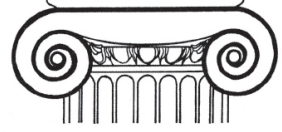




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Sorumlu Müdürü: E.Ü. Edebiyat Fakültesi Arkeoloji Bölümü adına Prof. Dr. Eşref Abay

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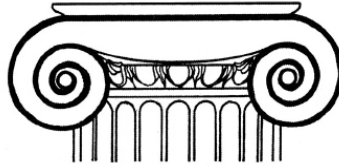
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Architectural Features in Early Bronze Age Western Anatolia: The Benches and Platforms

[BATI ANADOLU'DA ERKEN TUNÇ ÇAĞ'DA MİMARİ ELEMANLAR:
SEKİLER VE PLATFORMLAR]

Asuman KAPUCI-Laura HARRISON

Anahtar Kelimeler

Erken Tunç Çağ, Batı Anadolu, Sekiler, Platformlar.

Keywords

Early Bronze Age, Western Anatolia, Benches, Platforms.

ÖZET

Batı Anadolu'daki ETÇ kültür bölgelerinin yerleşim yerlerinin analizleri genellikle yerleşim şablonları ve şehirciliğe odaklanmaktadır, ancak ayrıntılı olarak mimari elemanların analizlerini içermemektedir. Bu makalenin amacı, ETÇ mimari elemanları arasındaki seki ve platformları inceleyerek ayrıntıdaki bu bilgi eksikliğini gidermeye çalışmaktır. Bu özelliklerin bölgesel unsurlar ve özellikler gösterip göstermediğini değerlendirmek için seki ve platformlar bölgesel ölçekte bütünsel irdelenmiştir. Ayrıca seki ve platformların yapım teknikleri ve kullanım amaçları doğrultusunda bazı sonuçlara ulaşılmaya çalışılmıştır. Bu doğrultuda belirlenen coğrafi sınırlar bağlamında seki ve platformların mimari yapılanma içindeki yeri anlaşılmasına çalışılmıştır.

ABSTRACT

Analysis of the settlements of EBA cultural regions in Western Anatolia generally focuses on settlement patterns and urbanism but does not include analyzes of architectural elements in detail. The purpose of this article is to try to fill this lack of information in detail by examining the benches and platforms among the EBA architectural elements. In order to evaluate whether these features show regional elements and features, the benches and platforms were examined holistically on a regional scale. In addition, some results were tried to be reached in line with the construction techniques and usage purposes of the benches and platforms. In this direction, it has been tried to understand the place of the benches and platforms in the architectural structuring in the context of the geographical boundaries determined.

Introduction

Benches and platforms, which have been among the architectural building elements since the Neolithic Period in Anatolia, have been used as building elements until today. If we need to talk about the bench and platform examples from the periods before the EBA, which constitute our subject, through a few settlements; It is thought that the benches and platforms at Çatalhöyük were used for sitting, doing daily work, or sleeping during the Neolithic Period, and it is known that the dead were buried under the benches and platforms found in the settlement.¹ It is stated

that a clay platform was used for sitting purposes in the middle section that divides a space into two in the Neolithic layers at Höyücek.² In the Chalcolithic Period, both adobe mud and stone terraces are located in the architectural structures at Aktopraklık.³

The Early Bronze Age has regionally different characteristics shaped by Anatolian geography. The quality and quantity of the settlements differ across the cultural regions that make up Western Anatolia. These regional differences between

1 Mellaart 2003: 39, 40; Hodder 2006: 110-112.

2 Duru-Umurtak 2005: 16, Lev. 16/2.

3 Karul 2017: 143, 149.

regions can be observed in terms of both architectural and material cultural elements. The most easily recognizable element of this regional variability is pottery. For instance, D. French, who carried out one of the pioneering analyses of western Anatolian pottery, identified cultural regions through ceramics and began to draw their boundaries.⁴ The cultural regions defined later by T. Efe contributed to the understanding of EBA culture formation in Western Anatolia.⁵

When the architectural studies on cultural regions are evaluated, we can easily say that there is no regional distinction with borders (Fig.1). Architectural plans show that settlements exhibit subjective approaches. Undoubtedly, the settlement topography is one of the factors in shaping the approaches. In Western Anatolia, architectural studies were mostly made on settlement patterns during the Early Bronze Age. In the Early Bronze Age, M. Korfmann named the radial plan feature in settlements such as Demircihüyük, Bademağacı and Seyitömer “Anatolian Settlement Plan”,⁶ and E. Fidan called the same plan type “Inland Western Anatolian Settlement Plan”.⁷ However, studies on archaeological features found within these settlements have been very limited. The aim of this paper is aimed to address this gap in knowledge and to study how benches and platforms relate to the built architecture of houses, temples, and administrative buildings. For this purpose, we tried to evaluate the benches and platforms with a cross-regional focus. Thus, we will be able to have an idea whether there are regional determinants to the construction and use of architectural elements such as benches and platforms (Table 1).

