

Erasmus+ KA131
Blended Intensive Programme

Learning from Pompeii (view from the North) **The ancient urban form for the future city**



Pompeii

Università degli Studi di Napoli “Federico II”
DiARC_Dipartimento di Architettura
Blended Intensive Programme
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POMPEII

Pompeii modern city

The foundation of the city of Pompeii is attributed to the “Osca people of Campania” by Amedeo Maiuri who, on the basis of archaeological evidence, dates the first completed form of the city, surrounded by walls and with a relatively regular layout, to the 6th century BC.

For the next two centuries, Etruscan influences, coming from the hinterland, and Greek influences, coming from the sea, alternated in Pompeii, until the Samnite conquest datable to the end of the 5th century B.C.: it was in this phase that the city became an “Italic city”. For another two centuries, the events of Pompeii were more concerned with its relations with the city of Rome, from which Pompeii always managed to maintain a certain administrative autonomy, until its construction as a Roman colony under the name of *Colonia Cornelia Veneria* in 80 BC, the moment from which a rapid process of transformation of the city into a “Roman city” began. In 62 A.D. a violent earthquake caused massive and widespread destruction, to which the city reacted with an extensive reconstruction programme that was still in progress seventeen years later, when the eruption of Vesuvius, described by Pliny the Younger in two letters to Tacitus, stopped the city’s passage of time forever.

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Studies of Pompeii have rarely focused on its urban form, but the precise dating of its parts is still in doubt, not least because the city grew by “additions” but also sometimes by “superimpositions”, making it difficult, particularly for archaeologists and historians, to agree. However, another way is possible, which is to simply look at the form of the city and reconstruct its developments in relation to the “evidence” and “traces” that, to the eye of the architect, are inscribed in the synchronic urban form that is before our eyes. Coming to Pompeii, an initial nucleus emerges between the via Stabiana to the east and via di Nola to the north, defined, on the south and west sides, by the limits of the plateau that overlooked the mouth of the Sarno: an *Altstadt* consisting of blocks of almost square shape but with many irregularities and different sizes, organised around a “central place” – the same as the present Forum but defined only by the presence of a Temple on the western side. The *forma urbis* speaks to us at this stage of a city that probably grew spontaneously, starting from an even smaller nucleus, within a larger walled enclosure that also included much undeveloped land.

A second phase in the evolution of Pompeii can be identified by including the entire extension to the west of the *cardo maximo*-via Stabiana where, however, it's necessary to differentiate between an initial expansion, evidently planned, and the saturation of what we might call "interstitial areas". While towards the north, starting from the stretch of wall extended between Porta Ercolano and Porta Vesuvio, two orders of elongated rectangular insulae are arranged – between the two parts – that is to say the *Altstadt* enclosed by a ring of streets and the newly orthogonal city – and the delimitation of the axis of Via Stabiana-via del Vesuvio – whose layout doesn't correspond to that of the insulae. This situation determined irregular blocks in shape and size, which definitely include the Triangular Forum, which nevertheless remains somewhat "isolated" due to its elevated position.

Via Stabiana represents the main axis of the system of large blocks that constitute the first expansion of the city towards the east. The blocks are arranged with one side on this important axis, they are only partly doubled, but above all they take on an irregular shape, quadrangular but never square because they derive from the meeting of the non-orthogonal layouts of Via Stabiana with that of the east-west oriented decumani.

As in the case of Naples, it is therefore possible to read in the plan of Pompeii a "city in parts" that express different ideas of the city, which were built not only because of the different historical moments of the city's development but also in relation to its geography, and which are now simultaneously inscribed in the physical form of the city.

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SIR. W. GELL, *Pianta dell'Antica città di Pompei*, 1817
(from: SIR W. GELL ET AL., *Pompeiana: the topography, edifices, and ornaments of Pompeii*, 1817).
Source: G. GRECO, M. OSANNA, R. PICONE (eds), *Pompei. L'insula Occidentalis. Conoscenza, Scavo, Restauro e Valorizzazione*, L'Erma di Bretschneider, Roma-Bristol 2020.

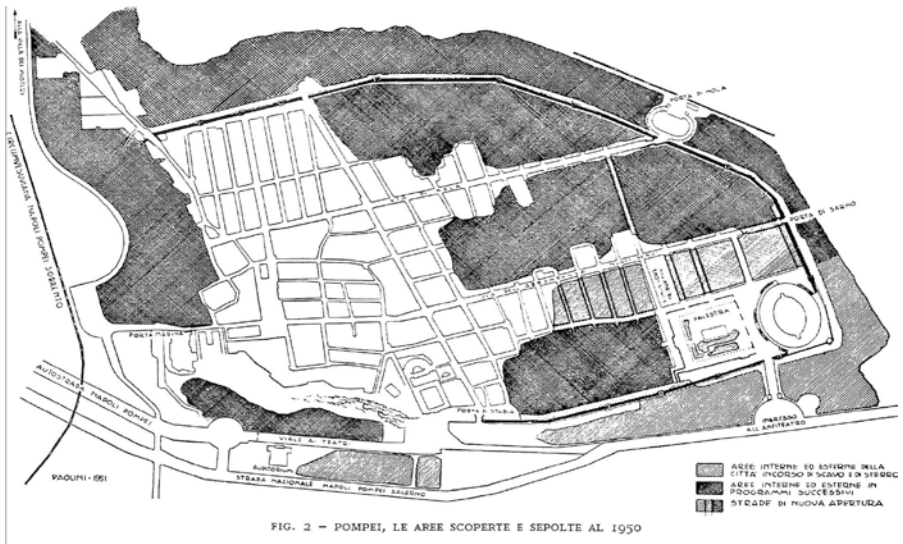
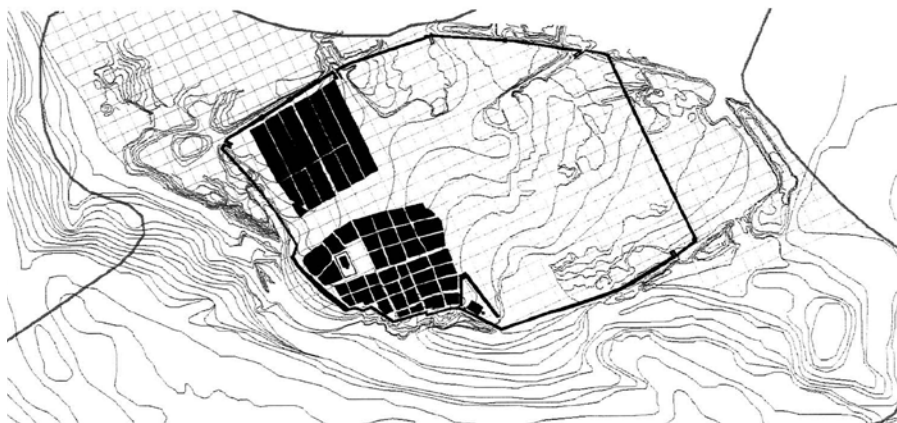
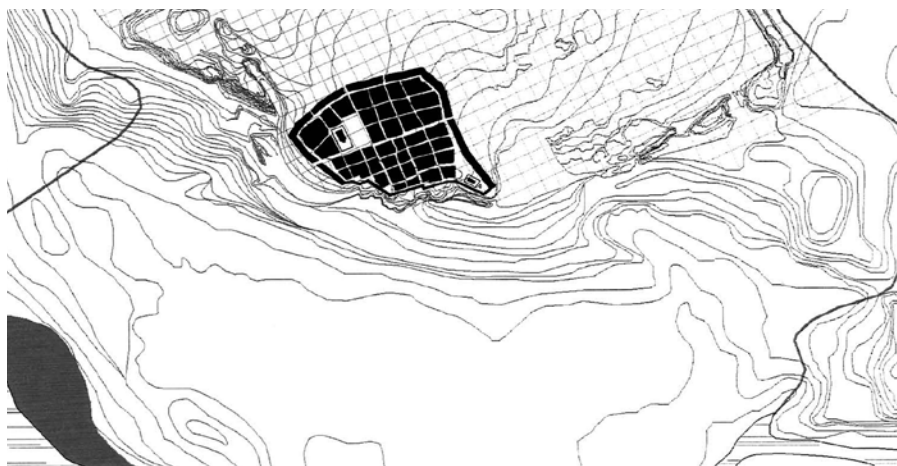


