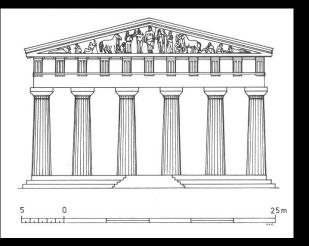
# **Greek Architecture**

An Introduction

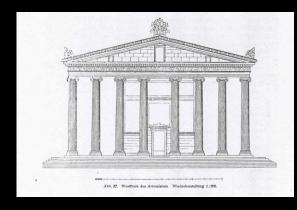
## The Temple: the main Greek monumental building type











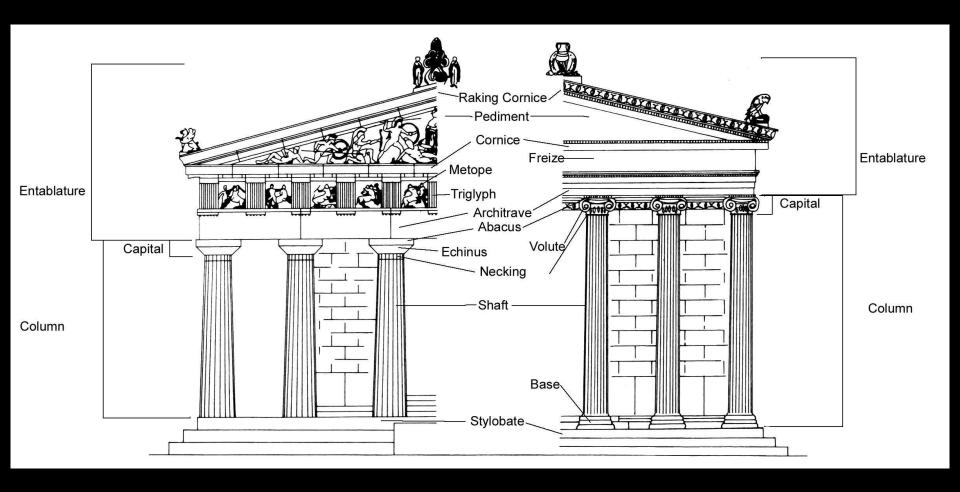








## Main parts of a Greek Temple

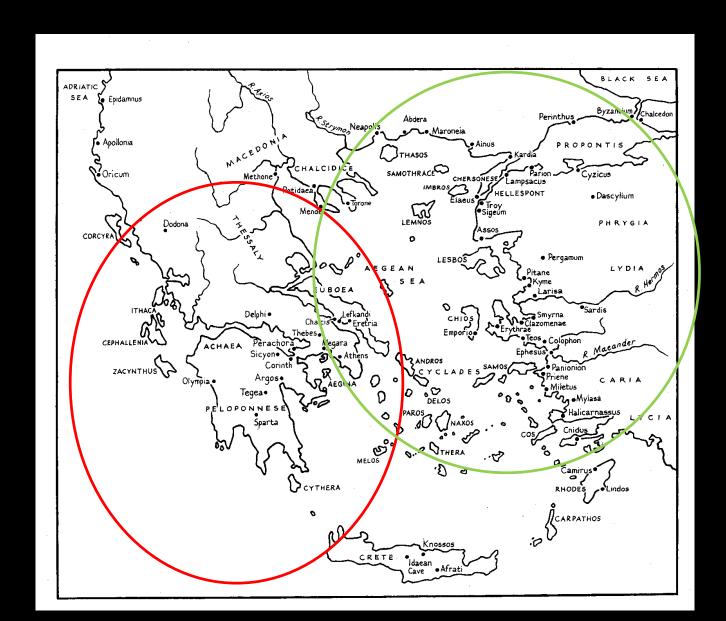


## mutule sima cornice metope frieze triglyph architrave abacus capital volute echinus (b) (a) fluting torus base plinth stylobate

Ionic

## Doric

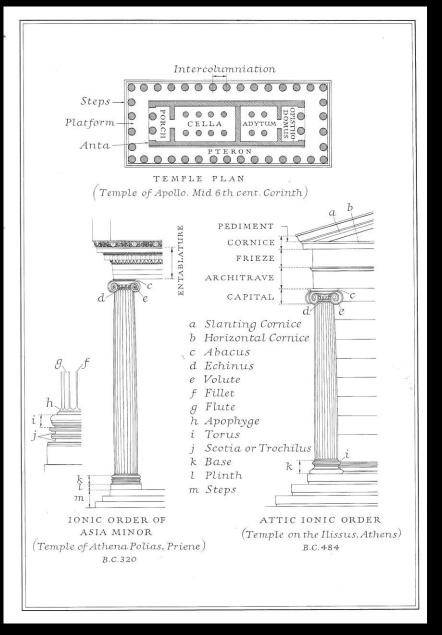
- «Doric» and «Ionic» orders are not respondant to ethnic identities but to geographical areas. Even if there is some overlapping the following distinction works.
- «Doric» is the order of mainland, not just of the Peloponnese, but also (for example) of the Ionians of Attica.
- «Ionic» is the order of Ionia and of the Cyclades, including ethnically Doric places like the Dodecannese



## Doric

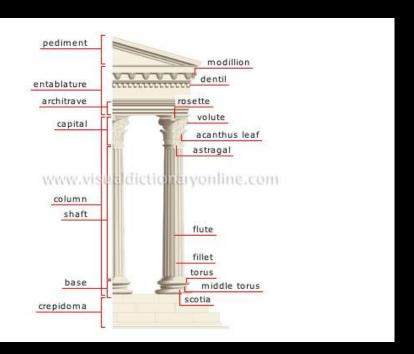
#### Slanting Cornice Mutule Coffers Corona Acro--terium Horizontal Clamp Cornice Triglyph FRIEZE Triglyph & Metope) Metope Regulá ARCHITRAVE Taeniá Guttae Abacus Echinus (Abacus & Echinus) Necking Grooves (Anathyrosis) -Anta Threshold Steps -Platform Flute DORIC ORDER Arris (Temple of Aphaia, Aegina) B.C. 500-480

