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The Parthenon

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The Parthenon

Abstract

The Parthenon's construction started in 447 B.C. and was completed by 438 B.C. The structure was built as a temple dedicated to the Greek Goddess Athena and is widely regarded as one of the most important structures still standing from its time period. Originally seen as a monument to the victory over Persian invaders, it has served many different purposes from a place of worship to a treasury for gold storage. Pericles, a famous Greek statesman, is recognized as the temple's builder. There is evidence suggesting that there was a prior temple dedicated to the Goddess of Arts, Literature, Wisdom, and War. This first structure known as the Old Parthenon, stood in the same spot as its successor but is thought to have been destroyed by invading Persians. As can be expected of a structure thousands of years old, control of the Parthenon switched hands many times over the centuries. From the Greeks, to the Byzantines, to the Ottomans and finally back to the Greeks, the Parthenon lasted throughout it all.

ABSTRACT

The Parthenon's construction started in 447 B.C. and was completed by 438 B.C. The structure was built as a temple dedicated to the Greek Goddess Athena and is widely regarded as one of the most important structures still standing from its time period. Originally seen as a monument to the victory over Persian invaders, it has served many different purposes from a place of worship to a treasury for gold storage. Pericles, a famous Greek statesman, is recognized as the temple's builder. There is evidence suggesting that there was a prior temple dedicated to the Goddess of Arts, Literature, Wisdom, and War. This first structure known as the Old Parthenon, stood in the same spot as its successor but is thought to have been destroyed by invading Persians. As can be expected of a structure thousands of years old, control of the Parthenon switched hands many times over the centuries. From the Greeks, to the Byzantines, to the Ottomans and finally back to the Greeks, the Parthenon lasted throughout it all.

WHEN

Work began on the parthenon in the year 447 BCE . The basic building was completed in 438 BCE though work on both the interior and exterior decorations continued until 432 BCE.

WHERE

The Parthenon is positioned on the top of a very large limestone hill, referred to as the Acropolis in Athens, Greece.

WHO

Directed by the Athenian statesman Pericles, constructing the Parthenon was the work of the architects Ictinus and Callicrates under the supervision of the sculptor Phidias.

WHY

To shelter the monumental statue of Athena that was made by Phidias out of gold and ivory.

CONSTRUCTION METHODS

The parthenon was built in a manner that was as aesthetically pleasing as possible. Given that horizontal lines tend to look like they have a droop, they instead used upward curves to give a straight appearance. The marble that made up the majority of the temple was quarried roughly ten miles outside athens and transported using wagons. Once the marble made its way up Acropolis, it was carved to precise specifications. This was done to ensure the marble blocks maintained stability when put in place. It is thought that the Greeks used crane, ropes, and pulleys to move the heavy marble blocks into place.

