

Cuilápam de Guerrero

Oaxaca / Mexico

Iglesia de Santiago Apostol



Eine Foto-Dokumentation von Josef Rahm Otto

Engravings and drawings of Cuilapan de Guerrero Oaxaca, Mexico

Text from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Photos by Josef Uæ@ ÁOtto

Cuilapan de Guerrero is a town in the state of Oaxaca, located 10 km south of the city of Oaxaca on the highway heading toward Zaachila. It is one of the oldest settlements in the Valley of Oaxaca. In this area Zapotecs and Mixtecs continually fought over territory before their conquest by the Aztecs. For this reason, Cuilapan changed hands many times during this period, leading to a Zapotec/Mixtec mix in the town's culture.

The town's major attraction is the Dominican ex-convent of Santiago Apóstol. It was left unfinished sometime in the middle of the 16th century, but the cloister, walls, cupola and foundations of enormous church re-characteristic of religious of the Conquest.

The convent was the site of the execution, on 14 February 1831, of independence war general and deposed president Vicente



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Cuilapan: The monastery lapan, the largest one in the 16th century, indicating important Mixtec population to inquire about the little side of the Valiente River which was built as a tomb.

and church of Santiago Cuilapan the region, were built here indicating that this was once an important center. If you go, be sure to explore ruins on the other side, which contain a pyramid.

The Cuilapan Monastery includes the features characteristic of colonial monasteries. However, what makes it especially unique is a roofless nave segmented into three sections by two rows of columns supporting thirteen arches. One of the two rows stands complete; the other row has only its first and last arches still standing. Open-air chapels were not common at the time of its construction, but open-air services were common since the native people found indoor ceremonies claustrophobic.

Set into the floor of the unfinished church can be found the tomb of Princess Donaji, a Zapotec princess and early convert to Christianity. It is said she fell in love with a Mixtec Lord, the Lord of Tilantongo.

Inside the monastery, close to the main stairway is a mural called "The Tree of Friars", depicting branches spreading out from St. Dominic, the founder of the Dominican order. On each branch are rows of saints and martyrs, some clutching their own heads severed from their bodies.

Nearby, an inlaid plaque displays the date of construction alongside several Mixtec motifs. The date is 1555.

The feast day of Santiago Cuilapan (Saint James Cuilapan) is celebrated on July 25 each year. The Dance of the Conquest, a reenactment of Cortés' defeat of the Aztecs, is presented by plumed dancers wearing spectacular oversized disc-shaped headdresses. The dance, performed in the atrium of the monastery, has roots extending back to the annual commemoration by the Mixtec people here in Cuilapan of an ancient victory they had achieved over their Zapotec rivals. At the time of the Conquest, Cuilapan was a Mixtec enclave in otherwise Zapotec territory.

The monastery also played an important role in the history of Independent Mexico. About 300 years after its construction, the Templo de Santiago Apostol served as a prison for Vicente Guerrero. In 1831, 10 years after the formal Declaration of Independence of Mexico, Vicente Guerrero, (one of the leaders of the independence movement) was forced to step down from the presidency due to a coup led by the infamous Genera Santa Anna. Guerrero fled Mexico City, but was betrayed and captured in Huatulco. From there he was sent to the Convent of Cuilapan to spend his last few days. Guerrero was then tried and executed in Cuilapan de Guerrero - a town later named after him.







