

threshold a full two meters above the floor of the building and a monumental staircase, its massive steps over  $2\frac{1}{2}$  m. wide, leads down into the main hall. Doorposts, threshold and stairs are in a fine state of preservation (see photo 00).

The interior of the building can now be reconstructed with some certainty (see plan 00): two rows of four pedestals each run east-west; their column drums and seven of the eight column capitals were recovered. Each capital is a different design -- an interesting and attractive bit of architectural variety -- and most are very well preserved. Low stone benches line all four walls, some of them plaster-covered and part of the original structure, others later additions.

3. Three new elements associated with this building were uncovered this year; all appear unique to Galilean synagogue architecture. The first is a small, frescoed room, m. x m., cut into bedrock, connected to the main building by a doorway, m. wide, in the center of the west wall. The room is provided with a low stone bench; its walls are plastered and then painted, the only painted plaster known so far from the site. The frescoes have been photographed in color and with infra-red film by our staff, and will be removed, cleaned and preserved by specialists from the Israel Museum. Off this room, directly to the south, under the monumental stairway, is a diamond-shaped chamber cut from bedrock; a square opening m. x m. connects it to the frescoed room. The chamber may be earlier than the synagogue -- the staircase appears to seal up one of its earlier entrances -- but both room and chamber were