

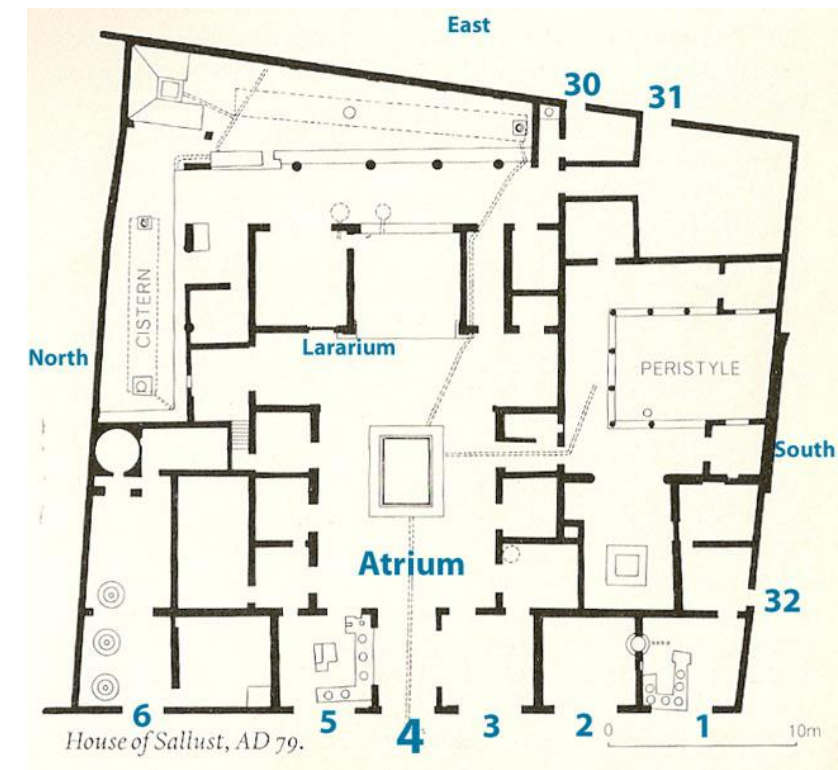


Households and Gardens

Pompeii: The life, death and rediscovery of a Roman town
(HPAH5078/HPAH6078)

Studying the Roman house

- Modern conception of the nuclear family.
 - UK census 2022 (2 out of 3 houses single family units).
- More complex social relationships in Roman world?
 - Nuclear family, extended family, dependents.
 - Pompeii – low house numbers, high room numbers.
- Households vs. housefuls.



“We have heard that Gnaeus Octavius—the first of that family to be elected consul—distinguished himself by building upon the Palatine an attractive and imposing house. Everybody went to see it, and it was thought to have gained votes for the owner, a new man, in his canvass for the consulship.” – **Cicero *De officiis* 1.138.**

