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CHAPTER 1 // URBAN & CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF ATHENS

INTRODUCTION

The study of an archeological site or an antique monument, as detailed as it may be, is not enough for its understanding and valuation without studying also its position regarding the surrounding settlement and its relation to other potential monuments nearby it. Because of that it is absolutely necessary the verification of the urban texture of the city in which the monument belongs, since the exact location and the relation with other important surrounding monuments will help us understand better its functional destination. More specifically, the investigations of the ancient monuments of Athens have been minimally correlated with their surroundings due to the lack of city plans of various historical periods.

Doubtless, the detection of the form of the city over the periods and its identification on the map is difficult, especially for certain periods unattainable due to the continuous destruction of the city but also due to the cover of the ruins with new buildings. After comparing various maps of Athens that were found on the excavations, it seems that the main axes of the urban tissue of Athens remained the same till the present time, which is mainly attributed to the formation of the landscape. The extensive excavations of the past 25 years in various areas of Athens provided many new informations for every form of the city, starting from the first inhabitants of Attica until recent times.



THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT OF ATTICA

Athens, the present capital of Greece, very early developed into a spiritual and artistic center, and thrived more than any other city of ancient Greece. This has greatly contributed to the exceptional geographic position and the incomparable beauty of the Attic locus. Attica is a place of mountainous nature, with steep hills and hills, which form between them fertile plains, surrounded by a magical sea with numbered boulders and safe natural harbours. It's biggest gift, however, is the unique climate with the eternal clear sky and the crystal clear clarity of its atmosphere, which complements the beauty and glory of the landscape.

MOUNTAINS AND PLAINS

Attica is located approximately in the middle part of the eastern side of the Greek Peninsula, and is the south-eastern edge of Sterea Hellas, separated from it by Parnitha and Kithairona mountains. Except the previous ones, Attica contains 4 more mountains and 7 hills, one of the them destined to become the Acropolis. The Attica plain is all-weather by mountains, except for the south which is washed by the sea, and its entrances were likely only very closed natural passages.

WATERS AND SEA

In the west and the larger part of the plain, Kifissos River flows through the Parnitha and flows into the Faliro gulf, while at the eastern part flows Ilissos River, starting from Hymittos mountain and pouring in Kifissos River after crossing the valley. All rivers are torrents forming small streams during periods of drought, while with the rare heavy rains they acquire a destructive force with vast flows, drifting with them soils and rocks and flooding the valley, especially towards the lowers parts close to the sea. Attica in antiquity, as it is today, is an anhy drated site, lacking rich sources of water, large



large rivers and lakes. For this reason Athens always suffered from lack of water.

VEGETATION

Attica is usually characterized as a naked and anhydrated land, which one sees right away by visiting it. Nevertheless, it also includes large areas covered by firs and pines, but also various other small and big trees and bushes. Among them the olive trees is the most important fruitful tree, cause the economy of Athens has always been based on its olive groves.

CLIMATE

The average air temperature is 17.8 degrees Celsius, with a mean temperature of January 9.2 and a mean temperature of July 27.2, which means a 18 degrees Celsius of difference. The Greek sky is famous for its clarity, and the same as happens naturally in Attica and Athens. The The clouds are rare and of short duration. Dryness is also one of the most important benefits of the climate. Snow is a rare phenomenon, and if it happens it is eroded and it mills rapidly.

GEOLOGICAL MORPHOLOGY

The ancients apparently have found different signs and meanings that lead them to believe that the landscape of Attica changed radically after massive seizures and distractions. Descriptive description of this disaster is given to us by Plato at his Critian writing. From a geological point of view, Attica presents a great deal of interest, both for the animal fossils that have been found in the Pikermi hill, along with sea molluscs, as well as for the formation of the stones among which the important position is held by the diverse marble typologies. The hills and the hills of Attica gave to the inhabitants abundant materials for the construction of their houses, magnificent



temples and other public buildings.

But the greatest gift of Attica was the clay, whose ability to harden after the baking was discovered quite early by the Athenians. In Attica the clay was used for the first time in the Neolithic period for pottery and later for the construction of houses.

The first inhabitants of Athens, who are named after the tradition as Pelasgians, seem to have settled around and probably on Acropolis, perhaps in 4000 BC. Then they were named Cranoi because of King Kranas, then they were named Kecropeides because of King Kecropa, and finally, King Erechthias called them Athenians, so they worshiped their cult towards the goddess Athena, and hence the city was named ATHENS.



FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE FIRST INHABITANTS TILL THE YEARS OF SOLON (3500-600 BC)

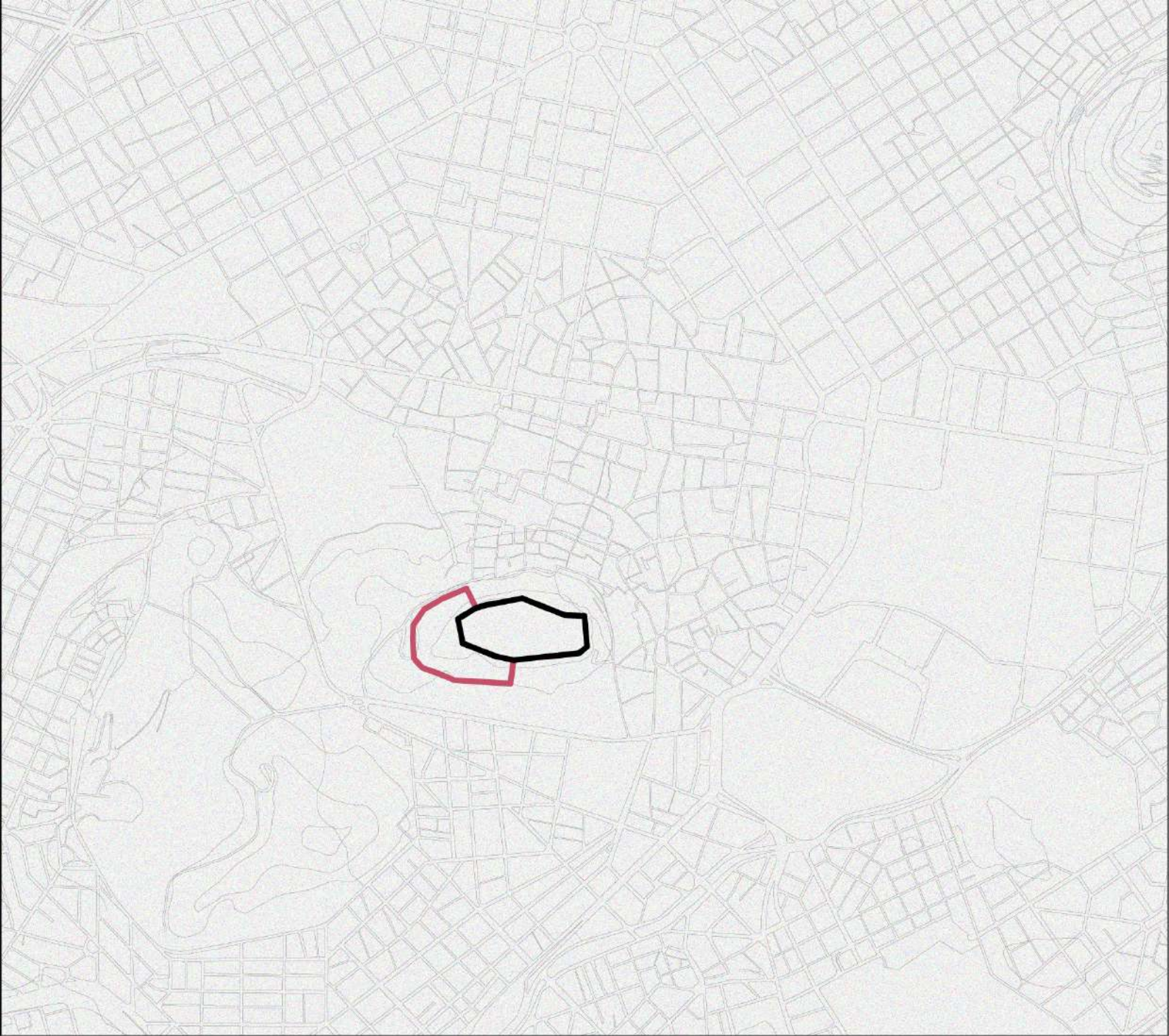
HISTORICAL EVENTS - THE BEGINNING

Such as Mycenae, Tirintha, Pylos and other important prehistoric centers, Athens also was developed on and around Acropolis, as it turned out not only after the discovery of prehistoric ruins after the excavations that took place around Acropolis, but also from the rich mythological traditions that give us an idea of the history.

The first major excavation of Acropolis were held out from 1885 till 1890. The ancient overhang of Acropolis, built in the Cyclopean system, was revealed and identified among with the Pelargic Wall of Acropolis. At the same time, there were found ruins of walls of various buildings and tombs. But the most important finds are in the area of today's Erechthion, which was part of the palaces of the first kings of Athens.

From these excavations, however, it was not possible to make chronological dating, and this was due to the way the excavations took place, but mainly because at that time there was a lack of sufficient knowledge for the identification and dating of the vessels.

The excavations that took part on the northern part of Acropolis revealed pottery belonging to the Late Neolithic age (3500-3000 BC). The above findings show that at that time Athens had a permanently affiliated population and that the houses were located around Acropolis, and the caves of Acropolis were used as a shelter in difficult moments due to their steep form.



THE CITY DEVELOPMENT

Since then, the life of the city is constant. This is proven by the ceramic findings of the Early Helladic period (3000-2000 BC), Middle Helladic (2000-1600 BC) and Late Helladic period (1600-1100 BC). Like the other prehistoric cities, and so Athens, the greatest acne took place in the late Helladic era. In Athens this season begins with King Kekropa, at the end of the 15th century - beginning of the 14th century BC. Until then, the city had nothing special to show.

The oldest city, according to Thucydides, was confined around Acropolis and only to the north extended to a very small extent. Only a short distance from the city limits were the springs of water (Asklepieus and Clepsydra), which were the main sources of water supply to the city. During this period, Athens as much as the rest of the cities, has a very small size that does not exceed 90.000 smq, including Acropolis. It is after the beginning of the 13th BC century under the leadership of Thisseus that bring the flourish in the city. Thisseus brought together all the Athenians and created a concrete structure system for the city. The administrative buildings start getting displaced from Acropolis since the limited space of the hill. Accordingly, more communal building start popping up around Acropolis, mainly towards the west and north of it, including the first Agora of Athens.



ACROPOLIS

On Acropolis there were the most important buildings, such as the complex of the palaces built at the top of the hill, and included, in addition, the king's apartments, the administrative buildings and the most important sanctuaries. It is because of this that Acropolis has been fortified by a wall from the end of the 15th century BC.

On the second half of the 13th century an intensive fortification of Acropolis is observed. According the Cyclopien system, the strong wall of Acropolis is being erected (with maximum 5m thickness), of which a large piece is still preserved. The outer enclosure of the city is also being built in this period, intending except the protection of the city, to include also the main water springs. The latest city safeguard and security projects are aimed at striking the Doric invasion, which indeed happened some years later. Athenians were the victors having Kordos as King, and due to his unique ability which lead the city to the victory, Athenians decided that he would be the last King of the city since they would not be able to find a better one. This when DEMOCRACY got born.



FROM SOLON TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY BY THE PERSIANS (600-479 BC)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Towards the end of the 7th century BC and thanks to Solon, the city of Athens get united with the city of Elefsis, which was till that period the greatest enemy, and so, the city of Athens becomes the capital city of Attica. The needs of the capital get multiplied and its borders keep widening. To this urban growth helped a mainly the new system of Solon that kept being applied afterwards by Pisistratus and its successors.



THE CITY DEVELOPMENT

It seems that in this period the city got expanded mainly towards the north side of Acropolis, where the Agora of Thisseus was located. In the beginning of the main street of Agora was located the altar of the 12 Gods, and expanded for 360 meters. Determining the extent of the market has greatly helped to determine the area of the outer enclosure of that period, which seems to have greatly expanded to all sides, perimetrically to Acropolis, and it appears to protect an area of 500.000 sm.

The form of the houses of this period has not been determined, because in spite of the ruins of the outer enclosure found in the excavations, no house traces were identified. But from the ruins of public buildings, which must have been similar to the houses, it seems that their plan occupation was relatively free and their construction was done roughly.

The most important temples found outside Acropolis, but equally magnificent and important to the Athenians, were the Olimpieion, the Pithion, the temple of Hercules, Artemis, Aphrodite and Dimitra goddesses. The first temple in Athens dedicated to Zeus was the temple of Olimpieion Zeus, on the north east side of Acropolis, founded by Pausanias, which was buried there later. It was then that the new temple was erected under Peisistratos, whose beauty and greatness not only overcame the other temples of Athens, but was also the biggest temple ever dedicated to Zeus. Its construction finished only on the 2nd century AC by Handrian, which means after 650 years, and has been called the Year-Long battle. The writers always spoke with admiration for this temple, even when it was incomplete.

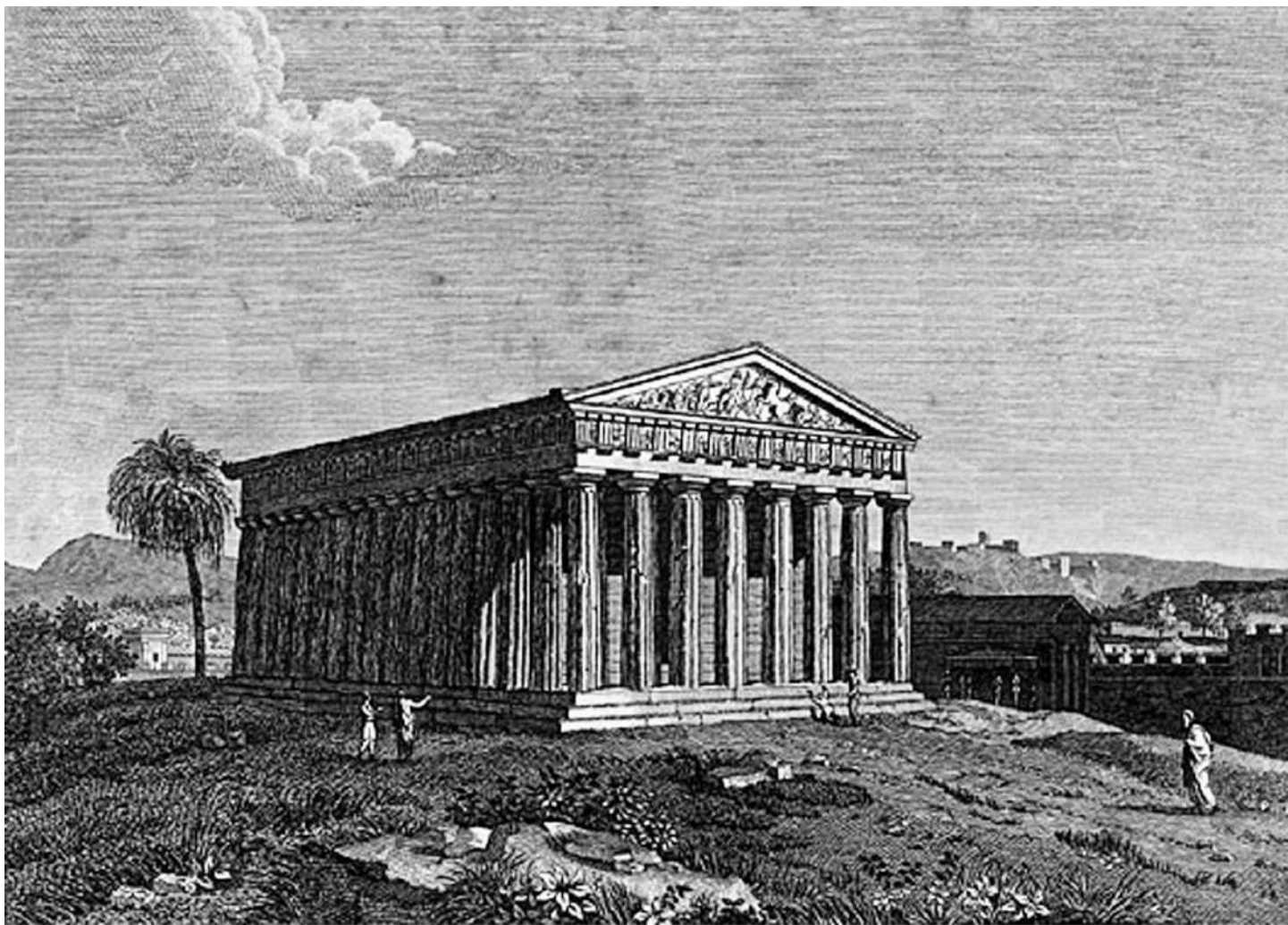
During the 60th century BC it also appeared that the Athens Gymnasiums, located far enough from the city, were founded. The Gymnasiums have evolved into great spiritual centers, which for 1000 years offered valuable services in the treatment of youth and the emergence of Athens as a spiritual center of the ancient world.



ACROPOLIS

The monitoring of the building development of Acropolis from the Mycenaean period to the 6th century is impossible, since the construction of great temples has covered the ruins of the previous buildings, and also because of the first excavations that entered very deeply into the ground and destroyed the few ruins that existed from the previous periods. It is possible, however, to represent the architecture of the temples during the 6th century BC and to receive the brilliant impression that Acropolis made during these years, assisted by the many architectural members and by the great number of writings and inscriptions that were collected and buried by the Athenians during the Persian War.

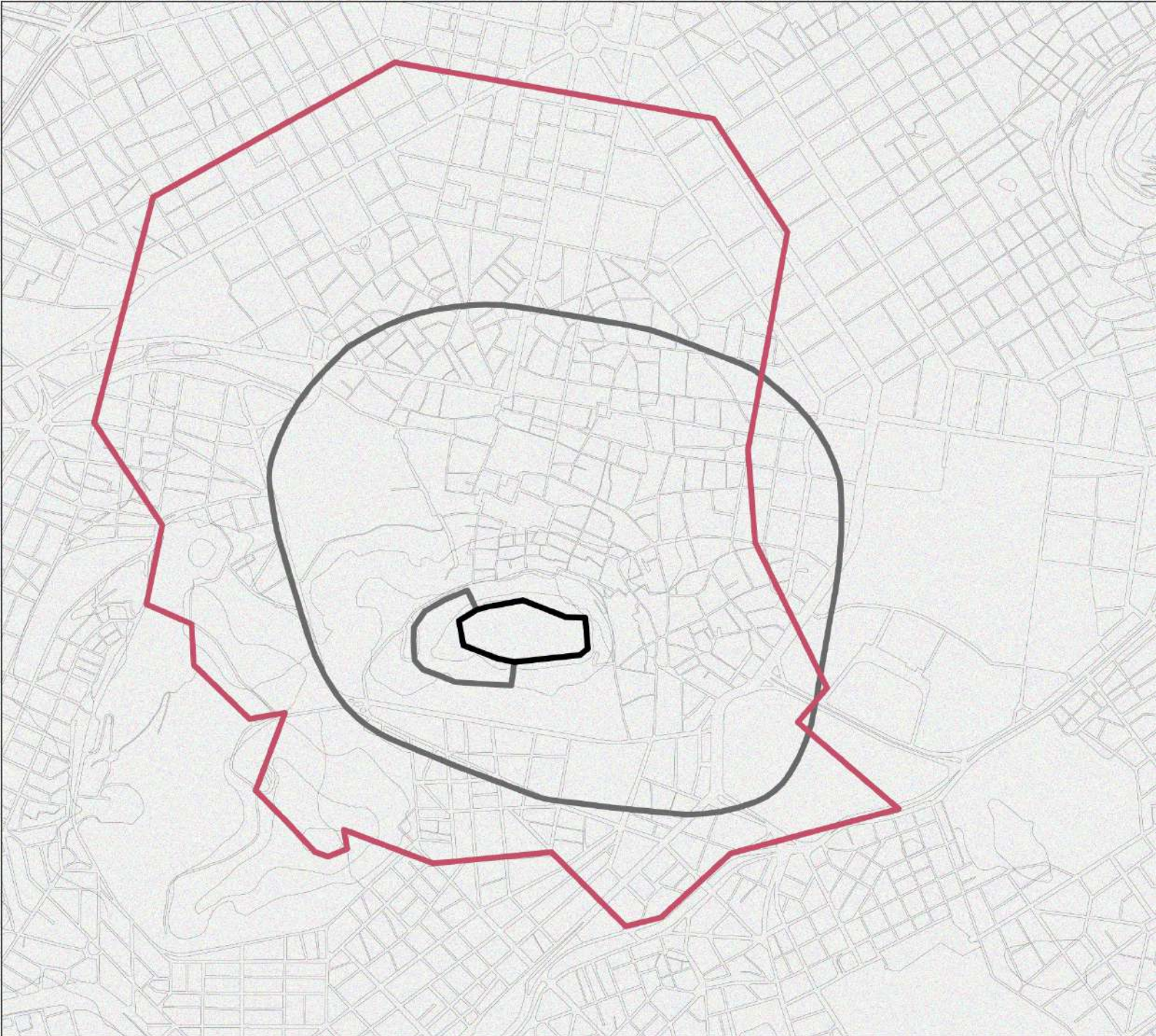
At least 2 large temples are confirmed during this period. Both of them were dedicated to the goddess Athena, the protectress of the city, and were built at the highest point of Acropolis, and on the ruins of the Mycenaean palaces, where the oldest sanctuaries were. During this period the construction of the first, wholly made out of Pentelic white marble, Parthenon starts, while in the same period the Mycenaean Gate gets destroyed and the first Propylaea gets erected instead. On the same period, few years after the great Battle of Marathon, a new temple of Athena Nike gets erected in the same position of the old Mycenaean one, right before of the Propylaea on the right side.



FROM THE PERSIAN DESTRUCTION TO THE YEARS OF LYCOURGUS. (479-338 BC)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

The damage caused by the Persians in the city was terrifying. The temples of Acropolis, as well as the sanctuaries around it, were destroyed, as were the buildings of the Agora. Very few private houses survived, more specifically only those used by the enemies during their stay in the city. Athens is now a defenceless city because the main concern of the enemy was the destruction of the defensive walls. But the first consideration of the Athenians was also their reconstruction as soon as possible. For this purpose they used the stones of the destroyed buildings, even the inscriptions of the tombs. At the same time, with the fortification of Athens, Themistocles urged Athenians to fortify Piraeus as well, after having perceived the particular development of Athenian shipping power. The new defensive system was covering an area of 15.000.000 sm., which always provided to the habitants a safe access to the rural areas of the city, even in times of war.



THE CITY DEVELOPMENT

The reconstruction of the defensive walls of Athens and the fortification of its harbours was not the only concern of Athenians after the successful outcome of the Persian wars and the expulsion of the enemy. It seems that a large building program was immediately carried out, which was the basis for the gradual reconstruction of the temples and the various public buildings, a plot compiled mainly by Pericles.

In the same period (about 449-444 BC) is built on the top of a small hill called Agoraios Kolonos, found beside the Agora and below Acropolis, the temple of Hephaestus, one of the best preserved temples till nowadays. Opposite the temple of Hephaestus and near the east side of the Agora, there was probably the temple of Areos, which most likely was very similar to the one of Hephaestus.

The houses of this era are characterised by a central courtyard that surrounds the various rooms of the house, the number of which differs according to the size of the house. Only two house ruins are saved today, and they are very different in size, having 4 rooms and 10 rooms accordingly. The structure appears to be quite simple, the lower part was built of stones and clay, while the taller part all out of bricks. Many houses also seem to have a second floor and the roof was made of wood and tiles.

The streets of the city were generally narrow and warped, except the main street which was connecting the Agora with Acropolis, which was also the street of the Panathinaia festival, the most important festival of the city since the beginning. The rest of the roads were irregular, less than 2 meters wide and did not allow the carriage of vehicles. Generally speaking, the private parts of the city were poor, as opposed to public buildings and Acropolis.

ACROPOLIS

In Acropolis, new magnificent temples and altars are being built replacing the destroyed ones by the Persians. Before that, new mega walls are being built around Acropolis not only for its better protections, but also in order to enhance its surface. The architects destined to rebuild Acropolis faced much less obstacles than the ones destined to reconstruct the part of the city under the Acropolis, since the last ones had to deal with a massive number of ruins which occupied almost the whole city, a fact that forced them to give more attention to the Communal Building of Agora.

The transfer of the temple of Athena, the change in the direction of the Propylaea, and the cover of ancient sanctuaries and altars, prove that a new architectural composition for the whole site is actually being built, following a specific predetermined plan. The new temple of the goddess Athena, the Parthenon, designed by Iktino, dominates the highest part of Acropolis and is visible from all points of the city, without any other building blocking its visibility. The temple of Poliada Athens is demolished and Erechthion is built in its place in such a position and size that it is no longer possible to compete with the Parthenon. New Propylaea are erased by Mnesicles in the position of the old ones but with different direction. This was done in order to highlight the Colosseum statue of the goddess Athena while entering the Propylaea. In addition, outside the Propylaea, the new temple of Athena Nice is being rebuild.

Around Acropolis, the ruined sanctuaries are being prepared, new ones are being built such as new Communal Buildings. In Agora, which takes a more specific form, a free square is formed, around which on all four sides are built large public buildings and churches, while the existing ones are being repaired.

