



Digital reconstruction of a temple © artefacts-berlin.de; wissenschaftliches Material: Deutsches Archäologisches Institut

## Uruk- 5000 Years of the Megacity

The archaeological show "Uruk- 5000 Years of the Megacity" at Pergamon Museum Berlin is the first major exhibition to study the genesis and flourishing of the first city in the history of the world since excavations commenced in Uruk-Warka one hundred years ago.

### **Exhibition unites excavation finds for the first time**

The loans in the exhibition are spectacular. The Vorderasiatisches Museum Berlin and the Reiss-Engelhorn-Museen's Curt Engelhorn Foundation Mannheim have joined forces with the Orient Department of the DAI (Deutsches Archäologisches Institut), and the German Oriental Society. In addition, to further enhance the presentation of topics covered in the show, numerous important and valuable loans will also go on display, sent from major European museums, such as the Musée du Louvre in Paris, the British Museum in London and the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology in Oxford.

This close collaboration means that for the first time it is possible to unveil a comprehensive exhibition on the city, which reunites the excavation finds from Uruk-Warka that made their way to Germany after they were split up in a procedure that was customary at the time.

### **Exhibition shows also digital reconstructions**

The show will be enhanced by impressive digital reconstructions of both the ancient city's layout and several of its key monuments. It gives visitors a once-in-a-lifetime chance to experience both the architecture and lived reality of inhabitants of the first city in the ancient

Near East and to trace its development over the course of several millennia.

### **Gilgamesh myth as a starting point**

The exhibition takes the Gilgamesh myth as its starting point. But it is not merely contented with depicting the origins of urban life in the city and the developments associated with it. The exhibition in fact goes one step further and uses a series of architectural structures and themed exhibition 'chapters' to illustrate how the origins of urban life subsequently evolved over the course of the next three millennia.