

CASA ROMANA

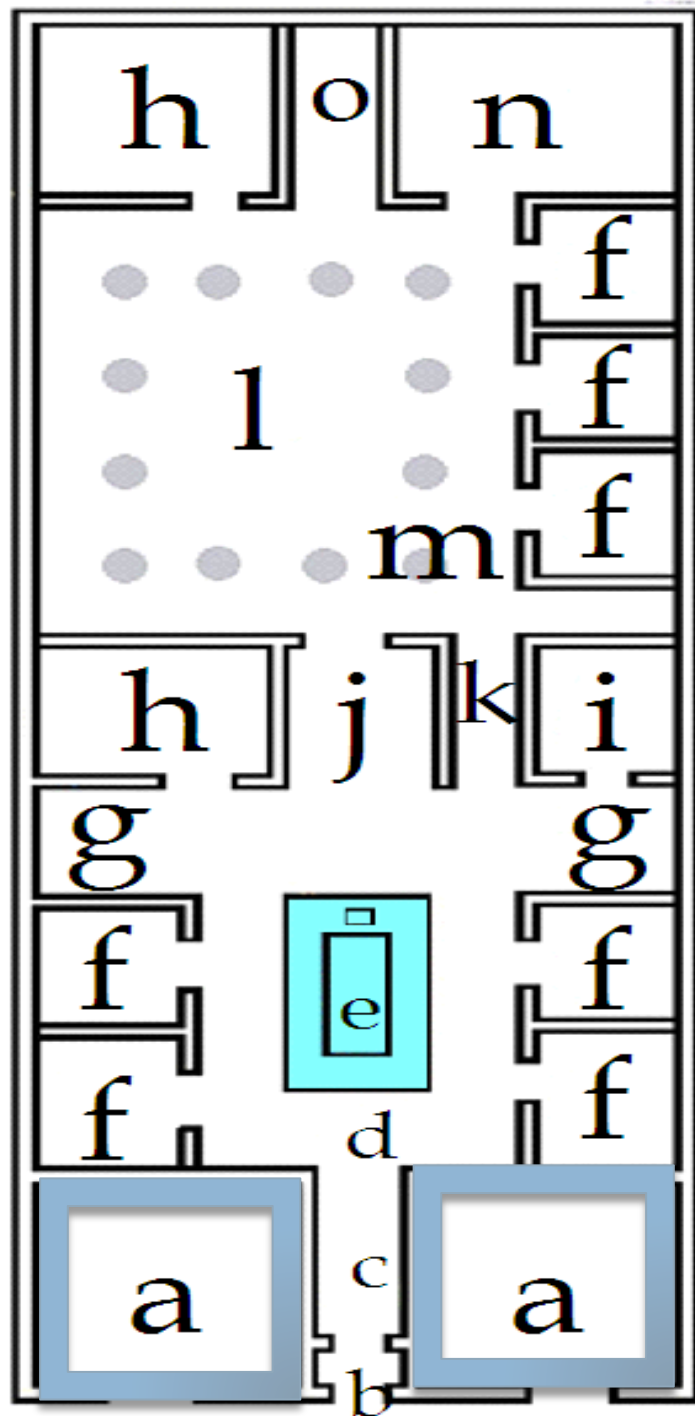
# CASA ROMANA

- Wealthier Romans would typically live in fancy *villas*
- These were mostly situated on the Palatine Hill in Rome
- Because Roman family structure maintained the ties with their extended family, large homes were needed to house all of the relatives
  - Married women lived with their new husbands
  - Aunts, uncles, sons and their wives, grandparents and slaves all needed room to stay

# INSULAE

- Insulae are similar to modern day apartments
- Typically, these buildings were no more than three stories tall but could house up to twenty families
  - These were the residences of Rome's poorest families
  - Often, one family would share one large room
- These structures were extremely unsafe
  - The close quarters were a hotbed for disease
  - The buildings themselves were susceptible to fire

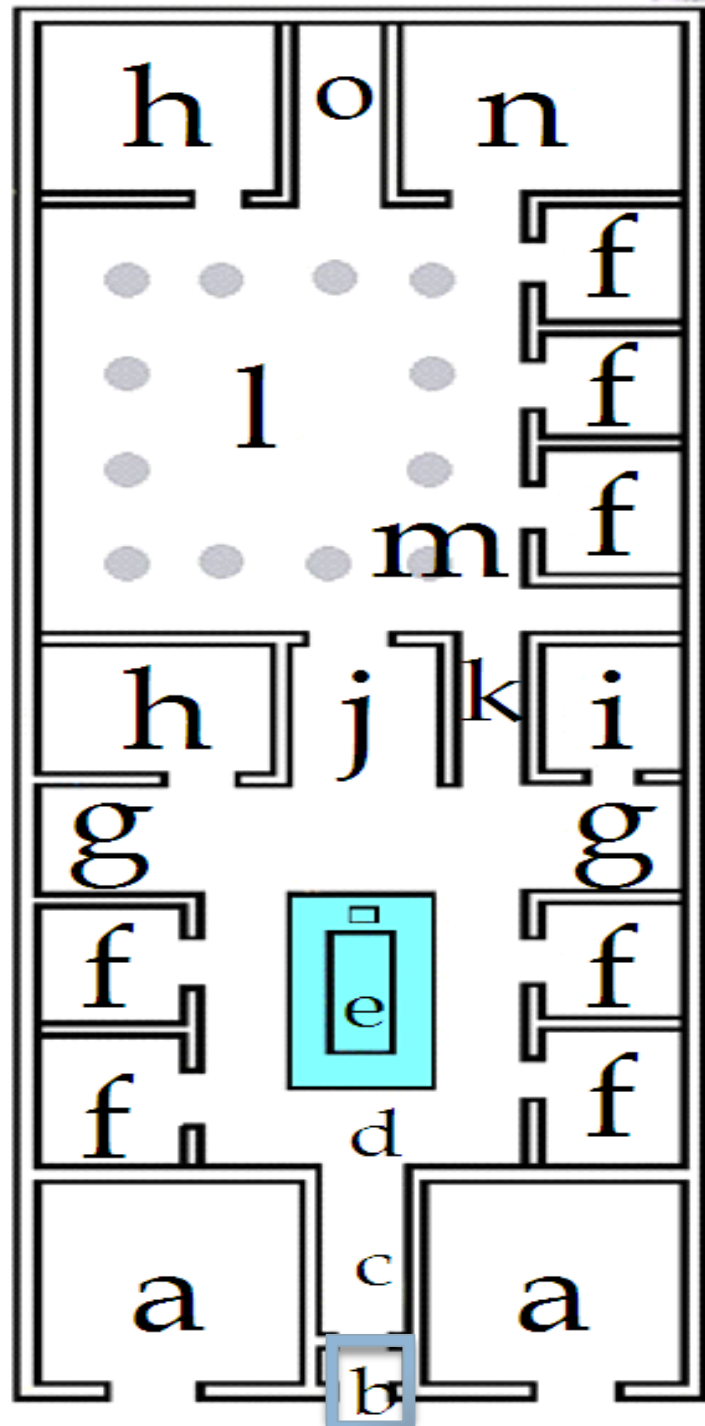
taberna, tabernae



# TABERNA, TABERNAE

- A *taberna* is a small shop or tavern, selling anything from cheese to wine to clothing, et cetera.
- Even wealthy Romans often rented out the front rooms of their houses as shops for merchants.
  - Because these rooms had separate doors that opened on to the street, they did not interfere with the rest of the house in any way and acted as a natural buffer between the noise of the street and the peace within the home
- The exterior of a Roman house, normally quite close to the street, was relatively plain.

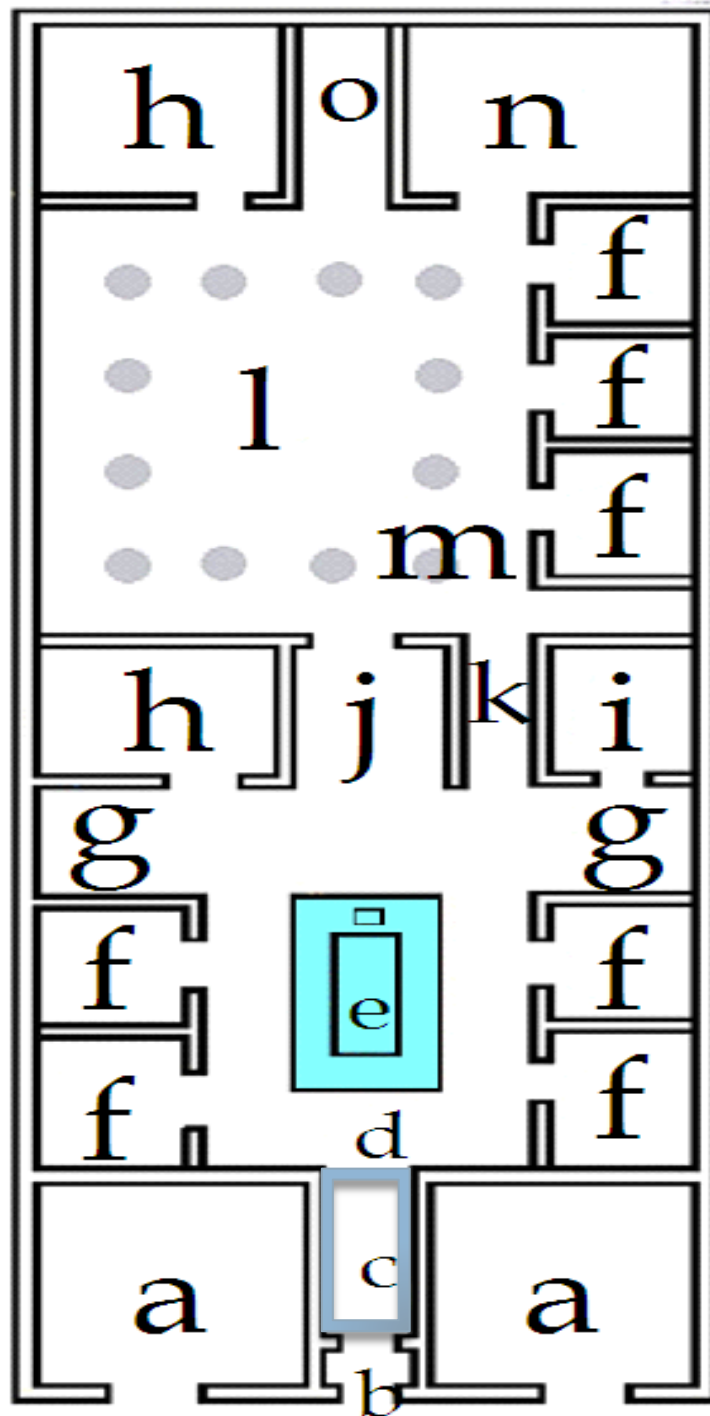
vestibulum, vestibuli



# IANUA, IANUAE

- The actual door of the house, the *ianua* opened into a long corridor, the *vestibulum* that led into the *atrium*.
- Some doorways were adorned with wall paintings, especially those that were dedicated to the two-faced god of doorways, Janus, or symbols of good luck and prosperity
- *ianuae* were typically guarded by a *ianitor*, a doorkeeper.

