

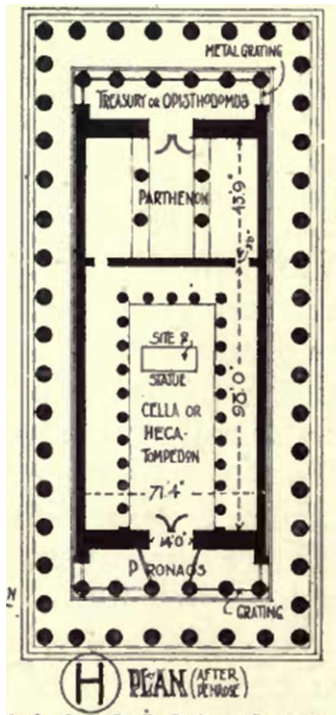
Frequently Asked Questions

Question 01:

Explain in detail about the architecture of Parthenon.

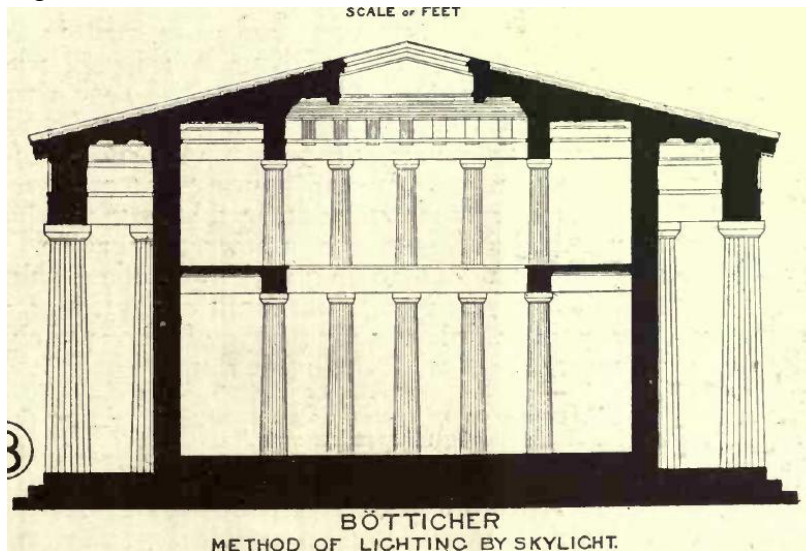
Answer:

- BC 457 – 438
- The Parthenon is a former temple on the Athenian Acropolis, Greece, dedicated to the goddess Athena, whom the people of Athens considered their patron.
- Construction began in 447 BC when the Athenian Empire was at the peak of its power. It was completed in 438 BC although decoration of the building continued until 432 BC. It is the most important surviving building of Classical Greece, generally considered the zenith of the Doric order.
- Erected in the time of Pericles, being dedicated to Athena
- Parthenos (the virgin Athena).
- Ictinus and Callicrates were the architects and Phidias was the superintending sculptor.
- The temple is peripteral octastyle on plan, with seventeen columns on the flanks.
- It is placed on a stylobate of three steps, the dimensions on the top step being 102 feet by 228 feet, i.e., a relation of breadth to length of about 4. to 9.
- Each of the steps measures about 1 foot 8 inches high and 2 feet 4 inches wide, and being too steep to ascend with comfort, intermediate steps were provided at the centre of the -east and west ends.
- On the east, the principal doorway, led into the cella, which, measuring 100 attic feet in length, was called the "Hecatompedon."
- The cella, 62 feet 6 inches wide, was divided into a nave and aisles by two rows of ten Doric columns, 3 feet 8 inches in diameter, and having sixteen flutes, as may be seen by the marks of their basis on the marble paving.
- Three columns were placed at the western end, so making the aisle continuous round three sides of the cella. Near the western end of the cella was the famous statue of Athena, mentioned hereafter.
- To the west of the cella was the Parthenon proper (i.e. virgin's chamber), from which the temple took its name. This chamber is a peculiarity differentiating the temple from most others, and it appears to have been used as the Hieratic treasury.



