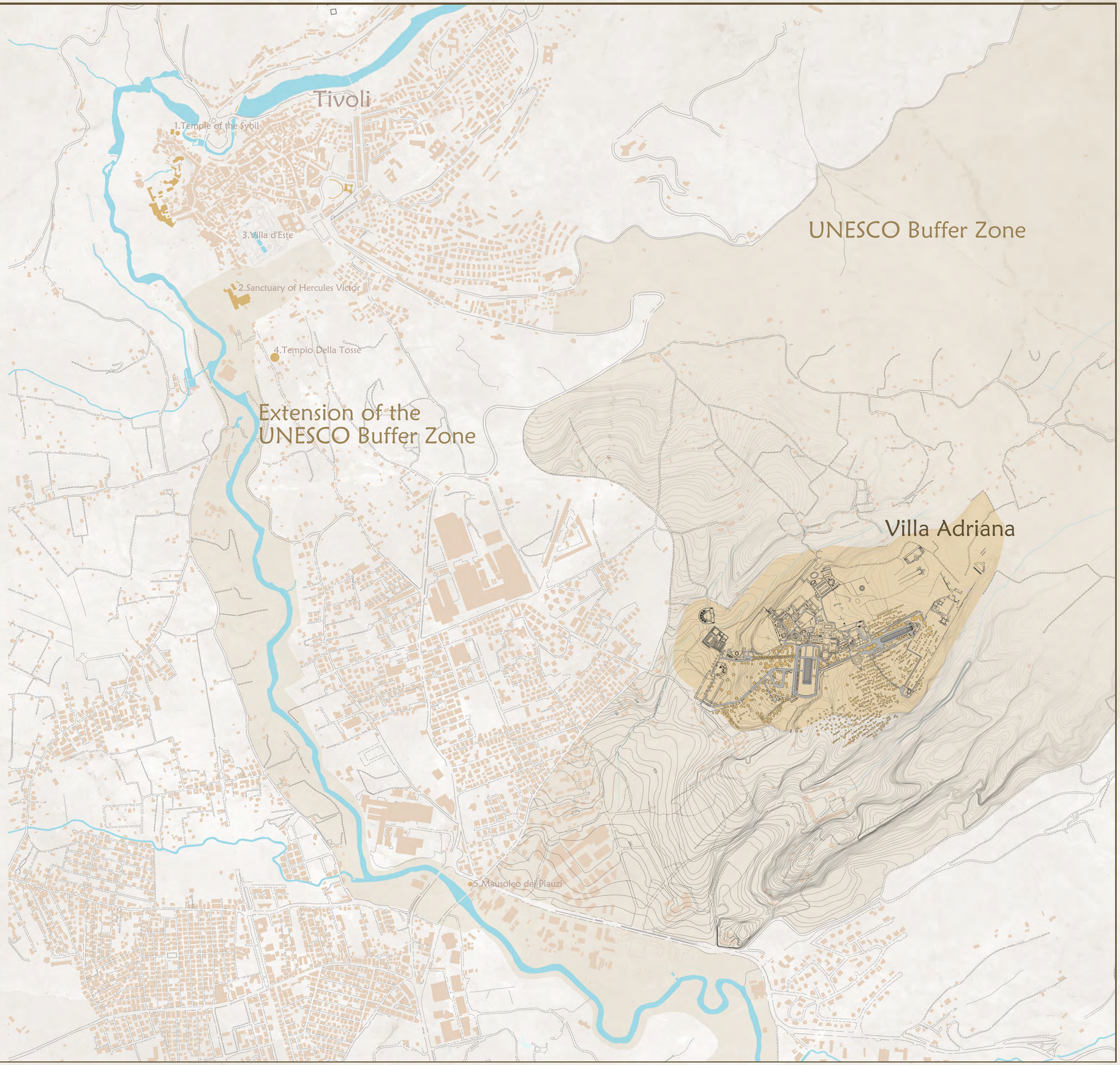
1.Temple of the Sybil

2.Sanctuary of Hercules Victor

3.Villa d'Este

4.Tempio Della Tosse

5.Mausoleo dei Plauzi



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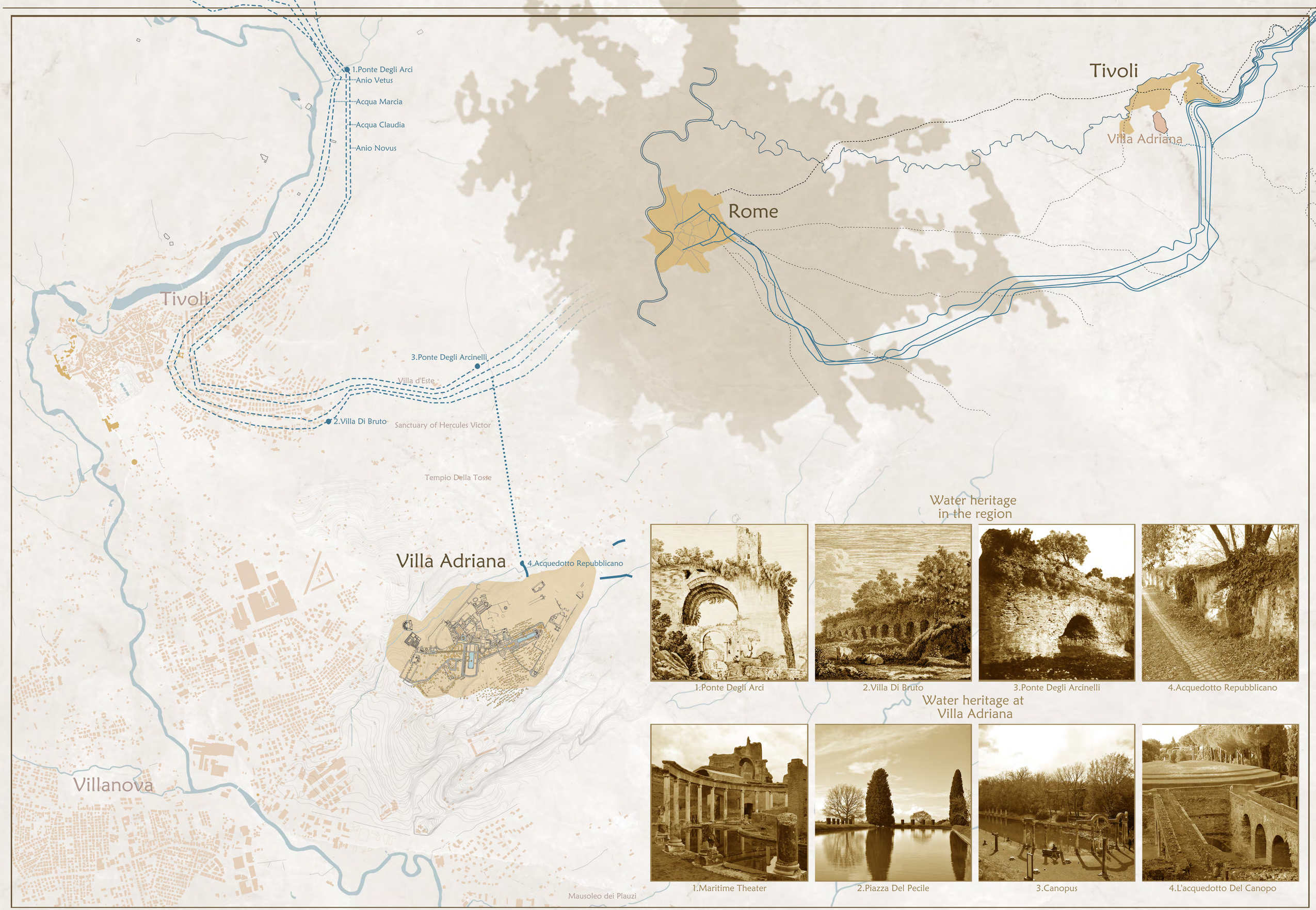
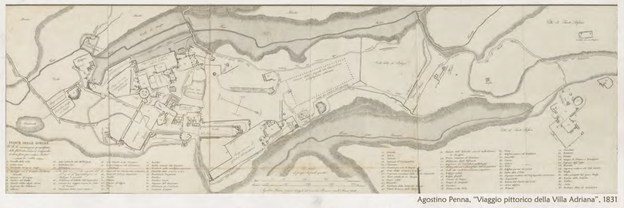

1.Ponte Degli Arci
Anio Vetus
Acqua Marcia
Acqua Claudia
Anio Novus
Tivoli
Rome
Tivoli
Villa Adriana
3.Ponte Degli Arcinelli
Villa d'Este
2.Villa Di Bruto
Sanctuary of Hercules Victor
Tempio Della Tosse
Villa Adriana
4.Acquedotto Repubblicano
Villanova
Mausoleo dei Plauzi
Water heritage
in the region
1.Ponte Degli Arci
2.Villa Di Bruto
3.Ponte Degli Arcinelli
4.Acquedotto Repubblicano
Water heritage at
Villa Adriana
1.Maritime Theater
2.Piazza Del Pecile
3.Canopus
4.L'acquedotto Del Canopo

Francesco Contini, "Iconographia Villa Tiburtinae Adriani Caesaris", 1668

Giovanni Battista Piranesi, "Pianta delle fabbriche esistenti nella Villa Adriana", 1781



Agostino Penna, "Viaggio pittorico della Villa Adriana", 1831

Giovanni Battista Piranesi , Vedvte di Roma, 1779

118AD First Villa Construction

In 117 AD, Hadrian ascended the throne as Augustus and returned to Rome. Before leaving Rome, he began planning the suburban palace.

In 118 AD, the construction of the villa began immediately.

AD118----AD125

Villa construction continues

125AD Villa Preliminary Completion

In 125 AD, Hadrian returned to Rome after his first major journey, and the main public spaces of Villa Adriana, such as the Canopus and Piazza d'Oro, were initially formed.

