

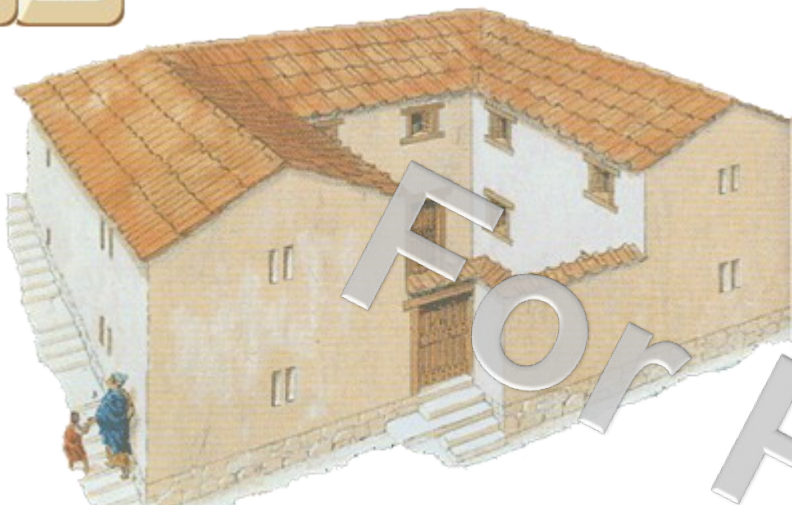
The Streets of Athens



*The Acropolis and
Panathenaic Way*

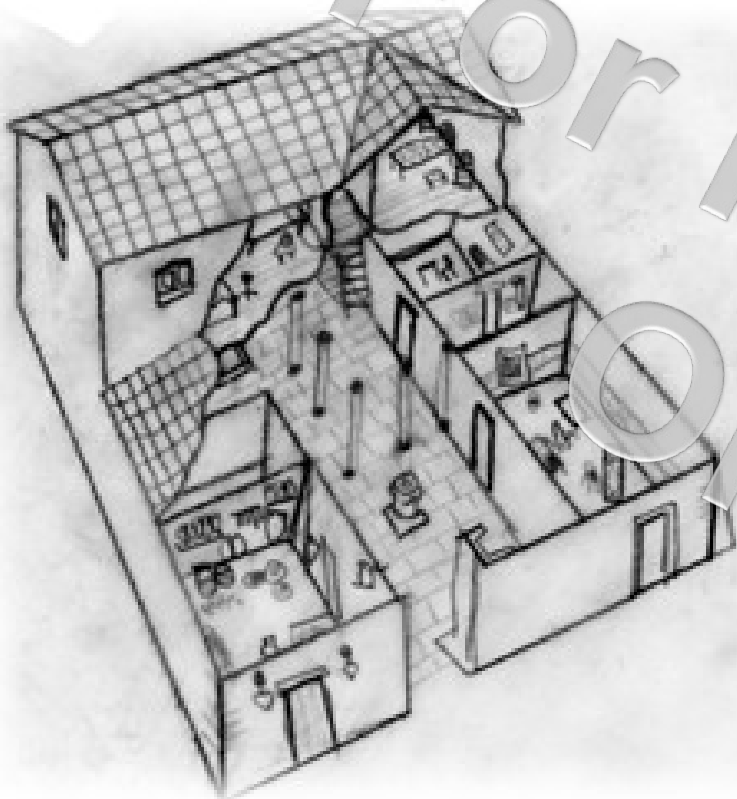
The streets of Athens were mostly narrow and winding and the houses had to fit into these streets. Houses had no front gardens, which made the streets look even narrower.

Only the Panathenaic Way, leading from the Dipylon Gate to the Acropolis, was wide.



Everyday Houses

Archaeologists have dug up the remains of many ancient Greek houses in and around Athens, and have come up with a good picture of what most houses looked like. The walls were made of mud brick and plaster, with a gently sloping roof covered with tiles. Most houses were built around a central courtyard, a surrounded open area in the centre.



Many houses had more than one storey, and the best room overlooked the courtyard. Hardly any houses had windows overlooking the street. Other houses were set into the hillside, and the ground floor rooms were half underground.

Buildings for the Hot Weather

As Athens was warm for most of the year, all the houses were designed to be shady during the hot days of the summer. The buildings were painted with a combination of terracotta and pale colours so that the sun's heat was reflected, helping to keep the house cool.





Different Rooms



In larger houses, the women, children and servants lived separately from the men in their own part of the house. The women's area was usually upstairs.

The main reception rooms, the dining rooms and the kitchen were downstairs. The most important rooms were well decorated, and often had a mosaic floor.

The Dining Room

The dining room, called the andron, was the most important room used at meal times and when entertaining guests.



Women and children sat on chairs and stools and the men sat on larger couches. The room had a raised area around the edge on which the couches could be placed. Food was served in bowls on small tables.



Cooking Food in the Kitchen

Athenians cooked over an open fire. The food they ate was simple and most cooking was done using a cooking pot hung from a tripod. Bread was served with every meal, and this was baked in a clay oven. Grills were used to cook meat and fish but olives and locally grown produce were much more common.
Click on each picture to see what it is.



Storage Jar



Grill



Portable oven



Portable cooker and pot



Bathrooms



Chamber pot, or child's potty.

In some houses a small area close to the kitchen was used as a bathroom. There was a small bath inside. There were no taps or hot water. Water had to be heated in the summer sun.

The toilets were a seat with a bucket underneath. This bucket had to be emptied regularly in a safe place! Children used a chamber pot.



A toilet seat. The bucket would have been placed underneath.

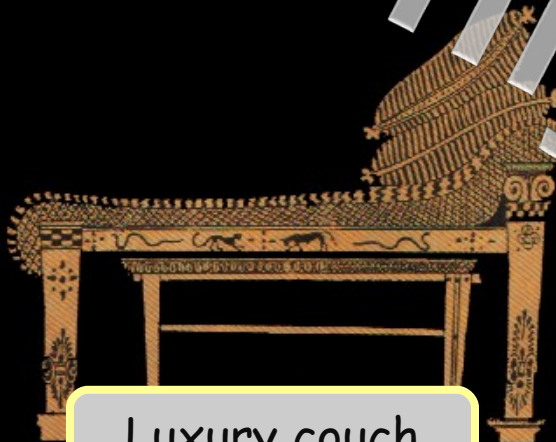


Furniture

Athenian houses had relatively little furniture as it was expensive to buy. Tables, chairs, stools and couches were moved from room to room as they were needed. There were vases in many rooms. Houses were lit with oil lamps, and in winter braziers kept the rooms warm. *Click on each image to see what it is.*



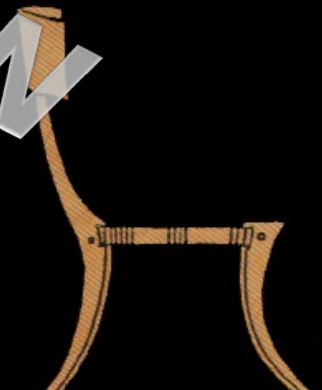
Decorated table



Luxury couch



Plain table, often used to keep a vase on.



Wood and webbed chair.