



Urban Property Dynamics in *Baelo Claudia* (*Baetica* Province): an Archaeological Perspective

Dinámicas de propiedad en Baelo Claudia (Tarifa, Cádiz) a través de la evidencia arqueológica

Archaeological evidence from *Baelo Claudia* reveals dynamic changes in land use, including the subdivision of former buildings, annexations, and the encroachment of public spaces. Although no direct records of ownership have been brought to light, it is highly likely that these modifications derived from regulated administrative actions or, alternatively, unauthorised or abusive uses. *Baelo Claudia*, located in the southern part of the *Baetica* Province, and the subject of archaeological investigation for over a century, remained uninhabited subsequent to the 6th century AD. Much of its urban centre has been the object of extensive excavations rendering it particularly suitable to examine urban transformation processes. This study presents several examples of such transformations which offer insight into the dynamic nature of urban property management in accordance with municipal regulations.

Keywords: real estate, urban transformation, Roman urbanism, city planning regulations, *Baetica* Province.

La evidencia arqueológica permite identificar dinámicos cambios en el uso del suelo, con divisiones de antiguos edificios, anexiones, invasión del espacio público, etc. Aunque no tenemos información material directa de ello, es más que probable que estas modificaciones conllevaran acciones administrativas regladas relacionadas con la propiedad o, en su defecto, usos abusivos ilegales. La ciudad de *Baelo Claudia*, al sur de la provincia *Baetica*, es hoy un despoblado sin continuidad a partir del siglo VI d.C. y que lleva siendo excavado e investigado durante más de un siglo. Gran parte de su centro urbano se encuentra por tanto exhumado y, en buena medida, bien publicado. Eso hace que sea un caso de estudio especialmente propicio para rastrear estas interesantes dinámicas de transformación urbana. En este trabajo se abordarán diferentes ejemplos de ello, documentados en la ciudad, y que permiten reflexionar sobre la existencia efectiva de una dinámica vida inmobiliaria, de acuerdo con normas establecidas por los poderes municipales.

Palabras clave: propiedad, transformación urbana, urbanismo romano, planeamiento urbano, *Baetica*.

Introduction

Archaeological evidence reveals dynamic transformations in land use, including the subdivision of existing buildings, annexations, and the encroachment upon public spaces. Despite the absence of direct material evidence, it is plausible that many of these modifications were the result of regulated administrative procedures. Indeed, the level of precision achieved in urban planning is evidenced by valuable survey compendiums, which provide comprehensive classifications of land types and uses (Ariño *et al.* 2004; Castillo 2011). The existence of regulations governing the occupation and functional use of urban space would have been crucial for the implementation of such projects.

Pre-established planning can be recognised in the balance between open and built spaces or the establishment of a hierarchical road network and the efficiency of the itineraries and routes it promotes. It also involved the creation of visual architectural codes that provided orientation cues not only spatially, but also socially and perceptually, for both locals and visitors; as seen in the topography, the degree of monumentality of façades, and the architectural language associated with specific functions and building types. As evidenced in the case of *Baelo Claudia*, there is a marked contrast between the planned layout of the early imperial city, which was maintained in many aspects until at least the end of the 4th century, and the layout of the later nucleus, with evident traits of more spontaneous self-construction and a lack of clear collective guidelines (Brassous 2017).

The preserved legal texts reveal a well-developed system of urban land use planning that, like modern systems, sought to regulate aspects such as ownership and use. This body of law likely evolved in response to real needs, including the resolution of interpersonal conflicts. Much of our information comes from the Justinian Digest (6th century) (Rodríguez López 2012; Malavé Osuna 2021), with Zeno's earlier *De Aedificiis privatis* (ca. 476 AD) being particularly important (Malavé Osuna 2000). However, both are late sources, complicating efforts to determine their geographical scope, the origin of the rules, and their coexistence, simultaneity, or cumulative nature. Earlier municipal laws, such as those from *Tarentum*, *Urso*, or the Flavian copies, as well as secondary references in other literary texts, also provide valuable insights (Jiménez Salcedo 2007).

While stone epigraphy, intended for display, does not directly address these questions, it does offer glimpses into issues such as the cession of public space or municipal authorizations for certain works attributed to private benefactors. S. Sánchez de la Parra-Pérez (2025) discusses

some of these dynamics in his paper in this dossier. Legal texts also repeatedly emphasize certain practices, suggesting the recurrence of abusive behaviour and frequent violations of established property rights, with interesting examples in Rome or Ostia (Spanu 2012). The data are more abundant on rural land, where abundant legal practice is documented in respect of ownership and squatting disputes between private individuals, between cities and between cities and people, e.g. *De iure territorii controversia* (Castillo 2011: 207). Roman legislation on urban planning seems to show that speculation and abusive occupation of other people's property was the order of the day, hence its recurrence. Survey texts refer to these disputes, which were more than evident when properties were far from administrative control points and there was a lack of clear physical demarcation markers. Nevertheless, the literature of the imperial period is full of allusions to the stable usurpation of public land by private parties and the legal processes for its restitution within the cities. When archaeology reveals instances of private encroachment into public space—a frequent occurrence—it raises the question of whether these were due to abusive initiatives or whether they were already sanctioned by a relaxation or absence of regulations (Spanu 2012: 31-32). In other cases, apparent public interest motivated the expropriation of private land for communal use, whether or not these initiatives served to promote the managing elites (Boucard 2020). Ultimately, this provides valuable insights into the management capacity of urban communities, especially when contextualized within long-term diachronic processes, as is the case with *Baelo Claudia*, as we shall see below.

