

LABORATORIO 3M A  
**RICONNESSIONI TOPOGRAFICHE NELL'AREA ARCHEOLOGICA  
CENTRALE DI ROMA**  
INTERVENTI PER LA VALORIZZAZIONE, EVOCAZIONE E RICONNESSIONE

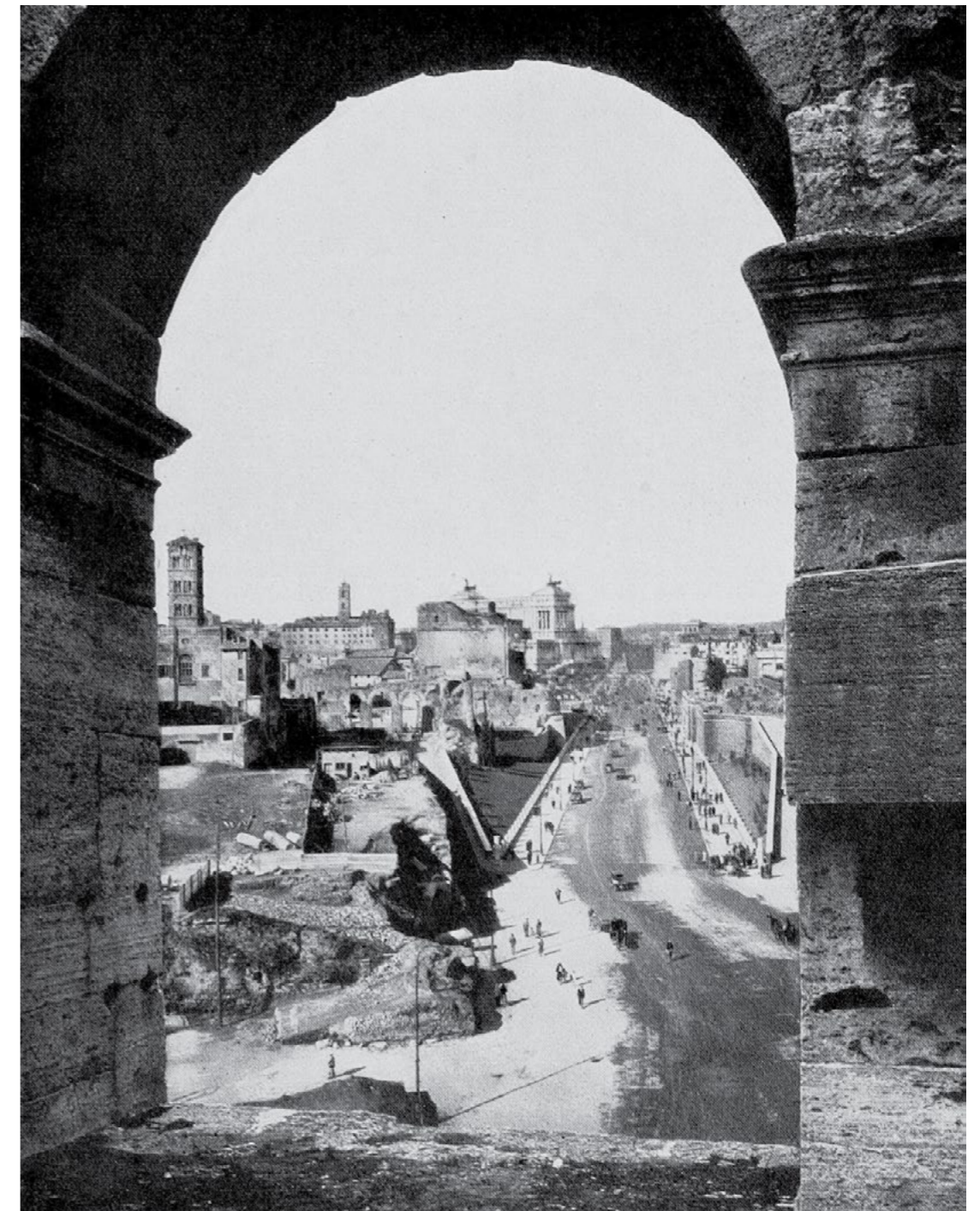
PROF. LUIGI FRANCIOSINI

SUPPORTO ALLA DIDATTICA: GUIA BARATELLI, ALESSANDRA CARLINI,  
CRISTINA CASADEI, PIERO CASACCHIA

MODULO DI URBANISTICA: PROF.SSA ANNA LAURA PALAZZO

MODULO DI PROGETTAZIONE DEGLI SPAZI APERTI: PROF.SSA DANIELA CINTI

MODULO DI ECONOMIA URBANA: PROF. ANTONIO VEZZANI



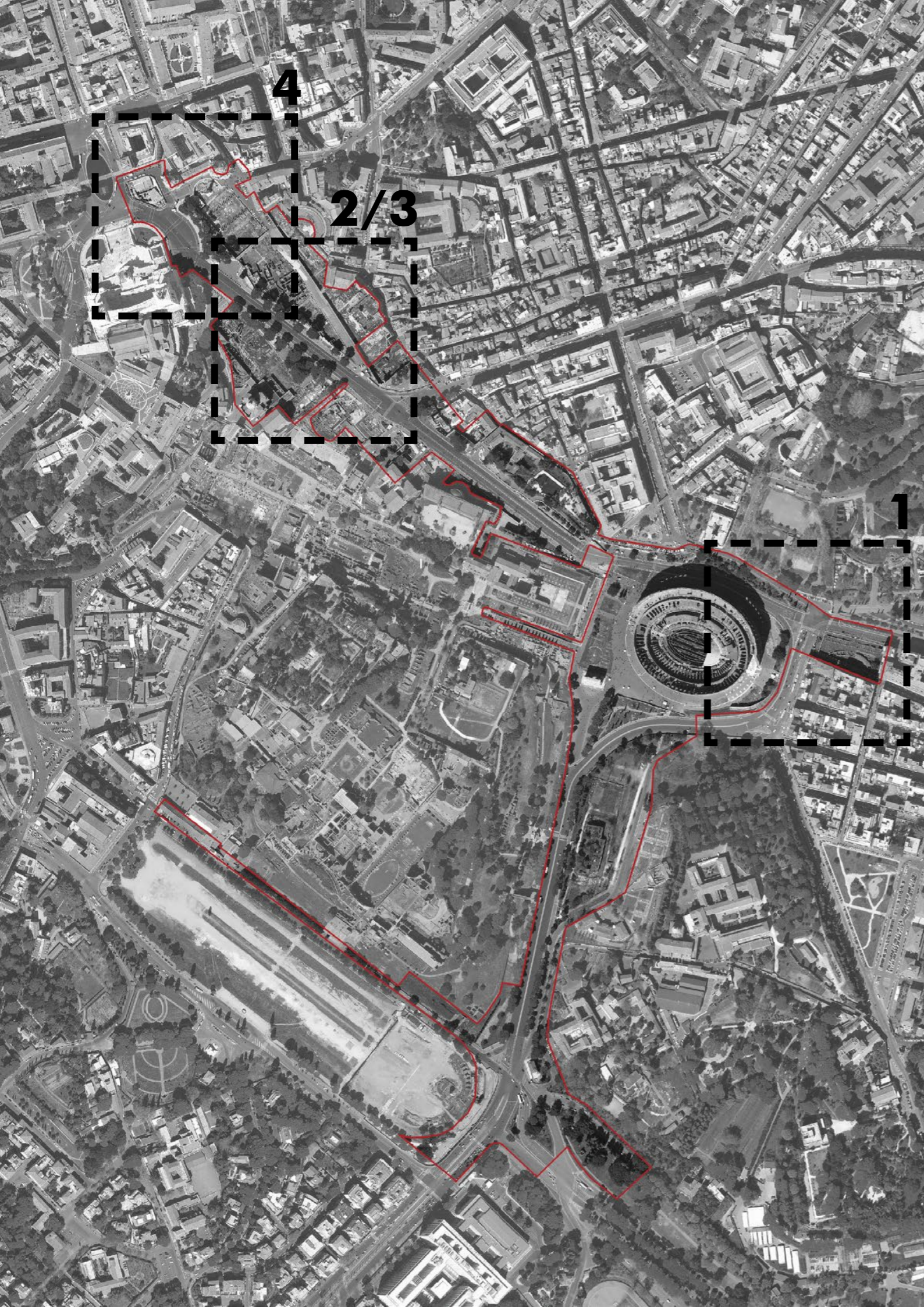


## The topographical discontinuity of the monumental central area of Rome between the ancient and the modern city from Porta Capena to Piazza Venezia along Via dei Fori Imperiali

The theme of our work is the study of the archaeological landscape of the **monumental central area of Rome** starting from Porta Capena, near the Circus Maximus, to get to Piazza Venezia following the route of the archaeological promenade that, from the via di San Gregorio continuing around the valley of the Colosseum, goes down into **via dei Fori Imperiali**, reaching the Vittorio Emanuele II monument and the Capitol.

In this historical and archaeological context, complex and layered, in many ways still unresolved and contradictory, we identified **four strategic areas** that contribute to the definition of a **more organic structure regarding the relations between the ancient city, the modern city and the contemporary one.**

This strategy is aimed at the preservation and enhancement of heritage and its reuse and actualization.



**1.** The area of the **Ludus Magnus**, the main barracks of the gladiators built by Domitian (I AD.), between Via San Giovanni and Via Labicana, originally connected to the Valley of the Colosseum, circumscribed in the south eastern sector by the modern road system of via Celio Vibenna, and so separated, today, from the surrounding hills.

**2.** The area of **largo Corrado Ricci**, a place where the Roman Forum, the Caesar's (46 BC) and the Augustus' ones (AD 2) meet the Transitory Forum (97 AD) and the Templum Pacis (71 AD). A roadway widening that, together with Via dei Fori Imperiali, hides the archaeological palimpsest under the modern asphalt.

