



**ENTRE MARES**  
**Ubicazione, infrastruttura e organizzazione dei porti romani.**  
**Irún, 3, 4 e 5 novembre 2021**

Session:  
Mediterraneo Orientale II

**VENICE'S HARBORS**  
**FROM ROMAN AGE TO EARLY MIDDLE AGE.**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC**  
**TRANSFORMATIONS AROUND ALTINO AND TORCELLO**



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## VENICE'S HARBORS FROM ROMAN AGE TO EARLY MIDDLE AGE

D. Caloon



Venezia "wooden buildings"  
16th cent, copy of a Medieval  
Draw, Venezia,  
Bibl. Naz. Marciana

- From the **Roman *Altinum*** to **Medieval Venice**: Harbors' Narratives as proxies to re-read settlements' patterns and the origins of the Serenissima
- ***Altinum***: a harbor city between water and land routes
- The ***Altinum* coastal area**: water bodies exploitations (salt and fishery) and a complex network of piers, docks and embankments
- **Torcello**: the late Antique and Early Medieval Harbor of **Altinum**
- **Concluding remarks**: workforces' control, wood, clay and recycled debris as building materials to understand the formation of the lagoon settlements.

[contents](#)

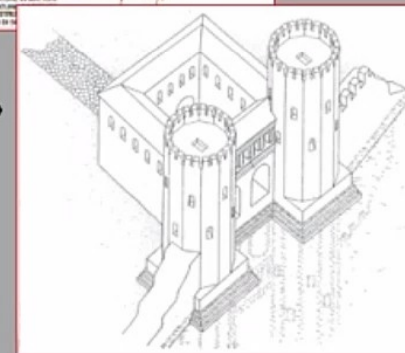

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«Porta Approdo»



## Altinum, a docking city

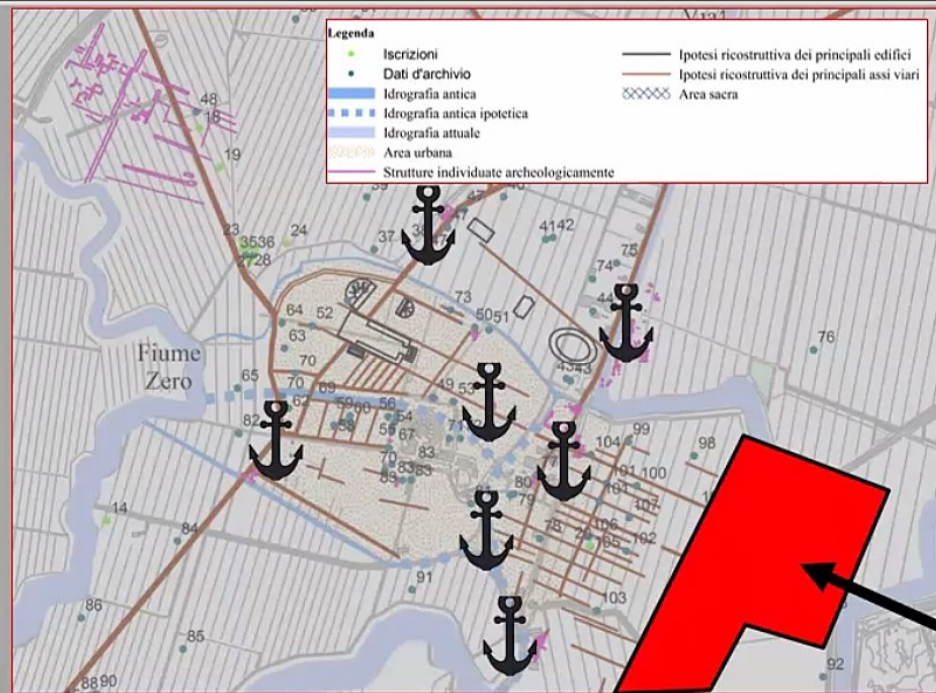


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MOZZI P., FONTANA A., NINFO A., FERRARESE F., 2011, La struttura urbana di Altino: telerilevamento e contesto geomorfologico, in Altino dal cielo



