

Design of a Protective Shelter at

Ancient Jericho /

Tell es-Sultan

Archaeological Site



International open, single-stage architectural design competition
Jericho | State of Palestine



Ministero degli Affari Esteri
e della Cooperazione Internazionale



10 AGENZIA ITALIANA
PER LA COOPERAZIONE
ALLO SVILUPPO



The Competition

UNESCO will administer an international design competition to select a winning design entry for the Design of a Protective Shelter over Trench I at Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan Archaeological Site in Jericho, State of Palestine. The international design competition for this project will start on 24 July 2026. It will draw submissions from architects and engineers worldwide for a design proposal to construct a protective shelter over Trench I in the site.

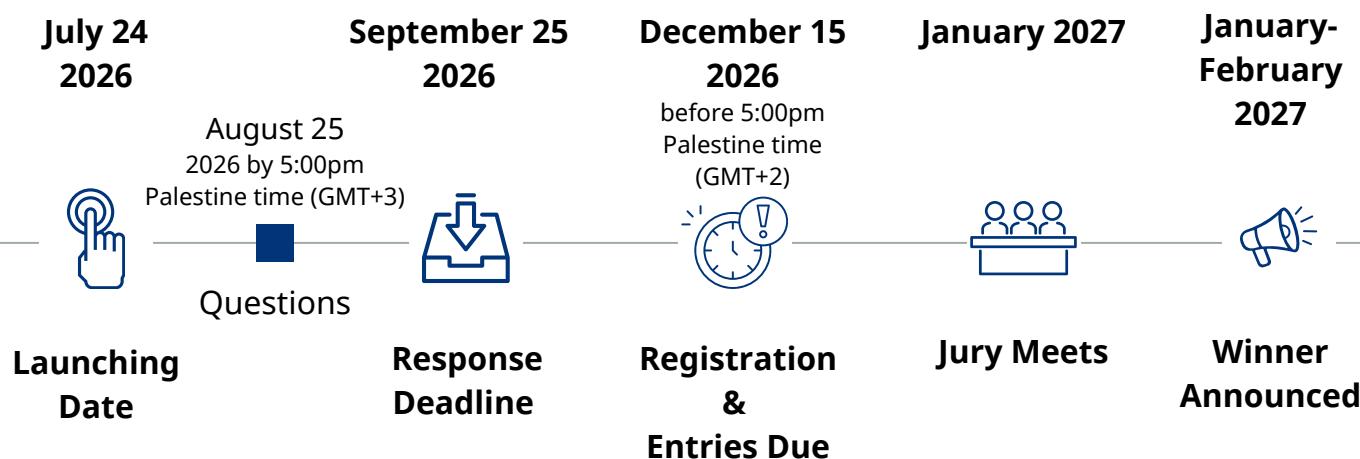
Organized By

UNESCO Office in Ramallah, Palestine, in coordination with the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), and with the financial support of Italy through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation – Jerusalem Office.

Contracting Party

UNESCO Office in Ramallah, State of Palestine.

Time Frame



Summary of Deliverables

- One report in A4 format in landscape layout.
- Four (4) panels in A1 presenting:
 - 1.Site plan of the protective shelter within Tell es-Sultan site in portrait format scale 1:500.
 - 2.Architectural plan of the protective shelter including the visitor walkway and elevated platform, and the structural layout plan in landscape format scale 1: 200.
 - 3.Elevations and sections of the protective shelter in landscape format scale 1:200.
 - 4.Conceptual construction details and three-dimensional visualizations of the shelter and the walkway and elevated platform in scale 1:20 and 1:10 structural details.
- The panels will be submitted as multiple pdf files, with a maximum size of 40 MB for each panel.
- All documentation submitted should be written in English.

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Part I - Introduction

The archaeological site of Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is located northwest of the City of Jericho/Ariha in State of Palestine, 40 kilometers east of Jerusalem and 10 kilometers northwest of the Dead Sea. The site was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in September 2023, during the 45th session of the World Heritage Committee held in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on the basis of criteria III[1] and IV[2], marking a significant milestone in the preservation and recognition of one of the world's oldest inhabited sites. The property zone covers about 5.93 hectares and includes all attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the World Heritage Property. It consists of a roughly oval-shaped mound that rises approximately twenty-one meters above its surroundings and is defined by gates and fences, in addition to the adjacent perennial spring of 'Ain es-Sultan. The property is surrounded by a 22.53-hectare buffer zone, designed to protect the site from urban encroachment and preserve its visual integrity. The property and buffer zone encompass 28.46 hectares.

Tell es-Sultan (the Tell mound) contains the archaeological deposits of millennia of human activity, including the adjacent perennial spring of 'Ain es-Sultan. The stratigraphy of this archaeological site reveals twenty-nine phases of habitation, which attest to outstanding cultural contexts, namely the Neolithization of the Fertile Crescent and the urban era in the southern Levant during the Early and Middle Bronze Ages (3400-1550 BC). This is evident in Trench I on the site, which was excavated by the British archaeologist Kathleen Kenyon between 1952 and 1958.



The Tell es-Sultan's archaeological components, including its Trench I, which is currently unsheltered, leaving its archaeological remains fully exposed to environmental conditions such as direct sunlight, rain, wind, humidity, and temperature fluctuations. Trench I is highly vulnerable due to a combination of environmental exposure, material fragility, the absence of protective infrastructure, rainwater management challenges, and human and management pressures. These risks underline the urgent need for a reversible, non-invasive, and climate-responsive protective shelter, in line with conservation principles and the site's broader management objectives. As Trench I remains unsheltered, continued exposure to weather conditions may compromise the legibility of archaeological features, accelerate erosion, contribute to the collapse of historical layers, and negatively affect the interpretation and public understanding of the site.

[1] <https://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/>

[2] <https://whc.unesco.org/en/decisions/8417>

In addition, uncontrolled visitor access poses a significant risk. Trench I is already accessible from its western side, yet the site lacks adequate walkways, barriers, and protective infrastructure. This situation increases the vulnerability of the archaeological remains and reinforces the need for a carefully designed protective intervention. A Conservation and Management Plan (CMP) for the site was prepared in 2025 and it includes actions for the Conservation, Protection, and Risk Management Theme. One objective of this action is to conserve the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) and other values by ensuring the physical integrity and stability of key attributes as indicated in Action (36): Design and implementation of a protective shelter to cover Trench (I), Action 37: Design a permanent shelter over Trench I and other excavated areas where needed. (For more details see Appendix 4.)

Part II - Mission

The protection of Trench I at Tell es-Sultan is critical to safeguarding one of the most significant testimonies of human settlement in the World. As the earliest known urban site in the world, Tell es-Sultan represents not only an invaluable scientific archive but also a profound symbol of continuity, identity, and collective memory for the local community and humanity at large.

Exposed to environmental, climatic, and anthropogenic risks, Trench I requires an integrated, sensitive intervention to ensure its long-term conservation while preserving the site's authenticity and integrity. The design of a protective shelter is therefore conceived as a strategic conservation action; one that balances protection, reversibility, and architectural restraint, while reinforcing the site's cultural meaning and educational potential.

The proposed shelter project aims to establish an adaptable protective system that meets the specific needs of Trench I, in accordance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention[3] and its operational guidelines[4], while offering a guiding model for other excavated areas of Tell es-Sultan. Beyond its protective function, the intervention seeks to enhance understanding of the archaeological remains through carefully framed views, controlled access, and respectful integration into the cultural landscape respecting the inherited values of each of the cultural context in line with the UNESCO recommendations on the Historic Urban Landscape. For this purpose, a guiding visitor walkway within Trench I is required for viewing and interpretation. The walkway should be designed along with a slightly elevated platform installed inside the Trench to provide viewing points onto the site's stratigraphy and monuments while avoiding any negative impact on the archaeological remains.

By strengthening the site's physical preservation, the project aims to contribute to sustainable site management, foster community engagement, and reaffirm Tell es-Sultan's role as a place of knowledge, belonging, and shared heritage. Through this intervention, the shelter becomes not merely a structure, but a gesture of care and responsibility toward the past, the present community, and future generations.