## Plan Details



## Ionic

## Corinthian



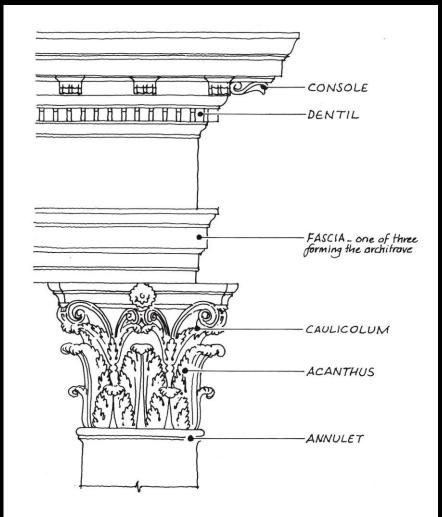
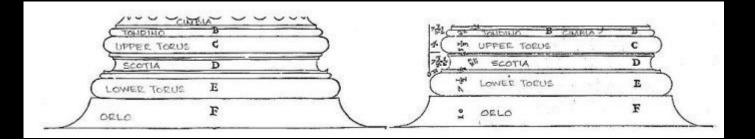
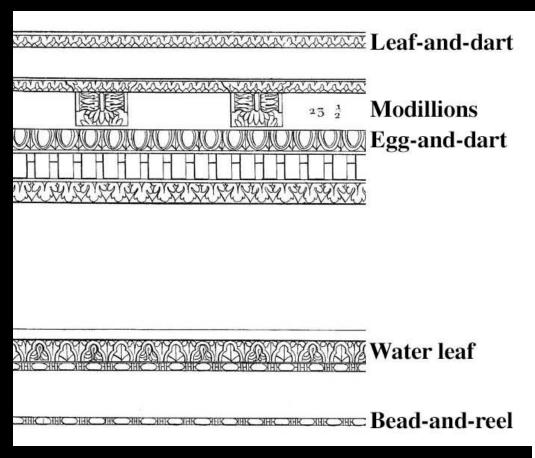


