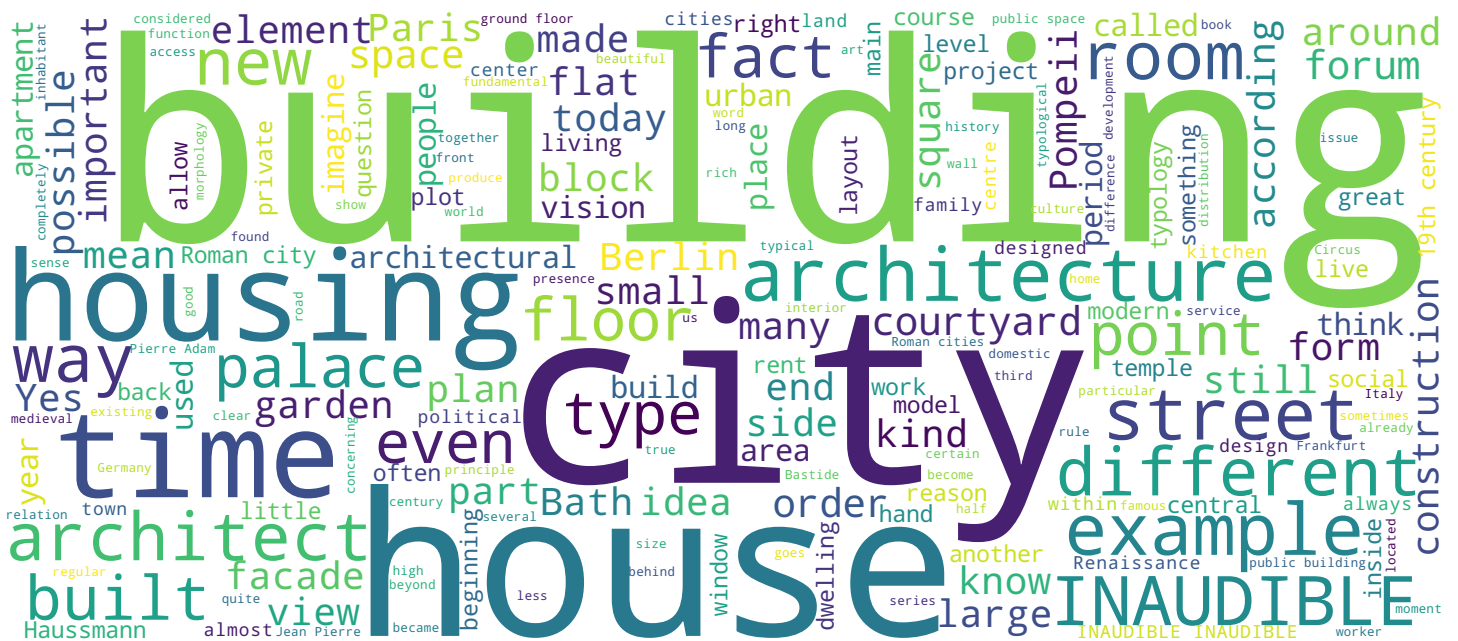


the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne presents





EPFL

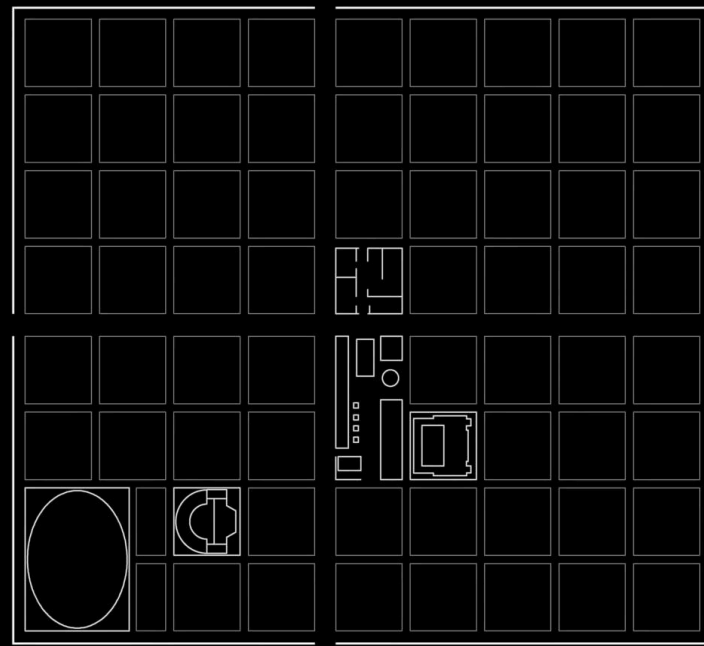
ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

