

Insula V 1, plasters and phases: a study within the study

Introduction

When the present study was planned, a joint decision was made between me and Anne-Marie Leander Touati, to integrate the vast plaster collection of the Swedish archaeological research project into the present system.¹ The objectives were defined: the already carefully studied plaster samples in *insula V 1* could be used to corroborate or falsify the bearing of my results and, all samples might be assembled into one system, one common data base. Further, the opportunity of testing the method in buildings all over the site was offered, and most of the regions at Pompeii would be included in the study.

Plaster analysis was part of the Swedish program ever since the project started in 2000.² As responsible for the plaster analyses, I was instructed by restorer Reinhard Mayer Graft in the method he had created within the German project *Häuser in Pompeji*. Casa degli Epigrammi Greci was the object of study during the weeks we rapidly and carefully sampled most rooms in the house in order to have a complete chronology before he left. Sampling and studies continued in 2001 when conservator Carin Pettersson was my assistant. The following year, in 2002, she took over the obligation for the Swedish plaster investigation. Therefore, it was assumed, the basic principles of investigation would make possible this kind of joint study. The fundamental conditions will be examined in the section Discussion and Conclusions. As I had no personal experience of the excavations in *insula V 1*, the documentation presented as annual plaster reports were handed over to me as guidance. The design of the Swedish documentation, handed over to me, is briefly described below.

The reports consist of two parts, *Plaster analyses* and *Photo enclosure*. *Plaster Analyses* begins with a general introduction on the methods used, succeeded by descriptions of reference samples found in the house. The earliest plaster is labeled Plaster type A, followed by reference identification and the place where the plaster type was initially sampled. To give an example, the earliest plaster in the Caupona belongs to group A, the reference is 12F5, it was found in room *d*, north wall, h. 0.83, 0.06 from NW corner. The plaster is thoroughly described under the following headings: *Lime*, *Filler*, and *Overall impressions*. In the Caupona there are nine reference plasters plus two kinds of mortar. After the plaster descriptions are *Room descriptions*, in which each wall and the relative chronology of plaster layers observed are described, as well as an indication on the number of samples and the tables (lists) in which the samples are registered. Next is a plan of the house with indications

¹ My gratitude goes to Margareta Staub Gierow who introduced me to the site of Pompeii and its history and for the valuable comments that eventually led to this text; to Anne-Marie Leander Touati for fruitful discussions and support. It was a pleasure to collaborate with Thomas Staub, and I was happy to discuss some problems in Casa di Caecilius Iucundus with Renée Forsell and Arja Karivieri. Carin Pettersson made a great job with the identification of the many plasters types in the vast plaster collection at *insula V 1*.

² Plaster analysis was launched by field director Margareta Staub Gierow who was familiar with the method from the German project *Häuser in Pompeji*.

of sampling spots using a colour code. Last is the *List of reference samples*. The list contains information on where to find the sample (chest, container and box), where it was sampled (room, wall, location) the order of layer, plaster description, plaster type and phase. The order or layer is indicated as 1st, 2nd, or 3rd layer, small remain, or spoil. *Plaster type* and *Phase* always have the same designation; Type A = Phase A, Type B = Phase B etc. Under the heading *Remarks* are indications such as UP (under-plaster), FP (fine-plaster) FP red (fine-plaster with red fine-plaster). In the *Photo enclosure* are photos of each wall with indications of sampling spots.

A concordance table of plaster types/phases in the houses investigated was prepared by Pettersson at the time the joint project started. This table has been useful because, although the types/phases were organized in groups with the same labeling, these by and large, were chronologically sorted according to “styles”.

The documentation described above and the reference samples constitute the basic material of the present investigation. I have relied on the information handed over and my own observations of samples made under the microscope. Therefore, the layout of sections that describe each house in *insula* V 1 was made differently to the sections in the main part of the study. The principle is that reports’ results are presented as an entrance to the description of the house. Next are my reconstructions of the stratigraphies as these appear in the reports. Then follows my results of the inspections of samples and the plasters are placed into groups, and finally there is in each house, a concordance between the earlier and the present results, and a concluding discussion on the results.

A distinction between the earlier documentation and the present study is made in the schedules too. Each schedule starts with the information available in the annual reports, followed by my microscope observations. The plasters and contexts in the *insula* are described house by house, beginning with Casa degli Epigrammi Greci, where I had first hand knowledge of the context, and then in the order of house number, starting with V 1, 13 and concluding with V 1, 26.³

The houses, rooms and walls are photographed and can be studied at the home-page of the Swedish Pompeii Project, www.pompejiprojektet.se/insula.php

³ House V1 7 Casa del Torello and Taberna V 1, 24 are of course part of the *insula* but not part of this comparative study. Therefore they are presented in connection with the main investigation.

V 1, 18 Casa degli Epigrammi Greci



Fig.53. To the left: The peristyle towards room *k*.



Fig.54. To the right: Detail of painting, room *y*, east wall.

Casa degli Epigrammi Greci is composed of at least two original buildings maybe fused at the time of the Roman colony when the house received its Second style decoration.⁴ The house probably incorporated part of a property in the north-east sector of the *insula*. There are some areas with remains of First style plasterwork. A small section of a stucco cornice is preserved at the top of the long wall in the peristyle, the boundary wall towards the north house of Casa di Caecilius Iucundus V 1, 23. Mau already describes traces of a projecting string course and some *guttae*, a part of a First style Doric frieze.⁵ Another relatively large fragment is visible on the east wall of room *m*, where a piece of plaster was trapped behind the later constructed south wall.

Presumably the house was decorated in the Second style, repaired with minor changes, and redecorated in the Fourth.⁶ To the earlier period belong the decorations in the *triclinium m* and the paintings with epigrams in room *y* facing the peristyle, both thoroughly described by Mau and copied by Presuhn.⁷ Interesting for the topics of this study is Beyen's description of the building materials and in particular the rough walls of *incertum* rubble and coarse mortar of *triclinium m*, commenting on the low quality of the mortar under the Second style decoration.⁸

⁴ Staub Gierow 2005, 146; Beyen 1960, 200.

⁵ Laidlaw 1985, 105; Mau 1900, 65.

⁶ Eschebach 1993, 125f; Strocka 2008, 306.

⁷ Beyen 1960, 204.

⁸ Beyen 1960, 201.

