

Archäologischer Führer durch Augst/Kaiseraugst 2
Archaeological guide to Augst and Kaiseraugst

Alex R. Furger **Augusta Raurica**
English Guide



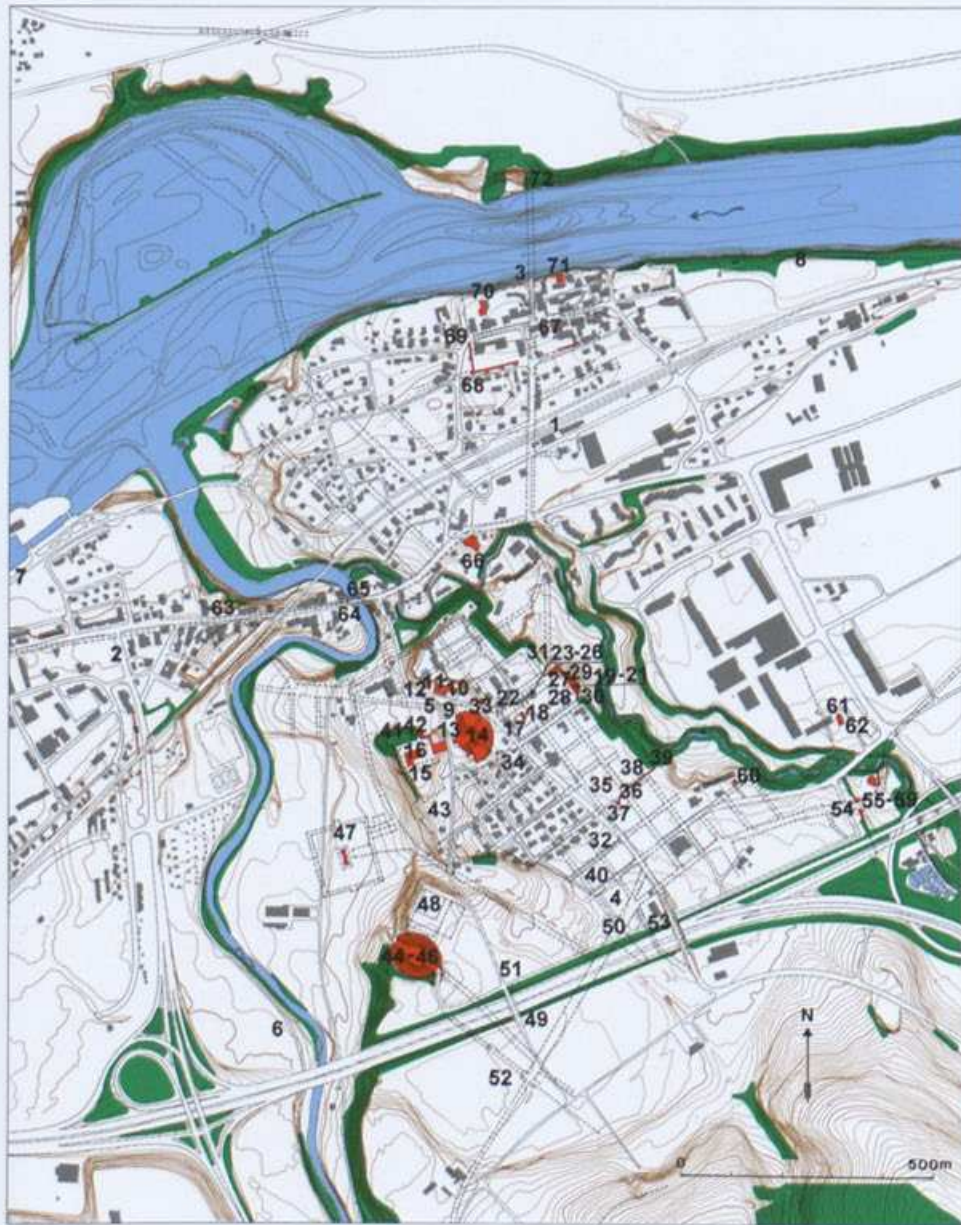


Fig. 1 Plan of Augusta Raurica today, showing the points of archaeological interest (cf. plan of Roman Augusta Raurica, fig. 51, inside back cover). Scale 1:15,000.

grey modern buildings
 blue water
 green woodland
 brown contour lines (1 m apart)
 red visible ancient remains
 black points of archaeological interest; cf. the numbers in the text:

- 1 Kaiseraugst railway station (SBB)
- 2 Augst bus stop (for bus number 70)
- 3 Kaiseraugst pier
- 4 Large visitor carpark
- 5 Bicycle parking
- 6 Footpath from Liestal
- 7 Footpath from Birsfelden
- 8 Footpath from Rheinfelden
- 9 Reception area by the theatre and Archaeological Park
- 10 The Roman Museum (with silver treasury)
- 11 The Roman House (with Roman garden)
- 12 Lapidarium (collection of stone artefacts), covered picnic area
- 13 Visitor kiosk and toilets
- 14 Theatre
- 15 Gallo-Roman shrine (Schönbühl Hill)
- 16 Platform temple (Schönbühl Hill)
- 17 Forum temple (full-sized token facade)
- 18 Forum altar
- 19 Basilica
- 20 Curia (Roman town hall)
- 21 Exhibition in the curia basement
- 22 Victoria column
- 23 "Gebrannte Erde" ("Burnt Earth") exhibition
- 24 Public fountain
- 25 Water mains with mud collector
- 26 Geometric mosaic
- 27 Steps from the Rhine baths
- 28 Picnic area and drinking fountain
- 29 Experimental potter's kiln
- 30 Toilets
- 31 Room with hypocaust
- 32 Urban neighbourhoods

- 33 Tavern with well-preserved oven
- 34 Women's baths
- 35 Central baths
- 36 Street arcade at the central baths
- 37 Cellar below the central baths
- 38 Sewers
- 39 Exit from the sewers
- 40 Palazzo
- 41 Section of the Roman water mains for Augst
- 42 "Roman" bakery
- 43 Southern forum (praetorium?)
- 44 Amphitheatre
- 45 Multimedia show "Animal fights and gladiator contests" in the career
- 46 Picnic area in the amphitheatre
- 47 Griematt shrine and healing baths
- 48 Sichelen temple 1
- 49 Sichelen temple 2
- 50 Beginning of the Roman history walkway
- 51 End of the Roman history walkway
- 52 Western town wall
- 53 Hostel (mansio)
- 54 East gate
- 55 Funeral monument
- 56 "Roman" farm animal park
- 57 Picnic area in the animal park grounds
- 58 Fountain basin from a private house (copy)
- 59 Stone blocks from a collapsed bridge
- 60 Roman pottery in Venusstrasse-Ost
- 61 Roman brick and tile works in Liebrüti
- 62 "Made in Augusta Raurica" exhibition
- 63 A column (copy) in the village of Augst
- 64 Corinthian capital (copy) from a fountain
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- 66 Roman trading house in Schmidmatt
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- 68 The fortress wall
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- 71 Early Christian church and baptistery
- 72 The bridgehead on the north bank of the Rhine

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(English translation:
Cathy Aitken
and Christoph Maier)

← (Inside front cover)
Fig. 1 **Plan of Augusta Raurica today**,
showing the points of archaeological interest (cf. plan of Roman Augusta
Raurica, fig. 51, inside back cover).

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Front cover:

The *curia* of Augusta Raurica **20**, the Roman town hall. Top left is the adjoining, unexcavated *basilica* **19** (cf. page 29, figs 9 and 12). View from the east.

Back cover:

Part of the gladiator mosaic from *insula* 30 (find-spot shown in fig. 1, **32**). A gladiator with a long shield and short sword (*myrmillo*) overthrows a fighter with a net (*retiarius*), armed with a trident and arm guards: circa 200 AD. On display on the outside wall of the Roman House in the *lapidarium* **12**, cf. page 81.

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Foreword

A detailed "Guide to Augusta Raurica" has been available in German from the Roman Museum for many years. The original version by R. Laur-Belart was revised and expanded in 1988 by L. Berger to include 215 pages and 212 figures. Since 1991 this has also been available in French. The third largest group of visitors to Augusta Raurica is, however, English-speaking! Until now these visitors have had to do without a short survey of the ancient ruins and Roman Museum that stand just outside Basel. Now, in 1995, the Roman Museum in Augst has answered the frequently expressed wish of our visitors by publishing this "English Guide".

In preparing this, I have been able to draw on the many texts written in the past few years for the almost 300 information panels placed around the area of the ruins. In describing the Roman Museum and its collections, I have based myself on a text by Max Martin; the section on the Roman trading house **64** and the west gate of the fortress **69** derive from the preparatory work of Urs Müller, and in the planning phase for this guide Peter-Andrew Schwarz contributed a summary of the history of research in Augst.

Many additions, much up-dating and thorough editing were nevertheless

required to ensure that this brochure appears without inconsistencies. Should the theatre at Augst **14** be dealt short measure, for all that it is the best preserved site of its kind north of the Alps, this is because the lengthy task of restoration and research has only just begun as this guide is published, and new understanding of the architecture and building history still lies a little in the future.

I would like to thank Beat Rütli for his critical reading of the manuscript and helpful suggestions. Cathy Aitken and Christoph Maier took care of the translation into English. Constant Clareboets, Sylvia Fünfschilling, Markus Schaub and Ursi Schild were of great assistance in selecting the figures. Finally, the printers Birkhäuser + GBC AG in Reinach/BL gave to the project its concrete, "third" dimension. To all concerned I owe my sincere thanks.

It is to be hoped that this brief English guide will help to bring "our" Roman city of Augusta Raurica the international recognition that it deserves!

AUGUSTA RAURICA
Director of Archaeology

Alex R. Furger

Location and history

The location

Geographical situation

The area of the Roman city of Augusta Raurica lies on the south bank of the Rhine 10 km to the east of Basel in the so-called "Three Countries" Triangle of Switzerland, France and Germany. It comprises the present-day local authority communities of Augst (BL), Kaiseraugst (AG; figs 1 and 2) and partly also of Pratteln (BL). The town of the 1st to 3rd centuries AD lay on the low terrace above the river in Augst. The settlement then extended to the low ground by the Rhine (Kaiseraugst) from about 100 AD. This lower town, with its harbour, trading establishments and artisan neighbourhoods, took over the site of an abandoned early imperial Roman military camp of about 20–50 AD (fig. 51,90). In the late Roman period, from about 270 AD, the fortifications on the Kastelen headland were built (Augst; fig. 51,89), followed by the fortress (*Castrum Rauracense*, 4th century) on the Rhine where the village of Kaiseraugst was later situated (fig. 51,67; 38).

The town reached its greatest size around 150–200 AD (fig. 3). The old core of settlement in the upper town had expanded to around 77 hectares (ha), comprising 53 blocks of streets (*insulae*), the temple area in the west and the suburbs to the south. The lower town, built around 100 AD, skirted the Rhine for about 800 m and covered a further 29 ha (fig. 51,91). With a total of 106 ha, Augusta Raurica was larger than the Roman town of Aventicum (Avenches, 80 ha) and only a little smaller than, for

example, Colonia Claudia Ara Agrippinensium (Cologne, 110 ha) or Colonia Augusta Treverorum (Trier, 150 ha). The *Castrum Rauracense* (the fortress at Kaiseraugst) is the largest late Roman military fortress in Switzerland, with an area of 3.7 ha (Yverdon-Eburodunum, as a comparison, is 1.95 ha).

Getting there

- Train:* Fast train from Basel, Rheinfelden or Brugg, or local train to Kaiseraugst **1** (fig. 1,1; 10 minutes walk to the main points of interest, e.g. the Roman Museum and theatre).
- Bus:* Bus number 70 from Basel-Aeschenvorstadt or from Reigoldswil/Liestal to the Augst stop **2** (fig. 1; 10 minutes walk to the main points of interest) **2**
- Boat:* From July to September only, Tuesday to Sunday from Basel-Schifflände or from Rheinfelden to Kaiseraugst **3** **3** (in the late Roman fortress [fig. 37,3] and 10 minutes walk from the main points of interest; journey time from Basel: 1½ hours).
- Car:* Motorway exit "Augst", then follow the brown signs "Augusta Raurica" **4** **4** (fig. 1).

Bicycle: You have chosen a delightful way to explore the attractions of Augusta Raurica which are spread over an area of two kilometers! (bicycle parking close to **5**).

On foot: Various pedestrian routes marked in yellow lead from Liestal **6**, Birsfelden **7** and Rheinfelden **8** to Augst and Kaiseraugst (see figs 1 and 2).

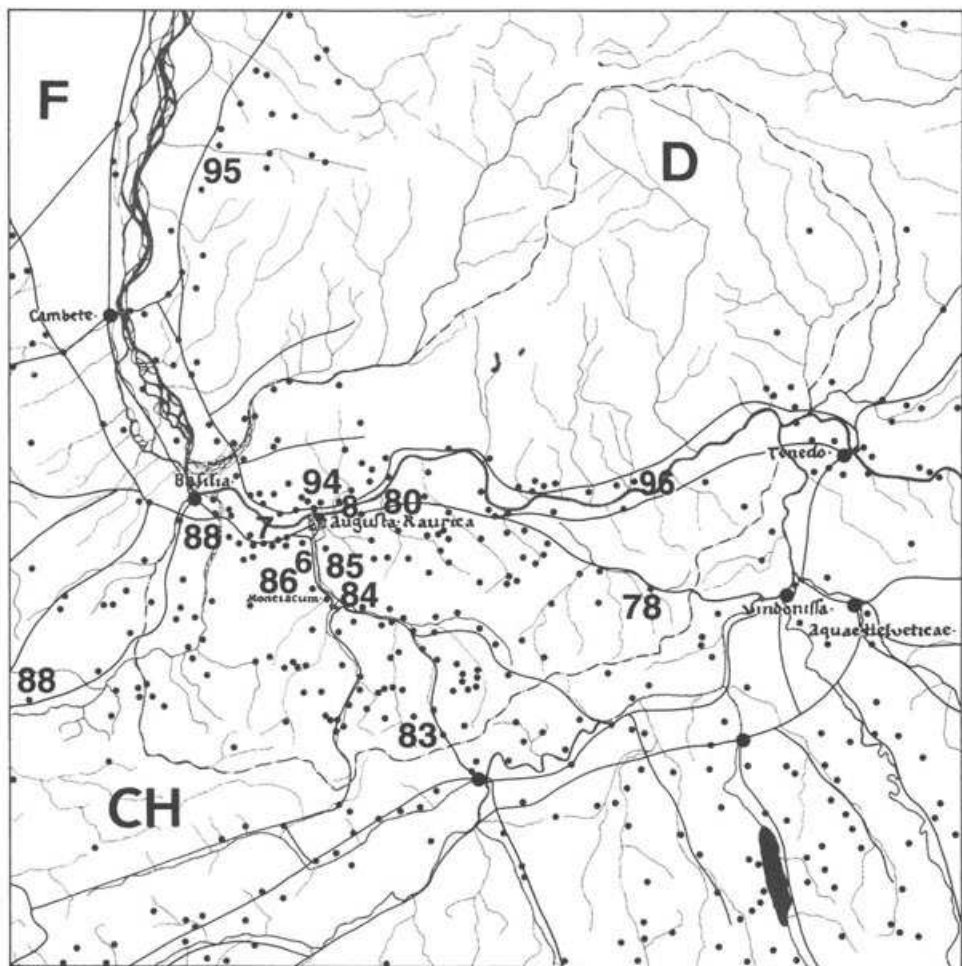
- Fig. 2 Position of the Roman town of Augusta Raurica in the "Three Countries' Triangle" of Switzerland (CH) – France (F) – Germany (D). Grey: over 500 m above sea level. Scale 1:600,000.
- ▶ **78** Roman long-distance route via Bözberg to Windisch (Vindonissa).
 - 80** Hilltop shrine at Flühweghalde
 - 83** Long-distance route via Hauenstein into central Switzerland
 - 84** Point where the Roman water mains lead off from the River Ergolz
 - 85** Water mains from Lausen/Liestal to Augst (6.5 km; cf. fragment at **41**)
 - 86** Roman hilltop shrine at Schauenburgerfluh
 - 88** Long-distance route to Basel (Basilia) and over the Jura to Avenches (Aventicum)
 - 94** Courtyard and temple complex at Wyhlen/Herten
 - 95** Long-distance route down the Rhine valley towards Strassburg (Argentorate) and Mainz (Mogontiacum)
 - 96** Long-distance route up the Rhine valley via Zurzach (Tenedo) to Rottweil (Arae Flaviae), to the Neckar valley and to Lake Constance and Bregenz (Brigantium)
 - 6** Footpath from Liestal
 - 7** Footpath from Birsfelden
 - 8** Footpath from Rheinfelden

History

Some history of research at Augst

The first historical study and excavations at Augst were undertaken by Andreas Ryff and Basilius Amerbach in 1582, in the theatre **14**. Augst is thus the earliest site north of the Alps to have been investigated archaeologically.

In 1839 the Historical and Antiquarian Society of Basel (HAGB) took over the task of researching the site. Excavations have taken place here regularly since 1878, and since 1957 there has been a permanent team at work all year round. The HAGB bought the theatre and Schönbühl site in 1884 with the aim of



protecting it from further ruination and use as a stone quarry. In 1935 the Pro Augusta Raurica Foundation (PAR) was formally established. In the past few decades the HAGB, the PAR and the Canton of Baselland have made it possible for further large areas of the Roman town to be bought and placed under protection.

Brief historical sketch

In 44 BC a colony is established (in Basel?) by L. Munatius Plancus, according to the inscription on his gravestone in Gaeta, Italy. Around 15–10 BC building and settlement activity begins in Augst. This is the first “building boom”, with wooden structures, and the earliest certain date established (by dendrochronology) is 6 BC. Under Augustus (27 BC to 14 AD) the colony is refounded with a new name. A wooden *forum* (perhaps with temple) dates from around 20 AD. From ca 20–50 AD foot soldiers and cavalry are stationed in the wooden fortress in the lower town of Kaiseraugst, as indicated by archaeological evidence, finds [fig. 51.90] and inscriptions. Circa 40–70 AD the residential area is rebuilt in stone (second “building boom”). The years around 70 AD are a busy phase of public building activity, producing the first theatre **14**, the Schönbühl temple **15**, and the stone-built *forum* **17–20**. In the Flavian period troops are also present (perhaps *beneficiarii* posts). The economy flourishes from the late 1st to the early 3rd centuries AD (fig. 3; evidenced by the extension of the baths, for example, **34** and **35**). Around 200 AD the third theatre is built **14**, as well as the amphitheatre **44** and luxurious private buildings with mosaics (third “building boom” cf. **21** and **40**). From

around 195–210 AD denarii are minted unofficially, as shown by the fakes that have been found. Between 240 and 250 AD there are clear archaeological indications of an earthquake which must have destroyed much of the town. From ca 253/254 AD come the first indications of a military threat to the town: possessions were hidden in hoards. There is, however, no evidence for raids by Alamannic tribes in 260 AD. The power politics in Augst/Kaiseraugst in the period of the Gallic Empire is unclear: troops were perhaps stationed here in an auxiliary fort on the Rhine. Around 273/274 AD the civilian town is destroyed through warfare and the Kastelen defences are built (fig. 1.89). Under Diocletian (284–295) Augst becomes part of the newly created province of *Maxima Sequanorum*. Shortly after about 320 AD the Kastelen fortifications are razed to the ground and the *Castrum Rauracense* is built **67–71** (figs. 37 and 38). Around 352 AD further destruction takes place and precious objects are hoarded (the silver hoard **74** is from this time, fig. 46). 346 to 360 AD is the best documented period for Augst with the fort of Kaiseraugst often mentioned (by Ammianus Marcellinus, *Notitia Dignitatum* etc.) in connection with troop movements, imperial inspections and the bishopric. After 400 AD the Roman troops withdraw, but settlement continues in the fortress. After its refoundation by Augustus, the town may have been called *Colonia [Paterna Munatia Felix Apollinjaris] Augusta E[merita] Raur[ica] (?)* (see the so-called Nuncupator inscription, with additional remarks in []). Better known now as Augst, this town numbered about 20,000 inhabitants towards the end of its heyday around 200 AD (fig. 3) and was thus slightly larger than Aventicum. Unlike the legionary camp

of Vindonissa, Augst played only a minor role in the military expansionist politics of the 1st century AD. The importance of the town as a route centre and economic hub was correspondingly great during its golden era, *aurea aetas*, from the late 1st to the middle of the 3rd century: almost all the passenger and goods traffic between the south and the military bases and settlement in the areas of the middle and lower Rhine passed through here. Trading and load-

ing of goods at the Rhine harbour (fig. 51, 92) thus became the economic mainstay of the town, along with the local manufacture and refinement of various consumer and utility goods. The fortress of Kaiseraugst gained a regional military importance only in the 4th century AD when, for several years, the Prima Martia Legion made this their main base for an enormous section of the northern imperial frontier.

The Roman colonial town

The main features and layout of the town

The town had all the usual infrastructure of a colony: a three-quarters round *curia* (meeting place of the town council; fig. 12; 51, 20); adjacent to it the main *forum* with the *area publica* (square and *basilica* [court building; fig. 11]) and the *area sacra* (arcade and temple 17 for the imperial cult; fig. 10). A related complex, the so-called southern *forum* 43 (fig. 24), with numerous taverns as at the main *forum*, was situated 200 meters southwest of this and probably incorporated an administrative building (*praetorium*) and a food market (*macellum*) (lacking the usual apse, however).

The first, scenic, theatre 14 was built in the town centre – surprisingly late, in around 70 AD – and this was converted into an arena theatre in the early 2nd century (fig. 6). This “multi-purpose building” was replaced by another scenic theatre in about 200 AD, and at the same time a separate amphitheatre was

constructed on the edge of town 44 (fig. 26).

Among the public buildings of Augusta Raurica are also three bathing establishments. The women’s baths 34, directly behind the theatre, originally comprised a modest building dating from around 40–50 AD; new baths were built in around 60–80 AD, and a complete restructuring took place from the 2nd century AD (fig. 18). The central baths 35, in the middle of the street blocks (*insulae*) of the upper town, feature as many as four building phases: a structure of the second half of the 1st century AD, renovation and extension at the end of the 1st century AD, a further extension in the 2nd century and the addition of a courtyard for physical exercises (*palaestra*) at the beginning of the 3rd century (fig. 20). The third complex of baths 70, the Rhine baths of the lower town, were first built in the 3rd century AD and completely rebuilt and integrated into the fortress (fig. 40) in the 4th century. The different areas of town were linked by a gridwork of streets in the town

centre, and later also in the lower town, as well as radial streets leading out of town (cf. **32** with fig. 16 as well as fig. 3). Also belonging to the town's infrastructure are the bridge over the Rhine **73/93** and the ferry, the water supply (including the 6.5 km long aquaduct **84/85/81/82** and several fountains [e.g. **24**, fig. 14]), drains and underground sewers (e.g. **38**, fig. 21), rubbish collection (evidence for this is only from the 2nd century) and a never completed town wall with two gates in the west (**52**) and east (**54**, fig. 31), dating from the end of the 1st century AD.

The town and its surrounding area had a typical mixture of Roman and indigenous cults. The main temple on the forum **17/18** was dedicated to Roma, the patron goddess of the city of Rome, and the deified Emperor Augustus (fig. 10). The Schönbühl temple **16**, a similar platform temple on the same axis as the theatre (fig. 8), was built in about 70 AD to replace a small square shrine **15** dedicated to a local deity. We do not know to whom the Roman temple was dedicated (perhaps Mercury?). Square shrines in the Gallo-Roman tradition have come to light in six places in all, which form a belt along the western edge of the town (e.g. **48** and **49**, fig. 29). There are other square shrines outside town (Im Sager **77** 1 km; Wyhlen **94** [D] 1.5 km; Flühweghalde **80** 1.7 km; Schauenburger Fluh **86** 5.4 km [figs 1 and 2]).

Inscriptions, sculpture and pottery that have been found indicate the existence of priests of the imperial cult (*flamines Augusti*), as well as numerous deities worshipped in the Grienmatt shrine **47** (including gods of healing, cf. fig. 27) and a snake cult with special vessels. The latter is a characteristic feature of Augst and is not known from written sources.

Economy and society

The private buildings of Augst housed business and living quarters under one roof. The buildings themselves had evolved organically, constructed originally of wood and rebuilt in stone between about 40 and 70 AD. Trade, commerce and crafts were the economic mainstays of the town. There is evidence of countless business establishments and professions: butcher's shops (see the Roman House **11**, page 77) and smoke houses (e.g. **66** and the Roman House **11**), bronze foundries (see the Roman House **11**, page 79) and brass workers, blacksmiths (fig. 49) and scrap metal dealers, wood turners and glass makers, weavers and fullers (e.g. **66**), mosaic makers and painters, bone carvers and glue makers, doctors and merchants, small animal breeders and tavern keepers (e.g. **33**) etc., and on the edge of town trading posts, hostels for travellers (e.g. **53**) and potteries (e.g. **60**; sited here because of the danger of fire). In the 2nd century, the increasing importance of the Rhine harbour **92** and lack of space in the upper town led to new warehouses being built in the lower town, as well as further workshops and trading posts (figs 3 and 51, **91**). An inscription from the *basilica* of the *collegium negotiatorum Cisalpinorum et Transalpinorum* bears witness to brisk trade carried on here. Other written sources also suggest this: for example, Pliny's mention (*Naturalis Historia* 15, 30, 103) of cherries from "the banks of the Rhine", or Varro's report about the import of smoked ham, sausages and bacon from Gaul (cf. page 78).