FIG. 2 - POMPEI, LE AREE SCOPERTE E SEPOLTE AL 1950

Pompeii, plan of the excavated area in 1950

(from: A. MAIURI, *Pompeii. Sterro dei cumuli e isolamento della cinta murale. Contributo all'urbanistica della città*, in «BdA», I-II, 1960).

Source: G. GRECO, M. OSANNA, R. PICONE (eds), *Pompeii. L'insula Occidentalis. Conoscenza, Scavo, Restauro e Valorizzazione*, L'Erma di Bretschneider, Roma-Bristol 2020.



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Top: evolutionary hypothesis in the period between the Archaic Age and the 5th century BC; bottom: evolutionary hypothesis in the 5th century BC.

Source: G. MENNA, M. ANTONICIELLO, *Abitare nel suburbio: le ville extraurbane dell'insula Occidentalis*, in G. GRECO, M. OSANNA, R. PICONE (eds), *Pompei. L'insula Occidentalis. Conoscenza, Scavo, Restauro e Valorizzazione*, L'Erma di Bretschneider, Roma-Bristol 2020.



Top: evolutionary hypothesis in the period between the 5th and 3rd centuries BC.
Source: G. MENNA, M. ANTONICIELLO, *Abitare nel suburbio: le ville extraurbane dell'insula Occidentalis*, in G. GRECO, M. OSANNA, R. PICONE (eds), *Pompei. L'insula Occidentalis. Conoscenza, Scavo, Restauro e Valorizzazione*, L'Erma di Bretschneider, Roma-Bristol 2020.

The form and the space of the city

The drawings that follow have been elaborated with an analytical methodology based on codified urban analysis tools, such as *Straßenbau* and *Schwarzplan*, and spatial analysis, such as the *Rotblauplan* used in its different scales of representation.

The aim is to know the structure of the city through the study of forms. A methodology, therefore, that uses drawing as a «specific, critical and irreplaceable form of knowledge» (Rossi, 1975).

The drawing of the *Straßenbau*, put in relation with the course of the contour lines and, therefore, with the shape of the ground on which the city was built, allows us to deduce the structure of Pompeii. In this sense, Giorgio Grassi affirmed: «isolating the *Straßenbau*, that is, precisely the construction of the public ground, means isolating the constituent elements of the city as architectural facts, it means considering the city first of all as construction, as stratification and as composition of formally identified elements» (Grassi, 1967; 2016, p.118).

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The drawing of unbuilt spaces, i.e. streets, squares and pedestrian routes, represents both the negative of the built – which stands out by inversion – and the form of public space. The *Straßenbau* underlines the drawing of the layout of the ancient city of Pompeii: it characterizes by the presence of a walled city and forms by a fairly regular system of hinges and decumans.

Even the orographical condition of the area, highlighting the sloping plane on which the traces of the city stand, indicates the condition of compactness assumed by the urban structure except in exceptional cases, such as the cusp of the Triangular Forum, signalling the relationship with distant nature, and the area of Regio II where the autonomous bodies of the Great Gymnasium and Amphitheatre gravitate in an open field.

If the unbuilt spaces are represented by the street plan, the built space is rendered by the *Schwarzplan*, which «represents in black all the elements of the built and eliminates all other information, immediately allowing a first reading of the ‘figure’ of the city in its background» (Visconti, 2017, pp.24-25). The different modes of “urban land division” observed in the *Straßenbau* correspond to the different forms of settlement. The current structure of the ancient city of Pompeii that has emerged from the excavations – corresponding

to the Regio VI, VII and VIII – is mainly dense and compact, highlighting a close relationship between building type and urban morphology. For this reason, the *Straßenbau* and the *Schwarzplan* constitute the negative of each other and it could be stated with certainty that this same condition also occurs in the area not yet excavated corresponding to Regio III, IV, V and IX.

With respect to the reading of space, Uwe Schröder has codified a mode of representation, supported by a theory of the city's space and architecture, in which the interscalar component assumes significant importance. In fact, this analysis envisages a graphic coding that returns different colour tones by virtue of progressive levels of “internality” or “externality” of spaces depending on what is intended to be emphasised: from the large-scale relationship between the city and the territory, between the city and the house up to the relationship “traceable to an architectural scale” between the house and the room, between the wall and the openings.