To the Fourth style belong a number of decorations. In *exedra o* were paintings, attributed to the so called Iphigenia Painter, showing Mars and Venus, Danae on Zephyros, and Ariadne Abandoned, the later faintly visible and recorded on a drawing by Presuhn.⁹ The peristyle had a decoration, showing a silen and wild animals.¹⁰

Plasters and phases

Casa degli Epigrammi Greci is the house where restorer Reinhard Mayer-Graft instructed me how to use his method to study and define plasters in Pompeii. In 2002 only minor changes had been made in Mayer-Graft's work; there were eight identified plaster types representing phases within the Four Pompeian styles. Having first-hand experience of context and sampling spots, I have chosen to exploit the documentation from 2001.¹¹ Later investigations performed by Carin Pettersson led to the addition of four new plaster types (12A8, 12A7, 12A1, 10F2).¹²

Sampling began along the south wall in room *i*, the peristyle, the boundary wall towards V 1, 23. The earliest plaster on the wall, and in the house, was type 1B2, group Aa, found at a *spolium* in the wall, and partially covered by next phase, a small area of plaster type 1G11, group Ab. Plaster type 1A12, group B, was found as the first layer at many areas of the wall, indicating it might have been the first decoration phase on the wall, later covered by 1A13, group F. The columns were initially plastered with type 1B8, group C, indicating Second style, and later redecorated with plaster type 1C3, group G used at the very last days of Pompeii. The red decoration at the west wall near the entrance to room *m'* was made on plaster 1G8, group G. Room *b*, *atrium* provided plaster type 2C1, group E, where it covered the earlier type 1A12, and in turn was covered by 1A13, group F. Repairs at the entrance to the *tablinum* were made with type 1C3, group H. The fact that type 1B2 was a *spolium* and 1G11 only found at a very limited area was unsatisfactory and raised questions. 1B2 was later found at several areas in the northeast sector of the house, previously part of the *Caupona*, but 1G11 was preserved only at a few places and at limited areas. All decorated walls in room *y* have been restored and are therefore not possible to sample. Plaster type 1A12 was found at one spot at the east wall, the boundary wall towards the street and as a *spolium* in the south wall above the entrance. At the sampling areas in connection to the wall decoration was a late plaster indicating a repair, presumably connected with modern restoration. Above room *y* is a walled up window facing the street, in which are remains of plaster type 1B2, group Aa. The same kind of plaster was identified at the façade outside room *y*.

⁹ Richardson 2000, 130.

¹⁰ Richardson 2000, 151.

¹¹ The results of the present investigation are presented in the schedules in the appendix.

¹² C. Pettersson, Rapport Putsanalyser Epigrammi Greci, V 1, 18, 2002-2005.

Additional samples

Plaster types A2, A1 and A0, were later found at excavation of the peristyle. According to Staub Gierow, a strip of plaster representing the oldest plaster type was found in the peristyle just above the ground below the elevation made around 120 BC.¹³ The plaster belongs to a decoration that presumably was made some time between 200 and 120 BC. In Pettersson's description, the "black and white plaster" labelled A0 was removed from a plaster layer at the south wall roughly 40 cm below the present ground level. Further, a fragment with two plaster layers was found in the garden, the upper of which was type 1B2 with hack-marks, and the lower was type A0. Three *spolia* in the fountain base situated in the middle of the garden provided two more samples of type A and the third a plaster labeled type A1.¹⁴ The first layer on the wall south of the fountain base, that is the south wall of the peristyle, was type 1B2, indicating there were early built structures in this area as well as in the north sector.

The new types occurred also in room *x*, previously part of the *Caupona*. On the west wall was a plastered area consisting of three layers – a first layer of A2 covered by two layers of type A. There were also *spolia* which provided types A0, A1 and A. The next decoration phase in the room was represented by plaster type 1B8, connected with the Second style.

Results

According to my results, the early plaster types discussed above (A0, A1 and A2) belong to group A, subgroup Aa, which is in fact a very early plaster and the dating fits perfectly with plaster type 1B2 and other plasters in subgroup Aa. The minor variations between samples can be explained as due to the plastering technique.

The distribution of plasters in the house shows that the earliest phase, represented by type 1B2, was associated to rooms in the north-eastern sector of the building and at the eastern façade. The plaster type also appeared along the west wall of room *m*, trapped behind the later constructed south wall. Type 1A12, linked to late First and early Second style decorations, found at regular distances along the boundary wall towards the house of Caecilius Iucundus was the plaster used for the original decoration of the peristyle wall. A general redecoration of the house was made in the Third style (plaster types 2C1 and 1A13). Finally, most rooms were redecorated or repaired in the Fourth style with plasters of type 1C3 and 1G8, both belonging to the last period of Pompeii.

Two plaster types in this house, 1B2 and 1G11, have been analyzed at CNR/ICVBC in Florence as part of my study with focus on early plasters. These were the first of the kind that I became acquainted with, and therefore have been of great importance. The differences between the plasters were obvious at ocular inspection. Laboratory analyses confirm these belong to group A, subgroups Aa and Ab respectively.

¹³ Staub Gierow 2008, 95.

¹⁴ Pettersson, report 2005, 21.

All plasters, in this house are of good quality, well balanced and well mixed, except for 1A12, which has large lime lumps, a characteristic common for plasters in group B. It was interesting to see that Beyen made a note of the low quality of the mortar under the Second style decoration in *triclinium m.*

Concordance table

C. Pettersson	Plaster type	A. Freccero
1 st style, type/phase A2	12A8	Group A (Aa)
1 st style, type/phase A1	12A7	Group A (Aa)
1 st style, type/phase A0	12A1	Group A (Aa)
1 st style, type/phase A	1B2	Group A (Aa)
1 st style, type/phase B	1G11	Group A (Ab)
2 nd style, type/phase C	1A12	Group B
2 nd style, type/phase D	1B8	Group C
2 nd style, type/phase D2	10F2	Group C
3 rd style, type/phase E	2C1	Group E
4 th style or late 3 rd style, type/phase F	1A13	Group F
4 th style after 62, type/phase G	1C3	
4 th style after 62, type/phase H	1G8	Group G
	1C3	Group H