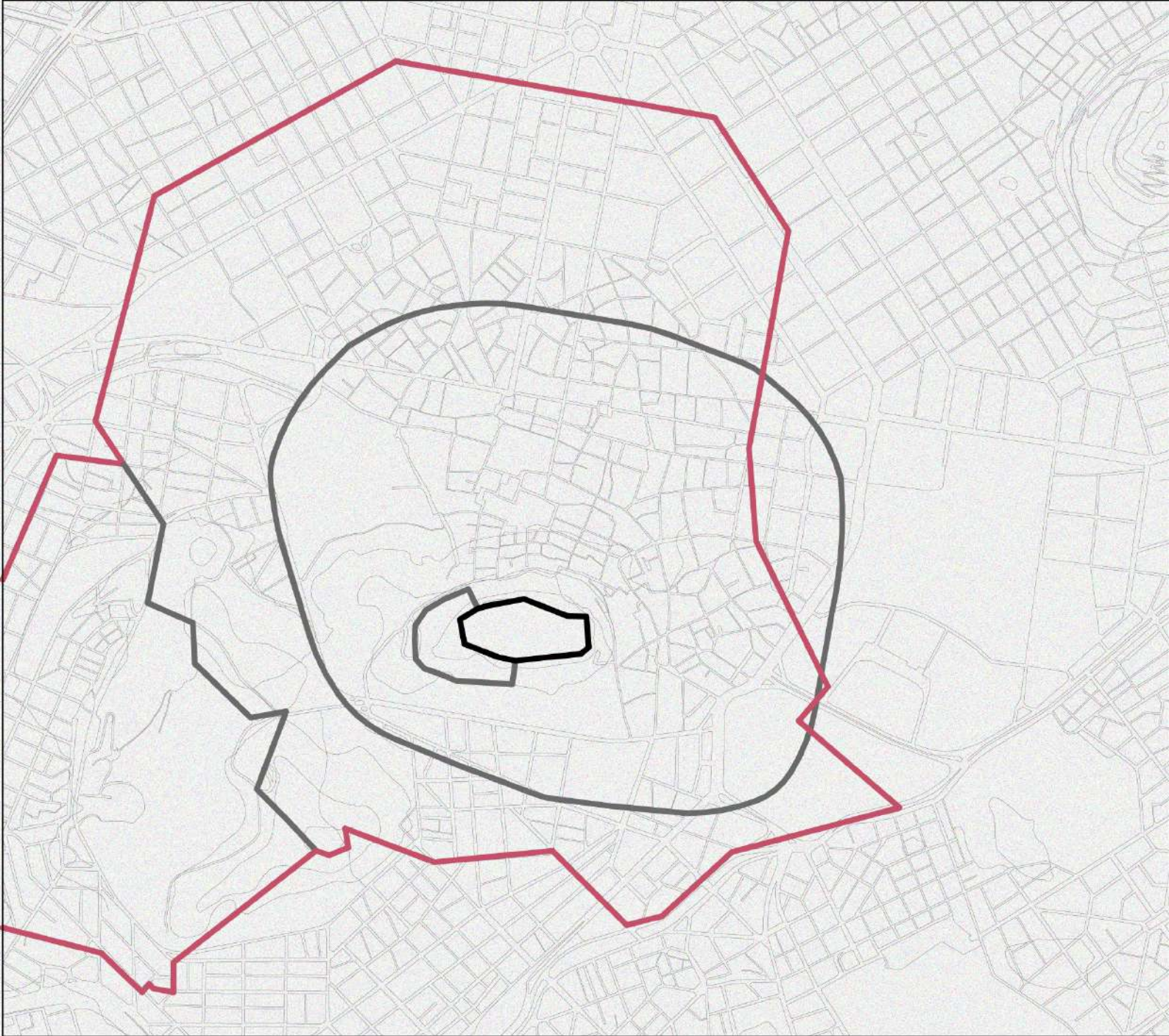


FROM LYCOURGUS TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY BY SYLA (338-86 BC)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

The proper management of the financials by Lycourgus allowed the implementation of a wider building program, including the construction of new majestic buildings, both in Athens and Piraeus and Eleusis.

The occupation of the city by the Macedonians around 294 BC led to the interruption of the projects that took place in the city during that period. But after leaving the city, at the end of the third century BC, the Athenians re-established their activity and engaged in the reorganization of the state and the execution of various building projects, among them was included the fortification of the city.



THE CITY EVOLUTION

Among the first projects was the rebuilding of Pnykos, the main and most densely populated residential area, thus enhancing its dimensions, planting trees and creating public squares. To Lycourgos, the construction of the Panathenaic stadium is also impressed, with its great dimensions and simple form, as well as the completion of the Dionysian theater. During the same period new buildings are being built also in the Agora.

Towards the 2nd century BC a new rise is observed in the city due to the erection of various monuments, because of the generosity and interest of the powerful kings of Pergamos and Syria. The King of Syria Antiochos begins the erection of the great temple of Olympian Zeus on the foundations of the previous temple whose works began on the Peisistratus era, but without finishing it because of his early death.

In the middle of the 2nd century BC, due to the construction of various buildings, mainly Stoas for the unforgettable stay of the citizens, there is a significant change in the plan of the Market, which takes a more regular shape and is surrounded by arcades and presents the typical appearance of the markets of Hellenistic cities Of Asia Minor. At this time, the gallery of Attalos, which is today restored and offered as a unique example for the understanding of the operation and construction of these buildings of the Hellenistic Period

Until 86 AD, the city of Athens, having not suffered any destruction, preserved all the splendor of the classical and Hellenistic years, surrounded by magnificent gardens and alps that opened in its famous Gymnasiums. This year, Silla, a besieger of Athens, destroys the surrounding gardens, manages to enter the city walls and destroys Athens.



1



2



- 1. *Ancient Agora*
- 2. *Stoa of Attalos*
- 3. *Panathenaic stadium*
- 4. *Theater of Dionysos*

3

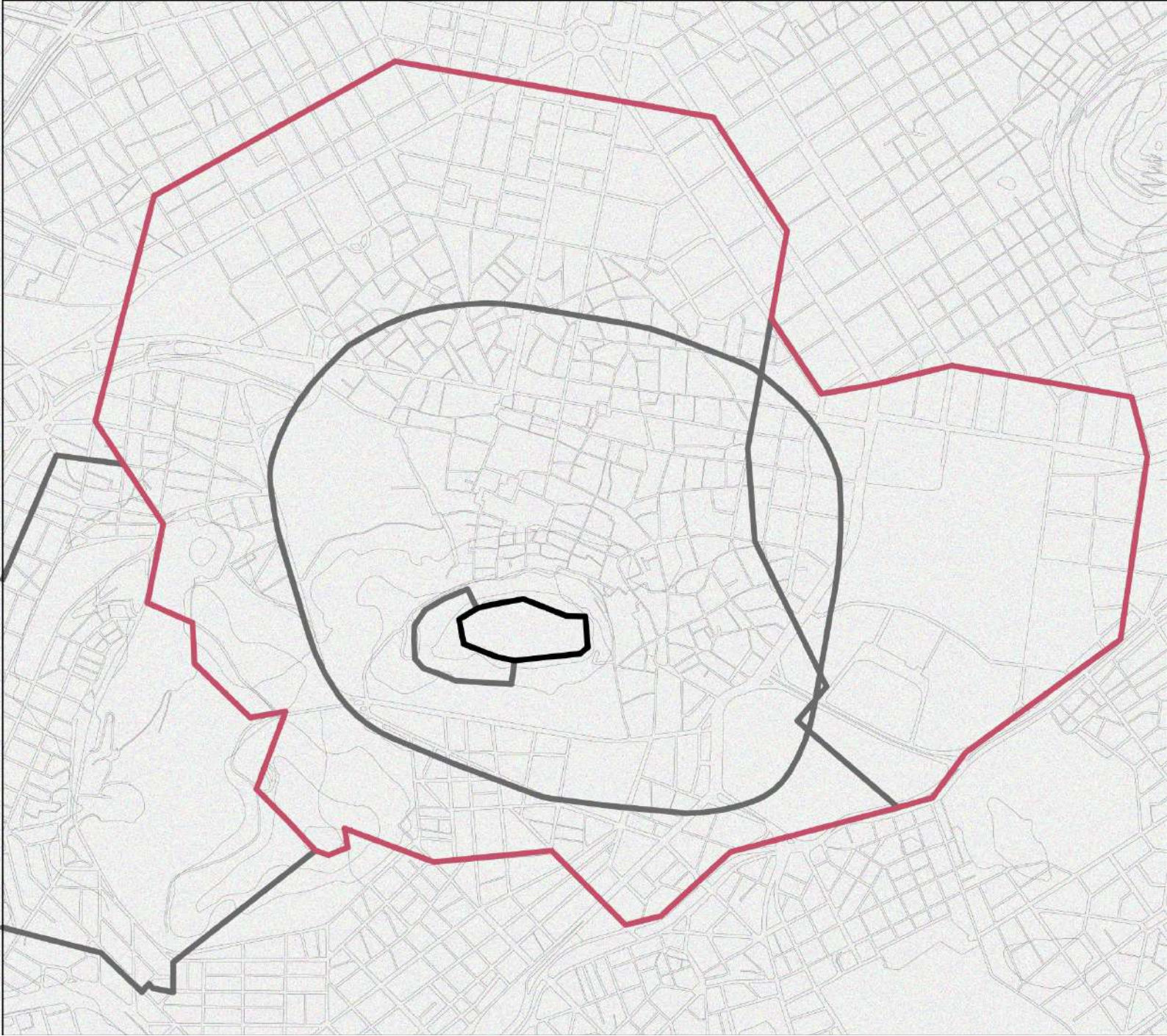


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FROM THE FALL OF SILLA TO THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CITY BY ERULUS (86 BC-267 AC)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

After the catastrophe, the city began to develop mainly thanks to the support of the Roman emperors, kings of other countries and many private lovers of Athens, who have put up a lot of money for the construction of new buildings and for the city's embellishment. Silla himself after the capture of the city, while respecting its previous glory, has almost immediately given to the Athenians their autonomy and relative independence. Thus the Athenians escaped the danger of being subjected to the Romans, the city though never found its own glamor again.



THE CITY EVOLUTION

Right after the destruction of Silla, the damaged by the was buildings start getting repaired, and in the mean while new ones get erected, having as a result the regain of the glory of the city of Athens on the beginning of the 2nd century AC.

The Agora even if it lost its political value, continue to concentrate all the everyday life of the inhabitants, and its shape remain the same as it was on the 1st century BC. Around 15 BC in the middle of the Agora square gets erected by Agripas the Odeion of Aggripa with a capacity of 1000 persons, and due to its very big scale creates a big contrast with its surrounding building.

Under the Herod Atticus is also renovated the Panathenaic Stadium with white Pentelic marble, which was restored again in 1896 for the conduct of the first modern Olympic Games, and still continues to be used by Athenians.

Though, the most important works are due to the emperor Handrian, who extended the city eastwards. Among the most important buildings, the most significant is the temple of Olympian Zeus, unfinished by this time, started its reconstruction and encompassed it with a large four-stadium size enclosure. The entrance was on the north side, where the Athenians later built to honour Handrian, the Handrian Gate.

But the interest of Handrian and other benefactors was not limited to the reconstruction and erection of temples and other buildings. At the same time, large projects of common interest, such as aqueducts, sewers, roads and bridges, have been carried out, which helped the development and formation of the city from a planning point of view.



- 1. *Handrian's Gate*
- 2. *Temple of Zeus*
- 3. *Roman Agora*
- 4. *Handrian's library*



ACROPOLIS

In Acropolis no significant change takes place during the Roman period, apart from the construction of the round temple east of Parthenon, in honour of Augustus and Rome. Towards the south of Acropolis, all the damaged building start getting repaired, such as the Odeion of Pericleus, and after the 2nd half of the 2nd century AC, the benefactor of Athens, Herod the Atticus, builds for his wife the Odeion of Rigilli.

The magnificent image of Athens in this period was preserved by Pausanias through his detailed descriptions, so we can now have a clear image of the city during this period. Continuously developing, the city was preserved in exceptional condition until the middle of the 3rd century AC, when the emperor Valerian is obliged to take care of the construction of a new fortification of the city, due to the numerous racketeering raids by Gothi and Herulians. Despite the care for the strengthening of the fortification, the walls did not withstand the terrible attack of the Eroulians, which on 267 AC take over the city and start destroying all its monuments, except those found in Acropolis.

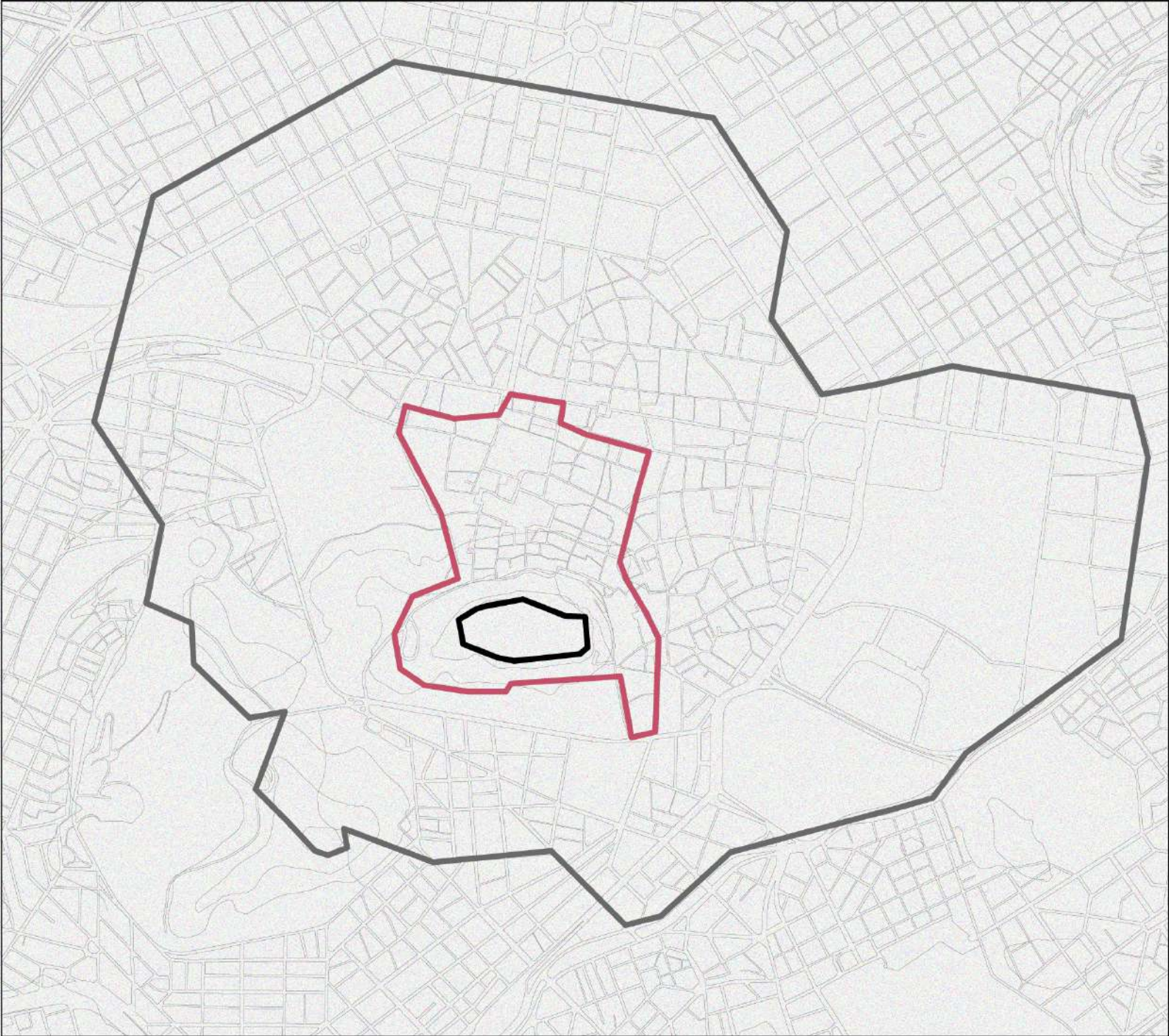


FROM THE DESTRUCTION OF ERULIANS TO THEODOSIUS II (267-408 AC)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

The destruction caused by the Eroulians was terrifying, and the impression of the destruction was even greater due to the great size of the city at that time. All the grandiose buildings and sanctuaries ended up to be formless bunkers of ruins and dirt. The clues of the destruction are evident everywhere in the excavations done afterwards. The catastrophe that followed was so great that the Athenians did not want to rebuild it.

Without being able to recover the old wall, they abandon it, and build a new smaller one, using as building material the ruins of the temples and other destroyed buildings. The 3-3.5 meter thick wall is built from the two sides of the ancient stones and architectural members of the ruined buildings, while the central part of the wall is filled with a lime mortar and marble pieces which were architectural members of the temple or the ancient inscriptions. The extent of the city in this period does not exceed 160,000 sqm, which means the 1/10th of the old city.

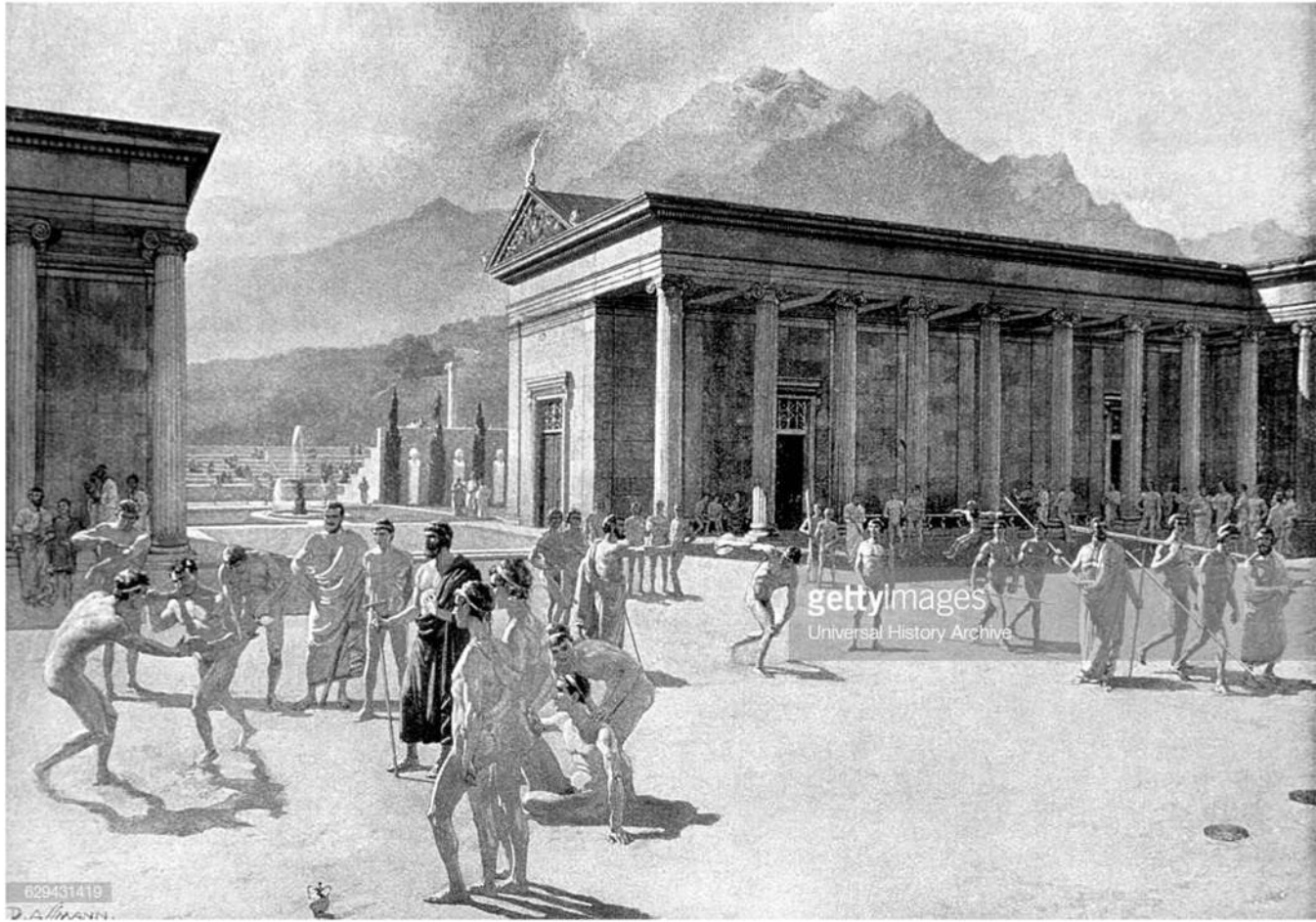


THE CITY EVOLUTION

Despite its reduction, however, the city recovers its old life in the 4th century AC, and this is due to its famous schools where a crowd of people came from all over the world to hear the philosophers and get teacher by them, such as Gregorios Nazianzinos and Basil the Great or Julian the Infringer.

The empire of Byzantium was also involved in the development of the city, which favored Athens in particularly, both in material terms and in terms of freedom against the Nationalists (inhabitans who still believed to the Dodecatheon). The natural consequence is the expansion of the city and beyond the late Roman walls by building homes and buildings related to schools. As a natural consequence comes the expansion of the city and beyond the late Roman walls by building homes and buildings related to schools.

Gradually some of the most important ruined building start being re-constructed, such as the Library of Handrian, the Theater of Dionysos, Roman Baths, while other building are being constructed, such as the Gymnasiums. It is admirable the rebuilt of the city from its ashes literally, and especially at a time when a new center of Hellenism is emerging, the city of Constantinople, and very strict measures are taken by the Byzantine Empire against the Nationalists.



FROM JUSTINIAN TO THE OCCUPATION OF THE FRANKS (565-1024 AC)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

At this time, Athens has nothing important to show, due to the abolition of the philosophical schools by Justinian, which led the detonation of Athens to an insignificant provincial city of the Byzantine Empire. In exchange for the humiliation that the city got under, little autonomy was granted to the Athenians, but Justinian's main concern was to fortify the city, due to the fact that on this period many raids like the Slavs caused terrible damages to the cities. The city life on this period was limited inside Post Roman wall and the powerful fortress of Acropolis.

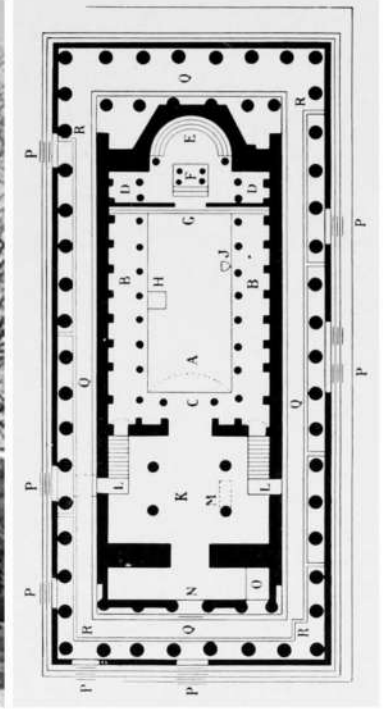


THE CITY EVOLUTION

A relatively small activity is observed in the erection of new churches as it has been seen in the recent excavations, and many of them exist to date. It is characteristic that most of these churches were built, outside from the late Roman walls, which proves that the area outside the wall began to be inhabited once more.

Regarding the streets of the Byzantine times, it was found that they coincided with the ancient ones, but with a shorter breadth. This was evidenced mainly by the excavation of the Agora, where despite the great elevation of the land, the distances between the houses remained the same as those of the ancient ones underneath.

Athens remained in this good condition until 1154 AC, where the wars began, and started deciding until 1204 AC, the year when the city was occupied by the Franks. During that period Athens suffers due to the time but also to the hunger and poverty of the inhabitants.



ATHENS DURING THE FRANKISH YEARS (1204-1456 AC)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

The Athenians, after wicked attacks by the Franks, are now exhausted, and eventually forced to bow to the siege. Many Athenians who see the resistance as futile, abandon Athens and the raids finally occupy the city. This is the first enslavement of the Athenians after 5000 years of freedom.

Neither the old glory of the city nor the well-preserved ancient monument of Acropolis thrive on the conquerors, which not only did not give any advance to the Athenians, nor were they ever interested in the development and embellishment of the city. And the history of the city over the next 250 years only describes about destructions and looting from different people like the Venetians, the Catalans, the French and the Florentines. In the meanwhile, the life of the city remain only inside the Late Roman walls and no clue of life outside of it has been found, while no construction activities took place either.



THE CITY EVOLUTION

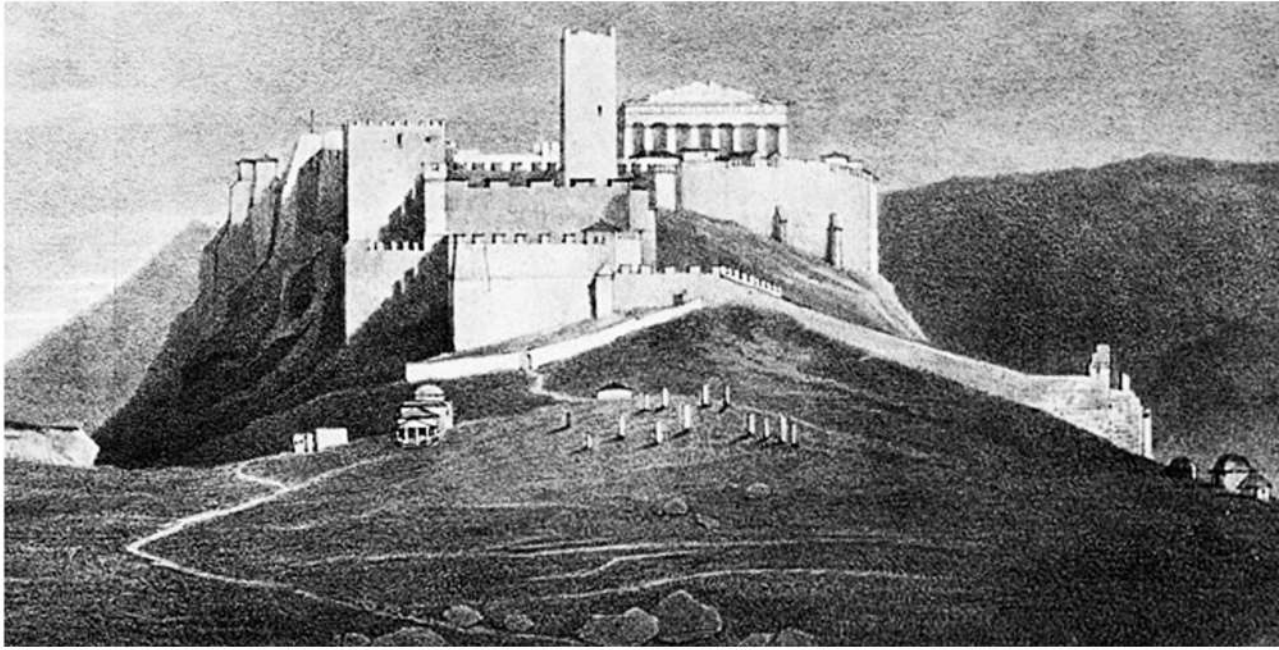
Little building activity is observed in the middle of the 13th century, but it has also to do with the fortification of the city. The main gate of Acropolis is abandoned and covered by a very thick wall, and the lower part of the temple of Athenian Nike is now used as entrance, while new strong walls are being built around this new entrance. At that time, the well-known Frankish tower on the right wing of the Propylaea was erected, which was demolished in 1875.

