

HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE I

ARC 2313 - SPRING 2022

LECTURE-08
4 FEBRUARY 2022

For Monday, 7 February:
Ingersoll pages 117-137
H.G. Wells Chapter XXIII
(download from usual place)

Reminder: Test #1

Wednesday, 16 February 2022

(Lectures 1-11)

Minoan Crete

1900-1450 BCE

Named for mythical King Minos

A very advanced early European civilization with writing systems, advanced architecture, artwork, massive network of trade



Myth of Theseus and the Minotaur

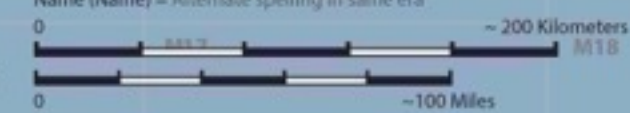
Interesting that the monster's name is a combination of ***Minos*** + ***taur*** (Taurus)



ANCIENT GREECE

- Major - Minor
- ◆◆ Multiple or Unverified Eras
 - ◆◆ Stone Age >3000 BCE
 - ◆◆ Bronze Age 3000-1000 BCE
 - ◆◆ Dark Age/Archaic/Classical 1000-323 BCE
 - ◆◆ Hellenistic Center 323-30 BCE
 - ◆◆ Roman/Byzantine 30-1453 BCE
 - ▲ Mountain
 - Place of Interest
 - ✕ Battle
 - ✕ Naval Battle
 - ☞ Sanctuary
 - ☞ Minoan Palace
 - Island
 - Cave
 - Modern Greece Boundaries
 - Areas Outside Modern Greece

Name? = Uncertain or conflicting sources
Name / Name = Name different through eras
Name, Name = Name variation in same era
Name (Name) = Alternate spelling in same era



Mycenae

Athens

Knossos

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0 100 200 Kilometers
0 100 Miles

Minoans built without defensive walls

Built with unworked *cyclopean* masonry

They built on naturally defensible hillsides but lacked the fortifications

Connection with nature: processions to natural sites, sacred caves, sacred trees, and sacred mountaintops

Non-axial arrangements, meandering pathways to sacred caves, meandering due to topography, adjustments to landscape - may have led to the Minoan obsession with the concept of....

labyrinthian

Labyrinth of Knossos

(KNOW-suss)

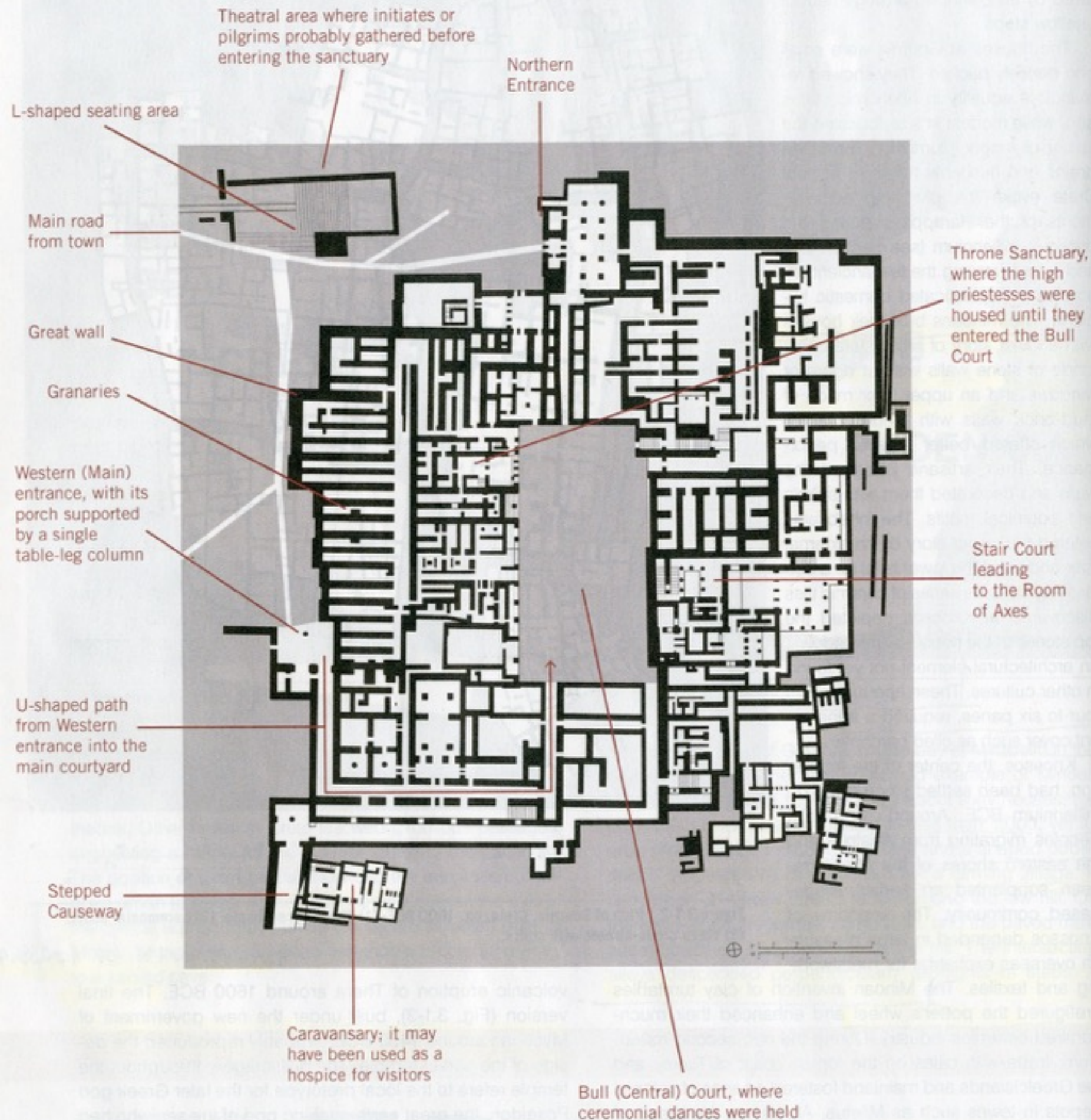
Knossus's great temple complex

c 1900 BCE



The *theater-like* entry area at **Knossos**

Figure 3.1-3 The Temple/Palace at Knossos, Crete, ca. 1450 BCE.



