

Roman baths of Forum Traiani

Patrimonio culturale
SARDEGNA Virtual Archaeology



■ The *tepidarium*

The path visitors took in the Baths went through three main areas, present in all Baths buildings: *frigidarium*, *calidarium*, *tepidarium* (fig.1).

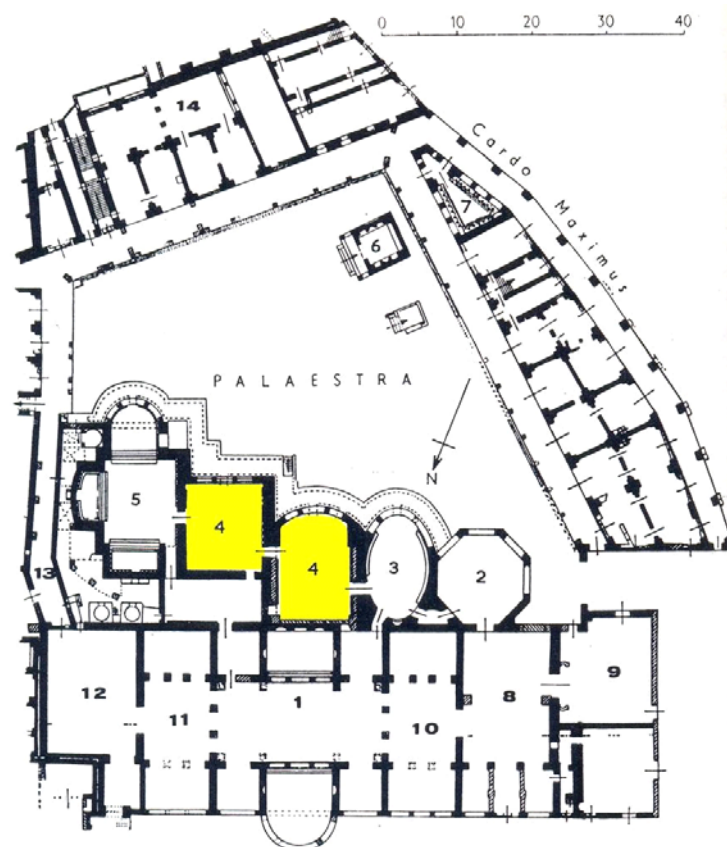


Fig. 1 - Ostia, Baths of the Forum (II cent. A.D.). In yellow the *tepidaria* (from Pavolini 1983, p. 106).

The *tepidarium* was a room, usually not big, which formed the passage from the heated ones (*calidarium* or *laconicum*) to the cold ones (*frigidarium*) and vice versa (fig. 2).

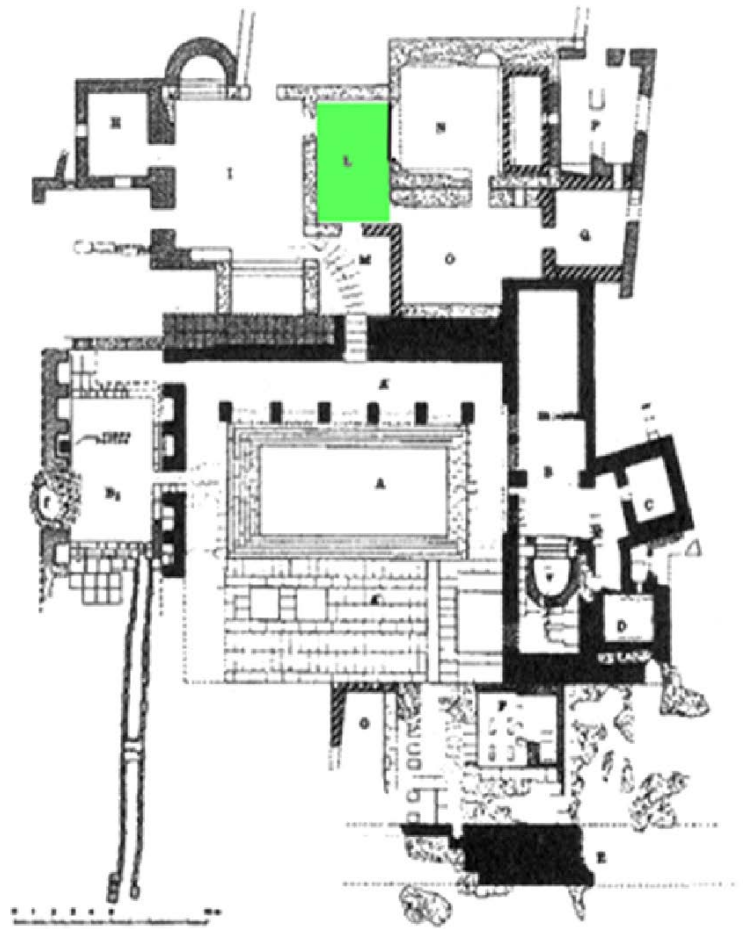


Fig. 2 - In green the *tepidarium* of Baths II (from Bacco, Serra 1998, reprocessed by C. Tronchetti).

You can see why the heat does not come directly through the *praefurnia*, but only with hot air running under the floor or in the cavity between the walls. In that way they kept the temperature under control. The *tepidarium* of the Baths of Fordongianus is in a bad state of repair (figs. 3-4) and we can only realise the function held because of its position on the route.



Fig. 3 - Passage from *tepidarium* to *calidarium* (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).



Fig. 4 - Wall of the *tepidarium* with evident signs of the bad erosion that has bared the wall's inner structure (photo by Unicity S.p.A.).

■ Credits

Deepening card edited by Dr. Carlo Tronchetti

■ Bibliography

G. BACCO, P. B. SERRA, *Forum Traiani: il contesto termale e l'indagine di scavo*, in *L'Africa Romana* XII, Sassari 1998, pp. 1213-1255.

C. PAVOLINI, *Ostia*, Roma-Bari 1983





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