During the short stay of the Venetians in Athens, all the works that were being carried out at that time in the city were interrupted, which were continued later by Nerio Antonios I, who also attributed the construction of roads and the erection of buildings.

The private homes were mainly located inside the Late Roman wall, and the number of those houses and dwellings still remains unknown, such as the numbers of the inhabitants of the city.

ACROPOLIS

The Dukes of Florence, instead, who lived in Athens this time, seem to have executed various works such as the reconstruction of the fortification and the radical rearrangement of the Propylaea which were destined to become the palace of the family. It is easy to set up the plan of the palace of which the two brilliant halls occupied the two wings of the Propylaea.



FROM THE OTTOMAN DOMINATION TILL THE DESTRUCTION OF ATHENS BY MOROZINI (1456-1687 AC)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Even if the Turks settled in Athens on 1456, only two years later, they dominate the whole city of Athens, including Acropolis. The Turks had originally come to Athens as friends, and in order to avoid the waste of time and the destruction of the city, they used as pretext Mohhamed II's wish to visit the city and admire her. Finally, Mohhamed arrived to Athens on 1458 and remained for four days in the city in order to admire its monuments. Contemporary chronographs suggest that Muhammad was thrilled by the city's almost unreliable ancient monuments, and for that reason he was greatly lenited to the citizens.

The peaceful capture of Athenians by the Turks is the first in the history of the city where there are no disasters. But only a few years later, the city receives an organized attack from the Venetians, and the plunders loot and destroy the city. Also during this period the city remains enclosed to the Later Roman walls.

However, it seems that the city has begun to grow and expand in all directions quite rapidly, exceeding the late Roman Empire due to the establishment of Christians, Greeks and Arvanites. The building development is impossible to be monitored because we have not enough information about it.

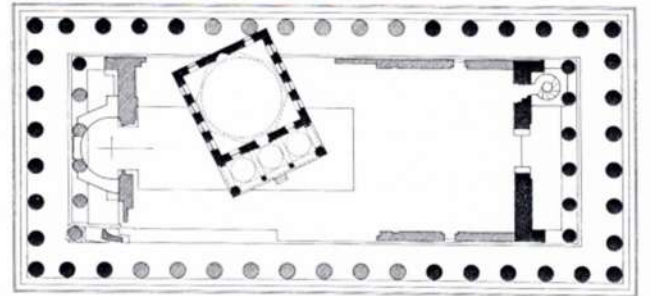
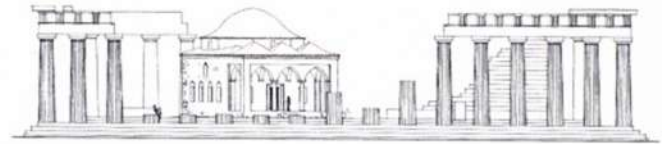


THE CITY EVOLUTION

All the time raids respected its sanctuaries, and were limited to the destruction of the city and the demolition of its fortresses. From the middle of the 17th century onwards the disasters extend to Acropolis until the Greek Revolution. In the middle of the 17th century a large amount of gunpowder explodes, which was stored in the Propylaea, resulting in the destruction of the monument. In addition, the Turks demolish the temple of Athenian Nike to build a new fortress wall. However, the greatest destruction is caused by Morozini in 1687, who bombarded Acropolis to occupy it, having as a result the explosion of Parthenon.

ACROPOLIS

The new element of the developing city now is the mosques with the high minarets. The first Turkish works seem to be the conversion of the Christian Parthenon to a mosque, and it is very likely that this happened before the visit of Muhammad. Probably for the same reason was built the minaret also, which we see in old depictions of the Parthenon. The castle walls that were built perimetrically of Acropolis are now being demolished, and Acropolis gets directly connected again to the city. The whole surface of Acropolis gets covered by the houses of Turkish families and Turkish soldiers. For 20 centuries, despite the various additions and repairs, the form of Acropolis remains a place of its own, and that's why its great memorials, such as the Parthenon, the Erechthion, the Propylaea and the temple of Athenian Nike, have remained untouched.



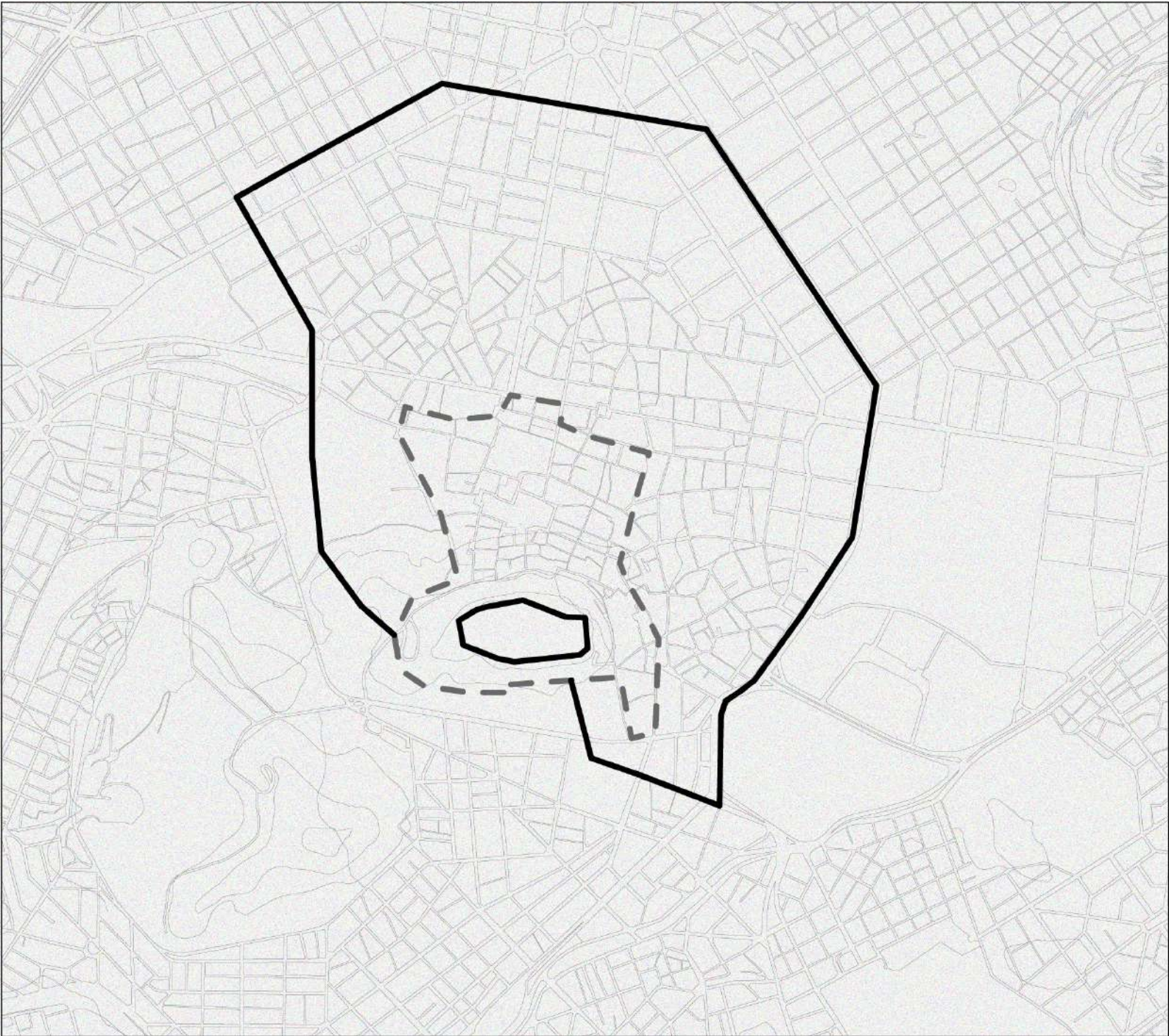
FROM THE MOROZINI DESTRUCTION TILL THE GREEK LIBERATION (1687-1833 AC)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

Exhausted by the misery of the war and the plagues, the Venetians are forced to leave the city, having as their sole success the destruction of the monuments which have always been respected by all the conquerors. Before their departure on 1688 they planned to completely destroy the defensive walls of Acropolis, something that fortunately did not happen since there were not enough workers. After the Venetians, Christians start abandoning also the city being afraid of possible retaliations by the Turks. This is the first time after 5.500 years of consecutive life, the city remain completely abandoned and with no life, showing an image of complete destruction and abandonment. By 1690, Turks started re-occupying the city, convincing also the Greeks to come back by returning them their houses and their fields.

On the 25th of April, the Athenians revolted and reoccupied the city easily from the Ottomans, and on 10 June 1822 they occupied Acropolis after strong sieges. For the next 4 years Athens becomes once more a free city, and the Athenians start many major cultural projects and are characterised by an exemplary organization. An important role was played by the Filomousos Company, which helped in the archaeological excavations, the collection of the stolen antiquities and the establishment of the first museums. But this was not not the end of the terrible destructions, there was one, even bigger to come.

The destruction is due to Kioutachis, who began to besiege the city in 1826, and after a year of absolute destruction of the city, he occupied it along with Acropolis. Greeks are forced to abandon the city till 1833, when the city get free again, this time to last till nowadays.



THE CITY EVOLUTION

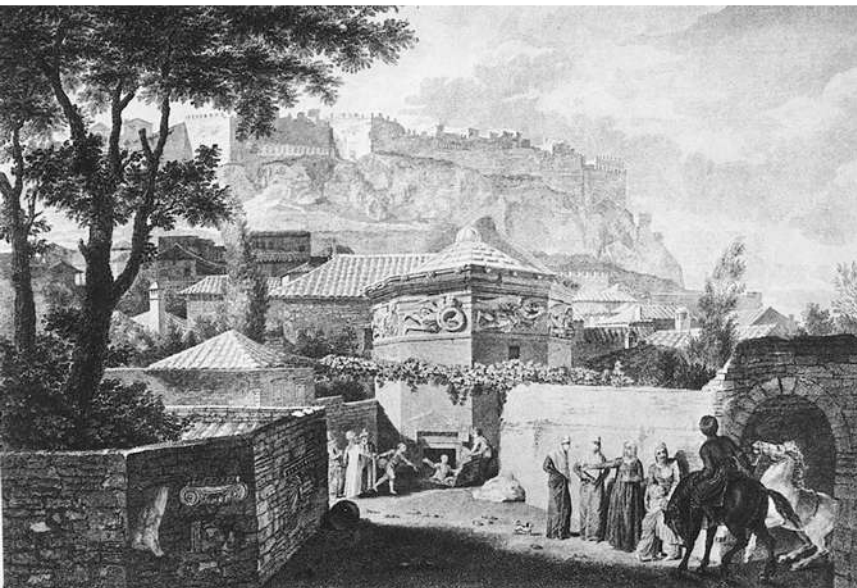
One of the first works of the Turks was the reconstruction and reinforcement of the walls of Acropolis using simple building materials and lime which was produced by the marbles of the destroyed Parthenon. Along with the fortification of Acropolis, citizens are working to clean the city from ruins and debris and to rebuild their homes along other buildings.

The shape of the city after its reconstruction, and especially after the finish of the construction of the new external defensive system which was based on the previous one at many points, is very well known due to the surviving descriptions, drawings and depictions of the monuments.

By this period, the city's population was mixed between Greeks, Turks and Ethiopians, numbering around 1500 families in total, by which 350 were Greeks, 370 Ottomans, and the rest were minorities.

At this period many travelers start visiting Athens for touring and studying monuments or for exchanging products such as honey and oil. But there was also a third category of travelers, who opted ancient. They systematically plundered the ancient monuments, sculpting sculptures and architectural members from buildings and temples, even in a hasty way.

By the end of this period the city had recovered from the multiple disasters, and was now a picture of unique picturesqueness. Monuments of all the periods starting from the antiquity till the medieval age, some of them almost untouched, stood next to new Islamic buildings, and presented to the visitor the long history of this city.



ACROPOLIS

The Acropolis is now the fortress of the city, as well as the residence of the Turkish burglar and soldier's families. It is estimated that there were 200 houses that covered the entire surface of Acropolis along with the streets.

The great mosque to which the Parthenon had been transformed, does no longer exist, and in its place is being built a new Mosque, placed on top of the ruins of Parthenon, at the end of the 17th century. This small proportioned Mosque stood there until 1842.



ATHENS, THE CAPITAL OF THE NEW GREEK STATE (1833-2017)

HISTORICAL EVENTS

After 3 February 1830 the Athenians began to return to the city, because of the Treaty of London was signed, which recognizes Greece as an independent and free state, despite the fact that the Turks had not yet finally left Athens.

The situation of Attica and particularly of Athens that period was particularly miserable. Its inhabitants did not exceed 4,000 persons, but the number began to multiply, especially after the city was declared the capital of the Greek state.

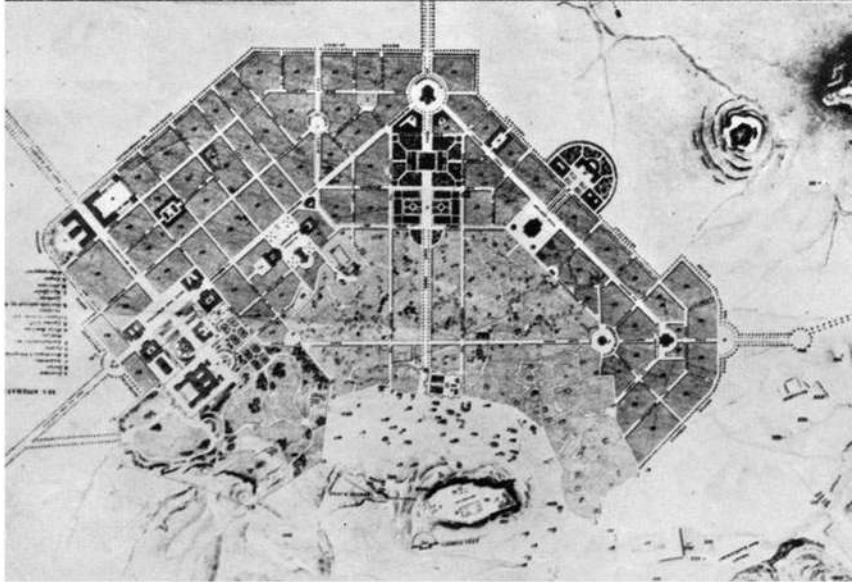


THE CITY EVOLUTION

The first architects of the state were Stamatis Kleanthis and Edward Schauvert, to which we owe the city's first urban plan. Their idea began to be carried out immediately, the architects immediately moved to Athens and began to work and study on the city's antiquities and their integration into the new multidisciplinary urban web.

Since then, the rapid development of the events has led to root eruptions that have had a negative impact on the new urban plan, and the problems that have arisen are still under way so far. The inhabitants of the old town are aware of the consequences of the new plan, that they would be again without a house because of the extensive archaeological zone that predicted the new project, and start fighting against it. The citizens' reactions and the inability to find solutions forced the government to suspend the execution of the works and call on Leo Von Klense, architect of King Othon, to study the situation that had been created and to draw up a new plan, which get accepted by the government and starts immediately getting implemented.

In addition to the public buildings and new erected temples, there are already being built large houses of wealthy Athenians, designed by great Greek and foreign architects, who worked for the reconstruction of the city. Some of them were Ernest Chiller, Leo von Klenze, Lysandros Kavatzoglou and Theophilos Hansen, which being influenced by the western civilisation, used the neoclassical style, believing that it would perfectly match to the city. Eventually, most of the new house building are being built with the traditional way, which propose a garden surrounding by the diverse rooms of the building, and it's up to two floors heigh.

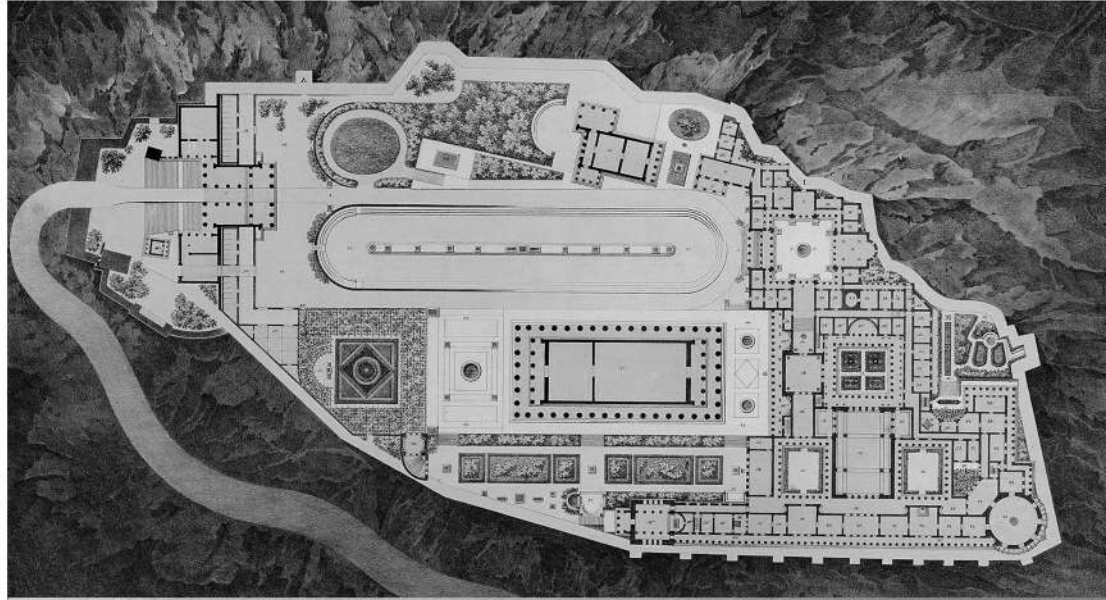


ACROPOLIS

The excited Athenians embraced the city's new development plan and granted their estates and homes to the government in order to build the new city and start the numerous archeological excavations. The predictions of Kleanthos and Schaubert architects to retain unspoiled the surrounding area of Acropolis was immediately accepted by the citizens, who helped in the archaeological excavations that started the same period in the area, as well as in the recording of the monuments and the architectural members who were found in different locations. Once more, the difficulties on finding a common solution did not permit the execution of the whole plan, but of only a very small part of it, permitting to the citizens to build close to the Acropolis. Though, care was taken for the expropriation of at least some residences found in archaeological sites and thus it became possible to preserve and highlight the ancient monuments.

Particular care is given in Acropolis. Immediately after the departure of the Turkish Guard in 1833, the work of cleaning the space and demolishing the houses began, without however stopping to function as a fortress. Leo W. Klense advised the king to render Acropolis exclusively as an archaeological site, which happened right away, since the danger because of the army was clear.

Acropolis passed to the jurisdiction of the Archaeological Service, where the demolitions of the medieval buildings began, the fortifications started, the excavations, the preservation and the restoration of the remaining ruined monuments, which at some cases is still going on due to the difficulties and the complexities of the monuments.



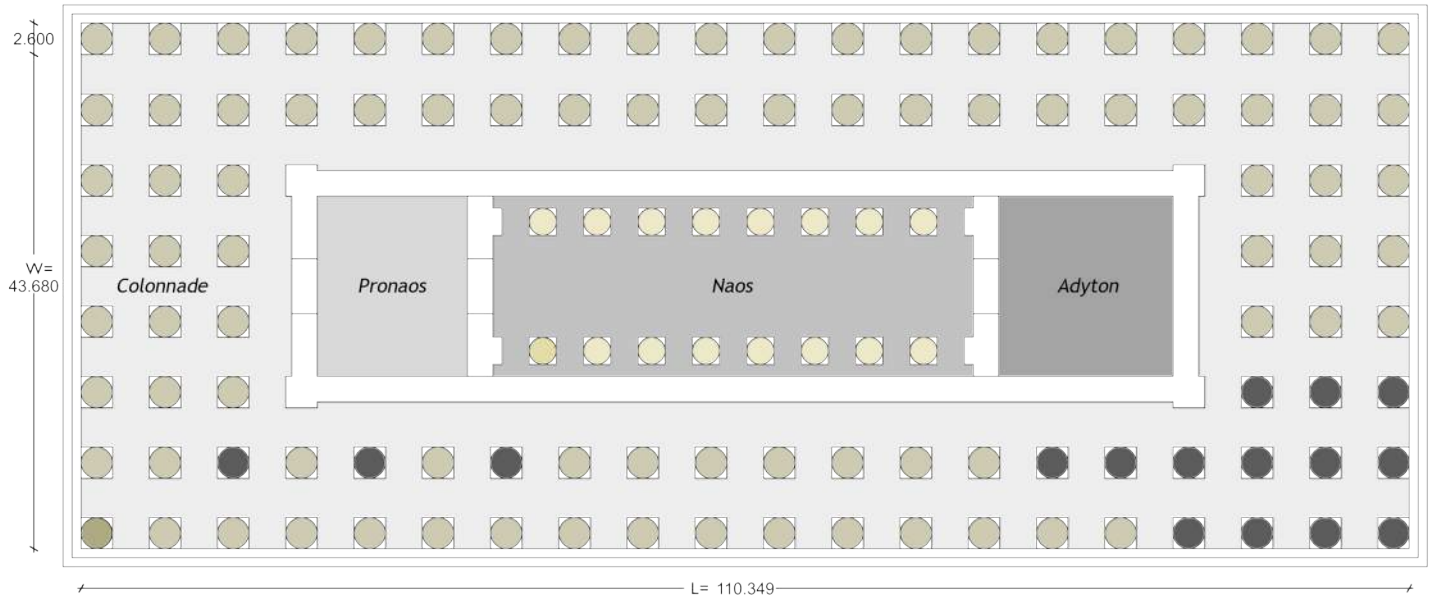
CHAPTER 2 // THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE OF OLYMPIEION

HISTORICAL EVOLUTION

Olympieion is one of the most important and most crowded sanctuaries of ancient Athens, the fate of which has taken hold with the state changes that have taken place in the city over the centuries. It is located southeast of the Acropolis, in the southern part of the city (Ilissos area). A road with geometrical tombs was passing north of the temple, while pre-historic shells and ceramics of the archaic and classical years were discovered to the south of the sanctuary. The evidence from the excavations dates back to the beginning of the worship of Zeus in the region in early historical times. Inside a large, rectangular space, there are 15 huge Corinthian columns that once surrounded the magnificent Temple of Olympian Zeus (“Olympieion”).

The temple was first built by Peisistratos in the second quarter of the 6th century. B.C. It was in the form of a temple stand and in size surpassed the Athenian temple at that time on the Acropolis, reflecting the pride of the earthly ruler's power. In the fourth quarter of the 6th c. B.C. the Peisistratids implemented the grand project of erecting a new, large-scale pilgrimage of the Doric temple of Zeus, which would compete in volume and imposing the enormous archaic naive buildings of Ionia (the Heraion of Samos, the Artemision of Ephesus and the Didymion of Miletus). The work for its completion was interrupted by the fall of tyranny in 510 BC when the Hippias were expelled from Athens; then the temple was still in its infancy (it had just reached the height of the pillar).

TEMPLE'S FINAL PLAN / SURVIVING RUINS



ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

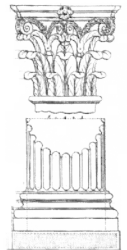
Olympian Zeus temple final plan Architectural Canon : $L = 2,5 W$ Number of columns : 104 (2.7x17m) ● Surviving architectural members
 Architectural orders : Doric / Ionic / Corinthian



● Ionic order for decoration in the naos



● Corinthian order columns



After the Hydyki (479/8) part of the building material of the Olympius (columns of vertebrae) was used in the construction of the eastern side of Themistokleia fortification. In the early years of Alexander the Great (the 4th century BC), Lykourgos, the last Athenian founder of buildings, attempted to complete the temple, but his efforts were not successful. The works for its rebuilding were reiterated in Hellenistic times by Antiochus IV Epiphani (175-163 BC), on the designs of the Roman architect Kostiou; however, the temple was not finished when Antiochus died, resulting in remains unfinished until the time of the Roman occupation.

