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PRIVATE ARCHITECTURE IN PTOLEMAIS (LIBYA): EXCAVATIONS AND NON-INVASIVE SURVEYS

Abstract: Ptolemais, located in Cyrenaica, is one of the most unique archaeological sites. Despite several archaeological missions to Ptolemais and plethora of published papers, very few research studies have explored private architecture of Ptolemais.

This article will thus discuss peristyle houses from ancient city of Ptolemais in Libya dated between Hellenistic and late Roman period. Data on private architecture, collected during excavations works and non-invasive surveys between 2001–2010 by the Polish Archaeological Mission, the University of Warsaw, will be presented. Formation of residential architecture in the Hellenistic period and the evolution in the Roman and late Roman periods will be presented. Further, typical features of private architecture in Cyrenaica will be discussed in relation to the scientific data from the excavations by British, Italian and American archaeologists conducted in Ptolemais in 1935–1942, 1956–1962, 1971, 1978–1980, and 1988–1989.

This has resulted in many new observations which have enriched our understanding of the developments in the private architecture of Ptolemais.

Key words: Ptolemais, Cyrenaica, private architecture, houses, peristyle, non-invasive surveys

Research on residential architecture at Ptolemais was carried out from the 1930s to the 1980s by Italian, British and American archaeologists.¹ Since then, the research has been taken further by the excavations and non-invasive work performer over 2001–2010 by the Polish Archaeological Mission of the University of Warsaw.² Over the Polish Archaeological Mission's ten years of work, the remains of four residential complexes have been uncovered [Figs. 1–2]. The first period of construction in the insula (EXXI) under study dates to the Hellenistic period. The best known period of the functioning of the residences dates to the third to fourth centuries AD. The last remains of occupation in the central and southern part of the EXXI insula date to the fifth century and attest to the existence of a workshop.³ In the northern part, on the other, an apsidal structure was in use as late as the sixth century.⁴

Analysis the results of both excavations and non-invasive surveys, such as kite photography, topographic survey, geodesic measurements and geophysical studies, has yielded information on private architecture at Ptolemais.⁵ The objective of research on the subject is to develop a history of the emergence and evolution of the forms of residential architecture and its characteristic features, as well as gaining information on the plan of the ancient city.

¹ Cf. MIKOCKI *et alii* 2006, pp. 24–29, 75.

² About Polish excavations in Ptolemais, see ŻELAZOWSKI (ed.) 2012; MIKOCKI *et alii* 2006, pp. 78–79.

³ Cf. ŻELAZOWSKI *et alii* 2011, pp. 9–33.

⁴ ŻELAZOWSKI 2008, pp. 22–23.

⁵ BOGACKI 2012, pp. 77–91; MISIEWICZ 2012, pp. 57–75; MISIEWICZ, MAŁKOWSKI, MUSZYŃSKA 2010, pp. 197–204; MAŁKOWSKI 2009, pp. 125–132; MAŁKOWSKI, ŻELAZOWSKI 2012, p. 35.



Fig. 1. Insula EXXI (photo M. Bogacki)



At Ptolemais, the earliest buildings in the insula EXXI [Figs. 1–2] in the east of the city near Palazzo delle Colonne [Fig. 3] date to the Hellenistic period. The remains of Hellenistic architecture in the east-central part of the EXXI insula under study by the Polish Mission demonstrate that even in this early period the entire width of the insula may have been built over — to date, it was thought that structures around the courtyard covered only a fragment of the insula with the rest taken by gardens.¹² The remains of Hellenistic structures are also visible in the south-western corner of the house to the south of the House of Leukaktios by the western street. The remains of an early, possibly Hellenistic structure were also found at the house by the eastern street.¹³

We have more information on private architecture in Ptolemais dated to the end of the Hellenistic period and the first century AD. The Palazzo delle Colonne [Fig. 3],¹⁴ the most monumental residential structure in Ptolemais is dated to that period. The building lies in the east-central part of the city, by the eastern *cardo* south of the city's main *decumanus*.¹⁵ The residential complex was reconstructed in later periods. Analysis of the Palazzo delle Colonne ground plan shows that the prestige of the southern part of the peristyle was emphasised in houses of that period. the southern colonnade was higher, referencing the Rhodian peristyles found in later periods.¹⁶ Porticoes were erected in a mixed order with Ionian columns and cornice, but Doric architrave and frieze.



Fig. 3. Palazzo delle Colonne (photo M. Bogacki)

¹² ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, pp. 154–155; STUCCHI 1975, pp. 142–149, 215–227.

¹³ ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, p. 147.

¹⁴ Cf. BONACASA 2009, pp. 85–109.

¹⁵ PESCE 1950, p. 7.

¹⁶ STUCCHI 1975, p. 142.

The main chamber of the residence was the *oecus*, located usually in the southern or eastern part of the peristyle.¹⁷ The location of the Palazzo delle Colonne in the city centre, its use from the Hellenistic to late Roman period, its architecture and rich ornamentation are all so exceptional as to lead the scholars to suggest that a person of authority lived here, perhaps the representative of the Ptolemaic and later the Roman imperial administration.¹⁸

In the first century AD the house plan with a central peristyle, analogous to that observed at the Palazzo delle Colonne, continued to develop. Phase I of House G [Fig. 4], the late House of Paulus¹⁹ [Fig. 5], the House of Triapsidal Hall²⁰ [Fig. 6] and the first structures of the Roman Villa²¹ [Fig. 7] all date to that period.

