

CITIES OF VESUVIUS

PRIVATE

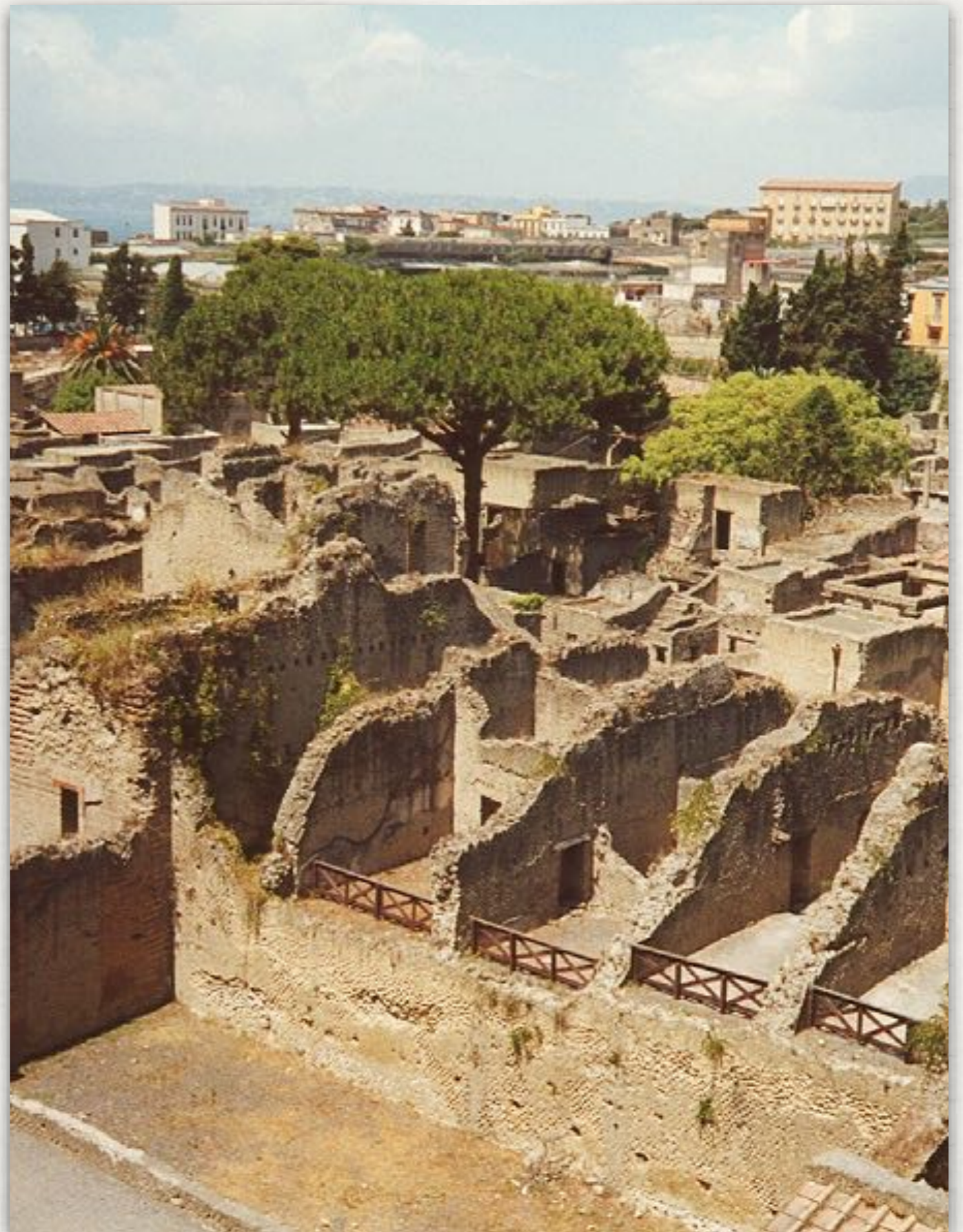
HOUSES

THE HOUSES WILL VARY IN SIZE AND THIS WILL TRANSLATE TO WEALTH. THE WEALTHY ENJOY THE EXTREMITIES AND THE AFFLUENCE IS OBVIOUS. BUT THEY ARE SIDE BY SIDE WITH THE POORER CLASSES. ARE WE SO DIFFERENT...?

