

The Buildings and the Images of the Imperial Cult



III. Augustus, Pompeii

I Ara pacis

- dynastic ambitions, social policies, religious affinities, military victories

Complex

-mausoleum, ustrinum, sundial and altar

Location

-nearby Via Flaminia – Augustus took it on his return to Rome from Spain and Gaul after the pacification

Date

4th July 13BC - foundation stone

30th January , 9 BC – dedication - on Livia's birthday – Augustus (peace to the empire), Livia (the foundation of the imperial family and its Concordia)



Obelisk – Egyptian – victory monument over Egypt, Cleopatra and Marcus Antonius – victory over eastern provinces

Altar- victory over western provinces (Hispania, Gallia) - the peace brought to the entire Roman world

Ustrinum and mausoleum – Augustus' triumph over death

Res Gestae:

“On my return from Spain and Gaul, after successfully restoring law and order to these provinces, the Senate decided under the consulship of Tiberius Nero and Publius Quintilius to consecrate the Ara Pacis Augustae on the Campus Martius in honor of my return, at which officials, priests and Vestal Virgins should offer an annual sacrifice.”

Decoration

Altar (interior):

- frieze of animals led to a sacrifice (the annual sacrifice to Pax)
- figures distinguished by their costumes but not individual features
- framed by majestic, horned-winged lions and a series of acanthus tendrils



- wooden fence and garlands hanging from wooden posts, garlands laced with fruits, *paterae* and *bucrania*



exterior:

- floral panels with animals - acanthus leaves, vines,...
- swans (sacred birds of Apollo), frogs, birds, snakes...
- peace leads to growth and rebirth



Processions (or two parts of the same procession??)

- its obvious model in Parthenon procession

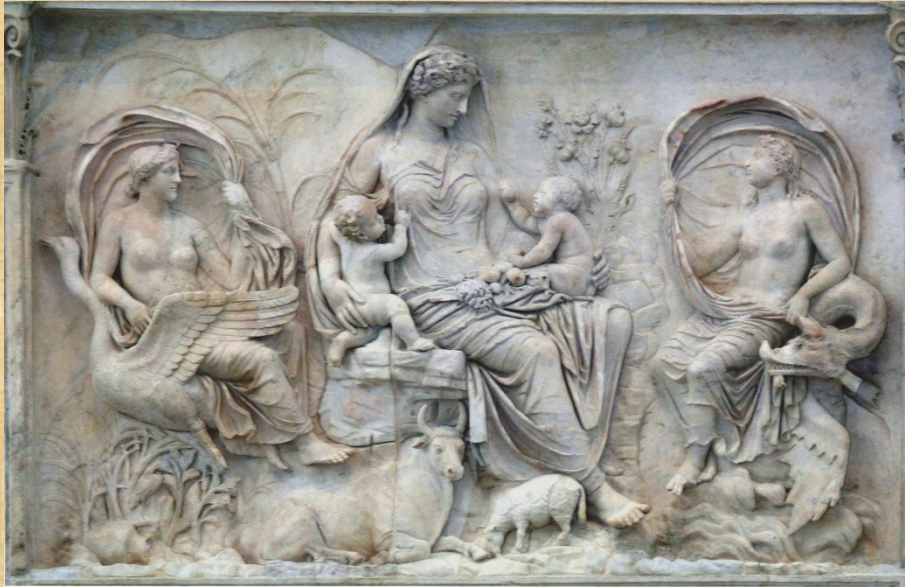
north frieze – faces reworked in renaissance – senators and dignitaries, followed by families, prominent – Julia and Octavia



south frieze – left to right – Augustus (holding a lituus – associated with the chief state gods Jupiter and Apollo), lictors, members of the imperial family – Marcus Agrippa, Livia, two sons - Drusus and Tiberius, Drusus's wife Antonia the Younger (niece), their son Germanicus, Antonia the Elder (niece), Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus, their son and daughter
– inclusion of children – dynastic policy – social policy, law reforms – marriage and raising children
– Pax (missing)- in front of Augustus (?)



legendary panels



Tellus or Italia

two babies, personifications of breezes and sea

animals, flowers, fruit, symbols of fertility and growth

the message – peace brings prosperity and time for planting and harvesting and the security to raise children and plan for the future.



Roma

- originally flanked by Honos and Virtus
- in Amazonian costume – welcome to a victorious emperor



Aeneas making a sacrifice to the penates or household gods

- founder of the Julian family – divine descent from Venus through Aeneas
- Augustus return from Spain is the parallel to Aeneas' arrival in Italy
- Aeneas accompanied with Julus Ascanius – Julian family received the name.



Mars with Romulus and Remus – badly damaged

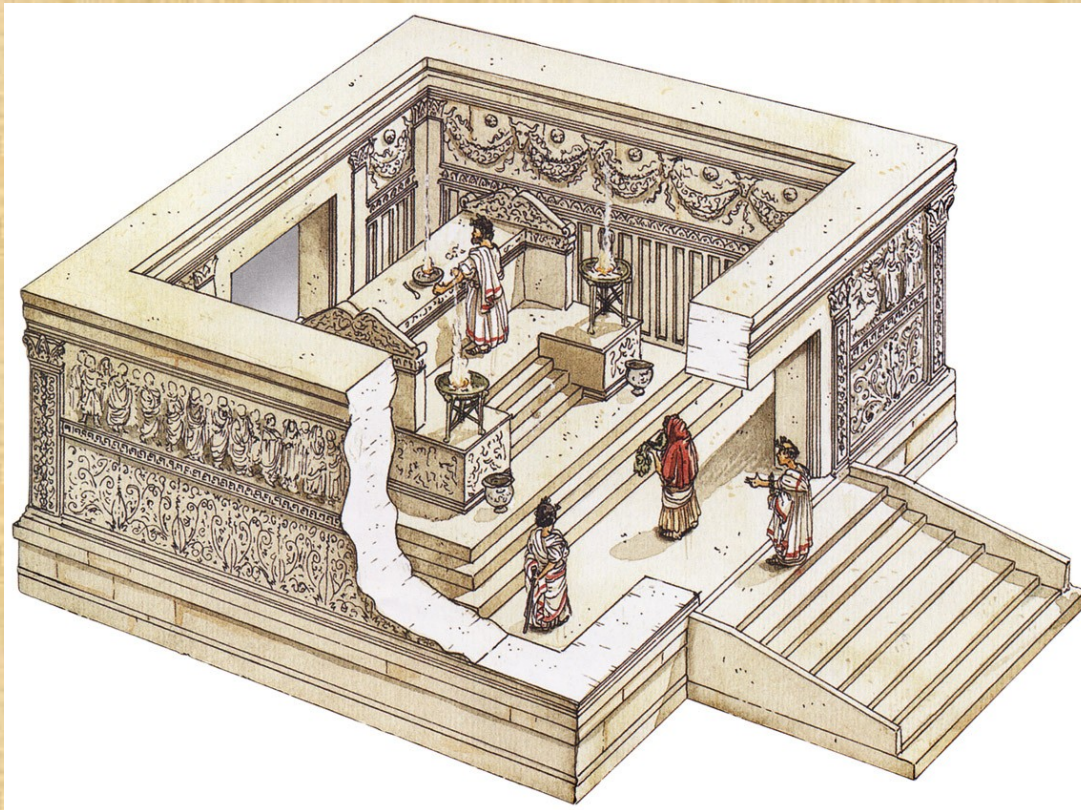
Mars symbolizes the war by which Augustus brought peace to Rome

Mars – father of Romulus and so of the Roman people

meaning

- the peace brought by Augustus to Rome and the empire through diplomatic efforts in provinces
- opportunity to consolidate family and to raise children – children will ensure the continuity of the Julian dynasty and preserve Augustan peace
- divine ancestry – Venus

The association of the name of Augustus with peace, the rebirth of Italy and the earth under the universal dominion of Rome (Roma, Tellus), the city whose origin is associated with the offspring of Aeneas (Aeneas, Mars)