The living conditions of the inhabitants were very varied, ranging from small, gloomy artisan quarters (cf. **32**) with the most basic open fire for cooking to

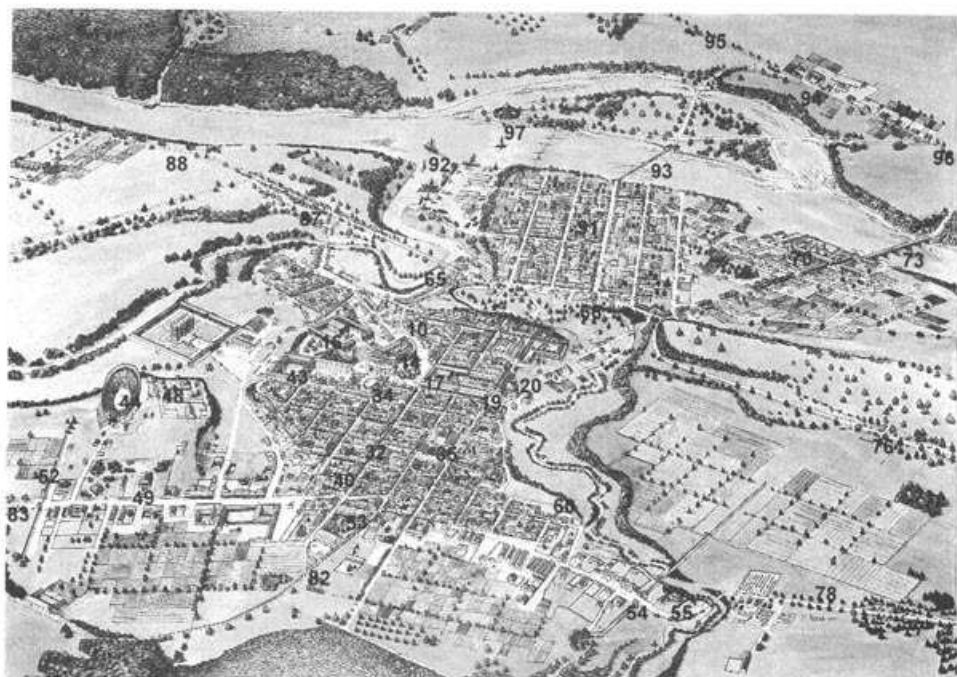


Fig. 3 Augusta Raurica. Artist's impression of the town at its height around 150–200 AD. View from the southeast.

For points **10** to **97** see the legends to figs 1 and 51 inside the front and back covers, respectively.

luxurious villas with inner courtyard (*peristylum*), private bath and rooms decorated with mosaics and heated by a hypocaust (cf. **40**). Properties which were not served by the public water supply, such as those in the southern suburb and parts of the lower town, had to make do with water fetched from wells.

The town's economic prosperity was due to its ideal position with regard to river traffic on the Rhine (fig. 51, **92**) and the intersection of important long-distance routes (figs 1 and 2, **78/83/88/95/96**). Geographically, the town also benefited from having an agricul-

tural hinterland which was both a supplier and market for the town. As well as from trade, wealth derived from the manufacturing activity of the town and the evident exportability of its specialities (metal goods, preserved meat products, perhaps even fruit). As a centre for through traffic, for trade and transfer of goods, the most important aspects of the town's infrastructure were the Rhine harbour (probably at the mouth of the Ergolz, but not yet excavated; fig. 51, **92**) and the bridges. Archaeological and topographical evidence suggests that the first bridge across the Rhine **73** already existed in the 1st century AD

along the north-south road out of town (Castrumstrasse); in the 2nd or 3rd century, with the building of the lower town **91**, a second (or new) bridge **93** was built to link Höllochstrasse across

Gwerd Island with the north bank of the Rhine; finally in the 4th century, the new bridge was built on the earlier site **73**, linking the fortress with the fortified bridgehead on the north bank.

Tours of the monuments

In the Roman town centre

Reception area by the theatre and the Archaeological Park

This is the best place to start your visit (fig. 47). You can look at plans of the whole site here which will help you to plan your tour, and you can find further information and leaflets at the ticket counter of the Roman Museum or the visitor kiosk (fig. 1, **10** and **13**).

How much time would you like to spend?

- **Half an hour?** You will have just enough time to stroll past the Roman House **11** and the "Roman" bakery **42** and to have a look at the Schönbühl temple **15/16** and the Roman theatre **14**.
- **A full hour?** This will also allow you to visit the Roman Museum with its silver treasure **10/11**.
- **About 2 hours?** In that case you should take a walk to the newly restored amphitheatre **44**.
- **About 3 hours?** Within this time you can visit the Roman Museum **10/11**, the *lapidarium* **12** behind the Roman House, the theatre **14**, the Schönbühl temple **15/16**, and the amphitheatre **44**; on your way back you can stop at the *forum* **17–19** and *curia* **20**, the exhibition of mosaics **21** and the Victoria column **22**.
- **Half a day?** It would be worth your while to make an additional excursion either to the Roman trading house **66**, to the brick and tile works **61**, or through the underground sewage system **38/39**.

- **The whole day?** Marvellous! We wish you an interesting and pleasant day walking around the more than *20 archaeological attractions* of Augst and Kaiseraugst!

Please note:

- Find your way with the help of the grey signposts and the big information maps (to be found at **1, 3, 4, 9** and **10**).
- Please go **on foot**; you will discover so much more this way!
You will find a rich choice of literature, postcards and museum copies at the ticket counter of the Roman Museum **10**.
- The ruins within protective shelters **21, 23, 37/38, 42, 66, 70** and **71** are open daily from 8.30 to 16.30. For the opening times of the Roman Museum **10/11** see appendix.
- In the Roman Museum **10** you will find:
 - a letter-box for your suggestions and criticisms,
 - a plan showing the location of current excavation work (archaeologists are available at the excavations on weekdays from 11.30 to 12.00 on request to explain the progress of work).
- The visitor kiosk **13** near the theatre is open daily from 10.00–17.00 in the main tourist season and in good weather (closed in winter).

9 Stone monuments in the Archaeological Park (copies)

13

(cf. also the *lapidarium* **12** with further stone fragments, behind the Roman House, fig. 1 and page 81ff.)

Inscription with dedication to Mercury

MERCVR(io)

M(arcus) · ET · Q(uintus) · SANVCI ·

ATTI

SANVCI · FILI · QVIR(ina tribu) · MES

SOR · ET · MELO · EX · VOTO

QVOD · PATER · EORVM

SVSCEPERAT

In translation: To Mercury, Marcus Sanucius Messor and Quintus Sanucius Melo, sons of Attius Sanucus, of the *tribus* (civic division) Quirina, because of an oath which their father made.

The father who made the oath bore the family name of Attius. The Quirina is the civic division of all new citizens of Augst. The nickname Sanucus is actually of Celtic origin.

Late Roman gravestone

Made of red sandstone with the inscription:

D(is) M(anibus)

ET MEMORI(a)E AE

TERN(a)E EVSSTAT(a)E

CONIVGI DVLCI

(s)SIM(a)E QVI VISIT

ANN(os) LXV ...

AMATVS ...

POSVIT

In translation: To the spirits of the dead and as a perpetual memorial to Eusstata, beloved wife, who lived for 65 years, Amatus (her husband) has erected this stone.

Carved in the triangular gable of this stone is what appears to be an anchor. This symbol often features on early Christian gravestones, and it therefore seems likely that the deceased Eusstata

was a Christian. The gravestone was found in 1948 in the late Roman cemetery of Kaiseraugst-Stalden (fig. 51, **75**). It probably dates to around 350 AD or shortly before, and is thus the earliest evidence of Christianity in Switzerland (the original stone is on display in the Roman Museum **10**).

Statue of Hercules

This slightly less than life-sized statue of Hercules shows him clean-shaven, with a lion's skin and club, and accompanied by the dog Cerberus, guardian of the underworld. It was discovered in 1924 in the Griematt shrine complex (fig. 1, **47**). Hercules was possibly worshipped there as god of the spring and of healing (the original stone is displayed in the Roman Museum **10**).

Inscription with dedication to Mercury

MERCVRIO

AVGVSTO SACR(um)

L(ucius) · CILTIVS · CELTIL

LI · F(ilius) · QVIRINA (tribu) · COS

SVS IIIIII VIR · AVG(ustalis) ·

L(ocus) · D(atus) · D(ecreto) · D(ecurio-num) ·

In translation: Dedicated to Mercurius Augustus. Lucius Ciltius Cossus, son of Celtillus, from the *tribus* (civic division) Quirina, member of the *seviri* of the imperial cult. The site (for the inscription) was decided by the town council.

The person making the dedication was Lucius Ciltius Cossus. The stone was discovered in 1887 in Kaiseraugst where it had been re-used as building material for the fortress wall **68**.

Venus

This torso of the goddess of love resting against a pillar is carved in limestone. The goddess, with just a sash about her breasts, grasps a robe in her left hand.

Possibly dating from the 3rd century, this is a provincial work. The torso was re-used as a foundation stone in the late Roman fortress wall **68** in Kaiseraugst (the original stone is in the Roman Museum **10**).

Gravestone of the two brothers

OLV(s) · AN(norum) · XII
ET · FVSCINVS · AN(norum)
XVI · FVSCI · FILI
H(ic) · S(iti) · S(unt)

In translation: Olus, aged 12, und Fuscinus, aged 16, sons of Fuscus. They lie buried here.

This limestone slab was found in 1947 in the large cemetery along the road to Basel (fig. 51, **87**). Olus and Fuscinus are typical names of slaves and mean “cabbage” and “little dark one”.

Fragment of a milestone from Mumpf/Stein

IMP (Caes)
T AE(I Hadr Anton)
INO A(ug Pio P M Cos II)
DE(sign) III PP
A R(aur)

Transcribed in full, this reads: Imp(eratori) Caes(ari) T(ito) Ae(lio) Hadr(iano) (Antoni)no A(ugusto) Pio p(ontifici) m(aximo) co(n)s(uli) (II) de(signato) III p(atr) p(atr)iae A(ugusta) R(aurica) ...

In translation: To the Emperor Titus Aelius Hadrianus Antoninus Pius, High Priest, Consul for the second time, designated to the third Consulat, father of the fatherland. From Augusta Raurica ... (miles).

Our very tentative transcription explains the abbreviations in terms of a standard phrase greeting the Emperor Antoninus Pius. On the basis of this transcription, the inscription would date from the second half of the year 139 AD. The name of the place from which the distance on the milestone is measured is

missing except for the letters **A** and **R**. Since the dot which separates individual words clearly remains between the A and R, the completed line may read A(ugusta) · R(aurica). To judge by the place where the stone was found, the distance stated must have been X (10) miles (14.8 km measured from Augst; cf. fig. 2, **78**).

Fountain

This fountain carved in mottled sandstone features the head of a water god (perhaps Neptune). A lead pipe spouting water once protruded from the mouth (as in fig. 14). This was found in 1984 in Kaiseraugst (in the Roman trading house **66**). It probably dates from the third quarter of the 2nd century AD.

Relief sculpture: “the married couple”

A standing couple is represented in this relief sculpture in red sandstone (fig. 4). On the left is a woman who is dressed in a sleeved robe, which reaches to below the knee, and wrapped in a cloak. The man on the right is wearing a sleeved tunic, drawn in by a broad belt with a ring buckle. Over the top he has a cloak which is pinned at the right shoulder with a round fibula brooch or clasp. In his right hand he is holding a staff which marks him as a Roman officer (*centurio*). The relief was originally part of a gravestone and dates from the first third of the 3rd century AD (the original is displayed in the Roman Museum **10**).

Table foot

Bacchus, the god of fertility and wine, appears on this table foot. The youthful god is wearing a garland of ivy on his curly hair and a panther skin over his shoulder. The table foot was found in *insula* 24 together with pottery of around 40–70 AD, and so may well be



Fig. 4 Small sandstone relief of a couple, probably from a tombstone of the 3rd century AD. The woman wears a long, sleeved tunic and a woollen cloak; the man is clad in a sleeved tunic with a belt and buckle, and a cloak which is held by a fibula brooch at the right shoulder. The commander's staff in his right hand identifies him as an officer (*centurio*). This was found in 1962 in Kaiseraugst (the original is in the Roman Museum **10**; a copy is in the Archaeological Park **9**).

one of the earliest pieces of sculpture found at Augst (the original is displayed in the Roman Museum **10**).

Roman sun dial (copy)

This is a copy in Jura limestone of a Roman sun dial in the Musée Dauphinois in Grenoble (France). Instead of dividing the day into 24 hours as we do today, the Romans divided the hours of

daylight into twelve equal "hours of the day". Sun dials such as this one served to measure the passing hours.

Theatre

History of research

The first efforts to clear and survey the theatre arose out of the interests of Basel humanists in the 16th century. In the decades around 1900 intensive excavation work took place, and from 1936 an extensive project was undertaken to preserve the site (fig. 5). Since 1992 the theatre has been undergoing thorough renovation once again because much of the ancient walls and also the earlier restoration work have been damaged by water and frost.

Before being interrupted by the current restoration work, the Pro Augsta Raurica Foundation organised various concerts and jazz matinées here each year, and theatre performances took place every 2–5 years. For the time being, such performances are taking place in the amphitheatre (fig. 1, **44**).

Building history

It is difficult at first sight to gain an overview of the maze of walls, entrances and audience seating, and with it the complex building history of the theatre at Augst. Over the three hundred years or so of settlement in the upper town (from the 1st to 3rd centuries AD), the theatre was rebuilt or fundamentally altered at least three times:

The first theatre (fig. 6 top left; around 65–110 AD) was a scenic theatre, which corresponds in form to a modern playhouse. Little of it is now visible because of later alterations.

The second theatre (fig. 6 bottom left; around 110–200 AD) was an arena or amphitheatre for gladiator contests and

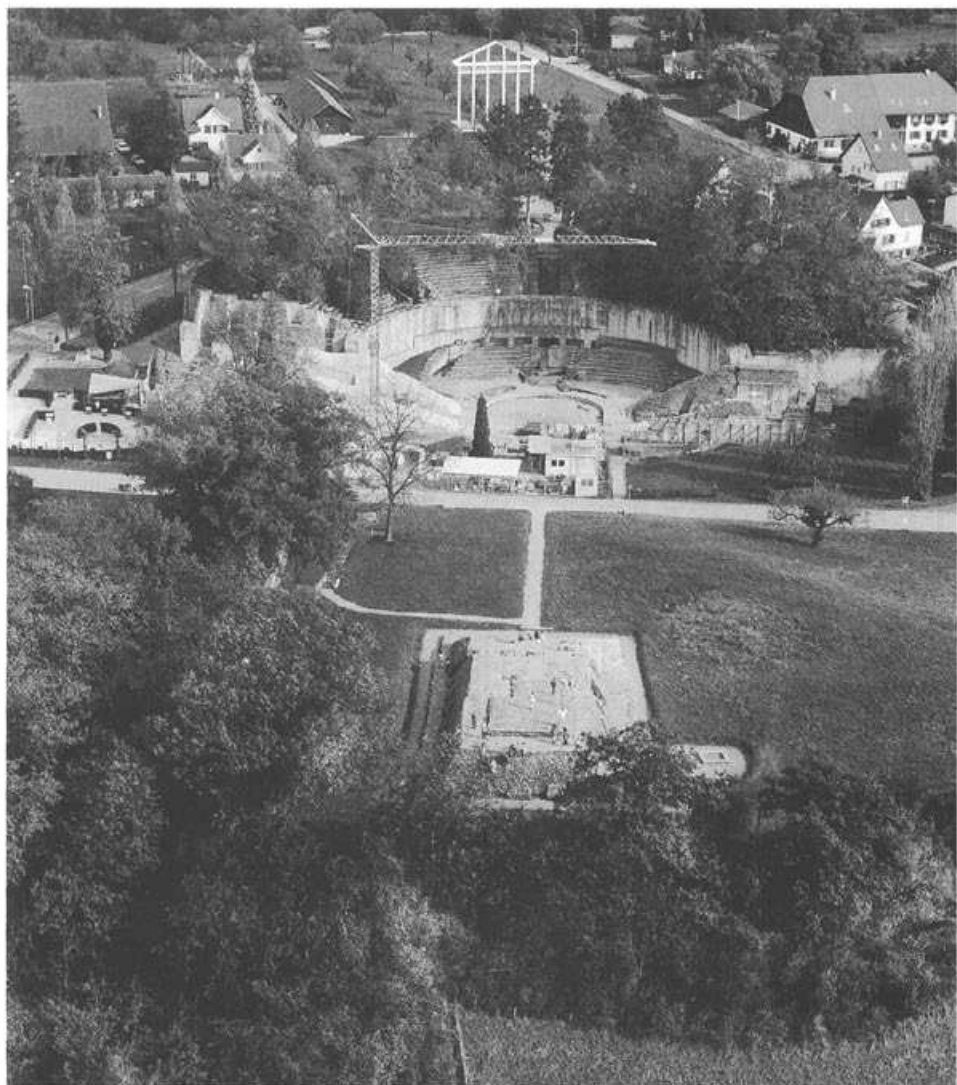
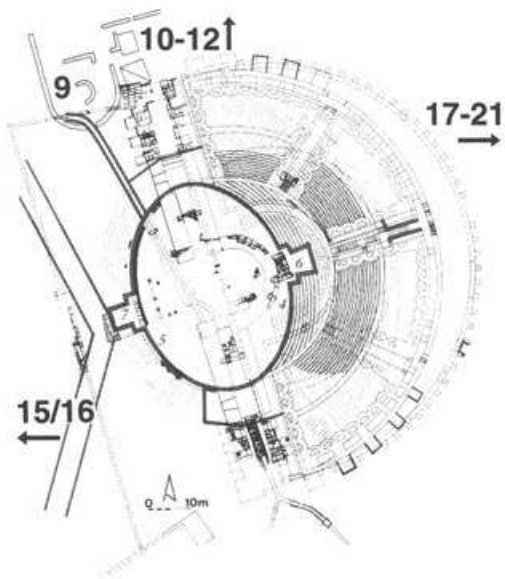
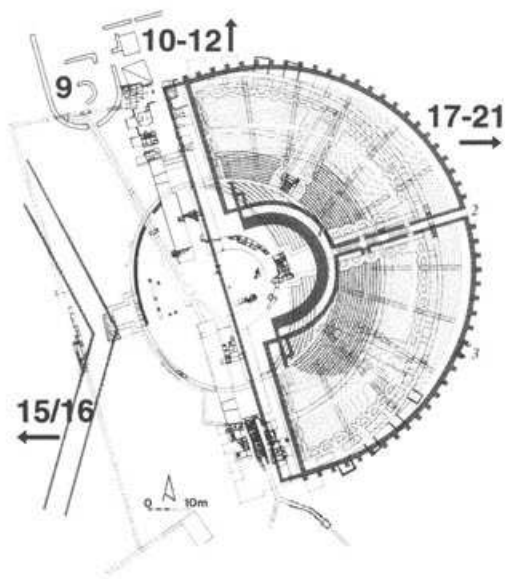


Fig. 5 Aerial photograph of the theatre **14**. The wooded meadow in the background with the white temple facade **17** is the *forum*; out of view to the left, beside the Archaeological Park **9**, are the Roman Museum and Roman House. In the foreground at the bottom is the podium of the temple **16** on Schönbrunn Hill.

animal fights. The audience seating and upper portions of the first theatre were kept and a new semi-oval row of seats was built along the arena wall below. The third theatre (fig. 6 top right; around 200–270 AD; restored after the earthquake of 250 AD and in use into the 4th century): this was another scenic (“playhouse”) theatre, and it is largely the ruins of this that are visible today.

Foundation walls of the stage

Under the terrace by the kiosk **13**, at the northwest corner of the third theatre (3rd century AD), you can still see clearly the sandstone blocks on which the 28 meter high back wall of the stage once stood (fig. 6, 18). The course of the foundations are marked on the modern cement floor.



The Schönbühl temple

The earlier Gallo-Roman shrine

Before the massive platform temple was built, a Gallo-Roman temple complex stood on this site. While the later temple was constructed in the Mediterranean style (fig. 8), the earlier complex followed local models. So far six square shrines have been found, ranging in size from small to very small. Two of these can still be seen immediately to the south of the huge foundation base of the later temple (fig. 7, 15).

The whole complex was once surrounded by walls running along the edge and the foot of the hill. At the south end stood three buildings comprising several rooms. These may also have been connected with the cult, perhaps serving as living quarters for the priests. Coins were found in two of the small shrines: 217 in one and 151 in the other. These can be interpreted as offerings. The date of minting indicates that the temple complex was in use in the first half of the 1st century AD. Weapons, for example a spear (*pilum*), were likewise found in the two preserved shrines 15 and these were probably also left as offerings.

The platform temple

The massive foundation of the temple (fig. 7) on Schönbühl Hill has long been the focus of antiquarian interest and archaeological excavations. More or less thorough excavations took place in 1838–43, 1892, 1917–28, 1938 and 1945 on various parts of the hill, and in 1957/58 the visible remains were consolidated.

Again and again archaeologists have tried to gain a picture of what this grand building would have looked like (fig. 8), using as evidence the unspectacular remnants of foundations and the col-

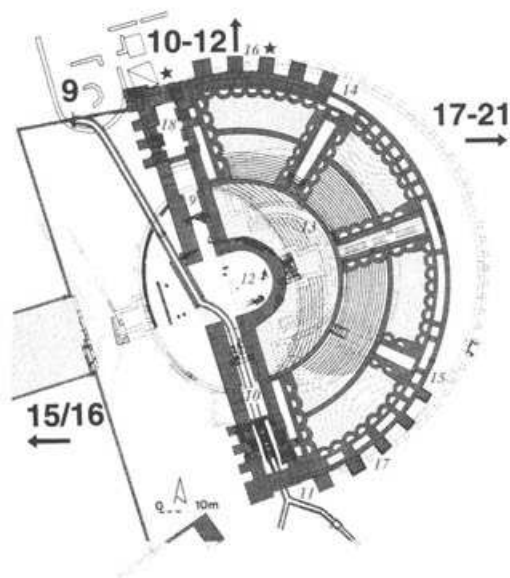


Fig. 6 Plan of the theatre 14 showing the three main building phases. **Top left:** first, older, scenic theatre (around 65–110 AD). **Bottom left:** second, arena or amphitheatre (reconstructed plan uncertain; around 110–200 AD). **Top right:** third, newer, scenic theatre (from about 200 AD). ★: repairs and levelling (after the earthquake of around 250 AD?). Scale 1:1800.

Visible structures: *First theatre:* 1 surrounding wall; 2 central approaching steps; 3 outline of enclosure wall found in excavations. *Second theatre:* 4,5 arena wall; 6,7 cages for animals (or rooms for gladiator teams) and foundations of seating tiers; 8 lower audience seating. *Third theatre:* 9,10 two-skinned stage wall with passageway (*aditus*); 11 drain; 12 orchestra pit; 13 high buttressing wall (not visible in the Roman period, being covered by audience seating that has now gone); 14,15 side entrances (*vomitoria*); 16,17 periphery wall with buttresses and semicircular niches (these merely functioned as buttresses and helped to save on building material); 18 foundations of the stage wall (below the modern visitor kiosk).

9 Archaeological Park and information point for visitors; 10–12 to the Roman Museum and Roman House (fig. 47); 15/16 to the temple complex on Schönbühl Hill (fig. 8); 17–21 to the forum (fig. 9).

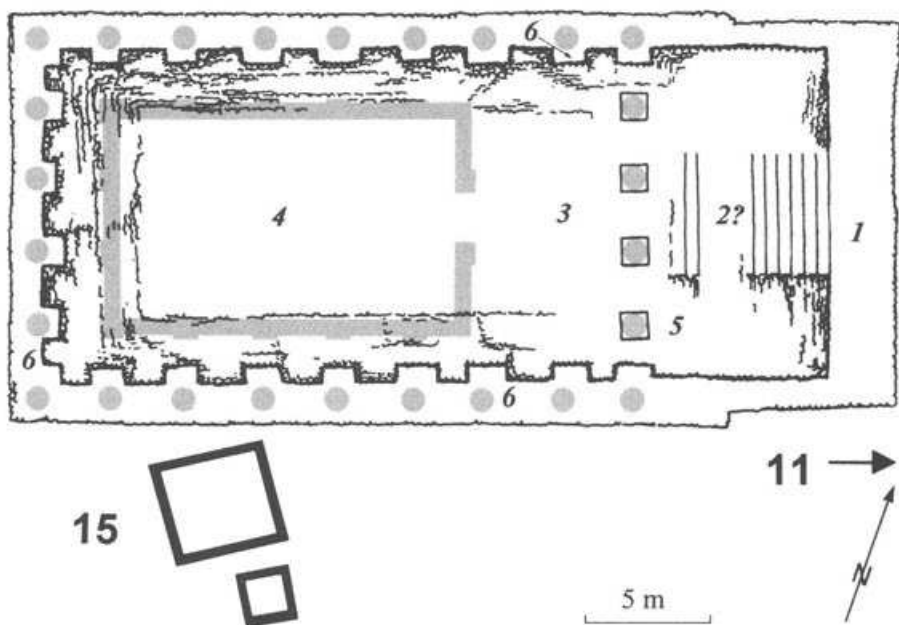


Fig. 7 Temple complex on Schönbühl Hill **16**. Ground plan of the surviving foundations of the temple. **Grey**: position of columns and sanctuary (*cella*) wall (conjectural). Scale 1:300.