- Its decorative sculptures are considered some of the high points of Greek art.
- The Parthenon is regarded as an enduring symbol of Ancient Greece, Athenian democracy and western civilization, and one of the world's greatest cultural monuments.
- The Greek Ministry of Culture is currently carrying out a program of selective restoration and reconstruction to ensure the stability of the partially ruined structure
- The cella and the Parthenon were enclosed by walls about four feet thick, having on the outside, encircling the building, an ambulatory 9 feet wide on the sides and 11 feet in the front and rear.
- Both the pronaos and opisthodomos measured about 60 feet by 12 feet.
- They were both used as treasure stores, and in order to render them secure, lofty metal grilles extending from the floor to the roof were fixed between the columns, the central intercolumniation having gates for means of access.
- Near the western end of the cella stood the famous statue of Athena Partherios, being one of the most marvellous works of Phidias, representing Athena fully armed with spear, helmet, segis and shield, supporting a winged victory in her right hand.
- It was a "chryselephantine" (gold and ivory) statue, about 40 feet in height, including the pedestal, and was constructed on a wooden core. The gold plates of which it was partly composed were detachable and could be removed in case of national dangers. The face, hands and feet were of ivory, but the drapery, armour, and accessories were of solid gold, and precious stones were inserted for the eyes.
- The most prominent external features are the fluted marble columns, 34 feet 3 inches high, forming the peristyle and resting on the stylobate.

- Only thirty two are still standing ; they are 6 feet 3 inches in diameter at the base and 4 feet 7 inches under the echinus, and support an entablature 1 1 feet high with the usual divisions of architrave, frieze and cornice, as already described
- The pediments or low gables which terminated the roof at each end had at their lower angles an acroterion and a carved lion's head.



- The celebrated Panathenaic frieze was carved along the top of the outside of the cella wall, being taken across the east and west ends above the six columns to pronaos and opisthodomos.
- Out of a total length of 525 feet only 335 feet are in existence.
- The western frieze, excepting the three central figures, is in its original position the greater portion of that belonging to the northern, southern and eastern sides is in the British Museum, the remainder, with the exception of eight fragments of the eastern frieze in the Louvre, being in the Athens museum.
- In the 6th century, the Parthenon was converted into a Christian Church, dedicated to the " Divine Wisdom," when an apse was* formed at its eastern end.
- From 1206 1458 it was, under the Frankish Dukes of Athens, a Latin church. From 1458 it was again an orthodox Greek church until 1460, when it was converted into a mosque.
- In 1687 during the capture of Athens by the Venetians, it was much damaged by a shell which fell into a portion of the building used as a powder magazine.

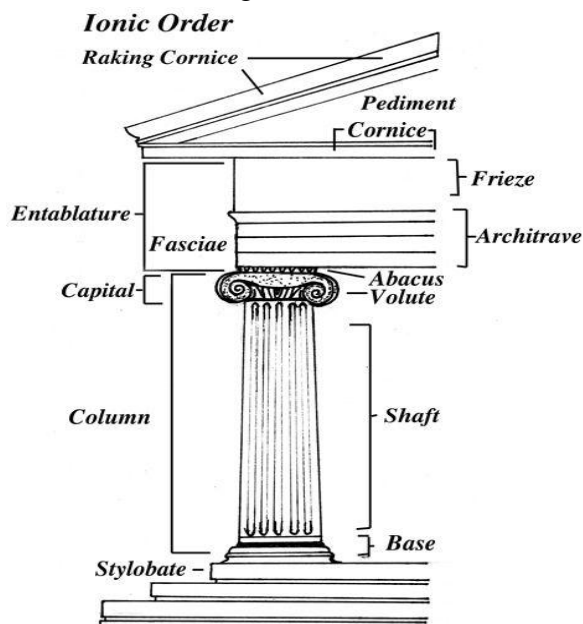
Question 02:

Elaborate the features of Ionic column with an example

Answer:

- One of the three main orders of classical Greek architecture, characterized by two opposed volutes in the capital.
- The Ionic order is especially remarkable for its scroll or volute capital.

