

Minoan Religion

Cult symbols, iconography,
and ritual spaces

Evidence for Minoan religion

- Cult/ritual spaces - domestic, urban, extra-urban
- Iconography - seals, rings, frescoes, pottery
- Cult “furniture” (ritual symbols)
- Continuity into later Greek tradition/religion

Minoan cult symbols

- Double axe
- “horns of consecration”
- Altar or sacrificial table
- Table of offering
- Kernos
- Baetyl (aniconic image of deity)
- Elements of nature (snakes, birds, trees, water, agrimia, etc.)

Double axes



Miniature gold votive dedications from the Neopalatial period at sacred cave at Arkalochori



from Knossos



Detail of the Ayia Triadha sarcophagus

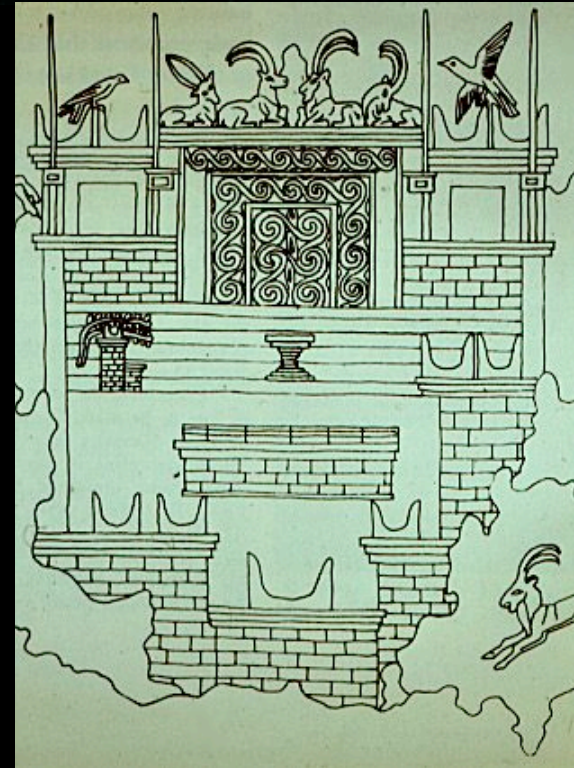
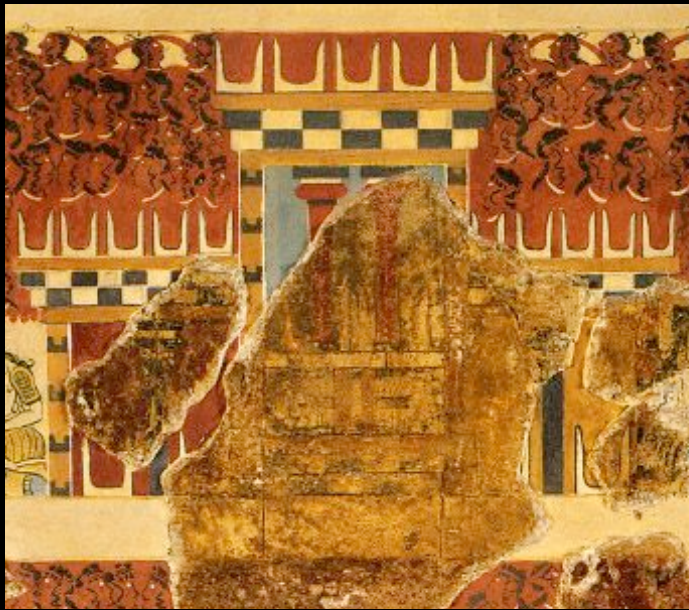
Horns of consecration



Altars and tables of offering



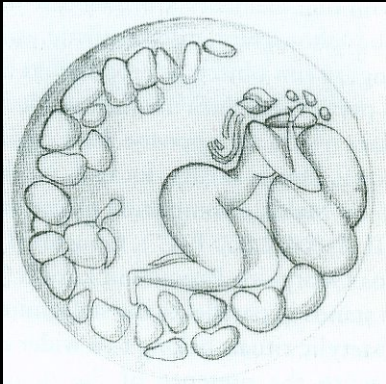
Tripartite shrines



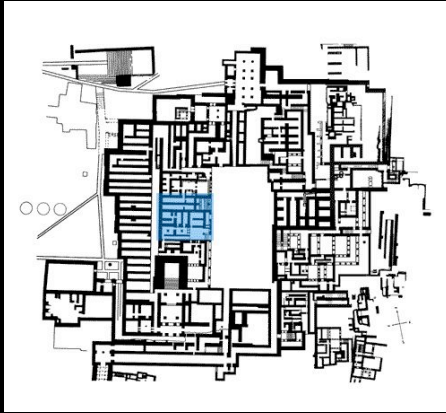
Kernos (kernoi)



