apollonia: Odeum, Bouleuterion

- ▶ Plan of the monumental area (Dimo, Lehnardt, Quantin 2007, Fig. 95)
- ▶ 3D rendering of the odeum (Follain 2015, Fig. 179)
- ▶ 3D rendering of the bouleuterion (Follain 2015, Fig. 114)

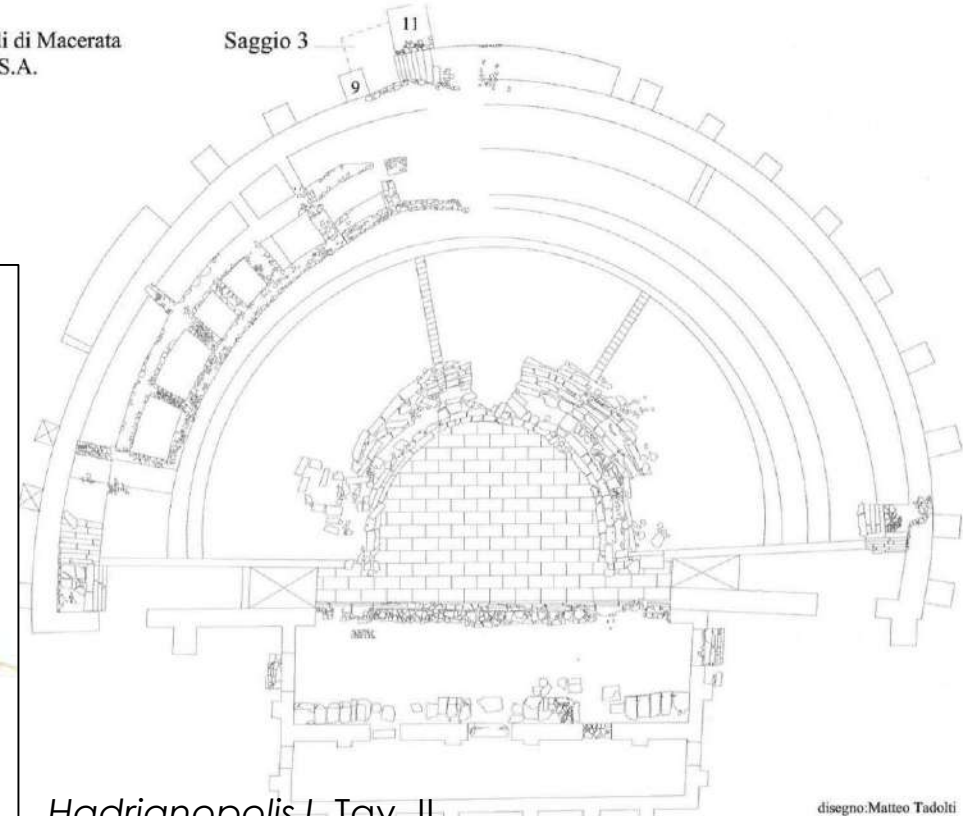


Theatre at *Hadrianopolis*

Università degli Studi di Macerata
Dipartimento di S.A.S.A.
Hadrianopolis 2006
Rilievo teatro

