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Recycling Roman style: stone blocks from Gradišče and their uses at *Nauportus*

Recikliranje po rimsko: kamniti bloki z Gradišča in njihova raba v Navportu

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Izvleček

Članek obravnava tri kamnite bloke, najdene leta 1992 na Vrhniki, na območju hiše Gradišče 5. Odkriti so bili v sekundarni legi in nalomljenem stanju, vzidani v eno od predelnih sten v kleti moderne stavbe. Eden izmed njih, narejen iz nabrežinskega apnenca, je bil prvotno izdelan kot preklada z reliefnim okrasom v sofiti. Namenjena je bila reprezentativni javni arhitekturi sakralnega ali posvetnega značaja. Najverjetneje je bila zasnovana kot element odprtega vhoda ali stavbe s stebriščem. Preklada je bila nato preuporabljena kot prag skupaj z drugima dvema blokoma, narejenima iz podpeškega apnenca, predvidoma v taberni ali skladišču. Bloki pričajo o obstoju monumentalne arhitekture v vikusu Navportu, zgrajene vsaj deloma iz kamnitih blokov in okrašene z reliefi, pa tudi o recikliranju kamna in njegovi dolgotrajni rabi.

Ključne besede: Navport; Vrhnika; preklada; prag; rimska arhitektura; nabrežinski apnenec; podpeški apnenec; vikus

Abstract

The article discusses three stone blocks unearthed in 1992 in Vrhnika, in the area of the modern house at Gradišče 5. They were found *ex situ* and in a fragmented condition. One of the blocks, made of Aurisina limestone, had originally been intended as an architrave, with relief decoration in the soffit, of a large public building of either sacred or secular nature. The architrave was subsequently reused as a threshold together with the other two blocks, made of Podpeč limestone, probably in a *taberna* or a storehouse. The blocks are evidence of monumental architecture in the *vicus* of *Nauportus*, but also bear witness to the continuous recycling of stone material in the Roman period and later.

Keywords: Nauportus; Vrhnika; architrave; threshold; Roman architecture; Aurisina limestone; Podpeč limestone; vicus

The article presents three stone blocks, two of them bearing relief decoration, that were unearthed in 1992 during rescue archaeological excavations in the house at Gradišče 5 in Vrhnika.[1] After discovery, they were kept in Kulturni center Vrhnika (Tržaška cesta 32), later Doživljajski center Moja Ljubljanica, and were transferred in 2022 to the National Museum of Slovenia, where they were inventoried under Nos. L 212–L 215 and displayed in the exterior stone collection.

[1] The excavations were conducted by the Institute for the Protection of Cultural Heritage of Slovenia, Ljubljana Regional Office, and the Institute of Archaeology ZRC SAZU under the direction of Uroš Bavec and Jana Horvat. Preliminary report with a basic analysis of the stratigraphy: Bavec, Horvat 1996 (there is also an unpublished report (Bavec U., J. Horvat 1992, *Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Uvodno poročilo o arheoloških izkopavanjih*), held in the archives of the ZRC SAZU, Institute of Archaeology).

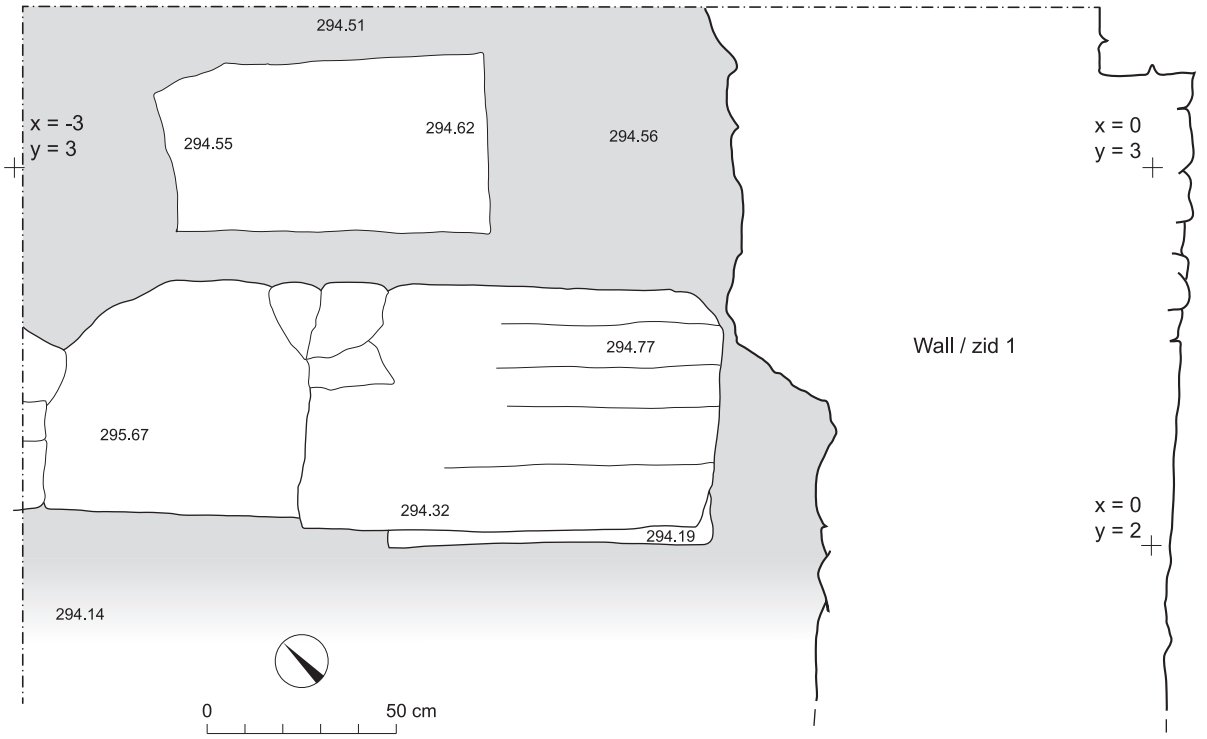


Fig. 1: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Excavation drawing from 1992 referring to the three blocks discussed in the article.
Sl. 1: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Del dokumentacije izkopavanj leta 1992, ki se nanaša na tri kamnite bloke, obravnavane v članku.

The Gradišče area constituted one of the nuclei of the Roman settlement of *Nauportus*. Finds indicate that Roman presence in this part of the settlement dates from the 1st to the 4th century AD.[2] A second core was located at Breg, approximately 1.2 km northeast of Gradišče and also along the road connecting Aquileia and Emona, beside the River Ljubljanica. On the opposite, right bank of the Ljubljanica, at Dolge njive, an *emporium* or walled trading settlement with a harbour stood in the Augustan period that was later abandoned.[3]

The excavation records and report reveal the stone blocks in the area of the house at Gradišče 5 were found *ex situ* and in a fragmented condition, built into one of the partition walls in the cellar of the modern house. Nine fragments of the large block with relief decoration (Inv. No. L 212) were lifted, while further fragments extended under the foundations of the house and were left there.[4] The large block lay (*Fig. 1*) above the smaller one with a groove (Inv. No. L 214) and parallel to the smaller fragmented block with relief decoration (Inv. Nos. L 213+215). All three show considerable wear on one of their sides which, together with the groove on two of them, indicates that at some stage they shared the same function. However, the stratigraphy and the position of the blocks upon discovery demonstrate that they were moved at least once after this common use and that, in their recorded position, they were not directly associated with the Roman-period remains documented at the site, but rather with the modern house above them.[5]

Following the first publication in 1996, the large block was mentioned several times in literature,[6] also with a photograph, though without a detailed description or interpretation.

[2] Horvat 1990, 185–187; Horvat 2020, 104; Žerjal 2024, 117–120. A detailed study of the Gradišče 5 site, with an analysis of the stratigraphy and small finds, as well as the history of research and an analysis of settlement in the Gradišče area, is in preparation.

[3] See Note 55.

[4] Bavec, Horvat 1996, 110.

[5] A detailed analysis of the stratigraphy and small finds from the Gradišče 5 site is in preparation.

[6] Horvat 2009b, 100; Krašna 2019, 129; Žerjal 2019, 346; Horvat 2020, 103–104, Fig. 5; Žerjal 2024, 118; Djurić 2025b, figure on p. 3; Krašna 2025, 462.

PRESENTATION OF THE BLOCKS

BLOCK L 212 (*Figs 2–7; 16:* a)

Description

The partially surviving block is broken into nine adjoining fragments of varying size. It measures 2.38 m in surviving length, 0.59–0.62 m in height and 0.42 m in thickness.[7] It is made of Aurisina limestone.[8]

One of its wide long faces (A) is heavily worn over most of its surface to the degree that it is unevenly rounded across its width. It has two longitudinal recesses that may originally have run along its entire length and are best visible near the junction with the only surviving short face (D). The recess or groove closer to the resting surface[9] and relief decoration is deeper, slightly lozenge-shaped in section, measuring 12 cm in width and 5–6.5 cm in depth from the surviving surface, which is coarsely dressed with a point, as is the surface within the groove. At its junction with the short face (D), the groove has an irregular oval depression resulting from wear rather than intentional cutting. The other recess is shallower and also coarsely dressed with a point.

One of the block's narrow long faces (B) is very coarsely dressed with a point. It is the bedding surface with a lifting hole measuring 11 × 4 cm at the mouth and extending to 14 × 4 cm at a depth of 10 cm. It is positioned 155.5 cm from the short face (D). Assuming that the block continued at the broken end in the same height and thickness, the position of the lifting hole allows the original length of the block to be reconstructed at approximately 3.20 m. There are no clamp or dowel holes on this face.

The other of the narrow long faces (C) has a 38 cm wide and 103 cm long resting surface with a dowel hole measuring 3 × 3 cm at the opening and tapering slightly to a depth of 5.5 cm.[10] Adjacent to the resting surface on the same face is a panel with relief decoration in a moulded (*cyma reversa*) frame. The short side of the frame adjoining the resting surface has a semicircular recess in preparation for the abacus flower of a Corinthian or Composite pilaster capital. The resting surface is finely dressed with a tooth chisel. The surface between the long edge and the straight moulding is also finely dressed with a tooth chisel,[11] while the moulding and the relief panel are smooth without visible tool marks. This face is fully finished and ready for installation.

The other wide long face has an uneven strip along its junction with the relief-decorated face (B) that is 8–11 cm wide and more finely dressed. Elsewhere the surface is presumably uneven and very coarsely dressed.[12]

The only surviving short side or joint face (D) is uniformly and very coarsely dressed with a point and without anathyrosis.

Original purpose of production

The relief-decorated panel with a semicircular recess for the abacus flower of a pilaster capital, in combination with the resting surface containing a dowel hole (*Figs 2:* C; *6*) shows that the block was intended as an architrave at the junction between a solid wall and an opening, and that the relief-decorated panel represents the soffit.

The first publication interpreted the block as an 'architrave above an entrance'.[13] There are several formal possibilities for such an entrance. One would be an entrance with single- or double-leaved doors. This interpretation, however, is contradicted by the semicircularly recessed moulding of the soffit and by the considerable length of the portion of the architrave that would have extended into the solid wall, particularly when considered in combination with the position of the lifting hole. The semicircular recess indicates that beneath it a pilaster was executed at least within the opening, and possibly also on both exterior sides, meaning that no door leaf could have occupied that position. Moreover, the length of the part of the

[7] The height and thickness refer to the dimensions of the block in its primary function as an architrave. The measurements take into account the space between the cracks.

[8] Macroscopic analysis by Igor Rižnar (Krašna 2019, 129).

[9] The terminology used for describing the constructional features of the blocks is taken from Ginouvès, Martin 1985 and Adam 1994.

[10] For the stoneworking tools and toolmarks in the Roman period, see Wootton, Russell, Rockwell 2013, 7–12.

[11] The same finish can be observed on the front side of the inscription slab also made of Aurisina limestone and found at Gradišče, which mentions the construction of a porticus (*ILSl* 3, No. 316 (with references), see Note 62 below).

[12] The block is displayed with this side down on a metal support frame, on the floor of the exterior stone collection of the National Museum of Slovenia. It was not lifted for fear of damage and the surface was only examined using a video endoscope, kindly lent by the company asDim d.o.o.

[13] Bavec, Horvat 1996, 110.

