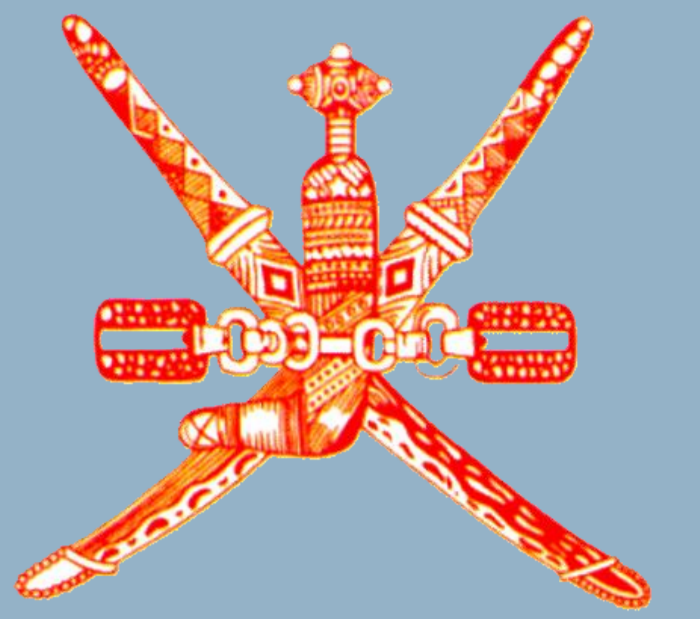


BA12: An ancient workshop in Sumhuram

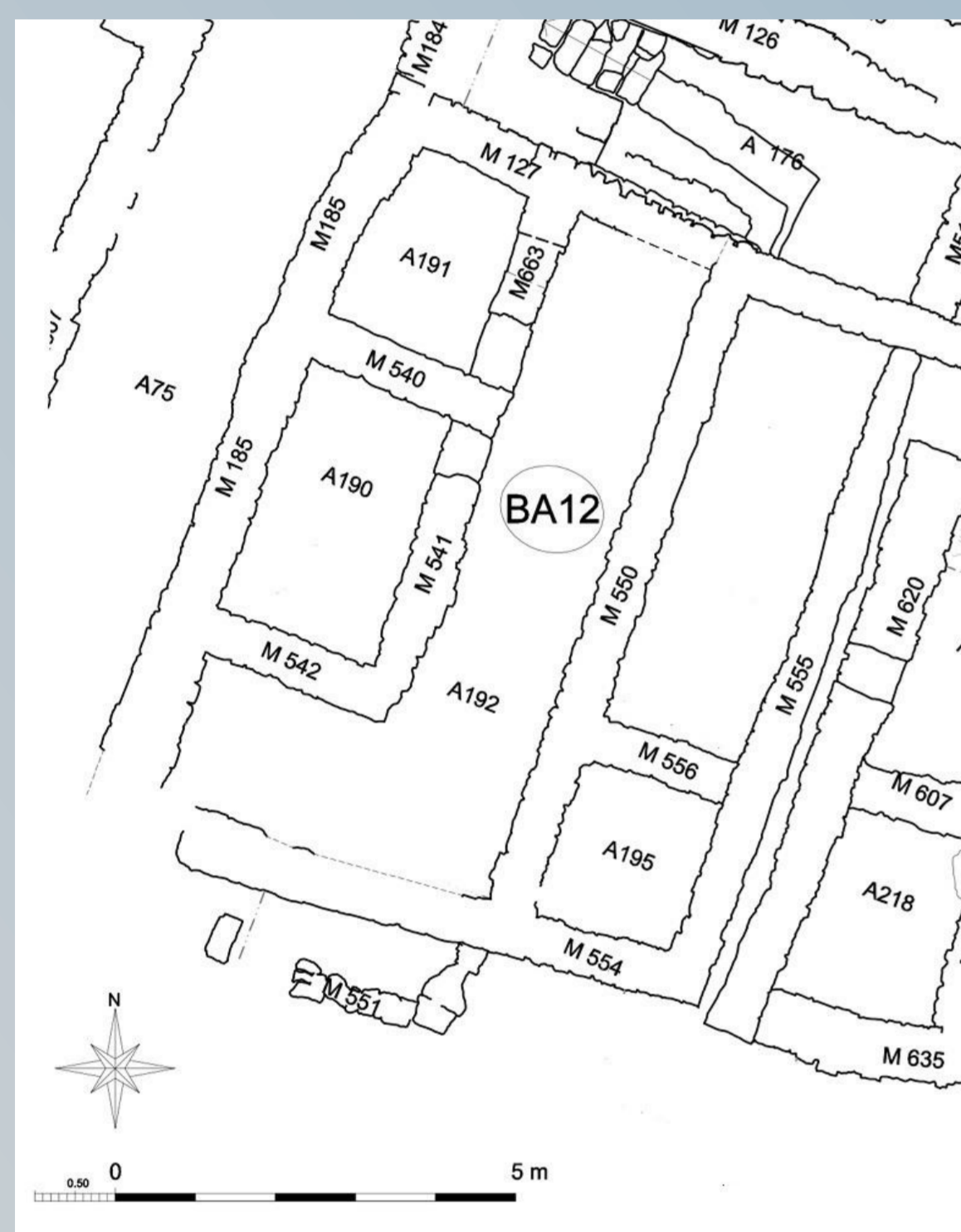
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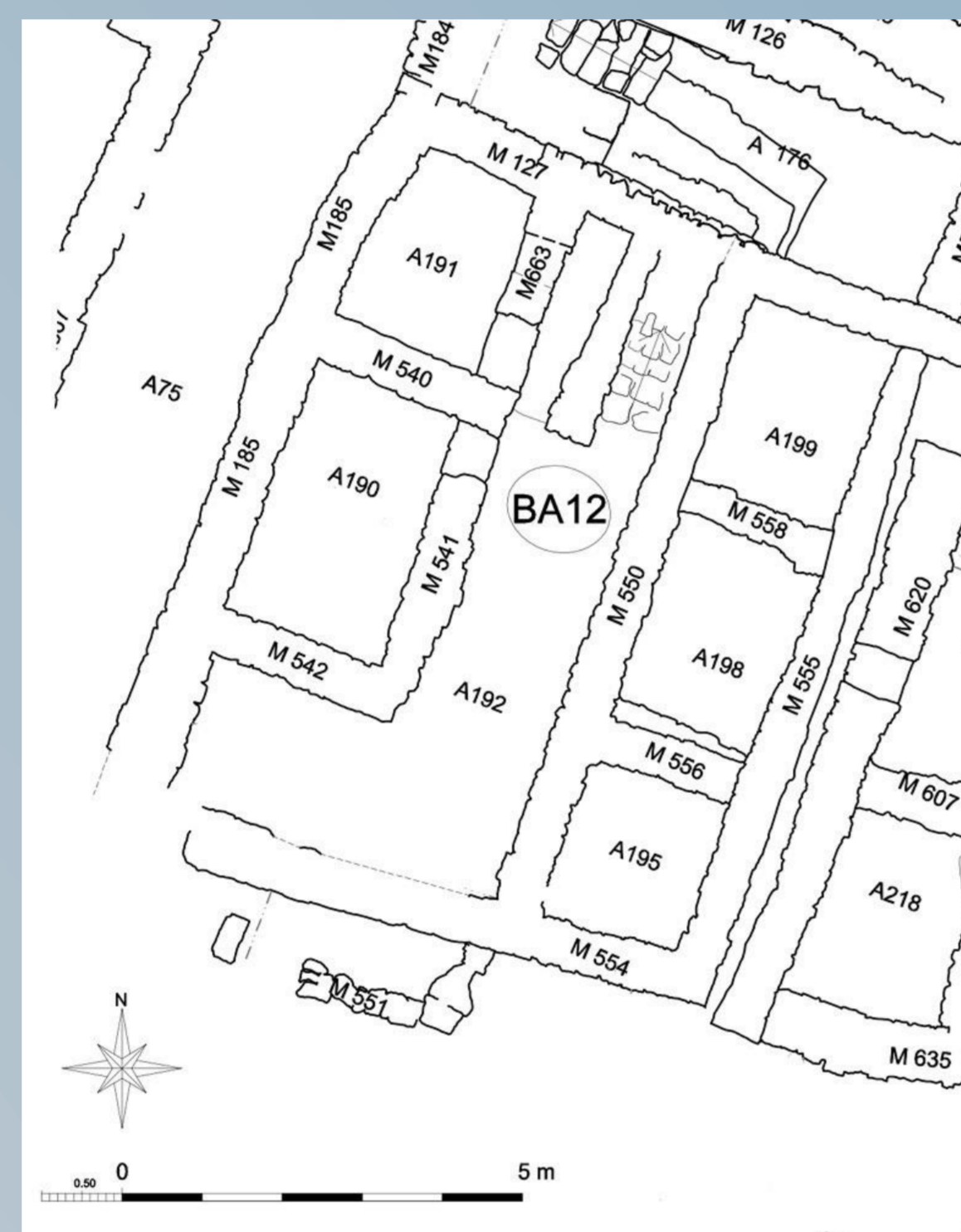
The BA12 is one of the most interesting buildings of the ancient South Arabian port of Sumhuram. It is placed in the eastern part of the Area A, the residential quarter of the town, and it is part of a greater complex of buildings composed by the buildings BA6, BA12, and BA15. These three buildings are linked through the use of staircases. The BA12 has been excavated for the first time in 1950's by the AFSM (American Foundation for the Study of Man). The IMTO (Italian Mission to Oman), directed by the Professor A. Avanzini of the University of Pisa, resumed the works on the building since the end of 2011.



Sumhuram, Area A, BA6; BA12; BA15.



BA12 I phase



BA12 II phase

General plan and Constructional phases

The BA12 has a very regular plan, rectangular in shape, composed by six rooms: three along the eastern side, two on the western one. The entrance in the centre of the southern side led to a central L-shaped corridor with the staircase in its northern part.

Two constructional phases has been recognized:

- Two rooms along the western and the eastern sides, and the central corridor without staircase.
- The staircase and the wall that divides the long north-eastern room in two small squared rooms are added.

Finds

Pottery found in the building consists, for the most part, of storage vessels, including several amphorae fragments. By the strong presence of bronze objects and ornaments, stone slabs, an *Eyed stela*, and several stone tools, it is possible to think that this building was a kind of workshop for the bronze and stone working.



Stone tools from A191



Necklace from A190



Limestone mortar from A191



Eyed stela from A191

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