Knossos

c 1450 BCE

(As rebuilt by Mycenaeans)

Deliberate
maze-like
circulation
a defensive
measure



The odd
(counterintuitive)
columns at
Knossos

Bull imagery throughout may refer to
a prototype god of the Greek
God the Sea - *Poseidon*

(Or according to the legend, Poseidon
gave a bull to Minos)



Myth of Theseus and
the Minotaur

Toreador fresco



Bull Dance in the Bull Court (double square)
taurokatharsia



A 1950s interpretation of the Bull Dance



Horns of Consecration

Aligned with Mount Jutkas

Bulls horns creating a
visual axis with a distant
sacred mountain



Throne Sanctuary in the *Labyrinth of Knossos*

Classical Greece

Classical Greece

At the *Acropolis* and the *Agora*

c 500 - 400 BCE

This is the source of ***classicism*** that, from
this point forward, will traverse
architectural history to present times

CLASSICISM

A system of architecture that is a logical, tectonic, and symbolic representation of the craft of architecture and its method of construction.

The goal of classical architecture is to achieve physical, geometric, and optical perfection through the arrangement of this system and its parts. The classical system of parts may be thought of as a language and its geometrical arrangement its syntax.

The Greek Polis

5th century BCE Athens was the model *democratic city*, unlike the cities of south-western asia, which were based on hierarchical models of tombs, temples and tyrants

polis, of course, is the root word of *politics*, and is based on what Aristotle referred to as “living together.” When several villages united in confederation, a *polis* (political body) came into being

polis, then, for our purposes, is the architectural expression of a *city* or *town*

Ideas of politics will define urban design and architecture from this point forward as forms of physical expression

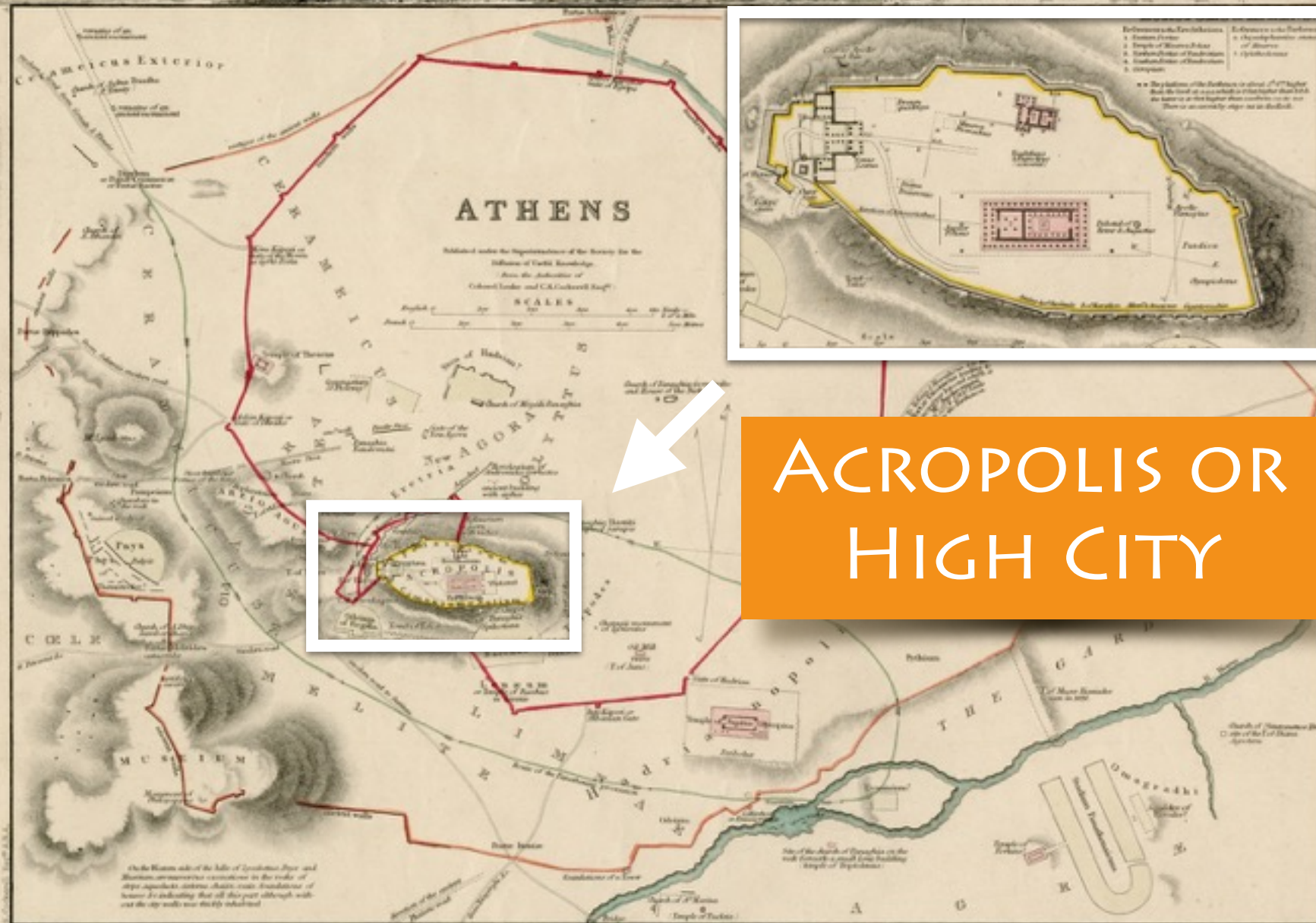
Since ***acro*** means *high*, (e.g. *acrobat*,
acrophobia)

...