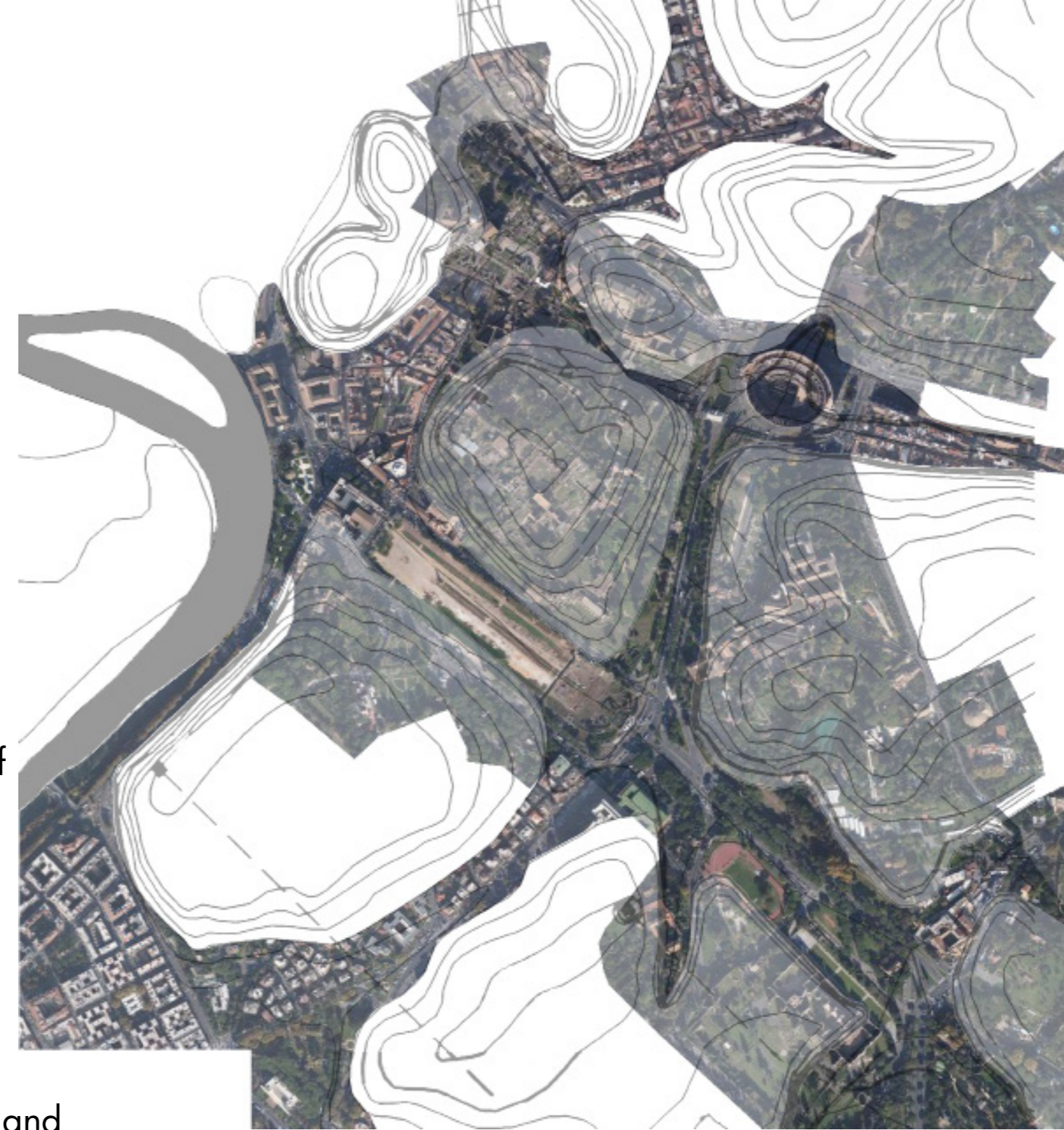
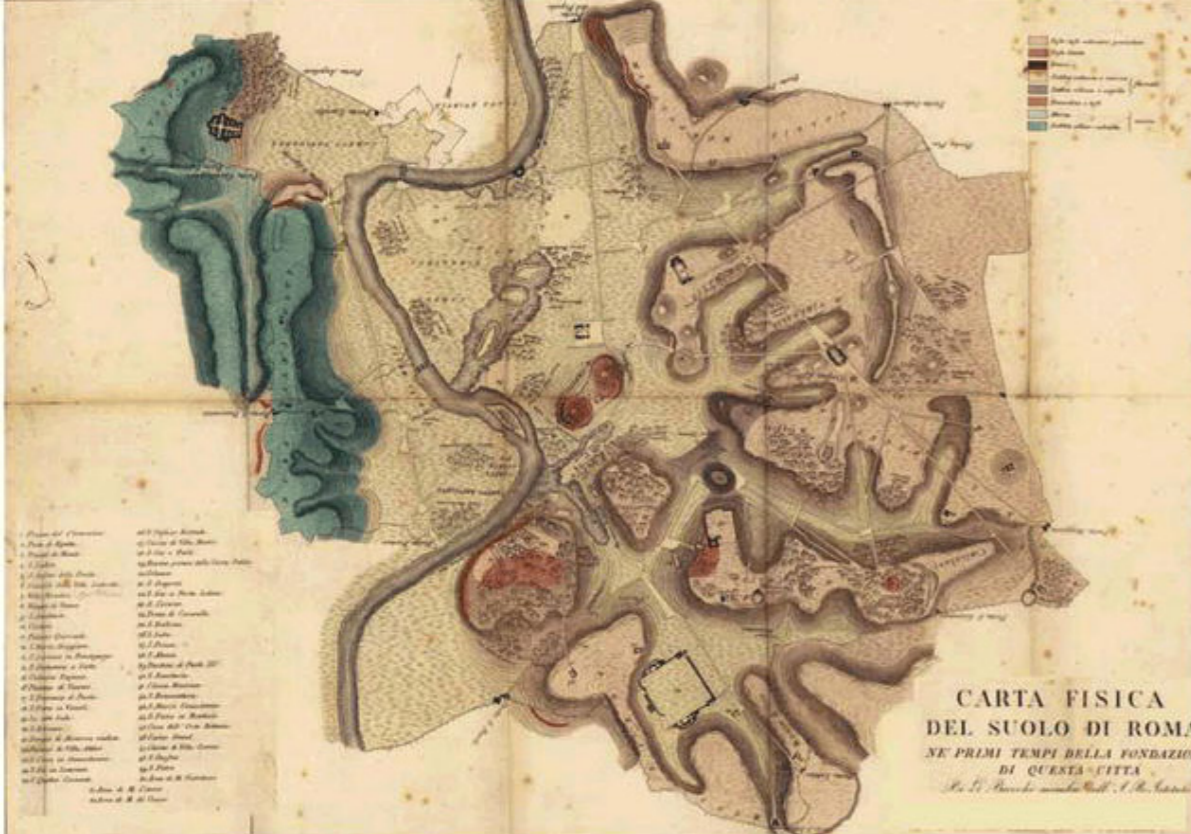
**3.** The area of the demolished Alessandrino neighborhood, the surviving **via Alessandrina** and the lost reconnections with medieval and Renaissance city: the readability of the imperial ruins and the rubble of the Renaissance district; via Bonella and the church of SS. Luca and Martina.

**4.** The excavation area adjacent to the square of the Madonna of Loreto: a pit that opens on Piazza Venezia. In this hinge-place between the Campus Martius and the valley of the Imperial Forums, an architectural complex of great monumentality has been discovered, composed of identical rooms all arranged radially, then identified as parts of the **Adriano's Auditorium** (76-138 d.C.).