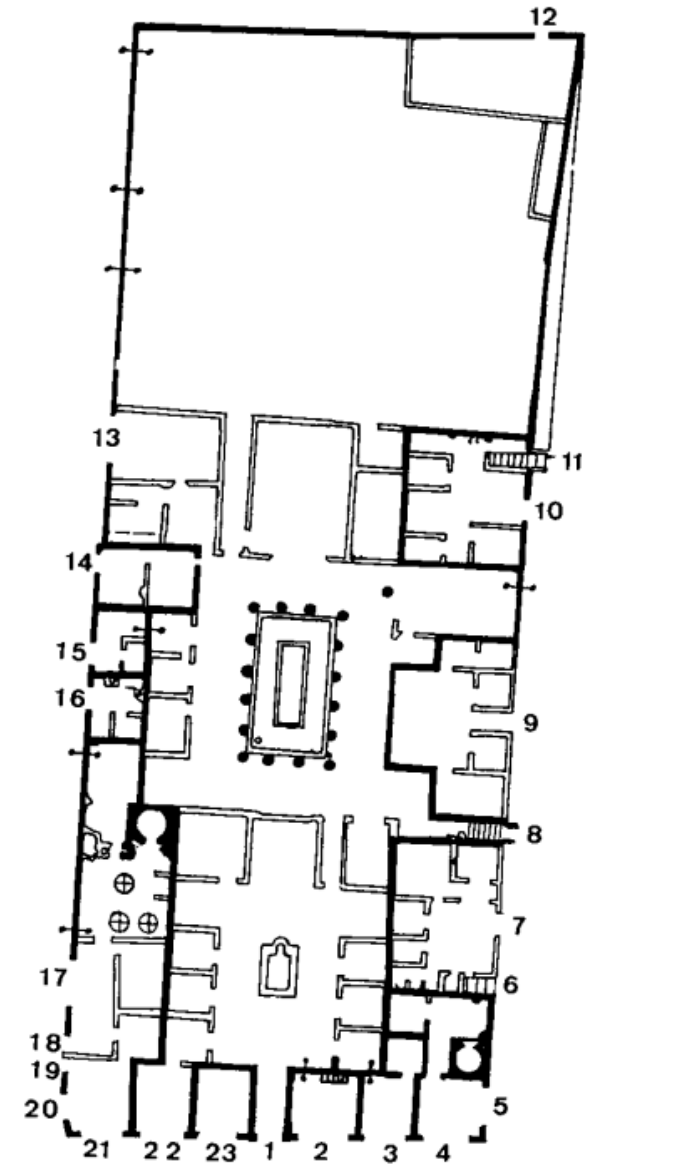


House of Julius Polybius (IX.13.1-3)

“When he was building his [Drusus’s] house on the Palatine... the architect offered to build it in such a way that he would be free from the public gaze, safe from all espionage, and that no one could look down into it. Livius replied, ‘If you possess the skill you must build my house in such a way that whatever I do shall be seen by all.’” – **Velleius Paterculus 2.14.3).**

The composition of household or “housefuls”

- **Can we assume anything about the composition of a household from the structural remains of the building?**
- Big houses, big *familia*? Or housefuls?
 - Variety of scenarios from Roman legal sources.
- Graffiti advertising properties for rent:
 - the insula Arriana Polliana and estate (*praedia*) of Julia Felix

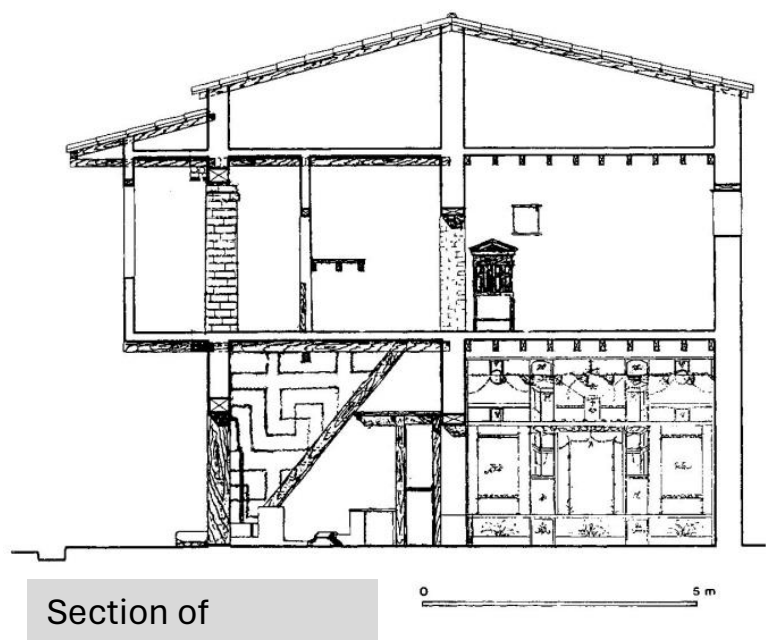


insula Arriana Polliana



Upper floor apartments

- Upper “floors” not equal in space to ground floor.
- Staircases, with external and internal entrances.
 - e.g., Insula V (Herculaneum) and the House of the Prince of Naples (Pompeii).
- Lararia and hearths in some upper story apartments.
 - flat above the front door of the House of the Bicentenary (Herculaneum) and a flat above the Casa a Graticcio (Herculaneum).



Section of
shop/house
V17, Herculaneum



House of the Bicentenary

Luxury and gardens

- Scale and decorations of a Roman house usually an expression of status.
 - *Luxuria* – a social evil or a social necessity?
- One-fifth of the area of Pompeii gardens or cultivated land?
- Formal gardens, and surrounding paintings.
 - House of the Golden Bracelet (lavish vegetation.



“...a man's dignity may be enhanced by the house he lives in, but not wholly secured by it... so in the home of a distinguished man, in which numerous guests must be entertained and crowds of every sort of people received, care must be taken to have it spacious.” – **Cicero *De officiis* 1.139.**