

"The Interior Landscape of Byblos: Layers of Civilizations"
Architects meet in Selinunte. INTERIOR LANDSCAPE
Is the crisis of architecture a crisis of ideas?
June 13-16, 2019



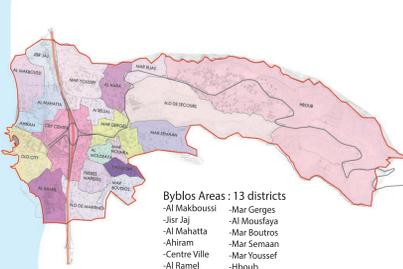
An alphabetic phonetic script was found & developed in Byblos, which was the origins & the precursor of our modern alphabet.

BYBLOS

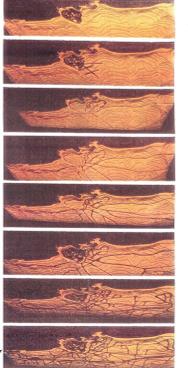
The Phoenician City



Byblos is a coastal city in the Mount Lebanon Governorate, Lebanon. It covers an area of 75 hectares. It is 37 km north of Beirut. It is believed to have been occupied first between 8800 and 7000 BC. 50,000 to 60,000 inhabitants live in Byblos. It is an UNESCO world heritage site.



Historically, the city was constructed directly on the coast. With the increase in population it started to increase and expand upwards until the construction of the highway. This divided the city into two areas.



PHASES OF PREHISTORIC PHOENICIAN SETTLEMENTS ACCORDING TO MAURICE DUNAND
Maurice Dunand divided the Prehistoric Phoenician settlements at Byblos into the following 3 stages / 5 periods:
Ancient Neolithic (Early Phase): represented by plastered floors and naviforme technology, (8800 - 7000 BC).
Ancient Neolithic (Late Phase): represented by pottery, sickle blades, figurines and small points, (6400 - 5800 BC).
Middle Neolithic: represented by pottery, (5800 - 5300 BC).
Late Neolithic: represented by pottery, stone vessels, silos, chamber tombs and seals, (5300 - 4500 BC).
Ancient Chalcolithic: represented by jar burials, pierced flint, churn and a violin figurine, (4500 - 3600 BC).
Late Chalcolithic: represented by architecture and cylinder seal impressions, (3600 - 3100 BC).



Neolithic (Phoenician)

Persian

Hellenistic

Roman

Byzantine

Islamic

Crusadors

Mamluk

Ottoman

5000 BC	3000 BC	1200 BC	550 BC	330 BC	64 AD	330 AD	636 AD	1108 AD	1289 AD	1516 AD	1918 AD
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7000 years ago, the Neolithic fishing community was the first people to settle on the shores of Byblos, which was the first settlement of the Phoenicians.

This Phoenician settlement was then taken by the Persians who extended the city and its walls



In 6000 BC the first wall was built by the Phoenicians. The city did not have any specific center, but it had its own important landmarks such as temples and trading centers distributed within the city walls.

By 550 BC, the Persian empire extended the city walls, and had its main element, which was a temple, located near the wall and created the city center.

The city encountered its first huge attempt of extension in the age of the Romans. They left the hill and fortified the lower side of the city. this brought more prosperity to the city



The Romans (64 - 330 AD) moved the wall to the opposite side, and built their own temple. They extended the city's main roads through one straight path leading directly to the temple, and two perpendicular roads connecting two opposite sides of Byblos. At this time, the temple was the center of the city.

By the end of the Islamic era, Byblos was left uncared of, and it started to extend randomly ruining the grid left by the Romans. Through this era, Byblos was trying to recover and prosper, but the continuous war at that time made it slow.