— *Dewell*

# PRIVATE HOUSES THE INSULAE

- The entrance hall
- Meet and greet the guests as they enter your house. It is supposed to show the grandeur and prestige of your family.
- Richly decorate and with symbols related to the family, it is usually the most impressive room in the house when it comes to decorations.



# City Life



# PRIVATE HOUSES

## THE DOMUS

- The houses that were found in Campania follow very similar / uniform designs.
- There are many obvious variations in size, layout, material and decorations... but
- The cities also show change in house design and styles across time. Domus to atrium, to peristyle etc. Especially the late republic to affluence of the early Empire years. Empire brought the \$

*"Across Europe, the empire has shown great examples of forums, baths, amphitheatres... (in Campania) nowhere else can we see a complete documentation of ancient home life." - A. Maiuri*

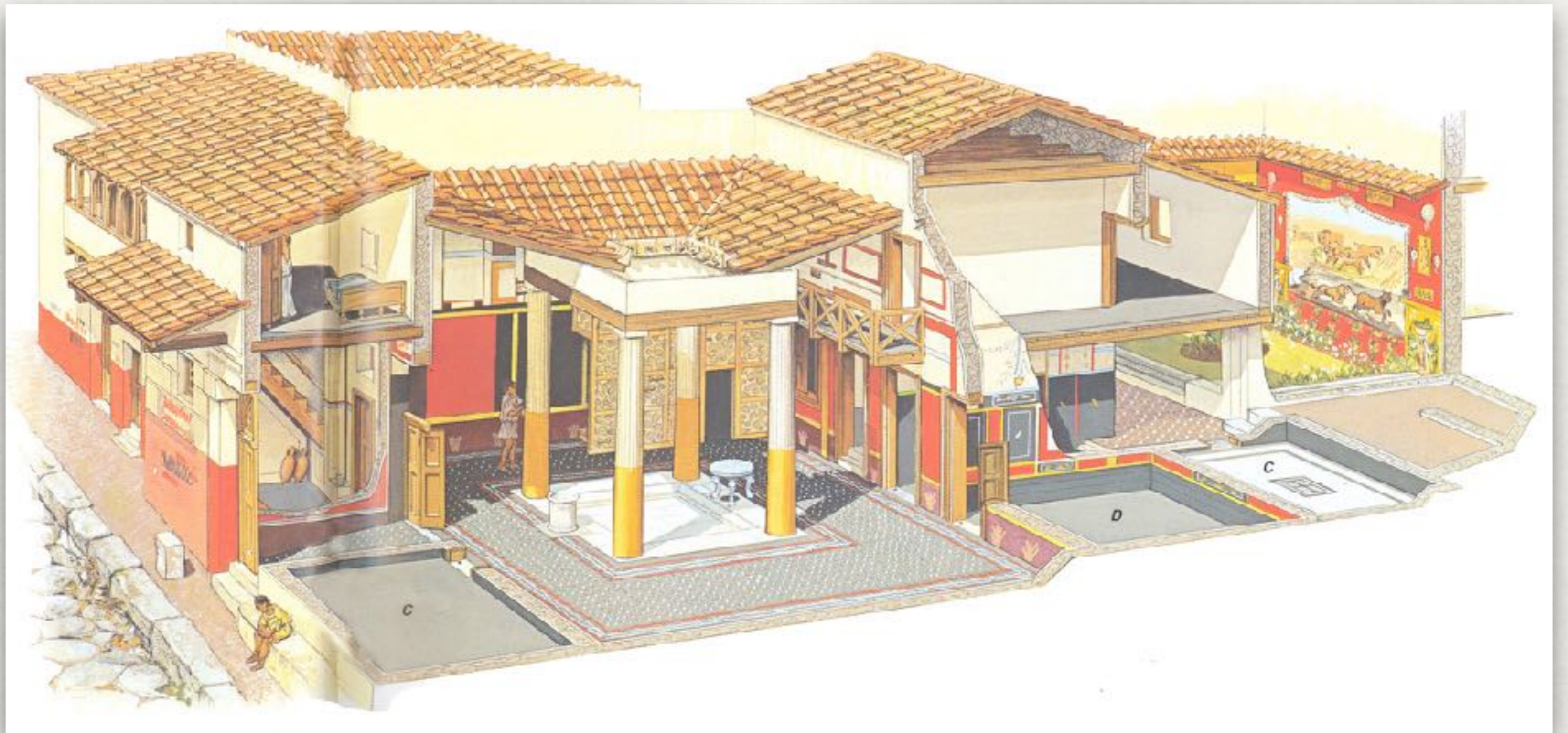


# THE DOMUS

## *SOME FACTS...*

- Over 800 houses have been excavated at Pompeii, they vary from 50 room mansions to 2,000m sq of smaller insulae.
- In Herculaneum, only 4 blocks have been excavated.
- Across BOTH townscapes, there were no residential only areas. They were all intermingled with shops, workshops, bakeries etc.
- Nearly all the houses, whether manses or humble two room homes looked plain on the outside. Blank walls and the same size doors. It was this way to provide security and privacy from the hustle and belt city life. Looking inward rather than outward from a home : )
- There were no rich or poor districts. You could have an opulent house separated only by a wall - on the other side? Donkeys milling at a bakery.

LATIN TERM	DEFINITION
Vestibulum	The entrance hall/corridor
Atrium	The reception room, generally with a <b>complivium</b> and <b>impluvium</b>
Complivium	An opening in the roof which allowed light and rainwater into the <b>atrium</b>
Impluvium	Shallow pool which collected rainwater from the <b>complivium</b>
Tablinum	Room off the <b>atrium</b> , used for receiving clients and conducting business
Peristyle	Colonnaded or covered walkway around a courtyard or garden
Cubiculum	A small windowless bedroom
Triclinium	A dining room with space for three long couches and a serving table
Lararium	The family shrine of the <b>lares</b> , the spirits of the entry of houses