Baetyls



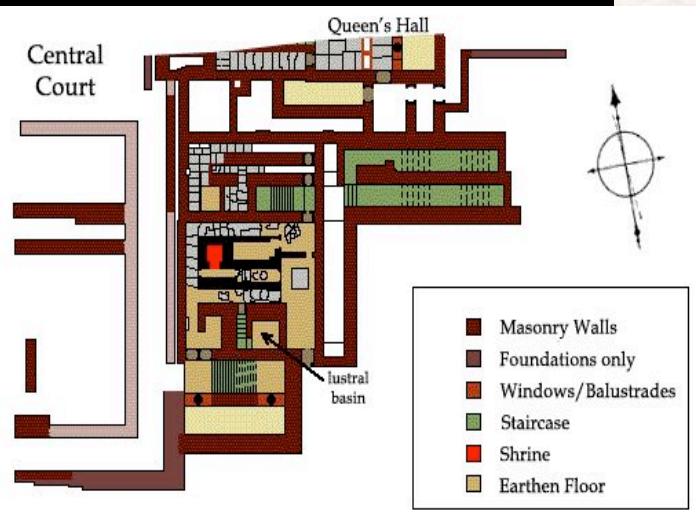
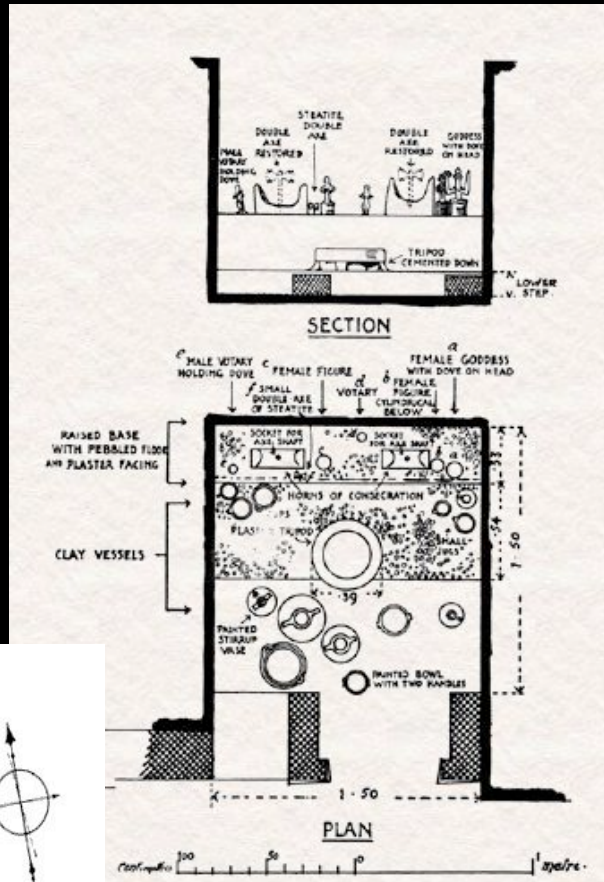
Urban/palatial ritual spaces