[3] <https://whc.unesco.org/en/documents/>

[4] <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

Part III - Competition Regulation



Names, Dates, and Addresses

This competition is organised in accordance with the Guidelines, Rules and Regulations set out in this document. It will be conducted according to the 1978 revised UNESCO Standard Regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning, which was adopted by the UNESCO General Conference at its 20th session, and the UIA best practice recommendations (UIA Competition Guide). This is an international single-stage architectural design project competition conducted in an open procedure.

By participating in this competition, the participants accept unconditionally the Guidelines, Rules, and Regulations set out in the present document and affirm that they are acquainted with and will strictly abide by the timelines. Nothing in or relating to the competition regulations, specifications, and program shall be deemed a waiver of any of UNESCO's privileges and immunities. Submissions of an entry constitute acceptance of the decisions of the jury, which shall be final.

The basic principles of the current competition are equal opportunities for all applicants, assessment of submitted concepts by an independent jury with no conflicts of interest, and anonymity. The UNESCO Ramallah Office will administer the international design competition to select a winning design for the Tell es-Sultan protective shelter in Jericho, State of Palestine. The launch of the design competition is on 24 July 2026. The competition will draw submissions from a wide range of individual architects (accompanied by engineers), or companies, or joint ventures from around the world for a design proposal for the Tell es-Sultan protective shelter. All entries to the design competition must be received by the UNESCO Ramallah Office in digital format only. The deadline for the digital submission of the entries is 15 December 2026 at 5:00 pm Palestine time (GMT+2), and should be done via the competition website: [Click here](#)

A formal examination by the Technical Committee will be organised before Jury evaluation. The jury is scheduled to begin its sessions early January 2027, while the competition winner is scheduled to be announced in January-February 2027. The exact dates will be announced via the competition website.

General Information

- Location: Trench I in Tell es-Sultan Archaeological Site in Jericho city, State of Palestine.
- Organizers: UNESCO Office in Ramallah, State of Palestine, in coordination with the Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA), and the Professional/Technical Advisor.
- Contracting body or authority: UNESCO Office in Ramallah, Palestine.

Competition Website: [Click here](#)

UIA approval and endorsement

This single stage project Competition is endorsed by the International Union of Architects (UIA) and will be conducted according to the UNESCO Standard Regulations for International Competitions in Architecture and Town Planning and the UIA best practice recommendations (See: [UIA Competition Guide For Design Competitions In Architecture And Related Fields](#))

Eligibility criteria

The present competition is an open call for proposals based on an anonymous design submission. Architects or teams of architects and engineers authorized to practice in their country of residence will be asked to develop and submit a proposal for the Tell es-Sultan protective shelter in Jericho, State of Palestine as companies or joint ventures of individuals and/or companies. For companies and firms, the lead architect must be clearly named.

Participants will need to meet the following criteria:

- The team leader must be an Architect with at least Eight (8) years of professional experience in architectural design.
- The team must have at least one experienced structural engineer with ten (10) years of professional practice, and preferably experience in structural design of long-span structures.

Colleagues, associates, employees, family members or anyone closely related with jury members and persons involved in the preparation/organization of this competition are not allowed to participate in the competition.

Meet the UN-eligibility criteria:

1. The bidder is not on the exclusion list published on the global portal for suppliers of the United Nations Organisation, (<http://www.ungm.org>) due to fraudulent activities;
2. The name of the bidder doesn't appear on the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, which includes all individuals and entities subject to sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council;
3. The bidder is not excluded by the World Bank Group.

The prize winners and honourable mentions will be asked to provide proof that they meet all the criteria mentioned above. Failure to do so will result in disqualification.

Official Language

The official language of the competition is English. All questions in the Q&A procedure and all texts of the entries must be submitted in English.

Competitor Registration

To register for the competition, competitors must complete the Registration form on the website of the competition (**Design Competition – Fill out form**) by 15 December 2026 at 5:00 pm, Palestine time (GMT+2). Competitors will receive an email confirming their registration to the email address provided in the form. For detailed information on the process, refer to “how to apply” section on the website.

Team members may also be added or removed after registration has closed; however the registering team leader cannot be changed. Modifications can only be made at the time of submission of entries, but this information must be provided separately from the entry submission.

Candidates may register for the competition only once, as part of one team.

Jury members and professional advisors

An international, independent jury composed of experts in the key domains of the task, (selected by the UNESCO office in Ramallah, State of Palestine and the UIA), will review and evaluate all entries against the evaluation criteria and select the winning submissions.

The jury is composed of the following members. The chair of the jury will be elected at the jury's first meeting.

JURY

- Yara Saifi (Architect, State of Palestine)
- Abderrahim Kassou (Architect, Morocco)
- Gabriela Carrillo (Architect, Mexico)
- João Luís Carrilho da Graça (Architect, Portugal, UIA representative)
- Marina Tabassum (Architect, Bangladesh)
- Ueli Brauen (Architect & Civil Engineer, Switzerland, UIA representative, alternate juror)
- Filippo Lambertucci (Architect, Italy, alternate juror)

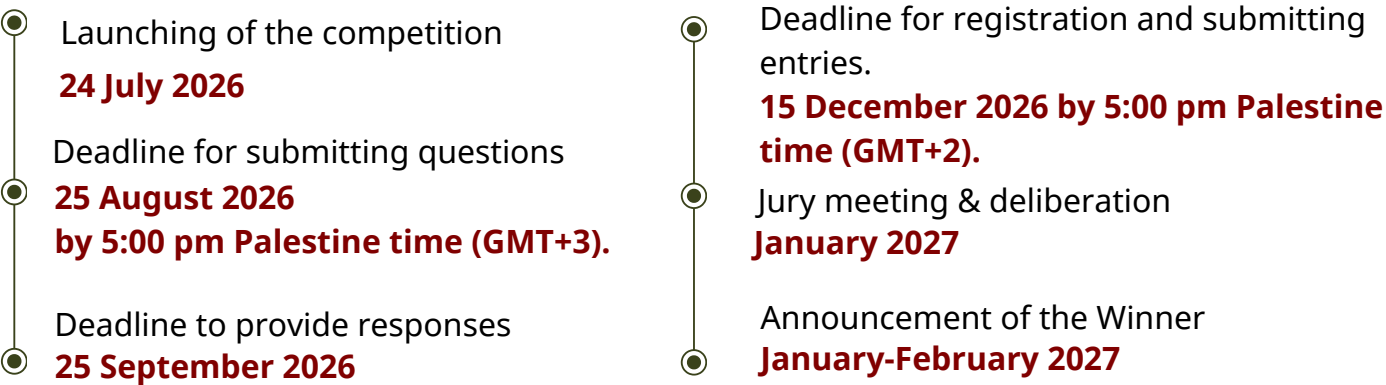
EXPERTS

- Lorenzo Nigro, (Archaeologist - Sapienza University of Rome, Italy)
- Ibrahim Arman (Structural Engineer - An-Najah National University, Palestine)
- Wael Hamamra, (Archaeologist - The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, Palestine)
- Monther Diab, (Structural Engineer - An-Najah National University, Palestine)

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

- Zahraa Zawawi (Architect, Competition Professional Advisor, State of Palestine)
- Ihab Daoud (Architect, The Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, State of Palestine)

Project Timeline



Questions and answers

Competitors will have the opportunity to submit questions to the Organizer through the following link: **Tell es-Sultan International Design Competition - Questions to the Organizer - Fill out form.** This is the only method of communication permitted for participants; enquiries by telephone will not be accepted. One round of questions will be organised. The deadline for submitting questions is by **25 August 2026 at 5.00 pm (Palestine time) (GMT+3)**. The questions will be anonymized and the answers will be made available to all participants by **25 September 2026 (5:00 pm Palestine time) (GMT+3)** on the competition website.

