

The Parthenon.

It is the most important and characteristic monument of the ancient Greek civilization and still remains its international symbol. It was dedicated to Athena Parthenos the patron goddess of Athens. It was built between 447 and 438 B.C. and its sculptural decoration was completed in 432 B.C. The construction of the monument was initiated by Perikles the supervisor of the whole work was Pheidias the famous Athenian sculptor while Iktinos and Kallikrates were the architects of the building. The temple is built in the Doric order and almost exclusively of Pentelic marble. It is peripteral with eight columns on each of the narrow sides and seventeen columns on each of the long ones. The central part of the temple called the cella sheltered the famous chryselephantine cult statue of Athena made by Pheidias.