



Summary :

Bath III 2 B shares the general features of the baths of Cilicia and eastern Pamphylia. It belongs to the ring-type plan and includes three successive hot chambers, as well as a palaestra to the east side of the complex. It dates to the middle of the 3rd century AD.

Date

250 AD

Geographical Location

Anemurium, Cilicia

1. Introduction

The bathing complex is built between the country street running along the coast, and the sea. The area is full of public buildings, at the centre of the city of [Anemourium](#). To the south, a city wall (II 14 F) separated the complex from the [exedra](#) and [Bath II 11 B](#). The city wall III 3 F below the country road is contiguous to the complex on the west.¹ The north side of the bath includes some unidentified buildings (III 4 E, III 5 A) as well as a structure with three conches (III 6), probably of devotional character.² It is a bathing complex with a [palaestra](#) formed on the eastern side. The complex dates to the mid-3rd century AD, according to the numismatic evidence. The layout of the bath's ground plan, with an asymmetric arrangement of small- and medium-sized barrel-vaulted rooms, as well as the articulation of one of the building's facades – the south one – with apses projecting to the south, is in accordance with the general features of Late Roman [baths](#) in the small provincial towns of [Cilicia](#) and eastern [Pamphylia](#).³

Bath III 2 B belongs to the [ring-type plan](#), since the entrance to the building gives access to only one hall, which starts a circular course for the visitor through the rooms of the bath. Another particularity of this complex concerning the ground plan and its facades is that the three hot chambers are arranged in a row,⁴ the two side ones with [apsidal](#) ends projecting to the south. The neighbouring Bath II 11 B as well as Bath 5 B of [Iotape](#) also share these particular features. The bath was first excavated in the 1960's; excavations were completed by a different archaeological mission in the 1970's.

2. Architectural Description

The ground plan of Bath III 2 B is particularly interesting because it combines a the bath plan displaying parallel halls with projecting apses with a rectangular palaestra. The hot chambers ([caldarium](#)) were on the south of the complex, while the [frigidarium](#), with a large pool, was on the north.⁵

Archaeological excavations revealed the arrangement of the chambers according to a north-south division. On the south there were the hot chambers, while on the north there were the cold ones. The main access to the complex was through a broad staircase from the public street to the east of the complex, which led to the palaestra.⁶ The palaestra had a three-sided [stylobate](#), while two mosaics with geometrical motifs adorned its floor. The central mosaic featured plain diagonal blue and white motifs, while the mosaic of the peripheral passage had more colours and more complicated motifs. The fourth side of the palaestra formed an oblong gallery vertical to the axis of the palaestra. It gave access to three chambers parallel to its longitudinal axis; the central of the three chambers served as a vestibule to the main bath.

Access to the entrance hall was through a triple opening defined by two columns or [pillars](#). On the opposite wall and on the same level there were semicircular [niches](#) flanking an opening that led to the bath. A mosaic inscription reading “καλώς λούσαι” (have a nice wash) was at the entrance, while a second inscription reading “καλώς ελούσου” (you have washed well) was at the exit. The large rectangular [apodyterium](#)⁷ was to the north of the vestibule and was also adorned with mosaic pavements. The entrance to the







baths led to chamber D, the *frigidarium*, which included a pool and a peripheral passage on its north side. Four small staircases were found inside the pool, one in each corner. On the east and on the west side of the pool, there were two semicircular niches facing each other. A colourful geometrical mosaic pavement adorned the south part of the chamber, where the visitors stood just before they entered the pool. After the *frigidarium* the bather would enter a second chamber including a smaller pool on the north (B). The south part of the complex, the *caldarium*, included three hot barrel-vaulted chambers in a row (E, F, G) – a typical ground plan feature. The two side chambers (E, G) have an apse on the south; on each one three arched windows are opened. The central hall (F) had a large opening on its south wall. All rooms communicated with each other so that the bather could follow a circular course. Semicircular niches were opened on the longitudinal walls of the hot chambers (E, F).

The building material is mainly ashlar blocks with some tiles. Mudbricks were used for the niches, the arches and the window frames of room F. The walls of the building were probably plastered, as implies the presence of plaster on the external side of the apses of rooms E and G. As for the drainage system, a drain was found in the northwest corner of the *frigidarium* (D), which continued inside the chamber; another drain was found in the *caldarium*, in the apse of room E.

Bath III 2 B of Anemurium is today in a better condition than the neighbouring Bath II 11 B, as its walls have been preserved up to half the height of the vault and the conch of the apses.

-
1. Wall III 3 F generally follows the hypsometry of the landscape.
 2. Apart from the particular architectural character of the structure, to this assumption also leads its proximity to three churches (III 10 C, III 13 C, III 14 C) situated to its north.
 3. Yegul, F., *Baths and bathing in classical antiquity* (New York 1992), p. 301.
 4. Nielsen, I., *Thermae et Balnea. The architecture and cultural history of Roman public baths* (Aarhus 1993), pp. 110-1.
 5. Yegul, F., *Baths and bathing in classical antiquity* (New York 1992), p. 304.
 6. The palaestra measures 36.50 × 25.30 m.
 7. Letters and numbers indicating bath spaces follow the ground plan of the complex after T. Boyd and J. Russell; see Yegul, F., *Baths and Bathing in classical Antiquity* (New York 1992), p. 305.

Bibliography :


	Nielsen I., <i>Thermae et Balnea. The Architecture and Cultural History of Roman Public Baths</i> , Aarhus 1990
	Yegül F., <i>Baths and Bathing in Classical Antiquity</i> , New York 1992
	Russell J.R., "Excavations at Anemurium, 1973", <i>TAD</i> , 22, 121-124
	Russell J.R., "Recent excavations at Roman Anemurium 1969-1973", <i>The Proceedings of the Xth International Congress of Classical Archaeology II</i> , Ankara 1976, 916-920





Webliography :


 Anemurion
<http://www.tuerkische-sehenswuerdigkeiten.de/HTML/Anemurion.html>


Glossary :


 apodyterion, -a
An undressing room, next to the entrance in a bathhouse, or a gymnasium, or a palaestra.


 apse
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.


 barrel-vault
vaulted, semi-cylindrical construction used often as roof.


 caldarium
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".


 exedra, the
1. Large semicircular niche-like structure with stone seats ranged around the walls, often outdoors or with a hemidome over. An exedra may also be expressed by a curved break in a colonnade, perhaps with a semi-circular seat.
2. The rectangular hall of the palaestra, open to the courtyard with columns at the front. The exedrae in gymnasium and palaestra could have served many functions. Usually a hall of such type was the Ephebeum.


 frigidarium
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 palaistra. As the largest room in the thermae and often functioned as a hall for social events or communication

 niche
Semi-circular recess on the surface of the wall.

 palaestra
A colonnaded enclosure for athletic exercise. The palaestra functioned both independently and as a part of the Greek gymnasium. It was formed as an open court surrounded by colonnades with adjoining rooms.

 pillar
Pier of square or rectangular cross-section.

 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.

 stylobate
The top step of the crepidoma (the stepped foundation of an ancient Greek building) from which the columns rise.