II The forum of Augustus

- ideological manifesto summing the foundation myths, the mythic history of Rome, the summi viri, divine lineage – everything points to Augustus' imperium maximum

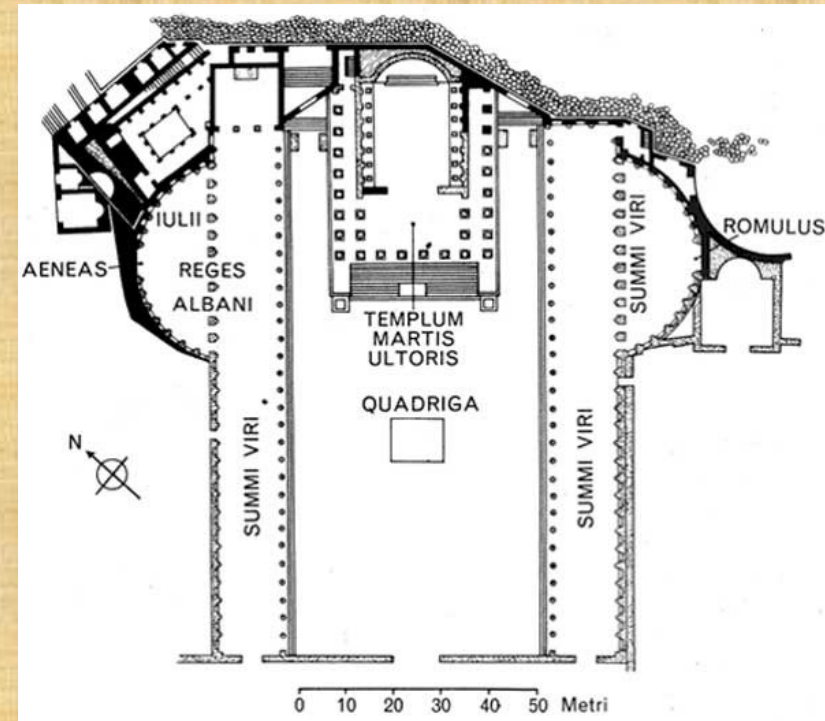
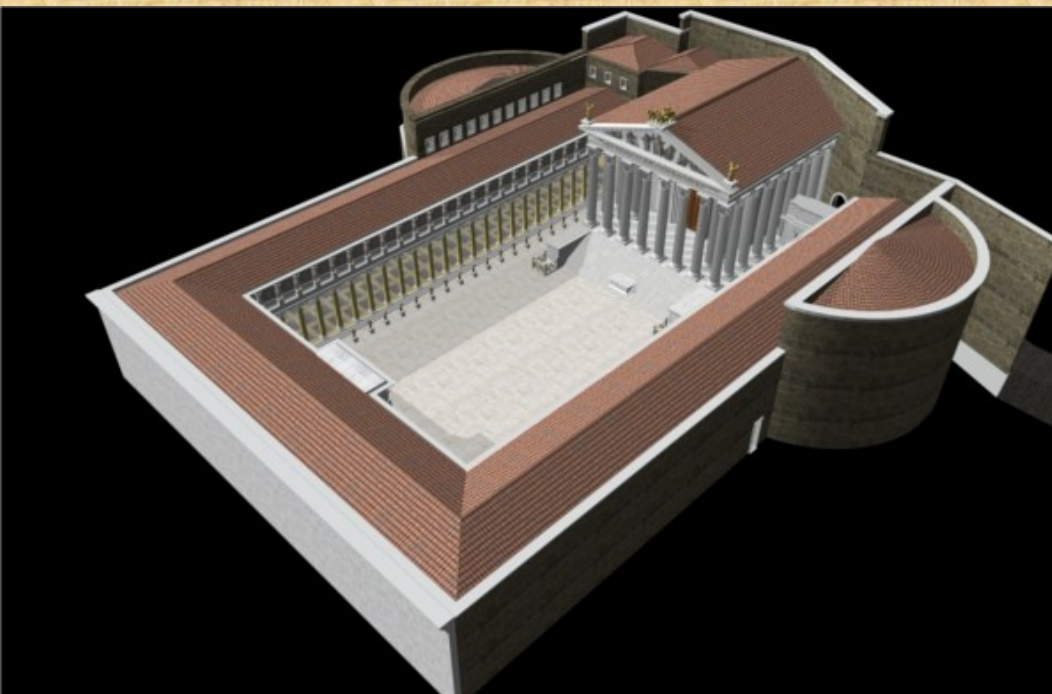
Location: next to the Caesar's forum

Date: building started after Actium, finished 2BC, decision made before Philippi

Material and dimensions: Luna marble (Carrara – western coast of Italy), 125x118m, rectangular

- surrounded by a precinct wall, about 35 metres height – protection from fire and tenements

- two long porticoes, the temple of Mars Ultor (the east end), two exedrae, the forum, the Hall of the colossus



The porticoes

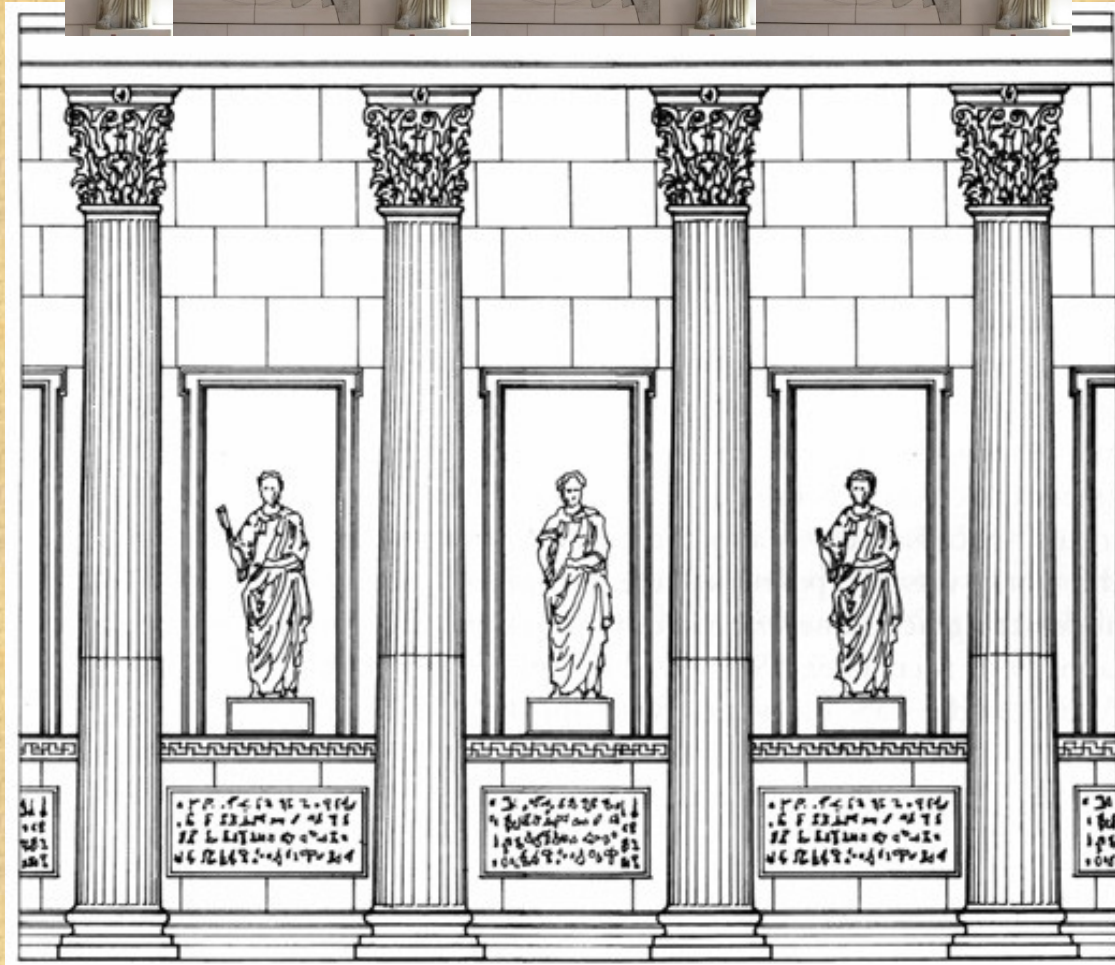
– two stories, the first - Corinthian columns, the second decorated - caryatids that flank shields ornamented with heads of divinities

