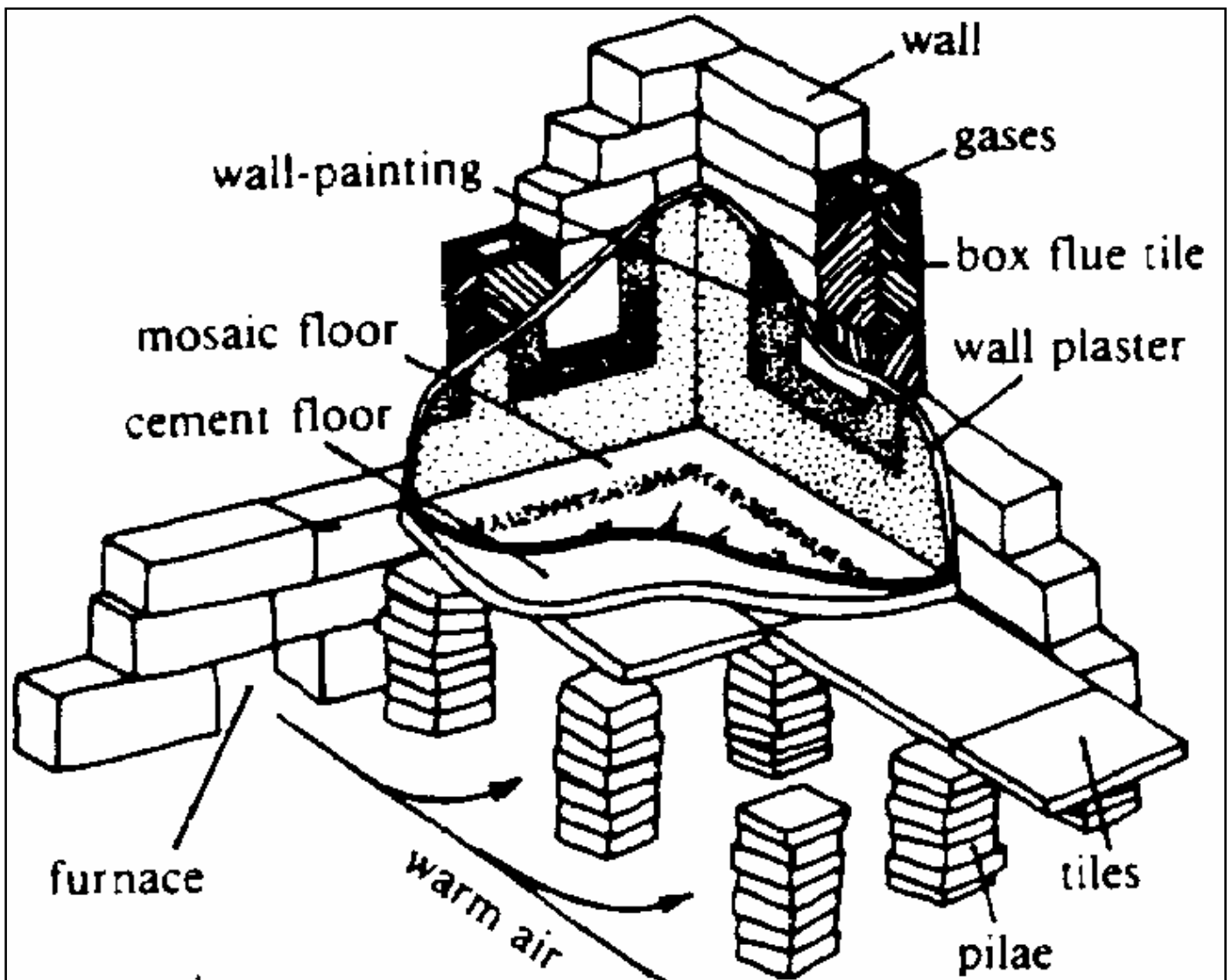


Building a Working Hypocaust

(under floor heating)



Building a Hypocaust

A hypocaust is an under-floor heating-system that the Romans used in individual rooms. It is not central heating, and to call it this is misleading.

