



PART 2

RETRIEVING AND UNDERSTANDING THE SEQUENCE OF DEPOSITIONAL EVENTS OF THE BUILDINGS

The chapters in this part of *Last House on the Hill* include a summary of the field project and the detailed excavation report, both of which are modeled after those in Volume 3 (*Excavating Çatalhöyük*) of the 1995–1999 Çatalhöyük Research Project excavations. In addition to introducing the buildings of the BACH Area, the summary of the field project in Chapter 4 introduces a number of themes about everyday Neolithic life on the East Mound of Çatalhöyük that are manifested—sometimes uniquely—in the BACH Area, including the life histories of the buildings, food preparation and storage, pyrotechnology, ritualized places, living with neighbors, and the continuity of place. This chapter also includes a section on the chronological issues of the BACH Area in relation to the Çatalhöyük chronology in general, but especially the perennial problem of its links to other areas of the site.

The detailed excavation report is structured around the life histories of Building 3 through its ten phases and three spatially differentiated areas, and the three small spaces 87, 88, and 89. Mirjana Stevanović argues that the latter—at least Spaces 88 and 89—are integrally associated with Building 3, not the isolated cells that were first suggested. The analysis shows also that the history of the buildings in the BACH Area are as interesting for their “slow death” as they are for their long and complicated occupation.

An important aim of the excavation program at Çatalhöyük—and the BACH Area was no exception—was to construct movement through space within and around the

houses, delineating the tasks that were carried out in different parts of the house, on its roof, and outside its walls; the social practices of communication with members of the household (dead and alive) and with neighbors; and this in terms of repetitive practices and rules and short- and long-term changes. This part also provides details of the microstratigraphic and architectural remains which comprised an important part of Volume 4 (*Inhabiting Çatalhöyük*) of the 1995–1999 Çatalhöyük Research Project excavations in its discussion of “The Settlement and Its Sediments.” In that section, as in this volume, Wendy Matthews wrote a chapter on Micromorphology and Microstratigraphy. In Chapter 7 of *Last House on the Hill*, she develops her micromorphological analysis in the direction of providing information on the life histories of buildings, in line with the research aims of the BACH project.

Mirjana Stevanović provides a detailed analysis of another aspect of settlement that was only partially covered in Volume 4 of the CRP’s 1995–1999 excavation reports by Burcu Tung—that is, the construction of bricks, mortar, and plaster used for buildings and the maintenance of buildings during their life histories. We have included it in this part of *Last House on the Hill* rather than within Part 4 on material culture in order to demonstrate its close relevance to the accumulation of deposits and life histories of buildings that are the predominant themes of this section. The information in this chapter articulates closely with the detailed excavation report in this volume (Chapter 5).