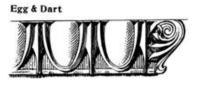
FIGURE 11 The Corinthian order



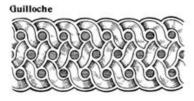


## **Decorations & Motifs**

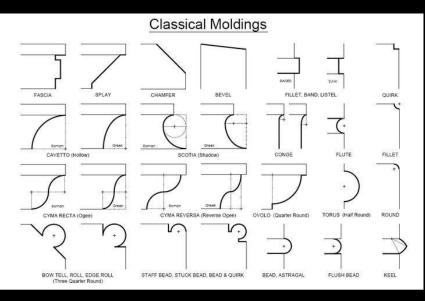


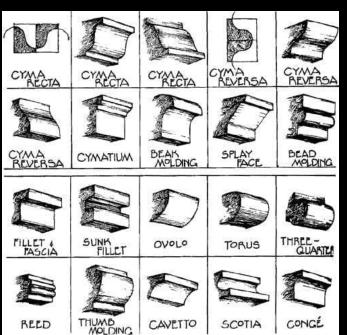




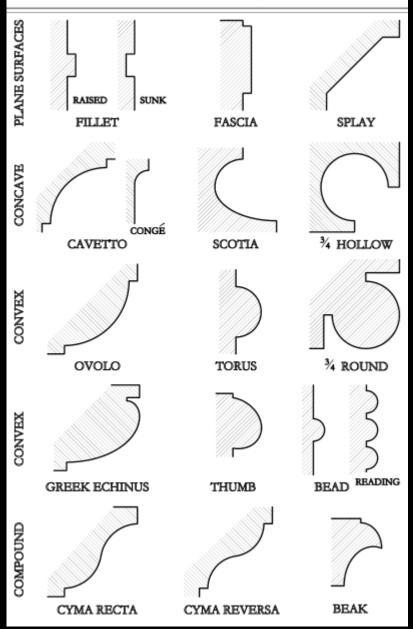


## Mouldings

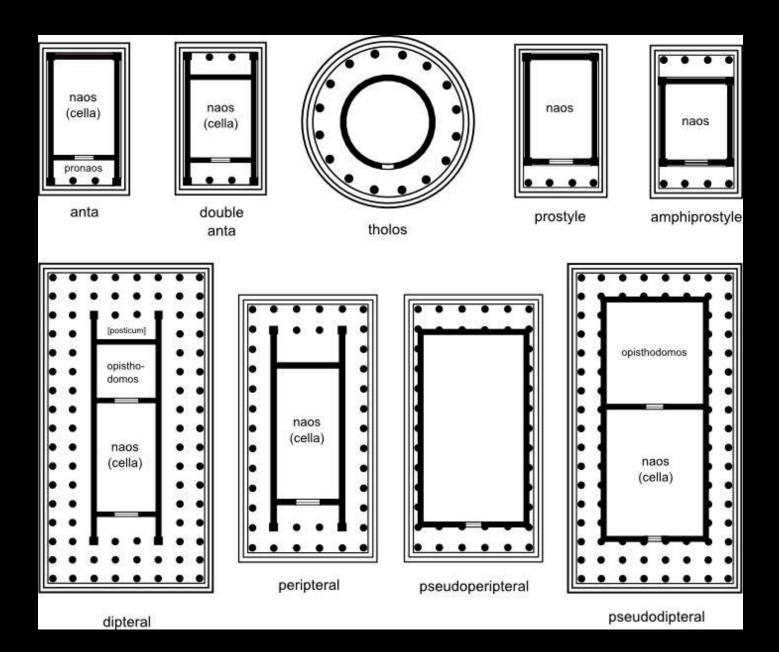




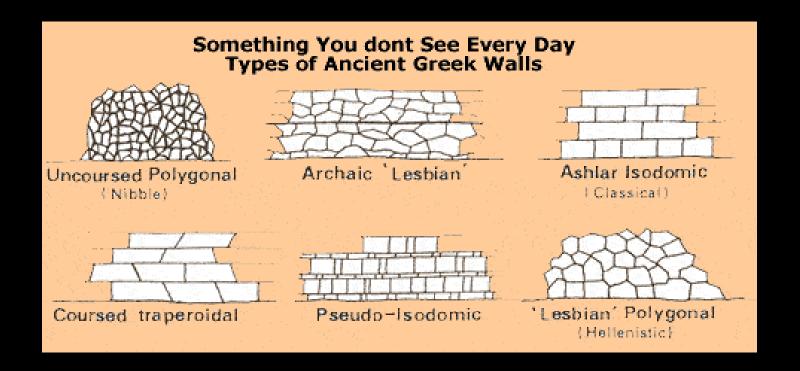
#### MOULDING PROFILES

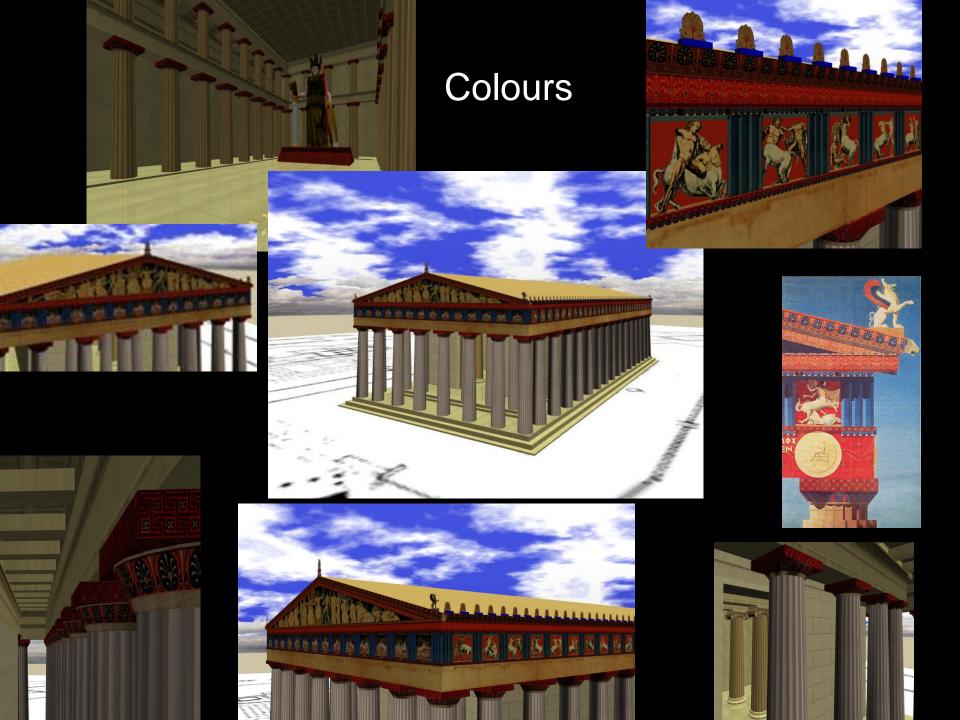


## Temple plan types



## Stone masonry types





# **Greek Architecture**

The origins

## The Greek «Dark Ages»

#### (Rough) Chronological limits (broader view):

- Late 13th century BC: Twilight of the Mycenean palatial culture
- Circa 800 BC: beginning of the «Geometric» period.

#### Sub-periodization

- Circa 1200 BC 1000 BC: Sub-Mycenean
  - The long twighlight of the Mycenean civilization.
  - Collapse of the old power structures
  - Smaller comunities.
  - Archeology cannot detect many signs of trade with the wider Mediterranean world. Trade links are definitively diminished since the Bronze Age
- Circa 1000 BC 900 BC: Protogeometric
  - Iron-smithing technology becomes more widespread, firstly in Anatolia and then in mainland Greece.
  - A new world slowly starts to rise
  - New communities appear
  - First Signs of more elaborate buildings (Lefkandi, Nichoria, etc.).
  - Increasing signs of trade with the wider Mediterranean world.

# The Dark Age of Greece A. M. SNODGRASS

#### Main issues regarding monumental architecture:

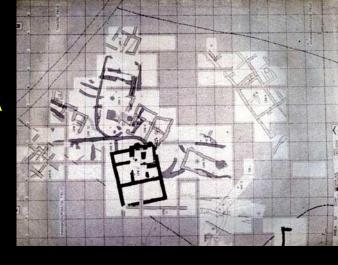
- There are very few signs of early monumental buildings.
- At the beginning it looks like the main buildings (megaron-type) were dedicated to rulers and chieftains. Proper temples do not appear before the Protogeometric/Geometric periods.
- With time one can see an evolution of communitie's interests in spending common resources: from «Rulers' Dwellings» to «Houses of the Gods» (Mazarakis-Ainian hypothesis).



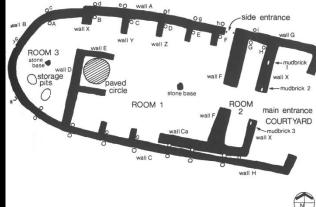
# **NICHORIA**

In Messenia.

