

# THE OLDEST 15TH-CENTURY RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS IN MEDIEVAL KAUNAS

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## Abstract

The article discusses the evolution of the earliest buildings in the urban environment of Kaunas Old Town. Archaeological research has revealed clear traces of wooden buildings in Medieval Kaunas dating from the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries and from the early 15th century. The earliest buildings of this type, with basements, were in line with the planned urban structure of the town. They were found in some blocks of the southern part of the Old Town, on the western part of Market Square, and by the main street. In all cases, the traces found are very similar. The wooden buildings and their locations in the newly planned town reveal the initial stages in the town's growth.

Masonry houses evolved in Kaunas in several stages. Churches, the first public buildings, appeared in the newly founded town. The next stage is associated with the early development of masonry public buildings from the mid-15th century to the first half of the 16th century. The earliest brick houses emerged in various locations in the urban space.

Key words: urban development, Medieval town structure, wooden buildings with basements, masonry buildings.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15181/ab.v23i0.1309>

## The problem

A town's history is closely related to its urban development. During the last few decades, a large amount of archaeological investigations have been carried out in Kaunas, which have revealed that the town was founded and received municipal rights according to German law thanks to the efforts of the Lithuanian ruler Grand Duke Vytautas. The few historical sources that are available indicate the year 1408 as the date the town was founded. There was a long period of disagreement among historians about the planning of the town. Architectural historians have determined the period of planning of the town, and put forward the opinion that it was planned and subsequently built up only in the middle of the 16th century, by the efforts of Queen Bona. Archaeological research, however, completely refutes this point of view. The year 1408, which was determined by historians as the date of the granting of municipal rights, according to German law, was fully confirmed by the results of archaeological research.

Recently published results of archaeological investigations in Kaunas discuss the problem of the town's development more broadly, along with the evolution of blocks, streets and plots, and it was only recently that the author gained the opportunity to present the results of investigations in a recently published monograph (Bertašius 2013). However, the difficult and challenging question of the evolution of the earliest buildings in the urban environment remains unanswered.

The newly planned and expanding town displayed a completely different urbanistic model compared to settlements which lived by the usual trading and contained early features of a town. In researching the earliest sources regarding a town and the first period of its urban development, it is vital to find traces of the first urban structures.

Archaeological research material on Kaunas is barely sufficient to reconstruct a model of its development during the 15th and 16th centuries, up to the beginning of the mass construction of masonry houses. There are a number of reasons for this. Firstly, because of the dry sandy soil, the wooden constructions had completely rotted in the cultural layer, and only in rare cases could traces of former wooden structures be identified. Secondly, the evidently intensified development of masonry houses with cellars from the mid-16th century destroyed earlier layers, together with traces of previous wooden buildings.

This development is typical of rapidly growing towns with intense construction work. In this situation, any traces of previous wood and stone buildings (with their possible interpretations) represents important information for research on urban development. The article discusses some issues concerning early types of buildings with basements (or a type of half-basement), traces of which were investigated in various sites in Kaunas' Old Town. All of them were located near the main streets of the Old Town, and represented primary elements of the town's urban structure.

## The urban issue: typical features of the early town layer

Researchers use various methods when identifying the concept of 'the town', but they all agree that a town must have at least two features that distinguish it from the surrounding milieu: it must make use of the surrounding environment, and also serve as an area for socialising.

The communities close to the confluence of the rivers Nemunas and Neris led a settled lifestyle, which lasted until the 13th century. A relatively clear layer, which has been dated to the 14th century, has been found, containing traces of wooden buildings, and pieces of ceramics, charcoal, organic waste, and bones (Bertašius 1996, 1998).

The subsequent layer of the settlement dates from the late 14th and early 15th centuries. It is characterised by reducible fired pottery, which was found in the whole area of Kaunas' Old Town (Bertašius 2013, 168, Fig. 3). There were also fragments of imported ceramics: polished (graphite) black jugs made of high-quality clay mass, and stoneware treated with a colourless glaze. Traces of wooden buildings have also been found, with floors of dirt, burnt planks, and stone paving. Their chronology is closely supported by old Lithuanian coins, the so-called Kęstutis and Vytautas denarii (Fig. 1).

These features are indicators of new development, when the settlement grew into an urban structure.

Substantial changes took place at the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, when a new town sprang up at the confluence of the rivers, which subsequently sought Magdeburg town rights under German law. The community of German colonists played an important role in the founding of the town and the organisation of its urban life. Differences in ceramic forms and methods of production reveal the change between the former settlements and the newly founded town.

