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## **The Roman theatre of Bracara Augusta**

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### **Abstract:**

This paper aims to present the main features of the roman theatre of Bracara Augusta identified in 1999. Although it is still under study, a significant set of evidence made it possible to present its characteristics, to value the socioeconomic issues related with its construction and to discuss the aspects related to the development of the NW Iberian Peninsula cities, where traditionally this type of equipment was believed to be absent, and to understand the diffusion of roman public architecture models in peripheral regions within the Western Empire.

### **1 Introduction**

The Roman theatre of Bracara Augusta was identified in 1999 when the northern part of the ‘Alto da Cividade’ public baths *palaestra* was under excavation. Located within a protected archaeological area it was excavated after 2002 and is still under research.

The monument was built at the beginning of the second century AD on the western slope of ‘Alto da Cividade’ hill and presents a clear adaptation to the surrounding topographic constraints, bounding the wide platform in which the *forum* was also located (Fig. 1). It is a typical Latin theatre with the classic articulation between the scenic body and the *cavea* area covering the *aditi* performing a prime example of this type of public architecture. It also represents the first theatre known in a city located on the NW of the Iberian Peninsula, a region where traditionally this type of building was believed to be absent. Presently a significant area of the theatre has been uncovered enabling us to put forward a set of preliminary considerations

with regards to its structural organization.<sup>1</sup> These will be, thereby, summarily presented on the present paper.

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<sup>1</sup> Much of the theatre's area currently discovered was excavated between 2004 and 2008 under the funded project "Preliminary Study of Bracara Augusta Theater."