

KERAMEIKOS OF ATHENS

HISTORY OF THE SITE

Following an urban analysis of the location of archaeological sites in the city of Athens and the analysis of their most inherent problems, the Kerameikos district was identified as a possible site for further consideration. Although the element of the archaeological park is characterising in itself for the urban fabric of the Greek capital, it is clear that some areas are better known and enhanced than others, also because they are considered more important by mass tourism. The site we have chosen turns out to be north-west of the Agora and the Acropolis and, consequently, relatively close to the central and best known

area, but despite this it is also perhaps the most unrecognised. According to the analyses carried out, it is in fact not at all valued, nor known, also due to the lack of indications in the area and of a route that makes the history of the site known. With respect to this, it was decided to investigate the history of the site and, as a result, it was discovered that it was the main access area to the ancient city. It presents a series of monuments that are not legible today, but which were recognised at the time as some of the main ones in the entire city.

- Hieria Hodos become the main street
- Kerameikos was incorporated in the city by tyrants
- Dromos become important after the reform of Panathenaic festival

- construction of the proteichisma
- construction of tombs for illustrious figures of the city
- abandonment of the area by artisans

- 1800s excavations by Greeks
- 1914-2023 handover of excavation sponsorship to Deutsches Archäologisches Institut (DAI)

ARCHAIC AGE_XI-VIII b.C.

- extra-urban necropolis in the area that would later be occupied by Pompeion
- importance of the road axis from the whole region

PERSIAN WARS_VI b.C.

- construction of the temistoclean walls
- division of the Kerameikos into external and internal
- construction of the Hieria Pyle and the Dipylon
- Eridano was rectified
- final asset of the Dromos, the Hieria Hodos and the tombs street

v b.C.

IV-II b.C.

ROMAN AGE_I b.C.-V a.C.

- Hieria Pyle and Pompeion totally destroyed
- reconstruction of the Pompeion by Herod Atticus
- from 267 a.C. to V a.C. series of abandonment and destructions of the Kerameikos

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS_XIX-XVI a.C.