-in display: real weapons (Res Gestae), shields (imagines clipeatae – Jupiter Ammon, Galatians), dozens of statues (over-lifesize – mythological and historical Romans, great man of the Republic, Augustus' ancestors)

- caryatids – copies of the ones on the Erechtheion (Augustan golden age = Periclean Athens)

- round shields – victory of Alexander the Great (hung shields in Parthenon)





Exedrae

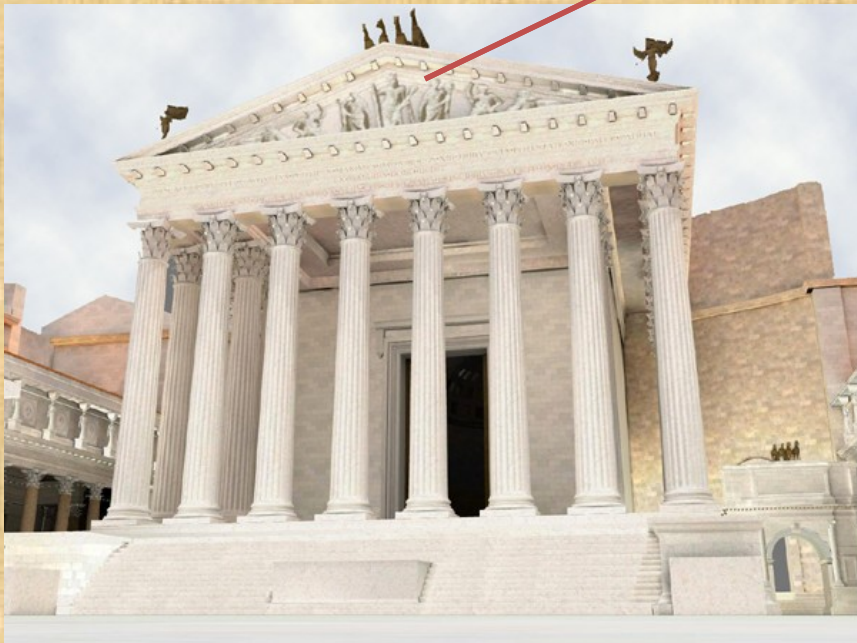
- left exedra: Aeneas flying from Troy, with his father Anchises and son Iulus
- right exedra: Romulus – founder of Rome with *spolia optima*

We know about these groups from copies and paintings (wall of a house at Pompeii)



The temple

- etruscan-roman type, closed back wall, high podium, staircase on one side, deep porch, octastyle, constructed or faced with marble, corinthian capitals (or their variations)
- pediment: center a heroically semidraped Mars Ultor, to the left – Venus, her left shoulder small Eros, seated Romulus, on the right – Fortuna, seated Roma, corners - personifications of the Palatine hill and the Tiber River
- representation in miniature from the Claudian “*Ara pietatis augustae*” – pediment filled with marble statuary



Inside the temple

– a statuary group of Mars, Venus and Divus Julius – not preserved

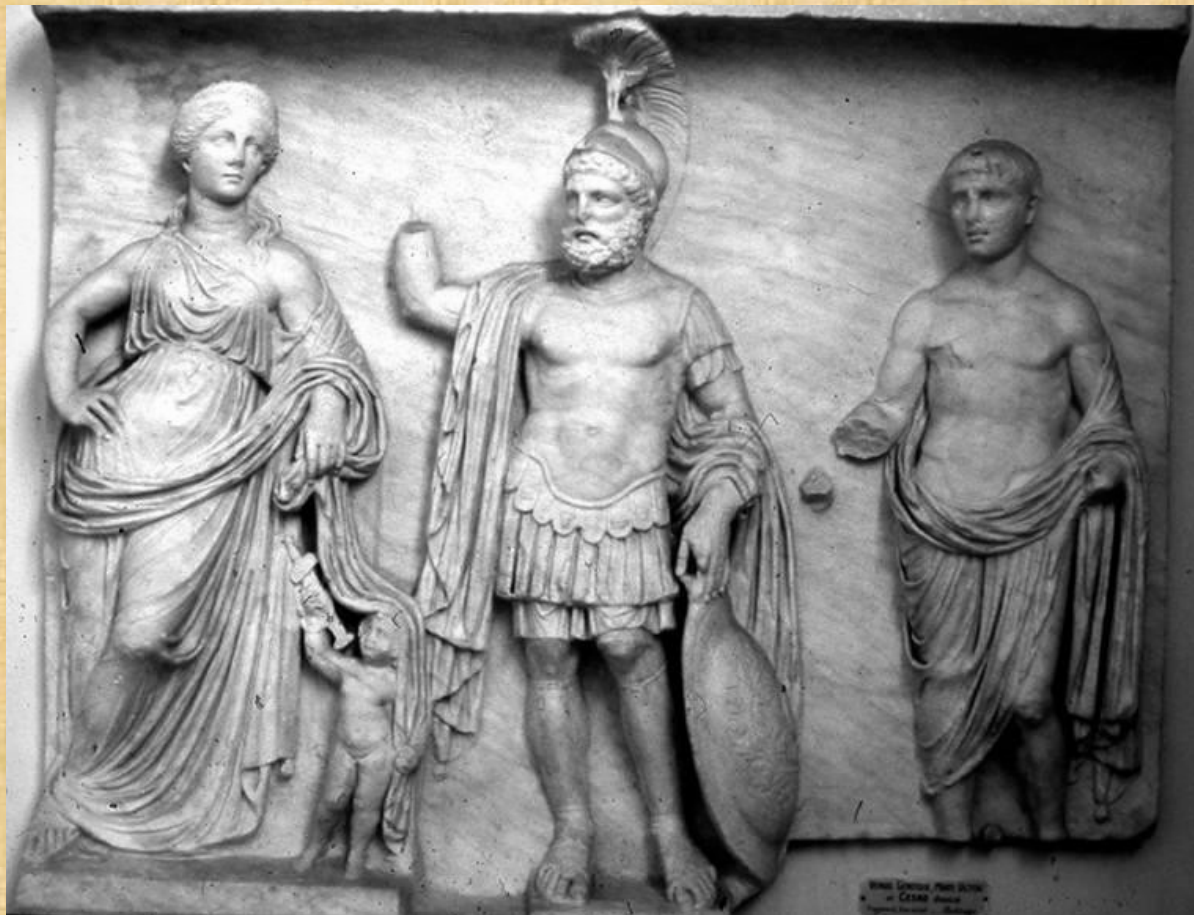
-representation: Algier Relief - marble bases in the relief suggest they are statues

