

THE LAST DAYS OF
POMPEII
DECADENCE • APOCALYPSE • RESURRECTION

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Inside Out: Pompeian Interiors Exposed

Italian Cultural Institute, Los Angeles
September 14–November 2, 2012

LOS ANGELES— ***Inside Out: Pompeian Interiors Exposed***, is an exhibition of historical and contemporary photographs, graphic works, maps and videos highlighting the process of rediscovery, documentation, and conservation of the ancient cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Mythical stories, natural landscapes, and simple geometric abstractions enlivened the interiors of houses in these cities, ancient trading centers buried in the A.D. 79 eruption of Mount Vesuvius and frozen in time for nearly two thousand years. When the cities were rediscovered in the eighteenth century with their lavish villas and houses adorned with murals and mosaics, they offered a fascinating view into ancient Roman life. The interiors of some of the most renowned private homes of ancient Pompeii and Herculaneum (the House of the Tragic Poet, the House of the Faun, the House of the Vettii, the House of the Bicentenary, and the Villa dei Papiri) are presented through historical and contemporary photographs, drawn primarily from the collections of the **Getty Research Institute**, the **Getty Conservation Institute**, and the **Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei** and other scholarly academic sources.



Mosaic of the House of Neptune and Amphitrite, Herculaneum.
Photo: Scott S. Warren. © J. Paul Getty Trust

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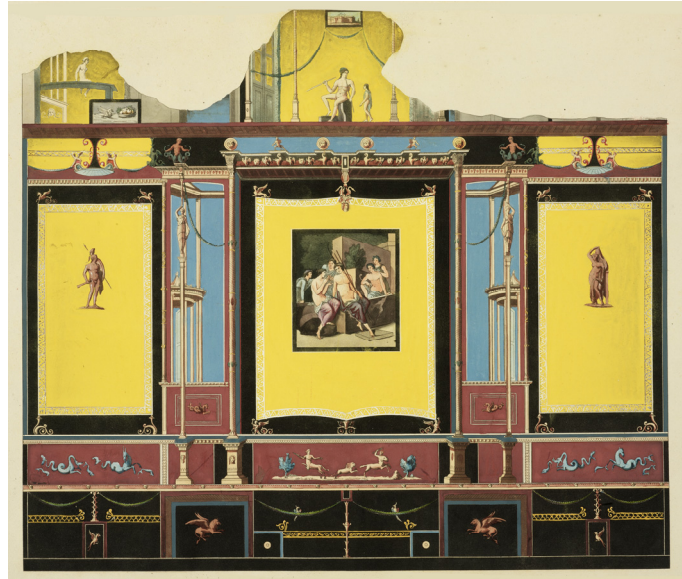


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The exhibition also features the ultimate documentation and recreation of the ancient Villa dei Papiri (the Getty Villa in Pacific Palisades is its modern replica), digitally reconstructed by Dr. Mantha Zarmakoupi (University of Cologne, Institute of Archaeology, Cologne Digital Archaeology Lab—CoDArchLab) with modeling undertaken at the Experiential Technologies Center, UCLA. The complex challenges currently faced to preserve the cultural patrimony of Pompeii and Herculaneum (nominated World Heritage Sites by UNESCO since 1997) are discussed presenting the work of the Getty Conservation Institute in partnership with the Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei and the Herculaneum Conservation Project.



Maison du poete tragique a Pompei, publiee, avec ses peintures et ses mosaïques, fidelement reproduites et avec un texte explicative [North wall of the triclinium], Paris, 1828. Jules Frédéric Bouchet (1799-1860) and Raoul Rochette (1789-1854). Engraving, hand-colored. Research Library, The Getty Research Institute, Los Angeles.

This documentary exhibition opens at the same time and complements the Getty Villa exhibition *The Last Days of Pompeii: Decadence, Apocalypse, Resurrection* (September 12, 2012–January 7, 2013).

Organizer: Italian Cultural Institute

In collaboration with: Isotta Poggi, Assistant Curator, Getty Research Institute

Exhibition designer: Deby Van Zyl

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About the Italian Cultural Institute

The Italian Cultural Institute (IIC) was established in 1984 by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Its building, designed by Richard Neutra's partner Robert Alexander, houses an art gallery, a theater for screenings, lectures, and concerts, as well as a library with over 6000 volumes open to the public. Events in collaboration with numerous local institutions are organized to give a lively image of contemporary Italy in visual arts, architecture and design, music, cinema and theater, literature, science, fashion, and gastronomy. The IIC is located at 1023 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles.

Director: Alberto Di Mauro

Loans and images courtesy of: Getty Research Institute, Getty Conservation Institute, Soprintendenza Speciale per i Beni Archeologici di Napoli e Pompei, Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, Mantha Zarmakoupi, German Archaeological Institute.