



# **BADAJOS**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM**

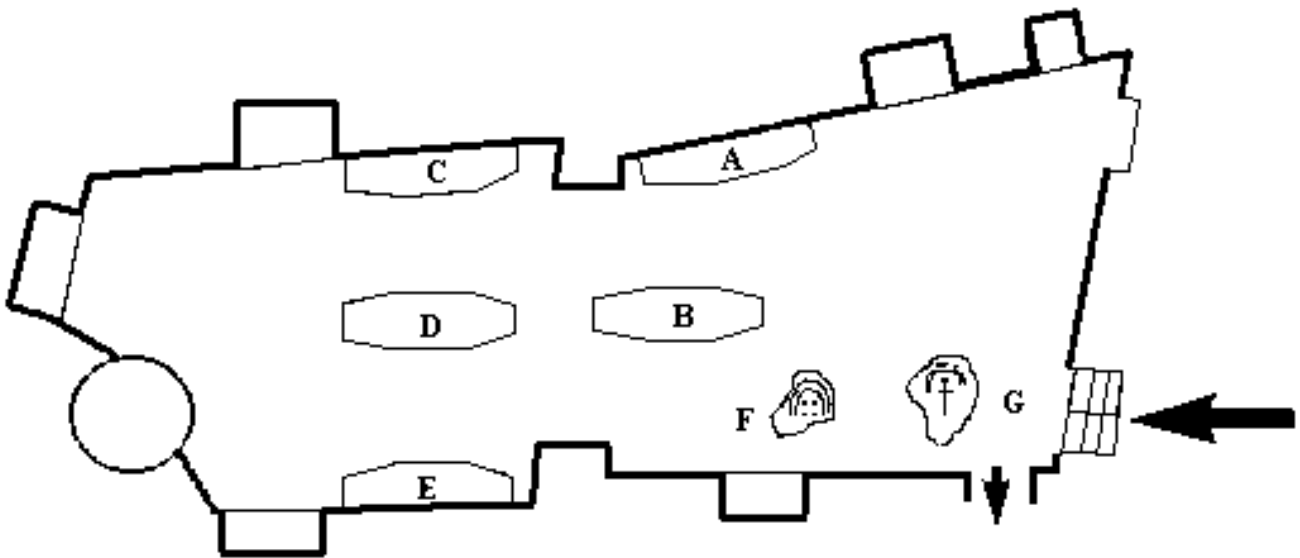


**SCHEMATIC GUIDE**

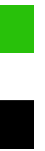


## PREHISTORY

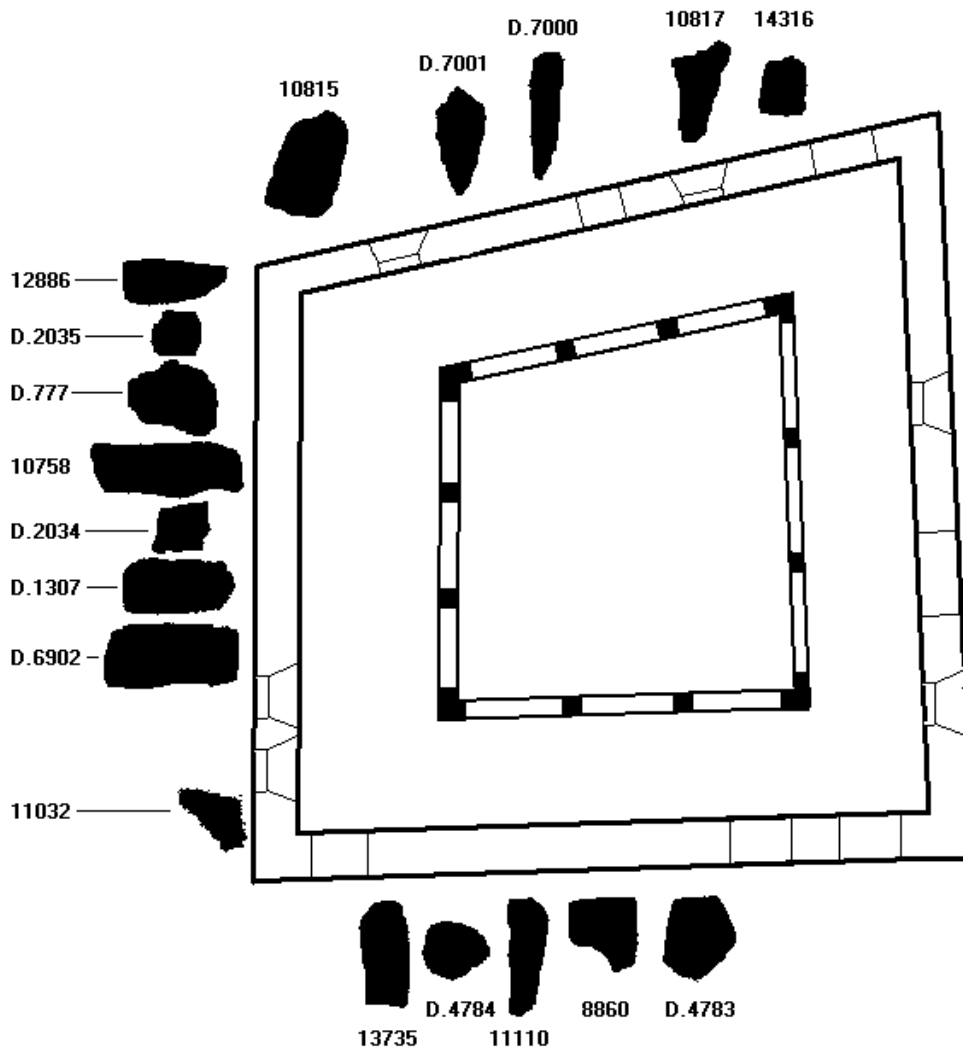
The exhibit in this room illustrates different aspects of daily life and social environment of the first permanently established groups in the Guadiana Valley (fourth millennium BC-Copper Age) and their evolution until the Late Bronze Age (10th century BC).



- A:** This show-case contains different objects normally found as burial-offerings.
- B:** This exhibit reflects the variety of representations of the divinity. Different kinds of idols are on the upper shelf. Slate plaque-idols, the most characteristic of the south-western Iberian Peninsula, are on the lower shelf.
- C:** Copper Age settlements are here represented. The objects exhibited constitute a cross-section of daily life, especially pottery and other objects used in the preparation of food and clothing.
- D:** Objects exhibited represent different aspects of Copper Age economy, technology and procurement systems. The most relevant fact of this showcase is the diversity of objects and of materials used to make them, for it suggests the complexity of Copper Age culture notwithstanding its primitive simplicity.
- E:** The Bronze Age is barely known in this region, and is here represented by some pottery and a comprehensive collection of metallurgical implements.
- F:** Inscribed slab representing a female deity with radial head-apparel.
- G:** Inscribed slab representing, very schematically, a figure with a diadem.



