

INSULAE  
IN  
CONTEXT



International Colloquium  
University of Basel/Augusta Raurica (CH)

September 25<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 2019

Programme/Abstracts

Update: 23.09.2019

Vindonissa-Professur



Universität  
Basel



KANTON AARGAU



AUGUSTA RAURICA

BASEL  
LANDSCHAFT 

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## Introduction

Sven Straumann

The archaeological settlement category of roman *Insulae* stays in the focus of this international colloquium organized by the Vindonissa-professorship of the University Basel and Augusta Raurica.

This group of urban living and trading quarters is characterized by the surrounding square of the commonly orthogonal street grid. The basic idea of the colloquium is to build a platform for researchers who are or have been working on *Insulae* to discuss specific questions.

Although the main focus lies on the structural unit of the *insula*, the perspective shall be extended to the urban surroundings. The embedding in the respective context of the *insula* enables further statements.

Based on the architectural layout of an *Insula* and their spatial and functional structure raises the fundamental question about the functionality of an *Insula*.

### Wednesday, 25th September 2019 / University of Basel, Main building

Time	Programme	Title	Speaker	Institution	Chair
13.30	Welcome / Arrival				
14.00	Greeting	Welcome note Introduction	Debbie Schmid Sven Straumann	Augusta Raurica University of Basel	
14.15	Presentation	The Insula as an architectural form: its features and development	Axel Gering	Humboldt-University Berlin	Debbie Schmid
15.00	Presentation	Insulae in Roman planning laws	Johannes M. Rainer	University of Salzburg	Debbie Schmid
15.45	Coffee break				
16.15	Presentation	Insulae in Augusta Raurica – an overview	Peter-A. Schwarz	University of Basel	Debbie Schmid
17.00	Presentation	The Insula 30 in the Roman Town of Augusta Raurica (CH)	Sven Straumann	University of Basel / Augusta Raurica	Debbie Schmid
18.15	Aperitif / visit of the exhibition «Gladiator», Antikenmuseum Basel				
20.15	Common dinner in Basel				

### Thursday, 26th September 2019 / Augusta Raurica, Castelen

Time	Programme	Title	Speaker	Institution	Chair
9.00	Presentation	Insulatim? Study and edition strategies of a Roman city: Pompeii	Antonella Coralini	University of Bologna	Markus Peter
9.45	Presentation	New Kids on the Block: The Application of Space Syntax Tools for the Analysis of Roman Insulae and Neighbourhoods	Jesus Bermejo-Tirado	University Carlos III Madrid	Markus Peter
10.30	Coffee break				
11.00	Presentation	Adapt or perish! An example of development and adaptation to an urban planning in the northern insulae of Baetulo	Clara Forn	Museum Badalona	Markus Peter
11.45	Poster-Presentation	Villa Schaab - Roman residential buildings in Trier	Maja B. Breitner	University of Trier	Markus Peter
12.00	Buffet lunch				

Update: 23.09.2019

### Thursday, 26th September 2019 / Augusta Raurica, Castelen

Time	Programme	Title	Speaker	Institution	Chair
14.00	Presentation	The Insula dell'Ara Coeli. In search of a «typical» metropolitan insula?	Dragana Mladenovic	University of Southampton	Jens-Arne Dickmann
14.45	Presentation	The phenomenon of Insulae in Northern Italy: a problem of recognition or a real absence?	Caterina Previato	University of Padova	Jens-Arne Dickmann
15.30	Coffee break				
16.00	Presentation	Interrelation and interdependency between property units within the Insulae of Pompeii	Domenico Esposito	Free University Berlin	Jens-Arne Dickmann
16.45	Presentation	The Insulae in Hispania: an overview	Paula Uribe	University of Salamanca	Jens-Arne Dickmann
19.30	Common dinner in Kaiseraugst				

### Friday, 27th September 2019 / Augusta Raurica, Castelen

Time	Programme	Title	Speaker	Institution	Chair
9.00	Presentation	Live and work in the roman colonies of Lugdunum (Lyon-FR) and Vienna (Vienne -FR)	Benjamin Clément	Archeodunum / CNRS	Thomas Hufschmid
9.45	Presentation	Insulae in Aventicum/Avenches (CH)	Pierre Blanc	Aventicum	Thomas Hufschmid
10.30	Coffee break				
11.00	Presentation	Regularity and irregularity: insulae in the Aquincum Civil Town	Orsolya Láng	Aquincum Museum	Thomas Hufschmid
11.45	Presentation	Multifunctional insulae with tabernae in the urban landscape of Ostia	Beatrice Fochetti	University of Pisa	Thomas Hufschmid
12.30	Presentation	Islands of Water: hydraulic infrastructure and the insulae of Ostia	Mark Locicero	UBC Vancouver	Thomas Hufschmid
13.15	Buffet lunch				
14.15	Final discussion	Final discussion, summary	Peter-A. Schwarz	University of Basel	

### Saturday, 28th September 2019 / Augusta Raurica, Museum

Time	Programme	Title	Guide		
9.00	Excursion	Guided Tour Augusta Raurica (Augst / Kaiseraugst)	Sven Straumann	Augusta Raurica	



## The insula as an architectural form: its features and development

*Prof. Dr. Axel Gering*

The insula as a multi-storey architectural form is often considered a “sensational discovery” made by the Italian archaeologist Guido Calza, who was the director of excavations at Ostia, where the Insula di Diana was discovered in 1917. Preserved up to its third storey, it was the first example to come to light of a building type, which previously had only been known from written sources. In Calza’s view, the concept of the insula, which seemed to him to be decidedly progressive, was diametrically opposed to the Roman house: lighted from the outside through large windows instead of just through an internal courtyard, units that could be accessed individually instead of dependant living and ample communal spaces in corridors and in the interior courtyard.

For his contemporaries in the early 20th century the new discovery was as spectacular as it was worthy of imitation, and though the solidly built insula, which offered a “new lifestyle for the middle classes” was not reflected in the written sources such as Martial’s or Juvenal’s lamentations about their urban Roman way of life, it was consistently revealed to have been the standard at Ostia the longer the excavations went on. Features uncovered at Rome itself soon completed the picture, with the most common types designed in elongated strip forms or arranged around a central courtyard (“Insula a cortile porticato” according to Calza’s typology). These insulae, which contained apartments varying in size from 30 m<sup>2</sup> to more than 300 m<sup>2</sup> offered an in-house infrastructure for their occupants consisting of cultic spaces, baths, bars and shops, and could function as self-sufficient micro-districts independent of communal facilities. Fire safety first played a role when balconies and wide internal staircases were added. Furthermore, many innovations were designed for optimal lighting, ventilation, water supply and ease of access.

The novelty from an architectural point of view was a girder construction that was fundamentally stable whilst still offering maximum flexibility in terms of its ground-plan. It was therefore easy to adjust the sizes and types of apartments and commercial premises depending on the prevailing trends or the rapidly changing requirements of a “rental market” because these adjustments could be made independent of the static structure. During the high Imperial period, the urban agglomerations of Rome and its direct counterpart, Ostia, suffered from massive housing shortages and therefore required new architectural solutions, leading to ever-more refined spatial planning. Here, the presentation will highlight the race towards extreme functionality (“architectural revolution”) as well as the basic foundations of the planned usability of the

built environment both in the insula and in its new main type of apartment, the so-called medianum apartment, which is first known to have appeared in Herculaneum but soon became widespread. The presentation ends with a look at the boundaries and the end of the insula concept and its associated “horizontal social zoning”.