vestibulum, vestibuli

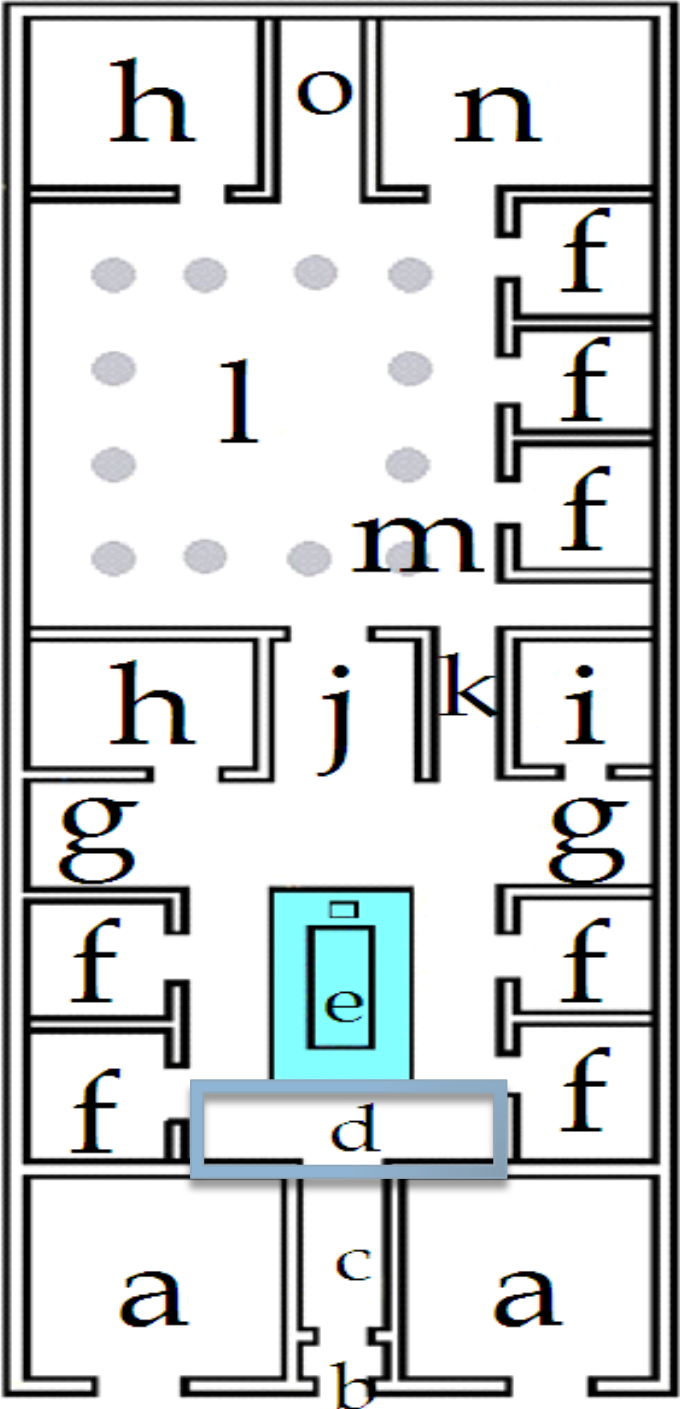




# VESTIBULUM, VESTIBULI

- The *vestibulum* was a long hallway that extended from the *ianua* to the *atrium*
- Wealthy Romans (patrons) would meet their clients in this area
- The floors of the *vestibulum* were often decorated with mosaics, spelling out a message of “Greetings” for the visitor or “Welcome Money.”
  - Some warned would-be thieves to “Beware of the Dog” that would protect the family from unwelcome visitors

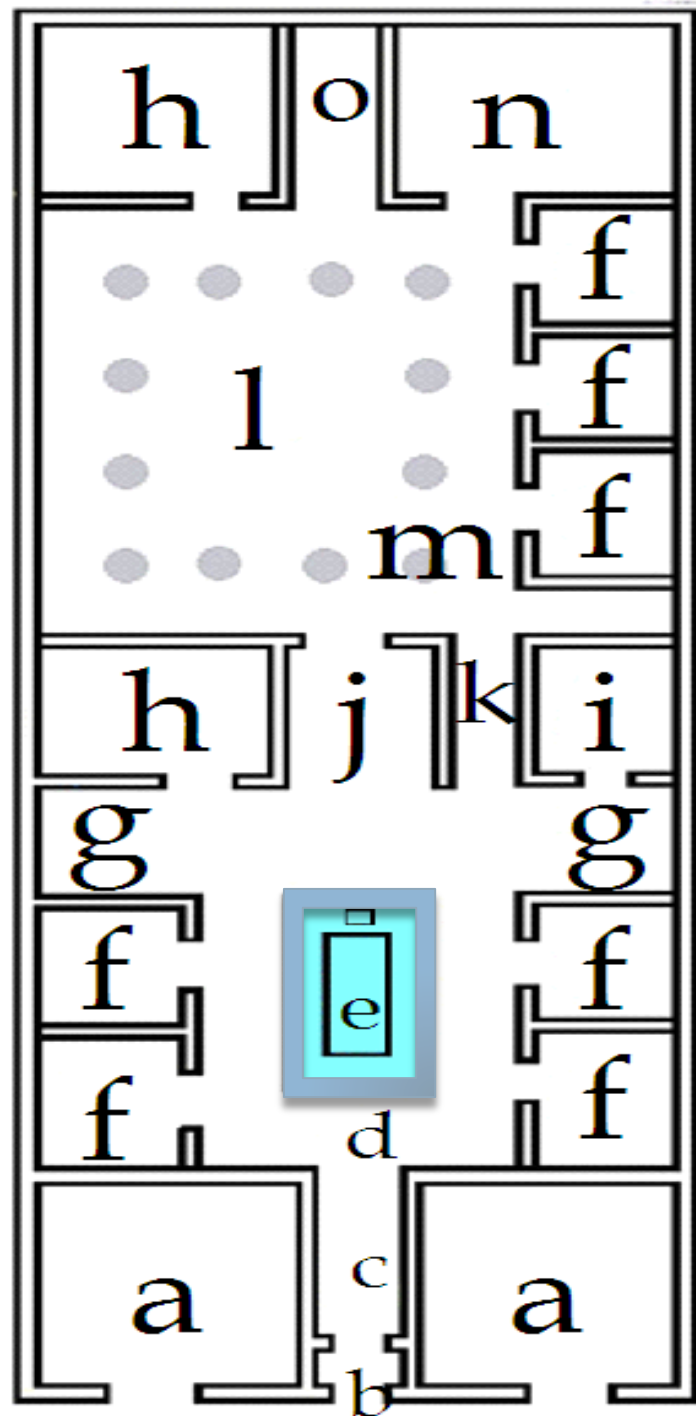
atrium, atrii



# ATRIUM, ATRII

- The *atrium* was a large, one-to-two story, well-ventilated room that was connected to all other rooms and was lighted by an opening in the roof
  - This opening, called a *compluvium*, would allow water to collect in this room
- It was the formal room where guests were received and clients assembled to wait for their customary morning visits to their patron
  - Thus the *atrium* was important for business, social gatherings and politics
- The *atrium* almost never contained furniture but was always well decorated, as the home owner aimed to impress and would often hold the shrine to the Lares and Penates

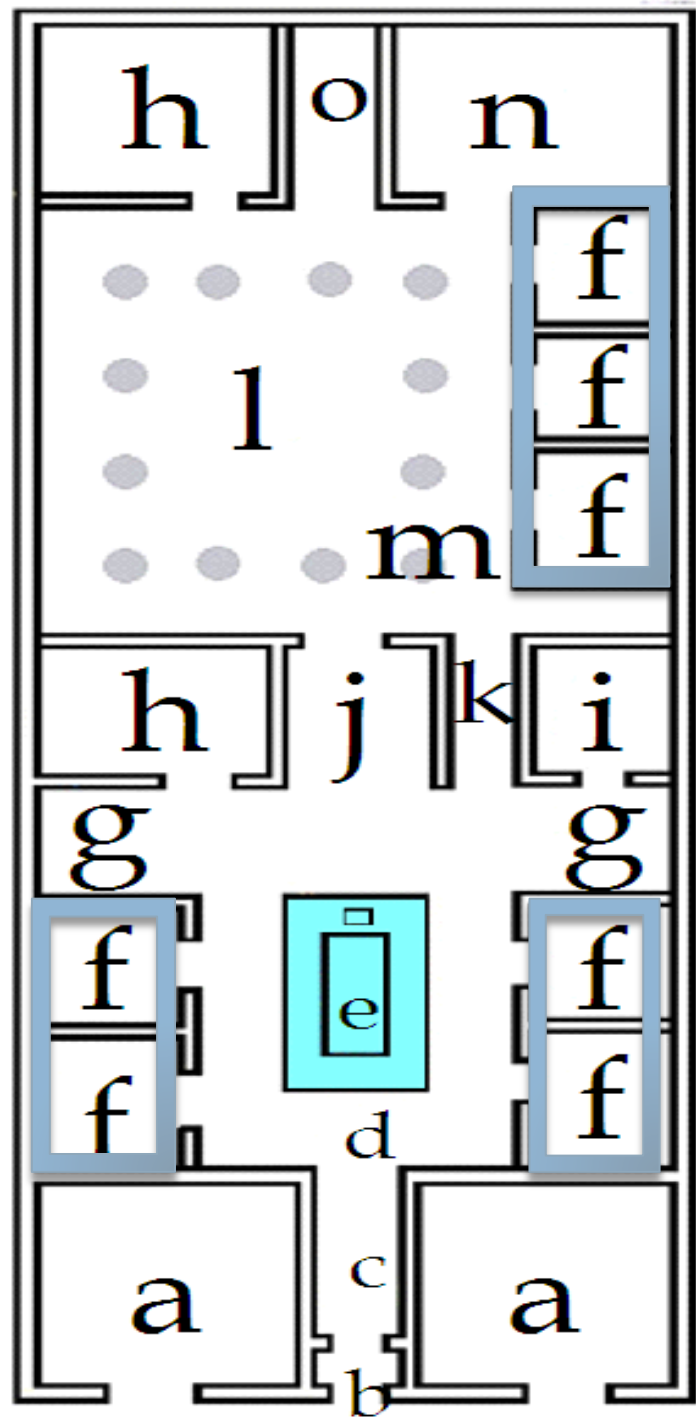
impluvium, impluvii  
piscina, piscinae



# IMPLUVIUM, IMPLUVII PISCINA, PISCINAE

- In the center of the *atrium*, directly beneath the opening in the roof was a shallow pool, the *impluvium*. This had the practical purpose of collecting rainwater but also added greatly to the attractiveness of the room.
- Sometimes, wealthy Romans would put fish in their pool. If they did this, the pool was called a *piscina*
- *Impluvii* and *piscinae* could also be found in an area we will learn about soon, the *peristylum*

