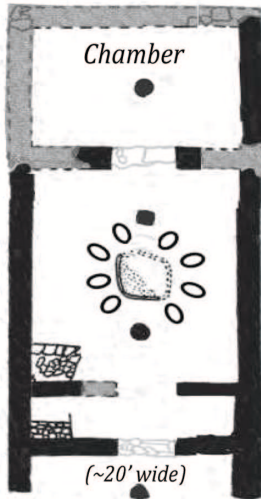


Aegean Hearth Home

Family Hearth and Temple



Adapted from Dinsmoor

Formal Design

- Large low hearths at center of the main space, no flues, clerestory to vent large public meetings

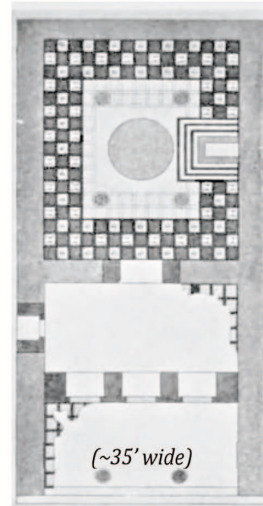
- Side observer seat, for family elder, oracle, judge facilitator?

- As for meetings "in the round" tending the low fire for Hestia, "guardian of the flame of hearth & home".

- Anterooms
Center columns

Mycenaean Great Hall

Public Hearth and Temple



Public hall at Tiryns



Mycenae Great Hall Excavation



Mycenae Great Hall Reconstruction



750 BC Prusias Acropolis Figure
Goddess Hestia in Pottery Image



Experiment is Minoan Cooking

Bronze Age Origin of Western Traditions of Hearth & Home



The earliest examples of the Aegean hearth home were found at the lowest level layers of the excavation of ancient Troy, seeming to represent a common family and public regional culture centered on the Aegean sea, at the dawn of the Bronze Age~3300BC., possibly earlier.

The design displays peculiarly refined and **democratic** features for settled living, stone houses with indoor hearths at the center, for maintaining the home's perpetual flame and to gather around. Dinsmoor notes that the form disappeared to reemerge after invasions multiple times, and that their traditions of hearth and home as an egalitarian domain are the root of the traditions of modern Europe and the West. The architecture provided the model for both Minoan and Mycenaean public space designs as great egalitarian meeting halls, as well as inspiring Classical Greek architecture and the design of the public halls for each community as the centers of Greek democracy.

The authoritarian cultures of the Mediterranean to follow also used the same architectural forms for their high temples, for symbolizing their supremacy and all-powerful laws, though in continual conflict with the home cultures that continued to spread their egalitarian principles centered in the home and that remain the foundations of civilization.