



Fig. 3 My Son E1 temple today. (Photo: Trần Kỳ Phương)

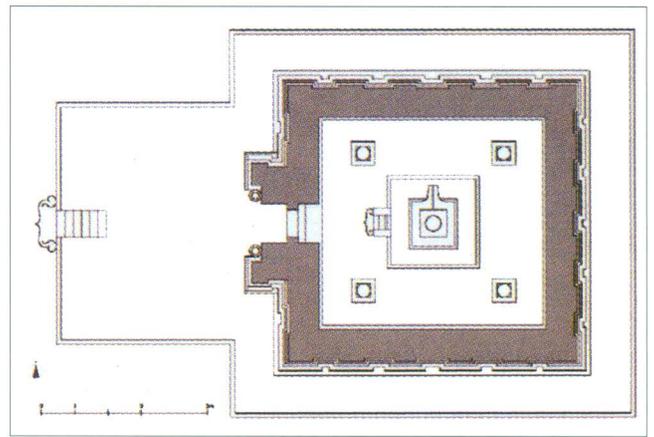


Fig. 4 Plan of My Son E1 temple.

pillars supporting a tiled roof. Its interior area is 690x630 cm, representing one of the largest ground plans of any Cham temple. Its low brick walls are approximately 250 cm in height and 150 cm in thickness, indicating it was an open-sanctum temple (Trần Kỳ Phương, Akiko, Toshihiko 2005: 16-19). (Fig. 3; Fig. 4)

Linked to the My Son E1 brick temple is the My Son sandstone pedestal, a large square block with 270x265 cm in length and 65 cm in height. Its rich decorative scenes depict the daily activities of Śaiva ascetics at My Son and in this it is quite unique in Cham temple architecture. It has many features from Śaiva temple architecture including pillars, arcades and arcatures, moonstone, stairway and steps. We may deduce that the sandstone My Son E1 pedestal itself was originally the foundation of a small open-sanctum temple made of light materials such as wood and tile. Visually, on the upper surface of the sandstone pedestal we can see four square shallow holes at its four corners that measure 24.5 cm<sup>2</sup> and 3.5 cm in depth. The distance between the square holes and the corners of the pedestal is 18 cm. These four square holes suggest they were used to hold the four wooden pillars supporting a wooden frame and tiled roof in the temple's initial phase.

In summary, the My Son E1 pedestal evolved through two phases: (a) in the original phase the sandstone pedestal was itself employed as the foundation of a small wooden open-sanctum temple; (b) shortly afterwards, the My Son E1 was renovated and enlarged and the foundation of the original temple was converted into the pedestal of an icon in the sanctum of a new walled

temple whose remnants are extant today (Trần Kỳ Phương 2005: 132-9; Dhar 2016: 33-4, fig. 3.1).<sup>5</sup> (Fig. 5, Fig. 6)

During the renovation of the temple, its doorway was amended with a sandstone pediment of *Viṣṇu Anantashayin* and two round sandstone columns, each over 200cm high (Trần Kỳ Phương 2008: 60-1). Because of the temple's



Fig. 5 Reconstruction of My Son pedestal. (Trần Kỳ Phương)

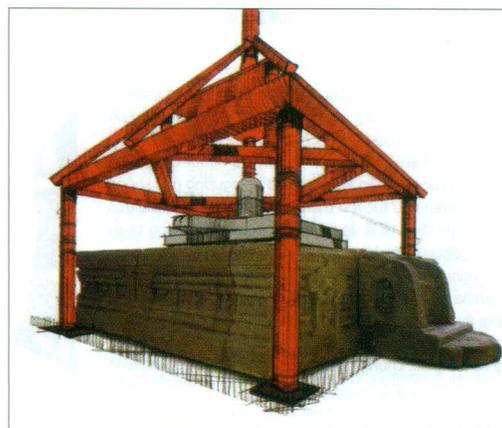


Fig. 6 Drawing courtesy My Son site museum.