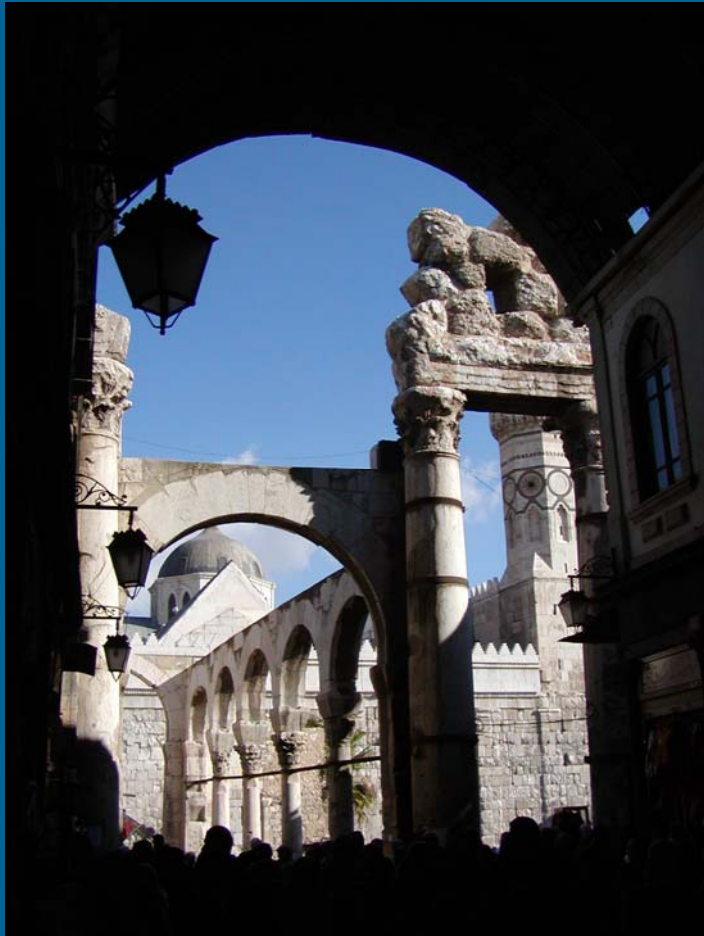




Making your mark on the Landscape

The Umayyads and their building
projects in Greater Syria

Umayyad patronage and the Landscape



The Abbasid period chronicler al-Tabarī (d. 311/923) reported: “al-Walīd I was an enthusiast for building and making constructions and estates. When people met in his time, they would ask one another about building and constructions.”

Yet, less than 50 years later this same chronicler records the pledge of al-Yazīd III in the year 744/126 in his accession to the Caliphate “not to place stone upon stone nor brick upon brick”