At House G the rooms were located on three sides of the peristyle and the colonnades were executed in a mixed order. Ionian columns have been unearthed with a smooth lower part and a striated upper part, while the frieze and architrave were both Doric.²²



Fig. 4. House G, the earliest phase of the building
(photo M. Bogacki, elaborated by J. Mikocka, source MapGuide)

¹⁷ PESCE 1950, pp. 92–94; STUCCHI 1975, pp. 147, 216–219.

¹⁸ PESCE 1950, pp. 92–94.

¹⁹ According to S. Stucchi House of the Columned Hall and House of Pilaster Courtyard, cf. STUCCHI 1975, pp. 220–221; determined by Kraeling as public building, cf. KRAELING 1962, pp. 140–160.

²⁰ House of the Triapsidal Hall is dated to 4th century AD, cf. GASPARINI 2009, pp. 159–167, 173–174; WARD-PERKINS *et alii* 1986, pp. 126–143; STUCCHI 1975, pp. 450–451, 555.

²¹ Called also House of Kraeling and House of the Four Seasons, cf. STUCCHI 1975, pp. 305–307, 498–499; KRAELING 1962, pp. 119–139.

²² Called also Casa del Peristilo Ionico, cf. WARD-PERKINS *et alii* 1986, pp. 111–126; STUCCHI 1975, pp. 147, 219.

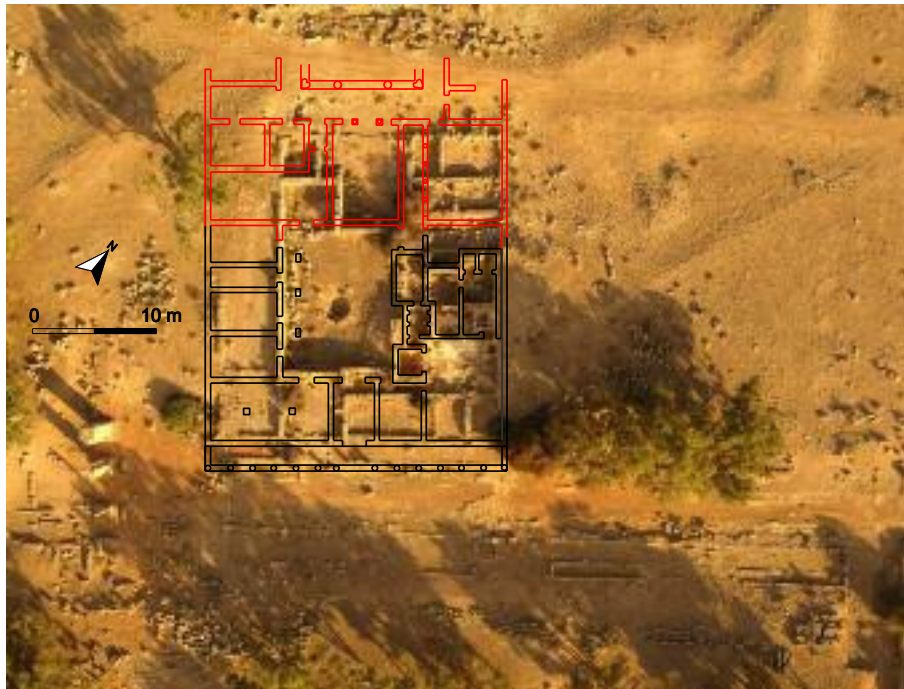


Fig. 5. House of Paulus, the earliest phase of the building
(photo M. Bogacki, elaborated by J. Mikocka, source MapGuide)

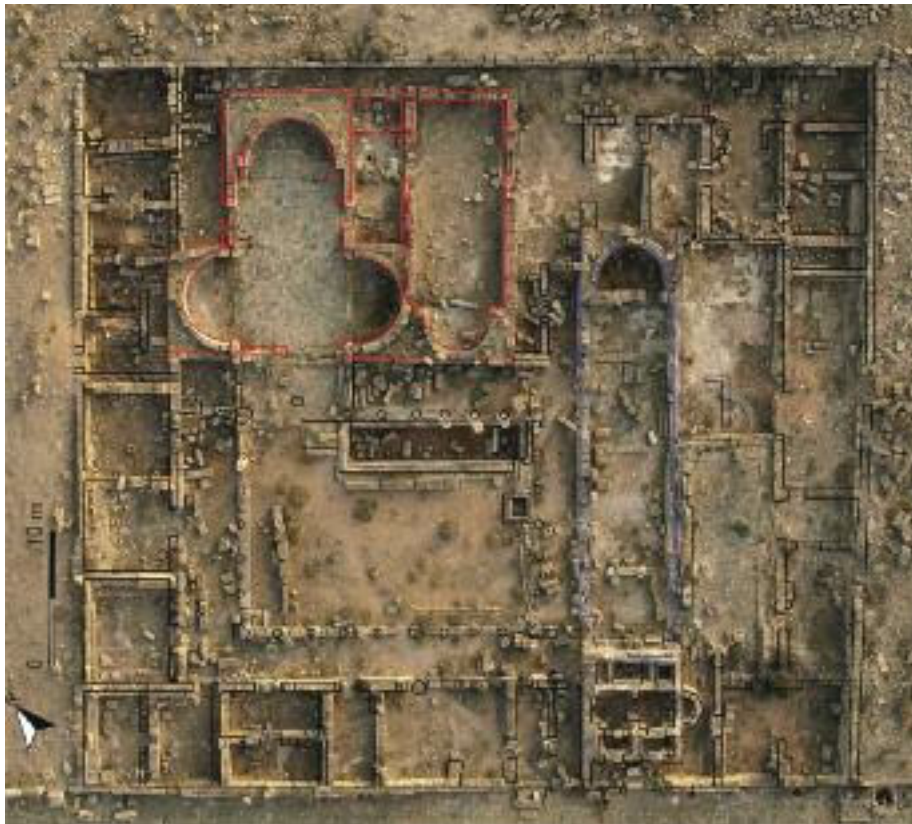


Fig. 6. House of the Triapsidal Hall, phases of the building
(photo M. Bogacki, elaborated by J. Mikocka, source MapGuide)