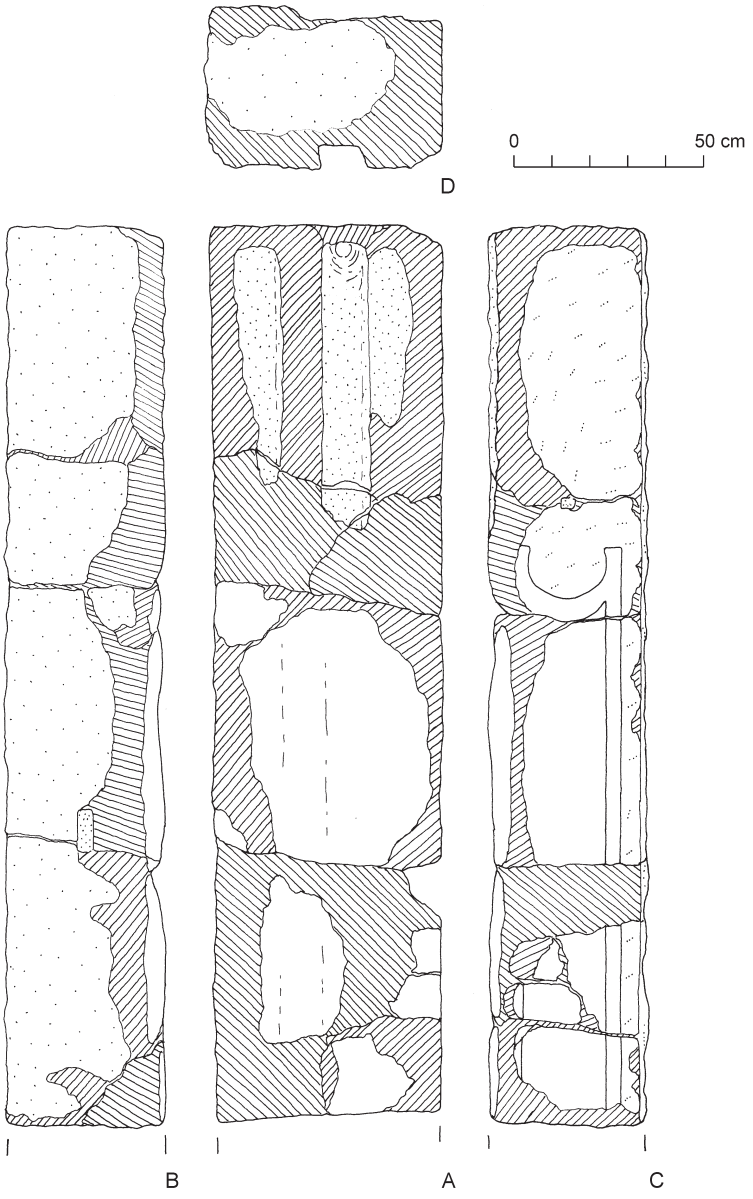


Fig. 2: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 212 with relief decoration.
Sl. 2: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 212 z reliefnim okrasom.

architrave that would have extended into the wall is significantly greater than is usual for an architrave as part of a door frame.[14] Compelling evidence is also provided by the lifting hole. Such holes are always cut in the centre of gravity of blocks or slabs. In Block L 212, it is carved 1.61 m from the surviving joint face which, assuming the block had a regular rectangular form, indicates an original length of 3.22 m. If we assume a symmetrical door architrave, that is one shaped identically at both ends with resting surfaces of equal length, and subtract from the reconstructed length of 3.22 m the length of the surviving and missing resting surfaces (the surviving one measures 1.03 m from the edge to the end of the soffit moulding), 1.16 m would remain for the soffit. This is considerably less than the actually surviving length of the soffit, which measures 1.49 m from the edge of the moulding and certainly continued further on the missing portion. Taking into account the symmetry of the decoration, the soffit would originally have

[14] See e.g. Adam 1994, 292–295, Figs 670–672; Mac Mahon 2003, 62–63, Figs 1, 3.

measured approximately 1.80 m from one outer edge of the moulded frame to the other. The block could therefore not have formed part of a doorway with single- or double-leaved doors.

For the same reason, the architrave could not have formed part of an entrance with a projecting architrave resting on pilasters or free-standing columns.[15] This possibility is further contradicted by the considerable length of the resting surface.

A third possibility is an open entrance or passage without door leaves. Such an interpretation would imply an open building with an entrance or passage supported by at least one free-standing column (*Fig. 7*).

[15] See e.g. Mac Mahon 2003, 63, Fig. 4.



Fig. 3: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 212, Face A. Upper side of the threshold.
Sl. 3: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 212, stranica A. Zgornja stran praga.

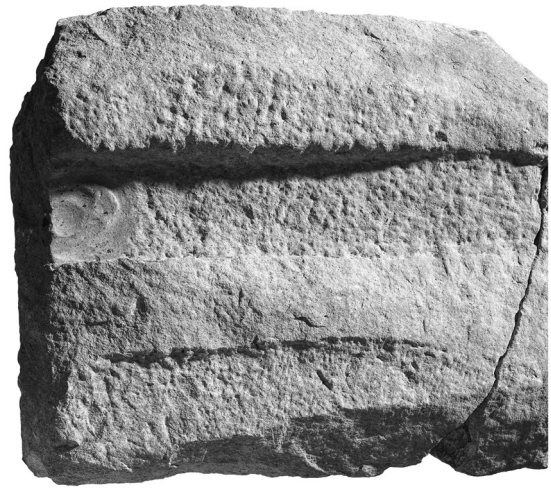


Fig. 4: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 212, Face A. Upper side of the threshold, detail.
Sl. 4: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 212, stranica A. Zgornja stran praga, detajl.

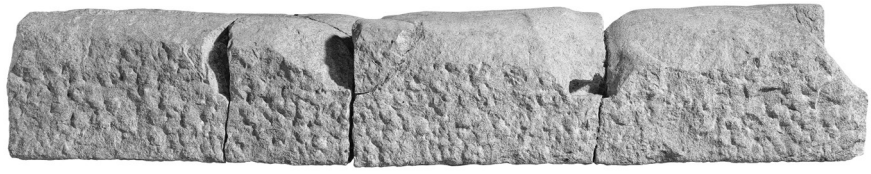


Fig. 5: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 212, Face B. Bedding surface of the architrave.
Sl. 5: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 212, stranica B. Nosilna ploskev preklade.



Fig. 6: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 212, Face C. Resting surface of the architrave with the soffit.
Sl. 6: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 212, stranica C. Stojna ploskev preklade s sofito.

The block could also have formed part of a building with a colonnade, specifically located at the junction between a solid wall and a free-standing column. The presumed symmetry of the relief decoration again allows a reconstruction, in this case of the intercolumniation between the engaged pilaster and the free-standing column, amounting to at least 2.10 m (more than 7 *pedes*).[16] An interesting observation in this respect is that the centre of the soffit, measured on the basis of two bands tied across the garland depicted in relief, does not coincide with the position of the lifting hole but is offset by approximately 0.35 m. This corresponds well with the possibility that the block terminated above a free-standing column, while the architrave continued, either in a straight line or at an angle, with the next block (*Fig. 7*).

The width of the architrave's resting surface also offers indications as to the size of the associated column. Vitruvius provides a potentially useful point of reference, albeit referring to the Doric genus: 'The depth of the architrave on its under side should answer to the necking at the top of the column.'[17] If we therefore take the width of the architrave as 38 cm, allow for the swelling of the shaft in its lower part (*entasis*)[18] and apply the most common ratio of 1:10 between the lower diameter of the shaft and the height of the column,[19] then the total height of the column, with it also the columnar part of the building between stylobate and architrave, may be estimated at just under 4.5 m. It should be stressed that this value is for orientation purposes only, since the proportions cited above apply to Roman temples, whereas other types of buildings followed less rigid rules.[20]

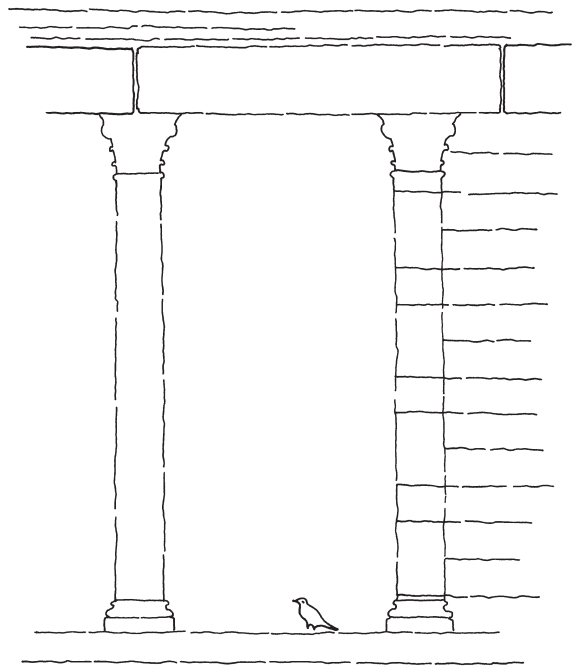


Fig. 7: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Possible position of the architrave in a building (not to scale, but with correct proportions).
Sl. 7: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Možna postavitev arhitrava v stavbi (ni v merilu, a s pravilnimi proporci).

[16] Measured from the outermost edge of the moulding and taking into account that the line of the maximum diameter of the column shaft is set slightly back in relation to that moulding. A value of 0.296 m has been adopted for one *pes* (cf. Wilson Jones 1988, 37).

[17] Vitruvius (IV, 3, 4). We should, however, keep in mind the discrepancies between Vitruvius' recommendations and actual measurements, as Mark Wilson Jones (1988; 1991) demonstrated, for example, for the Corinthian order and its capitals.

[18] For a broader discussion on the execution of the swelling (entasis) of column shafts, see Wilson Jones 2009, 99–105.

[19] Wilson Jones 1991, 41.

[20] Wilson Jones 1988, 49, 53–59.

One type of building combining a solid wall with free-standing columns is the prostyle Roman temple. In such a building, the block would have formed part of the lateral side of a small temple.[21] We should mention that the reconstructed intercolumniation of 2.10 m considerably exceeds even the widest spacing of three intercolumniations in a diastyle temple (which would amount to approximately 1.30 m in our case).[22] Having said that, the example of the *Capitolium* at Brescia shows that this possibility exists, with the side of the temple directly adjoining the portico.[23]

A column height of 4.5 m would also be compatible with other types of colonnaded buildings, for example a porticus. As noted above, intercolumniations — and proportions in general — are more variable in such buildings.

In addition to the dimensions, the relief decoration in the soffit (*Fig. 6*) is also a significant feature of the architrave. It consists of a straight scale-leaf band or garland (*corona lunga*), with leaves facing symmetrically outward from the centre to either end and with a pair of leafy tendrils winding around it. In the mid-section, the garland is bound with a ribbon at two points (probably symmetrically), tied perpendicularly to the garland. Only the right end of the garland survives and shows a cluster of symmetrically arranged leaves. The leaves on the garland are stylised, lanceolate and slightly convex, some with a raised midrib; they probably represent stylised laurel leaves, without berries. The two intersecting tendrils winding around the garland have pointed five- and seven-lobed leaves without grapes, representing a stylised vine with simply rendered foliage. The centre of the motif is missing.

Straight leaf (laurel) garlands frequently occur as architectural ornament, particularly in soffits, but also in the mouldings of roof and other cornices. The vine is a common architectural motif as well. I have, however, not found parallels for the specific combination of a laurel *corona lunga* and vine winding around it. The relief is summarily executed. This is particularly evident in the vine leaves, which differ from the more organically rendered vegetal ornaments on early public architecture at *Aquileia*, *Tergeste* and *Pola*.[24]

The fully finished standing surface complete with a dowel hole, as well as equally finished relief decoration and moulding of the soffit indicate that the block had already been prepared for installation. All other faces would have been finished once installed. The very coarse surface finish of the bedding and joint surfaces, together with the absence of dowel and clamp holes on the bedding surface, demonstrates that this may never have occurred, but certainly that we may not expect any ashlar blocks to have been positioned on top of or next to the architrave. Consequently, our block could not have formed part of a building in which the architrave, the cornice above it and the adjoining wall were constructed of ashlar blocks connected by metal clamps and dowels. This would, of course, have been possible if these elements (the cornice and the wall) had been built of smaller, mortar-bound stones or bricks, that is, if the structure had largely been constructed of *petit appareil*, with dimension stone only used for the structurally most important elements.[25] Having said that, it seems less likely that a relief-decorated architrave of Aurisina limestone would have been commissioned for the building, whereas the cornice above it — presumably moulded and also relief-decorated — was executed in mortar-bound brick or stone. This possibility is also contradicted by the very coarse, uneven surface on one of the broader long sides (examined only by video endoscopy), which appears relatively finely dressed only in its lower part; in a completed building this face would have been visible and should have been decorated at least with fasciae. I therefore conclude that, for reasons unknown (damage during lifting or installation, abandoned or altered building project and others), the block most probably never formed part of a standing building as an architrave.

Secondary use

The recess, the groove with an oval trace of wear at one end and the heavily worn surface on Face A (*Fig. 2*) show that the architrave was reused as a threshold (*Figs 3*; *16:* a). The recess is shallow and poorly preserved; it may be interpreted as a

[21] For comparison, the complete column (‘*altezza complessiva della colonna e del capitello misurata dal piedestallo*’) of the Temple of Augustus in Pula, Croatia, measures 8.36 m (Pavan 2000, 99).

[22] Vitruvius III, 3, 1–6. For comparison, the central intercolumniation of the Temple of Augustus in Pula measures 1.70 m, the lateral intercolumniations 1.58 m, while the lower diameter of the column shaft is 0,78 m (Pavan 2000, 98).

[23] Dell’Acqua 2014, 321–360.

[24] Cavalieri Manasse 1978; Cavalieri Manasse 1983.

[25] I wish to thank Bojan Djurić for this observation.

marginal check or doorstop, although no pivot holes are preserved into which the pivots of the door leaves would have been inserted. On Roman-period thresholds, such pivot holes may be square or circular,[26] but are always deliberately cut. The groove is 12 cm wide and 5–6.5 cm deep, slightly lozenge-shaped in section, and at one end bears an irregular oval trace of wear left by an element — possibly wooden — rotating on a vertical axis. The groove may have held detachable wooden shutters, made of planks, or folding doors.[27] Such grooves and the associated shutters are characteristic of shops (*tabernae*) and are also documented in storehouses.[28] Because of the worn surface of Face A, it is not possible to determine whether the groove was originally of equal width throughout its length, or whether it narrowed further along and was widened only in one section to facilitate the insertion of shutters, or perhaps served as the place where they were stored.[29] The oval trace of wear within the groove is, as noted above, irregular in shape, which may even suggest the replacement of worn shutters, with the new planks of the shutters having been slightly differently shaped and therefore left a different trace. The length of the worn surface of Face A indicates a wide opening of the building to which the threshold belonged and thus supports the interpretation of the structure as one with a high frequency of use, such as *tabernae* or storehouses.