The Elements and method

The benches and platforms, which constitute our research subject, were defined over the regions. The settlements in the restricted areas and their benches and platforms were evaluated. Certain classifications were also made through the maps and tables included in the text (Table 3-4). Thus, with these methods, the purposes served by these architectural elements in the EBA in Western Anatolia will be tried to be understood.

4 French 1969: 41.

5 Efe 2004: 15-29.

6 Korfmann 1983: 222.

7 Fidan 2013: 117.

Defining the benches

Troas region

The Troas Region, one of the most important in the archaeology of the Early Bronze Age, contains many centers, including Troy. Benches have been found in architectural contexts in Troy and Yenibademli. The benches in these settlements have been defined in the context of architectural stratigraphy.

Location and size determinations were made for the benches found in EBA 2 in Troy. There was a 0.42 m wide, 3.50 m long bench extending southward to the west of the M tower in the west in Troy I.⁸ A semicircular mudbrick building resting on two rows of stones and covered with clay plaster rests on the northeast wall not far from the door in Troy II, House 202. The structure, which was 0.48 m wide, 0.55 m long and 0.45 m high from the ground, must have served as a bench.⁹

Location and size definitions were made for the benches found in EBA Troy. A low stone bench measuring 0.50 m wide, 1.20 m long and 0.52 m high was built on the northeast wall of the room in Troy IV, House 303. A large millstone was found on the bench. This level also contains many animal bones, pottery, as well as a lot of carbonized material and ash.¹⁰ In the northwest corner of Room 402, a bench made of clay, stone and mudbrick has a width of 0.85 to 0.90 m. The curved edge is vertical and is 0.35 m high.¹¹ A bench 0.80 m wide and approximately 0.26 m high above ground level was built in House 456.¹² House 454-455 has an adobe bench with a width of 0.50 m and 0.75 m, 1.50 m inside the room from the northwest side wall.¹³ A rectangular clay bench was built in the southwest corner of the north room in house 501 and a hearth was built near it in Troy V.¹⁴ The bench in House 501 is located in the southwest corner of the room to the north. Its plan has a radius of approximately 0.95 m. It was built of greenish-brown mud brick and clay, and its outer surface was covered with a thick layer

8 Blegen vd. 1950: 147.

9 Blegen vd. 1950: 332.

10 Blegen vd. 1951: 57.

11 Blegen vd. 1951: 144.

12 Blegen vd. 1951: 158.

13 Blegen vd. 1951: 187.

14 Blegen vd. 1951: 258.

of white clay, filling the spaces between the mud-bricks.¹⁵ A bench was made of stone and adobe, 0.55 m thick, 0.50 m wide and 1.30 m long. At the western end of the row, a large, coarse, wide-mouthed jar was firmly placed in House 501. A large coarse ware lid was found next to the pottery on the bench. Other finds unearthed in the room were a bone awl or needle, three terracotta spindle whorls, a small plate, and a small jug.¹⁶ In Yenibademli, EBA 2, and Period II, there is a bench on which pots were placed. The bench is located in a rectangular building to the west side of the remains of Kiln II.¹⁷

Inland Southwestern Anatolia

In Beycesultan and Karataş-Semayük, where benches are located in Inland Southwest Anatolia, this architectural structure was defined according to the stratigraphic order of the settlements.

Location and size definitions were made for the benches found in EBA 2 in Beycesultan. Room 1 has a clay bench in the twin sanctuary, in the northeast corner in Period XVI (Fig. 2). The portico to the west of the sanctuary contains a clay bench, two domed ovens, and a semicircular granary in Period XV, Sanctuary A, Room 2.¹⁸ In Period XIV, Room 2, the sanctuary or “priest’s chamber” behind Temple B was a small room no more than 2.60 m wide. Apart from half a dozen pieces of pottery, there was a circular hearth filled only with ash, and a clay bench in the northeast corner.¹⁹

In EBA 3 Period III at Beycesultan, there was a 30 cm high clay bench stretching along the western and northern walls in Megaron A. In addition, in Megaron B, there was a clay bench extending along the northern wall of the structure.²⁰

In EBA 1 Period I/II at Karataş Semayük, there is a possible bench 0.15m wide. The feature is made of packed buff clay covered in clay plaster. It follows the curve of the wall on the east site of the pit in House ME-b. In House MS-a, a narrow, central partition wall (0.20 m wide) was flanked by a low buff-colored pise bench (0.70 m wide) on the south.²¹

15 Blegen vd. 1951: 272, 273.

16 Blegen vd. 1951: 279.

17 Hüryılmaz 2006a: 264, Fig. 6.

18 Lloyd-Mellaart 1962: 36.

19 Lloyd-Mellaart 1962: 53.

20 Lloyd-Mellaart 1962 59, 61.

21 Warner 1994: 139.

Inland Northwestern Anatolia

In Inland Northwest Anatolia, benches have been found in stratigraphic context at the site of Seyitömer.