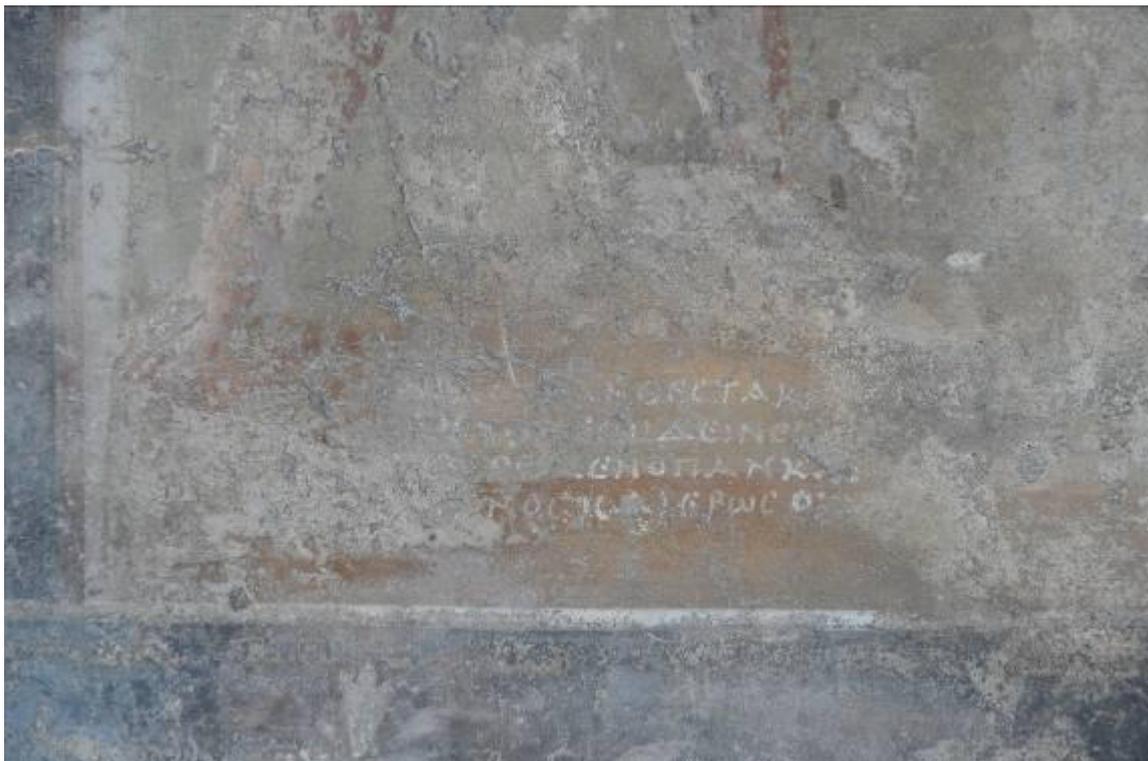


Fig 55. Room y, east wall. Detail of the decoration with remains of a Greek epigram.

V 1, 13 Caupona

12F5 - A	Plaster types/phases as presented in C. Pettersson, <i>Rapport. Putsanalyser. Caupona V 1, 13, Pompeji 2006, Stockholms Universitet, Svenska Institutet i Rom.</i>
13D1 - B	
12D5 - C	
12G8 - D	
12G11 - E	
12G2 - F	
12E7 - G	
12F12 - H	
12D2 - I	

Stratigraphies according to documentation

Room a	Room b	Room d,e	Room d	Room e	Room e	Room e
---12G2	----12E7	---12D5	----12D2	----12D2	----12D2	---12E7
---12D5	----12D5	---12F5	---12F12	---12E7	----12D5	---12D5
			---12D5	---12D5	----12F5	---12F5
				----12F5		
<i>Façade</i>						
---13D1						
---12F5						

The *Caupona* is considered to have some of the most ancient structures in the *insula*.¹⁵ The north-west part of the building with walls in *opus quadratum* and *opus africanum*, is older than the 2nd century BC. Originally the house extended further into the south-east, a space that was later occupied by Casa degli Epigrammi Greci.¹⁶

Plasters and phases

The reference samples were observed under the microscope and compared to relevant samples from *insula* V1 and other buildings at the site. Below they are placed into the groups of the present system.¹⁷

Group A: 12D5, 12F5, 12G11, 12G8, 13D1.

Group E: 12E7, 12G2.

Group G: 12D2, 12F12.

Plaster types 12F5 and 12D5 appear in stratigraphy in room *c*, *d*, and *e*, 12D5 in all cases as the second layer. These layers represent a plastering technique and therefore belong to the same group.¹⁸

Room *f* is particular and a discussion is required. Four different plaster types of the early period were found in the room and at its façade. At the north and east walls were areas of

¹⁵ Leander-Touati 2008, 122f.

¹⁶ Leander-Touati, 2010, 113.

¹⁷ To keep samples together in the database, the label Cau, indicating Caupona, was used, e.g. sample 12D5 is there named Cau 12D5

¹⁸ The schedules are presented in the Appendix, arranged in chronological order starting with plasters in group A.

plaster type 12F5, indicating it was remnants of the original decoration. Remains of the same kind of plaster were found behind the hearth and as *spolia* in the south wall. Plaster type 12G11, was sampled only at one area in the room, on the north wall trapped behind the east wall. As the east wall was decorated with type 12F5, plaster 12G11 could not be later; it must belong to the same period or to an earlier phase. Therefore it seems odd to designate the plaster to a later period, type/phase E. Yet another plaster type, 13D1, described as “1B2 surplus lime” was found at the east wall, where it was mentioned as “going behind the wall structure”.¹⁹ On the plan the “wall structure” rather seems to be some kind of construction at the east wall.²⁰ Further, two plaster types were found at the façade, that is, the exterior side of the north wall in room *f*. One was a stratigraphy of 12F5 and 13D1 explained as “goes into the wall, on *f*-side”. On the plan it is indicated as found on the other side of the wall, not towards room *f*, but towards room *x* in Casa degli Epigrammi Greci. Plaster type 12G8 was found at a “layer that goes into the wall” at the façade outside room *f*, further west along the street, apparently in a walled up former entrance to the house.

All the plasters noted in room *f* have fine-grained filler with rounded and angular grains, many of which are black, brown, grey, and a few pale yellow or ochre, plus many black crystals and a relatively beige lime. 12F5, 12D5, 12G11 are very similar, and belong to the same group. They have characteristics of group 0 as well as group Aa. 13D1 is similar too, but has more lime which gives another impression. In my opinion, 13D1 is the top layer of 12F5. The plaster samples belong to the same decoration period.