*3D-model of the town centre of Ostia with the example of a court-Insula (Caseggiato dei triclini) (Model Axel Gering, photos Ostia-Forum-Project (OFP), with kind approval of the Administration of Antiquities Rome and Ostia).*



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CV: Prof. Dr. Axel Gering

Has studied Classical Archaeology, Near Eastern Archaeology, and Ancient History in Munich. After earning his doctorate in 1999 he was a scholar at the German Archaeological Institute in Rome. Since 2002 he has a regular teaching activity at the Humboldt-University in Berlin. During his Post-Doc research fellowship (2002-2005) he was leading different excavation projects in Ostia Antica/Rome. He habilitated at the HU Berlin with the topic: Coping with the decay of the ancient city. Between 2008 and 2009 he was Co-Director of the excavations Berlin-Kent-Ostia. At the moment he is foundation visiting Professor for Classical Archaeology at the Humboldt University Berlin and Director of the Ostia-Forum-Project as well as Co-Director of the Iovia-Project in Cooperation with the Peter Pazmany University Budapest.

**Research Interests:**

Roman Archaeology. Architecture: ancient living and daily life. The Roman temple and its Italic precursors. Greco-Roman urbanism. Building analysis. Basic research Archaeology of Central Italy. Building techniques. Ancient history of technology.

Tryphe: Hellenistic festival and enjoyment culture. Ancient theatre and theatre operation. The continuity of pagan cults during the Christianized Late Antiquity.

Cultural exchange beyond the old Mediterranean world: archaeological sites on the trade routes from Alexandria to India.

Development and refinement of excavation technology: «Micro-Archaeology» and macro-scale surface recordings. Application of digital documentation techniques in large-scale heritage sites. Cultural-heritage-management consulting. Late antique imperial palaces in the late Roman Balkans. Archaeo seismology. ■

## Insulae in Roman planning laws

*Prof. Dr. Johannes M. Rainer*

The presentation will deal with the overall legal situation of an insula. Juristic questions arise even with regard to the ownership of the land on which the insula is to be built and, as a consequence, the subsequent ownership of the insula itself. The legal framework regarding the construction of the insula and its juristic use are the next topic to be examined. We can assume that insulae were not just so-called tenement blocks but could also be well-maintained multi-party residential buildings. Both juristic models are presented by way of examining Roman tenancy law on the one hand and various forms of ownership, such as freehold ownership on the other, which can come into play in the context of a multi-party residential building. Other juristic measures that must be taken into account with regard to construction activities are those that were put in place to protect neighbours and prevent problems arising from the preservation of the townscape on the one hand and from safeguarding the inhabitants on the other. Moreover, questions regarding the need for exposure to light and, as a consequence, its protection are also dealt with. In terms of tenancy law, we will study the rights of both landlords and tenants and answer the question as to a tenant's rights vis-à-vis their landlord if a rental property became uninhabitable due to damage of any kind, particularly by fire.

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CV: Prof. Dr. Johannes M. Rainer

Born in Graz in 1956, is Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Salzburg and Professor of Comparative, Civil and Roman Law. He studied law at the University of Innsbruck and history, archaeology and classical and modern Romance philology at the University of Graz. ■

## Insulae in Augusta Raurica – an overview

Prof. Dr. Peter-Andrew Schwarz

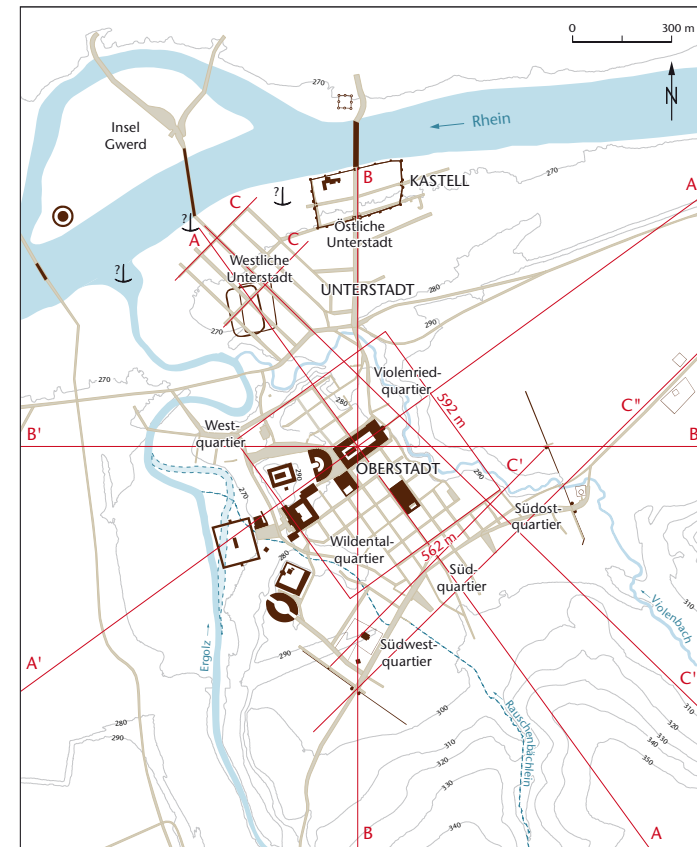
Augusta Raurica was not a town that had formed organically, but had been newly founded ex nihilo. Though no Celtic settlement structures have yet come to light in the perimeter of the caput of the colonia Raurica, which had been founded by Lucius Munatius Plancus in 44 BC but was probably not actually built until 15 BC, we may, on the basis of the finds recovered to date, expect Late La Tène period settlement activities to have taken place there. We do know that the map of the town as it exists today (Fig. 1) corresponded to the ideas and ideals of the Roman architectural theorists with regard to the requirements of a civilian town, but that its layout in actual fact also took into account the specific natural topography.

The starting point for the survey grid of the Upper Town (Augst/BL) was the umbilicus or symbolic navel found near the altar in the forum. The *Cardo Maximus* coincided with today's Hohwartstrasse road, whilst the *Decumanus Maximus* ran north-east to south-west through the curia, the forum and the forum temple.

Several longitudinal roads, some of which were shortened or interrupted by hillslopes or monumental buildings, ran parallel to the *Cardo Maximus* approximately 56 m apart. They were intersected by a series of parallel crossroads set approximately 66.5 m apart. In theory, the entire rectangle, which measured some 592 m x 562 m (1600 x 1300 Roman feet), could have encompassed a total of 90 insulae, each of which would have been bordered by four streets.

The architectural layout of the Lower Town (Kaiseraugst/AG), which was not built until around AD 80, was apparently based on a different survey grid system, though it also took account of the natural topography of the area. It consisted of five parallel longitudinal roads that ran towards the River Rhine and were linked by various crossroads. Today's Hölllochstrasse road probably formed the main axis, which ran towards the bridge (and the port?). It is conceivable but has not (yet) been proven that the rectangular insulae, which measured some 203 m x 67 m, were divided into three almost square units of c. 60 m x 60 m.