Hadrian's Villa became the emperor's actual palace, where he lived regularly and received envoys.

126-127 AD

Villa Adriana was integrated into the ceremonial life of the empire, hosting envoys and cultural visits from many places

128AD-132AD Villa Expansion

In 128AD, Hadrian once again embarked on a journey to the East (Greece–Asia Minor–Egypt), during which time the villa continued to expand. For example, the Egyptian style areas such as Serapeum and Antinoeion were built during this period.

In 130AD, Antinous drowned in the Nile; Hadrian later built the Antinoeion, a monumental structure in the villa, to host ceremonial events

132AD-138AD Villa's Final Expansion

132-134AD

Final phase of Villa Adriana expansion, including integration of peripheral roads, water channels, service systems

From 135 AD, Hadrian's health deteriorated and he gradually moved back to Rome and Baiae, and the frequency of use of the Villa declined,

in 138AD, Hadrian died in Baiae and the villa was taken over by his successor Antoninus Pius, but it was no longer used frequently.

138AD- End of the 3rd century Last use of the Villa

In 138 AD, Hadrian died and Antoninus Pius succeeded him. The villa continued to be used occasionally as an imperial property.

In the late 2nd century, emperors such as Marcus Aurelius still used the villa for a short period of time; some buildings were converted to administrative and reception purposes.