SPERTI et al., 2017, Altinum, discovering a hidden municipium through GIS

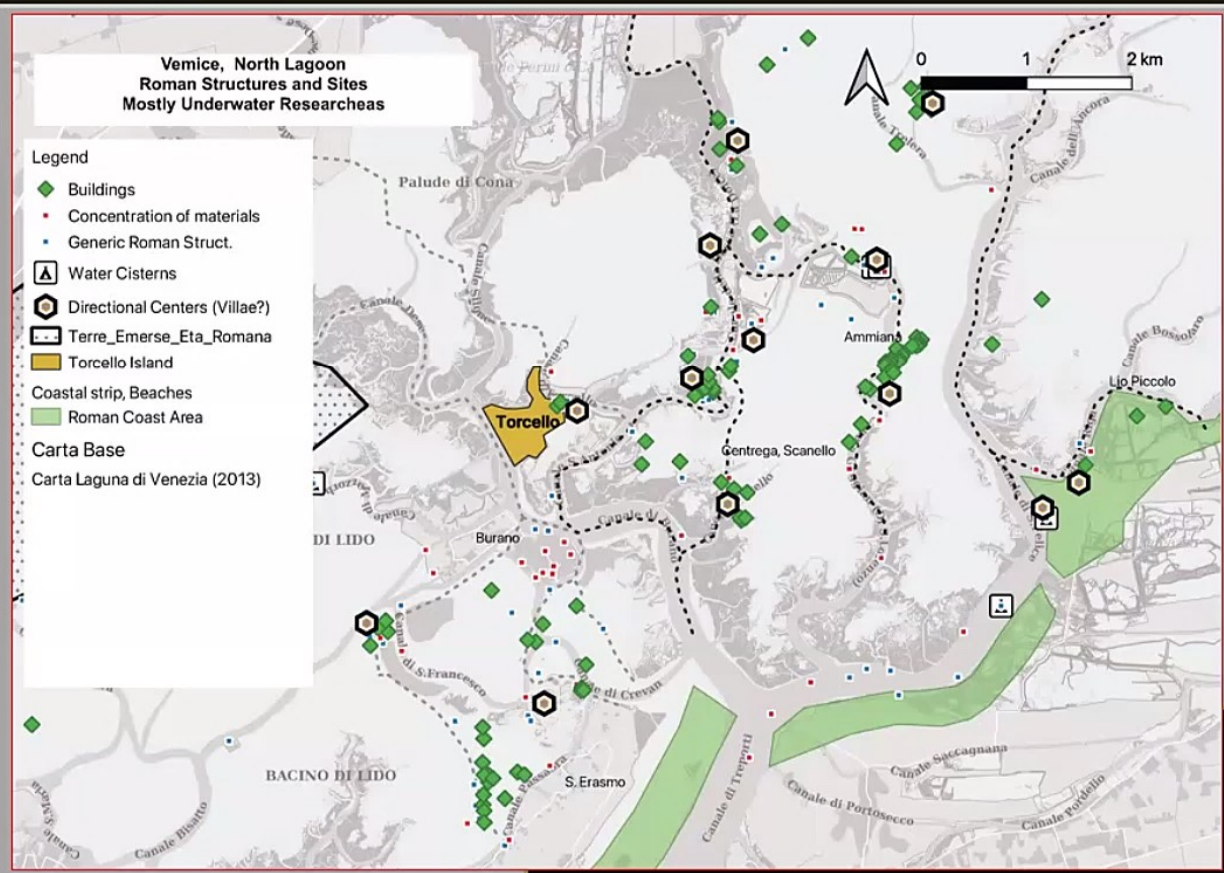
**⚓ Docking Infrastructures from Archaeological Excavations**