The layout of the central part of Kaunas' Old Town was characterised by a regular structure, which corresponded to the main principles of the newly established town (a central marketplace surrounded by regular blocks with plots, streets and a layout). The main area of the Old Town encompasses an area of about 18 hectares, located between the two rivers on a rise in the valley. The central market was in the centre of the town, covering 2.6 hectares, and surrounded by regular blocks, which were divided into regular plots (Bertašius 2003, 169).

It seems that there were two main axes in the primary town layout, around which the urban structure of the town was composed. On the north-south axis were St



Fig. 1. Silver denarii of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania, dated to the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, from the excavations at the Perkūnas House (photograph by Mindaugas Bertašius, after Bertašius 1996, 1998).

Mary's (Franciscan) Church and the parish Church (Cathedral) of St Peter and St Paul, with cemeteries to meet the needs of the parish and foreign merchants. The other axis, far to the west, connected St George's Church with the abbey and the cathedral; it then turned into a major road towards Vilnius (Fig. 2).

Rectangular blocks were set out surrounding the market place, with strips of land designated for streets and lanes. Several typical sizes of plot were determined (Bertašius 2013, 57ff., Figs. 21-24). The network of streets did not change over the centuries. Archaeological research has revealed that the town was founded, planned and built at the same time in the early 15th century.

## Development during the 15th century: wooden buildings with basements

Archaeological research has revealed clear traces of wooden buildings in Medieval Kaunas. The multiple layers contain traces of extensive human activity: layers of fire, organic remains, and floors of different kinds (planks, clay and stone). In some places, stratigraphic horizons of up to seven different periods can be seen in the remains of wooden buildings dating from the beginning of the 15th and the 16th centuries (Bertašius 2013, 75). Especially pronounced changes in these layers were found in the southern part of the Old Town. Wooden houses were built close to the street, and many small farm buildings and urban gardens were placed at the ends of the plots.

In the eastern part of the Old Town, next to Vilniaus Street, traces of wooden buildings and industrial activity from the beginning of the 15th century have been found. Signs of the oldest buildings in Kaunas, built



Fig. 2. The scheme of town blocks: the two main axes of the development of the urban structure are highlighted (2). Wooden buildings of the type with basements are marked (1).

according to the new urban traditions, were found there. The occurrence of wooden buildings with basements bears witness to the new urban lifestyle.

Traces of early wooden constructions dated to the early 15th century were found in some blocks in the southern part of the Old Town (blocks 3, 5, 6), and similarly in the western part of Market Square (the Old Market), and by the main street leading in the direction of Vilnius. It should be noted that reliable data on this subject comes from a small part of the Old Town. A large part of the area of the Old Town (which was important for these tests) remains insufficiently studied, or the results are not suitable for further study and interpretation (especially the results obtained during the building restoration work of the 1960s and 1970s; cf. Bertašius 2013, Fig. 54). Elsewhere, during the subsequent period of construction work on the plots in the early 17th century and later, older layers were badly damaged.

Archaeological investigations have confirmed that in the initial stages of the town's development, the residential buildings were mostly wooden. However, it is very difficult to discuss the early period and the development of residential buildings throughout the 15th century. We have very few and quite ambiguously dated artefacts relating to early wooden constructions. However, it is now possible to detect more accurately multiple locations of newly planned urban plots with traces of early houses. The earliest buildings of this

type with basements have been found in Kaunas dating back to the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries and the early 15th century: 10 Vilniaus Street, site E, 14 Rotušės Square, site C, two cases in block 6 on T. Daugirdo Street, site B, and two cases at 7 and 11A Muziejaus Street, sites A and D (Fig. 2).

In all cases, the traces were found at a depth of about 1.5 to 2.2 metres (below ground level), dug in basements with surviving traces of a wooden floor or fragments of wall (14 Rotušės Square, 7 Muziejaus Street, 11A Muziejaus Street, T. Daugirdo Street, block 6, the site at 10 Vilniaus Street; for this see: Vaškelis, Žalnierius 1992; Vaškelis 1985a, 1985b, 1985c, 1985d; Bertašius, 1990; Žalnierius 1997, 2000). The proof is insufficient, but the traits are quite allusive to Riga, Lübeck, and other towns in the early phases of development with wooden structures and below-ground basements (Caune 2007, 234, 238, 269, 282; Fehring 1990). Basements of this type enabled the residential floor to be raised above ground level, and thus protected it from moisture. Four of the better-documented houses of all the buildings mentioned stood by the street or close to the street (or Market Square), and so they were in line with the planned urban structure of the town. According to the finds, the buildings were dated to the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries, or the early 15th century. There were possibly more wooden structures, but subsequent reconstructions (especially in the basements),



have completely destroyed them. The houses with basements mentioned could represent an early stage in the town's development.