Why do we talk about  
**TOPOGRAPHICAL**  
**d i s c o n t i n u i t y**





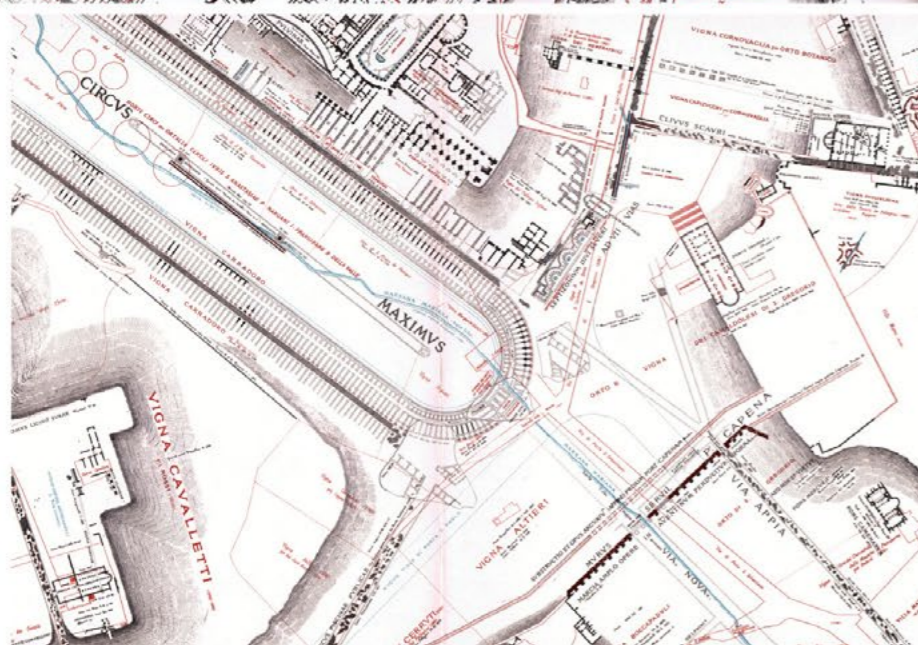
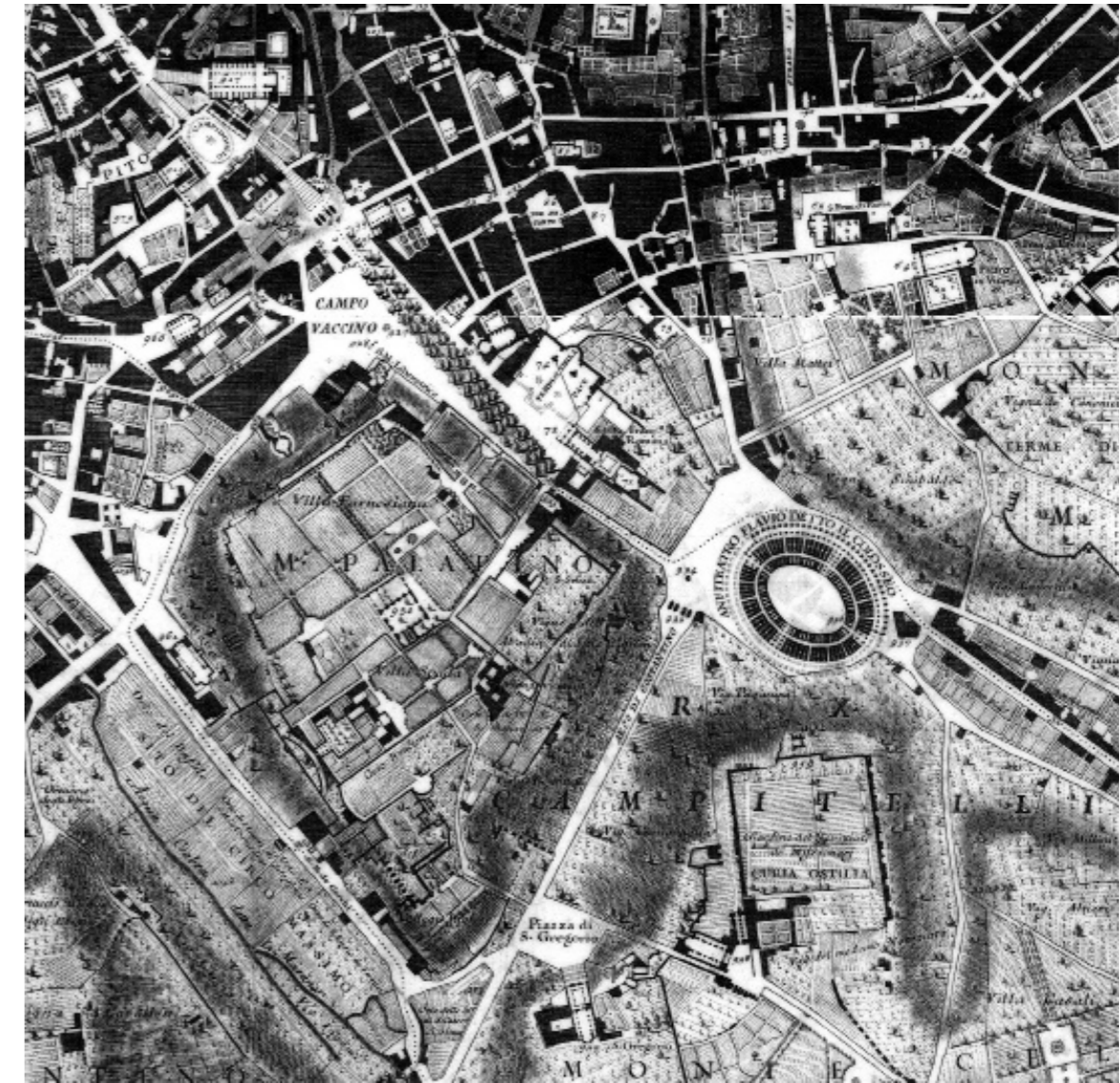
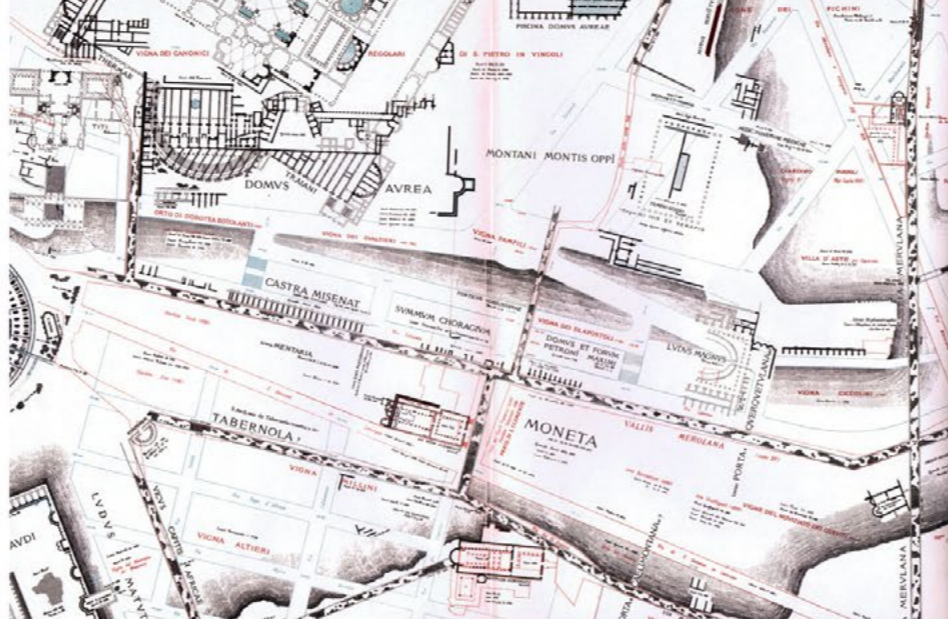
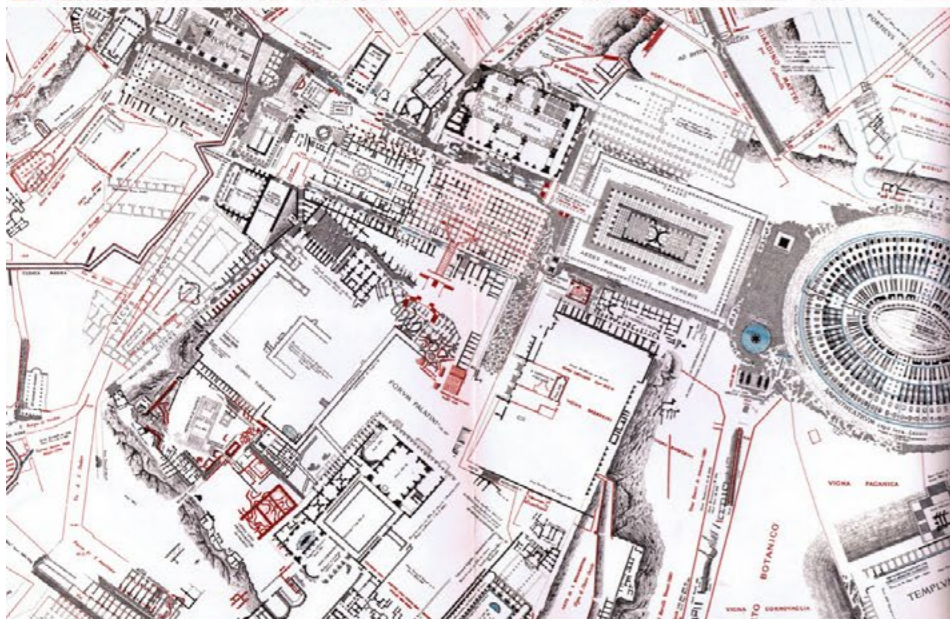
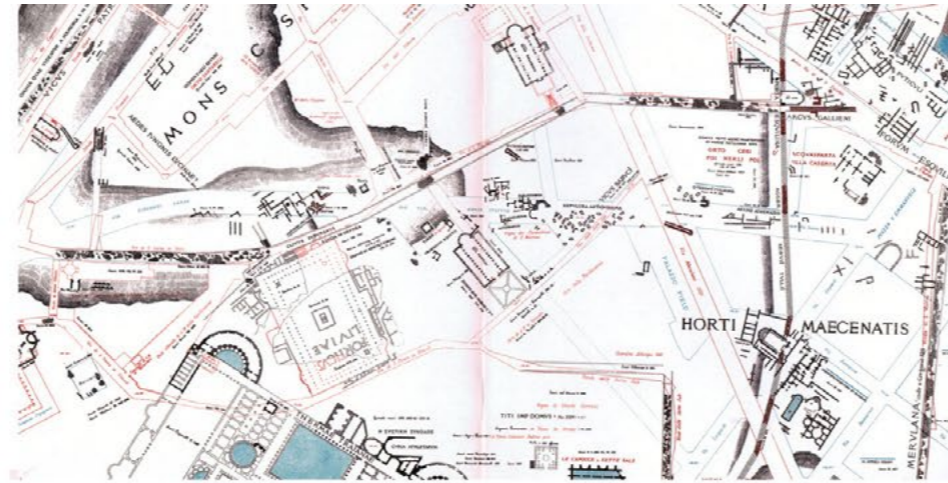
What today we enjoy walking through the monumental central area along Via dei Fori Imperiali is a **modern and invented landscape**.

What we perceive is an altered image of Rome, that betrays, first of all, its **topographical character**.

For this reason we talk about **topographical discontinuity**.

In the modern age, from the demolitions that first affected Piazza Venezia (with the construction of the monument to Vittorio Emanuele II) and then the Alessandrino neighborhood, up to the opening of Via dei Fori Imperiali, **the original topography of the city**, made of hills, of slopes and valleys, **was altered**.

So, retracing the history of Rome and of its central monumental area, from topographic conditions that have determined the developments until the modern age, it's essential in order to understand the reasons, the lost relationships in this part of the city.



Some important (archaeological or historical) maps, such as that of **Lanciani** or that of **Nolli**, combine the (topographic) natural data with the artificial one, of architectural structures and infrastructure. So our understanding (especially of the urban form) begins with a historical analysis along the development of the city from its first formation to the actual condition.

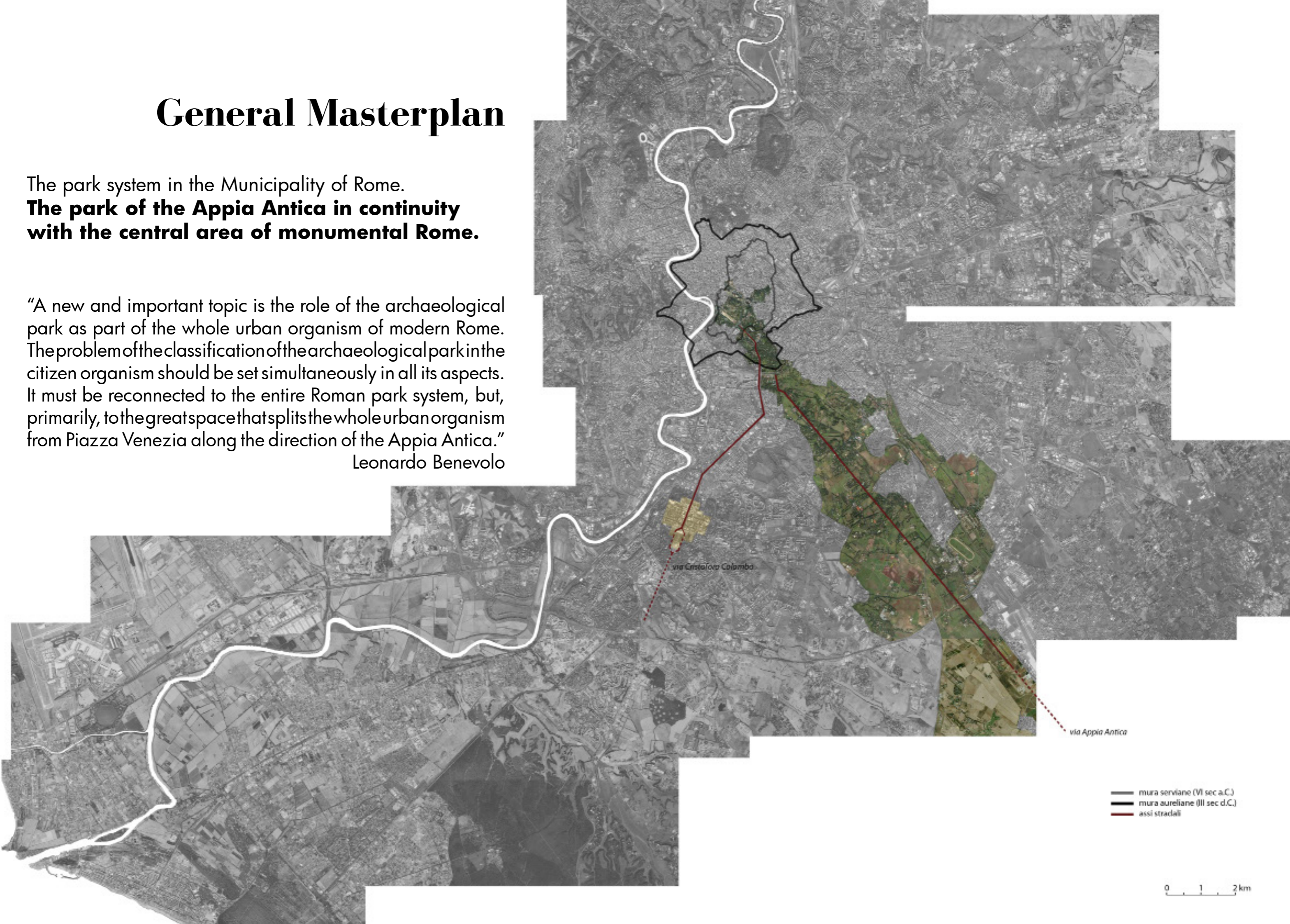
# General Masterplan

The park system in the Municipality of Rome.

**The park of the Appia Antica in continuity with the central area of monumental Rome.**

“A new and important topic is the role of the archaeological park as part of the whole urban organism of modern Rome. The problem of the classification of the archaeological park in the citizen organism should be set simultaneously in all its aspects. It must be reconnected to the entire Roman park system, but, primarily, to the great space that splits the whole urban organism from Piazza Venezia along the direction of the Appia Antica.”

