

- How did Octavian finally convince the Roman Senate to declare war on Marc Antony?
- By reading Marc Antony's will in which he requests to be buried in Alexandria, Egypt.
- Actium (Greece)
- 31 BCE

- ***Cleopatra*** (1963)
- Dir. Joseph Mankiewicz
- Cleopatra—Elizabeth Taylor
- Caesar—Rex Harrison
- Marc Antony—Richard Burton
- Octavian—Roddy McDowall



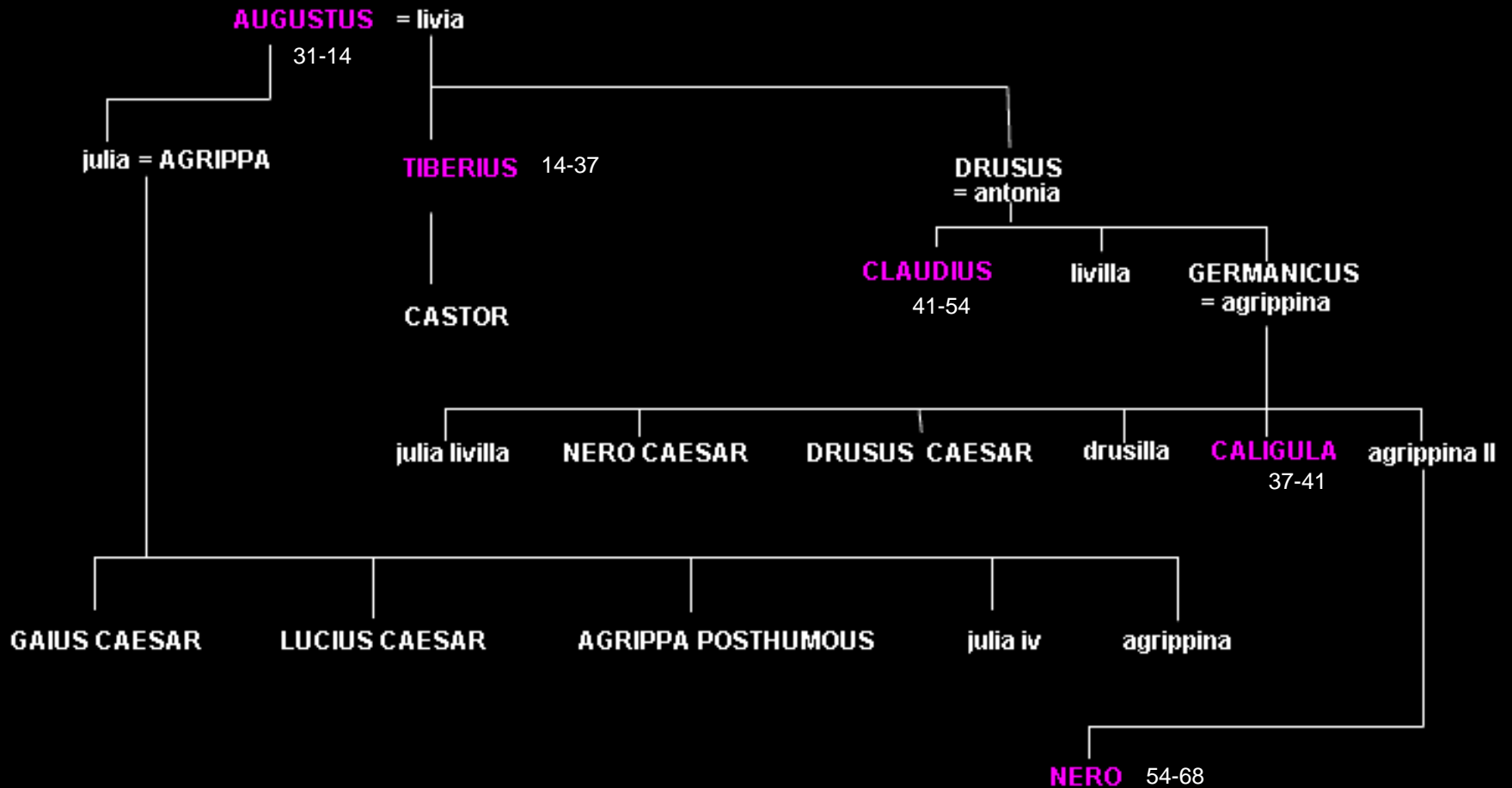
Julio-Claudian Dynasty (31 BCE-68 CE)

- Augustus 31 BCE–14 CE
- Tiberius 14–37
- Gaius (Caligula) 37-41
- Claudius 41-54
- Nero 54-68

Year of the Four Emperors

- Galba 68-69
- Otho 69
- Vitellius 69
- Vespasian 69-79

Julio-Claudian Family Tree



■ = emperor

Cornelius Publius Tacitus (56-117c)

- Senator, historian, orator (aristocratic and conservative)
- Held political office during terror of Domitian (81-96)
- Consulship in 97 under Nerva; Governor of Asia under Trajan c. 112

- Works:
 - **Agricola** (father-in-law, governor of Britain)
 - **Germania** (moral contrast: Germany v. Rome)
 - **Annales** (Julio-Claudian era 14-68)
 - **Historiae** (Flavian period 69-96)

Tacitus rewrites the Augustan narrative

- Augustus found the whole state exhausted by internal dissensions, and established over it a **personal regime** known as the Principate...
- He **seduced** the army with bonuses, and his cheap food policy was successful bait for civilians. Indeed, he attracted everybody's good will by the enjoyable gift of peace. Then he gradually pushed ahead and absorbed the functions of the Senate, the officials, and even the law.
- Opposition did not exist. War or judicial murder had **disposed all men of spirit**. Upper-class survivors found that slavish obedience was the way to succeed, both politically and financially...
- The country had been transformed, and there was **nothing left of the old Roman character**. Political equality was a thing of the past; all eyes watched for imperial commands.

Nero [Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus]—chronology

- 49 **Agrippina** marries her uncle **Claudius** [novelty; incest]
- 50 **Claudius** adopts **Nero** [now ahead of his own son **Britannicus**]
- 53 Nero marries Claudius' daughter **Octavia**
- 54 Agrippina poisons Claudius; Nero becomes emperor at 17
- 55 Nero poisons his step-brother Britannicus
- 59 Nero has Agrippina assassinated [matricide]
- 62 Nero has Octavia murdered for his lover **Poppaea**
- 64 Great Fire in Rome, **Christians** persecuted
Nero builds **Domus Aurea**
- 68 Rebellion of generals in provinces, Nero commits **suicide**
--"What an artist dies in me." (Suetonius)

Themes to look for in Tacitus

- The emperor's house (and Rome by extension) reduced to a **site of vice**
 - Focus on emperor and imperial family and its machinations muddles the **public/private separation** and undoes Augustus's merger of res publica and res privata.
 - Nero engages in debauchery; loves everything Greek
- **Gender and class confusion**
 - machinations of Agrippina; freedmen [**liberti**] in Emperor's court
- Virtues such as virtus, gravitas, dignitas, pietas are undermined.
 - **No corrective virtuous exempla** to overcome vice—Octavia v. Lucretia
- Religion (cosmic order) is reduced to **superstition and portents**