Search MOOC



Video





AMPHITHEATRE

THEATRE

FORUM

THERMAL BATHS

PERIFERIC WALL

redrawn from: http://www.spanisharts.com/arquitectura/i_roma_urbano.html

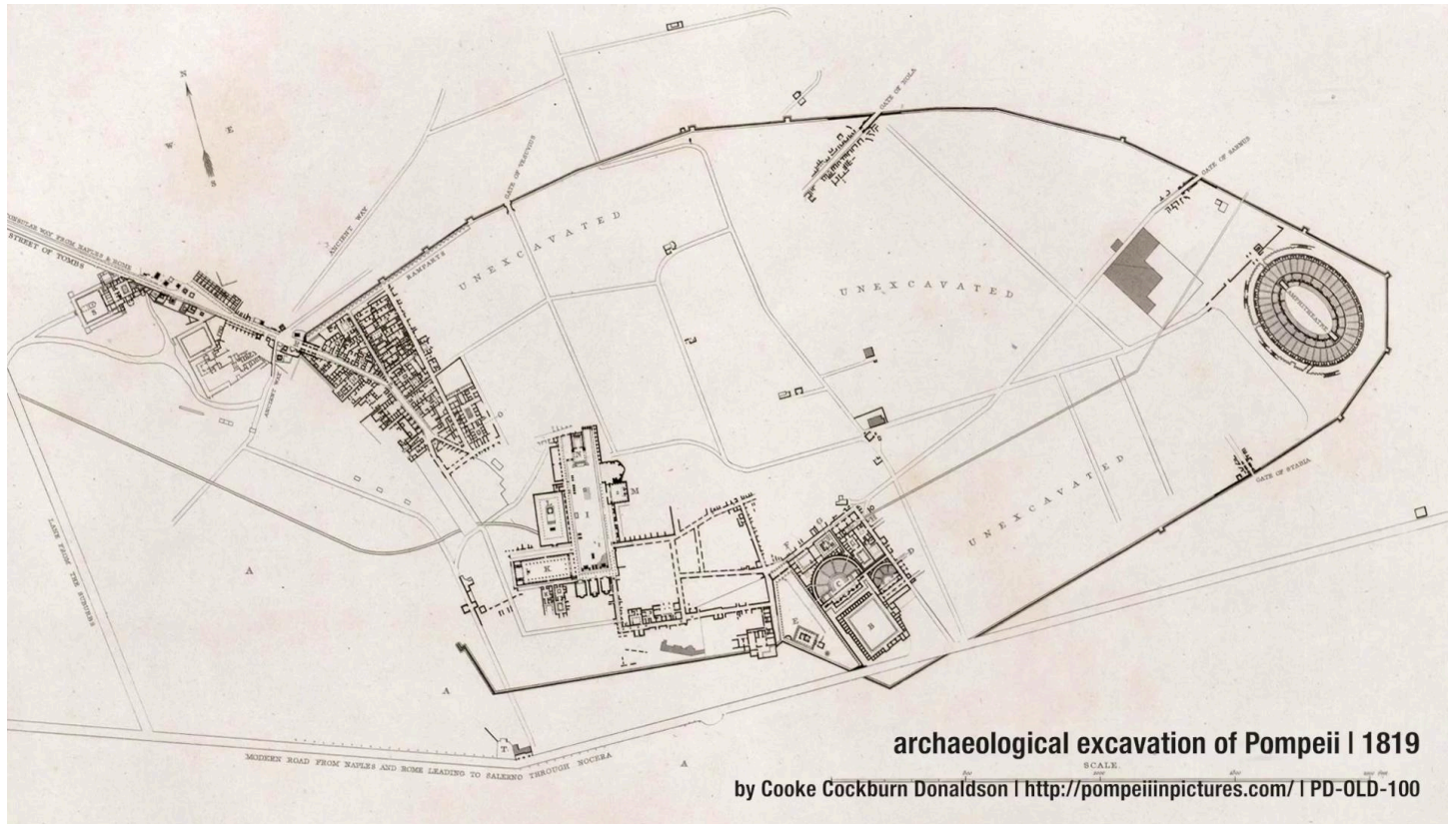
Notes

Starting in the 18th century, architects, artists and intellectuals travelled through Italy to see the real scale of Roman antiquities. It was called the Grand Tour. By seeing the ruins of Roman architecture, it was possible for architects to acknowledge the Vitruvian principles of Flumitus Italitus Venistus' first hand. Vitruvius was the first author whose theoretical work, his treatise survived until today even if the illustrations did not. The vision of Roman cities is often illustrated in literature painting and cinema. The magnificent paintings by Lawrence Almar Tadema or Luicci Pazanni showed the idea that vision of an almost perfect golden age. As do the numerous films showing Imperial Rome or other moments of antiquity. The archeological sites of Pompei and Herculaneum provide us with the unique experience of being in touch with the daily life of a Roman city. The volcanic eruption of 79 A.D. has paradoxically preserved the two cities freezing that exact moment in time. This highly dramatic event produced an authentic treasure which allows for a deeper understanding of the Roman city and of its culture. Roman cities were mostly based on regular geometric patterns.