After the 86 BC invasion, in Sulla, Sulla carried columns of the temple to Rome for the decoration of the temple of the Captain of Zeus. At the time of October of Augustus (63 BC-14 AD), the work was limited to the initiative of minor rulers of the then Syrian kingdom (the Seleucids), who wanted to dedicate the temple to the genius of the Roman Emperor . The landscaping of the entire sanctuary and the completion of the temple took place approximately two centuries later, during the five-year period of 125-130 AD, the Emperor Adrian of the Philipp. In its final form, the building was structured in a corinthian temple (8 x 20 wing) with the addition of a third colonnade on the narrow sides, which was internally distinguished in three parts (pronaos, cella, opisthodomos) and perhaps brought additional internal Ionic colonnades close to external walls to support the roof. The colosseous chrysalephantine statue of Zeus and near Hadrian's statue, which was also worshiped as a god in the same temple, was kept in the tower. At the same time, a large rectangular enclosure, reinforced with trusses and with a monumental entrance with a propylon on its north side (near the northeast corner), was raised protectively around the temple. Finally, a so-called Hadrian's Gate was built in a position adjacent to the temple, a self-contained arcade building that



functioned as a triumphal arc similar to what existed in many parts of the Roman Empire; its construction had to have been completed in 131 AD, when the emperor visited Athens to inaugurate the temple and apparently passed under the arch when he entered the temple of Zeus.

The gradual destruction of Olympieion in the following periods was due to natural causes (earthquakes), while the Turks, who transformed the columns into lime to meet the building needs, who also seriously injured the temple. In the last years of the Ottoman domination, a monk known as Stylitis had installed his cell in the architrave of the westernmost columns of the southwest corner of the temple, the ruins of which were visible until the time of Otto.

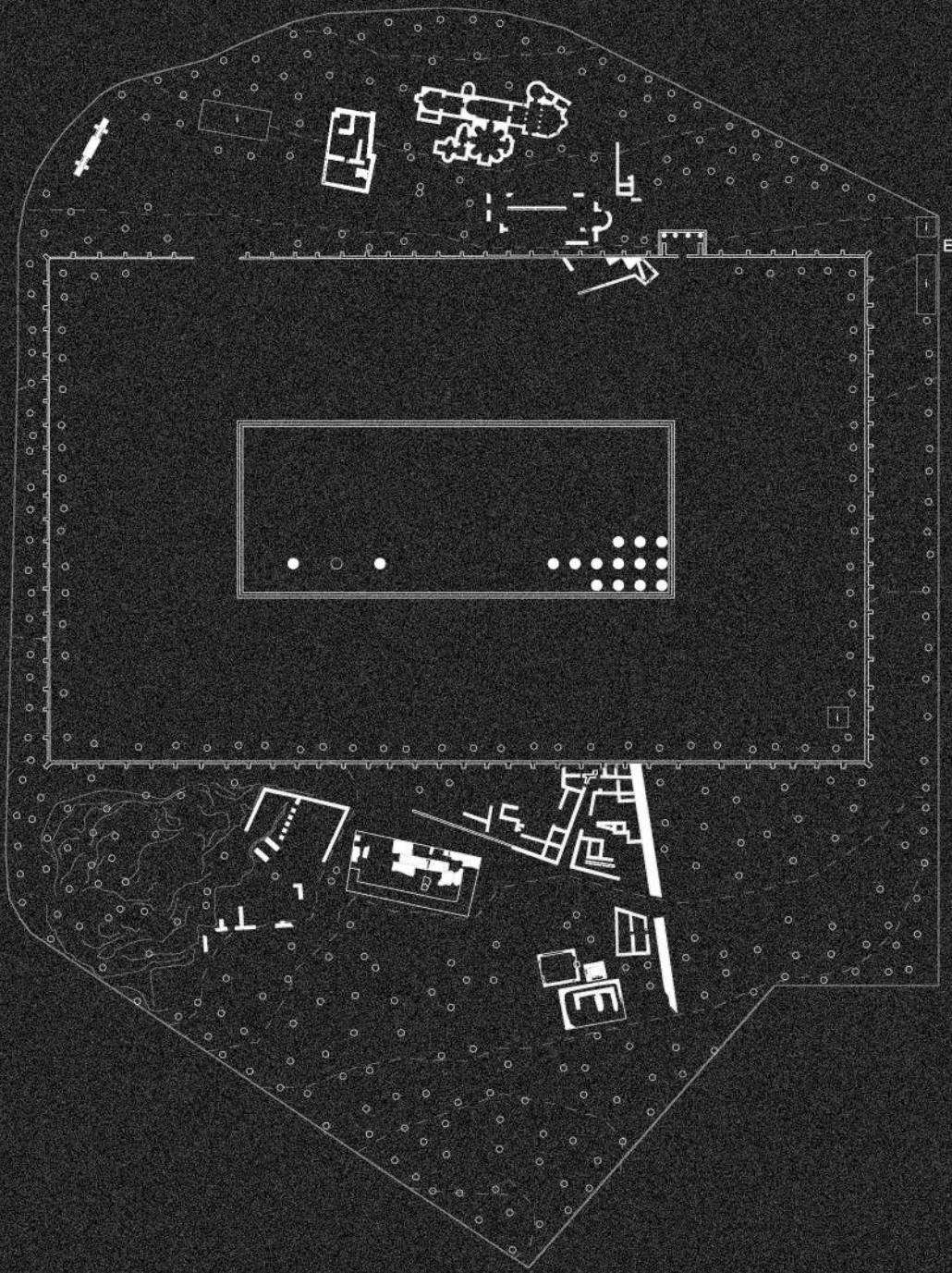


OTHER ANTIQUITIES

In the archaeological site there are many remains of ancient buildings that came to the surface after the excavations made by Ioannis Travlos in 1949. The finds include structures of diverse uses and functions such as houses, residences, Roman baths, parts of the gate of the Themistoklean wall, part of the Valerian wall, but also Byzantine Buildings (Basilica, Homes and Laboratories).

These remnants are spread towards the north and the southern part of the temple's enclosure without any consistency in size or location, and this is due two reasons.

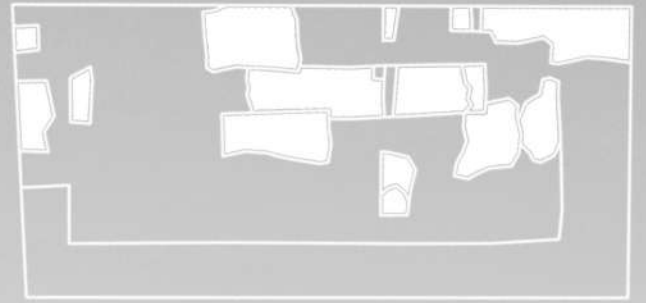
First, they have all been constructed in diverse periods starting from 600 BC until 7-800 AC, representing a very big part of the city's history and architectural evolution. The second reason is due to the fact that the temple of Zeus is located outside of the ancient city centre, showing greater freedom in the placement of the constructions of the area. In this case, there were two pilgrims, either the temple itself, or the river Ilissos that passed to the east of the place a short distance from the temple's site.



TEMPLE OF APOLLO DELPHINIOS

The most important building from the Delphinium complex was the temple of Apollo. The excavations revealed only its foundations from which important informations have been taken out.

Its dimensions were 33,27 x 15,90 m, peripteral temple and the few architectural parts found prove that it was of a doric style, built with porous stone. The temple was destructed very quickly in a time of emergency in order to use its materials for the reinforcement of the city walls.



TEMPLE OF KRONOS & RHEA

In the 2nd century AD and more precisely around 150 AD, is commemorated in the south-east area of Olympieion a temple with a built courtyard and an open-air altar. This temple is dedicated to Kronos, the temple of Kronos and Rhea. It is not accidental this last addition, which happened in the years, which lived by the great Philian Adrianos. Kronos and Rhea were Jupiter's parents, and this area was already connected with this Great God.

The temple and the altar are made by porous stone following the Doric order. It is supposed that the temple was dedicated to Kronos while the on the altar was placed a statue of Rhea.



HANDRIAN'S ARCH

A monumental gateway resembling - in some respects - a Roman triumphal arch. It spanned an ancient road from the center of Athens, Greece, to the complex of structures on the eastern side of the city that included the Temple of Olympian Zeus. It has been proposed that the arch was built to celebrate the arrival of the Roman Emperor Hadrian and to honor him for his many benefactions to the city, on the occasion of the dedication of the nearby temple complex in 131 or 132 AD.

The entire monument is made of Pentelic marble, from Mt. Pentelikon, 18.2 km northeast of the arch. Pentelic marble was used for the Parthenon and many other notable structures in Athens, although its quality can vary significantly. The marble used for the arch is of a lower grade that had more inclusions than that used in the best Athenian buildings.



ROMAN BATHS

The baths were also revealed during the excavations of the northern section of the site. The purpose was to find the Byzantine Basilica, but during the excavations a number of other buildings were discovered.

The perimeter of the baths reveals the shape of the building integrally, while the mosaics seem to have been preserved in perfect condition.

The building has a completely unformed shape due to the asymmetrical installation of its various rooms. However, there is great harmony between the rooms as well as a great flow in them, which makes the building one of the most important Roman baths on the Greek territory.

Very few informations are found regarding who and why built the baths on this specific site, though it is dated back to 124-131 AC.



BYZANTINE BASILICA

The ruins of the Byzantine basilica are located right after the northern fencing wall of the temple of Zeus and right next to the Themistoclean wall ruins. It's excavation proved to be particularly difficult due to the large amount of trees over the ruins but also the fact that during the second world war big dunes were created on that site for the citizens to cover themselves from the enemies bombings.

It's dimensions are 23x13.5 m, while its shape is rectangular following the Hellenistic Basilica canon. For its construction have been used many architectural members coming from the Zeus temple. The structure is dating back to 450 AC built by the Byzantine emperors of that epoch but there is no proof under whose orders it was constructed.



THEMISTOCLEAN GATE

The ruins of the Themistoclean gate are located inside the Zeus temple fencing, specifically inside and outside of the fencing wall constructed by Handrian.

The foundations of the Themistoclean wall were laid in 479 - 478 BC. following the instigation of Themistocles himself (of which he received the name), which remained and was preserved for about 1000 years.

From the descriptions of Thucydides, the historical events that forced the Athenians into their harsh erection after the departure of the Persians and before the Spartan dangers became known. The base of this wall is stone, while at the rest of the height it was made of large bricks. Its maximum height was 8 meters where its ramparts grew. Its breadth was 2.5 meters. Outside the wall was a trench (it appears in the area of Kerameikos). The most important of all the gates of the wall was the "Dipylon" (fortification gate). From this gate the wall stretched in a curved line on the hill of the Nymphs and Pnyka, from where it continued towards Piraeus.



VALERIAN WALL

Located on the north-east side of the site, the Valerian wall ruins were initially believed to be the extension of the Themistoclean wall ruins.

After the examination it was proved to be the Valerian wall, built few years before the arrival of the Romans in Athens. The proof was not the thickness of the wall which was also of 2.5m, but the building materials. The wall was constructed mainly from stone, though it seems to contain a large amount of architectural members from earlier buildings such as marble columns, porous stones usually used for the foundations of the temples etc.



LAW COURT OF DELFINION

The ruins of Delfinion law court are found on the south west part of the archaeological site and it's dated back to the end of the 6th century BC. It's shape is multi-rectangular and the construction materials are stone taken from the Acropolis hill and Koreas hill. It is important to say also that the small rocky hill where it's build has been partially cut off for the needs of the building, while a big part of the flattened surface served as pavement for the building itself.



ANCIENT GREEK & BYZANTINE SETTLEMENTS

Many settlement ruins have been found in both north and south part of the site. A big Byzantine settlement is located attached to the southern wall fencing, while two Greek houses from the Hellenistic period are found in both sides. The Byzantine ruins include house walls, one main street and laboratories connected to Ilissos river found nearby, while the Greek ones are characterised by the typical housing structure of their epoch.



OLYMPIEION AND IT'S SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT

The archeological site of Olympieion is located in the current city centre of Athens. It is one of the numerous archeological areas around Acropolis such as Thiseion, Kerameikos, Agora and Philopappou hill. Being the only archeological site located east of Acropolis, the site is connected to the rest of the sites by Dionysiou Aeropagitou street, an ancient central street still being used nowadays which, except to Olympieion, is leading to the Panathenaic stadium located west-north to Olympieion. On the other hand, next to the site are located the National Gardens and the Greek parliament having the central square of modern Athens right in front of it.

Visitors are recorded to approach the Olympieion site mainly by walking, arriving both from the archeological sites under Acropolis or directly from the main square of Athens (served by two metro lines and tram). Approaching Olympieion by car is not a difficult task either since it is encircled by major streets, a fact creating negative consequences as well for the site itself since the streets create a border, isolate the archeological site from the others and pollute it, rendering the site deterrent to the visitor.

Accept the archeological site found nearby, many museums have been created during the years. At a very close distance are found the new Acropolis museum and the museum of Athens History. To a relatively bigger distance (500m-1km) other museums are found such as the Byzantine museum, the Jewish museum, the Cycladic art museum, the museum of modern arts, the modern Odeion of Athens and so on.

Another important fact of the surrounding area is the existence of great parks and archeological parks including the Philopappou hill, the National Gardens, the archeological park of Panathenaic stadium and the 1st cemetery of Athens which is becoming of a big interest since it is hosting graves of important personalities dating from the antiquity until nowadays.



Olympion



Archeological site



Archeological Park



Park



1st Cemetery



Museums & Cultural organizations

M

Metro



Human flow by walking



Human flow by car

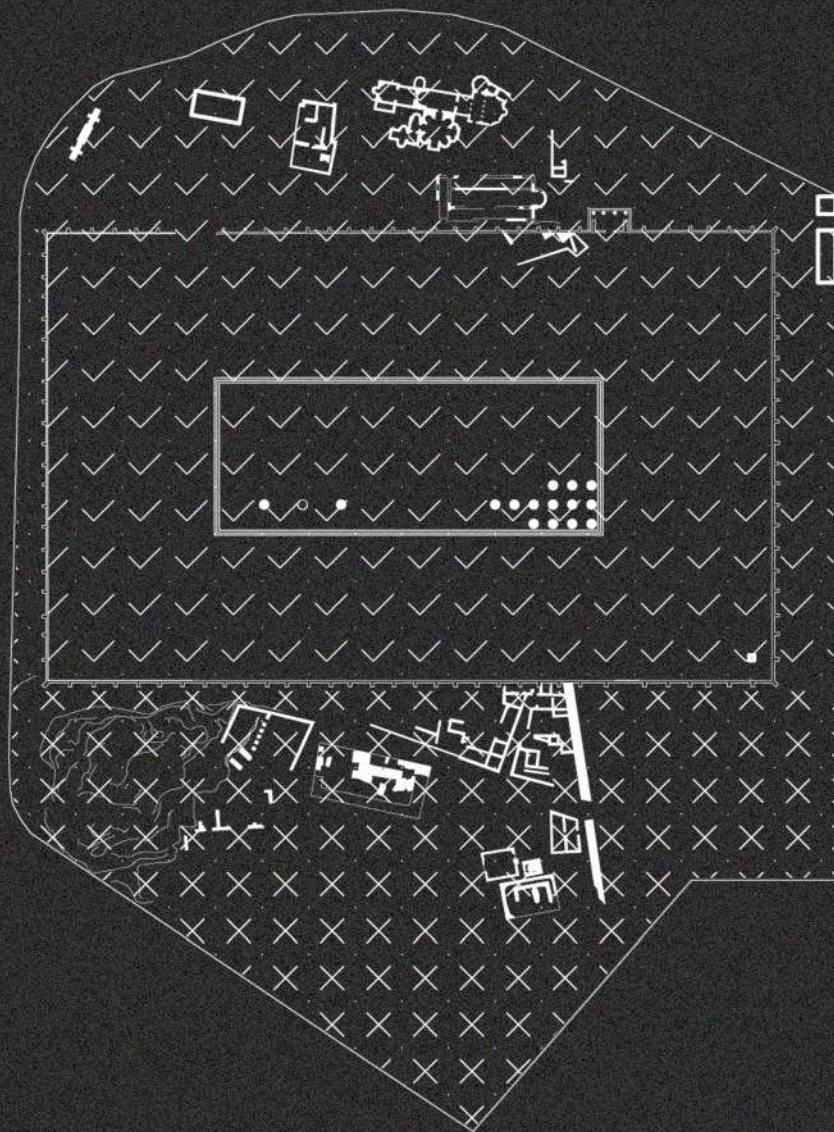
SITE ANALYSIS

USAGE

As described previously, the archeological site of Olympieion is mentally segregated into 3 parts: The wall fenced square of the temple of Zeus, the northern and the southern part.

After the 2 long excavations, the first one including the first two parts and the second one the third part, it has been decided by the government that the whole area will become an archeological site. Some infrastructures have been inserted on the northern part such as ticket office, wc and info point, while some kiosks have been places all around the area for the guards.

At this moment the visitor is able to visit only the main and northern part of the site since the south part is been closed to the public since the beginning of it's operation.



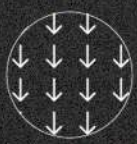
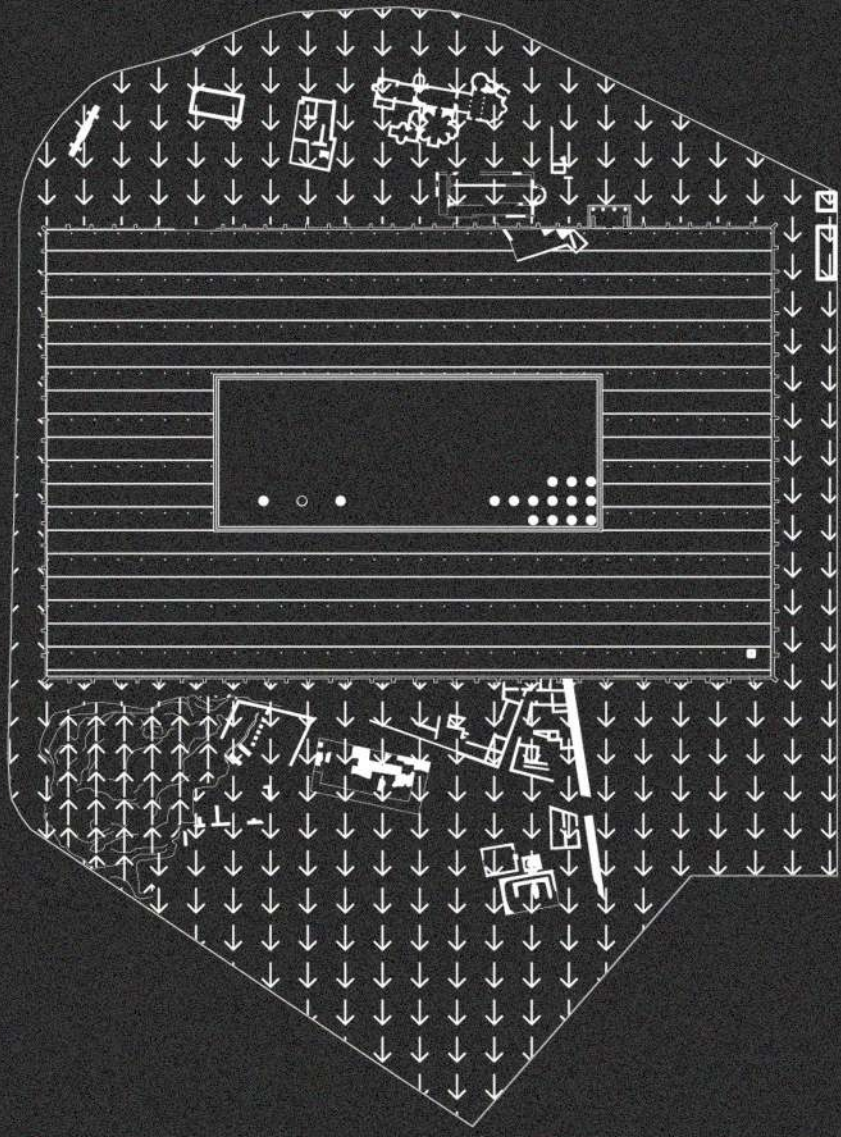
Not used



Used

LANDSCAPE

The terrain of the area is downhill having its highest point at the northern point of the northern piece, and the lowest in the southern part of the southern track. The total altitude difference from one point to the other is about 20 meters. The downhill ground is interrupted only in 2 points: The the flat surface of the courtyard of the temple, which is due to human factors, and a stoneware set in the southwest of the archaeological site.



Downhill



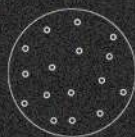
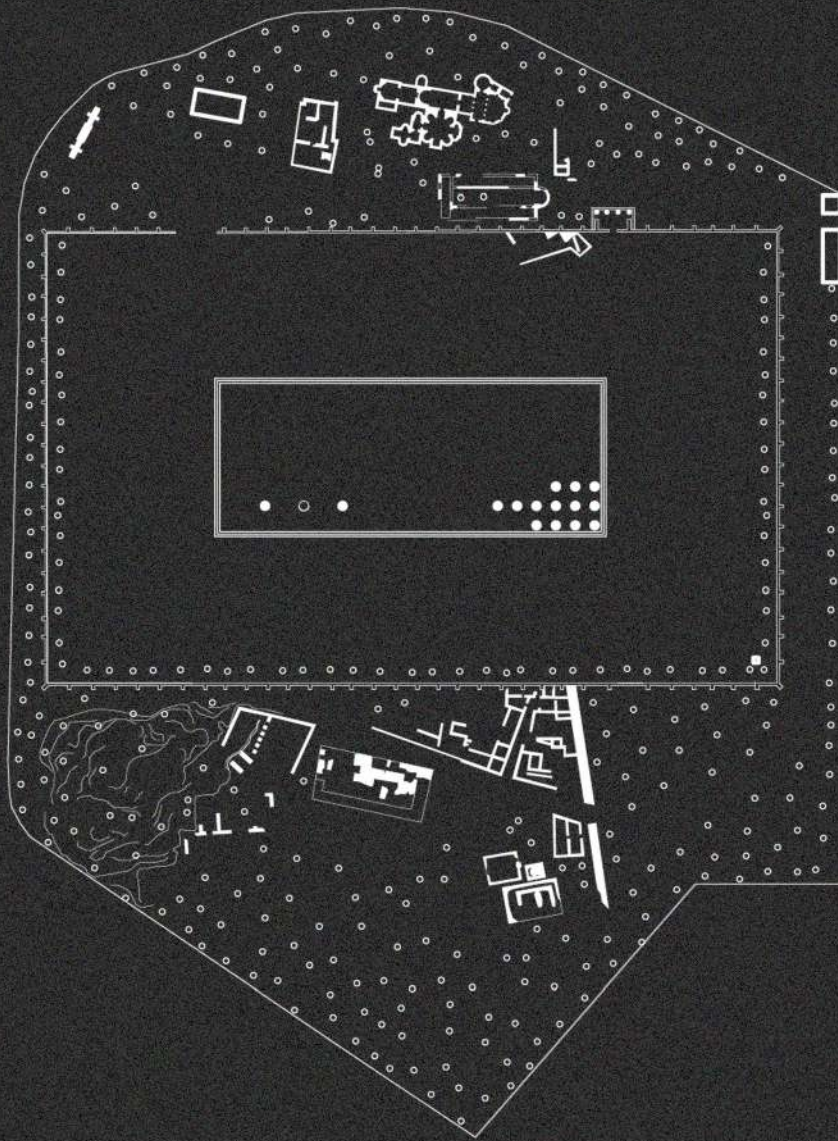
Uphill



Flat

VEGETATION

The vegetation of the site is characteristic of the Attic locus. Coniferous trees, cypress trees, olives and various Mediterranean-style shrubs cover the area and, in many cases, even the ancient findings. The area of the temple has been planted perimetrically inside the walls supposedly for protecting visually & acoustically the monument from the surrounding avenues. The shaded area of these trees has also been used to place the architectural elements of the temple, thus drawing the attention of the visitor from the temple which is the most important element of the archaeological site.



Existing vegetation

ASSUMPTIONS FOR TRANSFORMATION

Assuming all the information gathered above it seems that the archaeological site of Olympieion is eloquent by many factors but also has various problems that make it one of the least visited archaeological sites in the center of Athens. This leads us to the conclusion that something should be changed in this site so that it can stand equally and create a chain with the rest of the archaeological sites in the surrounding area of Acropolis.

The first step would be the redistribution of its infrastructure and the liberation of its archaeological character. The present state of the site's facilities does not create a friendly climate for the visitor. The entrance of the archaeological site is in the opposite direction from the point where the world is headed, which many can confuse and prevent them from visiting him. The South part still remains open to the public, although it is an extremely interesting area of archaeological and natural beauty.

Another important problem that has been observed is that there is no proper use of the monuments, nor is the correct information of the visitor. The small marble inscriptions of the name of each monument are not enough for the average visitor to understand the origin, the value and other characteristics of the monuments. The beautiful but randomly vegetated many times hide the monuments and mislead the visitor who in the end has not managed to see any of them.