TIMELINE

447 BCE
Start of Construction

432 BCE Parthenon is
Completed

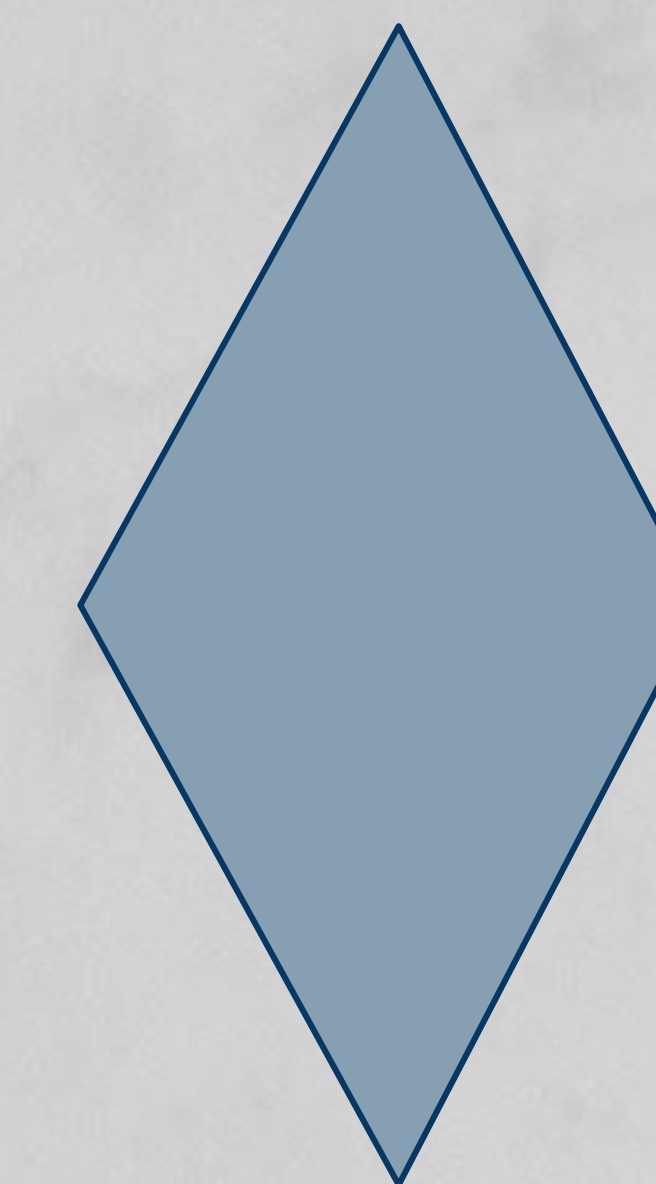
550 - Converted into
Christian Church

1975 to Present - Large
Scale Restoration Project

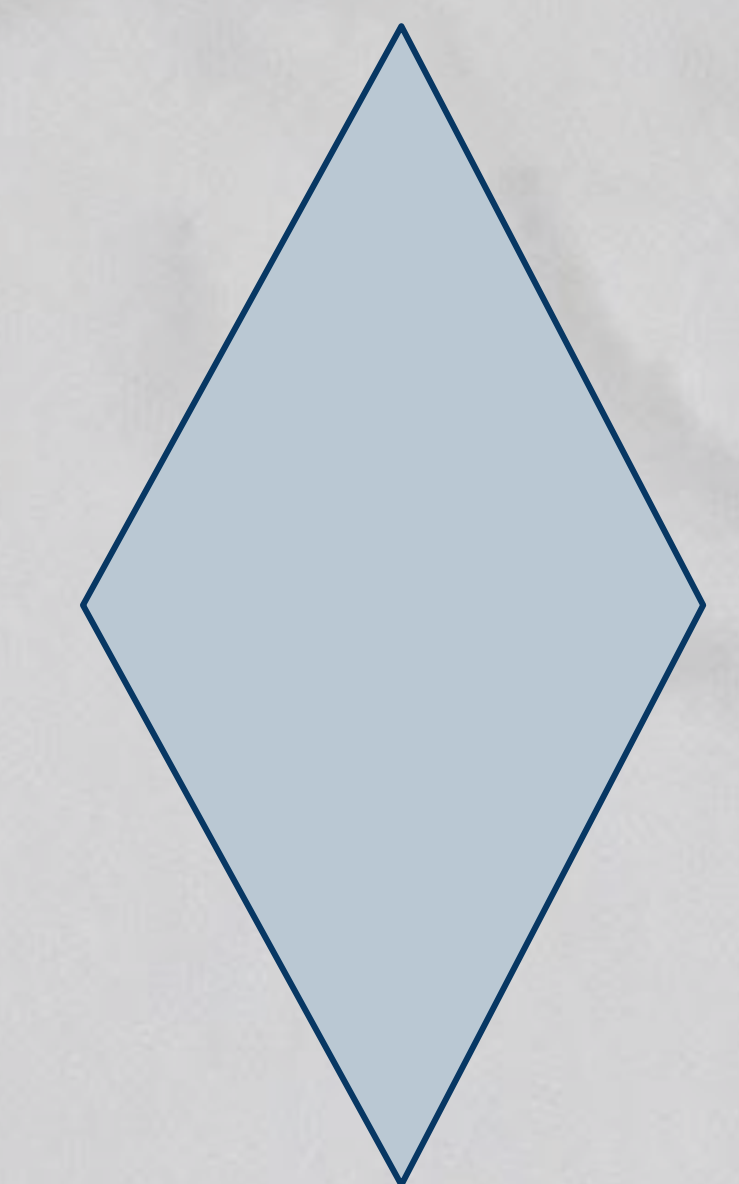
THE PARTHENON

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MATERIALS USED



Foundation:
Limestone



Columns:
Pentelic Marble

Phidias' immaculate statue of Athens patron Goddess, Athena. The 38 foot tall monument was sculpted out of gold and ivory

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