



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Rethinking Ostia : a spatial enquiry into the urban society of Rome's imperial port-town

Stöger, J.J.

Citation

Stöger, J. J. (2011, December 7). *Rethinking Ostia : a spatial enquiry into the urban society of Rome's imperial port-town*. Archaeological Studies Leiden University. Leiden University Press, Leiden. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/18192>

Version: Not Applicable (or Unknown)

License: [Licence agreement concerning inclusion of doctoral thesis in the Institutional Repository of the University of Leiden](#)

Downloaded from: <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/18192>

Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Cover Page



Universiteit Leiden



The handle <http://hdl.handle.net/1887/18192> holds various files of this Leiden University dissertation.

Author: Stöger, Johanna

Title: Rethinking Ostia : a spatial enquiry into the urban society of Rome's imperial port-town

Issue Date: 2011-12-07

Rethinking Ostia: A Spatial Enquiry into the Urban Society of Rome's Imperial Port-Town

Archaeological Studies Leiden University
is published by Leiden University Press, The Netherlands

Series editors: CC. Bakels and H. Kamermans

Cover design: Joanne Porck

Layout: Japes, Amsterdam

Illustrations: Hanna Stöger, Jolanda Lee, Joanne Porck

ISBN 9789087281502

e-ISBN 9789400600683

NUR 682

© Hanna Stöger / Leiden University Press, 2011

All rights reserved. Without limiting the rights under copyright reserved above, no part of this book may be reproduced, stored in, or introduced into a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means (electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise) without the written permission of both the copyright owner and the author of the book.

Rethinking Ostia:

A Spatial Enquiry into the Urban Society of Rome's Imperial Port-Town

Proefschrift

ter verkrijging van
de graad van Doctor aan de Universiteit Leiden,
op gezag van Rector Magnificus prof. mr. P.F. van der Heijden,
volgens besluit van het College voor Promoties
te verdedigen op woensdag 7 december 2011
klokke 13.45 uur

door

Johanna Stöger

geboren te Übersee am Chiemsee
in 1957

Promotiecommissie

Promotor: Prof. Dr J.L. Bintliff

Co-promotor: Dr L.B. van der Meer
Dr H. Kamermans

Overige Leden: Dr J. DeLaine, Oxford
Prof. Dr F. Lang, Darmstadt
Prof. Dr R. Halbertsma
Prof. Dr L. de Ligt, Leiden
Prof. Dr N. Sojc, Leiden

*To Mario and
Samira*

Introduction	i-vi
1 Research in Ostia	1
1.1 Hermansen: aspects of city life, building-types and urban formation	2
1.2 Kockel: public space in transformation	4
1.3 Heinzelmann: the ‘boomtown model’ and urban shortcomings	6
1.3.1 Controlled development versus private enterprise	7
1.3.2 Defining indicators for regulatory intervention	8
1.3.3 Heinzelmann’s conclusions	12
1.3.4 Heinzelmann critically examined	13
1.4 Mar: the formation of urban space	14
1.4.1 Mar’s urban discussion	15
1.4.2 Mar’s contributions – long-term processes appreciated	16
1.5 Further major works in Ostian scholarship: DeLaine, Rieger and Pavolini	17
2 Roman Urban Studies	19
2.1 Zanker: The Concept of Townscapes (Stadtbilder)	20
2.1.1 The impact of townscapes on the inhabitants	21
2.1.2 Urban space as a reflection of society	21
2.1.3 The overall organisation of the city	21
2.2 Wallace-Hadrill: Houses and Roman Society	22
2.2.1 Systems of spatial differentiation	23
2.2.2 Methodology: sampling Pompeii and Herculaneum	24
2.2.3 Data assessment and interpretation	24
2.2.4 The social language of decoration	25
2.2.5 The Roman power-house	26
2.3 Grahame: Reading Space - a Sally on Domus and Society	27
2.3.1 Theoretical framework	27
2.3.2 Searching for a methodology	28
2.3.3 Case-study: Pompeii and Access Analysis	28
2.3.4 Data analysis and interpretation	28
2.3.5 Reading space and beyond	29
2.4 Laurence: Space and Society	30
2.4.1 The ‘Spatial Turn’ and Pompeii’s physical and social context	30
2.4.2 Positivist geography, Space Syntax and Pompeian society	31
2.4.3 Street activity, public interaction and the ‘Production of Space’	31
2.4.4 What can be learnt from Laurence’s encounter with space?	33
2.5 Raper: thesis and its impact	34
2.5.1 Raper’s legacy	34
2.6 Kaiser: The Urban Dialogue	35
2.6.1 Empúries - a case study for spatial analysis	36
2.6.2 Kaiser’s advanced methodology	36
2.6.3 The ‘Urban Dialogue’ and Space Syntax	38
2.6.4 The extended ‘Urban Dialogue’	39
2.7 Concluding remarks	40
3 Space Syntax and Archaeology	41
3.1 The relationship between society and built environment	41
3.2 Space Syntax and Structuralism	41

