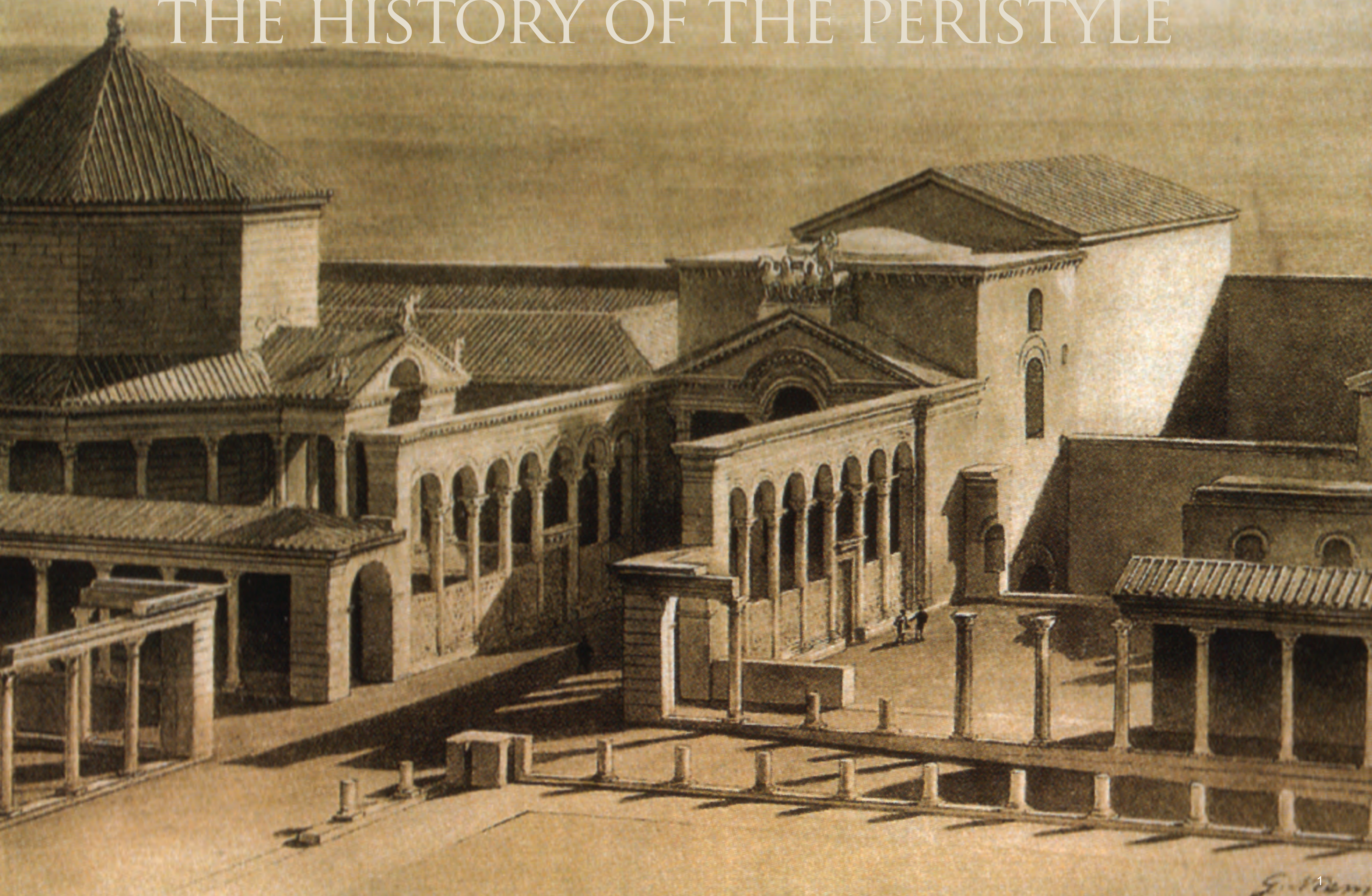


POVIJEST PERISTILA

THE HISTORY OF THE PERISTYLE



Nakon dvadeset i jedne godine vladanja, 1. svibnja 305. godine rimski car Gaj Aurelije Valerije Dioklecijan abdicira i povlači se u raskošno boravište koje je pripremio za svoju mirovinu – Palaču čija je izgradnja započela desetak godina ranije u sredini najveće uvale Marjanskog poluotoka, nedaleko od Salone uz koju povijesni izvori vezuju carevo porijeklo.