As already mentioned, the *Rotblauplan* analysis moves between the different scales, offering, for each of them, the possibility of adding further levels of knowledge. In particular, when considering the scale that highlights a portion of the city, two different shades are used: dark red and light red, dark blue and light blue. The coding of “red” concerns the “spaces of interior” and, therefore, those spaces that indicate “enclosure” but are covered or uncovered. The second coding, that of “blue”, on the other hand, concerns “spaces of exterior” and, therefore, those spaces that indicate “a rural or landscape connection”. Not only the shades, but also the graphic signs take on a fundamental significance: while the white lines – the walls – represent “active boundaries” in the formation of space, the black lines – the borders – symbolise “passive boundaries”.

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From: G. GRASSI [1967], *La costruzione logica dell'architettura*, Marsilio, Padova 2006; A. ROSSI, *Scritti scelti sull'architettura e la città: 1956-1972*, a cura di R. Bonicalzi, Clup, Milano 1975; U. SCHRÖDER, *Pardié. Konzept für eine Stadt nach dem Zeitregime der Moderne. A Concept for a City after the Time Regime of Modernity*, Verlag der Buchhandlung Walther König, Köln 2015; F. VISCONTI, *Pompeji. Città moderna/Moderne Stadt*, Ernst Wasmuth Verlag, Tübingen/Berlin, 2017.



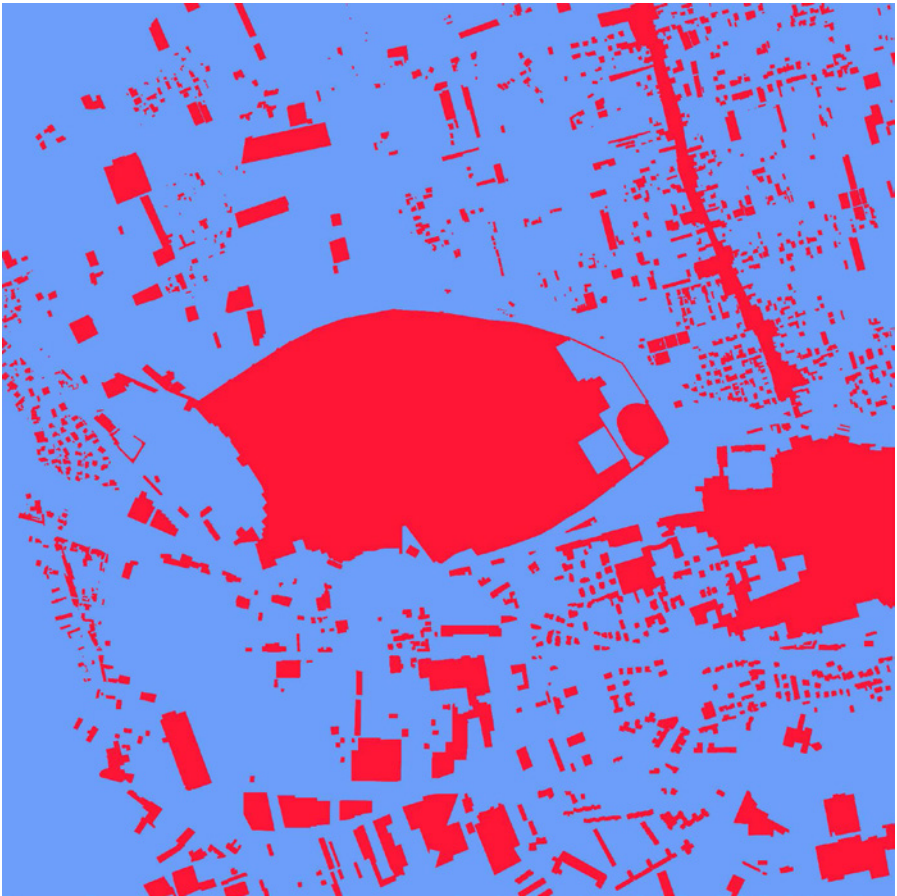
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Orography, scale 1:4000