### Site A

The traces of old wooden constructions at 7 Muziejus Street (block 5) consist of fragments of a threshing floor and traces of a burnt wooden floor. Nearer to the street, the basement of a wooden house dating from the 15th century was found, and part of the house had a cellar with wooden walls. There was a prepared pit about 1.8 metres in depth, and the walls and floor were covered with wooden planks. Judging by the findings,

a tile stove stood on the ground floor of the building, and the remains of it fell after a fire into the cellar with the wooden remains (Fig. 3). The building was constructed above ground level, over a thin layer of soil, during the initial stages of the town's development.

Comparable findings which were quite similar to the structure of layers have confirmed simultaneity and close relations with other similar buildings in Kaunas (10 Vilniaus Street, 14 Rotušės Square, 11A Muziejus Street). The entire lower part of the cellar was filled with pieces of raw and burnt clay, and the remains of burnt wood or burnt imprints of wood (Fig. 4). Broken pieces of tile were also discovered in the layer, indicating that a tile stove once stood over the cellar. The

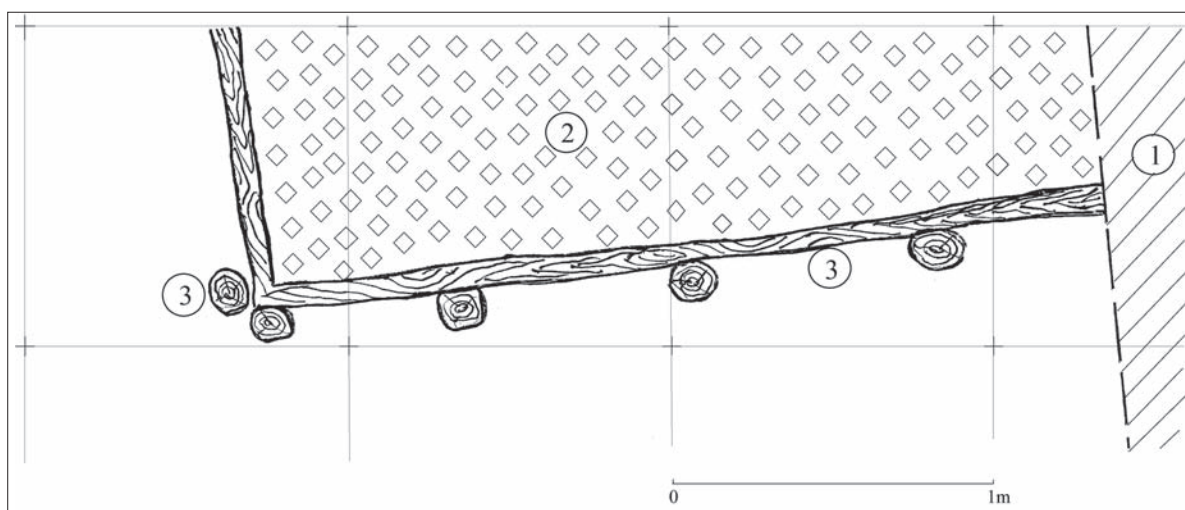


Fig. 3. The remains of a wooden cellar dating from the 15th century (after Vaškelis, Žalnierius 1992).

