

qualità (del 1904–05). – N. 110: interessante, ma non sicura, la proposta d'integrazione per il nome dell'artista. – N. 150: che i primi caratteri visibili del testo siano la terminazione di un patronimico mi pare discutibile.

*Mika Kajava*

GABRIELE CIFANI: *L'architettura romana arcaica. Edilizia e società tra Monarchia e Repubblica*. "L'Erma" di Bretschneider, Roma 2008. ISBN 978-88-8265-444-3. 402 pp., 271 ill. b/n. EUR 200.

Roman architecture is a topic that has been discussed for as long as classical studies have been conducted and it might seem unlikely that anything new could be said on the subject. However, the situation today, in my opinion, is such that there is a great need for all sorts of new studies on this topic. New archaeological discoveries and new points of view keep changing our perceptions and, every now and then, new syntheses should be written. Gabriele Cifani's work on Roman Archaic architecture is a welcome addition to this long continuum of studies, as it not only catalogues some of the most important evidence but also manages to draw more general conclusions on the relationship of architecture and society during the Archaic era.

The book is divided into four parts starting with a fairly long research history. The extensive catalogue of buildings from Rome and its surroundings covers most of the pages. The third part discusses details of building materials and techniques and the last section is on the relationship between buildings and society. The volume is well-illustrated throughout and although many of the maps are reproductions, Cifani has redrawn many with his own interpretations added. Cifani's long dedication to the topic is illustrated in the results as well as made explicit in the preface: he started studying Archaic architecture already in the early 1990's in his *tesi di laurea*. Considering his long experience, I would have perhaps expected an even longer analytical and interpretative section than what is presented.

The catalogue is arranged in two parts: the first covers the city of Rome and the second the surroundings of the city, particularly on the left bank of the Tiber all the way to Fidenae, Ficulea and Gabii, although some sites from the right bank are also included. The division is based on the traditional division between Latin and Etruscan spheres of influence and the lower Tiber valley was probably closer to the Roman culture than the Veientine present further upriver. Comparative material from the areas outside the study area is naturally introduced and discussed. A great majority of the entries in the Roman part of the catalogue are on the urban fortifications and the rest contain temples and votive deposits, as well as the houses found on the northern slopes of the Palatine hill and many water installations. The sites outside Rome feature some urban centers with fortifications and temples, but the majority of the finds are related to collecting and storing of water. The rural area features also more houses than Rome. Only a few tombs are featured.

The third part on the building materials and technique is fairly brief. The materials used in the Archaic period are virtually the same as in the later times: a variety of tuff from the area of the city as well as from the surroundings. The traditional evolutionary idea of starting with the softest stones and proceeding towards harder material with more developed methods later can hopefully now be finally abandoned. The section concerning building tech-

nique concentrates on *opus quadratum* or building with ashlar which is also perhaps the most likely to be preserved. In many buildings the ashlar are the foundations and little is known of how the walls were built, but combinations of wooden frames filled with stone and/or clay are suggested based on the scanty evidence. Comparative finds for this chapter might have been sought from a little farther south from Lazio, as Archaic Pompeii is being studied with great intensity at the moment and many interesting parallels on use of materials and building techniques emerge.

The last section (p. 253–337) is arranged according to building types: fortifications, domestic architecture, temples, roads and water installations. The development of the building technique and building forms from the Iron Age into the Archaic seems to be quite rapid and as so often with archaeological material, the possible developmental stages are missing. Domestic architecture is a good example of this: the fairly modest and round hut, *capanna*, made with wood, clay and little stone is replaced by rectangular houses during the Archaic period. The models for the development of the Italic atrium house have been found in the east, but they could also be partly domestic – e.g., the slightly earlier palatial structures found in both Etruria (Murlo, Acquarossa) as well as in Latium (Satricum). There are plenty of examples from both central areas and assigning the "invention" to either one is futile. What would have been interesting to see is perhaps a discussion of how the architecture changed from round to rectangular.

Another interesting topic is the beginning of dispersed settlement in Central Italy during the Archaic period (p. 283–7). Various surveys have shown that in the earlier periods, habitation was confined to small and large centers, but the Archaic is marked by a fairly dense and widely dispersed rural settlement in the Roman region and in Southern Etruria. This coincides with growth in the urban centers. At the same time, various infrastructures, such as roads and drainage of wet areas, are being constructed. Partly the reason seems to be increased population leading into intensification of land use. Literary sources indicate reorganization of land ownership, allocation of land to citizens as well as establishment of rustic tribes for voting and taxation purposes. It is difficult to know whether these reforms were the cause or the result of the dispersed settlement. The brief discussion of Archaic agriculture (p. 286–7) might have benefited from consideration of palynological evidence available, but at least osteological and botanical studies were discussed.

Syntheses such as Cifani's work are still rare and one can only hope that similar collections of evidence and discussions from other periods will appear in future.

*Eeva-Maria Viitanen*

EVA-MARIA LACKNER: *Republikanische Fora*. Biering & Brinkmann, München 2008. ISBN 978-3-930609-55-0. 397 S. EUR 148.

Die Autorin dieses bemerkenswerten Buches ist Archäologin. Es stellt aber eine glückliche Symbiose verschiedener Disziplinen dar. Es gab bisher keine umfassende Untersuchung zur Archäologie, Urbanistik und Geschichte der römischen republikanischen Fora. Der vorliegende Band erfüllt diese Lücke in einer ausgezeichneten Weise. Er besteht aus zwei Hauptteilen. Der erste Teil bietet einen alphabetisch angelegten Katalog der in der republikanischen Zeit