The case study of *Baelo Claudia*

To provide brief contextual background, *Baelo Claudia* is a coastal urban center located on the southern edge of the *Baetica* province (fig. 1). It is part of the so-called Strait Circle, with clear links to other Hispanic coastal cities, as well as to those on the opposite African shore (Callegarin and Valérian 2024). Today, it is located in the municipality of Tarifa, in the province of Cádiz. Administratively, it is an Archaeological Site -Conjunto Arqueológico de *Baelo Claudia*- managed by the Junta de Andalucía, the regional cultural administration. Over more than a century of research, an extensive body of literature has been produced, covering a wide range of aspects. Here we only suggest a concise, generalist monograph—useful, though somewhat outdated in certain respects (Sillières 1995), and a recent article that addresses the complexity of the relationship be-

tween community and domicile and its expression in the territory of *Baelo* (Rodríguez Gutiérrez *et al.* 2022); both with more abundant literature.

Although the city did not fully develop until the early 1st century AD, the urban development is complex and of great interest. Inland, at a higher elevation, the existence of an *oppidum* known as the *Silla del Papa* has been documented from the 10th century BC, occupied until around the 2nd and 1st centuries BC when it was abandoned (Moret *et al.* 2017; Prados *et al.* 2012). Archaeological work has also documented seasonal activities related to the exploitation of marine resources from the late 2nd century BC to the early 1st century BC. These early fish-salting facilities were likely controlled by the neighbouring city of *Carteia*, in the Bay of Algeciras (Bernal *et al.* 2007a). It was not until the turn of the era, after the coastal plain had been drained, that the new urban settlement was established, later receiving the privileged status of *municipium* under Claudius (fig. 1).

Of particular relevance to the present study are the findings from recent excavations in the south-east corner of the forum. There, a large building erected at the beginning of the Imperial period and organised around a courtyard was partially demolished in its southern half in order to construct a new building with very different uses and organisation a few decades later. Excavations carried out in the industrial salting quarter have also documented the very probable closure of a gate in the wall and the partial invasion of the urban road.

All this contrasts, once again in *Baelo* as a reference model, with the Late Antique phase of occupation, from the 5th century AD onwards. At that time, new building initiatives were documented on ancient constructions, although they appear to reflect more spontaneous activity, no longer regulated by public authorities. In fact, it serves to reflect on the forms of collective organisation at this time, the existence or not of administrators still with responsibilities and authority in the community and the validity of the rules of application for the common functioning.

Evidence of city transformations

Baelo Claudia is currently an uninhabited site, with no evidence of occupation beyond the 6th century AD (Brassous 2017). It has been excavated and studied for over a century, especially by French researchers (Blánquez Pérez *et al.* 2017). A large portion of its urban center has been uncovered and extensively documented in academic literature. For decades, the results of the summer excavation campaigns carried out by Casa de Velázquez researchers were punctually published

in the form of reports in the *Mélanges de la Casa de Velázquez* (www.casadelvelazquez.org/es/publicaciones/melanges-de-la-casa-de-velazquez). They illustrate the typical preoccupations of the period, an insisted more on specific impulses, highlighting the more monumental High-Imperial phase, although there is no lack of records of other later transformations. This makes it a particularly suitable case study for examining these interesting dynamics of urban transformation. It is important to note that no written records specifically address these dynamics; thus, our interpretations rely exclusively on archaeological evidence, which we have re-evaluated in the present study.

Its location at the junction of two tectonic plates, along with certain seismological and archaeological evidence, has also led to an ongoing line of research into the effects of high-energy phenomena on the city. The damage caused to the urban landscape by an earthquake—likely occurring in the mid-1st century AD—is a factor to consider when analyzing changes in land use and property, with responses that may have been coordinated by municipal authorities, as will be discussed below.