Prizes

Total prize money: USD 60,000



First Prize
USD **30,000**



Second Prize
USD **20,000**



Third Prize
USD **10,000**

The jury may also allocate honorary mentions at its discretion for entries with special merit

Declaration of client intent

The author who was awarded the first prize by the jury will receive a commission for the development of the detailed design and supervision for Tell es-Sultan protective shelter, in conformity with UNESCO's rules and regulations.

The winner must partner with an experienced local Palestinian professional, architectural office, or educational institution of their choice, relevant to the needed field of expertise.

The partner will require authorization to practice in State of Palestine, and must meet the UN eligibility criteria: they should not be on the exclusion list published on the global portal for suppliers of the United Nations Organization, (<http://www.ungm.org>) due to fraudulent activities; they don't appear on the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List, which includes all individuals and entities subject to sanctions measures imposed by the Security Council and they are not be excluded by the World Bank Group. The selected Palestinian partner must be duly registered and authorized to operate in State of Palestine.

Submissions and anonymity of entries

At the time of registering on the competition website, the participants will be given a User Identification Number (UIN, ex: M001). Participants must place this UIN in the top-right corner of each submitted panel and report. Logos of companies, products, names, and indications of applicants' names may not be placed on submitted documentation. This is a cause for disqualification. Entries will remain anonymous for all participants until the end of the competition, after the Jury has published the Jury Report announcing the winning entries.

Competitors may participate only as one team and submit only one project. Variants are not allowed.

Jury decisions

The jury's decisions are final and sovereign; the jury's decisions are not subject to reconsideration by UNESCO, in whole or in part. UNESCO is not involved in the decision-making process and will not influence in any way the results of the competition. UNESCO's role is to administer the competition.

Author's rights

Submitted digital materials become the property of the competition organiser. The Contracting Authority may use the first prize design only if the author is commissioned to carry out the project. With the exception of promotional use, no design, whether or not it receives a prize, may be used wholly or in part by the Organiser without the author's written agreement.

The author of any design retains the copyright and the author rights to their work; no alterations may be made without their formal consent. The winning design shall only be used once. The Participant must guarantee that the project is original and that they are the author of the project. They must also ensure that their design proposal does not infringe the intellectual property rights of any third parties.

The winner(s) will receive as compensation a further sum equal to the amount of the first prize if no contract for carrying out the project has been signed within twenty-four months of the announcement of the jury's prize. In compensating the first-prize winner, UNESCO does not acquire the right to carry out the project without the collaboration of its author.

Publication rights

The competition submissions may be used by UNESCO and the International Union of Architects (UIA) for press, exhibitions, publications, or other marketing of the competition and its outcome. By submitting an entry, each competitor hereby grants UNESCO and UIA a worldwide perpetual royalty-free license, with the right to publish, display, and publicize any of the submitted entries or any part thereof, citing the name of the author.

The use of UNESCO's name and emblem on materials related to the competition that have not been approved by UNESCO requires prior written authorization from UNESCO.

Exhibition

All designs, including those disqualified by the jury, will be exhibited on the competition website for four weeks, together with a copy of the signed report of the jury. The dates of the online exhibition will be communicated later.

Dispute Resolution

Complaints against the conditions of the competition can be raised by professionals of the discipline addressed by the competition within 20 days from the official launch of the competition and addressed to the Organiser. The Organiser may modify conditions with the Answers to the Questions.

By submitting an entry, participants accept all conditions of the competition, rules outlined in these regulations and decisions of the jury in matters of evaluation. It is not possible to appeal to the court system against the organiser and decisions of the jury. There will not be any arbitration or mediation. Any dispute concerning the competition procedure will be examined by the Organiser and UIA and will serve as feedback and experience for future procedures. Eventual complaints may be addressed to the Organiser.

Email: clt.ramallah@unesco.org



The architectural design project competition has one main component: **a design project for the Tell es-Sultan Trench I protective shelter including a simple internal visitors' walkway.**

Task description

The shelter project aims to establish an adaptable protective system that meets the specific needs of Trench I while offering a guiding model for other excavated areas of Tell es-Sultan. The structure should provide protection from the changing climatic conditions which cause erosion and deterioration of archaeological remains. Beyond its protective function, the intervention seeks to enhance understanding of the archaeological remains through carefully framed views, controlled access, and respectful integration into the cultural landscape respecting the inherited values of each cultural context and the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage property, in accordance with the provisions of the World Heritage Convention and in line with the UNESCO recommendations on the Historic Urban Landscape. For this purpose, a visitor walkway within Trench I is required for viewing and interpretation. The walkway aims to manage visitor movement, guide visitors along the site's stratigraphy, and provide appropriate viewing points without negatively impacting the archaeological remains.

Access to Trench I should be provided from its western side, as illustrated in the Tell es-Sultan site plan (see Map 0_Tell es-Sultan site plan in the Appendices). Designers are required to study the stratigraphy of Trench I and its visible components to understand the archaeological layers present on each side of the trench, with particular attention to the Neolithic Tower. Based on this understanding, they shall propose a safe walkway that responds to the trench's topography while offering comfortable and well-positioned viewing points. The walkway will start at the western entrance of Trench I and follow the natural ground level of the trench. It will extend to a point where visitors can view the Neolithic Tower and other features from a slightly elevated platform.

From there, visitors will turn back, exit the trench, and continue along an external covered pathway running alongside the northern facade toward the upper level of Trench I, as illustrated in Map 0-Tell es-Sultan site plan in Appendix 3. The external pathway will provide visitors with an elevated viewpoint overlooking the trench, while also facilitating movement to other areas of the site.

Task condition

The stratigraphy of Tell es-Sultan demonstrates that the mound consists of accumulated anthropogenic deposits comprising successive layers of mudbrick architecture, collapse debris, ash, formed over millennia of occupation. This produced a non-uniform archaeologically sensitive ground with variable bearing capacity and risk of settlement. Moreover, the presence of intact archaeological layers imposes strict limitations on excavation depth and foundation design. Accordingly, the selection of shallow or deep foundation systems must carefully consider these archaeological constraints. A combination of both systems may be feasible, depending on site analysis and archaeological guidance and whether the foundation is inside or outside the Trench.

Furthermore, the shelter is expected to be partially open on the sides, which requires structural designers to consider wind loads, uplift forces, and ventilation requirements. Adequate natural lighting should be provided to reduce dependence on artificial lighting during daytime hours. Rainwater from both the roof and surrounding site surfaces should be properly collected and drained.

Architectural guidelines

Goals and aims for Tell es-Sultan, Trench I Shelter:

- Develop an integrated design that is inspired by and compatible with the authentic archaeological landscape of Tell es-Sultan. The design and execution of the shelter will be in accordance with the World Heritage Convention and its operational guidelines, and in line with the UNESCO recommendations on the Historic Urban Landscape.
- Ensure the protection of Trench I and the archaeological remains it contains.
- Promote innovative and creative design solutions.
- Adopt an environmentally conscious and archaeologically sensitive approach that responds to the climatic conditions of Jericho and the Jordan Valley while respecting the surrounding archaeological landscape and connection and integration into the existing visitor trails inside the site.

Given the importance of Trench I, it is essential to design a walkway and an elevated platform in Trench I which will be under the designed shelter, the aim of this visitor walkway is:

- To highlight the World Heritage Outstanding Universal Value and other values in Trench I.
- To balance public access with the protection of highly fragile archaeological remains.

A visitor walkway and elevated platform are foreseen as

- A visitor management and site interpretation tool,
- Limiting physical contact with archaeological features and providing a safe and clear viewpoint for interpretation.

The walkway and platform are intended to be

- Lightweight, reversible, and non-invasive, avoiding disturbance to archaeological layers while enhancing legibility, understanding, and appreciation of the site.