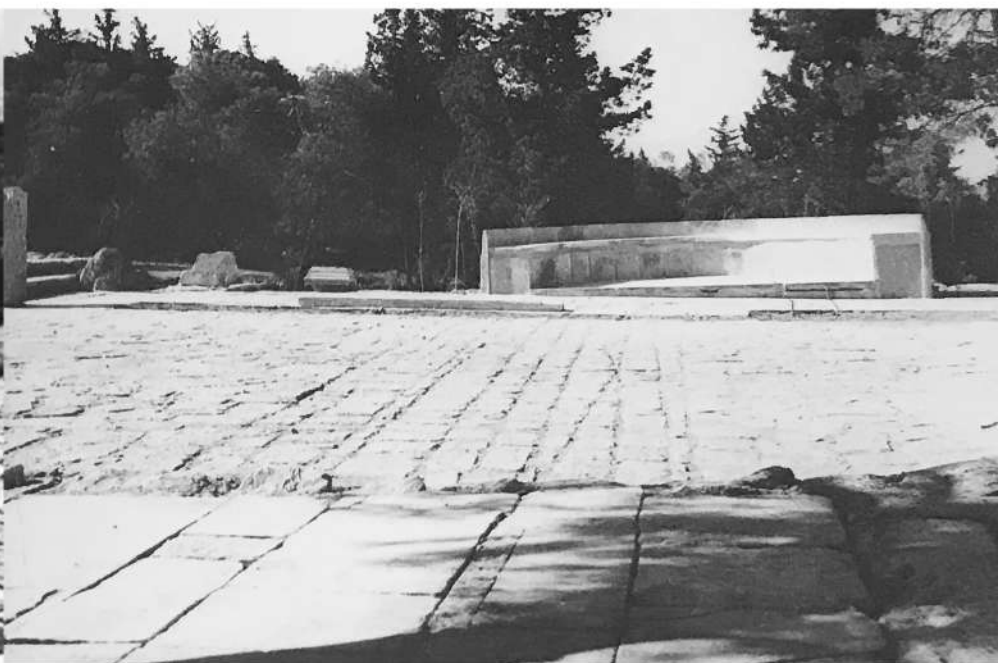
And the great disadvantage of the archaeological site is that it is relatively distant from Acropolis, but it is also separated from the central archaeological visitor course by the avenue. The average visitor to Acropolis will stop at the taverns or cafes next to the word to rest and will not eventually visit the Olympus area that is just a little further. This behaviour is mainly caused because of the uplifting terrain, the strong sun and the high temperatures prevailing especially during summertime. Since this can not be changed, Olympieion will have to become more attractive spot to the visitor by offering something special that any other archaeological site do not exist.

CHAPTER 3 // SEARCHING FOR A NEW SOLUTION

ARCHITECTURAL APPROACHES

LANDSCAPING OF THE ACROPOLIS SURROUNDING AREA // DIM- ITRIS PIKIONIS - 1989

The area of the Philipappou Hill is about 700 acres and is one of the largest open spaces in the center of Athens. Throughout the area there are scattered antiquities and many carvings on the rocks. The configurations, undertaken by Dimitris Pikionis and implemented between May 1954 and February 1958, cover an area of 85 acres and include the formation of cobbled streets, paths, plantations, staging and viewing areas as well as the construction of the temple of Agios Dimitrios Loubardiaris and the tourist pavilion, which joined the courtyard of the church. The development of the "corridors" did not take place in an architectural plan but on the spot, following repeated visits by Pikionis himself to the site and the detection of ancient paths that had been destroyed at the beginning of the 20th century in order to facilitate on-call access to antiquities. Pikionis removed the asphalt and restored the old (during Ottoman rule) carving of the corridors.



ARCHEOLOGICAL MUSEUM PARK BRAHMSCHE-KALKRIESE //
GIGON AND GUYER

The Pavillons and the Roman Path

In the museum's park, three pavilions can be found: The pavilion of watching, the pavilion of listening and the pavilion of asking.

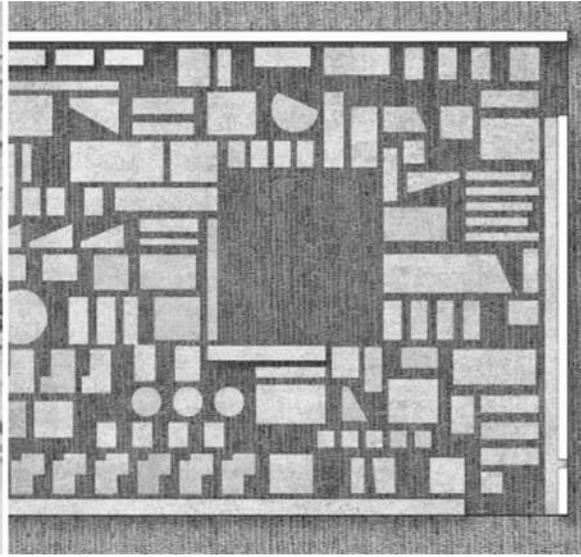
The pavilion of watching does not show images of the battle, the pavilion of listening does not provide sounds from the past, the pavilion of asking does not offer any answers. These are places supposed to sharpen the visitors' perception and invite them to address what happened here on the sensual level. Not knowledge, but the power of imagination is called for here. What happened in this place? What kind of sounds reverberated in this landscape? The Varus Battle belongs to the past - yet war does still exist. Why?



INJURED STONES. A PARK AT PIRAEUS PORT // KOSTAS MANO-LIDIS

The proposed park is located at the main harbor of Piraeus, next to the Eetionia Gate, the only surviving part of the west side fortifications of the ancient city. The site was also the venue of a refugee's settlement in the 1920s and epicenter of the disastrous aerial bombings in 1944. Now the vacant lot is surrounded by residential blocks, a small unused railway station and a highway bordering the passenger port. To design a public park in such a place is a demanding intellectual undertaking. It engages not only the obvious factors of the current condition but also the sediment of historic relics, traces and stories that saturate the place.

Attuning the new structures with the stark intensity of the archeological site became the principal architectural aspiration. The main scheme is conceived as a fragment of ancient Piraeus' Hippodamian street plan.



MUSEALIZATION OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL SITE OF PRACA NOVA // JLCG ARQUITECTOS

This intervention addressed the themes of protection, revelation and readability of the palimpsest that any such excavation represents, with a pragmatcal approach aimed at clarifying the palindromic quality of interpretation that the exposed structures suggested in their spacial distribution. Thus, the first action was the clear delimitation of the site with a precise incision, comparable to that of a surgical intervention on a living body. A membrane of corten steel was inserted to contain the higher perimetrical surface, allowing both access and a panoramic view of the site, the materiality of these walls slowly evolving and changing over time as a living material. The same precision of cut was used in the inserted elements that allow the visitor to comfortably wander through the site – the limestone steps, landings and seating – setting them apart from the roughness of the excavated walls. Stepping down to the site, to its simultaneously first material level and last period of occupation – the remnant pavement of the Fifteenth Century Palace of the Bishop of Lisbon – a hovering structure protects the existing mosaics, its underside covered in a black mirror that allows the visitor to see reflected the vertical perspective of the pavements that the eye level of their placement denies. Further down the site and its timeline, the necessary canopy for the protection of the Eleventh Century Muslim domestic structures and its frescoes was taken as an opportunity to reproduce, through conjectural interpretation, its spacial experience as a series of independent rooms arranged around a patio that introduced light and ventilation into an otherwise exteriorly isolated dwelling. Professedly abstract and scenographic, the white walls that stage the domestic spatiality of the two excavated dwellings float above the visible foundations of the original walls, touching the ground on the mere six points where the evidence of the primeval limits is absent, while its translucent covering of polycarbonate and wood filters the sunlight.



GREEK THEATER OF SIRACUSA // OMA

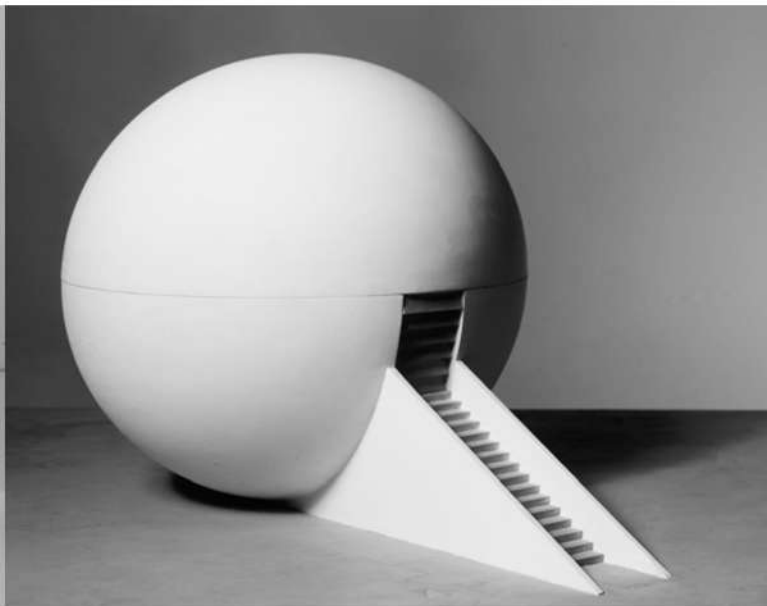
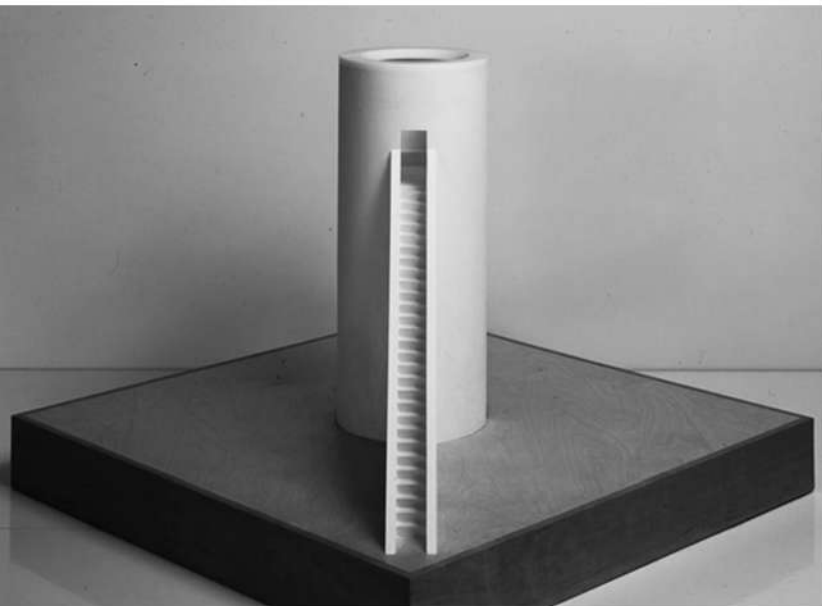
The interventions realized by OMA are used dramatically and adapted to the salient moments of the summer programming of the classical representation cycle. The season includes among other things the *Bacchae* by Euripides and the *Birds* by Aristophanes. The first intervention, the Ring, is a suspended walkway that completes the semi-circle of the steps of the amphitheater, enclosing the stage and the back of the stage, and allowing the actors to enter the alternative scene. The machine is a stage that can be adapted to different representations: a circular base with a height of seven meters, which mirrors the amphitheater. The backdrop can rotate, representing the passage of 13 centuries during the torture of Prometheus; divided at the center can 'open, allowing the entry of actors on the scene, or symbolizing dramatic events such as the descent of Prometheus in the bowels of the Earth. La Zattera, a circular stage for actors and dancers, rethinks the orchestra in a modern Thymele, the altar dedicated to the Dionysian rites in ancient Greece.



MODELS // JAMES THURELL

Turrell's work lies at the intersection of two ideas: that art can be made with non-traditional materials, and that an artwork might be an idea or an experience, as opposed to a thing. Turrell transforms light into art by manipulating the viewer's experience of it, testing the limits of these two ideas, both of which are fundamental to Conceptual art. While his work is in a class by itself, Turrell's art is aligned with the Minimalist project to transform the viewer's experience of the object (or in this case, not an object at all, but a light-filled space).

Part of the excitement of Turrell's work is its mixture of old and new. He consistently uses the latest available computer and light-based technology to intensify and control his optical effects. At the same time, the work is site-specific, linking it with prehistoric art and astrology. Sites such as Stonehenge (the massive prehistoric stone formations in Wiltshire England), and other prehistoric spaces used light to manipulate the viewer's experience of the environment. These are the early ancestors of Turrell's Skyspaces.



RESHAPING OF THE CIRCULATION

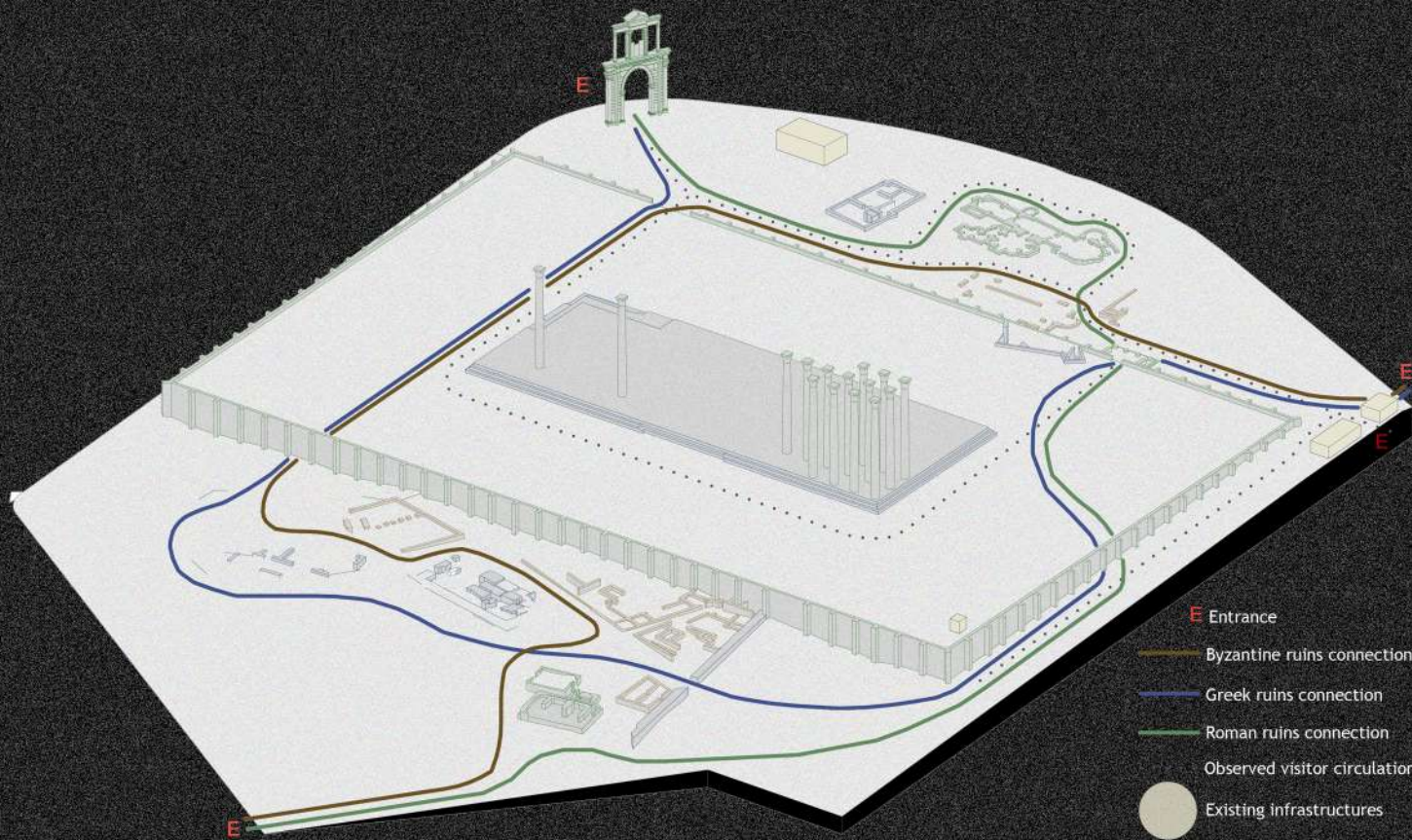
Probably the most important fact regarding the antiquities found at Olympieion is the diversity. The site is characteristic for its archeological diversity both in history and in the various forms of buildings. The antiquities have their roots in both Ancient Greek, Roman and Byzantine era. However, the buildings impress a large variety of varieties not only because of their origin but also because of their functions.

As a result of the above observations, these buildings are located neatly in the area, with no coherence, which in this period is likely to confuse visitors. Having a reasonable spatial planning of the area, not only helps the visitor but succeeds to highlight this unique character which is simply a history layering, a big part of the Athenian history, enclosed in such a relatively small area.

The following diagram helps for understanding the way way that people move and behave currently while in the site as a starting point. Additionally in order to be able to reorganise the space it is important to create a logical path which will guide initially the evolution of the project and as a consequence the visitor itself.

Three different theoretical pathways have been designed based to the three different historical eras and connecting the monuments who belong to the same one.

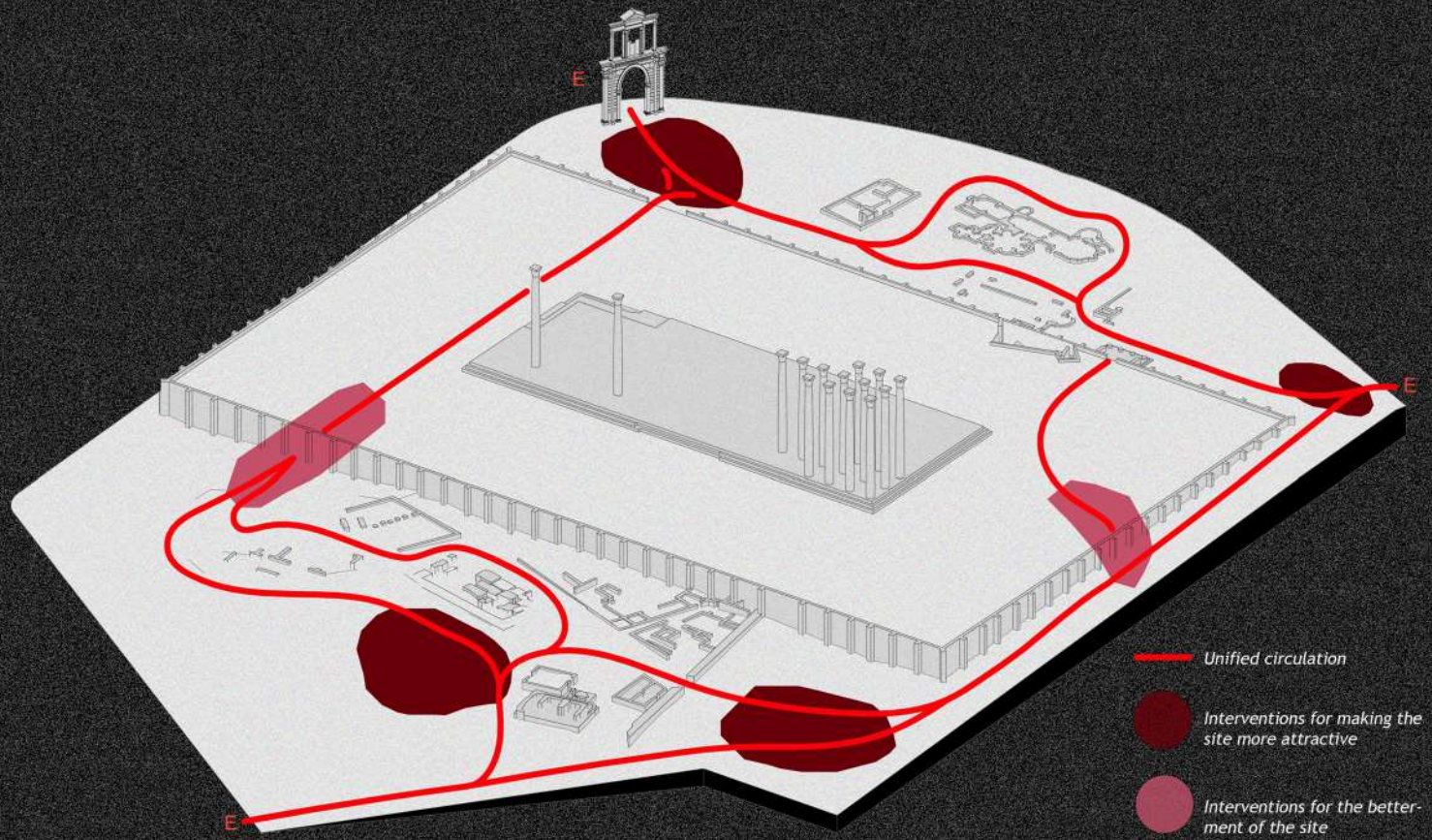
It is also shown the current entrance & infrastructure randomly placed inside the site. The first proposal is to organise the site having three entrances, two on the north connecting the site with Acropolis and Panathenaic stadium, and a third one on the south destined mostly for the visitors by car since there is a possibility to create a parking on the neighbouring southeastern area






INTERVENTION AREAS

The coinciding lines of the historical paths show the points in which the largest crowding will exist. On the other hand, they show that there is a great problem in moving from one area to another, especially for those entering to the Zeus temple's wall fenced zone which creates a high altitude difference, and requires the visitor to make long journeys.

Returning to the crowded areas, this is where the new functions will have to be inserted since they will be easily approachable for everyone. The new functions which will demand at least a small insignificant construction should be positioned in a silent way, detached from the remnants for safety and visual reasons.



-  Unified circulation
-  Interventions for making the site more attractive
-  Interventions for the betterment of the site

FUNCTION TYPOLOGIES SETTING

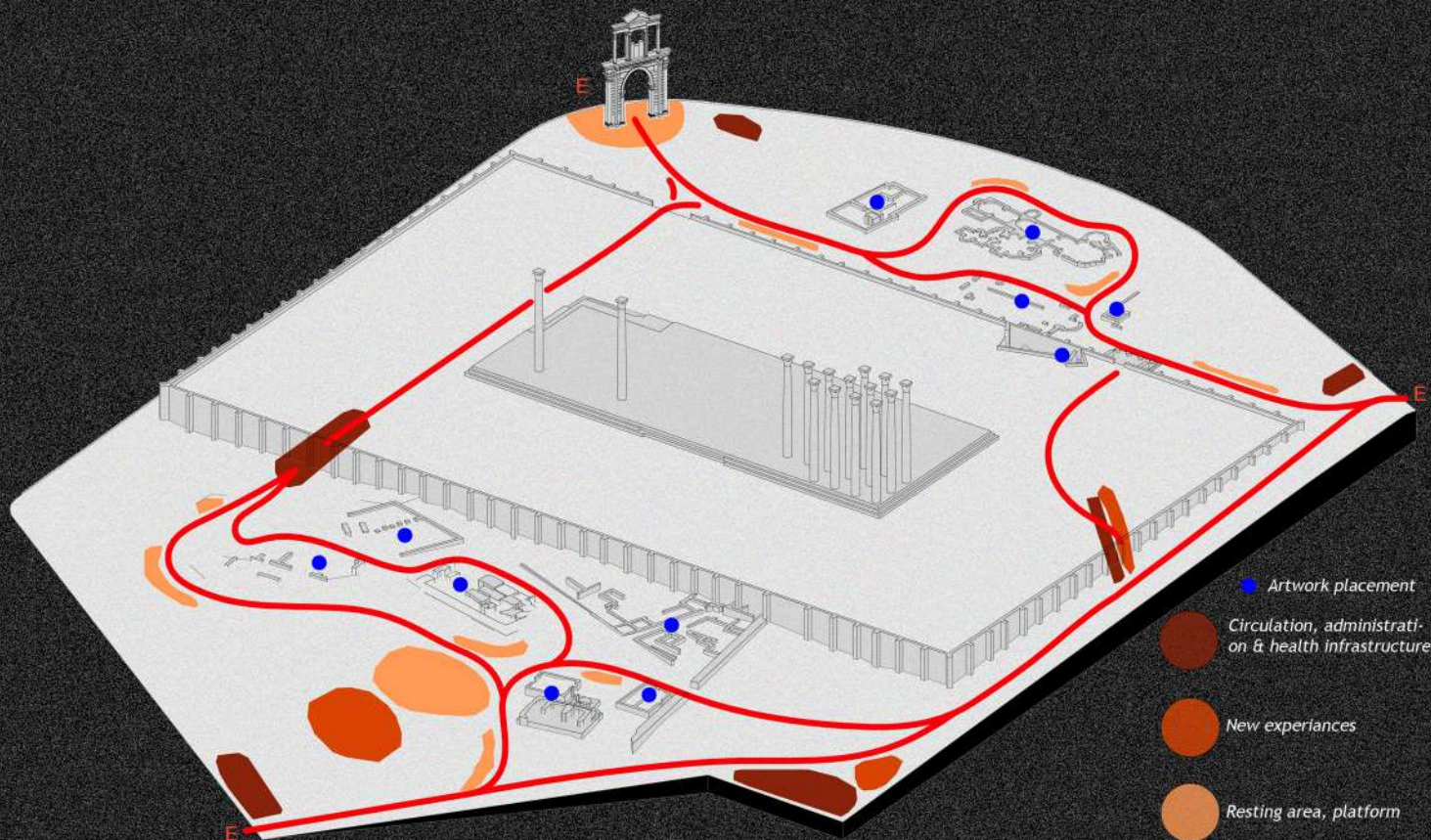
Having spotted the correct areas for interventions, it is now time to determine the the functions that should be adressed for each intervention.

Again, three different groups of interventions will be needed for the promotion of the site and it's content.

The first group is regarding only the infrastructures of the site. After having removed the old building which do not correspond to the needs of the new organization, the insertion of some structures that will manage to support the site's demands is crucial. These structures will have diverse character depending on the needs, such as: Ramps and elevators will be needed to connect the Zeus temple surface to the lower (southern) area, a larger administration building will be needed for the different type of employees needed on situ, and finally some small structures will need to be done serving as public wc and small kiosks for the visitors better comfort.

The second group will be dedicated to the circulation. Since the visitor's free circulation is very important, a very good way to lead & inform the visitor would be the insertion of some surfaces of double use: resting area and guidelines. Benches or platforms installed along the theoretical paths would solve both problems without dramatic interventions to the current site's atmosphere.

After resolving the infrastructural and circulation problems, the third group is needed in order to make this archeological site more attractive. Having the site's location as a disadvantage, the insertion of some new experiences will convert it into advantage. Taking advantage of the site's location, the antiquity layering and the site's surroundings the site will loose its strict archeological character and will become of a more free usage, hopefully being used in a daily basis also from the locals at any time.