a) *Mars* - fully armed, bearded, helmet, shield, cuirass, spear

b) *Venus* - leans on a column

c) *Eros* - resemblance of the Prima Porta statue

d) a young man with bare chest and Augustan cap of hair – Julius Caesar

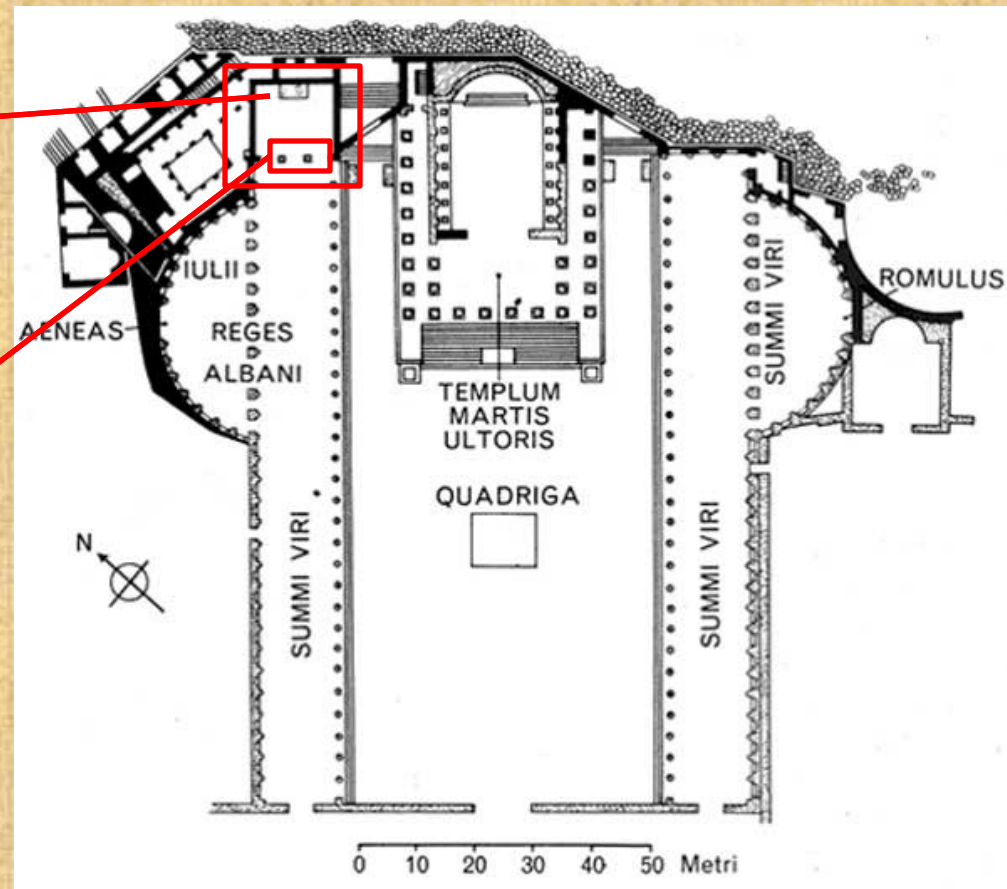


Hall of the Colossus

Location: at the east end of the north portico, divided from the portico by two columns, originally lighted by a clerestory above the roof of the colonnade

Dimensions: room – 12 x 13 m, podium – 1.22 x 1.40 x 2.80m

- pavement – checkerboard pattern of rectangular *giallo antico* and *pavonazzetto* slabs with a *cipollino* border
- Back of the room – *pavonazzetto*-clad base that supported the colossus



North and south sides of the room – Corinthian pilasters with *pavonazzetto* shafts
the north bays – two tiers of famous greek figural paintings (attributed to Apelles), marble slabs
to the height of about 11 metres (as height as the statue)

The wall at the back of hall - faced with rectangular Luna marble slabs (up to the height of the
statue at least) that were slightly rounded (different width of the slabs), to resemble draped
fabric, a sort of backdrop, which was painted with decorative plant motifs, some of them
painted in gold on a Egyptian blue.

Base - upper surface – pavonazzetto marble slabs, show a negative print of the feet of a lost
statue,

Left side of the podium – traces of holes – maybe a tripod
Holes all around the podium – maybe transennae



Statue

material: white Greek marble from Paros (similar to the Prima Porta statue)

size: about 11 metres, left foot 177 cm, right foot 166 cm long

description: weight of the figure was resting on the left foot (positioned in front of the right), the right almost touching the wall behind, the right hand clasping a symbolic circular object, the left one holding a tool for sacrifice

technique: the torso made of wood or iron, concealed by drapery or gilding, marble feet, head and hands exposed, marble parts are extraordinarily life-like – veins delicately and realistically curved

fragments:

a) right hand with the first phalange of the index finger

b) a part of a right forearm

c) the extended back of the left hand



a



b



c

Statue identification

- Genius Augusti – in toga, *velato capite*
- possible attributes:
 - *patera* – compital altar of the *Vicus Sandalarius*
 - *patera* and *lituus*
 - *cornucopia* and *patera*
 - *acerra*

the choice of such statuary type:

- a) continuity with the image of Divus Julius (coins from 36 BC)
- b) stress on the pietas of Augustus
- c) affinity with the familiar image of the *genius* of the *paterfamilias*

The hall is a cult space in the Forum Augusti, containing a statue not of Augustus himself, but of his *Genius* – the location links Augustus with ancestors - mythological and divine.



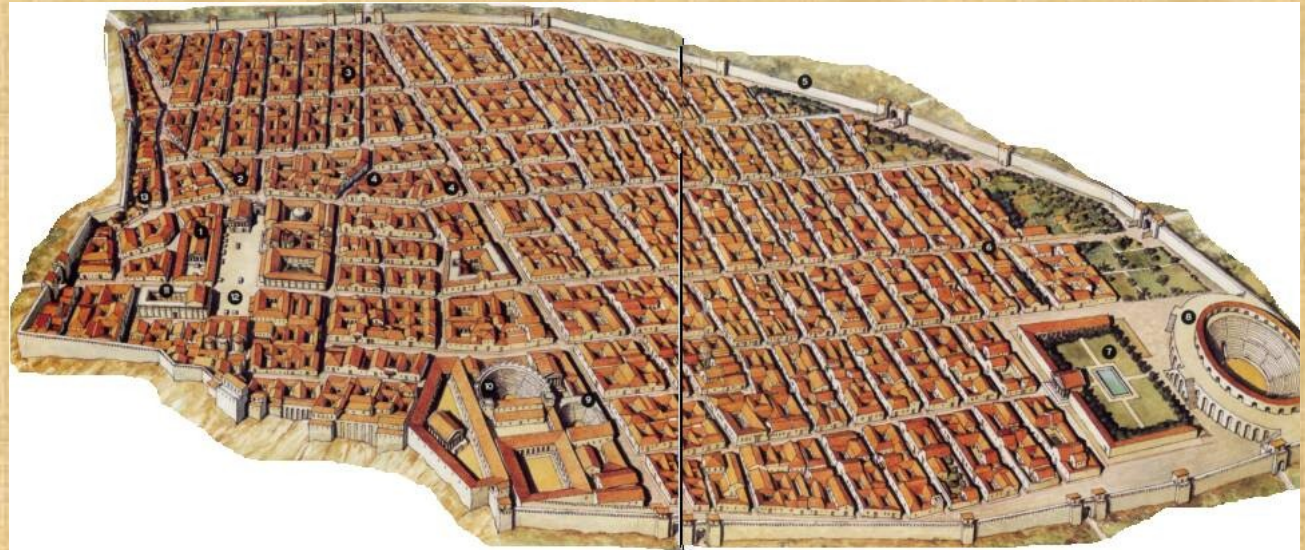
III Pompeii – The Forum

- the principate of Augustus until 79 AD – the forum of Pompeii communicated with Rome by displaying social, political and religious connections as well as architectural allusions to the Imperial family
- Pompeii and Imperial family – building projects – east side of the forum
- local elites – dedicated buildings to glorify and define themselves – local parallels to the members of the Imperial family
- after earthquake – 62 AD – rebuilding – standardized the Imperial presence emphasizing dynasty and creating visual continuity

From elite patronage to direct imperial control over a unified space

3 phases of the Forum:

- Early: 6th century BC - Augustus
- Augustan and early imperial
- Late: 62 AD to 79 AD



Augustan period and the earthquake:

During Augustus' reign – emperor worship widespread throughout Italy and the provinces, citizens sacrificed and dedicated temples to the living emperor