A key-site to understand life during
Late Bronze, Sub-Mycenean
and Dark Ages periods.



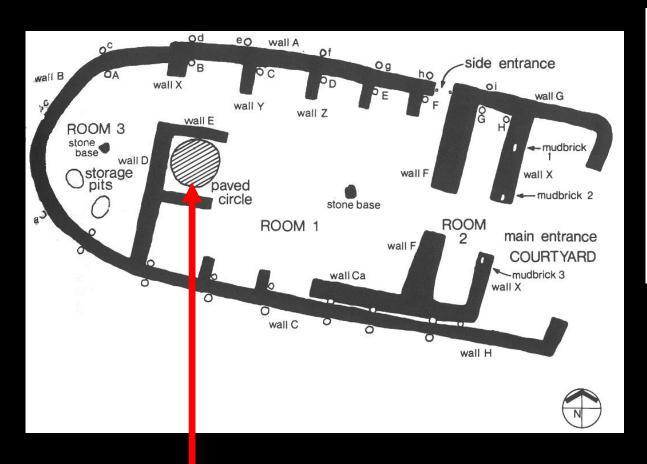






### **Nichoria:**

«Unit VI-1» (11th-10th centuries BC)
the largest known sub-Mycenean «megaron».
Possibly a ruler's dwelling?





Possible signs of ritual/religious practices performed inside the building (unlike later Greek religious practices).

# Smirne. Housing and town-planning during the Proto-geometric period.



#### Smirne.

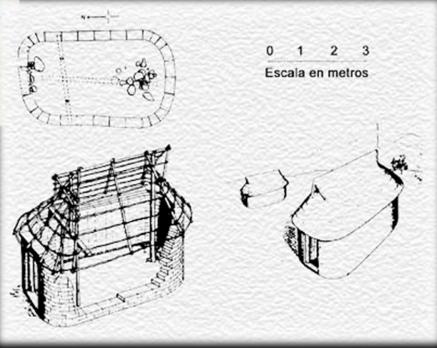
Recostructive view of the city during the Protogeometric period

#### Smirne.

**10th-century Houses** 

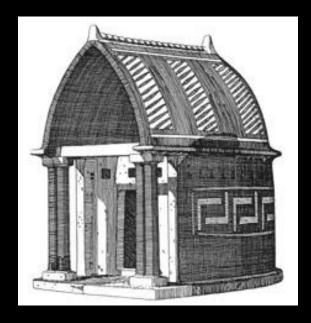
#### **Main characteristics:**

- •Use of perishable materials (wood).
- Rounded shapes
- Elliptical plans
- Apses
- •In a first phase alla the builings seem similar.

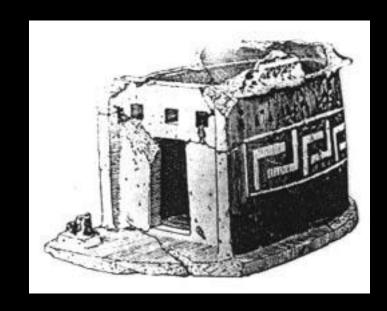


#### House/ Temple (?) models of the Geometric period

It is unclear whether these offerings mimic houses or temples, but the reality is that they seem to recall house plan types (especially regarding the <u>apses or curved ending walls</u>) whose examples can be found in many sites from the Dark Ages to the Protogeometric and Geometric time periods.