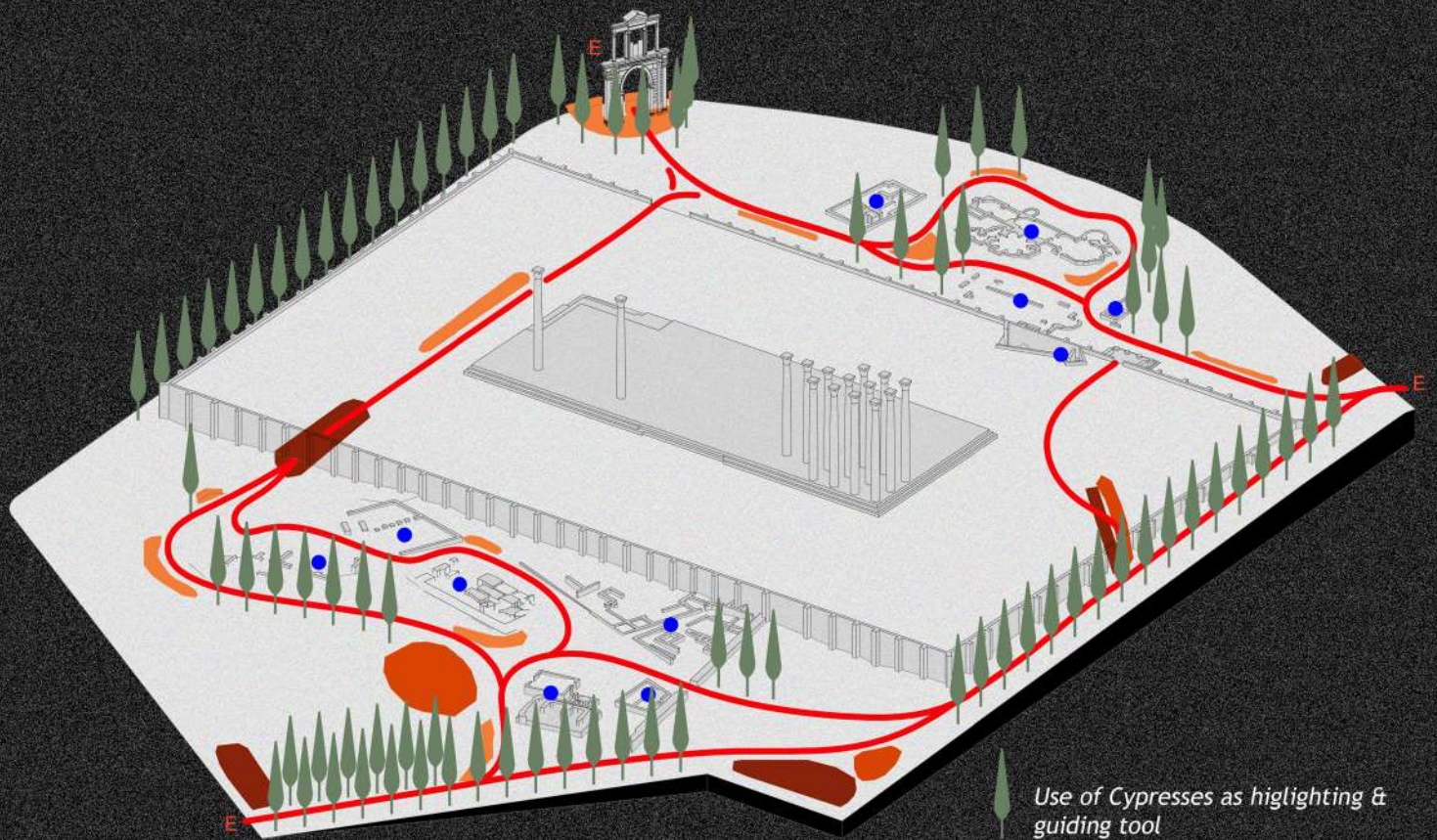
- Artwork placement
- Circulation, administration & health infrastructure
- New experiences
- Resting area, platform

ORIENTATION & LANDSCAPING

The vegetation plays a crucial role as well two important reasons. The current vegetation of the site is sparse and not organised and combining it with the lack of infrastructure is created an image of abandonment.

Cyresses have always been used in Greece starting from the ancient times till nowadays because of their peculiar spindly shape. Indeed in the site many of them can be found but not in the correct positions. Replanting the existing and adding new ones will help a lot to the circulation and highlighting purposes.

A redistribution to the rest of the vegetation will also be needed to correspond to the new pathways & functions.



Use of Cypresses as highlighting & guiding tool

STRUCTURAL & FUNCTIONAL INTERVENTIONS

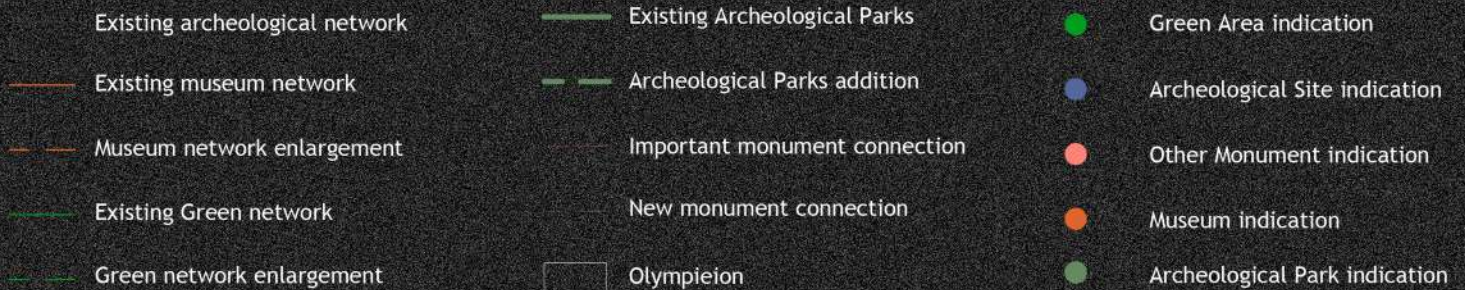
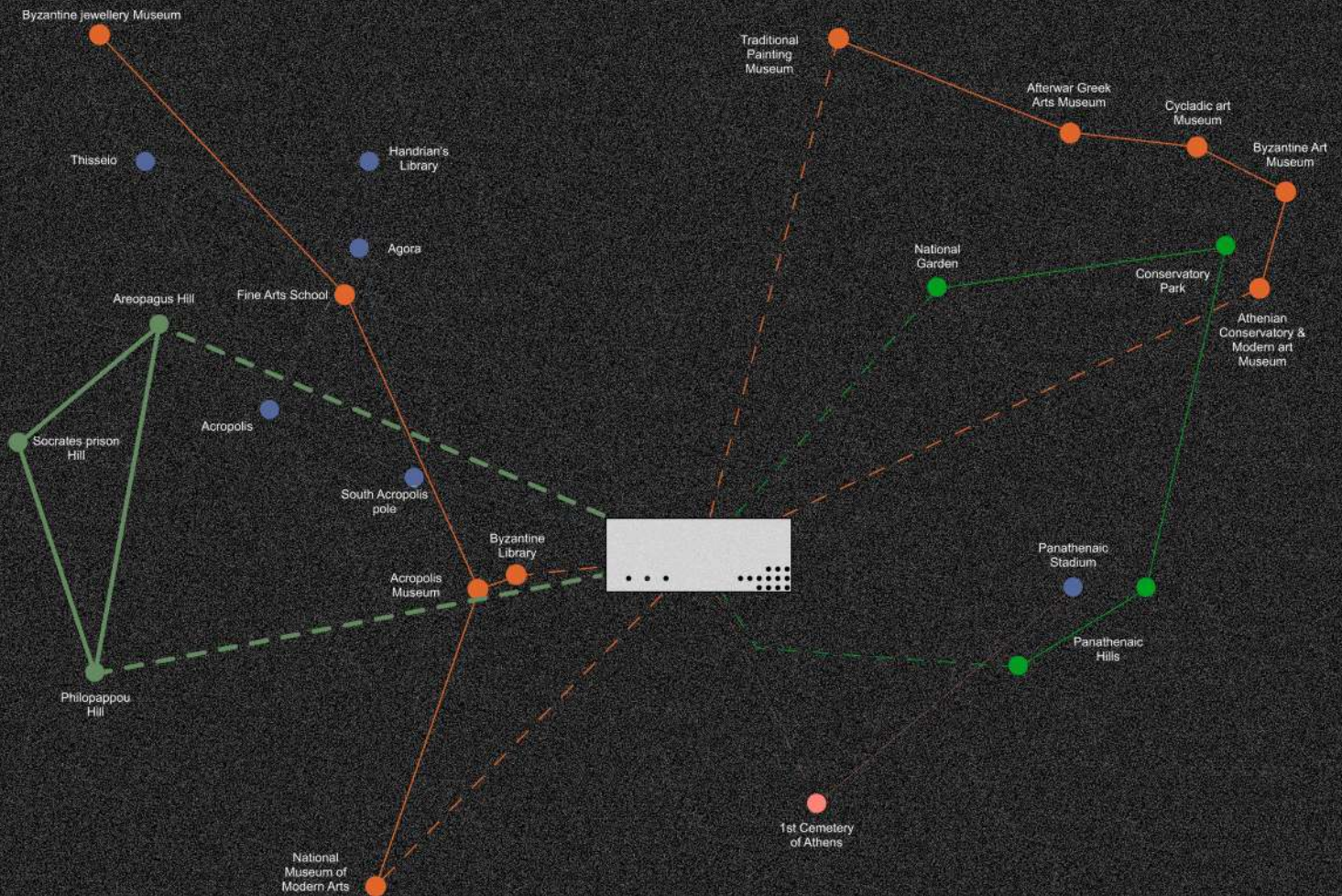
NETWORKING OLYMPIEION WITH IT'S SURROUNDINGS

The key for the success of the program will be the insertion of the site to a wider archeological, cultural and green network. Creating a complete network will be beneficial not only for Olympieion but also for the nearby features.

The archeological site connection exists already and serves as the basis of the whole project.

The archeological park network does not exist since there are only two found in a relatively long distance each other. Inserting Olympieion in the middle will become functional and doable for the visitor.

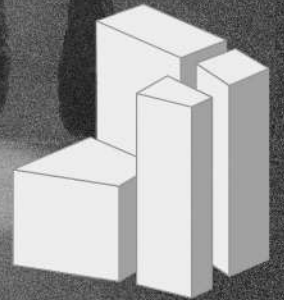
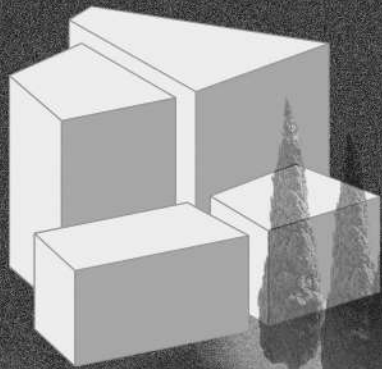
Entering to the Cultural network including archeological museums, art museums and galleries will be the real challenge and the element to elevate Olympieion into a special destination.



CONCEPT VISUALISATION

The combination of all the networks mentioned before would create a hybrid space corresponding functionally and spatially to all of them.

Having always the archeological remnants as the centre of the attention, and fusing them with the modern artistic values, a new ecology will be created that can be found nowhere else in the city. On the same time the archeological area get liberated by having diverse entrances and being now free to the visitors and the local, getting it integrated to the surrounding urban web. The new spaces and buildings will provide the users with water, food, shadowed areas where units or groups of people can gather, visit the area, relax, play and enjoy. The structures will support small public events or privately organised events by the locals while giving them opportunities to admire the whole archeological siting of the city centre. The movement inside will be free so the site can be used by different kinds of users at the same time.

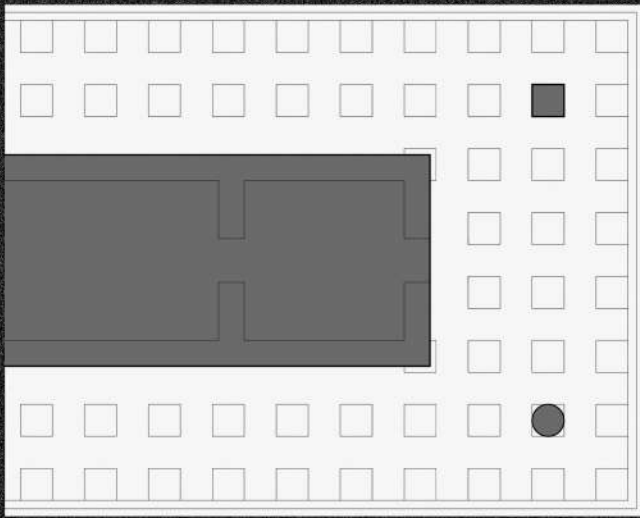


BUILDING SHAPING

Shaping the diverse structures to be used in the site is a quite sensitive step due to the existing ruins which are the reason of the creation of this project. The buildings must be simple, coherent to the ruins without creating contrasts or competition among them. The materials and the colors should also be very simple without being eye catching and serving always as secondary structures destined to highlight the values of the ruins.

The shape is probably the most important decision to be taken in order to achieve all the above. Taking a closer view to the antiquities becomes easy to realise that the site is already dominated by specific architectural elements and rules. Geometry and the grid have always been the tools for ancient Greeks, Romans & Byzantines to the construction and by seeing the Zeus temple plan becomes quite obvious that its harmony is achieved by the composition of three basic shapes on a grid: **Rectangle**, **Square** and **Circle**. The first two shapes can be equally translated in the three dimensional shape while the circle could be a **Cylinder** or a **Sphere**.

Scaling down the temple's grid into the human scale (the temple was built for gods) can be the way for a honest building shaping.



Temple's geometries as starting point



Rectangular



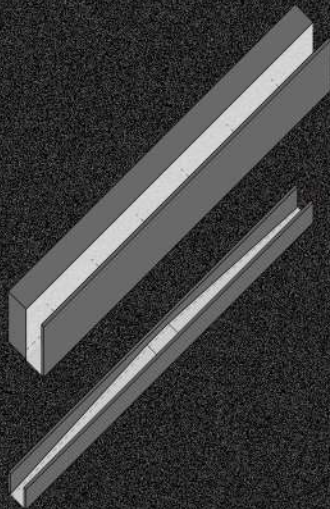
Square



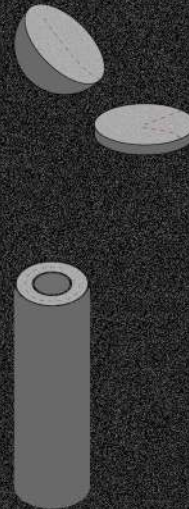
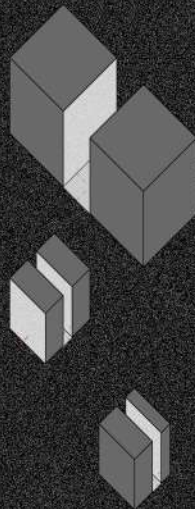
Circle / Cylinder



Ruin effect / Minimalistic surfaces - spaces



Shape configurations axonometry



Solid surface



Interactive sur.



Void

Access

LANSCAPE / CULTURAL INTERVENTIONS

Supplementary to the main building to host the diverse functions some more, much smaller, interventions are needed for the improvement of the circulation and for creating shadowed areas which are highly important to the visitor.

These small structures are thought to be modern ruins. They will be inserted all over the archeological site along the main root. Their shape will be also extracted from 2 factors: the direction of the main root and the land morphology which is going to allow a better view to the ruins. To some particularly difficult spots these small structures will be reinforced with cypresses in order to make more evident the root. Following the shape of the natural environment and having analogical dimensions to the surrounding antiquities, the structures will easily integrate to the existing ecology of the site, while they will become silent visitor guides.

Another kind of supplementary structures will be needed to support another feature of the site. Using coloured stone spheres placed within the ruins two more opportunities being offered. The first one is to connect the three different eras with a matching color in order to inform the visitor about the origins of the ancient structure. The second one is to use these spheres as a pedestal for the installation of modern artworks. The kind and the theme of the artwork installation each time will be decided depending the period and the collaborations (exhibitions) with the nearby museums - galleries or independent artists. This feature is another step for the better networking of the site and will improve the abolishing idea of a strictly archeological site.




Roman

Roman connection

Byzantine

Byzantine connection

Guiding bench

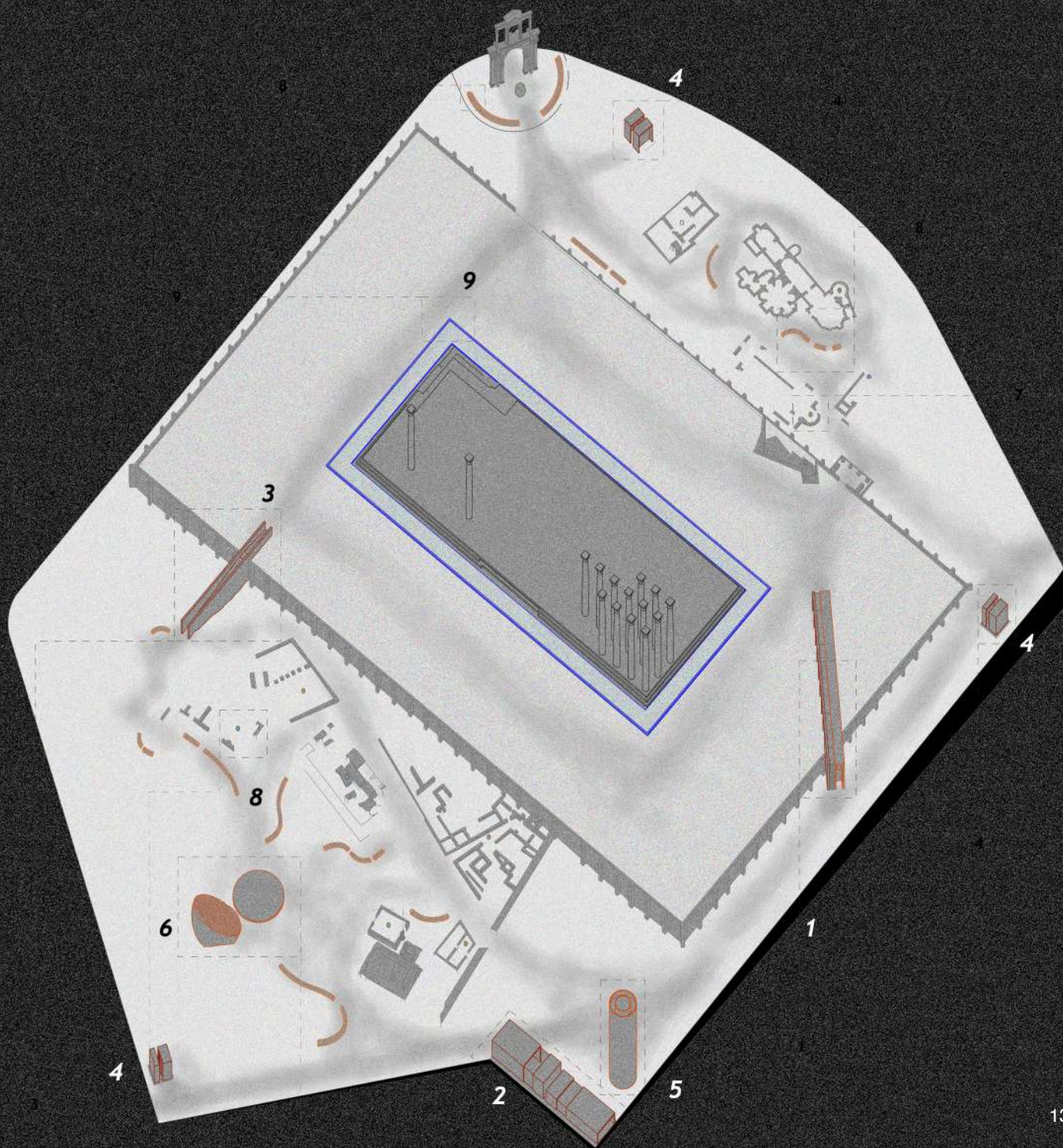
 Roman indication

 Byzantine indication

PLACEMENT OF THE NEW BUILDINGS / FUNCTIONS

Taking in consideration many factors such as ground levels, views, safety distances, root directions etc, the buildings are being placed correspondingly to the needed spot having the following functions:

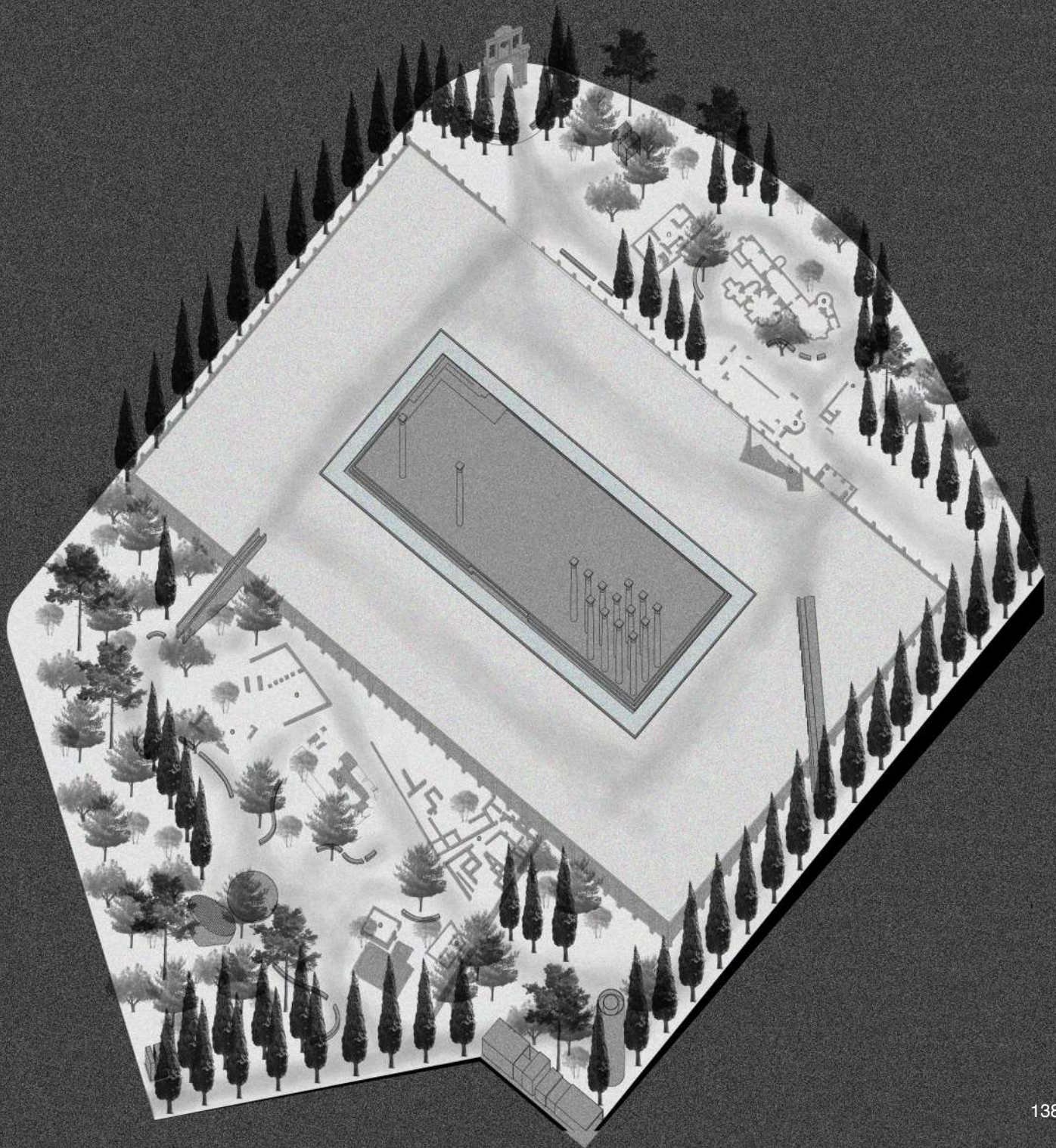
1. An orthogonal building connecting the main temple level with the east sloping side while offering 8 exhibition spaces.
2. A building composed by 4 squares serving as administration, storage while offering a large preservation space.
3. Orthogonal shaped connecting ramp between the site's upper and lower levels.
4. A dismembered square offering Public toilets -Handicap equipped-water source and vending machines.
5. A narrow and tall cylinder offering a great panoramic view to the site and Acropolis while hosting an archeological treasure in it's core.
6. A sphere cut in two pieces serving as a small square with elevated platforms or a small theatre.
7. Small structures spread all over, serving as benches and guides
8. A water installation aiming to give the needed evidence to the Zeus temple.



VEGETATION REFORMATION

Managing the vegetation is highly important for both antiquities and new structures. Adding or removing plants to the surrounding antiquities will help creating a picturesque image of the antiquities while preserving the naturality of the ecosystem. Dense plantation areas are needed or for the creation of places with thick shadow which are considered to be absolutely useful for visitors, or for the total or partial visual isolation of the antiquities or archaeological site. The vegetation surrounding the new structures will follow the same rules as the ones followed for the antiquities in order to prevail a visual separation.

The natural Attic vegetation shaping must be kept while the cypresses will be the only vegetation which will be pretentious for the above reasons. Oaks, pine trees, olive trees, orange and lemon trees as well as diverse local bushes will be the main core of the vegetation species.