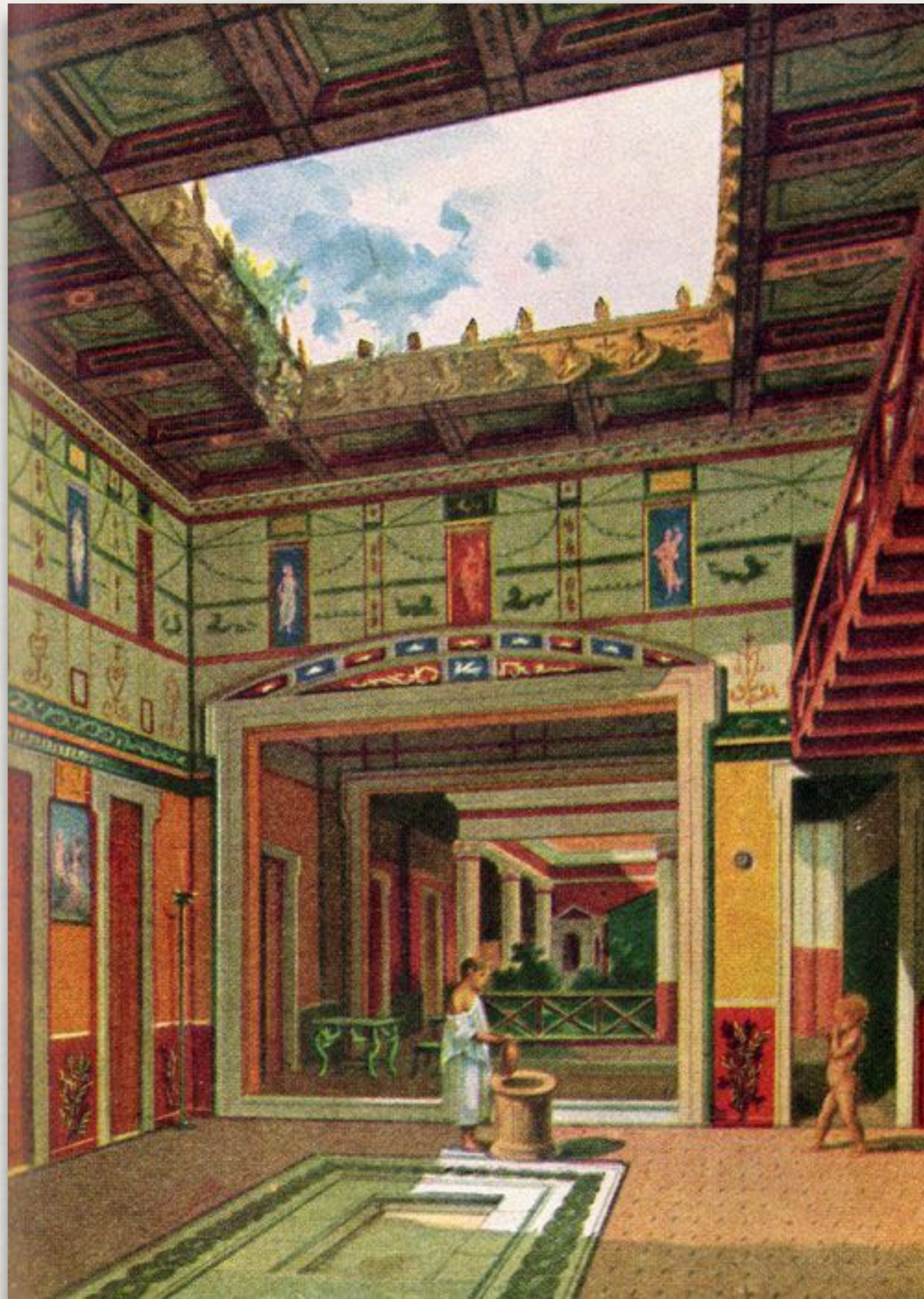
# PRIVATE HOUSES

# ATRIUM

- The entrance hall leads to the large sky lit room.
- Meet and greet the guests as they enter your house. It is supposed to show the grandeur and prestige of your family.
- Richly decorate and with symbols related to the family, it is usually the most impressive room in the house when it comes to decorations.
- Usually contained the household shrine (*lararium*)

*Opposite - House of the Wooden Partition, Herculaneum*







# PRIVATE HOUSES

## CULINA

- It is not easy to make straight connections between our modern homes and ancient houses.
- Room functions must be made from judgements whereby archaeologists have used contextual clues.
- Artefacts on site and similar settings, the frescoes and written sources make it possible to make informed decisions.
- The culinary has all such sources to conclude its use.
- A small kitchen is such an example.
- Just enough room for an oven, a preparation bench and a sink.
- Serving to the next room was for convenience





Roman kitchens contain many spices and herbs. Spicy sauces are put on everything to cover the taste of rotting old meat or fish. The favorite sauce is *liquamen*, strained from salted fish guts left out in the sun.









Handle

Use to fry fish, meat, and  
bread and fish ponds.

**Bronze Jug**  
Bronze, 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D.  
Thangpachon, Indochina, Vietnam  
The shape of this bronze jug fits with...

