

Viewing the Temple of Jupiter in Ancient Rome

The temple of Jupiter was one of the most important and famous buildings in ancient Rome (Albertoni and Damiani 2008; Hopkins 2012). It was located in the very heart of the city, high on the Capitoline hill, which stands over the Forum, ancient Rome's civic center. Although only the foundations remain today, and scholars have long debated the size of the structure, the massive scale of the foundations and the descriptions of the building given by ancient authors (Dion. Hal. *Ant. Rom.* 4.61.3-4) make it clear that the temple was one of the most obvious and recognizable landmarks in ancient Rome and indeed a symbol of the city and its power. Despite the importance of the structure as a part of Rome's landscape, little scholarly consideration has been given to the placement of the temple of Jupiter and the specific vantage points from which the building could be seen.

In this paper, we use digital tools to reconstruct the temple of Jupiter and its surrounding landscape in order to examine the great monument within the larger context of the city of Rome. We have built digital three-dimensional representations of the temple with SketchUp modeling software based on different scholarly reconstructions of the building (Gjerstad 1960: 168-189; Stamper 1995:19-33) and integrated these models into a modified version of the digital map of ancient Rome first created by the "Digital Augustan Rome" project team (Haselberger *et al.* 2002; <http://digitalaugustanrome.org/>). With the analytical tools of a Geographic Information System (ArcGIS 10.3 and QGIS 2.10)(Wheatley and Gillings 2000; Llobera 2007), we then use data about the visibility of and also from the temple of Jupiter to investigate the initial choice of location and form for the construction of the building. We also examine the ways in which ancient viewers would have interacted with the temple as they moved through the surrounding

landscape, including particularly on the occasion of a triumphal procession (Beard 2007; La Rocca and Tortorella 2008; Lange and Vervaet 2014).

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