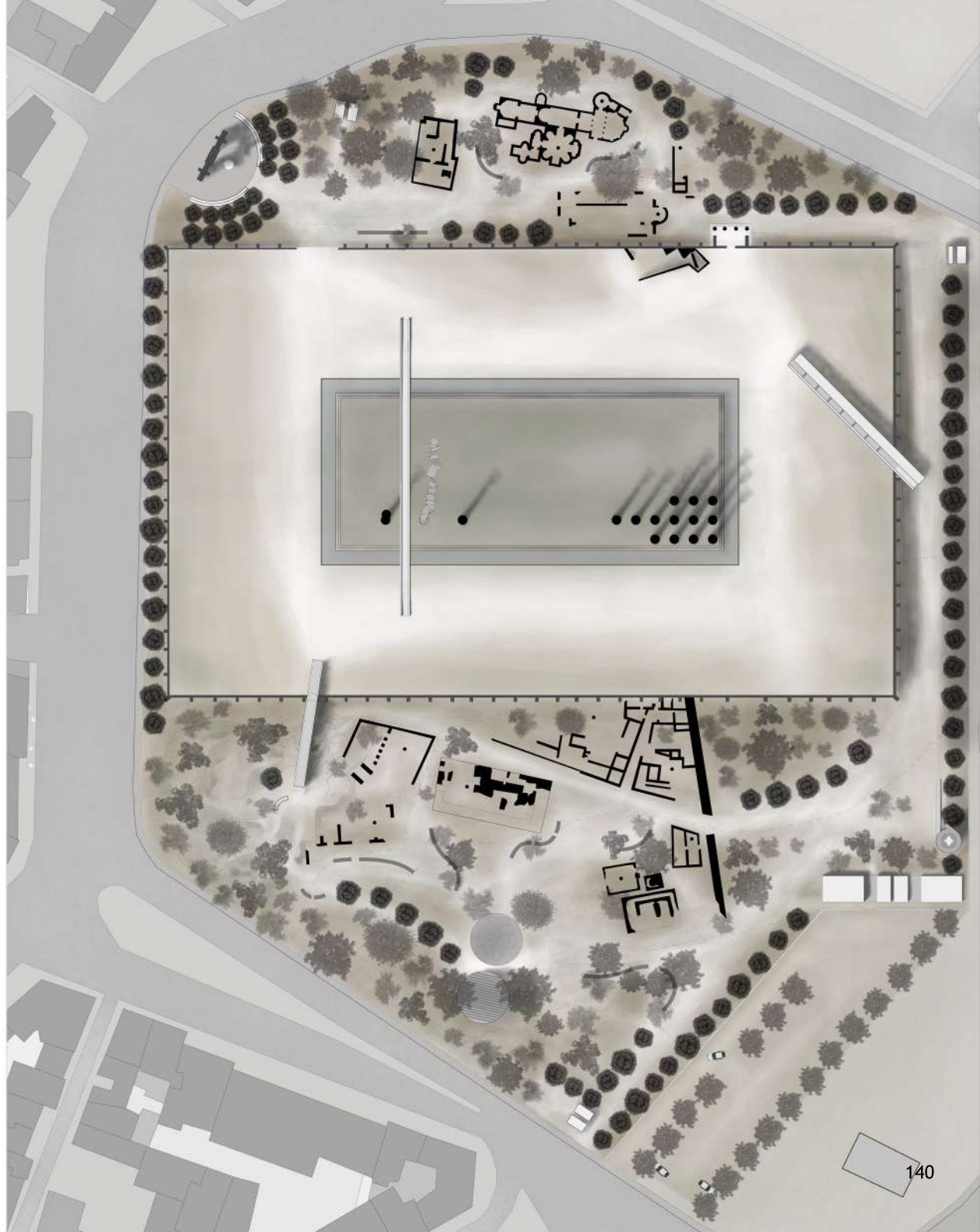
CHAPTER 4 // FINAL INTER-VENTION

MASTERPLAN

Only when putting together all the mentioned interventions in a plan, the new Olympieion park becomes clear. Two different ecosystems have been created well connected between them.

The first one is the fused south and northern part of the site. It is now clear the circulation, the leading cypresses & benches flowing inside the area and connecting both sides in a natural way even if they are disturbed by the central space of Olympieion. This green area becomes the cluster of life hosting most of the site's functions. Three entrances guarantee a very articulated human flow within and outside of the site.

The second and the most important are is the Olympieion level. Enclosed by the walls, being surrounded by the green areas and finally well connected to each other, this space becomes once again the centre of attention, as it was supposed to be. The two long rectangular structures connecting the two diverse ecosystems act silently but with a decisive attitude. The temple found on the centre has now been enclosed with a multi structure containing water in order to emphasise more it's value, while it also serves as a bench. The architectural parts that were previously saved around the walls have now been removed to the Administration building while the sparse trees have been transferred to the enclosing green area.



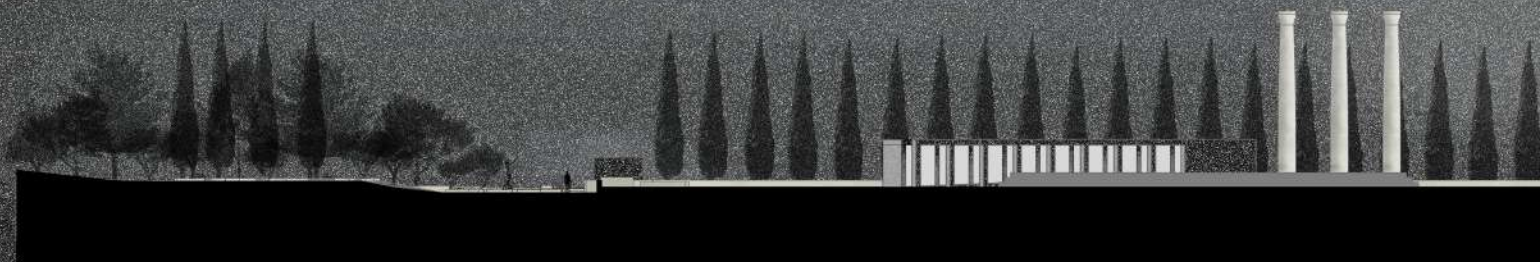
MASTERPLAN HORIZONTAL & VERTICAL SECTIONS

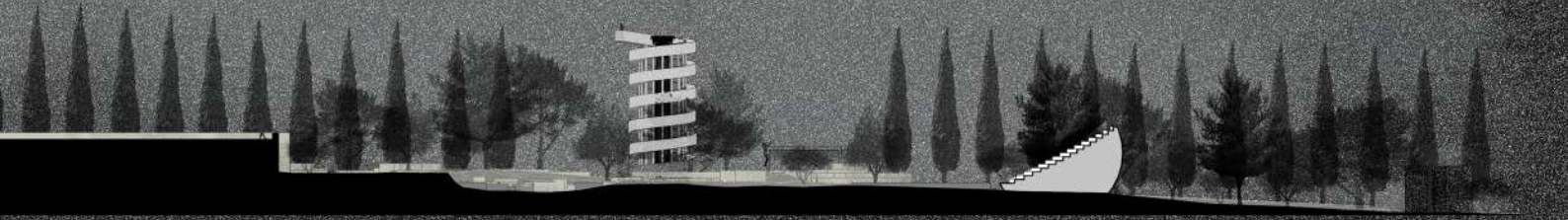
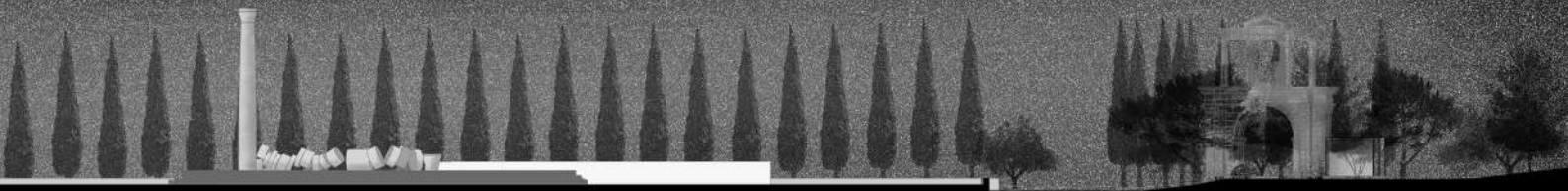
The four sections of the whole site contribute to the better understanding of the site's hierarchies. It is very important that the temple remains always the centre of the attention, the core of the site. The new building with their clean geometries get harmonised with the geometries of the temple and the rest of the antiquities while the irregular terrain bonds them together. The vegetation covering the biggest surface seems to create a natural symbiosis network of ancient ruins and modern structure.

VERTICAL SECTION S-S2



VERTICAL SECTION S-S1





THE TOWER

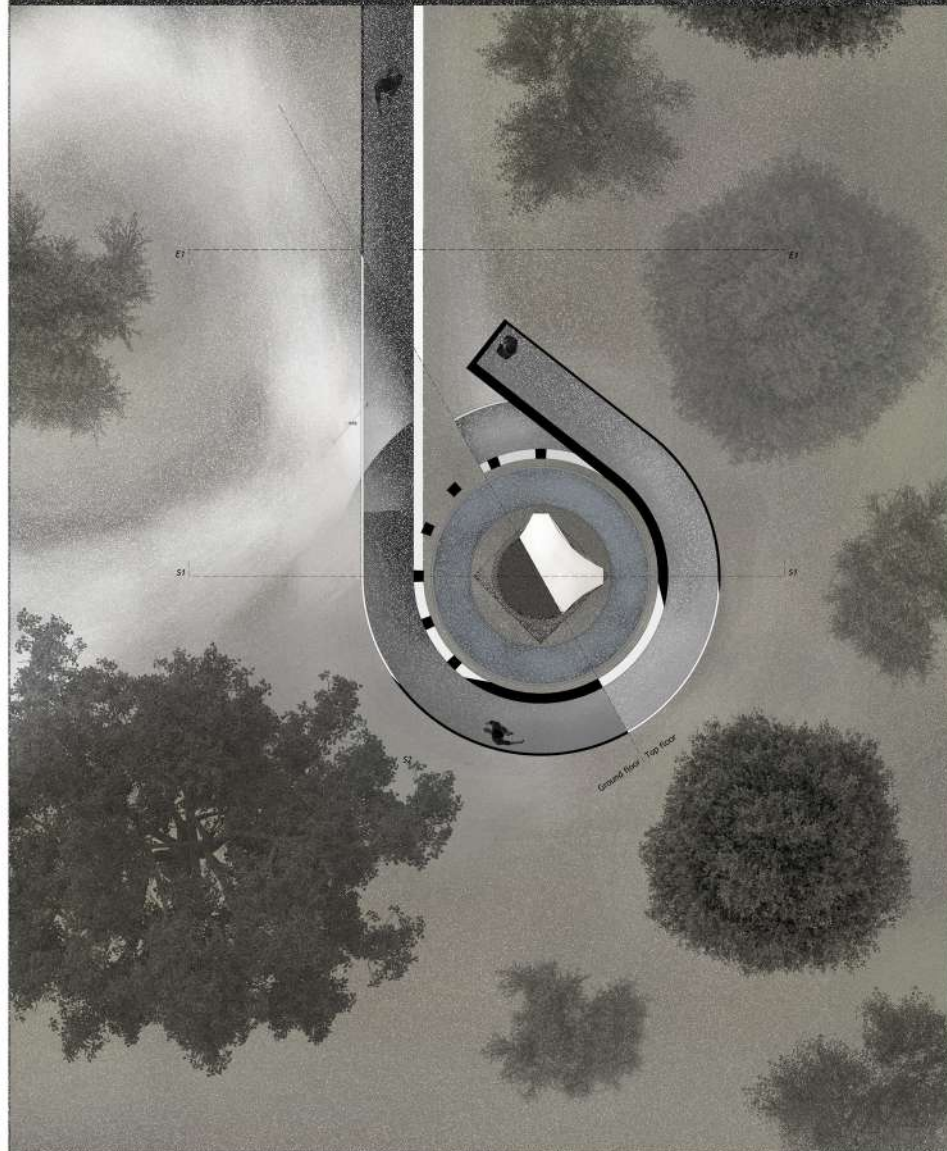
This building is maybe the most important new feature of the site. A structure focused and designed to highlight the Zeus temple, even if it's found on the external zone.

It's cylindrical shape is a pure extraction of the Zeus temple's column shape, just straightened and offsetted. The building is composed by two centered cylinders that create two different spaces, the void core and the in-between space serving being used as a stairwell in order to reach the top of the tower. In the void space the fallen column of Zeus temple has been assembled giving a unique opportunity to the visitor to admire and examine the column as never before.

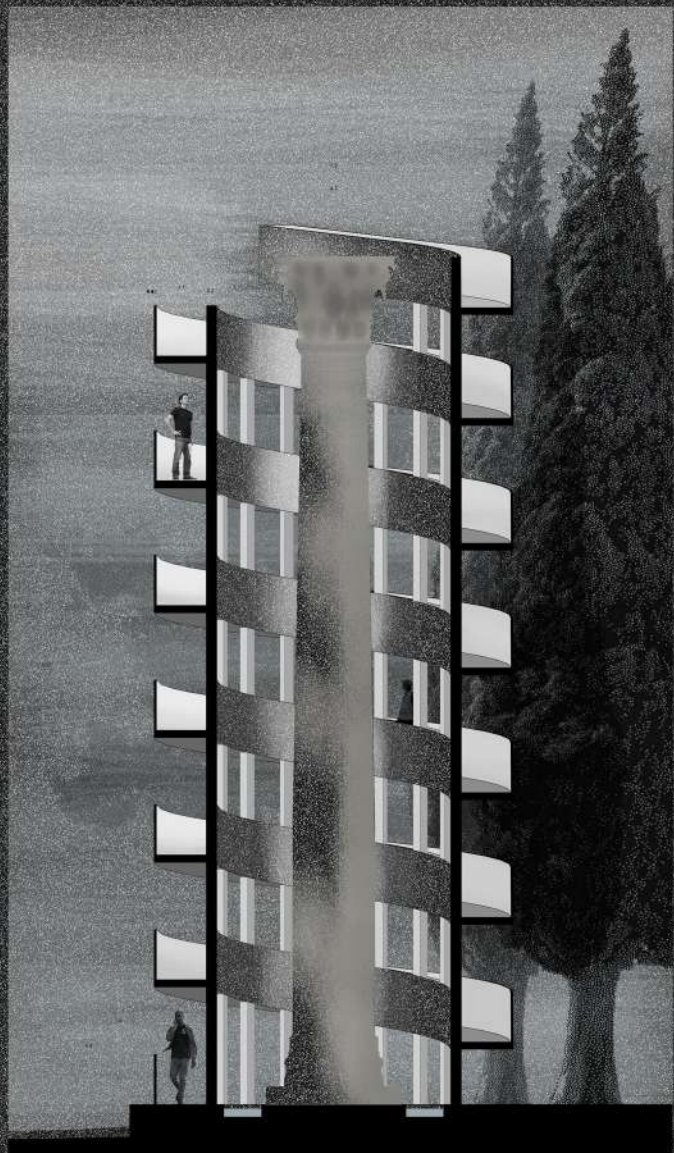
The openings of the inside wall offer many diverse views and optical angles to the column, while the openings of the exterior wall are facing the temple. Interior openings have been aligned to the exterior ones for a natural light flow while the internal void is roofless letting the nature elements to act as they would to a completely open space.

The placing of the tower is not random, and this can only be perceived by the visitor when reaching the top of the structure where a unique view dominates seeing Acropolis between the remaining columns of the Zeus temple.

WATCHING TOWER PLAN scale 1:50



WATCHING TOWER SECTION S1 scale 1:50



WATCHING TOWER ELEVATION E1 scale 1:50



WALL EXHIBITION

Another dual function building contributing to the site's networking while connecting the the Zeus temple zone with the lower level site.

It's placement is due to the traces of the ancient wall, which passed below the point before the surrounding area of Olympieion gets constructed.

The longitudinal shape has its roots in two reason: First because of the wall shape and second because there is a need of a long space to place the two main functions of the building.

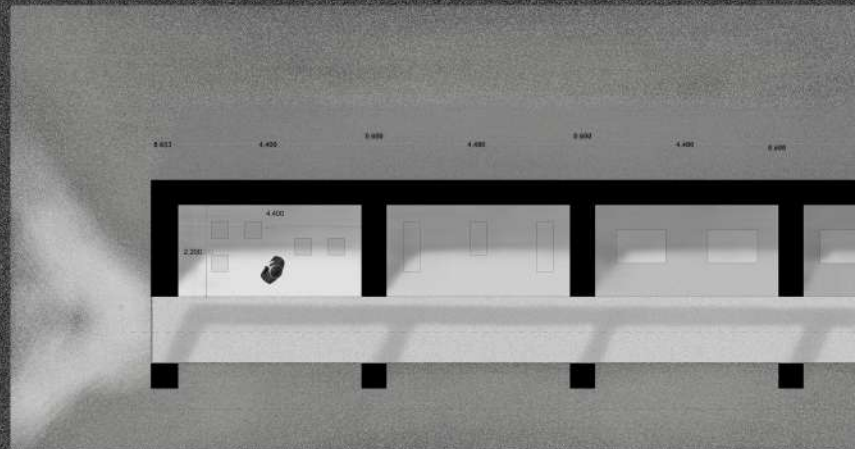
The first function is of an infra-structural character, connecting the Zeus zone to the lower part using a long ramp, stairs and elevator.

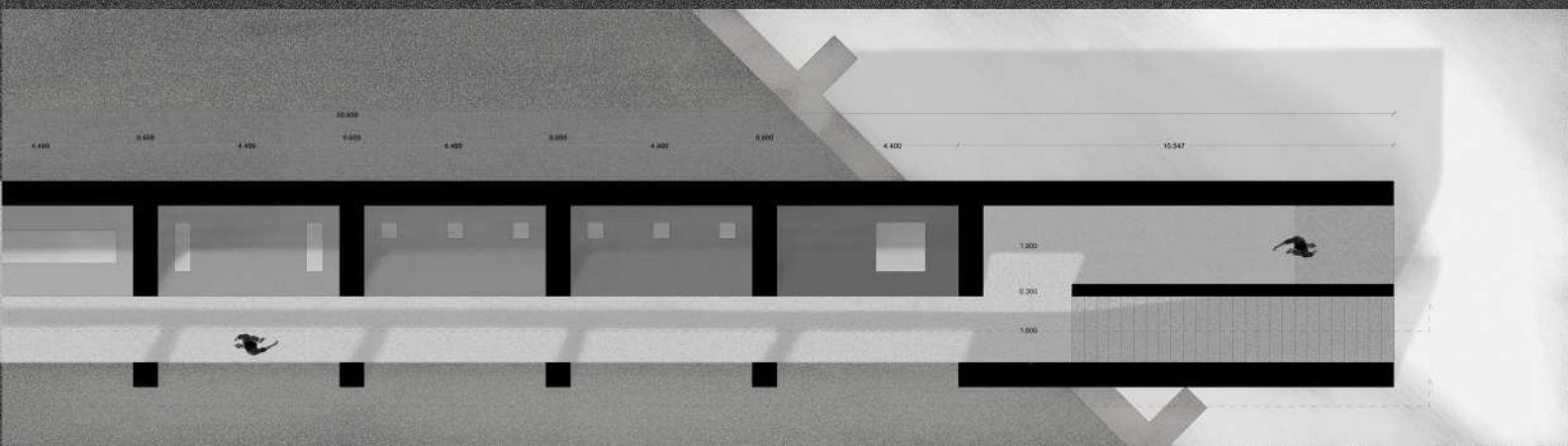
The second function has a cultural character. Eight different open rooms have been created along the ramp, symbolising the eight important eras of the Athenian evolution, starting from the Mycenaean civilisation until the last one which is now, the modern city of Athens. These spaces are destined to host antiquities and art pieces dedicated to each period accordingly by collaborating with the surrounding museums and cultural organisations.



WALL EXHIBITION SECTION

WALL EXHIBITION PLAN





THE CUT

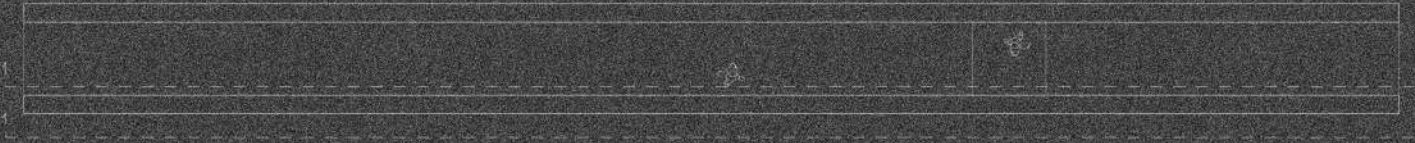
An emblematic structure of purely infrastructural character.

It's rectangular volume is inspired by it's function, which is to cut the level difference and become a new landmark, symbolising the passage to the new era of the site.

The structure is composed by a ramp surface and two surrounding walls. The tall walls create a closeness feeling cutting the view of the visitor, filtering on this way the optical transmissive field, rendering clear the transmission from the one ecology to the other.

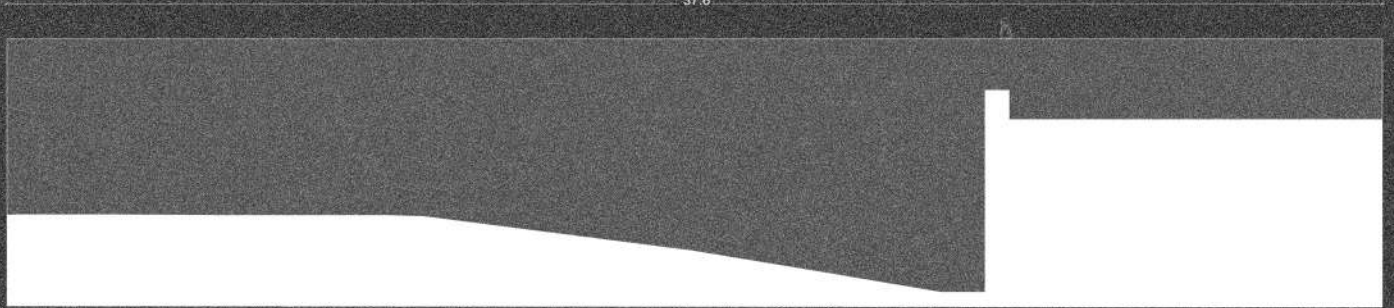
THE CUT PLAN scale 1:100

2.0



THE CUT ELEVATION scale 1:100

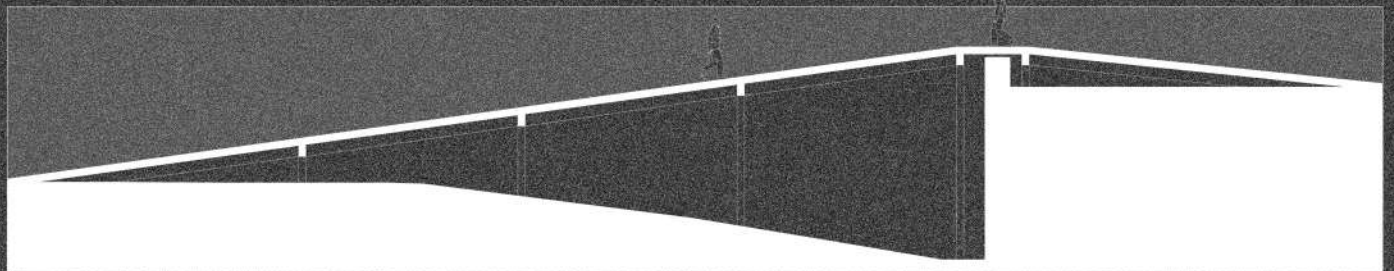
37.6



THE CUT SECTION scale 1:100

4.8
3.5

2.0
1.1



THE SPHERE

A spherical structure placed on the souther central part of the south area having both infrastructural and cultural character.

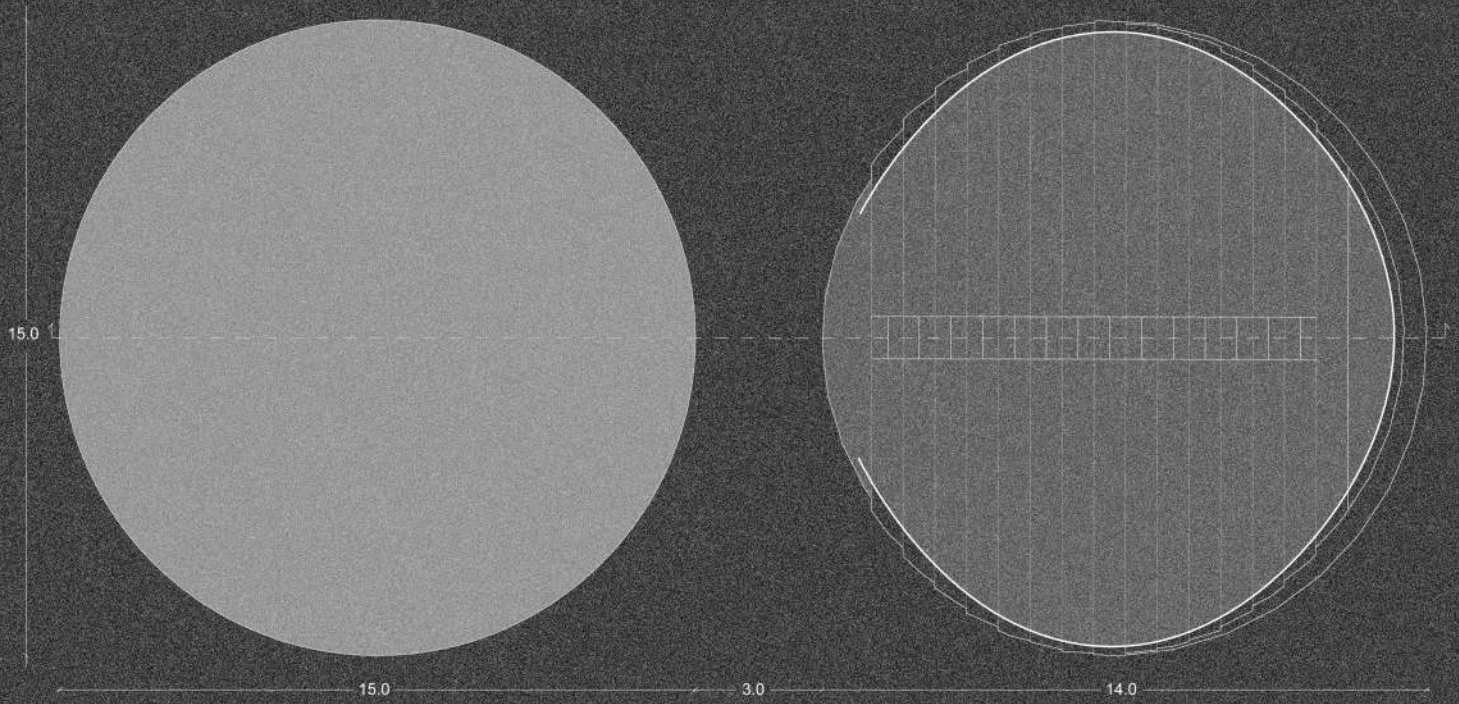
It's shape is conceived as a split sphere into 2 pieces, which were then positioned horizontally or with specific inclination according to each function.