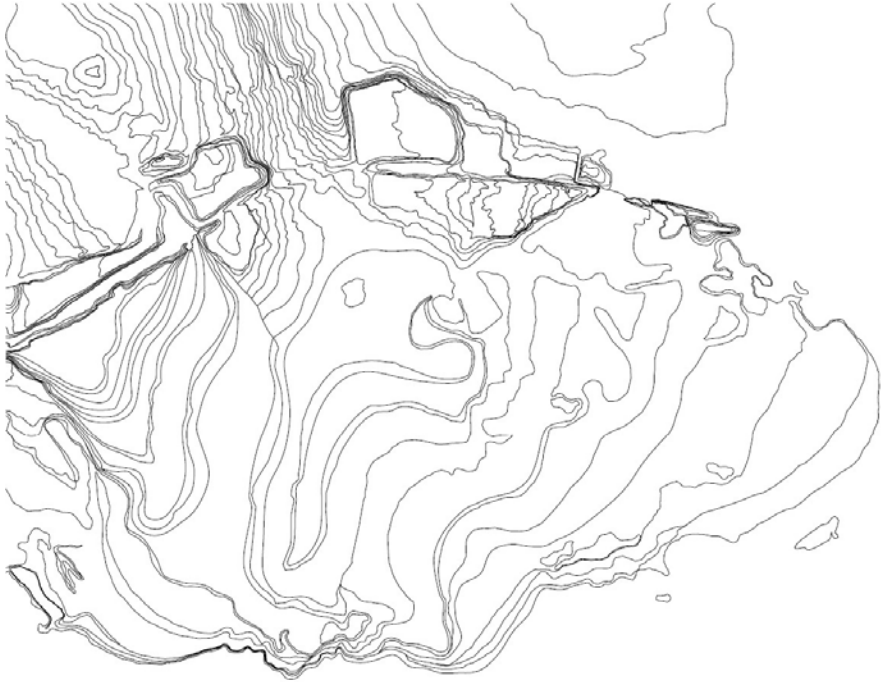




Schwarzplan, scale 1:4000



Rotblauplan, scale 1:4000



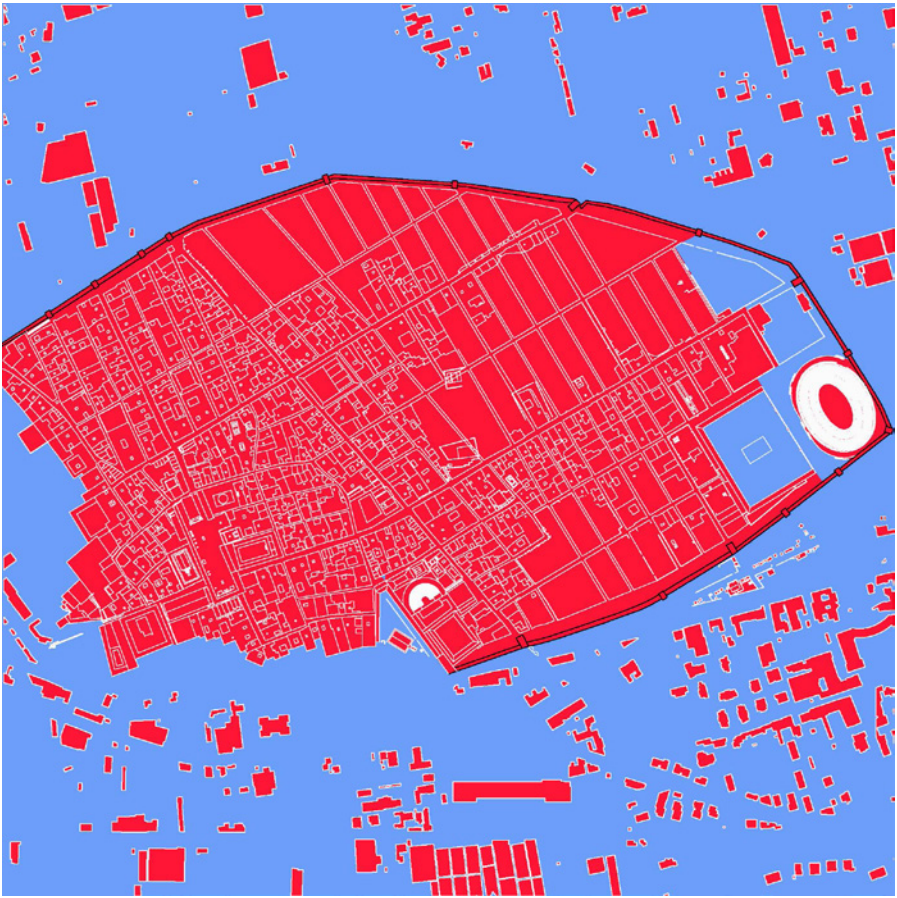
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Orography, scale 1:2000





Schwarzplan, scale 1:2000



BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME

Partners

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Subject

The program is articulated in a “virtual component” and in an “in-person component” that will be held in Naples, at the Department of Architecture of University of Naples “Federico II”.

The “virtual components” will be developed from 15 of May to 27 of June 2023 on MS_Teams (link: <https://bit.ly/3L6RXOs>).

The “in-person components” will be developed in Naples from 23 to 29 of July, 2023.



VIRTUAL COMPONENT

Task and Timetable

The virtual activity will be articulated in a kick-off meeting, a starting meeting and in a final meeting. In between one or more virtual rooms will be created where students, professors and tutors will discuss the assignments. The kick-off meeting will be about analogy as technique of architectural design and about the structure of the ancient city as possible lesson for the contemporary architectural and urban design. The starting meeting will be dedicated to the knowledge of urban morphology and building typologies in Pompeii. The first, preliminary assignment for students will be, individually, a re-drawing of a house in the ancient city and its analogue transposition that will be shared with students and professors in the final meeting. In particular, each student will study and design a house that will be assigned to him/her from among those selected, i.e:

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1. Casa del Chirurgo (House of Surgeon)
 2. Casa del Poeta Tragico (House of the Tragic Poet)
 3. Casa degli Amorini Dorati (House of the Golden Cupids)
 4. Casa di Giulio Polibio (House of Julius Polybius)
 5. Casa di Trebio Valente (House of Trebio Valente)
 6. Casa della Seconda Fontana o della Fontana piccola (House of the Second Fountain or the Small Fountain)
 7. Casa del Fauno (House of the Faun)
 8. Casa dei Capitelli Colorati (House of the Golden Capitals)
 9. Casa di Sirico (House of Siricus)

Each student for the assigned house will have to produce two boards: the first one will be a drawing of the assigned house and the second one will be the project of “analogous house”. In particular, the boards will contain the following drawings:

- Floor plan, scale 1:200/1:500
- Two sections, Scale 1:200/1:500
- Monometric axonometry from below, Scale 1:200/1:500
- Perspective

The drawing must comply with the graphic codes that will be illustrated because the materials will be displayed in an exhibition that students and teachers will see on their arrival in Naples.

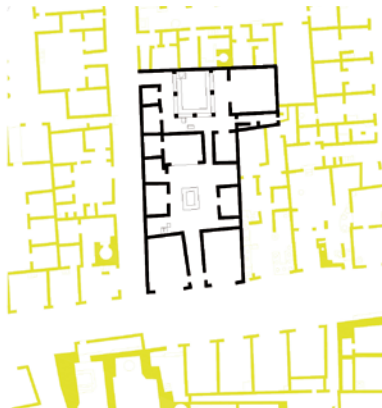
Timetable

Tuesday, 16.05.2023, 2-6 pm	Kick-off meeting
Friday, 19.05.2023, 9 am-1 pm	Starting meeting
Tuesday, 23.05.2023	Virtual room
Friday, 9.06.2023	Virtual room
Tuesday, 20.06.2023	Virtual room
Tuesday, 27.06.2023, 9 am-1 pm	Final meeting

The activity will be online on MS_Teams (link: <https://bit.ly/3L6RXOs>).



