

# Leisure Activities

*CITIES OF VESUVIUS: POMPEII AND HERCULANEUM*

# The GLADIATORIAL GAMES

- A popular form of entertainment in Pompeii was the gladiatorial games.
- Held in the amphitheater, or in the initial stages of the Samnite era, in the open courtyard of the Forum.
- Archaeological remains are held in the Museum of Naples. Excavated in 1776-67. Helmets, greaves and weapons. Very well preserved with embossed decorations of very skilled craftsmen
- It is generally accepted that the Gladiators of Pompeii enjoyed some stardom. Many women left inscriptions for their favourites all over the amphitheater grounds...

*“Thracian Celadus is the heart throb of the girls.”*

– Gladiator Barracks

*“(Marcus Cantrius Marcellus, son of Marcus, duumvir, instead of games and lights, saw the construction of three seating sectors, by the decree of the town councillors.”*

– Amphitheatre

*“20 pairs of gladiators of Gnaeus Alleius Nigidius Maius, quinquennial, and their substitutes will fight without any public expense”*

– House of Trebius Valens

# The Palaestra

*The exercise yard...*

# The PALAESTRA

- As an exercise yard, it sat adjacent to the amphitheatre. The open area was for various uses, not just practising with sword and spear, but for general fitness too.
- Not restricted to the gladiators, the public could come and use the space to exercise with their champions.
- Gladiators seem to have more freedom than what is commonly perceived in the Roman Empire (locked up day in day out).
- The Palaestra was a portico structure. Columns surrounding the open space. It seems the barracks were around the outside with resident rooms available for the gladiators.



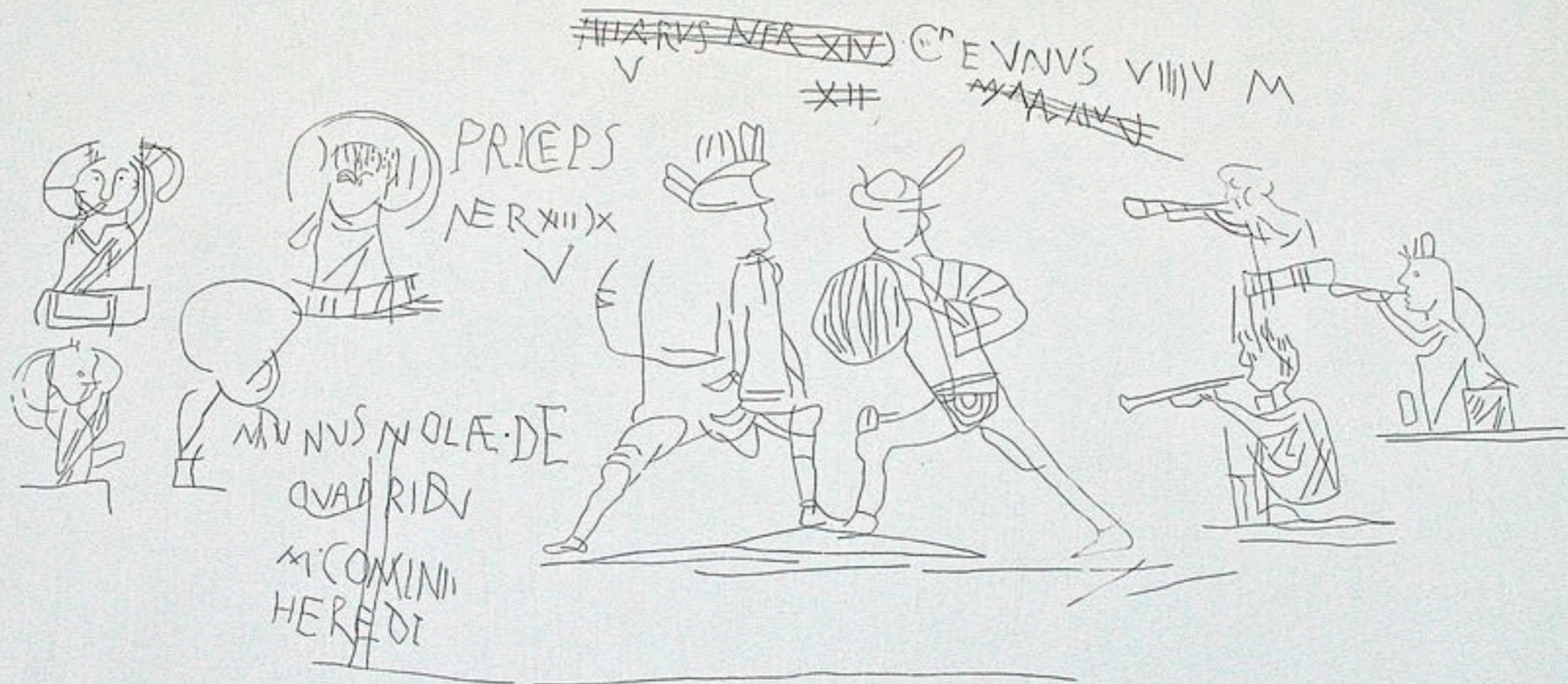
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# Gladiator Artefacts