BLOCK L 213+215 (*Figs 8–12*)

Description

The block survives whole, in places with chipped edges, but broken into five fragments. It measures 1.26 m in length, 0.46–0.49 m in height and 0.24–0.36 m in thickness. The outer face (A) is heavily worn and bears relief decoration (*Fig. 10*) in a sunken panel along one of its longer edges, at the junction with Face C. Although the decoration is poorly discernible due to surface wear, it most likely represents vegetal scrolls. One of the narrow long faces (B) is finely dressed with a tooth chisel, while the other (C) is very coarsely dressed with a point and a flat chisel. The interior face (D) is also finely dressed with a

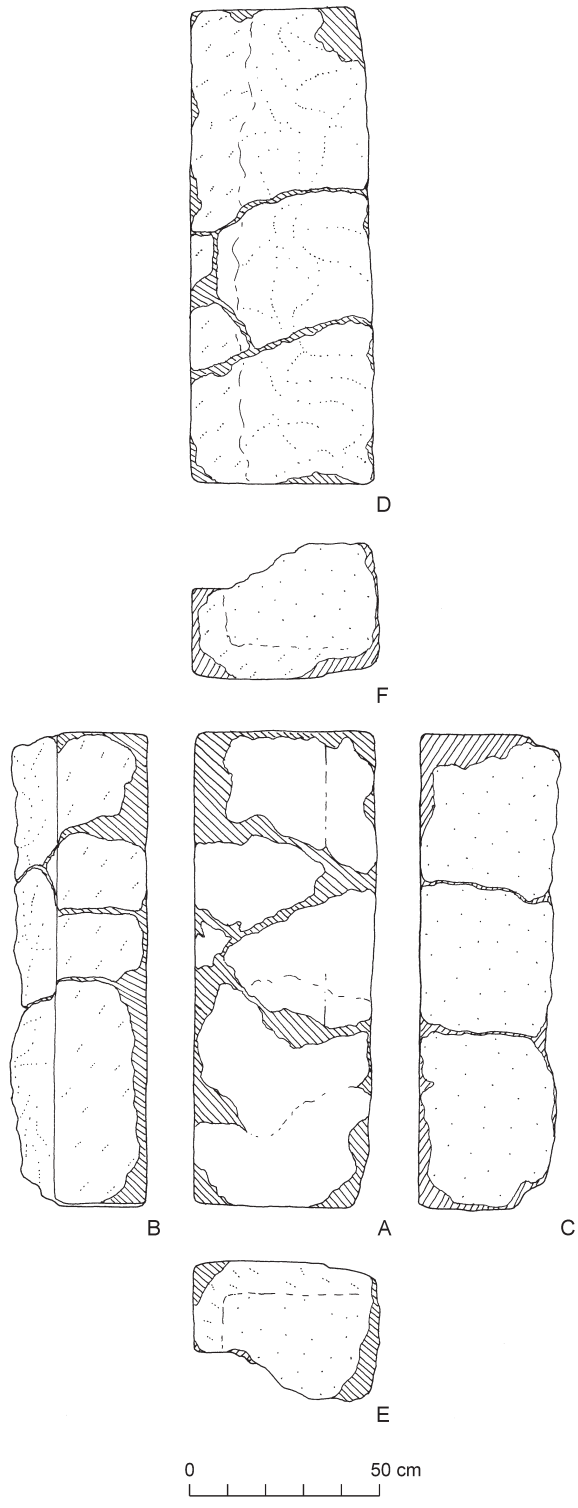


Fig. *8:* Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 213+215 with relief decoration.
Sl. 8: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 213+215 z reliefnim okrasom.

[26] Michielin 2021, 111–112, Figs 5.37, 5.38.
[27] Adam 1994, 320–321, Figs 730, 731; Maq Mahon 2000, 187–189; Michielin 2021, 228–230, Fig. 7.57: f.
[28] See Discussion.
[29] Maq Mahon 2000, 188.



Fig. 9: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 213, Face A. Upper side of the threshold.
Sl. 9: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 213, stranica A. Zgornja stran praga.



Fig. 10: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 215, Face A. Detail showing the relief decoration.
Sl. 10: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 215, stranica A. Detajl reliefnega okrasa.



Fig. 11: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 213+215, Face B.
Sl. 11: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 213+215, stranica B.



Fig. 12: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 213+215, detail of the rock.
Sl. 12: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 213+215, detajl kamnine.

tooth chisel along the edge adjoining Face B, to a height of just over 0.10 m, after which the surface finish is coarser and continues further down into a part that is left rough. Both short sides are joint faces (E,F) with anathyrosis involving two adjacent contact bands that are finely dressed, while the central part is very coarsely dressed with a point. There are no construction holes on the block. It is made of Podpeč limestone (*Fig. 12*).[30]

Original purpose of production

The rough stone surface on Face D suggests that it was originally intended as part of a build-

[30] Following an examination in the National Museum of Slovenia (14 November 2025), Igor Rižnar provided the following result of his macroscopic analysis: The two blocks (L 213+215, L 214) are both of dark grey limestone with white sparitised molluscs (brachiopods and possibly small megalodontids) measuring up to 5 cm. In both, the sparitised molluscs are concentrated on one side of the block and thus represent a 'fossil stratum' (lumachella), while the remaining part lacks these highly characteristic fossils. This suggests the blocks were extracted together in the quarry (perhaps even as a single larger piece). The microfacies of the dark grey limestone with brachiopods is a very characteristic type of Podpeč limestone, identified both in Roman artefacts and architectural elements, as well as in Plečnik's architecture. Roman examples of this lithotype have been identified in opus sectile slabs (stone collection at Mirje; Djurić, Gale, Brajkovič 2022, 177, Fig. 26: 14) and an altar found during excavations in the southern part of Slovenska cesta (Gaspari 2016, 12).

ing or structure with a hollow interior (such as a podium or an attic), which was at least in this part constructed of large ashlar blocks. The joint faces with anathyrosis (E,F) indicate that it formed part of a wall continuing on both short sides (without metal clamps). The scrollwork decoration on face A (*Fig. 10*) points to a building with relief decoration and also that the block was most probably positioned vertically.

Secondary use

The surface wear on Face A with relief decoration (*Fig. 10*) indicates that Block L 213+215 was also reused as a threshold.

BLOCK L 214 (*Figs 13–15; 16:* b)

Description

The block survives complete, in places with chipped edges. It measures 0.92–0.95 m in length, 0.55–0.58 m in width and 0.29–0.34 m in thickness. One of the long narrow faces (A) is finely dressed with a tooth chisel. Face B is the bedding surface (*Fig. 14*) with a lifting hole, three dowel holes with corresponding pour channels, a clamp hole and a groove. Part of an iron clamp and its lead filling survive in the clamp hole, while traces of mortar are visible in one of the dowel holes and in the lifting hole. The groove is 10–12 cm wide and does not extend along the entire length of the block, only across approximately two thirds of it, with its depth increasing from the lifting hole towards the opposite edge, where it is further deepened, reaching a maximum depth of 10 cm. In its deepest part, there are circular wear marks visible on the sides of the groove, but not on its bottom. The groove is associated with circular traces of wear across much of the surface of the block along one longitudinal side, creating an uneven, undulating surface. The bedding surface along the shorter edge with the clamp hole appears slightly worn, while elsewhere it is coarsely dressed with a tooth chisel. The surface in the groove is coarsely dressed with a point. The other long narrow face (C) is very coarsely dressed with a point. The interior Face D (*Fig. 15*) is finely dressed with a tooth chisel along its edge adjoining the finely dressed Face A to a height of 0.30 m. It also has an approximately 1.5 cm wide border carved with a flat chisel, after

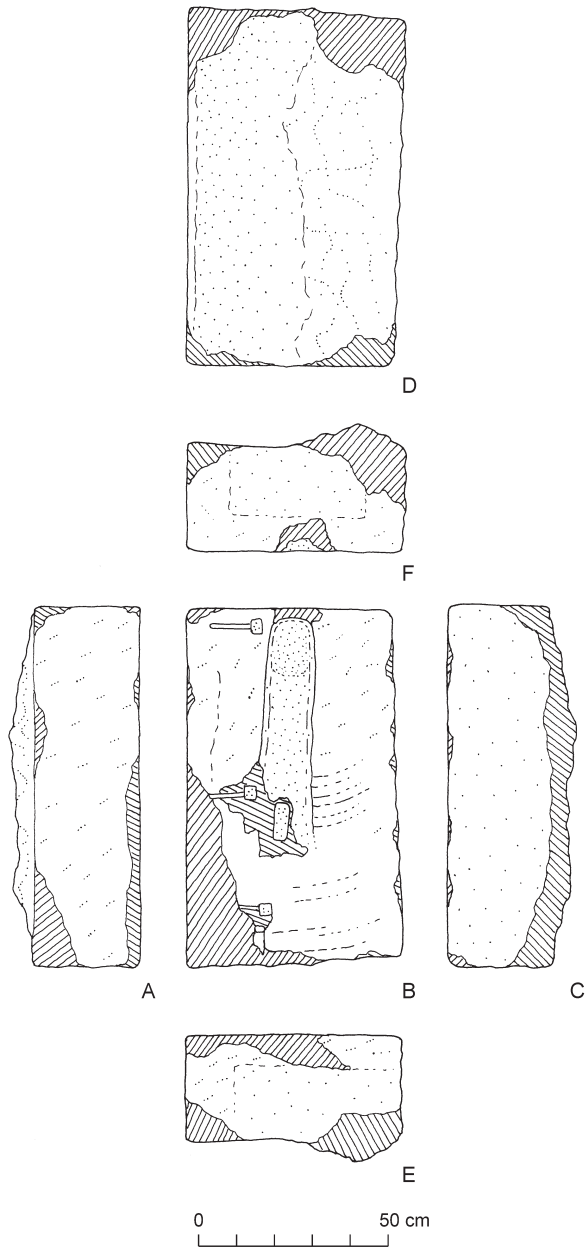


Fig. 13: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 214.
Sl. 13: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 214.

which the surface finish is coarser and continues further down into a part that is left rough. The short sides (E,F) are joint faces with anathyrosis involving three finely dressed contact bands and a central part that is very coarsely dressed with a point. The block is made of Podpeč limestone of the same microfacies as L 213+215.[31]

[31] See previous note.

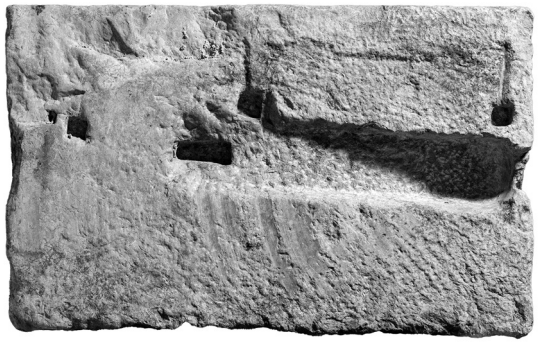


Fig. 14: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 214, Face B. Upper side of the threshold.
Sl. 14: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 214, stranica B. Zgornja stran praga.



Fig. 15: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Block L 214, Face D.
Sl. 15: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Blok L 214, stranica D.

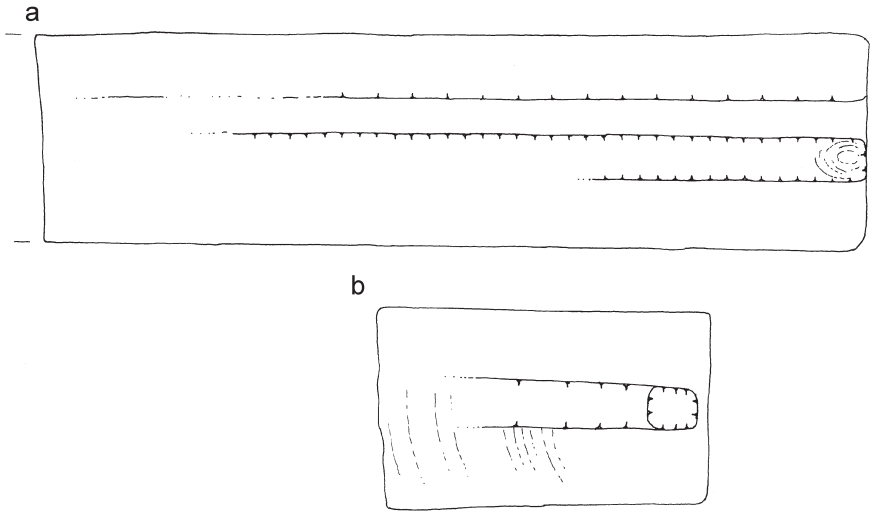


Fig. 16: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Schematic representation of the threshold traces on Blocks: **a** – L 212 and **b** – L 214 (not to scale).
Sl. 16: Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Shematičen prikaz praga na blokih: **a** – L 212 in **b** – L 214 (ni v merilu).

Original purpose of production

The traces of the block's original use on its bedding surface (*Figs 13:* B; *14*) are as follows: a lifting hole, three dowel holes with pour channels and a clamp hole (containing a fragment of the iron clamp and lead infill), while the surface was very probably coarsely finished with a tooth chisel. All other faces (A, C–F) only show traces of original use, already described above. The stone surface left rough on the interior Face D (*Fig. 15*) indicates that the block was originally intended as part of a building or structure with a hollow interior. The joint faces with anathyrosis (E,F) show that it formed part of a wall continuing on both shorter sides (without clamps), while the holes on the bedding surface indicate that the block was positioned horizontally.

