

The Roman House

Domus et Villa et Aedes

- Domus Romana: Roman houses: 1. Domus: City house 2. Villa: Rich person's country house 3. Villa Rustica: Poor farmer's house
- Same basic design no matter where in the empire.

Extra Domum

- Outside:
 - Usually white or beige
 - Sometimes red (7 feet)
 - covered in stucco (plaster)
 - Domus and villa and villa rustica
 - Very few fenestrae (windows).
 - Hard to tell which house was yours.

Supra Domum

- Roof: Terra cotta Tile

Tabernae

- Taberna: City houses had two rooms at the street which were rented out as a store.
- Sold all kinds of things: clothing, fruit, nuts, vegetables, clothing and accessories, phones, pots, lamps
- Most popular: Bread and wine

Ostium: Entrance way: Fauces (throat)

- Wooden door(s), iron bars
- Ianitor: slave who was the doorman
- Vestibulum: take off outer garments
- Cave Canem!

Atrium: A large open room

- Main features:
 - Impluvium and Compluvium:
 - Hole in floor: Impluvium
 - Hole in Roof: Compluvium
 - Lararium: shrine of household gods
 - Lares: gods of the household
 - Penates: gods of the family's prosperity
 - Imagines: Death masks of ancestors
 - Tile floor
 - Murals or curtains

Ala \ Cubiculum: Rooms off to the sides of Atrium:

- Alae: open multi purpose rooms, no wall. May be library, storage.
- Cubiculum: Bedrooms. Many had tiled floor with the tile showing where the bed went. Some divided in $\frac{1}{4} + \frac{3}{4}$. Personal slave slept there.
- Murals: gods resting or being amorous.

Triclinium

- Rooms off to the sides of Atrium:
- Triclinium (corner room) dining room to accommodate 9 people (3 couches of three). Romans ate lying down on couches. Table in the middle.
- Murals: bucolic scenes, food production, cows, sheep food, gods banqueting
- Floor mosaic: food, fish, bones.

Tablinum: Paterfamilias' main office

- Directly between Atrium and Peristylum at back of house.
- Enclosed by curtain (atrium side) and wooden doors (peristylum side)

Use andron to pass to the back of the house:

- Main feature: Peristylum: an open roofed courtyard with columns and with a garden and maybe water feature
 - Peristylum surrounded by rooms:
 - More cubicula: Bigger and cooler
 - Back of the house
 - Culina: Kitchen: wood burning stove, pots, pans and latrina (toilet) and (possibly stairs to 2nd floor) Only room normally to have window. (no chimney)
 - Maybe 2nd triclinium
 - Posticum: 2nd entrance to the house: for slaves and unimportant guests.
 - Backwall: mural of garden.

Insulae: Apartment buildings

- Ground floor: tabernae
- 2nd floor: bigger more expensive apartments
- All had steep steps
- 3,4,5th floor: smaller apartments: one room for whole family
- Great danger: built from wood; great fire hazard or collapse.
- Food: dangerous to cook: eat nuts, fruit, salad, bread
- Hot food: buy at a taberna
- No bathroom facilities: use a pot, dump out window or dump in sewer. Many buildings had awnings.
- Running water: at local fountain
- Bath at bath house