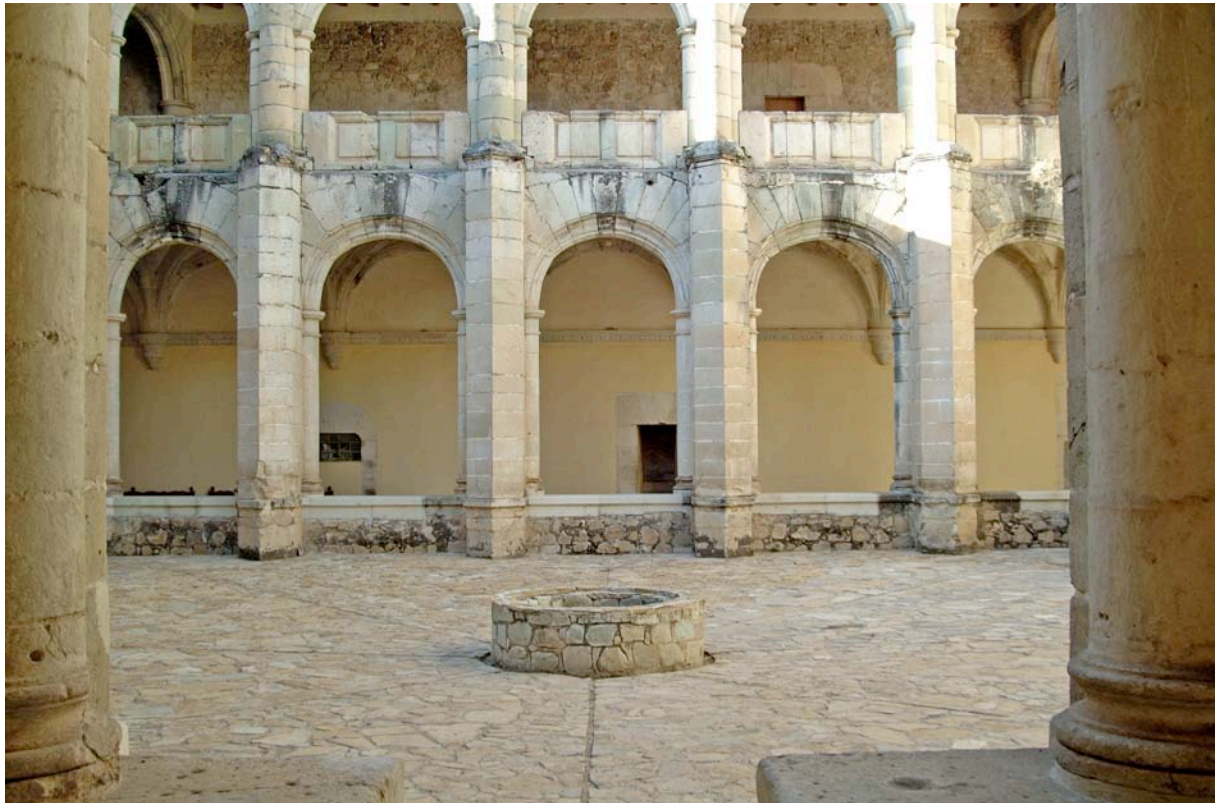


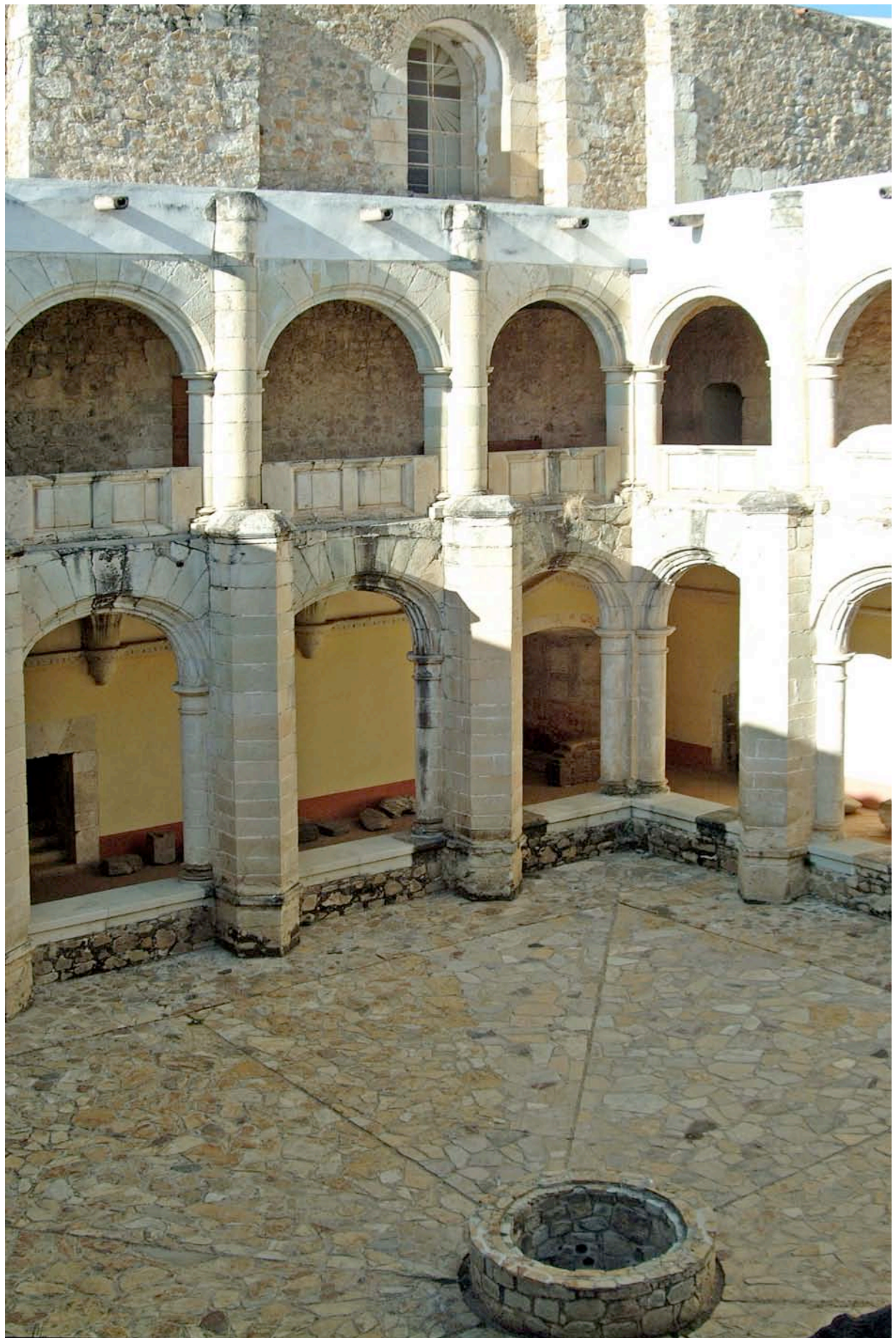




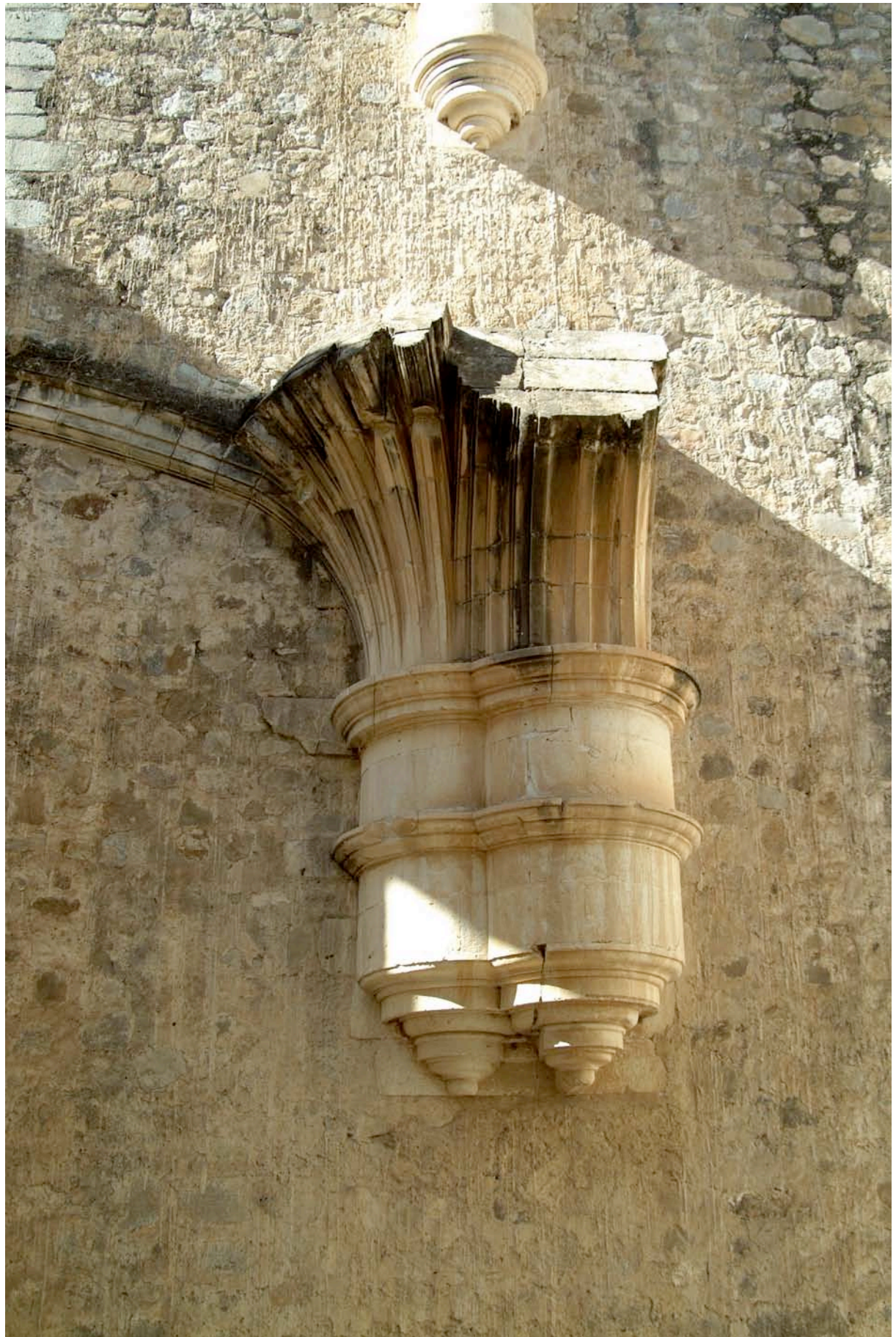






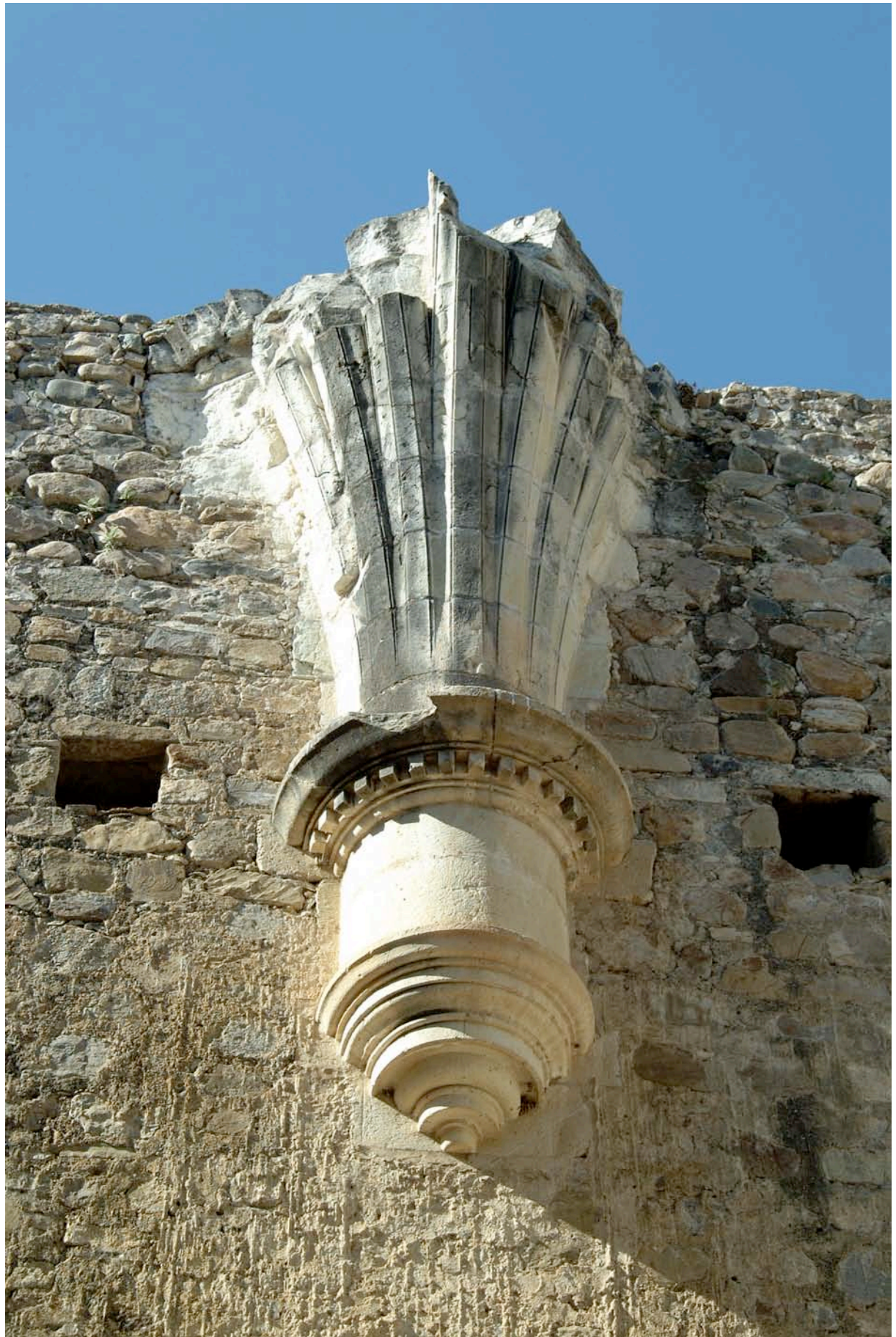


















