

The “Temple of Hadrian” on Curetes Street in Ephesus: new research into its building history

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The building commonly known as the Temple of Hadrian is one of the best-known buildings of Roman Ephesus (fig. 1), occupying a prominent location in the W section of Curetes Street (fig. 2), one of the chief thoroughfares of the Roman city. The street lies in the valley between the two hills that shape the urban layout, the Panayırdağ to the north and the Bülbüldağ to the south.¹ Discovered in 1956 and re-erected during the following two years, the “Temple of Hadrian” has never been systematically analyzed, and scholars have been unable to establish its chronology, function, and definitive reconstruction. A new project is underway at the Austrian Archaeological Institute to address these questions² and the present article presents preliminary results on the building phases and history of the structure.



Fig. 1. The “Temple of Hadrian” on Curetes Street (© ÖAI).

Its layout (fig. 3) is essentially a variation of the tetrastyle prostyle plan, with two pillars anchoring the axis of the *antae* and two regular columns between them. The building is divided into a front hall (*pronaos*) and a main room. The main façade, facing the street, is

1 For the latest research on Curetes Street, see the various contributions in S. Ladstätter (ed.), *Neue Forschungen zur Kuretenstraße von Ephesos. Akten des Symposiums für Hilke Thür* (Denkschr. ÖAW, phil.-hist. Kl. 382, 2009).

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