The peace, safety and economical development of the first half of Augustus' reign – return to the faith in the ancient gods and the rebirth of the ancient *mores* (behaviors) and *virtutes* (values)

Roman cities – the beginning of the empire – *domi nobiles* (notable families) – devoted the vast majority of the sanctuaries sponsored by themselves to an indirect form of the imperial cult – superhuman qualities and the divine power of the *princeps*

Prominent citizens – roles for the administration of the imperial cult, no dictated practices – *flamen* and *sacerdos* leaders of the cult giving it the look

Patrons and patronesses – rebuilding and building

Domi nobiles – in the buildings for the imperial cult a new self-representation

e.g. Marcus Holconius Rufus

- *sacerdos* and *flamen*
- restoration of the theatre, addition of marble facing, tribunal, *scaenae frons* – from Hellenistic to Roman Theatre
- similar to Augustus in Rome – city of wood to city of marble
- 1 BC – 14 AD – inscription emphasizing the emperor's title as *pater patriae* and himself as *patronus coloniae* – a position analog to Augustus



Topography:

Northern side – the temple and two arches

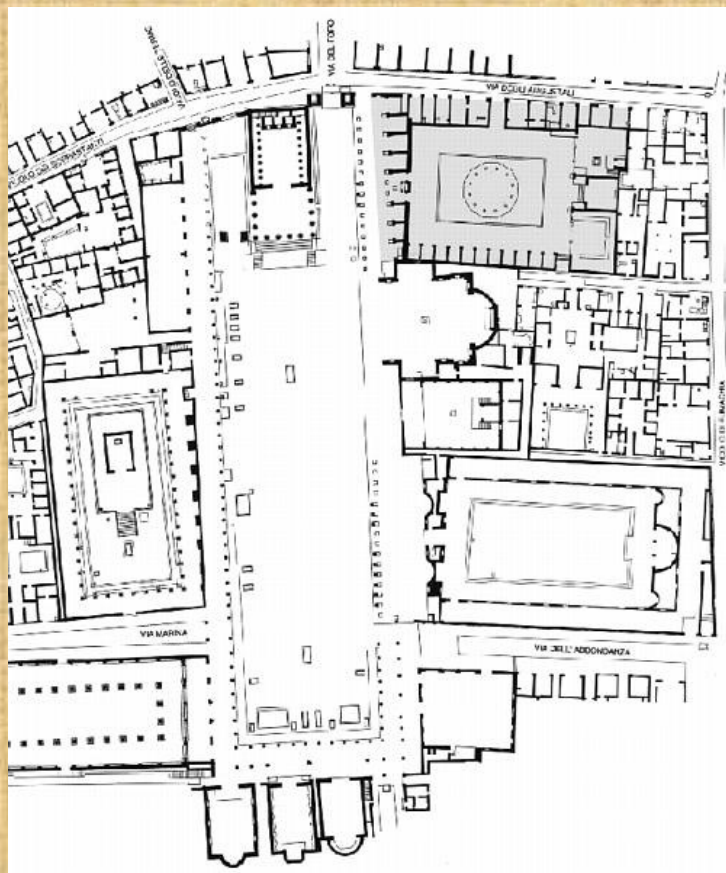
The temple of Jupiter – etrusco-italic style – high podium, hexastyle Corinthian, deep pronaos, interior – ionic colonnade, 3 vaulted chambers, Capitoline cult

Approach – two narrow staircases flank rostrum, altar in the middle, equestrian statues

It was damaged during the earthquake, never fully restored, the cult statue probably stored elsewhere

Western side

- noticeable smaller bases – the notables of the city
- the Sanctuary of Apollo is one of the oldest cult places in Pompeii, from the 6th century BC, the north of it
- market building – symmetry to the Macellum



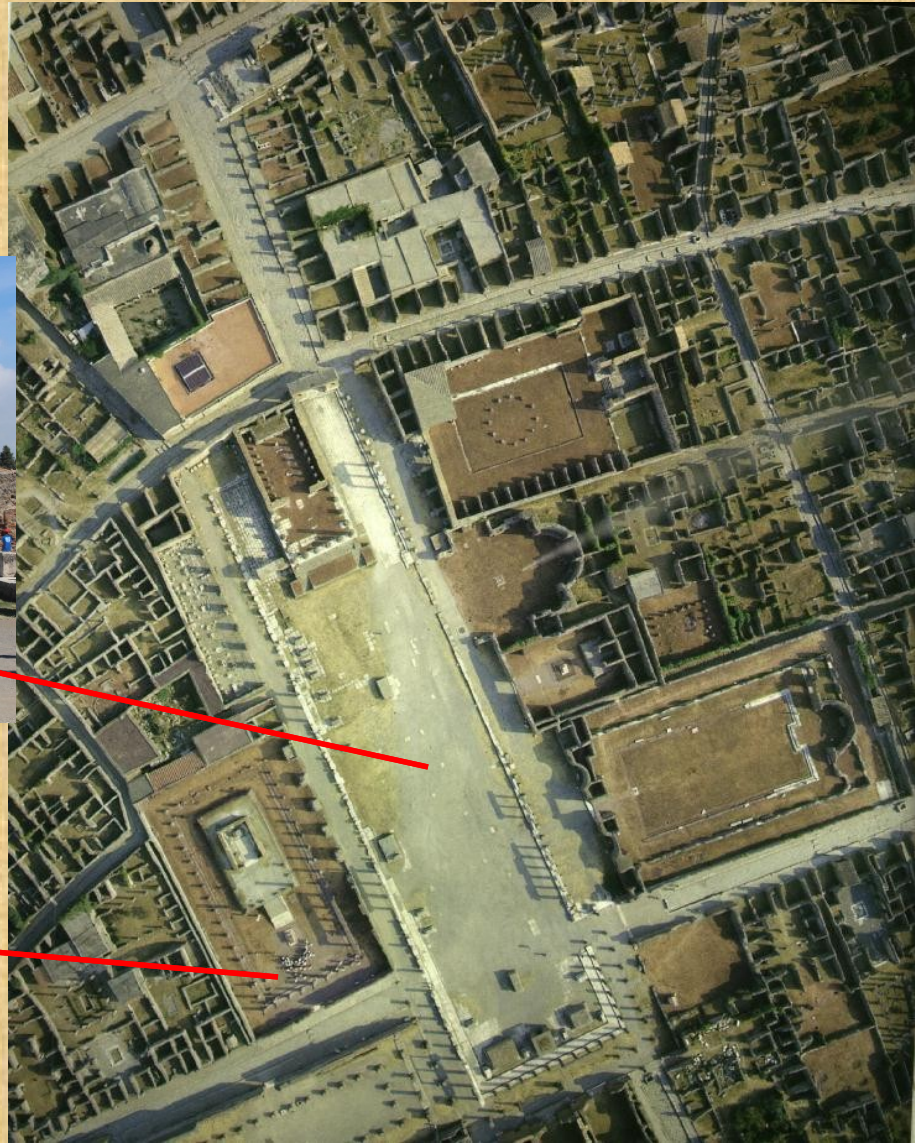
Eastern side and the centre

- Macellum
- Lararium (Lares Publici)
- The Temple of Vespasian
- The building of Eumachia

The centre

- base of an altar (didn't belong to the temple – had one), possibly – to the imperial cult

South side – in the middle arched monument, which might have supported a bronze quadriga, square bases, in the axis – equestrian statue – represented members of the imperial family



The Eumachia building

-wealth of architectural, sculptural and epigraphic evidence

Date: the reign of Tiberius or Augustus (late Augustan)

Size: 67 x 40 m, travertine

Function: market for wool or clothing in general, luxury goods, slave market – multipurpose building

Patron: Eumachia (public priest), daughter of Lucius Eumachius, with her son Marcus Nemistrius Fronto

- dedicated the structure to display prominence while honoring Imperial Rome

- at her own expenses, with her son – building

consecrated to the Augustan Concord and Piety

- structural resemblance to the *Porticus of Livia* – double porticoes, rectangular, dedicated with son