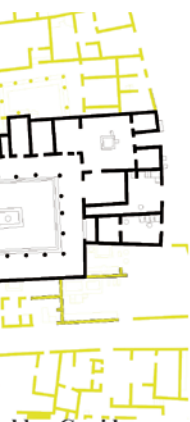
1_House of the Surgeon



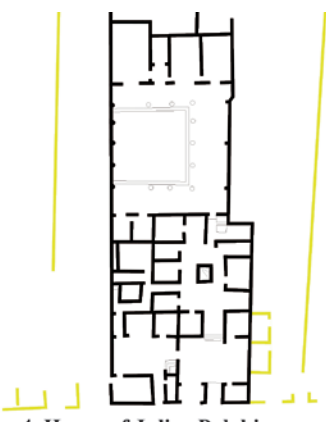
2_House of the Tragic Poet



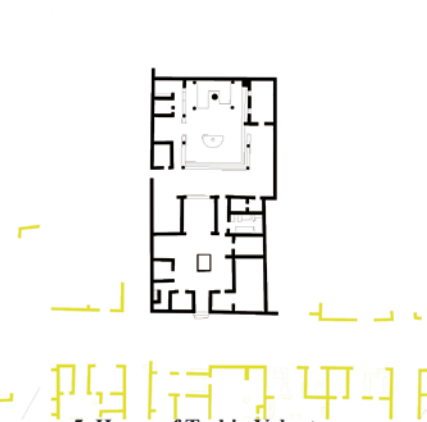
3_House of the G



Golden Cupids



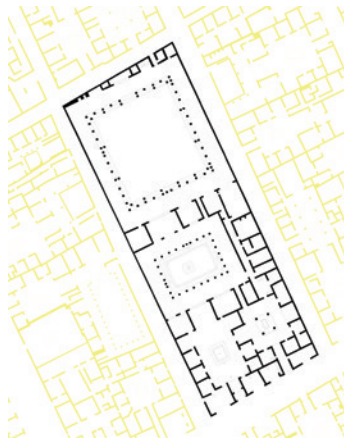
4_House of Julius Polybius



5_House of Trebio Valente



**6. House of the Second Fountain
(or Small Fountain)**



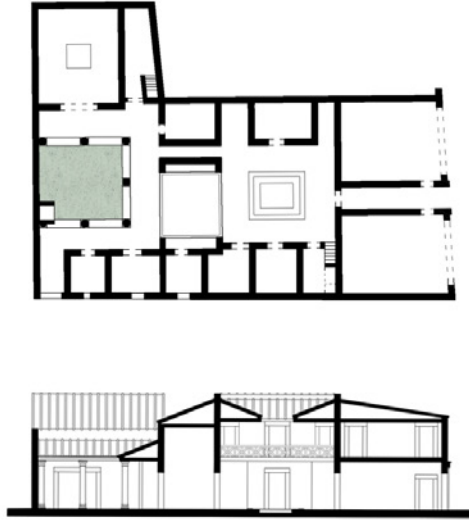
7. House of the Fauno



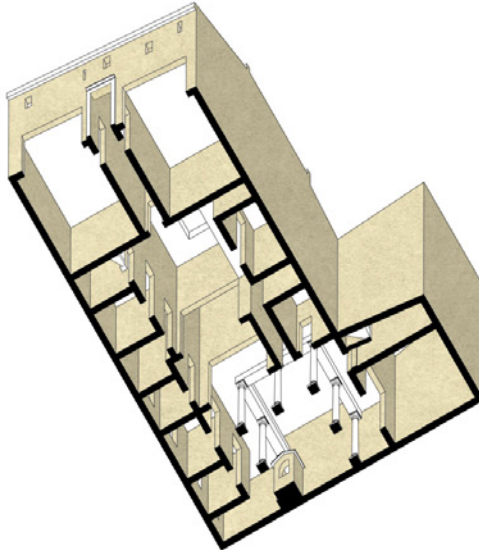
8. House of the Golden Capitals



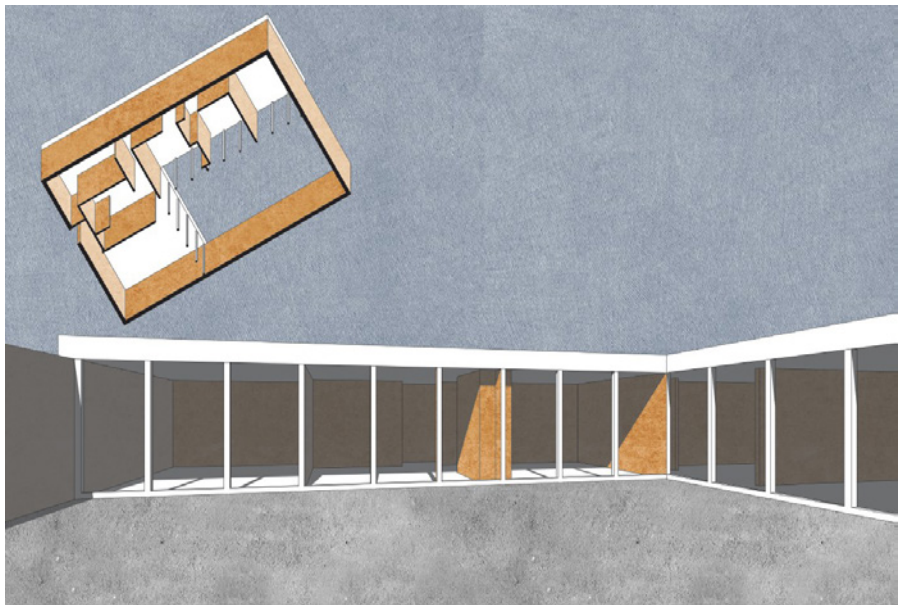
9. House of Siricus



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House of the Tragic Poet



David Haid, Patio House. Example of interior perspective with monometric axonometry from below

IN-PERSON COMPONENT

The Plan's Provisions

For the purposes of drawing up the new Municipal Urban Plan for Pompeii, it is necessary to establish a comparison with the proposed Territorial Coordination Plan, adopted pursuant to Article 20 of Regional Law no. 16/2004, with the Metropolitan Mayor's Resolutions no. 25 of 29 January 2016 and no. 75 of 29 April 2016, which represents an important point of reference. For the archaeological area of Pompeii, the aim is to safeguard the assets of historical-archaeological interest, including both the ascertained archaeological presences and the areas that could be affected by further discoveries. In the archaeological areas, all building and infrastructure works must be authorised by the competent Superintendencies. The PTCP identifies Pompeii's historic core on the basis of the 1936 IGM map. For this core, corresponding to the large religious settlements and the areas immediately surrounding them, the Plan provides for conservation and enhancement through redevelopment projects.