10 metri
▲ nord

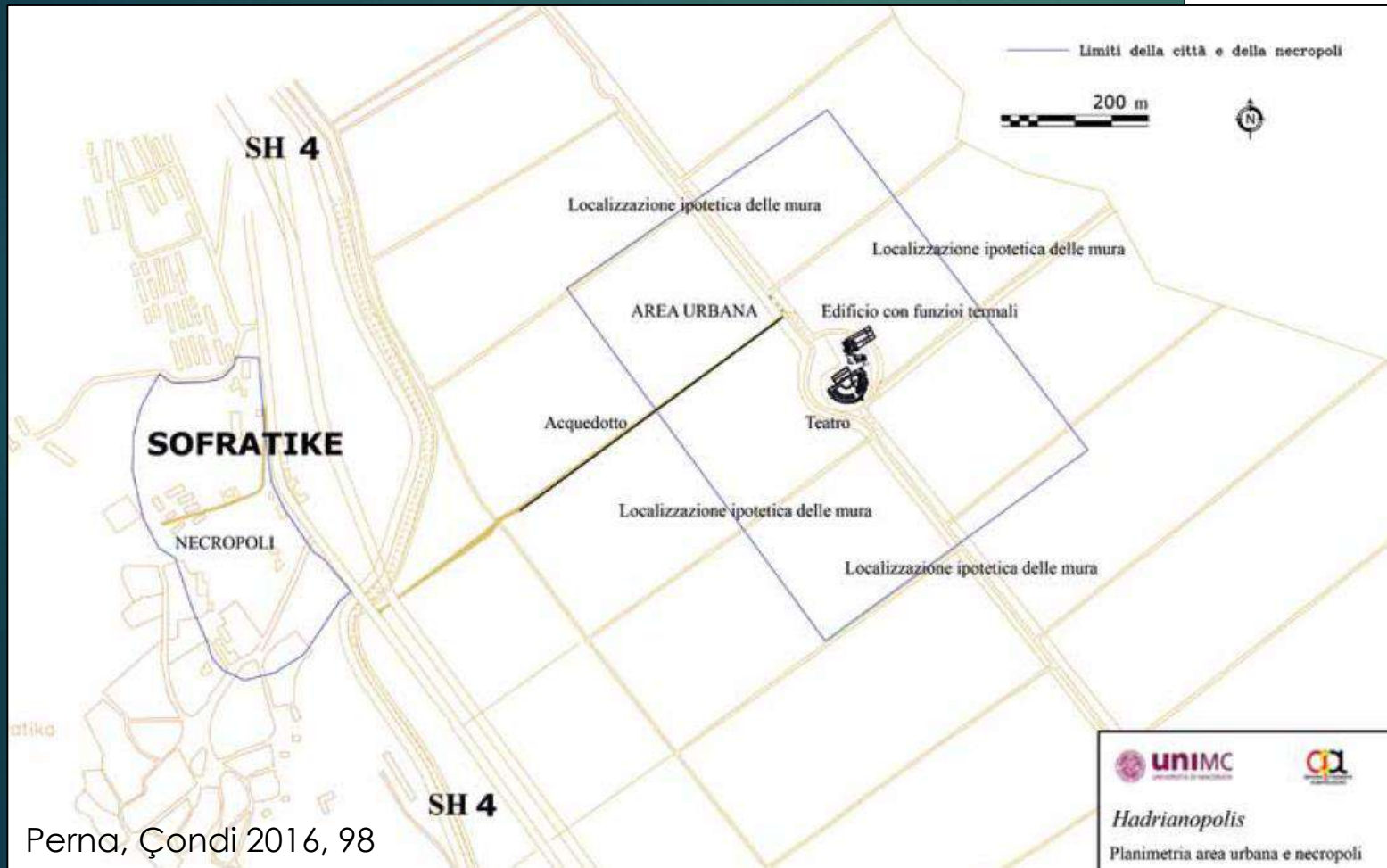
Saggio 3



disegno: Matteo Tadolti

Hadrianopolis I, Tav. II

Plan of the city and the theatre by
University of Macerata