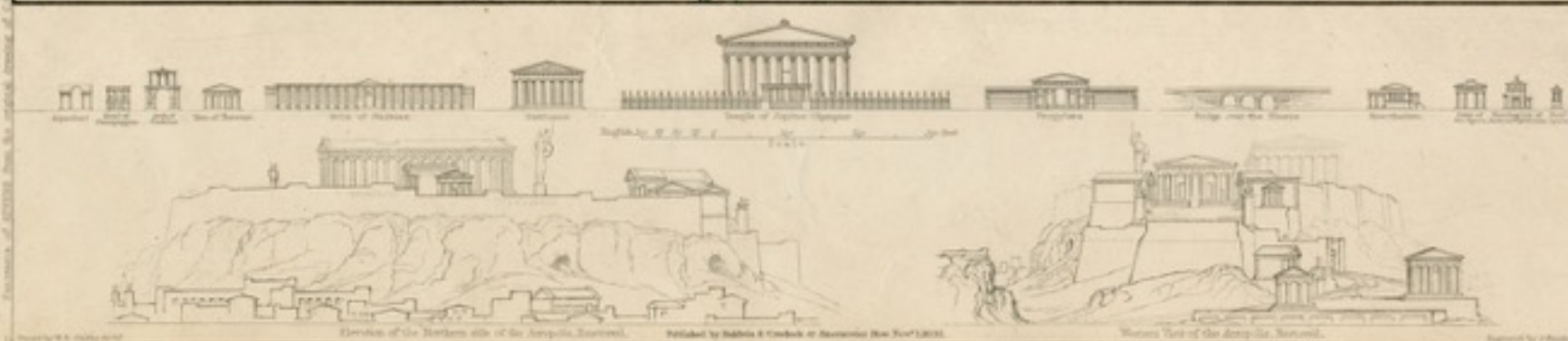
and ***polis*** means *city* (the architectural expression
of living together in a civic constitution)

...

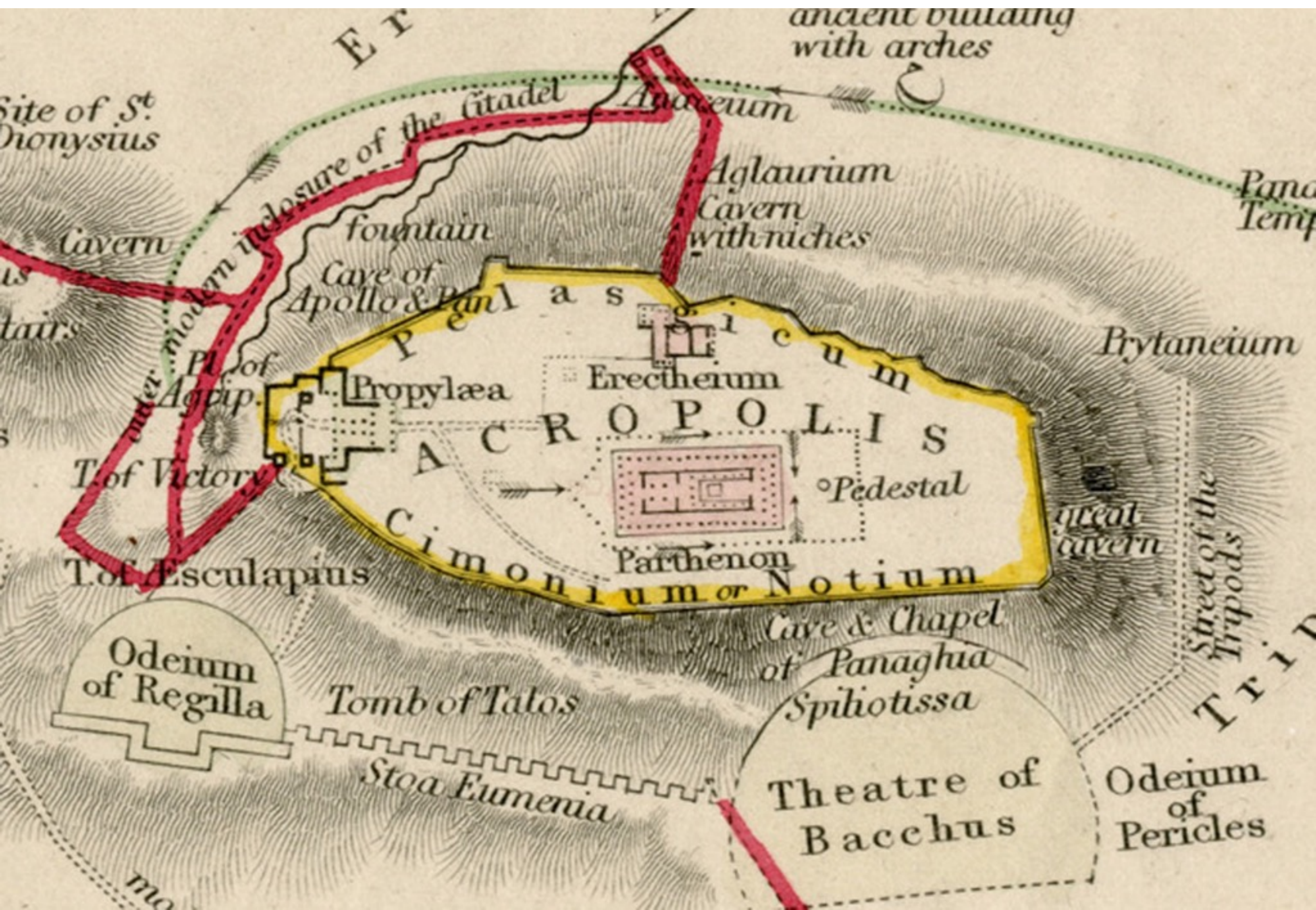
Therefore: we literally may
define ***Acropolis*** as ***High City***