Leonardo Benevolo

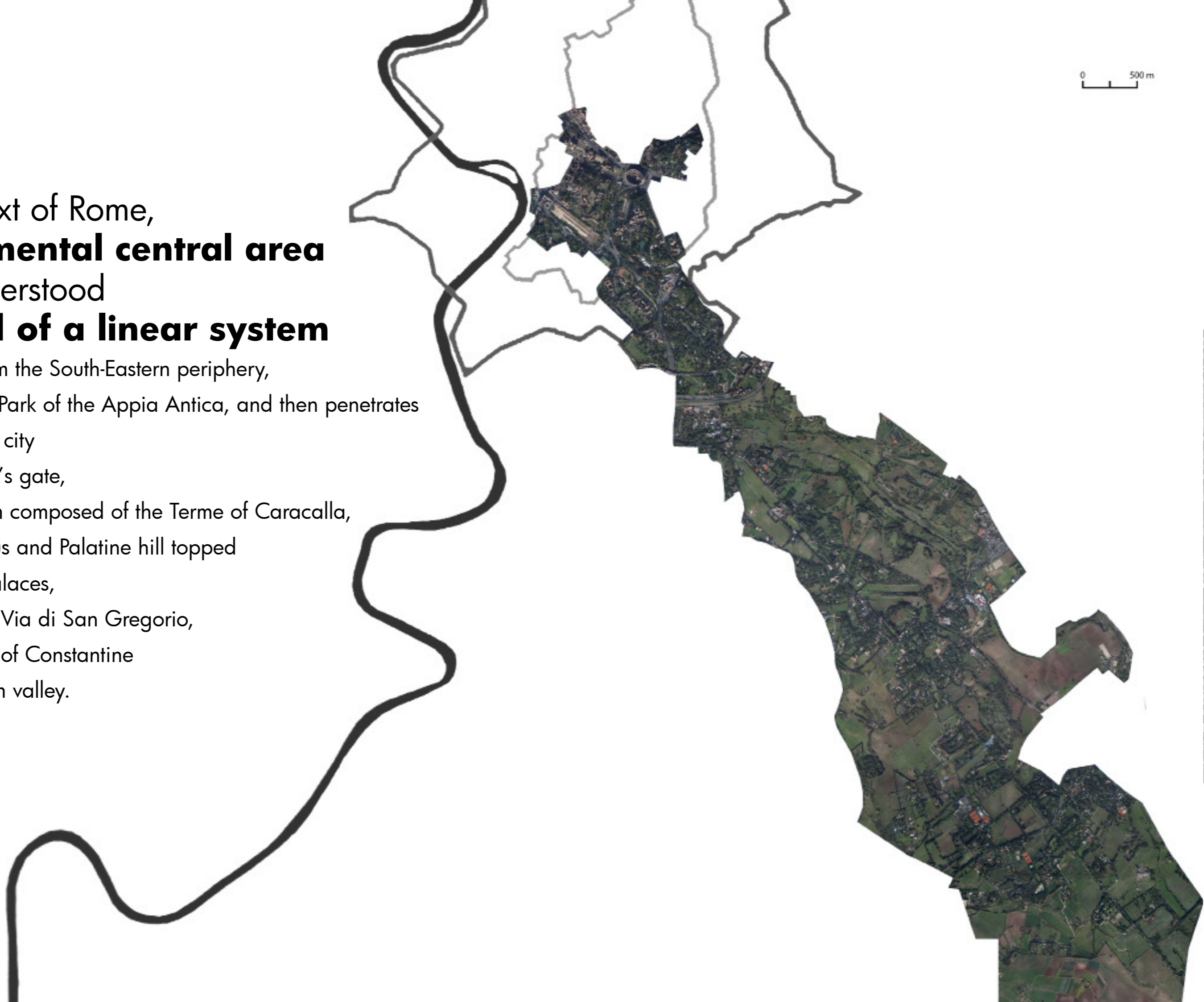


— mura serviane (VI sec a.C.)  
— mura aureliane (III sec d.C.)  
— assi stradali

0 1 2 km

In the context of Rome,  
the **monumental central area**  
is to be understood  
as **the end of a linear system**

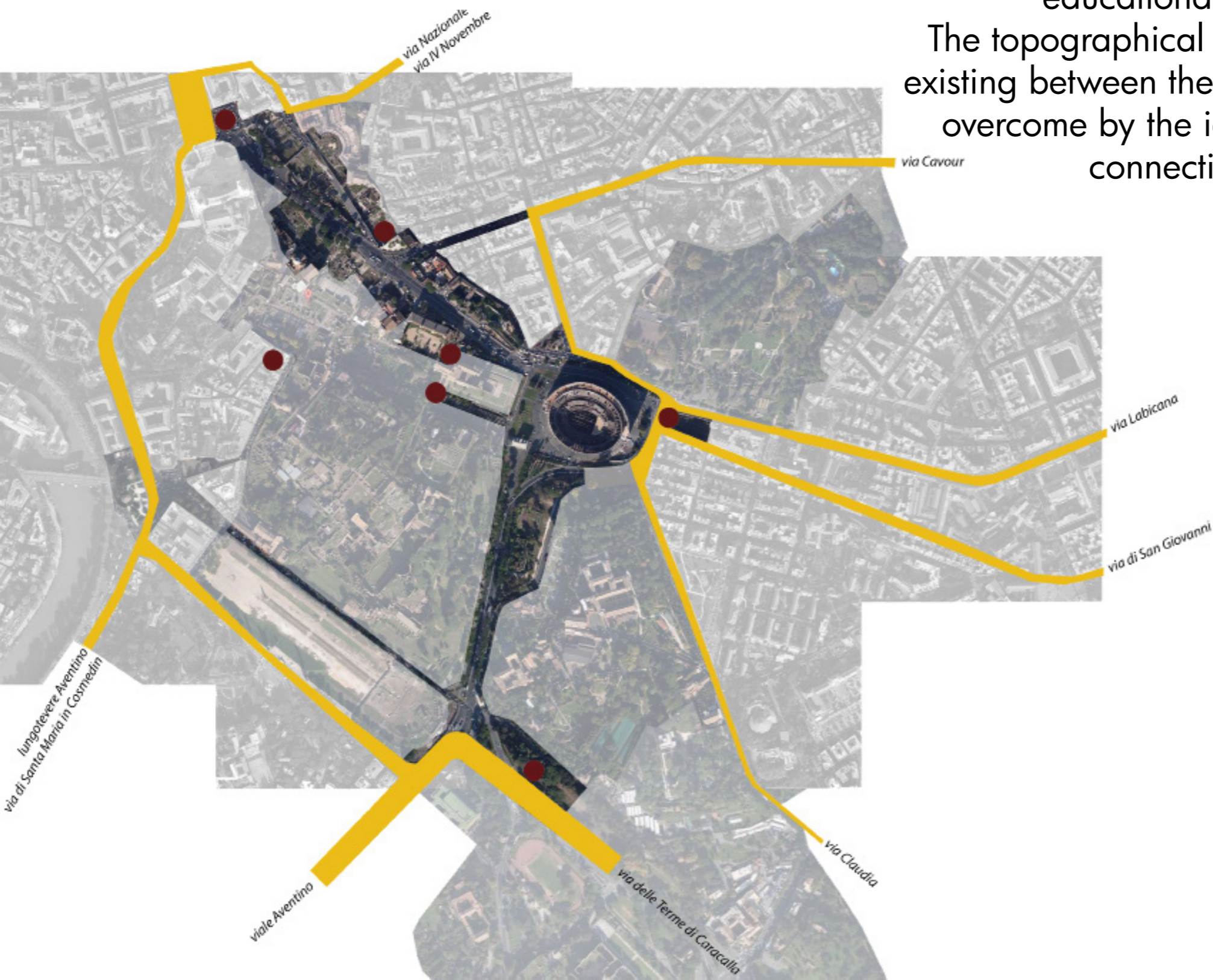
that originates from the South-Eastern periphery,  
or rather from the Park of the Appia Antica, and then penetrates  
into the intramural city  
at San Sebastiano's gate,  
meeting the system composed of the Terme of Caracalla,  
the Circus Maximus and Palatine hill topped  
by the Caesars' Palaces,  
and then, through Via di San Gregorio,  
reaching the Arch of Constantine  
and the Colosseum valley.

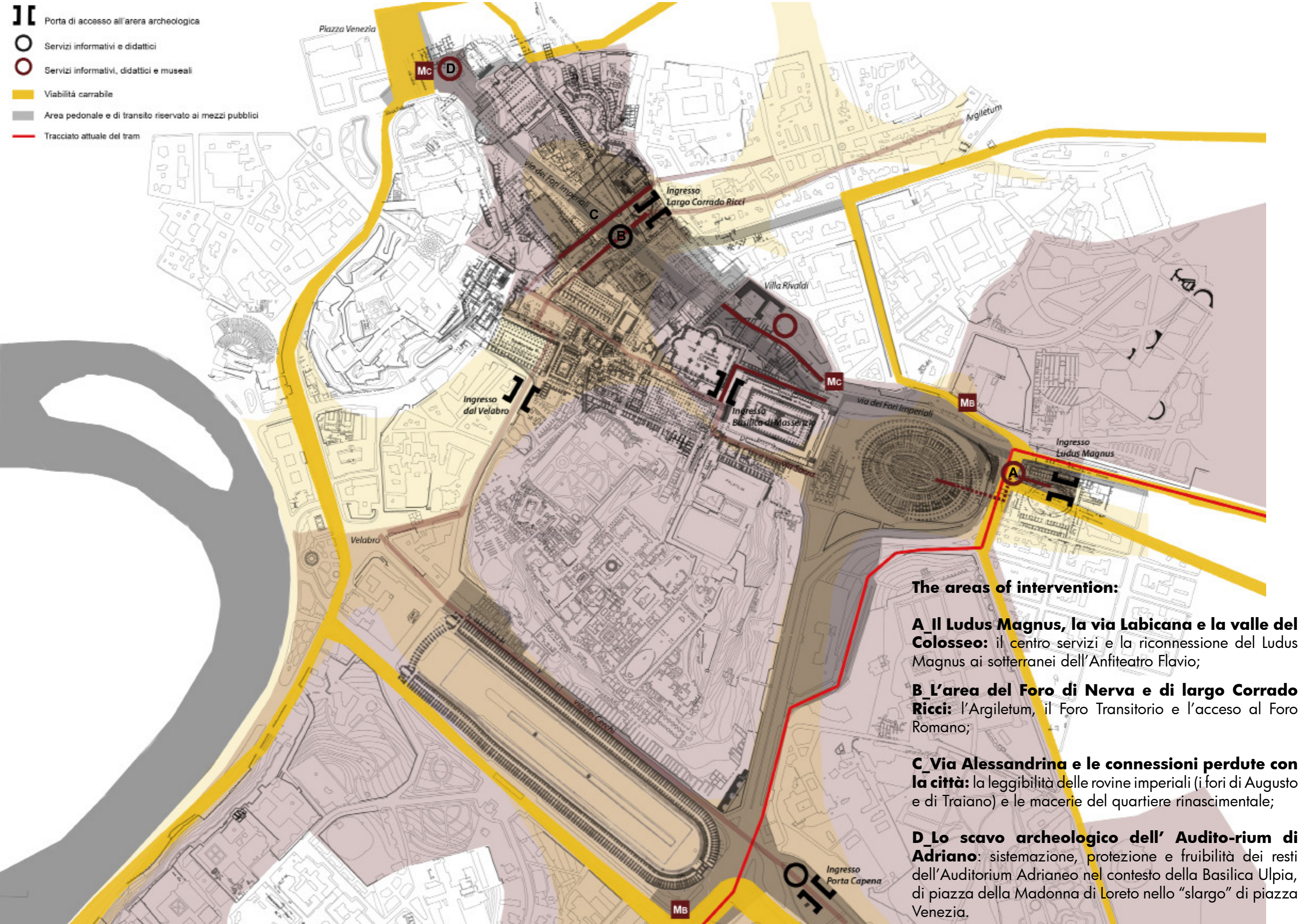


0 500 m



The masterplan provides for the **urban integration of archaeological areas with the monumental ones** that describe the historical center of Rome, through their organic connection with the contemporary city, overcoming the differences in height between the archaeological parterre and the public spaces, the separations between each area and increasing the supply of information services, museums and educational support for the **public use of the site**. The topographical discontinuity and the building fabric's one existing between the ancient level and the modern one is to be overcome by the identification of new systems of access and connection consistent with the historical palimpsest of the place.