During the Crisis of the 3rd Century, due to political instability and frequent civil wars, the use of the villa gradually decreased.

270AD-554AD Destruction and Abandonment

270-284 AD, Emperor Aurelian and several subsequent rulers began to dismantle some of the building materials and transport them to Rome for reconstruction.

305–306 AD, Diocletian may have allocated some of the stone and decorations from the area for use in baths and palaces

In the mid-to-late 4th century, after the Christian Empire, the villa lost its symbolic significance. Some structures were still regarded as noble mansions

In the late 5th century and early 6th century, during the Odoacer and Ostrogothic Kingdoms, some villas were converted into barns and barracks, as evidenced by the unearthed bones and iron pieces

535–554 AD, the Ostrogothic War affected Tivoli, and the villa was repeatedly requisitioned as a field fortress and temporary camp

554AD- Mid-15th century Agricultural land and sources of lime soil

6th-10th century: The villa fell into ruins, was once reclaimed as farmland and used as a source of lime and soil, and some structures on the site were converted into mills or temporary buildings.

1320s: The words "Adriani Palatium" (Hadrian's Palace) appeared in the literature (preserved in Italian archives), which is the earliest explicit evidence of the recognition of the function of the monument

1461AD Rediscovery of Villa

September 1461: Humanist Flavio Biondo accompanied Pope Pius II to Tivoli and recorded for the first time in his work "Italia Illustrata" "About three miles from Tivoli...the building built by Emperor Hadrian"

From then on, "Villa Adriana" began to re-enter the academic and cultural vision.

1550– Mid-17th century Scientific mapping and preliminary excavations

Around 1560: Architect Pirro Ligorio completed the first top-level survey, drew the general plan of the villa, and carried out early "archaeological excavations"

1554: Andrea Fulvio mentioned the villa again in his Antiquitates Urbis published in 1527, integrating the content of Historia Augusta

In 1554, Andrea Fulvio recounted the remains of the villa in Antiquitates Urbis for the first time in writing.

In 1568, Cardinal d'Este was sued by local residents for collecting marble and statues near the villa.

In 1597, Ligorio's survey map was stored in the Windsor Library, providing a basis for subsequent research.

In 1611, Antonio del Re published Dell'Antichità Tiburtine, discussing the remains of the villa

1664- Mid-18th century Precise mapping and systematic archaeology by private individuals

1664-1668 Fabio Croce (1664) and Francesco Contini (1668) published more accurate survey maps, marking the shift of archaeological research to field measurements.

1724–1725 Count Giuseppe Fede acquired a large area of villa land and launched systematic excavations.

1756-1781 Etching Art and Piranesi

1756–1778: Giovanni Battista Piranesi creates numerous etchings and views that spread the aesthetics of the site in an artistic form, influencing Neoclassicism.

1781: Francesco Piranesi compiles and publishes the Pianta delle Fabriche Esistenti nella Villa Adriana, which produces detailed drawings that are still referenced today.

1782–1836 Academic research and publication of atlas

1819–1833: Antonio Nibby and other scholars combined ancient books with field measurements to compile and publish the "Travel Map of Rome".

1831–1836: Agostino Penna published the beautiful atlas "Viaggio Pittorico della Villa Adriana", which included a large number of etchings and text descriptions.

1837–1870 Gradual Publicity Nation Intervention

1837: Nibby's "Guide to Rome and the Surroundings" adds a special chapter on Villa Adriana, moving towards a two-way dissemination of the site to the public and academics.

1870s: The Italian government acquires most of the land at the site and establishes a modern archaeological protection system, marking the transformation of the villa from private property to public heritage.

1870-1950 Government supervision systematic research collation protection

1871–1875: First official archaeological excavations under government supervision, led by archaeologist Felice Barnabei.

1880s: First official, scientifically standardized mapping, classification, and recording of the site.

1906–1914: Archaeologist and architect Giovanni Battista Giovenale leads in-depth research and mapping, as well as cleaning and structural reinforcement of key sites such as the Maritime Theatre and the Canopus area.

1930–1940s: Further large-scale conservation and excavation by the Italian government, led by archaeologist Italo Gismondi.

1943: Damage to the site during World War II; rapid restoration and conservation after the war.

1950–1999 Interdisciplinary cooperation international cooperation world cultural heritage

1950s–1960s: More scientific archaeological investigations are conducted by the Italian Archaeological Service (Soprintendenza Archeologica).

1960s: Hydrologists and architectural historians participate in the study of water systems.

1970s–1980s: Italy cooperates with the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) to carry out systematic archaeological investigations, using aerial photography and precision mapping.

1989: Villa Adriana is listed as a national heritage site by the Italian government.

1990–1992: A joint team led by American archaeologist Wilhelmina Jashemski and Italian archaeologist Salza Prina Ricotti studies the Canopus area, gardens and fountain system.

1998: The Antinoeion area is recognized as an Antinous monument for the first time, promoting more interdisciplinary research.

1999: UNESCO officially lists Hadrian's Villa on the World Heritage List.

2000 to Present: High-tech Archaeology, Digital archaeology, in-depth International Research Cooperation

2000 The German Archaeological Institute (DAI) started digital mapping work

2002 The Italian National Research Council (CNR) carried out preliminary digital mapping research on the water system.

2006 The Italian Ministry of Culture and Tourism issued new regulations on the protection and management of the site and launched a protection plan.

2007: Zaccaria Mari & Sgalambro's research fully interpreted the architectural function of the Antinoeion, laying a new paradigm for the combination of Egyptology and classical archaeology.

2013-2019: The Columbia University archaeological team used advanced laser radar (LIDAR) and 3D scanning technology for digital restoration and virtual display.