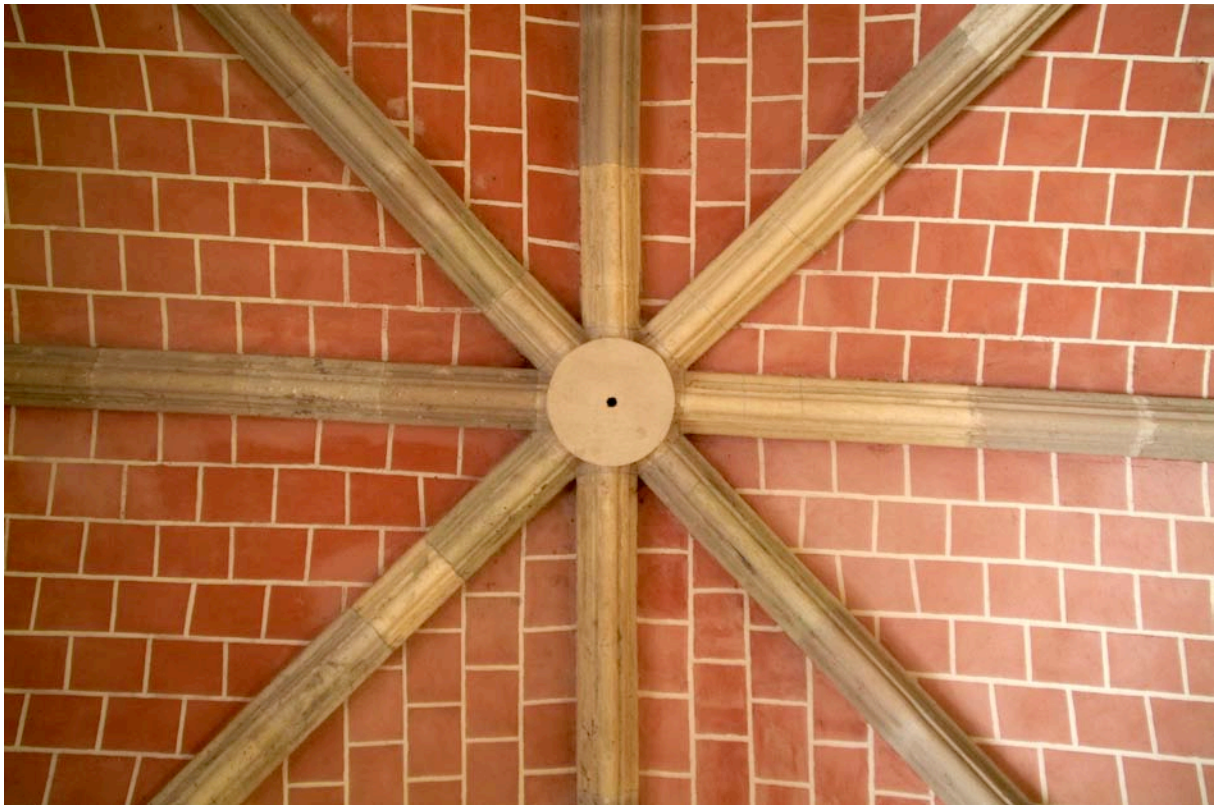


























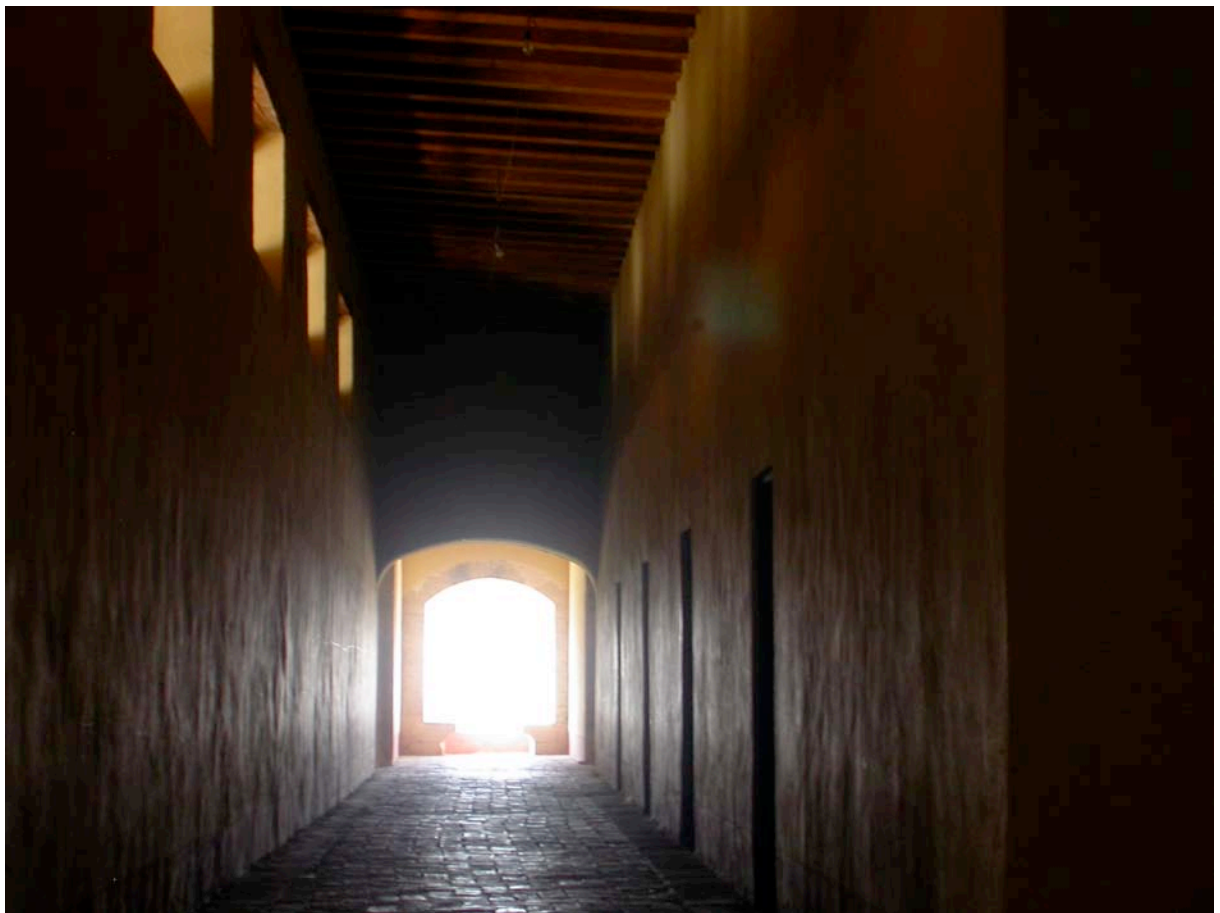


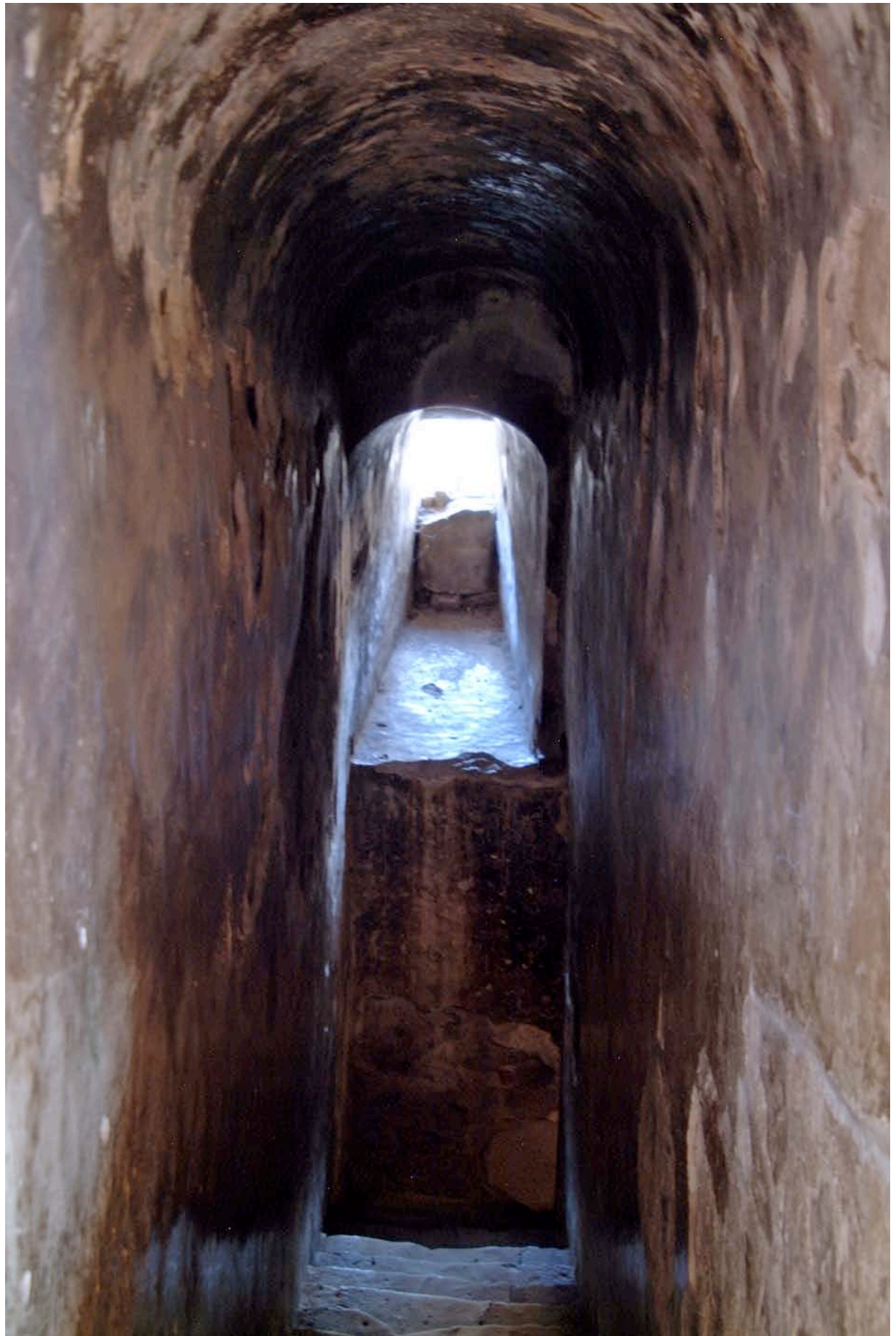












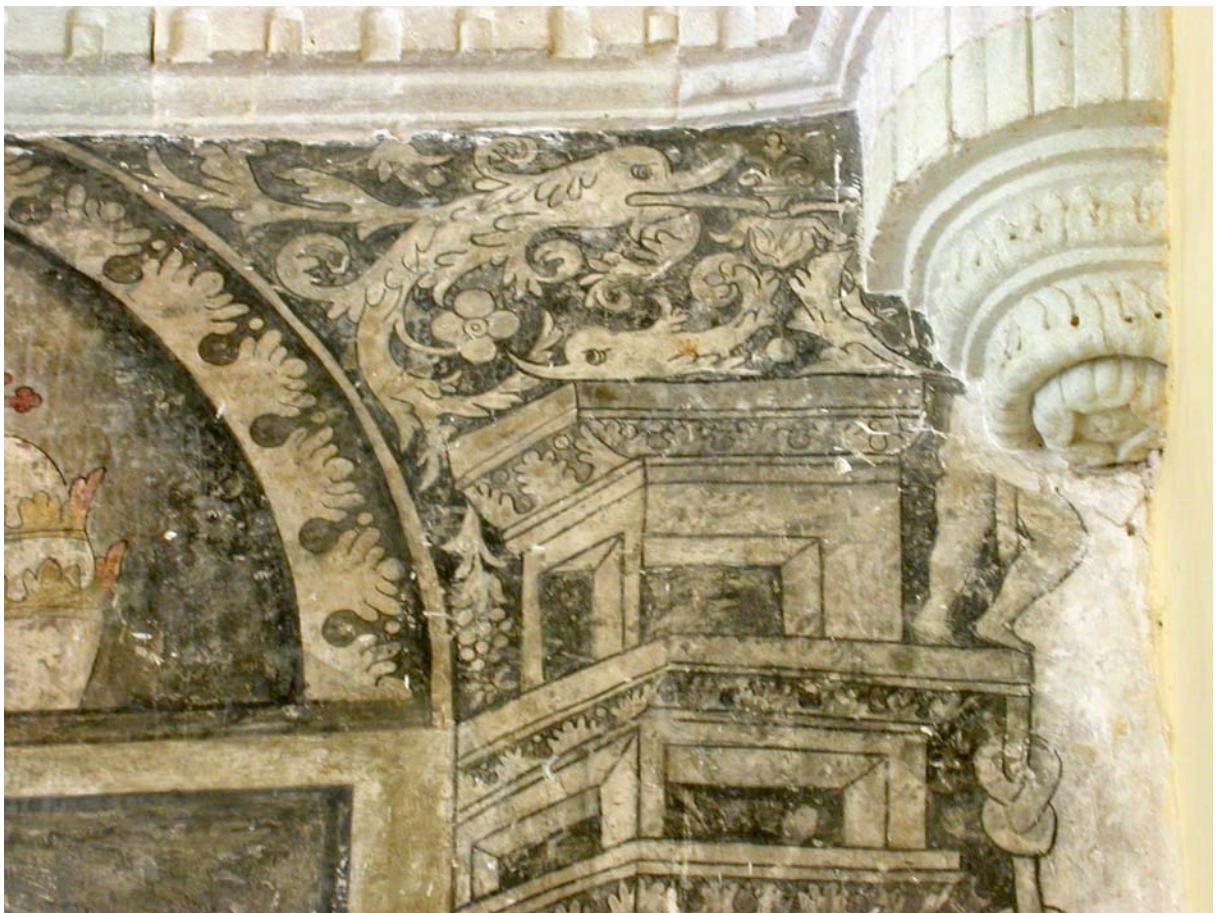








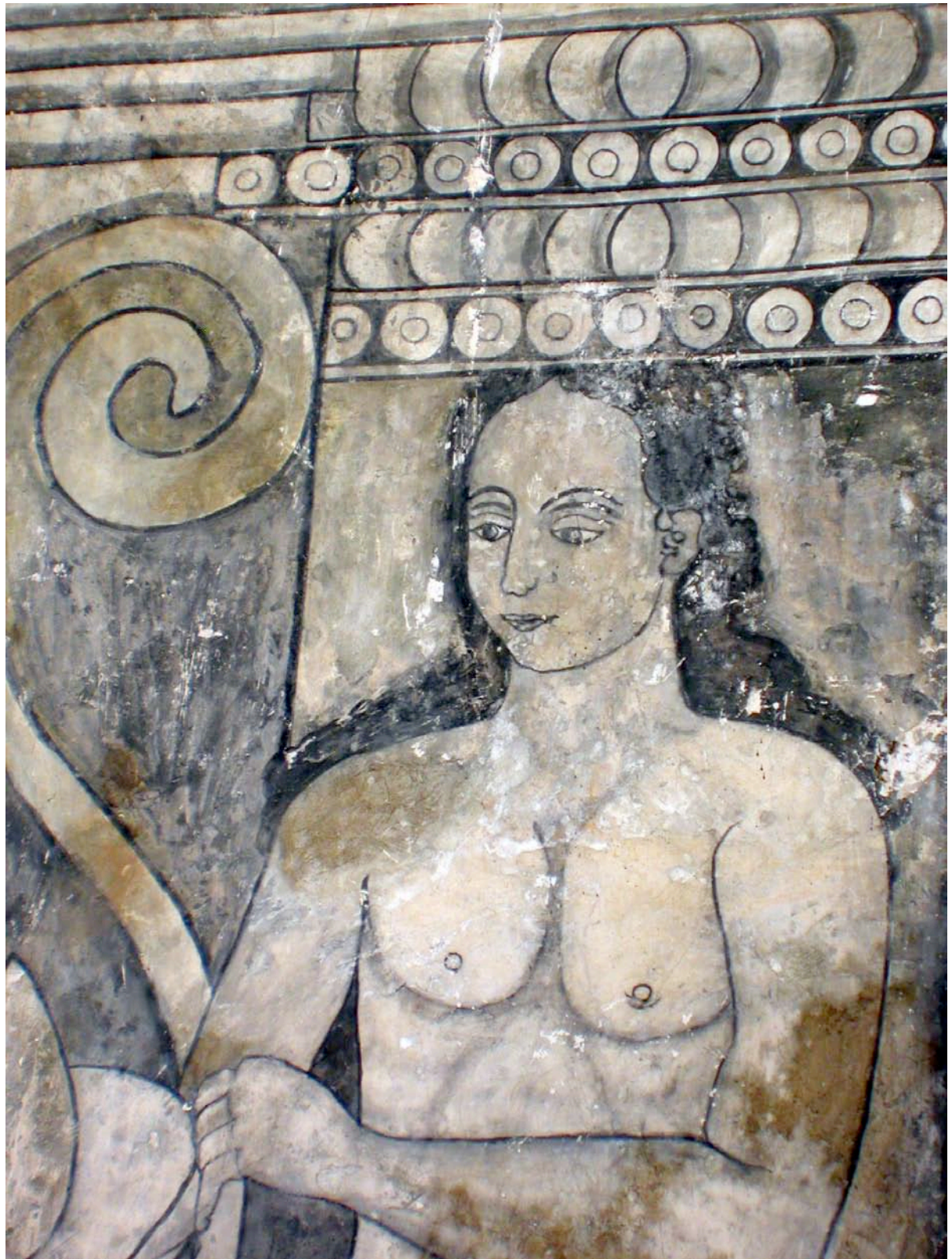