Aureus, 54 CE, Nero and Agrippina

Agripp Aug Divi Claud Neronis Caes Mater

Agrippina Augusta, wife of divine Claudius, mother of Nero

Bust of Nero, 60 CE

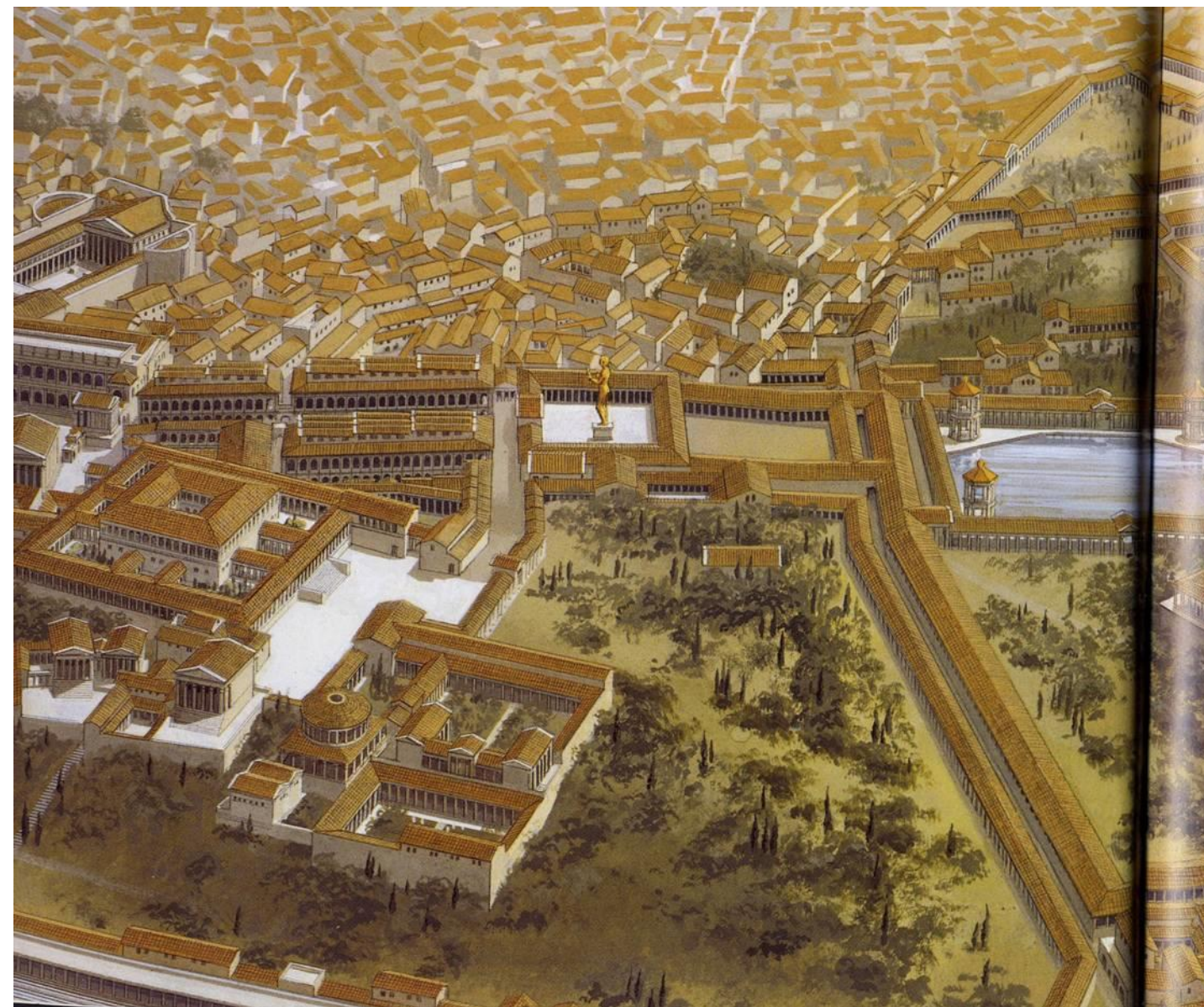


Tacitus on Fire in Rome / Golden House

distorted **refounding** / making the **public private**

- A disaster followed, **whether accidental or treacherously contrived** by the Emperor is uncertain, as authors have given both accounts...
- A rumor had gone forth that, at the very time the city was in flames, the Emperor appeared on a private stage and **sang of the destruction of Troy**, comparing present misfortunes with the calamities of antiquity... It seemed that Nero was aiming at the glory of **founding a new city** and calling it by his name....
- Nero meanwhile availed himself of his country's desolation, and erected a mansion in which the jewels and gold...were not so marvelous as the fields and lakes, with woods on one side to resemble a wilderness, and, on the other, open spaces and extensive views...[with] the genius and audacity **to attempt by art even what nature had refused.**

Nero's Golden House



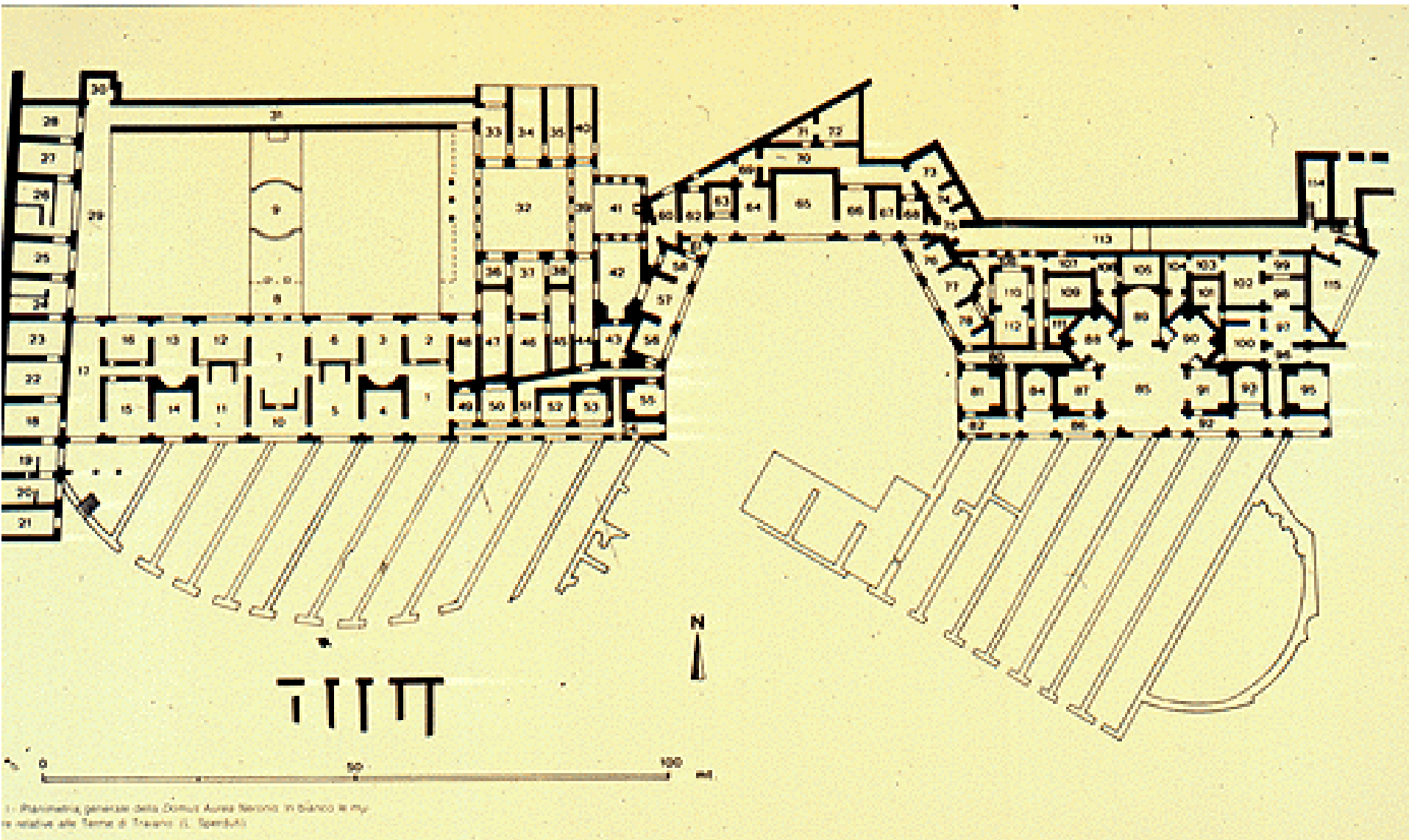
Vespasian replaces Golden House with Colosseum and Baths of Titus
political palimpsest: **restores the private to the public**



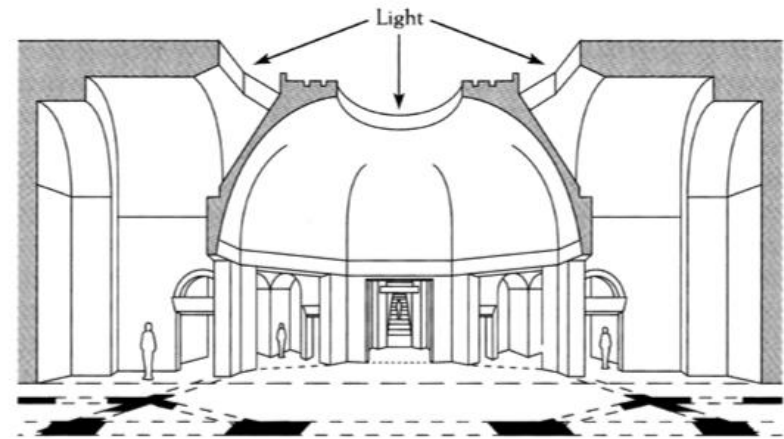
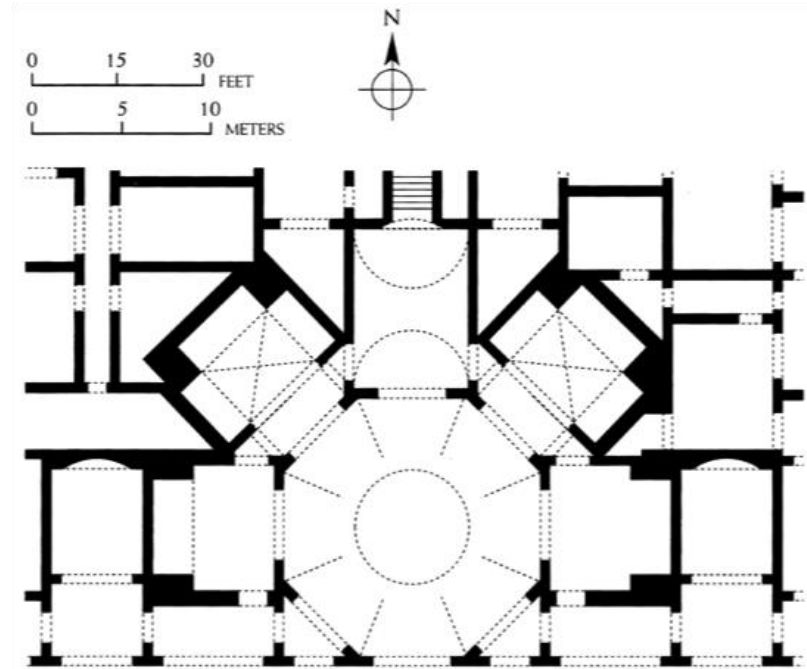
Martial on Vespasian's building projects on the site of Nero's Golden House

- Where the starry colossus sees the constellations at close range and lofty scaffolding rises in the middle of the road, once gleamed the odious halls of a cruel monarch, and in all Rome there stood **a single house**.
- Where rises before our eyes the august pile of the amphitheater, was once Nero's lake. Where we admire the warm baths, a speedy gift, a haughty tract of land had robbed the poor of their dwellings.
- **Rome has been restored to herself** and under your rule Caesar [Vespasian], the pleasures that belonged to a master now belong to the people.

Domus Aurea (Golden House 64-68 CE) / Severus and Celer



Domus Aurea: Octagonal room—dome, barrel and groin vaulting







Newest discovery: Nero's rotating dining room on Palatine

Suetonius: "The main banquet hall was circular and constantly revolved day and night, in imitation of the heavens."

