

Greek architecture



Minoan Architecture



Minoan architecture consists of several structures which acted as centers for commercial, religious, and administrative life from 2000 BC. Archaeologists have unearthed in Crete a Minoan landscape filled with tombs, palaces, villas, towns and the roads that connected them. The unique contribution of the Minoan civilization to European architecture is possibly most evident in the great palace structures of the major Minoan centres of Knossos, Phaistos, Malia and Zakros.

The Minoan palaces were constructed by blocks of local sandstone and limestone, that could resist seismic activity. They were built over time to occupy low hills at strategic places around the island in a manner so complex that they resembled labyrinths to outside visitors. According to Greek mythology, the palace of Knossos was designed by famed architect Dedalos with such complexity that no one placed in it could ever find its exit. The palaces were technologically advanced with expanded drainage systems, irrigation, aqueducts, and deep wells that provided fresh water to the inhabitants. The multi-storied palace buildings were laced with impressive interior and exterior staircases, light wells, massive columns, storage magazines, and gathering outdoor places.





Mycenaean Architecture

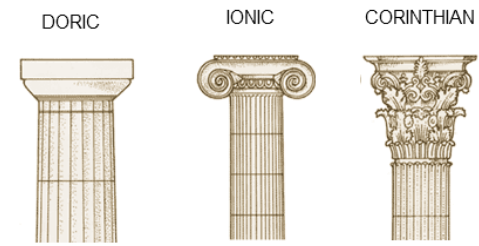


The Lion Gate was the main entrance of the Bronze Age (1600-1100 BC) citadel of Mycenae. The entire gate is about 10 feet wide and high and two lions under a triangle are inscribed on stone above the entrance gate. The characteristic of the Mycenaean walls is that they are made of huge limestone boulders, which have been fitted together rather roughly. As these boulders are very big in size, the ancient people believed that it was the Cyclops who built these gates, as they thought it impossible for men to move such big rocks. That is why these walls were named Cyclopean Walls.





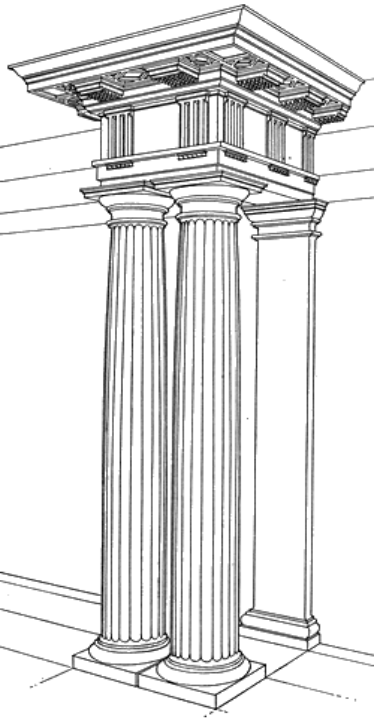
The Greek Orders



For the sake of uniqueness and maintaining a dominating identity, Greek architects were oriented towards specific architectural styles, commonly known as orders. Most of the government buildings, temples, and other remarkable structures in Greece established in the three prime Greek orders namely:

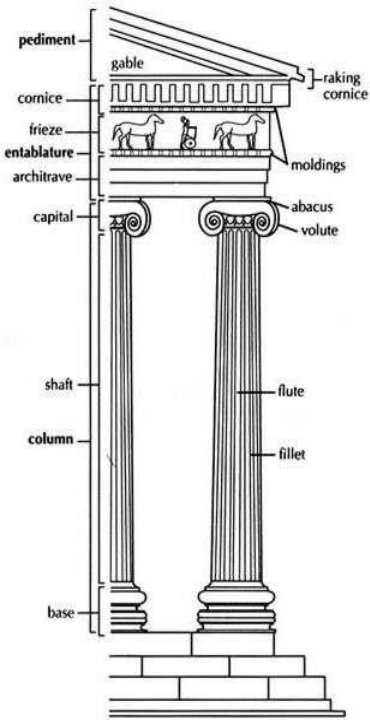
- **Corinthian**

One of the things that made the Corinthian style popular and unique is the decoration. It is the only one among the other forms that are heavily decorated. In essence, the capital of the column decorated with scrolls and leaves of Acanthus plant.



• Doric

This is the most uncomplicated Greek architectural style. Doric columns did not feature any form of decorations at the bottom. The top of the column was in some instances decorated, although in a mild way. This design was considered necessary especially in establishing tall and large structures.



• Ionic

This style was somewhat sophisticated. These columns were thinner as compared to Doric, and they had a base at the bottom. Aside from that, the top of Ionic columns featured some decorations. In most cases, this style involved in the construction of residential buildings including storeys.