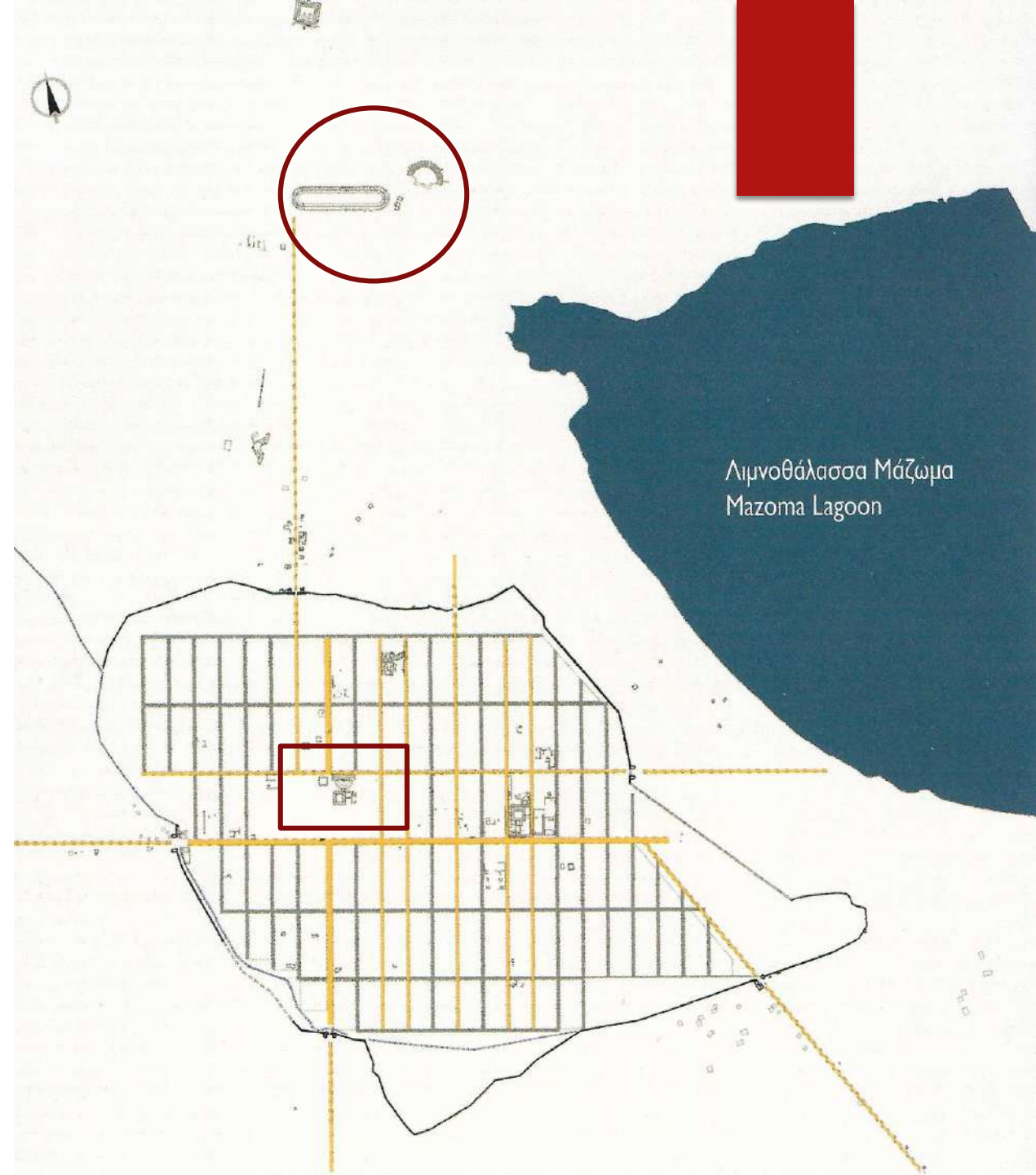


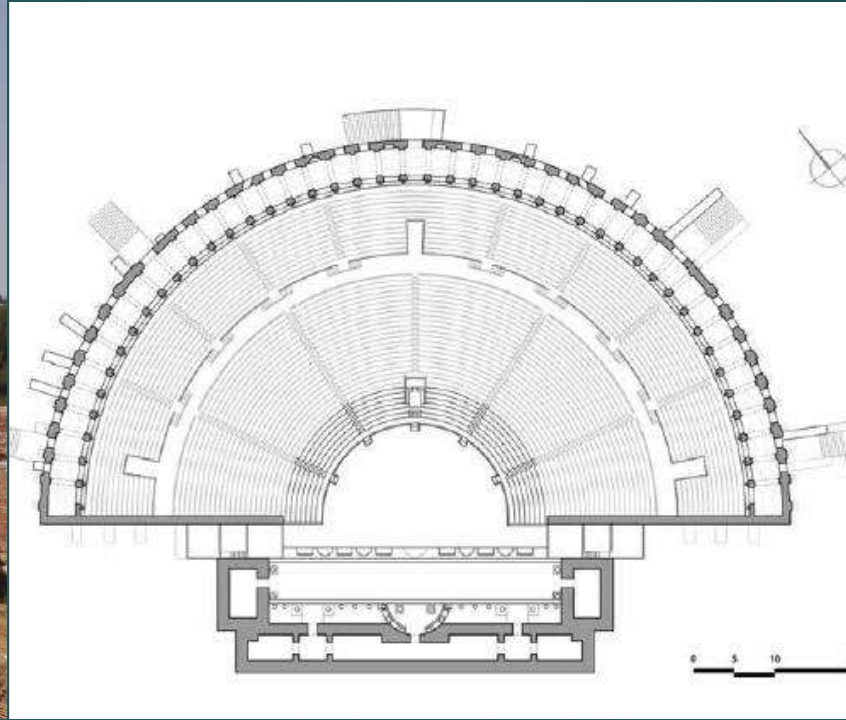
unimc
UNIVERSITÀ DI MACERATA
Hadrianopolis
Planimetria area urbana e necropoli