**WARRIOR STELAE, VIIIth-Vth cent.BC**

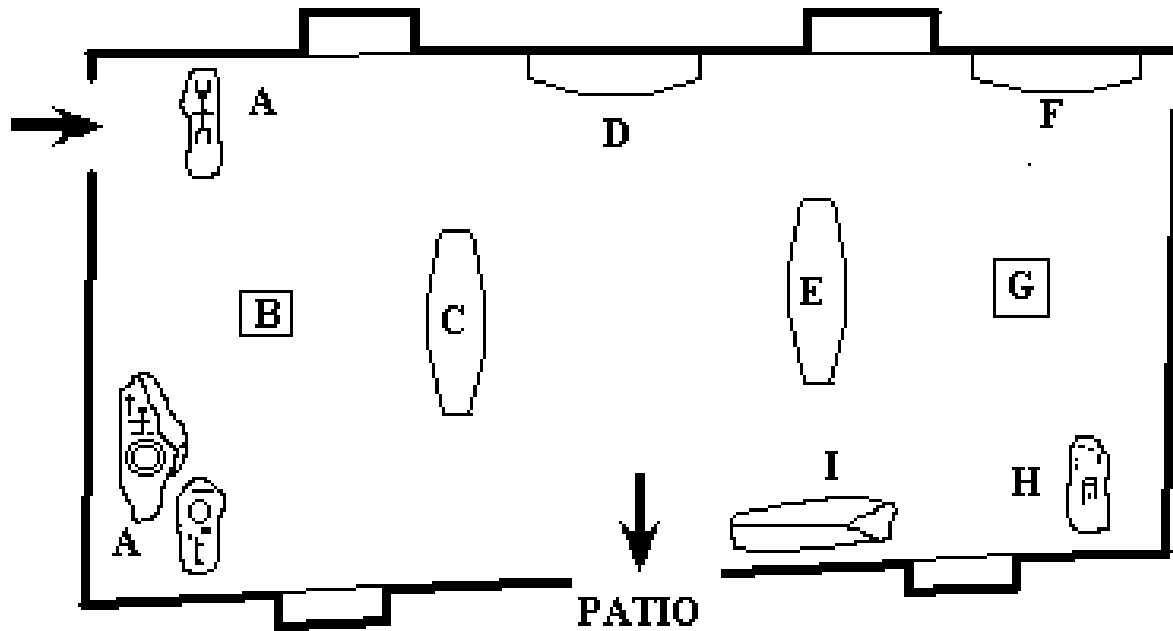


Warrior-stelae: these slabs are typical of the archaeology of southwestern Spain. They represent, schematically, a human figure, a sword, a shield, a two-horse chariot and other luxury items. They are generally interpreted as representations of great chieftains, though their true meaning is as yet undefined. This museum presents the most comprehensive collection of its kind



**PROTOHISTORY**

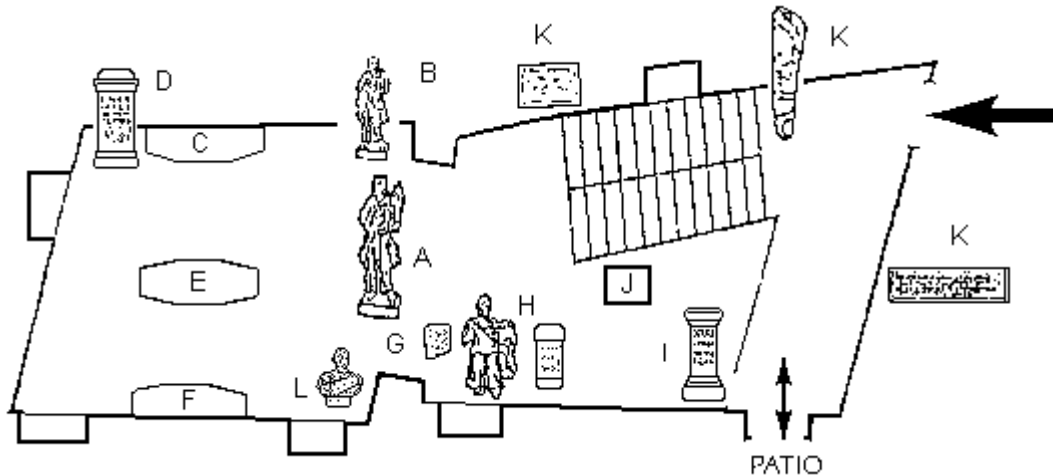
This room is dedicated to the period that begins in the 8th century BC, when local cultures came into contact with Greeks, Phoenicians and other Mediterranean cultures, and ends with the Roman Conquest of the Iberian Peninsula in the 2nd century BC.