2013 Columbia University excavated the villa's underground service channel network and living area.

2014 The European Union funded the "Digital Heritage" project (Horizon 2020), and Villa Adriana was selected as the first case

2016 The first high-definition 3D digital model went online, and virtual visits and research began to be realized.

2023 Villa Adriana's annual visitor volume exceeds 500,000 for the first time, becoming one of the most important archaeological tourist attractions in central Italy.

2024 The site's VR virtual reality experience project is fully launched, allowing visitors to experience the virtual reconstruction of the villa for the first time, greatly enhancing the site's international tourism image.sources for subsequent villa construction

From the 5th century BC to the 1st century AD

The site is situated on the western bank of the Aniene River, within a piedmont gentle slope zone. Compared to the Roman Plain, this terrain features a cooler and more humid climate, lush vegetation, and abundant spring water resources (such as the aquifer between the Alban Hills and Tivoli).

5th–3rd Century BC: Formation of the Tibur City-State

Tibur, as a significant member of the Latin League, maintained frequent interactions with Rome while sustaining a prolonged rivalry.

338 BC: Incorporation into Rome and Municipal Status

Following the Latin War, Tibur was annexed by Rome and became a "municipium" (Latin autonomous town), yet retained a degree of local cultural autonomy (exemplified by independent worship at the Temple of Hercules). The location of this villa remained agricultural land, featuring scattered farmsteads and rural sanctuaries.

In 272 BC, the Aqua Anio Vetus was approved for construction by the Roman Senate, drawing water from the Aniene River and passing through Tivoli.

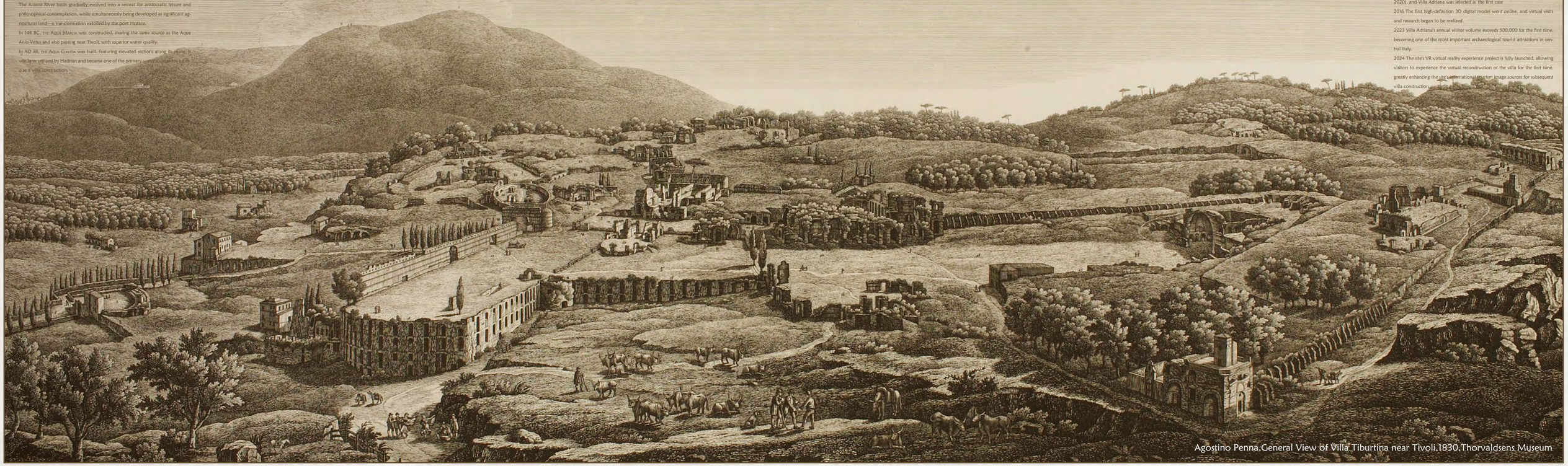
2nd Century BC: Trend of Aristocratic Rural Villas

Roman nobles began constructing villa rustica(agricultural estate villas) and villa suburbana (suburban villas) in the Tibur area, seeking seclusion and natural surroundings. The Aniene River basin gradually evolved into a retreat for aristocratic leisure and philosophical contemplation, while simultaneously being developed as significant agricultural land—a transformation extolled by the poet Horace.

In 144 BC, the Aqua Marcia was constructed, sharing the same source as the Aqua Anio Vetus and also passing near Tivoli, with superior water quality.

In AD 38, the Aqua Claudia was built, featuring elevated sections along its route. It was later utilized by Hadrian and became one of the primary water sources for subsequent villa construction.

Reign of Emperor Hadrian,The period during which the villa was mainly built and used



Agostino Penna,General View of Villa Tiburtina near Tivoli,1830,Thorvaldsens Museum

VILLA ADRIANA. ARCHITETTURE D'ACQUA E PAESAGGIO ARCHEOLOGICO
IL PROGETTO DI MUSEALIZZAZIONE, ACCESSIBILITA', VALORIZZAZIONE E COMUNICAZIONE DELLE AREE ARCHEOLOGICHE