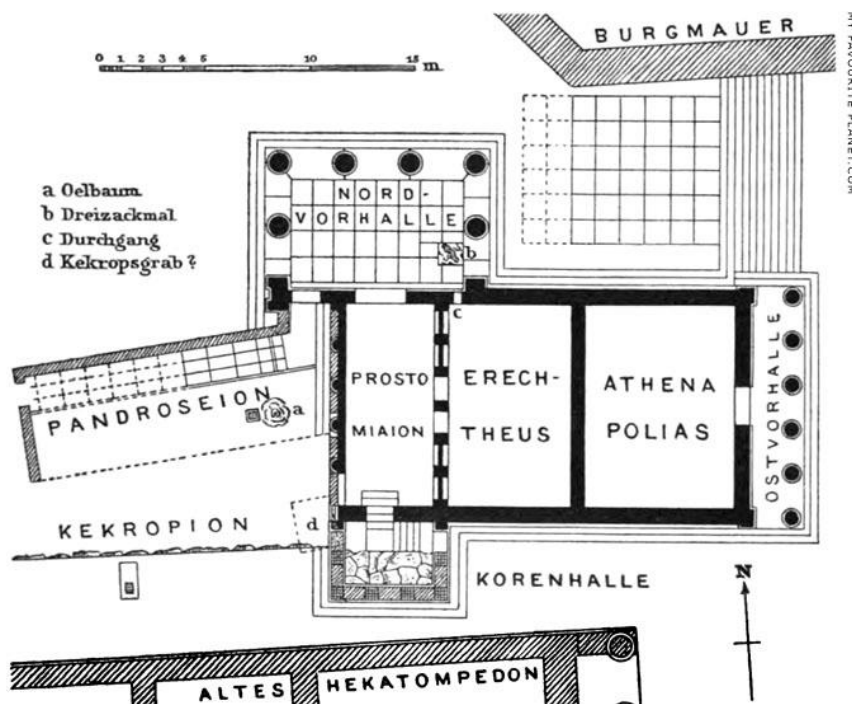
- This, like so many other decorative motifs, seems to have been derived from the lotus bud of the Egyptians undergoing sundry modifications on its way from Egypt by way of Assyria to Asia Minor, but to what influence these modifications should be attributed is not at present clear.
- These modifications should be attributed is not at present clear. The spiral is also found in early Mycenaean jewellery and domestic articles as early as B.C. 800, and these origins might be sufficient to account for its adoption in a later period.
- The columns have shafts usually about nine times the lower diameter in height, including the capital and base, having twenty-four flutes separated by fillets, and not sharp edges as in the Doric order.
- There is a moulded base usually consisting of a torus and scotia, but no square plinth. In the later examples a lower torus was added, making what is known as the Attic base.
- The capital consists of a pair of volutes or spirals, about two-thirds the diameter in height, on the front and back of the column, connected at their sides by what is known as the cushion, sometimes plain and sometimes ornamented, and on the front and back an echinus moulding carved with the egg and dart, and a bead moulding under.
- The entablature varies in height, but is usually about one-fifth of the whole order.
- It consists of :
 - an architrave usually formed as a triple fascia, probably representing superimposed beams
 - a frieze, sometimes plain, but often ornamented by a band of continuous sculpture
 - a cornice, with no mutules, but usually with dentil ornament reminiscent of squared timbers, and having above it the corona and cyma-recta moulding.



Erechtheion, Athens:

- B.C. 420-393
- Mnesicles was the architect

- Situated on the Acropolis, north of the Parthenon, and was erected on the site of an older temple burnt by the Persians in B.C. 480.
- It is an interesting example of unusual and irregular planning, due to its sloping site and the fact that it consisted of three distinct shrines.
- The distribution of the interior, which measures 61 feet 3 inches by 31 feet 6 inches, is still a matter of conjecture.
- It has no side colonnades, hence it is called “aptemal.”
- The eastern portion was appropriated to the shrine of Athena Polias (guardian of the city), the western portion to those of Erechtheus and Poseidon, the Pandroseion being probably included within the precincts to the west of the temple proper.
- There are three porticos of different designs : an eastern Ionic hexastyle portico, a northern Ionic tetrastyle portico, and a southern Caryatid portico.
- The southern or Caryatid portico (as it is called) was probably not an entrance, but a raised "tribune," as it had only a small entrance on its eastern side, whence the lower level of the western cella was reached by means of steps
- It has six sculptured draped female figures, 7 feet 9 inches high, similarly spaced to the columns of the northern portico, but resting on a solid marble wall about 8 feet above the level of the terrace and supporting an unusual entablature on which rests the marble coffered roof.



Question 03:

Explain the architecture of the Erechtheion, Athens.

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