- A:** Warrior-*stelae*: these slabs are typical of southwestern archaeology. They represent, schematically, a human figure, a sword, a shield, a two-horse chariot and other luxury items. They are interpreted as representations of great chieftains.
- B:** Show-case: imported and luxury items found in the Medellín burial ground.
- C:** Show-case: other finds from the Medellín burial-ground (7th to 5th centuries BC). A typical grave is reconstructed on the lower shelf.
- D:** Show-case: Different finds belonging to the Orientalizing Period. Of special interest are two remarkable bronze jugs.
- E:** First show-case dedicated to Cancho Roano, a 5th century cult-center. The top shelf is dedicated to objects related to horses. The lower one, to the consumption of wine.
- F:** Show-case: the top shelf contains a selection of ornamental objects from Cancho Roano, the lower one, iron tools and weights.
- G:** Show-case: a sample of gold, silverwork, and diverse pottery from the Second Iron Age (3rd to 2nd centuries BC)
- H:** A warrior-*stèle* with superimposed Tartessian inscription.
- I:** Tartessian stone inscription, later reused in Roman

## ROME

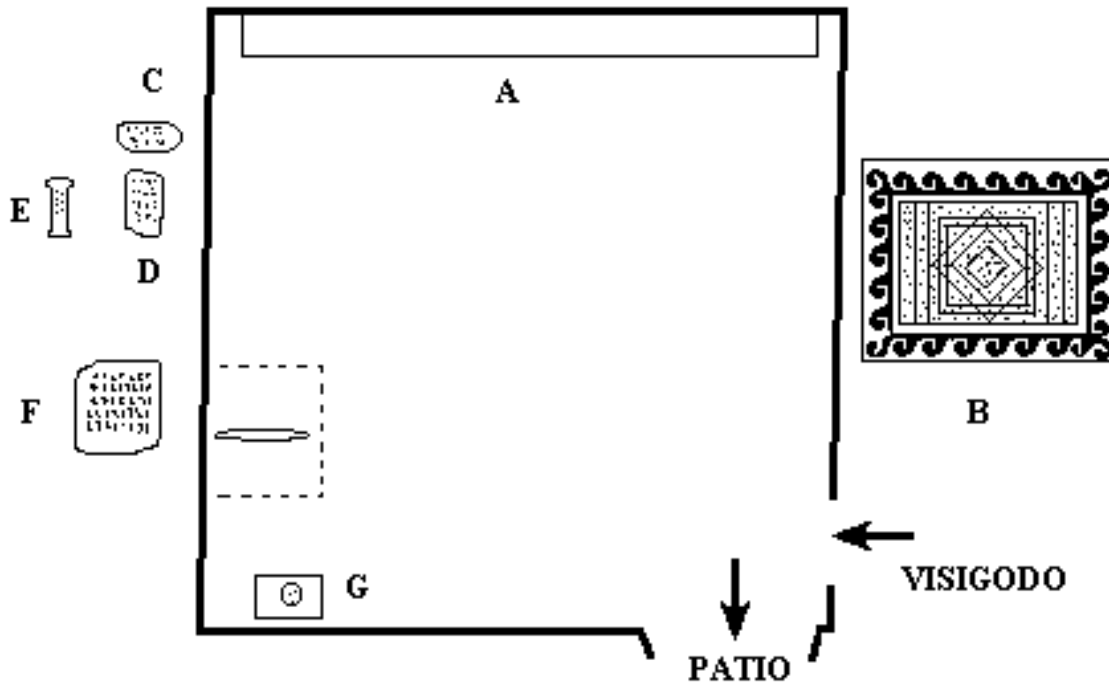
The exhibit in this room illustrates the incorporation of the Guadiana valley into the Roman Empire, a transformation with wide encompassing changes in local culture and society.



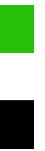
- A:** Statue of a Lar, a deity of the household.
- B:** Statue of a young woman. Found in the Roman theatre of Medellín.
- C:** Show-case: diverse finds from each of the best known municipalities into which the Roman administration divided the territory of present day Badajoz.
- D:** Non-deciphered inscription on a marble altar. The only certain word is *CONC(illum)*, which refers to a grouping of small villages.
- E:** Show-case: this exhibit is dedicated to aspects of daily life in Roman Hispania: clothing, personal ornaments, illumination of the house and table service.
- F:** Show-case: tools and implements used in agriculture and mining, two of the main activities upon which Roman economy was based in this geographical area.
- G:** Marble inscription dedicated to the divinized emperor Titus.
- H:** Statue and votive altar stone dedicated to the god of woods and farming, Silvanus.
- I:** Altar-stone dedicated to Jupiter.
- J:** Show-case: religious objects, with the most typical on the top shelf, the lower one being dedicated to anthropomorphic offerings from Cueva del Valle (Zalamea de la Serena).
- K:** Funerary inscriptions.
- L:** Portrait of an unidentified man, found in the roman villa of La Majona (D. Benito) Third Century