(Tiberius) – local counterpart to Livia



Inscription on the frieze, above the columns

3 parts:

Chalcidium – between forum and colonnade (A)

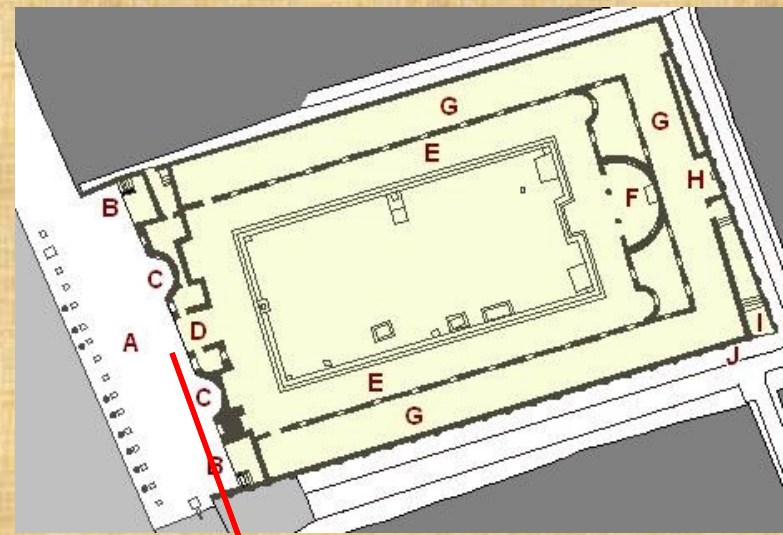
Porticus – interior colonnade (E)

Crypta – covered corridor behind the interior colonnade (G)

Chalcidium

- articulated façade to the forum
- curved (C) and rectangular exedrae (B) (the latter with podia with stairs – auctions or speeches) and sculptural niches – flank the main portal
- long series of bases for statues – gallery of honorary statues
- entrance (D) – acanthus scrolls - similar to Ara Pacis
on the right – porter's lodge – 3rd style wall painting
on the left – service passage to the Sanctuary of Augustus

Statues: Aeneas and Romulus (similar to Augustus Forum) – Augustan program or Pompeian analogy of local *summi viri*



The Temple of Vespasian

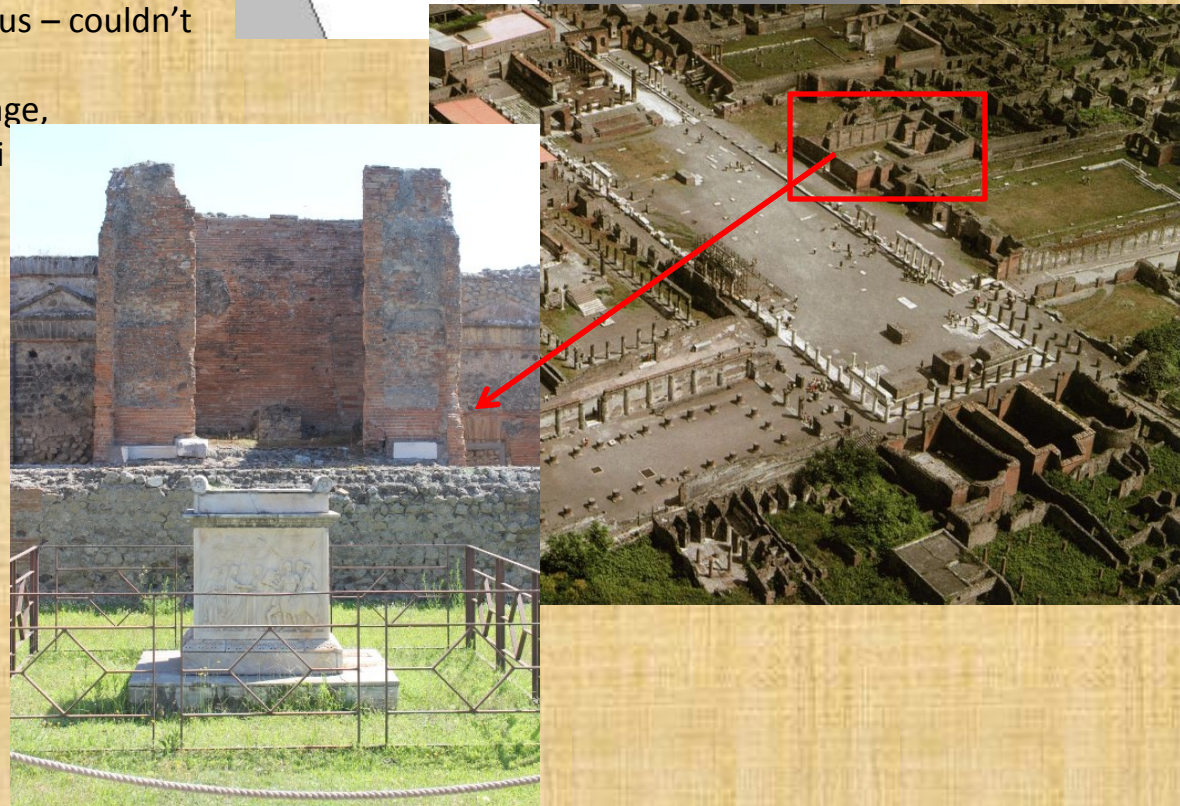
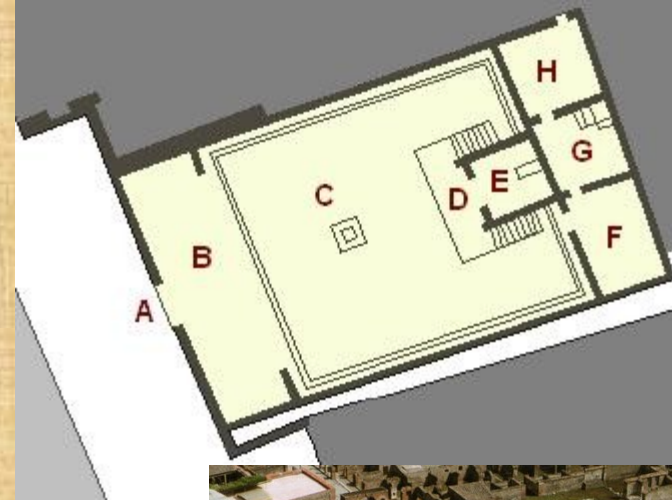
The Sanctuary of Augustus

Problem with datation: generally known as the temple of Vespasian, but

- a) court (B) – inscription (unidentified few years ago) – dedicated by Mamia (Priestess Mamia – lived at the age of Augustus – couldn't dedicate to Vespasian)
- b) fits to the model of elite patronage, dedicated to the Genius of Pompeii Augustus
- c) technical analysis of the building techniques and materials – Augustan date

Temple (D,E) – two lateral staircases – similar to the *Venus Genetrix* and *Divus Iulius* (unusual feature), remains of the base for a cult statue in the back of *cella*

The sacred space defined by an precinct wall, an ample entrance (A), inside a covered (?) vestibule (B), the main space – open court (C) and temple against the rear wall (D,E), an altar in front of the temple, east of the court, 3 service rooms (F, G, H)



Marble altar

Main panel – Augustan period – hooded figure sacrificing a bull at an altar (Augustus, flamen Augusti – Marcus Holconius Rufus – presence of the sun – takes place in summer temporary movable tripod altar, imply the ceremony – dedication of the temple – before the present altar probably on the imperial anniversary (August 1st – conquest of Alexandria, 23rd September – birthday)

Two smaller panels – sacrificial imagery – *acerra*, *lituus*, *patera*, *oinochoes*, *crops sacrificies*