**Grill**  
Iron, 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D.  
House of the King, Vietnam

**Bucket**

# PRIVATE HOUSES

# TRICLINIUM

- A 'dining room' - very different to our understanding of dining
- Based on the luxury of a Greek symposium - luxury seating, servants, laid out on couches, Bacchus, debortuary...
- Some houses that could afford it had one or two dining rooms. A summer one opened up into the courtyard (*peristyle*)
- Tri = meaning 3 couches arranged around a table.
- Some tables in Pompeii were set with meals when the eruption began







# PRIVATE HOUSES

# LARARIUM

- Lararia = more than one
- Small shrines found in both Pompeii and Herculaneum.
- Served as the private religion for households. There was also a PUBLIC lararium in the Forum. Some days you may be in a hurry and can't observe your worship at home
- Some information will be saved for the Syllabus dot point on RELIGION

*Opposite = Stattuette, House of the Golden Cupid, Pompeii*







# PRIVATE HOUSES

# PERISTYLE

- An inner courtyard
- Featured trees, shrubs, potted plants, flower beds, pools and fountains, statues and richly decorated garden walls.
- The porticoes were a main feature. Columned around the outside with a short inward sloping roof.
- It dazzled guests and is another show of wealth for the owner.
- Nature or mythology was a common theme. A garden not unlike those associated with the old tales (nymphs, fauns and stuff)...