Location and size determinations were made for the benches found in EBA 3 in Seyitömer. A bench measuring 1.40x3.70 m in size was found within a Period V-C residential building. In Phase V-B, benches in the southwest corner of residential building 32 measure 0.70x1.70 m. The bench in House 45 measures 4.20 m along in the north side, 1.15 m on the west side, and 2.85 m on the east side. In Period V-A, House 13 has a bench within a workshop space that measures 2.00x0.46 m in the northwest.²²

Coastal Western Anatolia

In Coastal Western Anatolia, benches have been found in stratigraphic context at the site of Liman Tepe.

At Liman Tepe, EBA 2, in Period LMT B V-1b, in structure E-14, interior features of space M-1 show that this place had a special function. In front of the northern wall of the space, there is a two-row high wall built parallel to it but protruding into the space. This arrangement was more like a bench for sitting purposes built inside the space.²³

Defining the platforms

Troas Region

The platforms found in Troy and Yenibademli settlements in the Troas Region were defined based on the stratigraphic order of these settlements.

Location and size definitions were made for the platforms found in EBA 2 in Troy. The Troy I deposit was discovered during the excavations of Schilemann, and at the point where it cuts the northern flank of the hill from the squares C 2-3 to D 2-3 and E 2-3 in the west, it was covered with copper, stony bones and a platform with terracotta materials.²⁴ In the west of House 102 was a clay platform approximately 2 m wide, extending 2 m to the side wall line and standing up

22 Bilgen-Kapuci 2019: 26-32.

23 Şahoğlu 2002: 43.

24 Blegen vd. 1950: 33.

to 0.50 m high.²⁵ Two items of fixed furniture were represented by low rectangular platforms in House 102. One leaning against the walls in the far northeast corner of the room was 2 m long, 0.90 m wide and 0.30 m high. It was built from several irregular rows of stones filled with earth and flattened. Similarly, the other platform built next to the outer wall in the northwest part of the great hall measures 2.35 m long, 1.70 m wide and 0.50 m high. These platforms most likely must have been used as sofas and beds. There was a clay pit for kneading bread dough, which is probably the domestic element, and a low stone platform between this pit and the south wall.²⁶

Location and size definitions were made for the platforms found in EBA 3 in Troy. There was a platform of small stones surrounded by a row of large, curved blocks, near the door, in the western corner of the room in Troy IV, in House 456. The platform was approximately 0.80 m wide and approximately 0.26 m above ground level.²⁷ House 455 has a hard-baked clay floor laid on a thin layer of white calcareous material. On the southeast side of the hearth in the room, a raised rectangular clay platform protruded partly surrounding a bowl-shaped depression containing ash and soft soil.²⁸ There was a pottery platform near the east wall in Room 406. The roughly triangular platform measures approximately 0.85 m x 1 m. The platform with slight traces of burning is thought to have been designed to support a hearth.²⁹

House 501 has two hearths near the midpoint of the east wall in Troy V. One was a simple oval clay platform measuring 0.70 m by 0.80 m. The other, larger, and more detailed, measures 1.10 m in diameter; its floor was supported by stone pavement and cube pieces and surrounded by a 0.10 m wide clay rim. Some stones placed next to the hearths probably formed a platform for use in cooking. The floor remains of the chamber include carbonized material, animal bones, several miscellaneous objects and numerous pottery sherds.³⁰ The stove and cooking facilities were

located close to the east wall, 1.20 m to 3.35 m north of the partition wall in house 501. In this area, a crescent-shaped structure with a pottery, stone and mud-brick foundation, 0.05 m above the ground, and two round platforms were built on it. Next to the wall was another irregularly shaped low platform on which a pot was placed. The crescent-shaped structure, which resembles a small oven without a dome, was made of clay. The semicircular platform measures 0.67 m in diameter and 0.23 m in height.³¹ House 501 has a clay platform next to the hearth in the main room. There were also sherds on it.³²

In Yenibademli, in EBA 2, residential buildings dating to Period II contained round and oval shaped simple hearths surrounded by collected stones, horseshoe shaped ovens and a platform made of small stones among.³³

Inland Southwestern Anatolia

The platforms located in Beycesultan, Karataş-Semayük and Kuruçay in Inland Southwest Anatolia were defined according to the stratigraphic order of the settlements.

