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Inside an Ancient Roman Villa

An ancient Roman villa was not just a house; it was a large estate designed for comfort, work, and social gatherings. These villas were often built in the countryside and served as retreats for wealthy Romans who wanted to escape the busy life of the city.

The entrance to a villa typically led to an *atrium*, a grand central hall with a high (1)_____. This area was often used to welcome guests and display the wealth and status of the owner. In the center of this hall, there was usually a small (2)_____, which collected rainwater from an opening in the roof above.

Around the atrium, there were several rooms for different purposes. One important room was the *cenaculum*, or (3)_____, where guests were entertained. This room had low couches around a central table, where people would recline while eating. The walls were often decorated with colorful (4)_____, showing scenes of mythology, nature, or daily life.

Beyond the atrium, the villa opened up into a large outdoor area called the *peristylum* or (5)_____, a garden surrounded by columns. This open space allowed fresh air and light to enter the villa, and it was often filled with plants, fountains, and statues.

The villa's kitchen was usually located at the back of the house. This area was quite simple, with a (6)____ for cooking and a table for preparing food. Wealthy families had slaves who did most of the cooking, and the food was often served on (7)____ made of silver or bronze.

In the *cubiculum*, or (8)____, the furniture was basic but functional. There was usually a bed, a small table, and a chest for storing clothes. These rooms were used mainly for sleeping, as most activities took place in the public areas of the villa.

The floors of the villa were often covered with (9)_____, made from small pieces of colored stone arranged in intricate patterns. These designs not only added beauty to the home but also demonstrated the owner's wealth and taste.

An important part of any Roman villa was the *tablinum* or (10)_____, where the owner would conduct business or meet with clients. This room was usually located near the entrance, making it easy for visitors to access.

Word Bank

ceiling, dining room, bedroom, fireplace, plates, courtyard, frescoes, mosaics, pool, office