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REVIEW ARTICLES AND LONG REVIEWS  
AND BOOKS RECEIVED

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# Temples I and II at the Ara della Regina, Tarquinii

Gabriele Cifani

M. BONGHI JOVINO e G. BAGNASCO GIANNI (a cura di), with contributions by G. Bagnasco Gianni, P. Bernardi Locatelli, M. Bonghi Jovino, M. Bozzi, S. Bruni, F. Chiesa, C. Cionfoli, M. Cucarzi, V. Duranti, D. Gabrielli, M. Geroli R. Gulieri, L. G. Perego, S. Piro, S. Porta, C. Ridi, C. Rosa, M. Roveda, M. Slaska, N. Veronelli, V. Zanoni, L. Zigrino, B. Binda, E. Invernizzi, N. Poletti, L. Zigrino, *TARQUINIA. IL SANTUARIO DELL'ARA DELLA REGINA. I TEMPLI ARCAICI* (Tarchna IV, Università degli Studi di Milano; "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 2012). xiii + 465 p., 128 tav.; CD-Rom; 14 folded maps. ISBN 978-88-8265-758-1. EUR 450.

The fourth volume of the *Tarchna* series, devoted to illustrating the results of excavations conducted since 1982 by the Università statale di Milano under the direction of M. Bonghi Jovino<sup>1</sup> at Tarquinii – the most important city for the development of Etruscan religion<sup>2</sup> –, publishes the architecture and stratigraphy mainly of the 6th-c. phases of the urban sanctuary known as the *Ara della Regina*. This great sanctuary represents a key to Etruscan art and archaeology following its first exploration in the 1930s by P. Romanelli (1889-1981) and his discovery of the terracotta group known as the "Cavalli alati", now housed in the Museo Nazionale di Tarquinia.

Part I (3-80) is dedicated to the architecture of the Archaic sanctuary (fig. 1), its archaeological phases during the course of the 6th c., and its cultural significance. Despite this forming the first part of the book, it provides a massive concluding discussion of the results of some 30 years of fieldwork. Penned by M. Bonghi Jovino, G. Bagnasco Gianni and architect B. Binda, it describes the remains of the two phases of the temple in the 6th c. B.C. The first temple ("tempio

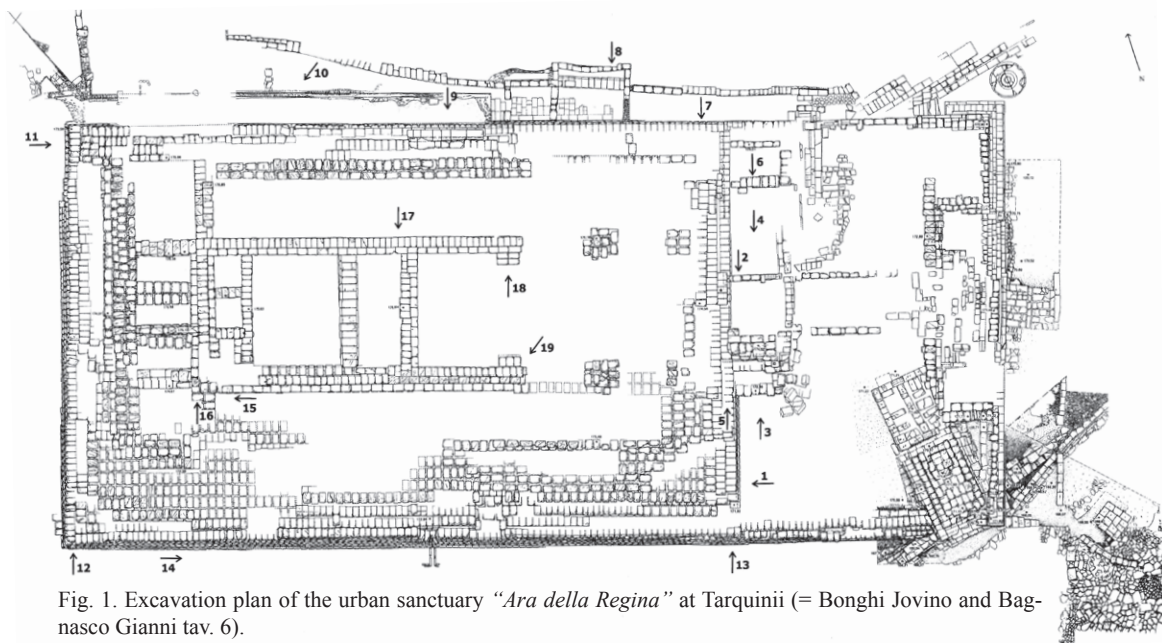


Fig. 1. Excavation plan of the urban sanctuary "Ara della Regina" at Tarquinii (= Bonghi Jovino and Bagnasco Gianni tav. 6).