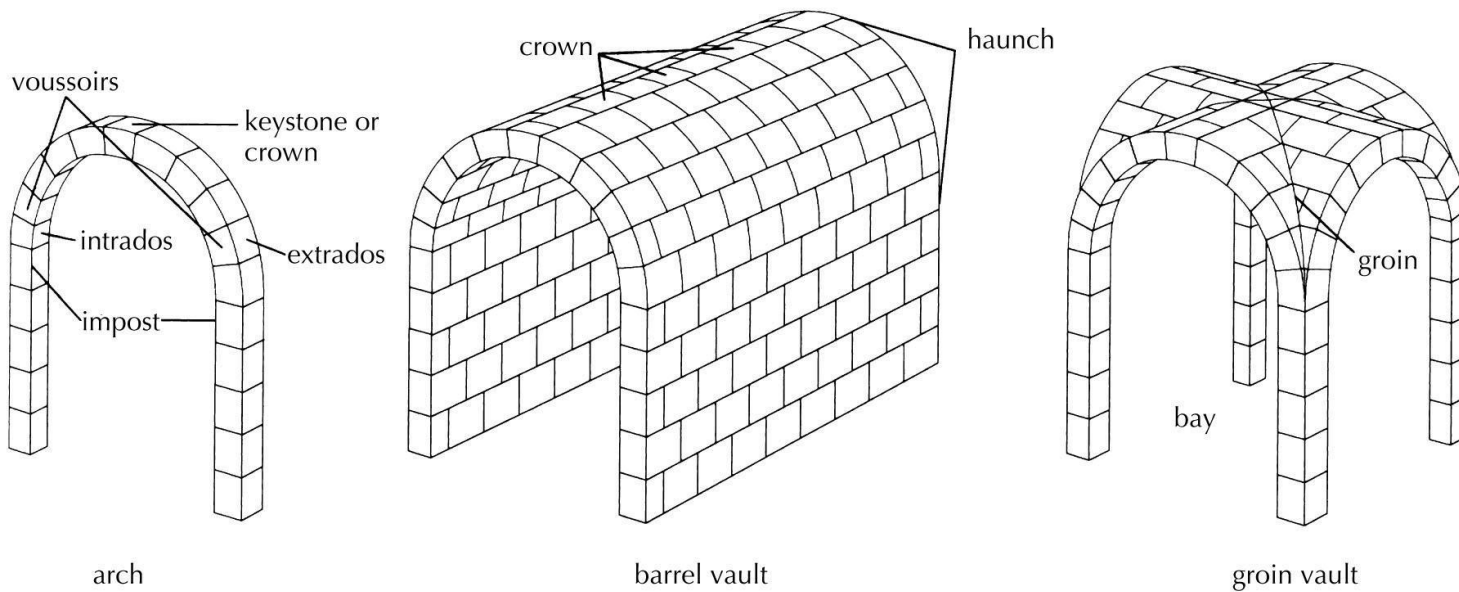
Roman Architectural Revolution: arch and concrete

(much of Roman 'civilization' is predicated on building techniques)

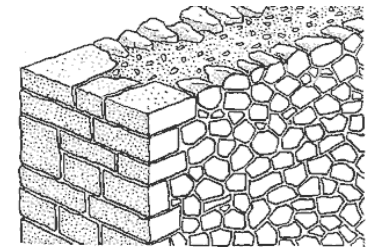
Hadrian's villa: **post and lintel** vs. **arch**



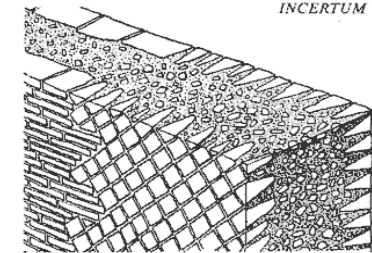
The arch can be expanded in barrel or groin vaults or domes



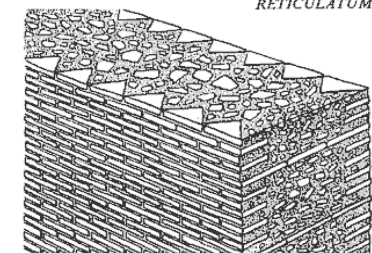
- **Concrete** is consistently solid mass unlike stone blocks and allows you to build **large** walls and ceilings and **hold space**
- Roman concrete: lime mortar, volcanic sand, water, small stones
- The Romans often sheathed concrete in **brick work**, **stucco** and **marble** revetment.



WALL OF OPUS
INCERTUM

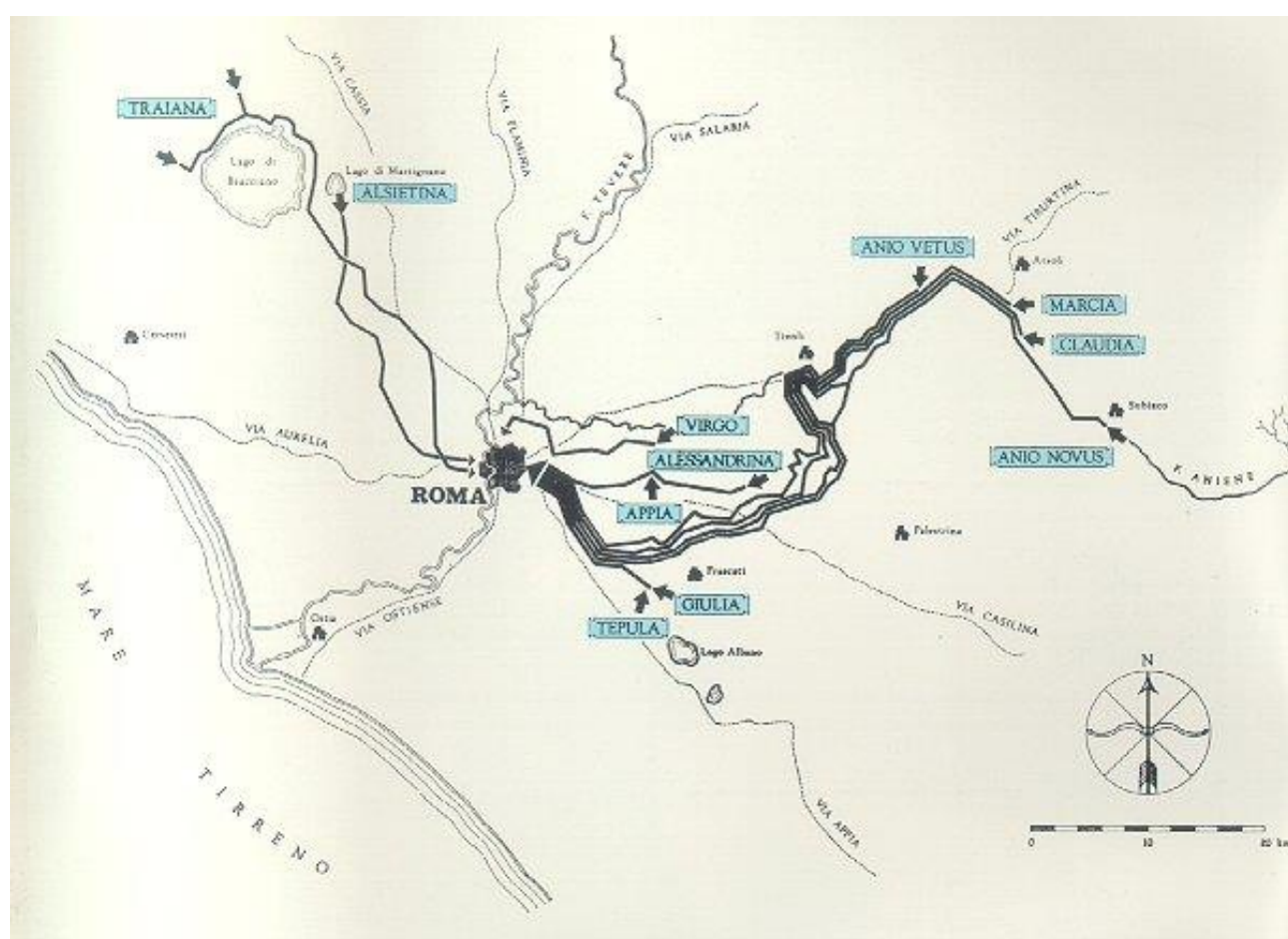


WALL OF OPUS
RETICULATUM

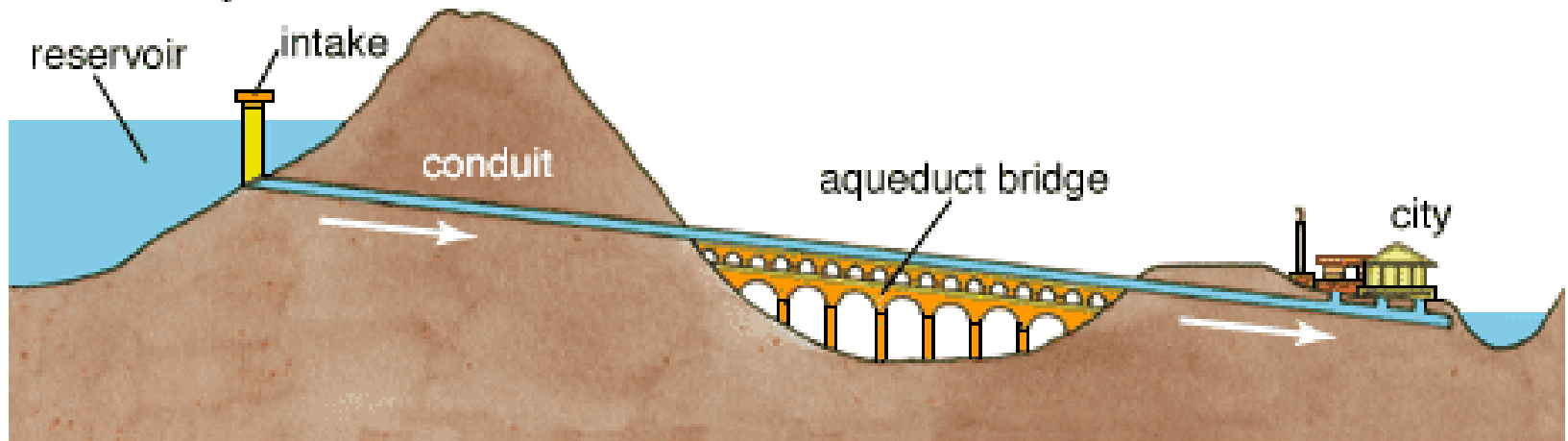


1) Aqueducts

11 Roman aqueducts from 312 BCE to 226 CE



Roman Aqueduct



Aqua Claudia, Rome



Pont-du-Gard, Nimes, France



Segovia, Spain



2) Colosseum [Flavian Amphitheater] 79-80 CE (Vespasian) Roman mass entertainment