*Various places around the town...*





*Games at Nola of Marcus Cominius Heres over 4 days.*

*'The Chief', Neronian, fought 13, 10 victories...*

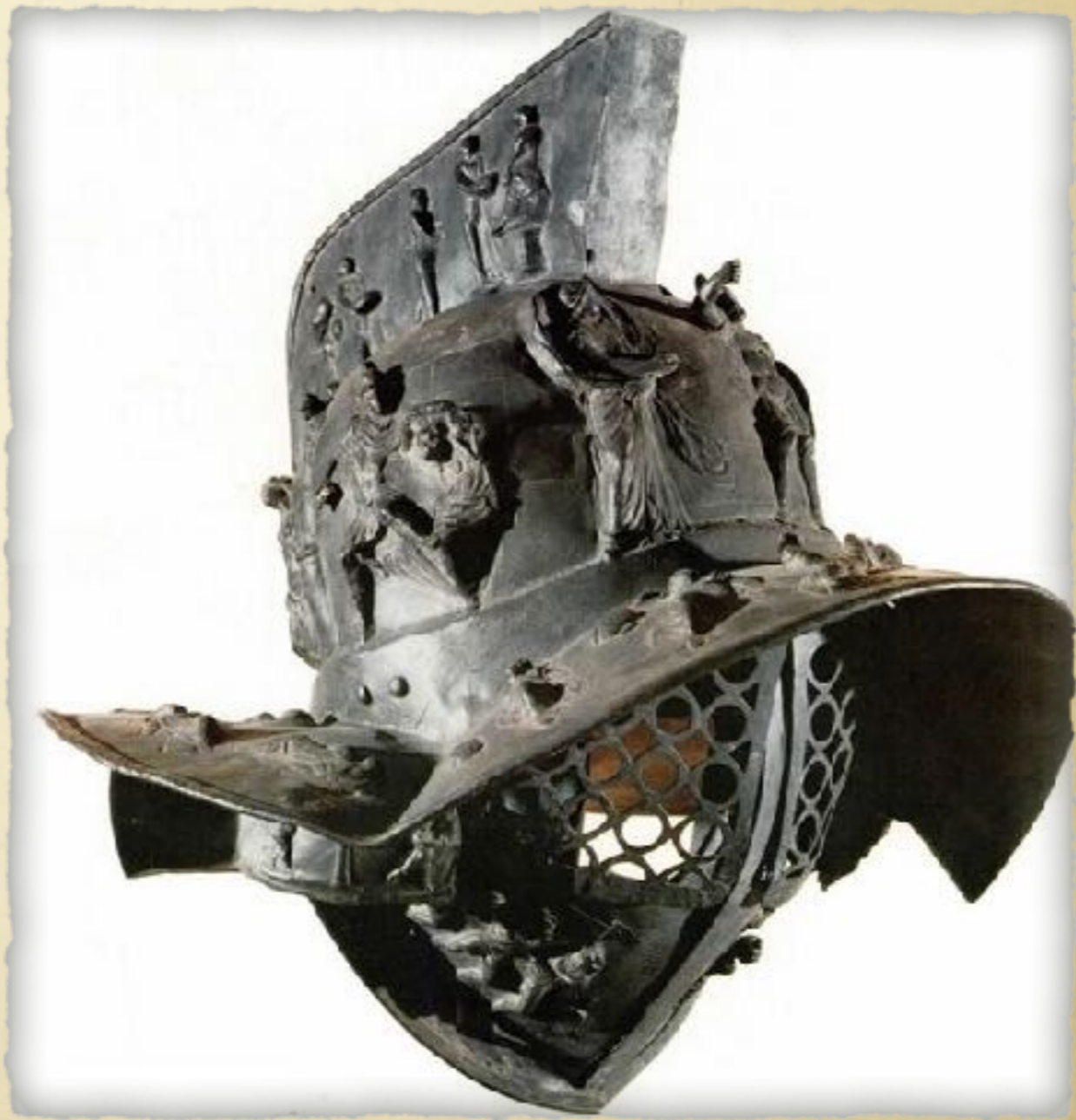


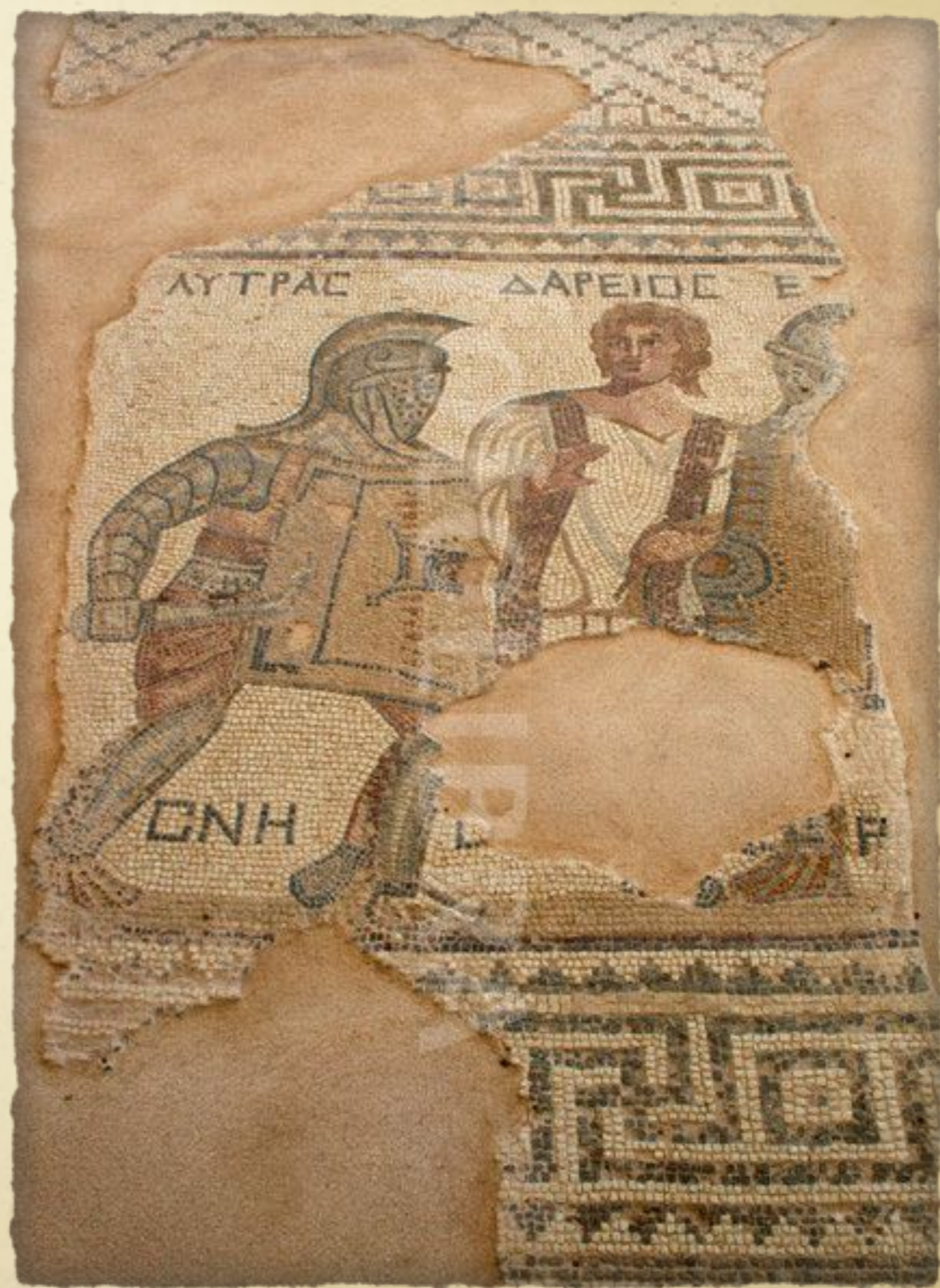
*“Marcus  
Atillius,  
fought 1,  
victory 1,  
victor”*

*“Lucius  
Raecius Fekix,  
fought 12,  
won 1,  
repreived”*

For after you show the man,  
you'll see, as it is.