**The areas of intervention:**

**A\_ Il Ludus Magnus, la via Labicana e la valle del Colosseo:** il centro servizi e la riconnessione del Ludus Magnus ai sotterranei dell'Anfiteatro Flavio;

**B\_ L'area del Foro di Nerva e di largo Corrado Ricci:** l'Argiletum, il Foro Transitorio e l'accesso al Foro Romano;

**C\_ Via Alessandrina e le connessioni perse con la città:** la leggibilità delle rovine imperiali (i fori di Augusto e di Traiano) e le macerie del quartiere rinascimentale;

**D\_ Lo scavo archeologico dell' Auditorium di Adriano:** sistemazione, protezione e fruibilità dei resti dell'Auditorium Adrianeo nel contesto della Basilica Ulpia, di piazza della Madonna di Loreto nello "slargo" di piazza Venezia.

**Adriano's  
Auditorium**

**via  
Alessandrina**

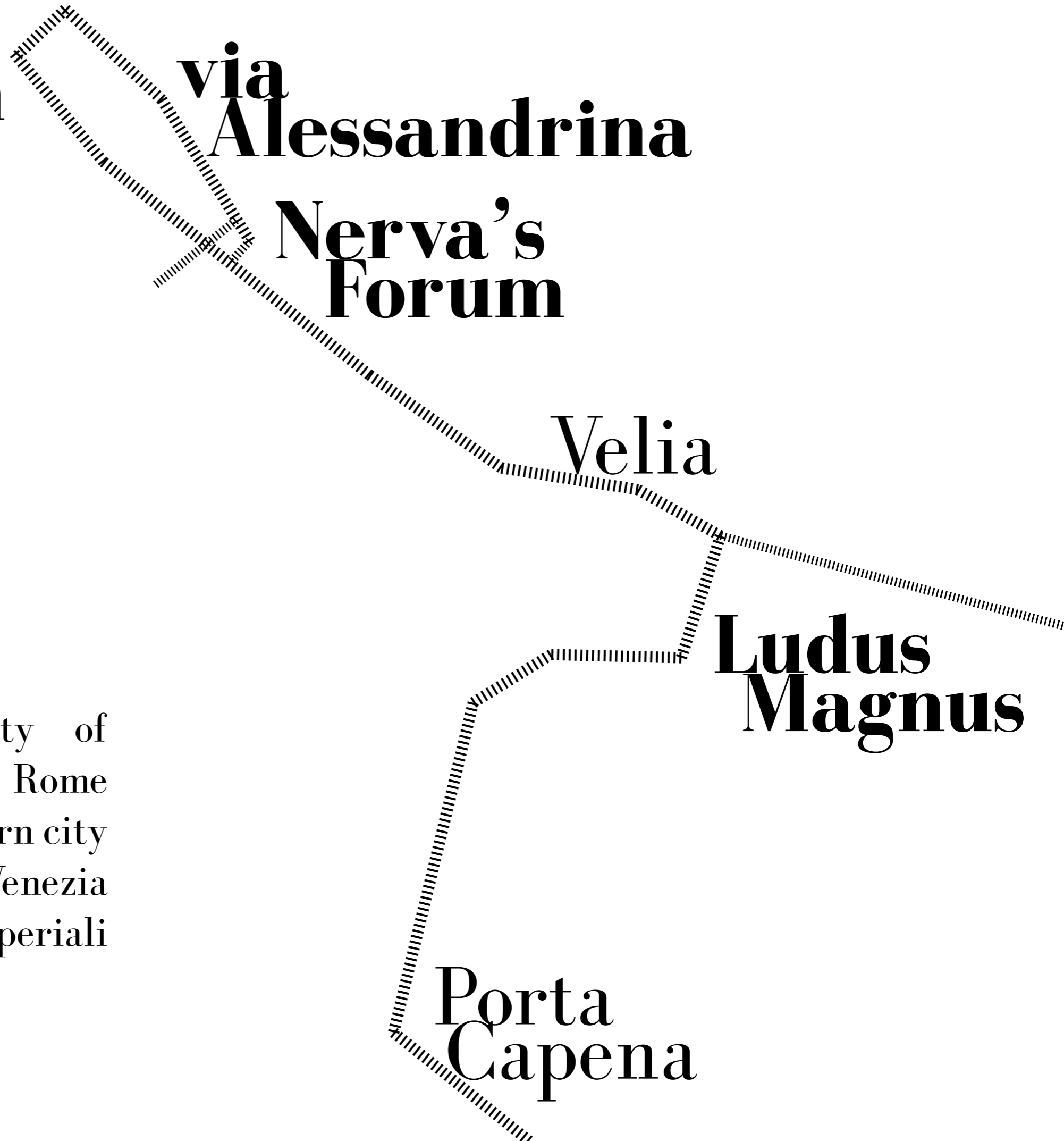
**Nerva's  
Forum**

**Velia**

**Ludus  
Magnus**

**Porta  
Capena**

The topographical discontinuity of the monumental central area of Rome between the ancient and the modern city from Porta Capena to Piazza Venezia along Via dei Fori Imperiali



# Porta Capena

The area of Porta Capena, although is not part of the project themes of the WS, forms part of the masterplan. Represents a **crucial point** because, as evidenced by the examination of the historical maps, converges to this building a road system that aligns with the entrance of Porta San Sebastiano, constituting a benchmark for the tracking of an axis able to determine the continuity between the park of the Appia Antica and the central area of the monumental.



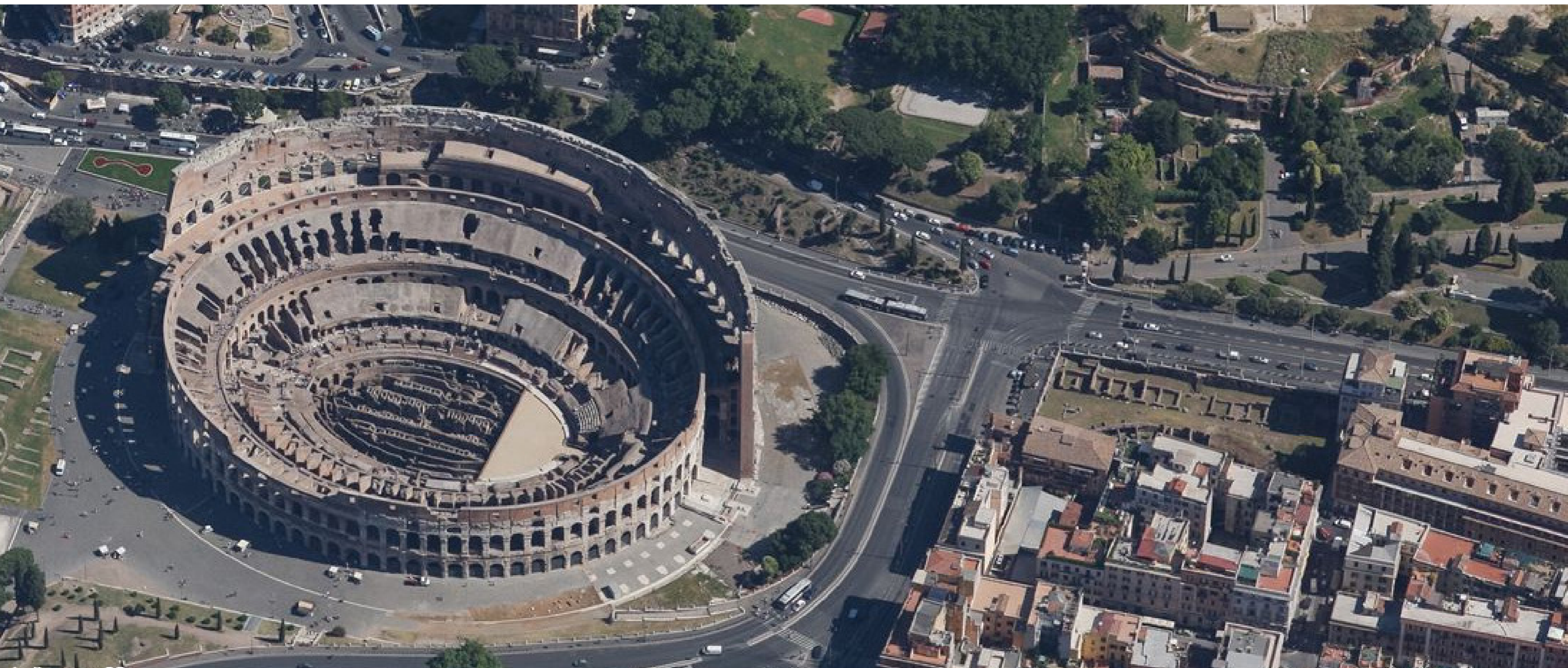
This area was heavily compromised, in 1909, by the work for the realization of the the **Passeggiata Archeologica** under the **Baccelli plan** which involved the demolition of many medieval artifacts: only the tower (which survives today a modest ruin) was saved.