Fig. 7. Roman Villa, phases of the building
(photo M. Bogacki, elaborated by J. Mikocka, source MapGuide)

The area of the late House of Paulus has been only partially excavated. The southern part of the residential complex has been uncovered with the greater part of the peristyle and rooms that may have stood on the northern side left underground. At the north end of the excavated area, a large peristyle house is found with a ground plan that partly recreates the late Hellenistic Palazzo delle Colonne. At the house, as with the Palazzo delle Colonne, the southern *ambulacrum* was larger than the other three. We also see similar differences in the intercolumniation, which again points to special importance of the southern side. The *oecus*, flanked by side rooms, lied to the south of the peristyle. At the south end of the uncovered area, another residence has been identified with a pilaster-lined peristyle. The *oecus* seems to lie to the east.

The earliest structures of the late House of Triapsidal Hall had much in common with the other peristyle houses of the first century AD. The *oecus* and two neighbouring rooms lied to the east of the peristyle. The house was entered from the eastern *cardo*, the so-called East Avenue. Some elements of the house were refashioned in the second century AD. The peristyle reveals the traces of a mixed, Ionian and Doric style. The house was significantly altered in later centuries.²³

In the area of the Roman Villa two residential complexes are discernable in the first century AD.²⁴ Each was erected around a courtyard with the *oecus* as the main room. Here also the remains of a mixed order, with smooth Ionian columns and Doric architrave and frieze are found. The entrance, as at the Palazzo delle Colonne, was from the street via a small room, a vestibule of a kind, to the peristyle.

²³ WARD-PERKINS *et alii* 1986, pp. 126–132; STUCCHI 1975, p. 222.

²⁴ According to S. Stucchi House of the Four Seasons and House of the Four Columned Peristyle, cf. STUCCHI 1975, pp. 222–224.

At the turn of the second and third centuries AD, a number of residential complexes were reconstructed, while maintaining the type of the Hellenistic peristyle house. Residential complexes at Ptolemais reached a large size and were richly decorated. Building took place on top of earlier structures and neighbouring residential complexes were linked.

Palazzo delle Colonne, built over pre-existing residences, took up half an insula²⁵ [Fig. 8]. It also contains a unique element, uncommon elsewhere at Ptolemais — a monumental *oecus* on the northern side of the peristyle. This clearly draws on Alexandrian architecture, whose influence is visible at Ptolemais from the Hellenistic period.²⁶

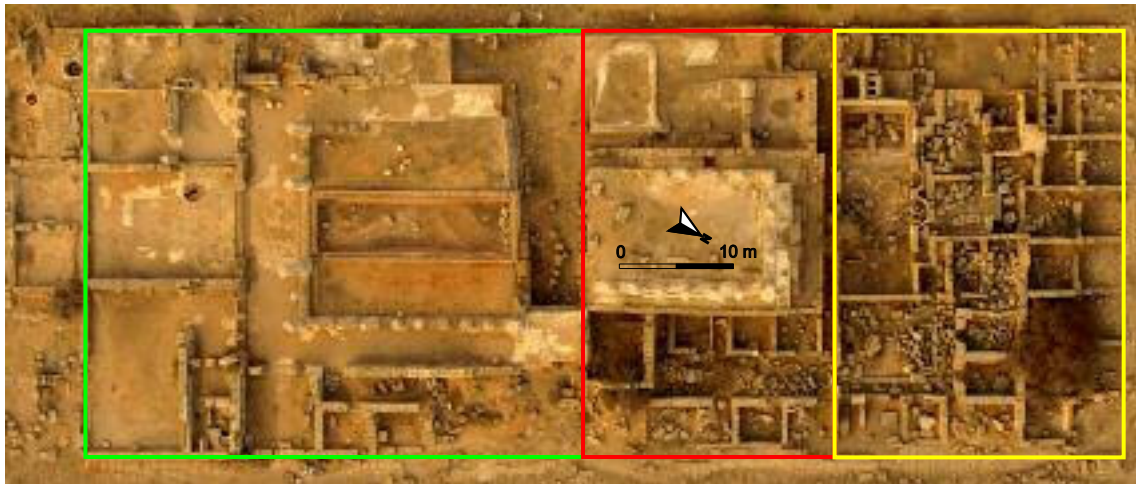


Fig. 8. Palazzo delle Colonne, built on top of existing structures (photo M. Bogacki, elaborated by J. Mikocka, source MapGuide)

A similar situation, as far as linking previously separate residences into a single unit, is found at the House of Paulus and the structures preceding it [Fig. 9]. Two houses were combined into a single residence. An analogous combination of two houses into a single residence is found at the Roman Villa²⁷ [Fig. 10].

In this period Ptolemais residences gained secondary peristyles, seasonal *triclinia* and *thermae*. The changes visible in residential architecture may have been connected to the new political situation²⁸ and climate changes.²⁹ At Palazzo delle Colonne in addition to the main part, there were also smaller, independent complexes of a private character, clustered around an atrium, a small peristyle and two courtyards.³⁰ In the northern part of the complex *thermae* were erected.³¹ A similar situation is seen at the Roman Villa, where the south-western corner of the residence hosted a group of rooms around a small courtyard.³² The *thermae* also recur, for example in the buildings underneath the later House of Paulus. They were found in the eastern part of the house.³³ The remains of *thermae* are also found at the House of House of Triapsidal Hall.³⁴

²⁵ STUCCHI 1975, pp. 300–304.