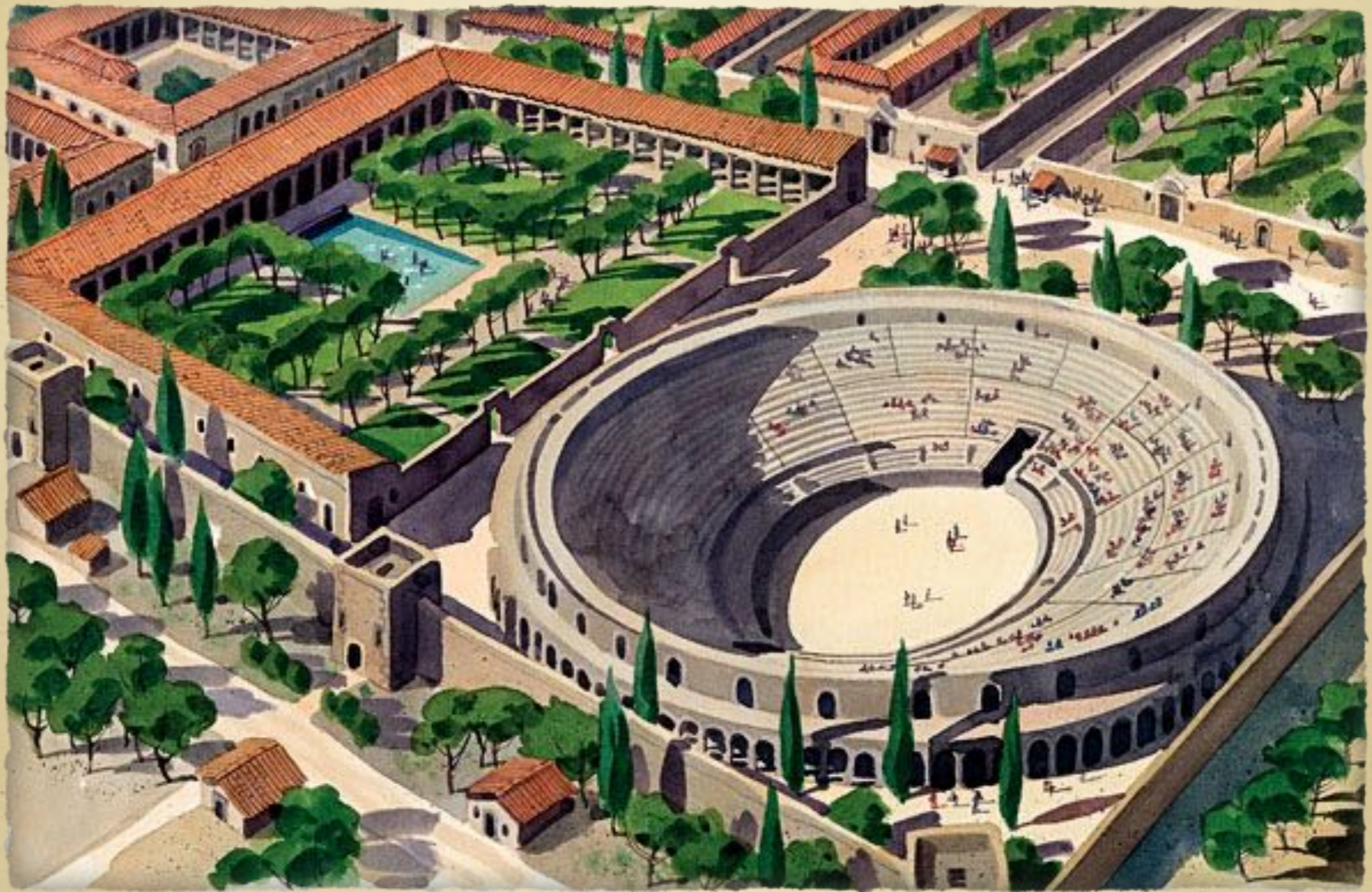


# The Amphitheatre

*Are you not entertained?!*

# The Amphitheatre

- The blood sports! Number vary from 15,000 to 20,000 spectators.
- There are plenty of wall paintings, inscriptions, reliefs and mosaics describing what happened in the games.
- Boxing, gladiator combat, wild beast shows vs gladiators or vs wild beasts
- The barracks was attached next door and 60 skeletons were found, including a woman wearing very expensive jewellery
- One helmet found in Herculaneum but no amphitheatre has been found.