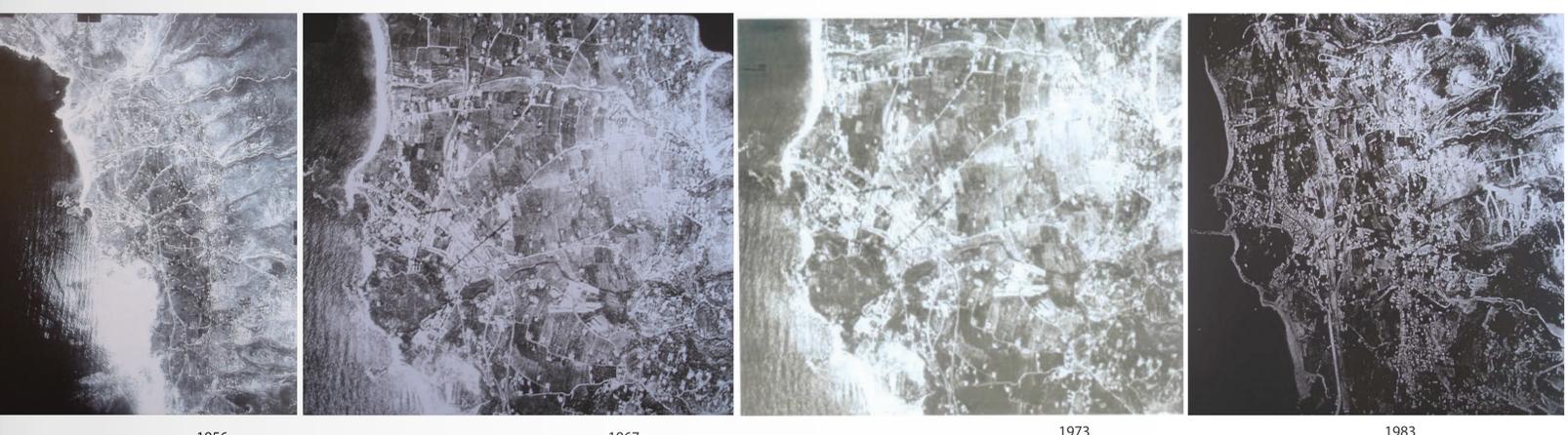
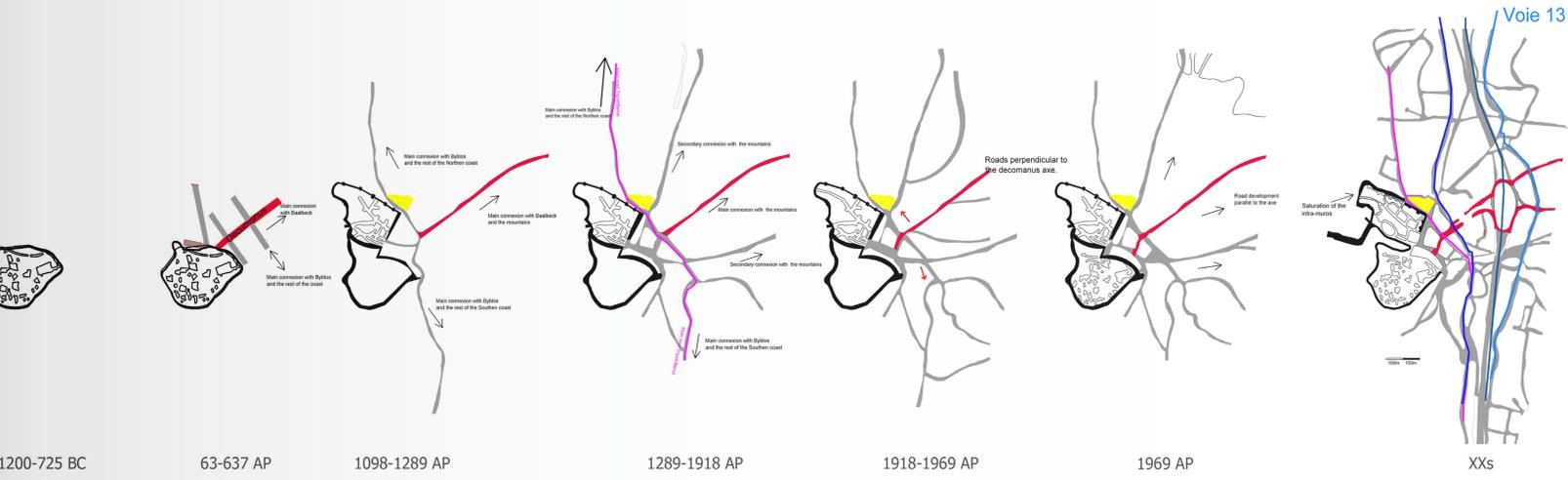


In the medieval era (636 - 1289 AD), the old city was left as it was and the new city extended to the northern side fortifying itself with a new wall and creating the city's port. At this time the cathedral became the new city center.