In room *d*, a plaster of type 12D5 was the earliest phase, found at the north wall. It was covered by a hacked layer, type 12F12, which in turn was sealed behind the last plaster type, 12D2 (group G), used for the final redecoration of the room. The indentations on layer 12F12 indicate it was a decoration layer, most probably related to 12D5. 12D5 is very similar to the early plasters mentioned above and in particular to group 0 plasters in Casa delle Amazzoni. On the other hand, brown, fine-grained plasters also occur in group G, and with no firsthand information on the context, and no other samples branded the same way, it is difficult to say whether this plaster belongs to group 0 or group G. Microscope studies of other samples named 12D5 and 12F12, or laboratory analyses would provide an answer.

Plasters of type 12G2 and 12E7 were found at the west sector of the building, towards the shop area and Via di Vesuvio. These belong to group E, used in the Third style.

¹⁹ Sample EG 1B2 refers to the earliest phase in Casa degli Epigrammi Greci and it belongs to group A, subgroup Aa. “Surplus lime” indicates the plaster has a higher percentage of lime than the average EG 1B2. Much lime usually indicates the last plaster layer, sometimes functioning as the preparation for painting but is usually the ultimate layer before stucco was applied.

²⁰ For whom has not studied the sampling area, the photo of the sampling spot does not resolve the question whether this is a construction at the wall or a remnant of a wall.

Results

There are minor variations among the early plasters, some of which might belong either to group 0 or group A, subgroup Aa. The only ways of attributing these plasters with certainty to one of the groups would be by the correlation of plasters and wall structures and by laboratory analyses. In this house, the total absence of communication combined with the lack of laboratory research, excludes a precise identification of these plasters – however, they belong to the very early period.

To sum up, there are remnants of the original decoration in all rooms and at the façade. During the period of the Third style, the rooms at the front part of the house were redecorated. Plasters related to the Fourth style were used for redecoration and repair in room *a* and in other rooms during the late period after the earthquake in AD 62. The early plasters, although beige, are of a good quality, well composed and mixed. So are the brown plasters 12F12 and 12D2. Those in group E contain many lime lumps.

Concordance table

C. Pettersson	Plaster type	A. Freccero
1 st style, type/phase A	12F5	Group A (Aa)
1 st style, type/phase B	13D1	Group A (Ab)
2 nd style, type/phase C	12D5	Group A (Aa)
	12G11	Group A (Aa)
2 nd style, type/phase D	12G8	Group A (Ab)
2 nd or 3 rd style, type/phase E	12G11	
3 rd style, type/phase F	12G2	Group E
4 th style, type/phase G	12E7	Group E
4 th style after 62, type/phase H	12F12	Group G (?) (Aa?)
4 th style after 62, type/phase I	12D2	Group G



Fig 56. Caupona, room *a*, detail.

V 1, 14-16 Bakery and Shops

6A1 - A	Plaster types/phases as presented in C. Pettersson, <i>Rapport. Putsanalyser. Bageri och bottegor, Pompeji 2002-2007, Stockholms Universitet, Svenska Institutet i Rom.</i>
6A11 - B	
6E3 - C	
6F8 - D	
12C3 - E	
8E13 - F	
6A3 - G	
6C7 - H	
6B1 - I	

Stratigraphies according to documentation

room 14i	room 14i	room 15a,b	room 15c,f,I	Room 15d	room 15f
----6A3	----6C7	----6B1	----6A3	----6B1	----6A3
----6E3	----6A3	----6A1	----6A1	----6A3	----6E3
	----6E3				
room 15g	room 15g,z	room 15g	bottega 16h	bottega 16h	
----6B1	----6B1	----8E13	----6E3	----6B1	
----6E3	----6F8	----6E3	----6A1	----6A1	

House V 1, 14-16 was a traditional *atrium* house before it was transformed into a bakery with commercial spaces. The rebuilding and conversion of two large rooms (V 1, 14) into shops, most probably took place in the Augustan period when Via Vesuvio became an important street and was paved.²¹ The Second style paintings in room 14 belong to the period when the room was still part of a residence and not yet used for commercial activity. Paintings in room 14 have been considered as in the Second style by Mau, the late Second style by Schefold and in the early Third style by Bastet and de Vos.²² Schefold reported the central paintings lost but described the wall above the central *aedicula*, a head representing Isis and a sacred landscape.²³ Schefold further refers to remains of paintings in *cubiculum c* to the left of the *atrium*. In the adjacent *ala d* there were paintings of animals on three walls.²⁴

The First style was represented too; Anne Laidlaw mentions that Mau noted probable remnants of First style decoration, the pilaster capital at the right corner between the *fauces* and the *atrium*, and in room *c*, a string course above a redecoration in the Fourth style.²⁵ The house was bombarded in 1943 and the façade rebuilt.²⁶

²¹ Leander-Touati 2010, 118.

²² Leander-Touati 2010, 119; PPM 535; PPP II, 10.

²³ Schefold 1957, 62.

²⁴ Schefold 1957, 62.

²⁵ Laidlaw 1985, 104.

²⁶ Eschebach 1993, 125.

Plasters and phases

The reference samples were observed under the microscope and compared to relevant samples in *insula* V1 and from other buildings at the site.²⁷ Below they are placed into the groups according of the present system.²⁸

Group A: 6A1, 6A11.

Group B: 6E3.

Group D: 8E13.

Group E: 6A3, 6F8, 12C3.

Group G: 6B1.

Group H: 6C7.

Results

The distribution of plasters in the rooms was analyzed and, after re-examination, sample 6F8 which has been jumping between groups B and E is now placed in group E, based on considerations discussed in the schedule. In this house, inconsistencies in the documentation combined with the total absence of communication and no access to complementary information offered considerable difficulties. Even names of rooms changed from one report to another. Below the results of the observations of plaster samples are presented, plausible or not. There are remains of the original First style decoration in most rooms. Plaster type 6A1 belongs to group A, just as 6A11, which has more lime. Plaster type 6E3 that covers 6A1 in *bottega* 16, belongs to group B, used for late First and early Second style decorations. Next phase is the early Third style, represented by 8E13, a plaster found only in room 15 g, the room to the left of *tablinum*. A redecoration in the mature Third style was made in most rooms of the building. Some redecoration and repair was made in the Fourth style. The early plasters and 8E13 are of good quality, well composed and well mixed. So is the dark plaster in group G. Those in group E are of inferior quality, with many lime lumps.