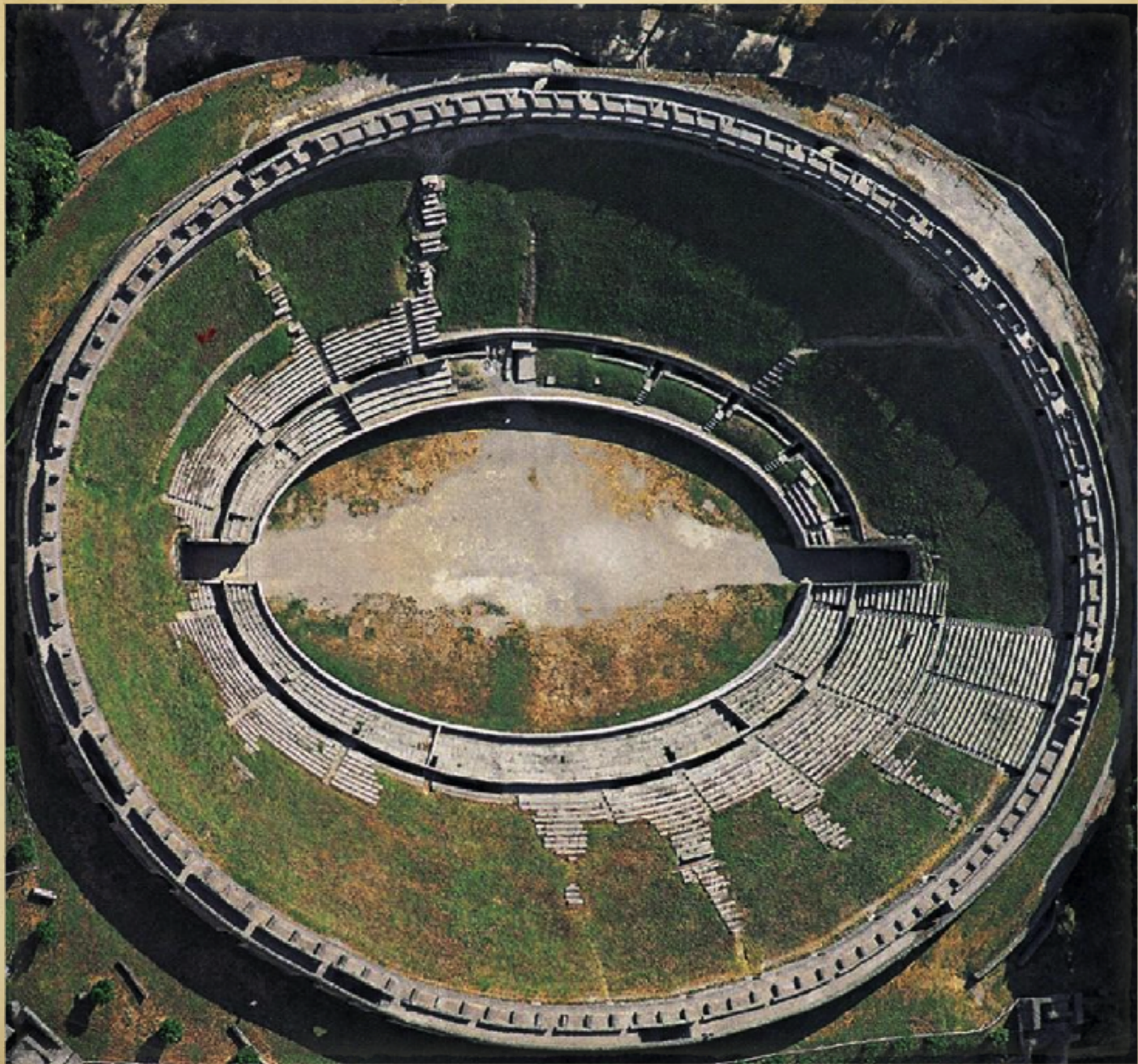










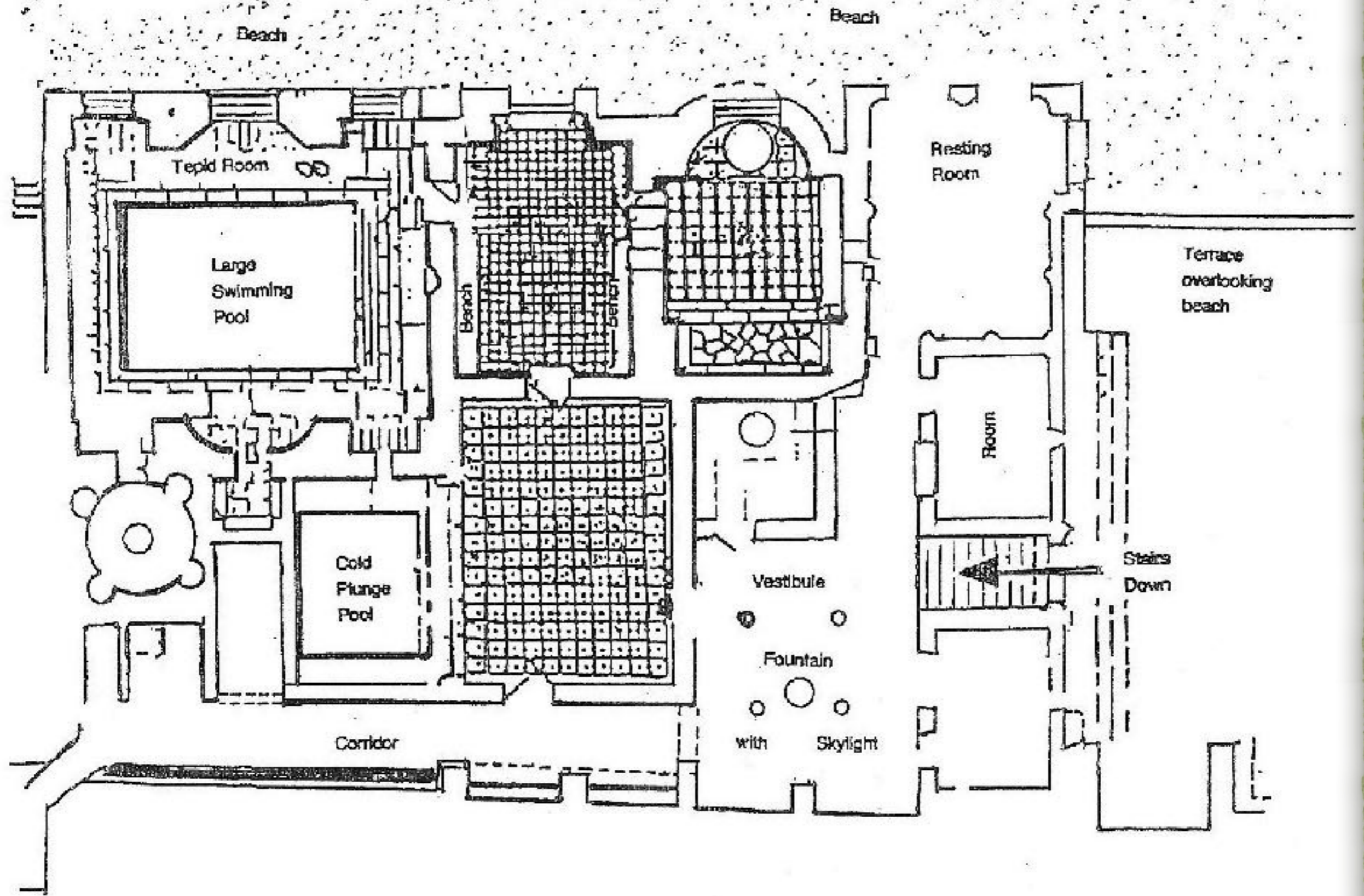


# The BATHS

*Mmmm... dead skin everywhere...*

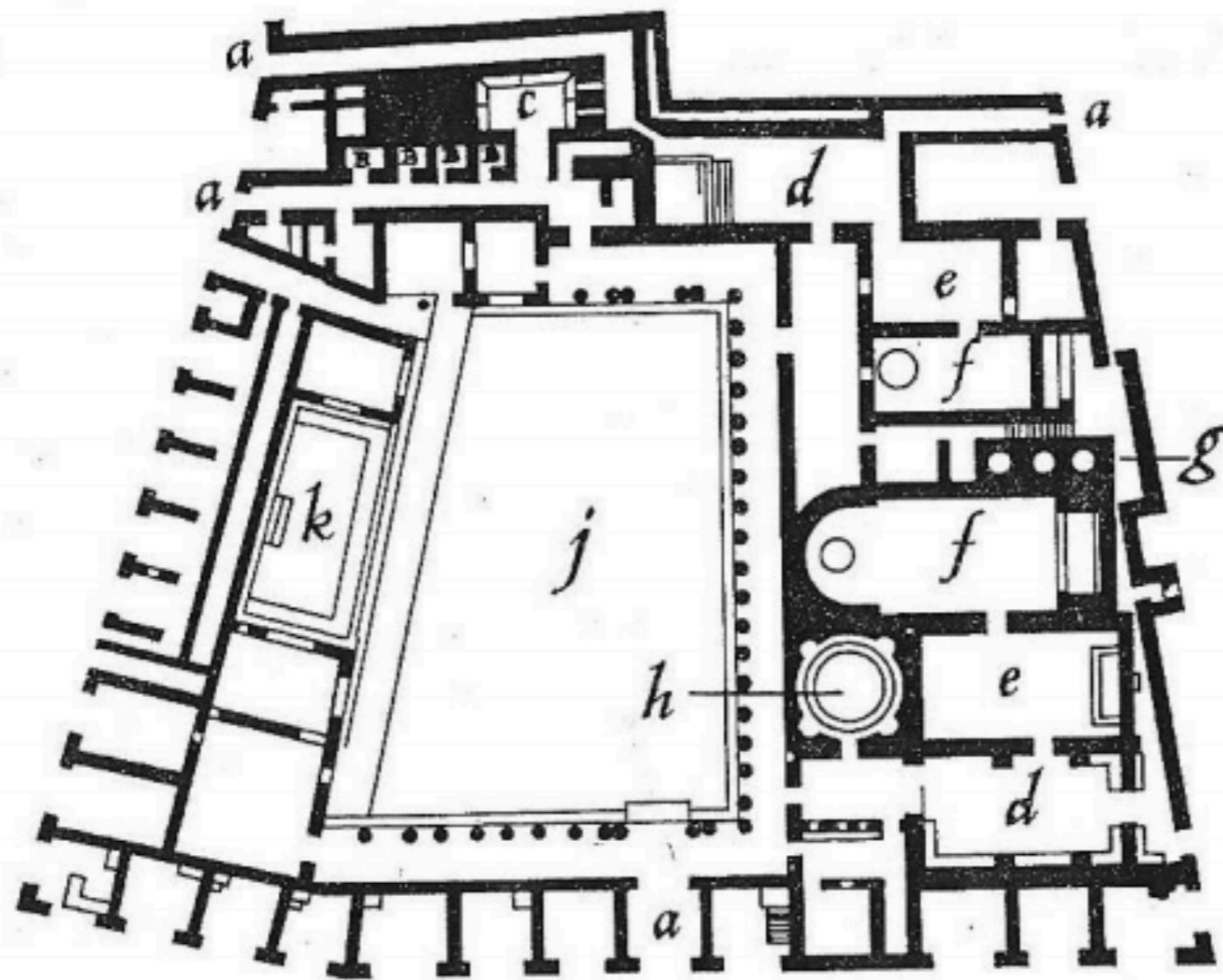






**SUBURBAN BATHS      HERCULANEUM**

