



Summary :

Bath II 7 A belongs to a local type of baths of Cilicia and eastern Pamphylia. It has a large central hall serving, according to recent studies, as a cold chamber (*frigidarium*). The complex is considered a typical example of Late Antique baths, where the cold chambers are larger than hot ones. It dates to the late 3rd or the first half of the 4th c. AD.

Date

late 3rd – early 4th c. AD

Geographical Location

Cilicia, Anemourion

1. Introduction

Bath II 7A of [Anemourion](#), the smallest bath complex of the city, lies between the aqueduct (II 4 W) and the modern road (II 5), in a residential area to the west of the theatre. It shares the same features with the baths of small provincial cities of [Cilicia](#) and eastern [Pamphylia](#) built between the 3rd and the 5th century AD. The baths of this group did not have a *gymnasium*; they are small, asymmetrically arranged, with *barrel-vaulted* rooms which often have an apsidal ending. This particular complex belongs to the hall-type baths, where the rooms are arranged around a large central hall. Similar complexes have been attested in Antioch on Kragos ([Bath I 12A](#)) and in Syedra (Bath II 1 A). The researchers' opinions are divided over the use of the spaces. F. Yegul believes that the large central hall A accommodated social or minor sports activities.¹ On the other hand, I. Nielsen, who has pointed out that cold chambers (*frigidarium*) are larger than hot chambers (*caldarium*) in Late Antique baths, believes that the central hall was the *frigidarium* of the complex, with the hot chambers arranged on the one side and spaces intended for social gatherings on the other side of the hall.² Furthermore, Nielsen thinks that this particular Anemourion bath is a typical example. The bath was excavated during the 1960s. It is very well preserved and almost all vaults above the rooms have survived. It dates to the late 3rd or the first half of the 4th c. AD.

2. Architectural Description

The bath has a central hall (A),³ rectangular in plan and barrel-vaulted, aligned to an east-west direction. The other rooms, arranged around the central hall, are also barrel-vaulted but their vaults are aligned to an axis vertical to the one of the central hall vault. The east part of hall A communicates through an arched opening with a cistern, traces of which have been found. The same arrangement has also been attested in the baths of Antioch on Kragos and Syedra.

The ground plan of the complex forms a rectangular, with chamber K and apse H projecting south. The entrance to the building is at the north-west end of the north facade and leads to an oblong and narrow hallway (Q), which is lighted by four arched windows and extends along the whole west side. To the right of the entrance, across the west wall of room Q, was a bench and two rectangular niches, one of which included a small basin. A second basin is formed across the east wall. The passage gave access to the common rooms and the central hall. Central hall A communicated with the other rooms through arched openings, apart from the openings to rooms Q, B and F. To the southeast of the hallway is a square, *groin-vaulted* room (B), which communicates with central hall A, hallway Q and the adjacent square room C; on the east and south part of room C there are small rectangular niches with basins (spaces D and E). The barrel-vaulted square room (G) forms a rectangular niche with a basin to the east (I) and ends up to an apse (H) to the south. This apse is lighted by three arched windows and also includes a basin. Three more basins exist across the west wall of room G. Between the room G and central hall A there are two small rooms (F). The rooms of the east side (J, K, L, M) are barrel-vaulted, with vaults parallel to the one of the central hall. Chamber J had a heating system with *hypocausts*.⁴ The fact that the apse (H) did not directly communicate with the central hall indicates that it served a special purpose. Its proximity to chamber J



suggests a possible use of apse H as *caldarium*.⁵ Hypocausts were found in spaces B, C, D and I. Under the floor of room C in particular, colonettes have been discovered, while small pillars were found under the floors of the other chambers. Room K communicated with room J and gave access to the exterior. The northern rooms (N and O), with their square shape and the windows on their north walls, must have served as *tepidarium*, for under the floor of room O there are hypocausts as well. The last room (P) is narrow, with drains; it has a small window on the north wall and opens to central hall A and hallway Q. It probably served as a toilet. Chamber R was built later, thus creating a second entrance to the baths. It has four semicircular niches, two on the west wall, one on the north and one on the east wall.⁶

A limited number of findings preserved indicate that the bath was decorated with marble-revetment, wall paintings and mosaics.

3. Materials and Construction

The walls are made from irregular ashlar limestone blocks. Mud-brick colonettes were used for the hypocausts under room C, while mud-brick small pillars were found in the hypocausts under chambers B, C, D and I. Cut sandstone and marble slabs were used in the vaults and arches, while for their construction there must have been made use of wood-forms. With the exception of groin-vaulted room B, all the other chambers are barrel-vaulted. On the outside the roof was covered with successive layers of red mortar containing smashed tiles. The joints between the parts of central hall A are covered with tiles shapes appropriately. The horizontal and vertical clay drains suggest the existence of a system for supplying the bath with water from the cistern as well as a drainage system. Coat traces on the exterior face of the walls have led to the conclusion that the walls had been ochre painted on the outside and were decorated with a painted imitation of isodomic masonry.








1. Yegül, F., *Baths and bathing in classical antiquity* (New York 1995), p. 304.
2. Nielsen, I., *Thermae et Balnea. The architecture and cultural history of Roman public baths* (Aarhus 1990), p. 114, fn. 115, 116 and 139.
3. Room A measures 4.50 × 18.00 metres.
4. In the baths of Syedra and Antioch on Kragos an underground passage served as heating system.
5. According to 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. 47, bath complexes of Syedra and Antioch have the same dimensions.
6. 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), pp. 4-9.

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
	Onurkan S., Huber G., Rosenbaum E. , <i>A Survey of Coastal Cities in Western Cilicia. Preliminary Report</i> , Ankara 1967, Monographs of Turkish Historical Society VI/8



Glossary :

	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".	
	cross- (groin-) vault
A vault formed over square or rectangular spaces by the interpenetration of two barrel-vaults of equal height and diameter. The lines of the intersection form a diagonal cross.	
	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 palaestra. As the largest room in the thermae and often functioned as a hall for social events or communication	
	gymnasium
The gymnasium was one of the most important centres of public life in Greek cities. The institution of the gymnasium, directly connected with the development of the Greek city, aimed to create virtuous citizens and gallant warriors. As educational institutions of public character, the gymnasia were intended for the physical and theoretical education of the young and consisted of separate spaces for special purposes.	
	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.	
	tepidarium
The word is derived from the verb tepeo meaning 'to be tepid'. It is the room of tepid water in the Roman thermae. It was also called middle house or tepid house and was usually situated between the caldarium and the frigidarium. Its main function was the acclimatization of the bather to the change of temperature. Being at the Tepidarium the visitor could also apply ointments on his/her body before or after the hot bath, although, there was a special room for this function called unctorium.	