

**BATHING CULTURE AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF URBAN SPACE:
CASE STUDY POMPEII
TOPOI C-6-8
REPORT OF THE THIRD SEASON, MARCH 2016**

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Fig 1: March 2016 Excavation Team from the Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Oxford (Photo M. Trümper, © TOPOI / FU)

In March 2016, research was carried out in the Stabian Baths (VII 1,8) in order to investigate the hypothesized development of the entire lot in 7 phases, including an Archaic fortification wall with

ditch around the “Altstadt” (6th c BC) and several other Archaic features (street, tomb etc.), and the existence of a Greek-type balaneion with palaestra from the 5th c BC onwards that was gradually developed into a Roman-type bath building; the latter believed partially to have coexisted with an atrium-peristyle house, as outlined in previous scholarship (unpublished research by H. Sulze in 1940/41; monographs by H. Eschebach 1970, 1979). The reassessment of the developmental history of the building is based both on stratigraphic excavation and an intensive architectural survey that reassessed the typology and relationship of walls, as well as analyzing the typology and chronology of pavements and stucco decorations.

The following areas were excavated:

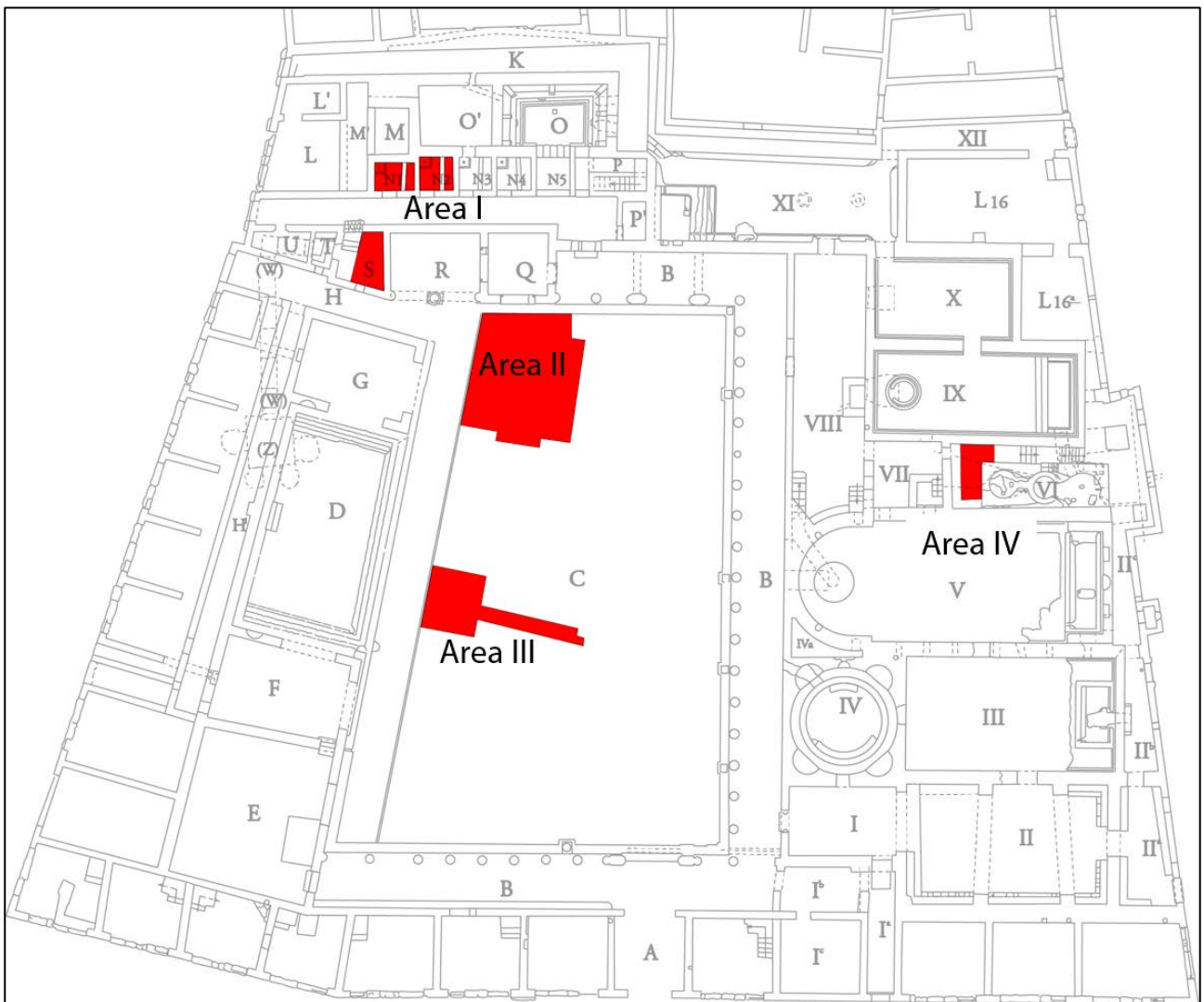


Fig 2: Areas excavated in the March 2016 season (© TOPOI / FU)

1. Rooms N1 and N2, the presumed cells with bathtubs of the Greek balaneion: reexcavation of N1 and complete new excavation of N2 did not yield any evidence of bathtubs; the entire complex of cells was only built in the 2nd c BC, most likely together with the eastern section of the Stabian Baths.



Fig 3: Room N1 after Excavation (Photo C. Rummel, © TOPOI / FU)



Fig 4: Room N2 after Excavation (Photo C. Rummel, © TOPOI / FU)

2. Room S: the existence of a lithostroton pavement that belonged to a room of the atrium-peristyle house could be confirmed, but there is no evidence for earlier, presumably Archaic levels or structures.
3. Praefurnium VI: since no precise date had ever been proposed for the complex with 3 cauldrons, a trench was dug along its NW-corner; so far, no original levels have been reached although no previous soundings are known for this area.



Fig 5: Excavation Area II in the NW corner of the palaestra (SFM model by A. Hoer, © TOPOI / FU)

4. Palaestra: two trenches in the NW-corner (8 m x 6.2 m) (**Fig. 5**) and in the western central part (c. 10 m x 4.5 m) (**Fig. 6**) revealed no traces of an Archaic fortification or ditch; walls and pavements of the atrium-peristyle-house, structures pertaining to the palaestra, and a large drainage channel that had already been explored by Maiuri further north, were identified. The precise chronological sequence of these features remains to be determined.



Fig 6: Excavation Area III in the W half of the palaestra (SFM model by A. Hoer, © TOPOI/FU)

The combination of architectural survey and excavation showed that the developmental model proposed by Eschebach requires significant revision. No coherent building can be reconstructed before the 2nd c BC when the bath building and the atrium-peristyle house were built. The bath building saw at least three major remodeling phases (shortly after 80 BC and twice in the 1st c AD).