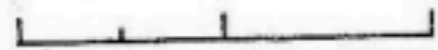


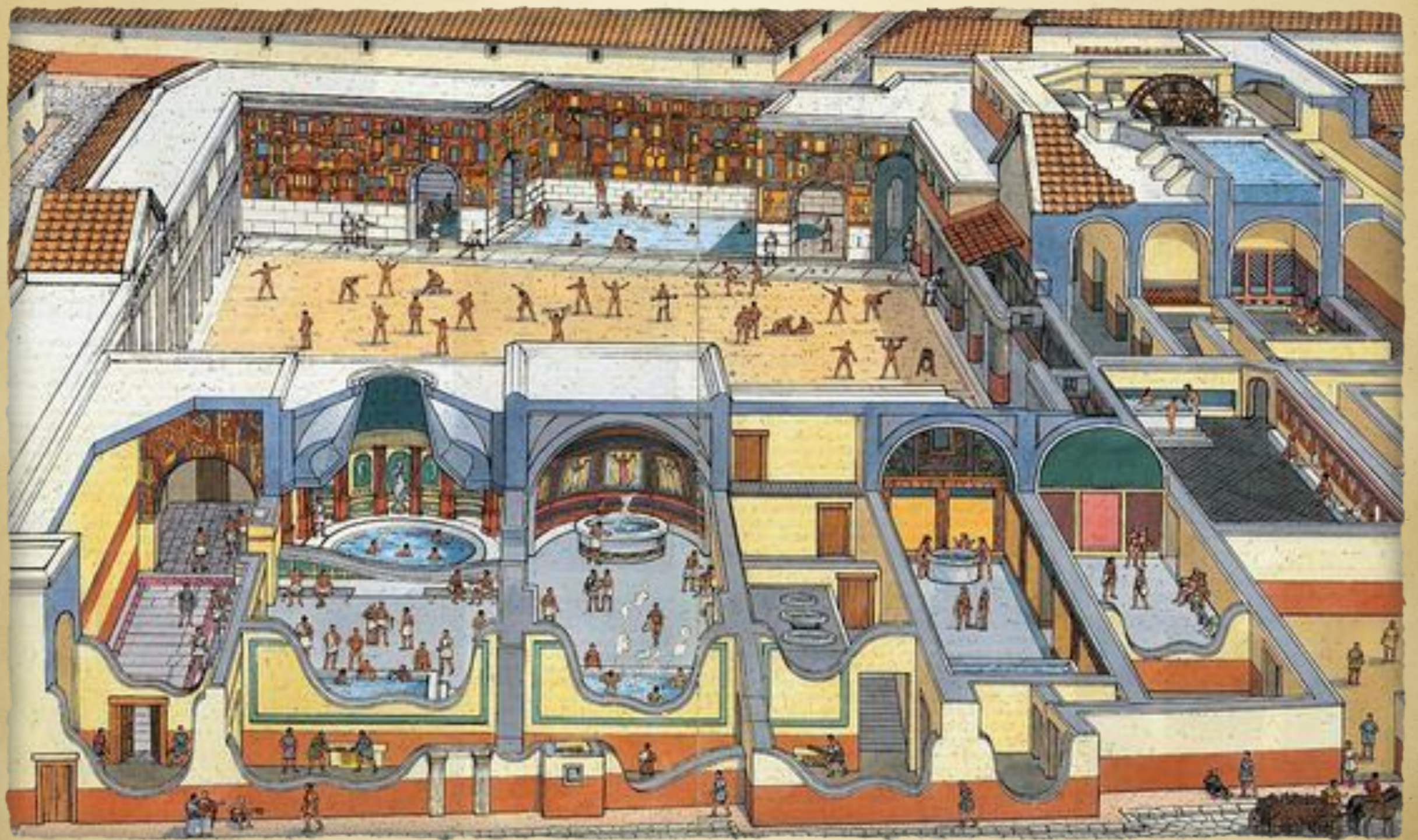


(j: Palaestra)

VI. Wall Painting of Amphitheatre Riot Pompeii, AD59. <Brilliant, R, *Roman A the Republic to Constantine*, Phaidon F London, 1974, p80.>

