THE LIVES OF A ROMAN NEIGHBORHOOD

In this book, Paul W. Jacobs, II traces the history of a neighborhood situated in the heart of Rome over twenty-five centuries. Here, he considers how topography and location influenced its long urban development. During antiquity, the 40-plus-acre, flood-prone site on the Tiber’s edge was transformed from a meadow near a crossroads into the imperial Circus Flaminius, with its temples, colonnades, and a massive theater. Later, it evolved into a bustling medieval and early modern residential and commercial district known as the Sant’Angelo rione. Subsequently, the neighborhood enclosed Rome’s Ghetto. Today, it features an archaeological park and tourist venues, and it is still the heart of Rome’s Jewish community. Jacobs’ study explores the impact of physical alterations on the memory of lost topographical features. He also posits how earlier development may be imprinted upon the landscape, or preserved to influence future changes.

Paul W. Jacobs, II, an independent scholar, has spent extensive time in Rome and focuses on Rome’s topographical development. He is the coauthor of Campus Martius: The Field of Mars in the Life of Ancient Rome (2014). His article on Cola di Rienzo, Renaissance Studies (2018), regards the Sant’Angelo rione, the subject of this study.
THE LIVES OF A ROMAN
NEIGHBORHOOD

TRACING THE IMPRINT OF THE PAST,
FROM 500 BCE TO THE PRESENT

PAUL W. JACOBS, II
Independent Scholar
To Fredrika, with love, and to the memory of my parents,

Julian and Bettie Jacobs
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