Architecture Of 5th Century

Erechtheion



Temple Of Athena Nike

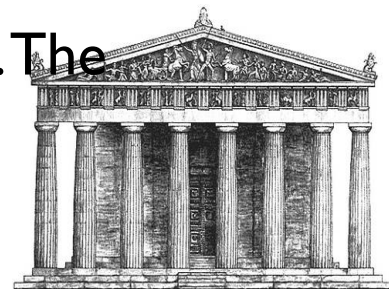
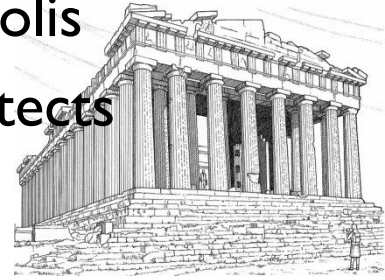


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In the 5th century, Pericles coordinated in Acropolis the construction of the Parthenon, the Propylaea, the Erechtheion and the temple of Athena Nike.

Parthenon, is a temple that dominates the hill of the Acropolis at Athens. It was built in the mid-5th century BC by the architects Ictinus and Callicrates and dedicated to the Greek goddess Athena Parthenos. Work began in 447 BC, and the building itself was completed by 438. The same year a great gold and ivory statue of Athena, made by Phidias for the interior, was dedicated. It is the most important surviving building of Classical Greece, generally considered the zenith of the Doric order. The Parthenon is regarded as an enduring symbol of Ancient Greece, Athenian democracy and Western civilization, and one of the world's greatest Cultural monuments. The most impressive architectural achievement is that it creates the impression of hovering a few centimeters above the ground. The reason behind this, is that it does not have a single straight line (even if it looks straight) and not a single vertical line.





•Recreations of the *Parthenon* and the *Statue of Athena*



•*Parthenon* today



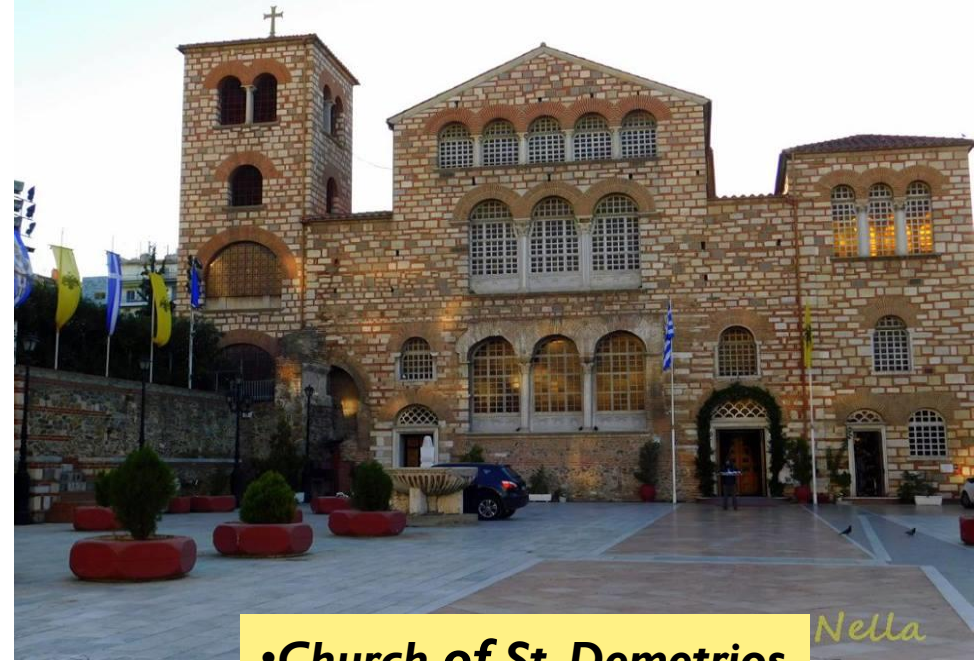
Byzantine architecture



The city of Thessaloniki in Macedonia, Greece, for several centuries the second-most important city of the Byzantine Empire, played an important role for Christianity during the Middle Ages and was decorated by impressive buildings. In 1988, fifteen monuments of Thessaloniki were listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites.