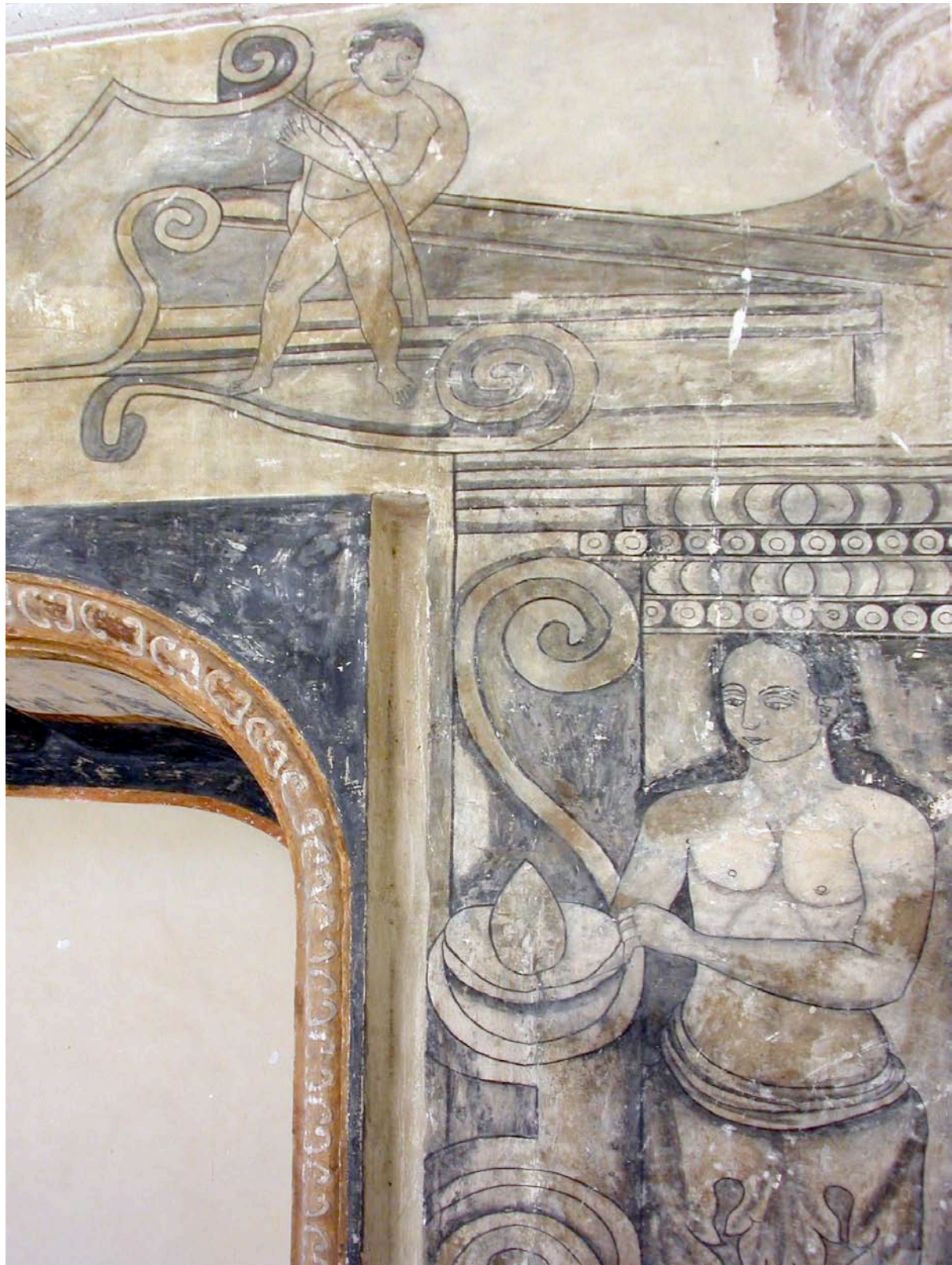






































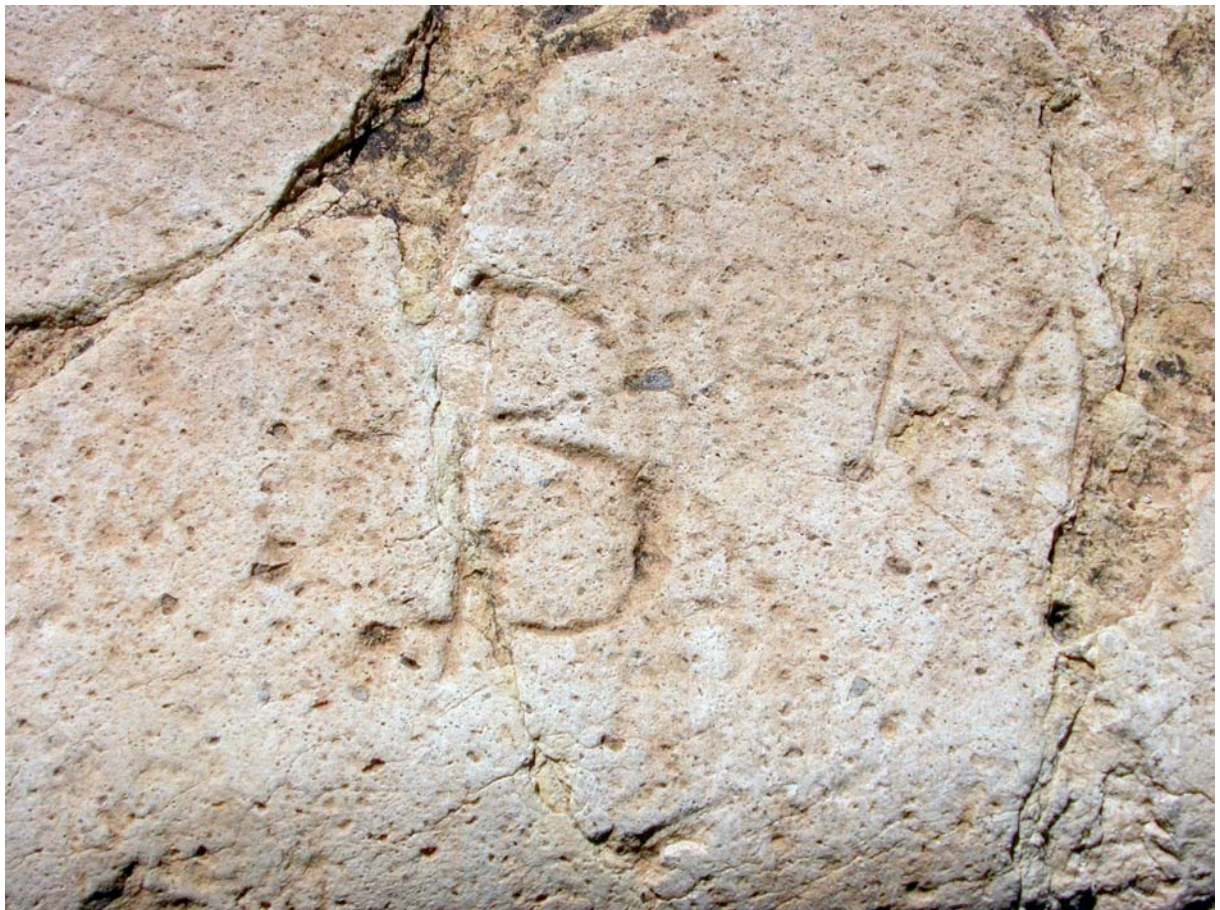






















Zaachila
the Zapotec name; Nahuatl

(Teotzapotlan; Mixtec: Ñuhu Tocuisi) is a town in Oaxaca, Mexico, 6 km from the city of Oaxaca. It is also an archaeological site consisting of the remains of an important post-classic Zapotec city of the same name. A large unexplored pyramid mound sits near the center of the town. Although largely un-excavated, two tombs were discovered at the site in 1962. These tombs are thought to belong to important Mixtec persons.

The history of the pre-hispanic city is unclear. One theory is that the site flourished 1100 and 1521 A.D.. Another theory is that the city was founded in 1399 and could be compared to Tenochtitlan, as it was a city in the middle of a lake. The full extent of the ancient city is not known either, principally because excavation is impeded by the fact that most mounds have inhabited structures on them.

Its church is called "Nuestra Señora de la Natividad" (Our Lady of the Nativity)