Secondary use

The surface wear, the groove and the circular, pivoting wear (*Figs 13:* B; *14*; *16:* b) indicate that Block L 214 was also reused as a threshold. The groove, which becomes progressively deeper towards one of the short narrow sides, together with the circular wear on the walls of its deepest section and the circular wear next to the groove is most likely the result of inserting detachable shutters

that pivoted outwards (or inwards) rather than sliding along the groove.

DISCUSSION

Gradišče in Vrhnika is an area of a separate settlement core of Roman *Nauportus*, located approximately 1.2 km southwest of the settlement core at Breg, along the road connecting *Aquileia* and *Emona*. The beginnings of Roman occupation at Gradišče date to the 1st century AD. The recovered Roman finds include coins, pottery, metal objects and architectural remains dated from the 1st to the 4th century.[32]

The finds from Gradišče, more precisely in the area of the modern house at Gradišče 5, include the three stone blocks discussed here (L 212, L 213+215, L 214), none found in their original position. They were unearthed one beside and above the other (*Fig. 1*). The largest (L 212) was made of Aurisina limestone and originally intended as an architrave, with relief decoration in the soffit (*Figs 2*, *6*, *7*), but may not have been completed and never have formed part of a building in that function. The other two blocks (L 213+215 – *Figs 8–12*; L 214 – *Figs 13–15*) also point to a substantial building of ashlar masonry. They are made of locally sourced Podpeč limestone; given their identical microfacies (*Fig. 12*) and the probability that they were extracted together in the quarry, perhaps even as a single larger piece,[33] it may be assumed that they originally formed part of the same building. Nor can we exclude the possibility that the architrave was intended for use in that same building.

In its use as an architrave, the dimensions and construction features of Block L 212 offer two possible reconstructions of the building for which it was intended. The first is a building with an open entrance or passage, either without door leaves or with grates only covering the lower part of the opening, combined with at least one free-standing column at the entrance/passage. A nearby parallel is a building of probable commercial function excavated east of the forum at Aquileia.[34] The second possibility is an open colonnaded building, where the architrave would have stood at the junction between a solid wall and a free-standing column. One such building type is the Roman prostyle temple.[35] In such a building, the block would have formed part of the lateral side of a small temple. We should mention that the reconstructed intercolumniation of 2.10 m considerably exceeds even the widest spacing of three intercolumniations in a diastyle temple. Having said that, the example of the *Capitolium* at Brescia shows that this possibility exists, with the side of the temple adjoining the portico.[36] The intercolumniation, the thickness of the architrave and the reconstructed height of the associated column (just over 4.5 m) could also suit other colonnaded buildings, such as a porticus, in which intercolumniations and proportions are generally more variable (*Fig. 7*). The presence of relief decoration does not oppose an interpretation of use in a monumental public building.

The architrave was subsequently reused, together with the other two blocks found at Gradišče 5 (*Figs 3*, *9*, *10*, *14*, *16*), as a threshold. The groove visible on two of the three blocks suggests the use of wooden shutters or folding doors, characteristic in the Roman period of *tabernae* and also documented in storehouses.[37] In the immediate vicinity, a stone threshold with such a groove is known from Aquileia, documented in front of the *tabernae* in the eastern porticus of the forum and dating to the High Empire.[38] An even closer comparison comes from the *Horrea Agrippiana* in Rome, specifically the threshold on its ground floor that is believed to have been used for retail purposes.[39] These blocks only have grooves for shutters, without doorstops, and like the thresholds from Gradišče show severe surface wear, as well as grooves with deeper slots and circular depressions intended to facilitate inserting the detachable shutters (*Fig. 17*). The heavy

[32] Horvat 1990, 185–187; Horvat 2020, 104; Žerjal 2024, 117–120. A detailed study of the Gradišče 5 site, with an analysis of the stratigraphy and small finds, as well as the history of research and an analysis of settlement in the Gradišče area, is in preparation.

[33] See Note 30 above.

[34] Verzár-Bass 1994, pianta III.

[35] Considering the composition of the population of Nauportus, for which archaeological and epigraphic evidence indicates strong connections with Italy (Horvat 2020, 108), we would also expect sanctuaries to be architecturally influenced by Italian models.

[36] Dell'Acqua 2014, 321–360.

[37] Rickman 1971; Adam 1994, 320–321, Figs 730, 731; Maq Mahon 2000; Holleran 2017; Michielin 2021, 228–230, Fig. 7.57.

[38] Previato 2015, 63 with references; for a virtual reconstruction of a part of the porticus, see Tiussi, Verzár, Villa 2013, 56, Fig. 3.

[39] Rickman 1971, 94–95, Fig. 21.

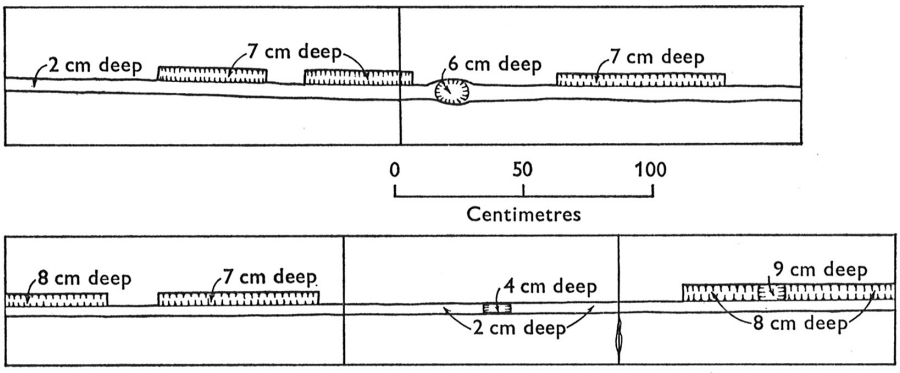


Fig. 17: Rome, thresholds of the *Horrea Agrippiana* (from Rickman 1978, Fig. 21).
Sl. 17: Rim, primeri pragov iz Agripovih skladišč (vzeto iz Rickman 1978, sl. 21).

wear of all three blocks from Gradišče 5 indicates they were in intense use for a considerable period.

The Gradišče 5 site also revealed a fragment of a plain column shaft.[40] It was not excavated, only photographed and measured (approximate diameter c. 40 cm), as it is built horizontally into the foundations of the cellar of the modern house, roughly two metres west of the house's east corner. The publication and photograph do not clarify which part of the shaft it represents, how long the fragment is, or whether it was a finished product. Nevertheless, we should note that the published diameter of c. 40 cm is comparable to the width of the architrave soffit estimated at 38 cm. Taking into account Vitruvius' recommendation that the width of the architrave directly above the column should equal the diameter of the column shaft,[41] and considering the spatial proximity of the finds, it is possible that the Aurisina limestone architrave and the column shaft (presumably of the same material) belonged to the same building.

In this connection, we should also mention that von Premerstein and Rutar reported a base and other column elements found 'in front of house no. 198 (old no. 33)'.[42] The house could not be identified, but was probably located somewhere near Stara cesta in Vrhnika, northeast of Gradišče.[43] These pieces might also be associated with the architectural elements from Gradišče 5.[44]

As noted above, the architrave is made of Aurisina limestone, which was the principal building stone of Aquileia from at least the beginning of the 1st century BC and in central Slovenia represented the main source of imported stone.[45] The quarry at Aurisina/Nabresina/Nabrežina near Trieste supplied stone products to Emona and Nauportus already before the construction of *colonia Iulia Emona* on the left bank of the River Ljubljanica in Ljubljana and continued to do so for some time after the Emona quarries were opened (for the needs of constructing the *colonia*), whereas later its products appeared only exceptionally.[46] In absolute terms, this spans the pre- or Early Augustan period, with the greatest expansion in the first half of the 1st century AD, followed by decline and only sporadic later products.[47] The youngest recorded pieces are the fragments of a Composite capital from the forum of Emona, probably dating to the Severan period.[48] Most known products of Aurisina limestone in Slovenia are funerary monuments (22 examples), followed by architectural elements and building inscriptions

[40] Žerjal 2019, 344–346; Žerjal 2024, 118, who notes the column shaft is made of Aurisina limestone.

[41] Vitruvius IV, 3, 4 (see above, Note 17).

[42] Premerstein, Rutar, 1899, 12.

[43] Horvat 1990, 184.

[44] Žerjal 2019, 346. Jana Horvat (1990, 186) also mentions a stone block from Gradišče and a column capital brought from the cemetery, both standing in the garden of the house at Gradišče 8; however, these two pieces are not of Roman date, as they display a much more modern surface treatment (examined on 8 October 2025).

[45] Previato 2015, 45–46; Djurić, Rižnar 2017, 138–139; Previato 2018; Krašna 2025, 467.

[46] Djurić, Rižnar 2017, 138–140.

[47] Krašna 2025, 468–469.

[48] Plesničar Gec 2006, 46, Fig. 29. It should be added that the catalogue of monuments made of Aurisina limestone compiled by Andreja Krašna (2019, 49–139), apart from the architrave/threshold from Nauportus and the afore-mentioned capital from Emona, contains no monument from central Slovenia dated later than the mid-1st century AD.

(13), one is a boundary stone and one a votive monument.[49] Compared with Emona, the stone monuments of Nauportus are few in number and mostly made of Aurisina limestone.[50]

The other two blocks from Gradišče 5 are of Podpeč limestone, that is, of local origin, and are the first to prove this stone was also used in Nauportus. The earliest products in Podpeč limestone date to the Augustan period,[51] providing a *terminus ante quem non* for the production of the two blocks discussed here.

The places of the first and second uses of the three blocks from Gradišče 5 can, for the moment, only be hypothesised. In contrast, we may state with considerable certainty that the architrave was produced for use in Nauportus. Its location along the route from Aquileia to Emona and its role as a transhipment station might allow the possibility that the Aurisina limestone architrave was destined for a building not in Nauportus, but further along this route, perhaps in nearby Emona.[52] Yet two observations argue against the idea that the architrave halted in Nauportus merely as cargo.[53] Firstly, the lower, resting surface and the soffit were completely finished, whereas the bedding surface, at least two long sides and the surviving short side remained coarsely dressed. Secondly, a dowel hole is present on the resting surface, which would make little sense if executed in a quarry workshop where the precise position of connecting elements is difficult to anticipate. These observations indicate that the architrave was prepared not for transport, but for installation and, consequently, that Nauportus was its intended place of use.

The finds of other architectural elements at Gradišče, together with small finds and building remains, suggest that the architrave/threshold may have been used in this part of the Roman settlement during the 1st–2nd centuries AD. It is also possible that the blocks were brought to Gradišče from another part of Nauportus, perhaps from the north-eastern core at Breg.[54] The part of Nauportus on the right bank of the Ljubljanica at Dolge njive must also be mentioned, where an emporium or walled trading settlement with a harbour stood in the Augustan period that was later abandoned.[55] The emporium had a central square with two buildings (one presumably a sanctuary), surrounded on all four sides by a porticus, with warehouses (and *tabernae*) behind it. It is unclear whether the architrave and its relief decoration could be dated so early, to the Augustan period. Even more doubtful is whether the other two blocks, made of Podpeč limestone, could have been used there, since exploitation of the Podpeč quarry began only with the construction of *colonia Iulia Emona* on the left bank of the Ljubljanica,[56] probably in the Late Augustan period and the first years of Tiberius' reign.[57] Consequently, the likelihood that the three blocks served as thresholds in the storehouses and *tabernae* at Dolge njive is small.

More convincingly, however, the size of the architrave, its relief decoration in the soffit and possibly also the use of Aurisina limestone point to the intention to erect a large building of representative, public character, whether secular or sacred.

Literary and epigraphic evidence reveals that Nauportus was a *vicus* within the territory of Aquileia (*regio X*) from at least the mid-1st century BC onwards, and that members of Aquileian or Italian merchant families, mostly freedmen, played a leading role here as *magistri vici*.[58] A boundary stone found at Bevke, marking the border between the territories of the Italian colonies of Aquileia and Emona, shows that Nauportus lay within Aquileian territory even after the foundation of *colonia Iulia Emona*.[59] It is also mentioned by Tacitus, who describes it (in AD 14) as 'large enough to claim the standing of a town' (… *proximis vicis ipsoque Nauporto, quod municipii instar erat,*…).[60]

Epigraphic monuments prove the existence of sacred public architecture at Nauportus. Two inscription slabs, once built into the church of St Paul at Gradišče (located a few hundred metres from the Gradišče 5 site), record that one pair of *magistri vici*, by decision of the local community,

[49] Krašna 2019; Krašna 2025, 462–465, Fig. 7.

[50] Djurić 2025b, 3.

[51] Djurić, Gale, Brajkovič 2022, 195.

[52] I thank Bojan Djurić for mentioning this possibility.

[53] It seems less likely that the blocks were originally used in Emona and later brought to Vrhnika as part of medieval or early modern trade in ancient stones for building purposes (for such a practice in the area of *Poetovio*, see Djurić 2025a, 172).

[54] Horvat 2009b, 99–100; Horvat 2020, 101–103 (with references); Žerjal 2024, 113–116 (with references).

[55] Mušič, Horvat 2007; Gaspari 2014, 116–119; Horvat 2020, 97–101 (with references).