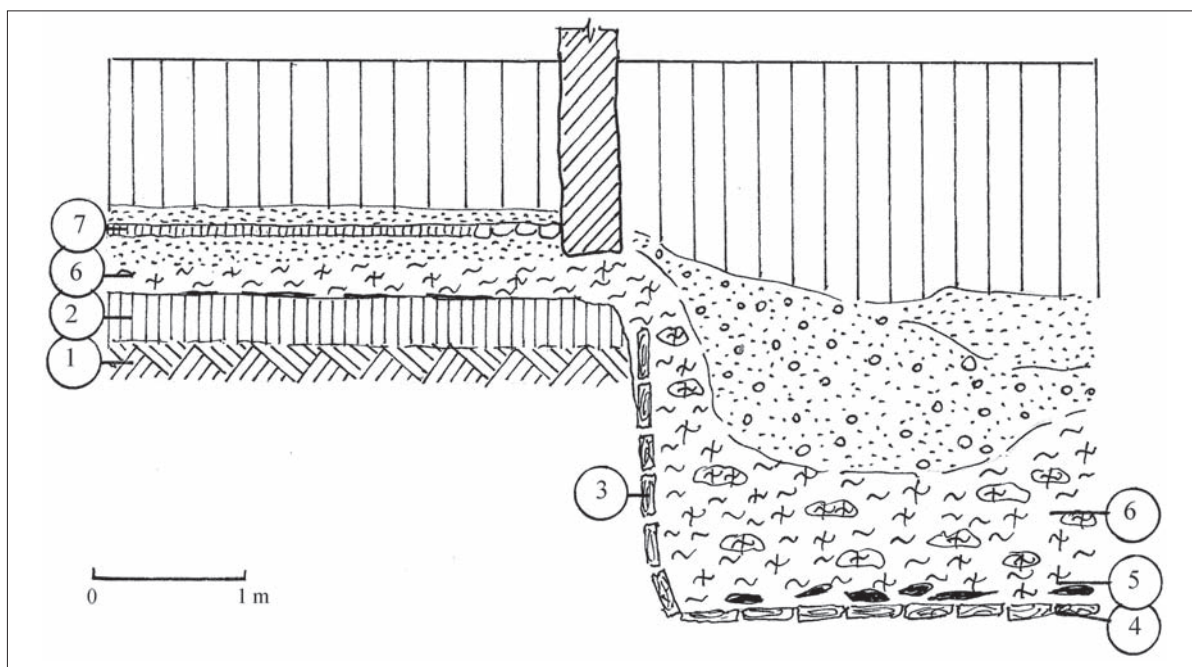


Fig. 4. The remains of a wooden cellar dating from the 15th century: the structure of stratigraphy of the layer.

building was apparently located near the street, but on two adjacent plots.

Traces of early stone constructions were found on this site as well. Archaeological research has revealed that the building at 7 Muziejaus Street was constructed in two parts (Vaškelis 1989). The western part of it was most likely built in the 15th century (which is one of the few older masonry houses in Kaunas), while the eastern part with an ornate facade is dated to the first half of the 16th century. This unusual building is somewhat reminiscent of a square stone tower construction, which is typical of the initial phase of urban development.

## Site B

Block 6 is situated in the southern part of the Old Town, between T. Daugirdo and Muziejaus streets. The particularly large-scale archaeological investigations and studies of this site have provided very interesting and important results (Vaškelis 1985a, 1985b, 1985c, 1985d). However, since the houses there were rebuilt rapidly in the 16th century and the early 17th century, the early structures of the previous period are markedly destroyed, and an early stage could be indicated only fragmentarily. In this block, clear traces of regular planning with ten evenly sized urban plots with the remains of stone houses were found (Fig. 5).

A wooden house existed on the corner plot on Santakos Street in the 15th century, and many ornate through-shaped tiles were found in a pit on the edge of the plot. The tiles came from a demolished stove, dated to the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries.

On a second plot south of Santakos Street (the site of a former prison), the remains of wooden buildings were destroyed by fires and reconstructions. During excavations, some layers of dirt floors, floorings, and traces of stove constructions were found. Like the adjacent plots, wooden buildings dominated here for a long time (Vaškelis 1993b, 1993c). Traces of fire and a wooden floor reveal the structure of a wooden house

with a wooden cellar 1.5 to 1.8 metres in depth, alluding to the oldest houses in Kaunas. The house was rebuilt many times during the 15th and 16th centuries. However, in the lower layer, dated to the 15th century, pieces of brick were common (Vaškelis et al. 1994). This indicated masonry work in the close vicinity at that time.

In the third plot, some parts of previous wooden houses were detected, dated to the 15th or 16th centuries, indicated by the clay threshing floor, a few burnt wooden floorings, and layers of fire between parts of later masonry houses. Some areas researched were very informative. First of all, the wooden houses constructed deeper in the soil probably contained basements (Vaškelis 1993a, 1993b), which were similar to the earliest phase of wooden construction of the town's



Fig. 5. The scheme of block 6 with reconstructed plots (after Bertašius 2013, Fig. 32).

buildings in other sites. The excavated layer, which was perhaps formed over 150 years, i.e. up to the turn of the 15th and 16th centuries, comprised of at least five levels of different house constructions from different periods (in some places, rotten wooden floors were identified). The structure enabled us to define up to eight archaeological surfaces from different periods (Vaškelis 1985c). Based on the discovery of the layer structure and the finds detected here, we can prove the rapid urban development of the old part of the town from the 15th century.

### Site C

There were a couple of sites with similar finds close to Market Square. When researching the house on the north side of Market Square (14 Rotušės Square), traces of wooden constructions were identified deep in the soil. In one of the investigated plots, the outline of a regular pit with steep walls was ascertained, down to 1.8 metres in depth, with a possible interpretation as a cellar construction. Traces of wooden planks were noticed on the wall. The lower part of the pit was filled with a layer of gravel almost one metre thick, with traces of flooring above. The finds from the upper layer date it to the end of the 14th or the first half of the 15th century (Žalnierius 1997). Thus, this case is possibly one of the oldest examples of wooden construction.

