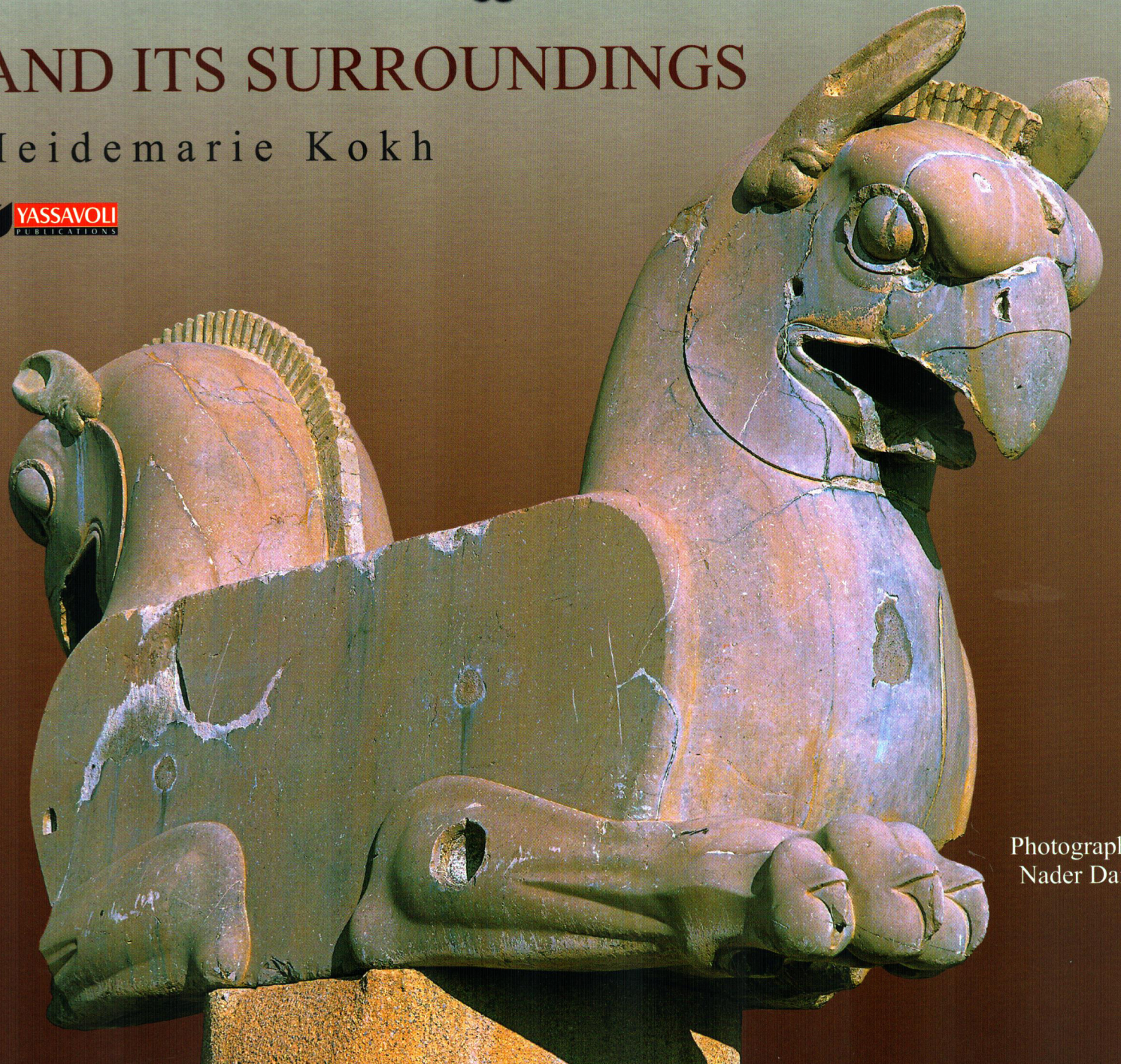


PERSEPOLIS



AND ITS SURROUNDINGS

Heidemarie Kokh



Photography
Nader Daii

5.4. The Palace in the Dasht-e Gohar

Some 150 m to the east of Takht-e Gohar (no. 5.3) remains of a large palatial building have been discovered, now covered again by fields.

