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The Forum Transformed

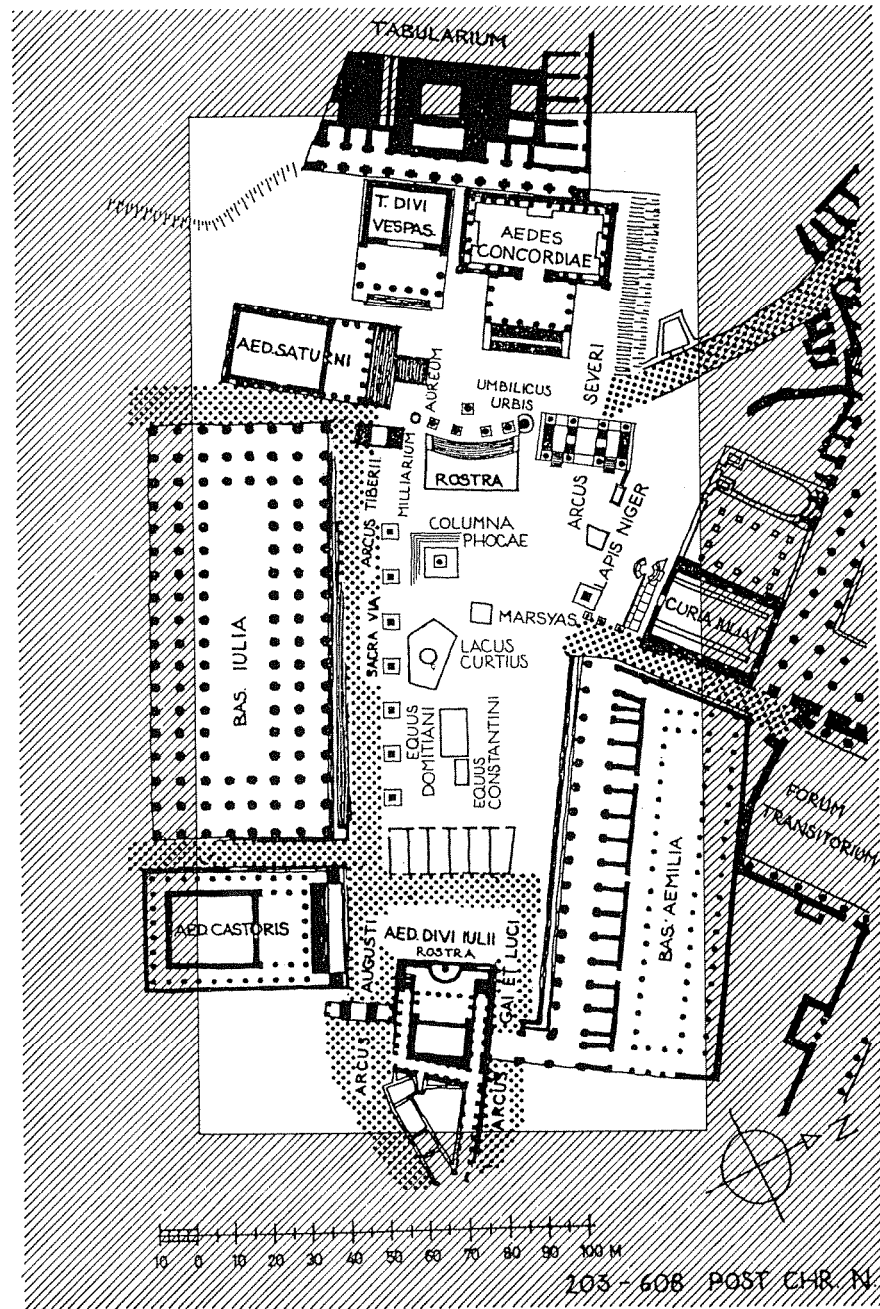
Heinrich Hermann

This project served to investigate the possibility of transforming the ancient Roman Forum into an urban setpiece of our time.

For the process of transformation, the footprint of the physical condition of the Forum in the period between A.D. 203 and 608 was chosen. In this footprint all of the edge-defining elements have been maintained, with the exception of the Arch of Septimius Severus, the Tetrarchic Monument, and several smaller monuments within the main open space.

Figure 2 represents the first phase of the project, a transformed plan of the ancient Forum. The definitions of public and private space have been made more complex, and the typological variety has been increased to create more heterogeneity within the prevailing homogeneity. In functional terms, this “New Forum” is still understood to be serving both “utilitarian” and “nonutilitarian” needs.

The next phase would be a three-dimensional transformation of the plan through drawings and models, with the eventual aim of applying the lessons thus found to actual, contemporary urban conditions.



1 Roman Forum between A.D. 203 and 608. The area of the project is not hatched. Drawing from Paul Zanker, *Forum Romanum* (Tübingen: Ernst Wasmuth Verlag, 1972)

2 Transformed plan of the ancient Forum. (Pages 26 and 27) Drawing by Heinrich Hermann