15 Older, Gallo-Roman square shrine (ruins also visible and restored); **11** towards the theatre (fig. 6).

1 Steps, *2?* probable position of the altar, *3* entrance hall (*pronaos*), *4* sanctuary (*cella*), *5* surviving column foundations of sandstone blocks, *6* missing (plundered) column foundations of the surrounding arcade (*peripteros*).

umns, mouldings and other architectural fragments found. A few decades ago there was even a plan to reconstruct the temple completely.

The main platform is 3 meters high and well preserved. Walls jut out from this on three sides, and in between there were once huge square blocks of hewn sand- or limestone which formed the bases of pillars (cf. fig. 8). The whole of the front facade and the surface of

the platform would have been covered with well-finished stone slabs. At the top of the steps leading to the platform you can still see four of the six stone blocks on which the pillars of the front facade once stood.

This classical platform temple replaced the earlier square shrines on the site (e.g. **15**) in around 50–75 AD, and is contemporary with the first theatre **14** which was built across the road.

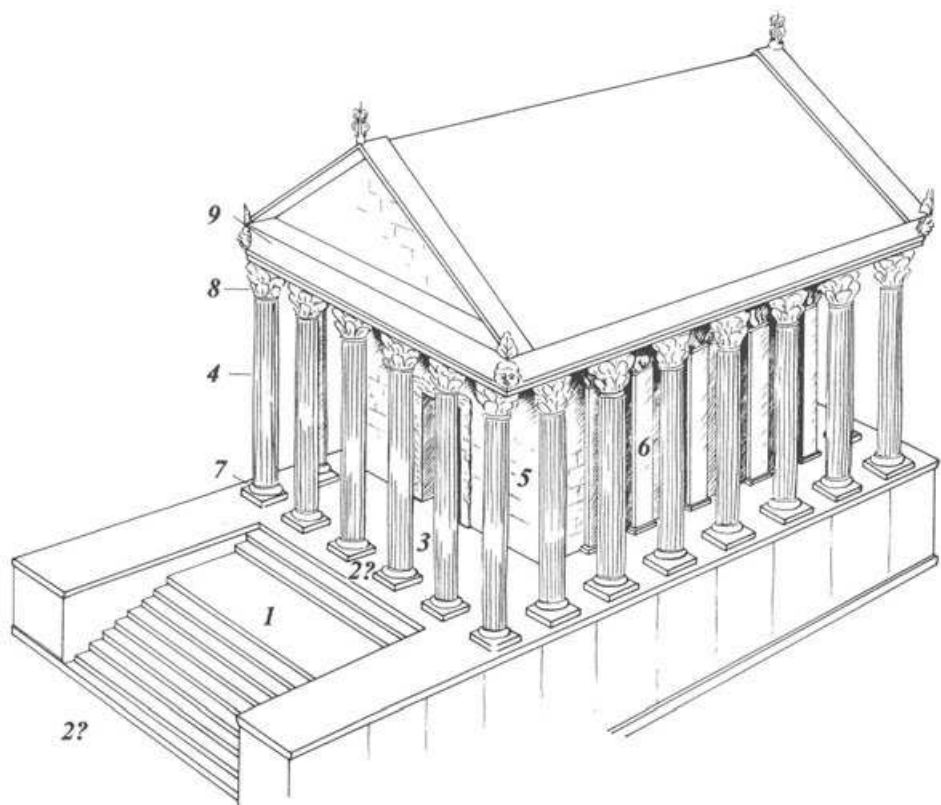


Fig. 8 Schönbühl temple **16**: reconstruction drawing (view from the north). The priests and members of the procession reached the podium up a series of broad steps (1). The altar (2) must have stood directly in front of the actual temple with its columns, or on the half-landing. No trace of its foundations have been found, however, either on the podium or in front of it. The roof of the temple vestibule (3) was carried on the row of columns at the front (4). Behind the vestibule was the inner sanctuary, or *cella* (5): a walled rectangular room measuring about 13×8 meters. The outer walls of this were divided into sections by pilasters (6), shallow rectangular columns projecting from the wall with bases and capitals. The columns of the vestibule and surrounding arcade (*peripteros*) stood on Attic bases (7) and carried Corinthian columns (8, decorated with luxuriant foliage). The columns were 4–5 meters high and, together with the sanctuary wall, carried the roof of the temple. Of this only a few fragments of the architrave (9, crossbeams) and parts of gutter spouts have survived.

Forum

Forum with basilica and curia

In the large square area of meadow just to the east of the theatre once stood the Roman *forum* with a temple **17**, *basilica* **19** and *curia* **20** (front cover, figs 9 and 12). It is now in public ownership and, as a preservation zone, cannot be built over. Only small areas and exploratory trenches have been excavated, in 1923/24, 1927/28, 1935 and 1941, and much of what appears on the plan is speculative.

The *forum* was the trading and administrative centre of the town. In the western area was a temple serving the imperial cult which was dedicated to Roma, the patron goddess of the city of Rome. Its facade has been marked in white-painted wood (fig. 10). All around the temple (*area sacra*) and to either side of the market-place (*area publica*) were dozens of small shops and warehouses with narrow frontages set behind pillared arcades. The market-place itself measures 33×58 meters. Along its eastern side stood the imposing, three-apsed *basilica* (fig. 9, **19**), which housed the administration and law courts. Adjacent to this, built on the slope of the hill, was the circular town hall, or *curia* (fig. 9, **20**). Now consolidated, this counts among the town's most impressive monuments. The ground to the north falls away towards a small stream, the Violenbach. This meant that the corner of the *forum* had to be supported by a massive buttress built up from the valley floor. The buttress is still so well preserved that consolidation of the stonework was only necessary in part.

We suggest you make the short tour to see the *curia* **20**, the basement of the *curia* **21** with the display of mosaics, the experimental pottery kiln below the

buttress wall **29**, and the hypocaust heating **31** (fig. 9).

The forum temple (site marked by a full-sized token facade)

The area of the *forum* facing the theatre was once dominated by a platform temple built in the Mediterranean style (fig. 9, **17**). The platform (*podium*) measured 15×26 meters and stood perhaps 2–3 meters high. On this stood the temple itself, an imposing structure with eight tall columns along the length of the building and six along its breadth. These columns supported the gabled roof over the sanctuary (*cella*) which housed the image of the god. Apart from the Schönbühl temple **16**, this was the only one in Augst to be built in the Italian manner. All the other shrines on the southwestern and eastern edges of town were square temples within walled compounds, typical of local sanctuary architecture.

The massive temple platform survived into the 20th century, but much of it was torn down in 1918 to make way for agriculture.

The temple was surrounded on three sides by columned arcades with shops, and in front of the altar stretched a paved market-place measuring 58×33 meters. In 1992, following a detailed architectural study, a wooden framework representing the platform, steps and 17 meter high temple facade was erected on the actual temple site (fig. 10). The original stone columns were of course more massive than these wooden posts and surrounded the whole of the temple platform, reaching back 26 meters.

This token facade is based on evidence from excavations carried out in 1990 in connection with the reconstruction of

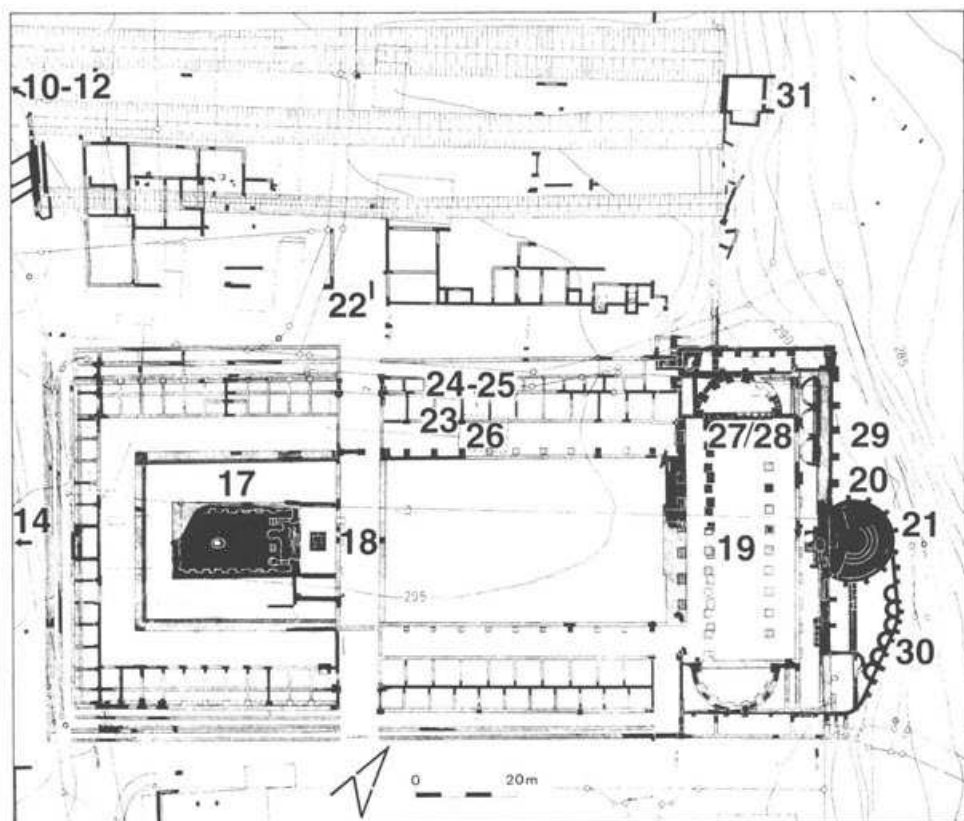


Fig. 9 The forum 17–21 with the sanctified area (*area sacra*) and the public area (*area publica*): 17 forum temple dedicated to Roma, the goddess of Rome, and the Emperor Augustus (*Romae et Augusto*) – the facade is now represented on site by a structure of the same height (fig. 10); 18 marble altar, now marked on site by a reconstruction (fig. 10); 19 basilica (not preserved); 20 curia (town hall) with rows of seating for the town councillors (*decuriones*) and exhibition 21 in the reconstructed basement.

Other points of interest near the forum: 14 theatre (fig. 6); 10–12 towards the Roman Museum (fig. 47); 22 Victoria column (fig. 13); 23 pavilion with the exhibition "Gebrannte Erde" ("Burnt Earth"); 24 fountain (from *insula* 44, fig. 14); 25 mud collector from a small water mains (from Kaiseraugst); 26 mosaic floor (found in 1973 in the southern part of town); 27 steps to the basin and water spout from the Rhine baths; 28 picnic area with drinking fountain; 29 experimental potter's kiln; 30 toilets; 31 Roman house with hypocaust heating system and dining room. Scale 1:1500.



Fig. 10 This marble altar **18** once stood in front of the 17 meter high temple **17** at the “geometric” and religious centre of the town (altar: reconstruction in artificial stone; temple facade and podium: modern representation showing the original height).

the altar, which produced various finds and new information. Among the finds were several large bronze letters from the temple architrave, or gable, which suggest that the temple was dedicated to ROMAE ET AVGVSTO – i.e. to Roma, the goddess of the city of Rome, and to the emperor (and not to Jupiter, as previously thought).

Forum altar

In 1923–1928, excavations unearthed the foundation of the altar just 2.5 meters in front of the wide steps leading up to the *forum* temple. Close by, fragments of relief carving in Carrara marble were found, which once decorated the altar. The image represented is an eagle holding a bundle of thunderbolts in its talons, the symbol of Jupiter (fig. 10). The 1990 excavations brought to light the rear face of the altar. This shows, in relief, a jug and bowl for offerings within a laurel wreath – two utensils that are frequently represented on altars. These later excavations also produced evidence, in the foundations of the altar, for two phases of temple building.

The position of the altar (fig. 9, **18**) is, interestingly, also the *umbilicus*, the central point of measurement for the town’s survey grid, where the two main axes cross.

Basilica

The *basilica*, housing the administration and law courts (figs 9, **19** and 12), the supporting walls round about and the adjacent *curia* have a complicated building history. The first *basilica* was built in the middle of the 1st century AD. This was extremely long and narrow with unusual apses on the short sides. The interior was divided into three naves by a total of 20 pillars.

After a catastrophic fire towards the end of the 1st century, the *basilica* was completely rebuilt and extended eastwards. The new building was an airy, three-naved hall measuring 66×28 meters (fig. 11). Today there are no visible remains of the *basilica* as the foundation walls have been covered over again, but there are information panels on the site.



Fig. 11 View of the interior of the later *basilica* 19 (reconstruction drawing).

0 Curia

The supreme governing body of every Roman town was the town council which met in the town hall, or *curia*. At August, the *curia* forms an architectural unit with the *forum*, *basilica* and temple (figs 9, 20 and 12).

Below the *curia* is a large hall which has now been restored. This never served for council meetings, but was built as a spacious store-room in the first phase of building, before the fire at the end of the 1st century AD.

The basement appears as it would have in the late 1st century AD (it would, however, have had a wooden ceiling, and the windows, too, are a modern addition). The upper floor is a reconstruction of the second building phase (see front cover), with rows of seats for the councillors and a stone-built podium for the two *duumviri* (a sort of mayor).

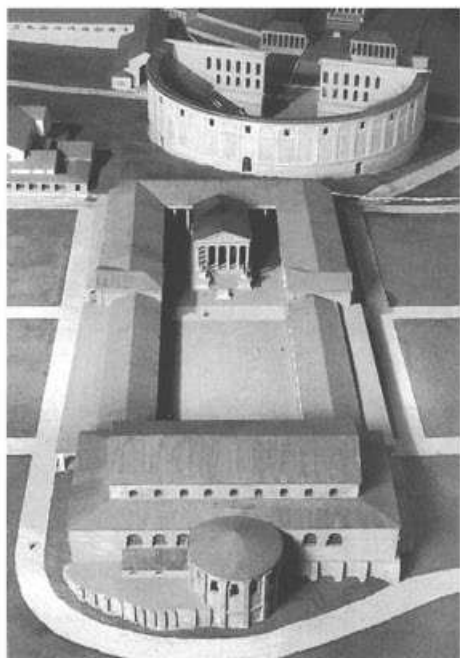


Fig. 12 Model of the public buildings in the town centre of Augusta Raurica. In the foreground the *curia* 20, beyond the *basilica* 19 and the *forum* temple 17 with the altar 18, and in the background the theatre 14. View from the northeast (cf. fig. 9).

Curia basement

Excavations showed that the stone seating of the council meeting room was built on rubble. Responsible for the excavations was the long-serving director of Augusta Raurica, R. Laur-Belart. With an eye to preserving as much as possible for the future, he decided to remove the steps after they had been recorded and then to clear away the rubble. Dozens of iron building clamps, nails and so on came to light in the mass of rubble and burnt debris. This

indicated that the lower storey had once only had a wooden ceiling, on which the earlier, wooden seating of the first council meeting room was set.

A compromise had to be found for the restoration of the *curia*. The lower storey preserves the basement of the first building phase (but roofed with concrete) while the upper floor reconstructs the second *curia* with stone seating, which was originally built on the rubble from the fire.

Entrance steps and plaster floor in the curia basement

The entrance to the lower floor of the *curia* was considerably wider in Roman times than it is today: to the left as you go in is part of the doorway that was walled up in ancient times. Since the entire room was filled with rubble after the great fire, there was no longer any need for an entrance to the basement.

Two broad steps of red sandstone lead down to the Roman floor level. An insulating floor of tiles has now been laid which of course does not correspond to the Roman plaster flooring and lies about 20 cm above the original floor level.

Buttresses in the curia basement

The *curia* was originally constructed as a massive, stone-built $\frac{3}{4}$ -rotunda, with wooden interior fittings. Three massive buttresses of red sandstone once carried the wooden ceiling and the seating, also of wood, of the council meeting room above. The wooden fittings all collapsed in the great fire, and the intense heat caused the surface of the sandstone piers to blister and burst. You can see this most clearly by the entrance. Before they were damaged, these stone blocks were properly square in shape, with sides measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ Roman feet (74 cm).

21 Exhibition in the *curia* basement

Two mosaic sections from insula 30 (the gladiator mosaic)

Insula 30, one of the regularly laid-out street blocks measuring 48×60 meters (like fig. 51,32), was completely altered around 200 AD. In place of ten small, individual private houses built onto one another, a stately urban villa (*domus*) was built, with a private bath, inner courtyard (*peristyl*) and so on. This was built in one clean sweep and took up the whole area of the *insula*. The great dining hall and one of the bedrooms were laid out with mosaic floors, as was fitting to the luxurious style of the new house.

The loveliest and biggest mosaic from August is the gladiator mosaic, which was discovered in the dining room of *insula 30*. The floor, measuring 6.55×9.80 meters, is a unique find so far in the urban area of August, both in terms of its size as well as the fine craftsmanship it represents.

In the rear part of the room, the floor has just a simple, black and white pattern of squares. On this stood the wooden dining sofa (*triclinium*) for festive banquets. The pictorial scenes of the mosaic are conceived with the viewpoint from here in mind. The middle picture, now on display in the *curia* basement (fig. 9,21), is of a fountain surrounded by fish. The fountain is in the form of a krater, a big vessel for mixing wine, and is shown in perspective. The scene was intended to imitate a real fountain and circular fish pool in the middle of the room.

Six square pictures of gladiators surrounded the central scene and were meant to be viewed from the walls while strolling round the room; of these one has not survived. All the scenes show pairs of duelling gladiators, each

armed with a dagger, sword, tripod or lance and protected by helmet, shield and leg guards (back cover; two scenes are on display on the facade of the Roman House [fig. 1,12], and three more in the tavern by the theatre [fig. 1,33]).

Mosaics from the palazzo

The so-called palazzo in the south of the Roman town (fig. 1,40) was partly excavated in 1972–1974 because a new road was planned for the site. The most remarkable feature of the palazzo are the mosaics, which were recovered and restored, and parts of which are on display in the basement of the *curia* (fig. 9,21). At least ten of the palace rooms which have so far been excavated were decorated with mosaic floors. One of the most important rooms must have been the one that had an apse and underfloor heating (*hypocaust*), which was in the eastern part of the building. This had a brightly coloured mosaic measuring 4.5×5 meters.

In this and the surrounding rooms, some of which also had mosaics, there must have been the grand reception and dining rooms, or perhaps a private bath. In the western part of the building was a small courtyard flanked by two corridors which were decorated with geometric mosaics.

All the mosaics in the palazzo belong stylistically to the same period and were made shortly after 200 AD. They were most probably laid at the same time as the palace was built and were not a later addition.

The bust of Minerva from insula 37 (copy)

This bust was found in 1978 in the roadside ditch of *insula 37* (on fig. 51,32). It is beaten from thin sheets of bronze and has eyes of white marble set

in an iris made of glass. The goddess wears a Corinthian helmet and the protective breastplate that is Minerva's emblem: with a goatskin collar surrounded by snakes and ornamented with the head of the frightful gorgon, Medusa. The bust, no doubt mounted on a plinth or a body of wood, was probably set in a prominent public place, perhaps at the central baths which were just a few steps away (fig. 51, **35**).

In the reconstruction on display in the *curia*, you can see well how the "brown" of the bronze interacts with the "white", probably from an original plating of tin, to create a contrast of colours. This is seen to better effect here than in the original displayed in the Roman Museum (figs 1, **10** and 45), which has a dark green patina.

Along the main axis of the town

Single objects in the *forum* and *curia* complex

2 The *Victoria column* (on the north side of the *forum*)

Directly beside the main *forum*, at the entrance to Hohwartstrasse (fig. 9, **22**), in *insula* 9, there once stood a 3.7 meter high limestone column. On the column's narrow side, which faced the *forum*, was a relief carving of *Victoria*, goddess of victory (fig. 13). In a niche the winged goddess hovers over the globe. In her upstretched arms she carries a large round shield (*clipeus*) which bears a female bust. On grounds of style and technology, the image of the goddess dates from the late 1st century AD. The *Victoria column* by the *forum* at Augst was visible from far afield and formed part of a triumphal monument, as well as being an element of state propaganda and a symbol of its grandeur. It can be assumed that the column marked the victory of Roman army units over Germanic tribes in the north of the empire. In that case, the monument builders were probably troops who were stationed at Augst for a time, as indicated by inscriptions that have been found.

Several blocks of relief carving and the original foundation came to light here in 1928. A further relief fragment was found earlier, re-used as building material in the fortress wall in Kaiseraugst (fig. 1, **68**). The stone blocks were built into the Roman Museum in 1957 (fig. 1, **10**) and are no longer their full original dimensions. A cast made in artificial stone, true to the original, now stands – after 1800 years – in the original position.



Fig. 13 The copy of the reconstructed *Victoria column* **22**, put up again in its original position: part of a victory monument of the late 1st century AD.

23 *The "Gebrannte Erde" ("Burnt Earth") exhibition (in the pavilion on the forum)* Space in the Roman Museum (fig. 1, **10**) does not allow for the presentation of all aspects of Roman town life. One such aspect is the pottery business, which was very important in Augusta Raurica. The products of brick and tile works and potteries are therefore presented in a temporary pavilion in the area of the *forum* (fig. 9, **23**). You can find out more about the potter's craft in the Roman House **11**, at the pottery kilns 60 in Venusstrasse, the brick and tile works **61** in Liebrüti and at the experimental potter's kiln **29** below the *curia* (fig. 1).

(For information on the Roman fountain basin, see the copy on display in the farm animal park [fig. 1, **58**, page 55]).

24 *The public fountain (on the forum)* The fountain by the *forum* comes from the eastern corner of *insula* 44 (figs 9, **24** and 14). It was found in 1971 and dates from the 1st century AD. At the beginning of the 2nd century AD, the fountain was filled in for some unknown reason, the street level having been raised by about a meter so that the fountain was no longer visible. The holes in the upper edge of the sandstone slabs once held iron clamps which were anchored into the stone with lead, so holding the stonework together.

25 *Water mains with mud collector (on the forum)*

This preserved section of water mains (fig. 9, **25**) came to light near Kaiser-augst in 1964. The hollow in it was for collecting mud. It is part of a small water mains that brought fresh water from the slopes of the Jura, east of the town, perhaps via the east gate.



Fig. 14 The fountain **24** which stands near the *forum*. This was found in 1971 at the eastern corner of *insula* 44 (the fountain column and water spout were reconstructed after examples from Pompeii).

Geometric mosaic (on the forum, within a protective shelter) **2**

Under a protective roof on the *forum* of Augst (fig. 9, **26**) is a mosaic that was found in 1973, restored in the following years, and re-laid here in 1988. This can only be viewed in summer, as in the winter months, while excavations are not going on, this shelter is where the excavators' skip is stored.

The mosaic floor was in very good condition when it was found. It came to light at the edge of the motorway, in the area of the international Holland-Italy gas pipeline (fig. 51, between **52** and **82**). Stylistic evidence as well as the coins found together with single, loose chips of the mosaic indicate that the floor must have been made in the early 3rd century AD and been in use until the Alammanic raids around 270–280 AD.

7 *Steps (on the forum by the basilica)*
These steps and water channel, each carved from a single block of red sandstone, once led into the cold bath (*frigidarium*) of the Rhine baths in Kaiseraugst (fig. 40.2). They were excavated in 1974 and placed by the *basilica* (fig. 9.27). The Rhine baths are now restored beneath the kindergarten in Kaiseraugst and can be visited (fig. 1.70), but the *frigidarium* could not be incorporated into the protective shelter on grounds of space.

9 *Experimental potter's kiln (below the curia)*

0 The construction of the experimental potter's kiln below the *curia* building (fig. 9.29) is based on Roman kilns, of which there are several examples in Augusta Raurica (cf. 60). The kiln is round, with an external hearth for firing in front from which flames lap upwards, such as can still be seen occasionally today in the Mediterranean area. Modern materials were used to build the kiln: firebricks, heat-resistant light firerocks and ceramic fibre mats. Because of this it is possible to reach higher temperatures with less fuel than was possible in a Roman kiln. In order to make the experimental kiln look more like a Roman one, it has been enclosed in brick and covered with earth on the viewing side.

By carefully placing the pottery in the kiln, the potter tries to make full use of the burning gases to get the desired fired effects. The gases escape from the kiln through vents that can be opened or closed as required. Nowadays the kiln can be heated to a temperature of 1000–1200 °C in 8–10 hours by burning waste wood of various sorts. About 120 kg of fuel are needed for this. Before the kiln can be emptied, it has to cool down for almost three days.

Room with hypocaust

31

Remains of walls were found in Violent during military fortification works in 1940. These could be excavated in 1941, and restored and partially reconstructed in 1945 (fig. 9.31). The walls (surviving in parts to a considerable height) were probably part of a dining room measuring 9.2×6.5 meters. As this had a hypocaust heating system, using warm air, and had walls either clad with marble or painted, this must have belonged to a luxurious residence.

Urban neighbourhoods

32

The plateau between the Roman theatre and the present-day motorway is known locally as "Steinler", or "the stony ground", because large stones from Roman walls have been turned up in ploughing over many centuries. It was here that the town was founded around 15 BC. At first there were only wooden and half-timbered buildings. It was not until around 50 to 70 AD that different parts of town were successively rebuilt in stone (figs 3 and 15).