Temple Repositories at Knossos



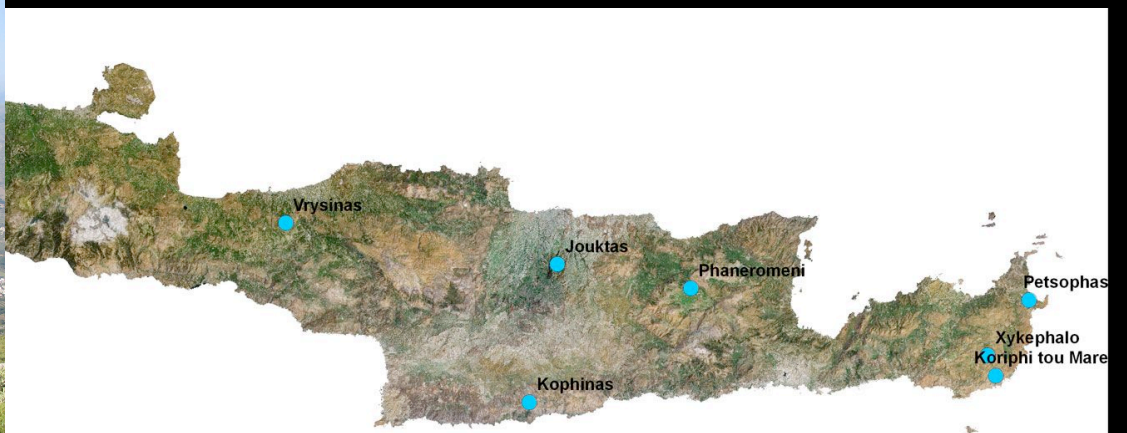
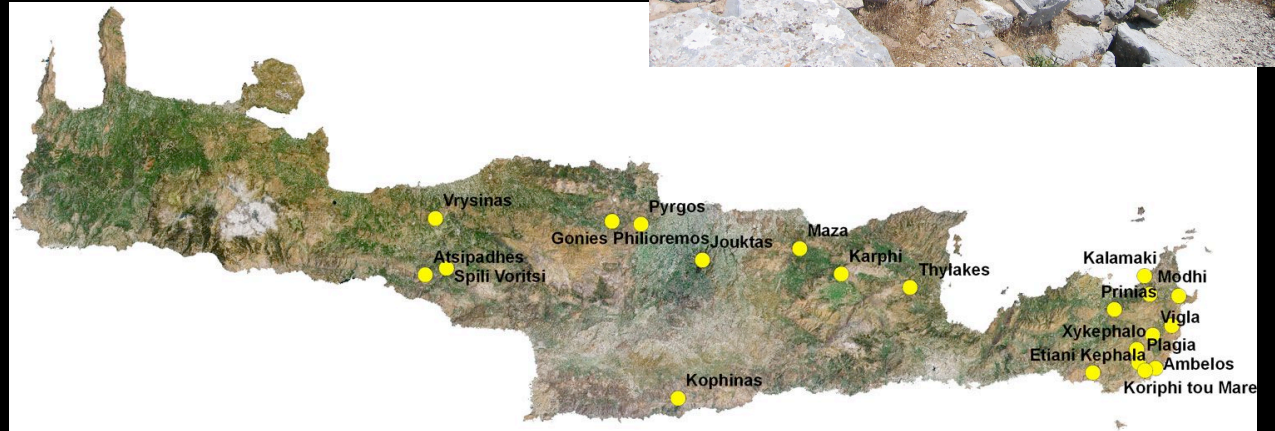
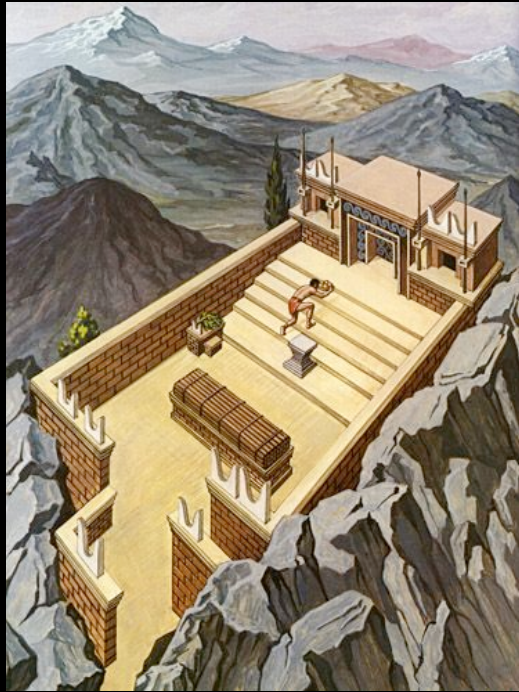
Shrine of the Double Axes at Knossos



