

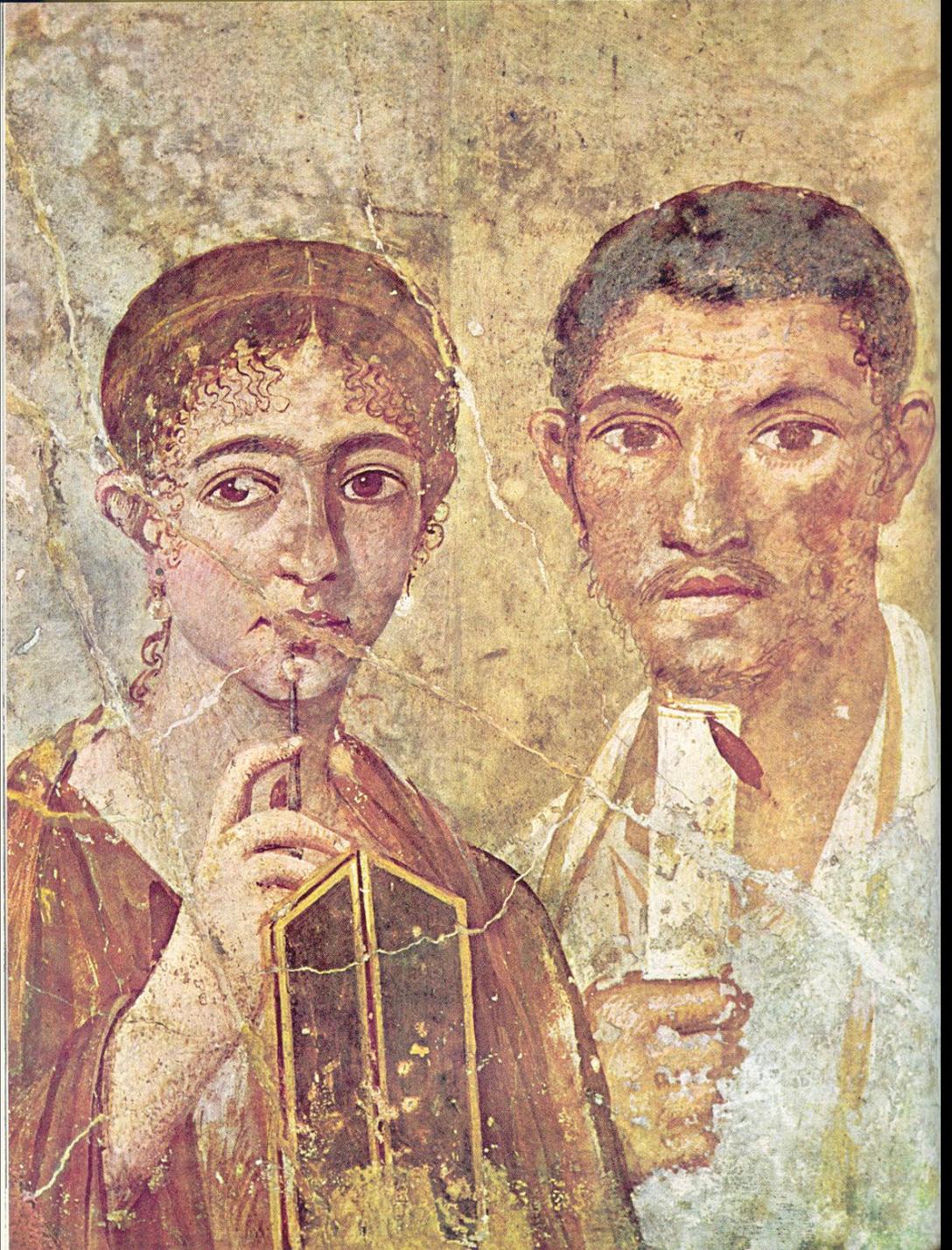
Roman Society

What are the most prized personality characteristics among North Americans? Give examples of individuals who represent the characteristics.

