

architectural fact sheet

Client

Consultants Organization for the Construction

Structure: ADK and Arup, New York of the New Acropolis Museum

Mechanical and Electrical: MMB Study Dimitrios Pandermalis, President

Group S.A. and Arup, New York Civil: Michanniki Geostatiki and Arup, **Architect**

New York Bernard Tschumi Architects,

Lighting: Arup, London New York/Paris

General Contractor: Aktor S.A. Bernard Tschumi, Architect and

Leonidas Pakas, Project Manager Lead Designer Joel Rutten, Project Architect Adam Dayem, Aristotelis

Dimitrakopoulos, Jane Kim, Eva Sopeoglou, Kim Starr,

Costis Skroumbelos, Architectural Consultant Glass Consultant: Hugh Dutton Associates (HDA) Anne Save de

Beaurecueil, Jonathan Chace, Robert Holton, Valentin Bontjes van Beek, Liz Kim, Daniel Holguin, Kriti Siderakis,

Michaela Metcalfe, Justin Moore, Joel Aviles, Georgia Papadavid, Allis Chee, Thomas Goodwill, Véronique

Descharrières, Christina Devizzi

Site Located in the historic area of Makryianni, the Museum stands some 300 meters (980 feet) southeast of the

Parthenon. The top floor (Parthenon Gallery) offers a 360-degree panoramic view of the Acropolis and modern

Athens. **Associate Architect** Michael Photiadis, ARSY, Associate Architect, Athens

The Museum is entered from the Dionysios Areopagitou pedestrian street, which links it to the Acropolis and other

key Michael Photiadis, Principal George

archeological sites in Athens. Kriparakos, Nikos Balkalbassis, Philippos Photiadis, Jaimie Peel, Niki Plevri, Maria

Sarafidou, Makis Grivas, Elena Voutsina, Manoulis Economou, Anastassia Gianou, Miltiadis Lazaridis, Dimitris

Kosmas

Program With exhibition space of more than 14,000 square meters (150,000 square feet) and a full range of modern visitor amenities, the New Acropolis Museum will tell the complete story of life on the Athenian Acropolis and its surroundings. It will do so by uniting collections that are currently dispersed in multiple institutions, including

the outdated Acropolis Museum (built in the 19th century with gallery space of 1,450 square meters, or 15,500 square feet). The rich collections will provide visitors with a comprehensive picture of the human presence on the Acropolis, from pre-historic times through late Antiquity. Integral to this program is the display of an archeological excavation on the site of the Museum itself: ruins from the 4th through 7th centuries A.D., left intact and protected beneath the building and made visible through the first floor. Other program facilities include a 200-seat auditorium.

Architectural Description Three concepts turn the constraints and circumstances of the site into an architectural opportunity, offering a simple and precise museum with the mathematical and conceptual clarity of ancient Greece.

First, the conditions animating the New Acropolis Museum revolve around natural light – more than in any other type of museum. Light for the exhibition of sculpture differs from the light involved in displaying paintings or drawings. The new exhibition spaces could be described as a museum of ambient natural light, concerned with the presentation of sculptural objects within it, whose display changes throughout the course of the day.

Second, the visitor's route through the museum forms a clear three-dimensional loop, affording an architectural promenade with a rich spatial experience that extends from the archeological excavations to the Parthenon Marbles and back through the Roman period. Movement in and through time is an important aspect of architecture, and of this museum in particular. With over 10,000 visitors daily, the sequence of movement through the museum artifacts is designed to be of the utmost clarity.

Third and finally, the building is divided into a base, middle, and top, which are designed around the specific needs of each part of the building. The base of the museum floats over the existing archaeological excavations on pilotis to protect and consecrate the site with a network of columns placed in careful negotiation with experts so as not to disturb sensitive archaeological work. The orientation gently rotates as it rises so that the main galleries in the middle form a double-height trapezoidal plate that accommodates the galleries from the Archaic period to the Roman Empire, and is shaped to respond to the contemporary street grid. The top, which is made up of the rectangular Parthenon Gallery arranged around an indoor court, rotates gently again to orient the Marbles exactly as they were placed at the Parthenon centuries ago. The glass enclosure provides ideal light for sculpture

to and from the Acropolis while the gallery against excessive heat and light, the most contemporary glass technology.

Other materials of the Museum are glass and some of the floors, concrete for the columns, and marble for some of the east and west facades and the Parthenon. The roof is made of steel.