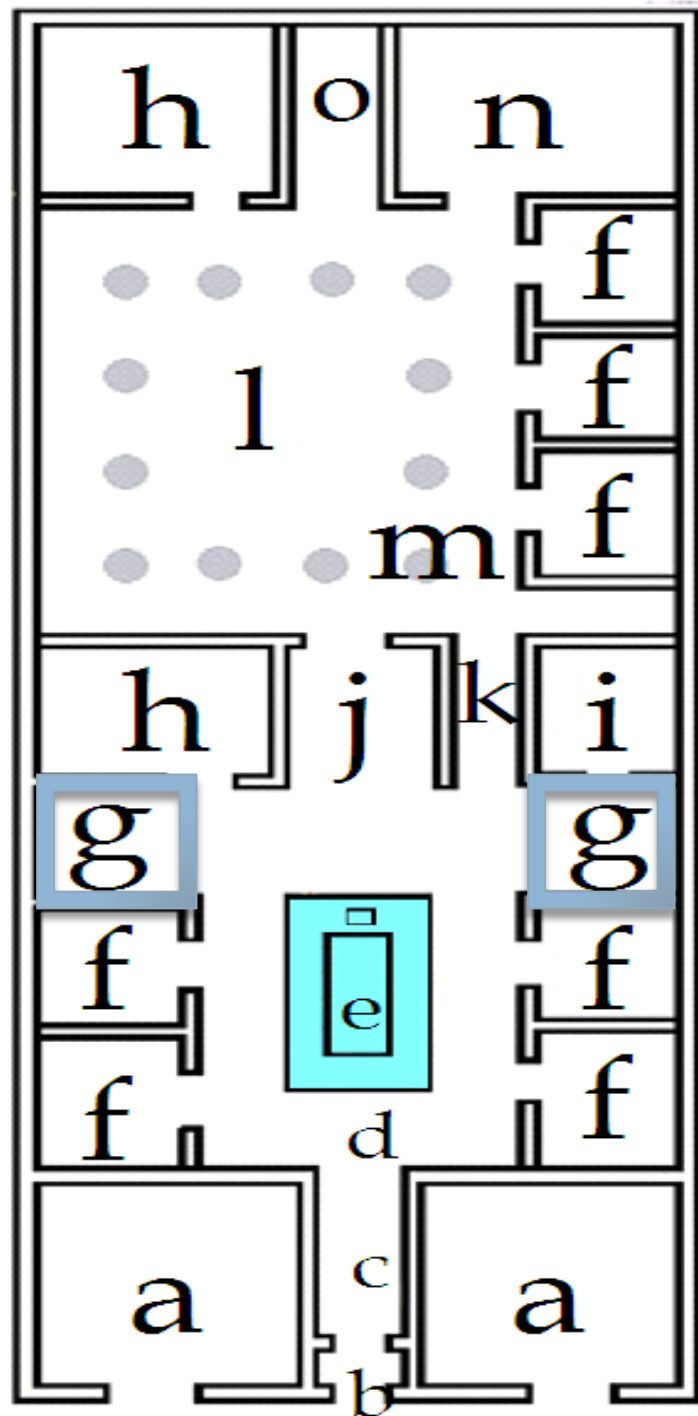
cubiculum, cubiculi



# CUBICULUM, CUBICULI

- *Cubicula* were small rooms used for a number of different purposes
  - On the upper story (if they had one) and in the interior of the house, a *cubiculum* often functioned as a bedroom
    - Bedrooms were often furnished with no more than a sleeping couch and a small chest
  - The small *cubicula* off the atrium may have been used for private meetings, libraries, and other things

ala, alae

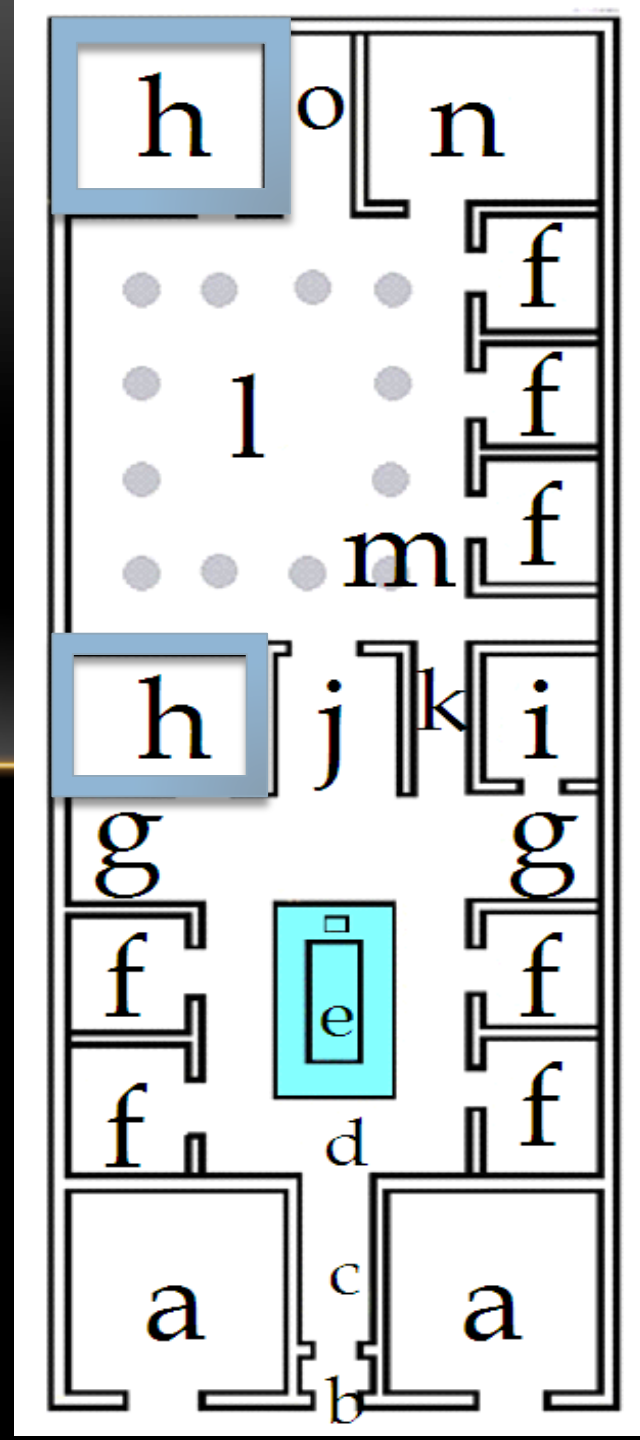




# ALA, ALAE

- The atrium frequently opened out into two “wings” which were two rooms that faced each other
- Not much is known about their function, and they appear to just be open areas of space used for storage
- In homes of the wealthy patricians, this area may have held the death masks of their ancestors

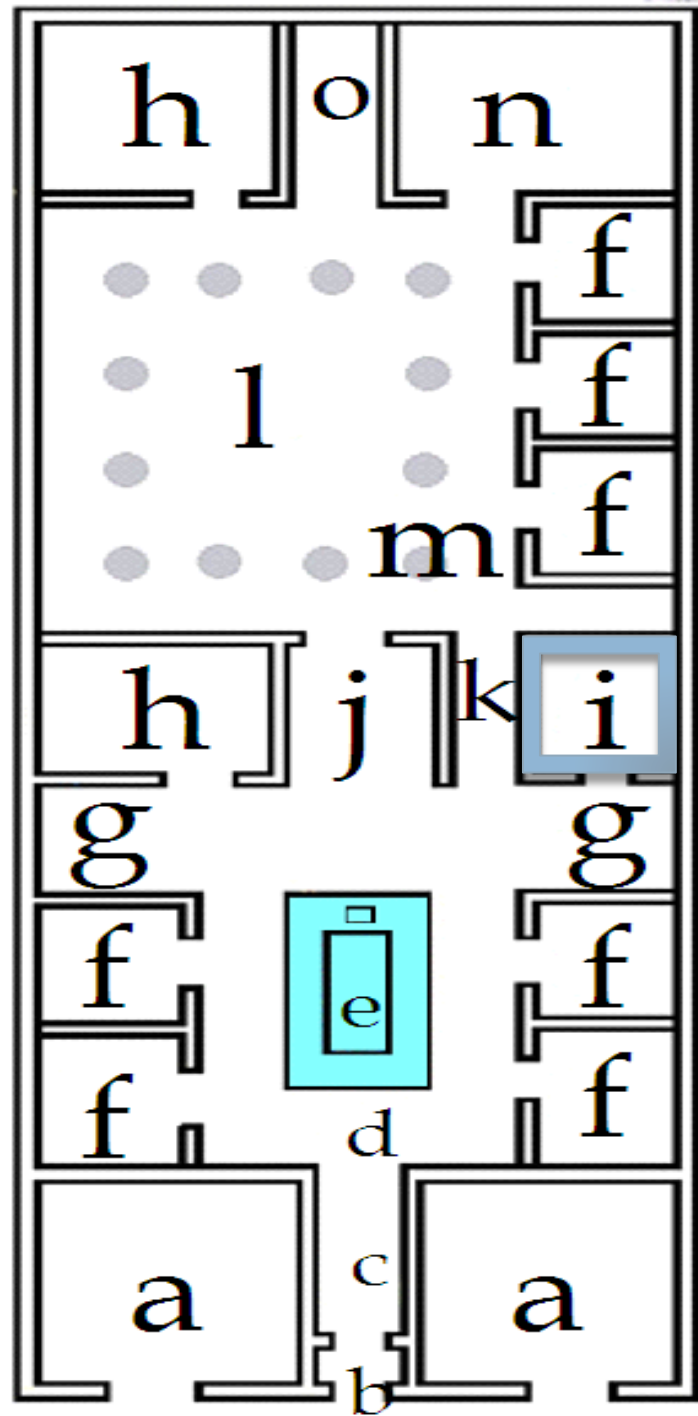
triclinium, triclinii



# TRICLINIUM, TRICLINII

- The *triclinium* was named after the three couches typically found in the dining rooms of upper-class Romans.
- The *lectus*, or couch, was an all-purpose piece of furniture. Different sizes and shapes of *lecti* were used for sleeping, conversing, and dining. These couches were fairly wide because each couch held three diners, who reclined on their left side resting on large cushions while slaves served them multi-course meals
- A chair with a back (*cathedra*) was considered suitable only for women or old men.
- Dining rooms, like other rooms in the Roman house, often had beautifully painted walls