### Site D

A similar building existed close to the construction discussed above, on the west side of the Old Town, on the former Bernardine back street. Like the previously discussed sites, the remains of a wooden cellar were

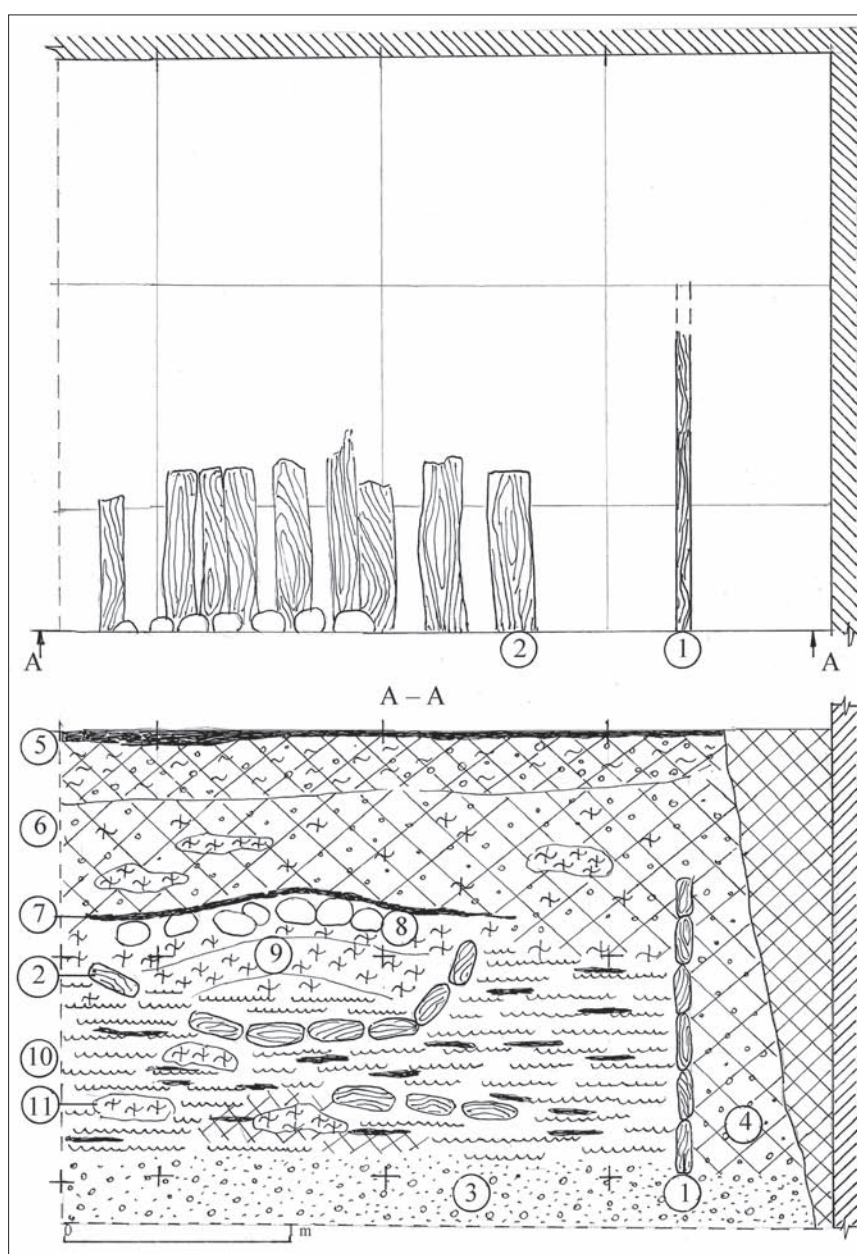


Fig. 6. The remains of one of the oldest houses with a wooden cellar: 1 a burnt vertical wall of wooden logs (thickness about seven centimetres); 2 burnt trimmed ceiling logs; 3 coarse gravel, soil; 4 mixed brown gravel outside the wall; 5 ash with charcoal; 6 gravel mixed with burnt and raw clay; 7 burnt planks over the stones; 8 stones possibly forming part of a pavement; 9 lumps of burnt clay mixed with pot tiles; 10 a layer of ash; 11 lumps of burnt clay with wood imprints (after Bertašius 2013, Fig. 25).

dug about 1.8 metres in depth from ground level. The outline of the cellar pit was about five metres in width, with steep sides, and a layer of charcoal was discovered on the bottom of it. The pottery found in a backfill was dated to the 15th century (Žalnierius 2000).