PLAN 1:5000

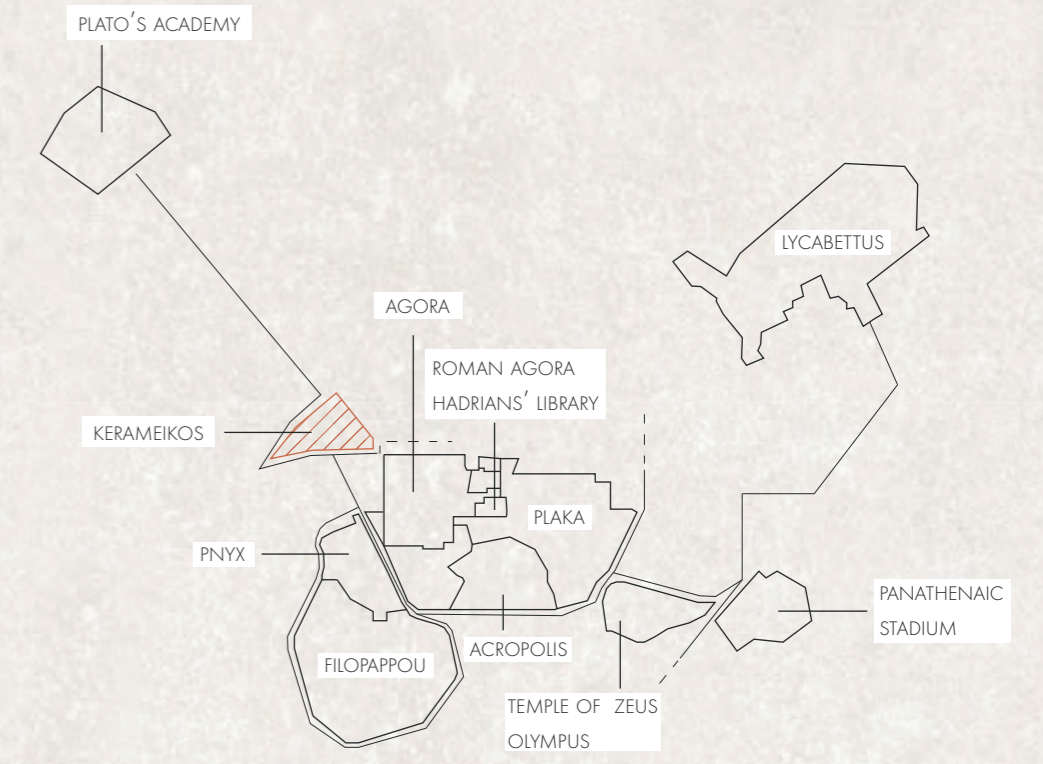
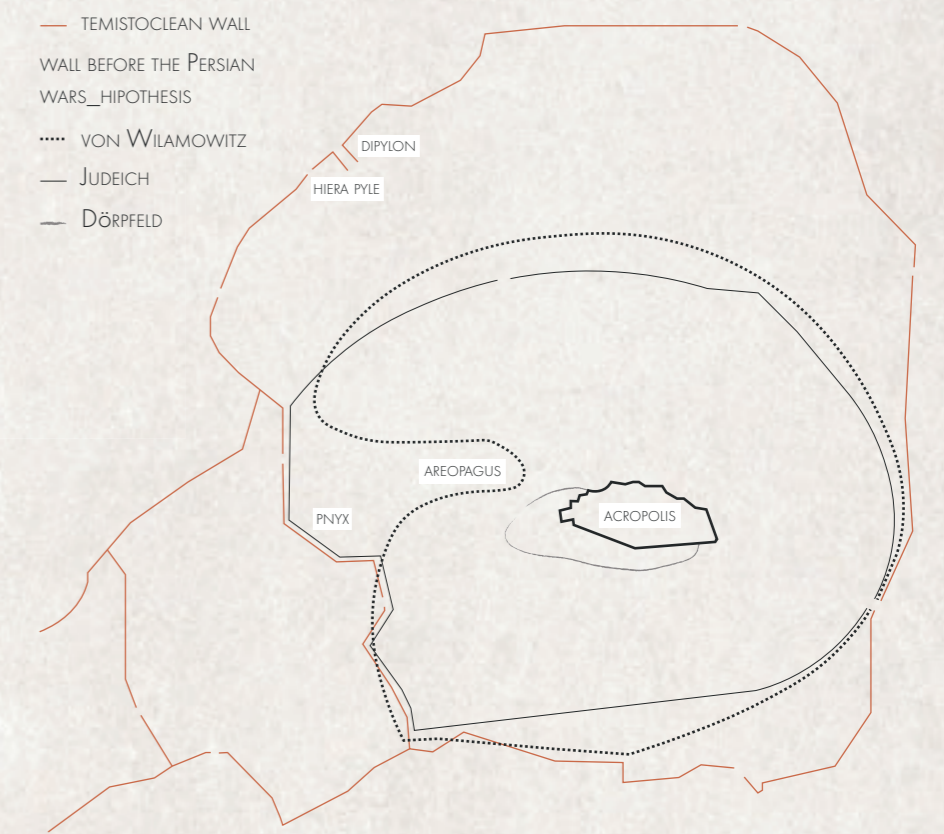


Diagram of the archaeological areas of the city of Athens. It can be seen that the areas are spread throughout, with some rather detached points, while the main conglomerate appears to be the central one at the Agora and the Acropolis. On the other hand, the Kerameikos district, despite being in a fairly central area and close to the other main archaeological sites, is hardly known and valued at all.

...redesign of the scheme proposed by A. Photiadis



Explanatory diagram of the evolution of the city walls. Note how the growth in importance of the Kerameikos quarter corresponds with the construction of the Themistoclean walls, even though this site was already previously used as a necropolis and a centre for craft production.