²⁶ BONACASA 2009, pp. 85–109.

²⁷ STUCCHI 1975, pp. 220–221, 304–307.

²⁸ During the reign of Diocletian, in 297, Ptolemais became the capital of the province Libya Superior. In the mid-5th century AD Ptolemais lost the status of the provincial capital of Libya Superior, which was moved to Apollonia. Cf. GOODCHILD 1976, pp. 225–234; KRAELING 1962, p. 20.

²⁹ STUCCHI 1975, p. 357; cf. Rufus Festus Avienus, *Descriptio orbis terrae*, 303–307.

³⁰ BONACASA 2009, pp. 93–94; PESCE 1950, pp. 47–48, 54–55, 57–58, 60–62.

³¹ STUCCHI 1975, p. 302; PESCE 1950, pp. 49–52.

³² KRAELING 1962, p. 128.

³³ STUCCHI 1975, pp. 304–305.

³⁴ WARD-PERKINS *et alii* 1986, p. 134; STUCCHI 1975, p. 450, n. 4.



Fig. 9. House of Paulus (photo M. Bogacki, elaborated by J. Mikocka, source MapGuide)



Fig. 10. Roman Villa (photo M. Bogacki, elaborated by J. Mikocka, source MapGuide)

Also to the second and third centuries AD are dated the houses in the insula excavated by the Polish Archaeological Mission.³⁵ In the central part of the uncovered area lies the House of Leukaktios [Figs. 11–12]. The largest room in the house lied to the south of the peristyle. Around the peristyle, seasonal *triclinia* are found, richly decorated with mosaics and paintings.³⁶ Room R9 in the western part of the house may also have played the role of the *oecus*.³⁷ At the eastern and northern side lie rooms with much more modest decoration.³⁸ At the House of Leukaktios, in its eastern part there functioned a complex of rooms erected around a large courtyard.³⁹ The house was reconstructed, its ownership changed,⁴⁰ and it was finally in all likelihood abandoned and destroyed.⁴¹

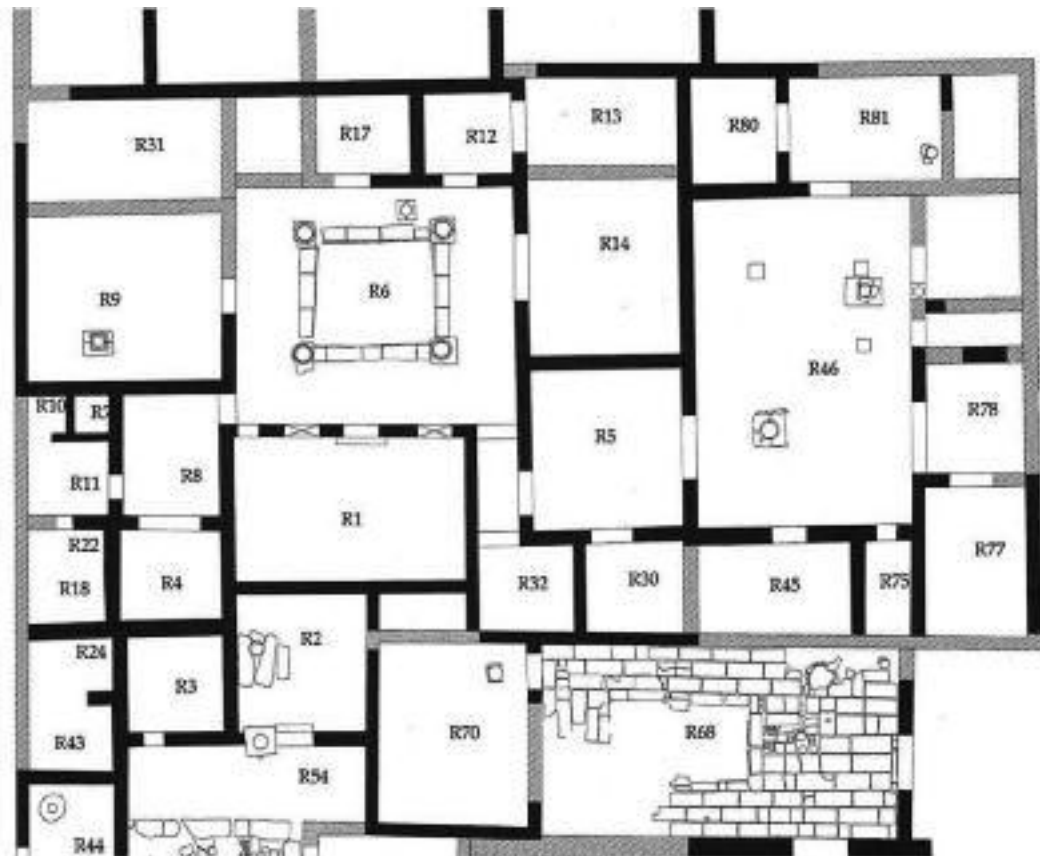


Fig. 11. Plan of the House of Leukaktios (elaborated by M. Małkowski and J. Żelazowski)

³⁵ About the houses in insula EXXI, cf. ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, pp. 121–156; ŻELAZOWSKI 2012b, pp. 67–80; ŻELAZOWSKI 2008, pp. 11–24.

³⁶ ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, p. 129; OLSZEWSKI 2007, pp. 92–95.

³⁷ REKOWSKA 2012, p. 176, n. 77; OLSZEWSKI 2010, pp. 315–322.

³⁸ ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, p. 129.

³⁹ ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, pp. 147–155.