Summary



0m 50s

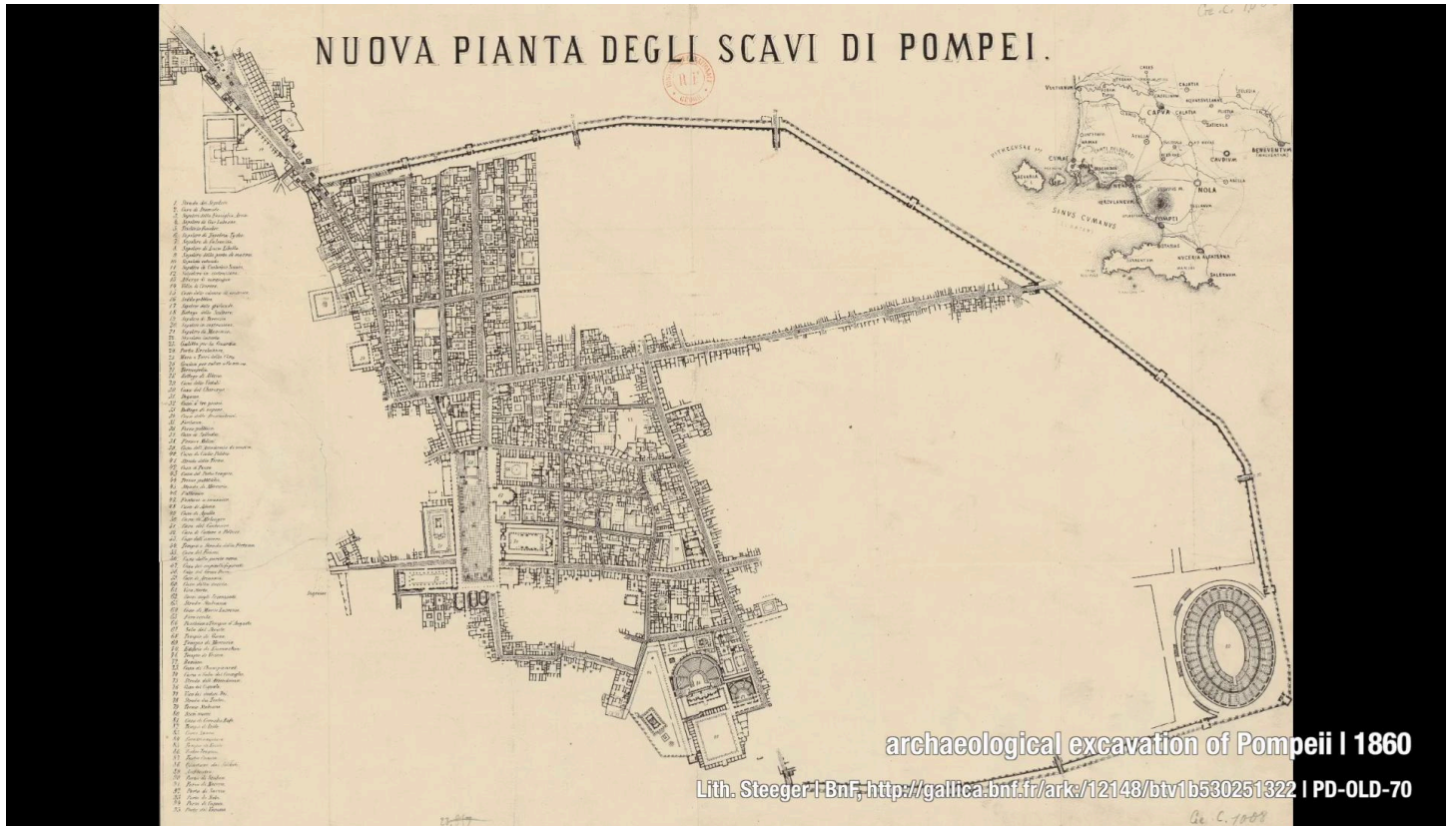


The regular urban grid of the Roman city could be drawn up according to the sun's course in Latin. Rachinnechileste and at the same time be perfectly adapted to the morphology of the specific sites, Rachinnelitchi. The main axes; the Cardo and the Decumanus defined the general orientation of the grid generally corresponding to a north south and east west orientation. Secondary streets defined the blocks; the Insula for the construction of private houses. The Domus. In the book entitled 'The Roman House', architect and archaeologist Jean-Pierre Adam summarizes the history of Pompeii by saying: "Founded around 700 B.C. by the Oskay, coastal people of Campania, Pompei was set up on a long lava flow from Mount Vesuvius.