C. Pettersson	Plaster type	A.Freccero
1 st style, type/phase A	6A1	Group A
1 st style, type/phase B	6A11	Group A
2 nd style, type/phase C	6E3	Group A
	8E13	Group D
2 nd or early 3 rd style, type/phase D	6F8	Group E
3 rd style, type/phase E	12C3	Group E
3 rd style, early 4 th , type/phase F	8E13	
4 th style, type/phase G	6A3	Group E
	6B1	Group G
4 th style after 62, type/phase H	6C7	Group H
4 th style, after 62, type/phase I	6B1	

²⁷ The schedules presented in the Appendix have been arranged in chronological order starting with plasters in group A.

²⁸ In the database, the label BaS, indicating Bakery and Shops, has been used, e.g. sample 6A1 became BaS 6A1.

V 1, 20-21 Taberna

8H8 - A 8H4 - B 9A1 - C 8H13 - D 9A6 - E 8K3 - F 8H1 - G	Plaster types/phases as presented in C. Pettersson, <i>Rapport. Putsanalyser. Taberna 20-21, Pompeji 2003, Svenska Institutet i Rom</i> . Seven plaster types were identified in the <i>Taberna</i> . Each type is represented by a reference sample. The reference samples were labeled A-G, where A represents the earliest type/phase and G the latest. Four plaster types appear in three stratigraphic variations, as illustrated below. Three plaster types, 8H4, 8H1, 9A6, appear as single layers.
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Stratigraphies according to documentation

Room <i>f</i>	room <i>d</i>	room <i>e</i>
-----8H13	-----8K3	-----8K3
-----9A1	-----8H8	-----9A1

Plasters and phases

The reference samples were observed under the microscope and compared to relevant samples within *insula* V1 and from other buildings at the site.²⁹ Below they are placed into the groups of the present system.³⁰

Group A: 8H4 and 8H8.

Group D: 9A1.

Group E: 8H13 and 8K3.

Group G: 8H1.

Group H: 9A6.

Results

Plaster type 8H4 and 8H8, were found as first layers on the same walls in room *a* and *b*. They do not appear in chronological relation. The plasters belong to group A, subgroup Aa. This plaster type was found as small remains on most walls in the building. 8H8 appeared in stratigraphy at one area in room *d*, where it was covered by type 8K3 which belongs to group E. Room *e* and *f* were contemporaneously decorated with a plaster that is connected with the early Third style, type 9A1, group D. This phase was either covered with plaster type 8H13, often with preserved paint layer, or by plaster type 8K3; both plaster types belong to group E. At the very end, the large shop area, room *a*, was redecorated in the Fourth style on plaster type 8H1.

²⁹ The schedules presented in the Appendix have been arranged in chronological order starting with plasters in group A.

³⁰ In the database, the label Tab, indicating Taberna, has been used, e.g. sample 8H8 became Tab 8H8.

To conclude, there were few decoration periods in this house. After the initial First style decoration some rooms were redecorated in the Third style (groups D, E) and finally there were redecoration in the Fourth style in the late period of Pompeii.

The plasters in this house are generally of inferior standard, all with lime lumps.

Concordance table

C. Pettersson	Plaster type	A. Freccero
1 st style, type/phase A	8H8	Group A (Aa)
1 st style, type/phase B	8H4	Group A (Aa)
	9A1	Group D
3 rd style, type/phase E	8K3	Group E
3 rd or early 4 th style, type/phase C	9A1	
3 rd or early 4 th style, type/phase F	8H13	Group E
4 th style after 62, type/phase D	9A6	
4 th style, after 62, type/phase G	8H1	Group G
	9A6	Group H



Fig.57. Taberna 20-21 at Via Vesuvio.

V 1, 23 Casa di Caecilius Iucundus, North House

13C10	-	Plaster types/phases as presented in C. Pettersson, <i>Rapport. Putsanalyser. Annexet V 1, 23, Pompeji 2002-2006, Stockholms Universitet, Svenska Institutet i Rom.</i>
A0		
4D1	- A	
4D8	- B	
5K1	- C	Ten plaster types were identified in the North House of Caecilius Iucundus. Each type is represented by a reference sample. The reference samples were labeled A0-I, where A0 represents the earliest type/phase and I the latest.
4E13	- D	
4G5	- E	
4D3	- F	Six plaster types appear in eight different stratigraphies, as illustrated below.
4D4	- G	Four plaster types, 13C10, 5K1, 4G5 and 8A1, appear as single layers.
4G1	- H	
8A1	- I	

Stratigraphies according to documentation

Rooms <i>a, f, h, q</i> <i>Tab.22, tab. 24a</i>	room <i>b</i>	room <i>g</i>	room <i>h'</i>
-----4D4	-----4D8	----4D3	-----4D4
-----4E13	-----4D1	----4D1	-----4D1
Room <i>i</i>	room <i>i, tab.24b</i>	rooms <i>k, p</i>	room <i>q</i>
-----4D4	-----4D3	-----4D4	-----4G1
-----4D3	-----4E13	-----4D3	-----4E13
-----4E13			

The two properties that constitute the large *domus* of Caecilius Iucundus, situated along Via Vesuvio in the central section of *insula* V 1, were contemporaneously built, the rubble walls indicating at a later date than Casa del Torello.³¹ The North House probably was annexed in the Julio-Claudian period, when the building received its Third style decoration. It has been suggested that the *atrium* was decorated in the Third style contemporaneously with the atrium in V 1 26.³²

Plasters and phases

The reference samples were observed under the microscope and compared to samples within *insula* V1 and from other buildings at the site.³³ These are now placed into groups according to the present system.³⁴

Group 0: 5K1.

Group A: 4D1, 4D8, 13C10.

Group B: 4E13.

Group D: 4G5.

Group F: 4D3, 4D4.

Group H: 4G1, 8A1.

³¹ Leander-Touati 2010, 111.

³² Karivieri 2005, 150.

³³ The schedules are presented in the appendix, arranged in chronological order starting with group A.

³⁴ In the database, the label CaeN, indicating Caecilius Iucundus North house, was used, e.g. sample 4D1 became CaeN 4D1.

Ambiguities regarding the correlation between some wall structures in corridor *d'* and the plaster types 13C10, 4D4 and 5K1 has been given a particular interest.

Plaster 13C10 was found in room *d'*, a corridor dated to the fusion of South and North Houses of Caecilius Iucundus.³⁵ Citing Karivieri and Forsell, “At the floor level of the doorway, remains of the earlier wall plaster was found where the entrance had been cut through an earlier coating; the wall plaster can be placed among the plasters of the early second style in the relative chronology within our *insula*”. The plaster type discussed is 4E13 which is connected with the First and early Second style. Then, “...in the centre of the trench, ca 20 cm below the level of the doorway, we found remains of a *cocciopesto* floor which continued in under the east wall of the corridor.” As far as I can understand, the floor continued into room *f*, and it apparently was destroyed when the corridor was rebuilt. On the colour coded plan, plaster type 4E13 is noted in room *f* too, indicating it was decorated in the Second style at the same time as the corridor.