Some Questions

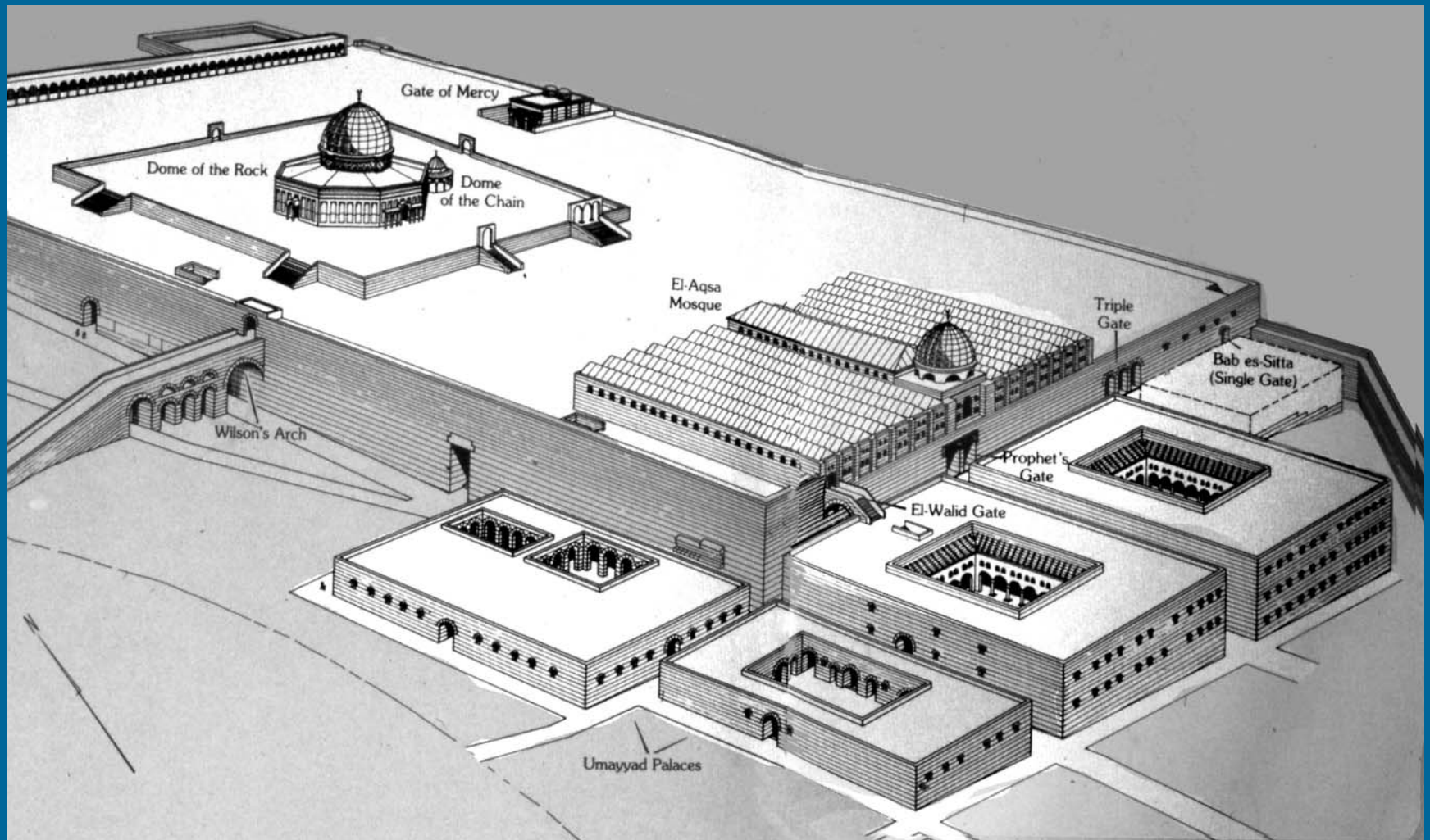
- What was the point of all this building?
- Was its geographical organization purposeful?
- Who benefits? Who loses?
- What would Ibn Khaldun think? Is this how empires are made and royal authority established?