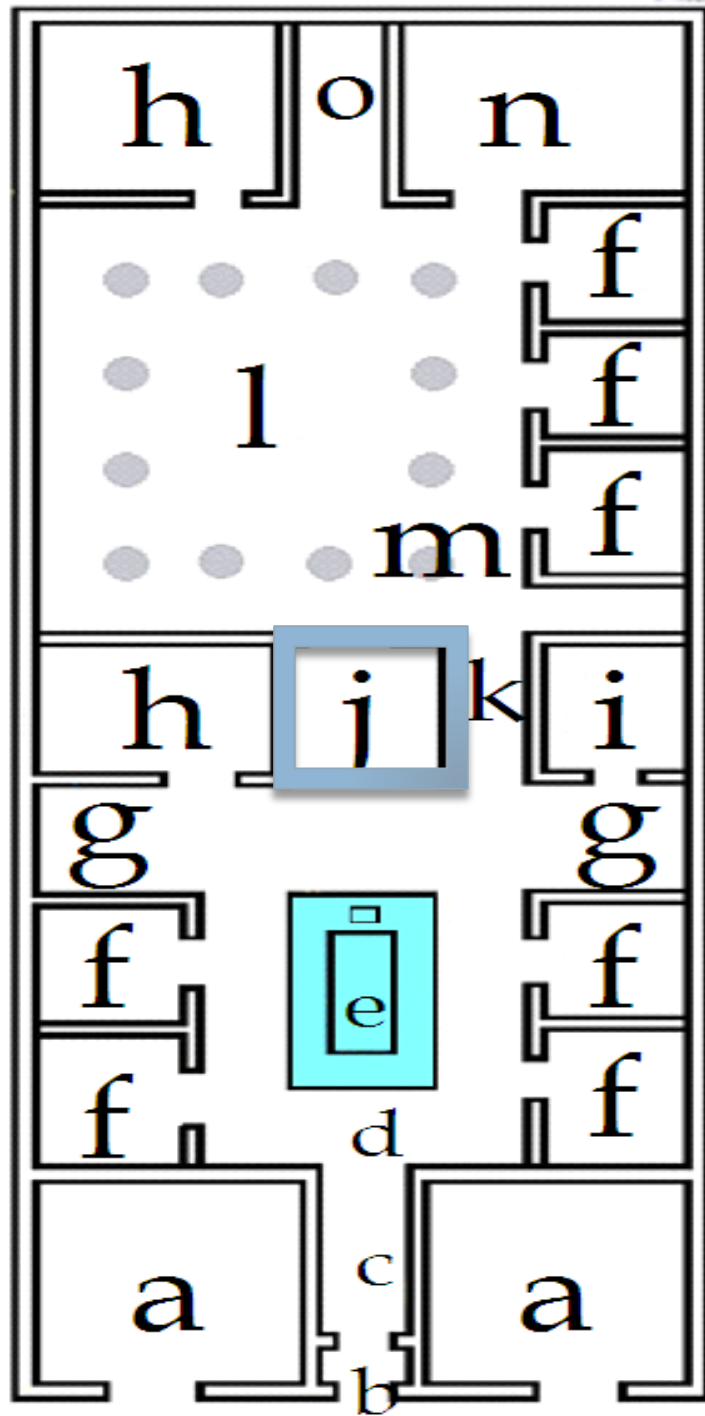
culina, culinae



# CULINA, CULINAE

- The *culina* or kitchen was usually small, dark, and poorly ventilated and was situated in a distant, isolated area of the house.
  - Sometimes the wealthy did have running water to this room
- ✎ Wealthy Romans did not prepare meal themselves, as that was the job of their numerous household slaves
  - For this reason, Romans did not care if the room was hot and smoky.
- ✎ Baking was done in ovens, whose tops were utilized to keep dishes warm. Embers from the oven could be placed below metal braziers for a form of “stove-top” cooking

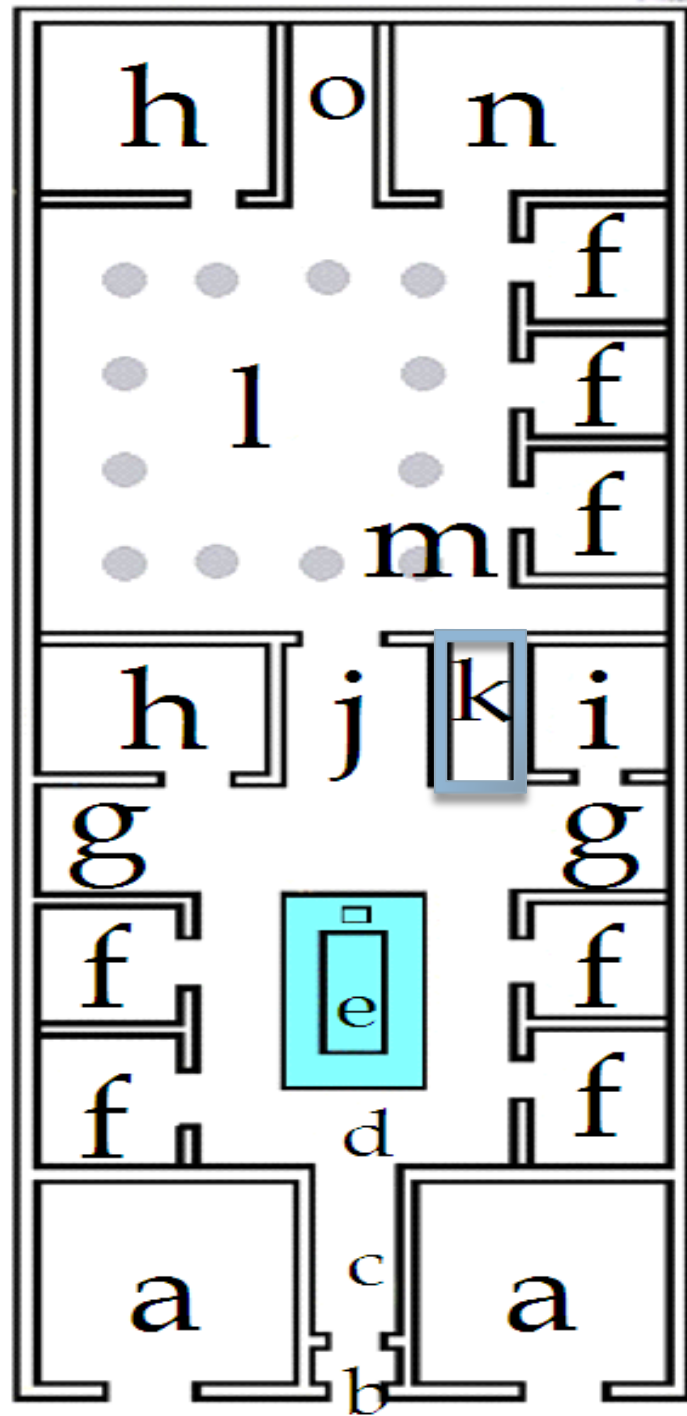
tablinum, tablini



# TABLINUM, TABLINI

- Directly beyond the *atrium* was a room open on two sides, though both sides could be closed with curtains or folding doors.
- The *tablinum* contained the family records and the chest containing family finances.
  - Elite families would also display the *imagines*, which were busts of famous ancestors.
  - The master of the house, the *paterfamilias*, would greet his many clients on their morning visits and used this room as a study
- Like the rest of the house, the *tablinum* often had an attractive mosaic floor and wall paintings

faux, faucis  
andron, andronis

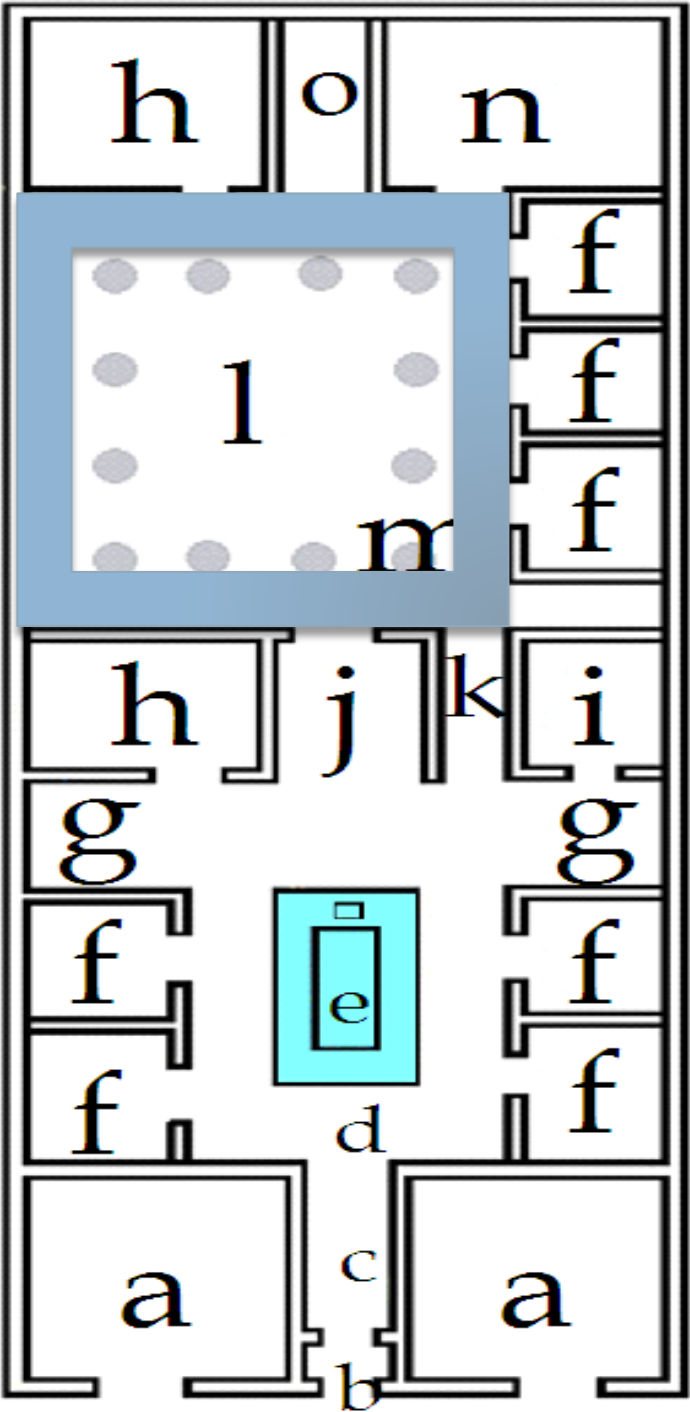




# FAUX, FAUCIS ANDRON, ANDRONIS

- The *andron* is the corridor connecting the *hortus* and the *atrium*
- A *faux* was any other hallway or doorway within the exterior walls of the *casa*

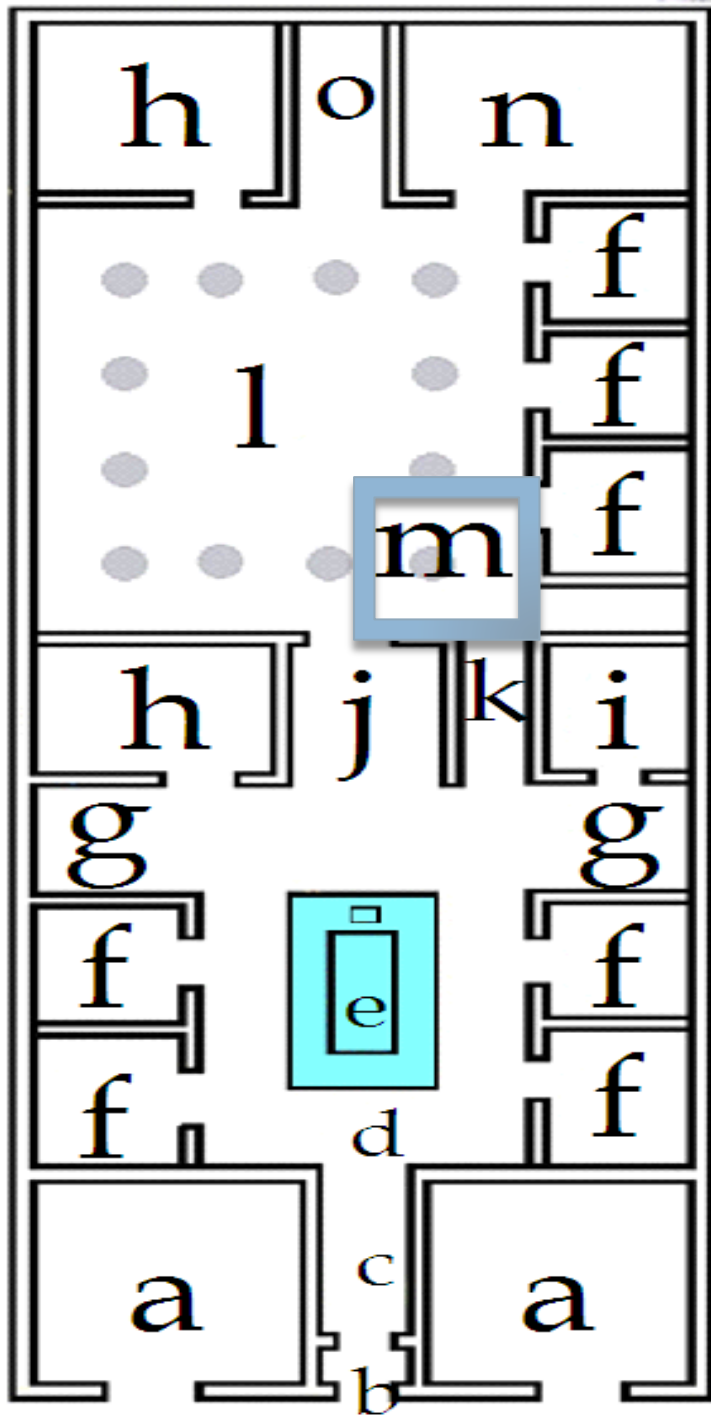
peristylum, peristylia



# PERISTYLIUM, PERISTYLII

- The *peristylum* was an open courtyard of one to two floors within the house; the columns, often surrounding the *hortus*, supported a shady roofed portico whose inner walls were often embellished with elaborate wall paintings
- Sometimes the *lararium*, a shrine for the gods of the household, was located in this portico, or it might be found in the atrium.
- The courtyard might contain flowers and shrubs, fountains, benches, sculptures and even *piscina*.

