

Material Culture

House of Menander



Silver scyphus with the labours of Hercules.
From Pompeii, House of the Menander. Image courtesy of Hans Ollerman, 2013

State of Preservation

Some fractures in frescoes and walls, but given the context of the destruction of Pompeii, it could be far worse

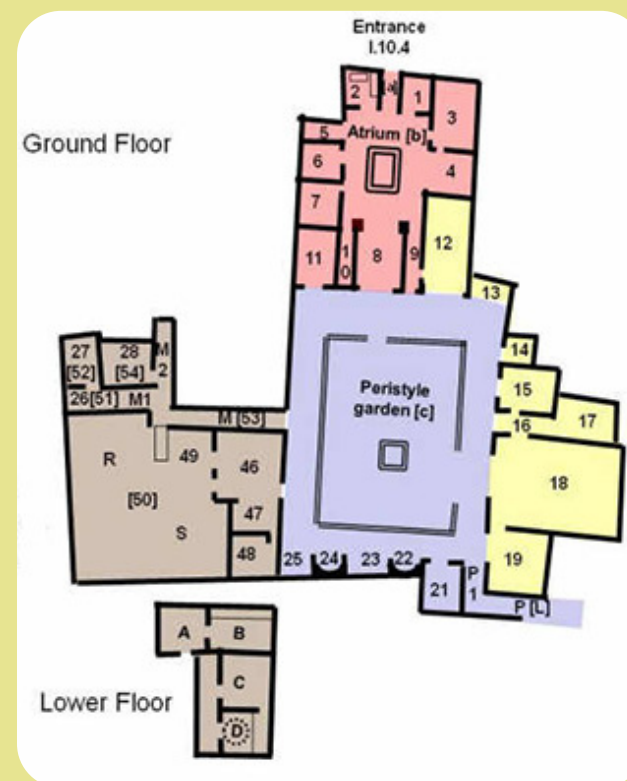
Menander

Though he was not the owner of the house, iconography of the Greek playwright adorns the walls of the house. He is largely accredited as a vast contributor to the New Comedy era of Greek theatre, having written at least 100 comedies (Menander, Loeb Classics Library)



Location

Regio I, insula 10, no. 4



The issue of naming

Who called this house their home?

Despite its modern naming as the Casa del Menandro (or House of Menander), there is very little evidence within the structure to indicate who would have owned this villa.

It may be more appropriate to use the other name of the house, The House of Silver, given the hoards of wealth found inside.

Decorations



I.10.4 Pompeii. April 2022. Room 46, mosaic of ivy and pot. Photo courtesy of Johannes Eber.

The house of Menander had an abundance of mosaics across the complex, with some of the best preserved in the bathhouse area of the villa. Frescoes also adorned the walls, in the fourth style (Sheldon, 2022).

Bibliography

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I.10.4 Pompeii. April 2022. Room 46, mosaic of ivy and pot. Photo courtesy of Johannes Eber,

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