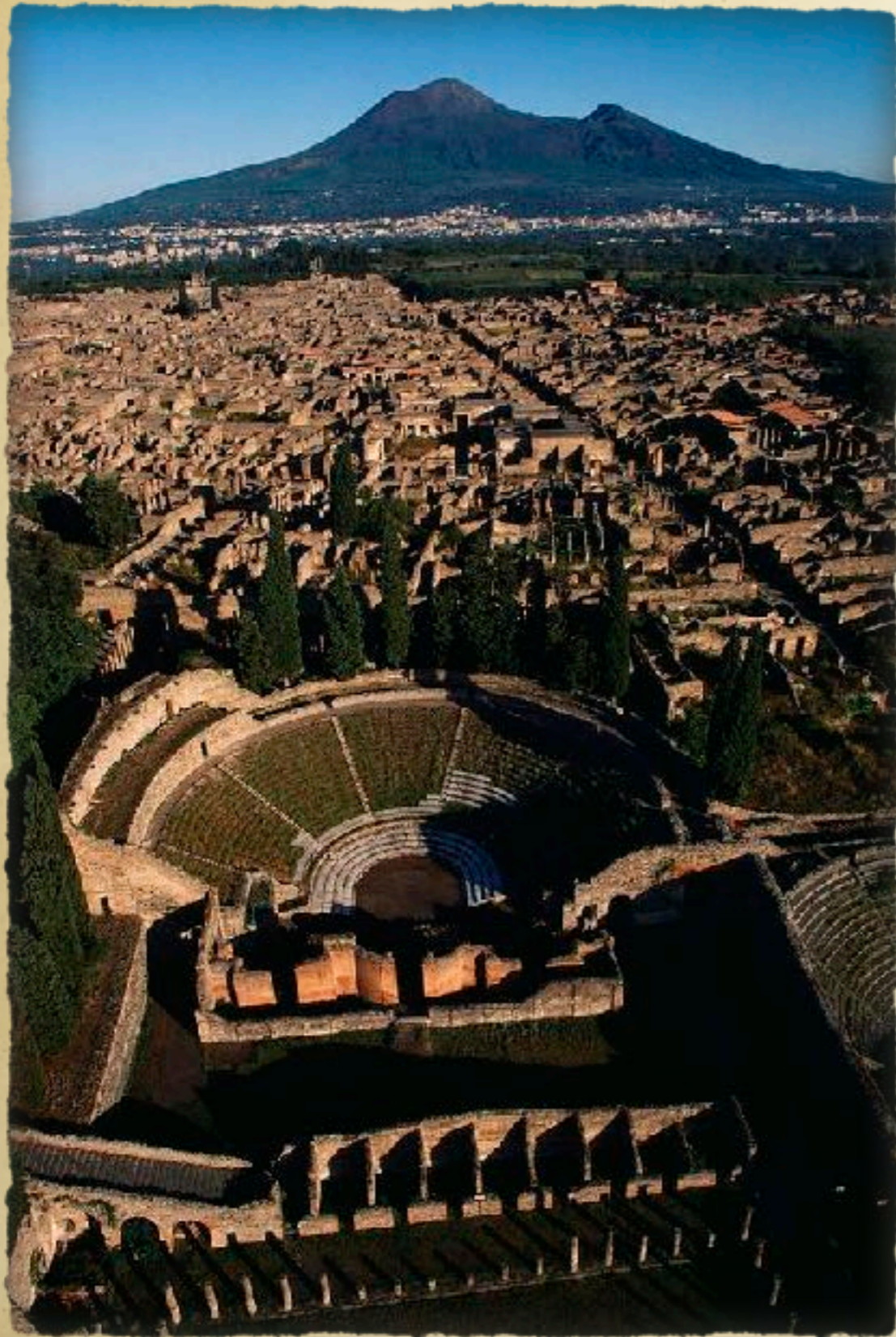
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