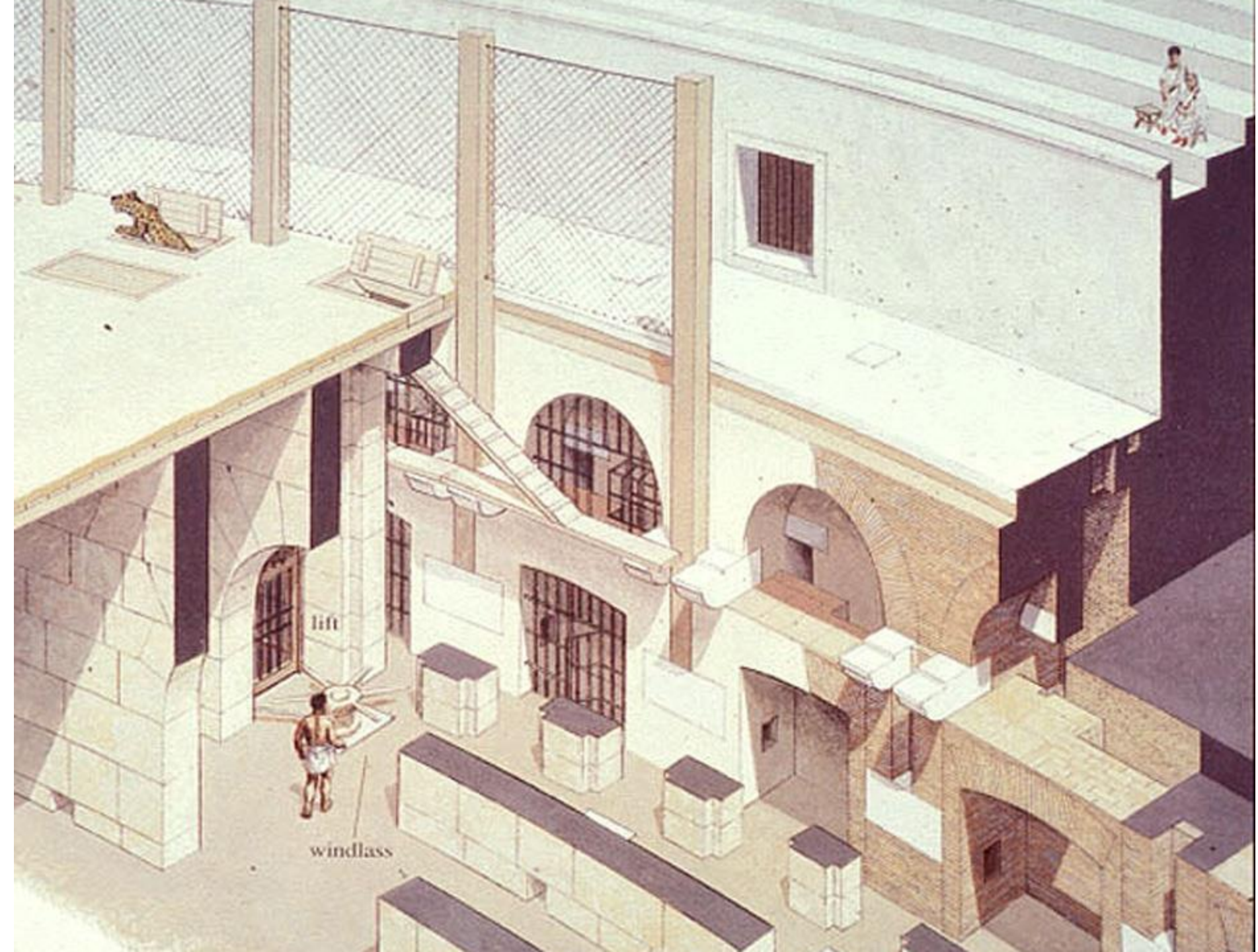


- Constructed on site of Nero's private lake
- Concrete foundation 40 ft deep
- 617 ft by 511 ft by 159 ft
- Seated 50,000
- 80 entrances
- Travertine, tufa, marble, brick faced concrete / annular, barrel and some groin vaulting



Colosseum: **cavea**, **arena**, **substructure**

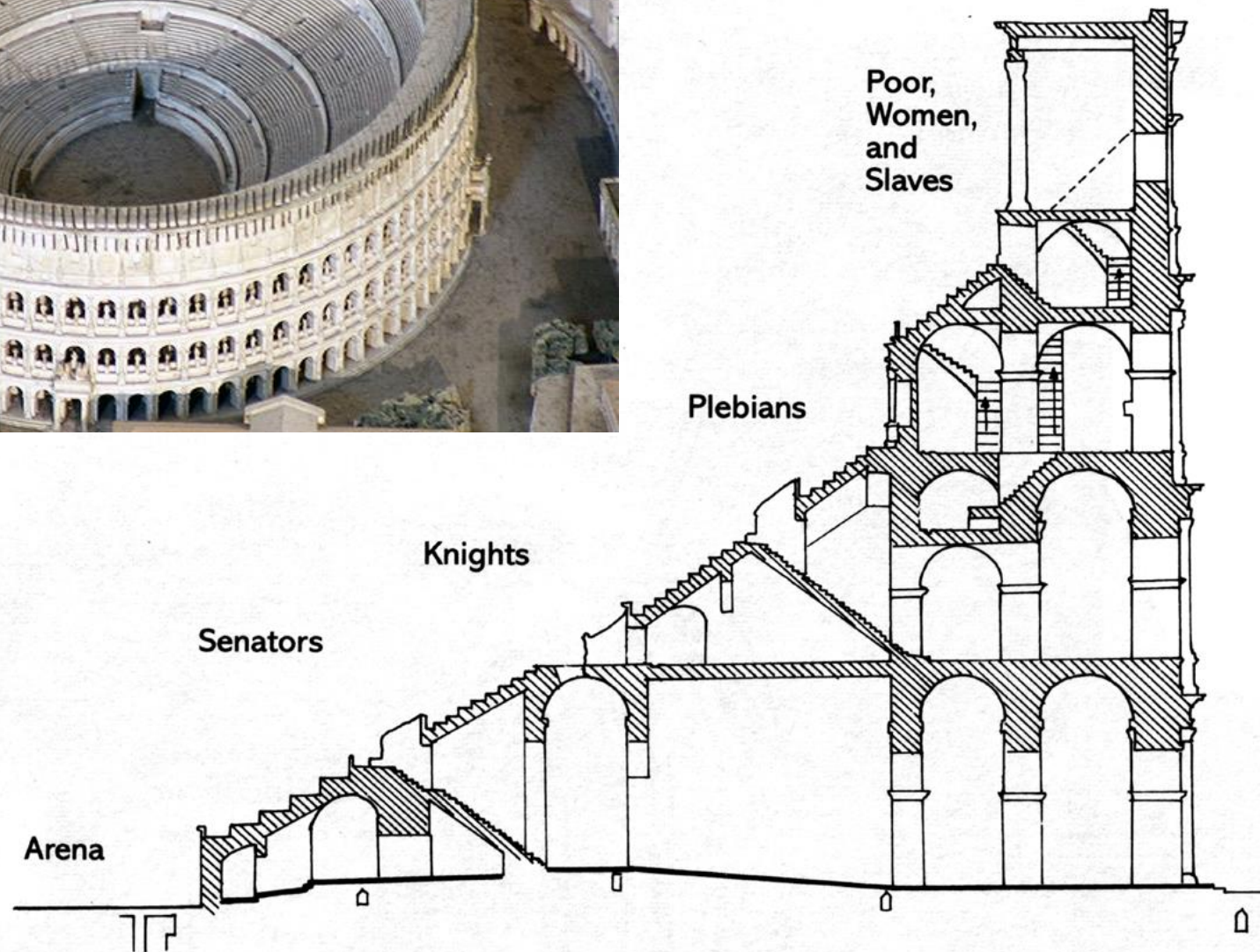




windlass

Colosseum: **velarium** (awning)





▲ Fig. 133. Colosseum. Reconstruction of seating zones



A day at the Colosseum:

Beast hunting (venationes)

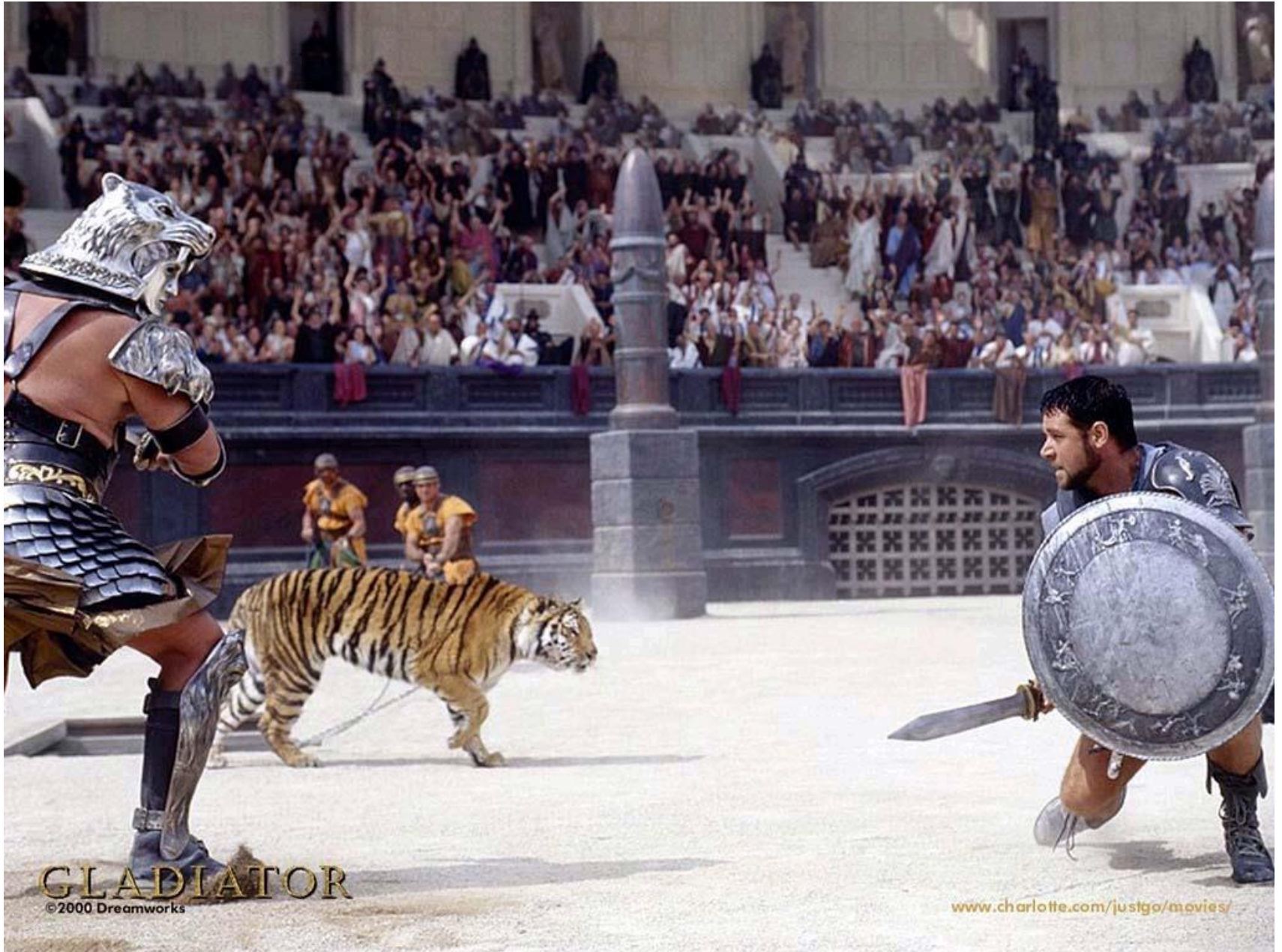
Public executions

Gladitorial games (munera)

