





THE MONUMENTAL FOUNTAIN

In 1980, following the removal of an embankment, a large, rectangular basin was unearthed. Internally, the basin is rounded by a continuous side, in the centre there used to be a helicoidal fountain that used to pour water in a series of interconnected smaller basins, creating a waterfall-like effect. The structure itself could be compared to the one of a natatio: the regulars could sit on the side, which was dry. Later on the basin was converted into a fish tank, with the insertion of burrows.

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The basin was probably part of the *hortus* of an Ancient Villa. Archaeologists think it might have had a purely ornamental purpose, and the baked clay mouths might have been the places where fishes would spawn. It is still a mystery how the fountain received water as the only known water system in this place (the Antoninian water system) was built from 50 to 100 years later.



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The archaeological research was followed by the research of a correct and safe maintenance system of the ruin. Even though in good conditions, the remaining of several parts of the original plasters required the construction of protective linear roofing covering the entire structure perimeter. A solid enclosure provided with ad hoc night lighting, delimits the site and separate it from the adjacent gardens.



As of now, after a number of years since the setting of the conservation and security structure, the cleanness and conservation state of the site is still good, thanks to the constant maintenance. The only exception is the presence of some infesting plants on the surface of the central fountain, as that part is not protected by the roofing.