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Geo-hydro morphological framework

Pompeii's territory occupies the southern part of the Campania plain, identified by the structural depression between the volcanic edifice to the north-west of Somma Vesuvius and the carbonate ridges of the Monti di Sarno to the east and the Monti Lattari to the south, a coastal plain of approximately 180 km², characterised by very modest slopes. The morphology of Pompeii is therefore predominantly flat with a very slight slope to the north. The municipal territory is cut almost barycentrically by the Sarno river, which crosses the entire municipality of Pompeii. A second watercourse that crosses the municipal territory is the Bottaro Canal, an artificial canal that was built to regiment the waters of the Sarno river and make them available for irrigating the district's land. The Bottaro Canal crosses Pompeii, flowing back into the Sarno river a few hundred metres from its mouth in the municipality of Torre Annunziata. Within the territory of the municipality of Pompeii, the areas between the Sarno river basin and the Bottaro canal and part of the areas south of the Sarno river are delimited. High, medium and moderate risk areas are present.

The historical-archaeological consistency of the Pompeii area

The issue of constraints is a determining aspect for the Plan. In Pompeii, the

stratification of constraints reflects, in some ways, the progressive acquisition of awareness of the considerable archaeological heritage present. From areas constrained under Law 1497/39, located close to the archaeological site, we have moved on to a series of punctual perimeters that have affected, outside the walls of the ancient city, the various sites where important archaeological structures have emerged, first and foremost the site of the Villa dei Misteri, adjacent to the archaeological area but in fact outside the perimeter of the ancient city walls. The presence of the archaeological site in Pompeii has, in some respects, obscured the historical events relating to the entire municipal area. The question of the relationship with archaeology is, in fact, a determinant that concerns the entire city. This is not only because the archaeological area proper covers a good 86 hectares, but above all because it is necessary to overcome the vision that considers Pompeii as an archaeological case of a city that has not survived, to be isolated as a dead city. Instead, we need to think about the archaeological city as part of the contemporary city. The elements that today define the landscape and geography of Pompeii's settlements are configured as visible traces of a history on which new urban development must hinge, starting with the awareness that widespread urbanisation has, in some ways, profoundly altered the configuration of the Pompeian territory.

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The infrastructure system

The motorway and railway, the main infrastructural axes, cut through Pompeii's municipal territory in a clear-cut manner, creating real distinct sectors. For example, the Circumvesuviana line to Sorrento isolates the western part of the municipal territory from the city centre, just as the State Railway, the motorway and the Sarno river cut the central part of the municipal territory into four bands. Finally, the Circumvesuviana line to Poggiomarino isolates the northern part of the urban centre and the entire area of the archaeological excavations towards Via Nolana. While the motorway line runs across the entire municipal territory on an embankment section, so that the town's road network is partially affected, the various railway routes follow the course of the terrain itself, which is predominantly flat, so that the railway traffic itself, due to the presence of level crossings, is rather discontinuous, also limiting urban road traffic.

The presence of this infrastructure, however, gives the Pompeii area good accessibility.

From the Report on the Preliminary Municipal Urban Plan of Pompeii.



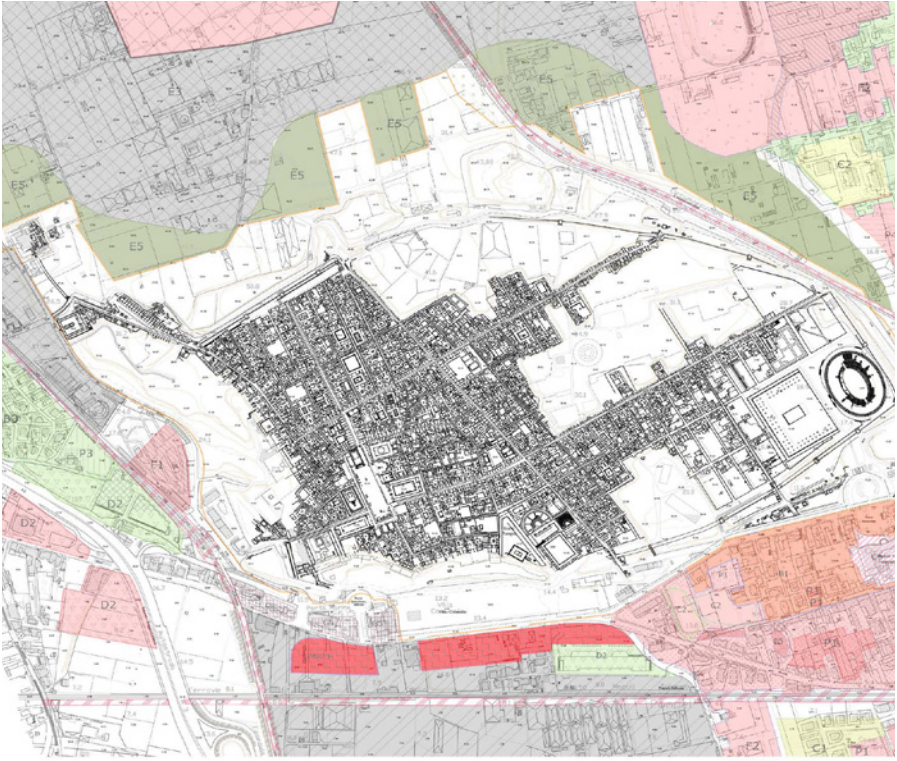
Landscape and cultural constraints.

In orange, the area of archaeological interest; in blue, rivers, streams and watercourses.



Landscape and cultural constraints.







In green, motorway buffer strip; in pink, state road buffer strip; in red, railway buffer strip; in yellow, circumvesuviana railway buffer strip; in purple, first approximation distance (DPA) from power lines and cabins.



Levels of implementation of the masterplan.