At the northern part of corridor *d'* is indicated remnants of an earlier plaster type, 4D1, which belongs to group A, First style. The lower part of the west wall in the corridor was built “...with *spolia*, bricks, reused stones and rubble. It was founded on a pre-existing wall with remains of wall-plaster...” which was regarded as “...of an earlier date than any other in the house-complex, that is, earlier than first-style decorations in our *insula*.”³⁶ The corridor’s west wall was in fact built upon an earlier wall in exactly the same position.³⁷ The plaster type found at this early wall, 13C10, was in close connection to 4D1. Sample 13C10 consists of two layers, the inferior of which is of type 4D1, the top layer type 4D8. Wall plasters 4D1, 4D8, and 13C10 belong to the same group, Ab. As a consequence, there are two early periods in the corridor; plasters in group A (4D1, 13C10, 4D8), and group B (4E13).

An additional problem in corridor *d'* regards plaster type 4D4 which was applied on the walls at the time the perimeter wall was cut to create access between the two houses. This plaster was not indicated on the *Colour coded plan*, not in the *List of reference samples* or in the *Room description*.³⁸ But in the *List of Examined Plaster samples*, plaster 4D4, type/phase G, a reused plaster, (dated post 62) was registered at one area on the wall-remnants, below floor level, at the entrance to Caecilius Iucundus V 1, 26.

Reference sample 4D4 has dubious characteristics and might be placed in group E, F or group G, as explained in the schedule. Based on my own observations under the microscope, on Pettersson’s documentation, and the fact that there were no notes of ambiguities or any objections to placing the sample among reused plasters post 62, I placed the sample in group G.³⁹ Intense discussion on the matter and convincing archaeological evidence, made it

³⁵ Karivieri, Forsell 2008, 103-108.

³⁶ Karivieri, Forsell 2008, 103.

³⁷ Leander Touati 2008, 122f.

³⁸ Pettersson report 2002-2006.

³⁹ Plaster type 4D4 is significant in areas linked to the union of the two houses, such as the access between the houses through corridor *l'*, constructed at the same time as the entrance discussed above. The problem was that

necessary to reconsider the situation, and to do some last-minute observations of nine additional samples from particularly important areas in the house of Caecilius Iucundus.

As a result of these additional observations, regarding plasters below floor levels in corridors *d'* and *l'*, wall plasters in the corridors and in rooms *f*, *k*, and *b*, show that the plasters below floor level in the openings cut through the perimeter wall between the houses are of the same type as 4E13 and belong to group B, that is, were made in the Second style. The problematic plaster type 4D4 is a “dirty” variation of plaster type 4D3, which belongs group F, used for Third and early Fourth style decoration.⁴⁰ All samples observed except one have beige lime, which together with the many small particles, might explain why they were placed in group G.

The problem of reference sample 5K1 is different. It has all characteristics of early plasters; a beige-brown appearance due to many very small size particles, but with filler that resembles plasters in group Aa too. I considered plaster type 5K1 as either belonging to group 0 (zero) or to group A, subgroup Aa, but in the report it had been considered a later plaster. There were obscurities. When plaster type 5K1 was named, it had already been found at areas in the north-east part of the complex, in rooms *q* and *m*, and after being labeled in room *p* it occurred in room *l*, seemingly always as a *spolium*, on an ashlar or trapped between the original wall structure and a later phase. The reason the plaster was labeled late was, according to Pettersson, that it was different from other plaster, and to begin with, she did not know how to label it. This kind of plaster became group 0 to me after seeing several of the kind, always at indisputably early structures.

Could such an early plaster exist in this part of the double-house of Caecilius Iucundus? The house was built later than Casa del Torello in the south and the Caupona at the north sector of the *insula*, according to studies of boundary walls.⁴¹ But, might there perhaps be some remains of an earlier building in the north area? The question was posed to archaeologists Arja Karivieri and Reneé Forsell. According to Forsell and Karivieri the walls where type 5K1 was found definitely belong to the oldest in the complex.⁴² It is therefore reasonable to assume plaster type 5K1 belongs to the plasters in group 0.

A new problem occurred; the *atrium b* and *tablinum e* were presumed to be decorated, not later than the mid-first century AD, with Third style paintings.⁴³ According to Pettersson's plaster study, the last decoration of the atrium and *tablinum* was made on the above discussed

4D4, found below the floor level in corridor *l'*, was considered to be later than the plaster used for the later wall decorations, for which type 4D3 had been used. Another contradiction, in the report, 4D4 was noted as applied on top of 4D3 in some rooms.

⁴⁰ The nine samples are not scheduled because at the time of observation the study was concluded and the layout set. Samples 4I11, 11E2, 11E3 belong to group B. Sample 11E1 has characteristics of group A and B. Samples 5A12, 5B12, 4E1, 4K6 are of the same kind as 4D4. 4K7 has the same kind of filler but white lime and therefore resembles 4D3.

⁴¹ Leander-Touati 2008, 117ff.

⁴² Forsell, Karivieri, e-mail 2011-12-23.

⁴³ Karivieri 2005, 150.

plaster type 4D4, described as a plaster with lots of reused material, such as crushed brick, ceramics and ground plaster. As mentioned above, the reference sample 4D4 has unclear characteristics that point to group E and F (many-coloured filler) and plasters in of group G (many small particles, dirty appearance). There are, however, no traces of crushed materials in any of the samples studied; it is just a dark plaster, not a clean and well-made product. Another mystery is type 4G1, indicated as later than 4D4 in the report, but later transferred to a position among Third style plasters. In my opinion, the plaster belongs to group H.