Site description

The Ancient Jericho/Tell es-sultan Archaeological site is located in Jericho/Ariha in the State of Palestine, 40 kilometres east of Jerusalem and 10 kilometres northwest of the Dead Sea. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site that was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 2023. The property zone covers about 5.93 hectares and includes all attributes that contribute to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Property. It consists of a roughly oval or ovoid-shaped mound that rises approximately twenty-one meters above its surroundings and is defined by gates and fences, in addition to the adjacent perennial spring of 'Ain es-Sultan. The property is surrounded by a 22.53-hectare buffer zone, designed to protect the site from urban encroachment and preserve its visual integrity. The property and buffer zone encompass 28.46 hectares.

Trench I and its components

Trench I is home to the Neolithic tower, which is a semi-conical structure (8.5m diameter, 7.75–8.25m height), with an internal staircase, originally built as a defensive feature inside the fortification wall.

The tower has a narrow corridor (3m long, 2m high, 0.75m wide) leading to the internal staircase (22 steps, steep 60° rise). Steps are 25-38 cm high and 15-20 cm deep with a recessed back.

The components of Trench I include: the tower, the corridor, stairs, tower passageway, the fortification wall, PPNA Fortification Walls and Ditch, PPNB Terrace walls, Round Altar AT-AV, and the wall, along with their archaeological and historical areas and layers.

Building regulations and legal frameworks

UNESCO expects proposals that are subtle and relevant to help create a shelter for Trench I in Tell es-Sultan. To design a protective shelter in Tell es-Sultan, the competition submission must be aligned to and consider the following:

- The Decree Law no 11/2018 concerning Tangible Cultural Heritage which requires that the impact of infrastructural projects be assessed. In alignment with this Decree-Law, the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessment for World Heritage Sites should be consulted, as the design will be assessed by an independent entity to ensure that no adverse impact is caused to the Outstanding Universal Value (OUV) of the site and its attributes. With reference to Map 0, the dimensions of the minimum area that should be covered are (45 m*67 m). It should be noted that the entire area of Tell es-Sultan contains archaeological layers. Therefore, the proposed foundation system should allow for a certain degree of flexibility.
- The Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention (Operational Guidelines). Designers should be aware of paragraphs 172 and 118bis of the Operational Guidelines which read as follows:

Paragraph 172: “The World Heritage Committee invites the States Parties to the Convention to inform the Committee, through the Secretariat, of their intention to undertake or to authorize in an area protected under the Convention major restorations or new constructions which may affect the Outstanding Universal Value of the property. Notice should be given as soon as possible (for instance, before drafting basic documents for specific projects) and before making any decisions that would be difficult to reverse, so that the Committee may assist in seeking appropriate solutions to ensure that the Outstanding Universal Value of the property is fully preserved”.

Paragraph 118bis: “Notwithstanding Paragraphs 179 and 180 of the Operational Guidelines, States Parties shall ensure that Environmental Impact Assessments, Heritage Impact Assessments, and/or Strategic Environmental Assessments be carried out as a pre-requisite for development projects and activities that are planned for implementation within or around a World Heritage property. These assessments should serve to identify development alternatives, as well as both potential positive and negative impacts on the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and to recommend mitigation measures against degradation or other negative impacts on the cultural or natural heritage within the property or its wider setting. This will ensure the long-term safeguarding of the Outstanding Universal Value, and the strengthening of heritage resilience to disasters and climate change”.

Based on the two paragraphs mentioned above, and prior to commencing the design process, designers are requested to consult the impact assessment methodology outlined in the Guidance and Toolkit for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context, available in Appendix no.6. The design will be subject to an impact assessment study performed by an independent entity in accordance with the Palestinian Tangible Cultural Heritage Law and the requirements of the World Heritage Convention. Applicants are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with the Guidance and Toolkit and to engage with its criteria and methodology as an integral part of their design process.

The impact assessment will evaluate the proposed intervention against the OUV of Tell es-Sultan, including its conditions of authenticity and integrity, with reference to attributes such as built form, materials, design, visual relationships, and the wider landscape setting of the property. The winning entry may be subject to adaptations should the findings of the Impact Assessment require modifications to ensure the safeguarding of the physical attributes that convey the World Heritage property's OUV. Applicants should therefore give deliberate consideration, within their proposals, to questions of scale, materiality, landscape compatibility, and spatial integration, demonstrating from the outset how the design safeguards the values for which the site was inscribed on the World Heritage List.

- Regarding possible foundation locations, designers are required to carefully study and propose an appropriate foundation system and footing type. The exact locations of the foundations will be verified and finalized during the implementation phase, following inspection excavations at the proposed points.

While the foundation system must ensure the structural safety and stability of the shelter, minimizing the footprint of the foundations will be a key evaluation criterion.

It should be noted that the area beneath the shelter contains significant archaeological remains, including the Neolithic Tower, which also extends into adjacent unexcavated areas. In contrast, parts of the already excavated trench contain fewer remaining archaeological layers; in some locations, excavations carried out in the 1950s reached bedrock.

Designers are therefore encouraged to study the stratigraphy and spatial extent of archaeological layers within Trench I and may consider proposing a hybrid foundation system that minimizes impact on the archaeological remains.

- The minimum area that should be covered constitutes a defining design parameter.
- Cladding materials should be compatible with the macro and microclimate in Tell es-Sultan and the city of Jericho.
- The designed shelter should not compromise the visual quality of the site and its cultural landscape and site's Outstanding Universal Value.
- This shelter will be the first to be designed to cover excavated trenches at Tell es-Sultan. The new design is expected to influence future protective structures at the site and should therefore be adaptable.

Evaluation criteria

The jury will evaluate the entries' quality based on the following criteria, listed in no particular order of priority or importance.

The designs will be evaluated by the jury against the competition's architectural guidelines and the criteria outlined below. The selection process will focus on how well each design meets these requirements. The feasibility of each project will also be assessed.

The evaluation criteria:

Functional aspects and Innovation:

- The shelter should protect from direct sun, rain, wind, humidity, temperature fluctuations between day and night in Jericho, and adaptive for any possible excavations, research, and conservation activities. It should not harm the archaeological values of Trench I, in particular, and Tell es-Sultan site in general and should have minimal ground impact on the archaeological layers.

Architectural design quality:

- The shelter should be designed as an adaptable structure that has the flexibility to adapt to possible changes in the site itself as well as other Trenches in Tell es-Sultan.
- The shelter's form and scale should be compatible with the site, not overly dominating the Tell es-Sultan mound and visually integrated with its surroundings ensuring the safeguarding of the OUV of the site.
- The shelter should employ materials and structural systems suitable for long-span, protective structures in outdoor archaeological environments, with demonstrated resistance to humidity, solar radiation, wind loads, and corrosion. The shelter should ensure balance between protection, conservation and site interpretation.
- The shelter's structural solutions should be reversible, meaning that their installation, modification, or removal should not cause permanent or irreparable damage to the archaeological remains, for example through the use of mechanical connections instead of permanent bonding.
- Quality of drawings, diagrams, and explanations.
- Consistency between concept, technical solution, and site sensitivity.

Safeguarding of the site's Outstanding Universal Value (OUV):

- The proposed shelter shall ensure the protection of the Outstanding Universal Value of the property and shall avoid causing any adverse impact on the site's physical attributes mainly the significant archaeological remains.

Contribution to the site's interpretation and understanding by the public

- Serve the presentation of the site's stratigraphy through a designed visitor's walkway and observing platform/s.

Sustainability of the structure:

- Ensure a long lifespan for the shelter.
- Ensure durability and ease of maintenance.
- Use environmentally sensitive materials and construction methods.

Functional aspects

- Efficiency of the shelter's functional layout.
- Adaptive for any possible excavations, research, and conservation activities.

Economy of means, feasibility and Implementation potential.

- Cost awareness and effectiveness without compromising conservation principles.

The jury may expand and detail the criteria in the evaluation process.



Part V - Submission Requirements

Participants are required to submit the following:

1. Drawings requirements

- One report in A4 format.
- Four (4) panels in A1 presenting (landscape layout) - Resolution up to 300 dpi:

Panel No.1: Site Plan

- The protective shelter site plan within Tell es-Sultan site with – scale 1:500 in portrait format.

