

MULTIPERIOD

Nevett, Lisa, *Ancient Greek Housing*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2023. £24.99 Paperback, also available as hardback or e-book, 329 pp., 128 b&w figures, ISBN 9780521124638

Lisa Nevett has established herself as perhaps the foremost current expert in ancient Greek housing, both in the homeland and the Greek colonial world, since the publication of her thesis on this topic in the 1990's (Nevett 1999). She has taken her scholarship further with the significant reopening of excavations at a key ancient planned city at Olynthus in Northern Greece.

There was of course a succession of predecessor and contemporary scholars who paved the way to, or accompanied her own series of books and articles on this theme, notably the team of Hoepfner and Schwander (1986), Michael Jameson (1990), Franziska Lang (1996), and Monika Truemper (2005). These earlier and parallel studies had clarified some of the key developments over time: the Iron Age to Archaic villages and early urban sites with indications of elite dwelling-houses, the shift from simple, often one-roomed basic homes open to their neighbours to multi-roomed houses with an enclosing wall that had become typical by Classical times, finally the re-emergence of a more clearly stratified housing ensemble with luxurious multi-courtyard mansions set amid smaller homes of the working classes (reviewed in Bintliff 2010, 2012).

This volume gathers together the fruits of her many previous publications on Greek housing with an excellent up-to-date survey of recent fieldwork and publications, clearly written, and covering the whole chronological span from 1000 BC to the end of the Hellenistic era, and the Greek world over much of the Mediterranean and Black Sea. It is an ideal basis for students and scholars of Classical Antiquity to catch up on this clearly still-developing field. The text is supported by an appendix on ancient sources and a rich bibliographic essay.

Just one minor criticism seems necessary: despite noting the papers of Ruth Westgate on the historical evolution of the Greek house in the references, we look in vain in the index or text for discussion of the insights that her use of the technical methodology of Space Syntax can bring to understanding domestic lived realities, through mapping movement and

visibility patterns embedded in houseplans (e.g. Westgate 2000, 2007, 2015).

JOHN BINTLIFF
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
johnlbintliff@gmail.com

- Bintliff, J.L. 2010. Classical Greek urbanism: a social darwinian view. *Valuing Others in Classical Antiquity*. R.M. Rosen and I. Sluiter. Leiden, Brill: 15-41.
- Bintliff, J.L. 2012. *The Complete Archaeology of Greece, from Hunter-Gatherers to the Twentieth Century AD*. Oxford-New York: Blackwell-Wiley.
- Hoepfner, W. and E.-L. Schwandner 1986. *Haus und Stadt im klassischen Griechenland*. München: Deutscher Kunstverlag.
- Jameson, M.H. 1990. Domestic space in the Greek city-state. *Domestic Architecture and the Use of Space*. S. Kent. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press: 92-113.
- Lang, F. 1996. *Archaische Siedlungen in Griechenland: Struktur und Entwicklung*. Berlin: Akademie-Verlag.
- Nevett, L. 1999. *House and Society in the Ancient Greek World*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Truemper, M. 2005. Modest housing in Late Hellenistic Delos. in B.A. Ault and L.C. Nevett (eds) *Ancient Greek Houses and Households*: 119-139. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press: .
- Westgate, R.C. 2000. Space and decoration in Hellenistic houses. *Annual of the British School at Athens* 95: 391-426.
- Westgate, R.C. 2007. House and society in Classical and Hellenistic Crete. *American Journal of Archaeology* 111: 423-457.
- Westgate, R. 2015. Space and Social Complexity in Greece from the Early Iron Age to the Classical Period. *Hesperia* 84: 47-95.

Alastair Small and Carola Small (eds) *Archaeology on the Apulian-Lucanian Border*. pp.884, 383 figures, 31 tables (colour throughout). Oxford: Archaeopress, 2022. ISBN 978-1-80327-064-7 hardback £ 125, Digital: 9781803270654 (Open Access PDF downloadable from Archaeopress website and eBook)