My lecture will first and foremost examine the question of the extent to which the town, which had initially been designed and planned on the drawing board, but which then "grew organically" over the course of the Imperial period, must be read as a representation of the "built social order" and to what extent the architectural layout of the insulae and the archaeo(bio)logical finds mirror the social and economic structures of its society.



Overview of Augusta Raurica (Augst/BL; Kaiseraugst/AG) with the district names as given by Ludwig Berger and Markus Schaub and the main survey axes according to Hans Stohler (A), Rudolf Laur-Belart (B) and Ludwig Berger (C). Sc. 1:15 000.

CV: Prof. Dr. Peter-Andrew Schwarz

Born in Brooklyn in 1960, studied prehistoric archaeology, archaeology of the Middle Ages and European ethnology at the University of Basel, now holder of the Vindonissa Professorship at the University of Basel. ■



## The Insula 30 in the Roman Town of Augusta Raurica (CH)

Sven Straumann

In a recent PhD project the completely excavated insula 30 of the Roman colonial town Augusta Raurica (Augst/Kaiseraugst, CH) has been in the focus of an archaeological interpretation. Centrally situated in the Upper Town of Augusta Raurica, the block (50 m x 60 m) known as Insula 30 was completely excavated between 1959 and 1962. Insula 30 is, so far, the only insula in Augusta Raurica that has been excavated in its entirety. Almost the entire area of 3,400 square metres was excavated down to the underlying natural subsoil, allowing not only the floor plans of the stone-built phases to be recorded (1st – 3rd century AD), but also the remains of its timber-built phases of the early 1st century AD. Therefore the whole development of this city block can be reconstructed. The overall analysis aims an understanding of the functionality of this city block. In order to obtain results on the interaction with the urban surroundings computational methods, e.g. Space Syntax Analysis, has been applied. This not only gets us insights into the internal and functional organization of an insula but also knowledge about the relation between architecture and urban context.



Augst 1962: The ongoing excavation in Insula 30  
(photo 1962.051-09010.1, Archiv Augusta Raurica).

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CV: Sven Straumann

Has studied Prehistory and Early History, Roman Archaeology, Classical Archaeology, Medieval History as well as Medieval Archaeology in Basel, Bern and Freiburg i. Br. 2004-2011 collaborator at the Archäologische Bodenforschung Basel-Stadt. Since 2011 scientific assistant and project manager at the Museum Augusta Raurica. Research interests: architecture, building research, urbanism, new methods. ■

## Insulatim? Study and edition strategies of a Roman city: Pompeii

*Prof. Dr. Antonella Coralini*

It is well known, and accepted by all, that the form of the Roman city is the block. This is the cell that generates the urban fabric and it is from this that research on ancient urban organisms must start.

This awareness has always struggled to translate itself into research and scientific edition: even in cases where material evidence would have allowed it, due to the richness and quality of the data, the single-scale approach building unit, public or private, has ended up in dominating. However, there are some important exceptions.

Starting from these examples the contribution wants to trace the history, considering the search of good practices and sustainable models. Inevitable sample, the principal Vesuvian site, Pompeii.



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CV: Prof. Dr. Antonella Coralini

Professor of Classical Archeology, she holds courses in Archeology and History of Roman Art (LT, LM), Housing Culture (LM) and Domestic Archeology in the Classical World (Specialization).

In addition to the Vesuviana program (1997-) and its projects - Pompeii (1998-), DHER - Domus Herculaneensis Rationes (2005-), Alibi. Paintings in the Museum (2006-), Villa Sora (2016-) and Pausilypon (2018-), she is scientific director of the research programs Ruri. Living in the territory in the Roman world (2011-), Domi. Living in the city in the Roman world and Picta fragmenta. Documenting, knowing, communicating ancient painting (2013-).

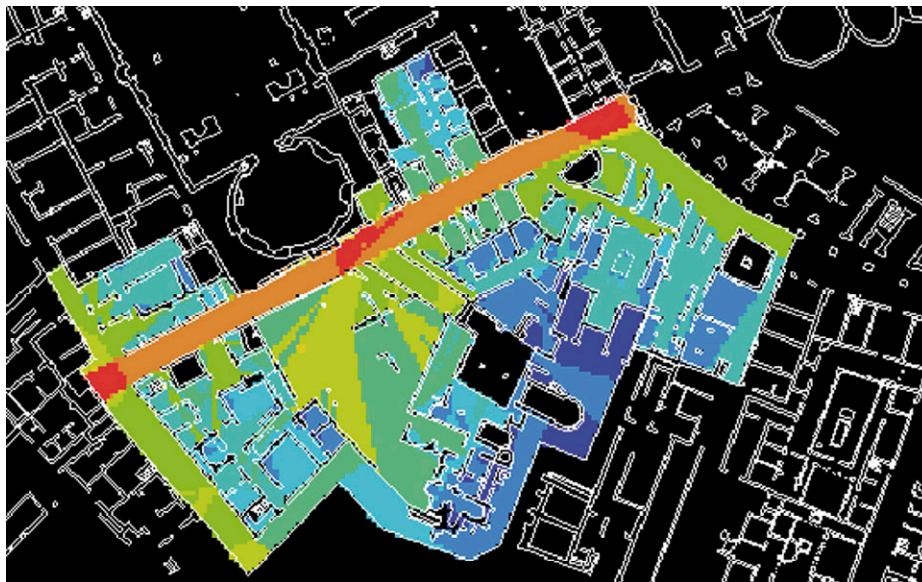
President of the AIPMA (Association Internationale pour la Peinture Mural Antique, 2016-2019), Secretary of the ARPA (Italian Association of Research on Ancient Painting, since 2016) and scientific director of the CESPITA (Centro Interuniversitario di Studi sulla Pittura Antica, since 2018), she has a rich bibliography .

Her research interests span from the archaeology of the ancient city to the archaeology of the production, with a particular attention for the Household Archaeology and the Entanglement Studies. ■

## New kids on the block: The application of space syntax tools for the analysis of roman insulae and neighborhoods

*Dr. Jesús Bermejo-Tirado*

In the last decades we have attested the publication of a growing number of works related to the application of space syntax techniques for the analysis of Roman urbanism and architecture. The aim of this paper is to offer a review of some of this recent applications specifically oriented to the social analysis of insulae and neighborhoods in different Roman cities. I will start by introducing some basic conceptions on space syntax indexes and alternative ways for the visual representation of the spatial configuration of built environments. Then, I will discuss how the application of some of these tools has been used to reveal some hidden aspects related to the circulation or the spatial segregation/integration of some Roman insulae in widely known sites as Pompeii or Ostia, but also in some other provincial territories. I will conclude my paper by discussing the possibilities and limitations of space syntax methodologies for the analysis of the social and economic dynamics that underlies in the architectural configuration of Roman insulae and urban neighborhoods.



