

§ 88. GREAT 'EAST HALL' RESUSCITATED.

Main approach to lower halls of 'Domestic Quarter' from above: its ground floor the piano nobile; Somewhat lesser height of upper stories; the fourth landing, below level of Central Court; Flight of Stairs thence to roof terrace; Architectural analogies with West side of Court; Evidences of great 'East Hall'; Correspondence with ground plan of earlier 'East Hall' basements; These choked by Earthquake and subsequently filled in; M. M. III a relics of earlier Hall—including 'Ladies in Blue' fresco; Earlier East Hall narrower, with lateral light-area, N.; Break between M. M. III plan and M. M. II structures; Important relics found in Loom Weight area—M. M. II b; Restored plan of later 'East Hall'; Blocked doorway of filled-in Magazines; Earlier Hall approached by descending steps; New Hall and adjoining East façade in harmony with later façade West of Court; 'Stepped Porch' balanced by Stepped Portico of new 'East Hall'; Striking correspondence in levels and espacement with structures West of Court; Agreement between Steps of 'East Hall' and those of 'Stepped Porch'; Position of Columns in Portico; Lateral openings to landing: Doorways of East Hall; Central light-area of Hall evidenced by drain-head—course of drain to blind well; M. M. III a conduit re-adapted for later Hall; Evidence of use to L. M. II; Square central peristyle of later East Hall; Interior section, with side doors; Parallelism with plan of Mainland 'Megaron', but this Hall not isolated; Painted plaster high reliefs precipitated from Walls; Fragments thrown down at time of final Catastrophe; High reliefs, executed in the Great Transitional Age, preserved on Walls to the last.

IT has been already observed that the main entrance of the Grand Staircase as an avenue of approach to the 'Domestic Quarter' was from above. This arrangement—conditioned in all cases by the cuttings into the hill-side, similar to the Great Cutting here—reappears in the Royal Villa,¹ as well as in the 'South-East'² and 'South House'.³

Main approach to lower halls from above.

Though thus reached by descending flights of stairs, the ground floor was still the *piano nobile*, containing the principal reception rooms such as the 'Hall of the Double Axes' and the 'Queen's Megaron', nor was there in the case of the 'Domestic Quarter' any system of basements such as we find throughout the Western Section of the Palace.⁴ Of the superior importance attaching to these lower palatial Halls, there is indeed a sufficient

Ground floor of 'Domestic Quarter' *piano nobile*.

¹ *P. of M.*, ii, Pt. II, p. 396 seqq.

³ *Ibid.*, ii, Pt. I, p. 373 seqq.

² *Ibid.*, ii, Pt. I, p. 299.

⁴ There were basements, however, under