



## Summary :

Bath complex II 11B at Anemourion displays the basic features of Late Roman baths of Cilicia and eastern Pamphylia; its interest lies in the arrangement of the three hot chambers in a row. The bath was probably part of the same building program as the adjacent bath complex III 2B, as a response to the need for gender-segregated baths. It probably dates, with some uncertainty, to the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD.

## Date

3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD

## Geographical Location

Cilicia, Anemourion

## 1. History

Bath II 11 B of [Anemourion](#) is located between walls II 14 F and I F. It shares its north façade with [Bath III 2B](#), while the east facade looks over the sea. Fikret Yegul has observed that the bath complex shares the basic features of Late Roman baths in the small provincial towns of [Cilicia](#) and eastern [Pamphylia](#).<sup>1</sup> For example, the ground plan shows asymmetric arrangement of small and medium-sized **barrel-vaulted** rooms, while the exterior of the main entrance side is formed by the apsidal walls of some of the bath's rooms. Bath complexes II 11B and III 2B of Anemourion, as well as Bath 5B of [Iotape](#), belong to a local bath type with characteristic apsidal chambers and an internal arrangement that only permits reserved circulation following a specific course inside the bath; in the same time, they are all variants of the type in which the three hot chambers are arranged in a row.<sup>2</sup> In particular, Bath 5B of Iotape and Bath II 11B of Anemourion are set apart, since they have three parallel apsidal halls aligned in north-south direction, with the **apse** of the central hall on the opposite side of the other two. The cold (**frigidarium**) and hot chambers (**caldarium**) are arranged on the south, east and west sides of the central hall; the latter opens to only one of the rooms, thus leading the visitor to follow a specific, peripheral course inside the complex. This arrangement is generally a characteristic of the **ring-type plan baths**; from this point of view, Bath II 11B of Anemourion belongs to this type.

The bath was excavated in the 1960s and the external walls have been preserved up to the springing line of the arch. It has been dated, with some uncertainty, to the 3<sup>rd</sup> c. AD.

## 2. Architectural Description

The ground plan shows a large hall and seven rooms, though the hall opens only to one of them. On the south part of the complex there are three oblong arched chambers, aligned in north-south direction and with an apse on the one of their narrow sides. In two of the rooms (E, G) the apse is formed on the south wall, while the apse of the third room (F) is on its north side. All three rooms have openings on their south sides. According to Elisabeth Rosenbaum,<sup>3</sup> access was through a door in room G, which had a monolithic lintel and was framed by two niches 1.75 m high. Room G communicated with the next room (F) through a door in its south-western corner. Chamber F had a big opening to the south, while its apse to the north is blind. The partition wall between rooms F and E has collapsed. Room E has a big arched opening on its north side. Under the floor of room E there are **hypocausts** with the clay plastered colonettes. Attached to the north of the room G, there is a fourth chamber (B) with an apse to the west. The courtyard on the northern side of the complex is preserved. It has a massive wall with two rectangular niches to the west, while from the east it gives access to a rectangular barrel-vaulted chamber (C). Another arched entrance leads to chamber B. A small square room (A) was brought to light together with the massive wall to the west. The very well preserved light-red **hydraulic mortar** indicates that it was a cistern. Room C communicates with the also barrel-vaulted room D. Some remains to the east suggest the existence of yet another barrel-vaulted chamber. A staircase leading to bath complex III 2 B was found in the north-eastern corner of the hall. Three buttresses mark the western entrance. A drain found in the south apse of room E continues its course outside the apse too.



As regards building techniques and materials, carved stones were used in the foundations, while the frames of the openings were made of monolithic limestone pieces. Mud bricks were used for the hypocausts of room E, as well as for blocking a small part on the east wall of room G.

The proximity of the two Late Roman bath complexes II 11B and III 2B could be explained according to the Christian practice of gender-segregated baths. As Inge Nielsen has pointed out, twin baths are also found in other small [Asia Minor](#) cities, such as Tlos and [Oinoynnda](#).<sup>4</sup>

1. Yegül, F., *Baths and bathing in classical antiquity* (New York 1995), p. 301 and fig. 399.
2. Nielsen, I., *Thermae et Balnea. The architecture and cultural history of Roman public baths* (Aarhus 1990), pp. 110-1.
3. Rosenbaum, E., - Huber, G.,- Onurkan, S., *A survey of coastal cities in western Cilicia. Preliminary Report* (Monographs of Turkish Historical Society VI/8, Ankara 1967), p. 10.
4. Nielsen, I. *Therme et Balnea. The architecture and cultural history of Roman public baths* (Aarhus 1993), p. 111, fn. 119.

#### Bibliography :

	<b>Nielsen I.</b> , <i>Thermae et Balnea. The Architecture and Cultural History of Roman Public Baths</i> , Aarhus 1990
	<b>Yegül F.</b> , <i>Baths and Bathing in Classical Antiquity</i> , New York 1992
	<b>Onurkan S., Huber G., Rosenbaum E.</b> , <i>A Survey of Coastal Cities in Western Cilicia. Preliminary Report</i> , Ankara 1967, Monographs of Turkish Historical Society VI/8

#### Glossary :

	<b>apse</b>
An arched structure or a semi-circular end of a wall. In byzantine architecture it means the semicircular, usually barrel-vaulted, niche at the east end of a basilica. The side aisles of a basilica may also end in an apse, but it is always in the central apse where the altar is placed. It was separated from the main church by a barrier, the templon, or the iconostasis. Its ground plan on the external side could be semicircular, rectangular or polygonal.	
	<b>barrel-vault</b>
vaulted, semi-cylindrical construction used often as roof.	
	<b>caldarium</b>
Derivative of the Latin verb caleo (= warm up). It is the strongly heated room of Roman baths. Its hot plunge pool was used to take not only a hot bath but also a steam bath due to high levels of humidity. It was also called the "inner room".	
	<b>frigidarium</b>
A large cold pool to drop into after enjoying a hot Roman bath (from frigeo). Normally frigidarium has used after a visit to warm rooms (caldarium) or after a training in palaestra. As the largest room in the thermae and often functioned as a hall for social events or communication	
	<b>hydraulic mortar</b>
A waterproofing mortar, applied to the walls of spaces exposed to water and humidity, such as cisterns, baths etc.	



### hypocaust, the

the main system for the heating of ancient baths. The word means literally a “furnace that burns underneath”. With this system the room’s floor was supported by small poles and the space underneath the floor was heated by the circulation of hot air, while the heat was transferred through the walls by conductors.



### ring-type baths

Architectural type of bath complexes, in which the arrangement from the *frigidarium* (cold chamber) to the other halls imposes a circulation ring in one direction only.