

**01**

## WHY ARE THERE SO MANY CRANES AND SO MUCH SCAFFOLDING ON THE ACROPOLIS?



### Make a rough calculation!

The monuments on the Acropolis have been travelling through time for 2500 years.

Throughout the centuries, the monuments have suffered significant damage due to **natural causes** such as earthquakes, frost and parasitic vegetation, and also due to **human actions**, such as wars, explosions, bombings, fires, theft of sculptures, and so on.

Major problems were also created by the many errors made in the restoration interventions undertaken last century, as well as by **environmental pollution** – the well-known smog which in recent years has affected not only the residents but also the monuments of Athens.

All the scaffolding and cranes that you see on the Acropolis today, are there as part of the efforts to address these problems. A special service of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, the Acropolis Restoration Service, is carrying out the **restoration interventions**.

**02**

## WHY ARE SOME ARCHITECTURAL MEMBERS TEMPORARILY REMOVED FROM THE MONUMENTS?

After the completion of a detailed study, architectural members presenting problems are temporarily removed. The procedure followed is called **structural restoration** and includes the following 6 steps:

**4**

The fragments of the ancient architectural members and the new supplements are joined together using **titanium rods**, which are inserted into surfaces hidden from view.

After the fragments are joined together, the exterior surfaces of the supplements are finished in order to give the architectural member its final form.



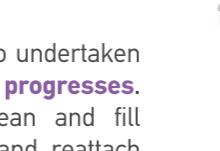
*Titanium is a durable metal which does not rust!*



*Now you can understand why restoration is such a time-consuming process!*

**03**

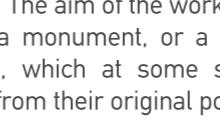
## HOW IS THE SURFACE OF THE STONE CLEANED?



Stone surface conservation is also undertaken as the **structural restoration progresses**. Among others, conservators clean and fill microcracks and gaps, remove and reattach flakes and small fragments, and remove deposits and the black crust covering the surface of the marble, using laser technology.



*Mount Pentelic is 60 km away from the Acropolis.*



*And in case something needs to be changed, the experts have taken care to ensure reversibility, in other words, the possibility of restoring the monument to the state it was in before the intervention.*

*to the state it was in before the intervention.*

**04**

## WILL THE ACROPOLIS BECOME AGAIN AS IT WAS IN ANTIQUITY?

No! The works undertaken are restricted to what is absolutely necessary, to sections of the monuments that present stability problems. The aim of the works is the protection and reconstruction of a monument, or a part thereof, using its **original members**, which at some stage had fallen or had been removed from their original position.

**Restoration does not mean reconstruction!**

*During the intervention all the work is documented and also recorded using drawing and photography!*

*to the state it was in before the intervention.*

**05**

## WHERE WAS THE MARBLE FOR THE MONUMENTS QUARRIED & HOW WAS IT TRANSPORTED TO THE ACROPOLIS?



The Acropolis monuments were constructed from marble cut from the **quarry of Mount Pentelic**. The transportation of the blocks was a very difficult, time-consuming and costly task. The processing of the marble therefore, was started at the quarry, where each piece was cut to approximately the dimensions required for shaping into the chosen architectural member. Thus, only as much marble as was absolutely necessary was transported.



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