Although the findings vary depending on the area excavated, modern research has drawn up an ‘official history’ that includes the most important milestones of its urban evolution. As already indicated, the first evidence of occupation of the sector dates from late 2nd century BC to early 1st century AD. A first series of stratigraphic surveys carried out in the 1970s had already pointed this out (Domergue 1973: esp. s. 29: 39-49); more recent work in the quarter dedicated to the production of fish sauces has verified this (Bernal *et al.* 2007a). It seems to be confirmed that this is a settlement, perhaps only seasonal, related to fishing and the production and processing of its products, more understood as an enterprise of the neighbouring city of *Carteia*, in the Bay of Algeciras, than an initiative of the community that, at that time, lived on the heights of the *Silla del Papa*. Micromorphological analyses in particular have revealed that, apart from this, the coastal plain would have been an unsuitable floodplain for stable building over a long period of time (Gutiérrez Rodríguez *et al.* 2019). Around or very soon after the turn of the Age, either the firm human will, or the climatic situation of greater dryness, or both, finally led to stable occupation and the implementation of a planned urban project. Evidence of this first urban design can be seen not only in the remains of buildings that are poorly known below the later ones, such as the basilica (Sillières 2013), but also in elements that were incorporated into them, as we shall now see. A significant phase of urban de-

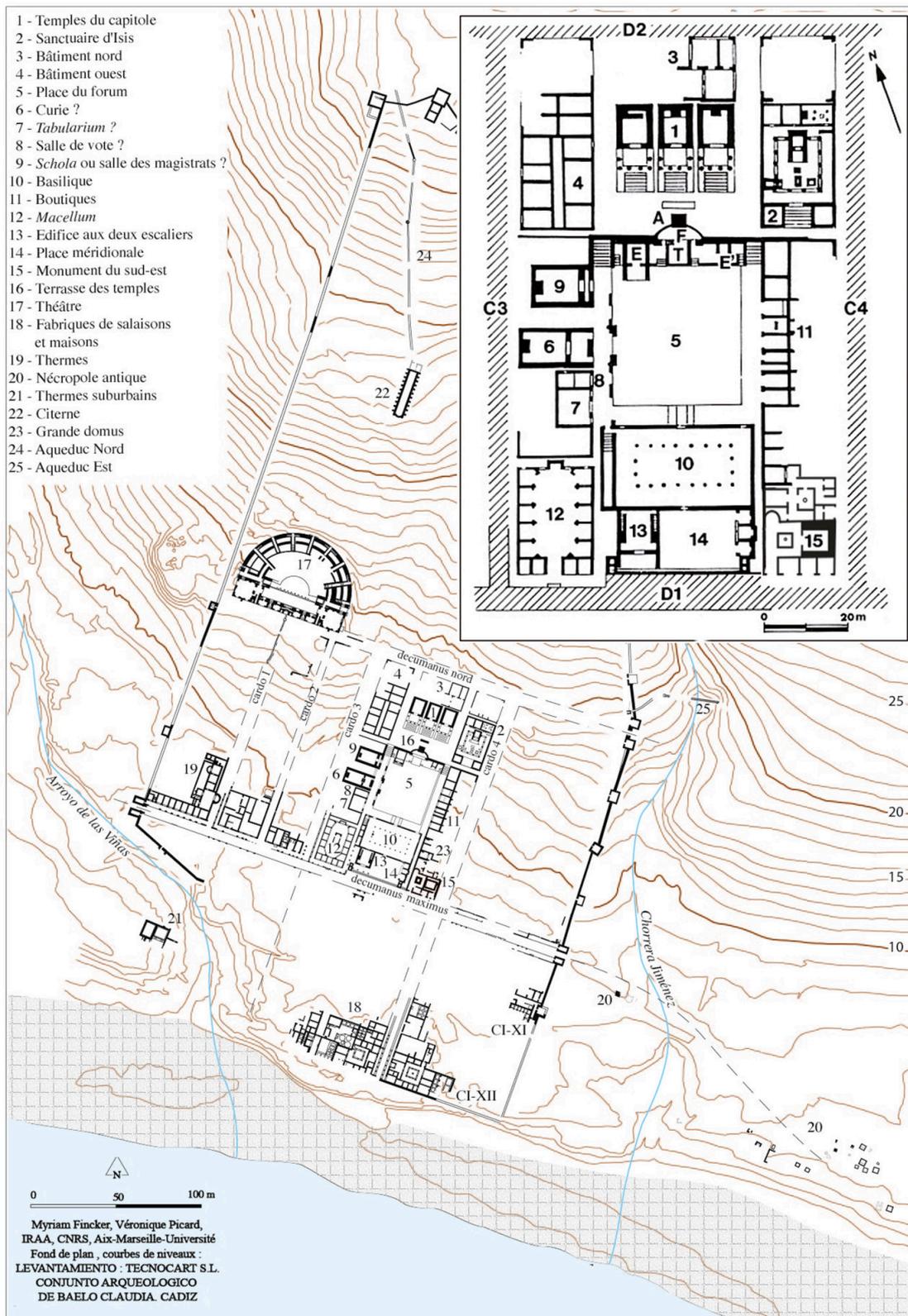


Figure 1. Plan of the city known from excavations and layout of the monumental centre (forum).
 From IRAA/Junta de Andalucía base plan (M. Fincker and V. Picard).