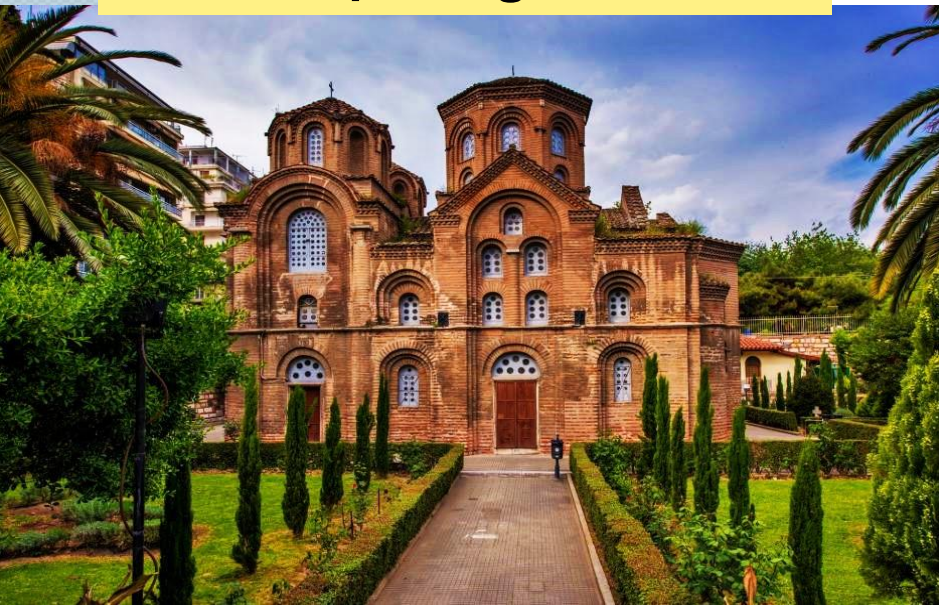
• **Rotunda of Saint George**



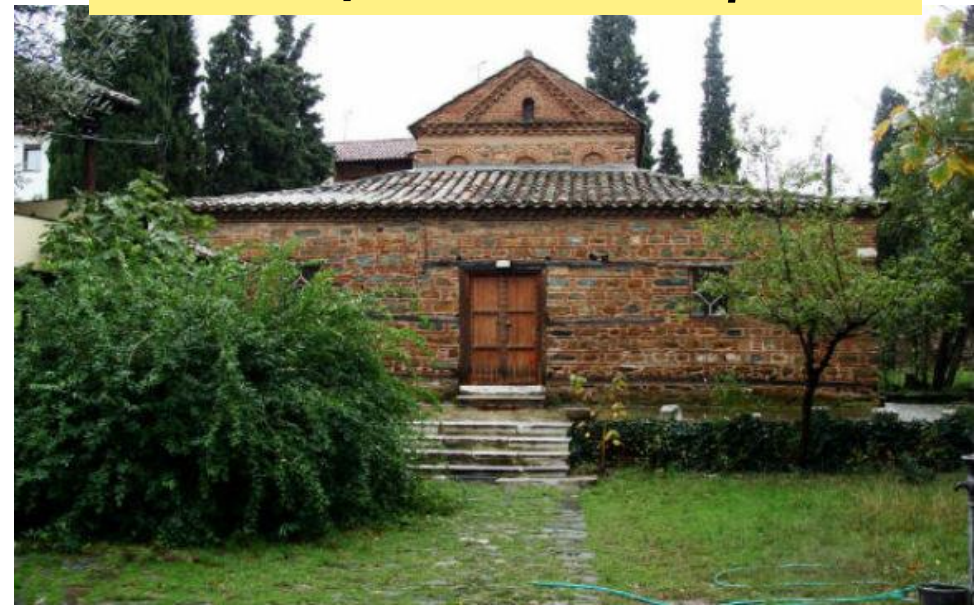
• **Church of St. Demetrios**

Nella

• **Church of Panagia Chalkeon**



• **Church of St. Nicholas Orphanos**



Meteora

The Meteora is a rock formation in central Greece hosting one of the largest and most precipitously built complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries. In a region of almost inaccessible sandstone peaks, monks settled on these 'columns of the sky' from the 11th century onwards. Twenty-four of these monasteries were built, despite incredible difficulties, in the 15th century.



Cycladic architecture

Except from their clean waters Cyclades stand out for their unique architecture. The white of the houses represents the purity and the cleanness while the blue of the windows the sky and the sea.

Surprisingly it was a Greek prime minister, Ioannis Metaxas, who ordered to paint the Cyclades islands in white and blue colors to keep the houses protected from diseases. After that, people kept the tradition of painting their houses white and blue, the colors of Greek flag. The color of the walls also serves a more natural need, because the white colors reduce the sun absorption during summer months.



The Hellenic Parliament

The Old Royal Palace is the first royal palace of modern Greece, completed in 1843. It has housed the Hellenic Parliament since 1934. The Old Palace is situated at the heart of modern Athens, facing onto Syntagma Square.



Modern architecture flourished in Athens, influenced by the European modern movement.

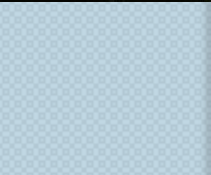
• **National library of Greece**



• **The National Metsovian Technical University**



• **Academy of Athens**



• **Zappeion Megaron**



• **National and
Kapodistrian University of
Athens**

Kazarma



The Kazarma Fortress in, our hometown, Sitia stands high above The town and is visible from the beach. It was built by the Venetians in the 13th century as the guard barracks, the Casa di Arma, a name corrupted to *Kazarma*. Kazarma is a peaceful, imposing place, giving visitors a sense of its history and rich past. Various cultural events, concerts and plays are held at the fortress, as part of the Kornareia Festival in honor of the great poet of Sitia, Vitsentzos Kornaros.