ACROPOLIS OR
HIGH CITY







One reason why democracy may be specific to Greece is the concept that democracy has a strong physical connection to topography

A landscape of rough country, jagged coastline, hundreds of islands, rugged and hilly terrain — requires ***decentralization*** to make it work

What *connected* this very decentralized topography (remember it includes thousands of islands) is Greece's powerful literary tradition - its origin myth called ***The Odyssey***

Therefore :: The City-States of ancient Greece,
separated from each other in dramatic
physical ways, and yet connected by the story
of their origin...

needed to be *independent* and *self-governing*
— ***democracy*** was the answer

Democracy just means:
demos = the common people
kratos = rule

agora

stoa

theater

tholos

The Agora of Athens

The Greek ***agora*** was the gathering place
of the ***polis***...

... where citizens could share information and
debate public affairs... an expression of ***democracy***

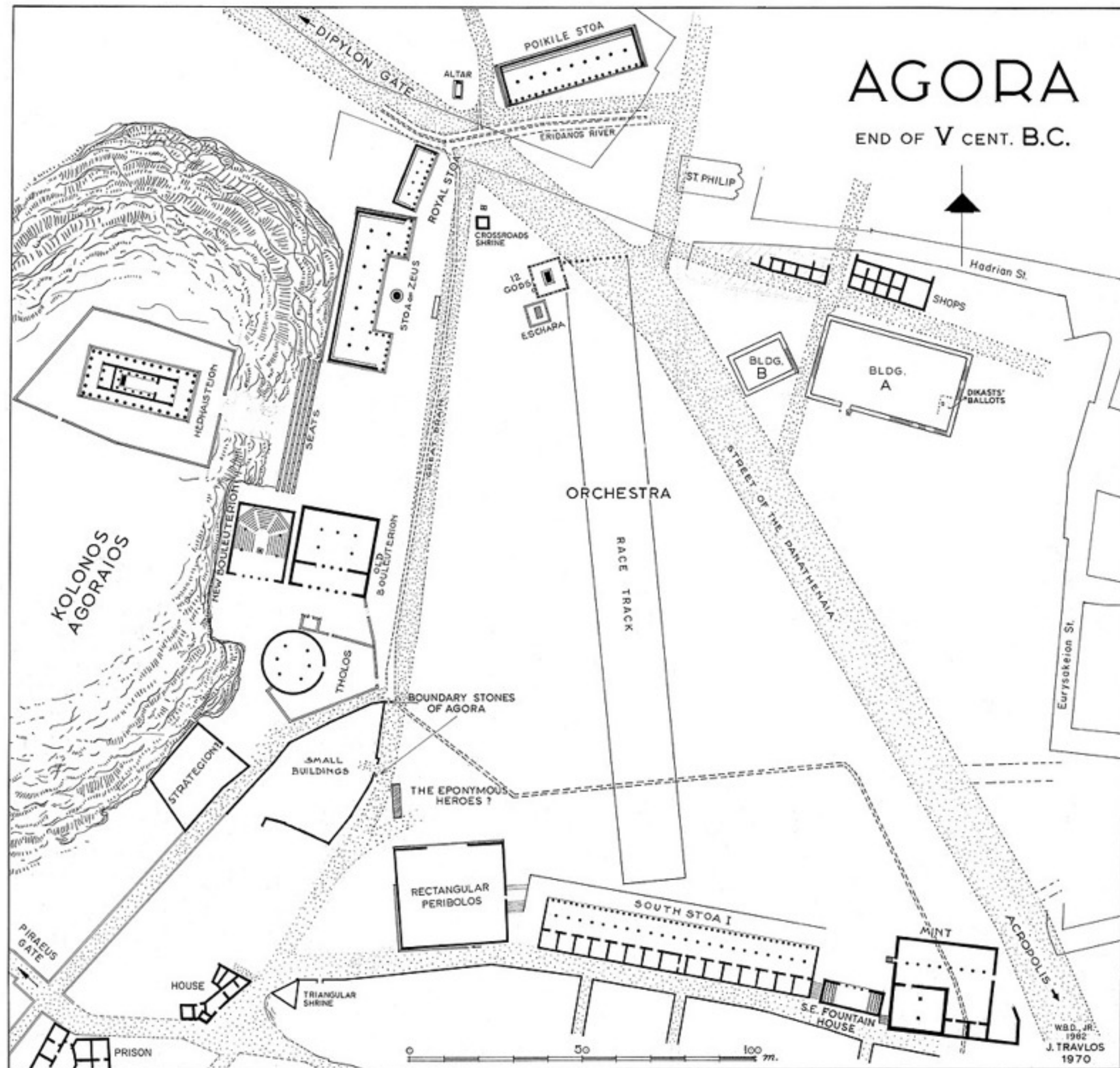
Two most important aspects of Athenian
citizenship were: (1) *Private property rights*,
and (2) *Individual Freedom*