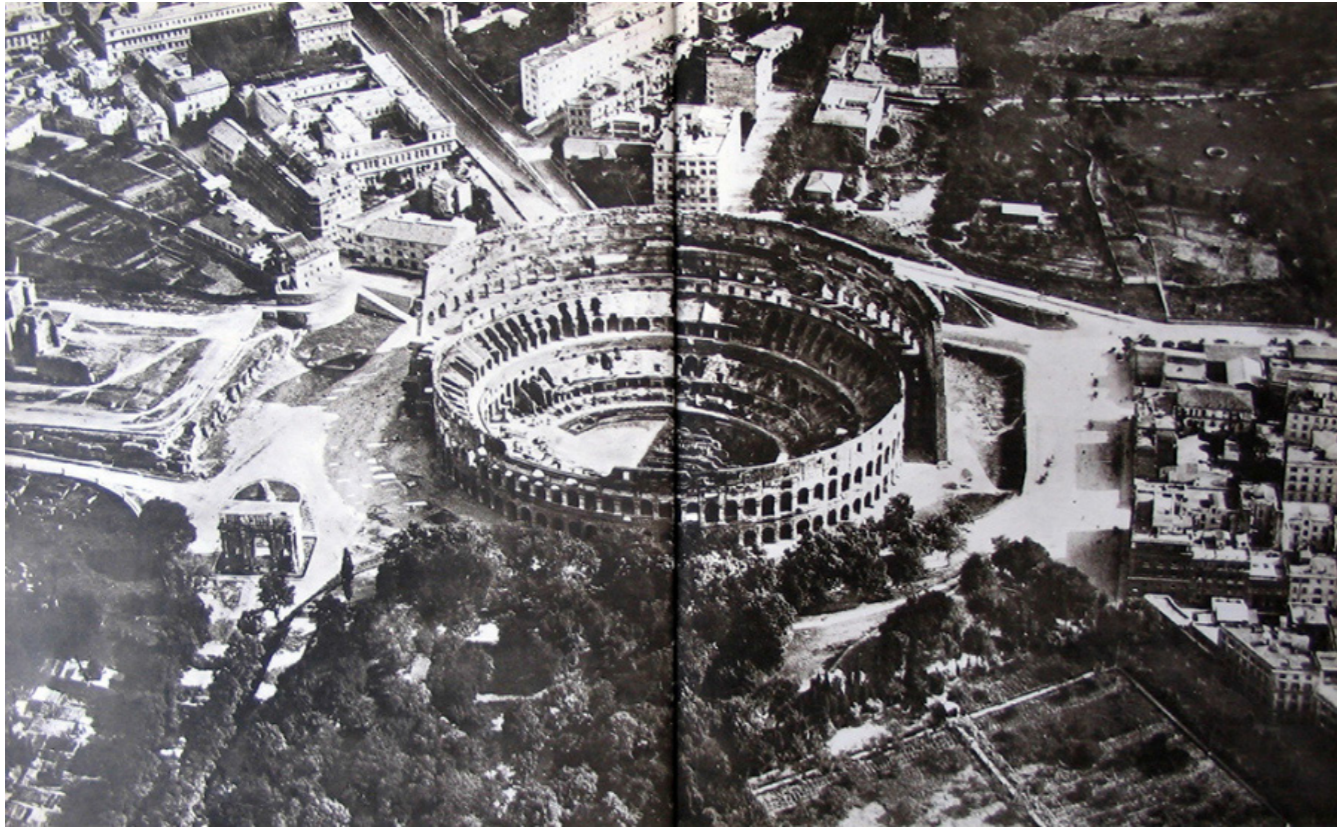


So, throughout the history Porta Capena and its context were subject to constant change until, in 1939, with the inauguration of the first section of via dei Fori Imperiali, the Archaeological Promenade of the Baccelli plan, by pleasant place to be passing, became an **area for the motor vehicle transit**.

# Ludus Magnus

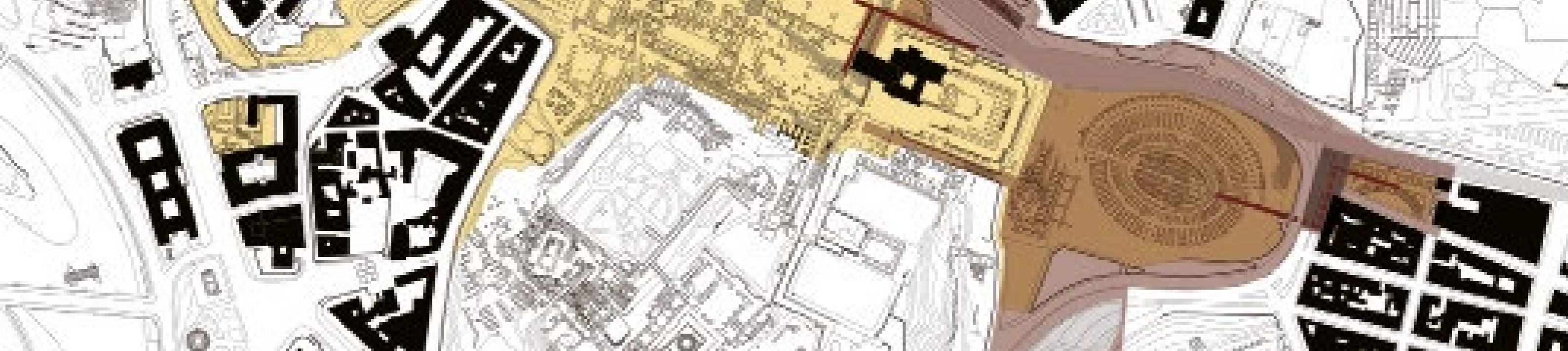
Immediately to the east of the Colosseum, between via Labicana and via San Giovanni in Laterano, are visible the ruins of the northern half of the Ludus Magnus. The Ludus, built by the Emperor Domitian (81-96 AD), was the largest barracks for gladiators of ancient Rome located near the Colosseum and connected to it by a cryptoporticus placed on the major axis of the monument, directly connected to the underground spaces.





The interruption and the burying of the long cryptoporticus connecting to the Colosseum, the nineteenth century construction of a part of the isolate on which insisted the structure, the organization of the ring road around the Amphitheatre compromised every opportunity to understand the organic relations between the two monuments.

**So the ruins of the barracks are now completely isolated from the Colosseum, remaining therefore also excluded from the monumental center area.**



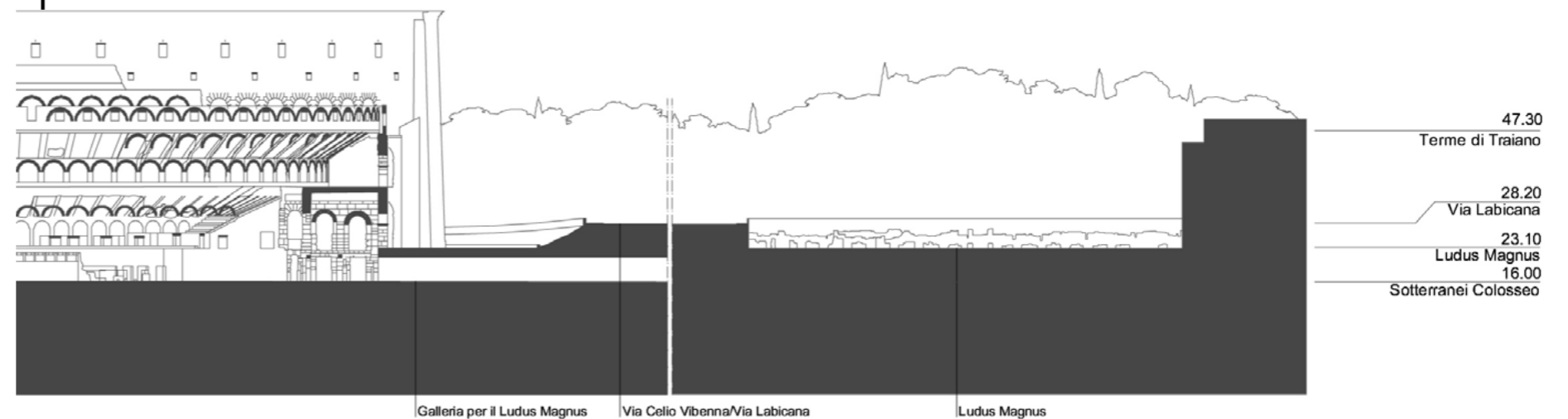
**1\_ Reorganization and removal of vehicular traffic** on the widening between via Celio Vibenna and via Labicana, bordering the western side of the archaeological site of the Ludus Magnus, according to the scheme of mobility identified in the masterplan.

Reorganization of public space and pedestrian and cycle path at the contemporary city level, including the archaeological excavation of the Ludus Magnus.

**2\_ Reconnection and restitching of the altimetric gap** between the Ludus Magnus archaeological level and via Labicana, identifying, through the design of a gate, the new accessibility system to the monumental central area restoring the ancient connection between the Ludus and underground spaces of the Colosseum.

**3\_ Evocation of the ancient gladiatorial barracks space** and its integration with the modern structures with the aim to restore the identity and the recognition of the places.

**4\_ Functional enhancement** of the new access to the archaeological site through the design of a square settled as a public walkable coverage surface of the archaeological site, a descent system organized by ramps or with mechanized system, with a reception area and information point, ticketing, restrooms, a museum dedicated to the gladiatorial games and preparatory to the visit, a bookshop and a coffee bar for a total effective surface area of 1,000 sq.m.

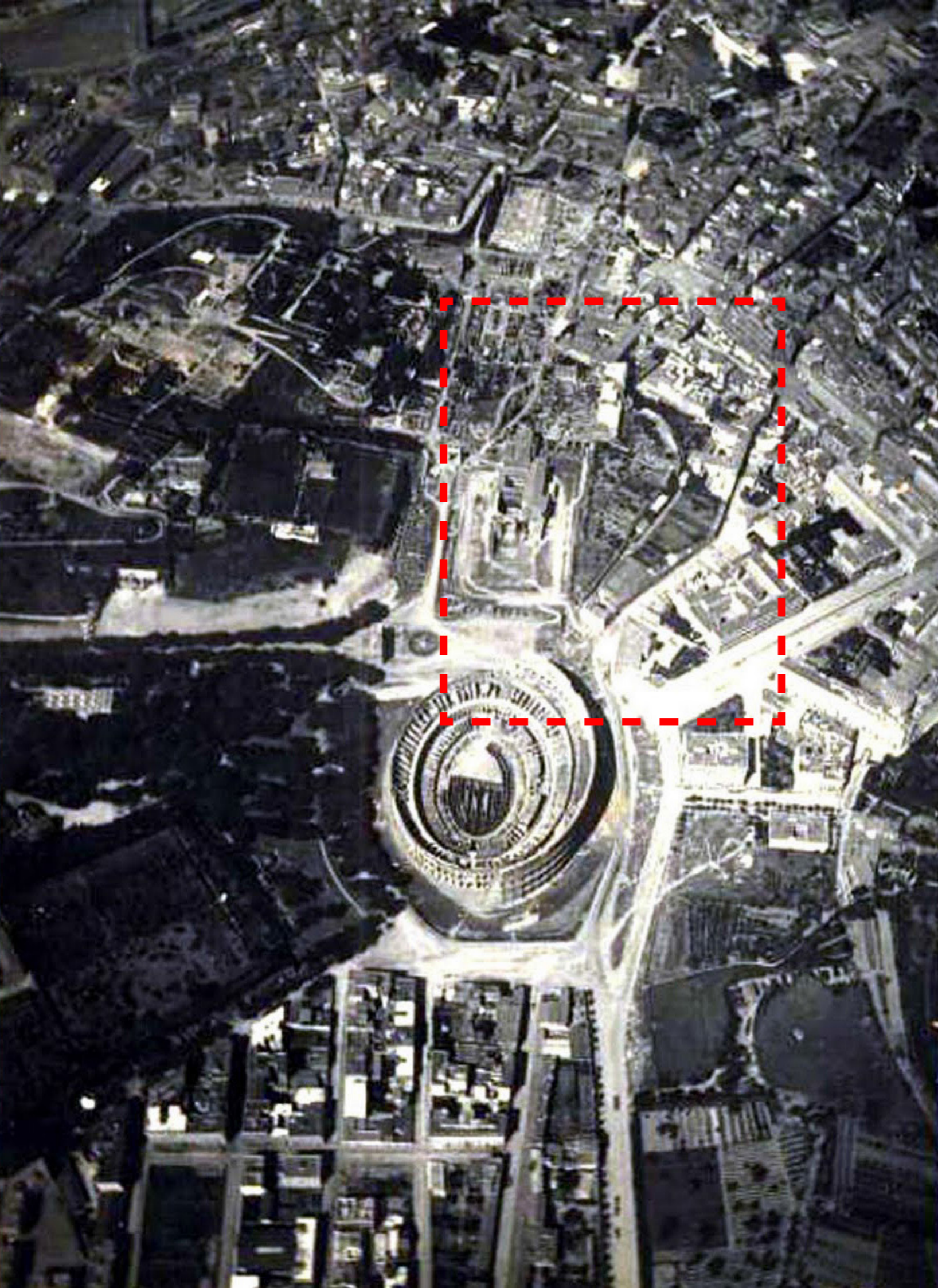




# Velia

The Velia was the boundary hill placed between the valley of Velabrum -the Forum Romano- and the valley of the Flavian Amphitheatre -where originally was the Domus Neroniana- that descended from the Esquiline up to lean itself against the great wall of the Basilica of Massenzio. This promontory partly disappeared after the excavation - led by Antonio Muñoz - that made possible the union through the Via dei Fori Imperiali of modern Piazza Venezia with the Colosseum.