You will require 250 standard house bricks, and 20 concrete slabs
(Remember! The Romans invented concrete!).

Use the following instructions to build a small suspended floor with a Hypocaust under it.

Important!

Build it carefully as it can have a fire lit in it at the end of the activity.

Start with the sheet marked layer 1.

Put layer 1 down first, on the ground.

Layer 2 goes on top of layer 1 but make the bricks overlap the joins.

Layer 3 is the same as layer 1 and overlaps the joins of layer 2.

Layer 4 is the same as layer 2.

Keep it as neat as you can.

Once this is completed turn to the page that has the floor slabs on it. Put the slabs on the top of the bricks as shown.

If you have extra bricks, you could put a wall base on top of the slabs. The layer should go all the way around the outer edge of the slabs.

Extra bricks can be used to build the flue higher.

If you wish, a small amount of clay can be used to seal the cracks between the floor slabs

Perhaps with a few tiles, you could start a mosaic on the slabs!

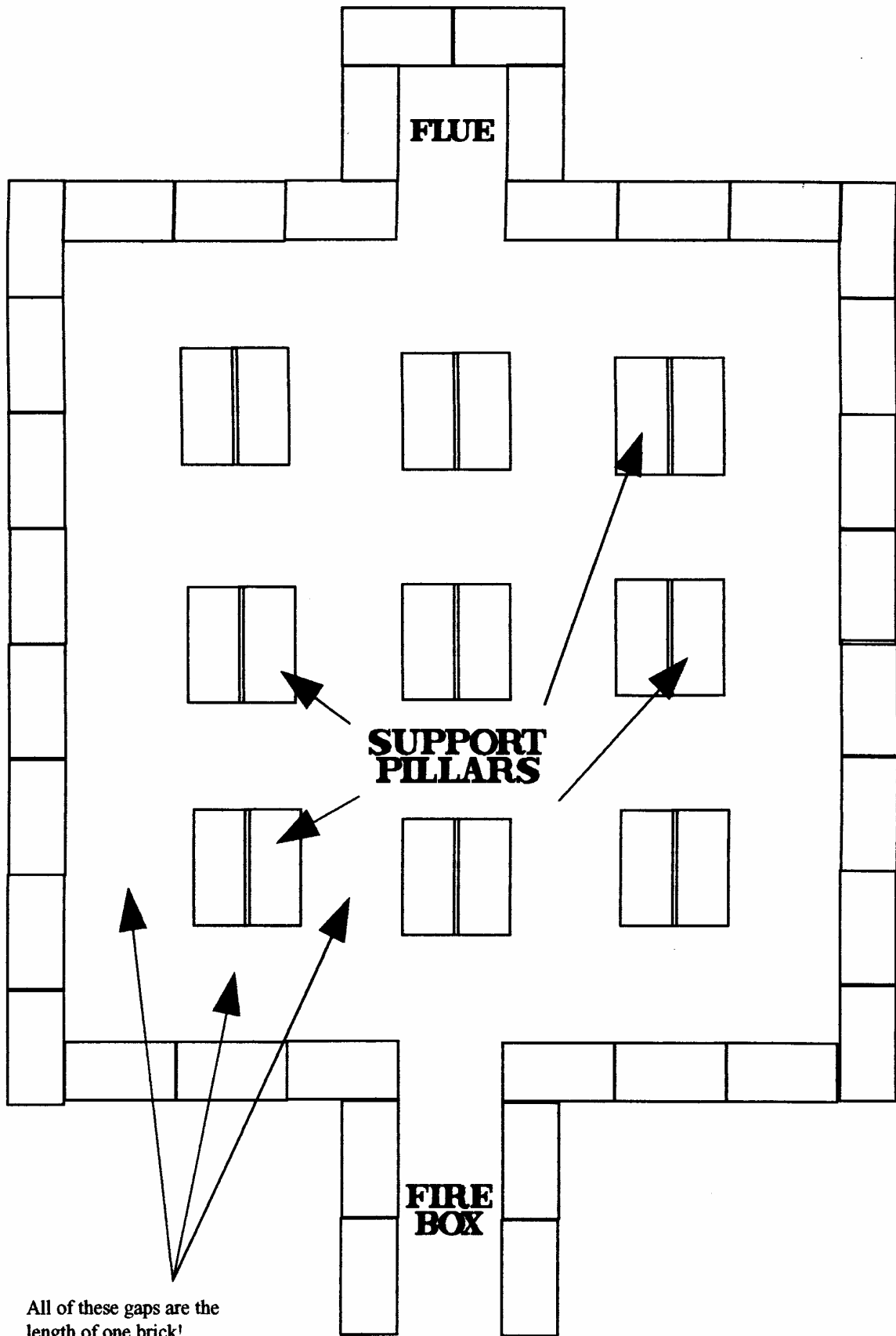
Important!