velopment is observed in the second half of the 1st century AD. Although it has traditionally been linked to the granting of municipal status by the emperor Claudius, the stratigraphic data point to a much more prolonged and far from unitary process. Although it is possible that it may indeed have begun around the decade of the sixties, its effects are still recognised until the beginning of the second century. Regardless of whether this important renovation could have been related to a devastating seismic phenomenon, this invites reflection on the varying paces of construction, renovation, and possibly reconstruction within the city, if not of recovery and reconstruction, as it has been documented in Pompeii affected by the earthquake of 62/63, before the final destruction of 79 AD (Dessales 2022: 243-258). It is more difficult to put a single, global and categorical end to this apparently flourishing High-Imperial period. Interpretation has undoubtedly been weighed down by outdated a priori interpretations of decadence as we approach the Late Antique period. What the archaeological evidence shows is very disparate depending on the area. On the one hand, there are buildings partially abandoned from the early period, even in the forum itself (e.g. *tabernae* on the eastern flank), in the immediate vicinity (certain rooms in the courtyard building in the southeast corner) or even in the productive quarter (Bernal *et al.* 2007b). On the other hand, buildings that were maintained, used, repaired and cleaned without interruption until the end of the 4th century, beginning of the 5th century, when they were definitively abandoned; this is the case of the atrium building mentioned below, in the south-eastern corner of the forum. In the course of the 5th century, the community was given a new impulse, in the form of a less regular and less organised settlement, which only occasionally made use of the constructive traces of the previous buildings. The village was finally abandoned in the 6th century, perhaps at the beginning of the 7th century. Activity returned at this time to the high settlement of the *Silla del Papa*, after centuries of abandonment, in the form of a small church with a cruciform plan and evidence of occupation at different points on the plateau on which it stands.

Given the limited space available, we will focus on three aspects. We will intentionally leave out the evidence of the radical transformation that took place from the early 5th century onwards. At that time, after a certain hiatus, archaeological evidence shows redevelopment based on quite different interests and functionalities. From this, we cannot draw conclusions about the intentional management of property or whether the new buildings followed some kind of communi-

ty control or were more spontaneous initiatives. However, it does provide insight into the forms of collective organization at that time, the existence of magistrates with responsibilities in the community, and the validity of rules for communal functioning.

Urban planning, road layout and land use

The first aspect to be addressed involves urban planning, road layout, and land use (fig. 2). As previously indicated, the establishment of the city on the coastal plain was a new project, distinct from the earlier, more peripheral and ephemeral signs of coastal occupation. The significant transformations of the late 1st century AD have traditionally overshadowed this initial urban project. However, recent excavations, more focused on processes than on mapping the city through isolated snapshots, now enable a reassessment of the continuity and preservation of much of the original layout. This suggests a clear design by a centralized managing authority for the road network. Recent excavations in the southeast corner of the forum have revealed the earliest phase of the '*decumanus*', which is studied in more detail in the catalogue of a future temporary exhibition on this important road at the archaeological site museum (Rodríguez Gutiérrez and Brassous *in press*) (fig. 3). The recent campaign in April 2024 as part of the CircE research project (Rodríguez Gutiérrez 2024) has also identified the oldest phase of one of the *cardines* or secondary streets from the time of the settlement's creation. Additional evidence from various parts of the city points to a well-defined layout throughout the monumental area, with more hesitation in the *cetariae* quarter (Bravo *et al.* 2011). This variation may reflect differing levels of control and authority exercised by public and private entities over urban traffic management.

Spatial syntax studies in particular focus on the permeability of itineraries (Laurence 2007; Kaiser 2011). It is evident that the city's design reflects deliberate planning, based on a range of variables, including religious prerogatives, hygiene, accessibility, and others. That these initiatives have the backing, if not the direct will, of the urban administrative bodies is evident in the cases of demolition of private constructions for the installation of public facilities (Boucard 2020), not necessarily unrelated to clearly personal initiatives, judging by the epigraphic testimonies (Sánchez de la Parra-Pérez 2023).

It is also relevant to consider the balance between official planning regulations and the practical adaptations of daily urban life, which may