Notes

Summary





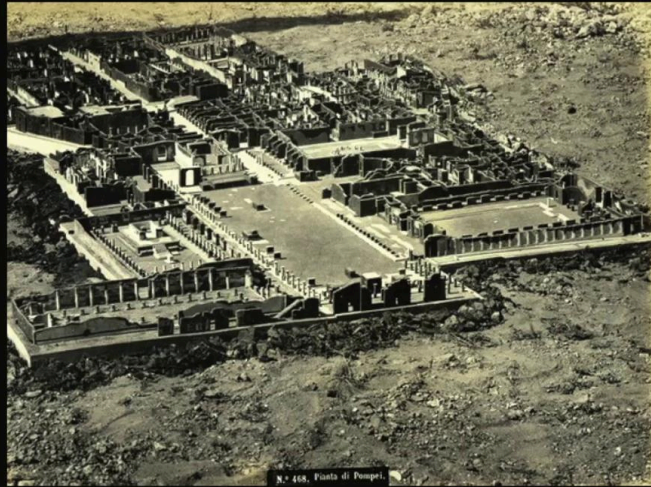
The initial principle was to build a defensive wall on the northern side at the same level as the city. During this period of foundation, Pompeii was greatly influenced by the Greeks. Its plan, its city walls and its architecture as well as its decor are the direct legacy of this influence.

Notes

Summary



3m 26s



diorama of Pompeii I before 1889

by Roberto Rive | [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rive,_Roberto_\(18.-1889\)_-_n._468_-_Pianta_di_Pompei.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rive,_Roberto_(18.-1889)_-_n._468_-_Pianta_di_Pompei.jpg) | PD-OLD-70

Pompeii is to more than one absolutely exemplary because it is at the same time a Greek city and a Roman city.