The horizontal piece appears buried inside the terrain and its circular surface serves as a semi-shadowed resting square but also as a stage for cultural events.

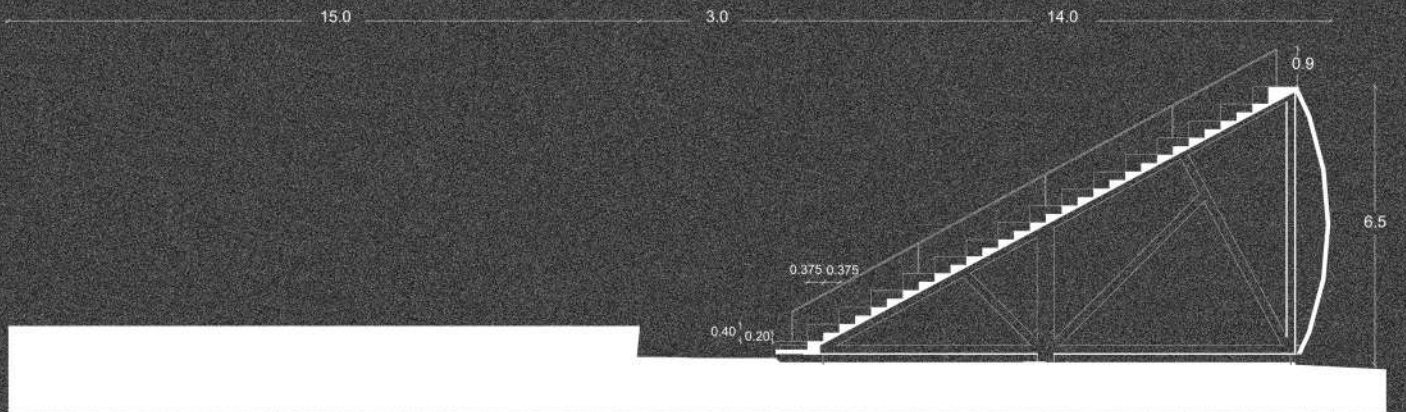
The inclined piece has been sculptured in order to form a seating surface offering a a shadowed elevated platform during the day or stage tiers at an event occasion.

The construction is oriented to the north, having a panoramic view of the ancient ruins of the southern area and the temple of Zeus at the same time.

THE SHPERE PLAN



THE SHPERE SECTION



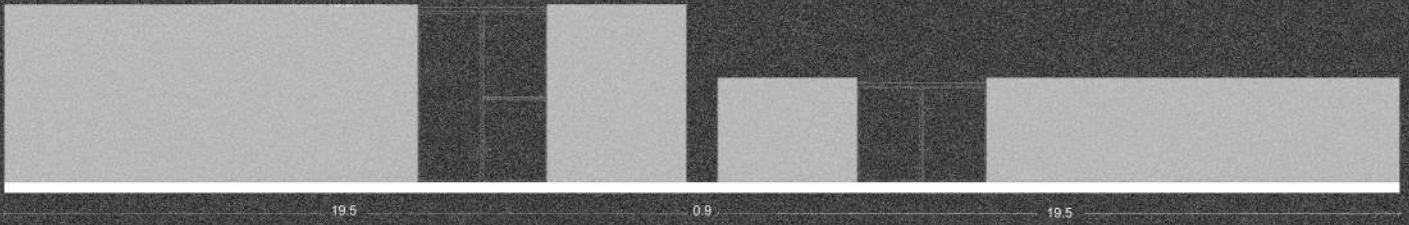
ADMINISTRATION / PRESERVATION BUILD- ING

A multipurpose cubic building located nearby the Tower on the south-east side of the site.

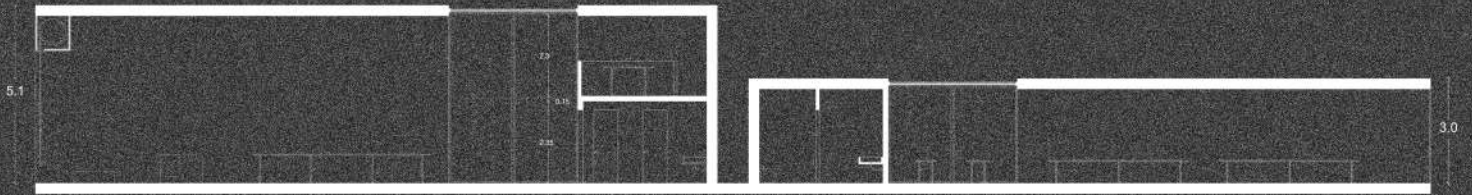
The form of the Administration / Restoration building is part of the concept of cut cubes.

Having 2 functions, placed in two separate 2 rectangles identified by two different heights since the Restoration space requires a height greater than usual in order to contain antiquities as tall as columns or other antiquities of great volume.

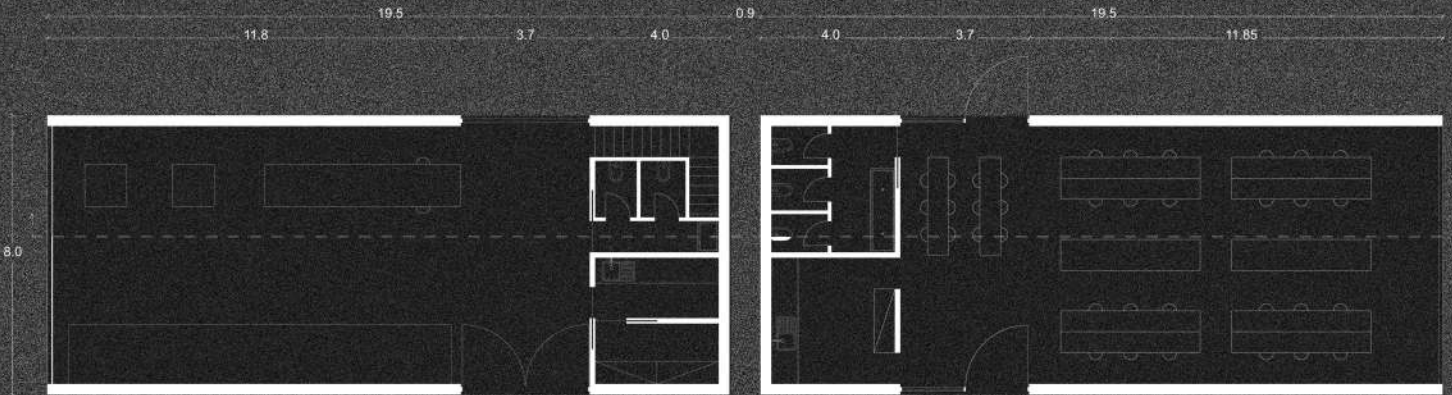
They are both divided into two spaces thus separating the primary space from that of the services. The division has been made by inserting a glass surface (walls&ceiling), creating a covered space that should also be used as an entrance / exit. Another great advantage of the glass ceiling is it's light transparency which is of great importance especially for the preservation point of view since as Le Corbusier said the antiquities found in Athens can only reveal their uniqueness under the light of the Attic sunlight.



ADMINISTRATION & PRESERVATION BUILDING ELEVATION SCALE 1:100



ADMINISTRATION & PRESERVATION BUILDING SECTION SCALE 1:100



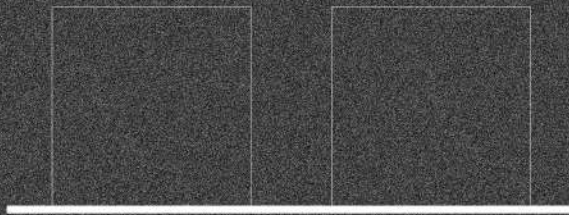
ADMINISTRATION & PRESERVATION BUILDING PLAN SCALE 1:100

SERVICE SQUARES

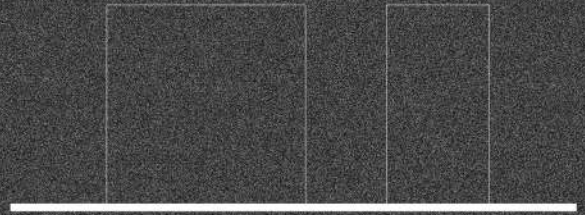
Three service squares can be found on the site, all of them positioned nearby the entrances.

Having an infrastructural character these constructions provide to the visitor with WC, handicap WC and vending machines equipped with water snacks etc.

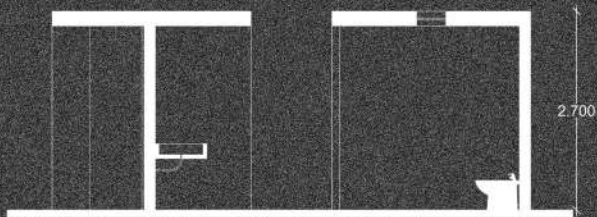
Their shape is practically a cube split in two, each of the two parts having a different function. Their volume is relatively small and they are well camouflaged by the surrounding vegetation.



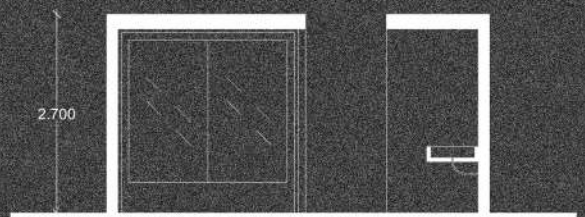
ELEVATION E2



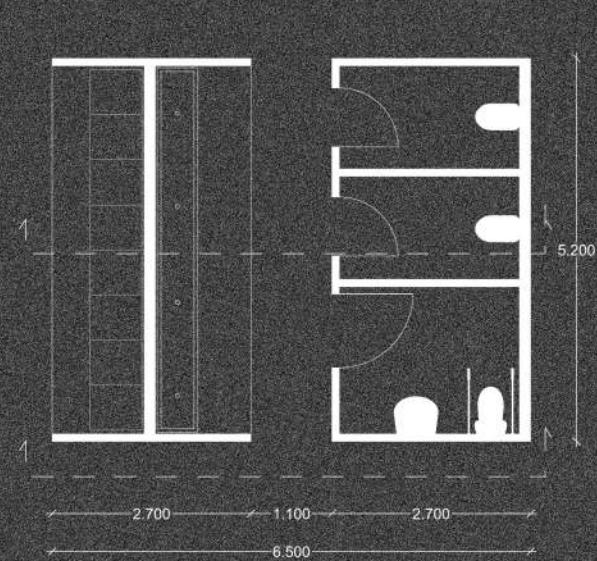
ELEVATION E3



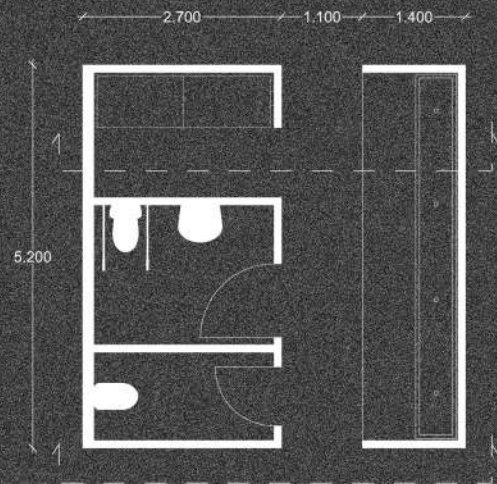
SECTION S2



SECTION S3



PLAN



PLAN

HANDRIAN'S SQUARE

Handrian's gate, accept being one of the most important archeological remnants of the site, it has always served as the entrance gate to the fortified Olympieion. Still nowadays, the biggest visitor flow arrives from the side of Handrian's gate which is positioned towards Acropolis.

The making of this circular square is a celebration of the openness of the site while it aims to highlight the values of the monument.

A two level platform has been placed along the edges of the circular square facing the Arch. Additionally, a marble sphere is placed in the middle of the square predisposing the visitor of the site's new multi character.

HANDRIAN'S ENTRANCE SQUARE

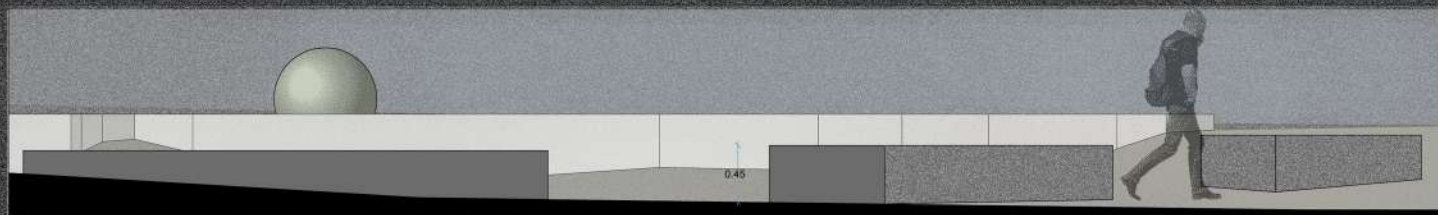


GUIDING BENCHES

These small structures are thought to be modern ruins. They will be inserted all over the archeological site along the main root. Their shape will be also extracted from 2 factors: the direction of the main root and the land morphology which is going to allow a better view to the ruins. To some particularly difficult spots these small structures will be reinforced with cypresses in order to make more evident the root.

Following the shape of the natural environment and having analogical dimensions to the surrounding antiquities, the structures will easily integrate to the existing ecology of the site, while they will become silent visitor guides.

GUIDING BENCH

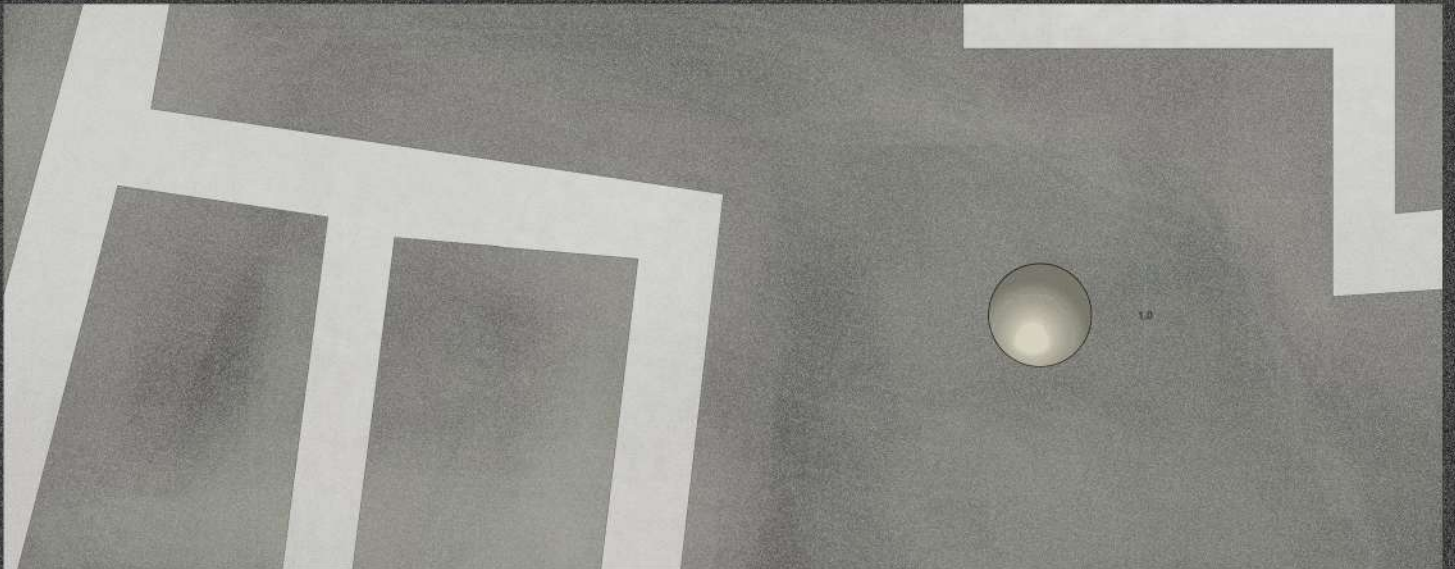
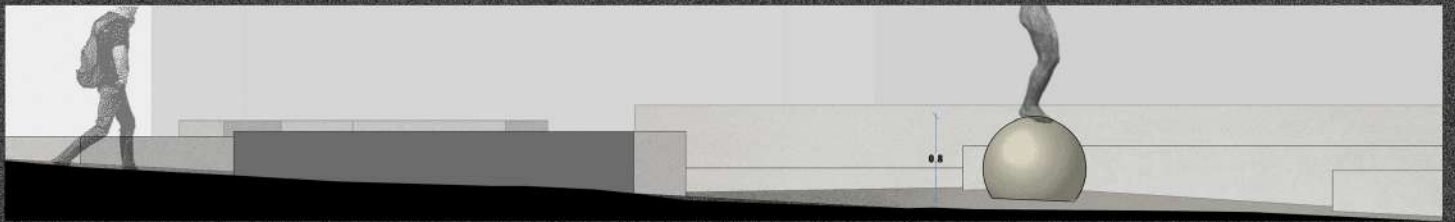


INDICATION SPHERES

Using coloured stone spheres placed within the ruins two more opportunities being offered. The first one is to connect the three different eras with a matching color in order to inform the visitor about the origins of the ancient structure. The second one is to use these spheres as a pedestal for the installation of modern artworks.

The kind and the theme of the artwork installation each time will be decided depending the period and the collaborations (exhibitions) with the nearby museums - galleries or independent artists. This feature is another step for the better networking of the site and will improve the abolishing idea of a strictly archeological site.

INDICATION SPHERES

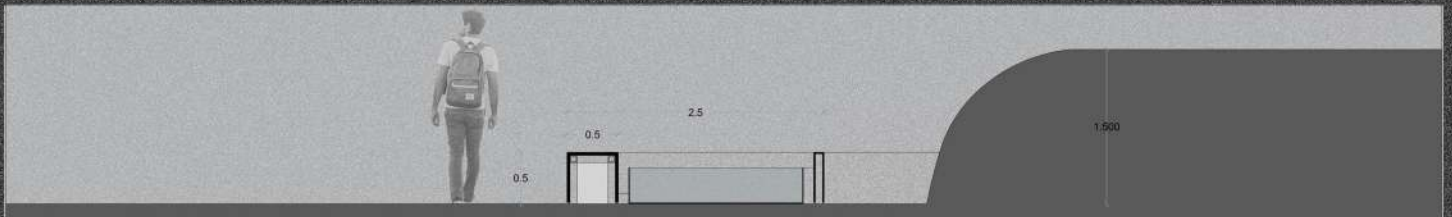


TEMPLE'S INSTALLATION

A multi structure containing water in order to emphasise more it's value, while it also serves as a bench.

The shape is an offset of the temple's orthogonal plan and it's material is Pentelic marble, the same material used for the construction of the temple.

TEMPLE'S WATERTANK & BENCH



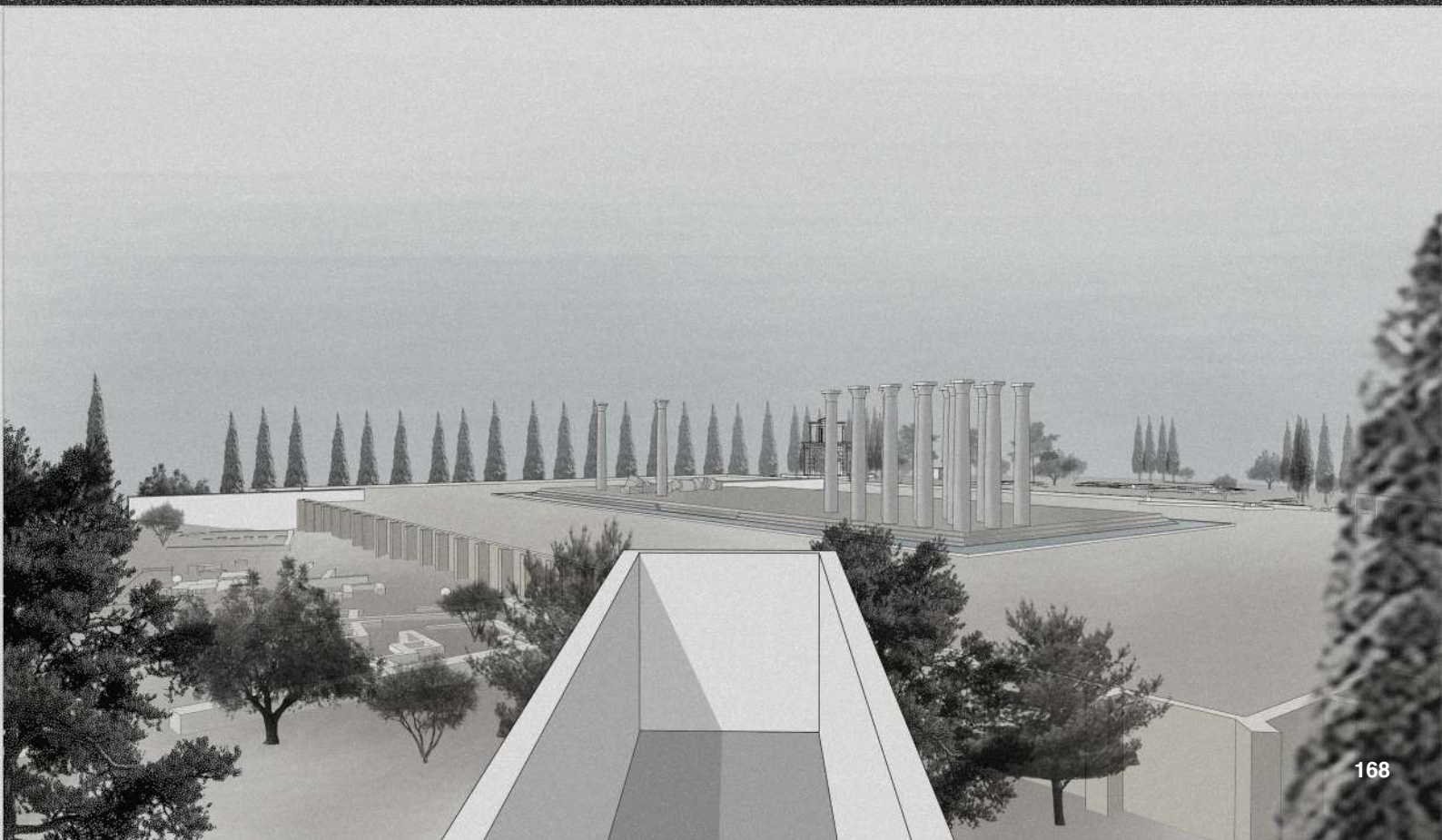
ZEUS TEMPLE VIEW

ZEUS TEMPLE VIEW



PANORAMIC VIEW

PANORAMIC VIEW



NORTHERN PART VIEW

NORTHERN PART VIEW



SOUTHERN PART VIEW



CONCLUSION

Olympieion has been characterized since the beginning as one of the most peculiar centers of worship. The size and luxury of the temple frightened the ancient Athenians while it got admired and highlighted by the Romans. Due to its location it was vandalized over the years, having as a result only 15 pillars remaining out of the total construction today.

After the Second World War intensive excavations were carried out in the surrounding area of the Olympieion, bringing to the surface a number of important ancient ruins, which differ considerably between them in terms of their dating, structure and usage. This fact gives the area a unique character that is characterized by its diversity, being practically a historical and architectural layering of the Athenian evolution.

This area was then fenced and protected by the archaeological service of the Athens as a part of a mass protection system for the antiquities of the wider area of the center of the city. Over the years, some elementary facilities have been created to make it possible to visit the archaeological site. However, no emphasis was placed on this particular area, since all attention was drawn to Acropolis and the antiquities surrounding it.

The intent of this work was to highlight the antiquities of this place, as well as its reintegration into the urban, archaeological and cultural web. Through the extensive study of the evolution of the city of Athens, Olympieion and the antiquities surrounding it, the foundations for a new program, quite different by the several of the other archaeological sites of the center were laid.

Having always as the center of attention the antiquities, the new program integrates contemporary features such as micro museum, artistic installations and a small theater. On the other hand, the area is not perceived anymore as a passage but as a space where people can lay down and spend time in it.

This kind of liberal approach is generated by the ever changing needs and behaviours of the visitors and locals, aiming to correspond to the needs of nowadays without losing respect to the historical, architectural and archeological values.

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