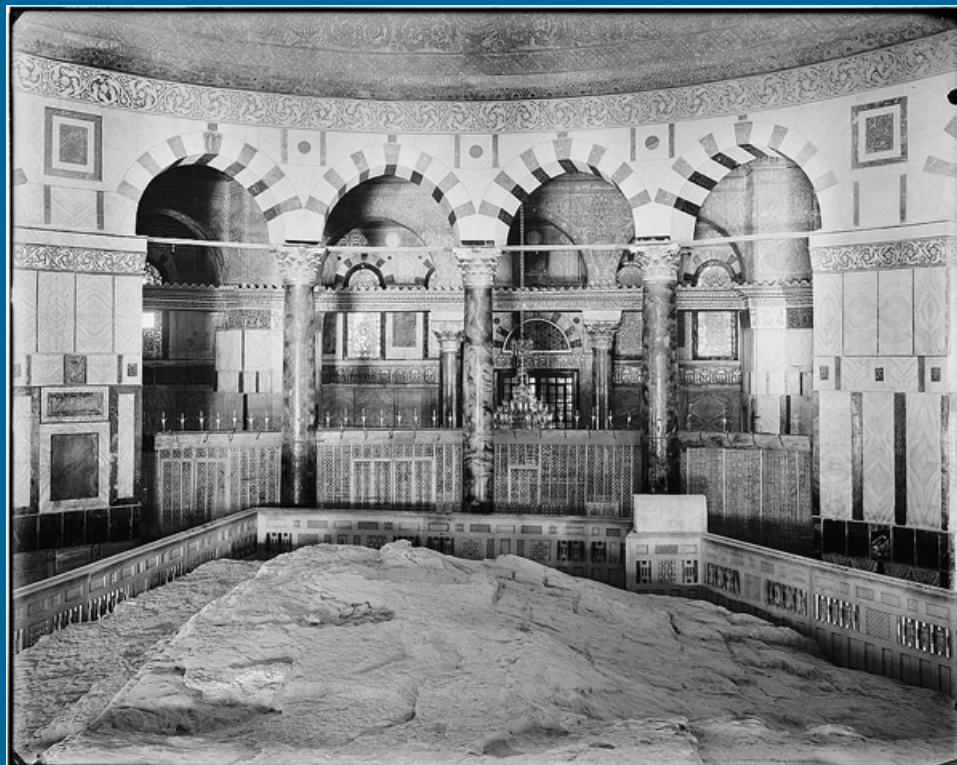
Other Umayyad Period Imperial Constructions



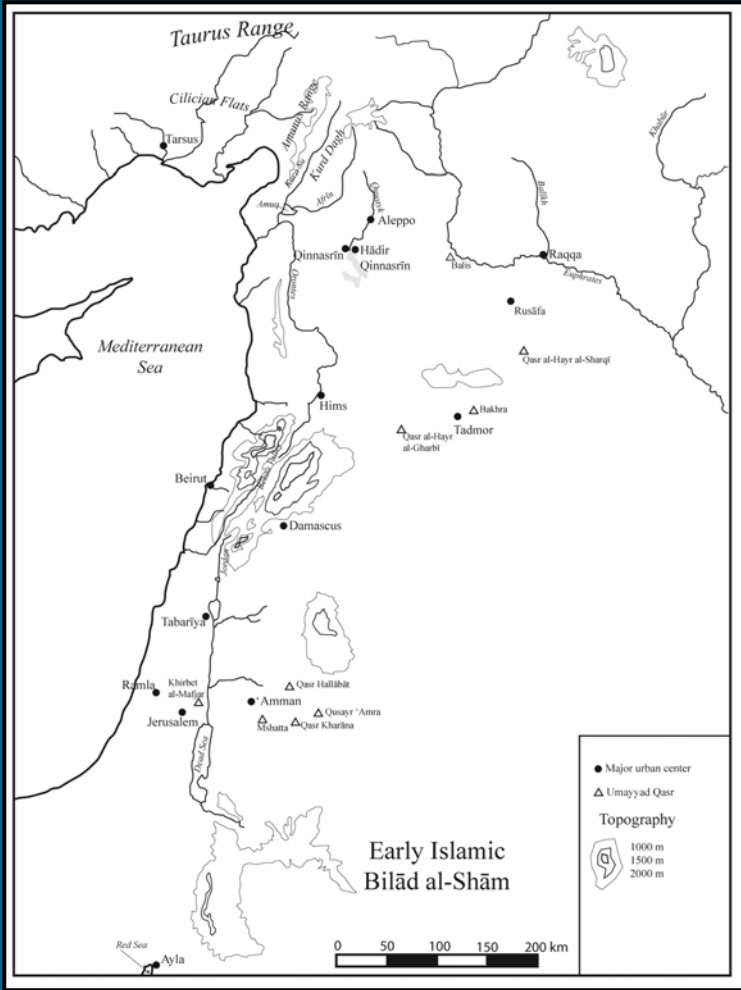
A Dynastic Shrine?