A child to carry only ONE brick at any time.

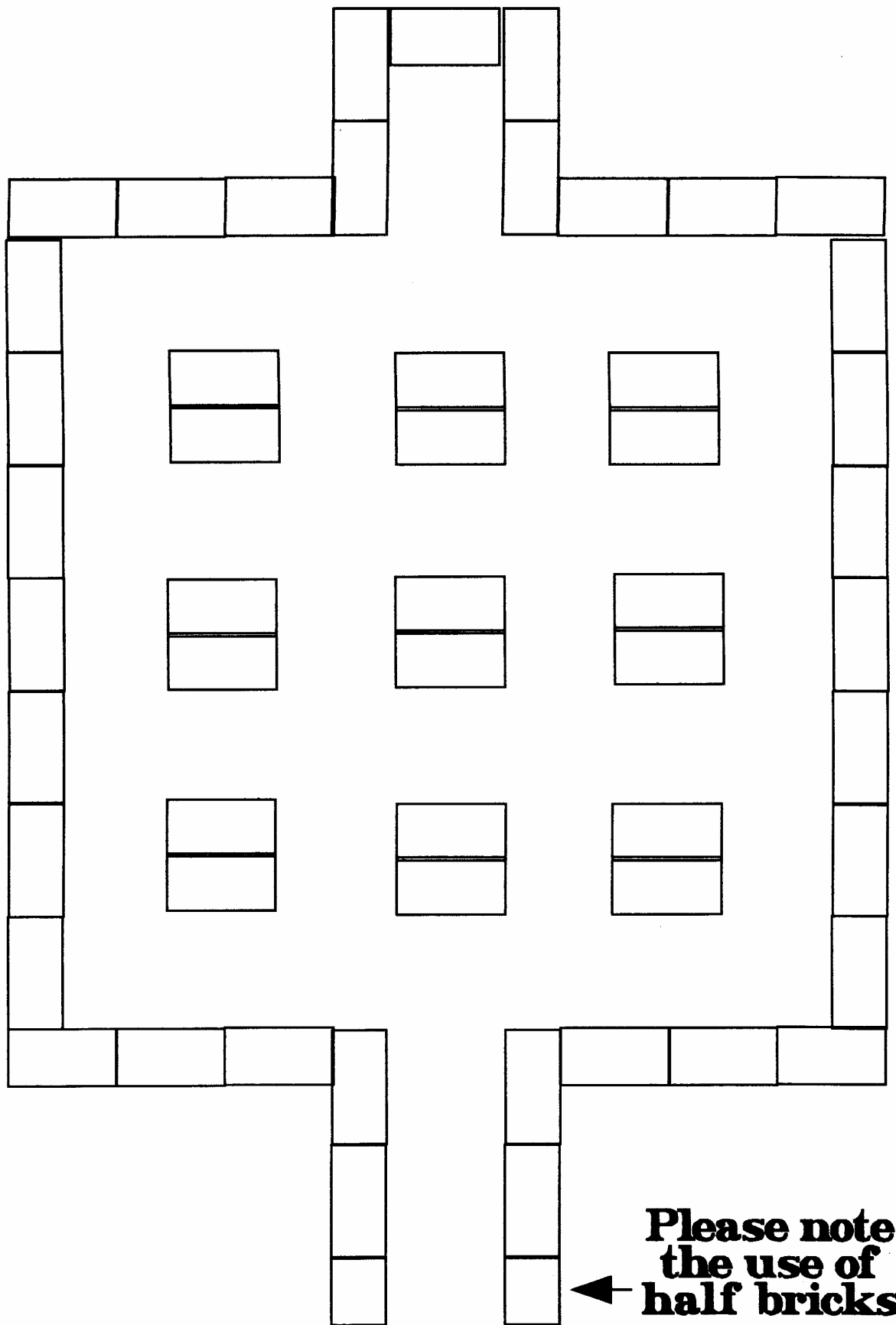
TWO children needed to carry 1 slab

Mind all fingers when placing bricks or slabs.