- 1 Tarchna I = M. Bonghi Jovino and C. Chiaramonte Treré (edd.), *Tarquinia: testimonianze archeologiche e ricostruzione storica: scavi sistematici nell'abitato, campagne 1982-1988* (Roma 1997); Tarchna II-III = M. Bonghi Jovino, C. Chiaramonte Treré, G. Bagnasco Gianni et al., *Tarquinia: scavi sistematici nell'abitato, campagne 1982-1988: i materiali* (2 vols.) (Rome 1997-2001). For a synthesis see M. Bonghi Jovino, "The Tarquinia Project. A summary of 25 years of excavations," *AJA* 114 (2010) 161-80.
- 2 For a detailed history of work on Tarquinii, see G. Bagnasco Gianni, "Tarquinia," in *Bibliografia topografica della colonizzazione greca in Italia e nelle Isole Tirreniche*, vol. 20 (Pisa 2011) 237-316, with bibliography.

I") is dated around 570 on the basis of stratigraphic excavations and the chronology offered by fragments of the original terracotta decoration. The temple (30 x 15 m), built on foundations of squared blocks, had a rectangular *naos* and *pronaos* with two *alae*. The *naos* is reconstructed with a central line composed of three columns to sustain a hypothetical post-and-lintel roof which had to cover a span of 9.58 m (Table 5). Such a reconstruction is supported, according to the authors, by comparison with the temple of Locri-Marasà, the reconstructions of the roof of temple E1 at Selinus and the Apollonion at Syracuse, and by the depiction of carved wooden roofs at Caere in the orientalizing Tomba dei Leoni dipinti and the Tomba Campana at Monte Abatone.<sup>3</sup> In front of the facade was a square which enclosed a special place where a stone box (1.6 x 0.6 x 0.55 m) was placed (29-31). The particular location of this piece and its survival into later phases, before it was included within an altar, allows Bonghi Jovino to hypothesize a possible meaning linked to the cult of the mythical founder of the city, Tarchon (63-64, with references).

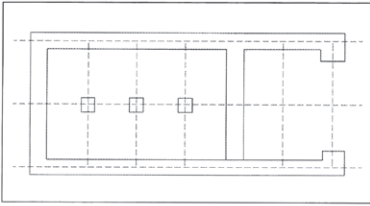


Fig. 2a. Plan of *Tempio I*, 570 B.C. (= Bonghi Jovino and Bagnasco Gianni p. 51).

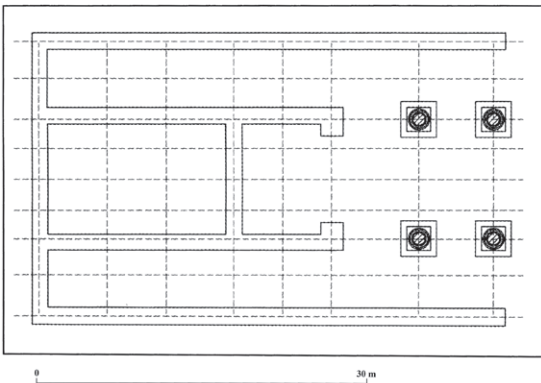


Fig. 2b. Plan of *Tempio II*, 530 B.C. (= Bonghi Jovino and Bagnasco Gianni p. 52).

ing 55.2 x 31 x 16 m (Table VIII) is dated c.530 B.C. The new building was a distyle temple with two *alae* and two rows of columns which incorporated the previous *Tempio I*, which now became the internal *cella* of the new sanctuary. The podium, rather high at 3.35 m, reveals the monumentality of the whole complex. The unit of measure adopted for the building is the foot of 0.298 m, as also, for instance, in the Rome's Temple of Jupiter Optimus Maximus and

The analysis of the remains of *Tempio I* and its reconstruction (figs. 2a and 3a) are accurate and convincing, but as far as the reconstruction of the roof is concerned one should emphasize that there is no direct evidence for columns or bases inside the *naos*. In fact, the latest research on the roofs of Archaic buildings in Etruria and Greece points more plausibly to timber roof trusses, in parallel with the frequent use of the post-and-lintel roof, and especially for monumental and innovative buildings such as the main temples of the Archaic Etruscan cities.<sup>4</sup> It is also worthy of note that the size and dimensions of *Tempio I* are very similar to the reconstruction of the central *cella* of Rome's temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, a project which according to G. Colonna<sup>5</sup> could also be placed in the first quarter of the 6th c.

The second chapter (33-40) discusses the evidence for *Tempio II* (figs. 2b and 3b). The complete reorganization of the sanctuary through the extension of *Tempio I* to become a monumental building measuring

3 For a more complete list of Etruscan carved wooden roofs, see the detailed and important work by A. Naso, *Architetture dipinte: decorazioni parietali non figurate nelle tombe a camera dell'Etruria meridionale (VII-V secolo a.C.)* (Rome 1996) 353-64, with bibliography.