Fundamental Values

- Pater familias
 - Lead male in family – not necessarily a father
 - Had extensive legal rights regarding family – could kill without penalty
 - Was charged with maintaining the corporate identity of the family
 - Could adopt outsiders
 - Arranged marriages for members of family

Marriage mosaic:
newlyweds from
Naples



Fundamental Values

- Patronage
 - Mutually beneficial arrangement between inferior (usually talented or beautiful but poor) and superior (rich)
 - In exchange for flattery and public appearances, got financial help
 - Except emperor, slaves, and foreigners, every male had a patron and was a patron
 - Some people's sole occupation was collecting money from patron and distributing it

Fundamental Values

- Authority (*auctoritas*)
 - Strong belief in the value of the state
 - Individuals must contribute to maintaining *decorum* (order)
 - Authority had duty to administer but must be obeyed
 - Not a society of debating, scrappy individuals like the Greeks (exc. Spartans)

Fundamental Values

- Sobriety and Poise “Gravitas”
 - Maintained a subdued, unemotional, and poised persona
 - Always on public procession conscious of how things appeared to others
 - Would not be caught quibbling over petty things – esp. publicly
 - Bearing had effect on treatment: good posture, eye contact, clear speaking voice important
 - Sophisticated and urbane image

Civitas

- Individuals not as important as Rome
- Ideal of sober self-sacrifice for Rome very important to the establishment of the Roman state
- Public servants usually had genuine desire to make Rome great
- Sense of being part of an historical movement very powerful

