Roman Culture Notes: Housing

1. Rooms in a Roman House:
   1. Atrium-reception room
      1. compluvium-hole in ceiling to let in light and air
      2. impluvium- shallow pool below compluvium
   2. Tablinum-master's den/office
   3. Peristylium-open-air internal garden surrounded by covered walkway
   4. Culine-kitchen
      1. slaves prepared food
      2. small, cramped
   5. Triclinium-dining room
      1. 3 couches
      2. reclined to eat
      3. highly decorated
   6. Cubiculum-bedrooms
      1. small, simply furnished
   7. Bibliotheca-library
      1. scrolls kept in pigeon-hole shelves on walls
   8. Vestibulum-entryway
      1. aka fauces
   9. Latrina-toilet
2. Types of Home
   1. domus
      1. house
      2. wealthy
      3. no external decoration, inside elaborate
   2. insula
      1. apartments
      2. most Romans lived in
      3. 6 or 7 stories tall
      4. central courtyard for light and air
      5. sometimes common water, cooking, bathroom area
      6. could be decent or very bad
3. Household gods
   1. almost all homes featured a family shrine
   2. Lares and Penates
      1. guardian spirits for Roman families
4. Furniture/Decoration
   1. three-legged tables popular
      1. stable on mosaic floors
   2. cupboards/chests similar to now
   3. chairs-with and without arms
   4. Sleeping beds and couches similar to each other
      1. covered in pillows
   5. Upper-Class houses have
      1. frescoes
         1. wall paintings
      2. mosaics in floor
      3. probably had plants too