Notes

Summary



3m 47s



In other words, it is the oldest pre-Roman city that has been constructed thanks to the Greek urbanists since around the years 400, the city of Pompeii having become extremely prosperous, due to the great richness of the Campanian soils, desires grew and intelligently, the officials of the city of Pompeii called upon the Greek urban planners coming either from Poseidonia Paestum for instance - since it is one of the nearest Greek colonies - who are going to draw a city according to a so called 'hippodamian' mode i.e.

Notes

Summary



4m 02s



an adaptive grid layout to its land. Therefore, strictly speaking, they weren't rectangles. The layout adapts perfectly to the morphology of the site which is a fairly strong slope extending from north to south.

Notes

Summary

4m 30s





Upon doing this, the latter picture at the time, a city that is void of inhabitants except a small neighborhood in the southwest region of the current city in order that the former can expand for several generations. Here is therefore something planned by the Greek architects which is absolutely remarkable and which we follow. Following this progression of the expanding city whose its layout is determined not only by a street's layout which at the time is structured by unbuilt islets but also by the layout of the enclosure which is built at the same time.

Notes

Summary



4m 40s



According to Jean-Pierre Adam, the historical development of Pompei originated in the southwestern center which had quite irregular street alignments. The other areas of Pompeii were based on a regular urban grid. The main Decumanus was called Via dell Abondanza due to the large number of commercial establishments. On the other hand, on the shopping streets, the houses have almost all been rented or sold to traders the two rooms that overlook the street; we have the entrance pits, the entrance vestibule and on the right and the left, these are not dwelling rooms, these are shops. We therefore have a succession of abundance upon looking at this street with a standpoint view. We have the small obscure slot of the front door of the house then the large openings on each side. Either these people were grocers - to could speak a little trivially - or they would rent or sell their rooms across these streets in order to hereby attract traders. So this is an interesting urban design, that is, when designing these streets, they were designed taking in account their efficiency. The secondary Decumanus was at Via di Nola that goes up to another gate.