4 On timber roof trusses in Archaic architecture, cf. T. Hodge, *The woodwork of Greek roofs* (Cambridge 1960) 17-40; J. MacIntosh Turfa and A. G. Steinmeyer, jr, "The comparative structure of Greek and Etruscan monumental buildings," *PBSR* 64 (1996) 1-39; N. L. Klein, "Evidence for West Greek influence on mainland Greek roof construction and the creation of the truss in the Archaic period," *Hesperia* 67 (1998) 335-75; J. N. Hopkins, "The Capitoline Temple and the effects of monumentality on Roman temple design," in M. L. Thomas and G. E. Meyers (edd.), *Monumentality in Etruscan and Early Roman architecture* (Austin, TX 2012) 114.

5 G. Colonna, "Varrone e i più antichi temple romani," *ParPass* 36 (1981) 51-59.

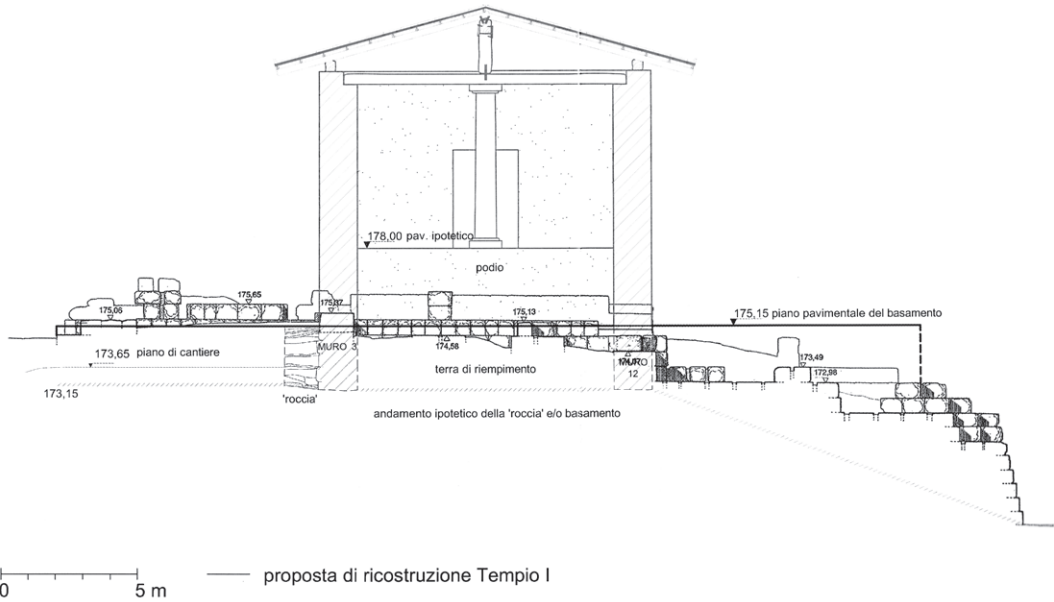


Fig. 3a. Hypothetical reconstruction of the elevation of *Tempio I* (= Bonghi Jovino and Bagnasco Gianni tav. VI).