Panel No.2: Architectural and Structural plans

- Architectural plan of the protective shelter including the visitor walkway and the structural layout plan in landscape format scale 1: 200.

Panel No.3: Elevations and sections

- Elevations and sections of the protective shelter in landscape format scale 1:200.

Panel No.4:

- Construction conceptual details in landscape format scale 1:20 and 1:10 and three-dimensional visualizations of the shelter and the walkway and platform.

Each file should be named as: **YOUR CODE NO_PANEL_NO. X**

2. Report

- A brief presentation of the design architectural concept and structural solutions.
- A brief presentation of the concept of the visitor walkway and platform.
- The report should be in A4 format with a maximum of 1000 words.

Appendices

1. Images:

Image 1: old aerial photo for Tell es-Sultan from the North-Source: UCL, institute of archaeology – Source: Nomination dossier

Image 2: General View of Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan (Copyright: © Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)- Source: Nomination dossier. Permanent URL: whc.unesco.org/en/documents/200022

Image 3: General View of Trench I and Square M. Copyright: © Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)- Source: Nomination dossier. Permanent URL: whc.unesco.org/en/documents/200031

Image 4: PPNA Tower in Trench I from East (Copyright: © Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)-Source: Nomination dossier. Permanent URL: whc.unesco.org/en/documents/200026

Image 5: PPNA Tower in Trench I from West (Copyright: © Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA) Source: Nomination dossier. Permanent URL: whc.unesco.org/en/documents/200027

Image 6: PPNA Neolithic Staircase inside the Tower (Copyright: © Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)-Source: Nomination dossier. Permanent URL: whc.unesco.org/en/documents/200032

Image 7: Trench I aerial view (Copyright: © Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)-Source: Nomination dossier

2. Videos:

Video 1: Tell es-Sultan and Surroundings

Video 2: Location of Trench I within Tell es-Sultan

Video 3: Trench I – General Views

Video 4: View from Inside Trench I – 1

Video 5: View from Inside Trench I – 2

Video 6: View from Inside Trench I – 3

3. Maps:

Map 0: Tell es-Sultan Site Plan – Open-source Satellite image, adapted by UNESCO Ramallah Office.

Map 1: Trench I location- Copyright: © Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)-Source: Nomination dossier

Map 2: Trench I components- Copyright: © Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)-Source: Nomination dossier

Map 3: Trench I shelter area (foundations, boundaries and dimensions for Shelter)- Copyright: © The Sapienza University of Rome and the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA).

Map 4: Trench I shelter area (foundations, boundaries and dimensions for Shelter) (AUTOCAD file)

Map 5: Trench I original and current perimeter-nomination file- Copyright: © Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities (MoTA)-Source: Nomination dossier

4. Tell es-Sultan World Heritage Nomination dossier:

Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan world heritage nomination dossier:

<https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1687/documents/>

5. Laws:

Decree Law No. (11) of 2018 on Tangible Cultural Heritage:

For adding long span structure in a cultural landscape site you should refer to Article (23) act (2): The addition or construction of a new building or structure in the sites of cultural landscape and the surrounding areas thereof, or the execution of infrastructure works and major projects in these sites may only take place after obtaining a written permit from the Ministry and conducting a study to assess the cultural and environmental impact of such acts. For more information on law, please check the “Decree Law No. (11) of 2018 on Tangible Cultural Heritage”.

6. Guidance and toolkit for Impact assessment of World Heritage sites:

The main objectives of the impact assessment for world heritage sites are to provide a systematic evaluation of any action that will take place in a world heritage site and might affect its Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). The decision should be transparent and compatible with the protection of world heritage sites. The impact assessment works to identify, expect, and assess the positive and negative impacts of the new (proposed) intervention or activities before any decision is taken. This enables us to understand risks to OUV attributes at an early stage. By recognizing these risks early, we can consider alternatives, take mitigation measures, or make design changes to minimize negative impacts. This is a protective approach. It is fundamental to balancing the project's needs with consideration of social, economic, and development objectives in the site and around the world heritage site.

The impact assessment plays a very important role in protecting the OUV. It translates the concept's importance into practical management and planning relationships. The impact assessment highlights how the OUV's attributes can be directly or indirectly affected, and over time, by the proposed project or action. This includes assessing the impacts within the world heritage site boundary, its buffer zone, and the wider context. Changes in these areas influence the world heritage site's integrity and authenticity.

The impact assessment plays an important role in safeguarding the OUV. It puts heritage considerations within broader development and planning processes. Conservation cannot be treated in isolation but must be an integral part of sustainable development, in line with the World Heritage Convention. Stakeholder engagement in the assessment promotes inclusive decision-making and shared responsibility for heritage protection. Site managers, local communities, and right-holders should all be included.

Thus, impact assessment for world heritage sites is a tool that supports the protection of these sites from negative impacts on their OUV. It can determine whether a new project or action should proceed, be modified, or not be implemented at all. This process strengthens heritage management and reduces risks. It ensures that the OUV is conserved and transmitted to future generations. At the same time, the site is well managed and open to appropriate change.

For further information and details on the impact assessment of a world heritage site, please check the “Guidance and toolkit for Impact assessment of World Heritage sites” : [Guidance for Impact Assessments in a World Heritage Context | UNESCO in the UK](#)

7. Tell es-Sultan: Stratigraphy and sections.

Photos and maps extracted from the book *Excavations at Jericho: The Architecture and Stratigraphy of the Tell Text* Kathleen Kenyon, Thomas A. Holland, *Editor* Published by the British School of Archaeology in Jerusalem. 1981.

8. Tell es-Sultan: Context.

(Extract from the Nomination Dossier and the Conservation and Management Plan)

Historical Context

Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is one of the world's oldest fortified towns, dating back more than 10,000 years. It is located 10 kilometres northwest of the Dead Sea, in the lower part of the Jordan Rift Valley, at 250 meters below sea level, making it the lowest ancient town in the world (Kenyon 1981; Anfinset 2006). The area's diverse geological formations, unique tropical and sub-tropical climate zones, alluvial soil, and perennial springs made it a fertile territory and attractive to hunter-gatherers in the late Epipaleolithic period. Their descendants, the Natufians, may have been the originators of the domestication process during the 11th millennium BC (Sala 2014).

The area receives about 140 millimetres of rain a year, most of which falls in a few violent downpours. Wadi en-Nu'eima to the north and Wadi Qelt to the south are the primary valleys through which the runoff collects and flows into the Jordan River. The perennial water flow of 'Ain es-Sultan, fertile soil, and strategic location on age-old international trading routes has made Ancient Jericho a favourable place for human settlement for millennia (Kenyon 1993; Hamamra 2014). Ain es-Sultan's life-giving water enabled Jericho to thrive and connect the urban areas to pastures and cultivated fields through a sophisticated and well-managed network of water channels and aqueducts. Crisscrossing trading routes running north-south and east-west placed Ancient Jericho at the major crossroads of Asia, Europe, and Africa for culture, trade, and peoples on the move (Finegan 1992; Anfinset 2006; Rast 1992).

These extraordinary natural features and cultural developments enabled ancient Jericho to play an instrumental role in shaping human history. If not the earliest, it was one of the earliest walled towns in human history, the birthplace of agriculture and animal domestication in the Neolithic era, and a flourishing fortified “Canaanite city-state” in the Bronze Ages (Nigro 2011).

Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is unique and one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. Researchers have found evidence of uninterrupted human habitation at the site in 29 phases, ranging from the late Natufian period (11th millennium BC) to the Ottoman period (Kenyon 1981). The earliest occupation of the site is dated to the late Epi-Palaeolithic period 10,000-9,000 BC (Ibid). By the 9th millennium BC, Jericho had become a large, fortified agricultural town surrounded by a stone wall, a stone tower, and a ditch (Kenyon 1993; Bar-Yosef 1992). These Neolithic installations are considered decisive evidence that Jericho was the first fortified town in the world and a convincing testimony of early human social, political, religious, artistic, constructional and architectural development. This community embraced significant cultic practices of “Pre-Pottery Neolithic A” life (PPNA) that included storing plastered human skulls in groups, which is typical of ancestor worship that has been documented at other PPNA sites such as ‘Ain Ghazal and Ain Sufsa (Kfar Hahores) (Kenyon 1981; Kuijt and Goring-Morris 2002). Early estimates for the size of Neolithic Jericho was about 40 dunams (4 hectares), but more recent excavations widen this area to approximately 6 hectares, inhabited by about 2000-3000 persons (Kenyon 1993; Nigro 2020). After a period of decline, from the end of the 4th millennium BC to the beginning of the 2nd millennium BC (Early Bronze and Middle Bronze Ages), an urban culture once again appeared in Ancient Jericho with mighty fortification systems that had been rebuilt and/or repaired many times (Nigro 2016; Kenyon 1981).



Old aerial photo of Tell es-Sultan from the North
Source: UCL, institute of archaeology

Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan, the recognized cradle of civilization, is key to human self-understanding. Milestone after milestone of human history were approached and surpassed on Tell es-Sultan:

- Pre-Pottery Neolithic A (c. 10,000–8,500 BCE): The Neolithic agricultural revolution, a fully sedentary lifestyle, the first fortified town on earth which suggests that defence rather aggression is advantageous, the earliest complex socio-economic and political systems on earth, and one of the earliest documented centres of ancestor worship (Kenyon 1981; Nigro 2014a; Taha & Qleibo 2010).
- Ancient Jericho has an occupational history for more than ten thousand years which is attested by 29 phases of habitation dating from the late Natufian period (10,500 BC) to the Ottoman period (Kenyon 1957; Nigro 2020; Hamamra 2014).



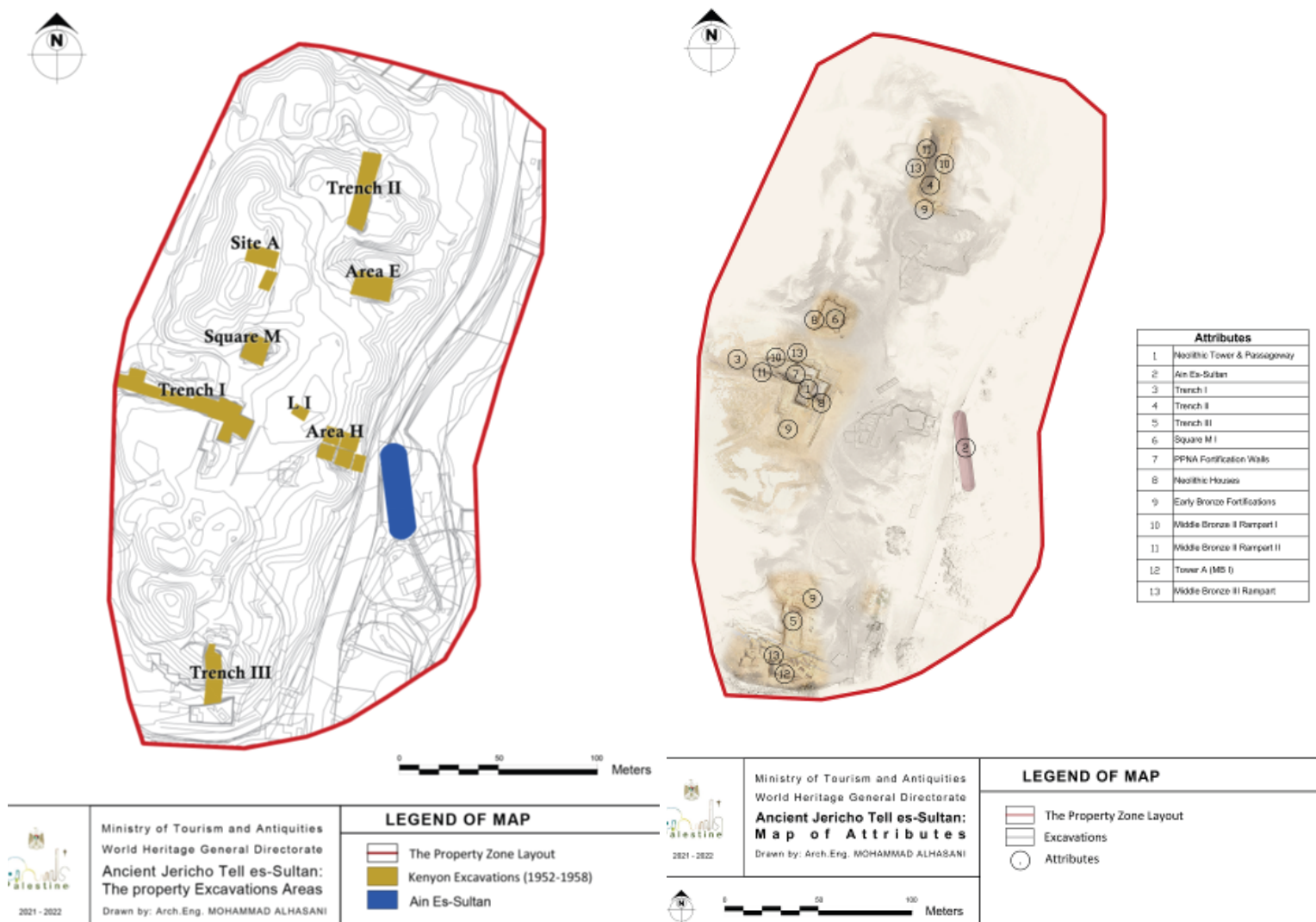
Sacred area during the late Natufian period, Square E
UCL, institute of archaeology

- During the PPNA (toward the end of the 9th millennium BC), Ancient Jericho became a fortified and flourishing agricultural town, which in the mid-8th millennium BC was superseded by the PPNB Jericho and which itself came to an end in the early 6th millennium BC.
- In the Pottery Neolithic period (6th to the 5th millennia), Jericho was rebuilt again by inhabitants who developed the technology to make pottery.
- Ancient Jericho was depopulated during the Chalcolithic period until the Early Bronze Ages (Kenyon 1957, 1981; Bar-Yosef: 2001; Goring-Morris and A. Belfer-Cohen 2013).
- During the Early Bronze Age, Jericho was again a fortified town and one of the most flourishing Canaanite city-states in Palestine (Nigro 2020; Taha & Qleibo 2010).
- In the Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine periods, Jericho was relocated to where modern Jericho now stands on both sides of the Wadi-el-Qelt about two kilometres south of Tell es-Sultan (Netzer 2001; Taha & Qleibo 2010; Nigro 2014a).

- The existence and prosperity of Ancient Jericho over thousands of years and through truly epic cultural transitions is owed primarily to the perennial water of 'Ain es-Sultan and other supplementary springs, such as 'Ain ed-Duyuk and en- Nueima. Today, 'Ain es-Sultan is known as Elisha's spring, still located on the eastern side of the Tell. The perennial water of 'Ain es-Sultan (about 10,000 gallons per minute) has helped create the valley's alluvial soil, which produces an abundance of tropical and temperate agricultural produce: dates, wheat, and a variety of green vegetables (Kenyon 1957b, 1993; Hamamra 2014).

Main features of Tell es-Sultan

Trench I





PPNA Fortifications (8500/8300–7500 BC)

Kenyon's excavations (1952-1958) revealed some of the power and splendour of Neolithic Jericho (9th-8th millennia BC), which was fortified with mud-brick and stone walls, a tower, and an exterior ditch dug into bedrock.

1- The Neolithic Tower:

The massive stone tower was uncovered in Kenyon's Trench I at the western side of the Tell and was immediately recognized as a remarkable architectural achievement—a significant human-built structure at the time and for the following four thousand years. It is a sturdy, semi-conical structure with outer walls constructed of undressed stones fit in clay mortar. The diameter at its base is 9.0 meters, which decreases to 7.0 meters at the top, and it has survived at a height of 7.75–8.25 meters. Archaeological evidence shows that the fortification wall was built first, followed by the construction of the tower within it. It appears the tower was built approximately 4.4 meters above the wall. Parts of the tower and wall still have a coating of mud plaster, suggesting that both were originally completely plastered (Kenyon 1981).