By the end of 1919 AD, the ottomans strengthened the city's economy by building the khan and the Souk.



The Ottoman empire (1516 - 1918 AD) changed the whole rhythm of expansion that the city was following. They kept the medieval wall, and extended the city beyond it. The concept of the center changed from being based on a religious element to becoming the most economically viable part of the city, containing the souk and the Khan.



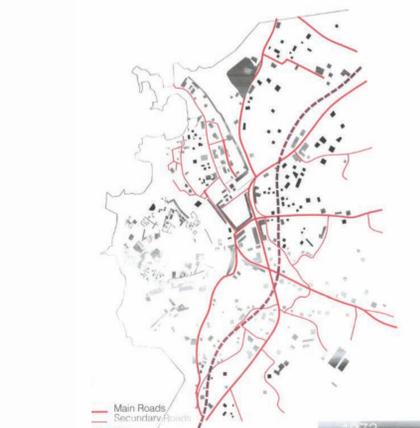
For the French (1920 - 1943), the center created by the Ottomans was a smart attempt, therefore they kept it as is, and placed their own governmental and institutional buildings as an expansion to this old center. To give this center more importance, the railway was placed near the center to enhance it.

1956: Byblos is a village with a low density.

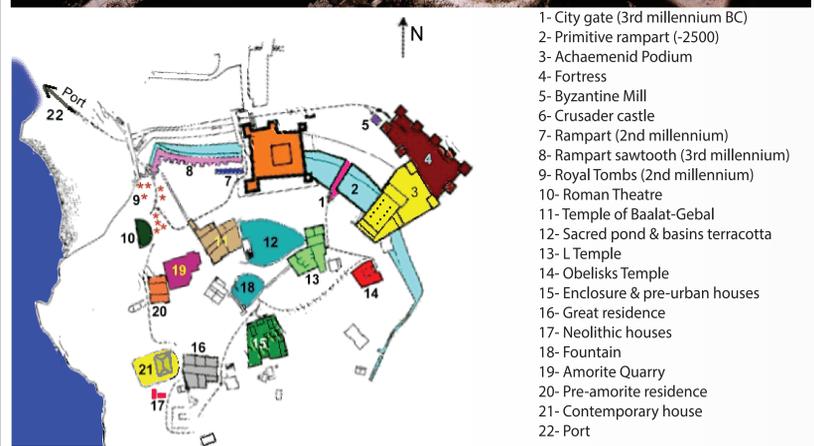
1967: The plain is entirely agriculture, mainly orchards.

1983: Completion of the highway to Beirut
Urban Growth of the city mainly in the East
Stronger pole of attraction for populations and services

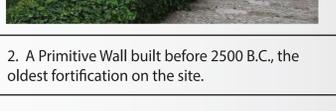
Today, the city is divided into two sections through an over scaled highway splitting Byblos into the new city and the old city



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1. Remains of a city Gate dating from the 3rd millennium B.C. Located on the left side of the castle, this gate appears as a wide opening between two ancient stone ramparts. Traces of fire are visible, recalling the Amorite invasion about 2300-1900 B.C.



2. A Primitive Wall built before 2500 B.C., the oldest fortification on the site.

10. Reconstructed Roman Theater. The theater, which has only five tiers remaining, was built about 218 A.D. It was removed from its original site between the City Gate (1) and the two superimposed temples (3 and 5), to its present

11. Remains of the Temple of Baalat Gebal (2700 B.C.), dedicated to the "Lady of Byblos," the goddess who was to preside over the city for over two millennia. Constructed when Byblos had close ties with Egypt, this large and important temple was rebuilt a number of times, remaining in use until the Roman period when it was replaced by a Roman style structure.

20. Early Bronze Age House located near the quarry. The thick walls of its seaside façade are notable for their fine construction.

