

Table 4.1. Size of patios and residences at excavated Classic period sites in the Valley of Oaxaca.

Site	Residence	Patio area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Size of residence (m <sup>2</sup> )
Ejutla*	–	19.3	95.0
El Palmillo*	T.1162	–	18.0
El Palmillo*	T.1163	20.3	86.3
El Palmillo*	T.1147/48	21.0	89.0
El Palmillo*	T.925	21.6	67.2
El Palmillo*	T.507	27.6	97.8
El Palmillo*	Str.35	46.2	224.8
El Palmillo*	T.335	97.3	285.0
El Palmillo*	P.11	108.8	437.0
Lambityeco*	M.165	19.3	100.0
Lambityeco	M.190	57.5	283.5
Lambityeco	M.195	73.9	460.0
Lambityeco	Golaba	20.2	–
Macuilxochitl	St.B, T.25	37.8	178.0
Macuilxochitl	St.C, T.25	49.7	325.0
Mitla Fortress*	T.56	28.0	89.6
Mitla Fortress*	T.57	36.0	130.6
Mitla Fortress*	T.276	23.0	94.4
Monte Albán	T.196	22.5	70.7
Monte Albán	La Presa	12.6	87.4
Monte Albán	T.194	36.0	94.1
Monte Albán	Carretera B	18.0	98.0
Monte Albán	Carretera C	12.0	105.0
Monte Albán	House 3	12.1	–
Monte Albán	Area L, Str.1	13.9	–
Monte Albán	Str.L (house)	31.4	233.1
Monte Albán	T.119/120	21.6	132.0
Monte Albán	System T.66	14.8	170.4
Monte Albán	Carretera A	19.4	176.0
Monte Albán	Est.C	25.0	216.0
Monte Albán	Pitayo	35.8	225.0
Monte Albán	Est.D	60.0	247.0
Monte Albán	Est.A'	42.0	261.0
Monte Albán	Est.A	36.0	324.0
Monte Albán	Bldg.104	92.0	414.0
Monte Albán	Este B	42.5	416.0
Monte Albán	Str.103	84.0	437.0
Monte Albán	Bldg.105	148.6	464.6
Monte Albán	Est.B	81.0	528.0
Monte Albán	Bldg.S	97.0	559.4

\* Residences excavated by Feinman and Nicholas. Data for the other houses: Lambityeco (Lind and Urcid 1983, 2010), Macuilxochitl (Faulseit 2013), and Monte Albán (Caso 1935, 1938; González Licón 2003; Marcus 2008; Winter 1974).

the patios were smaller than 20 m<sup>2</sup> (Feinman et al. 2018a, 273); in both samples, the Ejutla patio is in the middle of the size range. Based on these comparative samples for the Classic period Valley of Oaxaca, the craftworkers that occupied the excavated house in Ejutla were neither at the top nor the bottom tail of the axis of economic status.

#### 4.2. Subfloor Tomb

In the sample of Classic period houses that we excavated, the presence of a subterranean tomb, entered from the patio, also was more typical of houses at the mid or upper range of socioeconomic status. The subfloor tomb at Ejutla

was not large, measuring approximately 2.25 m long by 1.0 m wide. Three walls of the tomb were constructed with large stone blocks (Figure 4.12), enclosing an interior chamber 2.0 m long, 0.6 m wide, and 0.7 m high. The

construction was simple. On the long sides of the tomb, large stones as tall as 60 cm alternated with two or more smaller stone blocks placed one above the other (Figure 4.13). One of the largest stones in the west wall of the tomb was a huge, well-used metate, placed with the cavity of the metate facing outward on the exterior of the tomb. The north wall of the tomb (the head) was constructed with three large stone blocks, with a layer of small stones placed above them. Small stones and large potsherds were used to chink all three walls. The Ejutla tomb is similar in size and construction to small domestic tombs we subsequently excavated on two mid-slope terraces at El Palmillo (Feinman et al. 2001b, figure 14a, photos 43, 44; Feinman et al. 2002b, figure 17, photos 50, 51; Feinman et al. 2002a, 261) and in the residential structure we uncovered at Lambityeco (Table 4.2).