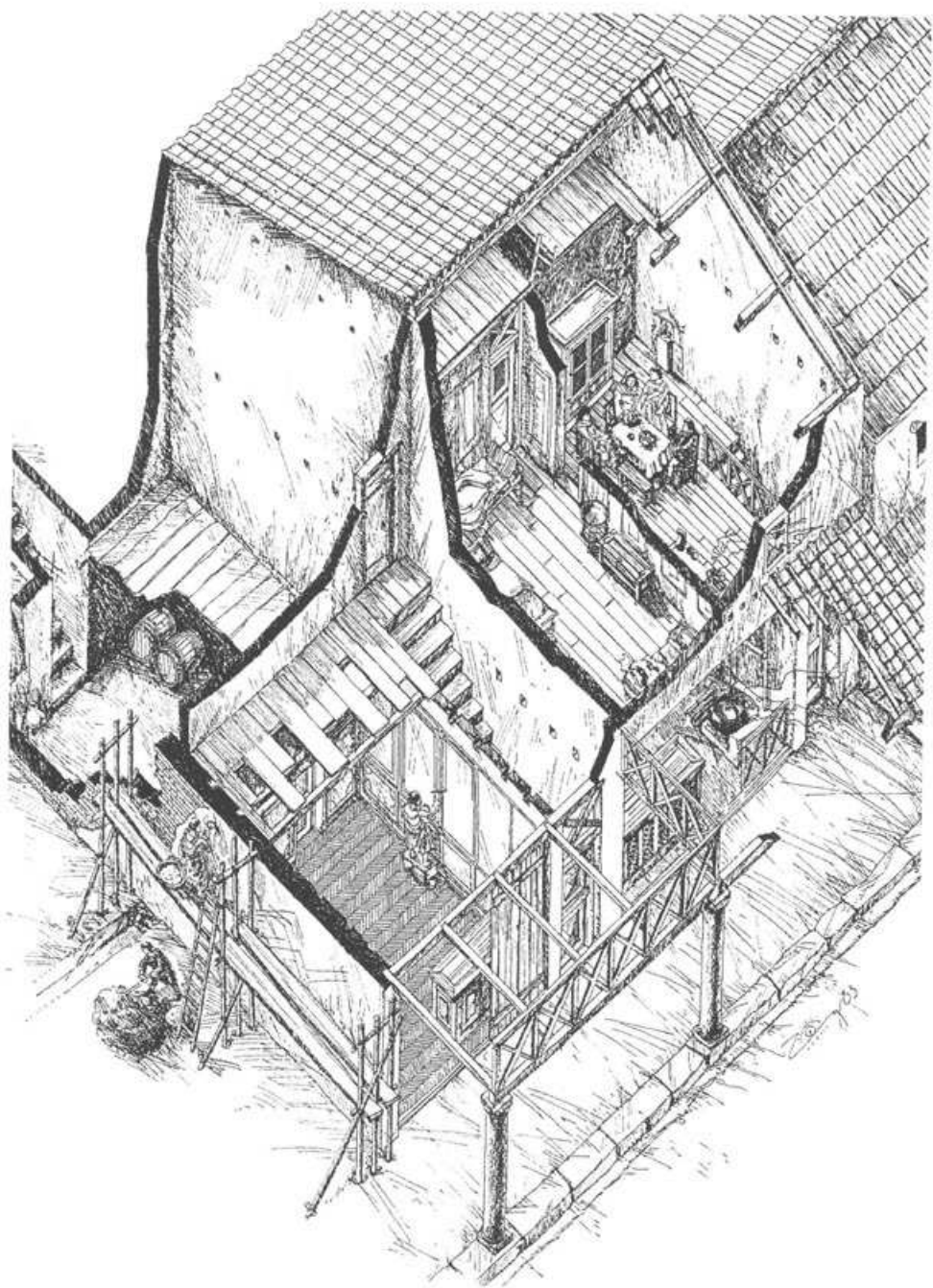
Right from the beginning, the rectangular street blocks (*insulae*) of the urban neighbourhoods were divided into ten to twelve equal units, probably each owned by different people. An arcade (*porticus*) surrounded the blocks on all four sides, bordering the streets. Houses with workshops, taverns and shops opened onto this arcade, while the upper floors and the rear of these buildings with their small back courts were reserved as private living quarters (fig. 16). A few of these street blocks were taken up completely by large urban villas.



Fig. 15 Model of the residential and business area in the centre of the upper town of Augusta Raurica, scale 1:500. View from the west towards the southern *forum* **43** (foreground left), the theatre **14** and *basilica* **19** beyond; the Sichelon I temple complex **48** (foreground right) and the central baths in the background. In between are the street blocks (*insulae* **32**) with residential and business properties.

The access roads between the present-day houses were laid out, wherever possible, in line with the Roman streets in order to give the visitor an impression of the size of these street blocks. Otherwise it has not been possible, so far, to preserve large areas of residential neighbourhoods and make them accessible to the public and there are only information panels on the site (e.g. in front of the restaurant “Römerhof”).

Fig. 16 View into a business and residential property of several storeys in an August *insula*. The arcade (*porticus*) runs alongside the street in the right foreground. Behind, on the ground floor, a living room is being freshly painted (left), and sausage-meat is cooking in a large copper cauldron in a smokehouse (right). Above, on the upper floor, are the living quarters of the sausage-maker's family, with a bedroom and a small dining room. The wine cellar is in the left of the picture.



33 Tavern with well-preserved oven

In 1965 there were plans to build a house on this site beside the theatre, in *insula* 5 (fig. 1, **33**). Preliminary archaeological examination of the site, however, brought to light unexpectedly rich finds and this tavern with the best preserved oven north of the Alps. Thanks to the co-operation of the developers, this building plot could be exchanged for another and the archaeological site preserved.

A massive containing wall had to brace against the thrust of the street (Heidenlochstrasse) leading up the slope to Kastelen Hill (fig. 51, **89**). The tavern stood at the foot of this wall – and no wonder, since this was a prime spot for business with much passing trade, right next to the theatre!

At least two phases of use can be traced in the stonework: at first there were

meat-cooking facilities, a kitchen and a pub with underfloor heating (hypocaust), and later a baker's shop and oven. It is possible to imagine that at one time sausages and later baking were made on the spot here and sold to take away. Numerous chicken bones found indicate another feature on the menu in this Roman fast-food restaurant: chicken was very popular at the time, though rather expensive. There was undoubtedly also a bar serving cider and various speciality wine-based drinks. A thick layer of burnt material containing many finds (e.g. fig. 44), discovered in excavations in 1965–67, showed that the tavern and the floors above were burned down during the destruction of the town in around 270/280 AD.

(For information on the sections of the gladiator mosaics displayed on the back wall of the tavern, see above **21**, page 31).



Fig. 17 The women's baths **34** during the excavations of 1937/38. The theatre **14** is out of view on the left, and in the other direction the residential and business neighbourhoods **32**. View from the southwest. The baths have now been filled in or built over.

The women's baths and central baths

The women's baths

Just to the southeast of the theatre, in *insula* 17 (fig. 1.34), stood the so-called women's baths. These were excavated in 1937/38 (fig. 17) and have unfortunately been built over since. An information panel marks the site.

This large complex was built in the middle of the 1st century AD and underwent thorough alteration in the 2nd century (fig. 18). The original, sizeable outdoor basin was replaced at that time by a new hall with two naves. Many hair pins and glass beads were found in the drainage channels, and because of this the complex received its (modern) name, the women's baths.

The central baths

About 50 meters to the east of the present day Giebenacherstrasse stood the large central baths of the Roman town (this too is a modern designation!). You can recognise the site by the slight mounds, and there is an information panel here. Nothing remains visible above ground and indeed only a few exploratory trenches were dug here in 1942–44. It has been possible to reconstruct the building's ground plan, however, on the basis of its symmetry and a comparison with similar structures (fig. 19). The baths were built in their clearly



Fig. 18 Reconstruction drawing of the women's baths 34 behind the theatre 14. View from the west,

arranged final form in the course of the 2nd century and remained in use until the destruction of the upper town in the late 3rd century (cf. fig. 20).

Arcaded approach to the central baths

The modern steps into the sewer (fig. 1.38–39) and Roman cellar (fig. 19.37) descend between two imposing ancient walls which were constructed at the end of the 1st century AD when the baths were extended. They are part of the inner arcade (*porticus*) which surrounded the courtyard of the public baths where physical exercises were practised (*palaestra*).

36

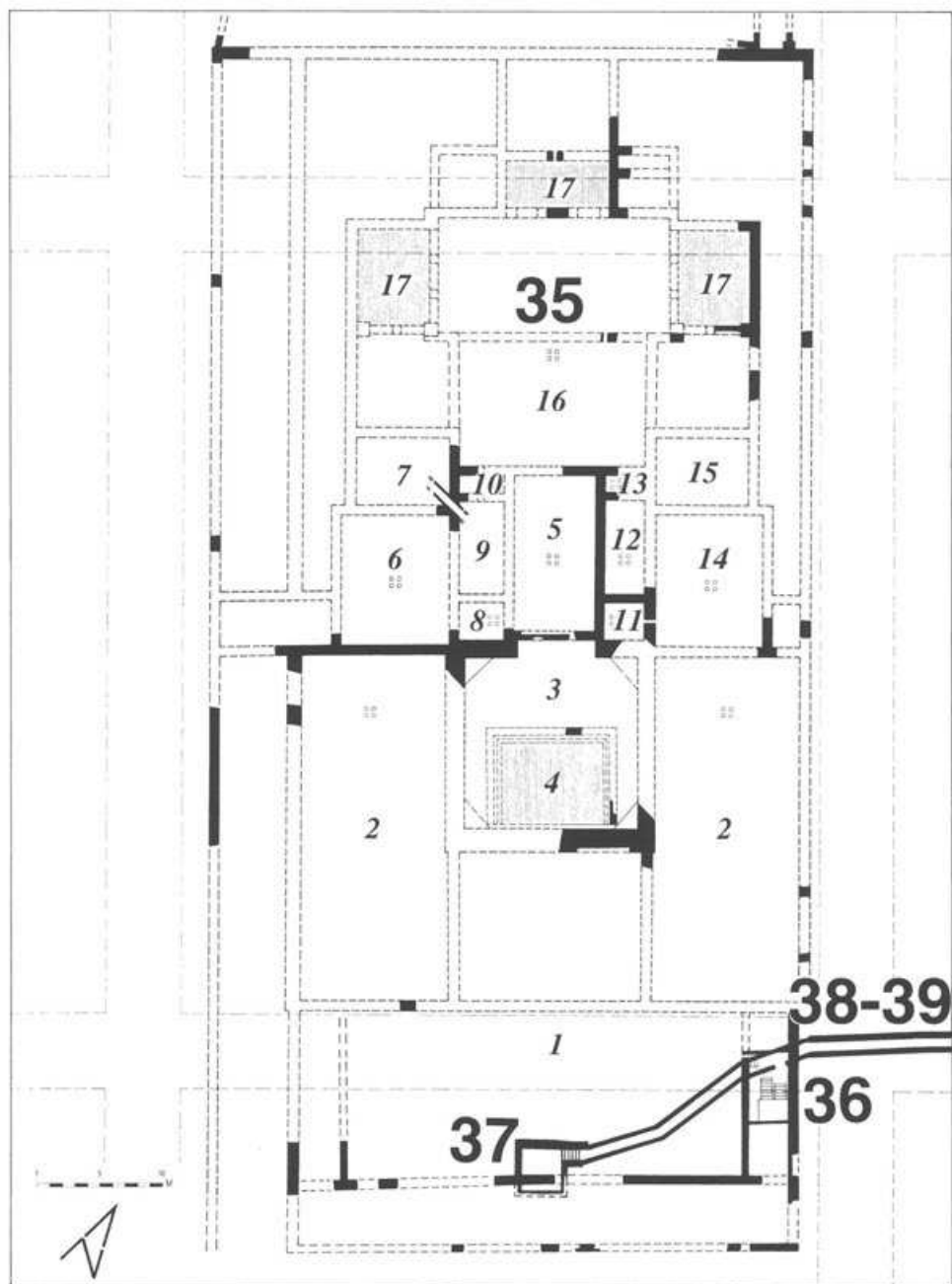


Fig. 19 Central baths **35**. This large complex has only been excavated in parts (walls marked black). It comprises a hall (*I*) in the south, in which gymnastic exercises were perhaps performed. From there the bathers reached one of two changing rooms (*apodyteria*; 2) and then the cold room (*frigidarium*, 3). This was once a vaulted room with a mosaic floor and a basin (*piscina*, 4). A passageway (5) linked the cold room with the hot room (*caldarium*, 16), which was also decorated with mosaics. To the left and right of the passage were several chambers with underfloor heating (6–15), which served as tepid rooms (*tepidaria*) or as steam baths (*laconica*). The hot room 16 with its mosaic floor measured 20×32 meters and had three annexes with basins for warm water (*piscinae*, 17). The part of the building to the north has not been excavated, but would have housed latrines, doctors' surgeries, massage parlours, storerooms and staff rooms. Scale 1:600.

36 Arcade (*porticus*) with modern steps down to the Roman cellar **37** and through the sewers **38–39**.

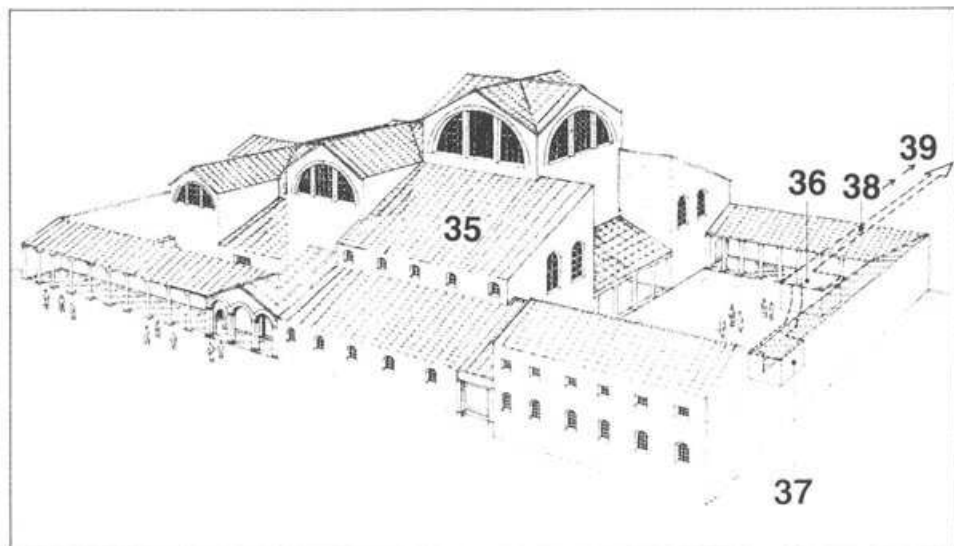


Fig. 20 Reconstruction drawing of the central baths **35** as they may have looked in the early 3rd century AD. The modern steps at **36** lead down to the sewers **38–39**. These drained the baths underground towards the Violenbach stream. **37** is a cellar of a private house that was filled in because of the extension of the baths at the end of the 1st century AD. The cellar is now once again accessible.

Cellar and sewer beneath the central baths

37 *Cellar beneath the central baths*

A cellar in excellent condition was discovered beneath the central baths in 1943 (fig. 1.37). This must have belonged to a private house which was formerly on the site. Just a few decades after it was built, however, the cellar had to make way for the extension to the municipal baths (central baths, figs 1.35 and 19), and it was filled with rubble. This rubble contained numerous pottery sherds which date the filling in of the cellar to the late 1st century AD. Immediately after this, in around 100 AD, the central baths were extended.

The cellar is 3.3×3.4 meters and its walls, of neat stonework, have survived to the full original height of 2.4 meters. In the south and west walls are niches for shelves, and in the north wall is the lower portion of a cellar window with the diagonal shaft of a skylight. The ceiling in the southern part was of massive sandstone slabs (the concrete vault is modern). The floor was of mortar containing ground tile or brick. It now lies 5 meters below the present level. After a short, modern corridor, you enter the cellar down Roman steps (the eight lower ones are reconstructed in concrete).

38 *Sewer*

39 *Please note:* This underground passage, just under 100 meters long, is very narrow and often wet in rainy weather. Entry is at your own risk, and is not advisable if you are at all claustrophobic.

The entrance to the sewer is beside the steps (figs 1.36 and 19.36). The sewer is narrow (fig. 21) and barely the height of a person. As there is no room to pass, the route is one-way. The exit **39** is at

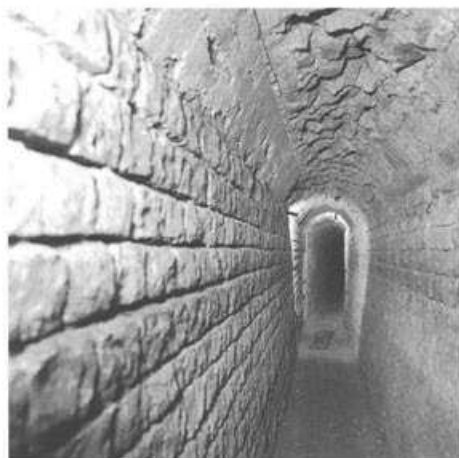


Fig. 21 View into the underground sewers **38**. This is a drainage tunnel, almost 100 meters long and passable, which drained the central baths into the Violenbach stream (fig 1.35–39). Note the careful masonry of the walls and the imprint of planks in the vaulting.

the edge of the wood above the Violenbach stream.

The main purpose of the sewer was to drain the baths, with their large water consumption. The smaller channels, which join the main one and are clearly visible, indicate that this also provided drainage for private houses, courtyards, road-side ditches and so forth. You enter the channel at the upper end, close to where the central baths once stood (fig. 19). The sewer is carefully constructed and well preserved. The floor is of massive sandstone slabs. The side walls are built of smaller limestone blocks, neatly fitted together. The vault was built with the aid of scaffolding: the planks forming the scaffolding have left their impression in the Roman mortar.

The channel was discovered and consolidated in 1911 by the Basel lawyer and

historian K. Stehlin. After several decades of “hibernation” the sewer was provided with an entry and exit in 1991 and has since been accessible to the public.

0 Palazzo

The so-called palazzo was partly excavated in the years 1972–1974 because a new road through this area was planned (fig. 1.40). The road project was adapted, however, because of the unique nature of the archaeological remains found here. These Roman remains now lie within the archaeological protection area. They have been covered over until finances allow that they be restored and made accessible to the public. At present there is an information board on the site.

The central area of a magnificent palace covering two street blocks (*insulae*) was discovered here. The Roman street was interrupted at this point to make way for this large building complex, which suggests that the owner was a very influential person. To the north of the excavated area, the ground plan of the building and a large inner courtyard could be traced from aerial photographs (shown by the dotted line on the plan, fig. 22). The most remarkable feature of the palazzo are the mosaics. Of the rooms which have been investigated so far, at least ten had ornamental mosaic floors. These have been lifted, and the most attractive ones have been conserved and are on display in the basement of the *curia* (fig. 1.21; cf. page 31). The room with an apse in the eastern part of the building must have been one of the most important: it had underfloor heating and a colourful mosaic measuring 4.5×5 meters. This and the surrounding rooms, some of which were also floored

with mosaics, were once prestigious reception and dining rooms, or perhaps a private bath. In the western part of the building lay a small courtyard flanked by two corridors which were decorated with geometric mosaics.

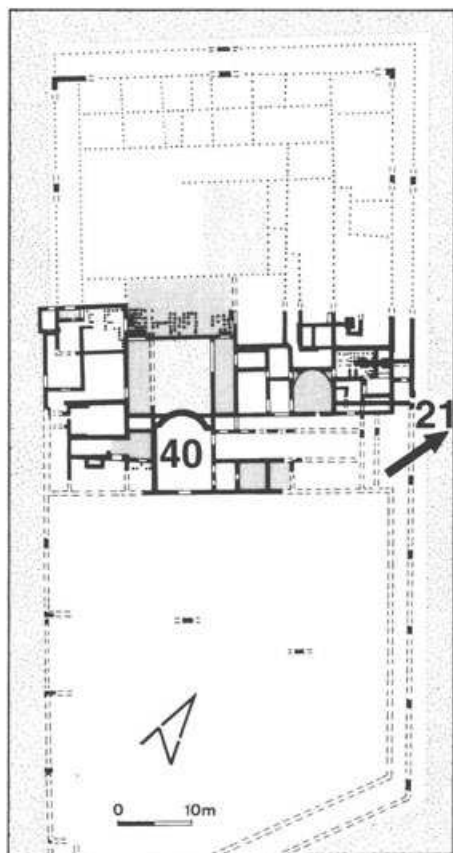


Fig. 22 Palazzo 40 in *insulae* 41/47. Plan of the excavated central area of a prestigious building with numerous mosaics. The walls marked by dotted lines could be traced from aerial photographs. The rooms shaded grey were floored with mosaics (cf. the mosaics on display in the basement of the *curia* 21, p. 31). Scale 1:1000.

The southwestern edge of town

Individual objects around Schönbühl Hill

41 *Section of Roman water mains for Augst (at the foot of Schönbühl Hill)*

At the foot of Schönbühl Hill, sign-posted beside the “Roman” bakery (fig. 1,41), is a section of original Roman water mains which brought water to Augst. This was lifted from its original position in Liestal in 1957 and conserved for exhibition. The channel itself is 90 cm wide and 70–90 cm high with mortared walls, and was set at a gradient of about 2‰. Drinking water was drawn from the River Ergolz and from several points along the east side of the valley. The mains presumably started somewhere in the area between Lausen and Liestal (fig. 2,84; 51,85), thus having an overall length of about 6.5 km. To the south of Augusta Raurica the mains must have ended in a reservoir (fig. 51,81) – still to be located – from which an aqueduct 82 and several pipes creating water pressure lead into the town (fig. 30).

42 *“Roman” bakery*

Several taverns were most probably housed in the small chambers between the buttresses along the northern slope of Schönbühl Hill (fig. 1,42). Reflecting this ancient use of the space, a “Roman” bakery has been reconstructed here for educational purposes (fig. 23). Two original mill stones and an oven modelled on the one found in the tavern by the theatre (fig. 1,33) are frequently used with great enthusiasm by school classes to make “Roman” bread. There is also an exhibition and multimedia show providing information



Fig. 23 The “Roman” bakery 42 at the foot of the Roman buttressing wall by Schönbühl Hill. Here school classes and other groups can (by appointment) grind corn with original millstones (upper picture) and bake “Roman” bread in a reconstructed oven (lower picture).

about grain foodstuffs in Roman times, “Bread and porridge for the people of Rome”, as well as a practical guide to Roman baking, “Let’s grind flour and bake like the Romans”.

3 Southern forum (*praetorium*?)

On either side of the modern road, Sichelstrasse, which leads from the theatre **14** to the amphitheatre **44** (fig. 1), stretched a monumental complex of public buildings which was almost as large as the main forum **17–20** in the eastern part of town. Nothing visible remains of this today. This so-called southern forum also had a large courtyard (31×49 meters) which was surrounded on three sides by arcades and shops or taverns (fig. 24). A market was probably also held here.

The western end of the southern forum was architecturally more interesting. The building here comprised several grand, symmetrically arranged rooms and a broad staircase which was built out at the western side and led down the steep slope to the low ground by the River Ergolz. Both the position and the generous proportions of the building suggest that it may have been a *praeto-*

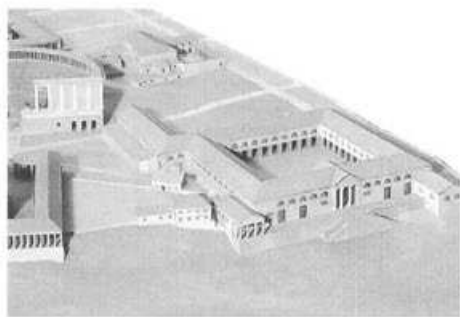


Fig. 24 The so-called southern forum **43**, possibly the administrative building (*praetorium*) of the town (from the west). In the background to the left is the “side forum” (*macellum*?); the Schönbühl temple **16** and the theatre **14** are just visible on the far left.

rium, i.e. offices of high-ranking imperial officials.

From 1921–1928 K. Stehlin investigated the area of the southern and neighbouring forums by excavating small areas and cutting exploratory trenches through the site. This is now owned by the Historical and Antiquarian Society of Basel and is thus protected from development. An information panel marks the site.

Amphitheatre

44

An amphitheatre is a large oval structure with a central arena in which animal baiting and gladiator contests took place in Roman times. In contrast to this, the so-called scenic theatre was a semi-circular building in which comedies, tragedies and other entertainments were staged.

The amphitheatre at Augst lies in a small valley known as the Sichelengraben (figs 1, **44** and 25). It was built around 200 AD, that is almost ten generations later than the founding of the town in around 10 BC. This means that the inhabitants of the Roman colony only had the theatre in the town centre (fig. 1, **14**) during the 1st and 2nd centuries AD. The amphitheatre **44** in the Sichelengraben could seat around 5,500 spectators (fig. 26). They sat on tiers which began above the three meter high arena wall and continued up the now wooded slope to the plateau on which the town was set (fig. 25,7). Some of the tiers, which were originally of wood, have been reconstructed above the animal cages **45** and this is an inviting place to while away the time or have a picnic. The reconstruction is based on evidence from a long exploratory trench dug the length of the slope in 1986 and 1988.

