

In 1998 the University of Santiago de Compostela decided to turn the Pazo de Montenegro into its institutional building in the city of Lugo. The necessary archaeological intervention that was carried out allowed us to discover several findings of relevance, mong which there is an outstanding Roman house domus) built in the first quarter of I century AD according to the recommendations of the architect Vitrubius in terms of proportions, materials, hydraulic management, insulation, floors, etc.

This domus shows that the technical innovations of Roman theorists, aimed at improving the quality of the lives of the noble families that inhabited these spaces, had a remarkable diffusion, and reached even the westernmost parts of the empire (5).

The preserved remains of the domus show a building that had two floors (ground and first floor) and was organized from a porticoed courtyard or peristyle (1). The different rooms led to this courtyard, not only those intended for domestic work (kitchen warehouses, latrines, stables) (2), the servants residence, but also those intended for the master of the house (room to receive visits or oecus) (3) and occupied by the owners for their enjoyment (bedrooms) (4). Private resting and public reception spaces are decorated with frescoes on the walls (5) and ceiling, recovered after a complex restoration process.

In the period of the Later Empire (III century AD) the domus is transformed to build a temple inside, dedicated to God Mithras (6), who today gives name to the house, Mithraeum. Finding a perfectly legible votiv altar (7) was decisive to identify the temple. The perso who dedicated it to God Mithra is mentioned in this inscription. He is a centurion of the Legio VII Gemina Antoniniana, Gaius Victorius Victorinus, who was in charge of the administrative control office of Lucus Augusti (statio) located in his home, probably, at the time of Emperor Caracalla (211-217 AD)
The worship of God Mithras or Mithraism was brought to the western end of the empire by military personnel who contacted him, probably during campaigns in Asia Minor, to which we must add easter traders and imperial representatives. New vicissitudes changed the structure of the domus at the end of the third century: the construction of the wall with its moa and intervallum (inner round) causes, first the expropriation and, then, the destruction of the habitable part of the domus, though the Mithraic temple will remain functioning until the 4th century AD