PPNA Neolithic tower
UCL, institute of archeology

Tower Passageway and Staircase

Narrow corridor (3m long, 2m high, 0.75m wide) leading to the internal staircase (22 steps, steep 60° rise). Steps are 25-38cm high and 15-20 cm deep with a recessed back.

The staircase, one of the oldest internal staircases in the world, consists of 22 steps made of hammer-dressed stone blocks with rounded edges. The treads are 15-20 centimetres deep with a recessed back from the edge of the step and a rise of 25-38 centimetres. The stairs rise at a sharp 60-degree angle, much steeper than typical modern stairs, which rise around 35-40 degrees. It is likely that individuals ascending and descending the staircase would have used the sides of the stairwell to steady themselves. Building a stone staircase inside the tower with dressed roof lintels was an incredible achievement of design, construction, and skilled masonry unknown in that age and for centuries to come. The process required knowledge, techniques, skill, and hard manual labour using the simplest of hammering tools, stone axes, and adzes to trim rough stones into smooth rectangular shapes (Kenyon 1981).



View down into the Neolithic staircase

Tower Entrance

The tower has a single entrance on its eastern side, at its base, inside the town. It provides access to a horizontal roofed passageway that becomes an internal staircase leading to the top. The passageway is a narrow corridor about 3.0 meters long, 2.0 meters high, and 0.75 meters wide. It is roofed with dressed stone slabs (lintels) approximately 0.75 meters by 1.0 meters, which are integrated and embedded into the tower's stone (Kenyon 1981). The sidewalls of the staircase's passageway were built of undressed stones and hand-coated with mud-plaster in which the plasterers' finger marks are visible. Its floor was made of earth, resting on a fill of stone chippings. The entire passageway is a remarkable architectural accomplishment to have survived for some nine thousand years despite innumerable earthquakes in the Jordan Valley.

PPNB Terrace walls

Three boundary walls and a ditch exposed by Kenyon in Trench I in the 1950s were originally defensive features surrounding the Neolithic settlement.

In later phases (Kenyon's stages IV– IX), 2 different buildings were constructed around the tower, some of which were even attached to the outer side of the tower. Still later, a brick wall blocked the lower door of the tower's stairway so that the stairs could only be reached from the top. In the subsequent phases, a series of large silos were built near the tower, which would have been used to store agricultural surplus for communal use (Kenyon 1981).

Twelve intermingled human skeletons covered by tumbled brick fill and burnt materials were found on the lowest steps of the tower's stairwell. Kenyon interpreted them as evidence of the city's destruction from fighting external enemies or from internal riots of the town's population.

Whatever the case, the event or events led to the end of the PPNA period (Kenyon 1981).

2-Neolithic houses (PPNA, PPNB, and PN)

“Architecture, obviously, is a product of continuous occupation on the same spot, for it would be a waste of energy for nomadic groups to build solid structures for temporary occupation” (Kenyon 1957, 52-3).

PPNA Houses

The Pre-Pottery Neolithic A houses at Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan (8500–7500 BC) have had limited excavations because they are located in the lowest strata of the Tell. The two most thoroughly excavated houses were roughly circular, with floors below ground level (semisubterranean) and passageways to and between the houses, or perhaps to other rooms of the same house (figure 2.11). One house was 7x5 meters, and the other was 3x5 meters. Since the floors of the rooms were at a different level from the outside and from each other, the passageways sloped or may have required steps of stones or wood. The walls were constructed on a solid foundation of field stones, then built of plano-convex mud bricks (loaf-shaped) that inclined slightly inward. The walls had been resurfaced or rebuilt several times, increasing their thickness. Timber was extensively used in house construction, as evidenced by the burnt remains of beams. The large amount of debris found inside the houses indicates that their roofs were raised with domes or other convex roofs made of light materials such as wood and clay (Kenyon 1957, 1981).

The floors were composed of a mud-plaster (*terre pisee*) overlying cobblestones in some places. And highly suggestive of ancestral worship, human graves were found beneath the floors (Kenyon 1957, 1981).

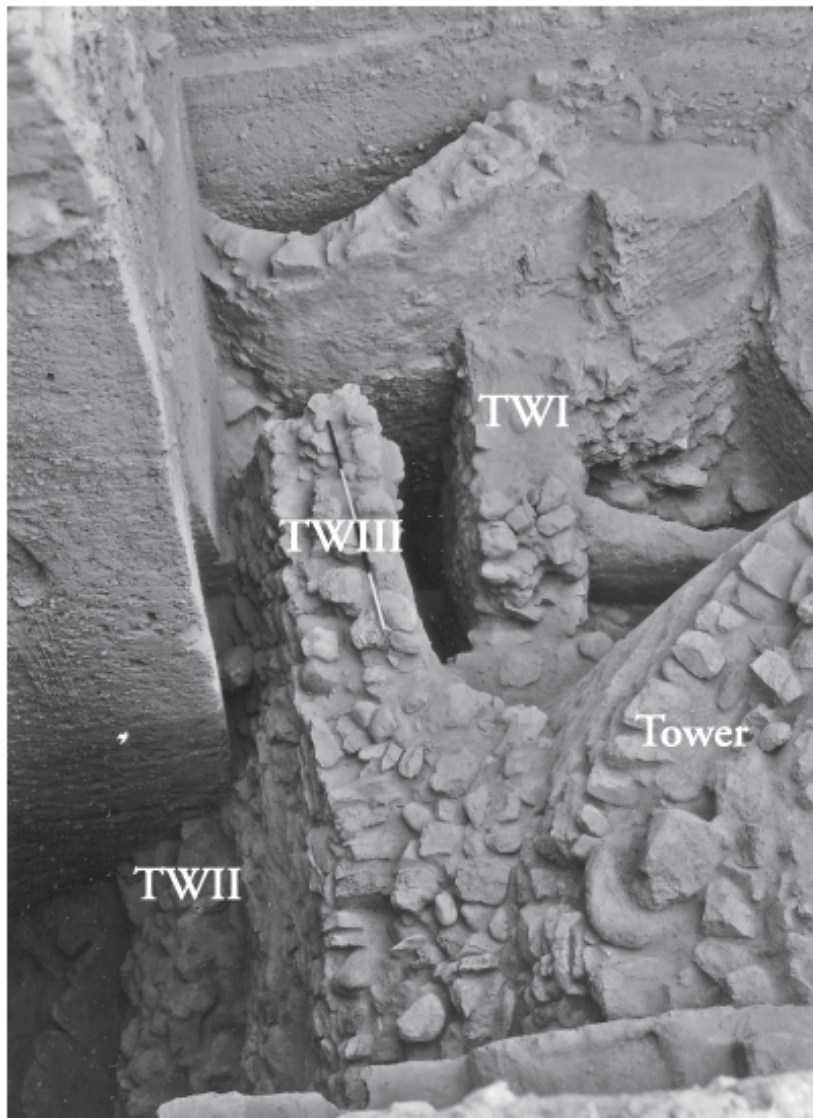
These solidly constructed houses that had been used and repaired or modified over long periods of time indicate to a fully settled, urban lifestyle that required a dynamic and well-integrated economy and effective socio-political organization.

PPNB Houses

Ancient Jericho PPNB houses were more sophisticated than the PPNA houses, with large rectangular rooms (6.5x4 meters and 7x3 meters) made of herringbone-patterned mud-bricks, clustered around courtyards (about 6.5 meters wide) with smoothly polished plaster floors (Kenyon 1981; Nigro 2014b; Goring-Morris and A. Belfer-Cohen 2013). Courtyards were common features of the PPNB houses. They were used for various domestic activities, especially cooking, as evidenced by the remains of hearths and layers of ash (Kenyon 1957, 1981). The walls were built of mudbricks about a half meter wide.