6. The site of the Crusader Castle was originally occupied by a Fatimid fortification. In the beginning of the 12th Century, the Crusaders built a strong fortress, re-using Roman stonework and cutting new stones to match the old ones. The castle consisted of a central keep, courtyard and enclosure. With 4 towers defending the corners and a fifth in the middle of the north wall to defend the entrance. The whole was originally surrounded by a moat. In Mamluk and Ottoman times, the castle was reused and some parts were restored.

12. The large empty area adjacent to the "Temple en-L" and the Temple of Baalat Gebal was occupied by the Sacred Pool.

13. Foundations of the Temple "en L" erected in 2700 B.C. A section of charred stone at the entrance of the sacred court is evidence the temple was destroyed by fire, probably at that time of the Amorite invasions 2300-1900 B.C. Terra cotta basins set in a bench of masonry behind the entrance probably held water for ritual ablutions.

14. Temple of the Obelisks, originally built on top of the "Temple en L" was moved by archaeologists to its present location. Its scores of small obelisks were used as votive offerings. Altogether over 1,306 offerings have been uncovered, including human figurines of bronze covered with gold leaf.

15. Enclosure and houses of the pre-urban period (about 3200-3000 B.C.).

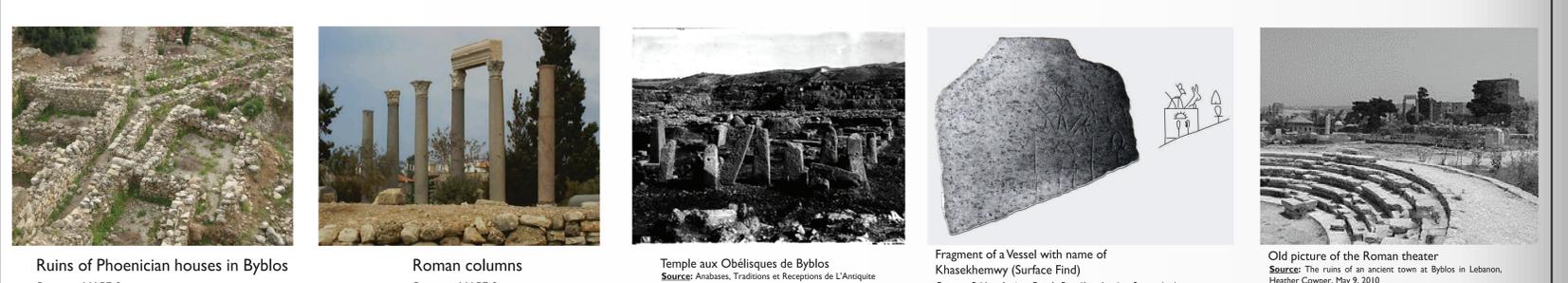
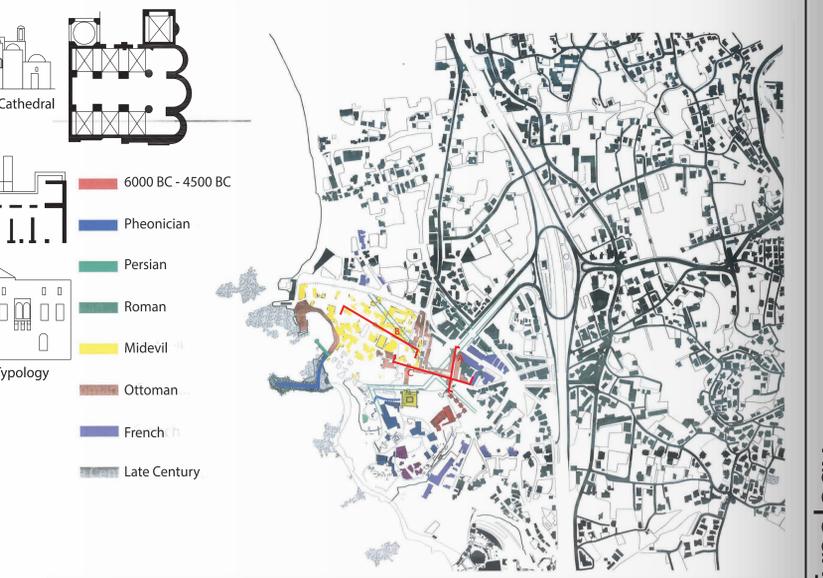
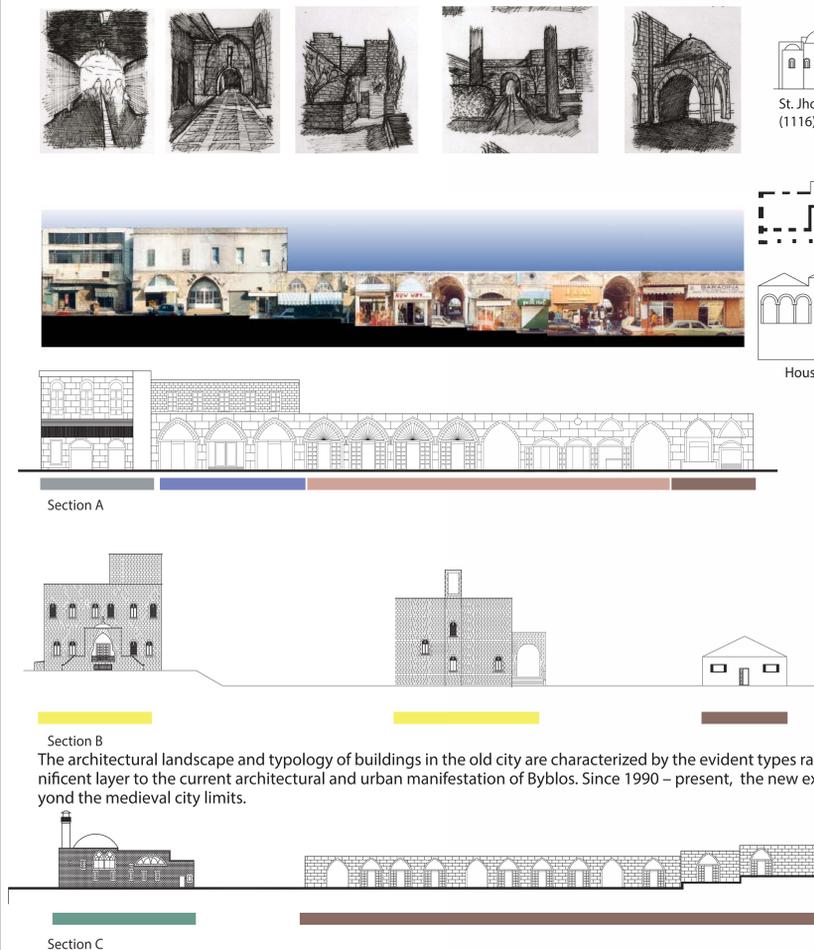
16. Remains of a large Early Bronze Age Residence (3rd millennium B.C.) in whose rooms can be seen 3 rows of 5 stone pillar bases, each of which held wooden pillars used for the superstructure.