The slopes of the Velia, formerly occupied by temples and stores and then by villas and gardens today remains very little.

**Villa Rivaldi** and its gardens occupy the area of Velia which remains. From the summit path, today however excluded from the public mobility of the city, is so conceivable to recover the ancient visuals, towards the Colosseum, the Basilica of Massenzio and the Forums through which the city was perceived in ancient times.



# Nerva's Forum

The project area falls on one of the oldest traces of the origins of Rome, the way followed to reach the Velabro valley and the Tiber.

On this route, which follows the ancient **Argiletum** route, during the Imperial age was built the **Nerva's Forum** (97 AD), **called Transitorio**.

The square was characterized by a long and narrow shape. Behind the Nerva's Forum was the **Templum Pacis**, a large quadrangular square completed under Vespasian between 71 and 75 AD.





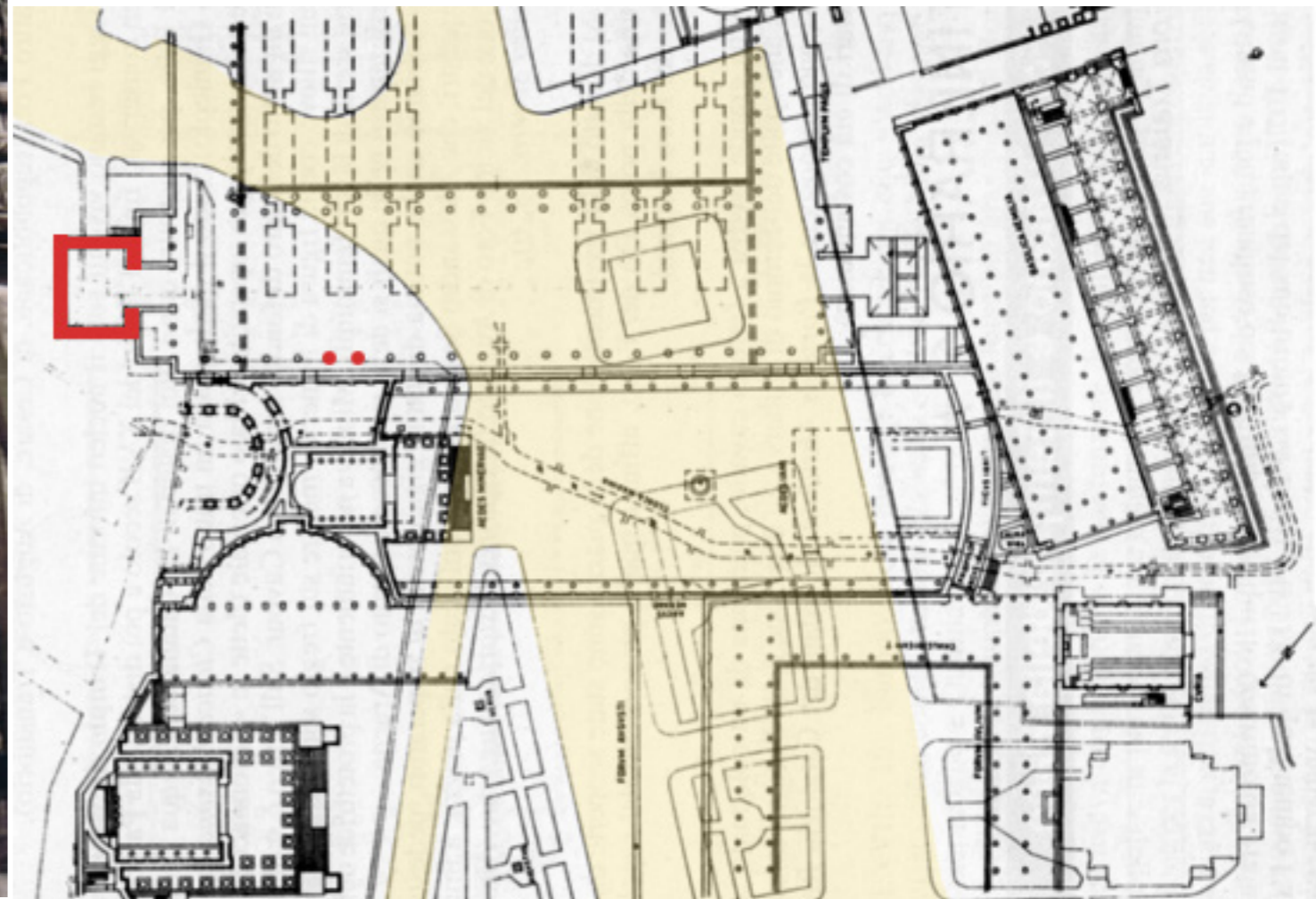
The Templum Pacis was a fence with colonnades and quadrangular exedras, a simple apsidal hall located on the eastern front, and inside, geometrically ordered, ornamental pools intended for plantations.

At the contemporary city level, the area of intervention is characterized by the roadway cross of via Cavour with the axis of Via dei Fori Imperiali.

Two important elements testify the historical complexity and stratigraphic of this site:

on the one hand, to the west, the **Colonnacce**, last vestiges of the enclosure of the Transitorio Forum, and on the eastern boundary of the widening the **Torre dei Conti** erected in Rome in 1238 by Pope Innocent III.

Under the tower of Conti at the archeological level still exists, well preserved, the structure of one of the four exedras of the colonnade.





### **1\_ Reorganization and definitive removal of vehicular traffic**

along the last track of via Cavour next to the cross with via dei Fori Imperiali according to the mobility schedule of the masterplan. Reorganization of the public space and of the pedestrian and cycle path system at the modern urban level.

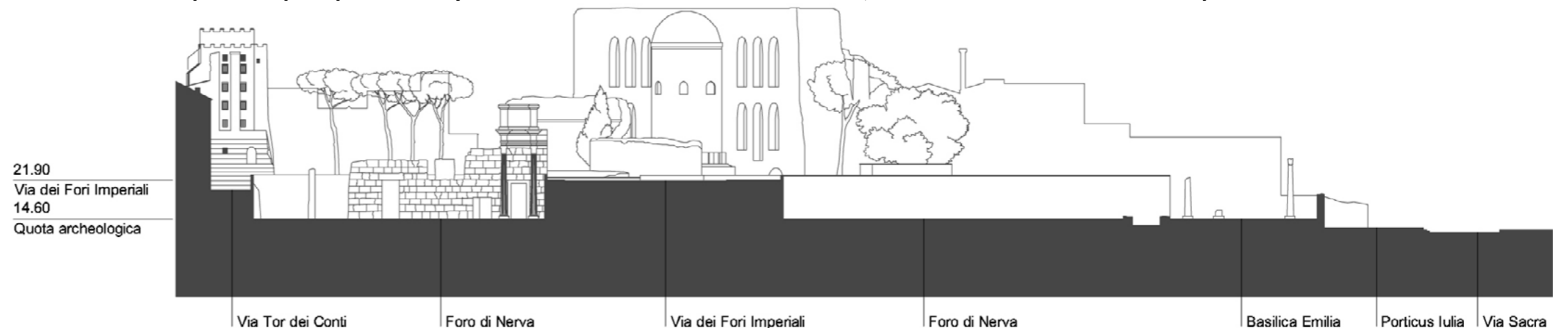
### **2\_ Reconnection and restitching of the altimetric gap between the archeologic ground of the Transitorio Forum and the largo Corrado Ricci level,**

identifying, through the project of a gate, the new accessibility system to the monumental central area according to the ancient Argiletum route direction.

Reorganization of the spatial continuity between the Transitorio and the Roman Forum through the opening of a passage under via dei Fori Imperiali and the ALLARgamento of the excavation in order to enhance the fruition and the readability of the Templum Pacis.

**3\_ Evocation of the ancient space** and their integration with the modern structure with the aim to restore the identity of the places and of the original and new architectonic complex significant elements through intervention focused to completing and making readable the existing fragments.

**4\_ Functional enhancement** of the new access to the archeological area through the design of a square and of a descent system organized by ramps or with mechanized system, with a reception area and information point, ticketing, restrooms, a didactive-informative space preparatory to the visit to the Forums, for a total of 500 sq.m.



# via Alessandrina

Via Alessandrina is the last memory surviving of the demolished Alessandrino district. Alessandrino District was based on the hollowed area (and therefore swampy) of the ancient Forums of Trajan Augustus and Caesar.

It was built as a result of the **reclamation works** intended by **Cardinal Bonelli** (native of the city of Alessandria) at the end of the sixteenth century.





The post-unification urban planning choices with the opening of Via Cavour, first and of the axis of Via dei Fori Imperiali then decreed the **demolition of the Alessandrino district**.

Recently, in 1995, began archaeological investigations to initiate an intensive excavation that affected sectors of the Roman Forums and the ones of Caesar, Nerva, Trajan, and of the Templum Pacis.

The excavation and arrangement program has produced a strong urban transformation of the area in which modern, late Renaissance, medieval, late-ancient and imperial layers coexist in the absence of hierarchy criteria into a single and confused figural unit.

The surviving stretch of the **via Alessandrina** appears today decontextualized from its original and populous residential district and its path divides the archaeological areas of the Forum of Augustus, Nerva and Trajan making difficult the understanding of the area. Equally problematic is the disappearance of **via Bonella**, historical axis of the district perpendicular to the trend of via Alessandrina carrying out the function of linking the district of Suburra, the Forum of Augustus and the baroque church of SS.Luca and Martina, now isolated from its natural urban context.





**General objective:**

the **preservation** and the **enhancement** of the whole and of the parts (Church of SS. Luca e Martina, Curia, the Caesar's Forum, the Augustus' Forum, the Nerva's Forum, Wall of Augustus, via Tor de' Conti) through coordinated interventions, respectful of environmental and monumental conservation and of all the most significant historical phases, with the aim to make it readable, usable and accessible with particular attention to the brittle archaeological pre-existing system. This strategy is pursued through:





**1\_ Reorganization of the pedestrian paths system** at the modern urban level of the monumental central area belonging to the fabric of the Alessandrino neighborhood (via Bonella, via Alessandria).

In particular, must be resolved the altimetric discontinuity along the ancient path of via Bonella, now disappeared, that linked the Arco dei Pantani to the area of the Church of SS. Luca e Martina. Along this direction will be intercepted areas and architectural structures of great archaeological importance which will be integrated with the intervention strategies.

