

What did Alexandria look like in the 5th cent AD?

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This presentation will concentrate on the physical environment of Alexandria in the 5th century. The city plan presented will provide the spatial context for the city's buildings. Almost no remains survive from the city's churches but there are extensive written sources mentioning those built in the 4th century, while the last major temple, the Serapeum was destroyed at the end of that century. So by the 5th century the cityscape was largely Christian. By contrast, archaeological remains did survive of some other important buildings, such as the main race track, the Lageion. The most impressive architectural remains are those, uncovered in recent years, of the enormous academic and educational complex, the Temenos of the Muses, where both Christians and pagans studied into the 6th century.