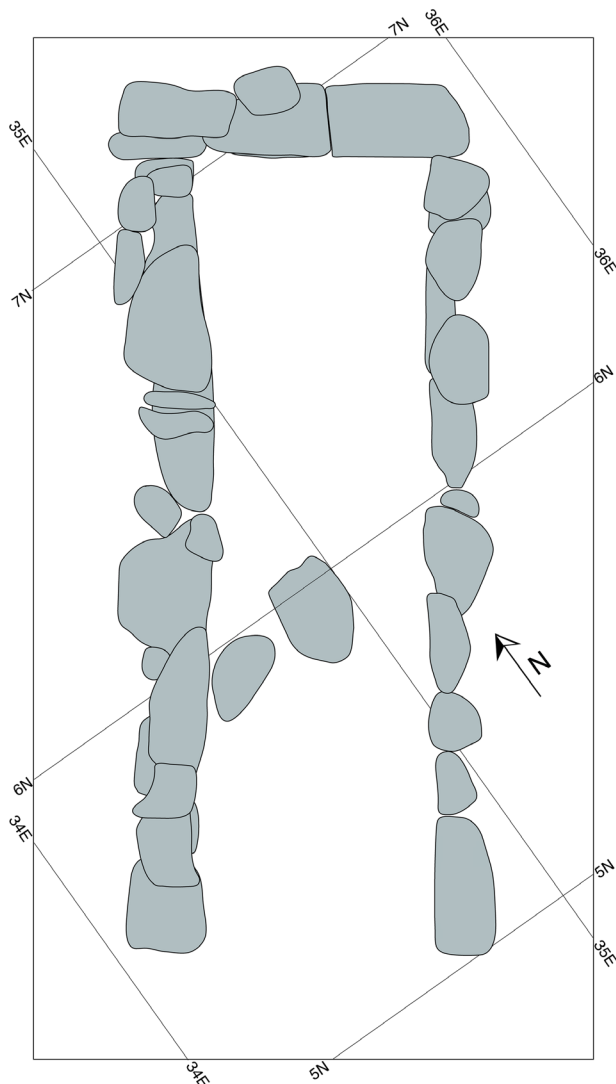


Figure 4.12. Drawing of the subfloor tomb on the north side of the patio.

As we first exposed the tomb, only the tops of the walls were visible (Figure 4.14). The southern end of the tomb (the foot) opened onto the patio. Unfortunately, the destruction of the uppermost floor of this house also disrupted the architectural conjuncture that must have linked the patio to the tomb entrance. In front of the tomb, cut into the patio floor, we did note a depression that facilitated entry into the subterranean tomb; it was filled with broken ceramic vessels (Figure 4.15), likely remnants of offerings left in front of the tomb that were broken during (and intermittently between) repeated use of the mortuary feature. One small, rectangular cut stone placed at a right angle to the stones in the patio wall marked what remained of the entry to the tomb from the patio. Stones in the ceiling of the tomb had been removed or collapsed in antiquity. Inside the tomb were several large stone slabs that had fallen from the roof and slightly disturbed the human remains, but these slabs would not have covered the entire tomb (Figure 4.16). The tomb was constructed on an area of high bedrock along the northern edge of the patio. The bedrock undulates, so it was necessary to flatten the bedrock and fill in natural depressions to create a flat surface for the tomb. Many of the large stone blocks in the sides of the tomb were sitting on bedrock, while

