

Traces of the Geometrical Ordering of Roman Florence

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The plan of Roman Florence possesses a discrete geometrical relationship to the larger Roman centuriation of the Arno river valley. This relationship establishes the key geometrical ordering of the Roman city of Florence which has served as the subtle underpinning of the later development of the city. While fragments of this Roman past are scarce, the area underneath the Cathedral of Florence contains the most extensive archaeological site showing the various layers of the city.

This presentation shows the evidence at hand for understanding the Roman construction present underneath the cathedral. The understanding of Roman planning and architecture in terms of geometry and mathematics plays a fundamental role in interpreting the history of the site.