

Greek Architecture

Ancient Greek architecture on display at the Pergamon Museum
in Berlin, Germany.



- **The ancient Greek have influenced the architecture of other civilizations and periods, especially through the use of ornamental columns in marble. Greek columns are present in contemporary architecture, says David Sacks in the "Encyclopedia of the Ancient Greek World." The buildings of the United States Supreme Court and the General Post Office of New York are examples of this influence.**

Clay, Thatch and Wood

- At about 900 B.C., most buildings in Greece were made of wood, clay or mud-bricks, with thatched roofs. These included not only houses, some of which were built on a circular base, but also temples, says Jon Mikalson in the book "**Ancient Greek Religion.**" During this period, **temples were first built in a horseshoe shape, later evolving to the rectangular shape. Columns were used only for support, not yet as decoration.**
- Thatch: a material, as straw, rushes, leaves, or the like, used to cover roofs, grain stacks, etc.

Limestone

- Although limestone was used sparingly in relief slabs of temples as early as 1,250 B.C., as in the case of the Lion Gate of Mycenae, the Greeks began to use the stone more extensively.

The Lion Gate at Mycenae.



The Lion Gate at Mycenae

- The **Lion Gate** was the main entrance of citadel of Mycenae, southern Greece.

- **The rectangular temple is the most common and best-known form of Greek public architecture.**
- **Temples served as the location of a cult image and as a storage place or strong room for the treasury. Some Greek temples appear to have been oriented astronomically.**

Reconstructed Stoa (porch or colonnade) of Attalos, the Agora, Athens. This long building formed one side of the Greek marketplace (or agora) of ancient Athens.



The *Theatre of Dionysus*, Athens



Remember!

- Most Ancient Greek temples were rectangular, and were approximately twice as long as they were wide, with some notable exceptions such as the enormous Temple of Zeus Olympus in Athens with a length of nearly 2 1/2 times its width. The majority of Temples were small, being 30–100 feet long, while a few were large, being over 300 feet long and 150 feet wide.

- The core of the building is a masonry-built "naos" within which was a **cella, a windowless room which housed the statue of the god**. The cella generally had a porch or "pronaos" before it, and perhaps a second chamber or "**antenaos**" **serving as a treasury or repository for trophies and gifts**. The chambers were lit by a single large doorway, fitted with a wrought iron grill.

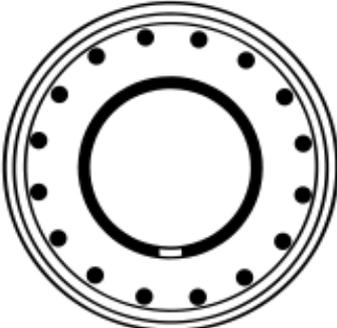
Plans of various types of Ancient Greek temples.



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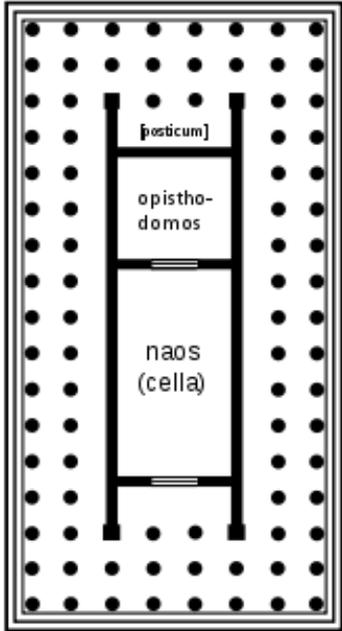
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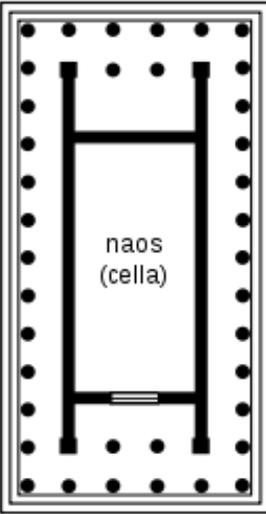
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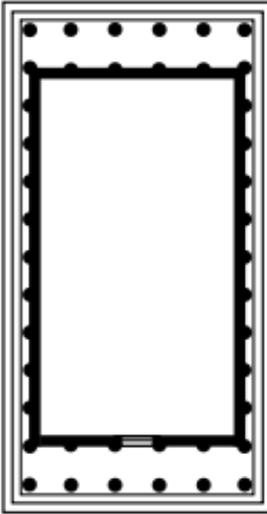
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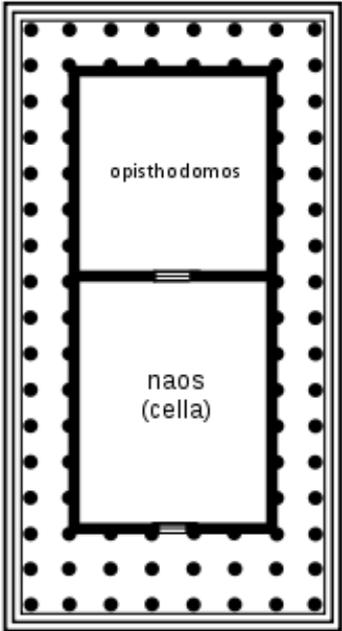
dipteral



peripteral



pseudoperipteral



pseudodipteral

Erechtheum









The theater of Delphi





Olympic Track, Greece



Agora

- The **agora** was a central spot in ancient Greek city-states. The literal meaning of the word is "**gathering place**" or "**assembly**".

Agora of Thessaloniki



Agora of Tyre