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CV: Dr. Jesús Bermejo-Tirado

Dr. Jesús Bermejo-Tirado is Senior Research Fellow (“Atracción de Talento” program) in the Department of Humanities at the Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. He is a Roman Archaeologist specialized in the study of domestic spaces across different provincial territories of the ancient Mediterranean. He is also interested in the application of space syntax methodologies for the analysis of archaeological built environments. He acted as editor of the very first monograph volume (*Arqueología de la Arquitectura*, 2015) on this topic in the framework of Spanish scholarship. Recently, Dr. Bermejo has been appointed as the PI of a 5-year project, funded by the regional government of Madrid, on the archaeological analysis of Roman peasant communities of central Spain. ■



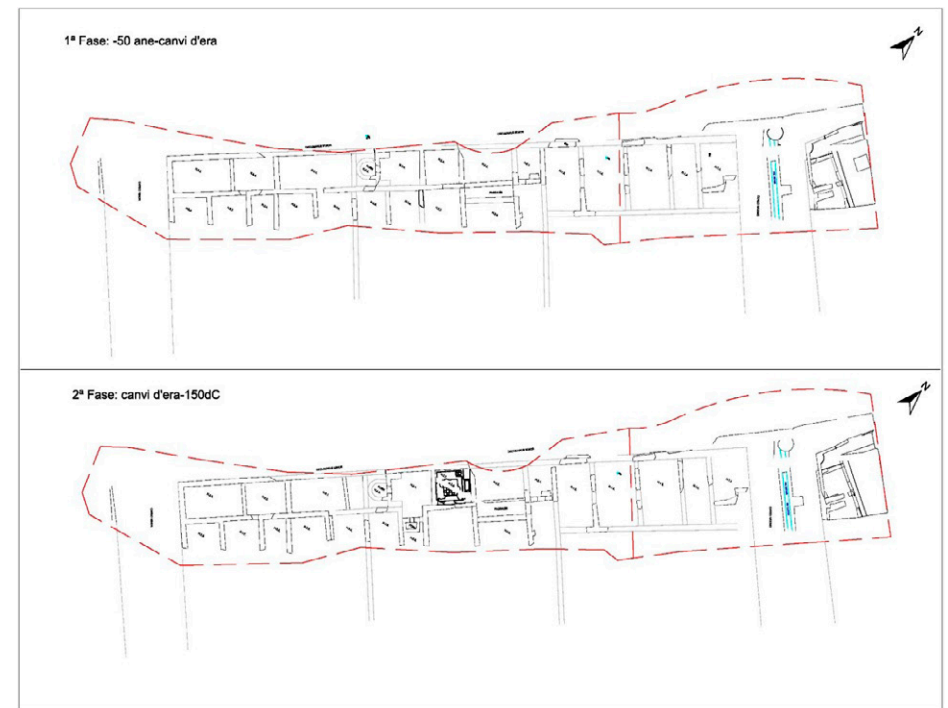
## Adapt or perish! An example of development and adaptation to an urban planning in the northern *insulae* of Baetulo

Clara Forn / Iñaki Moreno (co-author)

Baetulo was located in the north-eastern coast of the Hispania Citerior. It was founded around 70 BC as an *ex novo* foundation with an Italic model. The town was settled on a hillside surrounded by two streams and the Mediterranean Sea. The first studies of Baetulo urban development, drew an orthogonal grid which occupied a space of 10 hectares. The town presents a regular orientation and has a sewer system, mainly on the *cardines*, built during the first Julio-Claudian period. Also it has been documented some of the main public buildings as two baths, a temple and a theatre.

In the last 25 years, the archaeological preventive works provide new findings inside the Roman town and the surroundings, that made us review the actual urban hypothesis and how these new buildings fit in the urban grid. In particular, two excavations made us reformulate the extension of the town and its spatial distribution. One in 2006, where appears a *decumanus maximus* that pass by the eastern limit of the Roman town, and another in 2017, located outside of the northern limit and brought to light the remains of two *insulae* located next to the *cardo maximus*. Besides, both *insulae*, represents a different paradigm of how the urbanistic plan can be changed during the construction and development of the town. The NE *insulae* has a little deviation in his orientation, about 15° from the rest of the town, probably because an earlier construction, and was straightened out while the sewer system of the *cardo maximus* was built. The other, although we don't know the SE limit, is delimited by the *cardo maximus*, a *cardo* and a *decumanus minores*. His measure is 60 per 33 meters and was divided in three buildings with 20 meters each one, and it might be a new model of *insulae* in Baetulo.

In these paper we also discuss the different living and working functions of the *insulae* and his structure and circulation.



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### CV: Clara Forn

University studies at the Universitat de Barcelona, specialist in Roman archaeology and heritage education. Working in the Museum of Badalona since 2007, last five years as heritage curator and supervisor of the excavations in Badalona (Barcelona). My field of research is related to urban development and periodization of Baetulo. Now we are reviewing and reformulating the plan of the Roman town. ■

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### CV: Iñaki Moreno

University studies at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, archaeological director from 2000 to nowadays, some of these excavations in Badalona and Barcelona. Specialist in Roman and medieval archaeology. Working in ATICS SL. ■

## Villa Schaab – Roman residential buildings in Trier

*Maja B. Breitner*

Topic of an ongoing PhD project is the analysis of the archaeological record of a Roman residential building near the Imperial baths in Trier. With a surface of about 800 m<sup>2</sup> this old excavation covers the biggest so far known residential area of the ancient city. During the excavation at the end of the 19th century a precise documentation of the building structures and its features has been made. Despite the good initial position for the reconstruction of Roman life in the urban context an archaeological analysis is missing until today. The aim of the PhD project is to fill this gap and to investigate this stately Roman city house comprehensively. The building has been in use from the early imperial period till the late antiquity. Furthermore the embedment of the complex into its urban context allows a view on the interaction between dwelling and urban surroundings. The use of the building during several centuries and the good research situation of the local history of events, religion and social history are providing good conditions for a first-time analysis of the Roman living culture in Trier. The architectural evaluation is the basis for reconstructing origin, genesis and architectural development of the building. A combination of historical, comparative and socio-cultural questions aims to present an overall picture of Roman living culture in townhouse of Trier. By including the comparison of floorplans of residential building in the Northwestern provinces, respectively their genesis and development, this PhD project contributes to a further exploration of urban living culture in the Roman provinces.