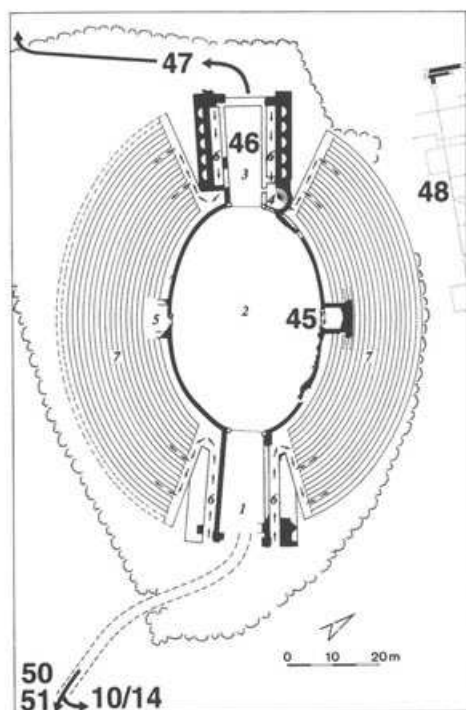


Fig. 25 Plan of the amphitheatre **44** (not to be confused with the scenic theatre **14** in the town centre; cf. fig. 1). Scale 1:1670. **10/14** To the Roman Museum and the theatre, **45** animal cage (*carcer*) with the multi-media presentation "Animal fights and gladiator contests". **46** picnic place with tables, drinking fountain and hearths, **47** towards the Grienmatt shrine, **48** plateau with the Sichelen I temple complex (not visible, fig. 28), **50/51** to the Roman history walkway. **1** Eastern entrance (filled in, not visible), **2** arena (many parts of the amphitheatre were washed away here in the Middle Ages), **3** western entrance with massive containing walls against the hillside, **4** semi-circular niche for spiral staircases between the arena and the podium (the lowest tier of audience seating), **5** second animal cage (*carcer*; not excavated), **6** ramps giving access to the eastern and western entrances to the podium (which has now disappeared), **7** tiers of audience seating, now with wooden tiers, seating about 5500 people.

Arena

The arena, measuring 51×33 meters (fig. 25,2), is surrounded by an oval wall which was originally a good 3 meters high and which probably once had a parapet of sandstone slabs. The wall itself was not very stably built, having a width of 0.8–0.9 meters and foundations scarcely 0.3 meters deep. In some places the Roman plaster has survived at the foot of the arena wall, for over 1700 years now, thanks to protective layers of earth. Detailed examination in 1986 showed that the base of the wall was plastered first with a mortar containing ground tile or brick, which provided a protective layer against any water that gathered. In the upper, visible parts of the arena wall the limestone blocks were plastered with a fine white

lime mortar. The stonework which now appears so "romantic" was thus not visible in Roman times, being covered with a very smooth plasterwork – exactly as the arena wall has been reconstructed.

The western entrance

Much of the Roman walls by the western entrance had to be examined in 1982–1986 because they were in danger of collapse due to natural land slippage. Already in Roman times, the steep slope was buttressed by two massive containing walls. Two ramps once led along this thick wall up to the platform, or passage, behind the arena wall (fig. 25,6). The ramps and the narrow walls between them and the central entrance corridor were mostly washed away in the post-Roman period.

The two walls which contain the slope each have five semi-circular niches which stretch down to the base of the foundations. These were not visible in Roman times, fulfilling two purely technical functions: they increased the stability of the walls (on the principle of a relieving arch) and economised on building materials. One niche was completely excavated in 1986 and is now covered with a grating. It contained a lot of building rubble and stone chip-pings as well as a skeleton of an adult, a new-born child, a dog and at least one goat!

Animal cages (carcer)

At one time there were two animal cages in the long sides of the arena wall. One of these (fig. 25, **45**) was excavated in 1986 and reconstructed in 1988. The rebuilt and roofed room behind the north wall of the arena was reached through double doors. It is a so-called *carcer*. Here animals and items needed for performances were kept, amongst other things.

Two details of construction here are worthy of note. The back wall is carefully built in the form of a curved niche – similar to an apse. Behind this are a good two meter's depth of massive supporting wall which holds back the slope and prevents the gravelly soil from sliding down. Note also the construction of the ceiling, which is of massive beams supporting heavy sandstone slabs. A few of these slabs were discovered during the excavations in 1986 amongst the rubble created when the room caved in. The "sandstone" slabs and beams which you can see today are a reconstruction. This ceiling must have carried several tonnes! Above this were the seats of honour for the highest town officials and honoured guests.

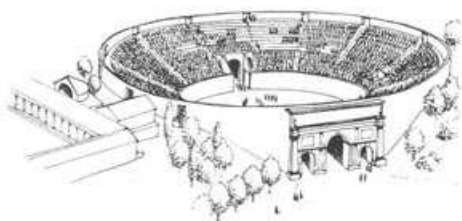


Fig. 26 Reconstruction drawing of the amphitheatre **44** (cf. fig. 1.44 and 25). View from the northwest.

Multimedia show "Animal fights and gladiator contests" in the carcer

(You can call up an English, French or German version at the push of a button.) As in all arenas throughout the Roman Empire, animal baiting (*venationes*) between wild and exotic beasts took place in the amphitheatre at Augst, as well as bloody combats (*munera*) between gladiators with a variety of armour and weaponry. Occasionally prisoners of war, slaves or criminals also had to compete against animals in the role of gladiators (*ludi bestiarii*). You should not imagine these contests to be as spectacular and gruesome in the imperial provinces as in the great games which were held in the capital, Rome, at the emperors' behest. Bones found in Swiss amphitheatres indicate that even bears and camels were a special attraction. Exotic animals like lions, giraffes, panthers and so on were very rare exceptions in these parts (cf. also the photograph on the back cover).

45

46 This is an inviting spot for picnics, with seating above the carcer and by the western entrance as well as drinking fountains and places for building fires (fig. 25, **46**).

Temple complexes

47 *Grienmatt shrine and healing baths*
The shrine at Grienmatt, in marshy land in the valley between the River Ergolz and the Roman theatre, may well be one of the most striking and interesting temple complexes at Augusta Raurica, but it is also one of the most difficult to interpret (figs. 1, **47** and 27). Already in the 18th century, the ruins were the target for treasure-hunters and locals look-

ing for building materials. Daniel Schoepflin (1751) and Aubert Parent (1801–1803) were the first to devote themselves to the monument with a more historical interest, making sketches and plans of it and salvaging a whole series of architectural fragments and bronze figures.

Investigations of the actual buildings, however, were first undertaken by K. Stehlin only in 1907–1936, and R. Laur-Belart had the core of the complex re-surveyed and restored to its present-day state in 1954–1956. Despite the avid interest of researchers in this complex over the last two hundred years, we unfortunately still do not know what it originally looked like or how it was used, because of poor preservation and



Fig. 27 Grienmatt shrine **47**, in a valley marsh to the west of the town (fig. 1, **47**). View from the east.

a lack of large-scale excavations. The complex has been interpreted as being a gateway, shrine to the gods of the week (*septizonium*), and so on, but the most likely interpretation is that of a Gallo-Roman double temple or shrine to the water gods (*nymphaeum*). Several bronze finds, statues and inscriptions indicate that Aesculapius, the god of healing, and his father Apollo were worshipped here as well as Hercules, Sucellus and the seven gods of the week.

The entire complex shows a clear architectural concept: the central shrine, now restored, stood in the middle of an enormous temple courtyard, measuring 125×132 meters, with a pillared hall which has approximately the same west-east orientation as the Schönbühl temple 16 and the theatre 14 (fig. 51).



Fig. 28 Aerial view of the plateau site of the Sichelien 1 temple complex in the dry summer of 1950. Traces of the walls of the shrine 48 and the square temple in the background are clearly visible. The amphitheatre 44 is out of the picture in the woods to the left; the path on the right leads up to the southern forum 43 and the theatre 14.

8 Sichelien temple 1

An extensive temple complex (fig. 51, 48) once stood on the level spur between the Wilden valley in the north and the hollow of the amphitheatre (fig. 51, 44) in the south. Trial trenches dug in 1958 revealed the foundation walls of a Gallo-Roman square temple, a simple building (perhaps a priest's house) and an enclosure wall measuring 64×44 meters. The rough lines of the wall were already known from aerial photographs taken in the dry summer of 1950 (fig. 28; there is an information panel on the site, but no restored walls).

As the remaining ruins showed, the temple was later extended with the addition of an outer arcade. In the first building phase, an apsidal niche, 18 meters wide, was built in the part of the enclosure wall which ran along the edge of the slope, presumably in the middle. This had a westward orientation towards the low ground by the River Ergolz and the Grienmatt shrine (fig.

51, 47). It is possible to imagine that an image of a god stood here, visible for miles around, or that a sacrificial fire was sometimes lit on this spot.

Sichelien temple 2

In 1962 rescue excavations had to be carried out on the site of a Gallo-Roman temple (fig. 51, 49) which lay right in the middle of the route planned for the present motorway, 50 meters to the east of the flyover. This was already known from aerial photographs. There is now just an information panel on the flyover. Within a large, walled sanctuary compound was an open arcade (*porticus*) measuring 20×22 meters, with six columns along its length and four across. In the centre stood the roofed *cella*, the sanctuary itself with the image of the god. The raised wooden arcade was approached up two broad steps outside. The foundation for the altar stood in front of the temple steps to the east,

49

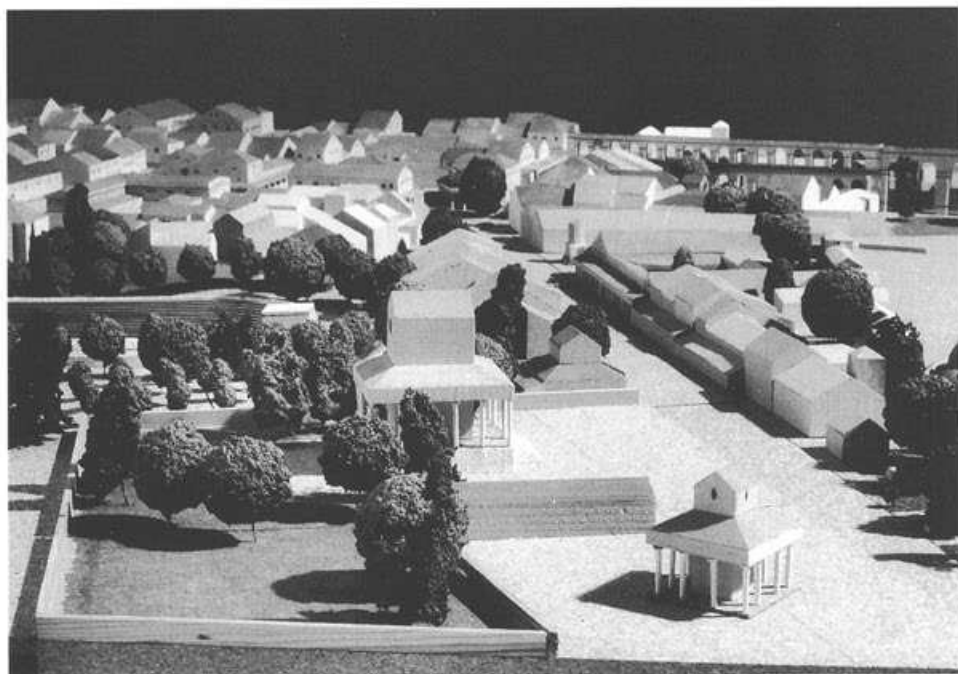


Fig. 29 Model of the street leading west out of town, now lost underneath the motorway, with the Sichenlen 2 temple complex **49**. The town centre is to the left; in the background to the right is the hostel (*mansio*) **53** and the aqueduct (cf. fig. 30). Scale 1:500. View from the southwest.

opposite the doorway in the enclosure wall.

This complex (fig. 29) is a unique example of the merging of local, Celtic culture with the Roman one: the architect obviously sought a compromise between a Celtic square temple with arcade and a Roman platform temple with monumental stairway.

Along the motorway

Roman history walkway

A monotonous section of the path between the visitors' car park **4** and the amphitheatre **44** (fig. 1) was turned into a "Roman history walkway" in 1994. Beginning at the carpark (fig. 1, **50**), you come to a 250 meter long

straight stretch of path, along which 500 years of Roman history are laid out, from around 50 BC to 450 AD. Fifty-two panels are set at irregular intervals corresponding to the periods between the events related on the panels. Here you can read (in German and French) about the most important periods and events in the history of the Roman Empire and the town of Augst. “Year panels” at regular intervals make it easier to follow the progression of time while “pacing out” Roman history. At the end of the walkway **51** you can either take the path towards the theatre **14** and Roman Museum **10/11**, or towards the amphitheatre **44** and Grienmatt shrine **47** (fig. 1).

(You can also buy a pamphlet at the ticket desk of the Roman Museum with the German/French texts and illustrations from the Roman history walkway.)

2 Western town wall

From the plateau “Im Winkel”, along the path which runs 100 meters above the amphitheatre, you can make out a restored remnant of wall on the embankment directly across the motorway (fig. 1.52). This is the only section of the western town wall still visible. It was first discovered and investigated in 1877–79, and it was again dug into when the motorway was built in 1966. The town wall was about 1.85 meters thick and there was a road running along its length inside. This defensive structure was probably built at the same time as the corresponding section by the east gate, in the late 1st century AD, but it was evidently never completed. About 150 meters south of the motorway, the town wall was interrupted by a gate-house (fig. 51.52), which was likewise never finished. Only two semi-circular towers have been found, with a diameter of 6 meters. The broad east-west

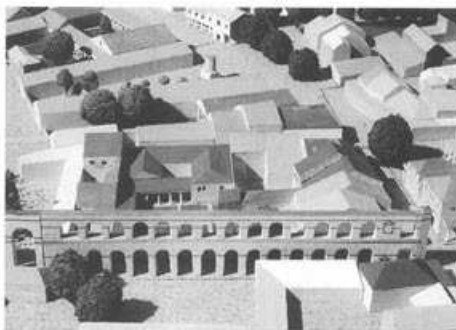


Fig. 30 The large hostel (*mansio*) **53** in the south of the town, directly beside the aqueduct. This, too, has largely fallen victim to the motorway. Part of the model of the town, scale 1:500. View from the east.

street led out of town through this gateway, becoming the Roman long-distance road towards the Ergolz valley, the Jura and Hauenstein (fig. 2.83; 51.83). (For further information on the history of the town wall of Augst, see p. 53).

Hostel (mansio)

Large-scale rescue excavations had to be carried out in 1963–1968 along the route of the planned motorway where the Giebenacherstrasse road bridge now crosses (fig. 1.53). These brought to light an enormous complex of buildings measuring 95×55 meters, with a large inner courtyard, two cellars, numerous rooms and several kitchens (cf. fig. 30). This must have been a Roman hostel (*mansio*) which stood here on the street entering the Roman town between the west and east gates. All the remains of this have fallen victim to the motorway, and there is only an information panel on the flyover.

53

The ground floor of the hostel comprised six apartments, each with two to three rooms, as well as at least eleven single rooms. Three apartments had their own kitchen; the other hostel guests were catered for in a centrally positioned double kitchen.

This extensive lodging house was in business between 140 and 270 AD, when the town had reached its greatest

size and had numerous travelling merchants, diplomatic couriers, officials, pilgrims, and so on needing rooms. This area, now called Kurzenbetti, had previously been an industrial neighbourhood on the edge of town. Between about 30 and 70 AD several kilns here produced pottery for the local market, and quantities of slag indicate that there was later a metalworking industry.

The eastern edge of town

4 The east gate

The east gate at Augst was discovered as early as 1906/07, but it was more closely investigated only in 1966 and 1993. The line of the eastern town wall is known here for a stretch of about 500 meters. The wall was never completed, however. The gateway was originally conceived in monumental terms, but the dimensions were altered several times during building and slimmed down to a simple way through the wall with two towers but no gatehouse (fig. 31). A block of masonry from the base of the

gate, found beside the side entrance to the north, is witness to the original, more generous building plans.

Analysis of the stratigraphy and finds in the area of the town wall indicate that it must have been built around 80 AD. The town wall in Avenches (Aventicum), the nearest Roman city to Augst, was begun slightly earlier. Why building work on the wall at Augst suddenly halted remains a mystery. It could be that financial difficulties and a lack of any threat at the time caused the town administration to leave this "prestige project" unfinished.

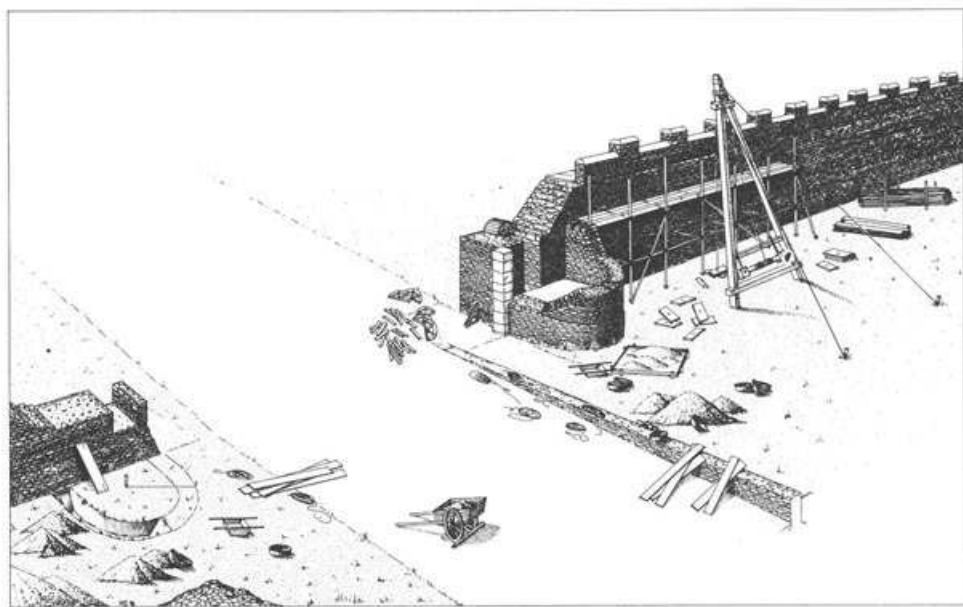


Fig. 31 Reconstruction drawing of the never completed east gate **54** in the town wall of Augusta Raurica as it would have looked during building work around 80 AD. The foundations were consolidated in 1994 and can be visited near the "Roman" farm animal park. View from the east towards the town.

55 Funeral monument

Very soon after building work began on the town wall, a monumental tomb was built, 50 meters in front of the wall (fig. 1,55), for a high-ranking town dignitary. Following Mediterranean models, this was in the form of a cylinder, with a diameter of 15 meters. You have to imagine a mound of earth over this cylinder, on top of which a tomb sculpture or statue of the deceased would have been set (fig. 32).

The actual grave inside the building is a so-called *bustum*, meaning that the body was cremated here on the spot and the funeral monument was built directly over the cremation. The cremated remains together with various grave goods (two small glass bottles of balm,

offerings of food and several amphorae of wine) were left lying on the cremation site or buried in a small grave.

Several scientific investigations have produced some very interesting details. The anthropological study of the cremated remains showed that this was a person aged about 35–40, probably male, who had possibly suffered from back problems (spondylitis). A zoological study of the animal remains which were among the burnt and unburnt bones showed that the deceased had been given as provisions for the afterlife a ham, a leg of lamb or goat, part of a sheep's or goat's head and pieces of hare and chicken. The botanical examination of thousands of burnt grain kernels indicated that a sizeable amount of grain (nine different types) was also deposited in the tomb.



Fig. 32 Reconstruction drawing of the monumental tomb 55 in front of the east gate. There is archaeological evidence for the proportions and mouldings, but nothing remains of the inscription and the crowning sculpture.

The "Roman" farm animal park in Augusta Raurica

The "Roman" farm animal park opened in 1992 and came about because of the wish to present to the layman the intensive research on animal bones from the Roman period found in Augusta Raurica. On show in a small animal park near the east gate (fig. 1,56) are old breeds of animals which may look like those from the Roman period, to judge from Roman depictions, contemporary descriptions and our own research. There are woolly haired pigs, Nera-Verzasca goats, alpine sheep from the Grisons (Graubünden), Italian chickens and guinea fowl, peacocks, geese and large donkeys. "Roman" horses cannot be kept because of lack of space and personnel. Since 1995 an easily cared for and hardy breed of cattle has been raised, which represents the Romans' most important domestic animal.

Study of the animal bones on the one hand allows individual sorts of animals to be quantified – for example, which were frequently butchered? On the other hand it allows a qualitative analysis of the animals – for example, the sex, age, health or particular anomalies of an individual. By measuring the bones (osteometry), the size of animal can be reckoned. Of all the animal remains from Augusta Raurica which could be identified, 98.5% are of domestic animals, the rest are of wild animals. Among the domestic animal bones, the largest percentage are cattle with 43% followed by pig (34%) and sheep or goat (together 14%).

(A pamphlet with the German/French texts and illustrations from the panels at the “Roman” animal park is available from the ticket counter of the Roman Museum.)

Fountain basin

(copy in the animal park)

This fountain basin with a projecting lip made of fine Jura limestone was discovered in 1965 near *insula* 28. A luxurious house with inner courtyard, mosaics and rich wall paintings once stood there. The fountain must have been deliberately smashed up. It was not found, as might have been expected, in the inner courtyard of this urban villa where it had probably once stood. Rather it was broken into several pieces and lay on a slope several meters outside the building.

(You can see the original in the “Gebrannte Erde” exhibition [fig. 1,23]; the stone copy by the information point in the animal park [fig. 1,58] is now a drinking fountain.)

Stone blocks from a fallen bridge (deposited in the animal park)

During the winter of 1969/70, 45 sandstone blocks were found in the bed of the Violenbach stream during renewal work on Venusstrasse and a bridge over to the Liebrüti neighbourhood following the building of the motorway. Among the stone blocks, some of which were already visible before the excavations in the river bed, were both rectangular as well as trapezoidal blocks which must have belonged to a double-arched bridge (fig. 33). The lowest foundation layers of the supporting piers on either side of the stream have survived.

The town wall must have run along a few meters away from the bridge. The town defences and bridge were probably not built at the same time, however, since space was left for a gate in the town wall 80 meters to the south, for the street leading out to the east (fig. 51,78). The stone blocks have now been deposited in the animal park (fig. 1,59).

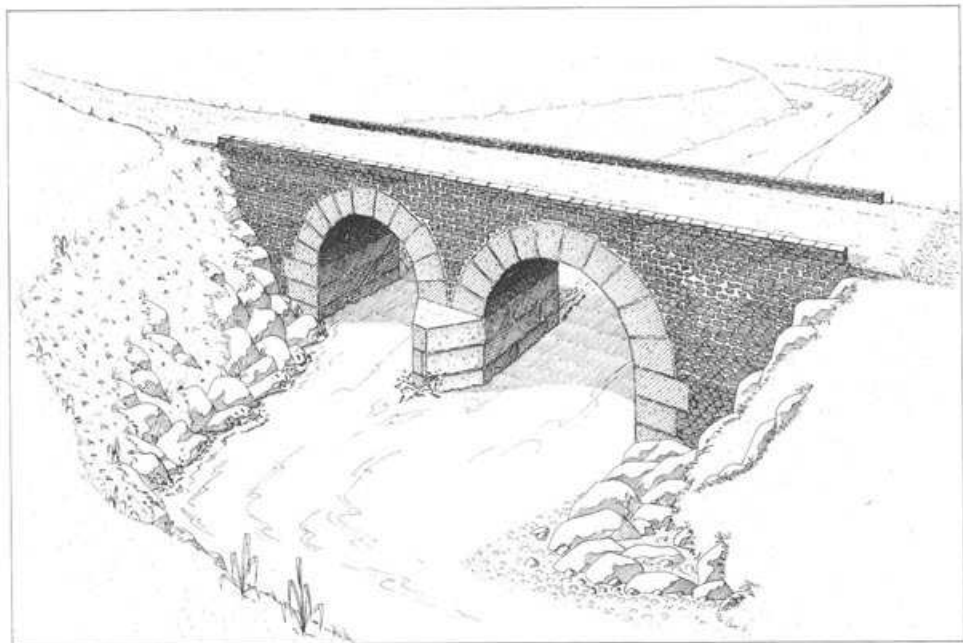


Fig. 33 Ruins of a fallen bridge came to light during construction work in the winter of 1969/70 in the riverbed of the Violenbach. This was at one time part of the road out of town towards the east (cf. fig. 51.60–78). On the basis of the foundations and 45 surviving sandstone blocks, this is presumed to have been a double-arched bridge. The stone blocks **59** are now not far from where they were found, close to the "Roman" farm animal park.

Monuments along Venusstrasse

60 Roman pottery

There were several pottery businesses at the south end of town, on the edge of the residential area (set apart because of the danger of fire). The largest and most recent area of pottery production to be found so far was discovered during rescue excavations in 1968/69 in connec-

tion with new motorway approach routes and link roads (fig. 1.60). You can visit three of the kilns, which have been restored and are now in protective shelters. A considerable portion of the everyday pottery needed by local townspeople was made here in the 2nd/3rd century AD, but already by the later 1st



Fig. 34 In 1968/69, during the archaeological excavations which accompanied the building of the motorway, one site to be uncovered was an extensive pottery complex of the 1st to 3rd century AD. The model shows an area of the site that has now been destroyed (this is under the modern Venusstrasse next to the small shelter housing the pottery kiln 60). View from the west.

century AD pottery was produced in large quantities a few meters to the southeast (fig. 34).