Livelli di attuazione del PRG

Altre zone omogenee del PRG

	Zona A - Di interesse ambientale
	Zona E1 - Verde normale
	Zona E2 - Agricolo di valore paesaggistico
	Zona E3 - Agricolo di rispetto industriale
	Zona E4 - Agricolo di rispetto cimiteriale
	Zona E5 - Agricolo di rispetto archeologico

Aree a destinazione generale

	G1 - Ferrovie
	G2 - Archeologia
	G3 - Cimiteriale
	G4 - Stradale
	G5 - Per attrezzature turistiche
	G6 - Per attrezzature religiose

	Zona B1 - Ristrutturazione centro
	Zona B2 - Completamento centro
	Zona BR - Completamento frazioni
	Zona C1 - Espansione
	Zona D1 - Industriale di completamento
	Zona D2 - Industriale di espansione
	Aree PARCH. - Parcheggi relativi alla viabilità primaria

Task and Timetable

The in-person activity starts with a lesson on-site in the Archaeological Park of Pompeii and is, then, articulated in an intensive activity: a workshop in which the students will work in group on their assignments. During the Pompeii visit will be shown to the students the form of the city, the form of the insula – as its structural, elementary part – and the form of the house. Moreover, the students will ‘discover’ the house they drawn during the virtual components. During the workshop, a design exercise will be developed on the South boundary (entrances) to the archaeological park of Pompeii.

Regarding this second phase, the papers to be produced will be specified at the beginning of the workshop.

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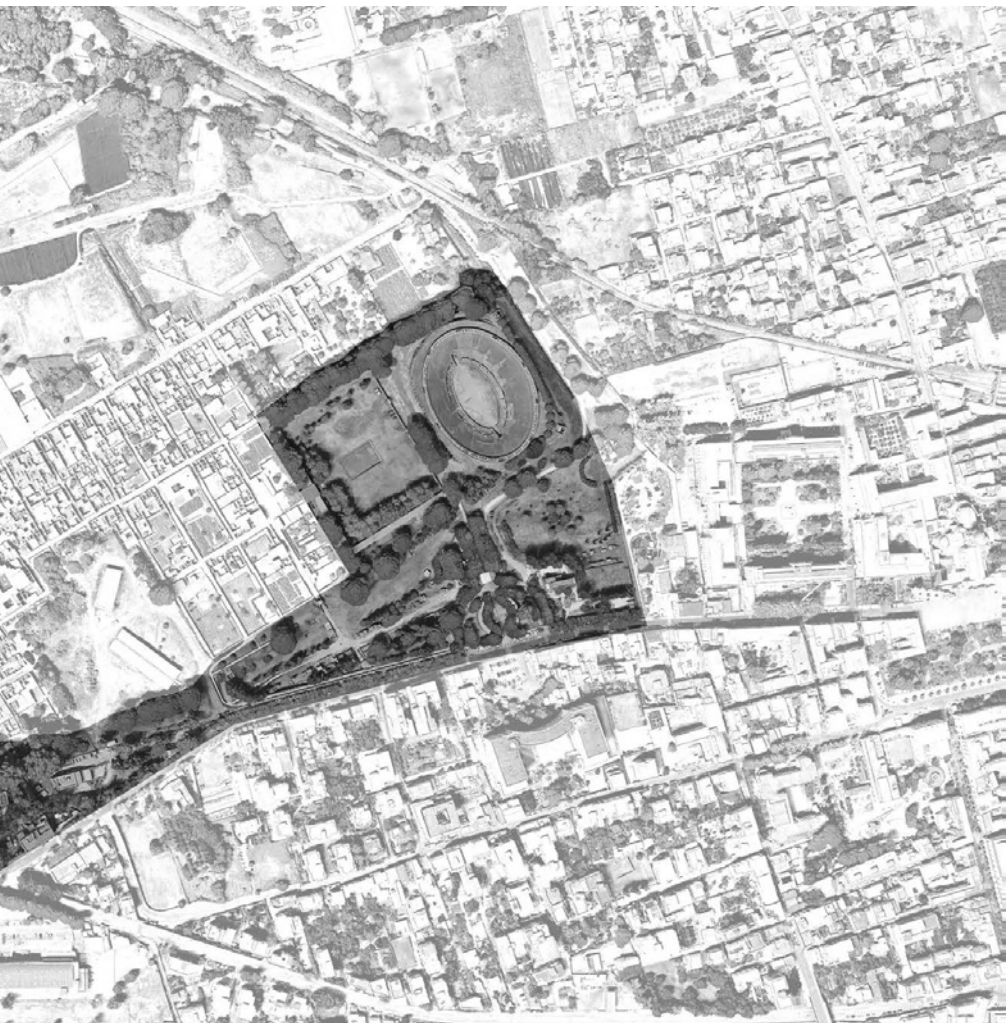
Timetable

Sunday, 23.07.2023, 9 am-6 pm	lesson on-site - Pompeii
Monday, 24.07.2023, 9 am-6 pm	workshop
Tuesday, 25.07.2023, 9 am-6 pm	workshop
Wednesday, 26.07.2023, 9 am-6 pm	workshop
Thursday, 27.07.2023, 9 am-6 pm	workshop
Friday, 28.07.2023, 9 am-6 pm	workshop
Saturday, 29.07.2023, 9 am-1 pm	presentation