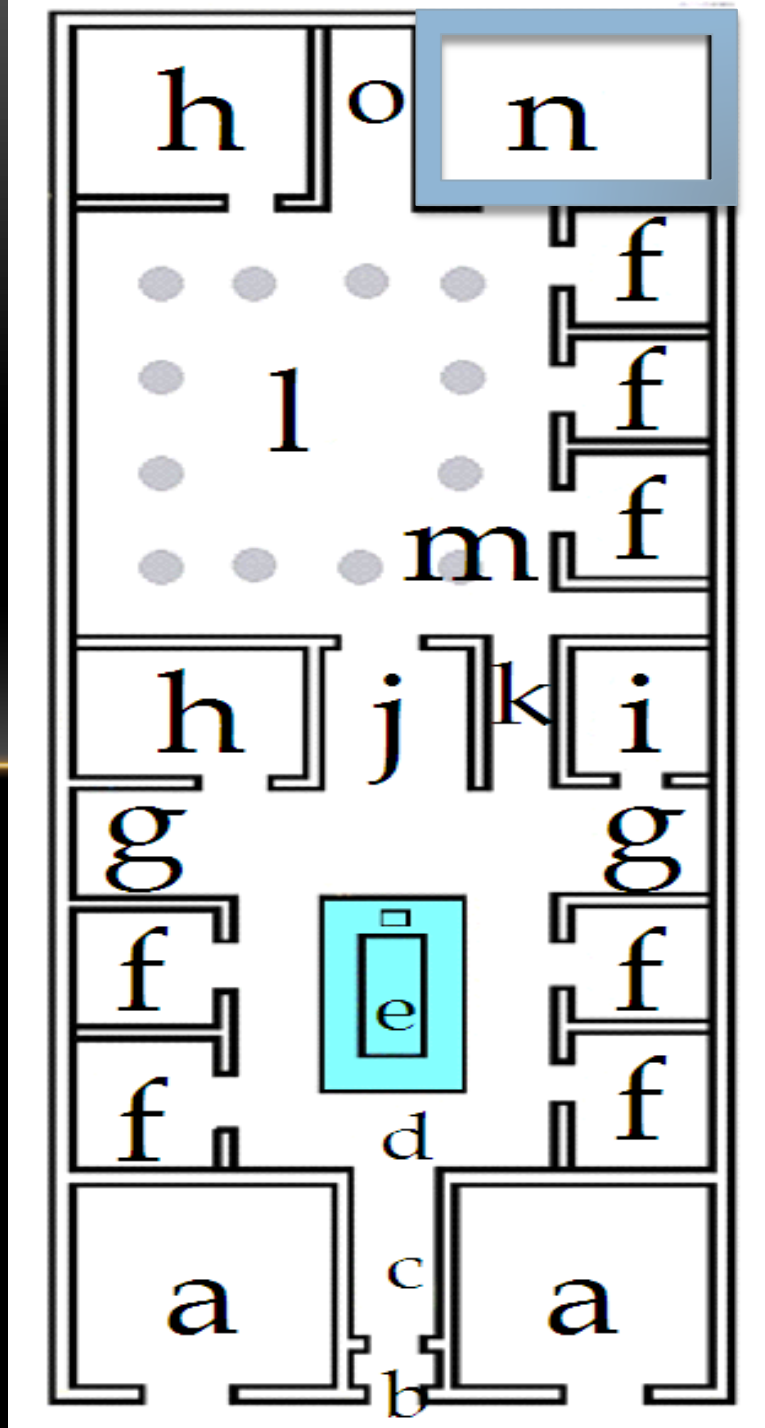
hortus, hortus



# HORTUS, HORTUS

- The *hortus* was a small garden, enclosed by a wall
- The *hortus* was typically located within the *peristylum* if the home had one. If not, it was typically in an area of the house where light would favor the garden

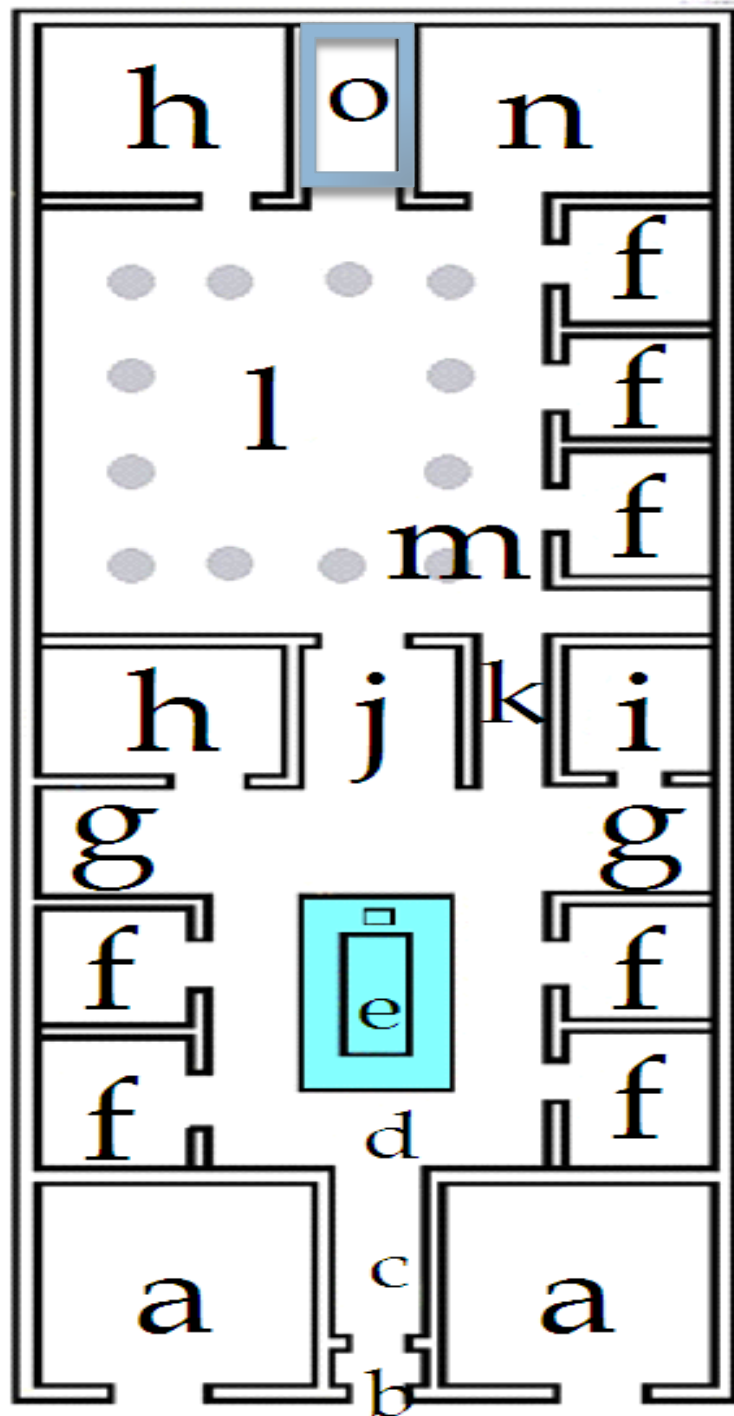
exedra, exedrae



# EXEDRA, EXEDRAE

- The exedra was a large, elegant room usually located off the *peristylum*.
- Similar in function to a *triclinium*, it was used for formal entertainments and lavish dinner parties.
- The wall paintings and decor in this type of room often continue the garden theme

balneum, balnei  
latrina, latrinae

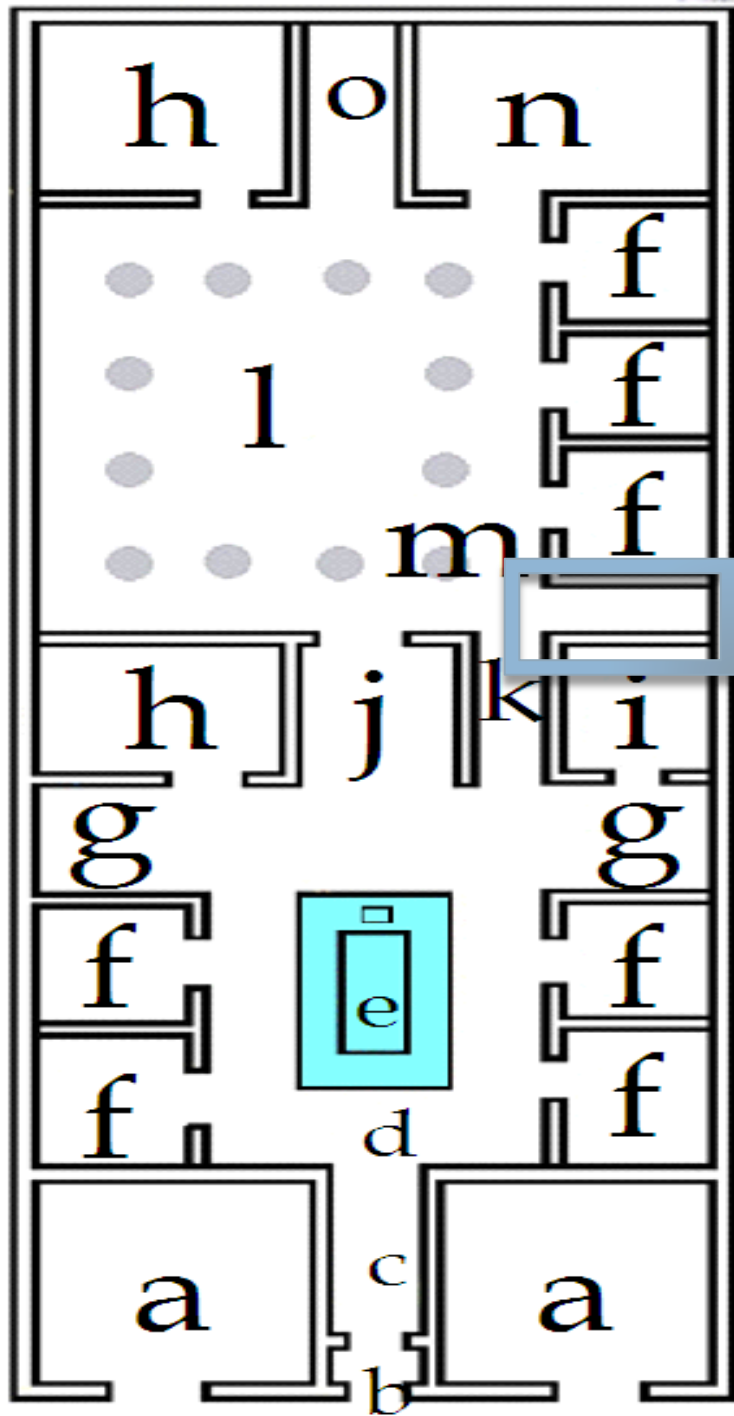




# BALNEUM, BALNEI LATRINA, LATRINAE

- Only present in the homes of the wealthy, the *balneum* was the equivalent of a bathroom. There was a small toilet-like structure and occasionally a small pool for minor personal cleaning.
- N.B: While Romans did eat to excess and purge their food, there is **no truth** to the myth that there were separate rooms built into the homes of the wealthy, called a *vomitorium*, for this purpose.