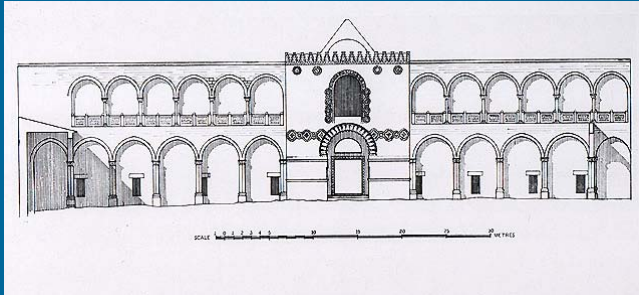




The Umayyad *Qusur* (s. *qasr*) or “desert palaces”

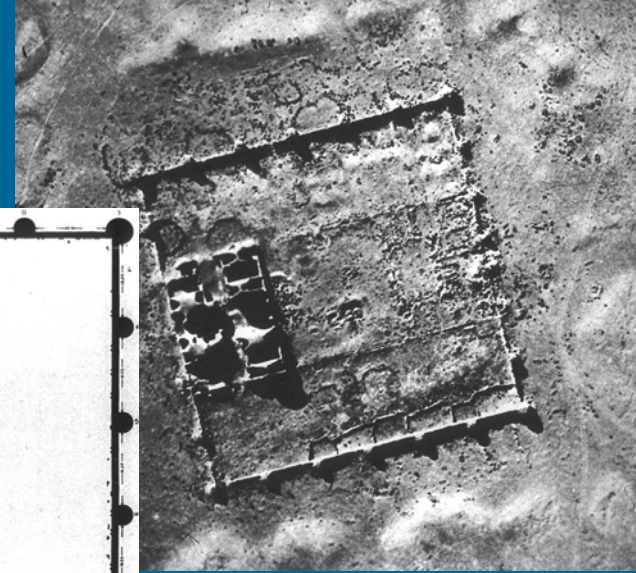
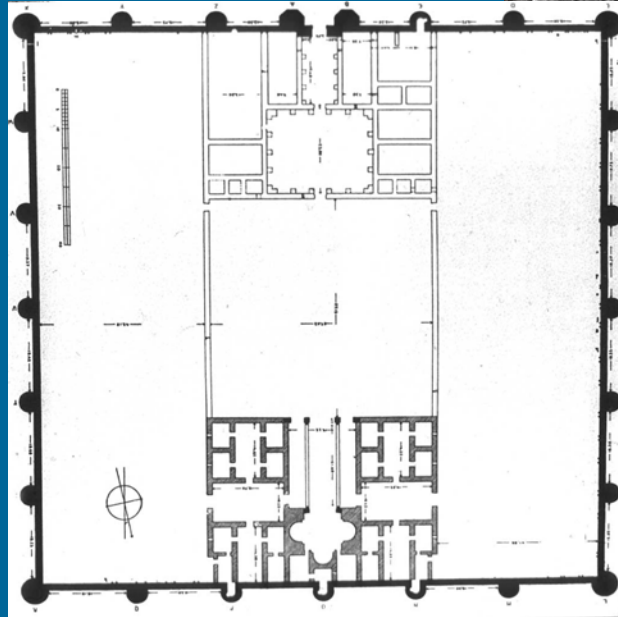