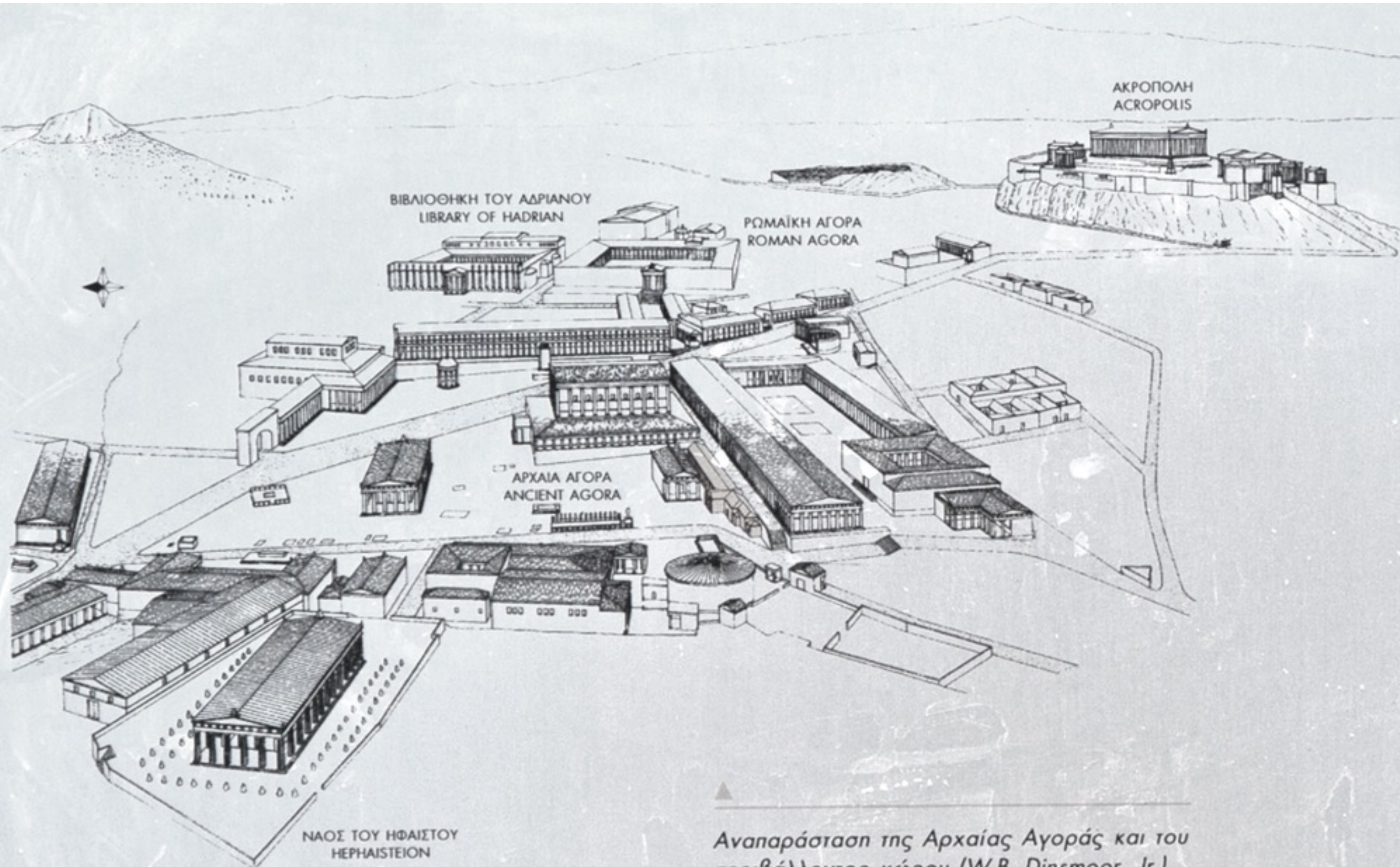
(women and slaves were not included)

Architecturally, the ***agora*** accommodated markets, athletic events, and theatrical performances, transportation, and memorials

(There were two agoras over time. The earlier one, prior to the war with Persia (479 BCE) was at the base of the Acropolis to the south)

The agora studied the most is an undefined area northwest of the Acropolis with a major road cutting through called Panathenian Way