Monumentalna rezidencija umirovljenog vladara posjeduje sve bitne elemente antičkoga grada, vojnog logora i raskošne rimske vile kasnog tipa te kao takva predstavlja možda i najblistaviji primjer ostvarenja ideje palače-kastruma na pragu kasne antike. Premda izgrađena na geostrateški iznimno važnom položaju, u sredini uvale s morske strane dobro zaštićene otocima, a s kopnene planinama, Palača se nalazila na samoj periferiji salonitanskog agera gdje joj je prijetila opasnost od u to vrijeme učestalih prodora barbarskih plemena. Carevi su arhitekti stoga morali razraditi dobar obrambeni sustav.

Sa osnovnim tlocrtnim pravokutnikom, organizacijom unutrašnjeg prostora i osobitonačinom oblikovanja kopnenih zidova, palača podsjeća na rimske logore. Arhitektonski koncept njezina južnog dijela i arhitektura pročelja okrenutog moru, međutim, otkrivaju njezinu glavnu funkciju: raskošan i udoban carev stan.

No, građevni program koji je Dioklecijan postavio pred svoje arhitekte imao je još jednu važnu stavku: osigurati sadržaje vezane uza careve kultne potrebe te potrebe dvorskog protokola i ceremonijala. Dioklecijan je, naime, za vrijeme svoje vladavine formirao novi, teokratski ceremonijal slavljenja cara po uzoru na orijentalne apsolutističke tradicije. U pažljivo scenski izrežiranom obredu divinirana ličnost vladara se pojavljivala pred podanicima. Oni su mu klečeći ljubili skute ili se klanjali prostiranjem cijelog tijela po podu. Obred se u Palači odvijao u velikoj "otvorenoj dvorani" u produžetku Carda.