Lascivious Living – Palace Style

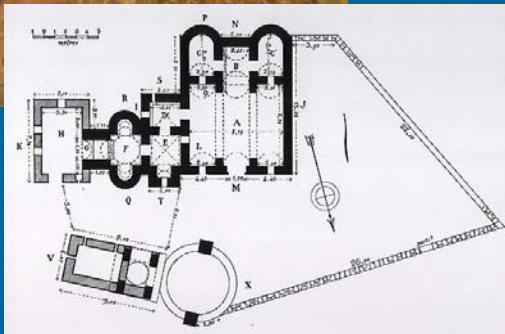


Khirbet al-Mafjar and
Qusayr 'Amra

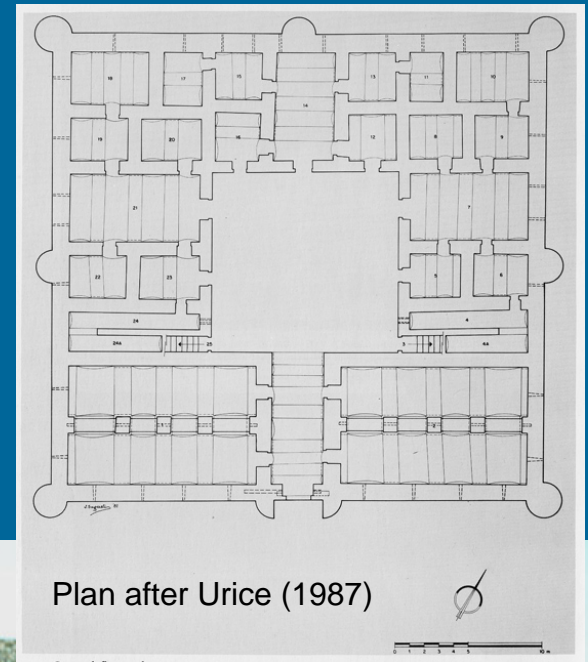
Proclaiming Royal Authority



Mashatta



Tribal politics and the Syrian Steppe

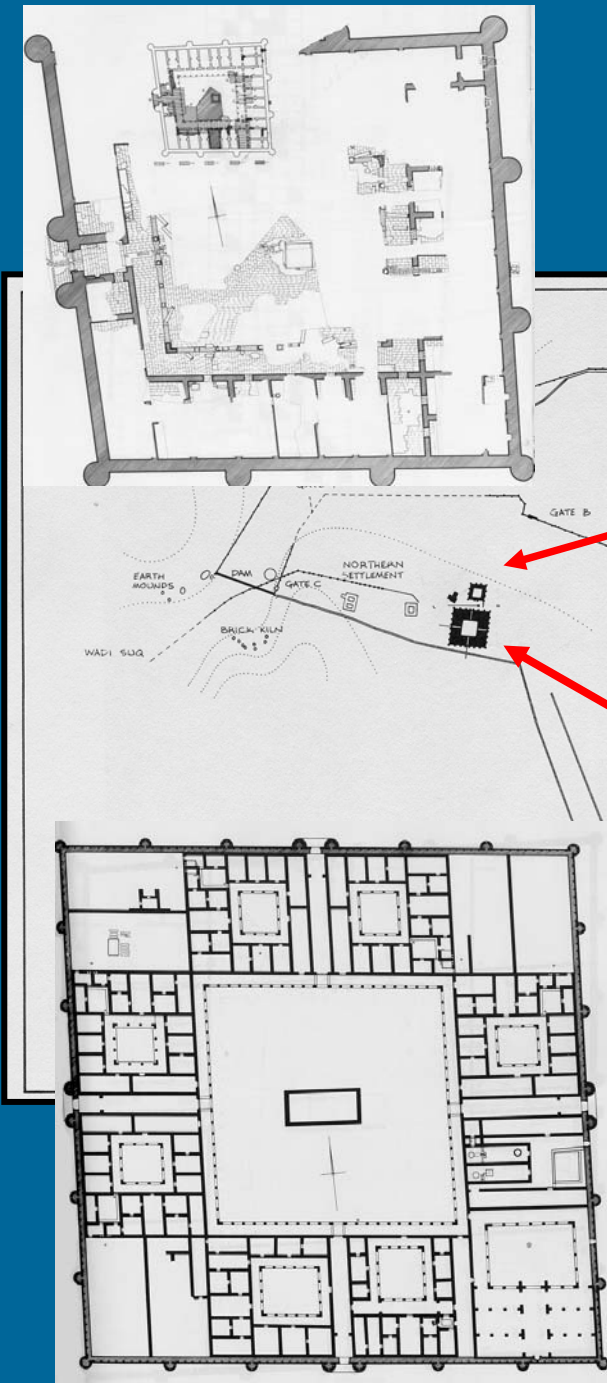


Making the Desert Bloom



Balis

Something for Everyone



Small Enclosure

Large enclosure



Qasr al-Hayr al-Sharqi