Naval battles (naumachia)



An Australian gladiator



GLADIATOR

©2000 Dreamworks

www.charlotte.com/justgo/movies/



--3) Pantheon, 125 CE, Hadrian (original 27 BCE, Agrippa)



- --**Temple** to all the gods
- 7th century Christian church [tomb of Raphael and kings of Italy]
- Eclecticism**: Classical temple porch leads into domed circular space (142 ft diameter)
- world's largest unreinforced **concrete dome** sits on a **drum** of supporting arches with **coffered** ceiling and central **oculus** (27 ft diameter)

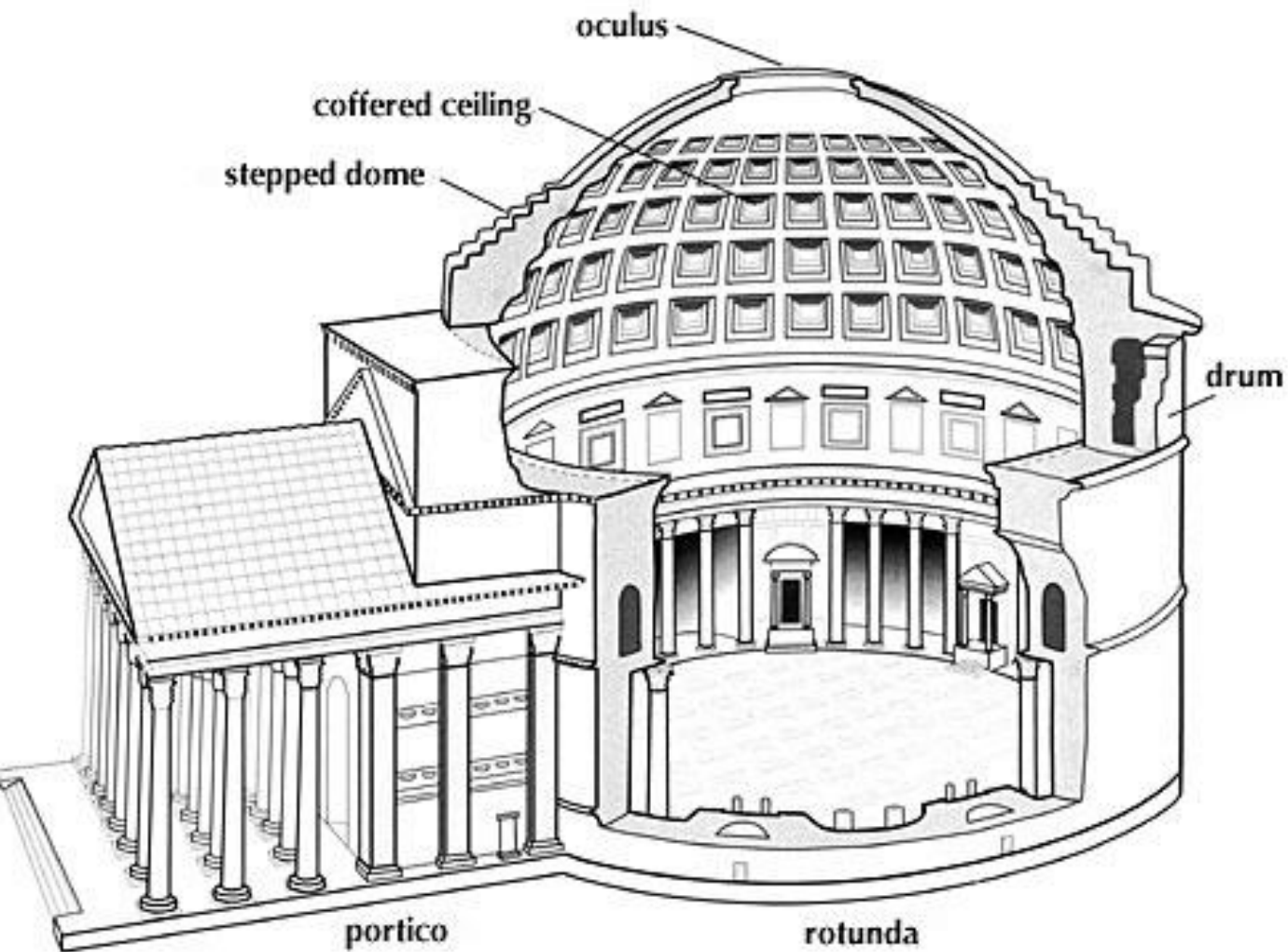
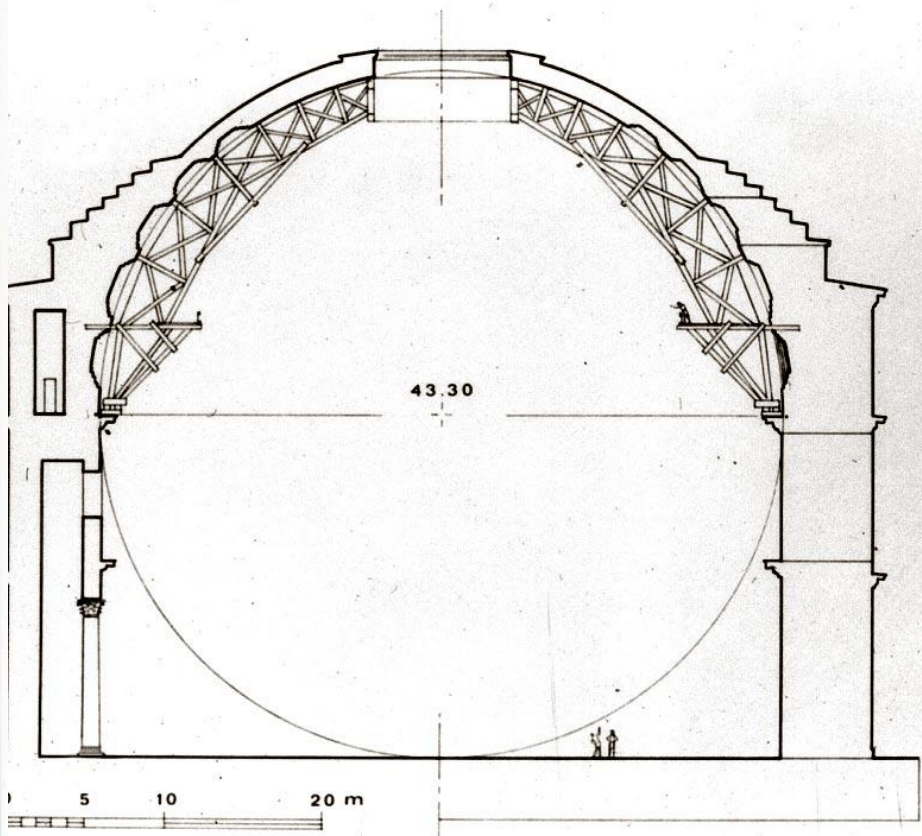


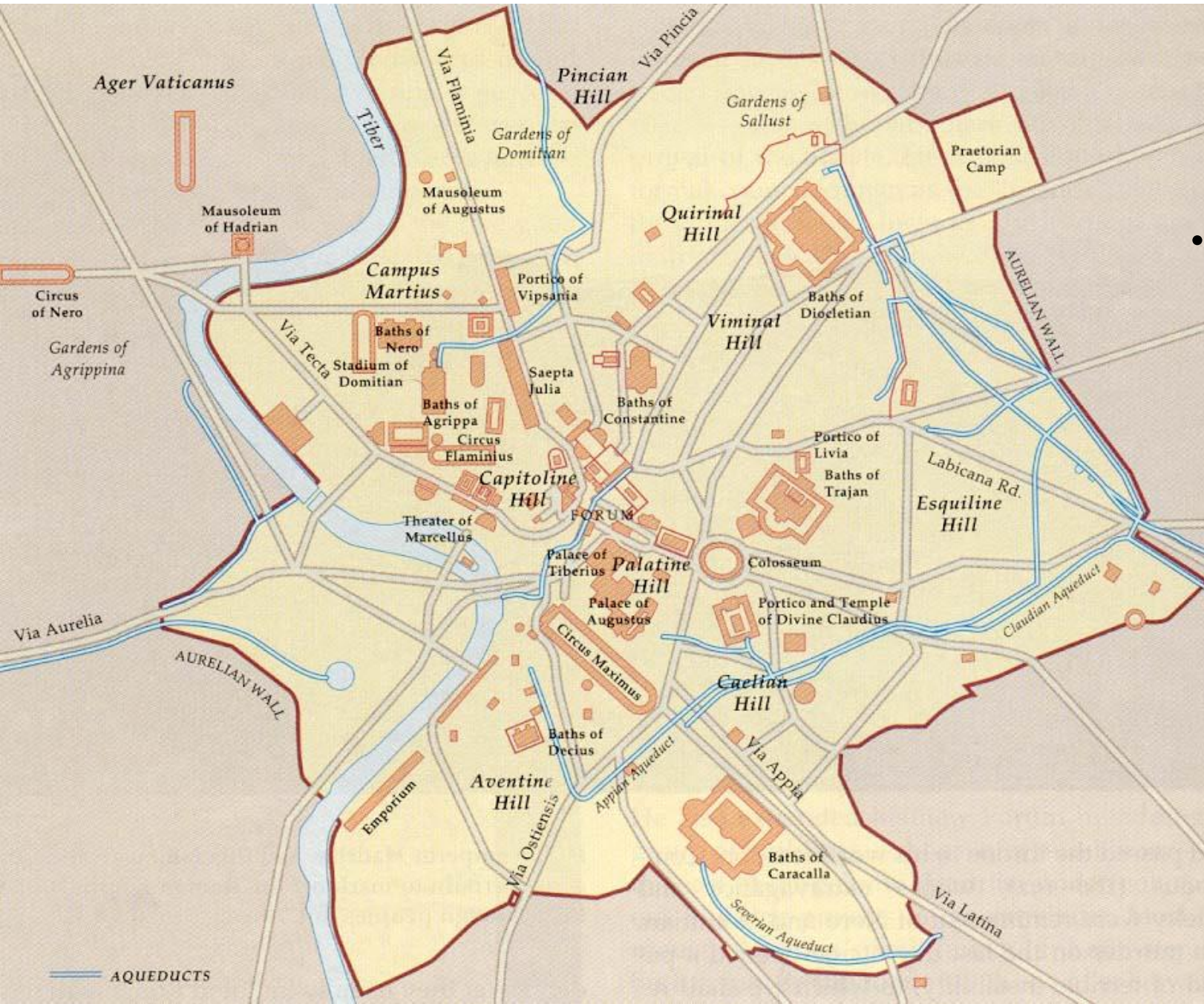


IMMAGINE DI GIANCARLO GASPONI





4) The Roman Baths: public leisure [commodae]