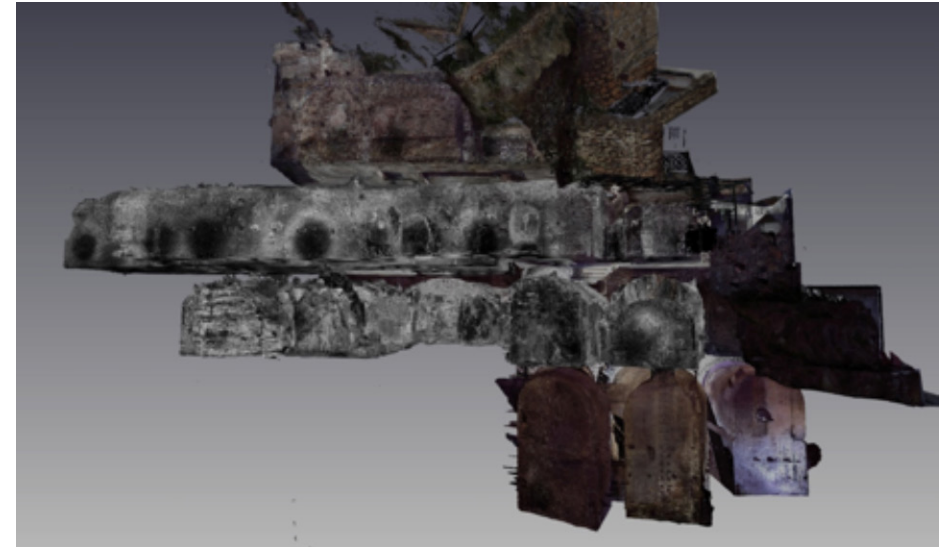


*Excavation area «Villa Schaab» 1897 (GDKE/RLMT)*

## The Insula dell'Ara Coeli. In search of a 'typical' metropolitan insula?

*Dr. Dragana Mladenovic*

Though insulae must have once dominated the cityscape of imperial Rome, the only surviving extant example of this type of domestic architecture in city today is the Insula dell'Ara Coeli. The structure was revealed when between 1926 and 1933 a whole city district of Rome at the foot of the Capitoline hill was demolished following the orders of Mussolini for the construction of the Via del Mare. The removal of Renaissance and later structures revealed the remains of a multi-storey apartment building with building phases dating between the 2nd century AD and the Middle Ages, standing among other residential and commercial structures of the dynamic neighborhood situated between the oldest trade hub at the Tiber, the Forum Holitorium, and the western slopes of the Capitoline Hill. Despite its importance the insula has never been studied in full: a small excavation and architectural survey were carried out in the 1960s (Packer, J. 1969. *La casa di Via Giulio Romano*. *Bull-Com* 81: 127–48), but the majority of the building and the surrounding structures remained uninvestigated. To this end, the Sovrintendenza Capitolina ai Beni Culturali, has initiated a study project that in addition to the complete review of archival documentation, included new surveys of the area and the accessible structures as well as a detailed survey and recording of the Insula dell'Ara Coeli, which has been undertaken, both by using traditional methods, by the Sapienza University of Rome, and modern technologies, though a collaboration with the University of Southampton. The paper will present some preliminary results of this project, and reflect on the added insight they provide on the little that is known of the metropolitan insulae in general.



*Laser scan of the Insula dell'Ara Coeli showing the superimposed structural relationships of its internal spaces across five surviving floors*

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### CV: Dr. Dragana Mladenovic

Dr. Dragana Mladenovic is a Visiting Fellow in Archaeology at the University of Southampton, having previously worked as a Roman archaeology lecturer at the University of Southampton and the St Hugh's College, University of Oxford. She is the co-director of the Portus Project and maintains dual research interests in the City of Rome and provincial Roman archaeology of the Balkans. ■



## The phenomenon of Insulae in Northern Italy: a problem of recognition or a real absence?

*Dr. Caterina Previato*

The topic of Roman private housing in Northern Italy has been the object of several research and publications within the last 50 years. These studies permitted to define a good picture of the main features of Roman residential architecture of this part of the Italian peninsula, which seems to be characterized in the Imperial age by an exclusive presence of single-family houses and by the absence of the housing typology of the Insulae. But is this absence real? If we focus on the quality of data examined in these studies, we must admit that behind this assumption can be hidden a problem of recognition, because the knowledge of the plan of private buildings of Northern Italy is very fragmentary, and just a few of them was investigated in its entire extension. In addition, their state of conservation is very bad and limited to the ground floor, so it's difficult to reconstruct the layout of the upper floors.

Therefore, the main aim of this paper is to answer to this question, by means of a re-examination of the existing data and an analysis of new data provided by the most recent archaeological excavations carried out in Northern Italy, looking for clues which can suggest the existence of the typology of Insulae or for evidence which can confirm the hypothesis of their absence. Whatever the answer is, it will be analysed in its historical, cultural and social extent.

In this way, it will be possible to reflect on which elements make an Insula to what it is, as well as on the problem of possible regional differences in Roman private housing.



CV: Dr. Caterina Previato

Caterina Previato is researcher at the University of Padua (Dipartimento dei Beni Culturali: Archeologia, Storia dell'Arte, del Cinema e della Musica). Her research focuses on Classical Archaeology and Architecture, with a particular attention topics such as the history of ancient settlements and monumental complexes, the building materials, the construction processes, the building techniques, considered by a historical and economical point of view. At present she is involved in research and studies concerning Aquileia and Northern Italy, Sardinia and the city of Pompeii. ■

## Interrelation and interdependency between property units within the Insulae of Pompeii

*Dr. Domenico Esposito*

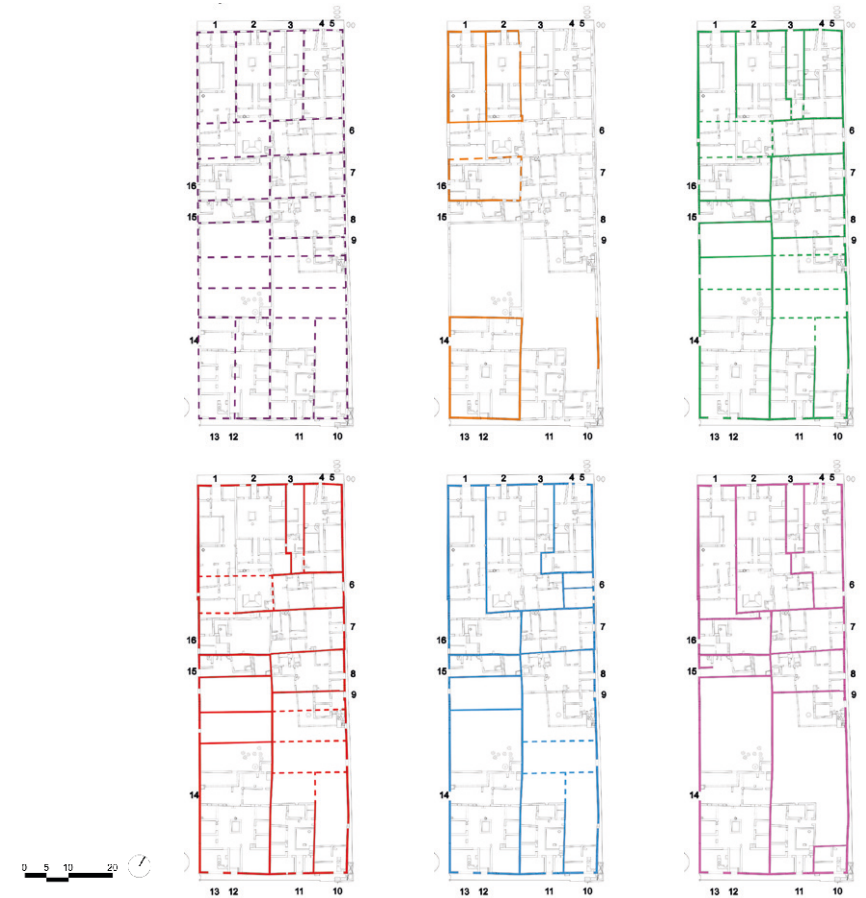
Pompeii is a unique context to investigate several aspects of Roman Insulae: architectural design, building history, functional analysis, interrelationship between productive and residential spaces.

The present speech focuses on the building- and socio-economic dynamics of private property ownership in ancient Pompeii. Through modifications, expansions, subdivisions, lettings and conversions, private property can thus even contribute to further capital growth.