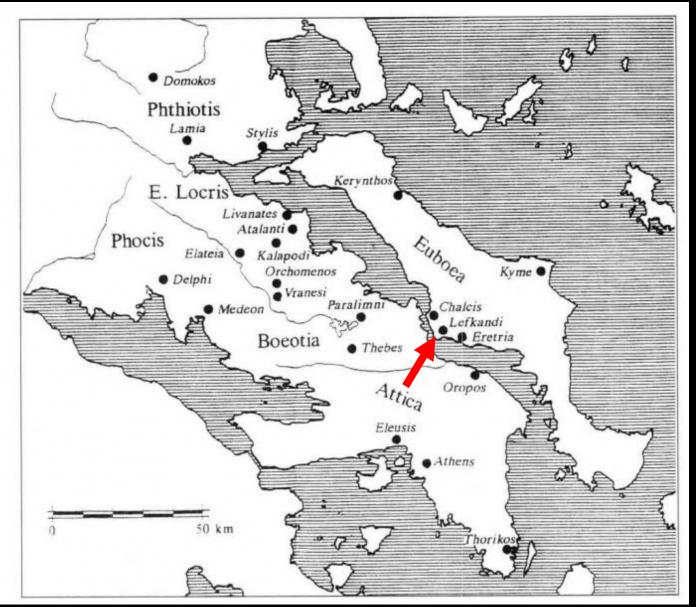




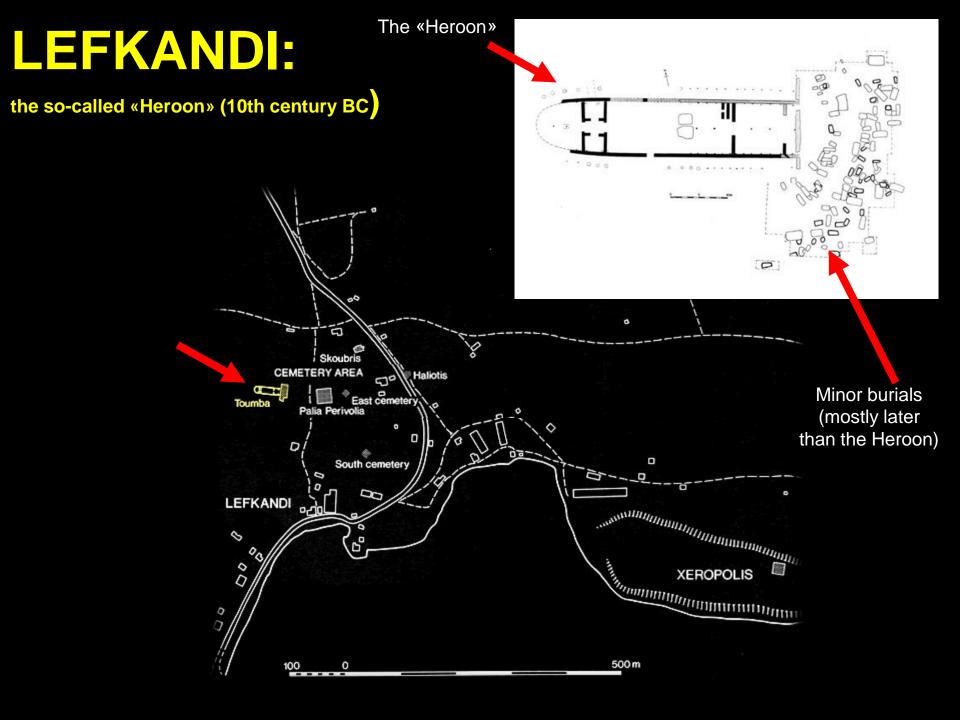
ARGOS House Model (circa 720 BC)