Nikopolis: the city plan

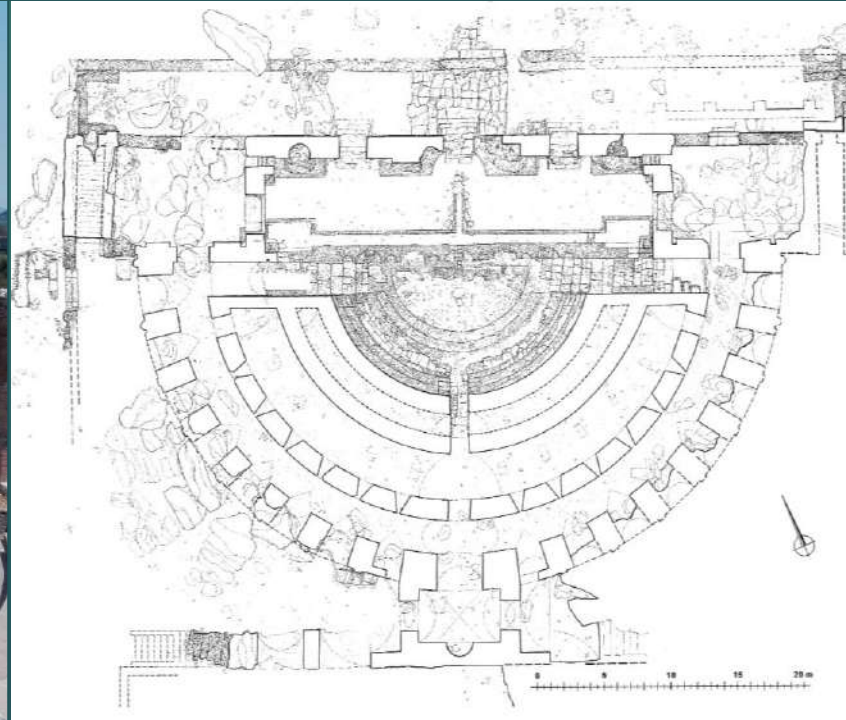
- ▶ In the circle: the sanctuarial area with the theatre
- ▶ In the rectangle: the area with the *odeum*

(Zachos 2015, 100)

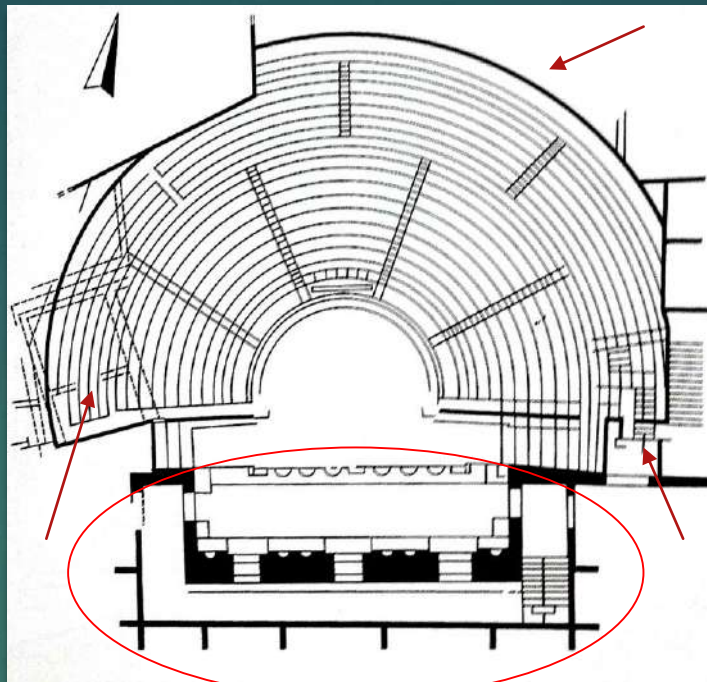
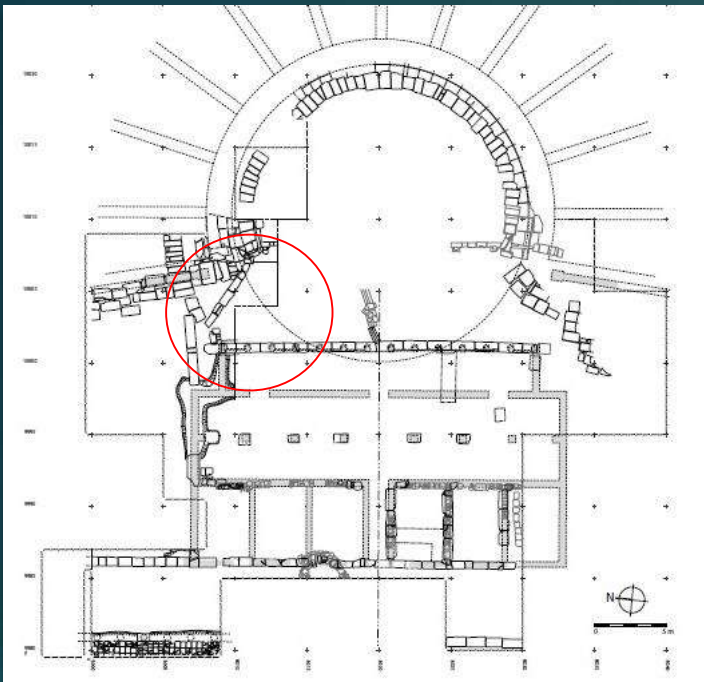