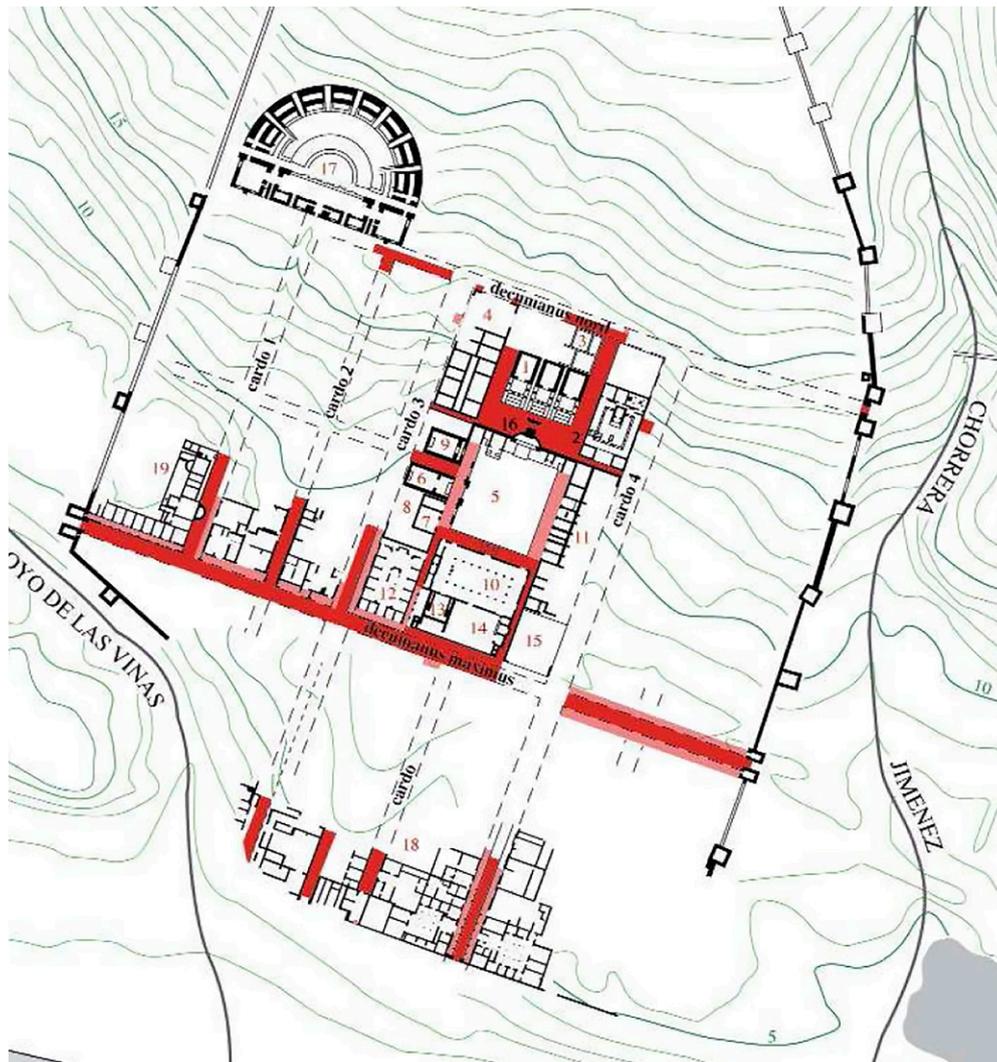


Figure 2. Reconstruction of the road network based on known archaeological data. (Modified from Bravo *et al.* 2011: fig 19).

have diverged from them. For example, excavations in the industrial salted fish quarter have likely documented the partial encroachment of industrial installations onto the urban road. Thus, the excavations carried out in the industrial salting quarter have documented the pressure that these installations exerted on the inner course of the wall (Bernal *et al.* 2020: 302-303, fig. 3), before a free passage circuit of around 9 Roman feet (ca. 2.75 m) wide. Despite the fact that the buildings were attached to the inner face of the wall, the right of way to one of the towers —the so-called “T”— was intentionally respected. It is therefore very likely that, despite the increasing invasion of the space, these routes associated with the service of the wall would have been maintained under public management (fig. 4).

Notably, another case of road encroachment is documented during the construction of the urban baths (Rodríguez Gutiérrez 2020: 646-647). One

of the side baths of the *frigidarium* breaks the perimeter of the building and partially invades the *cardo* without closing it completely, making circulation still possible (fig. 5). Unfortunately, there is no information that would allow us to know who was responsible for the management of the thermal building, which, given its scale and monumentality, is presumed to have served a public function. Its construction and ownership would not necessarily have been public. Nor are there any clear chronological data at the moment to establish the time of construction of the baths and their possible extensions and alterations, which, according to the authors, vary over several centuries. It was, among other reasons, the invasion of the public space that led to think that it was an initiative from the 3rd century (Ponsich 1970: 380), assuming a laxity in urban planning guidelines; recently, the construction has been delayed until the middle of the 1st century AD, a time to



Figure 3. The first state of the so-called '*decumanus maximus*' from the excavations carried out in the southeast corner of the forum. (Photo. O. Rodríguez for the FSE Project).

which, in principle, the design of the *frigidarium* with its marble basins is attributed. However, as we have already noted, the *cardo 2*, parallel to it, already existed in the first urban design of the early Imperial period. The question arises as to the administrative dynamics, interests and priorities that would have permitted such a solution.