# LEFKANDI,

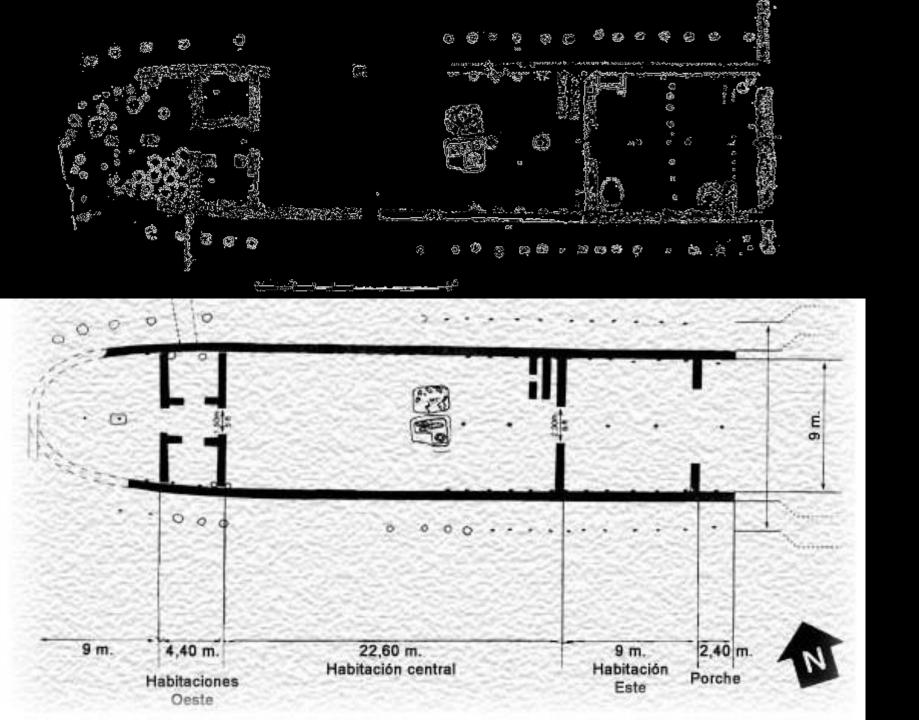
## in Euboea

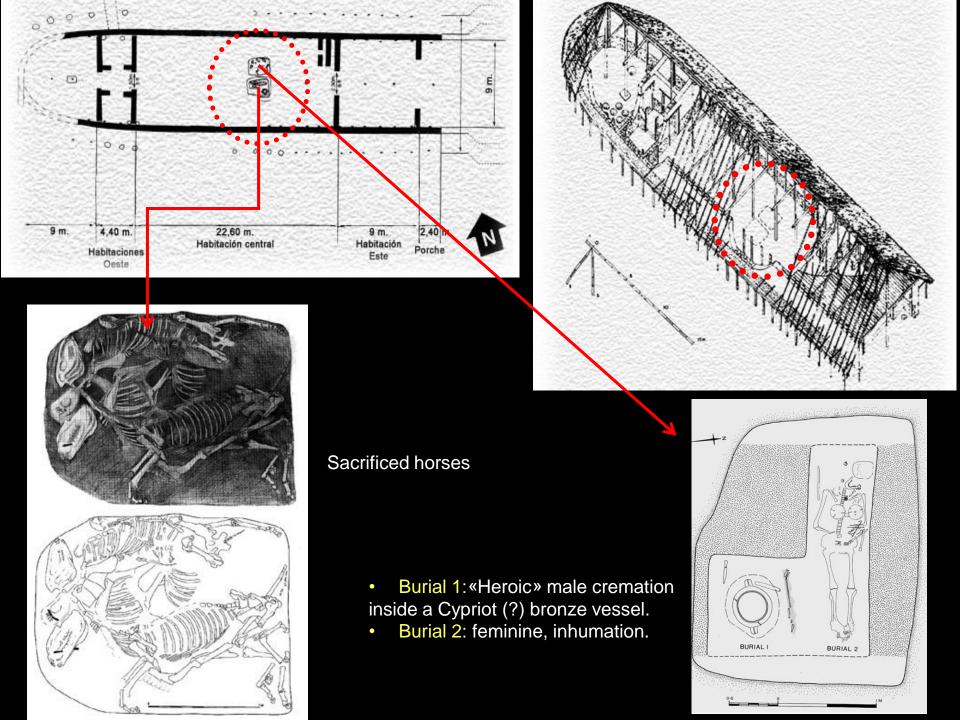












## **Finds from** the HEROON





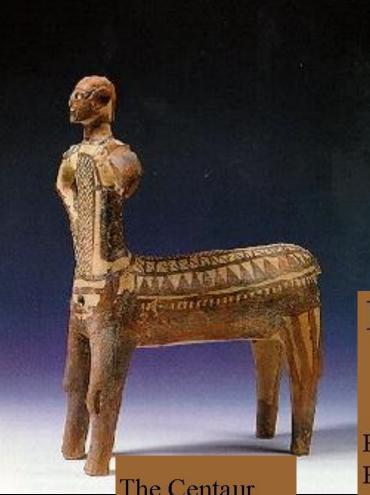








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Elaborated, locally made objects together with precious imports from Egypt and the Middle East

## Isis and Horus Necklace

Found in tombs near Heroon at Lefkandi. 11th/10th century. Faience, Egyptian in origin.

Isis and Horus statuettes common in Egyptian world.



The Centaur

- Eretria Museum
- Terracotta
- 10th c BCE
- Found in Heroon. split in two pieces, one in each grave.



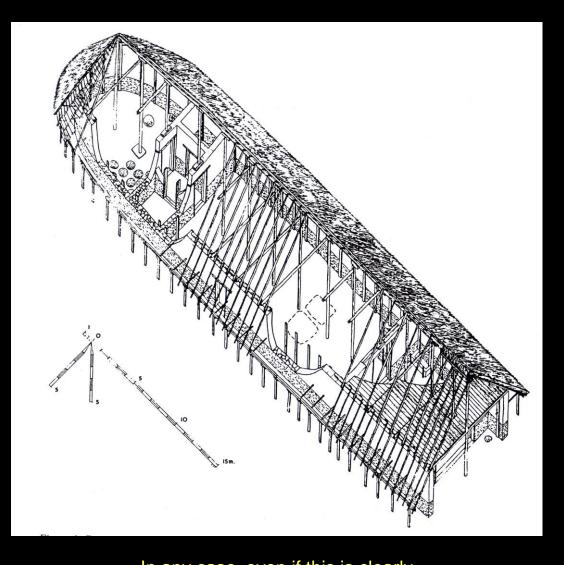
## WHAT IS THE FUNCTION OF THE SO-CALLED «HEROON» OF LEFKANDI?

It is unknown whether the «Heroon» started as such.

According to some scholars this could have originally been the magnificent dwelling of a chieftain whose remains were buried here.

This argument seems confirmed by the complexity of the plan, including the big megaron-type hall, possibly for ceremonial/representative functions

In any case, most of the later burials dug around the Heroon date to later time periods, suggesting that the area became a necropolis only after the Heroon became the resting place of the «royal» couple.



In any case, even if this is clearly not a temple, the Heroon of Toumba/Lefkandi remains an important step in the evolution of Greek attitude towards monumental buildings A revolution in the monumental architecture during the Geometric period.

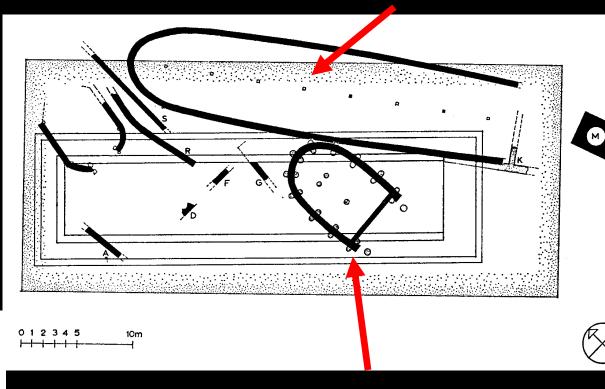
•The «Hekatompeda»: the first real monumental temples.

Eretria during the 8th century BC: a moment of passage

Hekatompedon

(mid 8th century BC)



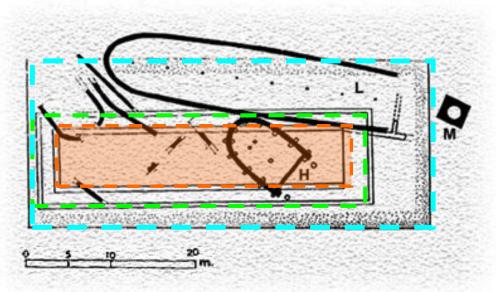




**Daphnephoreion** 

(Early 8th century BC)

Possibly started as a Heroon



# Later phases



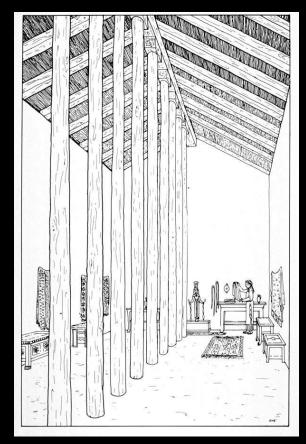


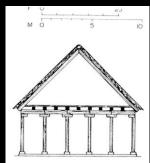
Early 6th century

Late 6th century BC phase, Destroyed by the Persians in 490 BC

## **Heraion of Samos**

(Early phase: 8th century BC)

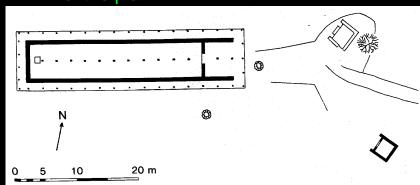




Hypothetical view of the façade

Classical reconstruction

of the plan



Real evidence

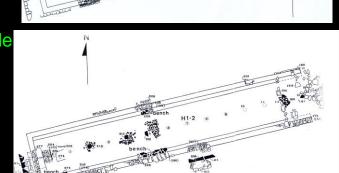
Of the first early phases:

No trace of the columnade



It clearly demonstrates the limits of the «Hekatompedon» design.

