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Cover. Pont du Gard bridge of the Nîmes Roman aqueduct, France,(image: Benh LIEU SONG,CCASA 3.0) is one of more than 1700 known aqueducts that evince how a sophisticated water-supply infrastructure contributed to the expansion of Roman urban living. The Latin aquae ductus *can be translated as 'leading of water' and the Roman aqueducts led water primarily in underground channels but also over bridges and through inverted siphons, using the power of gravity, which enabled the construction of monumental fountains, bathing complexes, elite houses, water-powered machines and public street-side fountains to help enhance residents' quality of life.*

For more information, see J.W. Hanson et al.*'s article 'Settlement scaling theory, aqueducts and the Roman Empire' in this issue.*

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