⁴⁰ This is evidenced by mosaics repairs and placing new owner's name in one of the mosaics, cf. ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, p. 122.

⁴¹ ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, p. 121.



Fig. 12. House of Leukaktios (photo M. Bogacki)

To the south of the House of Leukaktios another house built around a courtyard has been uncovered [Fig. 13]. It was much smaller and more modest than the residential complexes discussed above, but its layout was functional with a latrine next to the exit to the western street. On the axis of the courtyard, to its south, there lied the *oecus*, while in the eastern part of the house a large room has been uncovered, presumably the *triclinium*.⁴² Both houses were destroyed, presumably in earthquakes.

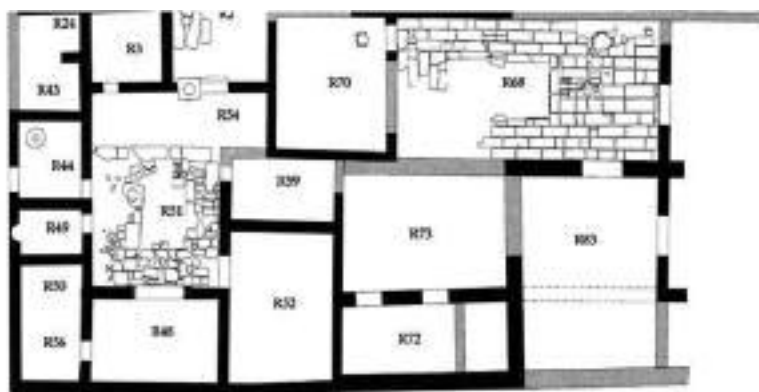


Fig. 13. Plan of the southern part of insula EXXI (elaborated by W. Małkowski and J. Żelazowski)

⁴² ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, pp. 138–139.

Alongside the eastern street further rooms have been uncovered, belonging to yet another house.⁴³

Changes in the private architecture of Ptolemais are particularly visible starting in the fourth century AD. In this period we see restoration and reconstruction of houses destroyed previously, as well as monumentalisation of residential complexes. Institutional, social and economic changes of the late Roman period are visible in the private architecture of Ptolemais.⁴⁴ A more hierarchical character of the late ancient society can be detected with houses of the local elites imitating palatial architecture. Hence ostentatious features, such as courtyards and porticoes, large entranceways, rooms with antithetical apses, reception halls with apses, *triclinia* with apses, *thermae*.⁴⁵ Houses that underwent reconstruction in this period frequently used a pre-existing peristyle, while a room with one or three apses was added. The rooms were often fronted by a vestibule with a tripartite entranceway. Decorated with mosaics and marble, they were used for receptions and banquets.⁴⁶

At the House of Triapsidal Hall, for all the changes and reconstructions, the peristyle remained intact [Fig. 6]. A long, narrow hall with an apsis was erected at its southern end. The entrance to this room led through a vestibule with a tripartite entranceway, elements of a monumental tripartite doorway have been found there. Fresh reconstructions took place in the fourth century AD, at the eastern end of the peristyle, two large halls were erected with one or three apses. One of these, the triapsidal hall gave name to the house. It was decorated with a mosaic, while a part was covered with stone slabs. Fragments of *opus sectile* have been uncovered in the hall with one apsis. Both halls were open to opposite sides. The triapsidal hall may be seen as a banquet room, while the hall with one apsis may be conceived of as a smaller, more modest banquet room. The room with one apsis at the eastern end was probably a reception room of public character, where the owner would greet clients as an administrator, judge or in some other official capacity. The House of Triapsidal Hall was decorated in marble and even porphyry, an uncommon occurrence in Cyrenaica, which lacks locally quarried marble. The size of the house, the character of the rooms and decorations all point to an important, public function of the occupier, perhaps the provincial governor.⁴⁷

In the northern part of the insula uncovered by the Polish Archaeological Mission, a house was probably in occupation during the fourth century. A large hall has been identified here, leading to other rooms [Fig. 14]. The hall, decorated with a mosaic, lied near the western street and the presumed entrance to the house. It may have been a large vestibule. The house in question was destroyed and a new residence with a large apsidal room was built over its northern part [Fig. 15]. Artefacts finds suggest that a large part of the insula may have been in use as late as the sixth century.⁴⁸

A ceremonial apsidal hall is also seen in the northern room of the Roman Villa.⁴⁹

The House of Paulus is dated to the fifth century [Fig. 9]. The excavated part of the structure was built around a courtyard. The south-western side was the ceremonial part. The *thermae*, found alongside the eastern side, were reconstructed and opened to the street. The entrance to the ceremonial part of the house lied at its southern end. Next, west of the vestibule was the reception room with a tripartite entranceway between them. The reception room was covered with stone slabs, one of which bears an inscription concerning Paulus.⁵⁰

⁴³ ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, p. 143.

⁴⁴ BEJOR 1998, p. 40.

⁴⁵ GASPARINI 2009, pp. 157–186.

⁴⁶ GASPARINI 2009, pp. 157–186; WARD-PERKINS *et alii* 1986, pp. 142–143; STUCCHI 1975, p. 451.

⁴⁷ GASPARINI 2009, p. 173; WARD-PERKINS *et alii* 1986, pp. 126–143; STUCCHI 1975, p. 451.

⁴⁸ ŻELAZOWSKI 2012a, pp. 130–131.

⁴⁹ STUCCHI 1975, pp. 498–499; this hall was identified by C. H. Kraeling as *caldarium*, cf. KRAELING 1962, p. 133.

⁵⁰ STUCCHI 1975, p. 493; determined by C. H. Kraeling as public building, cf. KRAELING 1962, pp. 140–160, 211–212, figs. 51, 53, 55, pl. XVI.