posticum, postici



# POSTICUM, POSTICI

- A back or side doorway
- Typically the entrance/exit for slaves

# HOUSEHOLD FIXTURES

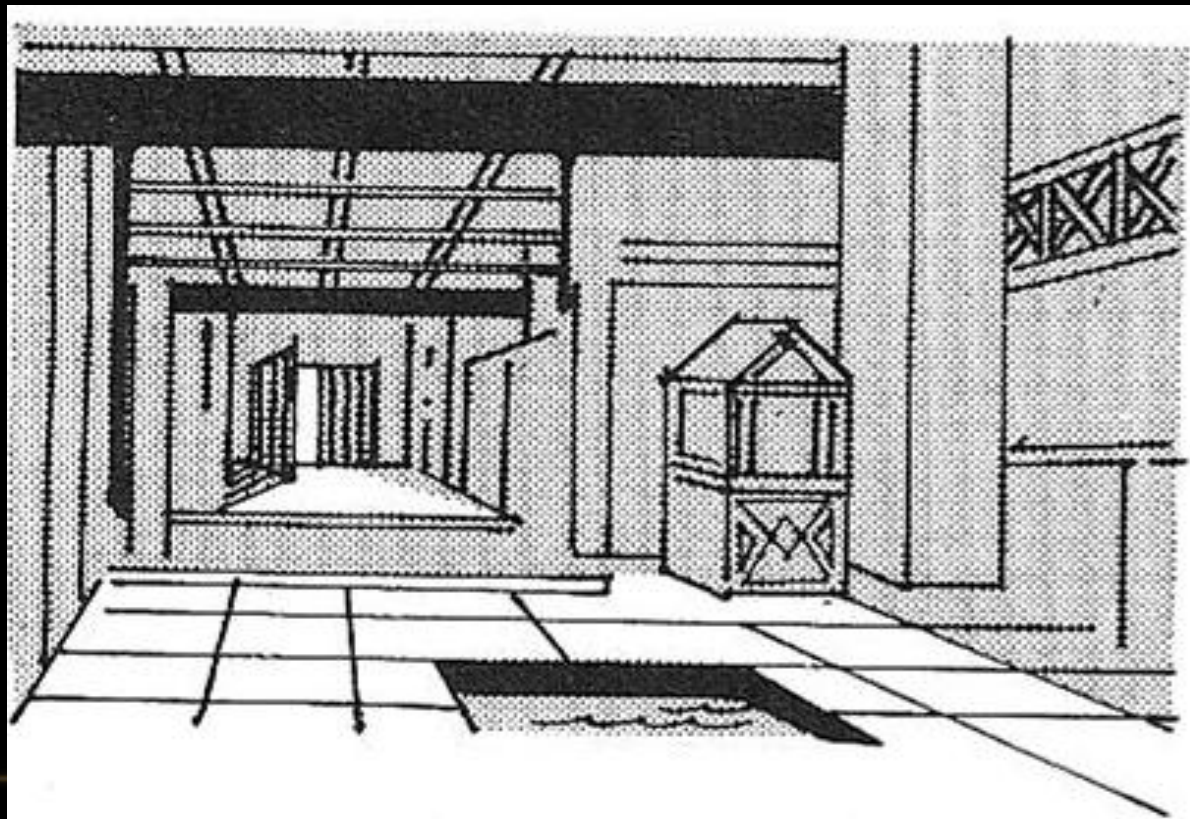
# VILLA, VILLAE



# CULINA, CULINAE



# ATRIUM, ATRII



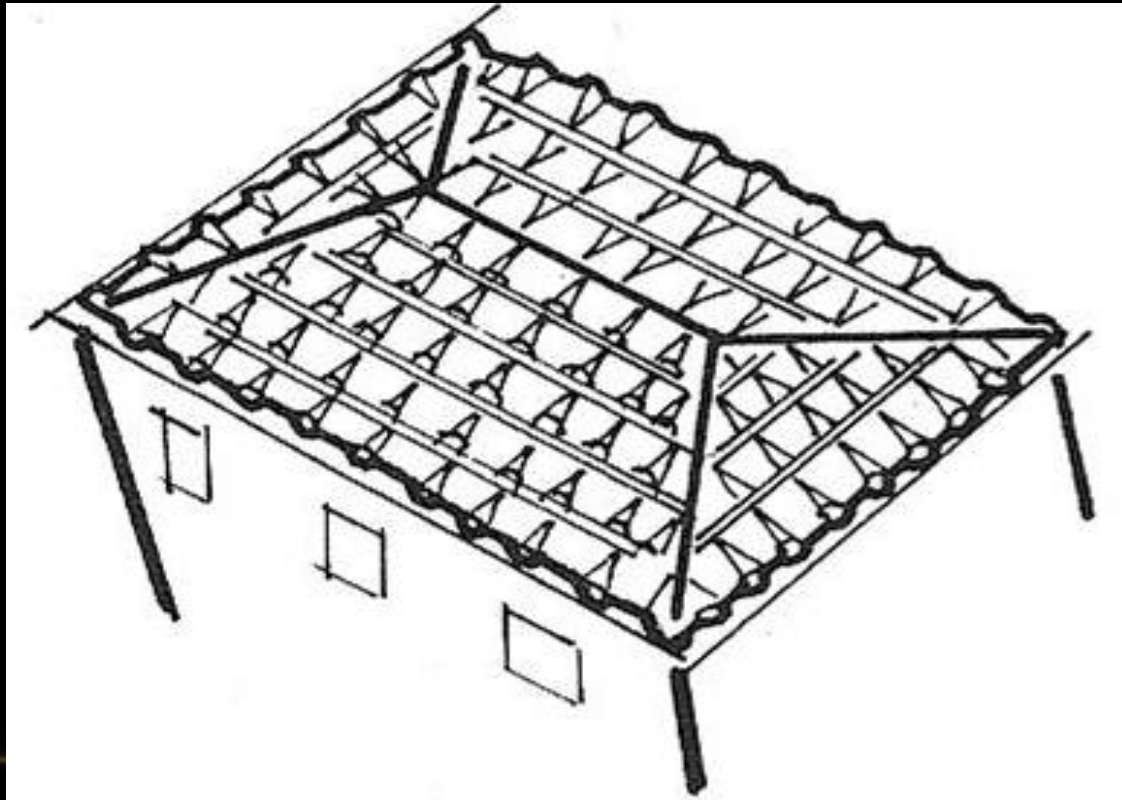


# IANUA, IANUAE

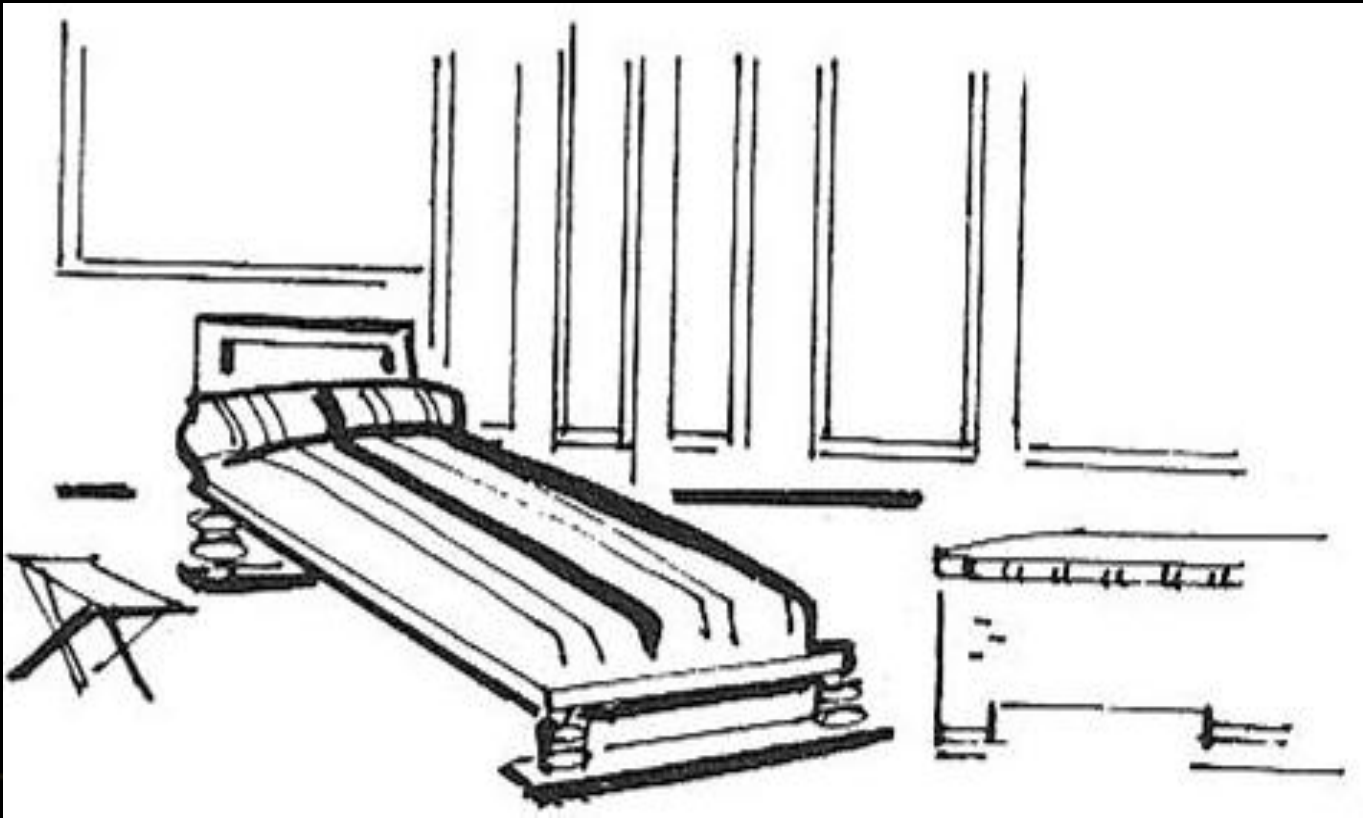