[56] Djurić et al. 2022, 197; Gaspari, Špendal 2025, 129.

[57] Šašel Kos 2012, 90; Gaspari 2014, 146–150.

[58] Šašel Kos 1990, 143–159; Horvat 2020, 106–107; Žerjal 2024, 110.

[59] Šašel Kos 2002; Šašel Kos 2012, 87–92; Gaspari 2014, 142–150.

[60] Tacit, Annales 1, 20,1; Šašel Kos 1990, 148.

constructed a sanctuary (*aedes*) dedicated to the goddess Aequorna,[61] while another pair built a porticus.[62] The first of these inscriptions is now lost, but owing to the similarity of content and formulation the two are thought to belong together.[63] If so, they would indicate a sacred precinct (*templum*) containing a sanctuary building and an associated porticus.[64]

Besides a sanctuary, other forms of public architecture may be expected in a Roman settlement with the status of a *vicus*. In his study of forum complexes in the minor centres of northern Italy, Riccardo Villicich cites the example of the *vicus Luceria* (or *Nuceria*, *regio VIII*), where an open public space measuring approximately 90 × 30 m was unearthed along a road; in its latest phase, dating to the mid-1st century AD, it was enclosed on at least two long sides by a porticus, simply constructed and serving primarily commercial purposes.[65] For minor north Italian towns in general, Villicich observes that the period of greatest monumentalisation of public spaces, and especially fora, extends from the beginning of Augustus' rule to the end of the Julio-Claudian period.[66] Karl Strobel cites further examples of *vici* with documented public buildings from Germany and Luxembourg, within the territory of the colony of *Augusta Treverorum*: a sanctuary complex, theatre and public baths are attested at *Ricciacus* (Dalheim), sanctuary complexes were found at *Belginum* (Wederath), one of them a *Kulttheater* serving as a gathering place for inhabitants of the surrounding *vici* and *pagi*, while a forum, sanctuary complex and theatre came to light at *Beda* (Bitburg).[67]

CONCLUSION

The architrave with relief decoration found at Gradišče was intended for large public architecture of either sacred or secular nature, built at least in part from Aurisina limestone. The architrave would have stood at the junction of a solid wall and a free-standing column in a building with an open entrance/passage, or in a building with a colonnade (such as a porticus or a small prostyle temple) (*Fig. 7*). The archaeological context provides no indications as to the dating of this building, as the architrave together with the other two blocks was not found *in situ*. The relief decoration, with a summary rendering devoid of fine details, suggests the architrave was made in the 1st or 2nd century AD, less likely later. The use of Aurisina limestone is also indicative, as it begins at Emona and Nauportus in the pre- or Early Augustan period, reaches its peak in the first half of the 1st century AD and then declines.

The period of the most significant monumentalisation of minor settlements in northern Italy spans from the beginning of Augustus' reign to the end of the Julio-Claudian dynasty, but Nauportus, as a *vicus* on the northeastern periphery of Italy, may have experienced this phase with some delay. Taking into account Tacitus' description of Nauportus (in AD 14) as a town-like *vicus*, it is reasonable to expect the monumentalisation of public space, that is, larger and more luxurious public buildings at Nauportus as well. The architrave can be seen as direct material evidence of precisely such architecture.

The architrave was then reused as a threshold together with two other stone blocks (*Fig. 16*). These two blocks were also reused, originally forming part of (probably the same, large) building constructed at least in part from ashlar masonry. Unlike the architrave, they were made from local Podpeč limestone, the use of which began during the construction of the colony of Emona on the left bank of the Ljubljanica in Ljubljana. The threshold, of which these three blocks formed part, was most likely used in a *taberna* or a storehouse whose construction incorporated recycled elements of earlier building projects. The use of Podpeč limestone indicates that the threshold was made no earlier than the Late Augustan period, or later, but was certainly in intensive use over a long period.

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[61] *CIL* III 3776 = *CIL* I 1466 = *CIL* I 1185; Horvat 1990, 185; *ILSl* 3, No. 315 (with references); www: *EDCS*-24900095; *EDR*156071; *lupa* 9472.

[62] *CIL* III 3777; *CIL* I 2286; Horvat 1990, 185; *ILSl* 3, No. 316 (with references); www: *EDR*128824; *EDCS*-24900096; *HD*: F009478; *lupa* 9232.

[63] Šašel Kos 2024, 283.

[64] Šašel Kos 1997, 119. 'The Latin word *templum* did not originally refer to the temple building that sheltered a god's image. The word for that was *aedes*, or house. A *templum* was a space either in the sky or on the earth marked out by an auger for the purpose of taking auspices. On earth, a *templum* was a place set aside and limited by certain formulaic words for the taking of the auspices' (Stamper 2005, 10).

[65] Lippolis 1998, 422–428; Villicich 2007, 28–29, 146.

[66] Villicich 2007, 146.

[67] Strobel 2024, 20–24.

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Abbreviations

CIL = Corpus inscriptionum Latinarum.

EDCS = Epigraphische-Datenbank Clauss-Slaby (https://edcs.hist.uzh.ch/search).

EDR = Epigraphic Database Roma (http://www.edr-edr.it/).

HD = Epigraphische Datenbank Heidelberg (https://edh.ub.uni-heidelberg.de).

ILSl 3 = ŠAŠEL KOS, M. 2024, *Inscriptiones Latinae Sloveniae* 3. *Emona*. – Situla 47.

lupa = F. und O. Harl (Hg.), lupa.at (Bilddatenbank zu antiken Steindenkmälern) (http://lupa.at).

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Recikliranje po rimsko: kamniti bloki z Gradišča in njihova raba v Navportu

Prevod

V članku so predstavljeni trije kamniti bloki, dva od njih z reliefnim okrasom, ki so bili odkriti leta 1992 ob zaščitnih arheoloških izkopavanjih v hiši Gradišče 5 na Vrhniki.[1] Po odkritju so jih hranili v Kulturnem centru Vrhnika (Tržaška c. 32), pozneje v Doživljajskem centru Moja Ljubljanica, leta 2022 pa so bili premeščeni v Narodni muzej Slovenije, inventarizirani pod št. L 212–L 215 in razstavljeni v zunanjem lapidariju.

Območje Gradišča je v rimskem času predstavljalo eno izmed jeder rimske naselbine *Nauportus*. Najdbe kažejo, da rimska poselitev na tem delu sega od 1. do 4. st. n. št.[2] Drugo jedro je bilo na Bregu, približno 1,2 km severovzhodno od Gradišča in prav tako ob cesti Akvileja–Emona, ter ob reki Ljubljanici. Na nasprotnem, desnem bregu Ljubljanice, na Dolgih njivah, pa je v avgustejskem času stala obzidana trgovska naselbina s pristaniščem oziroma emporij, ki je bil nato opuščen.[3]

Iz objave in izkopavalne dokumentacije je razvidno, da so bili kamniti bloki na območju hiše Gradišče 5 odkriti v sekundarni legi in nalomljenem stanju ter so tvorili del ene od predelnih sten v kleti moderne stavbe. Devet odlomkov večjega bloka z reliefnim okrasom (inv. št. L 212) je bilo dvignjenih, drugi so segali še pod temelj današnje hiše in so jih tam pustili.[4] Ta blok je ležal nad blokom z utorom (inv. št. L 214) in vzporedno ob manjšem fragmentiranem bloku z reliefnim okrasom (inv. št. L 213+215) (*sl. 1*). Vsi trije kažejo zlizanost na eni od stranic, kar skupaj z izdelanim utorom na dveh nakazuje, da so bili v neki fazi v isti funkciji. Stratigrafija in položaj blokov ob odkritju pa dokazuje, da so bili od te faze naprej vsaj enkrat preloženi in v odkriti poziciji niso neposredno v zvezi z dokumentiranimi rimskodobnimi ostalinami na tem območju, temveč z novoveško stavbo, postavljeno nad njimi.[5]

Po prvi objavi iz leta 1996 je bil večji blok še nekajkrat kratko omenjen v literaturi, tudi s fotografijo, a brez podrobnega opisa ali interpretacije.[6]

PREDSTAVITEV POSAMEZNIH BLOKOV

BLOK L 212 (*sl. 2–7*; *16:* a)

Opis

Delno ohranjen blok je razlomljen na devet različno velikih, prilegajočih se kosov. Meri 2,38 m ohranjene dolžine, 0,59–0,62 m višine in 0,42 debeline.[7] Narejen je iz nabrežinskega apnenca.[8]

Ena izmed širših dolgih stranic (A) je na večjem delu močno zlizana, tako da je površina neenakomerno zaobljena po širini. Ima dve vzdolžni poglobitvi, ki sta mogoče potekali po celotni dolžini in sta najbolje vidni na delu proti stiku z edino ohranjeno kratko stranico. Poglobitev oziroma utor bližje stojni ploskvi[9] z reliefnim okrasom je globlja, rahlo romboidnega preseka in meri 12 cm v širino in 5–6,5 cm v globino od ohranjene površine, ki kaže grobo obdelavo s sledovi koničastega dleta, enako kot površina v utoru. Na stiku s kratko stranico (D) ima neenakomerno ovalno poglobljeno sled, ki je posledica obrabe in ne namerno izdelana luknja. Druga poglobitev je plitkejša in grobo obdelana s koničastim dletom.

[1] Izkopavanja sta izvedla Zavod za varstvo kulturne dediščine Slovenije, Območna enota Ljubljana, in Inštitut za arheologijo ZRC SAZU pod vodstvom Uroša Bavca in Jane Horvat. Preliminarna objava z osnovno analizo stratigrafije: Bavec, Horvat 1996 (obstaja tudi neobjavljeno poročilo (Bavec U., J. Horvat 1992, *Vrhnika, Gradišče 5. Uvodno poročilo o arheoloških izkopavanjih*), ki ga hrani arhiv ZRC SAZU, Inštitut za arheologijo).

[2] Horvat 1990, 74–77; Horvat 2020, 102–104; Žerjal 2024, 117–120. Podrobna obravnava najdišča Gradišče 5, z analizo stratigrafije in drobnih najdb, pa tudi zgodovino raziskav in analizo poselitve na območju Gradišča, je v pripravi.

[3] Glej op. 55.

[4] Bavec, Horvat 1996, 110.

[5] Podrobna analiza stratigrafije in drobnih najdb z najdišča Gradišče 5 je v pripravi.

[6] Horvat 2009a, 93; Krašna 2019, 129; Žerjal 2019, 346; Horvat 2020, 103–104, sl. 5; Žerjal 2024, 118; Djurić 2025b, sl. na str. 3; Krašna 2025, 462.

[7] Opredelitev višine in debeline se nanaša na mere bloka v primarni funkciji, kot arhitrav. Mere so podane z upoštevanjem prostora med razpokami.

[8] Krašna 2019, 129.

[9] Terminologija pri opisovanju konstrukcijskih značilnosti blokov je narejena po Ginouvès, Martin 1985 in Adam 1994.

Ena izmed ožjih dolgih stranic (B) je zelo grobo obdelana s sledovi koničastega dleta. Na njej je vidna dvigalna luknja, ki stranico opredeli kot nosilno ploskev. Luknja pri ustju meri 11 × 4 cm, pri dnu na globini 10 cm se podaljša na 14 cm, od krajše stranice (D) pa je oddaljena 155,5 cm. Ob predvidevanju, da se je blok na odlomljenem delu nadaljeval v enaki višini in debelini, nam položaj dvigalne luknje omogoča rekonstrukcijo prvotne dolžine bloka, ki bi znašala približno 3,20 m. Na tej stranici ni lukenj za čepe, ob stiku s krajšo stranico oz. stično ploskvijo ni luknje za spojko.

Druga izmed ožjih dolgih stranic (C) ima stojno ploskev širine 38 cm z luknjo za čep, ki meri 3 × 3 cm pri odprtini in se rahlo oži 5,5 cm v globino.[10] Poleg nje je polje z reliefnim okrasom v profiliranem (*cyma reversa*) okvirju, katerega stranica ob stojni ploskvi je polkrožno vbočena in s tem pripravljena za rožo abaka pilastrskega korintskega/kompozitnega kapitela. Površina stojne ploskve je fino obdelana s sledovi uporabe zobatega dleta. Površina kamna med robom in ravno profilacijo je fino obdelana z zobatim dletom,[11] profilacija in reliefno polje pa sta gladko obdelana brez sledov orodja. Ta stranica je popolnoma izdelana, pripravljena za nameščanje.

Druga izmed širših dolgih stranic ima ob stiku z reliefno okrašeno stranico (A) pas, ki je v neenakomerni višini 8–11 cm lepše obdelan. Drugje je površina najverjetneje neravna in zelo grobo obdelana.[12]

Edina ohranjena krajša stranica oziroma stična ploskev (D) je enakomerno zelo grobo obdelana s koničastim dletom, brez anatiroze.

Prvoten namen izdelave

Reliefno okrašeno polje s polkrožno umaknjenim okvirjem za rožo kapitela v kombinaciji s stojno ploskvijo z luknjo za čep (C) (*sl. 2*, *6*) kaže, da gre pri tem bloku za arhitrav na stiku med polno steno in odprtino, pri reliefnem polju pa za sofito.