Notes

Summary

5m 12s





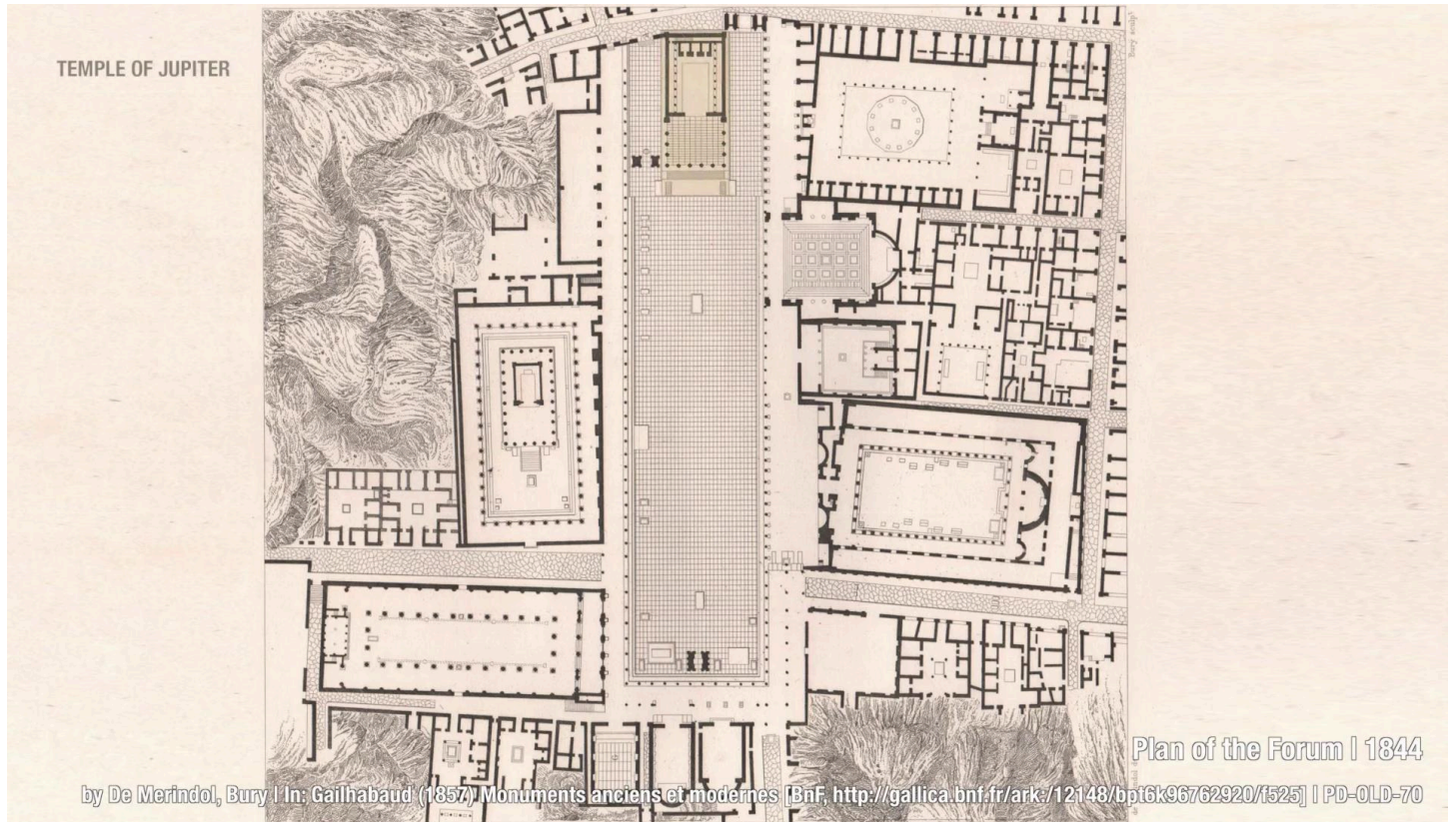
The main cardus was given the name via Stabiana leading up to the Stabia gate to which we can add the via di Mercurio leading up to the forum. Pompei is an extraordinary mix up of monumental splendour, civic and public splendour, and a very modest life. Modest is not to be considered in a very literal way but I mean there is a capacity of arranged geometries, the irregularities of the street grid in order to get the best way of living and this is combined with these monumental fantastic precisions that one can the admire in the forum.