**Altinum, harbor city between water and lands**



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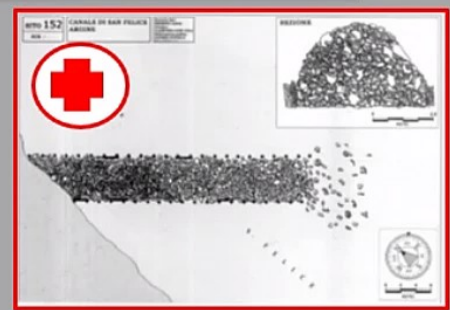
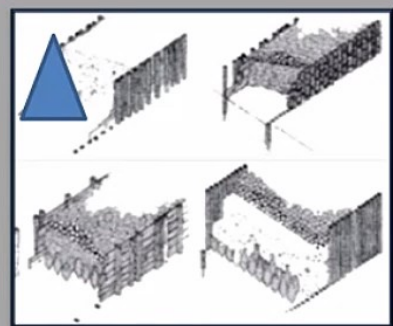
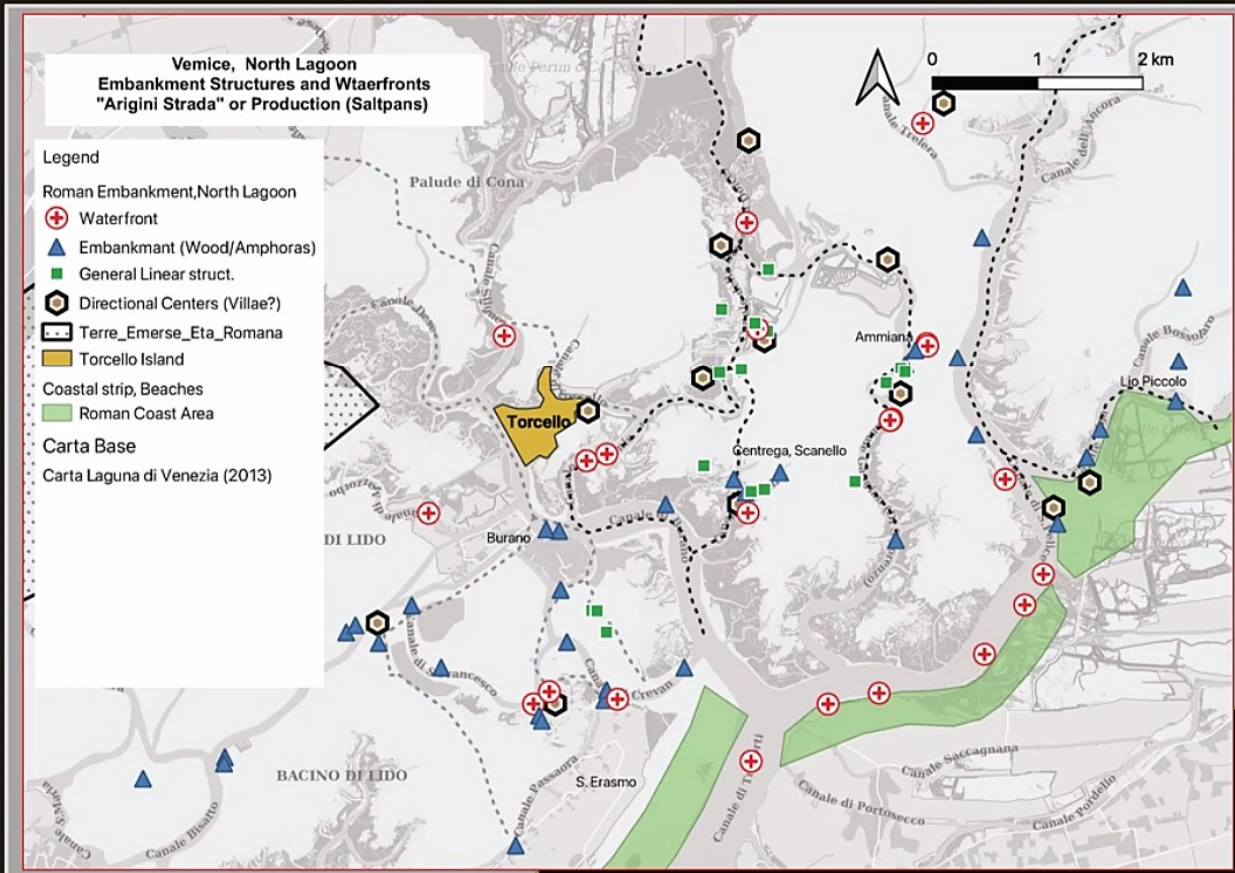
A complex network for water exploitation