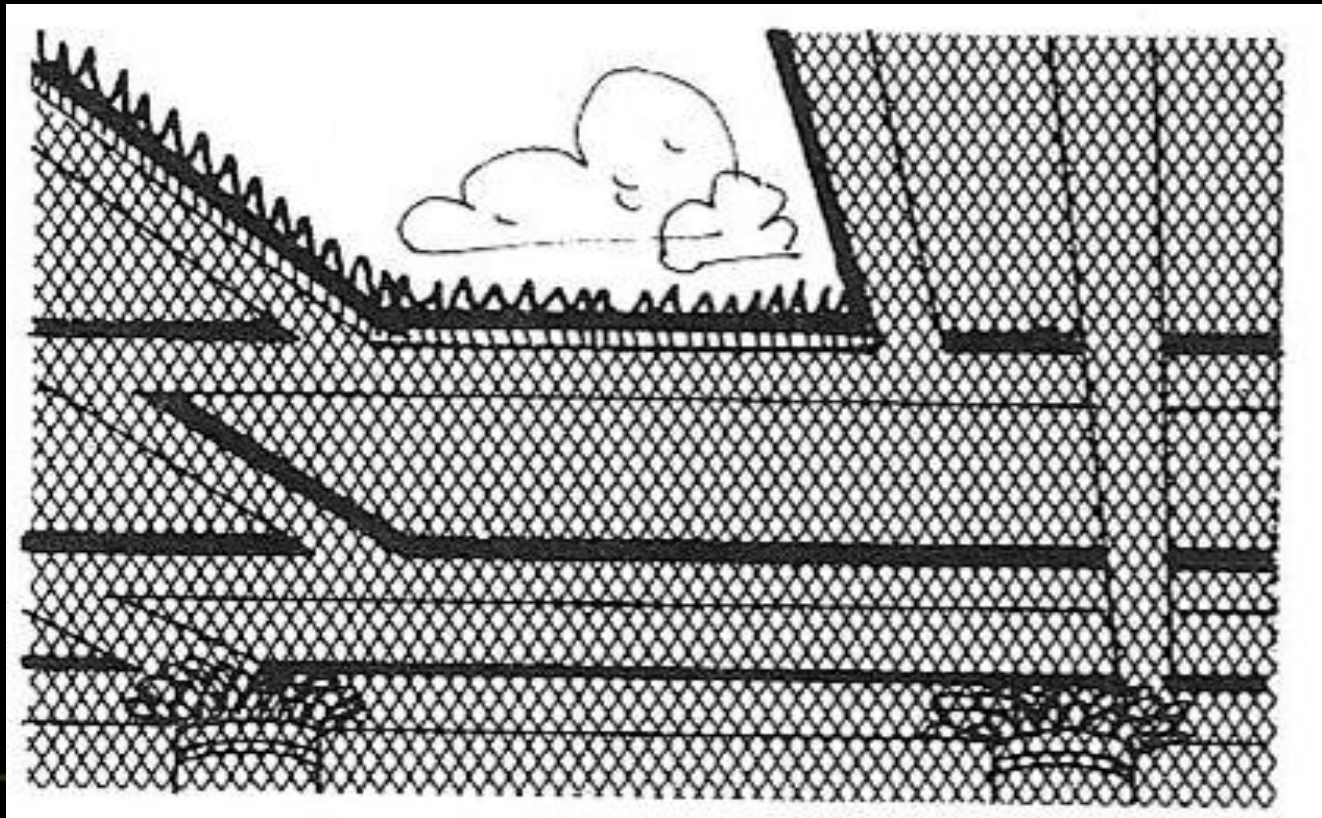
# TECTUM, TECTI



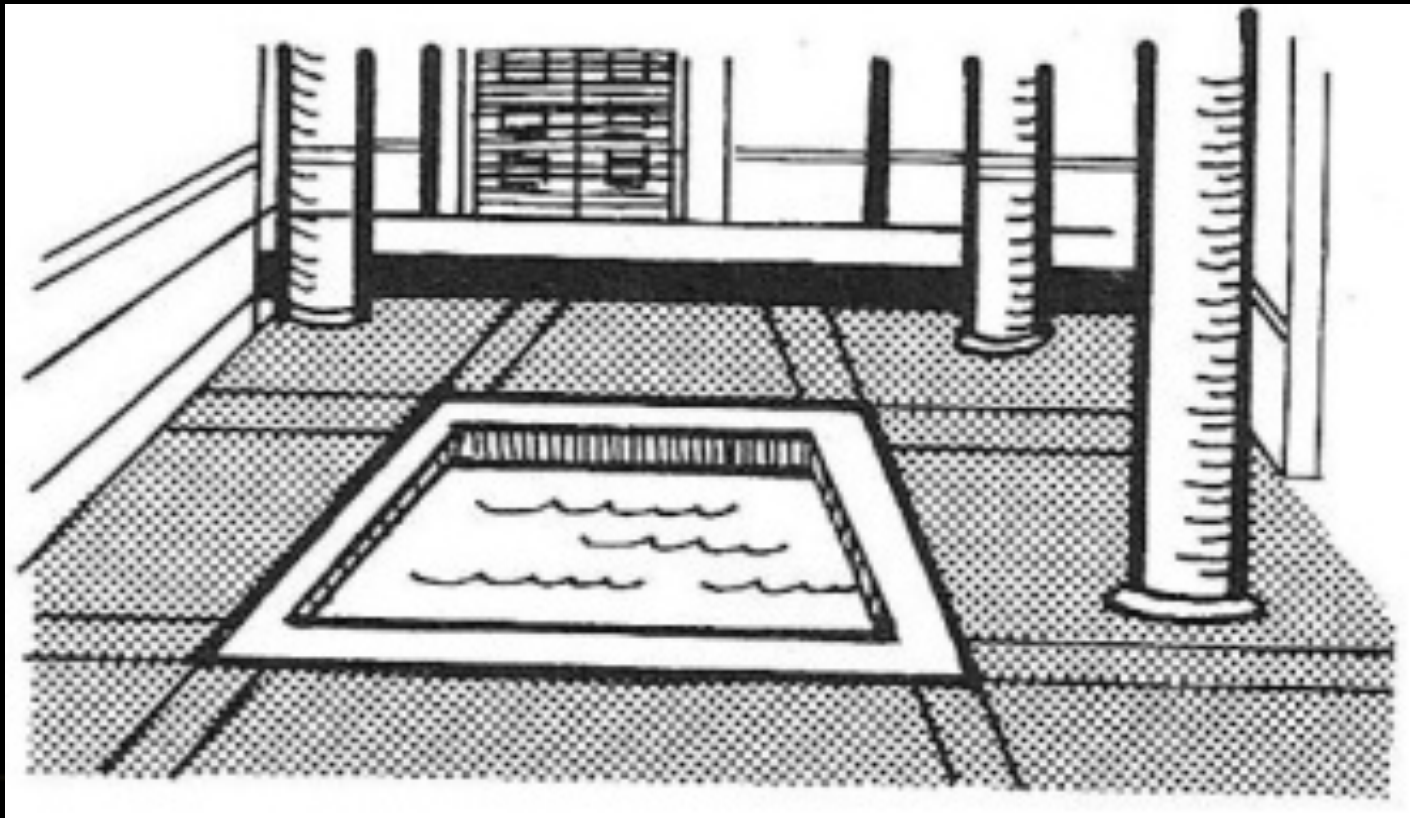
# CUBICULUM, CUBICULI



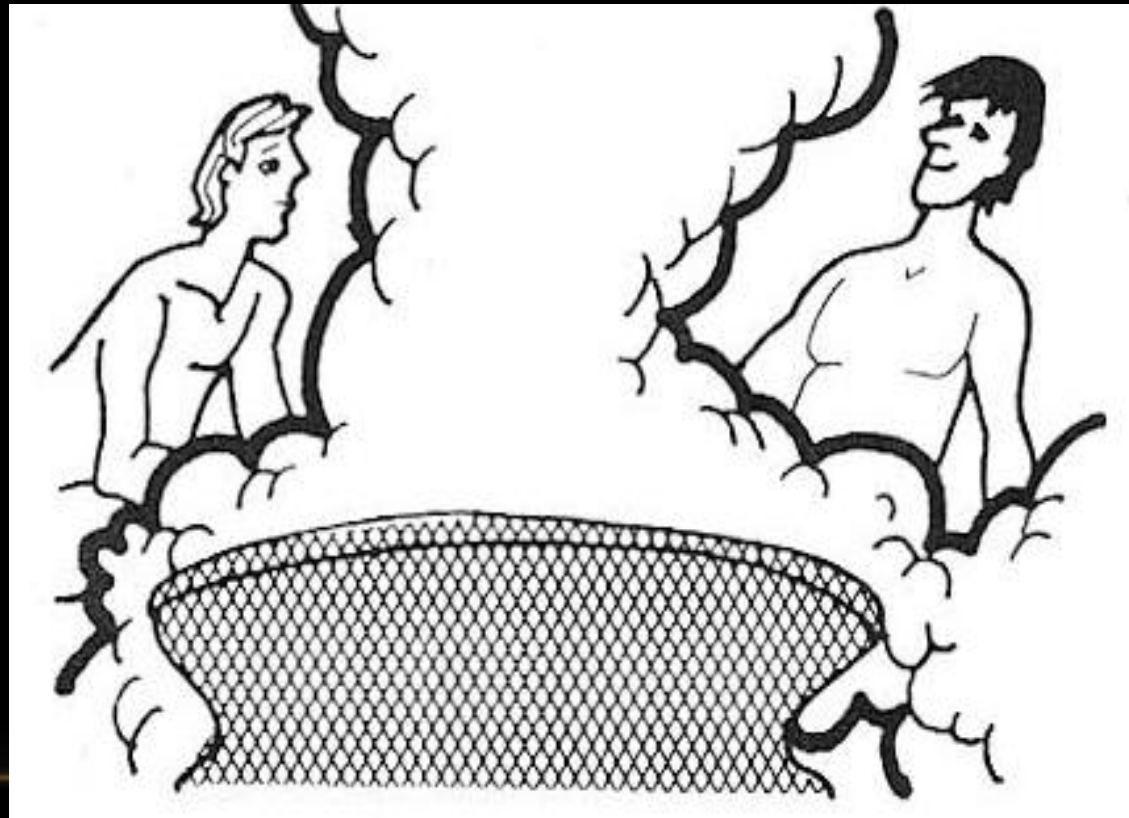
# COMPLUVIUM, COMPLUVII



# IMPLUVIUM



# BALNEUM, BALNEI





# TRICLINIUM, TRICLINII



# TABLINUM, TABLINI

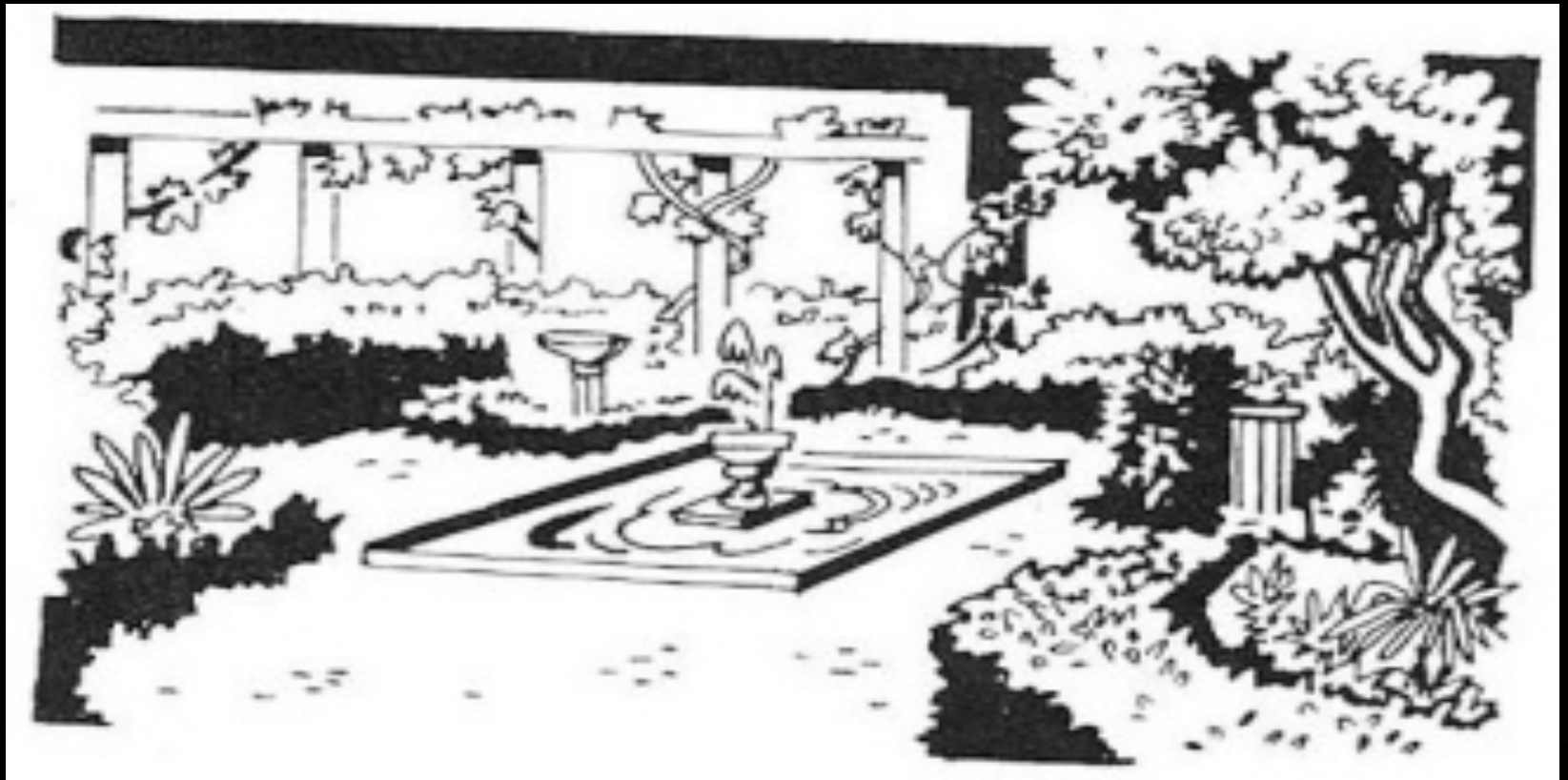