Fig. 14. Room with the mosaic in the northern part of the insula EXXI
(photo M. Bogacki)



Fig. 15. Room with the apse in the northern part of the insula EXXI
(photo M. Bogacki)

In the late stage of urban development, houses may have appeared at Ptolemais with water containers built on the surface.⁵¹ Little, however, survives of these structures. At the end of occupation of many houses in Ptolemais it was common to reconstruct and divide existing rooms into smaller ones.⁵² Houses no longer in use were turned into workshops, as attested by the remains of pottery kilns and lamps, olive presses or liquid containers.⁵³

Research on private architecture of Ptolemais from the Hellenistic to late Roman period allows for an identification of typical features of residential structures, found also in other towns in Cyrenaica.⁵⁴ Houses were built around a peristyle, sometimes a Rhodian peristyle. If a residence contained an atrium, it was secondary in importance. Cyrenaica's private architecture shows an even greater attachment to the Greek tradition than is found in other parts of Africa. There appear, however, elements of axial alignment and symmetry, as well as arches, all characteristic of Roman architecture. There are also clear analogies to the architecture of Alexandria. It was common to merge Greek and Roman traditions of architecture and ornament, as well as reuse of Hellenistic and Roman architectural elements in the late Roman period. The *oecus* was a ceremonial space and could be flanked with other rooms. Sometimes the *ambulacrum*, onto which the most important rooms in the house would open, was wider than the other ones, while intercolumniation is wider on the southern side of the peristyle. Motifs and forms characteristic of the so-called Roman baroque were popular, as was mixing architectural orders on two levels of a colonnade or using chiaroscuro in architecture. Typical for private architecture were heart-shaped semicolumns and the mixing of orders by using Doric entablature with Ionic colonnades. At the end of the first century AD smooth Doric columns come to be used at Ptolemais.⁵⁵ It is common to find two residences combined into a single house. House entrances were on the side, far from the main rooms. With time, in order to enter a house from the street, it came to be necessary to cross a small room, a vestibule of a kind, towards the peristyle and the main rooms. In order to enter other parts of the house, an invitation was necessary since passageways were under control.⁵⁶ It was also common to place shops alongside the streets, in *insulae*, whose primary use was residential. As of the second century AD Corinthian columns won popularity. A common architectural element starting in the latter half of the second century AD was the monumental tripartite doorway with articulated entablature⁵⁷ in private architecture. From the second century AD onwards the installation of barriers between columns in the colonnades of peristyles became widespread. This increased the amount of shadow and led to the creation of a *porticus fenestrata*.⁵⁸ Traces of such barriers can be seen in the peristyle of the House of Leukaktios.⁵⁹ Pools were placed in peristyles of houses to serve as air fresheners and containers of water,⁶⁰ which was channelled to cisterns. The pools in the peristyles of the Palazzo delle Colonne and the House of Triapsidal Hall may also have served for aquaculture.⁶¹ In the late Roman period there appear apsidal rooms connected to the peristyle or

⁵¹ STUCCHI 1975, p. 500.

⁵² Cf. GASPARINI 2010, pp. 681–701.

⁵³ ŽELAZOWSKI 2012a, pp. 141–144; pottery kilns and other artisanal installations are studied by S. Lenarczyk, cf. ŽELAZOWSKI *et alii* 2011, pp. 9–33; GASPARINI 2010, p. 685; WARD-PERKINS *et alii* 1986, pp. 124–126.

⁵⁴ Cf. REKOWSKA 2012, pp. 157–181; GASPARINI 2010, pp. 681–702; BONACASA 2009, pp. 85–109; GASPARINI 2009, pp. 157–186; BEJOR 1998, pp. 35–42; WARD-PERKINS *et alii* 1986, p. 113; STUCCHI 1975, pp. 321–322; LAUTER 1971, pp. 149–178.

⁵⁵ This part was called by the S. Stucchi the House of the Minor Peristyle, cf. STUCCHI 1975, pp. 219–220, 300.

⁵⁶ Cf. ŽELAZOWSKI 2012a, pp. 137–138.

⁵⁷ The earliest examples of such a structure are dated from the 1st century BC and came from Syria. In classical pub-

lications it was called 'the Syrian arch'. Such tripartite doorway occurred in monumental public architecture but also in private architecture. This solution appeared also in Italy and in the provinces. It was a common architectural element also in Cyrenaica, cf. i.a. STUCCHI 1975, pp. 321–322. Such tripartite entrance gained popularity in the Antonine period, cf. THOMAS 2007, pp. 40–45, 63–65. About the terminology, cf. GINOUVES *et alii* 1992, p. 128; BUTCHER 2003, p. 290; MACKENZIE 2007, pp. 92–94, figs. 145–146; PARADA LÓPEZ DE CORSELAS 2013, pp. 479–486.

⁵⁸ BEJOR 1998, p. 41; STUCCHI 1975, p. 315.

⁵⁹ Cf. reconstruction of the central part of the peristyle and entrances to adjacent rooms (elaborated by J. Kaniszewski); cf. REKOWSKA 2012, p. 164.

⁶⁰ STUCCHI 1975, pp. 310–311.

⁶¹ WARD-PERKINS *et alii* 1986, p. 134.

the *triclinium*. Rooms with a single or three apses served presumably as reception halls. In the late Roman and Byzantine periods rooms were reconstructed, divided and reduced in size, while many were converted to workshops.