Notes

Summary



6m 24s

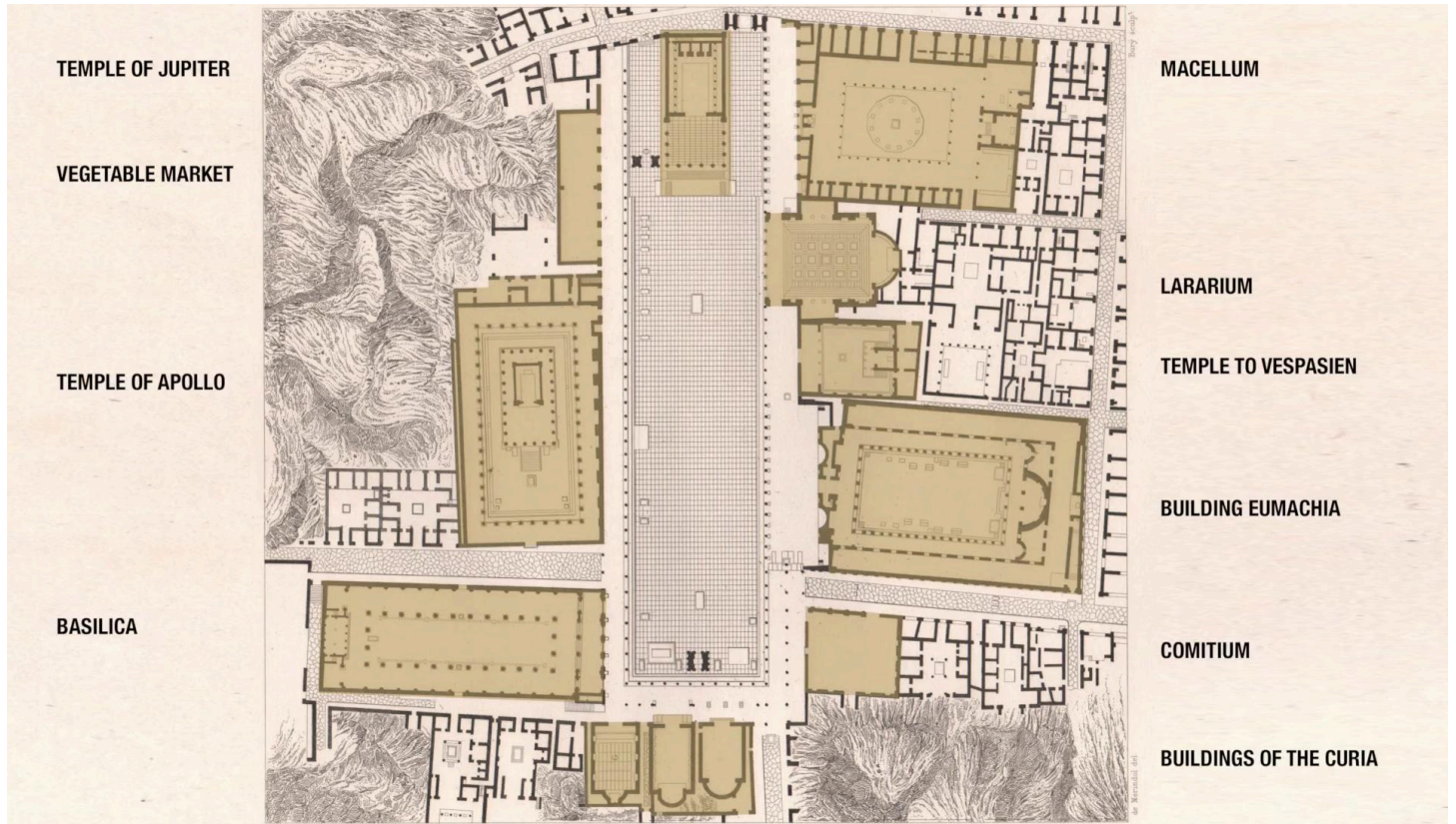


The forum is the very centre of civic, public life within Roman cities. The forum where all the major public buildings were assembled was first set up during the second century B.C. at the very heart of the original city centre. It's at the intersection of two main axis where there is a magnificent view of Mount Vesuvius, ironically responsible for the tragedy. I am here practically at the centre of the Forum and the reason why we have chosen this point of view is because you can imagine - just making an exercise of imagination - you can imagine how these wonderful biatsa used to be because it was surrounded by these double order of columns superposed columns providing unity to this place and beyond this colonnade there was a lot of different buildings as I said; religious or commercial or political buildings. Concerning the forum Jean-Pierre Adam says: "The forum, a gathering place for citizens. The main place of Greek influence directly inspired by the remarkable invention of the Al Gore. As an urban space with a large surface area were public meetings took place, the Al Gore also held the sanctuary and commercial activities. This program is the basis for the forum of Pompeii.

Notes

Summary





At one extremity of this vast rectangular space is the Temple of Jupiter. At the other extremity balancing the composition ideologically and geometrically are the three buildings of the Curia where the municipal authorities were housed. On the long east and west sides of the forum was the Macellum, that is to fish and meat market, A public lararium or shrine, a temple to Vespasien, the Builing Eumachia, the Comitium where citizens voted, a large Casilica courthouse; the oldest in Italy, a temple to Apollo, the main Supondararia to weigh merchandise, a vegetable market, a public latrine and a prison.

