



SAPIENZA
UNIVERSITÀ DI ROMA

LIVING IN THE TOWN, LIVING IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Typologies, models and transformations of residential architecture in Hellenistic and Roman Epirus

15 January 2024

Aula Manlio Simonetti
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(CU003, 3rd floor)

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The workshop is organised by the Joint Archaeological Project of Sapienza University of Rome and Albanian Archaeological Institute of Tirana in Çuka e Ajtoit (Albania) in collaboration with the PhD School of Archaeology of Sapienza University of Rome



The on-field archaeological activities have much accelerated in various areas of Epirus in the last decades, and are producing an important progress of our knowledge of many aspects of the region, such as settlement distribution and land occupation, the definition of the urban landscapes, the organisation of defensive strategies, territory control and fortification, the funerary and religious spheres, etc. Lesser attention, considering the available publications, has been put on the analysis of the residential complexes, and this is not due to the lack of archaeological evidence, which is sometimes quite exceptional. Houses of different typologies, scale and

prestige have been excavated and documented in recent years in large, fully urban centres such as *Phoinike* and *Antigonea*, and in minor sites such as Çuka e Ajtoit (*Cestria*). The rural landscape, as well, preserves evidences of small settlements equipped with monumental towers and other fortification elements. These have traditionally been interpreted as fortified farmhouses, underlining their economical function connected to agricultural and pastoral intensive exploitation of the *chora*. Among these stand out the structures preserved at Malathrea, a Hellenistic *tetrapyrgos* enlarged in Roman times and those of Mesopotamos near Ephyra in Thesprotia, erroneously interpreted for

many years as the famous sanctuary of the Nekomanteion. Exceptional architectural models, forged and diffused by the Macedonian dynasty are at the base of many of these residences that seem to integrate 'palatial' shapes and functions.

The workshop aims at offering a discussion table to share new excavation and research results and fostering a fruitful dialog on models, functions, chronologies, transformations and interpretation. It aims at setting the ground for an integrated understanding of the phenomenon of residential architecture in Hellenistic and Roman Epirus.

The workshop can be followed via Zoom.
Registration required: <https://uniroma1.zoom.us/join/register/tZllc-GprzMqG9Yp8hvnGSfvF3KzrVBNeEs4>



zoom

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09:30 - Welcome addresses

Gaetano Lettieri, Director of Dept. SARAS,
Sapienza University of Rome

Anila Bitri Lani, Ambassador of the
Albanian Republic in Rome

Paolo Carafa, Deputy Rector for
Archaeological Heritage, Sapienza
University of Rome

10:00 - 10:20

Enrico Giorgi, Anna Gamberini
La casa dei due peristili a Phoinike.
Un'esempio di una residenza di
rappresentanza di età ellenistica e i suoi
sviluppi in età romana

10:20 - 10:40

Michael Benfatti, Belisa Muka
La casa degli intonaci di Phoinike.
Definizione e sviluppi di modelli
architettonici e decorativi

10:40 - 11:00

Roberto Perna, Sabina Veseli, Samuele
Rocchi
Urban topography and residential
architecture in Antigonea: new
considerations

11:00 - 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 - 11:50

Riccardo Carmenati, Ludovica Xavier de
Silva
New data from the excavation at house 4
of Antigonea

11:50 - 12:10

Julian Bogdani, Albana Meta
New researches in the so-called Palace of
Çuka e Ajtoit

12:10 - 12:30

Björn Forsén
Production and trade of Roman tegulae in
Epirus

12:30 - 13:00 Discussion

13:00 - 15:00 Lunch break

15:00 - 15:20

Gian Michele Gerogiannis
L'edilizia residenziale in Molossia in epoca
ellenistica: stato della conoscenza e
problemi aperti

15:20 - 15:40

Francesco Maria Ferrara
Oikia, baris, basileion: l'architettura
domestica in Macedonia alla luce delle
testimonianze archeologiche e letterarie

15:40 - 16:00

Saimir Shpuza
Illyrian aristocratic practices. An example
from the ongoing archaeological research
at Bushat (Albania).

16:00 - 16:20

Giuseppe Lepore, Belisa Muka
Le cd. case sacre tra Epiro e Sicilia

16:20 - 16:40

Paolo Carafa
Rural and Urban Residential Architecture:
Form Epirus to Latium

16:40 - 17:00 Discussion and conclusions



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