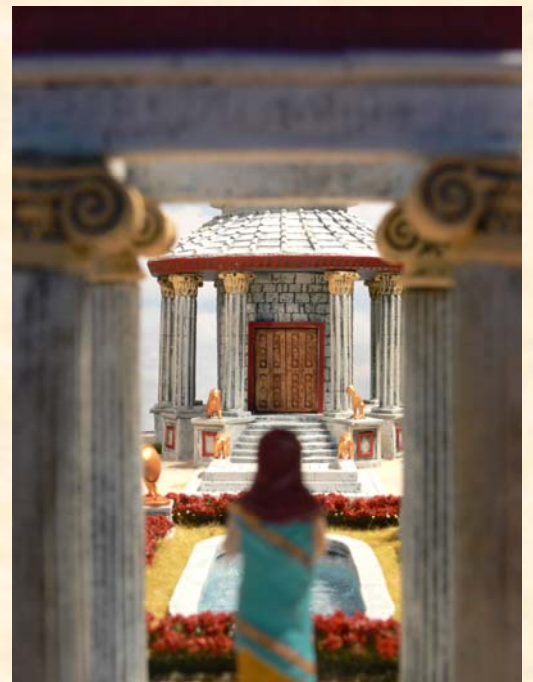


This diorama shows the garden of a Roman imperial villa, based on imagination, but inspired by real examples such as Hadrian's Villa at Tibur (modern Tivoli) or Nero's Domus Aurea in Rome. A major source of inspiration was in particular the book „Monumente der Macht“ by French archaeologist Jean-Claude Golvin (originally published as „Voyage chez les empereurs Romains“; an English edition seems not to exist).



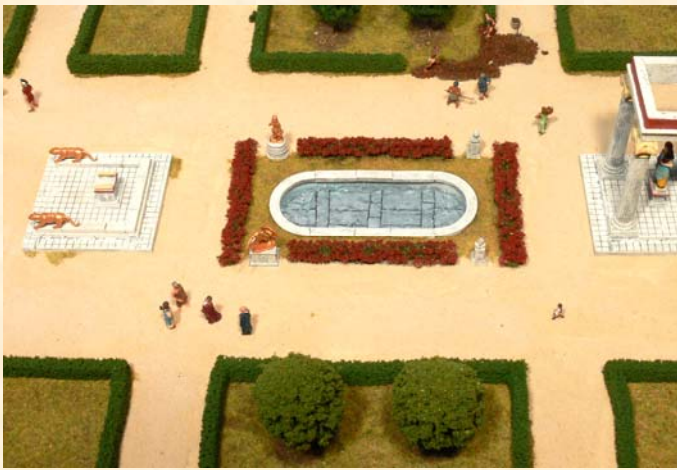




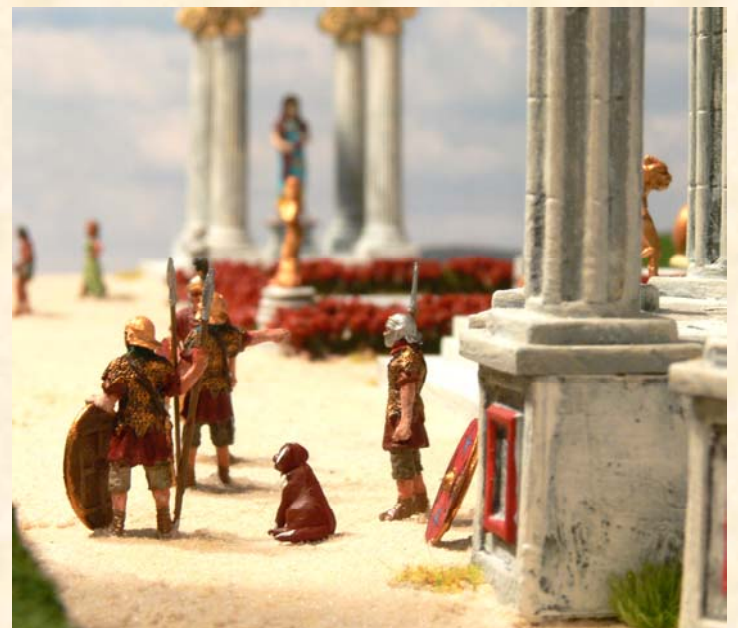
Although the diorama is not the exact reconstruction of any place that existed in reality, it needed some sort of fixation in time and space, and so I chose the villa of emperor Domitian at Circeii as a point of reference. Domitian was prolific builder of such imperial estates. One of them, his former Villa Albana, is today the site of Castel Gandolfo, where the Pope spends his summer holidays, enjoying the same beautiful view over the lake that already enchanted Domitian.







As Emperor Domitian I used the figure of his father Vespasian from the Roman Triumph set mastered by the Russian sculptor Alex, who has done a huge number of fantastic medieval figures but, fortunately, also some pieces for the ancient era.







THE IMPERIAL VILLA





The temple is a resin cast from Andreas Brune/Imperial Modellbau. The rest of the architecture including the water basin is scratch-built, with the large sculpture coming from the set Ancient Statues and Busts by Erik Trauner, surrounded by Ionian columns from Torsten Burgdorf. In addition, you can see figures and accessories from a number of sources: more Erik Trauner/Nikolai, more Alex/Germania-Figuren, Hecker & Goros, Jörg Schmaling/Art Miniaturen, Caesar Miniatures, Pegasus, H&T-Airfix reissue, and the old Atlantic set Greek Life. Vegetation and animals are from model railway companies (Heki, Faller, Busch, Noch).







THE IMPERIAL VILLA





\*\*\*

© Text and pictures 2012 Stephan Berry  
[www.stephan-berry.de/model.html](http://www.stephan-berry.de/model.html)  
[er.selbst@stephan-berry.de](mailto:er.selbst@stephan-berry.de)

THE IMPERIAL VILLA