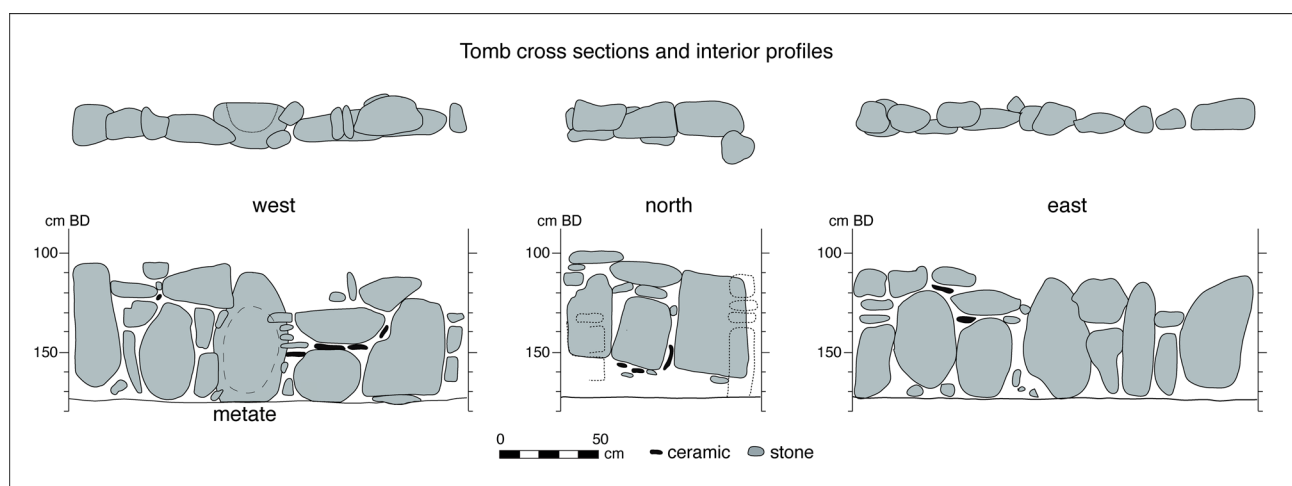


Figure 4.13. Cross sections and profiles of the stone walls of the tomb.

Table 4.2. Subterranean tombs at four Classic period sites excavated by Feinman and Nicholas.

Site and residence	Tomb	Exterior length (m)	Exterior width (m)	Interior length (m)	Interior width (m)
Ejutla	shaped stone	2.25	1.00	2.00	0.60
Lambityeco M.165	shaped stone	2.12	1.00	1.90	0.60
El Palmillo T.1162	no tomb	–	–	–	–
El Palmillo T.1163	no tomb	–	–	–	–
El Palmillo T.1147/48	no tomb	–	–	–	–
El Palmillo T.925	shaped stone	1.95	0.97	1.70	0.45
El Palmillo T.507	shaped stone	2.16	1.07	1.70	0.65
El Palmillo T.335	masonry tomb	2.70	1.82	2.08	1.13
El Palmillo St.35	no tomb or burials	–	–	–	–
El Palmillo Pl.11	masonry tomb	2.65	1.72	2.30	1.00
Mitla Fortress T.56	no tomb	–	–	–	–
Mitla Fortress T.57	no tomb	–	–	–	–
Mitla Fortress T.276	no tomb	–	–	–	–



Figure 4.14. The stone walls of the tomb exposed during the 1992 excavations.

others, especially in the short north wall, were sustained by compact fill (see Figure 4.13).

Several layers of overlapping flat cut stones formed a threshold at the foot of the tomb (see Figure 4.16). Given the similarity of this mortuary feature to the small domestic tombs at El Palmillo, there should have been a stone closing the entrance of the tomb, but there was no door stone above the threshold, nor did we find any large stone in deposits near the tomb that could have served that purpose. It was likely removed post-occupation with many of the capstones. The individuals interred in the tomb and associated funerary remains are discussed in chapter 5.

There was only one other burial associated with the prehispanic structure. Just off the northwest corner of the structure was a simple pit burial containing one individual. There were no offerings interred with this individual. The



Figure 4.15. Stone marker in the patio wall and deposit of broken ceramics in front of the tomb entrance.

pit had been dug into the bedrock and eventually was covered with accumulating layers of midden deposits (see Figure 4.1).

#### 4.3. Ash-Filled Pits

Several meters north of the structure was a zone of four roughly oval pits that had been carved into the soft bedrock