*Opposite = House of Menander, Pompeii*











# PRIVATE HOUSES

# TABLINUM

- A reception room for salutatio (morning greeting of clients)
- It is a humble room, one of the smaller rooms that serves a particular function. Culina just as big!
- You entered this room from the atrium - hence the atrium a good spot for a waiting room.
- Most business records and evidence of such were found in these rooms following the eruption.

*Opposite = House of Menander, Pompeii*





9058

[Ancientvine.com](http://Ancientvine.com)

THE HOUSE OF  
THE VETTII

# HOUSE OF THE VETTII

## *SOME FACTS...*

- Named after the Vettii brothers; Aulus Vettius Conviva and his brother Aulus Vettius Restitutus. They were freedmen (liberti or former slaves)
- Their identity was preserved in campaign-slogan graffiti on the street front of the house. Two inscribed signet rings were also found.
- Many mythological scenes and Greek legends. They were also quite the vulgar two, nudity and phallic symbols were ever present.



## CASA DE VETTII (House of the Vettii)

*Triclinium.* The Roman dining room featured three sloping surfaces around a low table at which diners could recline.

Garden

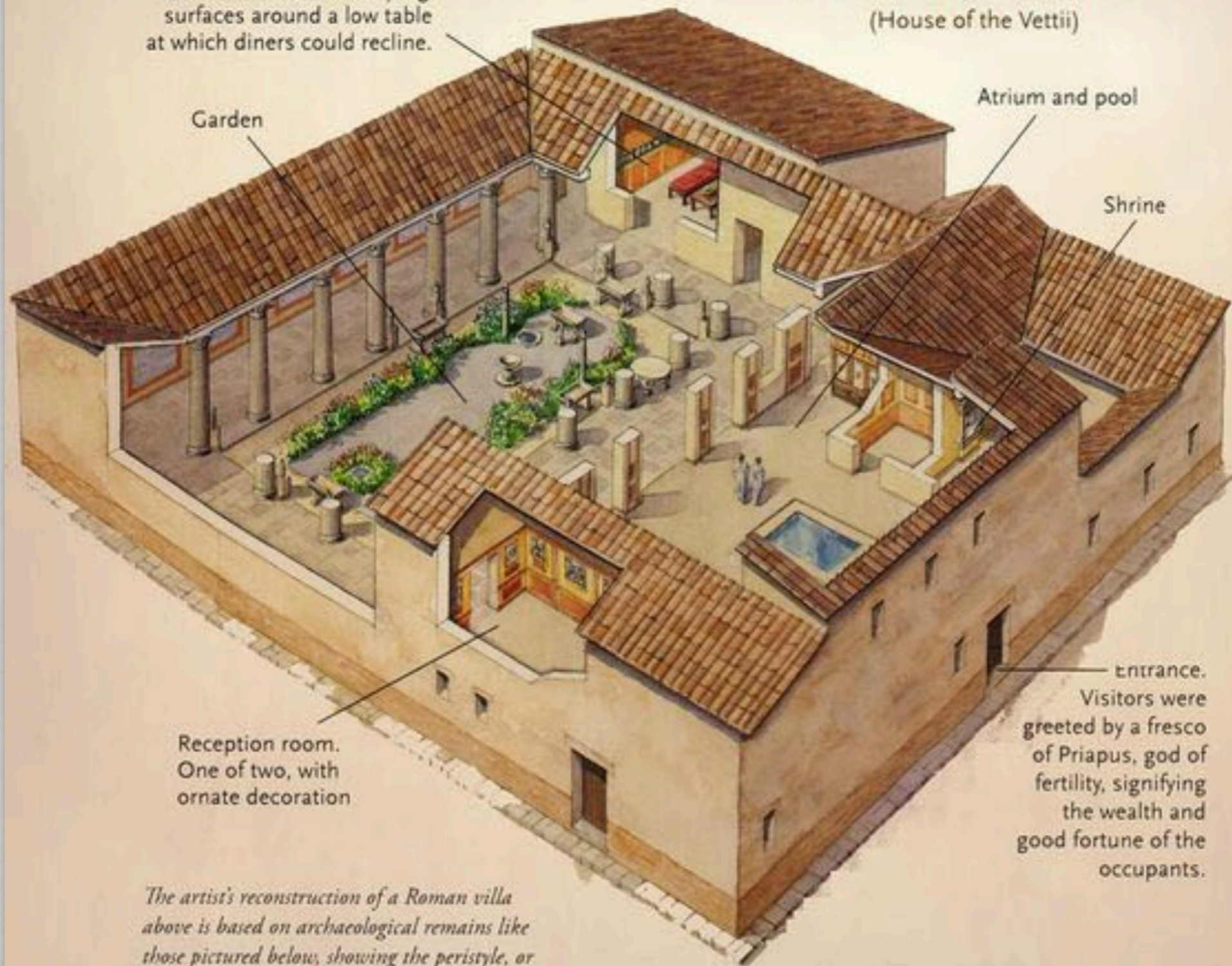
Atrium and pool

Shrine

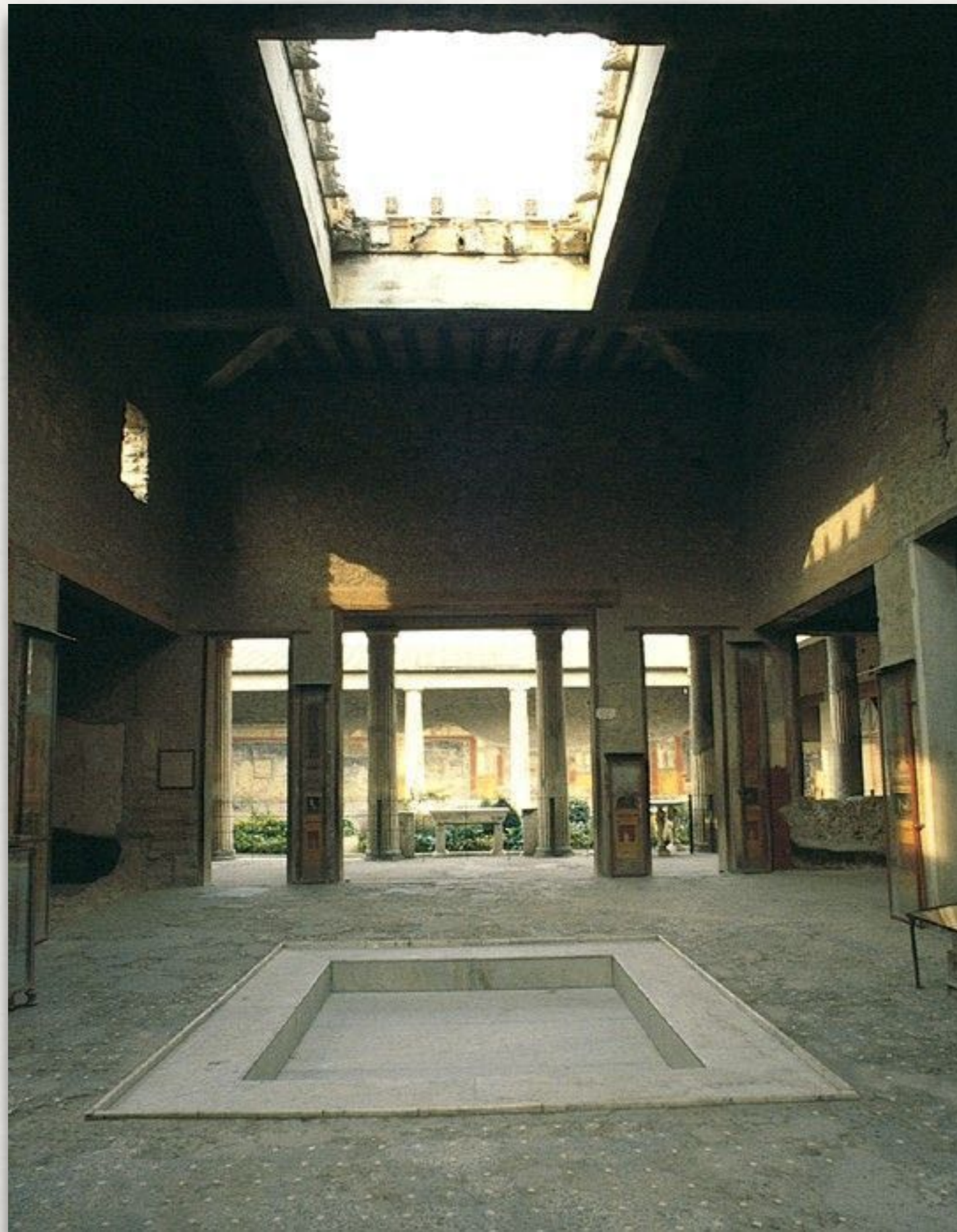
Reception room.  
One of two, with  
ornate decoration