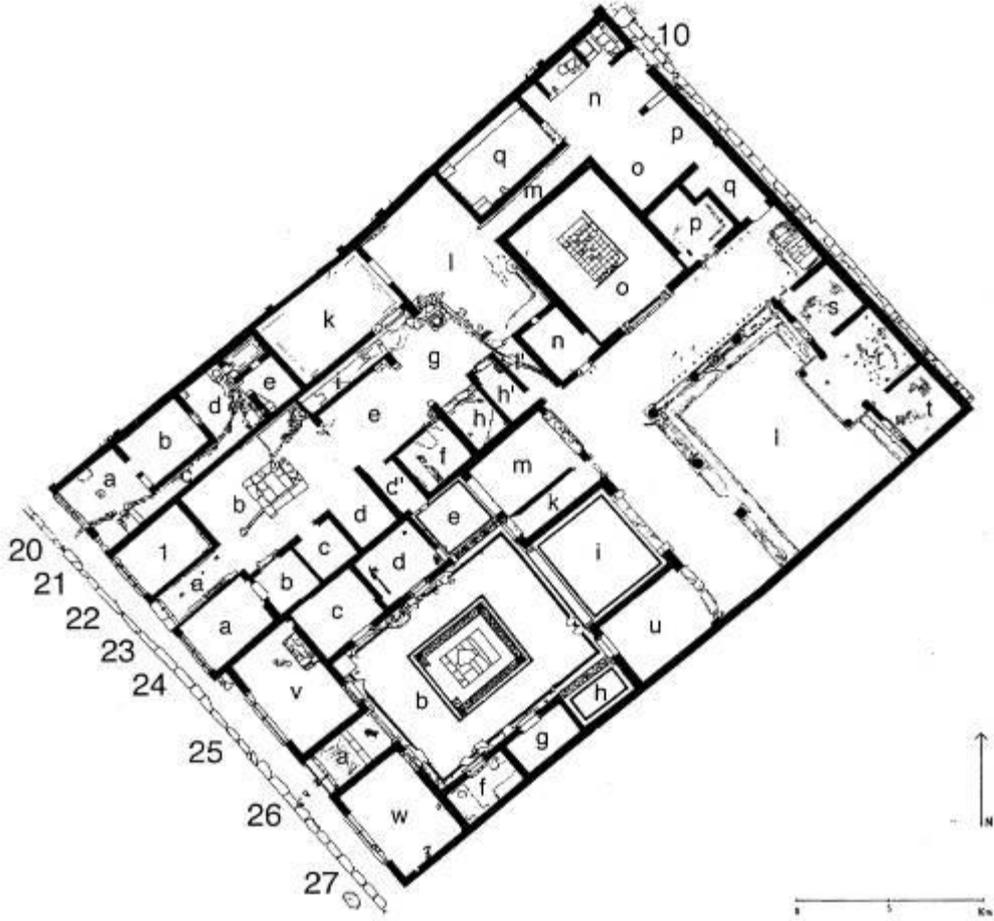


Fig.58. Plan of the double house of Caecilius Iucundus. *Drawing:* Ezequil Pinto-Guillaume.

Results

Sample 5K1 was problematic because it mainly consists of grains and hardly has any lime at all. In addition, it was wet by some product. To solve the problem, a few samples indicated as type 5K1 were checked, e.g. 5I3, 5I7 and 5I9. Those were all similar, a brown plaster with very fine-grained filler, resembling the earliest phase in Casa del Centauro CC5, and type CA1, the earliest phase in Casa delle Amazzoni. This plaster type belongs to group 0. Samples 4D1, 4D8, and 13C10, belong to group A. 4D8 which contains more lime is the top layer of 4D1. 4E13 has characteristics of group A, B and E. Some larger beige and brown grains, plus the archaeological statement that this plaster represents the early second style are the main reasons for choosing group B, a group established at last minute observations of other samples with this label. 4G5 has quite a specific kind of filler, consisting of mainly very small sized crystals, typical only of group D. Sample 4D4 has characteristics of plasters in group F (many colours, small grains), but also of groups G and H (“dirty” appearance). Observations of additional samples made it possible to attribute this relatively dark plaster type to group F, used for late Third and early Fourth style decoration. Plaster type 4D3 has the same kind of filler but clean white lime and belongs to the same group. 4G1 and 8A1 belong to a group of very late plasters.

To conclude, there are remains of plasters connected with the so called “stile zero”. The First style and the early Second style are represented in most areas of the building. Re-decoration of many rooms was to done in the period when the Third and early Fourth style was in vogue. Some interventions were made during the late period of Pompeii. Most plasters are of good quality, well composed and well mixed. The problematic ones are of lower quality. Many problems and a lot of work would have been avoided if documentation had been more accurate, inconsistencies noted and problems discussed.

Concordance table

C. Pettersson	Plaster Type	A. Freccero
	5K1	Group 0
First style, type/phase A0	13C10	Group A
First style, type/phase A	4D1	Group A
First style, type/phase B	4D8	Group A
First or Second style, type/phase C	5K1	
Second style, type/phase D	4E13	Group B
Third style, type/phase E	4G5	Group D
Third or early Fourth style, type/phase F	4D3	Group F
Fourth style after 62, type/phase G	4D4	Group F
Fourth style, type/phase H (moved to 3rd style)	4G1	Group H
Fourth Style, type/phase I	8A1	Group H

V 1, 26 Casa di Caecilius Iucundus, South house

9D5 - A	Plaster types/phases as presented in C. Pettersson, <i>Rapport. Putsanalyser. Caecilius Iucundus V 1, 26. Pompeji 2005. Svenska Institutet i Rom, Stockholms Universitet</i>).
9D6 - B	
9D12 - C	Eleven plaster types were identified in the South house of Caecilius Iucundus. Each type is represented by a reference sample. The reference samples were labeled A-L, where A represents the earliest and L the latest. Also a hydraulic mortar, sample 12K3, was registered as plaster type 1. It appeared as the first layer in <i>taberna 25</i> .
10H11 - D	
11C9 - E	
10K1 - F	
11I7 - G	
9E6 - H	
11B1 - I	
10K8 - K	
12K2 - L	Eight plaster types were found in eleven stratigraphic variations as illustrated below. Two plaster types, 11I7 and 9D6 appear as single layers.