Location and size definitions were made for the platforms found in EBA 2 in Beycesultan. In Period XVI there is a clay platform extending along the south wall of Room 6 to the north of Structure A (Fig. 2). In the southwest corner of the room in question, there was a clay elevation called the sleeping platform.³⁴ In addition, there was a 50 cm diameter clay protrusion, 1.0 m west of the altar, inside Building A in Period XV. Building A has also a platform behind the altar. This platform was made of clay, measuring 75 x 40 cm and 20 cm high.³⁵ The room, which was interpreted as the priest's chamber behind Structure B in Period XIV, was a small space with a width not exceeding 2.60 m. An ash-filled hearth and a clay platform in the northeast corner were unearthed in this room. Room 4 has a clay platform in the southwest corner.³⁶

Location and size definitions were made for the platforms found in EBA 3 in Beycesultan. A

25 Blegen vd. 1950: 91.

26 Blegen vd. 1950: 94, fig. 144-145.

27 Blegen vd. 1951: 158.

28 Blegen vd. 1951: 175, fig. 126.

29 Blegen vd. 1951: 185.

30 Blegen vd. 1951: 253.

31 Blegen vd. 1951: 258, fig. 192-193.

32 Blegen vd. 1951: 273.

33 Hüryılmaz 2006b: 2.

34 Lloyd-Mellaart 1962: 38.

35 Lloyd-Mellaart 1962: 43.

36 Lloyd-Mellaart 1962: 53.

clay platform located in the southwest corner of Megaron A in Period VIII has been interpreted as a sleeping platform. It measures 30 cm high and 1.25 m wide. In EBA 3, there is also a sleeping platform in the southwest corner of Megaron B.³⁷

At Karataş Semayük, in EBA 1, there was a platform made of stone and clay in one of the fenced houses in Period I and II.³⁸ Location and size definitions were made for the platforms found in EBA 2 in Karataş Semayük. From Period V: 1/2, circular stone platforms occur throughout the habitation areas. The best-preserved example (Platform 2) is located in Trench 35/37 between Houses 35/37-a and 35 37-c-1. It is composed of a raised circular rim of large stones that surrounds a floor of tightly packed smaller stones. The arc of an earlier phase of this platform rests partially beneath it. Another platform (Platform 1) lies to the west. In no instance was the surface of the platform preserved or any evidence of superstructure uncovered, but the stone packings may have had a clay coating which would have provided a smooth working surface for such tasks as grinding. No finds were directly associated with the platforms although they are all located in areas of domestic activity. The platform in Trench 69 was adjacent to a large concentration of debris including pottery, loomweights, and stone tools. In Trench 57, burnt walling fragments and a grinding stone were uncovered near the platforms, a grinding stone was found in Trench 35/37 between Platforms 1 and 2, and grinding stone fragments were found among the stones of the platforms in Trenches 35/37 and 69.³⁹

Location and size definitions were made for the EBA 3 platforms found at Karataş Semayük. South of the largest house, 35/37-c-1, were two circular stone platforms which appear to be contemporary with the house. Two building phases were evident for the eastern platform (Platform 2; D. 2.20 m.). The construction of Platform 1 (D. 2.53 m.) cut away the eastern part of House 35/37-e, which belonged to an earlier period (p. 173). There was no evidence to suggest the use of the platforms. Burnt areas found below the stones were probably not associated with them; only a few scattered sherds were found within the

circle of Platform 2 (early phase), and a grinding stone was found between the two platforms. Fragments of broken grinding stones were found among the interior packing stones of the second phase of Platform 2. The tops of the platforms are very uneven as they were preserved but could have been used for the placement of grinding stones. The stone packing within the rims also may have had a clay coating which would have provided a smooth working surface for domestic activities. The platforms were uncovered just below the field surface, and a clay floor could easily have been destroyed; similarly, none of the superstructures of the nearby houses was preserved. The platforms might have served House 35/37-c-1 or possibly several houses in the neighborhood.⁴⁰ The southwest corner of House 64-a is partially destroyed but the remains of what may have been a platform are found in the corner of the interior.⁴¹ A large, white-plastered clay hearth lies on the earlier of two white clay floors in House MEE-b. It has a rectangular green plastered buff clay platform, 0.90 x 1.40 m, with raised sides that are incompletely preserved, and a semicircular apron with a green plastered rim where burning occurred.⁴²

There is a rectangular platform that is raised 10 cm from the floor in Kuruçay, Period 1, EBA 2. The platform, which was very well burned because of the fire burning on it, was carefully burnished. The fact that there were many mud bricks scattered around the architectural elements in question indicates that all architectural elements were in a building.⁴³

Inland Northwestern Anatolia

At the settlements of Demircihüyük, Seyitömer, and Kusura, in Inland Northwest Anatolia, platforms were identified in stratigraphic context.