Concretely the following questions arise: How can the inventory of urban private property be systematically scrutinized in relation to the Insula and to overall urban fabric? What changes in area and architectural volumes and / or space usage can be detected over time? Which adequate research methodology can be used to achieve a reliable reconstruction of the original course of the property boundaries and identify the motives of subsequent changes? What conclusions can be drawn from this concerning the changes within the Insulae and in the city structure? What are the consequences of the material transformation of private property on a social, economic and legal level? The central aim of this paper is thus to discuss the socio-economic motives for the shaping process of private land, using the example of Pompeii's Insulae.

Because of its exceptionally dense and consistent findings, Pompeii offers unique opportunities to answer these questions.

The present paper explores the potential of such a research trying to reconstruct patterns of interrelationship and interdependency between different owned units. The aim is to understand if, and eventually how, different economical activities (such as shops, workshops, etc.) could belong to major properties (i.e. houses) within the Insulae and how these interdependency could reflect differentiated economical investment of the owners of the houses within the Insulae.



CV: Dr. Domenico Esposito

My exploratory focus lies on Roman Housing and wall paintings in Pompeii and Herculaneum. After my PhD in Naples (2003-2006), I worked as external consultant for the Soprintendenza of Pompeii (2007-2010) conducting excavations within the Villa of the Misteries in Pompeii and the Villa of Papyri in Herculaneum. From 2011 till 2012 I was granted a Humboldt Fellowship to the DAI Berlin. In 2013 and 2014 I worked within the DFG Project of the DAI (F. Seiler) on the Roman villas around Pompeii. Since 2015 I have been involved in the research project of the Freie Universität Berlin (M. Truemper) on the development of bathing culture in Pompeii (Stabian and Republican baths). ■

## The Insulae in Hispania: an overview

*Paula Uribe*

The Iberian Peninsula was gradually occupied after the Roman legions disembarked at Emporion in 218 BC. This early conquest meant that Roman building models and ways of life were soon adopted. In consequence, the period covered by the study of insulae in Hispania is extensive and outstanding examples are known belonging to the Republican period and also to Late Antiquity.

This presentation will offer an overview of the different towns in the Iberian Peninsula where these remains are best preserved. Unfortunately the specific study of insulae has received little attention from Iberian scientific production and many of the towns have only partially been excavated or are only known through old excavations.

Despite these inconveniences, several aspects can be noted in the form and development of insulae in Hispania. Thus, urbanised but not constructed spaces can be observed, as in the Republican town of La Caridad (Caminreal, Teruel) or the Hadrianic city of Italica (Santiponce, Seville). Others were adapted to previous buildings or to the orography, as at Celsa (Velilla del Ebro, Zaragoza), in the Insula of the Phallus Vase in Conimbriga (Coimbra, Portugal) and in Emerita Augusta (Mérida, Badajoz). Still other domestic areas are connected with the urban layout of the towns and the use of public spaces (Bilbilis, Calatayud, Zaragoza).

A series of conclusions will be reached through this overview in order to understand the development of insulae within their great container or context: the towns.



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CV: Paula Uribe

Assistant Lecturer at the University of Salamanca. Member of the Board of ICOMOS Spain.

**Research experience:**

a) Roman urban domestic architecture in the middle valley of the River Ebro in the 2nd-3rd centuries AD. (European mention and extraordinary doctoral prize 2009).

b) New remote sensing tools and new technologies for 3D geometric documentation applied to Archaeology (using image satellite, multi-spectral and thermal images by means of drones, LiDAR, drones with LiDAR, photogrammetry and 3D scanners).

c) Roman hydraulic infrastructures: Roman dam of Muel (Zaragoza).

Participation in international forums, excavations and international projects in Italy, France, Oman, United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan.

Experience abroad: Escuela Española de Arqueología en Roma, Università di Bologna, Maison de l'Archéologie (Université de Bordeaux III), Université de Pau and Fine Arts Institute of the Academy of Sciences Republic of Uzbekistan.

**Teaching experience:**

Charge d'enseignement vacataire at the University of Pau (France), associated lecturer at the University of Zaragoza (Spain), and assistant at the University of Salamanca (Spain).

Invited by CSIC (Spain), the University of the Sorbonne (France), la Philipps-Universität de Marburgo (Germany) and the Institut Ausonius (France). ■



## Live and work in the roman colonies of Lugdunum (Lyon-FR) and Vienna (Vienne-FR). Insulae as a case study.

*Dr. Benjamin Clément – Archeodunum / CNRS UMR5138 ArAr*

The Roman colonies of Lyon and Vienna founded at the end of the 1st century BC along the Rhone, are particularly relevant examples for the study of urban development in the provinces of Roman Gaul. Recent research carried out in these two cities has made it possible to analyze several insulae that are particularly well preserved and distributed both in the heart of the colonies and in suburban areas. These buildings are built using similar construction techniques, where wood and earth hold a prominent place to support floors and roofing. If there is some variety of plans depending on the position of the building in an urban island, its destination and its chronology, these insulae share common characteristics. The ground floor is essentially devoted to craft activities that most often take place in shops lined up on the street and sometimes associated with a courtyard located at the bottom of the plot. On the contrary, some insulae correspond to a large craft hall which occupies the whole plot and divided into two naves by pillars. Whatever the choice of the plan, these buildings are systematically equipped with upper-floors, accessible by independent stairs from the street and occupied by apartments on one or two levels. Recent excavations carried out in Lyon as well as in Vienna allowed to apprehend for the first time in Gaul the architecture and the organization of these apartments. These discoveries offer the opportunity to understand these insulae as a whole, that is as a mixed complex associating commercial spaces on the ground floor and domestic spaces upstairs. Finally, this communication would like to question the modalities of their insertion into the urban fabric as much as the social status of these inhabitants.



*View of roman insula from Sainte-Colombe Le Bourg excavation, Vienne, France  
(Credits : Archeodunum)*

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### CV: Dr. Benjamin Clément

Dr. Benjamin Clément is currently Charge of operations for the Archeodunum company and animates the axis "From the village to the ancient city" within the CNRS UMR5138 ArAr laboratory in Lyon. His research focuses on ancient domestic architecture by basing his approach on a pluralistic approach: on the one hand the analysis of materials and construction techniques from the end of the Republic to the end of the Empire in Gaul; on the other, the analysis of housing and its integration in the ancient city. ■

## Insulae in Aventicum/Avenches

Pierre Blanc

Habitat excavations have been carried out on numerous occasions on the site of Avenches/Aventicum where residential quarters cover over 42 hectares, one fifth of the intramural area of the Roman city. Yet, research had not been conducted on the insula itself and few publications investigated the matter. However, the former capital of the Helvetii shows a lot of potential in this field of study: archaeological documentation from extensive excavations in several residential areas has by no means been fully exploited (insulae 7.13, 10 East, 16 East, 12, 18). The results obtained from smaller interventions also deserve to be taken into consideration (insulae 15 and 20). Finally, it is relevant to widen the investigation to include housing areas located on the fringes of the urban grid or along the main access roads leading to the centre of Aventicum. This conference is therefore an opportunity to present an overview of the issues related to the insulae of Avenches, whether considered as constituent units of an orthogonal urban layout that adapt to local topography, or, on a smaller scale, as cells dedicated to housing and economic activities under constant evolution. Avenches' contribution sheds light on the following aspects: early development of a road network, durability of the plots within the insula (modular grid), preservation of the original plan of the dwellings, adaptation to the local topography, variety of housing forms, spatial functions (domestic, commercial, garden), development of non-insulae housing areas.