Stratigraphies according to documentation

Room <i>f, g, n</i>	Rooms <i>l, t</i>	Room <i>l</i>	Room <i>l</i>	Room <i>u</i>	Room <i>t</i>
-----9E6	-----11B1	-----11B1	---11B1	----11C9	---11B1
----11C9	-----9E6	----10H11	-----9E6	----9D12	---11C9
			---9D12		
Rooms <i>q, r</i>	Room <i>d</i>	<i>Taberna 25</i>	<i>taberna 25</i>	<i>taberna 27</i>	
-----9E6	---11B1	----9E6	---10K8	---12K2	
----9D12	-----9D5	----9D5	----9D5	---11C9	

The large *domus* of the financier Caecilius Iucundus was richly decorated with marbles, fountains, and impressive paintings dated to the Julio-Claudian period and the Third style.⁴⁴ Most striking was the reception area towards Via Vesuvio. Renowned and often cited is the Third style decoration in *tablinum i*, datable to the Claudian or the Neronian period.⁴⁵ Mau refers to the decoration as maybe not the most beautiful but certainly a striking example on the Third style.⁴⁶ Richardson attributes the two central pictures with mythological motifs, showing Iphigenia in Taurus and the Return of the corpse of Hector (?), to a third style artist called the Cecilio Giocondo painter.⁴⁷ The same artist, with a highly individual style, painted the busts of satyrs and maenads and a maenad carrying an amorino. Contemporary with *tablinum i* are the paintings in the adjacent corridor *k*.⁴⁸

To the Forth style belong most decorations in this large house. Frequently mentioned is *triclinium o*, north of the peristyle, decorated with mythological motifs. Above the socle with festoons were popular motifs such as Theseus leaving Ariadne, mythological animals such as griffons, sphinxes, centaurs, as well as masks and garlands, and a series of medallions with portraits of female that Schefold thought might be priestesses.⁴⁹ The medallions were, according to Richardson, painted by the local artist today known as the Adone Ferito

⁴⁴ Leander-Touati 2010, 124.

⁴⁵ Schefold 1957, 66; Ehrhardt 1987, 101ff.; PPP II, 19; Strocka 2007, 307, 315.

⁴⁶ Mau 1900, 346.

⁴⁷ Richardson 2000, 55.

⁴⁸ Schefold 1957, 66.

⁴⁹ Schefold 1957, 67.

painter.⁵⁰ An erotic symplegma in the peristyle was attributed to the Iphigenia painter, an artist that made several paintings of the kind, among these three in the Casa del Centenario and one in Casa del Bell'Impluvio.⁵¹ Room *t*, at the south end of the east portico was decorated with paintings attributed to the Marco Lucretio painter.⁵² Themes in the room were Hermaphroditos, Silenus, Mars and Venus.

Room *d* is the only room in the building that, at the upper zone, has preserved a substantial part of its First style decoration, below which is a decoration in the Fourth style.⁵³

According to documentation, rooms *f*, *g*, *l*, *n*, all have remains of First style plaster and were later redecorated in the Third style.⁵⁴ Ehrhardt mentions the decoration in the *oecus l*, the present room *u*, where there are remains of Third style paintings.⁵⁵ The room, situated to the right of the *tablinum*, has a decoration which he regards similar to the *triclinium* decorations in Casa del Bell'Impluvio and Casa del Frutteto.⁵⁶ Based on stylistic analyses he dates those in Casa del Bell'Impluvio as the earlier, and maybe the model for the pictorial scheme in room *u* in this house.⁵⁷ A redecoration in the Third style was recognized in the PPP.⁵⁸

Plasters and phases

Eleven reference samples were observed under the microscope and compared to samples within *insula* V1 as well as from other buildings at the site.⁵⁹ The samples are placed into groups according to the present system.⁶⁰

Group A: 9D5, 9D6, 9D12.

Group D: 11I7.

Group E: 10H11, 11C9.

Group F: 9E6, 10K1, 11B1.

Group H: 10K8, 12K2.

⁵⁰ Richardson 2000, 99.

⁵¹ Richardson 2000, 240f.

⁵² Richardson 2000, 155.

⁵³ Laidlaw 1985, 105; PPP II, 18; Karivieri 2005, 150.

⁵⁴ Pettersson, report 2006.

⁵⁵ Forsell, personal communication, email 2012-03-05.

⁵⁶ Ehrhardt 1987, 103.

⁵⁷ Ehrhardt 1987, 139.

⁵⁸ PPP II, 18.

⁵⁹ In the database, the label CaeS, indicating Caecilius Iucundus South house, was used, e.g. sample 9D5 became CaeS 9D5.

⁶⁰ The schedules presented in the appendix are arranged in chronological order starting with group A.

Results

The earliest plaster in the house, 9D5, was used for the cornice in room *d*. The lower part of the room was redecorated with plaster type 11B1, group F, used for decorations in the Third style and the early phase of the Fourth. Plasters of this kind were used in the Edifice of Eumachia, for decoration of the *tablinum* in Casa del Bell'Impluvio and the *triclinium* of Casa del Frutteto.

The plaster used in room *l* belongs to group F too. Ehrhardt's observation that the black *triclinium* in Casa del Bell'Impluvio may be earlier than the black *triclinium* in Casa del Frutteto and room *u* in this house, is supported by plaster analyses; the *triclinium* plaster in Casa del Bell'Impluvio belongs to group D, which is earlier in the relative chronology of that house in which the *tablinum* decoration was made on plaster in group F, just as the *triclinium* in Casa del Frutteto. The plasters identified in room *t* belong to group E, connected with the Third style and F, used for late Third and early Fourth style. In room *u* there were plasters only related to the First and the Third styles.

In *tablinum i* stylistic analyses correspond with the result of the plaster analyses; the decoration was made on plaster type 10K1, group F, late Third/early Fourth style. Plaster analyses further confirms that *triclinium o* and the flanking rooms were decorated in the Fourth style.

To sum up, there are remnants of the original First style decoration in many rooms. An extensive redecoration was made in the Third style and maybe in the early Fourth, as shown by plasters in groups D, E, and F. Finally some redecoration and repair was made during the later period of the Fourth style. The quality of the plasters examined show that the earliest period and those in group D and F are of a good quality with few lime lumps, well composed and well mixed. Plaster in group E and H have a bit too much lime and many lime lumps.

Concordance table

C. Pettersson	Plaster type	A. Freccero
1 st style, type/phase A	9D5	Group A
1 st style, type/phase B	9D6	Group A
2 nd style, type/phase C	9D12	Group A
	11I7	Group D
2 nd style type/phase D	10H11	Group E
3 rd style, type/phase E	11C9	Group E
3 rd style, type/phase F	10K1	Group F
3 rd or early 4 th style, type/phase G	11I7	
4 th or late 3 rd style, type/phase H	9E6	Group F
4 th style?, type/phase I	11B1	Group F
4 th style after 62, type/phase K	10K8	Group H
4 th style after 62, type/phase L	12K2	Group H



Fig.59. Casa di Caecilius Iucundus, painting in the *tablinum*.