# PERISTYLIUM, PERISTYLII

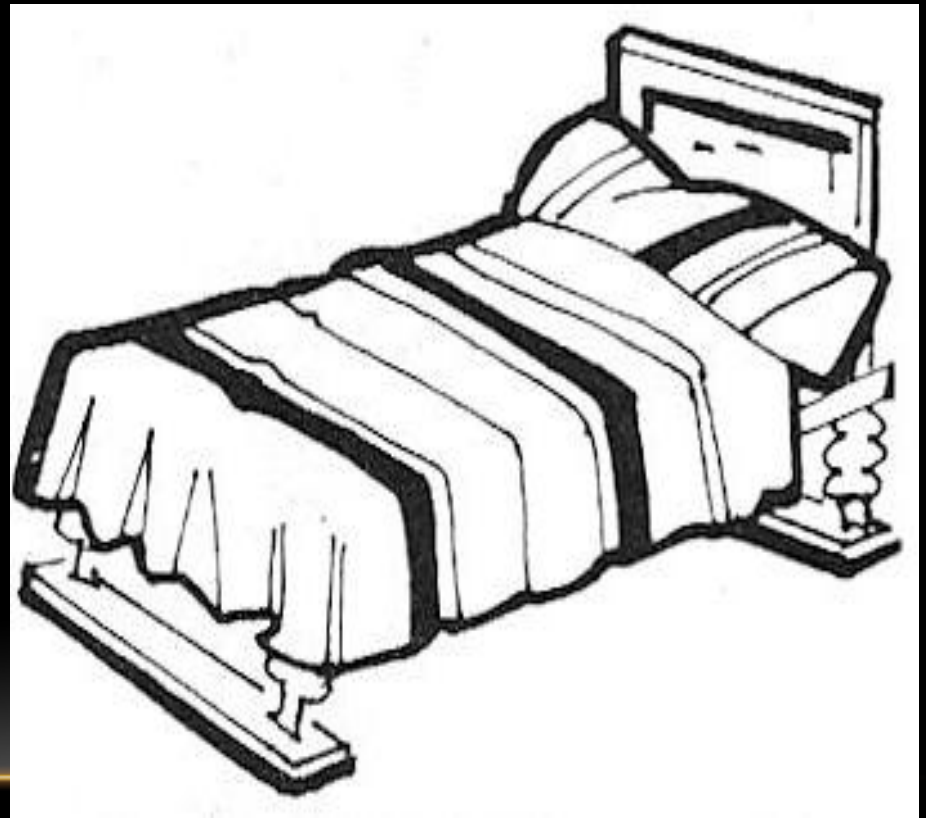




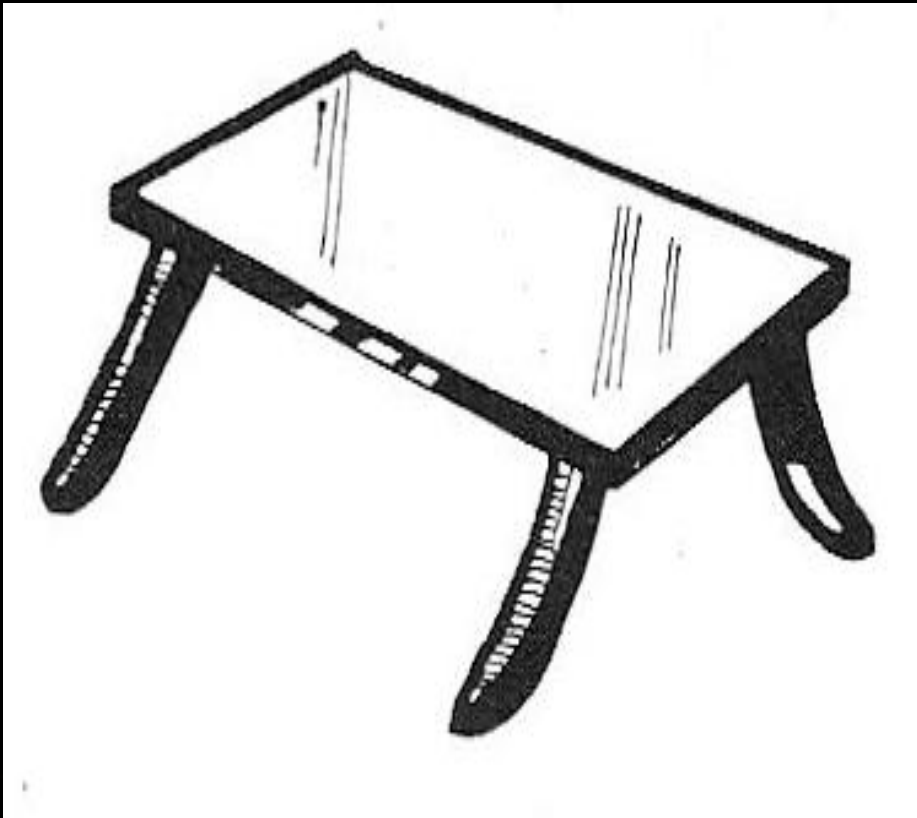
# HORTUS, HORTUS



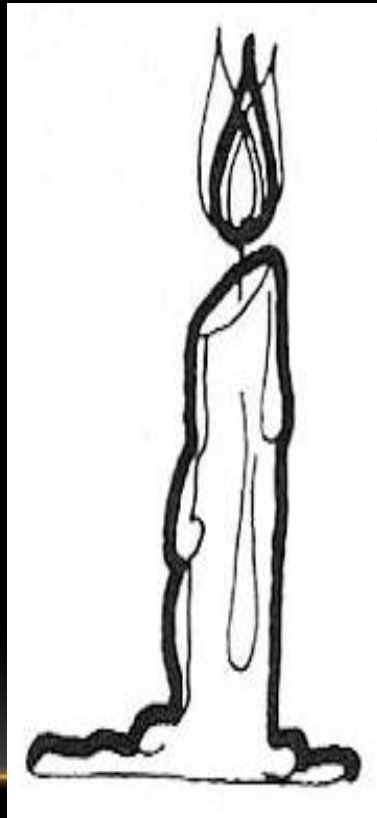
LECTUS, LECTI



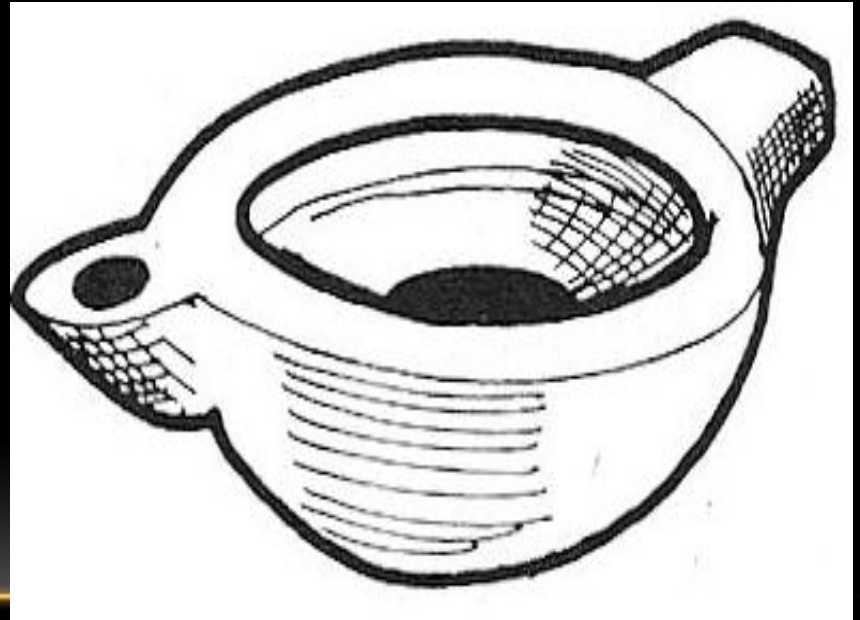
# MENSA, MENSÆ



CANDELA, CANDELAE



# LUCERNA, LUCERNAE



SELLA, SELLAE

