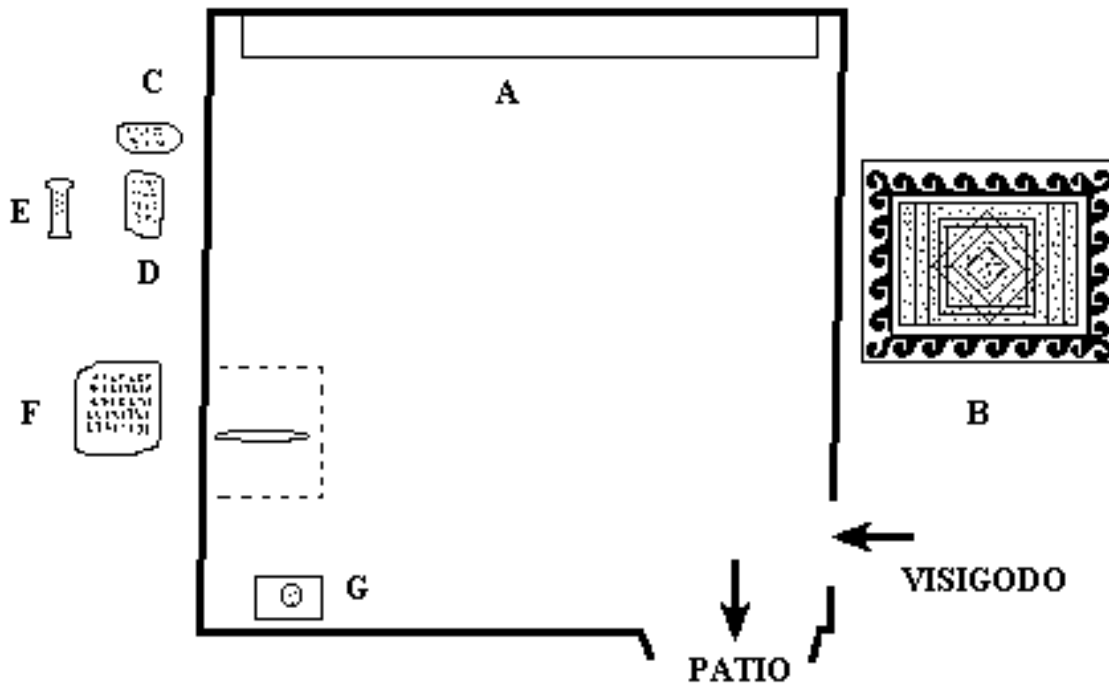


LATE ANTIQUITY

This room is dedicated to the period between the 3rd and 7th centuries AD. The main characteristics of this period were the changes within classical Roman culture and society, the spread of Christianity and the formation in the Iberian Peninsula of the Visigothic kingdom.



A: Show-case: from right to left the objects exhibited represent the transition from late classical culture - such as stucco-pieces from the La Cocosa *villa* - to Visigothic geometrism, and the balance between change and continuity typical of this period.

B: Floor mosaic from a rural *villa* (Las Tiendas, Mérida).

C: Fragment of the grave-stone dedicated to Arbundius with inscription written in verse.

D: Pascentius' tomb-stone. The abnormally long text contains quotes from early Christian authors.

E: Christian funerary inscription, cut from a pagan altar-stone.

F: Tomb stone of Fortuna. Both sides of the stone are inscribed. Since a mistake was made on the first side, the stone had to be turned over to rewrite the text. The preparatory incisions and guide lines were not erased from the first side, which left a very important example of how a Roman stone-mason worked.

G: Marble plaque with *labarum* (anagram of Christ).