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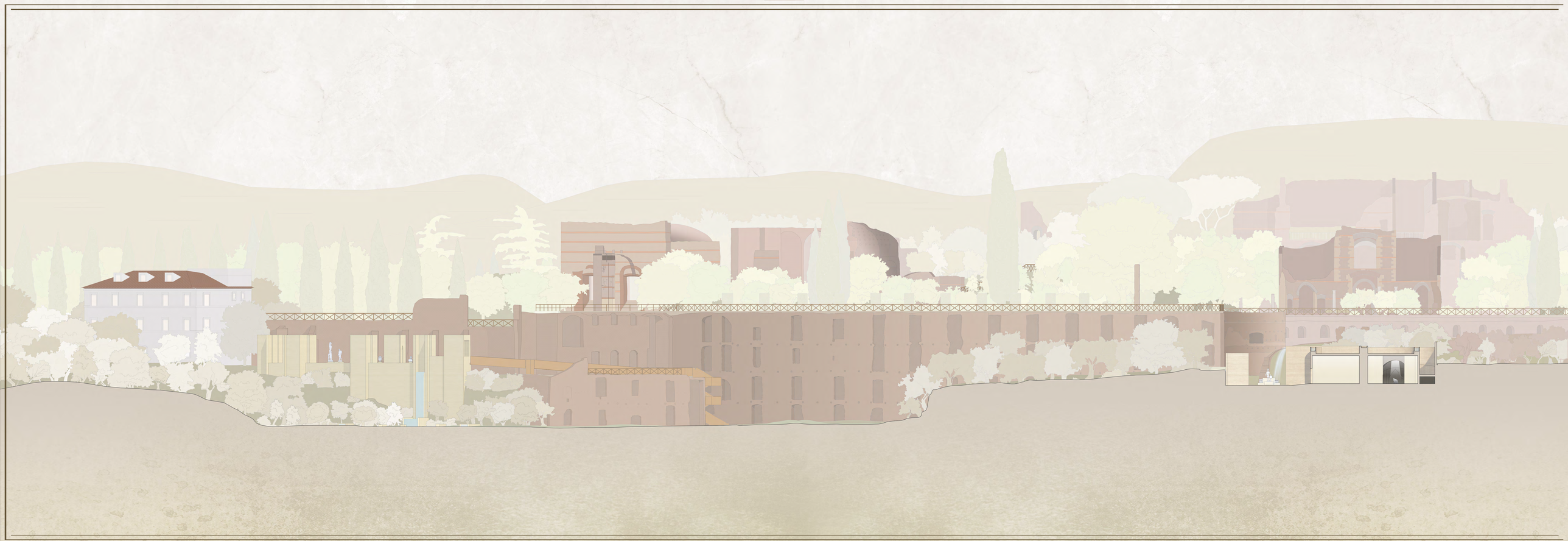