The layout of the *tabernae* in Baelo also offers valuable insights into land use, ownership, and usufruct. Both on the eastern side of the forum and especially on the northern flank of the main road, a series of *tabernae* have been documented, all following the same format and dimensions. Although there is no clear evidence, the existen-

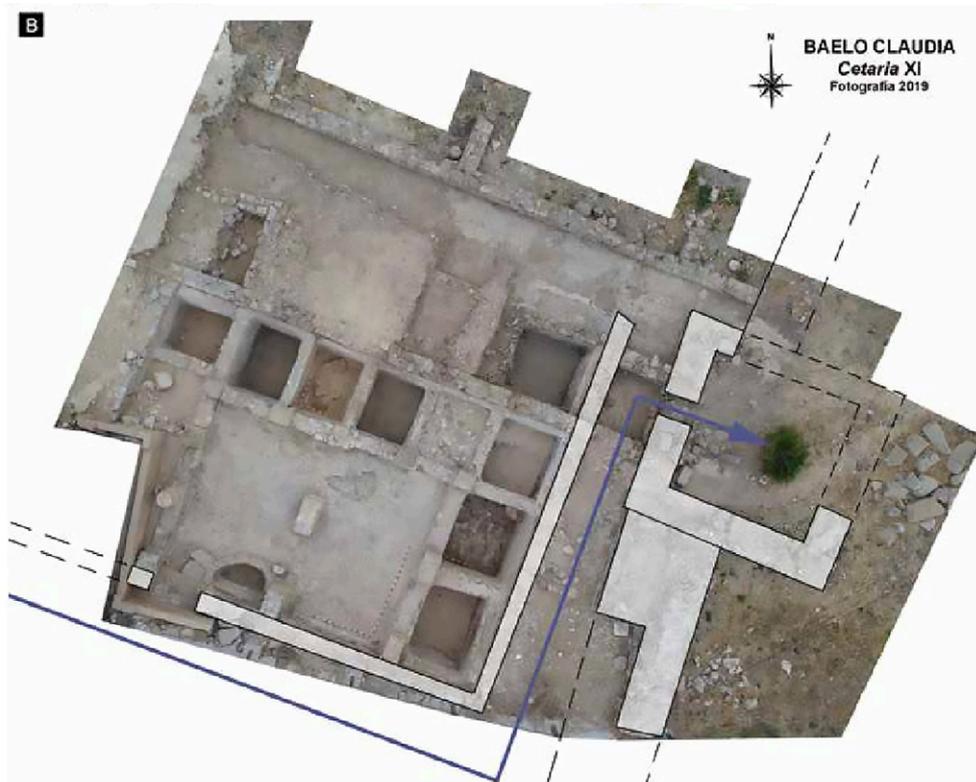


Figure 4. Invasion by the salting infrastructure of the internal route of the wall, with respected access easement to one of the towers. (From Bernal *et al.* 2020: fig. 3).



Figure 5. Basin of the *frigidarium* of the urban thermal baths built partially encroaching on one of the *cardines*. (Author).



Figure 6. View of the alignment of *tabernae* opening onto the portico of the *decumanus* in the vicinity of the *Gades* Gate. (Author).

ce of *pergulae* or the use of the shops as sellers' dwellings cannot be ruled out. From a constructional perspective, they are integrated into more complex buildings with which they lack internal communication, connecting only with the street through a porticoed pavement (fig. 6). Given the morphological homogeneity of the succession of *tabernae*, this arrangement raises doubts as to their direct dependence on the buildings of which they were structurally part. The uniform succession of shops camouflages, where necessary, access to the corresponding building. This raises several key questions: who initiated the project, how were ownership, management, and usage structured, and did these remain consistent over time? Perhaps a clue lies in the second case presented here, where, for the construction of a new building in the southeast corner of the forum, one of the old *tabernae* was closed off to create a new access point to a new building, now open to the main road.

A singular case of segregation: the south-eastern corner of the forum

Recent excavations in the southeast corner of the forum—conducted as part of a Spanish-French research project coordinated by the Casa de Velázquez—have yielded particularly significant findings. In this area, a large building, erected during the early Imperial period and organized around a courtyard, was partially demolished in its southern half to accommodate a

new structure with distinct functions and layout, which dates to the late 1st or early 2nd century AD (Rodríguez Gutiérrez *et al.* 2023). In this case, this does not represent a straightforward replacement, but rather a partial repurposing, following a well-designed project, for the construction of a new building (fig. 7). Initially, the older building, from the first urban planning phase at the beginning of the Imperial period, seems to have occupied the entire southeast lot. Already at that time, it featured a row of *tabernae* on its southern front, opening onto the main street, which was then a simple pavement without a portico. Various indicators clearly show that the building extended over the entire area, though it is unclear, for example, whether there was internal communication between its rooms and the shops in its first layout. In any case, access to the building was through the eastern *cardo* and a corridor leading to the forum, not from the *decumanus*. The building's features, while sharing certain characteristics with residential structures, suggest that it likely served a non-residential, possibly public or associative function. The wide entrance, finishes, solid lintels and secure enclosures indicate a structure intended for public or collective use, possibly commercial or associative. At the end of the 1st century, beginning of the 2nd century AD, the southern half of the building was demolished to create a new access point, while the northern half continued in use. Various preserved municipal laws, such as the late republican Ursonensis