3.3	Space Syntax' theoretical framework	42
3.3.1	Concepts and techniques of Space Syntax	43
3.3.2	Space Syntax graphs and diagrams	44
3.4	Space Syntax and the city	45
3.5	Space Syntax in archaeological studies	46
4	Methodology: Data Capture, Processing and Analysis	51
4.1	Ostia's site-plan and the co-ordinate system	52
4.2	Re-mapping and geo-referencing Insula IV ii	55
4.2.1	DGPS Survey- general technical background	56
4.2.2	The Ostia DGPS survey – establishing a base point	56
4.2.3	Geo-referencing Insula IV ii	57
4.3	Structural assessment of Insula IV ii – from wall to wall	58
4.4	Linking maps to database	60
4.5	Applied Space Syntax	61
4.5.1	Space Syntax tools for spatial analysis	61
4.5.2	Space Syntax tools for the analysis of spatial perception	64
4.5	Conclusion	66
5	Insula IV ii - Built Environment and Spatial Assessment	67
5.1	Insula IV ii - topographical location	67
5.2	Insula IV ii – built space	69
5.2.1	Terme del Faro (IV ii 1)	69
5.2.2	Portico and Caseggiato dell'Ercole (IV ii 2-3)	92
5.2.3	Caseggiato dell'Ercole: western 'industrial' wing (IV ii 3)	103
5.2.4	Building (industrial) IV ii 4	106
5.2.5	Caseggiato IV ii 5	110
5.2.6	Caupona del Pavone (IV ii 6)	117
5.2.7	Caseggiato IV ii 7	125
5.2.8	Building IV ii 8	130
5.2.9	Caseggiato IV ii 9	133
5.2.10	Building IV ii 10	137
5.2.11	Mitreo degli Animali (IV ii 11)	139
5.2.12	Building (IV ii 12)	147
5.2.13	Building ('Loggia') IV ii 13	150
5.2.14	Building (<i>tabernae</i>) IV ii 14	153
5.3	Conclusion	155
6	The Spatial Organisation of Insula IV ii	159
6.1	The Insula's spatial properties	160
6.2	Physical form and size of space	161
6.3	Spatial assessment and Space Syntax	163
6.4	The Insula's convex or two-dimensional organisation (Access Analysis)	164
6.4.1	Syntactical assessment of buildings IV ii 1 to 14	167
6.4.2	The collective Insula	184
6.5	The Insula's line structure (axial analysis)	189
6.6	The Insula's axial and visual structure	192
6.7	Conclusion	195

7	Street Network and Public Places: Movement and Circulation in the City	197
7.1	The archaeology and streets	198
7.1.1	Streets as archaeological artefacts	198
7.1.2	Streets and street life through the eyes of Roman authors	199
7.1.3	Experiential approaches to ancient streets	200
7.2	Ostia's streets in earlier studies	202
7.2.1	Ostia's proto-street system	203
7.2.2	The formation of the urban street system	204
7.2.3	The road system of Ostia's periphery	204
7.2.4	The physical structure of Ostia's streets	208
7.3	Temporal or spatial limits imposed on traffic along Ostia's streets	210
7.4	The 'movement economy' of Ostia's streets	212
7.5	Sampling Ostia's street network	213
7.6	Syntactical assessment of Ostia's streets	214
7.7	Segment analysis along various metric radii	215
7.8	The visual structure of Ostia's urban landscape	220
7.9	Conclusion	227
8	Scaled Approaches to Urban Space: Ostia's Guild Seats and the Movement Economy of Roman Cities	229
8.1.	The Guilds and their Buildings: collegia and scholae	229
8.1.1	History of research	229
8.1.2	A fresh look at guild seats	232
8.1.3	An integrated approach with two data sets: buildings and streets	232
8.1.4	Guild seats – buildings with low architectural definition	233
8.2	The scholae: architecture and setting	233
8.2.1	The Casa dei Triclini (I xii 1)	233
8.2.2	Aula e Tempio dei Mensores (I xix 1-3)	234
8.2.3	Domus di Marte (III ii 5)	237
8.2.4	Domus accanto al Serapeo (III xvii 3)	238
8.2.5	Caseggiato dei Lottatori (V iii 1)	240
8.3	Scholae architecture – a reading from access maps and spatial values	241
8.3.1	Scholae and spatial organisation: a spotlight on the Casa dei Triclini	241
8.3.2	Correlation between Control Values and Real Relative Asymmetry (RRA)	249
8.4	The role of specific rooms	250
8.5	The Guilds and the Movement Economy of Ostia	251
8.6	Conclusion	254
9	Conclusion and Directions for Future Research	257
References		263
Appendices		227
List of Figures		291
List of Tables		297
Glossary		299
The Chronology of Imperial Periods		303
Dutch and Italian Summary		305
Acknowledgments		313
Curriculum Vitae		315