### Site E

On the other side of Market Square, near the main axis of the urban structure (Vilniaus Street), traces of a wooden construction of an even more pronounced type were detected (Bertašius 1990). In this part of the town, the arrangement of blocks reflected the town's



overall development. Houses were constructed along the street as early as the beginning of the 15th century. Traces of manufacturing activities were found as well. It seems that in the early 15th century, there was a wooden house with a basement and a tile stove above the ground floor (Fig. 6). During the excavations, a lot of pot tiles with cross shaped holes typical of this period were discovered, they were hand-moulded or partly (only on the outside) thrown on a wheel (Fig. 7). After fragmentary research at the site, it was possible to reconstruct the remains of a wooden cellar, about 5.8 metres in width, and no less than five metres in length, possibly up to 2.2 metres deep in the ground; the walls were strengthened with half-logs and thick planks, and a wooden floor was identified on the top of layer of backfill (Bertašius 1990) (Fig. 8). Unfortunately, the excavations were carried out only in the last phase of construction work, after the basic layer had been removed. Pieces of burnt clay (six to seven centimetres thick) with wooden imprints were crammed in the backfill, possibly after falling down during a fire in the timber-frame house. Judging from the archaeological material, this was one of the oldest buildings in Kaunas, constructed in accordance with the new urban tradition.

Thus, early traces of wooden buildings and their location in the newly planned town reveal an initial stage in urban growth (Fig. 2). The wooden or timber-frame houses with distinctive traits on the main streets in that period were similar to those in other Medieval towns in the Baltic region.

### Early masonry buildings

Masonry houses in Kaunas evolved in several stages, and each of them is distinct by the different extent of the buildings and their spread throughout the town's streets, blocks and plots. In discussing the phase of early stonework buildings, we can note two stages that differ in the extent of masonry work and the number of public and private houses.

Fig. 8. The remains of a wooden cellar during the excavations: 1 the edge of the cellar (traces of the vertical wooden wall are visible); 2 burnt ceiling logs; 3 existing walls (after Bertašius 2013, Fig. 35).

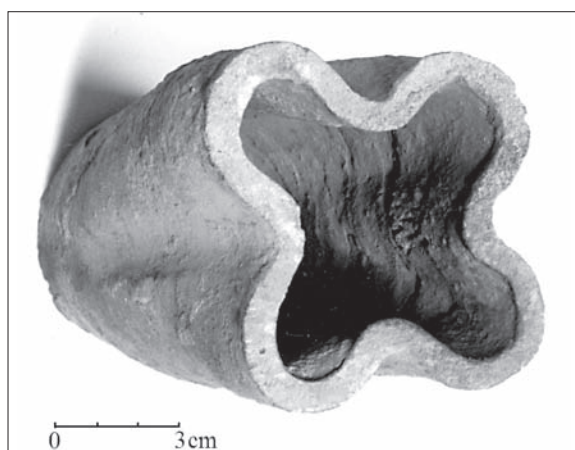
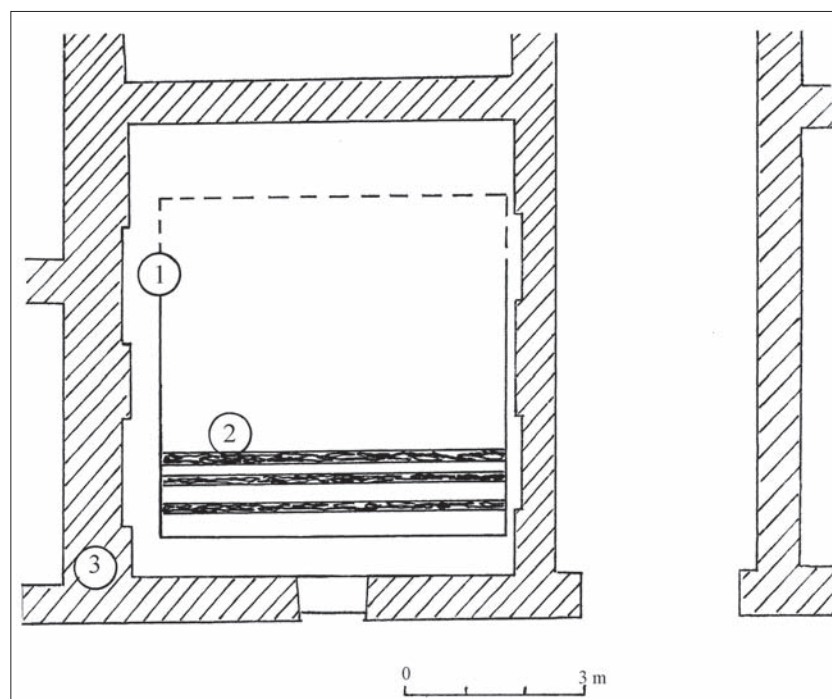


Fig. 7. A pot tile dated to the turn of the 14th and 15th centuries (after Bertašius 2013, Fig. 34).