...redesign of the scheme proposed by Dörpfeld

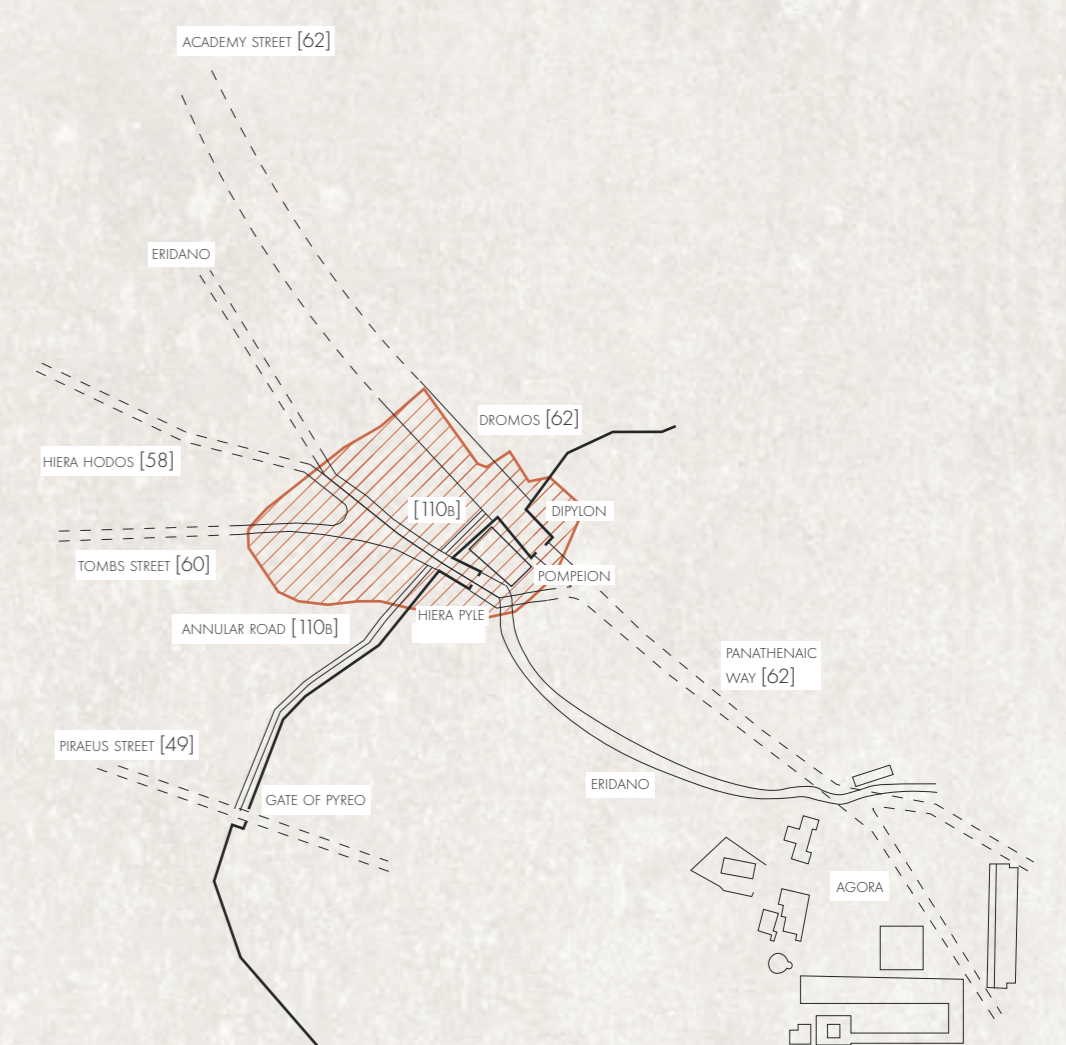


Diagram of the main streets of Athens passing through the Kerameikos district. The Via Sacra and the Dromos were also the main axes for the festivities of the polis. In the following representation, it's possible to see the incipit of the above-mentioned streets with respect to the city.

...redesign of the scheme proposed by L. Ficuciello