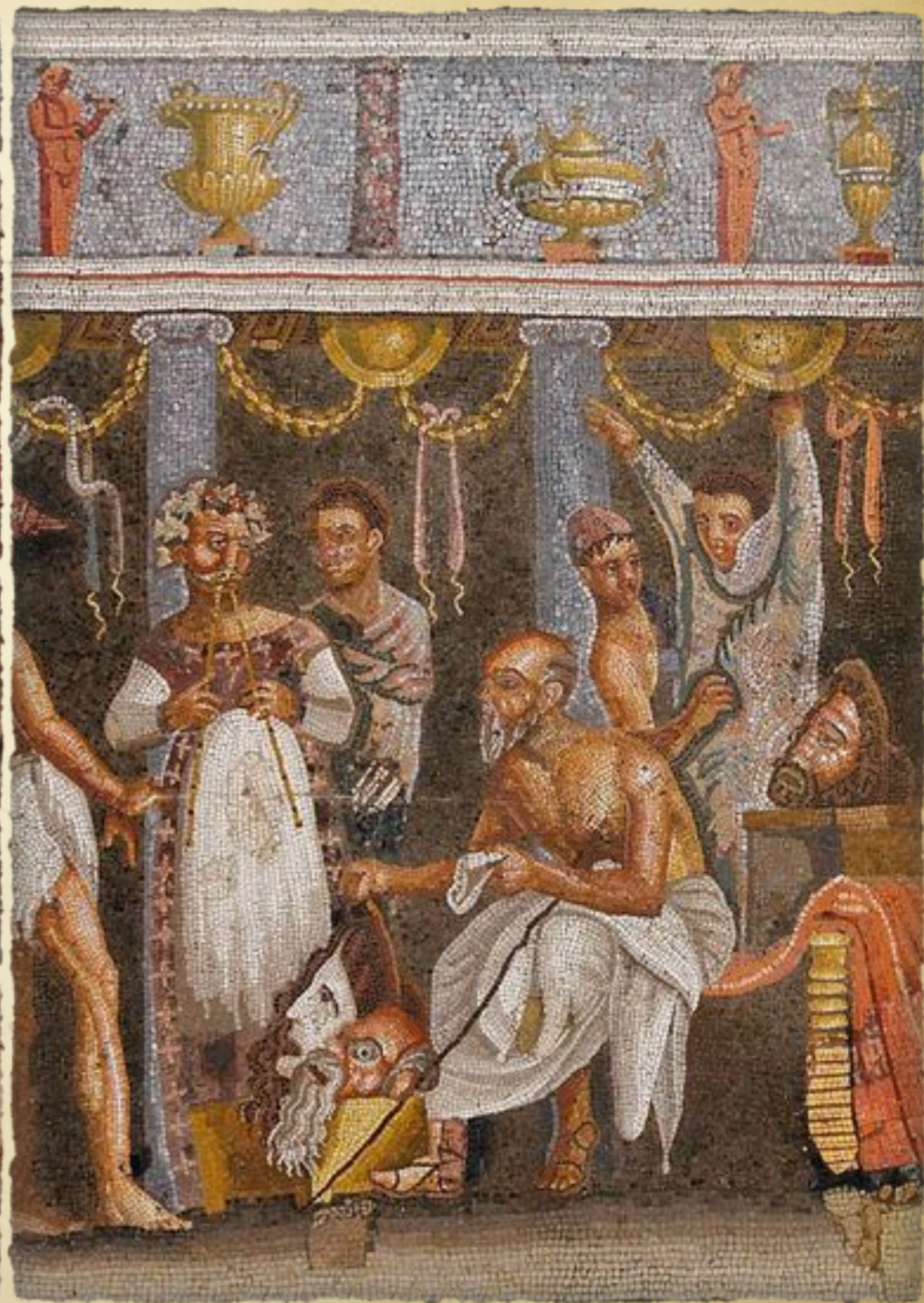
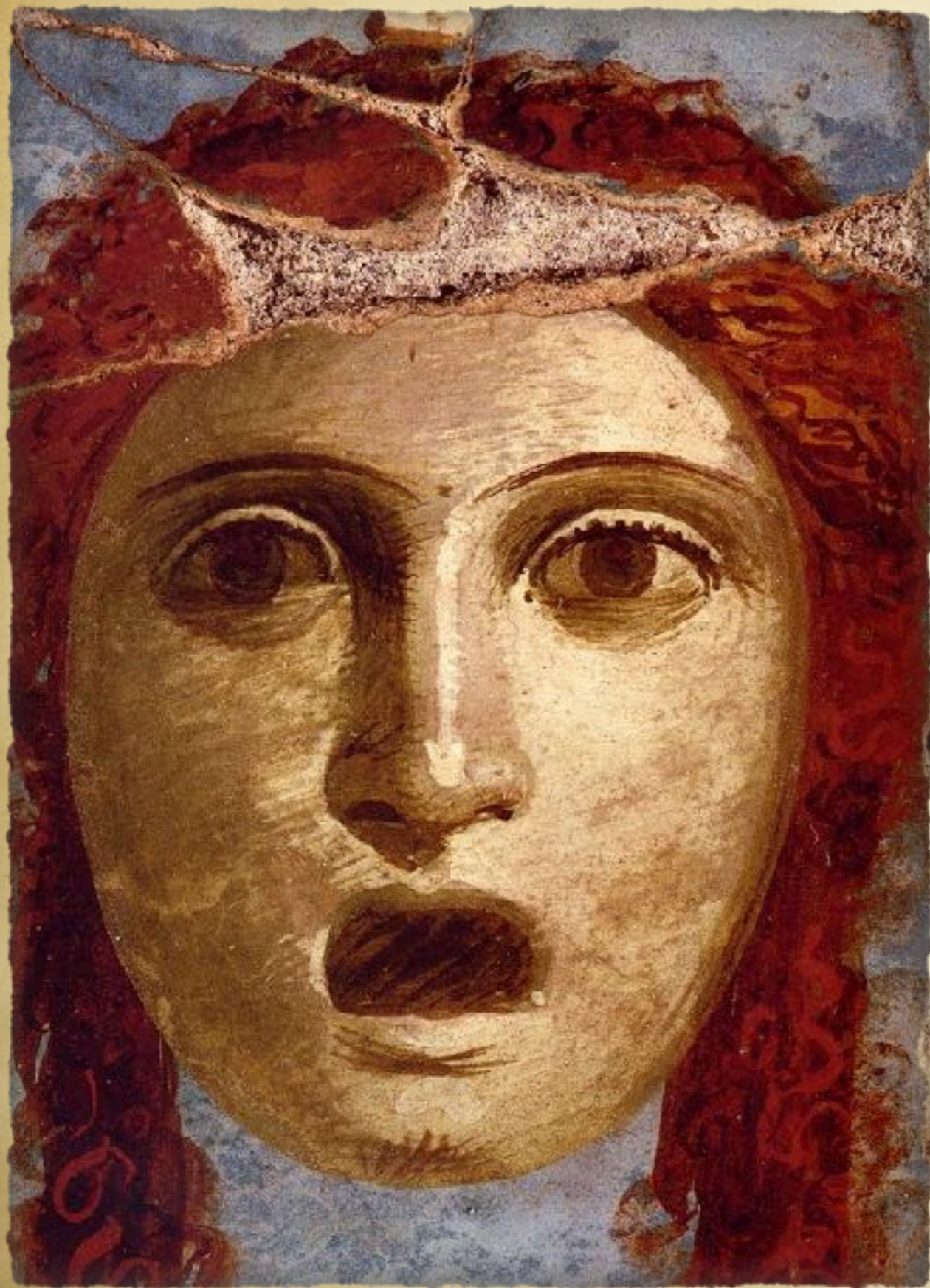