*Avenches, a stratigraphic sequence resulting from nearly three centuries of occupation, observed between the street, portico and façade of a quarter of Avenches (insula 15). Photo: Site et musée romains d'Avenches*

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### CV: Pierre Blanc

University studies from 1984 to 1991 at the University of Lausanne. He was hired in Avenches in 1991 by the Fondation Pro Aventico as an archaeologist and technical assistant. In 2006, he was appointed to the direction of excavations in Avenches. Following the dissolution of the Fondation Pro Aventico in 2014, joined the Cantonal Archaeology Division of the State of Vaud as heritage curator while retaining the direction of excavations within the Site et musée romains d'Avenches (SMRA). ■

## Regularity and irregularity: insulae in the Aquincum Civil Town

*Dr. Orsolya Láng*

The Aquincum Civil Town (Pannonia Inferior) has been the subject of constant archaeological research in the last more than 130 years. These excavations managed to unearth nearly half of the settlement (mainly its eastern half), revealing the street system, several public buildings, sanctuaries and private dwellings.

The development of the insula system in the presently visible eastern part of the town - even though it does show some regularity - raises some questions: while regular blocks can be found in the 2nd – 3rd c. AD town centre (mainly along the main NS road) irregularity can also be observed in the south-eastern zone of the settlement. How can these differences be related to the settlement's predecessor, namely a civilian vicus? Are there any similarities between the structure of the vicus and the later town? Are they related at all? To make things even more complicated: recent geophysical survey revealed large part of the street system of the western part of the 2nd – 3rd c. AD settlement too, showing significant differences from that of the eastern part. What could be the reason behind these anomalies?

Furthermore, the case study of the north-eastern zone of the Civil Town will be presented, as an industrial-commercial quarter has been excavated (and recently reevaluated) here with strip buildings (from the first third of the 2nd until the late 3rd c. AD). Living and working functions/parts can be distinguished and the function of certain rooms can be determined based on the archaeological finds (e.g. a tannery). Even the architectural design of the quarter (streetfront portico and shops) show traces of some central planning as well as the public utility network here.

All in all, building development, architecture and functionality of certain insulae of the Aquincum Civil Town will be examined in this paper, based on old research data as well as using the results of recent control excavations.



*Ground plan of the Aquincum Civil Town  
(S. Groh – K. Kolozsvári – BHM Aquincum Museum)*

**CV: Dr. Orsolya Láng**

I'm a Roman archaeologist and director of the Aquincum Museum. I have been working as a supervising archaeologist in the Aquincum Museum for nineteen years. I have been mainly involved in both planned and developer-funded excavations in the Aquincum Civil Town and its vicinity. My field of research is connected to the Aquincum Civil Town, working on the periodization of the buildings in of the settlement, including the re-evaluation of old excavation materials. In connection with the latter, I have become very interested in Roman urbanization, the processes involved in urban development, the identities of various populations in the town as well as aspects of industry and crafts in an urban setting. ■



## Multifunctional insulae with tabernae in the urban landscape of Ostia

*Beatrice Fochetti*

The aim of this contribution is to investigate the architectural, functional and economic role of tabernae in the context of insulae.

The focus of this study is the city of Ostia where the massive presence of tabernae, predominantly included in multi-storey insulae, strongly characterize the urban landscape of the city in its 2nd century AD development. Indeed, following the enlargement of the Portus Traiani Ostia underwent a profound phase of urban renewal which completely change its landscape. A substantial part of this urban growth at Imperial Ostia was due to private initiatives, with the phenomena of urban investment and building speculation. In terms of building design, these dynamics are reflected in a high level of variety in the architectural solutions, of which the tabernae are one indicator.

The significant number of construction statements identifiable at Ostia offer the possibility of an analysis on a large scale. It is useful to evaluate the levels of standardization of the structural components and establish comparisons with other Roman settlements. At the same time, through an assessment of the ground floor of the insulae with tabernae at Ostia it has been possible to recognize different levels of connection between commercial units, and/or working and living spaces. As a result, the interrelationship between the tabernae and the ground floor provides a series of additional pieces of information which contribute to the discussion of the functionality of the insulae in their architectural layout.



*Ostia. View from south of the Via della Fontana with the Insula dell'Ercole Bambino - II, vi, 3-4 to the left (Photo B. Fochetti)*

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### CV: Beatrice Fochetti

PhD candidate at the University of Pisa in co-tutelage with the University of Köln with a research project on topography, focused on the tabernae of Imperial Ostia.

She has studied archaeology at the Universities of Viterbo and Tübingen and obtained a MSc Degree at Viterbo with a dissertation on the Doric order in Asia Minor during the Imperial period. She participates in many research projects in Italy, Germany and Turkey.

Main research interest: topography and Roman architecture; architectural decoration. ■

## Islands of Water: hydraulic infrastructure and the insulae of Ostia

*Mark Locicero*

This contribution explores the water systems present in three insulae in Ostia (III, i; IV, ii; V, ii), and how they changed from the Republican to the Late Antique period. The diachronic study of water in these insulae identified several kinds of water supply systems, as well as multiple ways of using and removing water. By examining the water systems in each insula and how they changed over time, it is possible to extract socio-cultural information regarding the different choices people made in how they used water. This sheds light on possible changes of ownership across each insula over time, evidence for changing ground levels in the city, and the use of certain water features as prestige items. Identifying and quantifying these choices also highlights the sustainability of different kinds of water systems, and how these choices matched or differed from larger hydraulic trends across the city. Informed by contemporary methods for assessing sustainable water usage, this contribution seeks to draw out the active choices the people of Ostia made in their relationship with the waters around them.



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CV: Mark Locicero

Mark Locicero completed his PhD (2018) at Leiden University, where he explored the role of water and sustainable resource usage in Roman Ostia. He has taught various classes on resources, waste, and recycling in the ancient Mediterranean world for several years. He completed his Master's at the University of British Columbia (2011), and his Bachelor's at Queen's University (2009). His research continues to explore the role of water in Roman urbanism. ■

## The “Tetrastyle Courtyard House” and its urban context in Magna Graecia and Sicily

Ada Cortes

In this communication we will show the analysis that is being carried out in the Tetrastylon project (Marie Skłodowska-Curie research fellowship). This project is designed to create the scientific basis for the identification and definition of a specific of Roman domus. This typological feature is the result of a hybrid house scheme between the Greek and Roman conceptions of housing. In recent decades, some studies have found a particular typology of Roman house in different parts of the Roman Empire. The structural scheme of this domus joins, in the first place, the concept of the development of the Greek habitat, and secondly, the use of the Roman atrium space as the central distribution area of the house. As a result of this cultural symbiosis, it is possible to observe Roman distribution areas within Greek housing structural conceptions and the combination of very different architectural influences between both cultures. This typology of house, named in a very preliminary manner „Tetrastyle Courtyard House”, has been observed in different Roman cities with a Greek past, but in different geographical contexts and chronologies. This type of house, with its variants, has not been enough analyzed by the Roman domestic architecture studies. This talk will present different examples of this type of house in the territorial context of ancient Magna Graecia and Sicily during Roman dominion. Furthermore, the communication will be focused on different examples in various archaeological sites, not only in a single specific insula. Nevertheless, we can show the evolution of some houses within their urban context and the relationship with the outside and with their insula.