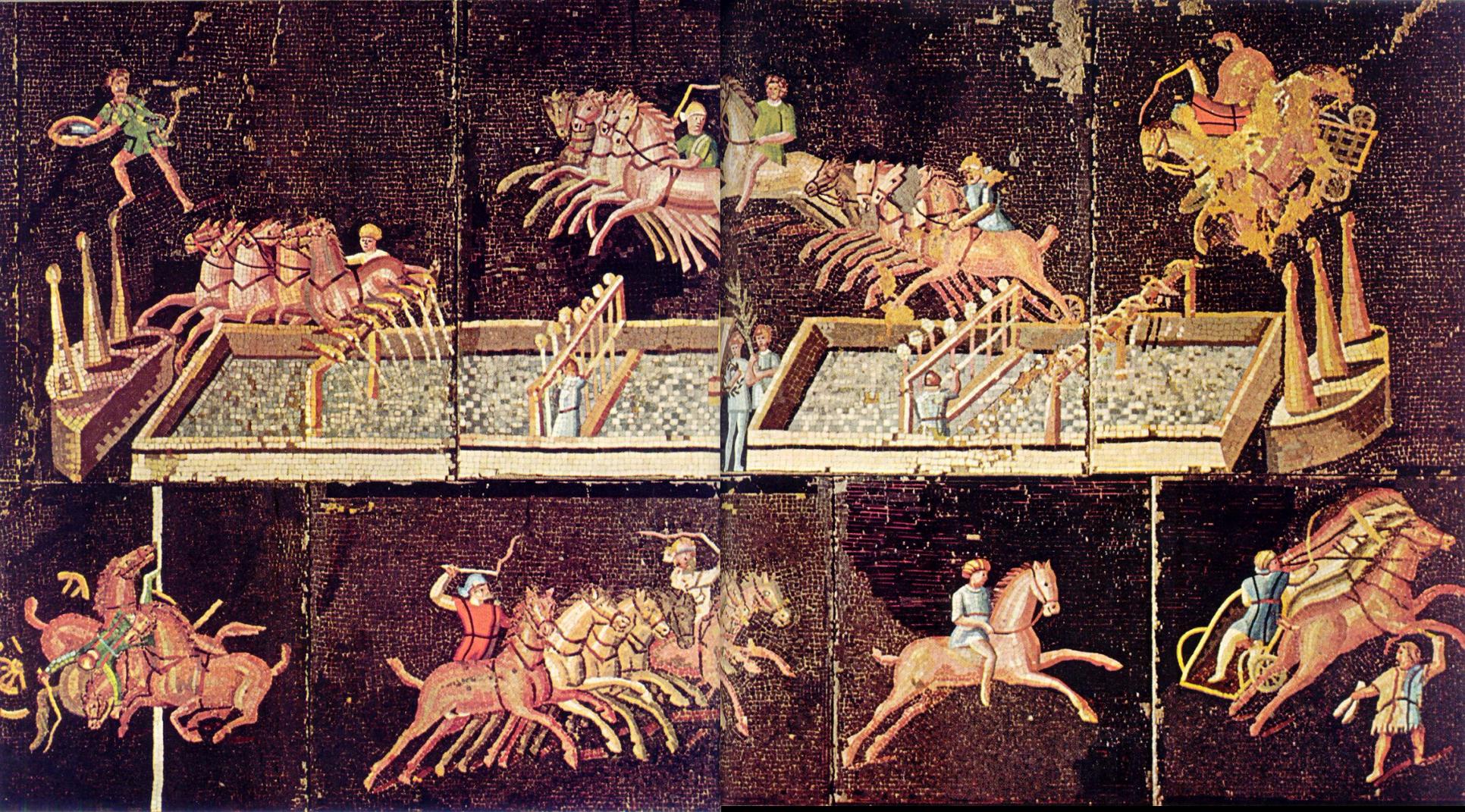
Arts and Culture

- Heavily influenced by Greeks
 - Kidnapped Greek artists and teachers during conquest
 - Stole Greek artifacts by the hundreds
 - Tried to tie in to Ancient Greece with Aeneas

Performance Art and Sports

- Public Entertainment important
 - Circus: races, animal shows, etc.
 - Gladiatorial combat:
 - Gladiator vs. Gladiator
 - Gladiator vs. Exotic Animals
 - Prisoners (e.g. Christians) vs. Exotic animals

Gladiators carried sexual image: word for gladiator is same word for “penis”



Roman Circus



Hunting for exotic animals to be used in coliseum

Ladies of Leisure



Cuisine

- Very sophisticated diet for wealthy: multi-course meals using ingredients from all over empire
 - Sample Menu:
 - Appetizers:
 - Jellyfish and eggs
 - Sow's Udders stuffed with salted sea urchins
 - Patina of brains cooked with milk and eggs
 - Boiled tree fungi with peppered fish-fat sauce
 - Sea urchins with spices, honey, oil, and egg sauce

- Sample Menu (cont)
 - Main Course:
 - Fallow deer roasted with onion sauce, rue, Jericho dates, raisins, oil and honey
 - Boiled ostrich with sweet sauce
 - Turtle dove boiled in its feathers
 - Roast parrot
 - Dormice stuffed with pork and pine kernels
 - Ham boiled with figs and bay leaves, rubbed with honey, baked in a pastry crust
 - Flamingo boiled with dates

- Sample Menu (cont)

