

Re: Mycenaean baked clay bricks

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On Feb 2, 3:30 pm, "Day Brown" <daybr...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

I have a photo of a mural; a Minoan cityscape, part of the 20 ft fresco at the "West House" at Akrotiri. Its posted at <http://www.dc-pc.org/artifax/artifax.html>; anyway, the walls of the buildings are rendered in different colors. the scale of the blocks in the gray walls, which I gather are stone, are .5x1 meter judging by the size of adjacent figures. The rusty, shall I say, 'brick'colored walls show blocks about the size of a man's head. Then too, there are some, which are rendered with long horizontal lines, and gray, as we'd expect weathered wood logs to be.

Castleden shows walls that were timber frame, but then the spaces between the timbers was filled with rocky adobe, not mud bricks. Course, the Minoans had earthquake problems, and would have needed to re-inforce their buildings. Mud brick alone would not have been smart.

Mid 17th century BCE; but the Myceneans werent so smart, so they proolly tried mud brick. They were warriors, not engineers.

I seem to remember reading in Arthur Evans monstrosity that the Minoan buildings were stone to the first ceiling and timber framed from there up.

I just pulled down my copy of The Wall Paintings of Thera and on the far left of what I think you are describing (The flotilla?) is a series of houses or one large continuous house on an island. The upper floors all look to be timber frame with the sort of outline I would expect an artist to use for a filler brick structure, resembles the Bauhaus construction with the frame work and base in solid and the walls being less structural than screening. It's on page 68, labeled "room 5 miniature frieze, south wall, flotilla and dimensions." On the right side there is a line of kilted men (red) above them a building of much larger blocks laid in what is called a "running bond", or a "stretcher bond" ie each brick is laid half way over the brick above

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and below. (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brickwork>)

Further up the wall you can see the timber framing, mostly covered with awnings but the top floor is visibly made of the smaller brick.

New Palace period 1700–1450 BC

* the palaces were rebuilt in the same tradition, but even more elaborately

- o Central courtyard, rectangular and paved

- + at Knossos, 49 X 27 m (160 X 88 feet)

- o palace buildings

- + three stories tall in places, maybe even more

- + Post and lintel construction

- + in dressed stone and mud brick

- + lots of wooden beams in walls as well as ceilings

- + also wooden columns, doorjambs, moldings, etc.

- <http://bruceowen.com/worldprehist/3250s13.htm>

Several sources describe "Aegean" construction as timber or half timber with wattle and daub or brick as the filler.

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