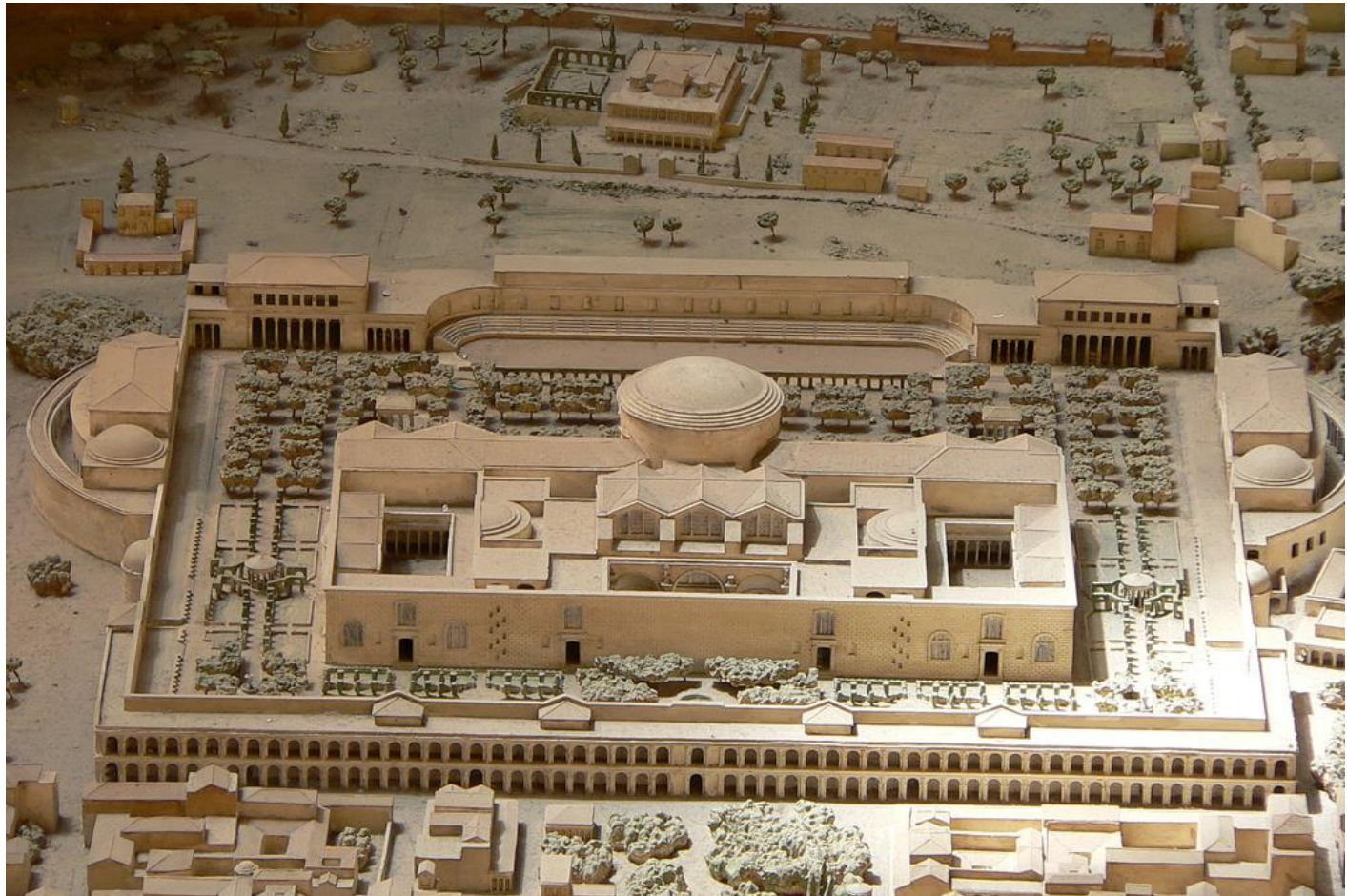
- 11
thermae
- 856
balneae

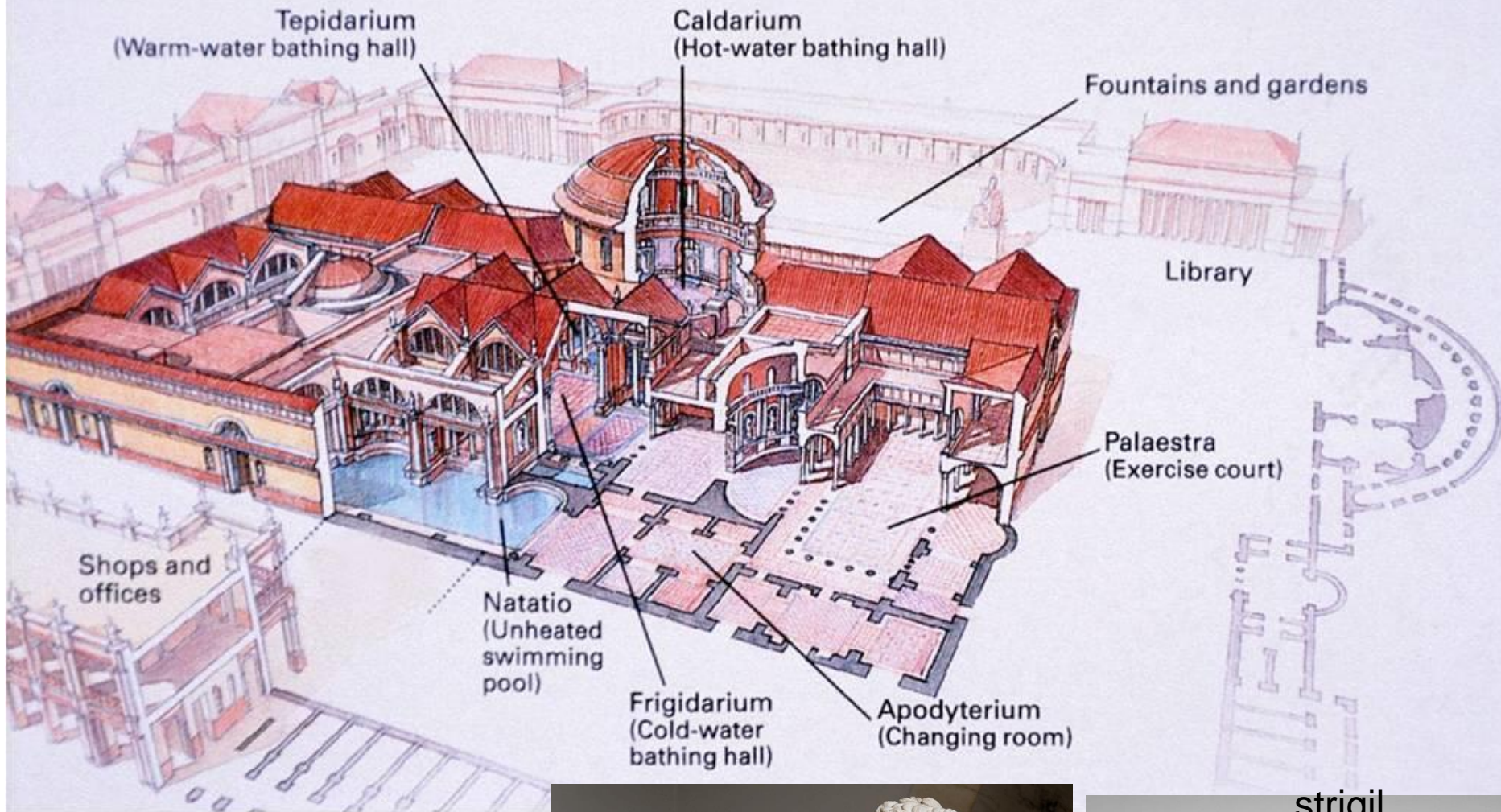
Baths of Caracalla, 216 CE





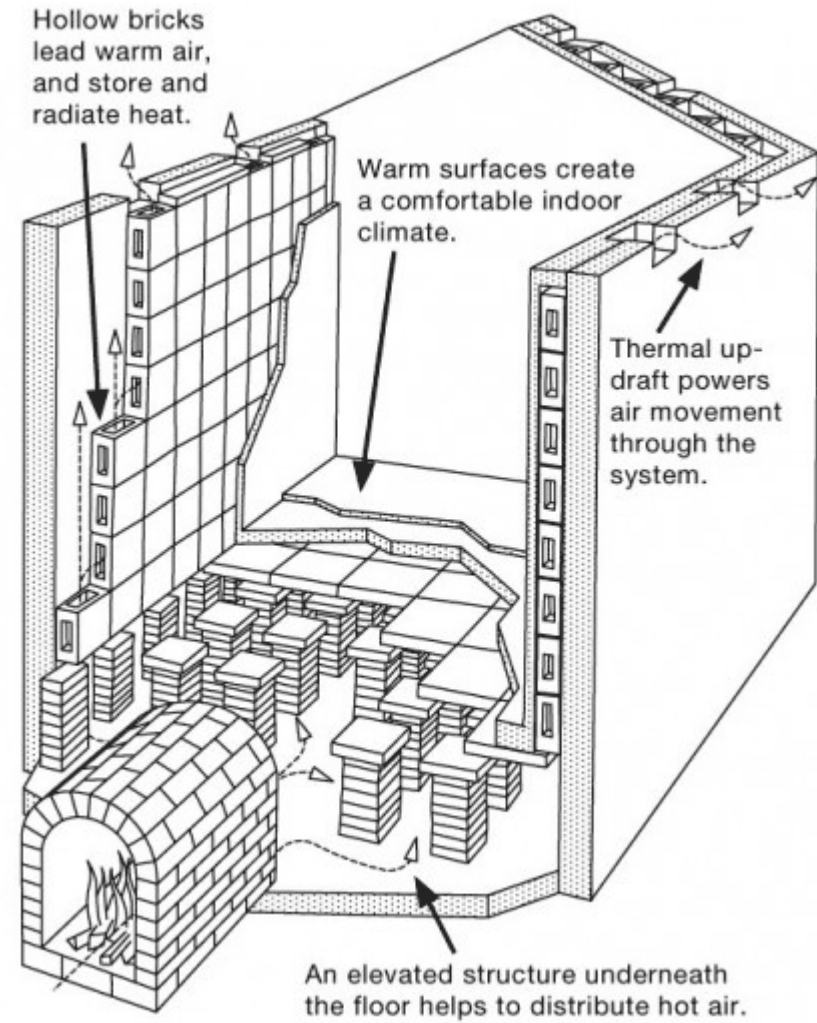
- Baths of Caracalla (Thermae Antoninianae) 216
- Core of **Caldarium, Tepidarium, Frigidarium, Natatio**
 - Concrete walls with barrel and groin vaulted ceilings (140 ft)
- Periphery: dressing rooms, gymnasia, small stadium, libraries, meeting rooms, gardens
- Marble veneering; Mosaics of robust athletes and colossal statuary







Caldarium:
faces south for maximum sun
uses floor and wall heating