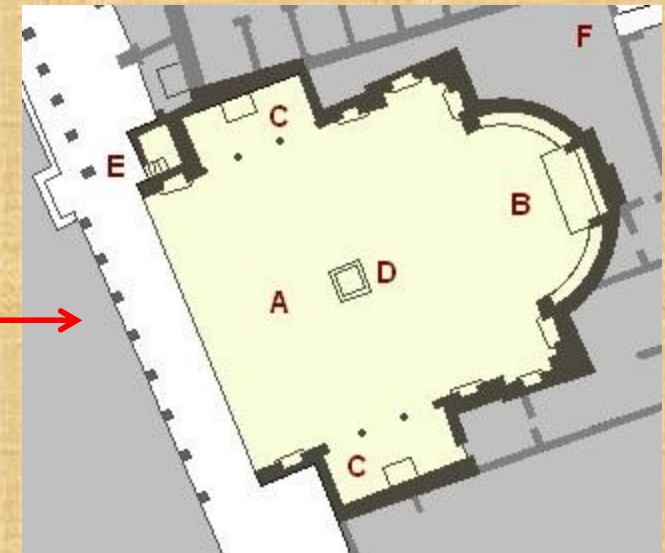
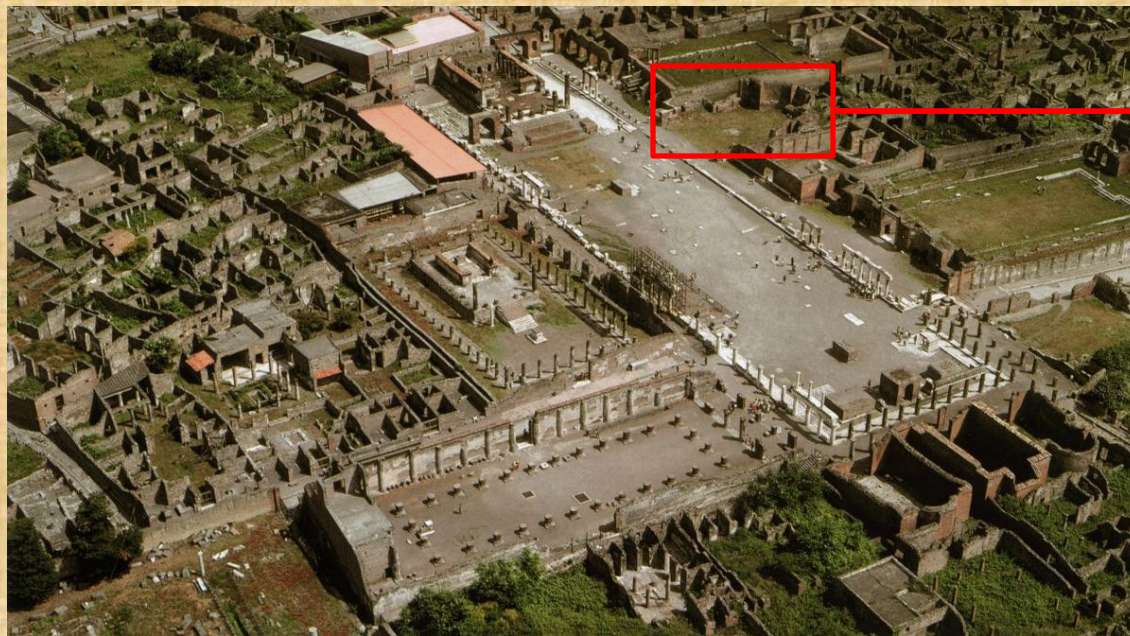
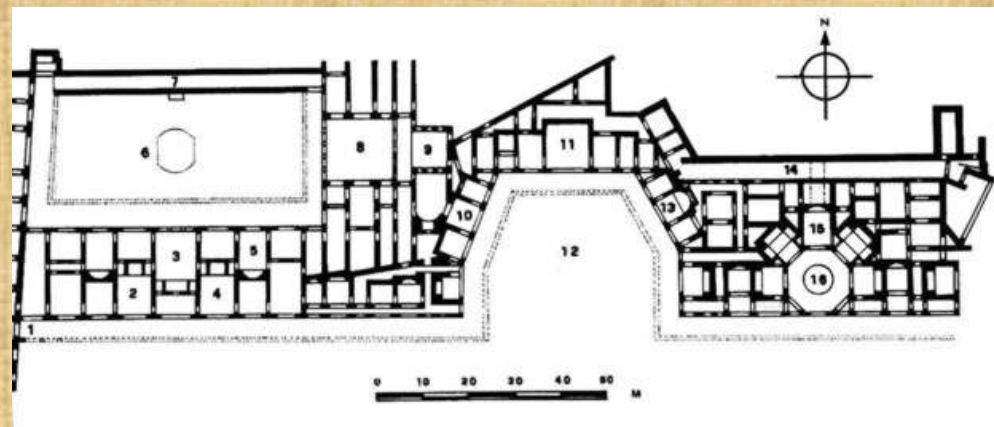
The back panel - laurel trees, *corona civica* – Augustus' attributes



Lararium

The sanctuary of *Lares Publici*

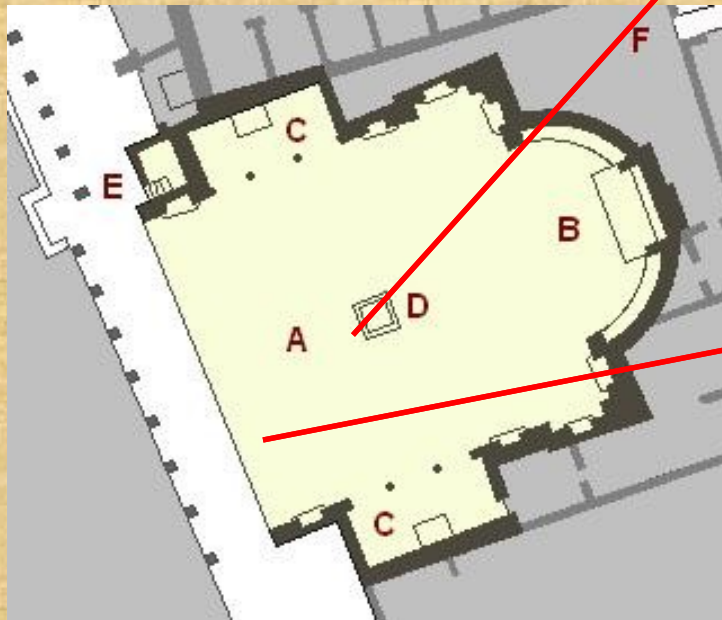
- probably later than Augustan Era but earlier than the earthquake 62 AD
- marble pavement still in situ
- discussions – roofed or not?
- statues depicting members of the Imperial family
- altar in the middle (D) – sacrifices to *Lares* of the city and the Imperial house
- the architectural design begins with Nero's *Domus Aurea*



- one large apse (B) -
accommodated at least 9 statues
probably set between columns

- two large lateral *exedrae* (C)
(each *exedra* – base for a statue
and footings of two columns
which screened its entrance)

- integral part (A) – eight large
columns – forum colonnade and
façade colonnades