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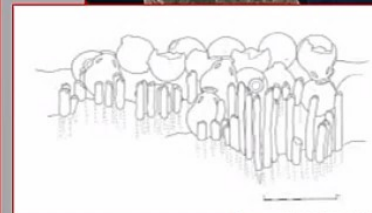
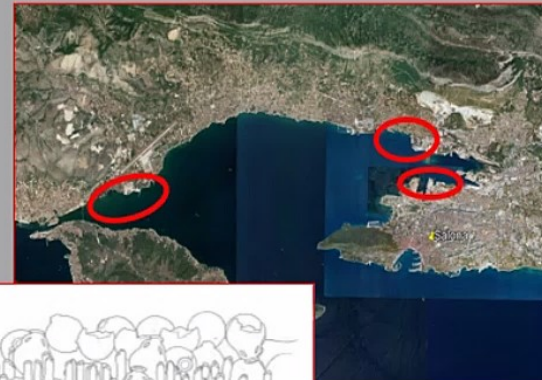
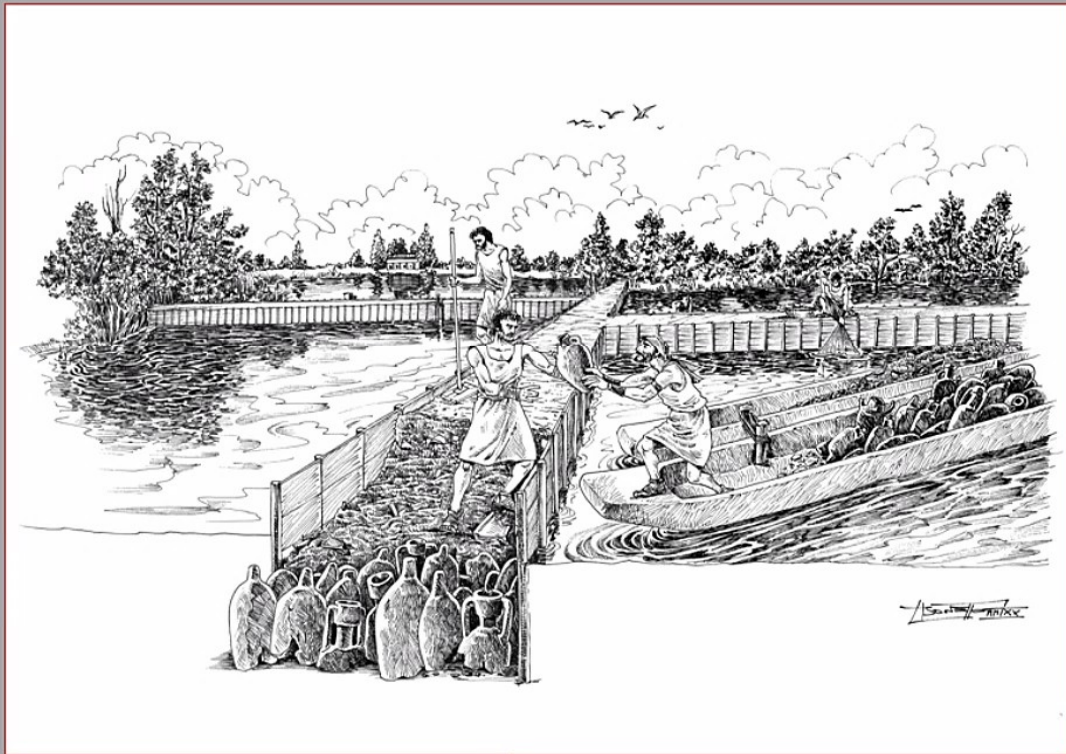
## Embankments and Waterfronts



