

CHAPTER 5 - RECAPITULATION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 RECAPITULATION

The problem posed was to construct a *corpus* of early Ionic capitals in which there is typological definition of the form, evolution and integration into built artifacts in its standard format in a 'first generation' period, but which would take cognisance of the preceding pioneering efforts towards reaching a standard Ionic capital form, and evolutions from the 'first generation' capitals in the Archaic period. From existing *lacunae* in the knowledge regarding the Ionic capital the author defined a problem that would, in a response thereto, not only lead to an increase in understanding of a specific artefact, but would lead to a revelation of the complexities and fullness of the act of artistic and architectural creation involved in the capital and its integration in the built context within which it is situated. The endeavour to provide a *corpus* of early Ionic capitals within which the complexities involved in the early evolution of the artefact may be understood, had as a resulting aim the provision of the necessary framework required to construct a probable founding history. Both the construction of a suitable corpus and the necessary framework have been achieved. The work is structured such that in future there may be a seamless integration with other existing work regarding chronologically following capitals, in order to be able to come to a more definitive conclusion regarding the nature of the Ionic capital as the most complex element in the Ionic Order and its parallel achievement, the monumental Ionic votive column. Simultaneously, the structure allows for continuous feedback through the possibility of inserting newly emerging data and conclusions into the *corpus* provided.

In Chapter One the current state of knowledge was defined, the need for and scope of further research identified, and the approach, delineation and terminology circumscribed.

In Chapter Two the identification, preliminary description, chronological and geographical ordering of the Archaic Ionic capital and artifacts closely related, namely Ionic buildings, columns and related non-Ionic capitals, was brought to fruition. As part of this process existing ordering models for related artifacts (Those of Betancourt (TES), Kirchhoff (EIV) and Theodorescu (LCIG)) were integrated and made relevant to the artefact at hand. The integrated model for the description, chronological, geographical ordering and subsequent typological interpretation of the Archaic Ionic capital, augments existing methodology regarding such manipulations of the artefact and may also find application in other architectural historical endeavours of this kind. Apart from being applicable in this study, the ordered data base emanating from application of this model increases existing knowledge in the field that will find application as a research tool in the disciplines of archaeology, art and architecture. Apart from being a reference guide and catalogue, specific fields of application are the dating of artifacts and the definition of chronologically and geographically bound stylistic enclaves. Due to the open-ended nature of the data base and ordering model, feed-back from subsequent archaeological interpretations may be integrated in order to determine the effect of those

interpretations. Together with this, the changing relationships with other aspects of the founding context may also be evaluated.

In Chapter Three there was a typological definition of the design achievement contained in the Archaic Ionic capital, and of evolutionary patterns present in the total Archaic period. There was detailed identification of design trends present in the capitals up to 525 BC, and a realisation of the experimental nature of capital design within this period. The study leaves the opportunity for further implementation of the ordering model so that typological phases may be discerned and defined, in order that artifacts may be stylistically classified. The Ionic capital was brought into relation with the artistic and architectural systems within which it functions, and an understanding of a typological relationship between the capital and votive column and architecture was achieved, making further levels of interpretation possible. Insight into a perceived form and structural performance related relationship between the Ionic and Aeolic capital was made more specific.

In Chapter Five there was a disclosure of the design process involved in coming towards the Ionic standard capital, which disclosure augments but also challenges existing descriptions of the process, and which provides an increase in knowledge regarding the process. There was an exposure of a continuous transfer of design insight and achievement in the early Archaic evolution of the capital, the innovations achieved and of the extent and nature of canonic content of design in the period. The postulated existence of early regional typologies of the capital were confirmed, and the evolutionary relationship between the Ionic, Aeolicising and Aeolic capitals was exposed from a typological and chronological perspective. A contextual framework for future construction of a founding history of the early Ionic capital - which also reacts critically towards existing frameworks - was formulated.

5.3 CONCLUSION

The description and interpretation achieved in this study, including its critical stance towards existing interpretations of the artefact, not only provides a suitable base for future construction of a founding history but precipitates as further artefactual residue which may be seen as adding to the present understanding of the Ionic capital and its role as an element in art and architecture. At the same time the achieved architectural interpretation may in future be related to a series of contexts accessible to other disciplines to fill in detail which, due to the specialist and mono-perspective nature of previous architectural interpretation, does not allow such intervention, insertion or addition. It is in this co-constructive spirit that this study is offered.