Roman brick and tile works

During extensive excavations prior to building the modern Liebrüti complex in Kaiseraugst, two well-preserved tile kilns came to light in 1974. These have been restored and are housed in a glazed shelter where you can see them at any time (fig. 1, 61). The most remarkable feature of the large kiln, with its almost square form, is the good preservation. The firing chamber is intact and some of the last hollow tiles (*imbrices*) to be fired still lie on the grid above. Fragments of tiles found in the foundation of the kiln bear the stamp of the Prima Martia Legion, an army unit which defended a large section of the Rhine frontier in the 4th century AD. Chemical analysis of such stamped tiles as well as clay samples show that the tiles for all the Prima Martia Legion's military bases between Biel and Strassburg were made here!

61

In the same shelter you can see the "Made in Augusta Raurica" exhibition of finds relating to various crafts (fig. 1, 62).

62

The lower town and Kaiseraugst fortress

On the way from Augst to Kaiseraugst

63

Column (copy in Augst)

A tall Roman column, made up of a number of separate pieces, stood in the middle of the village of Augst for generations (fig. 1.63). The pieces were probably discovered in the 19th century in the Grienmatt temple complex (fig. 1.47). They belong to the style of fluted column with Corinthian capital which is typical of the building programme to renew the town's entire infrastructure between 50 and 70 AD. The original is now in storage to protect it from pollution and the elements, and it has been replaced by a copy in artificial stone.

64

Corinthian capital (copy on a fountain in Augst)

Next to a modern bronze fountain, close by the new bridge over the Ergolz, one of the most beautiful Roman capitals from Augusta Raurica is set on a high pedestal (fig. 1.64). This is part of a Corinthian-style column, richly ornamented with a leaf motif, which once belonged to the elaborately decorated Grienmatt shrine (fig. 1.47). The piece now shows just a shadow of its former quality because of the Roman stoneworking technique using bore holes, coupled with extreme weathering of the ancient surface. To judge from the form and style, this probably dates from the end of the 1st century AD. This piece, too, had to be protected from the elements and replaced by a copy.

Bridge over the Ergolz between Augst and Kaiseraugst

6

The present-day concrete bridge on the way out of Augst was built in 1957/58. It carries the important, ancient road between Basel and Zürich over the River Ergolz (please see the information panel). Before this bridge was built, waggons and mail coaches crossed the river by way of a small arched bridge of stone, which was flanked by a customs house on the east bank of the river. The historic structure was torn down and the modern one built only after rescue attempts by the Augst inhabitants as well as plans for diverting the road over another bridging point all came to nothing. The demolition of the bridge in 1957 revealed, beside the western of the two old bridge arches, remains of an even earlier bridge which may have dated back to Roman times. The crossing point over the River Ergolz must have been very important in the Roman period as the bridge represented the border between the urban area in the east and the large communal cemeteries along the road leading westward (towards Basel).

Roman trading house in Schmidmatt

6

This complex of Roman buildings was excavated between 1983 and 1985 (fig. 1.66). With the help of federal funds, the Canton of Aargau bought the land, erected a shelter for the ruins, and paid for their conservation. Three trapeze-shaped houses are set stepwise into the slope down to the Violenbach stream. Two of these could be rescued in part and preserved (fig. 35):

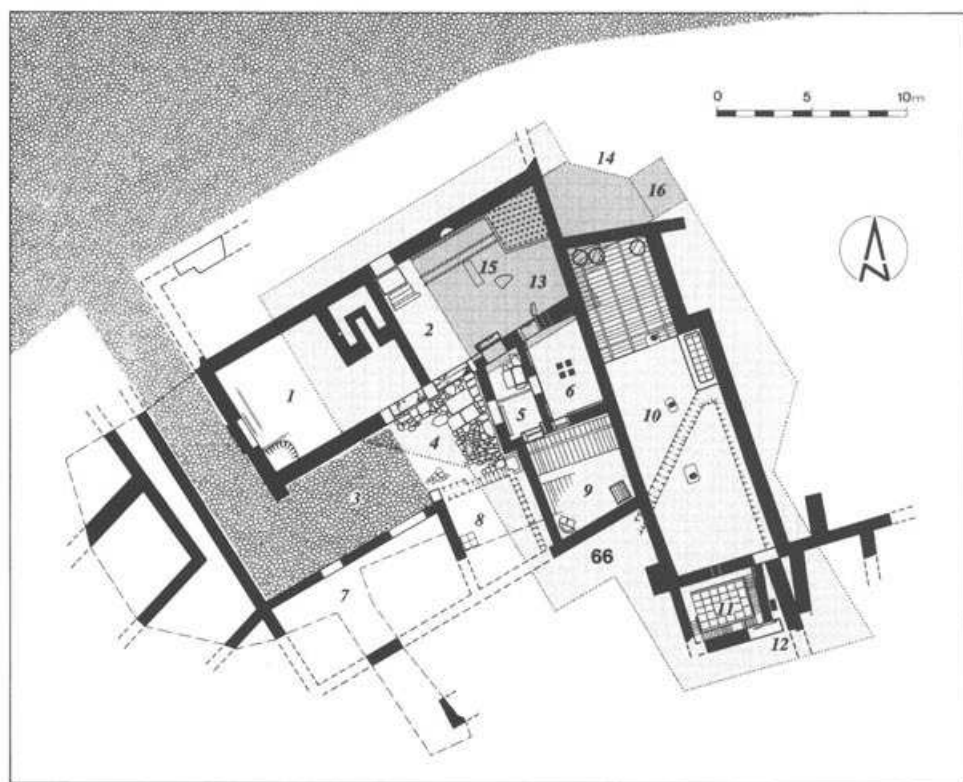


Fig. 35 Ground plan of the Roman trading house **66** in Schmidmatt in Kaiseraugst. The light grey area indicates the protective shelter for the ruins: the dark grey area is the viewing platform *13*). Scale 1:400.

The inn: *1* western basement with smokehouse and perhaps a food store; *2* eastern basement with dining room and heating chamber for the heatable office (*6*); *3* L-shaped approach ramp; *4* inner courtyard; *5* corridor with painted walls and well; *6* office with floor and wall heating (hypocaust); *7* shed/stables; *8* meat kitchen; *9* room with hearth and floor of planks, under which the household gods were hidden.

Cloth fuller's workshop: *10* workshop; *11* drying room (?); *12* southern entrance to the workshop. *13* Modern shelter with viewing platform, *14* entrance, *15* showcase with finds, *16* toilets.

To the west is an inn (*caupona/taberna*) consisting of a room for conducting business with hypocaust heating, a loading ramp (fig. 36), smokehouse, store-room for foodstuffs and a large cupboard in the basement.

An industrial building adjoins the inn to the east, separated by a wall over

40 meters long which marks off the property. This was probably a workshop for fulling cloth (*fullonica*).

The building complex was probably built in the 2nd century AD and altered several times (fig. 36). Some time after the middle of the 3rd century, the building burnt down and collapsed. The rub-

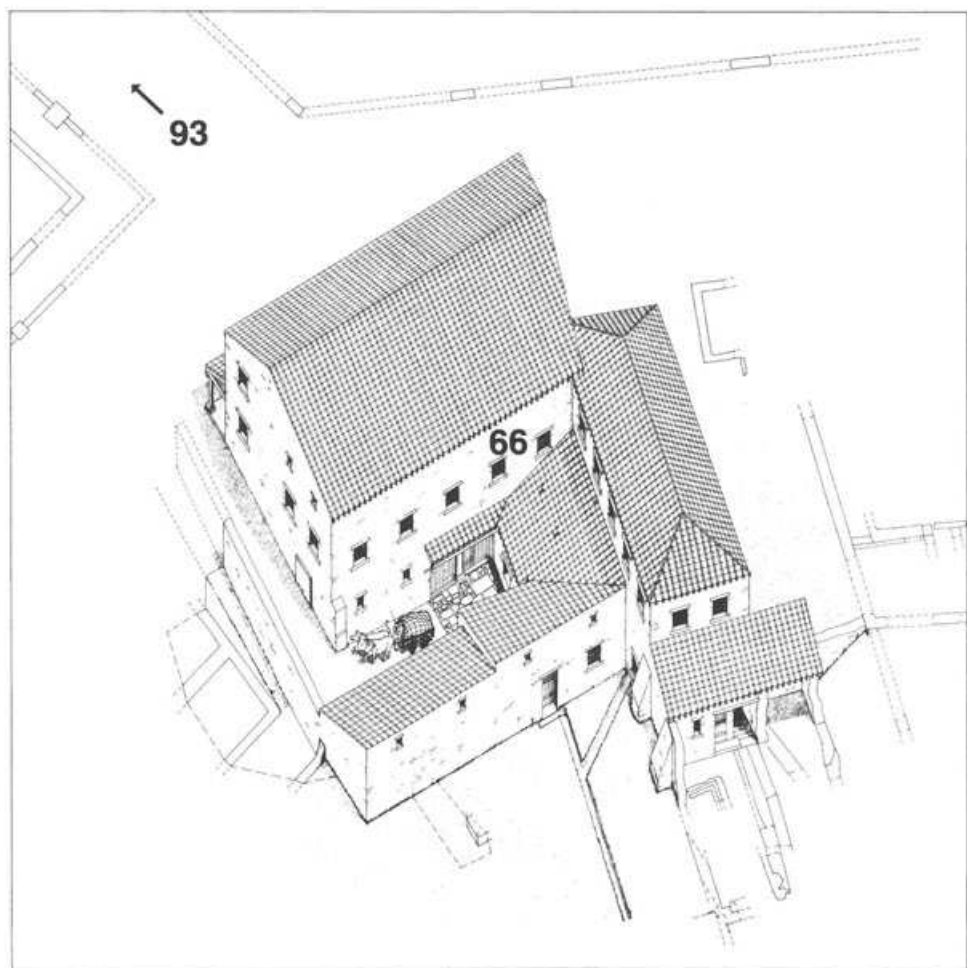


Fig. 36 Reconstruction drawing of the two-storeyed Roman trading house **66** in Schmidmatt in Kaiser-augst (cf. fig. 35). On the left is the steep approach and loading ramp, in the middle the inn with the well-preserved rooms of the lower floor, and on the right the narrow building next door housing the cloth fuller's workshop. At the top is the Roman main road to the bridge over the Rhine at Gwerd Island (fig. 51.93), and at the bottom the Violenbach stream.

ble was rifled a number of times. A few isolated traces indicate a possible re-use of the complex in the 4th century. Numerous valuable items were found during the excavations, especially in the layers of burnt debris – several iron

ingots, two small silver statues of gods and the hidden contents of a household altar (*lararium*) with five bronze deities. (Copies are on display in a case on the site.)

7 The fortress of Kaiseraugst (*Castrum Rauracense*)

The old village centre of Kaiseraugst (fig. 1.67) lies directly on the remains of the late Roman fortress. The *Castrum Rauracense* is mentioned, for example, by Ammianus Marcellinus in 369 AD (as *Rauracum*) and in the *Notitia Dignitatum* in 400 AD. Throughout the whole of the 4th century, after the fall of the frontier (*limes*) of the Roman provinces of Germania Superior and Raetia (in 260–280 AD), the Rhine and Danube again formed the northern frontier of the Empire. Kaiseraugst played an important role in this large section of the frontier between the imperial residence at Trier in the west and the areas under imperial control around the Danube in the east.

The fortress wall (fig. 38) was probably constructed in the early 4th century after the defences on Kastelen Hill were razed to the ground (fig. 51.89). Kaiseraugst was expanded in various stages to form a secure bridgehead (cf. the ruins on the north bank of the river at Wylen, Germany [fig. 37.72]; there is an information panel beside the baptistry [fig. 1.71]). The fortress must have been severely damaged in around 352 AD during imperial power struggles and raids by Alemannic tribes. The Emperor Julian Apostata stayed at the fortress in 360 AD and supervised its reconstruction. The Rhine defences were strengthened again in the Valentinian period (around 370 AD) and with them the *Castrum Rauracense*.

Kaiseraugst covers an area of 3.5 ha and is thus the largest of the late Roman military fortresses in Switzerland (for a comparison, Yverdon-Eburodunum is 1.95 ha). From time to time units of the Prima Martia Legion were garrisoned at the *Castrum Rauracense*, as shown by

stamped tiles frequently found in the settlement, in graves and in the tile workshop in Liebrüti (cf. fig. 1.61, page 57, with regard to brick and tile works).

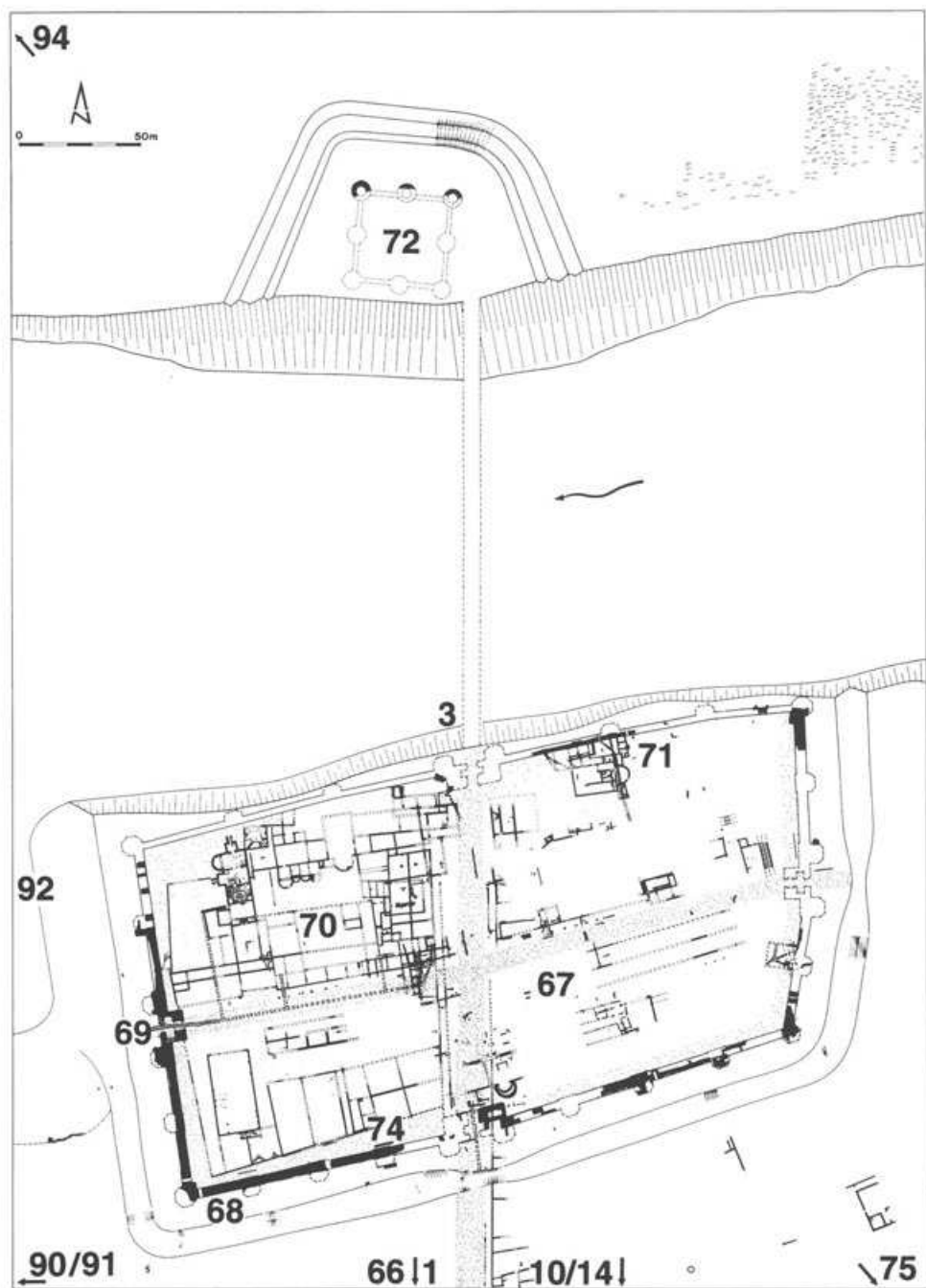
(The famous silver treasure was found in the fortress of Kaiseraugst in 1962 at the spot marked in fig. 37.74; for more information, see the treasury in the Roman Museum 10, page 73 with fig. 46.)

The fortress wall

The late Roman fortress wall enclosed the military post and bridgehead on all four sides. The most exposed section of wall to the south is 3.95 meters thick and has been preserved to a height of 4.5 meters in places; the wall facing the Rhine is only 3 meters thick, as is the east wall which may have been built somewhat later. The fortress has lost much of its substance through landslides into the Rhine and stone robbing in the Middle Ages. The builders used a quantity of stone plundered from the already destroyed upper town: doorsteps, window sills, column sections, capitals – even inscribed blocks, statues and grave-stones (cf. Archaeological Park 9 and the finds displayed in the *lapidarium* 12 [fig. 1, pages 18 and 81]).

Several towers (fig. 38) and at least two gates (e.g. fig. 39) have so far been examined closely. The southwest corner is the best preserved (fig. 1.68; 37.68). Nevertheless, despite much excavation work done in the last few decades, numerous questions remain as to the date of the whole complex, the construction of the Rhine frontage and the form of the south gate.

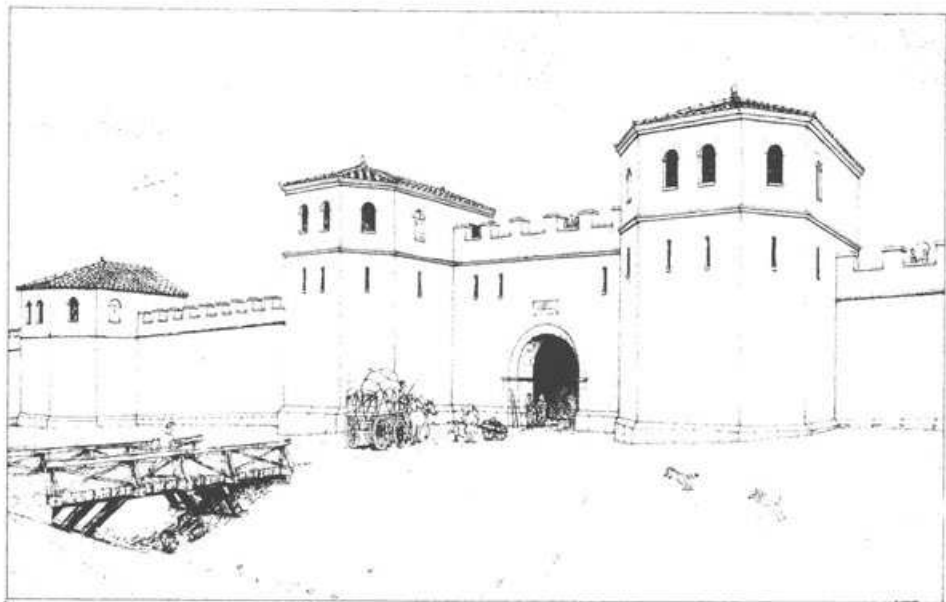
68



- Fig. 37 Plan of the fortress of Kaiseraugst and the bridgehead across the river. Scale 1:3000.
 1 Kaiseraugst railway station, 3 riverboat landing stage, 10/14 pedestrian route to the Roman Museum and the theatre, 66 towards the Roman trading house, 67 the fortress (Castrum Rauracense), 68 the best preserved section of the fortress wall in the southwestern corner, 69 west gate of the fortress (outline marked), 70 Rhine baths, 71 early Christian church and baptistery, 72 bridgehead at Wyhlen on the north bank of the Rhine, 74 findspot of the silver treasure (fig. 46), 75 fortress cemetery (4th to 7th century), 90 military camp of the 1st century AD, 91 lower town (workshops and warehouses, 2nd – 4th century), 92 probable site of the late Roman harbour, 94 courtyard and temple complex or staging post at Wyhlen/Herten.



- Fig. 38 Reconstruction drawing of the late Roman fortress of Kaiseraugst 67 on the Rhine (cf. fig. 3, right and fig. 37). Around 380 AD.



- Fig. 39 The west gate 69 of the fortress of Kaiseraugst (reconstruction drawing). The foundations of the massive gatehouse are outlined in the modern street paving (with information panel). View from the outside of the fortress. For the ground plan, see the plan of the fortress, fig. 37, 69.

69 West gate of the fortress (outline marked)

One of the most impressive parts of the fortress wall was the west gate (fig. 37, **69**). Flanked by two external towers, the gatehouse reached like a pincer inside the fortress along the west-east axis (fig. 39). The east end of the modern village street follows this west-east axis, and the outline of the west gate is marked with cobbles.

A drain covered with heavy stone slabs led through the gateway, and wheel tracks 1.63 meters apart were carved into the slabs. This width corresponded to the size of Roman coaches.

A small treasure trove of 278 late Roman coins was discovered in 1975 on the south side of the gatehouse. This may have been lost or hidden during a fire – possibly when the fortress was destroyed shortly after 350 AD. In this period, both raids by Alemannic tribes and upheavals within the Empire made life on the northern frontier unsafe. The silver treasure now on display in the Roman Museum (fig. 1, **10**) was also hidden in the southwest corner of the fortress (fig. 37, **74**) at around this time.

The Rhine baths at Kaiseraugst

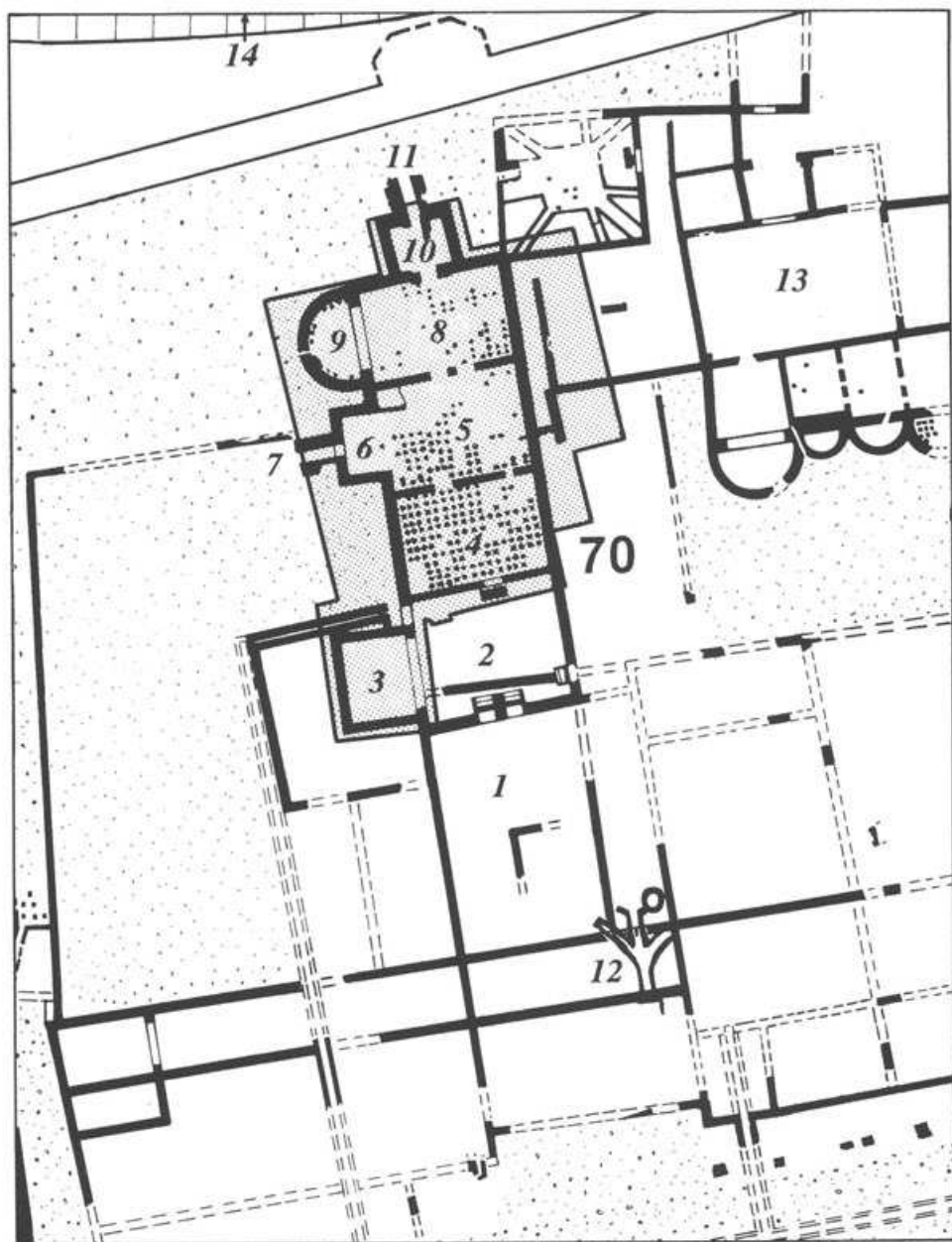
These extensive baths (fig. 40), in the area of the later fortress, have been partly restored and made accessible for visitors. The baths did not originally belong to the late Roman fortress. Numerous coins found suggest that this public bathing complex was built as early as the second half of the 3rd century AD, several decades before the fortress was begun. In this period there was an extensive lower town here on the low ground by the Rhine around Kaiseraugst, with warehouses, workshops (cf. fig. 51, **91**), docks (fig. 51, **92**) and at least one river crossing, in the form of a bridge or ferry (fig. 51, **73/93**).