Notes

Summary





Amphitheatre | Fresco from Pompeii
Museo Archeologico Nazionale | https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Pompeii_-_Battle_at_the_Amphitheatre_-_MAN.jpg | PD-OLD-100

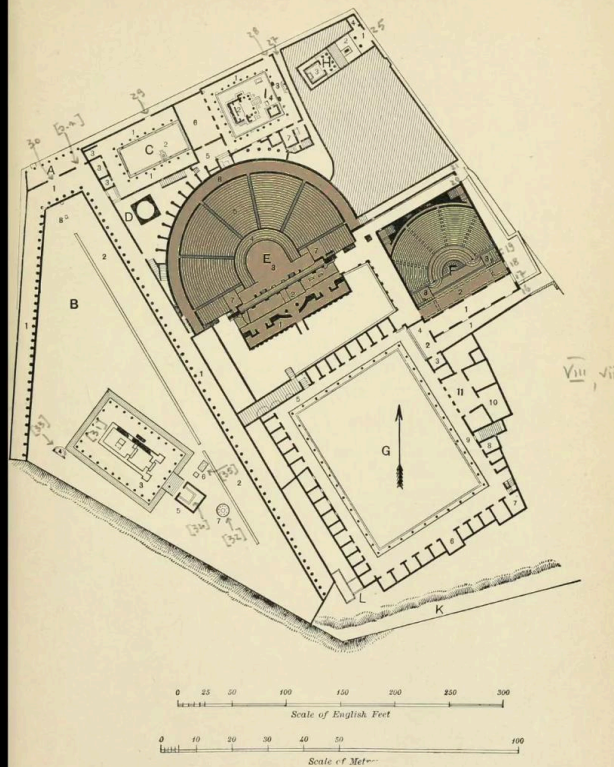
Everything that allows the city to function can be found at the forum." After the Roman colonies were set up in 89 B.C., several important public buildings were established in the eastern part of the city which was mostly occupied by gardens and vineyards.

Notes

Summary



9m 53s



August Mau | In: Pompeii, its life and art, <https://archive.org/stream/pompeiiitslife00maua/pompeiiitslife00maua#page/n186/mode/1up> | PD-OLD-90

First the imposing stone Amphitheatre for over twenty thousand people where gladiator battles took place. Secondly the large adjoining Palaestra, an exercise park for youth associations including an area for gymnastics and a swimming pool. Closer to the old nucleus, the Roman colony also built the thermal baths of the Forum one of at least four public baths in Pompeii and the small theatre the Odeon, built next to the existing larger theatre dating from the second century B.C.

Notes

Summary

10m 09s





The main commercial street in Pompeii were seven to eight metres wide paved with lava slabs and including footpaths on both sides. There were passageways made up of higher blocks allowing pedestrians to cross the street while avoiding the water flow from the fountains which clean the streets and doubles as a sewage system. Walking through the streets of Pompeii, it is easy to imagine on the one hand, its daily life, the commercial activities, the public events, the leisure activities and on the other hand, the quiet fresh shady spaces of the private houses. The incredible condition of preservation and the extent of the archeological excavations contribute to the immediate sense of proximity between the Roman period and our own. When first visiting Pompeii architect Gunnar Asplund said: "Pompeii, it was all so beautiful and strange. The roads with their old paving stones and high sidewalks and wells and all the half destroyed houses churning through the gruesomeness however, are traces of all the magnificence and splendor that prevailed in this city of rich and light hearted people. Even today, the form is a thing of great beauty, long and stretching to a valley of rocky helix, columns on two levels along the sides, a temple at one end and public buildings at the other.

Notes

Summary

10m 49s





a video by the EPFL's Laboratoire de construction et conservation
with the MOOC Factory, 2017

The whole effect of this square is grouping." Many European cities today are still organized according to the typical Roman grid; Torino, Como, just in order to quote the most famous ones but there is a lot of cities which still are organized according to a street grid. Pompeii is unique because not only the orthogonal grid is still visible but also these houses which are there in order to witness the richness and modernity if you want of these kinds of civilization.

Notes

Summary



12m 24s