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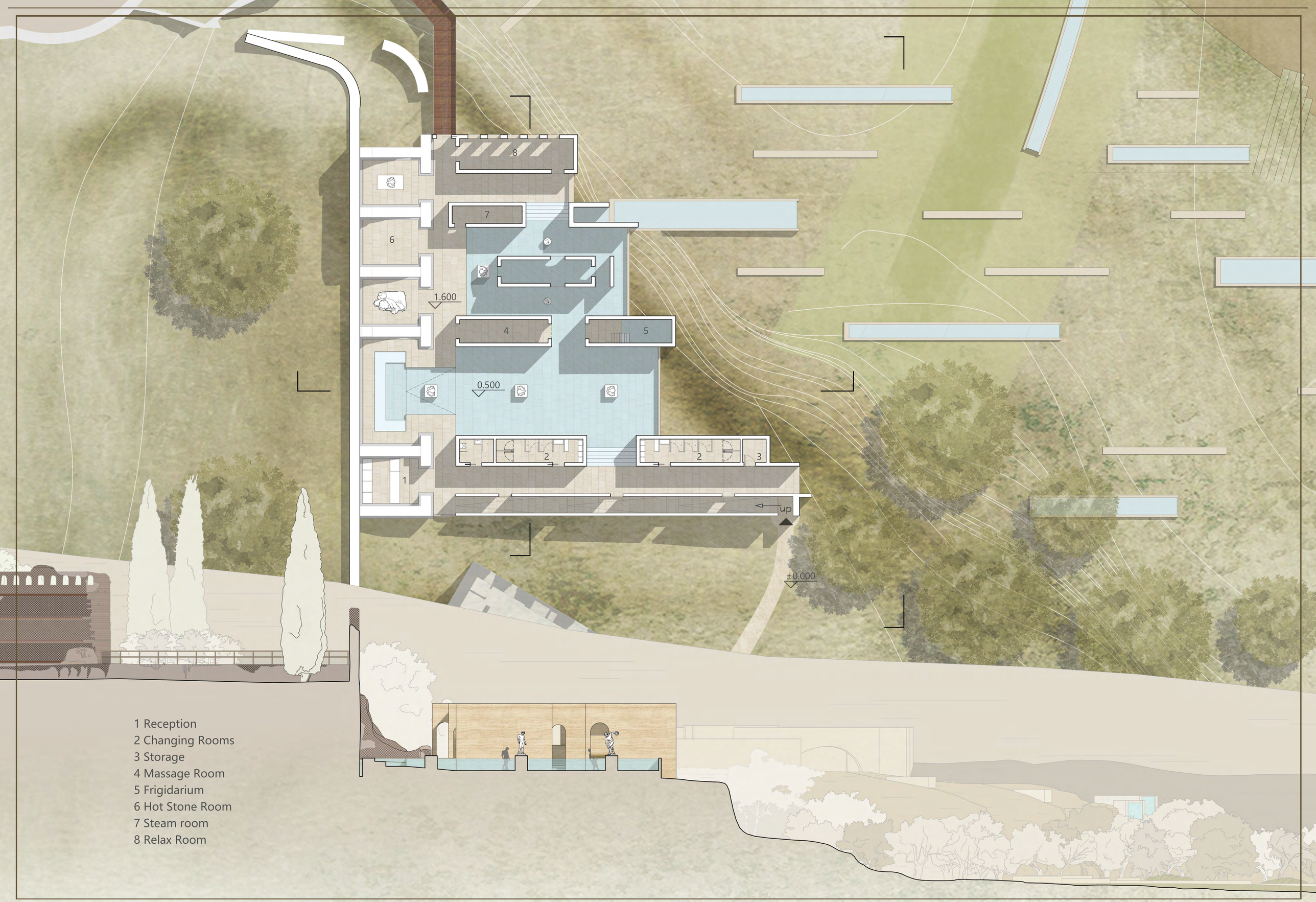