The first stage involved the initial phase of urban growth, during which the first public buildings, the churches, appeared in the newly established town. The churches were positioned with a lot of consideration in the town plan, and clearly stood out on the town's outline (St Mary's Franciscan Church, the Vytautas Church, and St Peter and Paul's Cathedral). Buildings with cellars were constructed in the newly established town alongside the buildings in the small settlement by the River Nemunas. New buildings appeared on the main streets of the town in the newly planned plots. Traces of this type of wooden construction prevailing in the early 15th century were discovered in several blocks in the southern part of town, in the western part of Rotušės Square, and close to the main street, Vilniaus Street. This stage is clearly distinguished by the spread of typical Medieval ceramics (Bertašius 2003).



Fig. 9. The scheme of town blocks: 1 early masonry houses are marked; 2 two of the oldest stone houses dated to the 15th century: the former sacristy of the Bernardine Monastery (A), and a building assumed to be the first Town Hall (B).

The second stage is associated with the period of the development of early masonry in public buildings and the rapid development of timber construction. This period covered the middle or the end of the 15th century through to the first half of the 16th century. The earliest brick houses emerged in various locations of the urban space, which seemingly had an exceptional administrative, social or even demonstrative value. In addition to the public buildings, they were the first serious investments in masonry construction made by merchants and the state, though our knowledge about the early stone houses is very sparse. Evidently, changes in the construction of wooden buildings took place during this period as well; they were improved in order to attain higher standards of living.

The early phase of the construction of masonry buildings (*domus lapidea*) and their origin in Kaunas is very vague. Early historical sources from the 15th and 16th centuries provide very little data on it. Here, a simple reference from 1507 could be mentioned, where the Lithuanian ruler Sigismund ruled on a case of a single house which was fully or partly constructed of brick (Matusas 1962, 604). Also, M. Valančius indicates that on 8 February 1525, Barbara Juškienė, a resident of Kaunas, gave away two brick houses in Kaunas (Valančius 2003, 611). This is important information on the brick houses of this period, suggesting that the

construction of masonry buildings began to develop slowly.

The research shows that the earliest brick houses began to emerge in different parts of the Old Town. It is possible to indicate at least two of the oldest stone houses: the first phase of construction of the Bernardine monastery's rectangular building, the sacristy (the former sacristy dated to the 15th century), and a building assumed to be the first Town Hall on the corner of Market Square (Fig. 9).

The further construction of Gothic-style churches is also associated with this period: St George's, St Gertrude's and St Nicholas' churches were erected, and thus the structural network of public buildings was formed.

In drawing our conclusions, it could be said that large and relatively long brick houses were typical of this stage of stone construction, with the living space split into areas of different sizes (Bertašius 2013, 127ff.). Stone cellars were put in as well, and they were covered by timber floors. A typical example of early brick houses was a free-standing brick house in a building complex under an integrated roof. The houses contained no rooms, just a lot of space. A type of large cellar under the entire house, usually with a wooden ceiling (stone vaults were generally constructed later), is also worth noting. This trait in stone construction



was observed not only in Kaunas, but also in many different towns in other countries, but in different periods.

The archaeological investigations indicated some traits of this type of stone house, and archaeologically identified fragments were spread through the central part of the Old Town.

The buildings in the plot were different. The cellar was accessed by an external or internal staircase from the outside, and the ground floor was reached via a narrow staircase built into the wall. These houses were usually on the corner of a block. Judging from the prevailing building size (measuring about 8.6 to 9.2 by 22 to 26 metres for a stone house), the basement and the thickness of the remaining wall (basement walls were about 1.2 metres thick), these buildings must have been mainly two-storey stone houses (Bertašius 2013, 128). They were distinctly different in the townscape of this period, and contrasted from the surrounding buildings, which were mostly wooden one-storey houses. Judging from archaeological and architectural investigations, this group is represented by the following examples: the restored Perkūnas House; the cellar on the corner of block 8 (formerly T. Daugirdo and Vokės Kampu streets); the cellar on Kumelių Street (the north side of the town); 2 Market Square; the corner plot below the Holy Trinity Church); 9 (formerly 20) Vilniaus Street; the house on the corner plot on block 5 (a warehouse); and probably some of the early buildings on Market Square (Fig. 9).