**LATE ANTIQUITY**

This room is dedicated to the period between the 3rd and 7th centuries AD. The main characteristics of this period were the changes within classical Roman culture and society, the spread of Christianity and the formation in the Iberian Peninsula of the Visigothic kingdom.

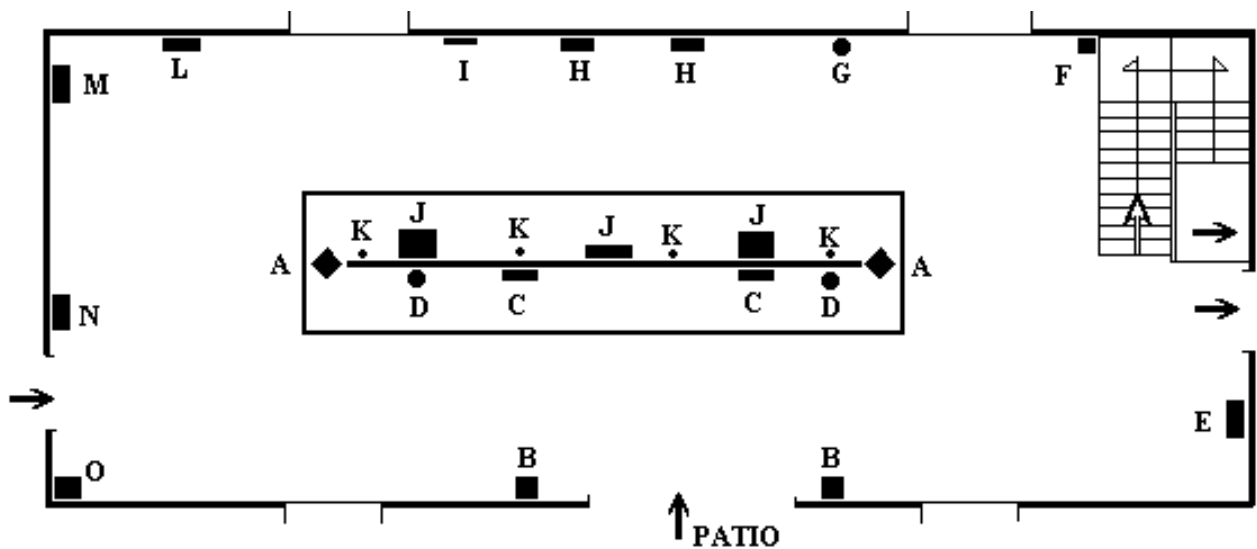


- A:** Show-case: from right to left the objects exhibited represent the transition from late classical culture - such as stucco-pieces from the La Cocosa *villa* - to Visigothic geometrism, and the balance between change and continuity typical of this period.
- B:** Floor mosaic from a rural *villa* (Las Tiendas, Mérida).
- C:** Fragment of the grave-stone dedicated to Arbundius with inscription written in verse.
- D:** Pascentius' tomb-stone. The abnormally long text contains quotes from early Christian authors.
- E:** Christian funerary inscription, cut from a pagan altar-stone.
- F:** Tomb stone of Fortuna. Both sides of the stone are inscribed. Since a mistake was made on the first side, the stone had to be turned over to rewrite the text. The preparatory incisions and guide lines were not erased from the first side, which left a very important example of how a Roman stone-mason worked.
- G:** Marble plaque with *labarum* (anagram of Christ).



## VISIGOTHIC ARCHITECTURE

This room is dedicated exclusively to architecture of the 6th and 7th centuries AD. All of the pieces here exhibited are marble, and most have been found as re-used elements in medieval and modern buildings. Their origin is thus unknown, but most specialists believe that they were originally made for churches.