Location and size determinations were made for the platforms found in EBA 2 in Demircihüyük. In Period I there is a platform approximately 30 to 40 cm above the ground level in House K8.⁴⁴ There is a 40 cm high stone platform in front of

37 Lloyd-Mellaart 1962: 59-61.

38 Mellink 1973: 295, Abb. 2.

39 Warner 1994: 188.

40 Warner 1994: 45.

41 Warner 1994: 73.

42 Warner 1994: 114.

43 Duru 1996: 65, 66, Fig. 47/1-2; Duru 2008: 158, Fig. 320.

44 Korfmann 1983: 127.

the north wall in Period K.⁴⁵ The platforms are approximately 4 meters wide and approximately 1.5 meters long in phase L.⁴⁶ There is a buried pithos next to the sleeping platform in Period L in area L 7. It is known that the sleeping platform, located on one of the long walls of the front rooms of the houses, normally measures 1.5 to 1.6 m x 4.0 m. This means that two adults and three children can comfortably sit next to each other. The bed length of 1.5 / 1.6 m might be considered short, but it certainly seems adequate. It is thought that a wider platform may block the passage in the room.⁴⁷

Location and size definitions were made for the platforms found in EBA 3 in Seyitömer. In Period V-B, the temple building has a 0.58x0.52 m platform in the south of the central megaron structure, which is the main room of the complex. A platform measuring 1.35x0.45 m was built to the northwest of Room 51a, the main room of the Palace/Administrative Complex in Period V-B. The storage rooms within this complex have two platforms measuring 0.76x0.80 m in the northeast of Room 52 and 0.45x0.60 m in the northwest of Room 8. In Period VB residential buildings (Building 34, Room A), the southeast platform measures 0.40x0.55 m, the western platform measures 0.69x0.35 m, the eastern platform measures 1.12x0.30 m, the northwest platform measures 0.86x1.08 m, and the southern platform measures 1.16x2.08 m. In the workshop buildings of Period V-B, Room 19 contains a platform in the southwest that measures 2.45x0.78 m. In Room 58, there is a platform in the southwest of Room A that measures 1.10x2.12 m. In Period V-B storage structures, there are platforms in the southwest of Room 41 that measure 3.00x1.60 m, and in the northwest of Room 43 that measure 1.05x1.05 m. The residential-storage platform in the southwest of Room 36 measures 0.76x1.00 m. In the workshop-storage structures, Room 47 contains a platform in the southwest that measures 1.16x2.08 m and another one in the north that measures 0.86x1.08 m. The main room along with the hearth was preserved, the intermediate entrance room was closed, and this area was raised to form a platform measuring 0.90x3.00 m in Period V-A, the temple structure, and in the

second usage phase (Fig. 3). A platform measuring 0.85x0.48 m was found in the warehouse spaces, room 50, the middle part of Period V-A.⁴⁸

In Kusura, EBA 2, Period B, room 7 opening to the courtyard yielded important results in terms of understanding the interior arrangement of the space. A platform made of terracotta rested on the western wall of this room. There is a niche in the wall above this platform. It is not possible to say anything definitive about the function of this niche and platform.⁴⁹

Coastal Western Anatolia

At the settlements of Liman Tepe, Çeşme-Bağlararası, and Çukuriçi, in Coastal Western Anatolia, platforms were identified in stratigraphic context.

In EBA 2 Liman Tepe (LMT B Level V-1b architecture, StructureE-14), there is an area in the southern half of Room M-1 that is bordered by vertically placed white stone plates in an irregular line. This area, which looks like a kind of platform, is located approximately 20 cm higher than the floor of the space. The top of the platform is very neatly paved with white slab stones. In the western part of the courtyard, which is entered through the door in the east of Building E-13, Space M-3 a floor consisting of medium-sized stones was exposed, just like in the M-3 space. However, this stone-paved area is concentrated only in a certain section. In this phase, there is a stone platform built to abut the M-2 space in the courtyard. The exact function of this arrangement is not understood.⁵⁰

At EBA 2 Çeşme-Bağlararası, there is often a hearth, generally in the middle part of a freestanding Level CB 3 structure. This feature, which we encounter in every space, is an important detail in terms of revealing the domestic function of the buildings. Although not in all examples, in some buildings, the hearths are located on a plastered and raised platform. It is thought that some of the circular black burn marks observed on the floor of the house, right next to the platform hearth in the middle part of the House 52, belong to the wooden pillars.⁵¹ It was observed that the floor

45 Korfmann 1983: 136, fig.243.

46 Korfmann 1983: 158.

47 Korfmann 1983: 215, 216.

48 Bilgen-Kapuci 2019: 27-34.

49 Lamb 1937: 87.

50 Şahoğlu 2002: 42, 43.