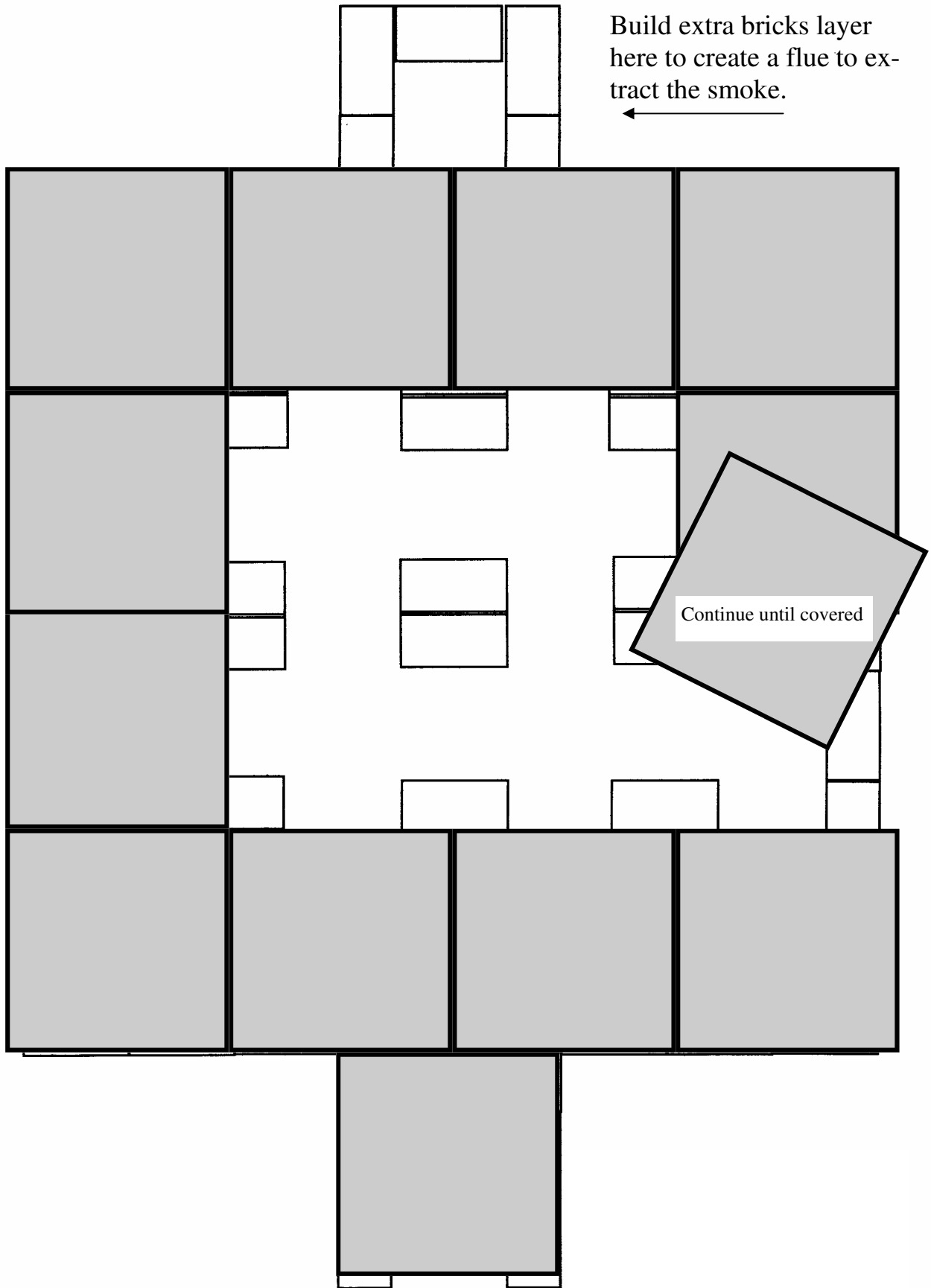
Do not allow the children to walk on the floor until it has been checked by a member of staff, or a grown-up!