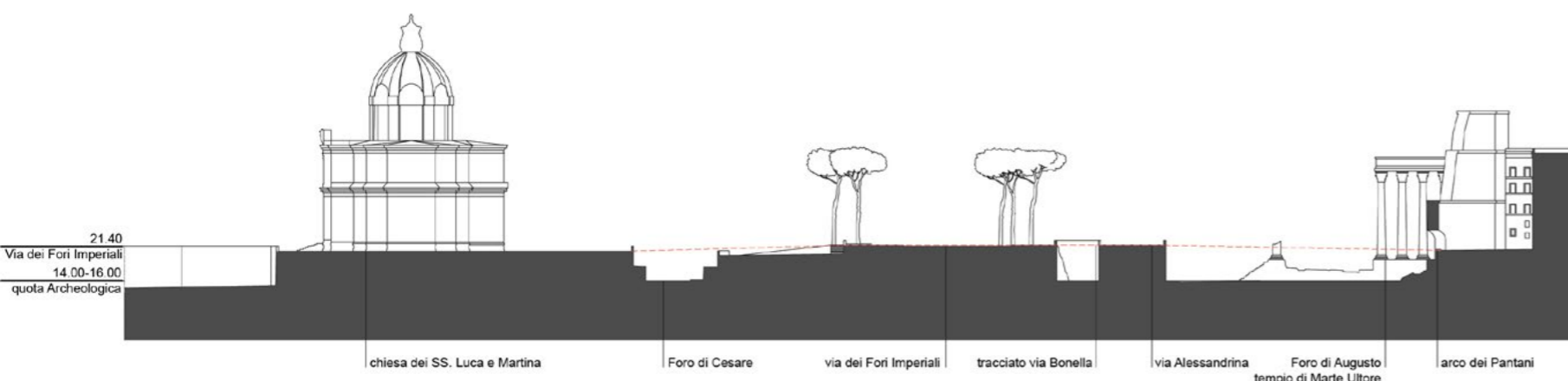
**2\_ Reconnection of the western and eastern parts of the Augusto's Forum**

in order to make the archeological planimetric layout readable, overcoming the physical barrier created by the superstructure of the Via dei Fori Imperiali.

**3\_ Evocation and enhancement of the main identitary features,**

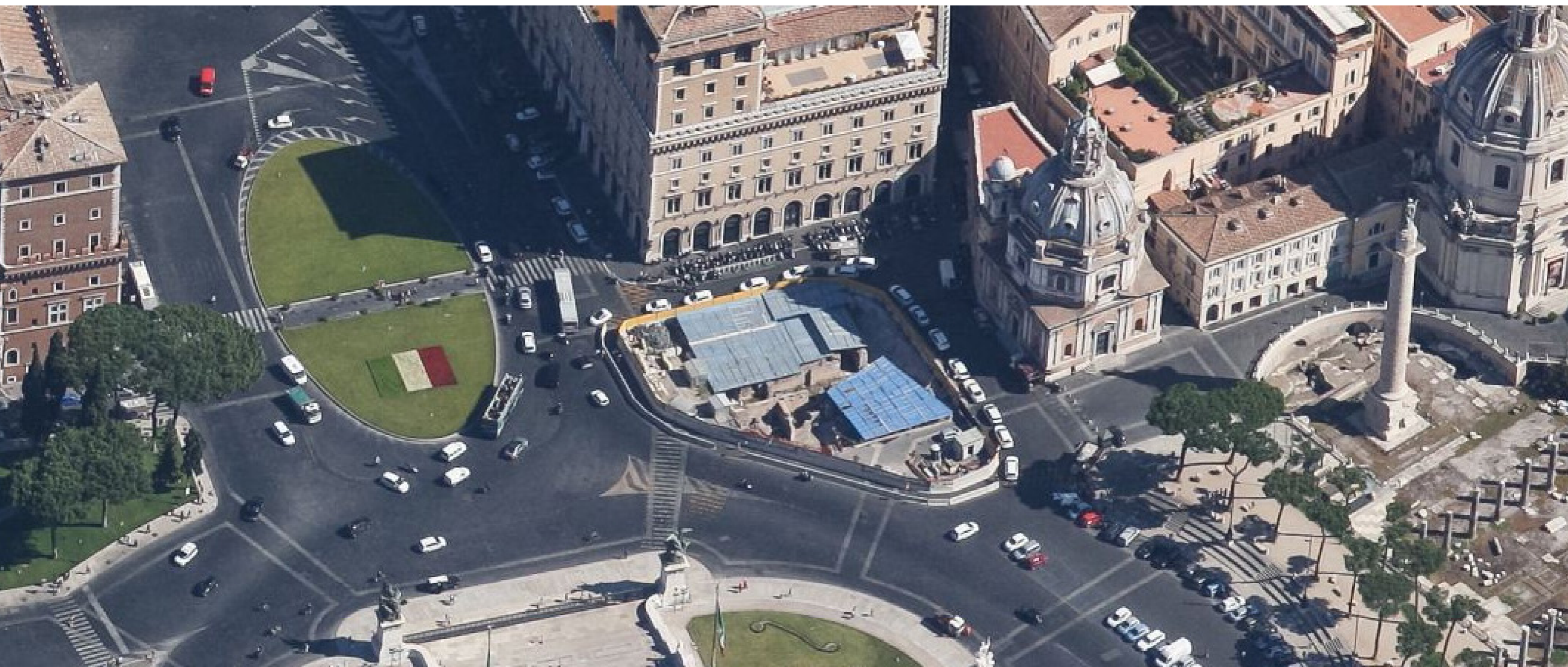
existing and potential in the area.

In particular, it provides for the enhancement of the parterre at the modern urban level made by system of via dei Fori Imperiali, via Alessandrina and the new track of via Bonella, integrated to a public spaces system (squares, plazas, gardens, beautiful terrace, descent systems for accessibility) for the exclusive pedestrian and cycle use.



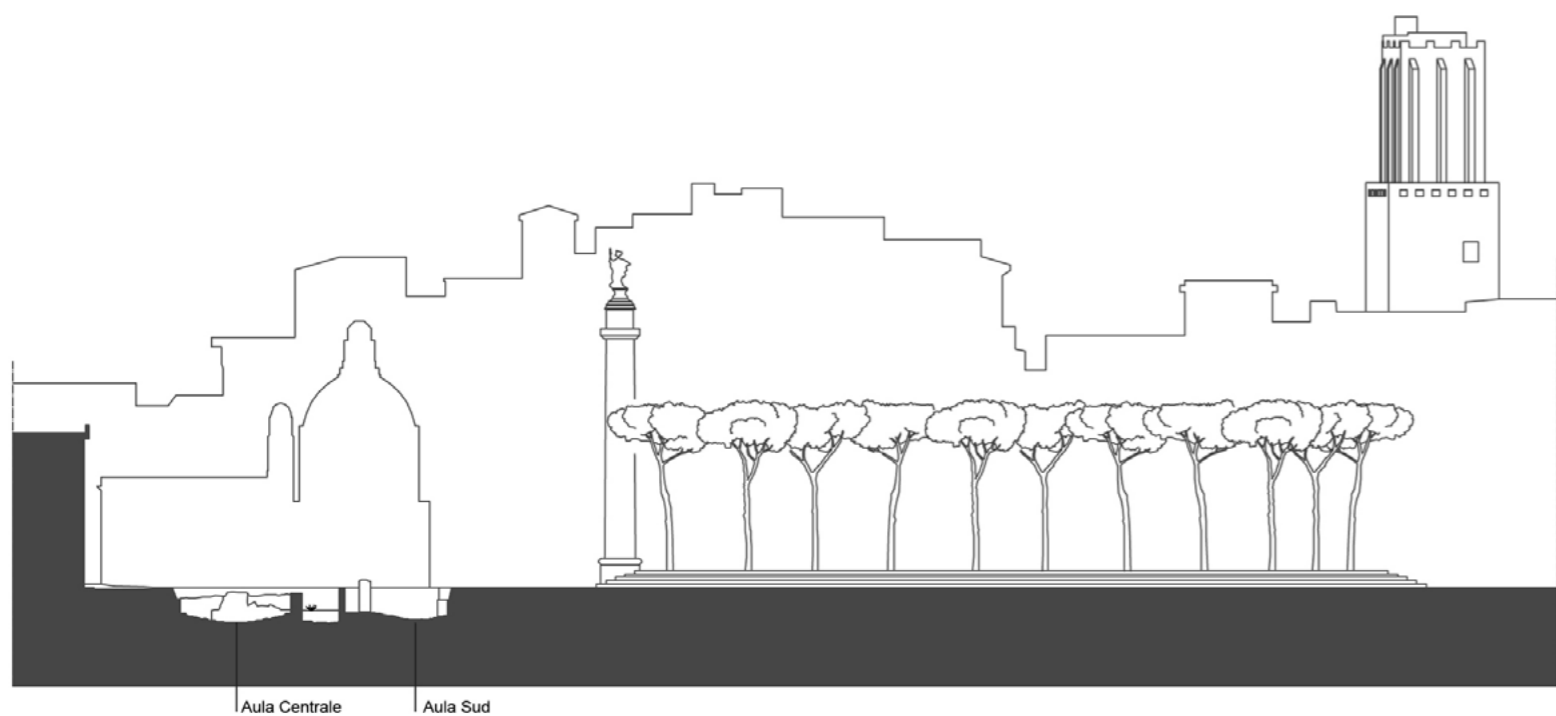
# Adriano's Auditorium

The excavation area adjacent to the square of the Madonna di Loreto is **a pit that opens on Piazza Venezia**, dominated from the impending shape of the Trajan's column marble stem. In this hinge place, between the Campo Marzio and the valley of the Roman Forum, has been discovered **an architectural complex of great monumentality**, composed of identical rooms all radially arranged, identified later as part of the so-called Adriano's Auditorium (76-138 AD).

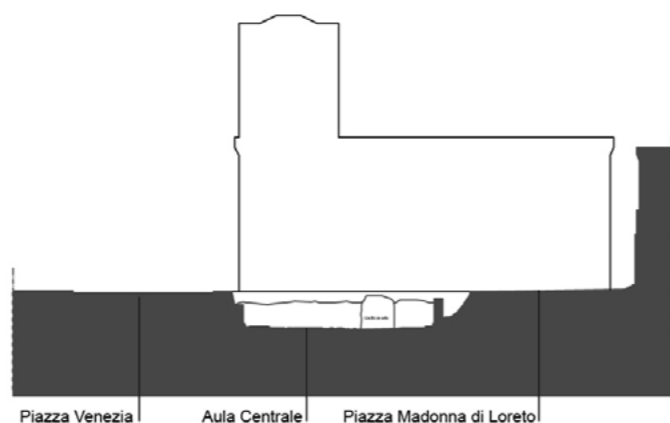


Piazza Venezia is a **complex space** characterized by a crowding of monumental objects, that make it unable to offer a sintetic image of the space. It's a huge place, untidy and dishomogeneous, but, however, it represents one of the most famous examples of the urban occidental culture.





21.90  
Via dei Fori Imperiali  
17.80  
quota archeologica  
Auditorium di Adriano



21.90  
Via dei Fori Imperiali  
17.80  
quota archeologica  
Auditorium di Adriano

### **1\_ Reorganization of the urban surface**

concerning the archeological excavation area which is going to be a public pedestrian space, integrated to the monumental pre-existences that characterize Piazza Venezia.

### **2\_ Reconnection of the archeological ground with the urban level of Piazza Venezia** through an accessibility system.

### **3\_ Evocation and enjoying from the top of the archeological site**

through a partially transparent cover. The intervention should integrate itself to the architectonical and urban context of piazza Madonna di Loreto and Piazza Venezia.

### **4\_ Functional enhancement of the archeological site**

through the project of didactic-informative spaces facilitating the visit.