51 Şahoğlu 2018: 376, Fig. 8-9, 16.

of Room 16 was also covered with a white plaster, and it was understood that there was a thick lime plaster layer on the floor of the area where the hearths were located. This is most likely a plastered workshop on which food preparation activities are carried out. Work platforms with stone pavements were also found on the plastered floor.⁵²

The characteristic structures of CB 3 Çeşme-Bağlararası are long houses. There are examples of houses that consist of a main room, as well as different spaces in the building with partition walls. There is a platform in the middle of these houses, where daily life activities are actively carried out, and there are hearth floors on these platforms.⁵³ A trapezoidal planned structure is another type of building in Çeşme-Bağlararası. Shaped according to the street and architectural texture, this trapezoidal planned structure opens to the street with a doorway on its long side wall. As in other buildings, there is a platform in the center of this house and a hearth floor on it. Similar pylon holes were also found around the platform located in the middle of House M-39. The arrangement of the wooden roof was aimed at ventilating and illuminating the interior of the house evacuating the furnace smoke from the upper parts of the hearth surfaces.⁵⁴

In Çukuriçi, EBA I, ÇuHö IV, there is a rectangular room (Room 18) with a stone platform in the northern area, which cannot be dated exactly. A platform was built at the southern boundary of the room and placed directly in front of the wall. This platform is made of stones providing a working surface that is raised a few centimeters above the respective ground level.⁵⁵ Room 18 has a platform to the south and is probably covered by a preserved hard clay surface to the northeast of the platform. A miniature vessel was found approximately 40 cm north of the platform. This shows that the platform is not only for decoration, but also has a functional purpose. In this special case, it is possible to place cult objects on the platform.⁵⁶

Regional determinations of benches and platforms

The benches were used as a seating place and to as a location to place material culture items in Troy, in the Troas Region, and probably served the purpose of placing pots in Yenibademli. In Inland Southwest Anatolia, the benches in Beycesultan, especially the examples found in the sacred areas, must have been used to place cult objects. There is no clear data on the function of the benches in Karataş. Benches at Seyitömer in Inland northwestern Anatolia were used for a variety of purposes; in some contexts they were used in a seating area and in others they were used for domestic purposes. It is thought that benches were used mostly for seating at Liman Tepe, in coastal Western Anatolia.

The platforms must have been used as sofas and sleeping platforms for the placement of various material culture items in Troy, in the Troas Region, as well as for elevating hearths off the ground, creating a cooking area under ovens, and serving as a sleeping platform in the residences of Yenibademli. Benches served as a sleeping platform in Beycesultan, in Inland Southwest Anatolia. At Karataş Semayük, the indoor working platform (workshop platform) was used as a cooking area due to the burn marks showing that a fire was burning on it in Kuruçay. Benches functioned as a sleeping platform in Demircihüyük in Inland Northwest Anatolia, as a cooking and preparation area in front of the hearths in Seyitömer, and as a workshop where materials were placed. The intended use of the platforms in Kusura is unknown. At Liman Tepe, in coastal Western Anatolia, platforms were used as sleeping platforms, and at Çeşme-Bağlararası they were placed under a hearth in a workshop. At Çukuriçi, special cult objects were placed on benches (Table 2).

Conclusions

The benches defined within the scope of these regions give a general picture for the whole of Western Anatolia. This result is that the benches are mostly used for sitting, as well as workshops used for daily work and places where material culture items are placed. The benches are both daily life elements in domestic buildings and architectural elements where cult objects are placed in sacred areas such as Beycesultan and Seyitömer.

52 Şahoğlu 2018: 361.

53 Şahoğlu 2020: 77.

54 Şahoğlu 2020: 78, 79.

55 Horejs 2017: 97, 101.

56 Horejs 2017: 105.

In addition, in the architectural context, it can be thought that these elements in front of the walls add a depth to the architectural integrity of the space. Therefore, while the functionality of the benches is of primary importance, it should also not be overlooked that it is an architectural element that deepens the house in terms of fixed furniture in the sense of space of the settlers.

It is thought that platforms longer than 1m may have been used as “sleeping platforms”. The platforms with a width of 4 m and a length of 1.5-1.6 m found in some houses, especially in Demircihüyük, serve as sleeping platforms. Since the platforms in the surveyed settlements are not found in every house, we assume that the sleeping area was generally made of wood instead of the sleeping platform. It is also necessary to consider mats that are thick enough to achieve a similar insulating effect. Also, furs and blankets must have been used⁵⁷. The platforms located under and in front of the hearths in Troia, Kuruçay, Seyitömer and Çeşme-Bağlararası, which are among the settlements in the regions we have classified, were used for food preparation and cooking. Apart from domestic houses, platforms also appear as architectural elements where cult objects are placed, as we can see in Seyitömer and Çukuriçi examples.

The periodic distribution of benches and platforms in the Western Anatolia during the Early Bronze Age shows that these elements were mostly used in EBA 2 houses. The regional analyzes show that it is not possible to make a specific regional classification/demarcation in terms of both the benches and the functional aspects of the platforms, but the functional areas of these architectural elements were created in line with the subjective approaches of the settlements.