**1st LAYER - ON THE GROUND
& 3rd on top of the 2nd**



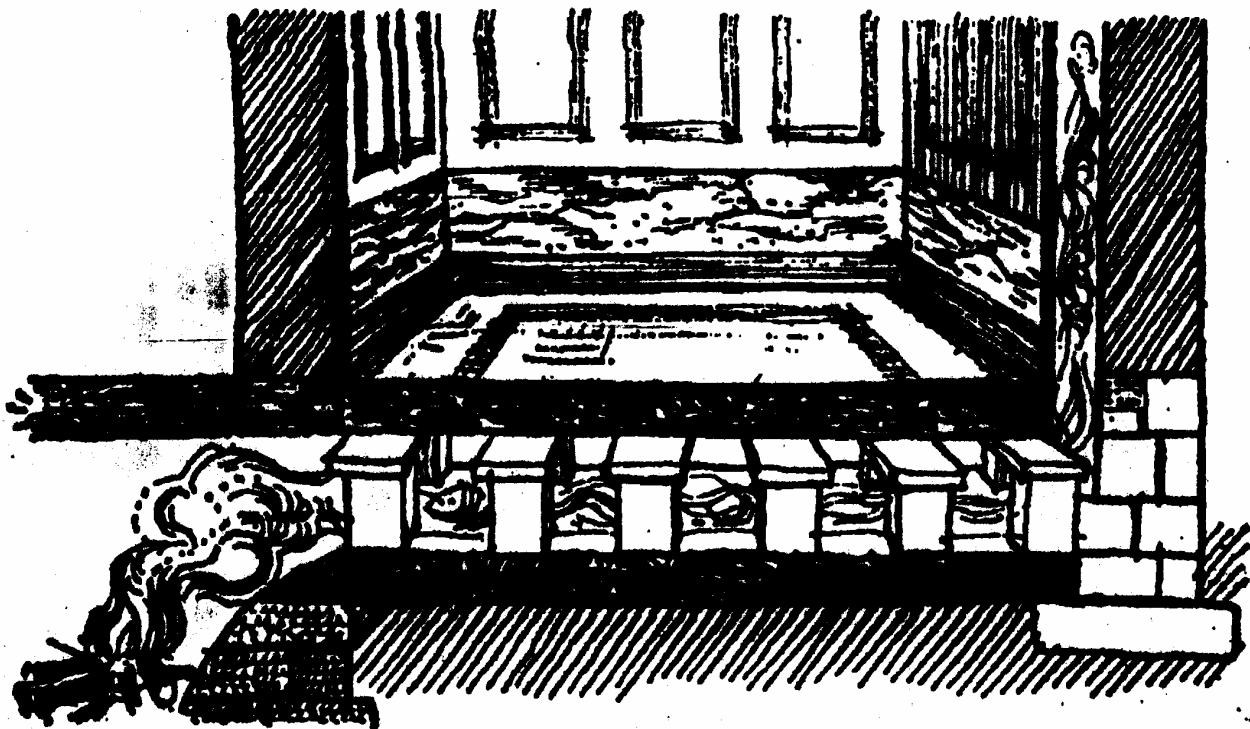