Town ritual spaces: the town shrine at Gournia



Peak sanctuaries

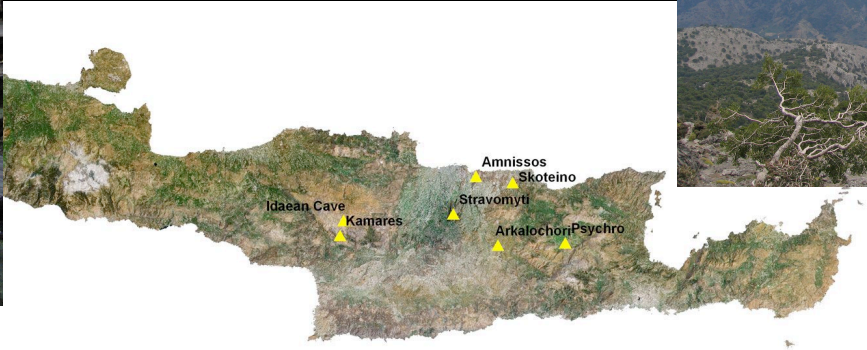




Peak sanctuaries
votive offerings



Sacred Caves



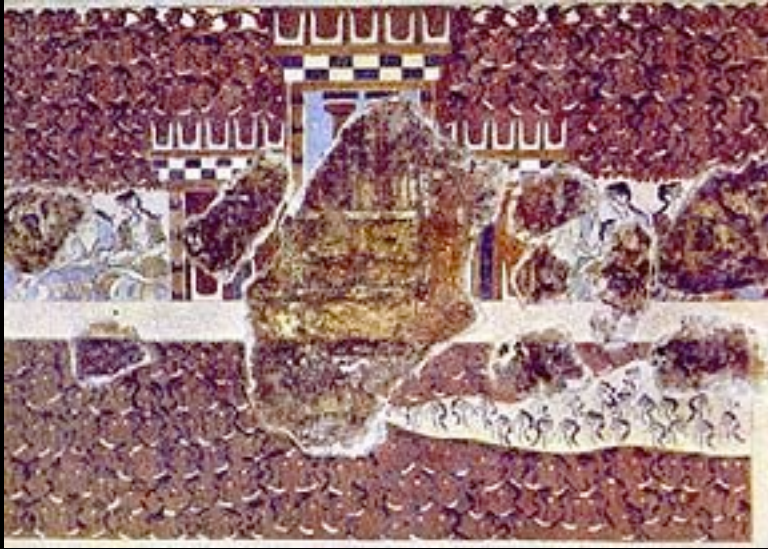
Sacred Caves
votive offerings



Rural Sanctuaries



Frescoes depicting ritual scenes



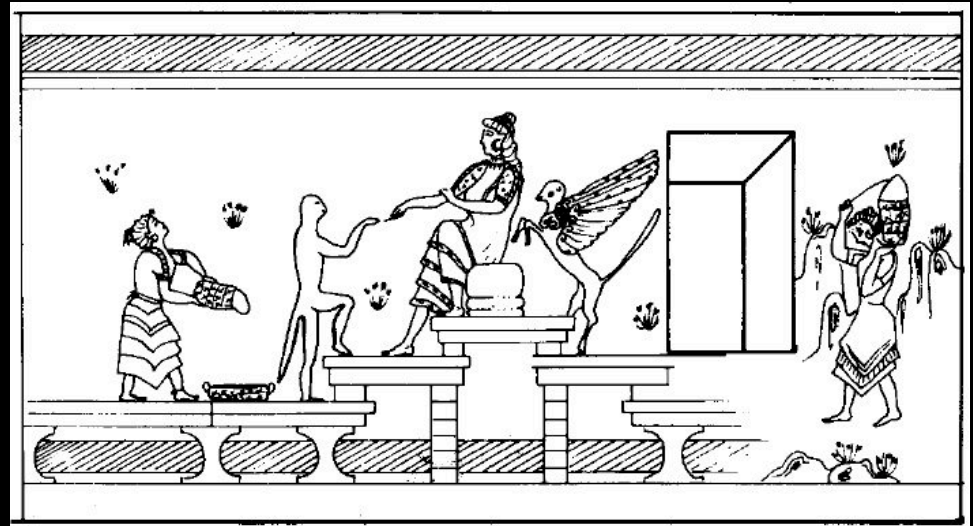
Miniature Grandstand fresco. LM II, Knossos.



“Robing the goddess” from House of the Ladies, Thera.

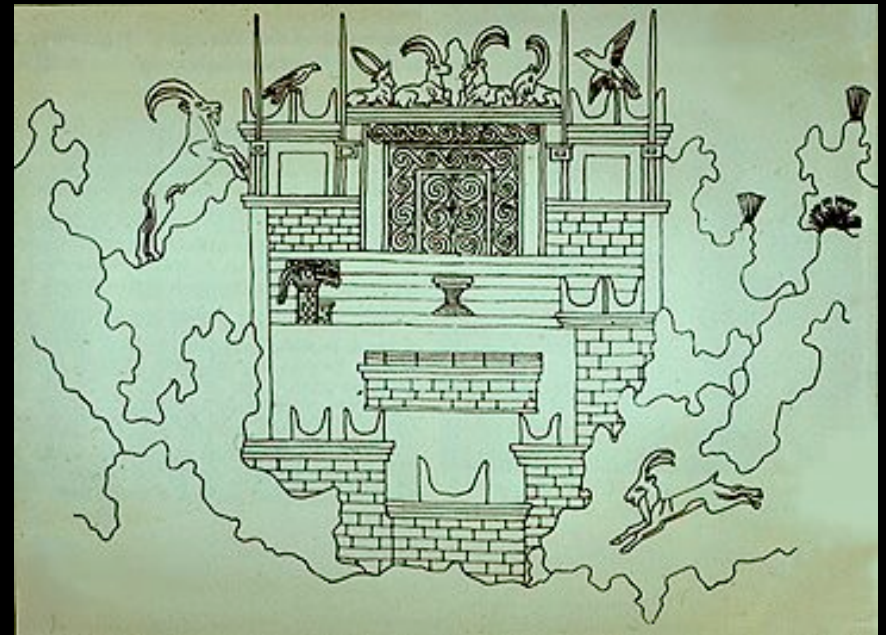


“Saffron Gatherers” from Xeste 3, Thera.



“Crocus offering to seated goddess” from Xeste 3, Thera.

The Zakros Rhyton



Ritual scenes on gold signet rings



“Ring of Minos”