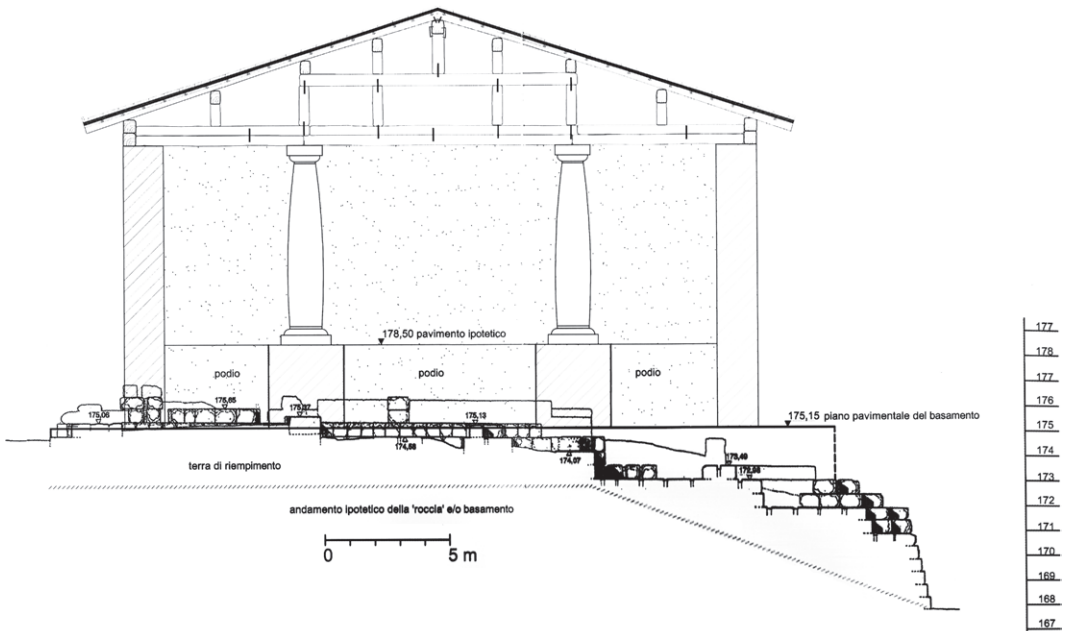


Fig. 3b. Hypothetical reconstruction of the elevation of *Tempio II* (= Bonghi Jovino and Bagnasco Gianni tav. X).

Marzabotto's Temple of Tinia. Further similarities with the former temple are found not only in the high podium but also in the interaxial distance of the central columns (10.4 m) — not unlike the reconstruction proposed for the interaxial distance of the central columns at Rome (c.12 m) — until recently the cause of great scepticism amongst some scholars.

Indeed, I would argue that a strong reciprocal influence exists between the temples of Tarquinii and Rome, part of a broader cultural and political dialogue between the two cities over the course of the 6th c. The Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus is a synthesis of the plan of an Ionic temple and the Etruscan and Latin religious idea of a *templum*: an area inaugurated, oriented and accessible only from the front, as is reflected by Tempio I at Tarquinii. Obviously these

are different urban contexts and different structures, but a close relationship between the two sanctuaries seems to exist. We could hypothesize that the community of Rome took inspiration from Tempio I of Tarquinii, already in existence by c.570 B.C., for the central *cella* of the Temple of Jupiter, which had comparable dimensions and a similar plan (even if probably lacking a central line of columns). But the latter was enclosed in a much bigger building of Ionic plan, the plan and dimensions (and particularly the width of the interaxials) of which could have served later as a source of inspiration for Tempio II at Tarquinii.<sup>6</sup>

The detailed analysis of the two temples offered by M. Bonghi Jovino is verified by the calculations for the roof's load and weight made by the architect Binda (51-53). Worthy of note is the calculation of the weight of the wooden roofs (without the terracotta tiles): c.55 tons for Tempio I, c.257 tons for Tempio II. Despite the fact that for both phases Binda proposes a post-and-lintel roof instead of the more plausible timber roof trusses, the amount of timber required gives a good idea of the economic expenditures made by the city of Tarquinii and of the complex chain of supply which lies behind an Archaic building project of such a scale.<sup>7</sup> This too shows the deep social and cultural transformations that were occurring in central Tyrrhenian Italy during the course of the 6th c.

Part II (81-110) provides the data offered by the stratigraphic excavations in and around the sanctuary. Complete with photographs and stratigraphic sections, this part forms the basis for the chronology of the site.

Part III (111-412) treats the materials found during the excavations in the sanctuary between 1983 and 2002. They are important not just for the quantity but above all for their provenience in stratigraphic contexts at one of the great urban sanctuaries of the Archaic Mediterranean world. Thus we find many classes of impasto pottery from the Final Bronze Age down to the Hellenistic period, many classes of local "ceramica depurata", pythoi and terracotta fragments, and an interesting collection of pottery imported from a distance, chiefly Attic vases, Greek amphoras (Corinthian, East Greek, North Aegean), and Phoenician-Punic products.

Part IV (413-30) is dedicated to the results of the geophysical surveys carried out in the area and to laboratory analyses of pottery.

The gazetteer of finds is included on a CD-ROM. There are also 14 colour folded maps of the remains of the monumental buildings and their reconstructions.

This is a great scientific achievement by Bonghi Jovino and Bagnasco Gianni. Its importance for the archaeology of both the central and the E Mediterranean basin in the Archaic period is paramount. It is handsomely edited with excellent illustrations. In describing so well the evidence for the main sanctuary of one the most important and wealthy cities in the Mediterranean world of the 6th c. B.C., the authors have highlighted the strong cultural interaction between central Tyrrhenian Italy and the Greek area that was operating in parallel with the rôle of Archaic Rome.

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6 For a discussion of the temple and its possible reconstruction, see G. Cifani, *Architettura romana arcaica* (Rome 2008) 100-9, with bibliography; A. Carandini (ed.), *Atlante di Roma antica* (Milan 2012) tavv. 7-8.

7 For a quantitative approach to the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus, see G. Cifani, "I grandi cantieri della Roma arcaica: aspetti tecnici e organizzativi," in S. Camporeale, H. Dessales and A. Pizzo (edd.), *Arqueología de la construcción II. Los procesos constructivos en el mundo romano: Italia y provincias orientales* (Anejos de ArchEspArq 57, 2010) 35-49.