

Chapter 23

Gdansk Area Study Season

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I present here a very brief summary of the 2017 study season with regard to GDN Area research on Late Neolithic architecture at Çatalhöyük East Mound (see Barański 2013, 2014, 2016; Barański *et al.* 2015). The main objective of this work was to organize available data and perform a final analysis on selected archaeological contexts. It should be underlined that the GDN research has had mostly architectural and stratigraphic character. Remnants of 13 buildings –from Mellaart Levels II-IV (Hodder Levels TP K-TP O) – were re-exposed to a different extent and re-investigated. However, only 50 from about 350 recorded units (which correspond to unearthened deposits and structures within the 1960's Area A and B) (see Mellaart 1962, 1963) were actually excavated. Therefore, advanced analysis on selected archaeological material was considered to be crucial in order to provide more archaeological perspective and social interpretation of the Late Neolithic settlement. Consequently, a multidisciplinary work team was built during 2017 study season. This team includes both excavators (Marek Z. Barański, Katarzyna Regulska, Antoni Nowak and Marta Saj) and Çatalhöyük Research Project specialists: Lisa Guerre (finds), Kamilla Pawłowska, Jesse Wolfhagen and Virginia García-Díaz (faunal remains), Serena Love (geoarchaeology), Michelle Gamble and Belinda Tibbetts (human remains), Christina Tsoraki and Sean Doyle (ground and chipped stone), Aroa García-Suárez (micromorphology), Duygu Tarkan (pottery), Elizabeth Stroud and Ceren Kabukcu (archaeobotany), Milena Vasić (body ornamentation) and Marek Z. Barański (architecture) (please see relevant Lab Team 2017 Reports in this archive report for more details). Also, an input of Dominik Lukas (data management), Jason Quinlan and Marta Perlińska (photography) and Kathryn Killackey and Caroline Hebron (illustration) should be mentioned as an important part of the GDN studies over the last few years (Fig. 1).

Last but not least, the analyses performed by the GDN team go hand in hand with a radiocarbon dating programme lead by Alex Bayliss and Shahina Farid (see Bayliss *et al.* 2014). This should allow us not only to define a timeline of life of some Late Neolithic houses but also include the GDN research in the overall current narrative of Çatalhöyük.

The various GDN investigations and analysis, including further data organization, will continue over the next two years. A set of publications on selected topics with regard to the Late and Final Levels of occupation at Neolithic Çatalhöyük is expected as a result of these studies. In particular, these topics will include questions of spatial organization, standardization and specialization as well as changes in architecture. An important outcome of the GDN research will also be a juxtaposition of James Mellaart and Ian Hodder's research projects (and approaches) as well as introducing new methods of research on building archaeology. Some of these aspects have been already raised in a recent PhD dissertation on Late Neolithic architecture at Çatalhöyük which was based on excavations within the TP and GDN Areas (Barański 2017; see also Marciniak and Czerniak 2012 for more information on TP Area).



Figure 1. Group photo of some of the GDN team members (photo by Jason Quinlan).

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