This project wants to have the most possible Interdisciplinary approach and it takes into account several archaeological analyses on the Roman houses which will be included in this talk. The combination of field survey, photogrammetry, Space Syntax and visibility relational models will generate outstanding detailed information about these households and their evolution, offering a new perspective about the social behavior of their owners and about the complexity of Roman urbanism.



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### CV: Ada Cortes

She holds a PhD in Classical Archaeology (2009) from the UAB. The investigation which she has carried out has determined the major Roman domestic architectural models located in Catalonia. She has been working in other territories, chronologies and different domestic architecture issues with national and international project collaborations. In 2016, She was awarded with a Marie Skłodowska-Curie research grant in the Sapienza, with a Roman domestic project in the South of Italy and Sicily. ■

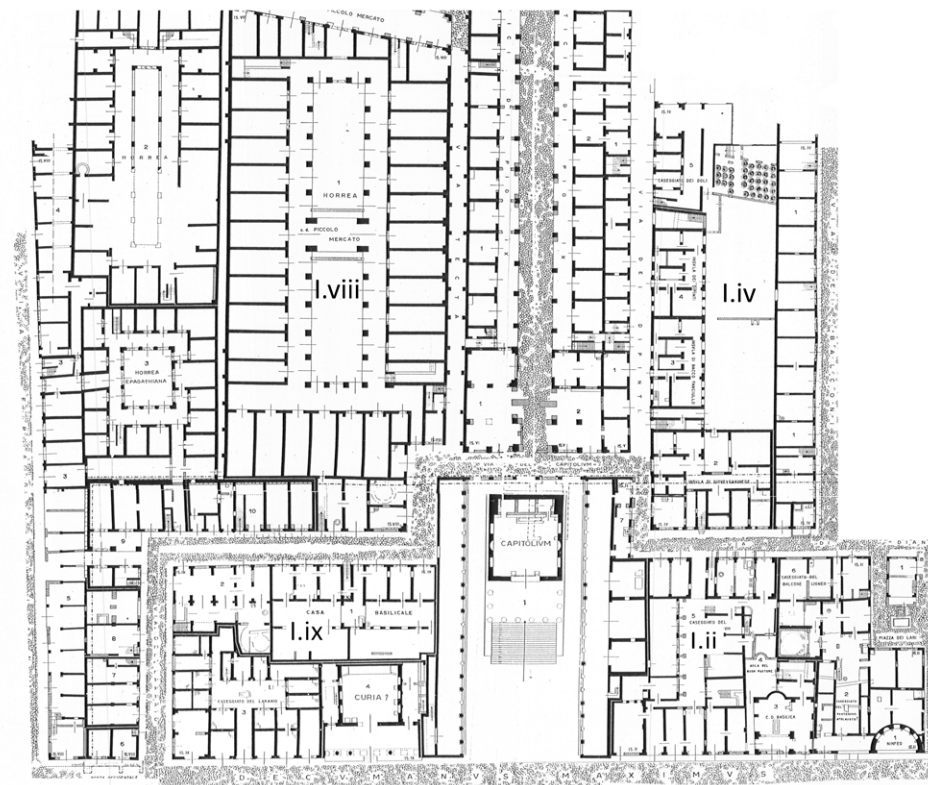


## Variety and individuality in the second century insulae of Ostia: four case studies from around the Capitolium

Janet DeLaine

This paper examines the development and nature of four insulae which flank the Hadrianic temple (the so-called Capitolium) north of the decumanus maximus at Ostia, situated in a key location between the forum and the Tiber, either side of the original walls of the late fourth century castrum (Fig. 1). Insulae I.2 and I.9 are small city blocks with mixed commercial, domestic and civic units, while Insula I.4 is dominated by the residential complex of the Insula of the Paintings (I.4.2-4) and the predominantly commercial I.8 by the Piccolo Mercato (I.8.1). The function of most of the individual units is well-understood, and together they can be seen as fairly representative of second century Ostia. Nearly all the surviving structures were originally built in the first third of the second century AD as demonstrated by the brick stamp evidence, but the insulae have long histories going back to the early years of the colony, and continued to be reworked and reconfigured to a greater or lesser degree at least into the third century AD, while remaining fundamentally unchanged; together they provide good case studies for how insulae developed at Ostia. In particular, the building of the 'Capitolium' required a change to the road layout, the impact of which can be seen in the development of each of the insulae.

The overall impression is one of diversity; despite their close vicinity, the use of a similar kind of architecture in brick or brick-and-reticulate mortared rubble, and their construction over a very short period of time, no two of the four insulae follow the same pattern in either development or functional distribution. The original boundaries between most individual units within each insula are relatively clear, and, within a broadly coherent mode of construction, differences in the details of building materials and techniques between units very close in date further encourage the view that these are separate lots, with different owners, developed individually to suit the demands of those owners.



### CV: Janet DeLaine

Janet DeLaine was formerly Associate Professor of Roman Archaeology at Oxford, where she is now an Emeritus Fellow of Wolfson College and Director of the Ancient World Research Cluster. She has published numerous articles on Ostia, particularly on housing, the commercial landscape, and construction, and is currently working towards a book on the urban development of Ostia for OUP. She is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and a Corresponding Member of the Archaeological Institute of America. ■



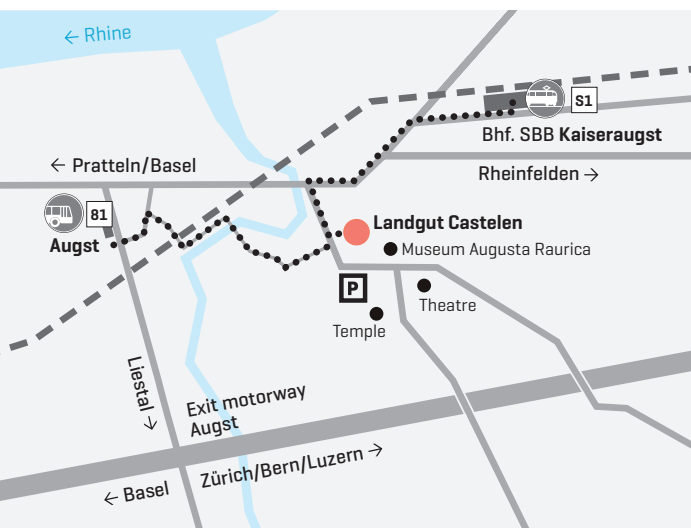
# Locations

## University of Basel/Main Building (Kollegienhaus), Petersplatz 1, 4051 Basel



From train station «Basel SBB»:  
Bus Nr. 30  
(direction «Badischer Bahnhof»,  
stop: «Universität»  
•• by foot (5 min.)

## Landgut Castelen, Giebenacherstrasse 9, 4302 Augst



From train station «Basel SBB»:  
Train S1  
(direction «Frick/Laufenburg»,  
stop: «Kaiseraugst»  
•• by foot (10 min.)

From «Basel/Aeschenplatz»:  
Bus Nr. 81  
(direction «Liestal»,  
stop: «Augst»  
•• by foot (10 min.)