

## Country Villas

### **1. What two places were usually chosen for country villas?**

The seashore or the mountains.

### **2. How did country villas differ from town houses?**

Country villas were outward looking instead of inward looking.

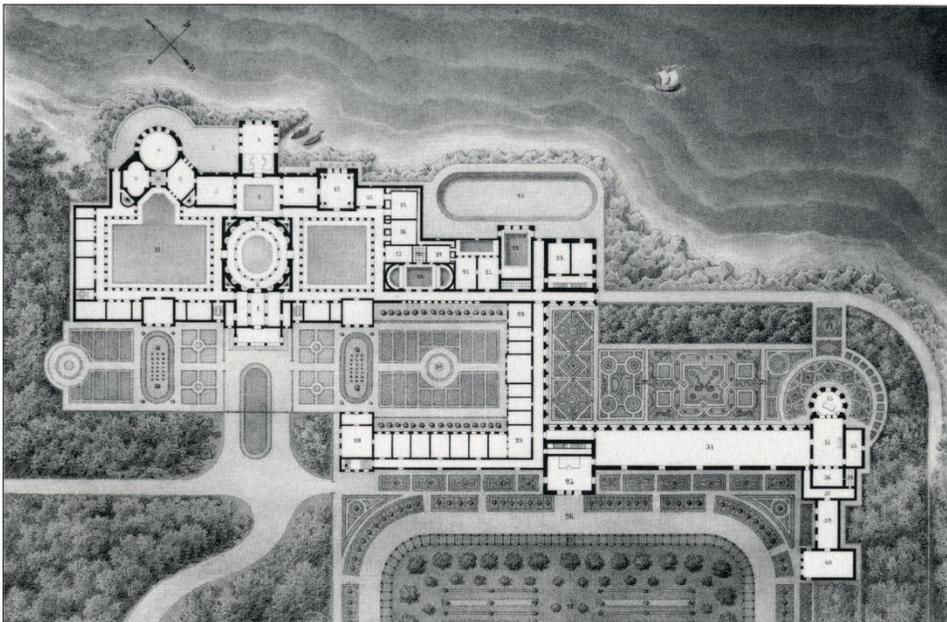
### **3. What are some of the features of a country villa?**

1. series of dining and reception rooms
2. extensive views of the surrounding countryside
3. complete bath complex with hypocaust
4. long covered colonnades for philosophical strolls
5. parkland, farmland and gardens

## Pliny's Villa at Laurentium

### **4. How do we know what Pliny's country villa looked like?**

From one of his surviving letters.



**5. Is Pliny's villa on the shore or in the mountains?**

On the shore.

**6. What elements are manifest in Pliny's description of his villa?**

fresh air, sunlight, sea views, spaciousness and privacy.

**Roman Letters**

**7. What did “otium” (leisure time) mean to the cultivated class of Romans?**

“Otium” was in fact used to further their education and skills by avid reading, writing and studying. Not a moment was wasted in frivolous endeavors.

**8. Why did letter writing become so important to Romans when it was of slight importance to the highly educated Greeks?**

The small Greek city states had little need for writing letters since those they might wish to correspond to were at no great distance. As the Rome expanded into a vast empire, letter writing became more and more important. Landowners who had holdings in different provinces had to keep in touch with their managers, politicians with Rome and soldiers, absent for many years with their families.

**9. How were letters delivered throughout the Roman empire?**

Letters were entrusted to anyone who was traveling abroad. Travelers often announced their intentions of travel so that friends and relatives could have time to compose letters.

Sometimes these travelers would receive letters of recommendation to important people in payment for delivering letters. It was customary to send numerous copies of letters with different travelers and by different routes to insure that the letters reached their destination.

**10. What was an “amanuenses”?**

A secretary whose job it was to write letters from dictation.

**11. What was the title of a slave secretary?**

A notarius, a librarius, or a sevus ab epistulis.

**12. Who were the two great letter writers of ancient Rome?**

Cicero and Pliny the Younger.

**13. How many letters do we still have of each of these writers.**

over 900 of Cicero and hundreds of Pliny

**14. In what two literary categories did the Romans excel?**

Verse satire and letter writing.

15. What conventions were established in Roman letter writing?

1. **GREETING** – the writers name in the nominative followed by the recipient in the dative.

The second line generally made a wish that the letter found the recipient in good health, such as **SAL** (salutem) **SD** (salutem dicit) or **SPD** (salutem pluriman dicit)

2. **BODY of the LETTER** – often stylized, with oratorical artifice and generally on one theme.

3. **CONCLUSION** – **SVBE** ("si vales, bene est" – if you are healthy, it is well), **vale** (be healthy), **cura ut vales** (take care that you stay well)

**\*\*\*This is not all you need to know. Re-read the reading.\*\*\***