At least three phases of building can be distinguished:

1. The western section of the baths with a low floor level and a heating channel that was later blocked up.
2. The western section with a raised floor level.
3. The eastern section (only partly investigated and not incorporated into the protective shelter; fig. 40, **13**).

It seems that the eastern section of the baths (phase 3) and perhaps even the latest stage of the western section (phase 2) date from the same time as the fortress (4th century AD).

Fig. 40 Plan of the Rhine baths at Kaiseraugst **70**. The grey shading indicates the area that was consolidated in 1976 and is now accessible. The baths complex consisted of entrance rooms *1* in the south (not fully examined) as well as the actual rooms for the bathing ritual: the cold room *2* (*frigidarium*) with a large basin *3*, the first warm bath *4* (*tepidarium*), the second warm room *5* with basin *6* and heating channel *7*, the hot room *8* (*caldarium*) with a basin in the apse *9*; a further basin *10* and further heating channel *11*. Adjoining to the south is the entrance area *12*, which was excavated and built over in 1994, and to the east another baths complex *13*, which has not been fully examined. The complex lies directly on the Rhine to the north *14*. Scale 1:500.



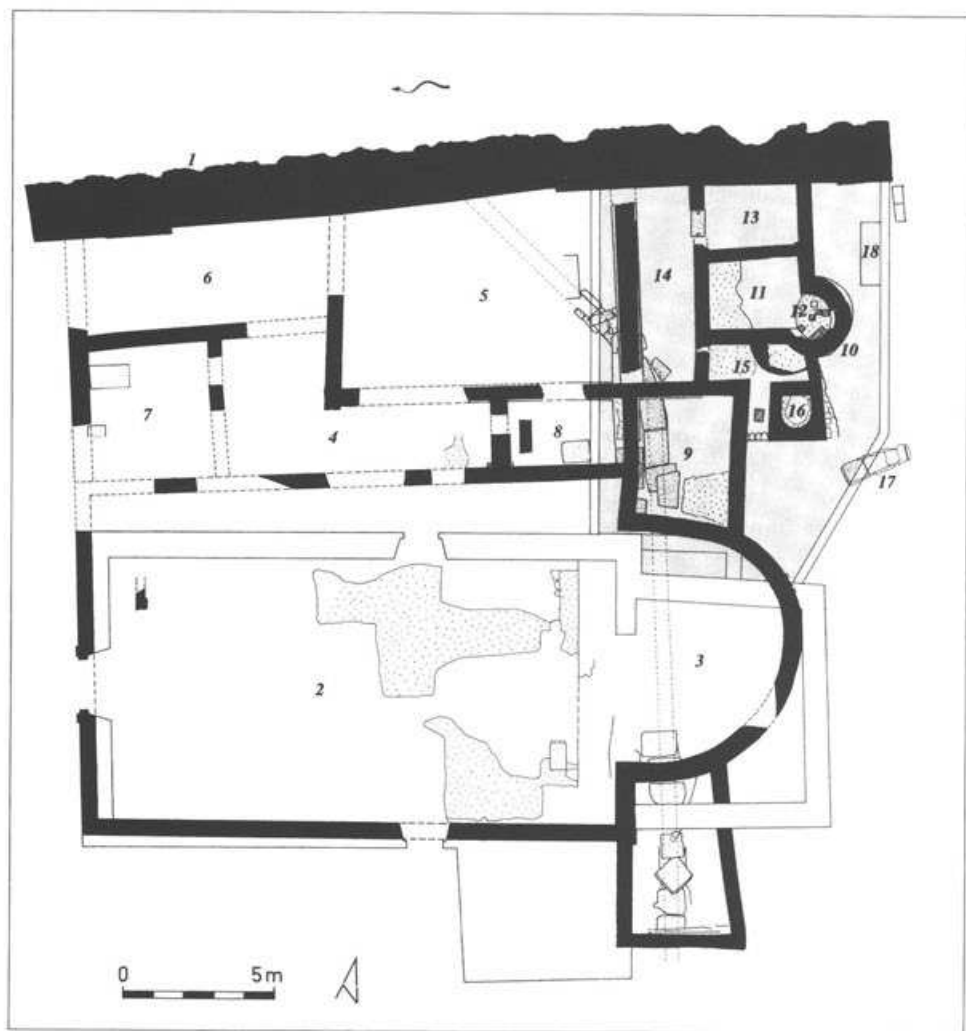


Fig. 41 The early Christian church and baptistery 71 at Kaiseraugst. The light grey shading indicates the area that was consolidated and made accessible in 1965. Scale 1:250. Black: late Roman walls of building phases 1-4 (phase 1, middle of the 4th century AD: church and side rooms; the fortress wall is in the north; phase 4, probably 5th century: later additions of the baptismal font and hypocaust). 1 Remains of the fortress wall, 2 church, 3 apse, 4 corridor, 5 neighbouring building, 6, 7 courtyard, 8 earlier baptismal font?, 9 side rooms, entrance to the baptistery (11-16), 10 heating chamber (*præfurnium*), 11 steam bath, 12 corner apse (perhaps with a hot water basin), 13 warming up room, 14 corridor, 15 more recent corridor, 16 more recent baptismal font, 17 cist burial, 18 display case on Christianity in Kaiseraugst.

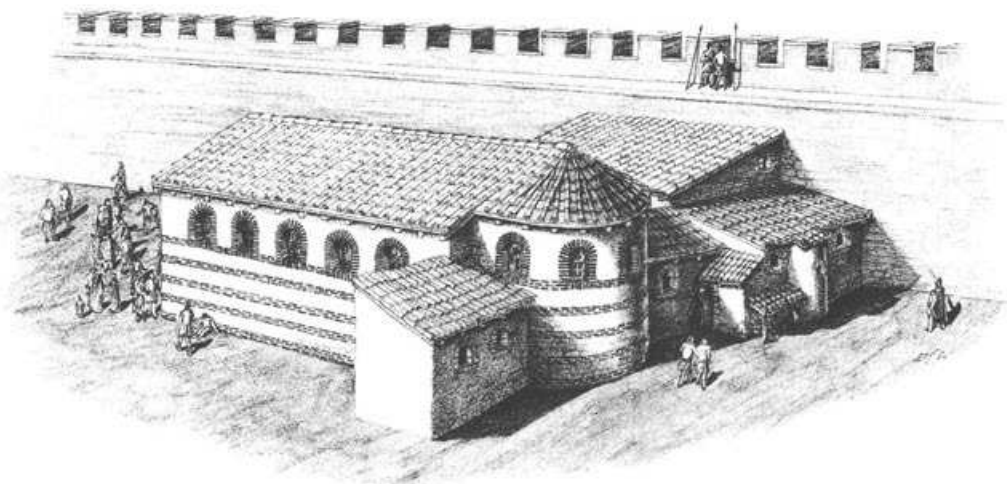


Fig. 42 Reconstruction drawing of the early Christian church and baptistery **71** in the fortress of Kaiseraugst: its appearance on completion in the 5th century AD (cf. fig. 41).

71 *Early Christian church and baptistery*
 The early Christian church and baptistery were excavated in 1960–66. The complex series of buildings were erected in the second half of the 4th century AD (phase 1) and remained in use, with various alterations, until the 5th or perhaps even the 6th century AD (phase 4). In the rooms next to the little church were baptismal fonts and a typical immersion basin for early Christian rituals (figs 41 and 42; the consolidated areas are in protective shelters). This early Christian church at Kaiseraugst was also a bishop's seat. Documents mention a certain "Justinianus Rauracorum" in the 4th century. One of his successors, Ragnachar, was already bishop of Kaiseraugst and Basel in the 7th century, and soon afterwards the bishop's seat was transferred to the prospering town of Basel. Kaiseraugst became a village, having lost the last

privilege associated with its greatness in the late Roman period.

Bridgehead on the north bank of the river **72**

Across from the modern village of Kaiseraugst, the old *Castrum Rauracense*, it is possible to make out the ruins of a bridgehead in the woods on the north bank of the Rhine (fig. 1.72). In the 4th century AD, this served to defend a bridge (possible a pontoon bridge) or at least a ferry crossing. Several tiles found here strongly suggest that units of the Kaiseraugst fortress garrison, the Prima Martia Legion, were stationed here. It is conceivable that this bridgehead securing the north bank of the Rhine was built under the Emperor Valentinian (364–375 AD), who ordered the entire Rhine defences from Basel to Lake Constance (Bodensee) to be renewed and strengthened.

The Roman Museum and Roman House

10 The Roman Museum

The collections

All the finds recovered from excavations in Augusta Raurica, around a million items, are kept in the Roman Museum (figs 1, 10 and 47, top right). You can see a selection of the most attractive and interesting pieces on display. An information corner with a library allows you to find out more about the excavations and the related cultural history. In the separate treasury you can see the famous silver treasure from Kaiseraugst (fig. 46). Treasure hunters have been busy in Augst since the Middle Ages. Drawings and plans of the first excavations in the Roman theatre have survived from the late 16th century. These first investigations and further discoveries in the 17th and 18th centuries are recorded in the works of C. Patin (1676) and D. Bruckner (1763). The oldest collections of the museum were put together in the period around 1800 and the following decades. Most of the objects on display were found during the intermittent archaeological work undertaken in the first half of the 20th century and in particular during the extensive excavations which have taken place regularly since 1948, both in the Roman colonial town of Augusta Raurica (1st–3rd centuries AD) and in the late Roman fortress of Kaiseraugst (4th century onwards).

The Roman House was opened in 1955, the adjoining Roman Museum two years later. With around 70,000 visitors annually, Augst is the third most popular museum in this museum-rich area of Basel. Unfortunately there is far too

little space available to present even the most important and interesting themes and finds.

Displays on industries and trade

We mainly know about those industries in Augst where the equipment, tools and worked materials have survived in the ground. The tools and products of smiths and bronze founders, glass makers, bone carvers, potters and carpenters are all well known. Numerous fireplaces with attached smokehouses are evidence for the meat-processing industry which was important in Augusta Raurica.

A large quantity of goods were imported to Augst. Among these were, for example, *terra sigillata* crockery from Gaul, high quality glass vessels from Italy and the Rhine area, and foodstuffs such as wine, olive oil and fish sauce which were imported in amphorae from Spain, southern France and Italy.

From a grave marker, which unfortunately has no inscription (fig. 43, on display in the entrance hall), we know of a metal-dealer who probably dealt in iron. Iron ore was, at least to some degree, mined in the Swiss Jura, for example in the neighbouring valley of the Frick.

Displays on daily life

The daily life of the around 15,000 to 20,000 inhabitants of the colonial town is known in some detail from excavations. Much remains uncertain, however, because of a lack of written sources.

Kitchen and cellar

A very well-preserved kitchen was discovered in an urban villa in *insula* 30. The kitchen inventory of a household in Augst included earthenware and bronze cooking pots, mortars and graters.

Eating and drinking

Much of the population used as crockery the “porcelain of the Romans”, the red *terra sigillata*. Handled jugs and drinking beakers were of metal or pottery, or in the late Roman period often of glass.

Only a small proportion of the town’s population would have dined while lying on sofas in the manner of aristocratic Romans. Most ate while seated at table. During the Roman period spoons – and fingers – were the only implements used for eating.

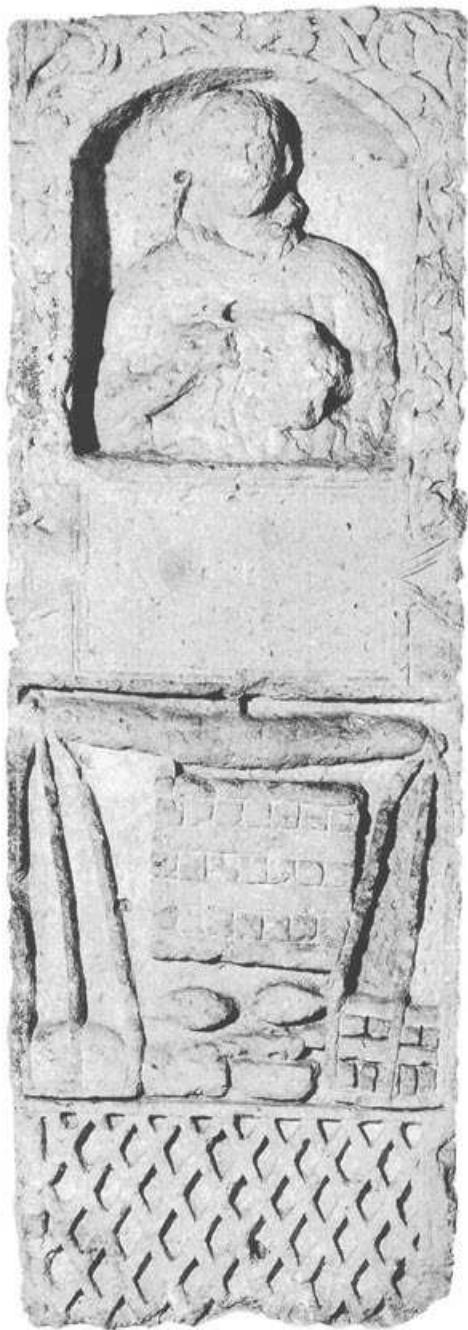


Fig. 43 In the Roman Museum **10**: gravestone of a metal dealer from the western cemetery (fig. 51, **87**). At the top the deceased is shown in a typical hooded cloak (*cucullus*). In the section below is the area for an inscription: the writing was probably once painted on. Below this are stacks of iron bars and a large set of scales, and in the bottom section is a lattice-work fence or the railings in front of the metal dealer’s shop. Height 2.22 meters.

Interior furnishings

Nothing remains of the furniture that would have been usual in Roman August – tables, benches, beds, cupboards, chests and so on – except for metal fittings, locks and bone hinges. One valuable find is a collapsible tripod made of bronze (on display in the dining room of the Roman House, fig. 1.11).

Only a few houses in the colonial town had luxurious fittings: heated rooms, private baths and glazed windows were rare, as were wall paintings and figurative mosaics.

Because lamps (of pottery, iron and bronze), lanterns and candelabra had to be fireproof, many of these have been preserved.

Jewellery, costume and toiletries

Precious jewellery of silver and gold was undoubtedly rarer than bronze jewellery, and was less frequently lost. Alongside bracelets, rings and rare earrings, the most common pieces of jewellery were the well-known fibula brooches, used both to hold together and ornament clothing.

As regards men's clothing, the Gallic hooded cloak was a popular and practical item. A small sandstone relief carving shows that in around 200 AD, native inhabitants had adapted to Roman fashions (fig. 4).

Among the rare items of toiletry found are razors and a three-piece iron toiletry set comprising a small spoon for cleaning ears, a toothpick and tweezers.

Games

Most toys and games in the Roman period – and up to 100 years ago – were made of wood or some other perishable material, and these have not survived. Frequently found are gaming counters

made of bone; somewhat rarer are dice made of the same material.

The popular board games must generally have had wooden boards. Stone boards like the one found in *insula* 31 were rare in August.



Fig. 44 Partly reconstructed household shrine (*lararium*) from *insula* 24, with four bronze statuettes from another household shrine from the tavern in *insula* 5 (from right to left): Mercury, Minerva, Mercury and a dwarf. Height of the shrine: 45 cm.

Religion and cults

We do not know about the religious customs and festivals in Augusta Raurica in any detail, but a few objects associated with this important aspect of life have been preserved. Central to the private religious sphere was the little household shrine (*lararium*; fig. 44) where the family presented sacrifices to the gods. Bronze statuettes of deities, often artistically worked, once stood here. These represented most of those gods which were worshipped in particular by the family: for example, the gods Mercury, Mars, Jupiter, the *lares* (ghosts of the house) and the goddesses Minerva, Fortuna and Venus (cf. fig. 44). There was another household cult which was particularly important in Augusta Raurica. Nothing more is known about it except the evidence left of numerous ceramic cult vessels on which snakes with ram's heads are set.

Mercury, god of trade, naturally enjoyed the greatest following in this trading town of Augst. The townsfolk, who were largely of Celtic origin and held fast to their own religion in the Roman period, too, saw in him the Roman manifestation of their most important Celtic god, Cissonius. Next to him, Apollo also received special devotion, being equated with a Celtic god of healing. Stone blocks with devotional inscriptions to Mercury and Apollo were placed in the shrines and votive offerings were made. Dedication inscriptions also witness to gods such as Aesculapius and Sucellus (cf. the Grienmatt shrine, fig. 1.47).

An interesting bronze basin, which was used for burning incense, has on its outer surface the seven planetary gods which, in the later Roman period, became the gods of the days of the week: Saturn (Saturday), Sol (Sunday), Luna (Monday), Mars (Tuesday), Mercury



Fig. 45 In the Roman Museum **10**: over-life-sized bust of Minerva, found in 1978 completely squashed in a roadside ditch by *insula* 37 (on fig. 1.32). Made from several pieces of beaten bronze sheets; the surface is perhaps tinned in places. Height: 92 cm. (A copy of the bust is on display in the basement of the *curia*, fig. 1.21).

(Wednesday), Jupiter (Thursday) und Venus (Friday). Note that the Romans counted the sun (*sol*) and moon (*luna*) among the planets.

A few, at least, of the decorative pieces from the public temples have been preserved, for example, marble relief carvings, bronze fittings and a large bronze bust of Minerva (fig. 45; cf. also the reconstruction in the basement of the *curia*, fig. 1.21).

Funeral rites

Considering the size of the town and the number of inhabitants, few graves have so far been excavated. The gravestones of a metal dealer (fig. 43) and of two boys come from the large cemetery on the road towards Basel (fig. 51.87) which was in use in the 1st century AD. The large round tomb by the east gate (fig. 51.55, cf. page 54 with fig. 32), belonging to a rich citizen of the late 1st century AD, should be viewed as a special feature. The population of the late Roman fortress of Kaiseraugst are buried in two graveyards to the south and southeast of the fortress (fig.

51.75). The funeral stele of Eusstata (cf. page 18) comes from the smaller one. In the larger one, in which the descendants of the provincial Roman population buried their dead from around 350 to around 700, were found not only Christian tombs but also some Christian funeral stele and gravestones. Copies of some of these are to be seen in the Archaeological Park 9 and in the baptistery 71 (fig. 1).

In Augst, as elsewhere, cremation was prevalent until the late 3rd century AD, while in the late Roman period the dead were usually buried uncremated.

The silver treasury: the late Roman silver treasure from Kaiseraugst

A hoard was found in the winter of 1961/62 in the southwestern corner of the fortress of Kaiseraugst (fig. 37, **74**; 51, **74**; cf. page 61). The rich silver treasure was buried in the chaotic times around 352 AD and comprised 68 items of a lavish table service, three silver ingots and 186 coins and medallions. The ensemble is the most important find in the Roman Museum **10** and is on show in the silver treasury (fig. 46). The objects are all of pure silver. Most of the items are part of a table service: as well as sumptuous platters, some of which are decorated and gilded, there are simpler bowls, large and small, bea-

kers, almost three dozen spoons, a gilded candelabra, which would have stood next to the dining sofas, and a statuette of Venus, the goddess of love. The one-time owner of the treasure was most probably a wealthy follower of the Roman general Magnentius who perhaps commanded the fortress. Magnentius went over to the side of the imperial pretender in 350 AD but was unable to assert himself against Emperor Constantius II. The Alemannic tribes who were roused by Constantius II against Magnentius would also have attacked the fortress at Kaiseraugst. The silver treasure may have been buried shortly before this catastrophe, which would have occurred in 351 or 352 AD.

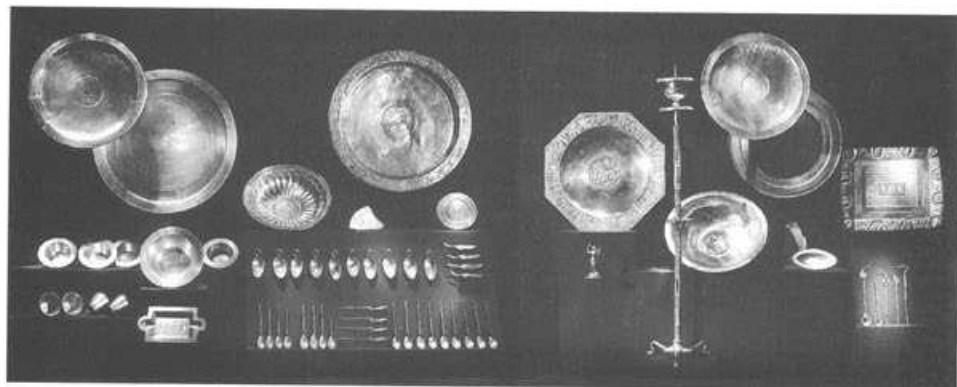


Fig. 46 In the Roman Museum **10**: view of the treasury with the silver treasure from Kaiseraugst.

11 The Roman House (*domus Romana*)

The gem of Augusta Raurica is the Roman House: the authentic reconstruction of a Roman house and business premises as it may have appeared in Augst (fig. 47, top left). This was endowed by Dr. René Clavel in 1955 and serves as a museum of Roman life. It comprises a series of typical rooms, furnished with original finds and authentic reproductions: a kitchen, dining room, bath, bedroom, crockery dealer's store-room, workshop and shop (fig. 48).

The reconstructed Roman House (fig. 1.11) is close to the theatre, within the area of the Roman town. It stands over the foundations of Roman houses but it is not a reconstruction of these buildings nor any other Roman houses found in Augst. Its ground plan reflects the size and arrangement of rooms that was usual in Augusta Raurica in the larger houses of the wealthy upper classes. In general, residential and business properties in the Roman town were laid out as follows. The roads which crossed at regular intervals formed rectangular street blocks which were usually surrounded, along the streets, with arcades (*porticus*). One such street block was known as *vicus* in Roman times, and is today, rather imprecisely, called *insula*. In the upper town these were around 60×50 meters and were originally subdivided into twelve units.

The Roman House itself represents the building at the corner of such a street block, with porticoes along two sides. In Roman Augst it would have taken up almost three of the usual property units in the town.

In the town centre the rooms opening onto the arcade, facing the street, were almost always business premises and workshops, for example, butcheries,

bakeries, bronze foundries, smithies and so on, or retail shops and pubs. The living quarters were further inside the houses, often grouped around an inner courtyard, and sometimes also on first floors which were probably common in the colonial town of Augst (cf. fig. 16). The architectural elements of the Roman House – tiled roof, columns, room sizes, flooring, doorsteps – were all reconstructed after originals found in Augusta Raurica. Finds from other Roman towns, for example Pompeii, were resorted to only where such originals were not available. The furnishings in the rooms consist of some original and some reconstructed finds from Augst and elsewhere.

The wall paintings in the dining room 8

In the dining room (*oecus*) of the Roman House is a reconstruction of a painted wall that was found at Augst in 1982, in *insula* 50. The different sections of the painting could be clearly made out: the speckled skirting strip, the dado of red and yellow marbled panels and the main area of yellow panels framed in red (marked off above and below with green stripes). The decoration is in the 3rd Pompeii style with candelabras. Large portions of a female figure floating on the yellow ground have survived and some original pieces are on the back wall on the right as you enter the room.