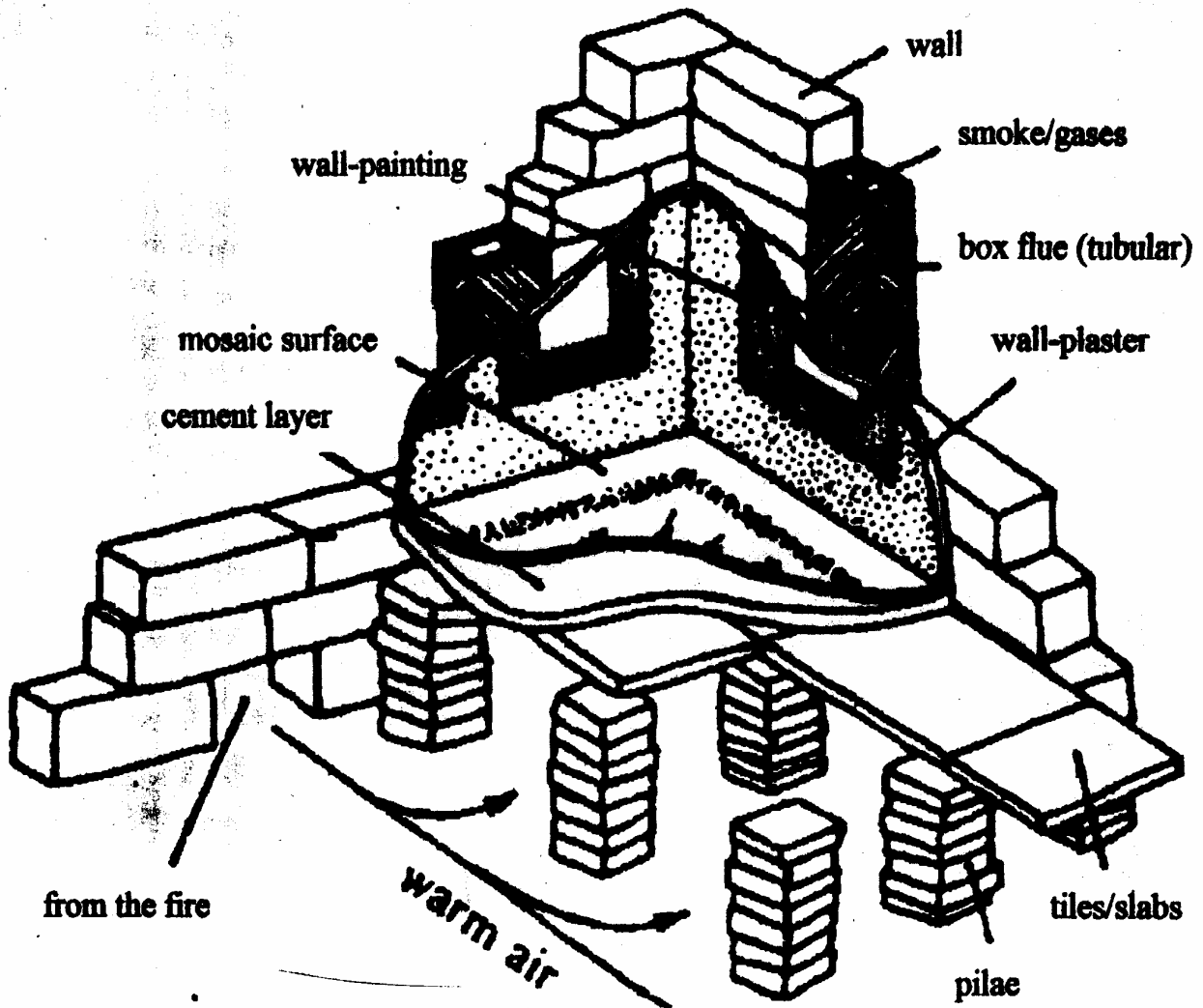
2nd & 4th LAYER



