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Session 11C: Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* Santa Clara University

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**The Palatine of the Milky Way: Architecture and Rome in Ovid’s *Metamorphoses* 1.168-180**

1. Ovid, *Met.* 1.175-176

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| hic **locus** est quem, si uerbis audacia detur,  haud timeam magni dixisse **Palatia caeli**. | Here is the **place** which, if boldness can be lent to words, I would hardly be afraid to call the **Palatine of the great sky**. |

2. Ovid, *Met.* 1.121-122

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| tum primum subiere domos (domus **antra** fuerunt  et densi **frutices** et uinctae cortice **uirgae**). | Then for the first time they approached houses (their houses were caves and dense bushes and twigs surrounded with bark). |

3. Vitruvius, *De Arch.* 2.1.2

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| coeperunt in eo coetu alii de **fronde** facere tecta, alii **speluncas** fodere sub montibus, nonnulli hirundinum nidos et aedificationes earum imitantes de luto et **uirgulis** facere loca quae subirent. | Some in that assembly began to build shelters from leafy branches, others dug caves under mountains, and some others, imitating the nests of swallows and their building practices, created places which they could enter out of mud and twigs. |

4. Ovid, *Met.* 1.201-205

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| …sic, cum manus inpia saeuit  sanguine Caesareo Romanum exstinguere nomen, attonitum tantae subito terrore ruinae humanum genus est totusque perhorruit orbis; nec tibi grata minus pietas, Auguste, tuorum quam fuit illa Ioui. | Thus, when the disloyal band raged to drown the Roman name in the blood of Caesar, suddenly the human race was shocked by the dread of such ruin and the whole world was terrified; the loyalty of your people is no less pleasing to you, Augustus, than their loyalty was to Jupiter. |

5. Ovid, *Met.* 1.178-180

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| celsior ipse loco sceptroque innixus eburno  terrificam capitis concussit terque quaterque  **caesariem**, cum qua terram, mare, sidera mouit. | Jupiter, being higher in position and leaning on his ivory scepter, shook his **long**, **awe-inspiring hair** three and four times, by which he moved the earth, sea, and stars. |

6. Ovid, *Met.* 1.171-174

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| …dextra laeuaque deorum  **atria** **nobilium** **ualuis** **celebrantur** apertis.  **plebs** habitat diuersa locis: hac parte **potentes**  caelicolae clarique suos posuere **Penates**. | On the left and right the ***atria***of noble deities are **crowded**, their **double doors** wide open. The plebeian gods live in different regions: in this region the powerful inhabitants of the sky have placed their Penates. |

7. Ovid, *Met.* 1.168-169

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| est **uia** sublimis, caelo **manifesta** sereno;  Lactea nomen habet, candore notabilis ipso. | There is a lofty **road, clearly seen** in the calm sky: its name is Milky, and it is known for its bright whiteness. |

8. Vitruvius, *De Arch.* 5.6.3

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| Hi autem, qui sunt in imo et dirigiunt scalaria, erunt numero VII; reliqui quinque scaenae designabunt compositionem: et unus medius contra se **ualuas regias** habere debet, et qui erunt dextra sinistra, hospitaliorum designabunt compositionem, extremi duo spectabunt itinera uersurarum. | The angles at the bottom, which give the directions for the flights of steps, will be seven in number; the other five angles will determine the arrangement of the scene: thus, the angle in the middle ought to have the **“royal doors”** opposite to it; the angles to the right and left will designate the position of the doors for guest chambers; and the two outermost angles will point to the passages in the wings. |

9. Ovid, *Met.* 1.177

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| ergo ubi **marmoreo** superi sedere recessu… | Accordingly, when the gods were seated in the **marbled** inner room… |

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