Prva objava omenja interpretacijo bloka kot "preklade nad vhodom".[13] Oblikovnih možnosti vhoda je več. Ena je vhod z eno- ali dvokrilnimi vrati. Proti tej možnosti govorita polkrožno umaknjena profilacija sofite in precejšnja dolžina dela preklade, ki bi segal v polno steno, v kombinaciji s pozicijo dvigalne luknje. Polkrožno umaknjena profilacija kaže, da je bil pod njo pilaster izdelan vsaj znotraj odprtine (mogoče tudi na obeh zunanjih straneh), torej tam ni moglo stati vratno krilo. Dolžina dela preklade, ki bi segal v polno steno, je precej večja kot je sicer običajno za vratne odprtine.[14] Zgovoren dokaz pa nudi tudi dvigalna luknja, saj so te vedno klesane v težišču blokov ali plošč. V našem primeru je luknja izklesana 1,61 m od ohranjene stične ploskve, kar ob pravilni obliki bloka pomeni njegovo prvotno dolžino 3,22 m. Če predpostavljamo simetričnost vratne preklade, torej da je bila na obeh koncih enako oblikovana in sta bili stojni ploskvi enako dolgi, rekonstruirani dolžini 3,22 m pa odštejemo dolžino ohranjene in manjkajoče stojne ploskve (ohranjena stojna ploskev meri 1,03 m od roba do konca profilacije sofite), ostane 1,16 m dolžine za sofito. To pa je precej manj od dejansko ohranjene dolžine sofite, ki meri 1,49 m od roba profilacije in se je zagotovo še nadaljevala na manjkajočem delu (z upoštevanjem simetričnosti okrasa bi sofita prvotno merila približno 1,80 m od enega do drugega skrajnega roba profiliranega okvirja). Blok torej ni mogel biti del vratne odprtine z eno- ali dvokrilnimi vrati.

Iz istega razloga preklada tudi ni mogla biti del vhoda z izstopajočo preklado na pilastrih ali prostostoječih stebrih.[15] Proti tej možnosti govori še velika dolžina stojne ploskve.

Tretja možnost je odprt vhod oziroma prehod, brez vratnih kril. Taka interpretacija pomeni odprto stavbo z vhodom/prehodom, podprtim z vsaj enim prostostoječim stebrom (*sl. 7*).

Blok bi bil lahko tudi del stavbe s stebriščem, in sicer na stiku med polno steno in prostostoječim stebrom. Predpostavljena simetričnost reliefnega okrasa zopet omogoča rekonstrukcijo, tokrat interkolumnija med pilastrom stene in prostostoječim stebrom, ki znaša najmanj 2,10 m (več kot 7 *pedes*).[16] Dodatno lahko opazimo, da se sredina sofite, merjena na podlagi dveh trakcev reliefnega

[10] Za obdelavo kamnitih površin v rimskem času glej Wootton, Russell, Rockwell 2013, 7–12.

[11] Tako je obdelana tudi sprednja stranica napisne plošče, najdene na Gradišču, prav tako iz nabrežinskega apnenca, ki omenja postavitev portika (*ILSl* 3, št. 316 (z literaturo), glej op. 62).

[12] Blok je s to stranico navzdol postavljen na kovinsko ogrodje na tleh zunanjega lapidarija NMS. Nismo ga dvigovali, smo pa si površino ogledali s pomočjo video endoskopa (posodilo podjetje asDim d.o.o.).

[13] Bavec, Horvat 1996, 110.

[14] Glej npr. Mac Mahon 2003, 62–63, sl. 1, 3.

[15] Glej npr. Mac Mahon 2003, 63, sl. 4.

[16] Merjeno od skrajnega roba profilacije in upoštevajoč, da je linija največjega premera trupa stebra nekoliko

okrasa, ki sta postavljena pravokotno na venec, ne ujema s pozicijo dvigalne luknje oz. je zamaknjena za približno 0,35 m. To pa se lepo ujema z možnostjo, da se je obravnavani blok preklade končal nad prostostoječim stebrom, preklada sama pa nadaljevala (naravnost ali pod pravim kotom) z naslednjim blokom (*sl. 7*).

Na podlagi širine stojne ploskve preklade lahko sklepamo tudi na velikost pripadajočega stebra. Za orientacijo nam je Vitruvijevo priporočilo, četudi velja za dorsko vrsto: "Epistil je tik nad stebrom širok toliko kot stebrov vrat".[17] Če torej vzamemo 38 cm širine arhitrava (epistila), upoštevamo razširitev trupa v spodnjem delu (*entasis*)[18] ter najpogostejše razmerje 1 : 10 med spodnjim premerom trupa in višino stebra,[19] lahko ocenimo višino celotnega stebra oz. stebrnega dela stavbe (med stilobatom in arhitravom) na slabih 4,5 m. Pri tem je pomembno, da to vrednost jemljemo izključno kot orientacijsko, saj se zgoraj omenjeni proporci nanašajo na rimske templje, medtem ko za druge stavbe veljajo bolj ohlapna pravila.[20]

Ena izmed stavb s kombinacijo polne stene in prostostoječih stebrov je prostilni rimski tempelj. V tem primeru bi blok predstavljal del stranske stranice, šlo pa bi za tempelj manjše velikosti.[21] Pri tem je treba omeniti rekonstruiran interkolumnij 2,10 m, ki precej presega tudi najširši razmak treh interkolumnijev v diastilnem templju (ta bi v našem primeru nanesel okoli 1,30 m).[22] Vendar pa primer kapitolija iz Brescie kaže, da je tudi taka rešitev mogoča, ko se stranski del templja neposredno navezuje na portik.[23]

Višina stebra 4,5 m bi ustrezala tudi drugačnim stavbam s stebriščem, na primer portiku. Kot omenjeno zgoraj, so interkolumniji, pa tudi sicer proporci pri drugih vrstah stavb bolj variabilni.

Poleg mer je pri prekladi pomemben tudi reliefni okras v sofiti (*sl. 6*). Ta je sestavljen iz ravnega venca (*corona lunga*) z luskasto razporejenimi listi, usmerjenimi simetrično v dve smeri, in okoli njega ovitega para vitic z listi. Listni venec je v srednjem delu na dveh mestih (verjetno simetrično) prevezan s trakcem, ki teče pravokotno, na ohranjenem delu pa se konča s šopom simetrično razporejenih listov. Listi na njem so stilizirani, suličasti in rahlo izbočeni, nekateri z dvignjeno sredinsko linijo; verjetno predstavljajo stilizirane lovorjeve liste, brez jagod. Venec je ovit z dvema križajočima se viticama s koničastimi petero- in sedmerokrpimi listi brez grozdov, ki predstavljajo stilizirano vinsko trto s preprosto izdelanimi listi. Centralni del motiva ni ohranjen.

Ravni listni (lovorjevi) venci pogosto nastopajo kot arhitekturni okras, še posebej v sofitah, pa tudi na profilacijah strešnih in drugih vencev. Tudi vinska trta je pogost arhitekturni okras. Vendar pa primerov v specifični kombinaciji ravne lovorjeve girlande in vinske trte, ki se prepleteno ovija okoli nje, nismo našli. Okras je sumarno izdelan. Še posebej je to vidno pri listih vinske trte, ki se razlikujejo od plastično izdelanega rastlinja na zgodnji javni arhitekturi Akvileje, Tergesta in Pole.[24]

Popolnoma izdelana stojna ploskev z luknjo za čep in reliefni okras v profiliranem okvirju na sofiti kažeta, da je bil blok že pripravljen za nameščanje. Vse ostale stranice bi bile dokončane po namestitvi. Zelo groba obdelava površine na nosilni in stični ploskvi ter odsotnost lukenj za čepe in spojke na nosilni ploskvi dokazujeta, da do končne namestitve mogoče ni nikoli prišlo, zagotovo pa nad in ob tem bloku preklade niso stali drugi bloki, torej da naš blok nikoli ni bil del stavbe, katere arhitrav, nad njim venec in ob njem stena so bili zgrajeni iz kamnitih blokov, vezanih s kovinskimi vezmi. To bi bilo mogoče, če so bili ti deli (venec, stena) grajeni iz manjših kamnov ali opeke, vezane z malto, torej da je bila stavba večinoma zgrajena v t. i. *petit appareil* in je bil samo za konstrukcijsko najvažnejše dele uporabljen stavbni kamen.[25] Vendar pa se nam zdi manj verjetno, da bi dal naročnik iz nabrežinskega apnenca izdelati preklado z reliefnim okrasom, medtem ko bi bil (predvidoma profiliran in tudi reliefno okrašen)

umaknjena glede na to profilacijo. Za 1 *pes* je vzeta vrednost 0,296 cm (cf. Wilson Jones 1988, 37).

[17] Vitruvij IV, 3, 4 (prevod Fedja Košir). Ob tem se je treba zavedati razhajanj med Vitruvijevimi priporočili in dejanskimi merami, kot jih na primer za korintski red in kapitele ugotovil Mark Wilson Jones (1988; 1991).

[18] Širše o izdelavi razširitve trupa stebrov glej Wilson Jones 2009, 99–105.

[19] Wilson Jones 1991, 41.

[20] Wilson Jones 1988, 49, 53–59.

[21] Za primerjavo naj navedem Avgustov tempelj v Pulju, katerega celotni steber (*altezza complessiva della colonna e del capitello misurata dal piedestallo*) meri 8,36 m (Pavan 2000, 99).

[22] Vitruvij III, 3, 1–6. Za primerjavo, centralni interkolumnij Avgustovega templja v Pulju znaša 1,70 m, stranski interkolumniji 1,58 m, spodnji premer trupa stebra pa 78 cm (Pavan 2000, 98).

[23] Dell'Acqua 2014, 321–360.

[24] Cavalieri Manasse 1978; Cavalieri Manasse 1983.

[25] Za to opažanje se najlepše zahvaljujem Bojanu Djuriću.

venec nad njo narejen iz opek ali manjših kamnov, vezanih z malto. Tej možnosti bi nasprotovala tudi zelo groba, neravna in le v spodnjem delu poravnana površina na eni izmed širših dolgih stranic (ogledana sicer le z endoskopom), ki bi morala biti na dokončani stavbi vidna in okrašena vsaj s fascijami. Tako ocenjujemo, da zaradi neznanega razloga (poškodba med dvigovanjem/nameščanjem, opuščen ali spremenjen gradbeni projekt idr.) blok najverjetneje nikoli ni tvoril dela stoječe stavbe kot arhitrav.

Drugotna raba

Poglobitev, utor z ovalno sledjo obrabe in zlizanost površine na stranici A (*sl. 2*) kažejo, da je bila preklada sekundarno uporabljena kot prag (*sl. 3*; *16:* a). Poglobitev je plitkejša od utora in slabše ohranjena, v njej pa bi lahko videli poglobitev za zapiranje vrat. Pri tem ni ohranjenih osnih lukenj, v katere bi bili vstavljeni osi vratnih kril; te so na rimskodobnih pragovih lahko kvadratne ali okrogle,[26] a namerno izdelane. Utor je 12 cm širok in 5–6,5 cm globok, rahlo rombičnega preseka in ima na enem koncu neenakomerno ovalno sled obrabe, ki jo je pustil nek element, mogoče lesen, vrteč se po navpični osi. V utor bi bile lahko vstavljene premične lesene zapore iz desk ali vrata na harmoniko.[27] Takšni utori in z njimi povezane premične zapore so značilni za lokale/*tabernae*, dokumentirani pa so tudi na skladiščih.[28] Zaradi zlizanosti površine ni mogoče prepoznati, ali je bil utor prvotno enako širok po celotni površini ali je bil v nadaljevanju ožji in samo na enem delu razširjen za lažje vstavljanje premičnih zapor oziroma namenjen za mesto, kjer so se zapore odložile.[29] V utoru vidna sled obrabe je, kot rečeno, nepravilne oz. neenakomerne oblike, kar bi mogoče celo kazalo na menjavo premičnih zapor zaradi dotrajanosti. Nova zapora v tem končnem delu bi bila rahlo drugače oblikovana in tako puščala drugačne sledi. Dolžina zlizanega dela kaže široko odprtino stavbe, ki ji je prag pripadal, in kot taka pritrjuje interpretaciji, da gre za del stavbe z visoko frekvenco obiska ali rabe, kakršne so taberne in skladišča.

[26] Michielin 2021, 111–112, sl. 5.37, 5.38.

[27] Maq Mahon 2000, 187–189; Michielin 2021, 228–230, sl. 7.57: f.

[28] Glej diskusijo.

[29] Maq Mahon 2000, 188.