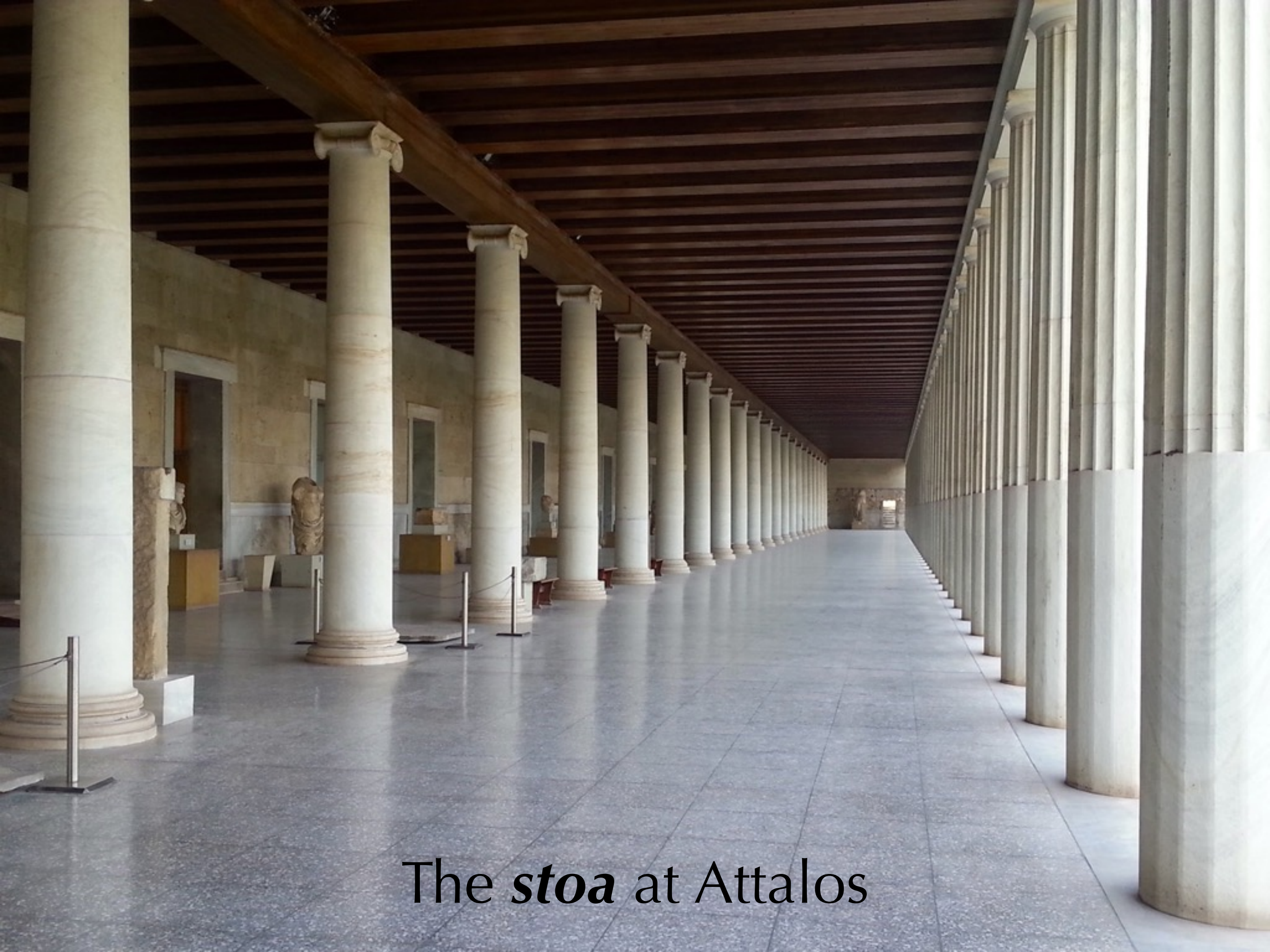




Αναπαράσταση της Αρχαίας Αγοράς και του περιβάλλοντος χώρου (W.B. Dinsmoor, Jr.)
Restored view of the Ancient Agora and its environs (W.B. Dinsmoor, Jr.)

The Agora was ringed by architectural structures called *stoas*
(singular *stoa*)

The *stoa* was a colonnaded area like a porch or loggia which would provide shelter within the public space of the agora