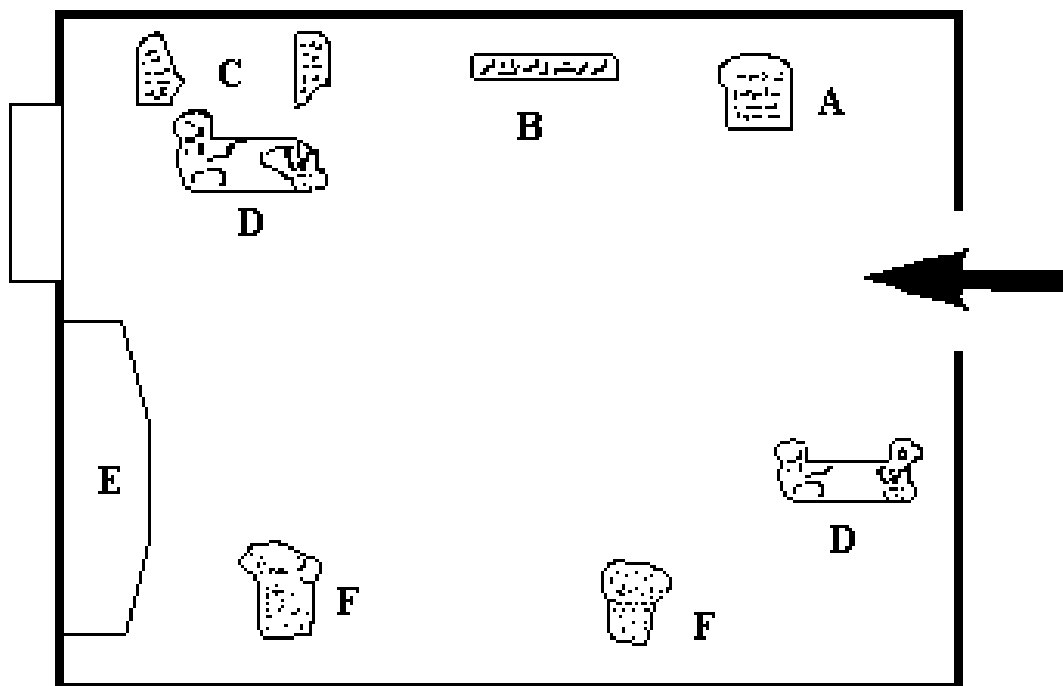


- A:** Pair of pillars decorated with geometric and vegetal motives. Badajoz.
- B:** Pair of pilasters, with geometric decoration. San Matías, Almendral.
- C:** Decorative panels.
- D:** Fluted columns. Badajoz.
- E:** Chancel-panel, found in the vicinity of Olivenza. Plaques such as these separated the altar area of a church from the congregation. The decoration alludes to Christ as the Saviour.
- G:** Capital, classical prototypes inspired its decoration.
- F:** Altar-pillar, Badajoz
- H:** Two pillars, Badajoz. The one on the right was carved out of a Roman statue.
- I:** Marble inscription dedicated to Saint Christopher. Las Arguijuelas, Alange.
- J:** Two impost-blocks or cymatiums. These pieces mark the beginning of an arch.
- K:** Small columns of diverse origin.
- L:** Corner-pillar. The cross on the main face was intentionally destroyed, possibly during the Islamic period.
- M:** Pillar, Badajoz. The decoration on the side alludes to the Eucharist.
- N:** Pilaster, Badajoz.
- O:** Corner pillar, found in Badajoz, with vegetal motives.



## ISLAM

This room contains some of the few pieces remaining from Islamic Badajoz. The most representative monument is the Alcazaba itself. It was founded by Ibn Marwan in 884 AD, and is the origin of this city.



**A:** Marble tomb-stone of Shapur, first *taifa* king of Badajoz who died in 1022 AD.

**B:** Funerary inscription of Al Mansur, second *taifa* king of Badajoz and founder of the *aftasid* dynasty, who died in 1045 AD.