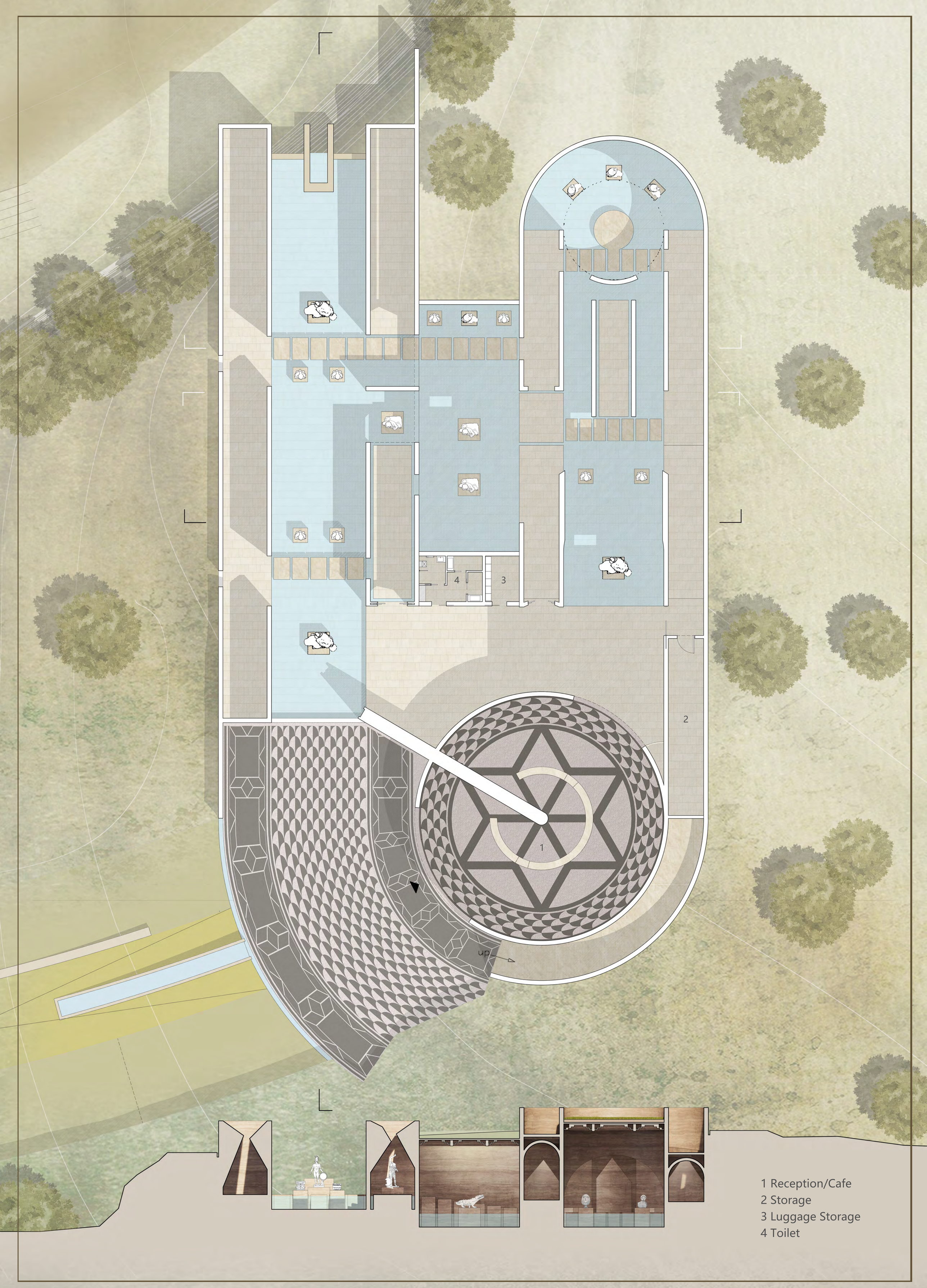
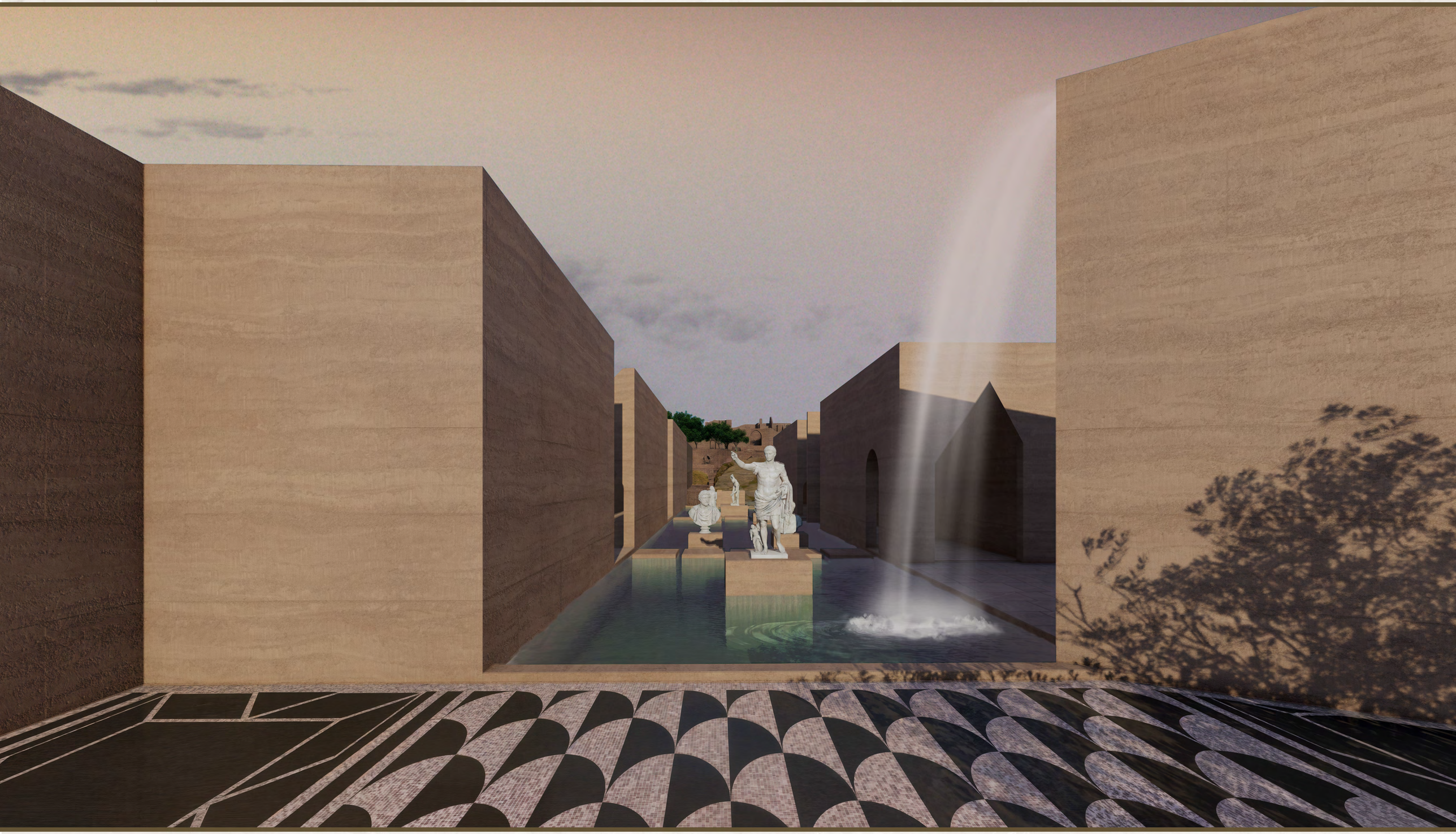