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Similar structures in Dalmatian Area



## Saltpans and «Vallicoltura» (Lagoon Fish Farming)



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October 2021  
Arch. Excavation, Lio Piccolo Villa

**Lio Piccolo, *Villa Maritima, pars rustica***

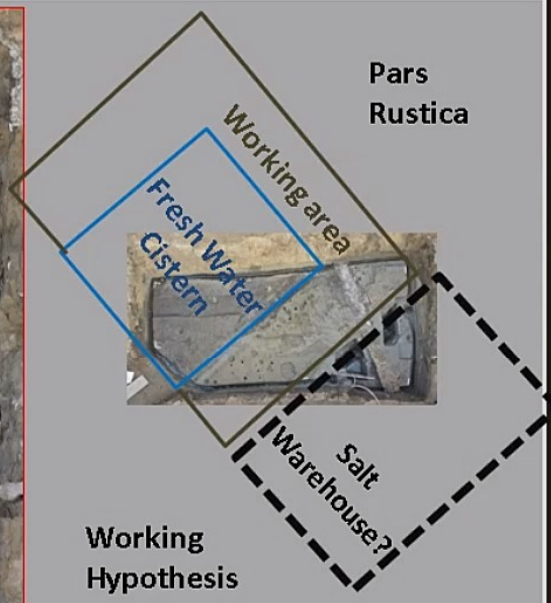


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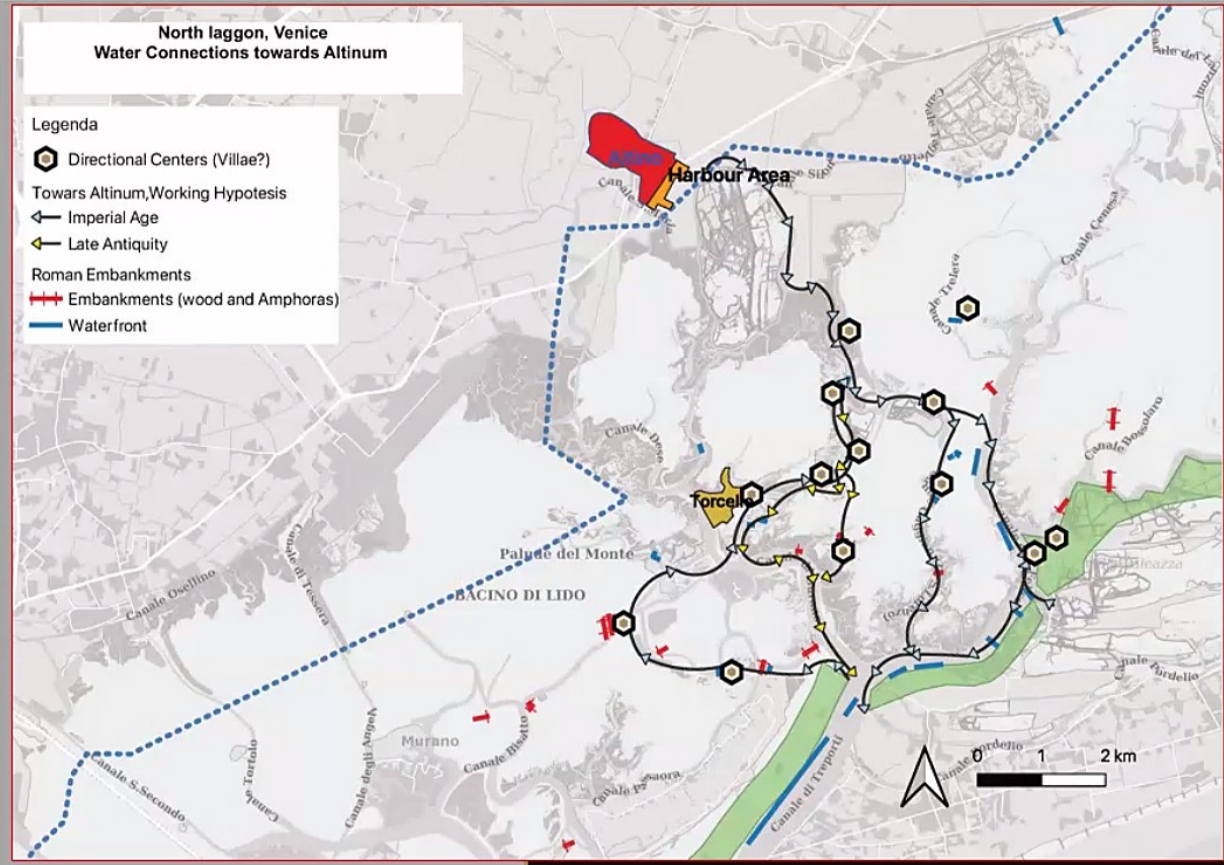
October 2021  
Arch. Excavation, Lio Piccolo Villa

