HANDOUT - SECTION 3: Buildings and Representations in Time
Example: The Parthenon, Athens

Topics
— Adaptation, restoration, reconstruction: how buildings change in time
— Modes of architectural representation and their uses
— The relation between representations and current, past, or future “realities” of a building

Key Terms

Building terms
- temple/naos
- pediment
- frieze
- entablature
- entasis
- church/cathedral
- apse
- narthex
- basilica
- mosque
- minaret
- orientation to Mecca
- polychromy

Types of representation
- plan
- elevation
- section
  - poché
- isometric
- axonometric
  - bird’s eye
  - worm’s eye
- perspective
  - one point
  - two point
Timeline: The Parthenon

c. 400 BCE Parthenon built as “temple”/naos (architect: Perikles)
312-13 Christianity the official religion under Constantine; gradual conversion of pagan sites in 4th c.
395-6 Visigoth sack of Athens
582-3 Slavonic sack marks end of Athens as a cultural center
5th-6th c. Parthenon burned, likely left in ruins before conversion to church; elevation to Cathedral by 693
8th-9th c. Byzantine iconoclasm—pagan iconography on metopes + pediment defaced; parts of frieze remain intact
12th c. major reconstruction of church; apse enlarged, Byzantine painting + mosaics added; tower built by Crusaders c. 1204
1456 Ottoman conquest of Athens; Acropolis becomes fortress + residence of Turkish military commander
1460 conversion of Parthenon into mosque; minaret added
1687 Venetians lay siege to Athens; mortar explodes munitions stored in Parthenon, destroying central portion of building
after 1699 small mosque for fortress troops built inside ruins
1802 Lord Elgin removes marble sculptures from upper walls
1821-43 Greek independence (Otto, King of Bavaria declared King of Greece 1832); mosque destroyed

Selected representations of the Parthenon
1436 Drawing of west façade of with sketched frieze figures, after Cyriac of Ancona
1707 G. M. Vermeda, the bombardment of the Parthenon, Sept. 26, 1687 (in F. Fanelli, Atina Antica [Venice, 1707])
1762 James Stuart and Nicholas Revett, Antiquities of Athens
1834 Karl Friedrich Schinkel, Royal Palace on the Acropolis (project)
1872 Eugène Emmanuel Viollet-le-Duc, analytical construction drawing, in Etreitens sur l’architecture
1879-80 Benoit Loviot, reconstruction of the Parthenon
1899 Auguste Choisy, worm’s-eye axonometric and perspective views, in Histoire de l’architecture
c. 1994  The Parthenon as church, section and plan (after Travlos 1971)
Plan of the mosque inside the Parthenon (after Travlos 1971)
Korres, reconstruction of the Parthenon as a mosque, seen from northwest
2007  Diagram of reconstruction of north side of Parthenon (projected)

**Additional Bibliography**


4.605 Introduction to the History and Theory of Architecture
Spring 2012

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: http://ocw.mit.edu/terms.