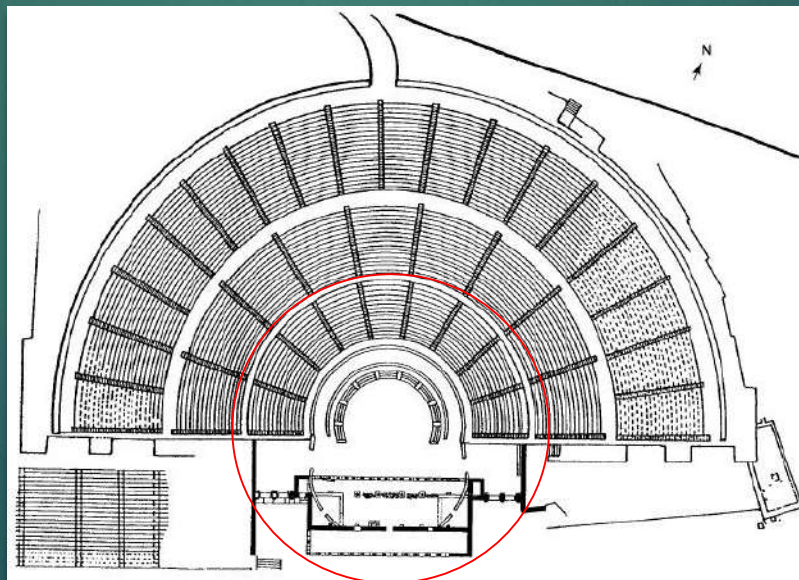
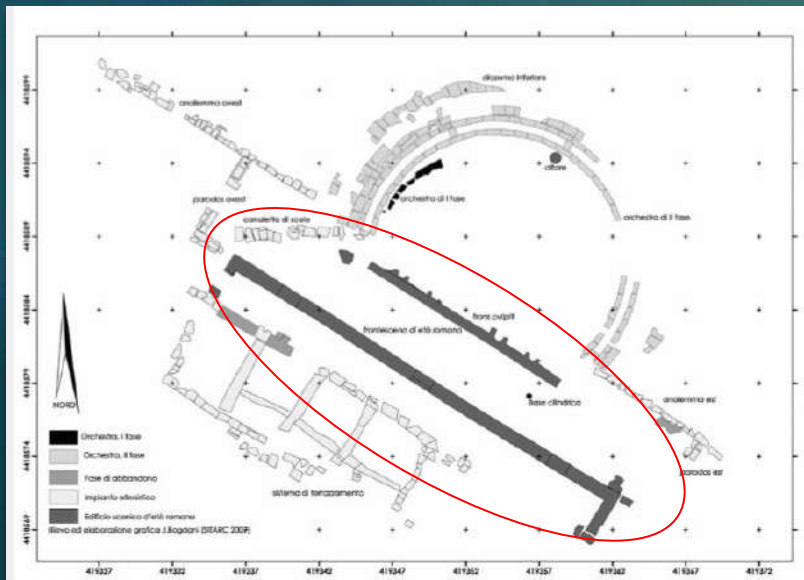
Nikopolis: Theatre, *Odeum*



- ▶ Above: the theatre (plan from Zachos, Paulidis, Tranoulidis, 2015)
- ▶ Below: the odeum (plan from Zachos, Stamou, Leontaris, Soukantos 2015)



Roman alterations on Greek Theatres



- ▶ Above: Apollonia (Franz, Hinz 2015, 335-349); Butrint (Gilkes 2003)
- ▶ Below: Phoinike (Villicich 2007, 59-81); Dodona (Sear 2006)

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