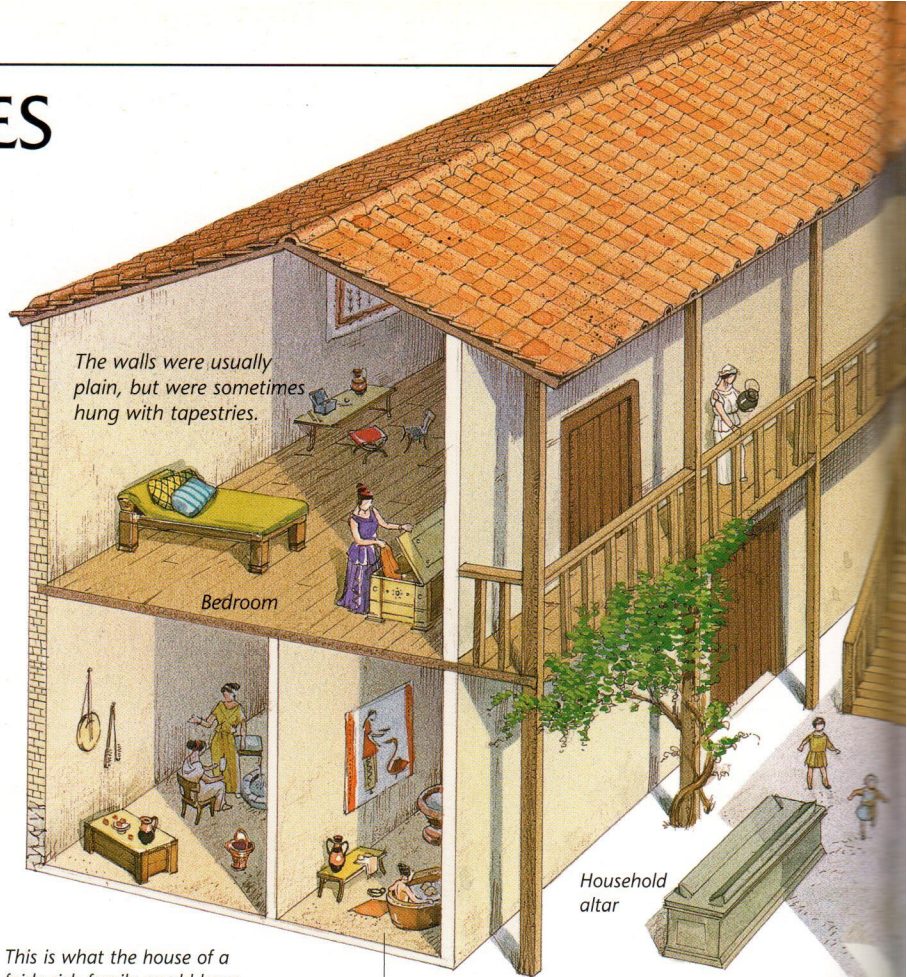


# GREEK HOUSES

Very few Greek houses have been excavated, because they were built of mud brick, which does not last. But we have a good idea of what they were like from the ones that have been found, and because the design of houses in the Mediterranean has changed so little over the centuries.

## A COURTYARD HOUSE

A typical house was built around a courtyard, with doors to each room, and a few small windows in the outside walls. The walls were made of mud brick, on stone foundations, with wooden doors and window shutters. There were stone slabs on the floors of the courtyard, and mosaics or stone slabs on the floors downstairs on the inside. The roof was covered with clay tiles.



The walls were usually plain, but were sometimes hung with tapestries.

Bedroom

Household altar

Inner courtyard

This is what the house of a fairly rich family would have looked like - except that the front walls have been taken away so you can see inside.

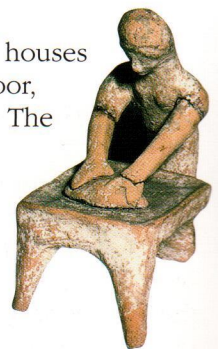
This is the bathroom. It has a bathtub of baked clay, with a drain which leads outside.

## SEPARATE LIVES

The men and women in a wealthy Greek household lived very separate lives, in separate parts of the house.

Floors were sometimes decorated with patterns like this, called mosaics, made from tiny pieces of stone.

Although most houses had a single floor, some had two. The men ate and entertained in a downstairs room called the *andron*. The kitchen and bathroom were also downstairs, as well as a special room, dedicated to Hestia, goddess of the hearth, which was used for family gatherings.



This baked clay, or terracotta, statue is of a woman making bread.