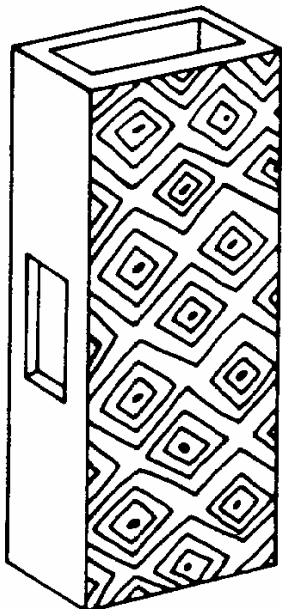
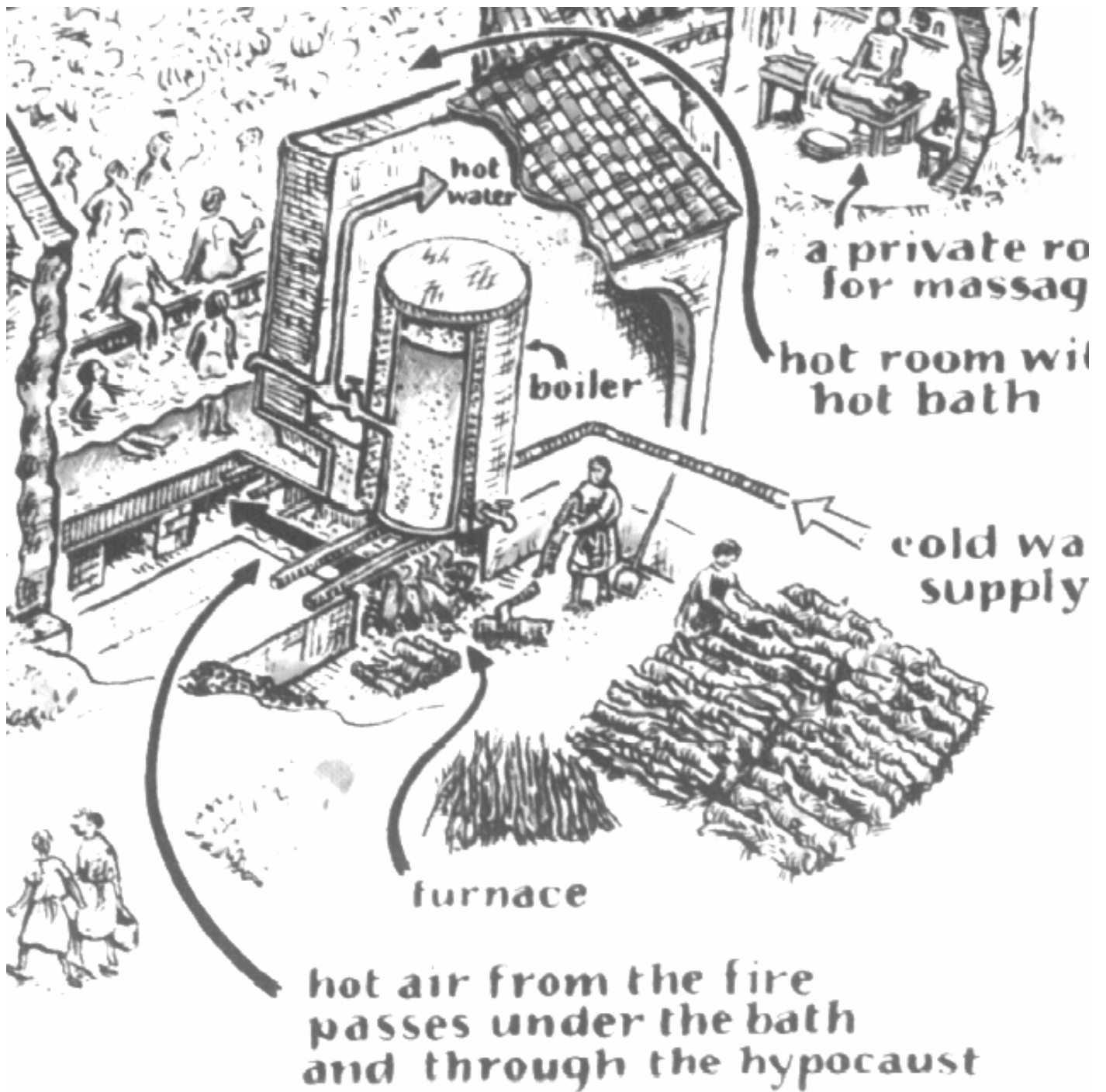
Slab Layer

A mosaic can be laid onto the floor area,
and a fire can be lit in the fire place (tunnel)

Please be aware of hot surfaces!



Cross section of a complete room.



A Roman 'box flue tile'