

Domus Romanus, Layout and Rooms!

Āla: literally, “wings” of the house, typically directly adjoining the *ātrium*, toward the rest of the house.

Ātrium: the grand, open entrance hall. Containing an opening (*compluvium*) to drain water from the roof, collected in a pool (*impluvium*), usually directly in the middle.

Cubiculum: literally, “small room,” often used as bedrooms or for business. A catchall term for modest, square rooms throughout the house.

Culīna: the kitchen, often larger in size and tucked away into a corner or side of the house. Rarely far from the *triclinium*.

Exedra: room of varying size next to the *hortus* or *peristylum*, lavish and multi-use.

Faucēs: literally, the “throat.” The main entrance way of the house, opening up into the street.

Peristylium: Inner courtyard typically in the central plane in the back of the house, surrounded by columns and porticoes.

Taberna: small shops adjoining (but entirely separate from) the house to the street, often on either side of the *faucēs*, for private or public businesses.

Tablinum: just past the *atrium*, a large rectangular room used as a study or office. Sometimes separates the *atrium* and the *peristylium*.

Triclinium: the dining room, named after the customary three *lectī* that were situated around/following the perimeter. A large room typically found in the middle of the house against one side.

Vestibulum: the entrance hall, just within the door. A narrow passageway into the main area of the house.