BLOK L 213+215 (*sl. 8–12*)

Opis

Blok je ohranjen v celoti, z mestoma odkrušenimi robovi, a razlomljen na pet kosov. Meri 1,26 m v dolžino, 0,46–0,49 m v višino in je 0,24–0,36 m debel. Sprednja stranica (A) je močno zlizana, ob enem od daljših robov je zaznaven reliefni okras v poglobljenem polju (*sl. 10*). Okras je sicer slabo viden zaradi zlizanosti, a verjetno predstavlja krožno zavite rastlinske vitice. Ena izmed ozkih dolgih stranic (B) je fino obdelana s sledovi zobatega dleta, druga (C) pa zelo grobo s koničastim in ploščatim dletom. Notranja stranica (D) je ob robu s stranico B v višini dobrih 0,10 m prav tako fino obdelana z zobatim dletom, nato bolj groba obdelava preide v neobdelan del s puščeno kamnito maso. Obe kratki stranici (E, F) sta stični ploskvi (*sl. 8*, *11*) in kažeta anatirozo ob dveh stikajočih se robovih (v obliki črke Γ), pri čemer je stična površina fino obdelana, vmes pa je obdelava zelo groba, s koničastim dletom. Na bloku ni konstrukcijskih lukenj, narejen je iz podpeškega apnenca (*sl. 12*).[30]

Prvoten namen izdelave

Neobdelana kamnita masa na notranji stranici (D) (*sl. 8*, *12*) nakazuje, da je bil blok primarno namenjen za del stavbe oziroma strukture z votlo notranjostjo (mogoče podija ali atike), ki je bila torej vsaj v tem delu grajena iz večjih kamnitih blokov. Stični ploskvi z anatirozo (E, F) kažeta,

[30] Po ogledu v lapidariju NMS (14. 11. 2025) je Igor Rižnar za rezultat makroskopske analize podal naslednji komentar: "Dva večja kosa temnega apnenca (L 213+215, L 214) v sekundarni rabi sta si močno podobna, saj oba pripadata temno sivemu apnencu z belimi sparitiziranimi moluski (brahiopodi in morda tudi manjše megalodontide), ki merijo do 5 cm. V obeh primerih so sparitizirani moluski koncentrirani na eni strani bloka in torej predstavljajo "plast s fosili" (lumakelo), medtem ko je ostali del obeh blokov brez teh zelo značilnih fosilov, kar kaže na verjetnost, da sta bila bloka v kamnolomu izplenjena skupaj (morda celo kot en večji kos). Mikrofacies temno sivega apnenca z brahiopodi je zelo značilen tip podpeškega apnenca, prepoznanega tako v antičnih artefaktih in arhitekturnih členih kot tudi v Plečnikovi arhitekturi. Antični primerki tega litotipa so prepoznani v ploščah za *opus sectile* (lapidarij na Mirju; Djurić, Gale, Brajkovič 2022, 177, sl. 26: 14), iz enakega litotipa je izdelan tudi oltarček, najden med izkopavanji na južnem delu Slovenske ceste." (Gaspari 2016, 12).

da je bil blok del zidu, ki se je nadaljeval (brez kovinskih vezi) na obeh krajših stranicah, okras rastlinskih vitic na stranici A (*sl. 10*) govori o stavbi z reliefnim okrasom, nakazuje pa tudi, da je bil blok v tej stavbi najverjetneje postavljen navpično.

Drugotna raba

Zlizanost in zaobljenost stranice A z reliefnim okrasom (*sl. 10*) nakazujeta, da je bil blok L 213+215 preuporabljen kot prag.

BLOK L 214 (*sl. 13–15*; *16:* b)

Opis

Ohranjen je cel in v enem kosu, z mestoma okrušenimi robovi. Meri 0,92–0,95 m v dolžino, 0,55–0,58 m v širino in je 0,29–0,34 debel. Ena dolgih ozkih stranic (A) je fino obdelana s sledovi zobatega dleta. Nosilna ploskev (B) (*sl. 14*) ima dvigalno luknjo, tri luknje za čep z vlivnim kanalom, luknjo za spojko in utor. V luknji za spojko je ohranjen del železne spojke in svinčene zalivke, v eni izmed lukenj za čep in v dvigalni luknji pa so vidne sledi malte. Utor je 10–12 cm širok in ne teče po celotni dolžini bloka, le po približno dveh tretjinah, njegova globina pa se povečuje od dvigalne luknje proti nasprotnemu robu, kjer je še dodatno poglobljen (največja globina 10 cm). V najglobljem delu se na stenah (ne pa na dnu) utora pozna krožna obraba. Na utor so vezane krožne sledi obrabe na večjem delu površine ene podolžne strani utora, ki ustvarjajo neenakomerno valovito površino. Ob krajšem robu z luknjo za spojko je površina nosilne ploskve videti rahlo zlizana, drugje grobo obdelana s zobatim dletom, površina utora pa je grobo obdelana s koničastim dletom. Druga dolga ozka stranica (C) je zelo grobo obdelana s koničastim dletom. Notranja stranica (D) (*sl. 15*) je ob robu s fino obdelano ozko stranico (A) v višini 0,30 m prav tako fino obdelana z zobatim dletom, ima tudi rob širine približno 1,5 cm, izdelan s ploščatim dletom. Nato bolj groba obdelava preide v neobdelan del s puščeno kamnito maso. Krajši ozki stranici (E, F) sta stični ploskvi z anatirozo (v obliki črke Π), pri čemer je fino obdelan pas ob nosilni in fino obdelani dolgi ozki stranici, ostali del je zelo grobo obdelan s koničastim dletom. Blok je izdelan iz podpeškega apnenca istega mikrofaciesa kot blok L 213+215.[31]

Prvoten namen izdelave

Sledi prvotne rabe bloka na njegovi nosilni ploskvi (B) (*sl. 13:* B; *14*) so naslednje: dvigalna luknja, tri luknje za čep z vlivnim kanalom in luknja za spojko (v njej je ohranjen del železne spojke in svinčene zalivke), površina pa je bila zelo verjetno grobo obdelana z zobatim dletom. Vse ostale stranice (A, C–F) kažejo samo sledi prvotne rabe, ki so opisane že zgoraj. Neobdelana kamnita masa (*sl. 15*) nakazuje, da je bil blok primarno namenjen za del stavbe oziroma strukture z votlo notranjostjo, stični ploskvi z anatirozo (E, F) kažeta, da je bil del zidu, ki se je nadaljeval na obeh krajših stranicah (brez kovinskih vezi), luknje na nosilni ploskvi pa, da je bil blok postavljen vodoravno.

Drugotna raba

Zlizanost, utor in krožna obraba površine (*sl. 13:* B; *14*; *16:* b) nakazujejo, da je bil blok L 214 preuporabljen kot prag. Utor, ki se poglablja proti eni od krajših ozkih stranic, v kombinaciji s krožno obrabo na stenah najglobljega dela utora in s krožno obrabo površine ob utoru so predvidoma posledica vstavljanja premičnih zapor, ki so se premikale navzven (ali navznoter) in niso drsele vzdolž utora.

DISKUSIJA

Na Gradišču na Vrhniki je bilo v rimskem času eno od naselbinskih jeder Navporta, ki je ležalo približno 1,2 km jugozahodno od naselbine na Bregu, ob cesti Akvileja–Emona. Začetki rimske poselitve na tem delu segajo v 1. st. n. št. Rimske najdbe vključujejo novce, keramiko, kovinske predmete in ostanke arhitekture, ki so datirani od 1. do 4. st.[32]

[31] Za makroskopsko analizo kamnine glej prejšnjo opombo.

[32] Horvat 1990, 74–77; Horvat 2020, 102–104; Žerjal 2024, 117–120. Podrobna obravnava najdišča Gradišče 5, z analizo stratigrafije in drobnih najdb, pa tudi zgodovino raziskav in analizo poselitve na območju Gradišča, je v pripravi.

Med najdbami na ulici Gradišče (točneje na območju hiše Gradišče 5) so tudi trije kamniti bloki, obravnavani v tem članku (L 212, L 213+215, L 214), ki pa niso bili odkriti v prvotni legi. Trije razlomljeni bloki so bili najdeni eden ob drugem in eden nad drugim (*sl. 1*). Največji med njimi (L 212) je bil prvotno izdelan kot preklada iz nabrežinskega apnenca, z reliefnim okrasom v sofiti (*sl. 2*, *6*, *7*), ki pa morda ni bila dokončana in nikoli del stavbe v tej namembnosti. Druga dva bloka (L 213+215 – *sl. 8–12*; L 214 – *sl. 13–15*) prav tako kažeta na večjo stavbo, zgrajeno iz kamnitih blokov, narejena pa sta iz kamna lokalnega izvora – podpeškega apnenca. Glede na isti mikrofacies (*sl. 12*), celo "verjetnost, da sta bloka v kamnolomu izplenjena skupaj",[33] bi lahko sklepali, da sta bila prvotno del iste stavbe. Ne moremo pa niti izključiti možnosti, da je bila tudi preklada uporabljena v isti stavbi.

V vlogi preklade nam mere in konstrukcijske značilnosti ponujajo dve možnosti za obliko stavbe, za katero je bila namenjena. Prva je stavba z odprtim vhodom oziroma prehodom, brez vratnih kril, v kombinaciji z vsaj enim prostostoječim stebrom na vhodu/prehodu. Tak primer v bližini je stavba verjetno trgovske funkcije, izkopana vzhodno od foruma v Akvileji.[34] Druga možnost je odprta stavba s stebriščem, kjer bi preklada stala na stiku med polno steno in prostostoječim stebrom. Ena izmed takih stavb je rimski prostilni tempelj.[35] Pri tej možnosti naj opozorimo na rekonstruiran interkolumnij 2,10 m, ki precej presega tudi najširši razmak treh interkolumnijev v diastilnem templju. Vendar pa primer kapitolija iz Brescie kaže, da je tudi taka rešitev mogoča, ko se stranski del templja neposredno navezuje na portik.[36] Interkolumnij, debelina preklade in na njeni osnovi rekonstruirana višina pripadajočega stebra (dobrih 4,5 m) bi ustrezali tudi drugačnim stavbam s stebriščem, na primer portiku, pri katerem so interkolumniji, pa tudi sicer proporci, precej bolj variabilni (*sl. 7*). Možnosti rabe v reprezentančni javni stavbi v prid bi lahko govorila tudi prisotnost reliefnega okrasa.

Preklada je bila nato skupaj z drugima dvema blokoma, odkritima na najdišču Gradišče 5 (*sl. 3*, *9*, *10*, *14*, *16*), preuporabljena kot prag. Utor, viden na dveh od treh blokov, nakazuje uporabo premičnih lesenih zapor ali vrat na harmoniko, kakršna so v rimskem času značilna za taberne, dokumentirana pa tudi na skladiščih.[37] V bližnji okolici je kamnit prag s takšnim utorom znan iz Akvileje, dokumentiran pred tabernami vzhodnega forumskega portika iz srednjecesarske dobe.[38] Še boljša primerjava pa so bloki praga v *horrea Agrippiana* v Rimu, in sicer v pritličnem delu, za katerega se predvideva maloprodajna funkcija.[39] Tamkajšnji bloki imajo samo utore za premične zapore, brez poglobitev za vrata, in podobno kot pragovi z Gradišča kažejo poglobljene razširitve in krožne poglobitve, namenjene za lažje vstavljanje premični zapor (*sl. 17*), pa tudi močno obrabo površine. Močna zlizanost površine vseh treh blokov z Gradišča 5 kaže, da so bili v uporabi zelo dolgo.

Na Gradišču 5 je bil odkrit tudi odlomek gladkega trupa stebra.[40] Odlomek ni bil izkopan, le fotografsko in mersko dokumentiran (približen premer 40 cm), saj je v vodoravni legi vzidan v temelje kleti te hiše, in sicer dva metra zahodno od njenega vzhodnega vogala. Iz objave in fotografije ni razvidno, za kateri del trupa stebra gre, kako dolg je odlomek in ali gre za končni izdelek. Vseeno pa je pomembno poudariti, da je objavljen premer približno 40 cm primerljiv s širino sofite preklade, ocenjeno na 38 cm, kar ob upoštevanju Vitruvijevega priporočila o enačenju širine arhitrava tik nad stebrom in vrata stebra[41] ter prostorske bližine najdb nakazuje, da bi preklada iz nabrežinskega apnenca in trup stebra (domnevno iz istega materiala) lahko pripadala isti stavbi.

S tem v zvezi naj omenimo še navedbo von Premersteina in Rutarja o bazi in drugih delih stebrov, ki so bili najdeni "pred hišo št. 198 (stara št. 33)".[42] Te hiše ni bilo mogoče identificirati, a je najbrž stala nekje v bližini Stare ceste na Vrhniki, severovzhodno od Gradišča.[43] Mogoče bi tudi te kose lahko povezali z arhitekturnimi elementi, odkritimi na najdišču Gradišče 5.[44]

[33] Glej op. 30.

[34] Verzár-Bass 1994, načrt III.

[35] Upoštevajoč sestavo prebivalstva Navporta, za katero arheološke in epigrafske najdbe kažejo močno navezanost na Italijo (Horvat 2020, 108), bi pričakovali tudi svetišča, oblikovno vezana na Italijo.

[36] Dell'Acqua 2014, 321–360.

[37] Rickman 1971; Maq Mahon 2000; Holleran 2017; Michielin 2021, 228–230, sl. 7.57.

[38] Previato 2015, 63 z literaturo; virtualna rekonstrukcija dela portika v Tiussi, Verzár, Villa 2013, 56, sl. 3.

[39] Rickman 1971, 94–95, sl. 21.

[40] Žerjal 2019, 344–346; Žerjal 2024, 118, ki navaja, da je steber iz nabrežinskega apnenca.

[41] Vitruvij IV, 3, 4 (glej zgoraj, op. 17).

[42] Premerstein, Rutar, 1899, 12.

[43] Horvat 1990, 74.