Benches and platforms, which have been among the architectural elements of the spaces since the Neolithic Period, were mostly built-in residential buildings in Western Anatolia during the EBA. Therefore, in the domestic context, it is understood that the terraces have the functions of sitting primarily, putting material culture items secondarily, while the platforms with large dimensions have the functions of primarily sleeping, and secondarily putting material culture items. This shows that the benches and platforms

for the settlers have been an important building element in meeting their vital needs in their daily social order in the integrity of the building since the Prehistoric Periods in Anatolia.

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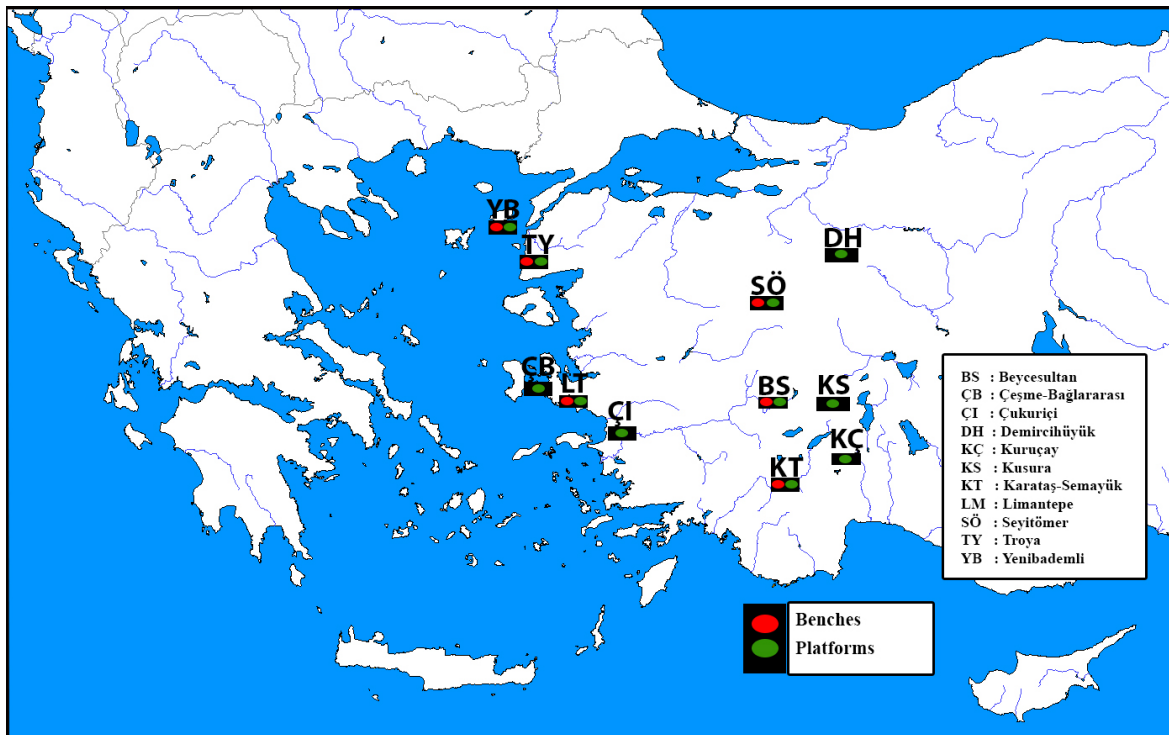


Fig. 1. The Benches and Platforms in the Settlements Evaluated in the Paper

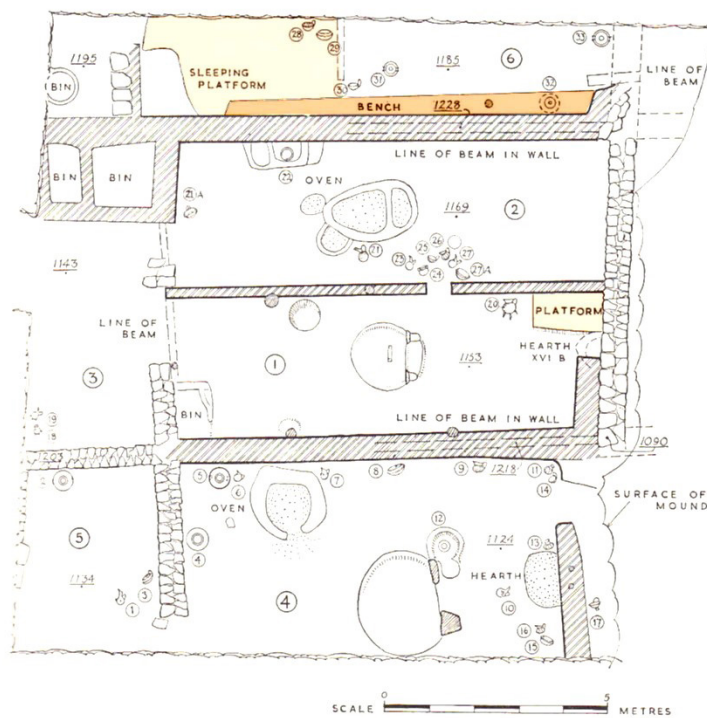


Fig. 2. The Benches and Platform in Beycesultan Level XVI, Trench "SX" (Adapted by Lloyd-Mellaart 1962, Fig.10)