- Dessert

- Fricassee of roses with pastry

- Stoned dates stuffed with nuts and pine kernels,
fried in honey

- Hot African sweet-wine cakes and honey



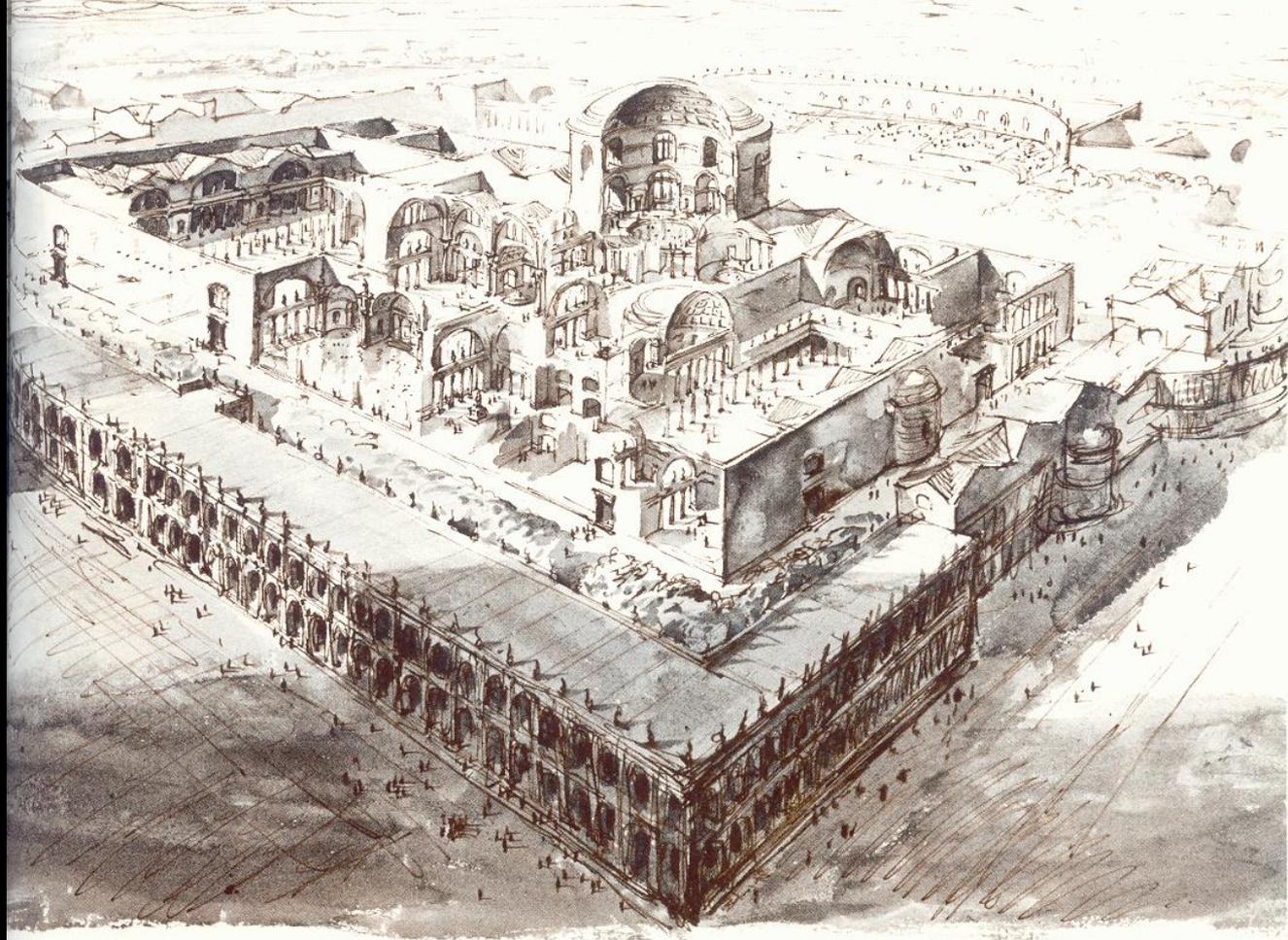
Dining chamber in Pompeii

- Other fascinating dining facts:
- Romans invented *foie gras*, a delicacy made from the livers of geese who are force-fed herbs
- Sometimes used *vomitoria* to try more food
- Custom was to recline on left, throw food on ground when done

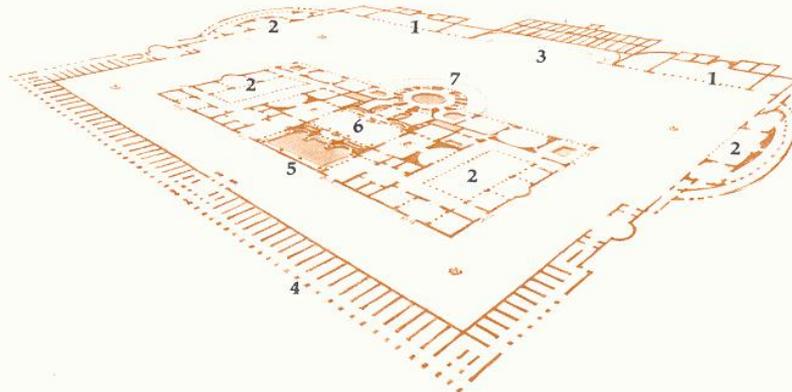
The Baths

- Baths were a regular part of Roman's day and a major cultural element
- Everybody (including slaves) had the right to use the baths
- Hot baths, tepid baths, an unheated swimming pool, and a masseur were standard fare
- Palestae – gyms – for ball games and wrestling
- Light snack and drink vendors
- Two libraries: Greek and Latin
- Gardens to stroll through
- Mosaics
- Hours specific: Men in mornings, women in afternoons, slaves from 4-6pm