[44] Žerjal 2019, 346. Jana Horvat (1990, 76–77) omenja tudi kamnit kvader z Gradišča in kapitel, prinesen s po-

Kot omenjeno zgoraj, je preklada narejena iz nabrežinskega apnenca, ki je bil vsaj od začetka 1. st. pr. n. št. najpomembnejša kamnina Akvileje, na prostoru osrednje Slovenije pa je predstavljal glavni vir uvoženega kamna.[45] Kamnolom v Nabrežini (Nabresina/Aurisina pri Trstu) je bil s svojimi izdelki prisoten v Emoni in Navportu že pred izgradnjo kolonije Emone na levem bregu Ljubljanice v Ljubljani in še nekaj časa po začetku delovanja emonskih kamnolomov (ob gradnji kolonije), pozneje pa le poredko in izjemoma.[46] V absolutnem smislu to pomeni od pred- oz. zgodnjeavgustejskega obdobja, z največjim razmahom v prvi polovici 1. st. n. št., zatem pa upadom in le redkimi poznejšimi izdelki.[47] Najmlajši do sedaj znani so kosi kompozitnega kapitela z emonskega foruma, datirani predvidoma v severskо obdobje.[48] Največ dokumentiranih izdelkov iz nabrežinskega apnenca je nagrobnih spomenikov (22), takoj za njimi so arhitekturni členi in gradbeni napisi (13), eden je mejnik in eden votivni spomenik.[49] V primerjavi z Emono so kamniti spomeniki Navporta maloštevilni in večinoma izdelani prav iz nabrežinskega apnenca.[50]

Druga dva bloka z Gradišča 5 sta iz podpeškega, torej lokalnega apnenca in dokazujeta, da se je ta kamnina uporabljala tudi v Navportu. Najzgodnejši izdelki iz podpeškega apnenca sicer segajo v avgustejski čas,[51] kar nam ponudi čas *ante quem non* za izdelavo obravnavanih dveh blokov v Navportu.

O mestu prvotne in drugotne rabe treh blokov z najdišča Gradišče 5 lahko zaenkrat le ugibamo. Lahko pa z veliko verjetnostjo rečemo, da je bila preklada izdelana za rabo v Navportu. Lokacija Navporta ob komunikaciji Akvileja–Emona in njegova vloga pretovorne postaje sicer dopušča možnost, da preklada iz nabrežinskega apnenca ni bila namenjena za stavbo v Navportu, temveč še dlje po tej komunikaciji, v bližnji Emoni.[52] Vendar pa dve opažanji govorita proti možnosti, da bi se preklada v rimskem času ustavila v Navportu kot tovor.[53] Prvo je dejstvo, da je bila spodnja/stojna ploskev preklade dokončno izdelana, medtem ko so nosilna, vsaj dve daljši in ohranjena krajša stranica še grobo obdelane. Drugo pa je prisotnost luknje za čep na stojni ploskvi, za katero ni smiselna izdelava v delavnici v kamnolomu, kjer je težko točno predvideti lokacijo lukenj za povezovalne elemente. Omenjeno kaže, da preklada ni bila pripravljena za transport, temveč za nameščanje in, posledično, da je Navport njeno mesto končne uporabe.

Najdbe drugih kamnitih arhitekturnih delov na Gradišču in ostale najdbe, tako stavbni ostanki kot drobne najdbe, kažejo, da bi preklada/prag lahko bila rabljena na tem delu rimske naselbine v času 1./2. st. n. št. Lahko pa so bili bloki na Gradišče preneseni z drugega dela rimske naselbine, mogoče iz severovzhodnega jedra na Bregu.[54] Omenimo naj tudi del Navporta na desnem bregu Ljubljanice, na Dolgih njivah, kjer je v avgustejskem času stala obzidana trgovska naselbina s pristaniščem oziroma emporij, ki je bil nato opuščen.[55] Imela je osrednji trg z dvema stavbama (ena od njih predvidoma svetišče), obdan s stebrišči na vseh štirih stranicah in za njimi skladišča (in taberne). Ni jasno, ali bi bila preklada in njen reliefni okras lahko datirana tako zgodaj, v avgustejsko obdobje. Še bolj vprašljivo pa je, ali bi tam mogla biti rabljena druga dva bloka, narejena iz podpeškega apnenca, saj se je izraba kamnoloma v Podpeči začela šele z izgradnjo kolonije Emone na levem bregu Ljubljanice,[56] ki se je verjetno odvijala pozno pod Avgustom in v prvih letih Tiberijeve vlade.[57] Posledično je možnost rabe treh blokov kot praga v skladiščih in tabernah na Dolgih njivah majhna.

Bolj jasno pa velikost preklade, njen reliefni okras v sofiti, potencialno pa tudi raba nabrežin-

kopališča, ki stojita na vrtu hiše Gradišče 8, a ta dva kosa nista iz rimskega obdobja, saj kažeta precej modernejšo obdelavo površine (ogled 8. 10. 2025).

[45] Previato 2015, 45–46; Djurić, Rižnar 2017, 138–139; Previato 2018; Krašna 2025, 467.

[46] Djurić, Rižnar 2017, 138–140.

[47] Krašna 2025, 468–469.

[48] Plesničar Gec 2006, 46, sl. 29. Pri tem naj dodamo, da katalog spomenikov, izdelanih iz nabrežinskega apnenca, ki ga je pripravila Andreja Krašna (2019, 49–139), razen preklade/praga iz Navporta in omenjenega forumskega kapitela iz Emone, ne vsebuje nobenega spomenika iz osrednje Slovenije, ki bi bil datiran po sredini 1. st. n. št.

[49] Krašna 2019; Krašna 2025, 462–465, sl. 7.

[50] Djurić 2025b, 3.

[51] Djurić, Gale, Brajkovič 2022, 180.

[52] Za omembo te možnosti se zahvaljujemo dr. Bojanu Djuriću.

[53] Manj verjetno se zdi, da bi bili bloki prvotno uporabljeni v Emoni in bi prišli na Vrhniko pozneje, kot del srednjeveškega ali novoveškega trgovanja z antičnimi kamni za gradbene potrebe (za tako prakso na območju rimske Petovione glej Djurić 2025a, 172).

[54] Horvat 2009a, 91; Horvat 2020, 101–102 (z literaturo); Žerjal 2024, 113–116 (z literaturo).

[55] Mušič, Horvat 2007; Gaspari 2014, 116–119; Horvat 2020, 97–100 (z literaturo).

[56] Djurić, Gale, Brajkovič 2022, 183; Gaspari, Špendal 2025, 129.

[57] Šašel Kos 2012, 103; Gaspari 2014, 146–150.

skega apnenca kažejo na namero izgradnje večje stavbe reprezentativnega, javnega značaja posvetne ali sakralne narave.

Literarni in epigrafski viri nam razkrijejo, da je bil Navport *vicus* znotraj akvilejskega teritorija (*regio X*) vsaj od sredine 1. st. pr. n. št. naprej, v njem pa so imeli vodilno vlogo pripadniki akvilejskih oziroma italskih trgovskih družin, pretežno osvobojenci, kot vaški načelniki (*magistri vici*).[58] Mejnik, najden pri Bevkah, ki je označeval mejo med ozemljema italijanskih kolonij Akvileje in Emone, kaže, da je Navport ležal na akvilejskem ozemlju tudi po ustanovitvi kolonije *Julije Emone*.[59] Omenja ga tudi Tacit in opiše kot (v letu 14 n. št.) municipiju podoben vikus (… *proximis vicis ipsoque Nauporto, quod municipii instar erat,*…).[60]

Epigrafski spomeniki dokazujejo obstoj sakralne javne arhitekture v Navportu. Gre za dve napisni plošči, nekdaj vzidani v cerkev sv. Pavla na Gradišču (locirana nekaj sto metrov stran od najdišča Gradišče 5). Ti sporočata, da je en par vaških načelnikov (*magistri vici*) v skladu z odločitvijo vaške skupnosti dal zgraditi svetišče (*aedes*), posvečeno boginji Ekvorni,[61] drugi par pa portik (*porticus*).[62] Prva od omenjenih napisnih plošč je danes izgubljena, a se zaradi podobnosti vsebine in formulacije domneva, da napisa spadata skupaj.[63] V tem primeru bi nakazovala sveti prostor (*templum*), v katerem je stala stavba templja in pripadajoči portik.[64]

Poleg svetišča lahko v rimski naselbini s statusom vikusa pričakujemo tudi druge oblike javne arhitekture. V obravnavi forumskih kompleksov manjših naselbinskih centrov severne Italije je Riccardo Villicich navedel primer vikusa *Luceria* (oz. *Nuceria*, *regio VIII*), kjer so ob cesti odkrili približno 90 × 30 m velik odprt javni prostor, ki je bil vsaj v svoji zadnji fazi iz sredine 1. st. n. št. ograjen in vsaj na dveh daljših stranicah obdan s portikom, preprosto grajen in je služil predvsem v trgovske namene.[65] Za manjša mesta v severni Italiji Villicich splošno ugotavlja, da obdobje največje monumentalizacije javnih prostorov in še posebej forumov traja med začetkom Avgustove vlade in koncem julijsko-klavdijskega obdobja.[66] Več primerov vikusov z dokumentiranimi javnimi stavbami pa je Karl Strobel navedel iz Nemčije in Luksemburga, s teritorija kolonije *Augusta Treverorum*: *Ricciacus* (Dalheim), kjer so dokumentirani svetiščni kompleks, gledališče in javne terme, *Belginum* (Wederath), kjer so bili najdeni trije svetiščni kompleksi, eden izmed katerih je *Kulttheater* kot zbirališče za prebivalce okoliških vikusov in pagov, *Orolaunum* (Arlon) in *Beda* (Bitburg), kjer so odkrili forum, svetiščni kompleks in gledališče.[67]

SKLEP

Preklada z reliefnim okrasom, najdena na Gradišču, je bila namenjena za reprezentativno, javno arhitekturo sakralne ali posvetne narave, grajeno vsaj deloma iz nabrežinskega apnenca. Preklada bi stala na prehodu stene in prostostoječega stebra stavbe z odprtim vhodom/prehodom ali pa stavbe z daljšim stebriščem (na primer portika ali manjšega prostilnega templja) (*sl. 7*). Arheološki kontekst nam pri časovni umestitvi te stavbe ni v pomoč, saj preklada skupaj s še dvema blokoma ni bila najdena *in situ*. Reliefni okras, predvsem sumarno oblikovanje posameznih delov brez izdelanih podrobnosti, kaže na izdelavo preklade v 1. ali 2. st. n. št., manj verjetno kasneje. Povedna je tudi raba nabrežinskega apnenca, ki se na območjih Emone in Navporta začne v pred- oz. zgodnjeavgustejskem obdobju, doživi največji razmah v prvi polovici 1. st. n. št. in zatem upade.

Obdobje najbolj znatne monumentalizacije manjših naselbin v severnih regijah Italije traja od začetka Avgustove vlade do konca julijsko-klavdijske dinastije, vendar bi Navport kot vikus na severovzhodnem obrobju Italije to fazo lahko doživel z zamikom. Če upoštevamo še Tacitov opis Navporta (leta 14 n. št.) kot vikusa, podobnega municipiju, potem upravičeno pričakujemo monumentalizacijo javnega prostora,

[58] Šašel Kos 1990, 17–33; Horvat 2020, 106–107; Žerjal 2024, 110.

[59] Šašel Kos 2002; Šašel Kos 2012, 100–104; Gaspari 2014, 142–150.

[60] Tacit, Annales 1, 20,1; Šašel Kos 1990, 21.

[61] *CIL* III 3776 = *CIL* I 1466 = *CIL* I 1185; Horvat 1990, 74–75; *ILSl* 3, št. 315 (z literaturo); splet: *EDCS*-24900095; *EDR*156071; *lupa* 9472.

[62] *CIL* III 3777; *CIL* I 2286; Horvat 1990, 75; *ILSl* 3, št. 316 (z literaturo); splet: *EDR*128824; *EDCS*-24900096; *HD*: F009478; *lupa* 9232.

[63] Šašel Kos 2024, 283.

[64] Šašel Kos 1997, 119. Latinska beseda *templum* se prvotno ni nanašala na stavbo templja, v kateri je bil shranjen kip božanstva. Beseda za to je bila *aedes*, medtem ko je *templum* pomenil prostor, bodisi na nebu bodisi na zemlji, ki ga je določil *augur* z namenom opazovanja znamenj (Stamper 2005, 10).

[65] Lippolis 1998, 422–428; Villicich 2007, 28–29, 146.

[66] Villicich 2007, 146.

[67] Strobel 2024, 20–24.

torej večje, razkošnejše stavbe javnega značaja tudi v Navportu. Preklado lahko vidimo kot neposreden materialni dokaz prav take arhitekture.

Preklada je bila nato preuporabljena kot prag skupaj s še dvema kamnitima blokoma (*sl. 16*). Tudi slednja sta bila preuporabljena, prvotno pa sta bila del (verjetno iste, večje) stavbe, vsaj deloma grajene iz kamnitih blokov. Za razliko od preklade sta bila narejena iz lokalnega, podpeškega apnenca, katerega raba se je začela v času gradnje kolonije Emone na levem bregu Ljubljanice, predvidoma v poznoavgustejskem in zgodnjetiberijskem obdobju. Prag, katerega del so bili ti trije kamniti bloki, je bil najverjetneje uporabljen v taberni ali skladišču, katerega gradnja je vključevala reciklirane dele starejše arhitekture. Raba podpeškega apnenca kaže, da je bil prag izdelan najbolj zgodaj v poznoavgustejskem času, zagotovo pa je bil dolgo oziroma intenzivno v uporabi.

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Illustrations: Fig. 1 (drawing: Jana Horvat and Tamara Korošec, Institute of Archaeology ZRC SAZU). – *Figs 2–6,9,10–12,14,15* (photo: Tomaž Lauko, NMS). – *Figs 7,8,13,16* (drawing: Andreja Maver).
Slikovno gradivo: Sl. 1 (risba: Jana Horvat in Tamara Korošec, Inštitut za arheologijo ZRC SAZU). – *Sl. 2–6,9,10–12,14,15* (foto: Tomaž Lauko, NMS). – *Sl. 7,8,13,16* (risba: Andreja Maver).

No new data were generated or analysed in support of this research. / Za podporo tej raziskavi niso bili pridobljeni ali analizirani nobeni novi podatki.