This study should provide great amount of detail for further study within a coherent framework, within which researchers from various disciplines may interconnect to increase the depth of interpretation from their various perspectives. There is a great need for material which may be used in future research which has as

its aim insight into the complexities included in the formative stages of Hellenic monumental architecture relationship between culture and style, to critically view the dominant vision of the nature and origin of Hellenic architecture, new understanding of the evolution of the Classical heritage, relevant knowledge for a reassessment of current knowledge regarding the formative stage of what has been shown to be the foundations of what is held as Western architecture, revitalisation of current architectural theory and an enhancement of design pedagogy which values a traditive perspective.

The most definite *lacuna* in this study is the use of secondary sources regarding description of the artifacts, and the exclusion of capitals between 525-489 BC from the detailed typological analyses, due to the limitations put on the scope of the study and due to the restrictions of research rights existing within the specific field of study. The re-documentation of all capitals where an increase in accuracy may be achieved (including those Classical capitals contained in other studies) will, due to the structural nature and ease of use of the *corpus* provided here, bring about a much needed improvement in accuracy of the synthesising conclusions reached in this study and be of immense value in further research.

5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 5.3.1 This study has identified various critical instances where an intensified focus of archaeological and interpretative endeavour may deliver fruitful results. These include:
- * a redocumentation of capitals Ion-12, 13, 56, 65, 67b, 68, 69 and 76;
 - * future contextual corroboration of possible base dimensions used in capital design, as identified in the process (Identified and evaluated in Table 3.11, and shown as experimental values in App. 1 Table 1.1. See 3.3.4.3);
 - * the conversion of all proportional relationships inherent in Archaic Ionic capitals from the decimal system to one employing fractions (taking into account the insight into the use of base dimensions gained in the study);
 - * the interpretation as well as the graphic representation of identified modular design;
 - * finding the plan-ordering system of undersides of Archaic capitals for which this information is outstanding and identifying those having significant proportions;
 - * finding the geometries underlying the volute construction of Ionic capitals between 525 and 480 BC;
 - * finding instances of design co-ordination between volute centre and echinus bottom bearing surface and echinus side in late Archaic and Classical capitals (See 3.3.4.2.4);
 - * scrutiny of Archaic Ionic capitals before 525 BC for the existence of rebates and bosses used in the construction process;
 - * geographical ordering of Archaic Ionic capitals from 525-625 BC included in this study according to the proposed guidelines in order to more accurately assess the results of the study by Kirchhoff

(EVI), as well as for purposes of further dating (See 4.1.3), classification and analysis of geographical trends in Archaic capital typology, inquiry into the context surrounding the introduction of Ionic architecture at Samos during the reign of Polycratos on Samos, efforts at more closely dating the Kolonna sphinx column (Col-8) and of finding further information regarding the lost capital;

- * directing research towards establishing the probability of the existence of composite Ionic capital types preceding the datum of the Ionic standard capital and the anomalies surrounding this possibility (See 4.2.33);
- * the construction of a diagram of relationships which graphically explains the complexities of the system of proportional relationships inherent to the Archaic Ionic Order;
- * the reconstruction of façades of certain identified Archaic Ionic temples and the representation and analysis of the geometrical ordering devices inherent to the façades;
- * lastly, contextual evidence around those capitals that were shown to have been significant (See 3.2.4; 3.3.4.2.4; 4.1.1.13) in the Archaic evolutionary process (as well as regarding later development in the Classical period) should be garnered so that the role and meaning of these capitals may be further elucidated.

- 5.3.2 The demarcation of capitals from the total Archaic period into regional, interim types (See 3.2.4) from detail gained from the analysis of the geographical and chronological ordering, enhanced from analysis of the metrological and geometrical content of the capitals, together with detail scrutiny of sculpture style and method and correlation with external contextual evidence.
- 5.3.3 The comprehensive, integrated, representative and ordered data base of Archaic Ionic capitals and first generation Archaic Ionic buildings that was compiled in this study may be used as reference work in further archaeological and art- and architectural historical research.
- 5.3.4 The achieved typological interpretation of Archaic Ionic capitals, if augmented with post 525 BC capitals, may be utilised for classification of artifacts from typological and stylistic criteria as well as in determining further instances of resonance between design phases in Archaic Hellenic architecture and glyptic art.
- 5.3.5 The achieved typological interpretation of the Archaic Ionic capital may be specifically applied to achieve a typological understanding of the early Archaic Ionic Order, to come to a founding history of the Ionic Order. This may also be used to critically review and enhance the content of current theory and parallel theories for the Doric Order, and to critically reread the epistemology of existing architectural systems that implicitly use the presumed tenets on which Hellenic architecture is founded as etymological base for promoting those systems.
- 5.3.12 The study may serve to review existing architectural historical knowledge around the design process involved in Archaic Ionic architecture.