The «post & lintel» technique with a line of central poles supporting clay-covered roofs, cannot allow for larger buildings.

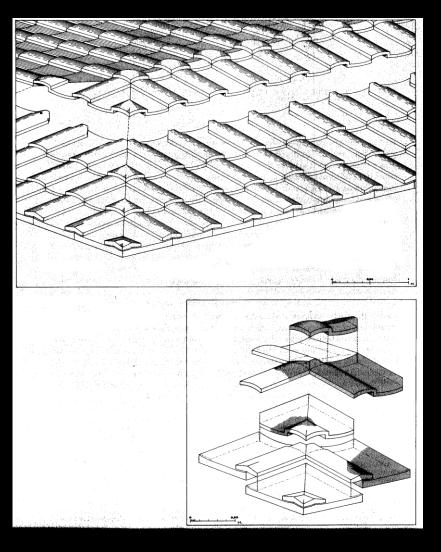


9

#### 7th Century BC: a revolution in Greek Architecture: the TILES

The invention of tiles allowed for lighter ceilings/roofsm therfore the widths of the temples can increase.

The archaeological evidence seem to suggest that the artisands of Corinth played a main role in this evolution.



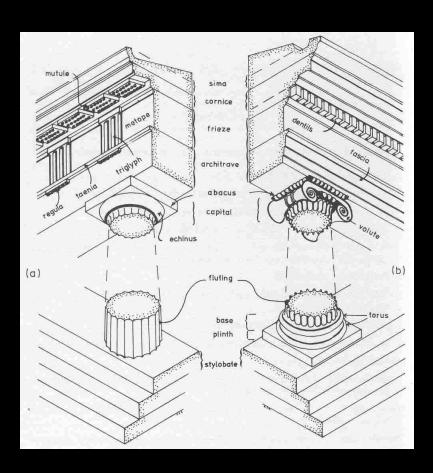
Corinth
Temple of Apollo on the
Acropolis
Phase 675-650 BC

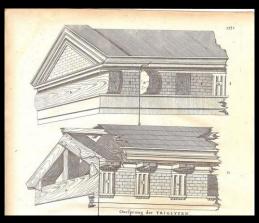
**TILES** 

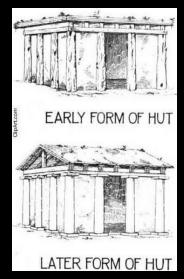
No sign of Greek Architectural orders in the Hekatompeda of the 8th century.

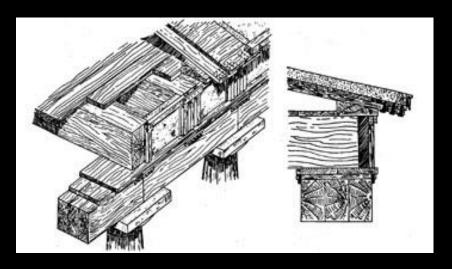
When and how the Achitectural orders appeared?

The 7th- century BC temples show some elements, but never the full orders.









Vitruvius' Hypothesis in Book IV, Chapter 3.

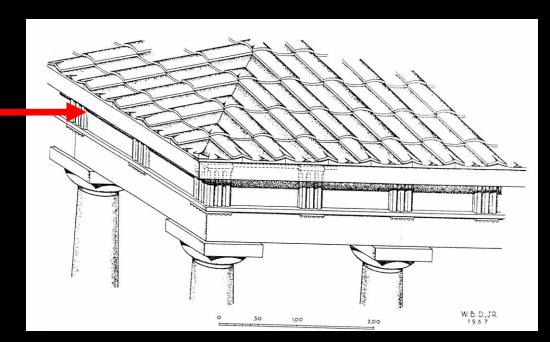
Transposition in stone of wooden architetture.

What is the evidence?



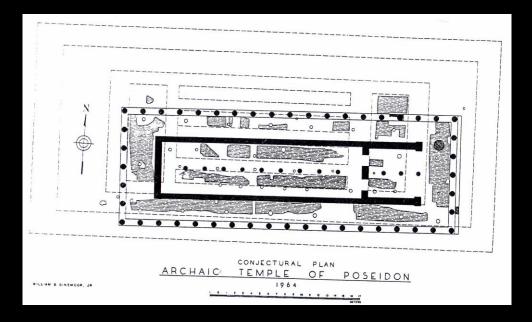
#### No pediment!

(one of the few real parts of Broneer's recostructive hypothesis).



## Temple of Poseidon in Isthmia

(7th century BC)



Classical reconstruction of plan and elevation by Broneer.

In reality in this first phase:

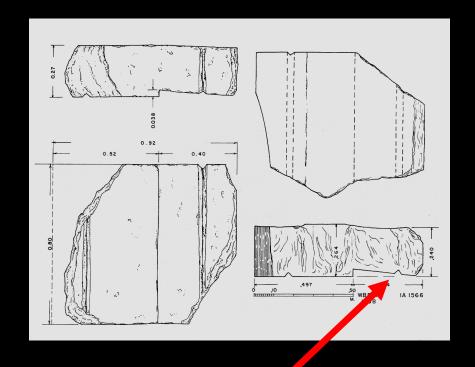
- •No signs of Columns
- •No signs of the Frieze

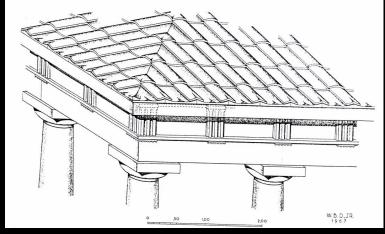
These elements are all parts of later phases.