18. The area that was once the Spring called "Ayn el-Malik" can be seen in a large cistern constructed of irregular stone. This was the main source of water for Byblos. In the Isis and Osiris myth, Isis met the queen's maidservants here.

19. The Amorite Quarry is a large excavation in the rock behind the Baalat Gebal temple.

***Royal Tombs. The necropolis dates to the 2nd millennium B.C. and contains 9 underground tombs of the Byblos kings. The most important is that of king Ahirom, whose sarcophagus bears one of the earliest inscriptions of the Phoenician alphabet. This sarcophagus is one of the masterpieces found in the National Museum of Beirut.

Roman Nymphaeum. Located to the left of the Castle entrance, this monument was decorated with a niche filled with statues and enlivened by fountains. The roads coming into city from the north, converged on the fine pavement that stretched in front of the nymphaeum.



Ruins of Phoenician houses in Byblos
Source: MAPE-2

Roman columns
Source: MAPE-2

Temple aux Obélisques de Byblos
Source: Anabases, Traditions et Receptions de L'Antiquite

Fragment of a Vessel with name of Khasekhemwy (Surface Find)
Source: Byblos: Ancient Egypt's Best Kept Lumber Secret, by Thomas H. Greany, February 9, 2014

Old picture of the Roman theater
Source: The ruins of an ancient town at Byblos in Lebanon, Heather Cowper, May 9, 2010

Archaeological Site

Street and Building Typology