1 Reception
2 Changing Rooms
3 Storage
4 Massage Room
5 Frigidarium
6 Hot Stone Room
7 Steam room
8 Relax Room


4
3
2
1
up
1 Reception/Cafe
2 Storage
3 Luggage Storage
4 Toilet

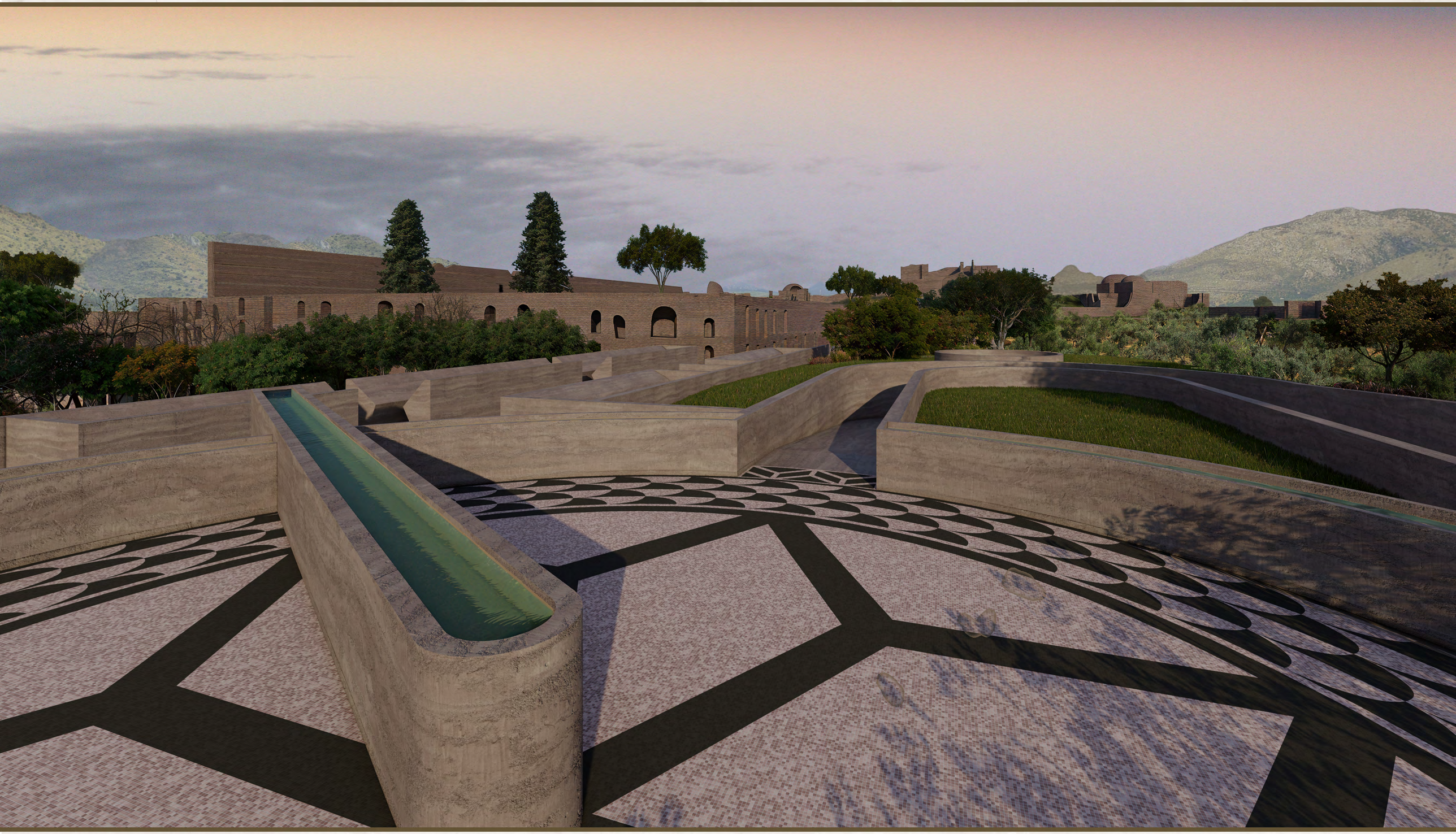
PAVILION



MUSEUM

PAVILION

MUSEUM



MUSEUM PLATFORM

VILLA ADRIANA. ARCHITETTURE D'ACQUA E PAESAGGIO ARCHEOLOGICO
IL PROGETTO DI MUSEALIZZAZIONE, ACCESSIBILITA', VALORIZZAZIONE E COMUNICAZIONE DELLE AREE ARCHEOLOGICHE

ROAD FOR THE VILLA

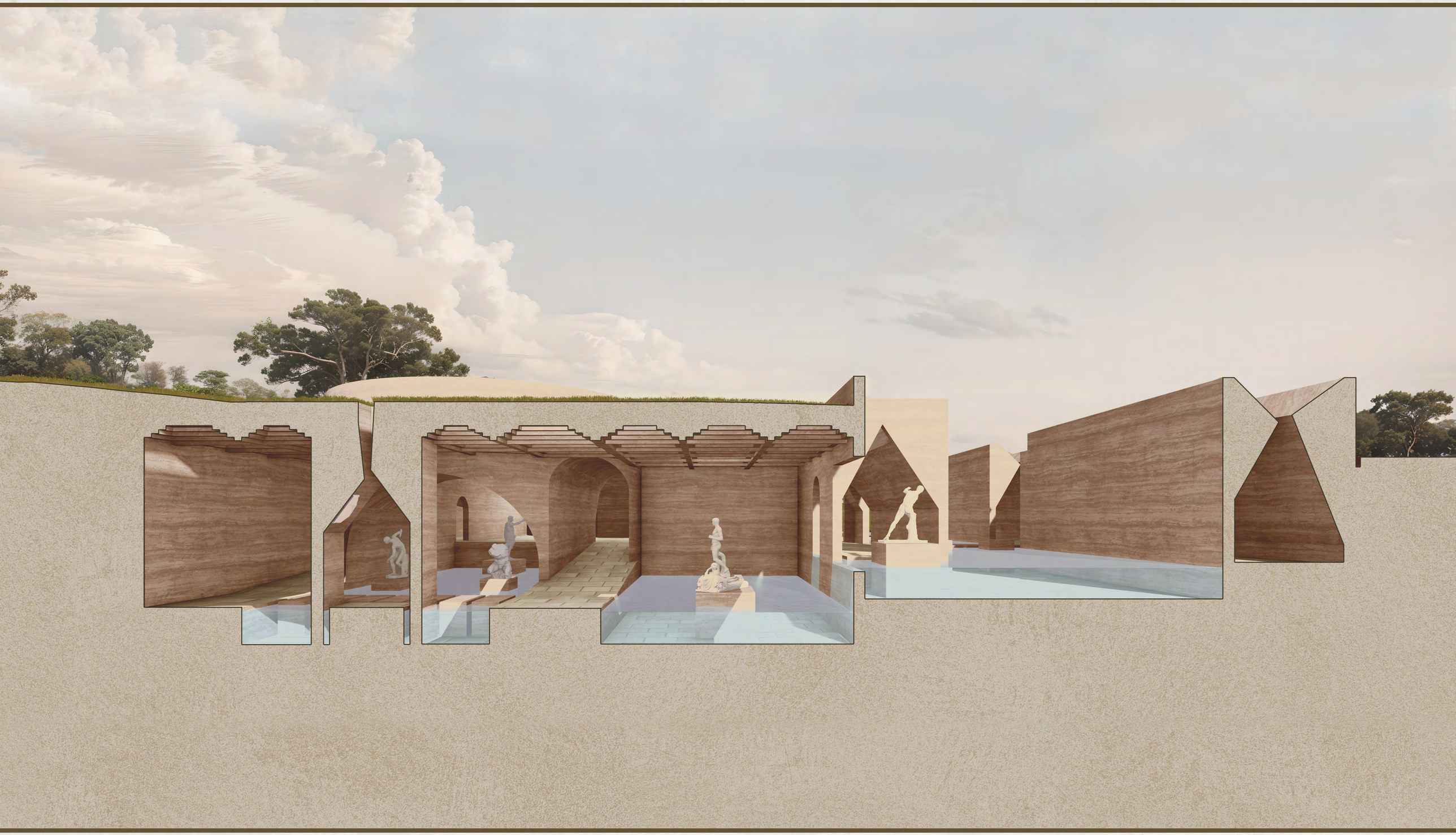
MUSEUM

MUSEUM

PAVILION

LANDSCAPE

MUSEUM



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MUSEUM

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