



<https://publications.dainst.org>

iDAI.publications

DIGITALE PUBLIKATIONEN DES
DEUTSCHEN ARCHÄOLOGISCHEN INSTITUTS

Das ist eine digitale Ausgabe von / This is a digital edition of

Gilabert Sansalvador, Laura

La bóveda en la arquitectura Maya

der Reihe / of the series

Forschungen zur Archäologie außereuropäischer Kulturen 18

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34780/2z2o-f062>

Herausgebende Institution / Publisher:
Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

Copyright (Digital Edition) © 2022 Deutsches Archäologisches Institut
Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, Zentrale, Podbielskiallee 69–71, 14195 Berlin, Tel: +49 30 187711-0
Email: info@dainst.de | Web: <https://www.dainst.org>

Nutzungsbedingungen: Mit dem Herunterladen erkennen Sie die Nutzungsbedingungen (<https://publications.dainst.org/terms-of-use>) von iDAI.publications an. Sofern in dem Dokument nichts anderes ausdrücklich vermerkt ist, gelten folgende Nutzungsbedingungen: Die Nutzung der Inhalte ist ausschließlich privaten Nutzerinnen / Nutzern für den eigenen wissenschaftlichen und sonstigen privaten Gebrauch gestattet. Sämtliche Texte, Bilder und sonstige Inhalte in diesem Dokument unterliegen dem Schutz des Urheberrechts gemäß dem Urheberrechtsgesetz der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Die Inhalte können von Ihnen nur dann genutzt und vervielfältigt werden, wenn Ihnen dies im Einzelfall durch den Rechteinhaber oder die Schrankenregelungen des Urheberrechts gestattet ist. Jede Art der Nutzung zu gewerblichen Zwecken ist untersagt. Zu den Möglichkeiten einer Lizenzierung von Nutzungsrechten wenden Sie sich bitte direkt an die verantwortlichen Herausgeberinnen/Herausgeber der entsprechenden Publikationsorgane oder an die Online-Redaktion des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts (info@dainst.de). Etwaige davon abweichende Lizenzbedingungen sind im Abbildungsnachweis vermerkt.

Terms of use: By downloading you accept the terms of use (<https://publications.dainst.org/terms-of-use>) of iDAI.publications. Unless otherwise stated in the document, the following terms of use are applicable: All materials including texts, articles, images and other content contained in this document are subject to the German copyright. The contents are for personal use only and may only be reproduced or made accessible to third parties if you have gained permission from the copyright owner. Any form of commercial use is expressly prohibited. When seeking the granting of licenses of use or permission to reproduce any kind of material please contact the responsible editors of the publications or contact the Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (info@dainst.de). Any deviating terms of use are indicated in the credits.

Abstract

The vault, used by the ancient Maya for more than ten centuries, is one of the most characteristic elements of Maya architecture. This stone roof system, based on the principle of corbelling, shows, on the one hand, the continuity of construction techniques employed by this ancient civilization and, on the other hand, how technological progress differs between the regions of the Maya Lowlands.

The present doctoral thesis examines the Maya vault by recording and analysing a wide sample of vaults from different geographical zones and chronological periods. The data collected during fieldwork was complemented by results from previous studies and put into a database that was created to archive, analyse and compare all the features of the vaults. This corpus was then analysed from an architectural perspective, taking into account aspects such as form, geometry, function, symbolism and constructive features of the vaulted spaces, and paying special attention to the technological developments

that were observed. Based on this analysis, a general classification of the Maya vault according to various criteria was proposed.

The comparative analysis of the sample allowed to identify the particularities and the most characteristic features of the vaults of various geographical areas, as well as to study their development over time. In the light of the results, hypotheses may be formulated on the historical relationships between the different regions and the possible transfers of building knowledge.

Moreover, the evaluation of the buildings' current state of conservation allowed the author to determinate the deterioration processes that affect them. Therefore, some general criteria were also proposed for the excavation, conservation and restoration practices in the Maya vaulted buildings, an architecture with a great heritage value but which often presents serious conservation problems.