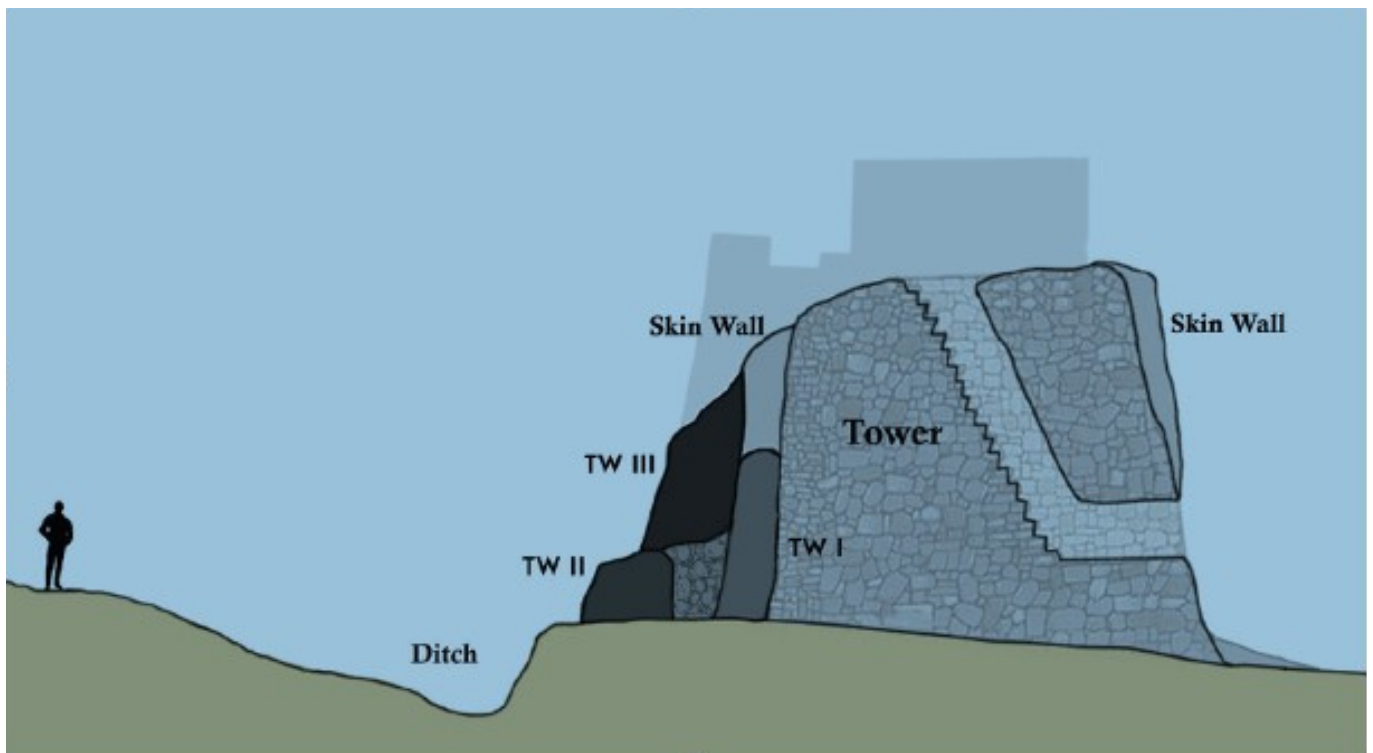
3-Fortification Walls

Archaeological finds indicate that Ancient Jericho was surrounded by strong fortification walls in the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A. Kathleen Kenyon noted that the perimeter town wall extended along the north and south sides of the Tell (Kenyon 1981).



The town wall was built in at least three stages.

- In the earliest stage, the wall (TW. I) was freestanding and built of undressed stones set in mud mortar on bedrock. The remains of the wall are 3.65 meters high, 1.8 meters wide at the base, and 1.1 meters wide at the top. In the second stage, a new wall (TW. II) and an outer ditch were added. The space between the two walls was filled with chipped debris from the ditch, increasing the thickness of the newly expanded wall to more than 3.5 meters, including the external batter. A "skin wall" was also built to strengthen the tower and adjoining first wall (Kenyon 1981).
- The second stage of the town wall features a ditch that was cut into the bedrock in front of the wall with a steep inner side and a more gradual outer side. The ditch is 2-3 meters deep and 8.75 meters wide. A rock berm was left between the foot of the wall and the inner ridge of the ditch, indicating significant planning before construction (Kenyon 1981).
- The third stage (TW. III) is marked by major changes. The ditch was filled in, the lower entrance to the tower was blocked, and the wall height was increased to 5.75 meters.



Sketch shows the PPNA walls, tower and ditch (MoTA 2021)

Value and Significance of Tell es-Sultan

Tell es-Sultan contains archaeological deposits of human activity dating back to about 10,500 BC, and the adjacent perennial spring of 'Ain es-Sultan, which for millennia has been an important source of water for the inhabitants of this area.

The stratigraphy of this archaeological site reveals twenty-nine phases of occupation and testifies to two historical-cultural contexts: the Neolithisation of the Fertile Crescent and the phenomenon of urbanism in the southern Levant during the Bronze Age.

By the 9th to 8th millennium BC, Neolithic Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan was already a sizeable permanent settlement, as expressed by surviving monumental architectural features such as a wall with a ditch and a tower. It reflects the developments of the period, including the shift of humanity to a sedentary, communal lifestyle and the related transition to new subsistence economies, as well as changes in social organisation and the development of religious practices.

The Early Bronze Age archaeological material on the site provides insights into urban planning, while vestiges from the Middle Bronze Age reveal the presence of a large Canaanite city-state, equipped with an urban centre and technologically innovative rampart fortifications, occupied by a socially complex population.

Criterion (iii): Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan testifies in an exceptional way to developments that took place across the Near East in the Neolithic, characterised by the shifting of humanity to a new sedentary lifestyle and the related transition to new subsistence strategies. It demonstrates how people learned to live in larger, more permanent settlements and develop new social and ritual methods of communal living.

Monumental features of the property, the presence of shared structures, and evidence of post-mortem treatment of skulls provide important insights into changes in social organisation and the degree of skill, planning, and labour this social organisation required. The deep stratigraphy preserved on the tell has the potential to answer many questions related to the development and change of societies in the Neolithic period.

Criterion (iv): Ancient Jericho/Tell es-Sultan is an outstanding example of a permanent settlement with a long history that testifies to the transition of the people of the Levant from hunter-gatherers to a sedentary lifestyle in the Neolithic, and provides evidence of the rise of early Levantine urban culture in the Early Bronze Age. With its monumental architectural features and shared structures dating from the 9th to 8th millennium BC, the property exemplifies in an exceptional way the process of Neolithisation of the Fertile Crescent, a significant stage in human history. It further allows developments in building traditions to be observed in both the private and public spheres in the Neolithic and the Bronze Age, its Middle Bronze Age ramparts in particular showing evidence of innovative construction techniques.

The property is protected by the Tangible Cultural Heritage Law (No. 11, 2018) of Palestine, according to which any major intervention, including conservation activities and excavations, must first be approved by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, and any new structures or major changes in the areas surrounding the property require an Environmental and Heritage Impact Assessment. The Building and Planning Law (No. 79, 1966; Jordanian Law) is in force in the buffer zone. Additional regulatory measures apply through the Jericho City Spatial Urban Plan, which will soon be supplemented by regulations pertaining to the Detailed Urban Master Plan for the Tell es-Sultan Area. The Jericho City Spatial Urban Plan identifies the property and the majority of its buffer zone as a protected archaeological area (antiquities zone).

The property is owned by the State Party and managed as a National Archaeological Park by the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the highest heritage authority in Palestine, which is responsible for on-site management and conservation. The 'Ain es-Sultan spring will be managed jointly with the Ministry. A Management and Conservation Plan is intended to address the most important aspects of research, management, conservation, and interpretation of the property.



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