(*LCGI*) or the later flavians (Roldán 2001), stipulate the prohibition of demolishing a building unless a new construction is to be built on the site within a certain time limit and/or with the express authorisation of the *ordo decurionum* (Barker and Marano 2017). The new project entails closing off, as a northern boundary, a wall previously marked by doors leading to the southern half of the building. None of them remain, so that the two neighbouring buildings become independent, at least judging by the internal circulation. The new building is accessible from the portico of the *decumanus*. For this purpose, two of the four former *tabernae* were transformed: the westernmost one became the new entrance (*zaguan*), although narrower than the original unit, allowed the adjoining one to become wider, thus disrupting the previously uniform layout. At first, the three remaining shops only opened to the south, to the portico, and had no communication between them. However, at a second stage, which is more difficult to place in time, the large openings of the two westernmost *tabernae* were walled up and even made uniform and

hidden from the interior with a layer of stucco covering the entire wall. Everything suggests that, in addition to interconnecting with each other, they also communicate with the atrium of the building, definitively turning their backs on the *decumanus*. Undoubtedly, this interesting dynamic raises the question of the ownership of the shops, their management, the capacity to usufruct them to third persons or the authority to integrate them into a previous building. This raises the question of whether the *tabernae* belonged to the new building's promoter, or whether negotiations were required to relocate or compensate the previous owner.

As published recently (Rodríguez Gutiérrez *et al.* 2023), a comprehensive review of comparable structures confirms that its architectural typology remains unidentified. However, its characteristics lead us to identify it with a place of worship located near the forum, most probably linked to a specific group; a corporation in a city with an enormous role in productive and commercial activity. Undoubtedly, the clear archaeological evidence of the transformation, in accordance with

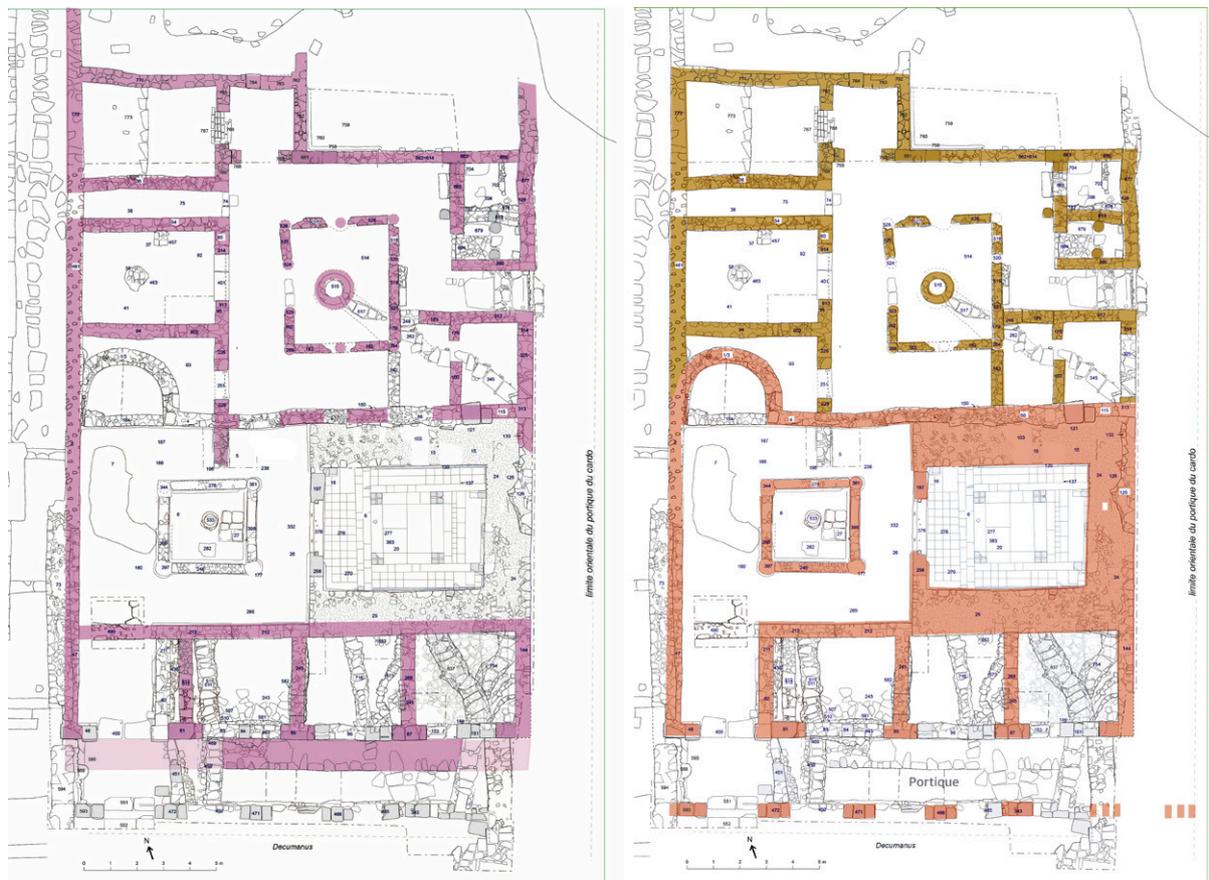


Figure 7. Plan of the buildings documented in the southeast corner of the forum. On the left is the first phase with the courtyard building. On the right is the division of the plot of land for the construction of the atrium building. (Design by C. Louvion for the FSE Project).

