

## **Summary of the PhD dissertation**

Residential architecture in Ptolemais, between 1st century B.C. and 5th century A.D.

The subject of this dissertation was the analysis of residential architecture in the area of ancient Ptolemais. The main aims were to: recreate the process of house construction in the Hellenistic period; describe the development of this type of architecture in the Roman period; examine the changes visible in the residential buildings in the late Roman period; explore the characteristics of residential architecture in Ptolemais; determine the factors which caused the changes in the construction of the houses in Ptolemais; and determine the end of construction activity in Ptolemais.

The project methodology involved the analysis of the excavation works conducted in Ptolemais between 1935 and 2010. Studies on the ancient sources, mainly those mentioning Ptolemais and the region of Cyrenaica, were first conducted. The findings were then confronted with the archaeological material. The next stage was the analysis of geophysical maps of Ptolemais, collected using MapGuide. The project also relied on the comparative method — residential buildings in Ptolemais were presented in their regional and inter-regional context.

The thesis made original contributions to knowledge by verifying that the process of shaping residential architecture in Ptolemais, its development and decline was dependent on trends common in the Mediterranean basin. However, it should be emphasized that all the patterns drawn from the other ancient centers were adapted by the builders to the local natural, economic and political conditions.

The dissertation is divided into five chapters. In the first chapter, the information on the ancient city of Ptolemais in the context of its location in north-eastern Libya was presented. Part 1 of the second chapter presents the literature review of residential architecture in Cyrenaica. The second part of this chapter is dedicated to archaeological research on residential architecture, conducted in Ptolemais between the first half of the 19th century and the end of 2010. The third chapter presents how the methodology of the studies of the ancient residential architecture has changed over the centuries. The subsequent part of this chapter is devoted to presenting the research methods used in the dissertation. Part 4 of the dissertation contains the typology of residential buildings in Cyrenaica from the Hellenistic period to the late Roman period. Then, a catalogue of the houses from the area of the ancient city of Ptolemais was presented. In the fifth chapter, the analogies between houses from Ptolemais and those from other cities of Cyrenaica and buildings

from Tripolitania, Egypt, Greece, Cyprus and Asia Minor were provided. Conclusions from the presented observations are included in the final part of the dissertation.