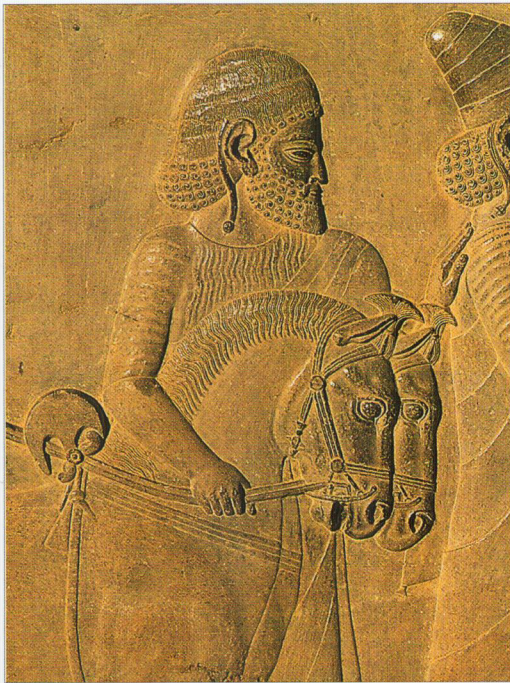
Five bases of columns were found in situ. They consisted of square foundation slabs of grey limestone with neatly worked *tori*



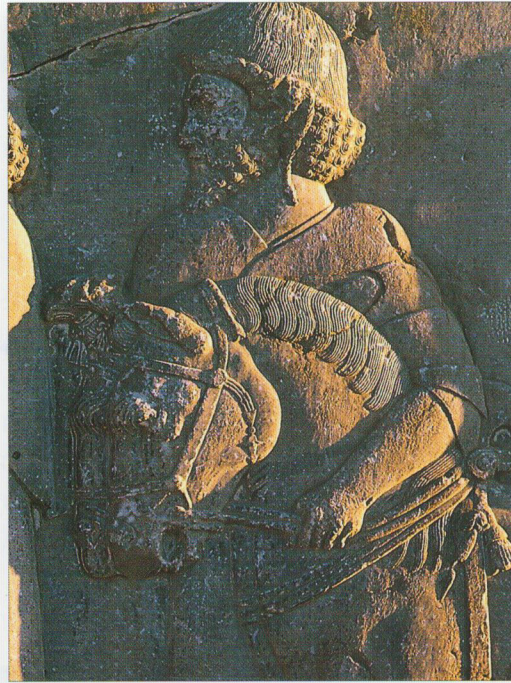
162 / Naqsh-e Rostam, Reconstruction of the so-called Fire-altars at Hosain Kuh

of light-coloured limestone on the top and belonged to a portico which used to have two rows with 14 columns each. The portico is situated in the north-east of the palatial building. Its estimated length is c. 55 m, its depth c. 9 m. The main hall of the building may have consisted of five rows of eight columns, of which several bases were found.

These bases were larger than those of the portico and the *tori* were cut from dark limestone. The columns itself may have been of wood because there is no trace of a special treatment with smoothed border and rougher picked inner circle (*anathyrosis*) on the *tori*, which would have been necessary, if stone-drums should have been added. Several foundation slabs of smaller size than in the main hall, found in the north of the building, suggest the existence of another portico to this side. The building has the same orientation as the so-called Takht-e Gohar. Thus, both structures may have belonged to the same plan. The smaller size of the portico-columns as well as the use of dark and light stone are comparable to the Palaces in Pasargadae (see no. 10.3 and 10.4). These facts show that the Palace had been built before the accession of Darius to the throne, who started his building activities on the Terrace of Persepolis.



15 / The horses of the Lydians, detail of the eastern Apadana staircase



16 / The horses of the Lydians, detail of the northern Apadana staircase

4. Tour through the Ruins

For those visitors who have enough time it is advisable to start in the morning by climbing up to the first tomb to the north (see no. 4.19). From there one has a magnificent overview and can imagine the architectural development of different buildings on the Terrace.

Different monuments on the Terrace of Persepolis will be described according to a proposed tour. The visitor may choose an extensive tour with all the important monuments or a shorter one, indicated by an asterisk. The numbers correspond to those in the overall plan (see chapter 3).

***4.1. The Entrance to the Terrace: The Stairway and Gateway of All Lands (fig. 17 and 18)**

The new road leads straight to the entrance which was built by Xerxes (486-465 BC). Still today every visitor enters the Terrace climbing the stairs to the Gateway of all Lands. The 7 m wide double-reversed stairway, made of huge stone-blocks, leads