



Fig. 9. Above: Pompeii. The buildings concerned in this study are marked with grey. Below: Insula 19. After Fulford and Wallace-Hadrill 1998.

## *Insula I 9*

*Insula I 9* is located at the eastern part of the Via dell'Abbondanza and at a short distance from the amphitheatre (*Fig. 9*). The main houses, Casa del Bell'Impluvio, Casa del Puer Successus, Casa del Frutteto, Casa di Amarantus and Casa di Cerere, are traditionally dated to around 120 BC.<sup>1</sup> These are residential buildings with atrium and peristyle (*Fig. 10*). In many cases, rooms at the main entrance were used for commercial activity. Wine jars stored in the house of Amarantus at the southeastern part of the *insula* indicate the owner as a wine trader, which is further underlined by the bar situated at the corner. Yet another bar remains at the northeastern corner, at the Casa del Frutteto. A painter's workshop was identified in one of the smaller houses, where 150 small bottles containing pigments were found during excavations in 1952.<sup>2</sup> All buildings have been restructured and redecorated, and, therefore, offer examples of all four traditional styles of Pompeian painting, often in stratigraphic sequences.<sup>3</sup>

Before I started this investigation, Professor Andrew Wallace-Hadrill provided me a short written introduction to the buildings and the plaster layers/decoration phases that might be of interest. That summary has been of great value, also offering a continuous dialogue, and are, in this context, used as the introduction to each house. The many inspiring meetings when we discussed the results, and oddities, have been of vital importance. Sampling areas multiplied as the study developed, but the summary introduction, later with all my notes and questions, remained the important basis.



Fig. 10. *To the left*: Casa del Bell'Impluvio, atrium towards *tablinum*. The beautiful *impluvium*, which gave the name to this house. *To the right*: Casa del Frutteto, atrium towards *tablinum* and peristyle.

<sup>1</sup> On *insula I 9* and its houses, see Fulford & Wallace-Hadrill 1996, Fulford & Wallace-Hadrill 1998, Bragantini et al 1981, 89f.

<sup>2</sup> Della Corte 1965, 340.

<sup>3</sup> There are remains of 1<sup>st</sup> style plasterwork in Casa del Bell'Impluvio and Casa del Frutteto, 2<sup>nd</sup> style decorations in Casa di Cerere and Casa del Bell'Impluvio, 3<sup>rd</sup> style decorations in all houses, and 4<sup>th</sup> style paintings in Casa di Successus and Casa di Amarantus.