Broneer' recostruction was influenced by his preconceptions regarding Greek Architecture.

## Temple of Poseidon in Isthmia.

## Fragment of Gheison (first documented example)



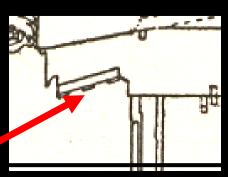


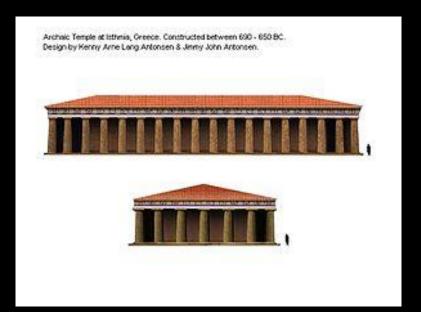
Broneer's reconstruction is possibly wrong

No mutule

Comparison with a classical gheison.

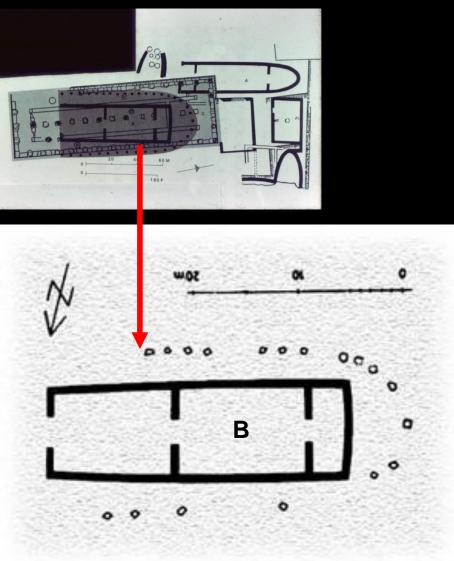
Note the mutule

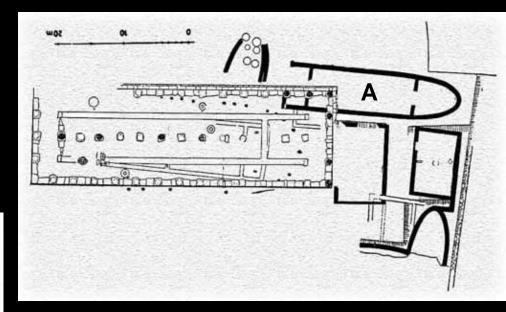




# THERMOS (Aetolia)

Early buildings. Elliptical and rectangular buildings, Megaron A and Megaron B. The two latter are currently under study and their date and function remain problematic.



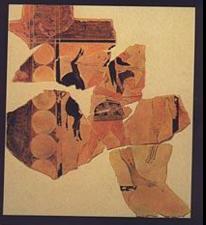




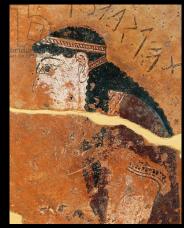
# Thermos, Temple of Apollo.

(630-620 BC)











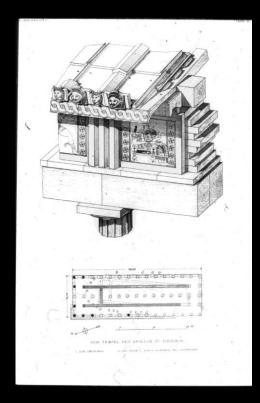
#### Reconstruction,

Probably wrong.

- •No evidence of tryglyphs, gheison, etc.
- •The temple probably displayed only the metopes without the other details of the Doric Order

The so-called "metopes" other details

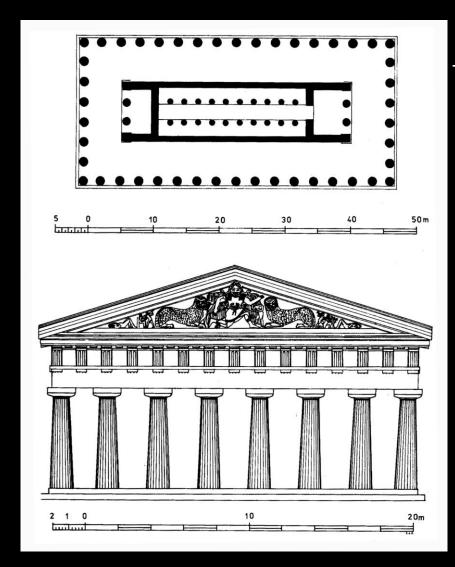
Doric Order



#### **EARLY 6th CENTURY BC: the standardization of the Doric Order**

## Temple of Artemis in Corfù / Kerkyra.

580-570 BC



First real example of full, standard Doric Order.

The Ionic order will remain much more fluid and less standardized, until well into the Hellenistic period.

The «standardization» of the Doric Order is an important step in the evolution of Greek Architecture.

Vitruvius' hypothesis of «petrification» of wooden architectures seems contradictaed by the evidence.

- •The various parts of the Doric Order appeared separatedly during the 7th century (metopes in Thermos, Gheison in Isthmia, etc.) and not as working parts of the same system.
- •Even if the divided the Greeks kept a sense of ethnic common ethnic identity, especially regarding panhellenic festivals in panhellenic sancturies. It is therefore possible that ideas were shared and phoenomena of imitation/competition led to the standardization of the Doric Order already in the 6th century BC