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Elite and Industrial Residences in late Antique and Byzantine Athens

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The city centre of Athens carries a rich history and a continuous human activity from prehistoric times until today. In this paper I will focus my presentation around the A.D. 2nd century, when we see a boost in the cultural production of Athens. More specifically, my presentation will follow the changes in the architecture from that point until the 11th century, when Athens has become a strong Christian city with its own episcopate. The process of Christianisation of Athens has been very slow and has resulted in a mixture of classical (pagan) elements entangled with Christian features. Recent research and excavations of the last decade, have shed some light on the industrial district of Athens (Kerameikos), which has been neglected for a very long time. New evidence that has been unearthed has given new information about how the Athenians organized their urban space to serve their needs. Late Antique and Byzantine Athenian residences, elite or industrial, are not buildings simply to sleep. Instead, they are being used for multiple reasons, social or work. In this paper, I intend to demonstrate in the best possible way, the differences between the Athenian elite and industrial residences, the different uses of the buildings and what this organization of the urban space means for Athens and the role of the city in the Roman Empire.