Since 2002⁶² in addition to the excavation works in Ptolemais, the Polish Archaeological Mission has conducted research with the use of non-destructive methods such as topographical survey, analysis of satellite images, geodetic measurements, kite aerial photographs and geophysical prospection.⁶³ The main goal of this works has been to map out the detailed city plan, which would include as much data as possible.⁶⁴ Thanks to non-invasive methods it has been possible to test 90 % of the city. The non-invasive surveys carried out in Ptolemais have led to the creation of a new city plan using MapGuide software, which incorporates all the data collected to date.

In 2005 members of the Polish Archaeological Mission in Ptolemais started geophysical measurements using two methods, magnetic and electrical resistivity. These methods provide data about the location of archaeological features, their plan, possible dimensions, depth, state of preservation and the archaeological context. With the interpretation of the collected material it will be possible to locate remains of residential structures underground and to obtain information on their plans, size and the archaeological context. The collected information can be used to determine the presence and location of residential areas of the city, as well as the changes that have occurred in the location of these areas with the development of the city in a given period of time. These data allow for the completion of work related to the reconstruction of the original plan of the city. Taking into account the characteristics of residential architecture in pod Ptolemais, determined in the course of excavations, an analysis was carried out of anomalies visible from geophysical maps developed by Krzysztof Misiewicz.⁶⁵

This has allowed for many previously unknown underground structures to be located. At the present stage of research it seems possible to identify those parts of the city where residential architecture was located.⁶⁶ This may apply to southern insulae, especially in the eastern side of the city [Fig. 16], in the west by the Tocra gate [Fig. 17] and in the vicinity of the Western Basilica,

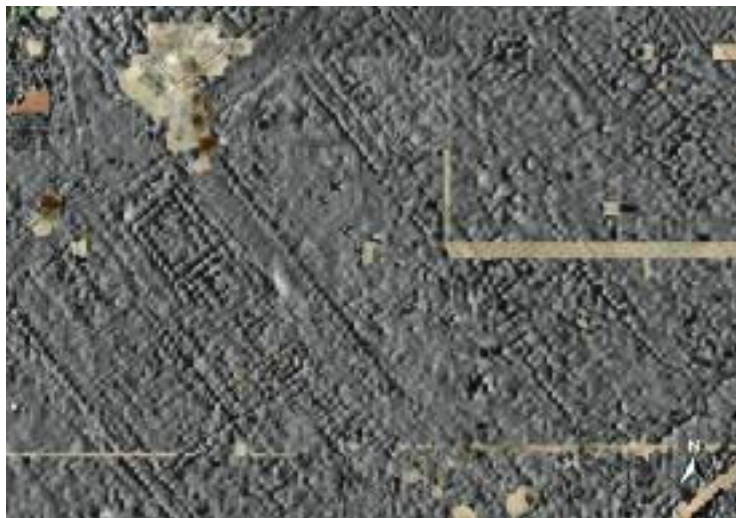


Fig. 16. Geophysical anomalies in the southern eastern part of the city (K. Misiewicz, source MapGuide)

⁶² MAŁKOWSKI, ŻELAZOWSKI 2012, p. 35.

⁶³ BOGACKI 2012, pp. 77–91; MISIEWICZ 2012, pp. 57–75; MISIEWICZ, MAŁKOWSKI, MUSZYŃSKA 2010, pp. 197–204; MAŁKOWSKI 2009, pp. 125–132.

⁶⁴ MAŁKOWSKI, ŻELAZOWSKI 2012, p. 35.

⁶⁵ MISIEWICZ 2012, pp. 57–75.

⁶⁶ The full description of anomalies visible on the geophysical maps, cf. MIKOĆKA, MISIEWICZ (in press).

as well as in the north-west of Ptolemais, including near the Villa with a View identified by the Polish Archaeological Mission [Fig. 18]. Analysis of anomalies that may indicate the presence of residential remains underground shows that they had 18 to 30 metres width and some seem to have reached as much as 40 metres. Most anomalies described indicate that underlying buildings took up the entire width of insulae, justifying conjecture that houses in the city belonged to the upper and middle classes. Research on the anomalies that were clear on geophysical maps and possible to interpret shows that insulae with residential construction accounted for 34 % of the total.

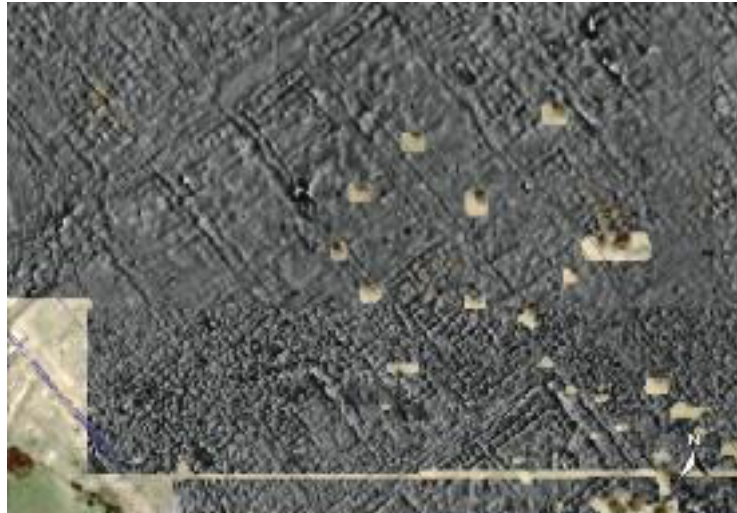


Fig. 17. Geophysical anomalies in the western part of the city
(K. Misiewicz, source MapGuide)