Entrance.  
Visitors were  
greeted by a fresco  
of Priapus, god of  
fertility, signifying  
the wealth and  
good fortune of the  
occupants.

*The artist's reconstruction of a Roman villa above is based on archaeological remains like those pictured below, showing the peristyle, or inner courtyard, of a villa in Pompeii.*







# PRIVATE HOUSES

# VILLAS

- A feature of all Roman society was the difference of wealth, class and status.
- The villas were the high end living quarters of the Pompeii and Herculaneum elites.
- Some villas had over 300 rooms in the imperial period!



# VILLAS

## *SOME FACTS...*

- Villas were large estates built around the country and sea-side of Campania. No more solid evidence exists to prove that general saying that, "Pompeii and Herculaneum was the seaside holiday resort for Romans"
- There are theories that say the wealthy citizens didn't live there all year around. It was common for Roman patrician families to escape the smelly, hot and humid summers in Rome.
- Pliny the Elder describes Campania as having many villas. 12 at Stabiae and many just north of Pompeii.

# THE VILLA OF DIOMEDES

# VILLA OF DIODES

## *SOME FACTS...*

- Named after the tomb of Marcus Arrius Diomedes which is located across from the villa.
- A steep drop in ground level divides the villa into two parts.
- Contains a private bath suite and the cellar contained a large number of amphorae, this storage place for wine. A series of vaulted rooms off the cellar contained fourth style decoration.
- The garden enclosed by the colonnade contained a summer triclinium, in the centre, and once had many trees, the charred remains of which have been found.
- 18 bodies were found in the house and another two were found together at the rear door, one had a gold ring, silver key and 1356 sesterces.