**Lio Piccolo, Villa Maritima, pars rustica**

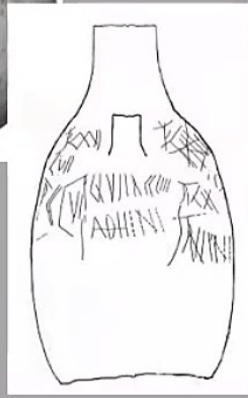


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«Accounting Amphora»  
San Francesco del deserto



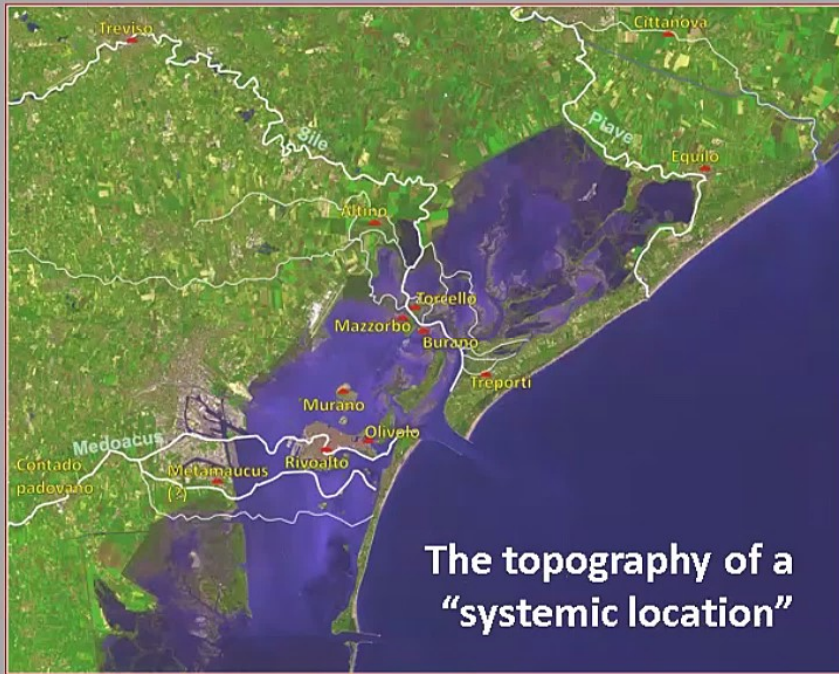
**Towards Altino:  
Embankments and Piers**