a very specific project of disaffection of a property—both the ancient Augustan building and its *tabernae*—necessarily leads us to think of a dynamic protected by urban planning regulations. Moreover, although it is impossible to establish this today, it raises the question of the ownership of the plot and whether, with the transformation in flavian-traian times, the southern half and the new building would have changed hands through a process of sale or donation, or whether, on the contrary, it was simply a reform undertaken by the same owner to respond to the new needs of a group perhaps, from the beginning, linked to certain commercial activities.

It would be even more hypothetical to suggest that the independent *tabernae*, during the time of use of the atrium building as the cultic space of a specific group, would have remained attached to the group's property, providing a source of income for their eventual operation and maintenance needs. In the current state of research, the material repertoires that have been recovered from the shops suggest, at least for a certain moment of their activity, their use as places for the sale of hot meals—the easternmost one—and the development of metal transformations, the one next to it.

The motivation of urban transformations

In conclusion, although recent scholarship may have overstated the role of these phenomena to explain certain urban dynamics in the city, the potential consequences of seismic events remain a compelling subject of inquiry.

Baelo Claudia is situated in a seismically active region, although not excessively so, judging by the seismicity mapping carried out by the National Geographic Institute (<https://www.ign.es/web/mapas-sismicidad>). For decades, seismological research has highlighted the identification of different high-energy episodes in ancient times (Reicherter *et al.* 2022), without all of them necessarily having serious consequences for the integrity of the city and, above all, for the continuity of human and community life in it. It was, above all, certain inconsistencies detected by researchers between stratigraphic dating and the chronology of certain materials that contributed to the emergence of a 'catastrophic' interpretative framework in the historiography of *Baelo Claudia* (Sillières 2005). This was the case with the architectural decoration of the basilica, supposedly older than its construction contexts. Further analysis of the decorative elements of the *Baelo* buildings has prompted a more cautious reassessment about the initial categorical proposals (Fellague 2010; 2016).

In addition to this, specialists have identified the so-called Archaeological Effects of Earthquakes (Rodríguez-Pascua *et al.* 2011); many of which should be re-evaluated in light of the taphonomic processes associated with typical abandonment and decay. All this has generated a panorama at *Baelo*, with a somewhat complex and no less surprising succession of traumatic phenomena that allow archaeologists to explain a good part of the discontinuities they observe in the contexts they excavate. In recent studies carried out in different parts of the city, the archaeological contexts suggest the possible occurrence of such disruptive events: in the theatre, a second construction phase from around the 90s of the 1st century AD has been documented, which reconstructs and completes in a piecemeal fashion the structures of the first construction from the 60s-70s (Fincker *et al.* 2016). It does not seem to be a planned extension of the first project, but rather the reconstruction of previous walls and volumes. Those responsible for the latest excavations in the eastern necropolis (Prados *et al.* 2020) also recognise traumatic episodes in the causes of the collapse of the funerary monument of *Iunia Rufina*, around the second half of the 4th century or the first decades of the 5th century AD. In the extra-urban thermal baths (Bernal *et al.* 2015) these features were also observed for the 6th century phase (ca. 500 AD).

This may also explain the extensive building program undertaken in the final quarter of the 1st century AD and which, as we have seen, in environments that are not strictly public, is extended over time. Everything seems to indicate that the public authorities made a special effort to rebuild and put the main public spaces back into service as soon as possible, a pace that private owners may not have been able to match.

Conclusions

Regrettably, no written records survive regarding the systems of ownership for real estate and urban land in *Baelo Claudia*. However, the relatively well-preserved urban layout, including buildings and infrastructure unaffected by later historical developments, offers a valuable opportunity for analysis. Despite the major construction milestones that define the city's urban evolution over more than six centuries, excavations—from the superficial Late Antique abandonment layers to the deepest foundations—reveal dynamic transformations in the form and function of buildings. Built spaces were closely integrated with open areas and the network of circulation and distribution routes. They also relied heavily on shared underground infrastruc-

ture, including the clean water supply and the sewage disposal system. This study has aimed to demonstrate that, beyond the legal texts, there is sufficient evidence to suggest that the management of urban property extended beyond private interests. Furthermore, to understand the processes leading to these profound transformations, we must consider them as part of collective dynamics involving coordinated actions aimed at ensuring the city's resilience, growth, and long-term development.

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Baelo Claudia. Evolution and transformations of a public space. Diachronic and multiscale analysis of the southeast sector, which began in 2011 under the direction of B. Goffaux, and was subsequently coordinated by L. Brassous until the completion of the fieldwork in 2019. The project involved several universities, including Poitiers, La Rochelle, Lille, and Seville. We would like to thank all our colleagues on the team for their work and contributions over the years.

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