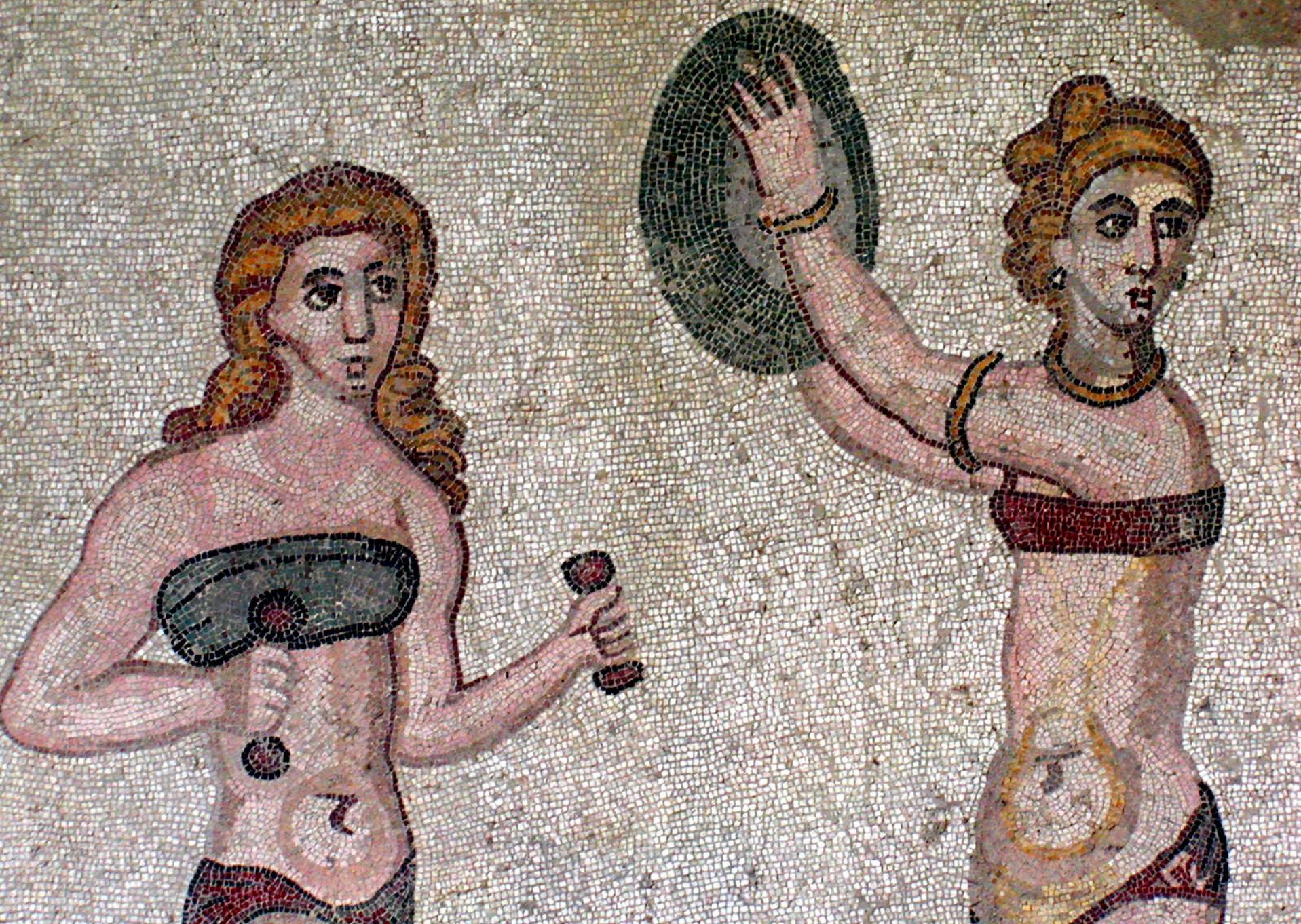
Statuary from Baths of Caracala: Farnese Hercules





Piazza Armerina (Sicily) mosaics, 4th century CE





Roman Housing: **domus** and **insula**

Ancient Rome: 1,200,000 inhabitants
Roman insula [4-5 stories] by Capitoline Hill



Public latrines: Ostia Antica

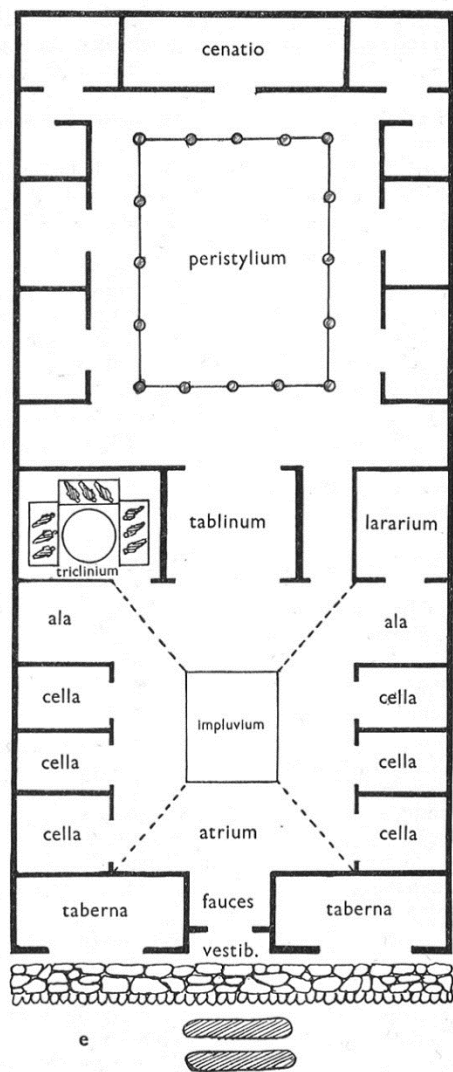


Roman House (domus)

Etruscan origins and later Hellenized

patron-client relationship

private/public space



Thermopolium in Pompeii





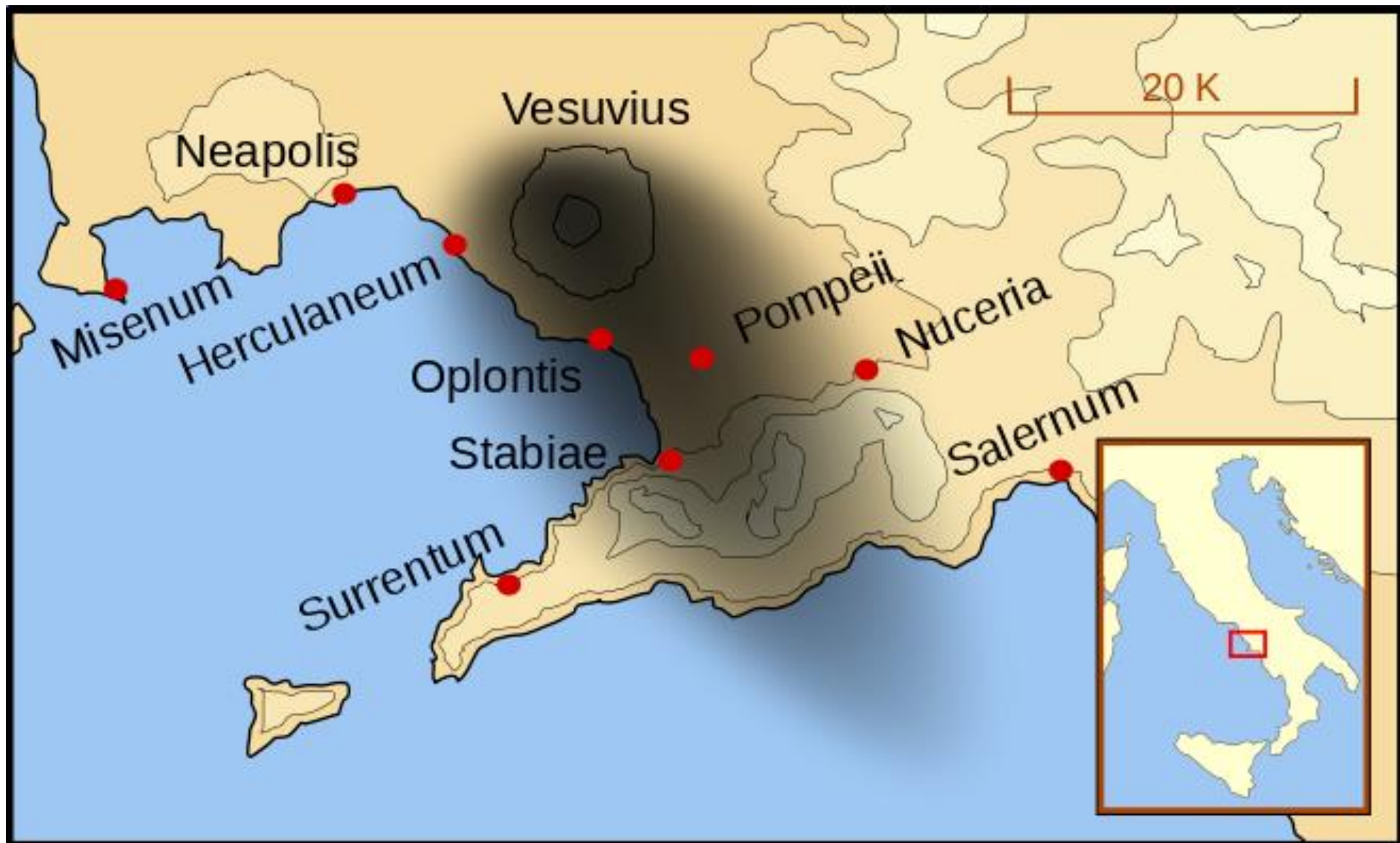
- Roman **triclinium**
- (dining room)