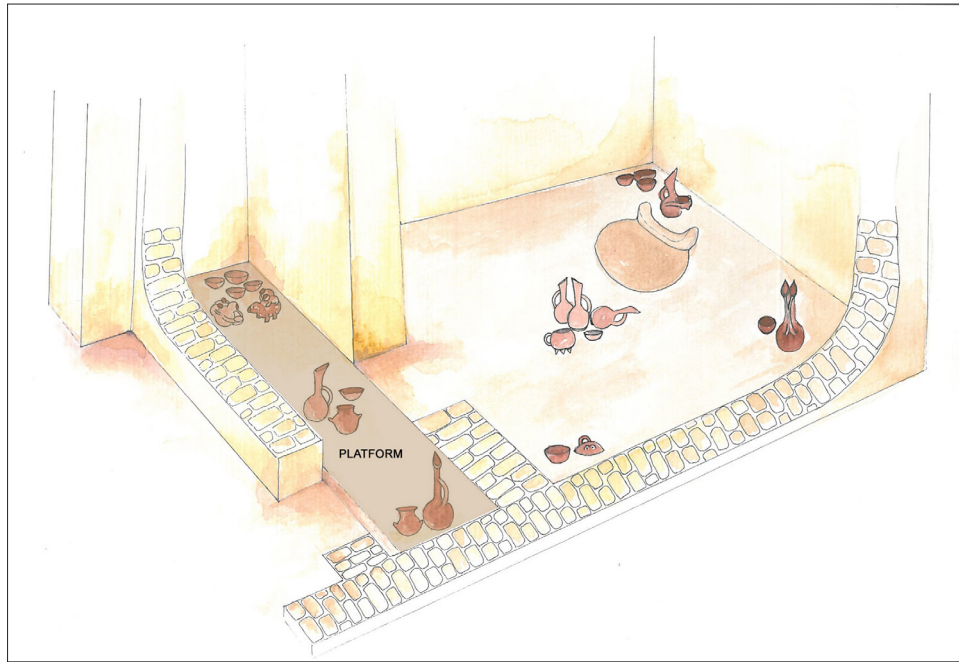


Fig. 3. The Platform in Seyitömer Layer-V-A, Megaron-Temple (Adapted by Bilgen-Kapuci 2019, Illustration 1).

		TROAS REGION		INLAND SOUTHWESTERN ANATOLIA			INLAND NORTHWESTERN ANATOLIA			COASTAL WESTERN ANATOLIA		
		Troia	Yenibademli	Beycesultan	Karataş	Kuruçay	Demircihüyük	Seyitömer	Kusura	Liman Tepe	Çeşme-Bağlararası	Çukuriçi
EB1	Bench				I/II							
	Platform				I II							IV
EB2	Bench	I II	II	XVI XV XIV						B V-1b		
	Platform	I	II	XVI XV XIV	V	1	I K L M		B	B V-1b	3	
EB3	Bench	IV V		VIII					V-C V-B V-A			
	Platform	IV V		VIII	VI				V-B V-A			

Table 1. The Benches and Platforms in EBA Western Anatolia by Settlements.

		TROAS REGION		INLAND SOUTHWESTERN ANATOLIA			INLAND NORTHWESTERN ANATOLIA			COASTAL WESTERN ANATOLIA		
		Troia	Yenibademli	Beycesultan	Karataş	Kuruçay	Demircihüyük	Seyitömer	Kusura	Liman Tepe	Çeşme-Bağlararası	Çukuriçi
Bench	For sitting	X	X	X	X				X	X		
	For material culture	X	X	X					X			
Platform	For sleeping	X	X	X			X			X		
	For material culture								X	?	X	
	For workshop	X			X	X		X		?		X

Table 2. The Functional Distribution of Benches and Platforms in EBA Western Anatolia by Settlements.

BENCH	TROAS REGION	INLAND SOUTHWESTERN ANATOLIA	INLAND NORTHWESTERN ANATOLIA	COASTAL WESTERN ANATOLIA
Clay	X	X	X	X
Stone	X		X	X
Mud brick	X			

Table 3. The Building Materials for Benches Regionally in EBA Western Anatolia

PLATFORM	TROAS REGION	INLAND SOUTHWESTERN ANATOLIA	INLAND NORTHWESTERN ANATOLIA	COASTAL WESTERN ANATOLIA
Clay	X	X	X	X
Stone	X	X	X	X
Mud brick				

Table 4. The Building Materials for Platforms Regionally in EBA Western Anatolia