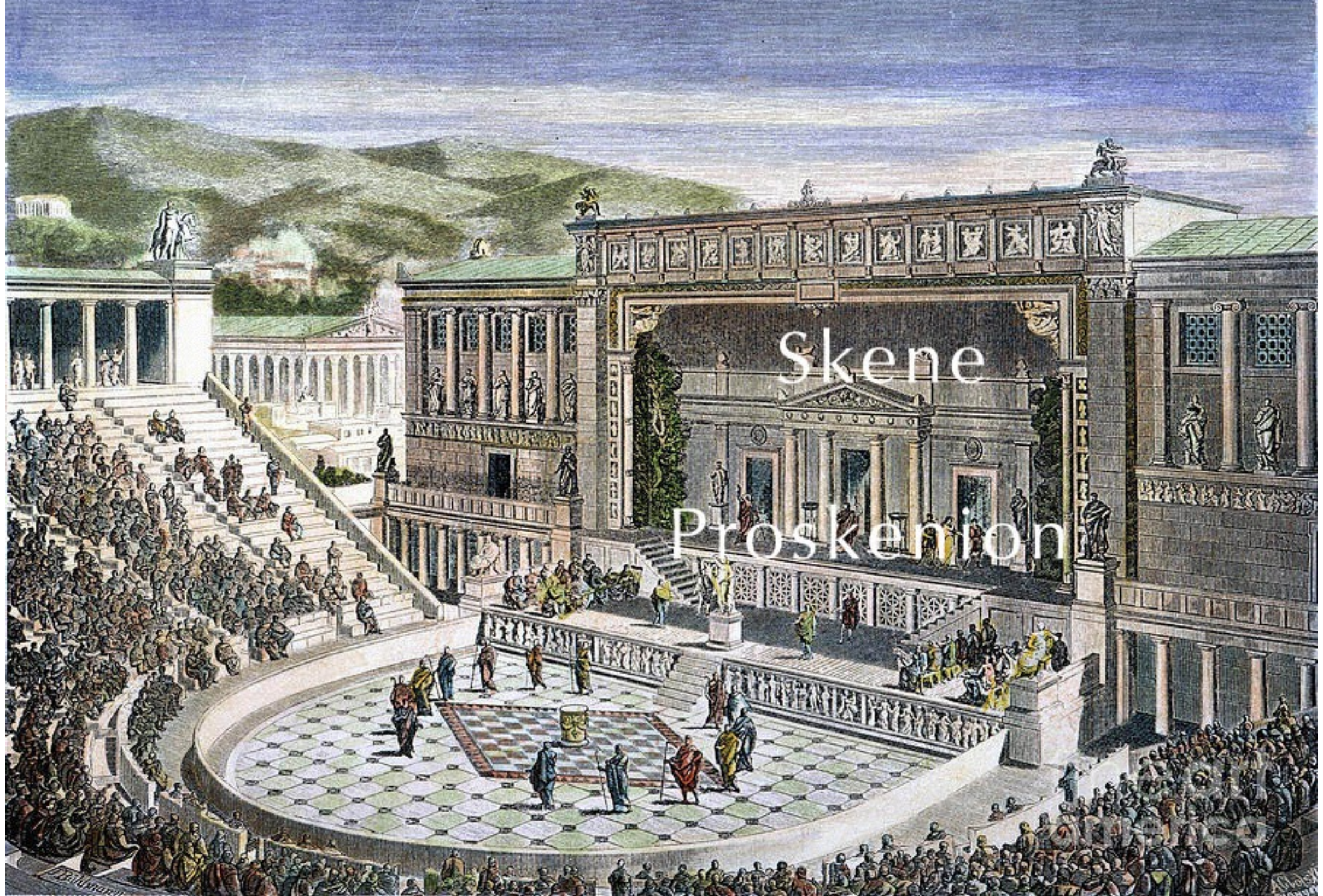


The *stoa* at Attalos

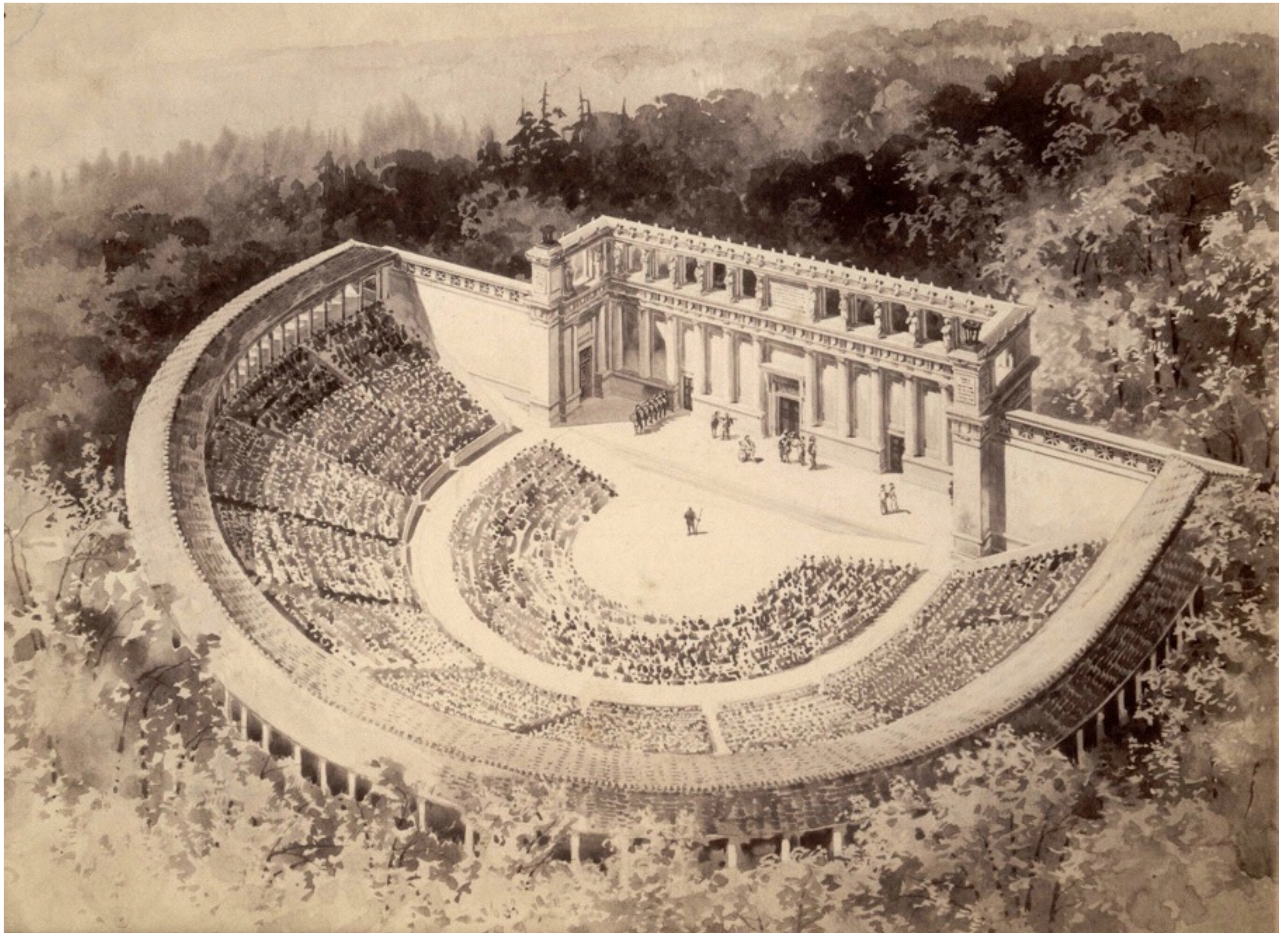


The *stoa* at Tyre

An important *building type*:
theater



The Greek Theater



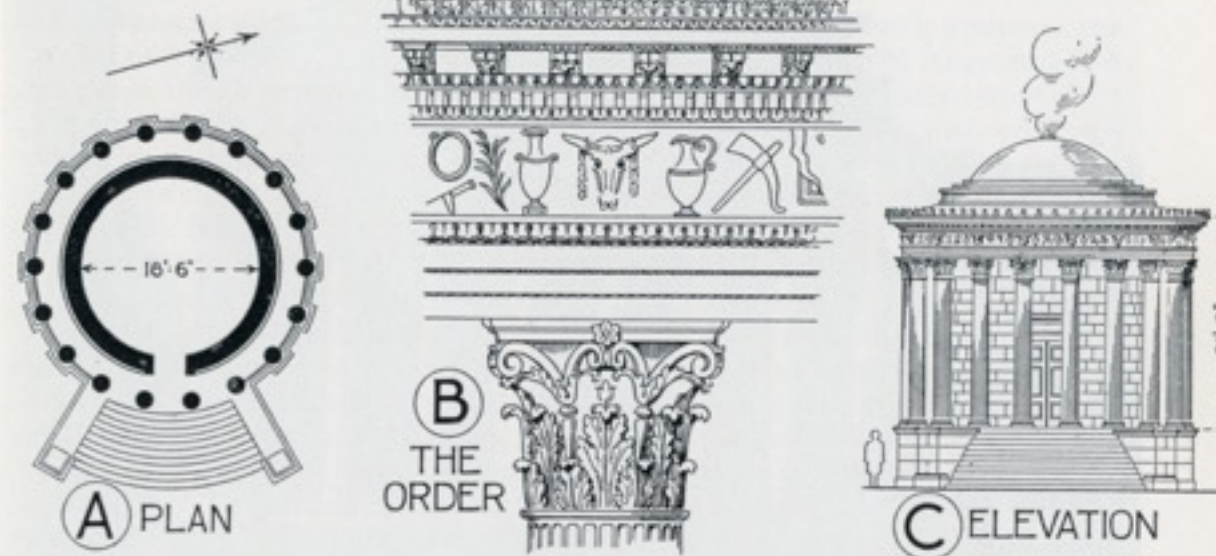
THEATRE AT EPIDAUROS (4TH C BC) FROM ABOVE



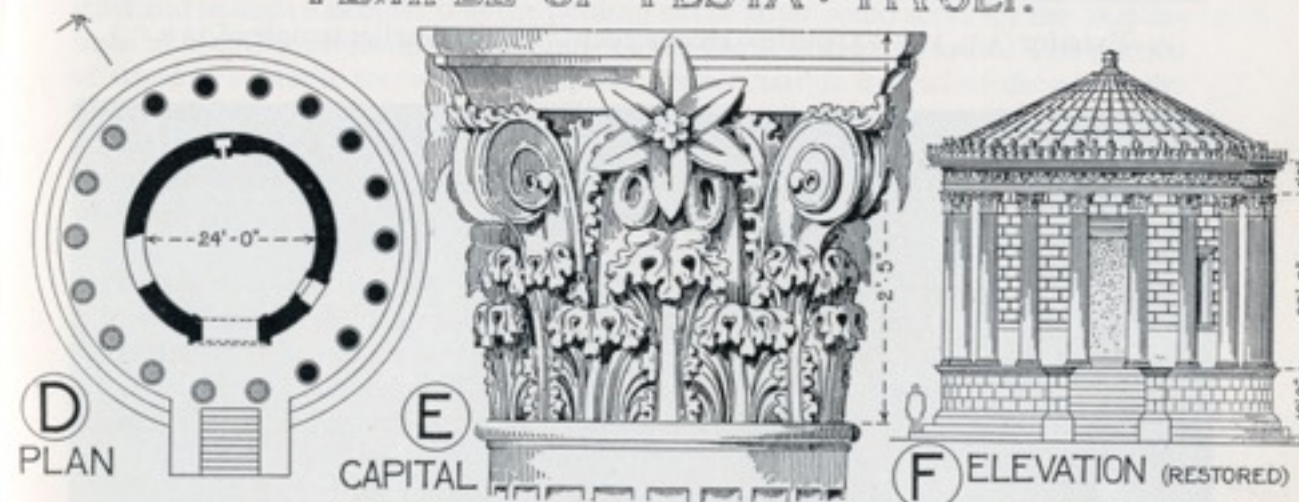


An important *building type*:
tholos

TEMPLE OF VESTA: ROME (RESTORED)



TEMPLE OF VESTA: TIVOLI.

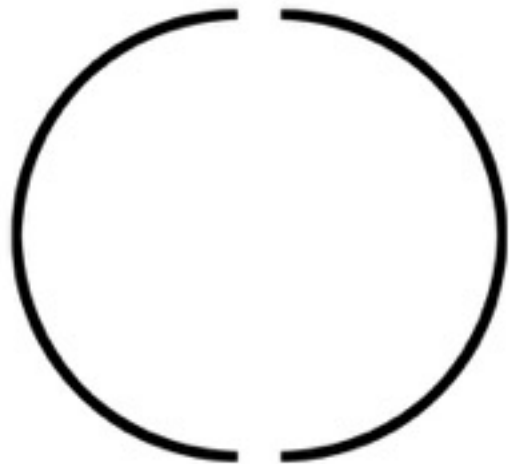


TEMPLE OF VENUS: BAALBEK (RESTORED)





Diagram of a ***theater***



Two enclosed theaters make an
amphitheater
("amphi" means "both")

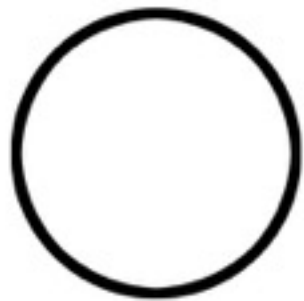


Diagram of a ***tholos***

end