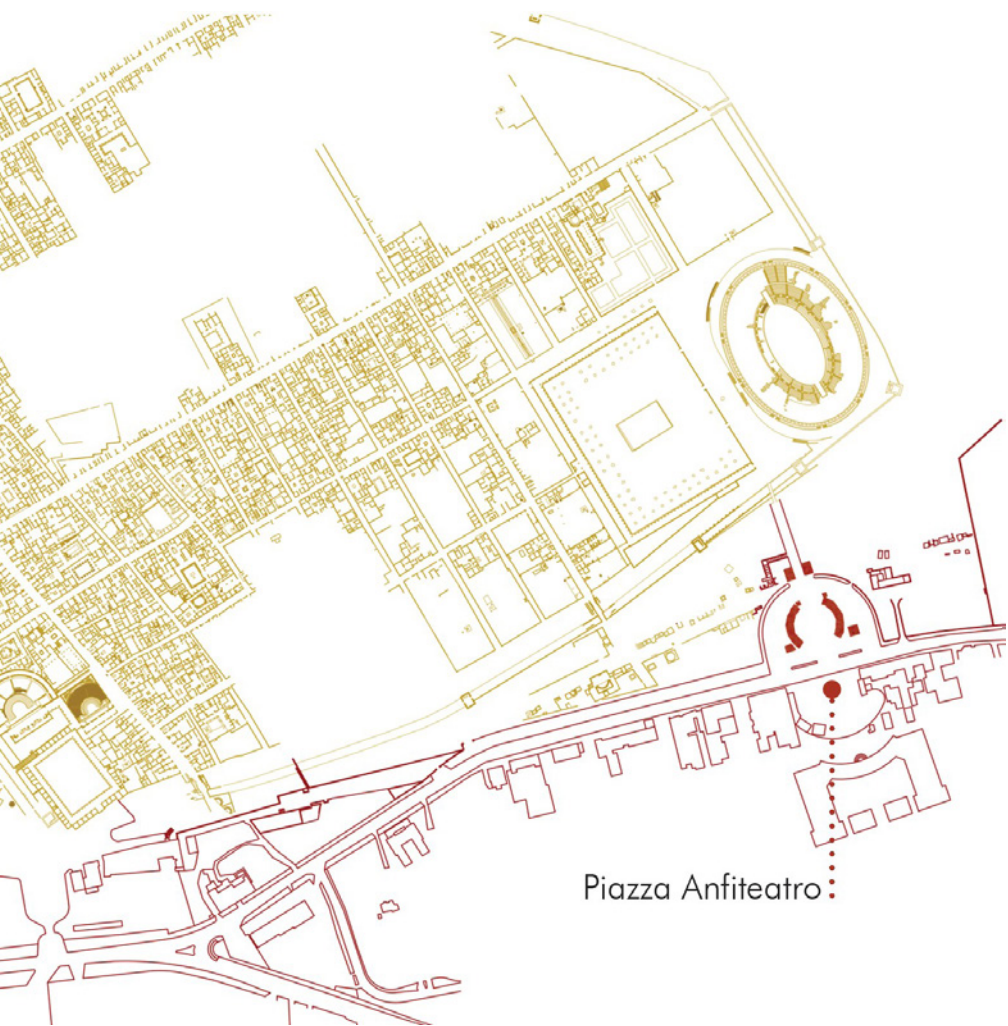


The archaeological enclosure south of Pompeii





The project area: Piazza Esedra and Piazza Anfitreatro



Piazza Anfiteatro :



Current situation: Piazza Anfitreato



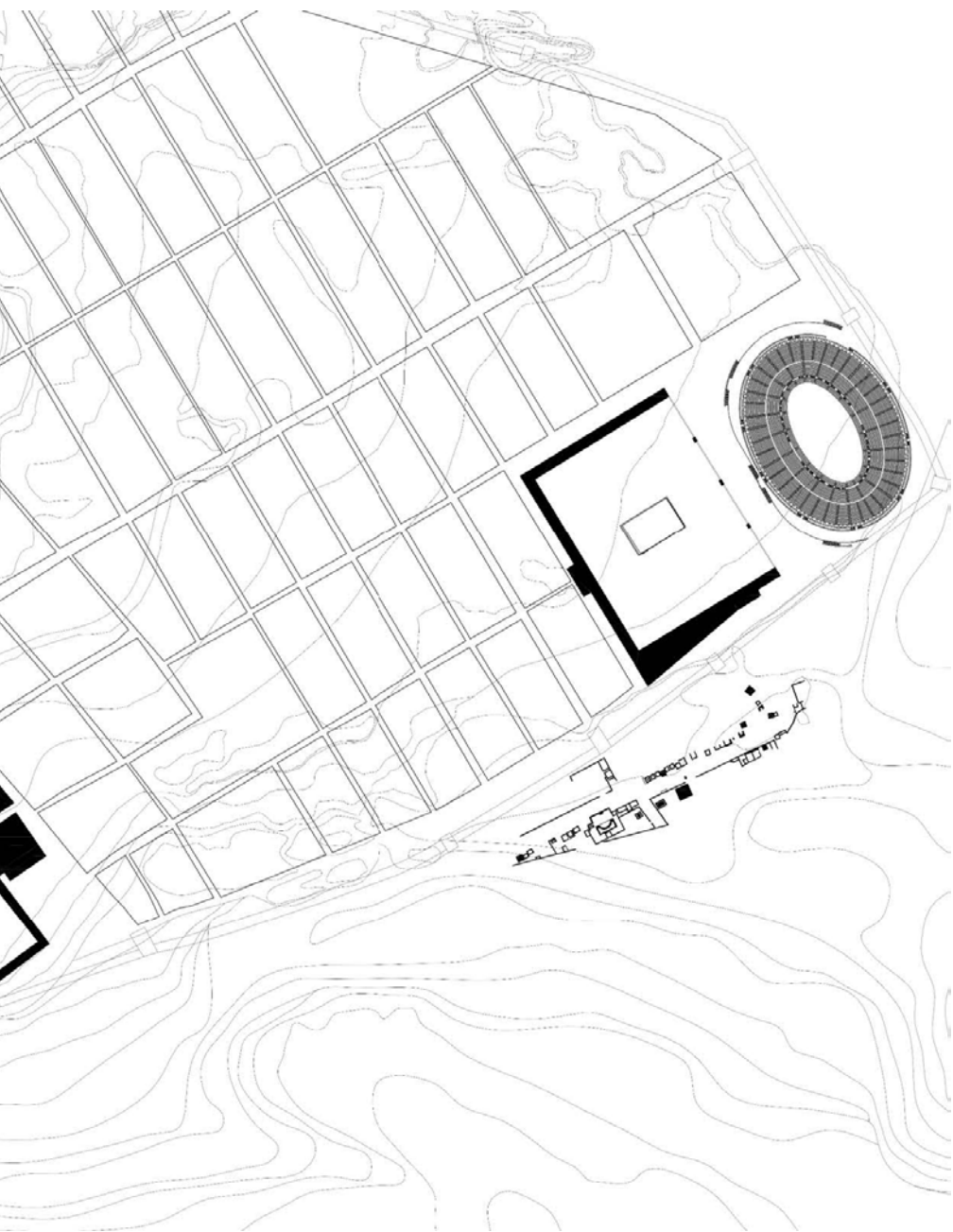


Current situation: Piazza Esedra





The relationship between the “primary elements” and the project area



Venue

Università degli Studi di Napoli “Federico II”
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Room SL1.1
Mezzanine Floor
Staircase F

Università degli Studi di Napoli “Federico II”
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First Floor



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