**C:** Marble tomb-stones, 11th to 12th centuries.

**D:** Bench-stands (?), marble, in the form of lions. Badajoz, 11th century .

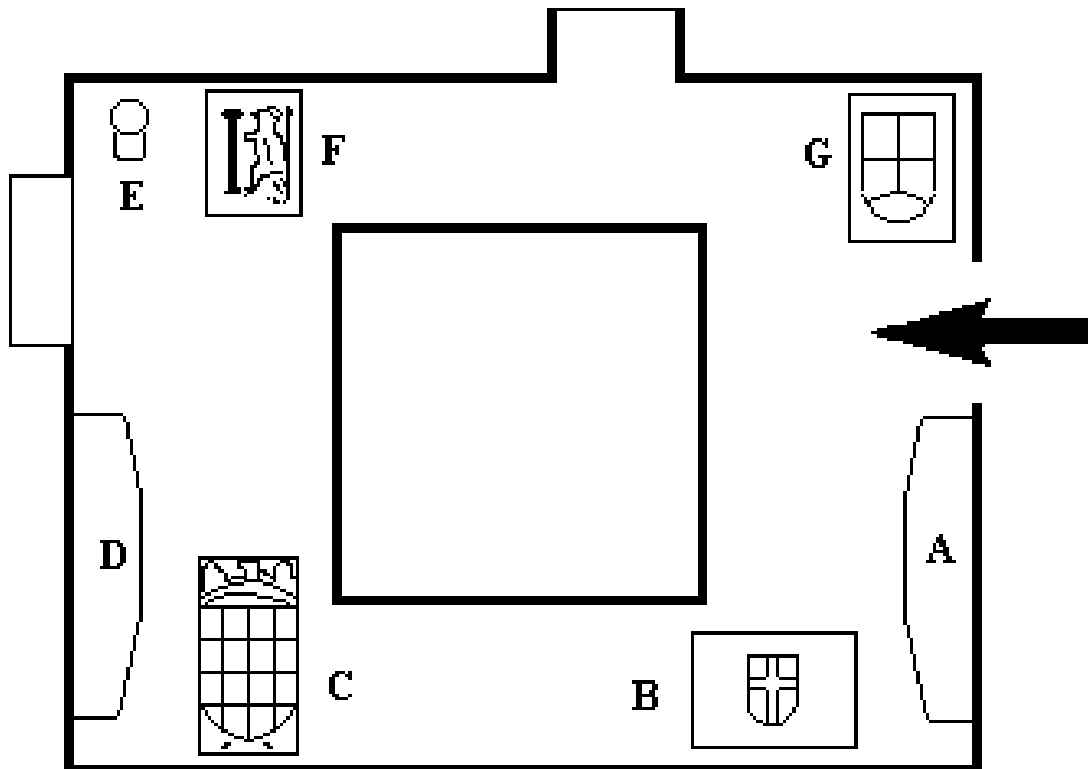
**E:** Show-case: objects of Islamic date. Those exhibited on the top shelf were found in the city of Badajoz, those on the lower shelf come in other parts of the province.

**F:** Two capitals, probably made in Medina Azahara, Córdoba.



## LATE MEDIEVAL

The exhibition in this room represents the period that begins with the conquest of Badajoz in 1230 AD by Alfonso IX king of León, and its assimilation into the Christian cultural sphere.



- A:** Show-case: different objects are exhibited on the top shelf, among them the silver treasure from Nogales, circa 1350 to 1369 AD. The lower shelf is dedicated to arms and horse-trappings of the nobility.
- B:** Marble inscription, in Portuguese, marking the foundation of the castle of Albuquerque (August 4th, 1306).
- C:** Coat-of-Arms of Juana I the Mad and Felipe I the Beautiful, who reigned briefly in 1505-1506.
- D:** A selection is here presented of mid-16th century common pottery from the vaults of the church of N<sup>a</sup> Señora de la Candelaria, Zafra.
- E:** Tomb-stone (13th to 14th centuries AD).
- F:** Sixteenth century coat-of-arms of the city of Badajoz.
- G:** Escutcheon of a noble family from Badajoz.