

## Bakery



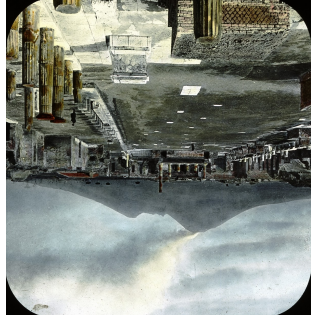
The lava mills and the large wood-burning oven identify these premises as a bakery. Each mill consists of two mill-stones, one stationary and one hollow and shaped like a funnel. The funnel-shaped stone had slots, into which wooden levers could be inserted so that the stone could be rotated; these can be seen in the photo.

Each mill would have been operated either by manpower or with the help of a donkey or horse (in one bakery, the skeletons of several donkeys were discovered). In order to make flour, grain was poured from above into the hollow stone and then was ground between the two stones.

In total, 33 bakeries have so far been found in Pompeii. The carbonised remains of 81 loaves of bread were found in the Bakery of Modestus, demonstrating that the oven was in use at the time of the eruption in AD 79.



## The Forum



Shown here is Pompeii's forum, which would have been at the political, commercial and social heart of the town, as in all other Roman towns. As was typical of the time, most of the most important civic buildings at Pompeii - the municipal offices, the basilica (court-house), the principal temples (such as the Capitolium), and the macellum (market) - were located in or around the forum.

Recent archaeological work has demonstrated that in the years immediately before Vesuvius (seen in the background of the photo here) destroyed Pompeii, building work was taking place to improve the appearance of the forum. Wall-paintings in one of the houses excavated illustrate scenes from the forum, such as bustling market-stalls set up in the colonnade fronting many of the forum buildings. Such evidence highlights the importance of this area in the everyday lives of the town's inhabitants.



## House of the Faun



The House of the Faun built during the 2nd century BC, was one of the largest, and most impressive private residences in Pompeii, Italy, and housed many great pieces of art. It is one of the most luxurious aristocratic houses from the Roman republic. It is thought that this house was built shortly after the Roman conquest of Pompeii, and is likely to have been the residence of one of Pompeii's new, Roman, ruling class.

The House of the Faun was named for the bronze statue of the dancing faun. Fauns are spirits of untamed woodland, which literate and Hellenized Romans often connected to Pan and Greek satyrs, or wild followers of the Greek god of wine and agriculture, Dionysus.

The third photograph shows a detail from one of the most celebrated ancient mosaics. The mosaic depicts Alexander the Great's defeat of the Persian king Darius; the detail here illustrates Alexander himself. The mosaic highlights the wealth and power of the occupier of the house, since such grand and elaborate mosaics are extremely rare, both in Pompeii and in the wider Roman world.



## Garden of the House of the Vettii



This is a photograph of the garden of one of the most famous houses in Pompeii, the House of the Vettii. The house is named for its possible owners, the Vettii brothers, whose signet-rings were discovered during the excavations; they are thought to have been freedmen and may have been wine-merchants. The ornate and formal garden would have been glimpsed through the front door of the house, allowing passers-by a glimpse of the wealth and taste of its owners.

The garden was full of marble and bronze statues, 12 of them fountain-heads that spouted water into a series of basins. The garden is enclosed on four sides by an elaborately decorated portico, onto which open a series of rooms that were probably used for entertaining guests.

The garden is surrounded by a peristyle which has been restored. The garden itself contains many of the original Roman plants. Archaeologists can discover what plants the Romans had in there gardens.



## Thermopolium



This one of Pompeii's many thermopolia - which were shops or 'bars' that are thought to have sold food (restaurants). They consist of terracotta containers (dolii) sunk into a masonry counter (sometimes covered with polychrome marble) that are believed to have contained hot food that was sold to customers. Some thermopolia have decorated back rooms, which may have functioned as dining-rooms.

In one thermopolium, the remains of a cloth bag were discovered in one of the dolia, along with over a thousand coins; these are thought to represent the day's takings and demonstrate the popularity of the establishment. Lararia (domestic shrines) are a fairly common feature of thermopolia, and sometimes depict Mercury and Dionysus, the gods of commerce and wine respectively.



## Villa of the Mysteries

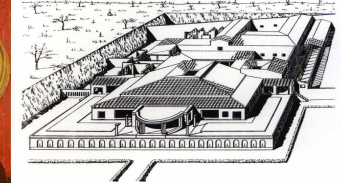


Abb. 20 Pompeii, Rekonstruktion der Mysterienvilla [197] 275, Abb. 26.

The villa is large and luxurious, overlooking the sea. It faces outwards to take advantage of its position, unlike the inward facing town houses. It is not known who owned the villa. The most famous feature is the series of life-size frescoes. The panels of the fresco appear to show a series of consecutive events which give the villa its name. It is believed to represent an initiation into the secret cult of Dionysus, though its interpretation is still unclear.

This scene is a detail from a fresco that runs round all four walls of a room in a suburban villa just outside Pompeii. The fresco is a megalographia (a depiction of life-size figures), and is unique in Pompeii. In the scene pictured here, the initiate is flogged, while another woman dances beside her.

A wine-press was discovered when the Villa was excavated and has been restored in its original location. It was not uncommon for the homes of the very wealthy to include areas for the production of wine, olive oil, or other agricultural products, especially since many elite Romans owned farmland or orchards in the immediate vicinity of their villas.