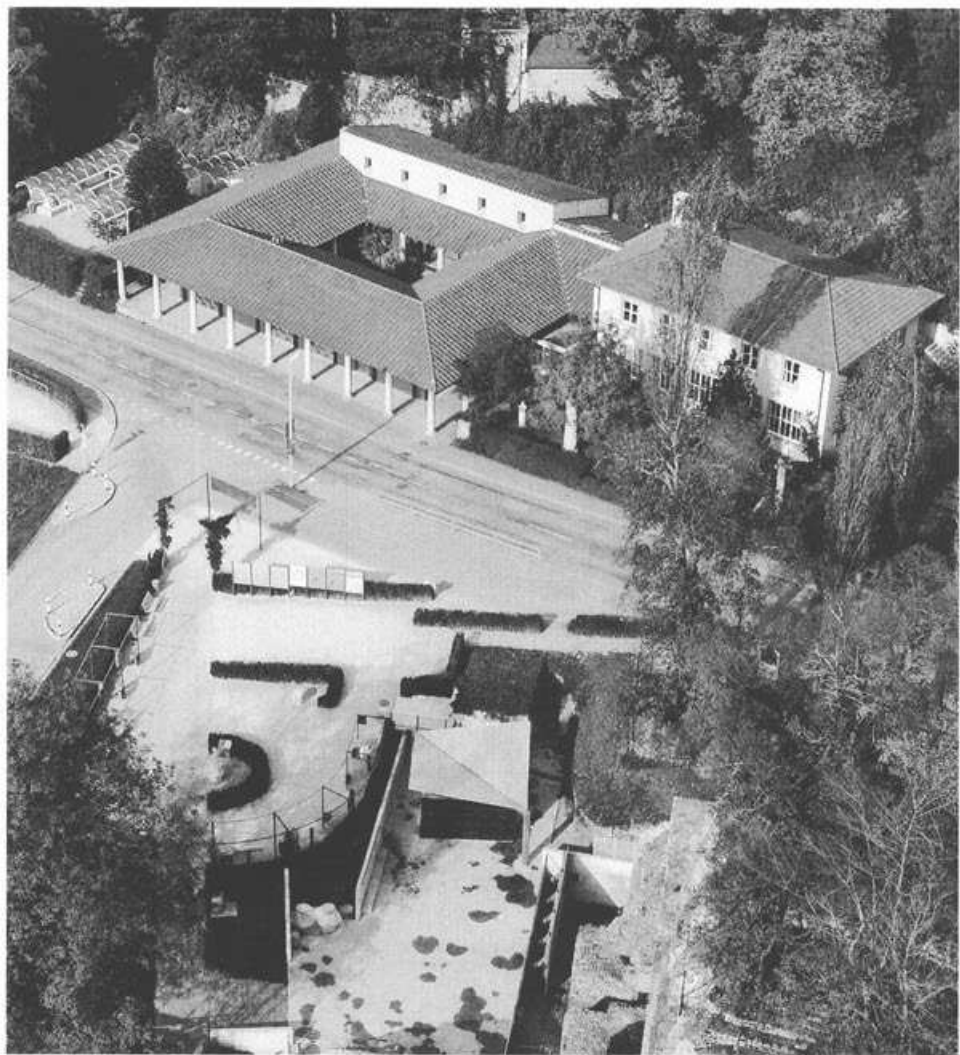


Fig. 47 The Roman House in August **11**. This is an idealized reconstruction of a residential and business property of the 2nd/3rd century AD. To the right is the Roman Museum **10** and top left the *lapidarium* **12**. The Archaeological Park **9** is in the foreground, and the northern corner of the theatre **14** is just visible in the bottom right of the picture.

Fig. 48 Augusta Raurica. Plan of the Roman House 11. Scale 1:350.

- 10 Museum entrance, silver treasury
- 1 Arcade (*porticus*)
 - 2 Entrance (*fauces*)
 - 3, 4 (Caretaker)
 - 5, 6 Inner courtyard and garden (*peristylum*); in the garden 6 are cypress trees, fig trees, various ornamental plants and herbs
 - 5a Household shrine (*lararium*)
 - 7 Kitchen (*culina*); beside the cooking stove are a mill and amphorae
 - 7a Cooking stove
 - 7b Oven with Roman-style bread
 - 7c Hearth with firing chamber (*praefurnium*)
 - 8 Dining room (*oecus*); on the floor is an original mosaic from a rural villa in Hölstein (Canton Baselland), also a tripod, candelabra and basketwork chair. The wall paintings are a reconstruction of ones found in *insula* 50
 - 8a Dining sofa (*triclinium*)
 - 8b Benches with crockery and a samovar (*authepsa*)
 - 9–12 Bath
 - 9 Changing room (*apodyterium*) with toiletry articles and oak furniture
 - 10 Warm room (*tepidarium*)
 - 11 Hot room (*caldarium*) with floor and wall heating (*hypocaustum*)
 - 12 Cold room (*frigidarium*) with a basin from *insula* 42 and ceiling paintings reconstructed from a rural villa in Hölstein (Canton Baselland)
 - 13 Bedroom (*cubiculum*) with furniture following models from Pompeii
 - 14 Room with crockery, storage jars and amphorae (the storeroom of a crockery dealer)
 - 15 Workshop (*taberna; fabrica*) with stone troughs, tools, crates made of chestnut wood full of shoes, and a door with an iron bolt leading out to the inner courtyard (5). A special feature here (though unfortunately cramped for space) are the four work places. These are equipped following Roman models and offer the possibility of re-enacting certain tasks "live":
 - 15a Meat kitchen: hearth and smokehouse
 - 15b Shoemaker's bench
 - 15c Smithy: forge, anvil and workbench
 - 15d Bronze foundry: melting pit with bellows
 - 16 Public bar and shop (*taberna; caupona*) with serving counter; on the walls are scales, two oil amphorae and a stand for wine amphorae; on the floor is an original mosaic; at the entrance (2) is a door with a wooden bolt
 - 17 Firing chamber (*praefurnium*) for the system heating the hot room of the bath 11.

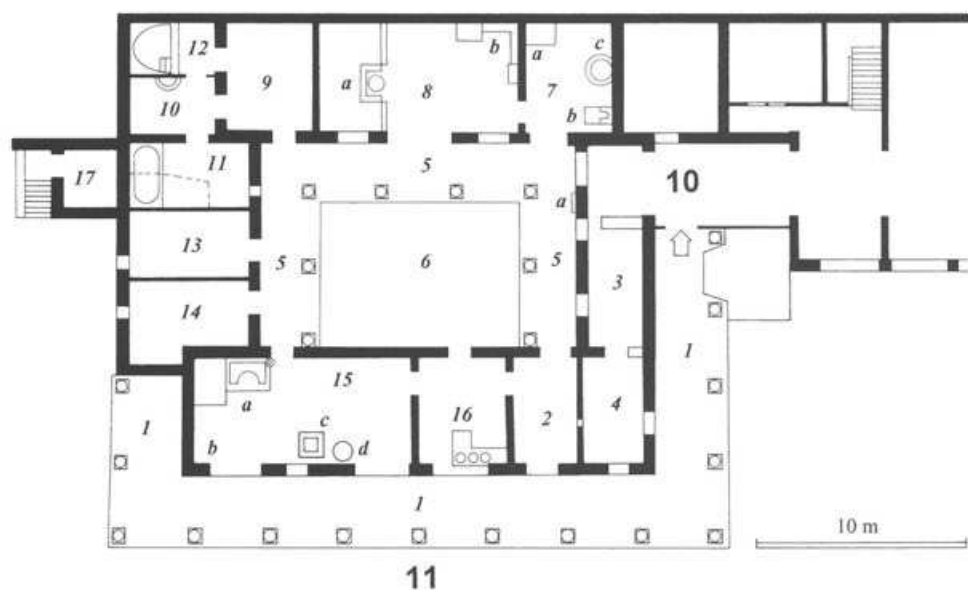
A basin from *insula* 42 in the *frigidarium* 12

This basin (fig. 48, 12) was incorporated into the Roman House in 1974. It was found in 1972 in an elegant (probably private) residence on the south edge of the town. The basin was part of a larger bathing complex and was used as the cold water tub. It was possible to build it into the *frigidarium* (cold room of the baths) here unaltered, although not on one level as it would have been in Roman times. The basin is clad with

slabs of Jura marble and it could hold about 1300 litres of water. When bathing, the Romans would have stepped down two high tiled steps into the bath.

Ceiling painting with fishes in the *frigidarium* 12

The paintings on the walls and vaulted ceiling of the cold room of the baths (*frigidarium*) follow the model of a Roman rural villa in Hölstein (Canton



Baselland). The marine scene in the arch above the red dado is painted in deep blues with numerous sea shells as well as dolphins, swordfish and other fish swimming freely. The Hölstein painting, dating from the later 2nd century AD, was found in numerous fragments. The reconstruction was carried out in 1987.

Butcher's and sausage maker's in the workshop 15a

The thousands of animal bones found in the Roman houses of Augst and Kaiseraugst (and sometimes even from grave goods) show how important animal husbandry and a meat diet were in everyday life in Colonia Raurica. Cattle, pigs,

sheep, goats and chickens, mainly reared in rural villas, were sold in the town market, and slaughtered to make meat and sausage products in well-organised butcheries (cf. also the "Roman" farm animal park [fig. 1.56], page 54).

This trade was centred around an area just south of the theatre, and evidence for it includes cleavers, meat hooks, hearths for preparing sausages, soup and tallow, as well as smokehouses ... and of course the large quantities of bone waste from butchering the meat. These bones were often sold to craftsmen who made further use of them: bone-carvers and -turners utilized large tubular bones, horn-carvers and comb-makers used cattle horns, glue-makers had a use for chopped pieces of bone, and so on.

Sausage and ham smokehouse in the workshop 15a

In the 1940s, several large workshops were found to the south of the theatre, with hearths and odd, built-in brick chambers. An excerpt from the Roman writer M. Terentius Varro (*Res Rusticae* 2, 4, 10) helped in the interpretation of these. He wrote: "Now year after year, ham, sausages, bacon and gammon are also imported from Gaul". With this in mind, these hearths can be interpreted as places where sausages were prepared. The meat products had to be conserved for export, and the best way was by smoking them. The excavated brick-built chambers have channels with inlets for drawing in smoke from the neighbouring hearths. As a large number of such smokehouses have been found in August, it is conceivable that "Gallic smoked ham and sausages" were made here in excess of local needs, for export.

Shoemaker's bench in the workshop 15b

Numerous finds bear witness to the high level of the Roman shoemaker's craft. All sorts of footwear are depicted on statues and sculptures, often in amazingly accurate detail. Where damp soil conditions have preserved leather remains, finds of original shoes are also not unusual. Considering the high quality of the products, the Roman shoemaker's inventory of tools seems modest. Although so far no finds of Roman leather have been made in Augusta Raurica, a corner of the Roman House has been established where a shoemaker occasionally demonstrates his "Roman" craft skills. The little shoemaker's bench of oak is a reproduction of one which appears in a wall painting

in Herculaneum where Eros figures are depicted as shoemakers.

Roman smithy in the workshop 15c

Iron was used in all spheres of Roman everyday life: in workshops (for tools), for building houses (e.g. for nails) and in agriculture (for farming implements). Iron was also made in our area. Prehistoric smelting sites are known in the Jura, where iron was won from ore in small, charcoal-fired furnaces. Smithies in which tools and implements were made from traded iron bars are not easy to trace in the archaeological record. One smithy, at any rate, was in business at the end of the 1st century AD just in front of the theatre, as indicated by finds of slag and a few tools and unfinished pieces.

Since well-preserved finds of Roman forges are so far lacking, a smithy was incorporated into the Roman House in 1993 (fig. 49), following as models various relief carvings and wall paintings from the Mediterranean region and Gaul. The "smithy's hut", with the rosette in the gable-end and the plain lower section of wall, is modelled on an image on a gravestone from Aquileia (northern Italy). Similar representations are known from Rome and Pompeii. The bellows and the heat-shielding wall are precisely copied from relief carvings in Sens (near Paris) and Naples. The Y-shaped clay support for the bellows' nozzle is known from France and Spain, and the rectangular clay sleeve corresponds to an original find from August.

Bronze foundry with melting pit in the workshop 15d

Workshops with severely scorched pits in the ground have been excavated in various places in Augusta Raurica. These pits were always clad with plaster and tiles and were sometimes integrated into an oven-like construction. Usually finds of copper-containing green slag, bronze drops made during casting, and sherds of crucibles for melting metal provide evidence for the activity of bronze founders. In rarer cases, the items preserved from a workshop also include clay nozzles from bellows, miscast pieces, broken funnels, fragments of moulds made of clay or stone, tongs for holding crucibles, forging hammers, or a collection of scrap metal for recycling.

The meagre, indeed Spartan equipment of such workshops contrasts with the often magnificent bronze objects produced, indicating that the experience and skill of the bronze-worker must have been considerable. This "primitive" technique is still a living tradition, for example in some areas of Africa. In order to demonstrate the technique, a casting pit was reconstructed here in 1993. This was modelled on the most simple type of pit, like those found in *insulae* 30 and 31.

Public bar and shop (*taberna*) 16

The taverns were both eating places and public bars. With their broad frontages open to the street, and no doubt tempting displays of delicacies, too, they were inviting places for passers-by to spend a little time. Wine above all was on offer in various forms: diluted with hot water, flavoured with various spices (*vinum conditum*), sweetened with



Fig. 49 In the workshop (*fabrica*) of the Roman House 11: this smithy has a forge, bellows (on the right behind the shielding wall against the heat) and anvil. It was reconstructed on the basis of images on relief sculptures found in Gaul and the Mediterranean area as well as finds from Augusta Raurica itself. Some of the metalwork on display is from the Roman period.

honey (*mulsum*) or boiled down to a thick wine juice (*defrutum*, *sapa*). Numerous such bars (*tabernae*, *thermopolia*) have been found in Pompeii and Herculaneum, in which several wine amphorae often still stood. The stone-built counter, with large pots for drinks and food let into it, and the wall rack for amphorae have been reconstructed following these models.

The taverns which have so far been found in Augst seem to have been equipped more simply than this. The counters were of wood and have therefore not been preserved. One original tavern, now restored, in a central position next to the theatre (60 meters up



Fig. 50 In the inner courtyard (*peristylum*) of the Roman House **11**: a small garden is laid out in the Roman style with four sections: ornamental plants, medicinal herbs, culinary herbs and edible plants. In the background there is an altar to Apollo and the household shrine (*lararium*).

from the Roman House; fig. 1,33) has a large, excellently preserved oven where loaves, baking and soufflés (*patinae*) were made for the customers.

The Roman garden in the courtyard 6

The garden is laid out in the inner courtyard (*peristylum*; fig. 48,6 and 50) of the Roman House according to contemporary models. Here plants are grown which were in use in Roman times for ornamentation, for flavouring food, in medicine, and so forth.

While cypress, laurel, coriander, fruit (e.g. cherries), various healing herbs and so on are known from other sites and from classical literature, plants such as garlic, fig, flax and poppy are known from August itself. This is thanks to a relatively young scientific discipline, archaeobotany. In recent years archaeobotanic studies have allowed numerous types of plants and various agricultural products from Roman times to be identified in Augusta Raurica.

Many of the stone monuments of the colonial town have been lost since Roman times. Already in the 4th century AD, many pieces were used to build the fortress at Kaiseraugst (fig. 51, **67/68**). Later the growing demand for stone in the nearby town of Basel resulted in many pieces being taken away, no doubt by river transport.

There are approximately three dozen important inscriptions in stone. Out of these, a good half are from graves, almost a third are dedications, and the rest are other inscriptions from buildings. The names which appear in tombstone inscriptions show that the majority of Augusta Raurica's inhabitants were descendants of the local, Celtic population, since the family names are often of Celtic origin. From the 1st century AD, however, it was the thing to do to give children "modern", that is

Roman, names like Marcus and Quintus, in the same way that many foreign first names are in fashion today. Further inscriptions and stone artefacts are described in detail on pages 18f. in connection with the Archaeological Park.

Mosaics as a precious ornamentation for floors were rather rare in Augst. Generally the mosaic floors found so far have geometric patterns. The most beautiful mosaic, with figures represented in the design, was discovered in the dining room of an urban villa, or *domus*, in *insula* 30: the so-called gladiator mosaic. Parts of this are in the *lapidarium*, on the outer wall of the Roman House. Other sections are in the basement of the *curia* (fig. 1, **21**, page 31) and in the tavern (fig. 1, **33**, page 38).

The *lapidarium* with its covered seating area is an ideal place for picnics in bad weather.

Appendix

Opening times

Much of what there is to see at Augst and Kaiseraugst can be visited at any time of the day, all year round. Only the Roman Museum and Roman House, the ruins in protective shelters and the "Roman" farm animal park are closed at certain times (see fig. 1 for locations).

Reception area by the theatre and Archaeological Park **9**: always accessible.

The Roman Museum (and silver treasure) and the Roman House (with Roman garden) **10/11**: open 10.00–12.00 and 13.30–18.00 (November to February only until 17.00), closed on Monday mornings.

The "Made in Augusta Raurica" display beside the brick and tile works at Liebrüti **61**, the multimedia show "Animal fights and gladiator contests" in the amphitheatre **45** and the *lapidarium* **12** (collection of stone artefacts) behind the Roman House: always open.

The theatre **14** is currently undergoing major renovation work (begun in 1992) to ensure against collapse. The most imposing site at Augusta Raurica is therefore closed to visitors. Please understand that this is *on grounds of safety*.

The exhibition of mosaics beneath the *curia* **21**, the exhibition "Gebrannte Erde" ("Burnt Earth") in the *forum* **23**, the cellar and sewers under the main baths **37–39**, the bakery with the displays and multimedia shows (English version available) "Bread and porridge for the people of Rome" and "Let's grind flour and bake like the Romans" **42**, the protective shelters for the Roman trading house **66**, the Rhine baths **70** and baptistery with displays of objects relating to Christianity in Kaiseraugst **71**: open daily 8.30 to 16.30.

The Roman farm animal park **56**: open daily 10.00 to 17.00; in winter only until 16.00.

The visitor kiosk **13**: in high season and in good weather, open daily 10.00–17.00 (closed in winter).

The toilets at the visitors kiosk **13**: always open.

The toilets by the *curia* **30** and at the Roman trading house **66**: open daily 8.30 to 16.30.

Picnic areas **9**, **12**, **28** and **46**: always accessible. (Picnic area **56** in the animal park grounds, open daily 10.00 to 17.00).

Literature available at the Roman Museum in Augst

(or by mail-order: BSB Buch Service, Rittergasse 20, CH-4051 Basel)

In English:

A.R. Furger (translation C. Aitken and Chr. Maier), *Augusta Raurica. English Guide. Archäologischer Führer durch Augst/Kaiseraugst 2 = Archaeological guide to Augst and Kaiseraugst 2* (Augst 1995). (*sFr.* 18.-)

W.C. Alexander, *A Pottery of the Middle Roman Imperial Period in Augst (Venusstrasse-Ost 1968/69). Forschungen in Augst 2* (Basel/Liestal 1975). (*sFr.* 24.-)

In German:

R. Laur-Belart, *Führer durch Augusta Raurica*, 5th extended edition, revised by L. Berger (Basel 1988). (*sFr.* 28.-)

K. Stehlin (revised by C. Clareboets, edited by A.R. Furger), *Ausgrabungen in Augst 1890-1934. Forschungen in Augst 19* (Augst 1994). (*sFr.* 50.-)

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(Inside back cover) →
Augusta Raurica – archaeological plan Fig. 51
 Plan of Roman Augusta Raurica
 with points of archaeological
 interest marked (cf. the modern layout
 fig. 1 inside front cover).
 Scale 1:15,000.

Fig. 51 **Augusta Raurica – archaeological plan**
 Plan of Roman Augusta Raurica with points of archaeological interest marked (cf. the modern layout fig. 1 inside front cover). Scale 1:15,000.

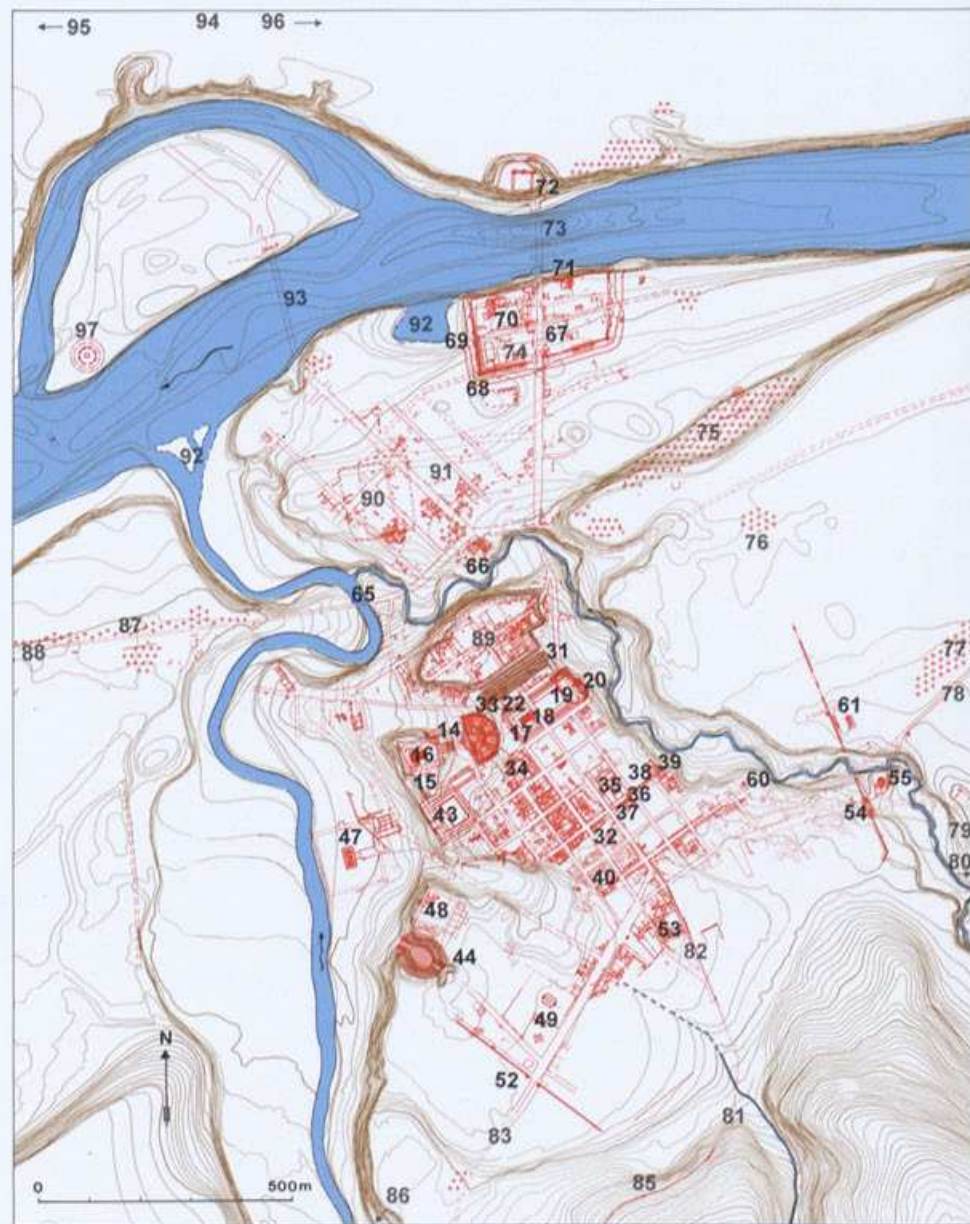
red Roman town plan (dotted line: buildings identified from aerial photographs)
light red visible Roman remains
blue water
brown contours (1 m apart)
grey Roman remains (not visible); cf. the numbers in the text
black points of archaeological interest; cf. the numbers in the text:

- 14 Theatre
- 15 Gallo-Roman shrine (Schönbühl Hill)
- 16 Platform temple (Schönbühl Hill)
- 17 Forum temple
- 18 Forum altar
- 19 Basilica
- 20 Curia (Roman town hall)
- 21 Exhibition in the curia basement
- 22 Victoria column
- 31 Room with hypocaust
- 32 Urban neighbourhoods
- 33 Tavern with well-preserved oven
- 34 Women's baths
- 35 Central baths
- 36 Street arcade at the central baths
- 37 Cellar below the central baths
- 38 Sewers
- 39 Exit from the sewers
- 40 Palazzo
- 43 Southern forum (*praetorium?*)
- 44 Amphitheatre
- 45 Multimedia show "Animal fights and gladiator contests" in the *carcer*
- 46 Picnic area in the amphitheatre
- 47 Grienmatt shrine and healing baths
- 48 Sichelentempel 1
- 49 Sichelentempel 2
- 52 Western town wall
- 53 Hostel (*mansio*)
- 54 East gate
- 55 Funeral monument
- 60 Roman pottery in Venusstrasse-Ost
- 61 Roman brick and tile works in Liebrüti
- 65 Bridge over the River Ergolz between Augst and Kaiseraugst
- 66 Roman trading house in Schmidmatt
- 67 Kaiseraugst fortress (Castrum Rauracense)
- 68 The fortress wall

- 69 West gate of the fortress (outline marked)
- 70 The Rhine baths in Kaiseraugst
- 71 Early Christian church and baptistry
- 72 The bridgehead on the north bank of the Rhine

Other archaeological sites (no visible remains) (see also fig. 2):

- 73 Bridge across the Rhine from the fortress to the bridgehead (probably already built in the 1st century AD, certainly there in the 4th century AD)
- 74 Find spot of the silver treasure
- 75 Fortress cemeteries in Stalden and Gstaltenrain, 4th–7th centuries AD
- 76 Eastern cemetery in Widhag
- 77 Eastern cemetery in Im Sager
- 78 Long-distance route via Bözberg to Windisch (Vindonissa)
- 79 Water mains in Im Liner
- 80 Hilltop shrine at Flühweghalde
- 81 Water reservoir (conjectural)
- 82 Aqueduct
- 83 Long-distance route via Hauenstein into central Switzerland
- 85 Water mains from Lausen/Liestal to Augst (6.5 km; cf. fragment at 41)
- 86 Roman hilltop shrine at Schauenburgerfluh
- 87 Western cemetery on Rheinstrasse
- 88 Long-distance route to Basel (Basilia) and over the Jura to Aventicum
- 89 Fortifications on Kastelen Hill (around 280–320 AD)
- 90 Military camp of the 1st century AD
- 91 Lower town (business properties and warehouses)
- 92 Possible sites of harbour(s)
- 93 Bridge over the Rhine via Gwerd Island (probably 2nd century)
- 94 Courtyard and temple complex at Wyhlen/Herten
- 95 Long-distance route down the Rhine valley towards Strassburg (Argentorate) and Mainz (Mogontiacum)
- 96 Long-distance route up the Rhine valley via Zurzach (Tenedo) to Rottweil (Arae Flaviae), to the Neckar valley and to Lake Constance and Bregenz (Brigantium)
- 97 Round tower on the former island in the Rhine





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