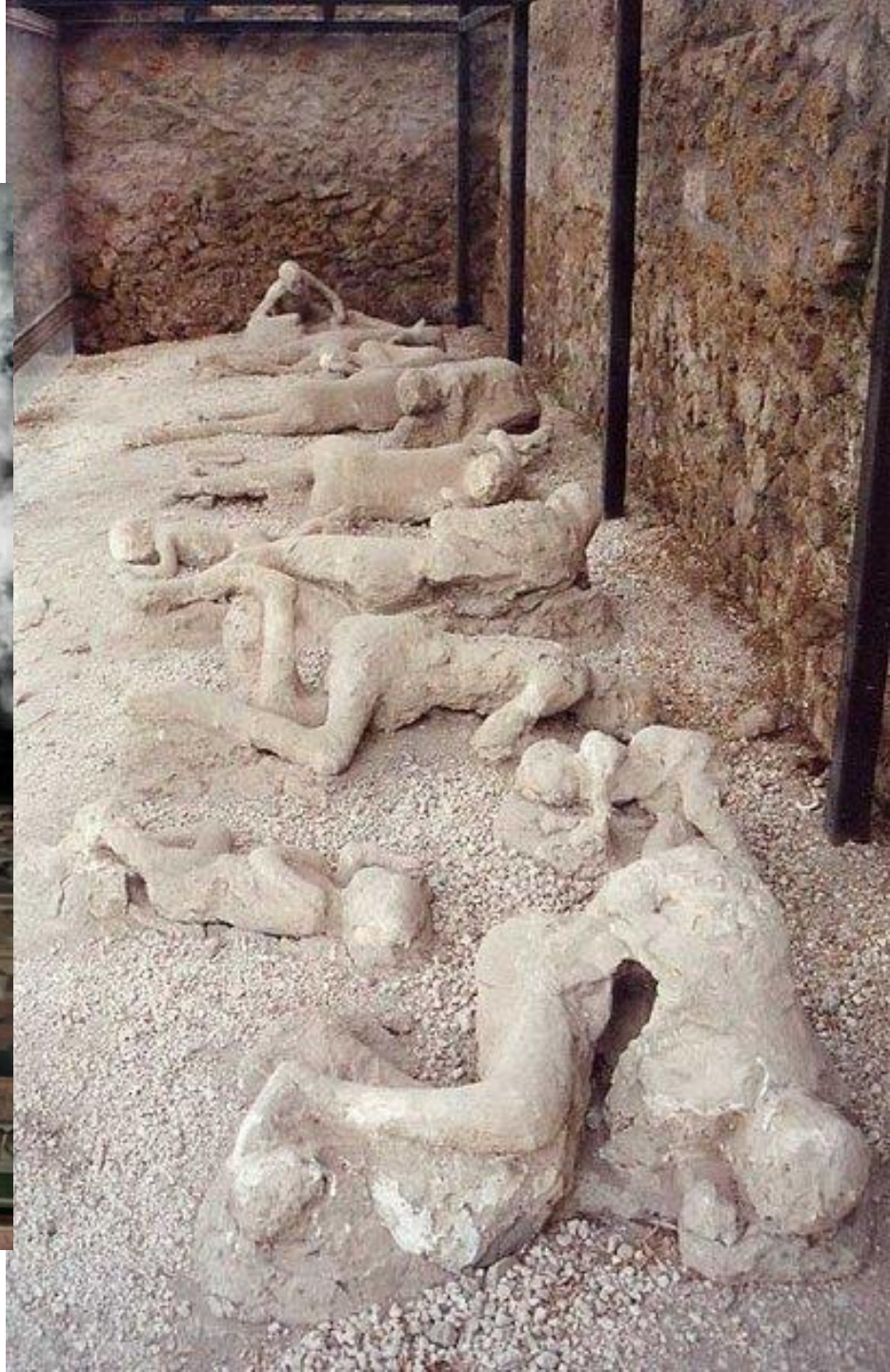


Vesuvius (near Naples)



Vesuvius, eruption 79 CE





Pompeii



House of Vettii,
Pompeii, 2nd-1st century
BCE



Roman/Pompeian **wall paintings**

impressing your guests

Fresco: paint applied on wet plaster

[4 styles]

First style (masonry)

effect the look of marble

200-80 BC

Samnite house,

Herculaneum





- **Second style** (illusionistic/architectural)
trompe-l'oeil illusion of **breaking through the wall** onto a painted scene
- 80 15BC

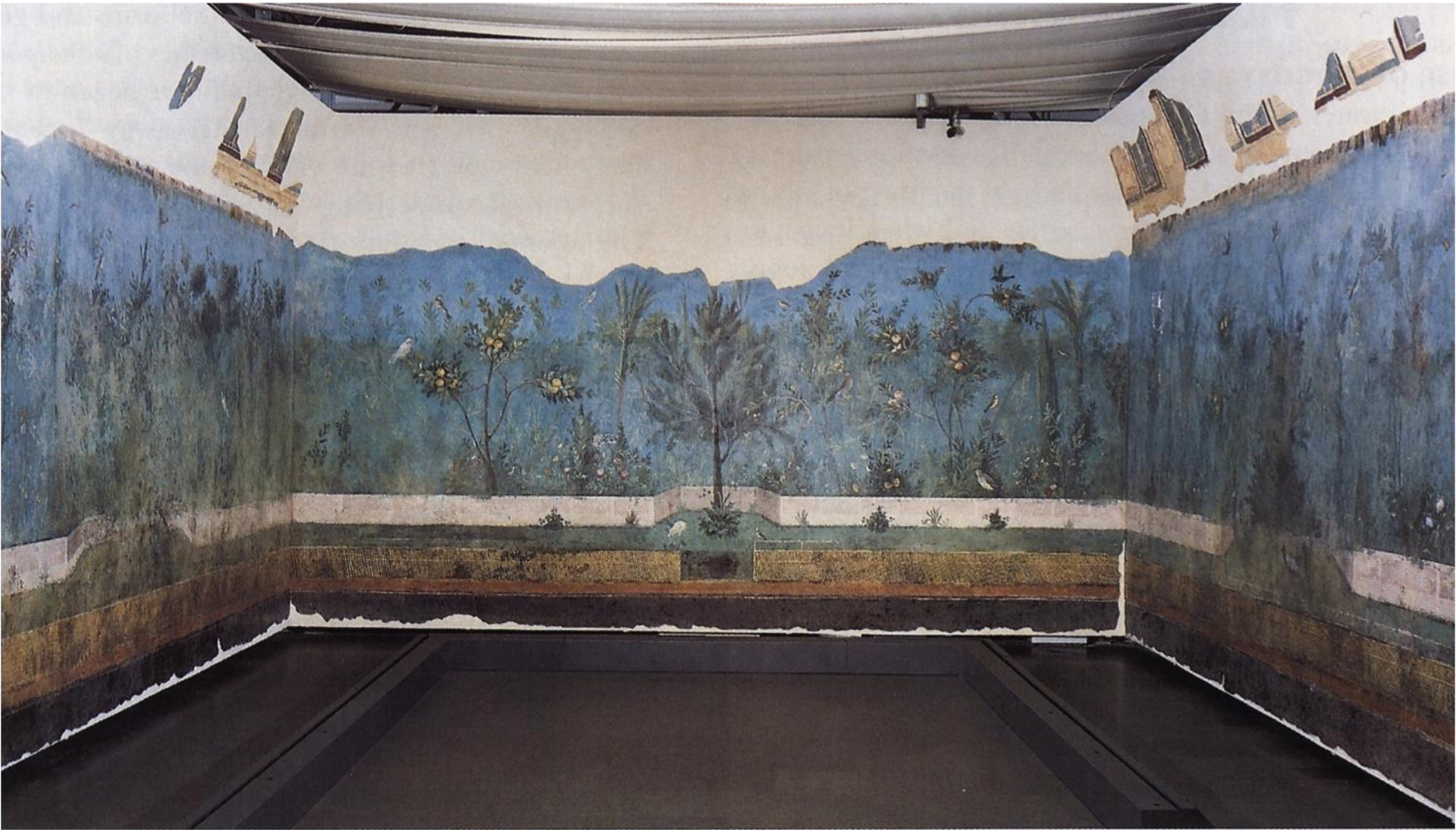
Villa dei Misteri, Pompeii, 60-50 BCE

Second Style, cubiculum [bedroom], villa of Publius Fannius Synistor,
50-40 BCE
at the Metropolitan Museum of Art (NYC)





Villa of Livia (Rome), gardenscape, 2nd style, 30-20 BCE





Third Style (ornamental) 10 BC – 60 AD

Architectural fantasies and paintings on monochromatic backgrounds



Villa of
Agrippa
Postumus,
10 BCE





4th Style (composite)
combines 3rd and 4th, architecture more fanciful
begins 60s CE

64 CE Nero's Golden House





4th style,
House of the Vetti,
Pompeii, 62-68 CE