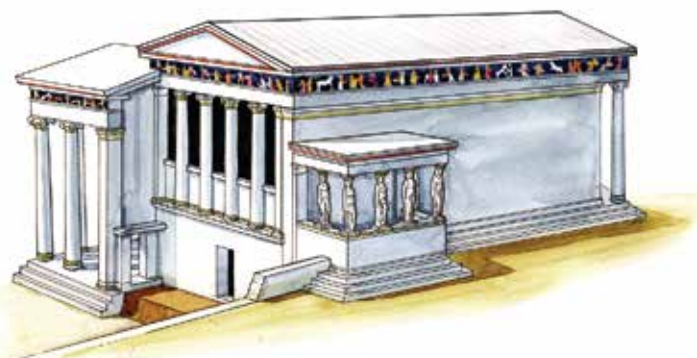


4

To the left, you can see the **Erechtheion** (421–406 BC), the Ionic temple that was dedicated to Athena Polias, protector of the city, to Poseidon-Erechtheus, from whom the temple took its name, and to other gods and local heroes. Here according to myth, Athena and Poseidon had quarrelled over the protection of the city. For this reason, the temple had been divided into two parts and had two entrances, one in the north and one in the east side.

Did you know that the Caryatids, the six female statues you see on the south side of the temple today are copies?



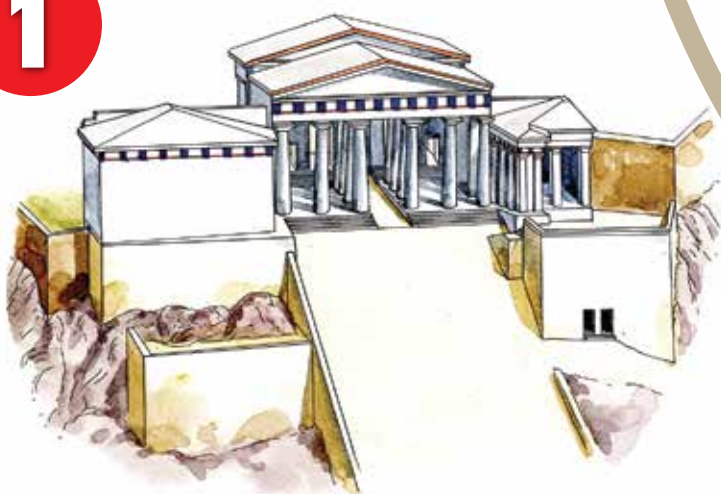
Note the four sides of the temple which are different from each other. This is due to the difference in ground elevation but particularly to the need to house older and more recent cults of gods and heroes.

3

Passing through the Propylaia, you have a general view of the Acropolis site. During ancient times there were many inscriptions and votive offerings set up all over the sanctuary. Particularly impressive was the approximately nine-metre high statue of **Athena Promachos**, a work by the sculptor Phidias, which has been lost.

Did you know that the site the ancient Athenians saw was different from the present, which has been shaped by the excavations?

1



Today, as in ancient times, the visitor goes up the Acropolis on its west side, because it is less steep and access is easier. The **Propylaia** (437–432 BC), the monumental entrance to the Acropolis designed by the architect Mnesikles, was composed of a central building and two chambers, one on either side. Their ceilings were particularly impressive, with coffers, square marble slabs decorated with colour and gilded metal ornaments.

Note the use on the Propylaia of both the Doric and Ionic orders.

Don't forget to see the two new Ionic capitals that have recently been positioned on the building.



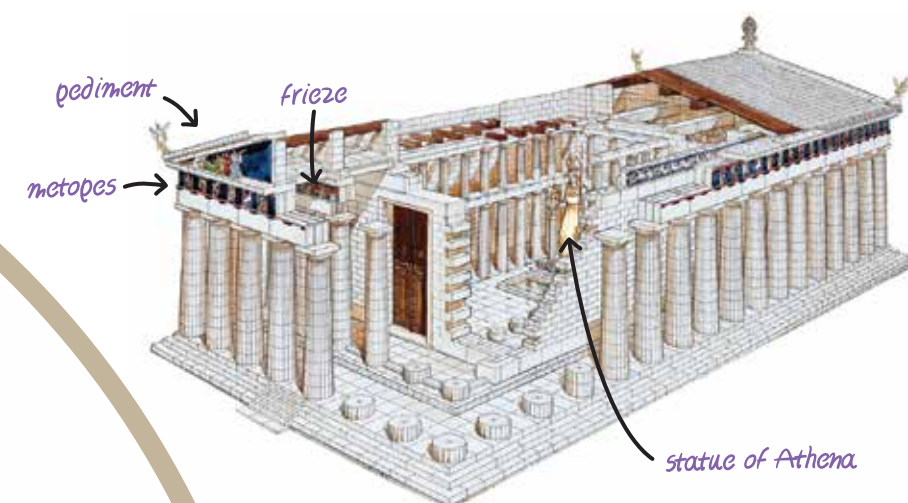
Welcome to the Acropolis!



5

On the right, you can see the **Parthenon** (447–438 BC), the largest and most glorious of the temples of Athena on the Acropolis. It was designed by the architects Iktinos and Kallikrates, while the sculptor Phidias had the general supervision of the project. The temple, of the Doric order with many Ionic elements, was famous for the perfection of its construction and its rich sculpture.

Have a look at the three sculptural groups in the drawing: the pediments, the metopes and the frieze. Then notice the famous gold and ivory statue of Athena Parthenos, which has been lost.



Don't forget to see the copies of the frieze blocks on the west end.

2



To the right of the Propylaia, you can see the small Ionic temple of **Athena Nike** (427–421 BC), a work by the architect Kallikrates. Here Athena was worshipped as a protector of Athens in times of war.

Note on the drawing the protective marble parapet around the temple. This was decorated with relief representations of the goddess Athena among winged Nike figures.

Did you know that a few years ago, the whole temple was dismantled? Its architectural members were restored and the temple was then reassembled.

Looking around, you can enjoy the view of the city to the sea, and you can see the neighbouring islands of Aegina and Salamina. You can also see the mountains of Attica, Pentelicon, Hymettus and Parnitha, as well as the Pnyx, the Philopappos Monument and the hill of the Observatory. When you stand on the southeastern side of the Rock you can see in front of you the old Acropolis Museum, and looking down the Rock, the new **Acropolis Museum**, where most of the original sculptures are exhibited.