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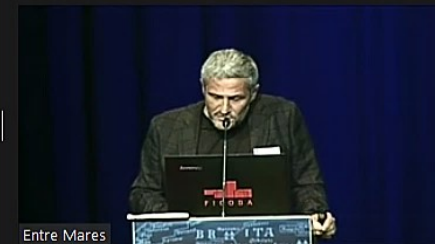


The topography of a "systemic location"



New Warehouses ,  
Torcello Island

From late Antiquity to Early Middle Age: looking for new harbor opportunities



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Torcello Island, Harbor Area



**Torcello: 6<sup>th</sup>-10 cent.  
The Early Medieval Harbor of Altino**

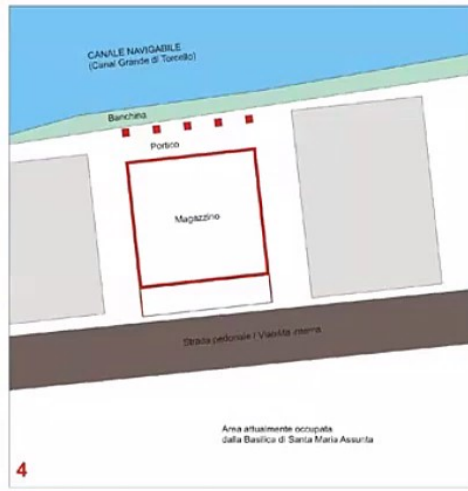
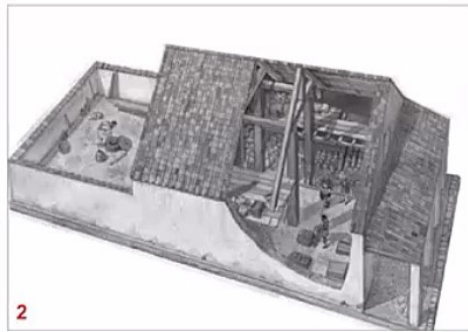
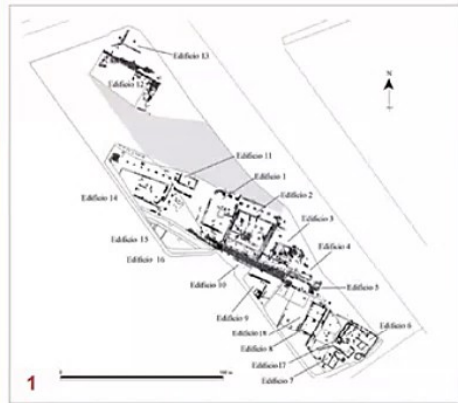


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Torcello Island, Harbor Area, 6<sup>o</sup>-7<sup>o</sup> cent. Similarities to Classe, Ravenna harbor



Torcello Island, Wooden Houses

Torcello: 6<sup>th</sup>-10 cent. The Early Medieval Harbor of Altino



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## VENICE'S HARBORS FROM ROMAN AGE TO EARLY MIDDLE AGE

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Torcello, 8<sup>th</sup> cent.,  
Open settlement on the water

### Harbors through time:

1. **Pre-roman Age:** Harbors' structure within the settlement.
2. **Augustan Age:** (Altino) Large infrastructures, channel excavations, large interventions, new artisanal and residential area; Maritime Villas and high level of water exploitation;
3. **Late Antiquity:** de-localization of docking sites, diminishing of the centrality of the lagoon area;
4. **Ostrogothic Age:** (Torcello) New large harbors' infrastructures and new settlements around the warehouses, with a dedicated settled area for the workforces.
5. **Carolingian Age:** (Venice) Creation of newly areas as "fiscal harbor" following a medieval/feudal pattern (Rivoalto); Harbors within the city.

## Final Remarks 1/3: Harbors through time