There must have been more buildings constructed in this period, and historical sources suggest it. However, neither architectural fieldwork nor archaeological research have revealed any traces of other buildings, and now we lack the research data to research it. There are some sites where pieces of brick were discovered in the 15th-century layer, doubtless in blocks 5 and 6, which attests to the stone constructions in this part of town.

## Conclusions

We have discussed the question of the evolution of the earliest buildings in the urban environment of Kaunas' Old Town. Archaeological research has revealed clear traces of wooden buildings with basements in Medieval Kaunas dating back to the early 15th century. Differences in ceramic forms and methods of production show the change between the former settlement and the newly founded town. Most of the research data about the development of the Medieval town comes from the buildings in the southern part of the Old Town. Wooden houses were built on the street. All of the discussed sites with wooden structures were located on the main streets of the Old Town, and represented the primary

elements of the town's urban structure. They are witnesses to the new urban lifestyle.

Numerous data about the town's plan and Medieval urban development has been obtained during the research into block 6, which reveals the structure of regular plots with a large number of architectural details. Masonry houses evolved in Kaunas in several stages, each of them characterised by the different extent of the building. Churches, the first public buildings, appeared in the newly founded town. The next stage is associated with the period of the development of early masonry public buildings. This period covers the middle and late 15th century to the first half of the 16th century. The earliest brick houses emerged in various locations of the urban space. These were the first serious investments in masonry construction made by merchants. These buildings contrasted with the ordinary wooden structures in the townscape of the Medieval town.

## Acknowledgement

My sincere thanks go to Jurgita Dovydenaitė for correcting my article's English language.

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Received: 7 March 2016; Revised: 19 March 2016;  
Accepted: 24 May 2016.

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## SENIAUSI XV A. MIESTIEČIŲ GYVENAMIEJI NAMAI KAUNE

### MINDAUGAS BERTAŠIUS

#### Santrauka

Tyrimai Kaune atskleidė, kad miestas buvo naujai suplanuotas ir kurtas LDK valdovo Vytauto pastangomis. Naujai suplanuotame mieste įsitvirtina naujas urbanistinis modelis. Dėl dirvožemio struktūros ir istorinės raidos specifikos iš archeologinių tyrimų Kaune geriau žinoma miesto plano raida, bet išlieka problemiškas klausimas dėl ankstyviausių miestiečių pastatų raidos. Seniausios gyvenvietės pėdsakų (datuojami nuo IV–VI a. iki XIV a.) atrandame pietinėje ir vakarinėje senamiesčio dalyse. Aktyvesnio gyvenimo ženklai siejami su XIV a. antrosios pusės ir pabaigos laikotarpiu (1 pav.). XV a. pr. miestui gavus Magdeburgo teisę, naujai suplanuotame mieste kuriasi atsikėlėliai, plačiai plinta naujoji keramika. Miestas įgyja planinę struktūrą su pagrindinėmis ašimis (1 pav.). Kai kuriose vietose senamiestyje aptinkamas sudėtingos struktūros sluoksnis, kuris leidžia rekonstruoti nuolatinę kaitą, dažną medinių pastatų perstatymą. Kaune dalies pastatų užpilde aptikta XIV ir XV a. sandūros ir XV a. laikotarpio (3, 4, 6, 8 pav.) lipdytų puodyninių koklių (7 pav.). Nors trūksta argumentų, bet šio laikotarpio pėdsakai labai primena Rygos, Liubeko ir kitų miestų ankstyvajam statybų etapui būdingus pastatus su pusrūšiais. Visų pastatų padėtis atitiko suplanuoto miesto urbanistinę struktūrą. Tyrinėti pastatai galėtų reprezentuoti ankstyvąjį gotikinio miesto raidos etapą.

XV a. mieste atsirado pirmieji visuomeniniai pastatai – bažnyčios. Kiek vėliau ima rasti pirmieji mūro namai. Jų pasirodymas sietinas su XV a. viduriu ar pabaiga – XVI a. pirmąja puse. Šio etapo mūriniai miestiečių namai – tai dideli ir palyginti ilgi mūriniai pastatai, kuriems būdinga didesnė erdvė, suskaidyta skirtingo dydžio patalpų. Sprendžiant iš dydžio (vyrauja apie 8,6–9,2x22–26 m pastatai), rūšio ir išlikusių sienų storio (rūšio sienos – apie 1,2 m storio), daugiausia tai turėjo būti dviaukščiai mūro namai. To meto miesto vaizde jie ryškiai skyrėsi iš aplinkinių pastatų, neretai užimdami dominuojančią padėtį kampiniame kvartalo sklype (9 pav.).