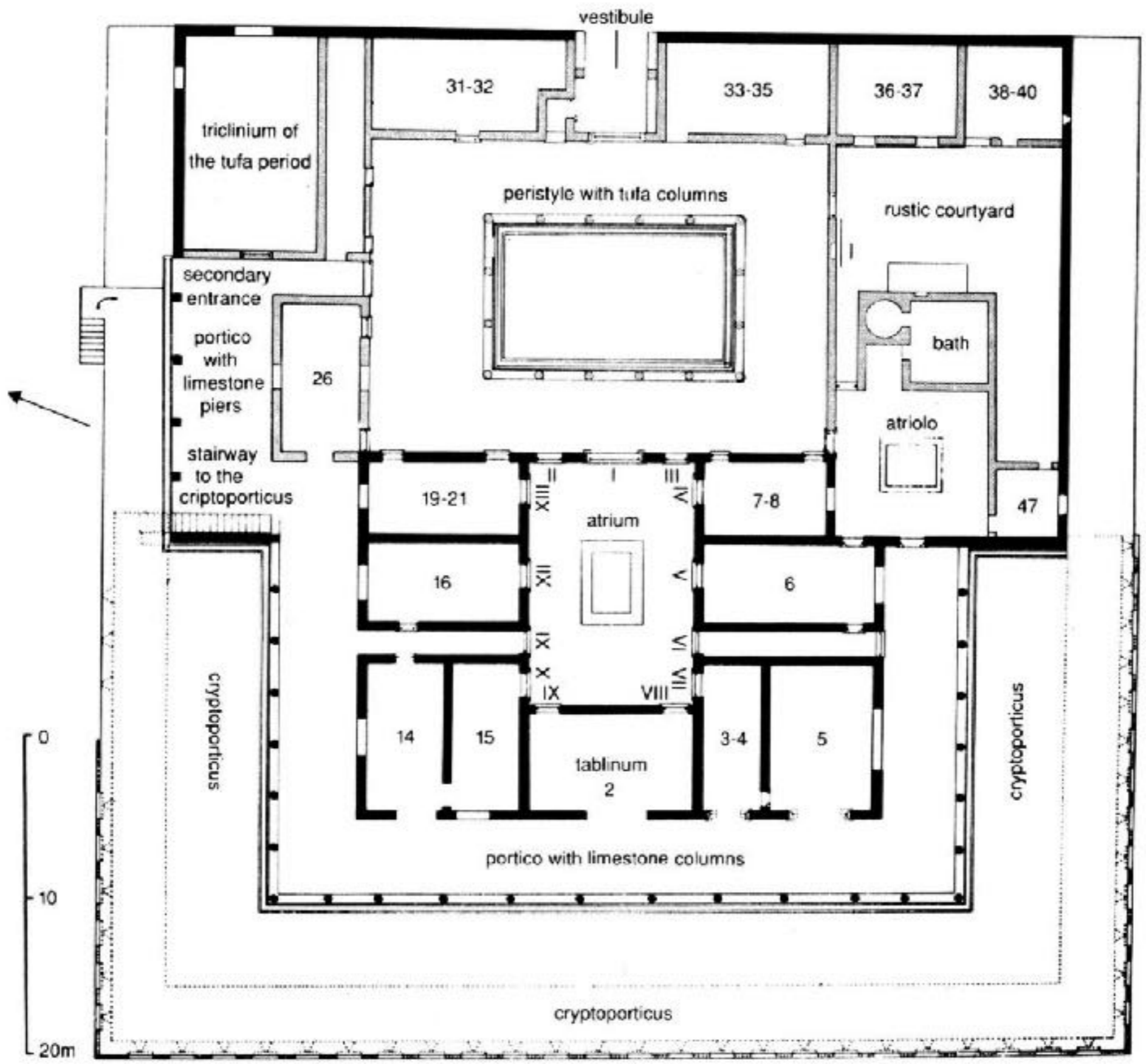
# THE VILLA OF MYSTERIES

# VILLA OF THE MYSTERIES

## *SOME FACTS...*

- Is famous for its incredible murals depicting the mysterious cult of Bacchus (Roman) or Dionysus (Greek) - same god etc.
- Excavations began in 1909 and the villa has 60 rooms, an amazing view of the surrounding countryside.
- A large statue of Livia - the wife of Emperor Augustus gives speculation to the owner of the house hold.
- The 'MYSTERIES' reflected the ideas of the mural scenes. Are they initiation rights? A wedding? A party? ... its a mystery ; )
- Famous for a wine press too.





31-32

33-35

36-37

38-40

triclinium of the tufa period

peristyle with tufa columns

rustic courtyard

secondary entrance

portico with limestone piers

26

stairway to the criptoporticus

bath

atriolo

19-21

7-8

47

atrium

16

6

criptoporticus

criptoporticus

14

15

tablinum

2

3-4

5

portico with limestone columns

criptoporticus

0

10

20m





**THE VILLA OF  
THE POPYRI**

# VILLA OF PAPYRI

## *SOME FACTS...*

- Found at Herculaneum. Namesake was for the library in which hundred of scrolls remain carbonised and still rolled up ready for the next reader (well sort of). It is one of the largest and best preserved villas found from the ancient Roman era.
- The earliest owner of the villa was Lucius Calpurnius Piso, the father-in-law of Julius Caesar.
- There are again strong Greek influences with over 90 statues and 1,800 scrolls - most were the works of Philodemus - a philosopher
- Recent use of scanners is allowing archaeologists to read the scrolls without destroying the actual parchment.





