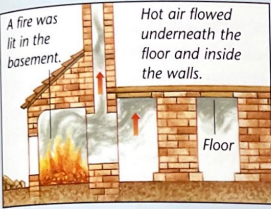


KEEPING WARM

Wealthy Romans had toilets and running water in their homes, as well as a central heating system, called a hypocaust. This ingenious Roman invention was powered by a furnace in the basement, and once the house heated up, it stayed warm for a long time.



This diagram shows how a hypocaust worked.

Most houses had two floors, with the bedrooms upstairs.

IN THE GARDEN

At the back of the house was a peaceful walled garden called a peristyle. The peristyle was often planted with neat hedges, bay trees and rose bushes, and might be decorated with elegant statues, a fountain, or a fish pond. Romans loved to relax and chat in these tranquil, shady places, away from the hustle and bustle of city life.

The garden - or peristyle - was surrounded by a row of columns.

Only the wealthiest families could afford glass windows. Most people covered their windows with animal skins.