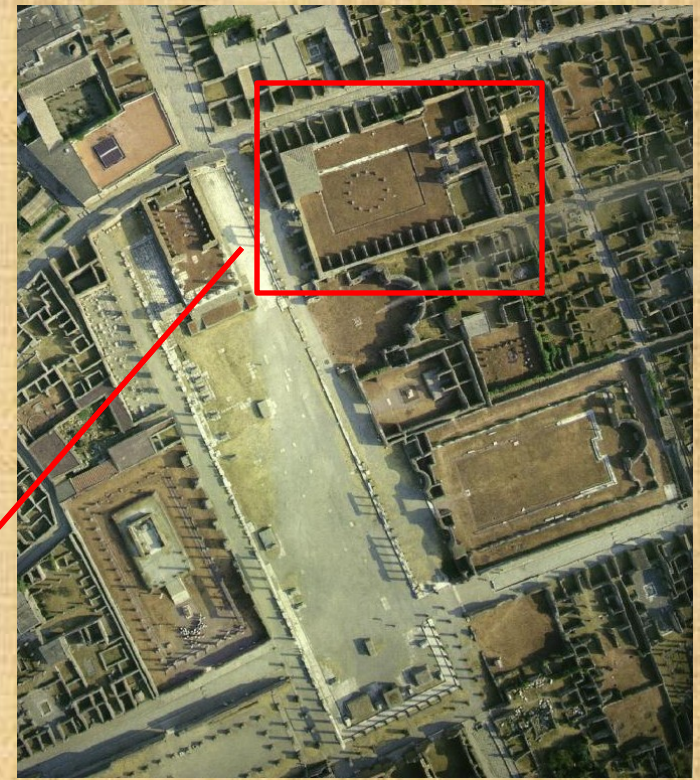
Macellum

Date: 30s or 40s AD - later than The Sanctuary of Augustus and The Building of Eumachia

Function: traditionally identified as a market place, but recently – change – a multicultural place

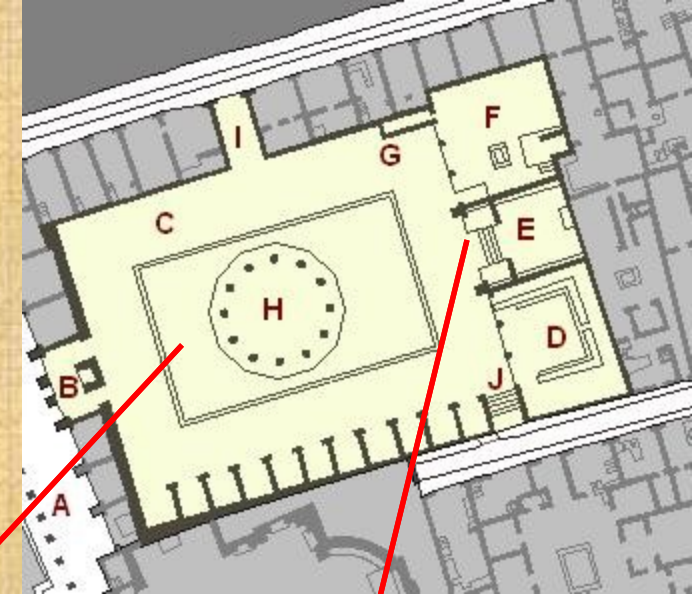
Problem: is market a right place for the imperial cult?

- formerly - markets dedicated to *Mercurius* (the god of trading), in the market – the emperor (*deus praesens*) providing order in economic transaction
- demonstrated a connection to Imperial Rome,



Monumental entrance – statue bases, an *aedicula* (a temple-like statue niche) flanked by shops and/or offices leads to once colonnaded interior

- colonnaded entrance (A) in front of the entrance (B) - *aedicula* - a statue niche, I and J - other entrances
- internal colonnade surrounding the main court (C)
- shrine (E) - base for the main statue, 2 niches in each side wall
 - 2 statues excavated in the southern wall - identity in doubt - members of the imperial family,
 - fragment of a statue - larger than a life-size - a left hand clutching a globe, a statue of an emperor - on the base



- two large rooms:
 - D - shop selling meat and fish (counter along three sides of the room)
 - F - room for sacrificial banquets - low altar
- southern side - shops
- in the center - a pavilion supported by 12 bases (H), fish were sold here
- northern space - religious (meetings of a cultic corporation) and feasts



The temple of Fortuna Augusta

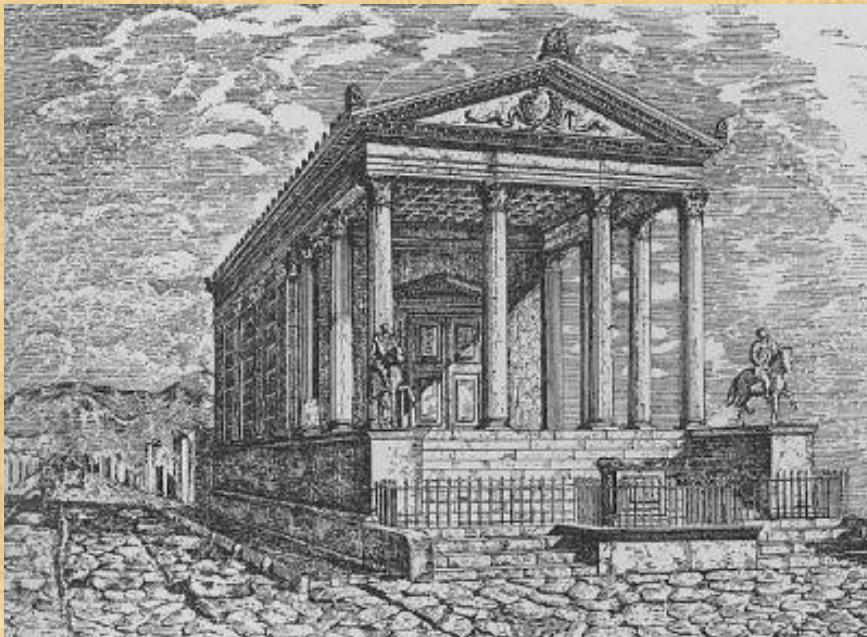
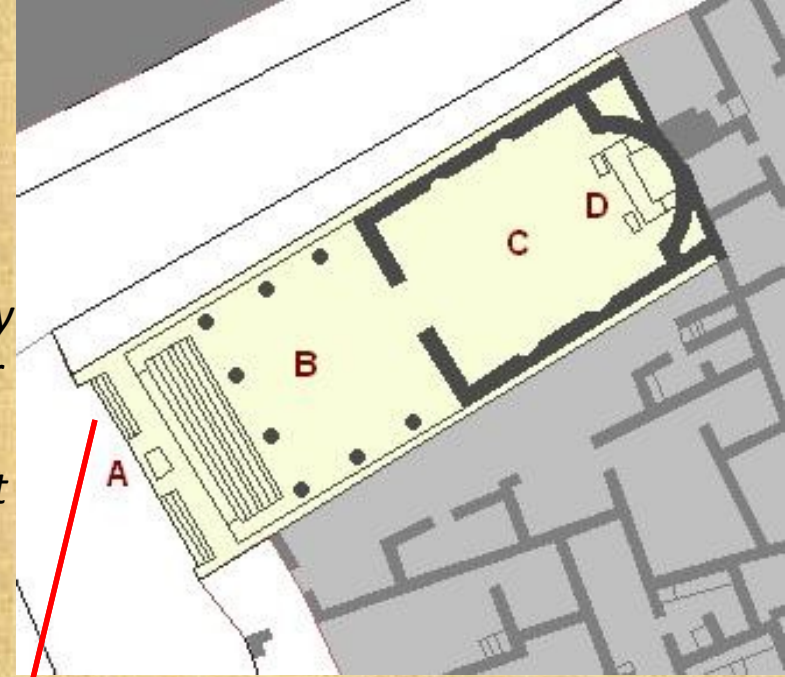
Dedicated to the emperor's worship

Sponsor: Marcus Tullius, M. fillius,

"Marcus Tullius the son of Marcus, duumvir with judiciary authority for the third time, quinquennial duumvir, augur and military tribune by the choice of the people, erected this temple to Fortuna Augusta on his own ground and at his own expense."

Location: north of the forum

Material: travertine, covered with marble



Augustus' successful return from east and west – altars and temples dedicated to Fortuna Redux

Unclear why not in the forum:

- a) not a place
- b) too much?
- c) Other buildings already conceived

- sponsor and the architect – aware of the trends in Rome

Podium and altar (A) – model of early Augustan temples in Rome, cella (C, D) (alongside niches for statues of the sponsor, his family, members of the imperial family)

- the emperor here only *synnaos* (who shares the *cella*) – thus private sponsor became *synnaoi* of the emperor

