



**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)**

**Sapienza University of Rome**

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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



Missione Archeologica a Çuka e Ajtoit (Albania)  
Sapienza Università di Roma · Istituti  
Arkeologjik i Tiranës



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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zoom

### **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*

### **16:00** - 16:20

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

### **16:20** - 17:00 Discussion and conclusions



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