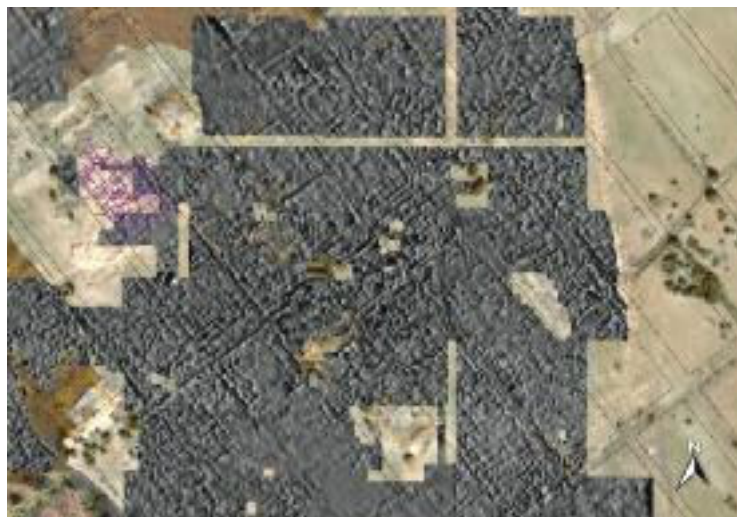


Fig. 18. Geophysical anomalies in the eastern part of the city
(K. Misiewicz, source MapGuide)

Excavations played the main role in research of private architecture at Ptolemais. Non-invasive surveys contribute significantly to our knowledge of residential structures at Ptolemais. The need for coexistence of both types of research should be emphasised. Non-invasive surveys define research objectives and areas to excavate, but their results require verification by excavation.

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Streszczenie

Architektura mieszkalna z Ptolemais w świetle badań wykopaliskowych i nieinwazyjnych

Badania nad architekturą mieszkalną w Ptolemais były prowadzone od lat trzydziestych do końca lat osiemdziesiątych XX wieku przez misje włoskie, brytyjskie i amerykańskie. Kolejny etap to prace archeologiczne prowadzone przez Polską Misję Archeologiczną Instytutu Archeologii UW w latach 2001–2010.

Opracowanie informacji na temat architektury prywatnej w Ptolemais polegało na analizie wyników badań wykopaliskowych oraz nieinwazyjnych, takich jak zdjęcia latawcowe, badania topograficzne, pomiary geodezyjne oraz badania geofizyczne.

Celem badań nad architekturą prywatną w Ptolemais jest opracowanie historii powstawania i ewolucji form architektury mieszkalnej, ustalenie charakterystycznych cech architektury rezydencjonalnej oraz uzyskanie informacji na temat rozplanowania przestrzennego miasta.

Od okresu hellenistycznego domy w Cyrenajce budowane były wokół perystylu, wywodziły się z greckiego typu *a pastas*. Na przełomie II i III wieku n.e. wiele kompleksów mieszkalnych zostało przebudowanych, jednak pozostały one w typie hellenistycznych domów perystylowych. Rezydencje mieszkalne osiągały duże rozmiary i były bardzo bogato dekorowane. Zmiany w architekturze prywatnej Ptolemais są szczególnie widoczne od IV wieku n.e. Zauważalny jest charakter hierarchiczny społeczeństwa późnoantycznego — domy lokalnych elit nawiązywały do architektury pałacowej. Z tym związane są niektóre pomieszczenia o charakterze reprezentacyjnym, takie jak dziedzińce i portyki, duże pomieszczenia wejściowe, sale recepcyjne z przeciwstawnymi apsydami, *triclinia* z apsydami, termy. Używano także marmuru jako elementu dekoracji architektonicznej oraz jako pokrycia ścian i podłóg. W ostatnim etapie użytkowania niektórych rezydencji mieszkalnych w Ptolemais powszechne były przebudowy i podziały istniejących już pomieszczeń, tak aby uzyskać nowe o mniejszych rozmiarach. Na obszarach domów, które nie były już użytkowane, rozwijała się działalność warsztatowa.

Badania nieinwazyjne pozwoliły na stworzenie w programie MapGuide nowego planu Ptolemais. Na podstawie analiz map geofizycznych udało się zlokalizować przypuszczalne dzielnice z zabudową rezydencjonalną. Zabudowania mieszkalne mogły znajdować się w insulach południowych, głównie we wschodniej części miasta, w zachodniej części na wysokości bramy Tokry oraz w okolicach Bazyliki Zachodniej, a także na północnym wschodzie Ptolemais, m. in. w sąsiedz-

twie odkrytej przez Polską Misję Archeologiczną Willi z Widokiem. Analiza anomalii widocznych na mapach geofizycznych pozwala wnioskować o obecności pod ziemią zabudowań mieszkalnych, wcześniej nieznanych. Analizy wskazują, że mogły one mieć od 18 do ponad 30 m długości, a wydaje się, że niektóre mogły osiągać nawet ponad 40 m długości. Większość omawianych anomalii wskazuje, że pozostałości budynków, które je wywołują, mogły zajmować całą szerokość insul. Na tej podstawie można przypuszczać, że na terenie miasta znajdowały się domy bogate oraz średniej klasy. Badania nad anomaliami wydają się wskazywać, że insule z zabudową mieszkalną nie stanowiły więcej niż 1/3 zabudowy Ptolemais.

Główną rolę w badaniach nad architekturą prywatną w Ptolemais pełniły prace wykopaliskowe. Badania nieinwazyjne stanowią niezwykle istotne uzupełnienie wiedzy na temat rezydencji mieszkalnych w tym mieście. Należy podkreślić konieczność współistnienia tych dwóch rodzajów badań. Badania nieinwazyjne wskazują cele badawcze oraz tereny, które należy przebadać, jednak do ich weryfikacji niezbędne jest przeprowadzenie badań wykopaliskowych lub sondaży.

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