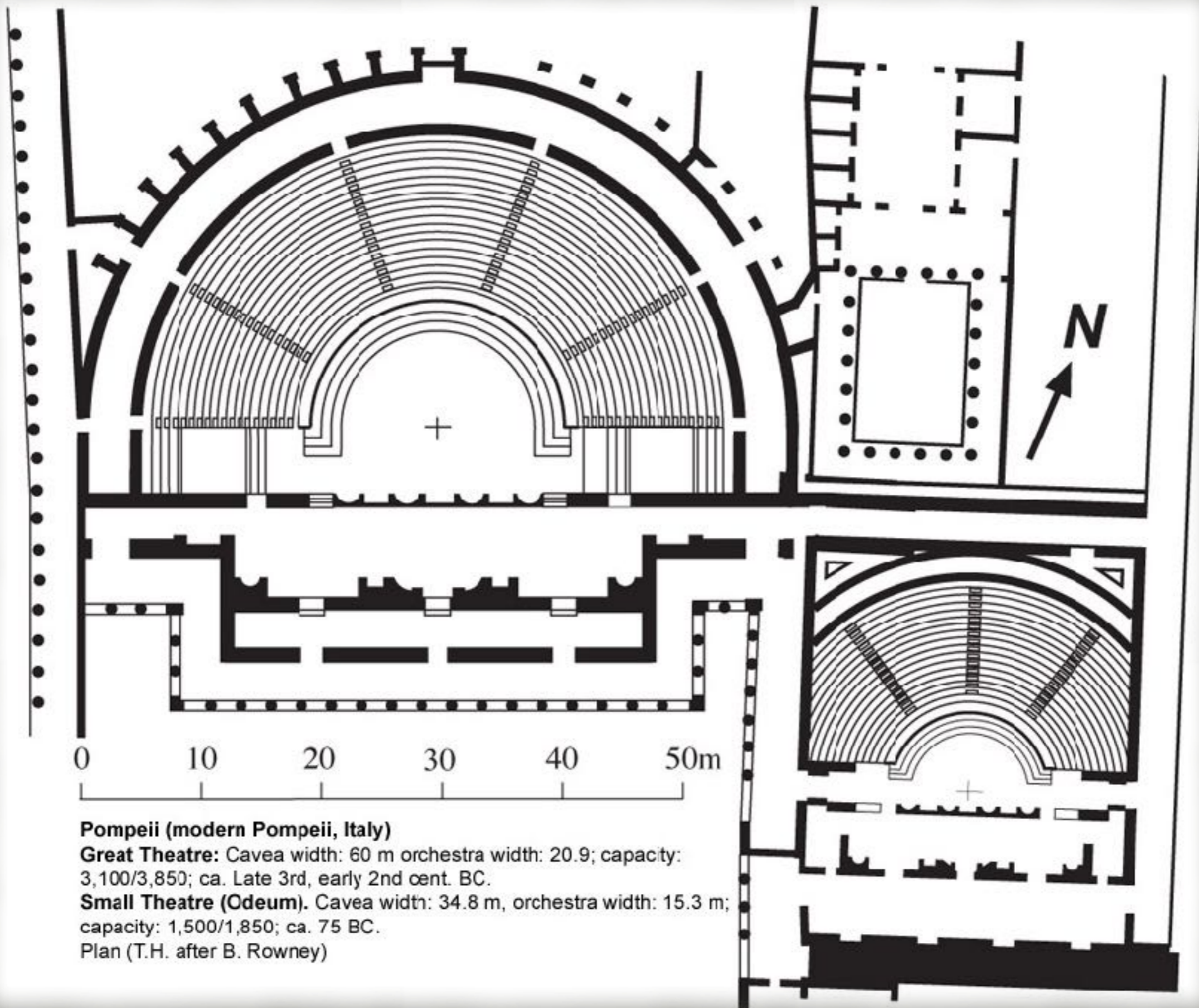


# The Odeon

*A home of mimes... Parlez vous Francais?*







**Pompeii (modern Pompeii, Italy)**

**Great Theatre:** Cavea width: 60 m orchestra width: 20.9; capacity: 3,100/3,850; ca. Late 3rd, early 2nd cent. BC.

**Small Theatre (Odeum).** Cavea width: 34.8 m, orchestra width: 15.3 m; capacity: 1,500/1,850; ca. 75 BC.

Plan (T.H. after B. Rowney)