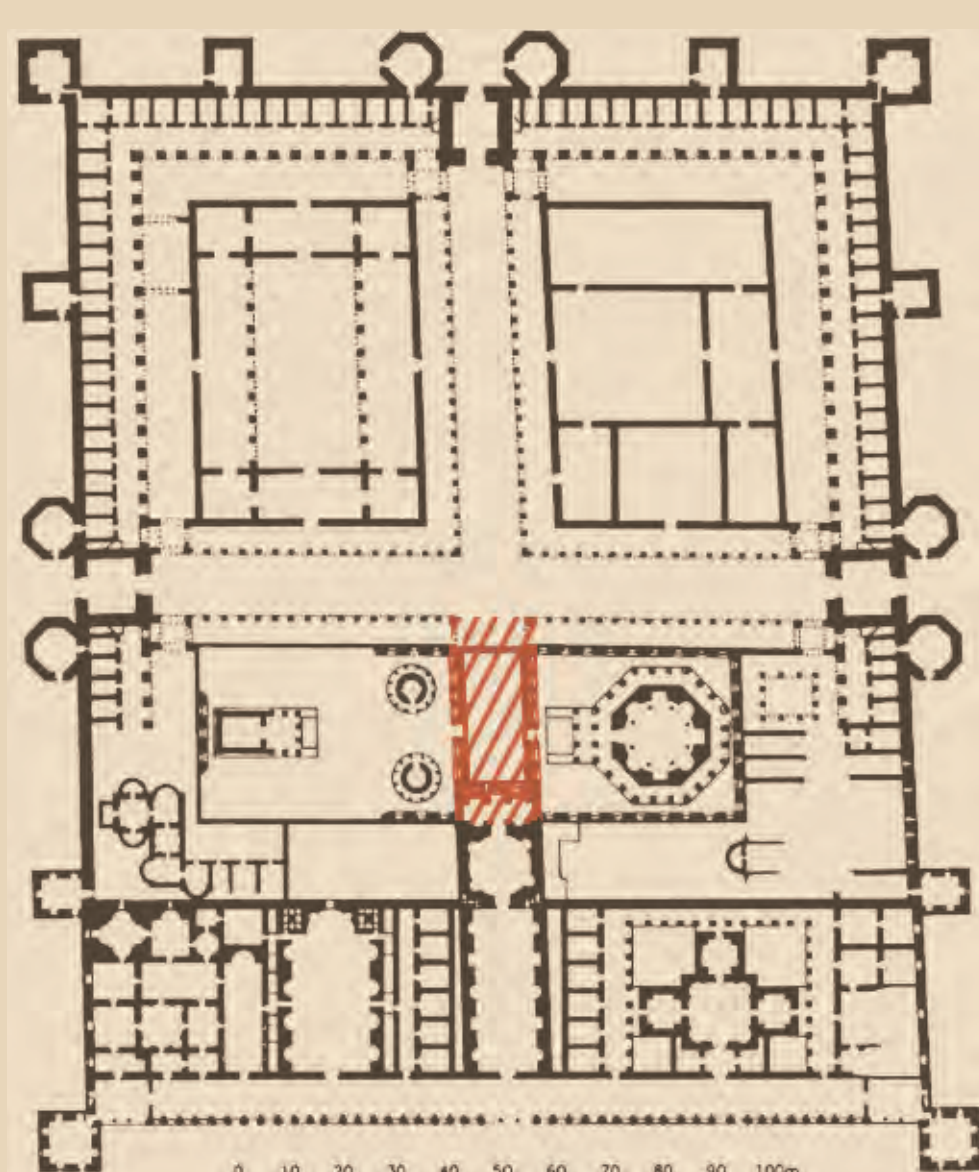
Roman Emperor Diocletian - Gaius Aurelius Valerius Diocletianus, after twenty-one year period of his reign, on May 1, 305 abdicated from the throne and retreated to the luxurious residence he had previously prepared for his retirement – palace, the construction of which was initiated some ten years before his abdication, in the midst of the greatest bay of Marjan peninsula, close to Salona, which is according to historical data, linked to the Emperor's origin.

The monumental residence of the retired sovereign has all the essential elements of the ancient town, military camp and luxurious late Roman villa, therefore maybe presenting the prime example of the realisation of the concept palace-castrum at the eve of late ancient age. In this case, the form must be considered as the direct consequence of the position and function of the building in the given time. Although it was constructed in the place with exceptional geo-strategic importance, in the midst of the bay, well protected by islands from the seaside, and by mountains from the coast, the palace was at the very outskirts of the Salonitan public land, consequently threatened by the penetrations of the

barbarian tribes, occurring rather often in those days. The Emperor's architects therefore had to project and develop efficient defence system of the palace. The palace, due to its basic layout rectangular form, organisation of the inner space and particularly the way of modelling the land walls, resembles the Roman camps.

However, the architectonic concept of its southern part and the architecture of the facade facing the sea reveal its main purpose: the Emperor's luxurious and comfortable apartment.

The brief that Diocletian gave his architects contained another important item: the provision of features related to the imperial cult and to court protocol and ceremony. During his rule, Diocletian had formed a new, theocratic ceremonial of glorification of the emperor similar to those practiced in the oriental absolutistic tradition. The divinised person of the ruler would appear in front of his subjects in a carefully staged rite. Kneeling, they would kiss the hem of his robe or prostrate themselves in front of him. This rite went on in the Palace in the great "open hall" at the extension of the Cardo.



Sl. 1 Pretpostavljeni izvorni izgled Peristila Dioklecijanove palače prema Georgu Niemannu (1910.)

Sl. 2 Tlocrt Dioklecijanove palače, prof. dr. sc. J. Marasović (ustupila: dr. sc. Katja Marasović)

Fig. 1 The original view of the Peristyle, Diocletian's Palace, as assumed by Georg Niemann (1910)

Fig. 2 Layout of Diocletian's Palace, Ph. D. Jerko Marasović (ceded by Ph. D. Katja Marasović)