

architectural fact sheet

Client

Organization for the Construction of the New Acropolis Museum
Dimitrios Pandermalis, President

Architect

**Bernard Tschumi Architects,
New York/Paris**

Bernard Tschumi, Architect and Lead Designer

Joel Rutten, Project Architect

Adam Dayem, Aristotelis Dimitrakopoulos,

Jane Kim, Eva Sopeoglou, Kim Starr,

Anne Save de Beaucueil, 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

Associate Architect

Michael Photiadis, ARSY,

Associate Architect, Athens

Michael Photiadis, Principal George

Kriparakos, Nikos Balkalbassis, Philippos

Photiadis, Jaimie Peel, Niki Plevri,

Maria Sarafidou, Makis Grivas,

Elena Voutsina, Manoulis Economou,

Anastassia Gianou, Miltiadis Lazaridis,

Dimitris Kosmas

Consultants

Structure: ADK and Arup, New York

Mechanical and Electrical: MMB Study Group S.A. and Arup, New York

Civil: Michanniki Geostatiki and Arup, New York

Lighting: Arup, London

General Contractor: Aktor S.A.

Leonidas Pakas, Project Manager

Costis Skroumbelos, Architectural

Consultant

Glass Consultant: Hugh Dutton

Associates (HDA)

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.

The Museum is entered from the Dionysios

Areopagitou pedestrian street, which

links it to the Acropolis and other key

archeological sites in Athens.

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the outdated Acropolis Museum (built in the 19th century with gallery space of 1,450 square meters, or 15,500 square feet).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

in direct view to and from the Acropolis while protecting the gallery against excessive heat and light, thanks to the most contemporary glass technology.

The three major materials of the Museum are glass for the facades and some of the floors, concrete for the core and the columns, and marble for some floors. The east and west facades and the Parthenon Gallery columns are made of steel.

Text Bernard Tschumi Architects