



Figs. 9, 10 Po Dam group; Mỹ Sơn C7. (Photographs Trần Kỳ Phương)

four metres in height, with a narrow, dark interior (Trần Kỳ Phương, Shige-eda 1997: 158-67).

The Mỹ Sơn C7 temple is a low corbel structure with four remaining stone bases at its interior corners, showing that the small altar of the temple was covered by a small wooden structure, called *janik* by the Cham nowadays. Its sanctum is dark and narrow, with four niches and a large *somasūtra* (waterspout) on the northern wall. This is the earliest corbel structure remaining in good condition at the Mỹ Sơn complex (Fig. 10)

Meanwhile, the small temple at Phở Hải/Pajai complex is the earliest known corbel structure. At the highest point of its interior there still remains a small square slab of stone supporting the top of the building and indicating that the Cham had not then fully mastered the full corbel technique where bricks would be joined together at the very top of the temple (Trần Kỳ Phương 2008: 67; 2011: 91-2, figs. 18 & 19; 2015: Part 2, 18-9).

Temple structures and sculptured pedestals

By the early ninth century, with the maturation of the corbel roof, the decoration of icon pedestals declined, as evidenced by those of Mỹ Sơn A1 and A10. Their designs usually incorporated simple human figures or floral patterns (Figs. 11, 12). These Mỹ Sơn pedestals have similarities in dimensions and decoration; the figures in niches can be identified as Śaiva ascetics with beards.

The Mỹ Sơn A1 pedestal is a square composition 267 × 260 cm and 40 cm in height



Fig. 11 Mỹ Sơn A1 pedestal in Mỹ Sơn A1 ruin.



Fig. 12 Niche with ascetic on Mỹ Sơn A10 pedestal. (Photo: Trần Kỳ Phương)

and decorated with a light floral motif. Based on the floral decorative patterns, as well as the garments of the ascetic figures, the A1 pedestal can be assigned to an earlier date (Boisselier 1963: 153-4).⁸ The A10 pedestal is 262 cm² and 44 cm in height and is decorated with a vermicular (silkworm) motif that became popular in the Đồng Dương style. The A10