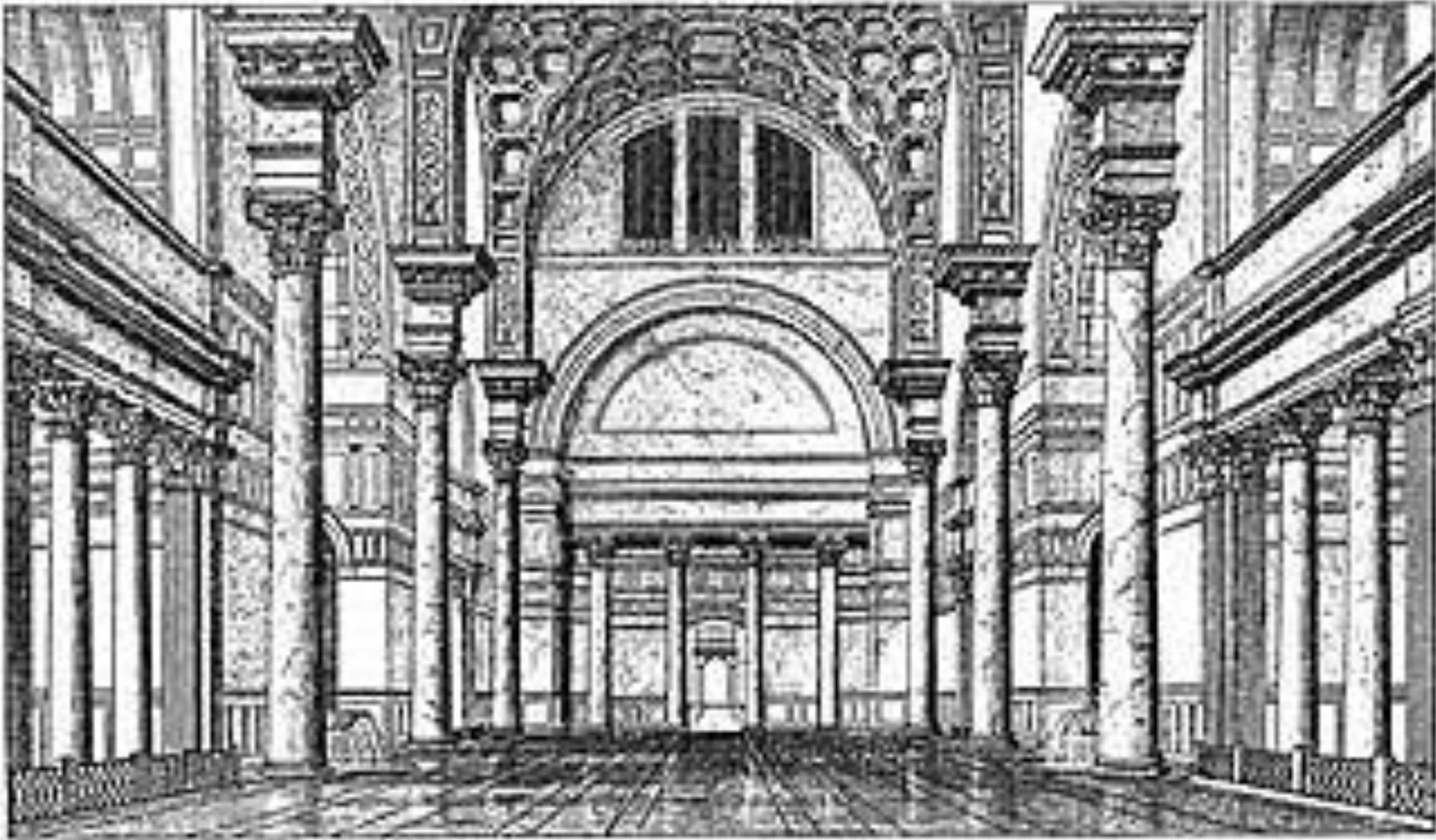
Caracalla Baths



1. Libraries
2. Gymnasia
3. Sports stadium
4. Shops and offices
5. *Frigidarium*
6. *Tepidaria*
7. *Calidarium*







Interior of Caracalla Baths

Fashion

- Roman women considered to be highly sophisticated
- Trends in hair styles and clothing as today
- Roman women would sometimes weave in the blond hair of Gaulic slaves to form elaborate coifs



Sexual Ethics

- Roman ethics did not forbid sex or consider it a “sin”; the only negative impact it had was if a woman became pregnant out of wedlock
- Prostitutes worked in every major city, were a legitimate business
- After the conquest of the Mediterranean, sexual practices became decadent, e.g. orgies
- Similar attitude toward alternative sexuality with Greece (but not compulsory like Sparta)
- Christians reacted strongly against Roman sexual mores, saw sexuality as sacred act between man and wife

Summary

- Roman core values of paterfamilias, auctoritas, gravitas, and civitas carried it from a small village to an empire
- With the expansion of the empire and decline of the republic, public service ethic changed, civitas all but disappeared, and the wealthy became decadent
- Western cultures have imitated some elements of Roman Imperial lifestyle ever since (esp. focus on pomp and grandeur)