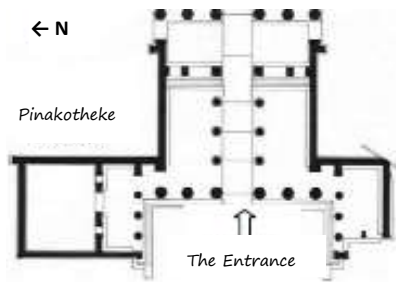
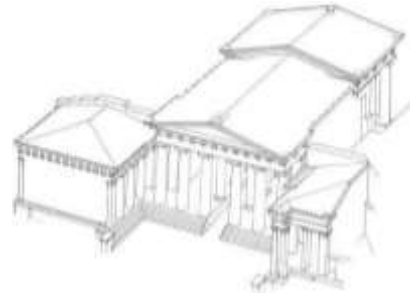


Trail area: **The Propylaia**



The Propylaia (437-432 B.C.) is the first building you meet going up the Acropolis hill. It was not a temple but the entrance to the largest sanctuary of the city.



It comprised a central building and two chambers, on either side forming a reception area for the faithful.

**Look carefully at the monument and answer the questions!**

1. The Propylaia had five doorways.
  - What material do you think they would be made of? \_\_\_\_\_
  - Why do you think that the central door was wider than the others?



2. An original characteristic of the building is the use of both orders, the Doric and the Ionic. In this way the architect, Mnesicles dealt with the difficult problem of covering the 2.50 meters height difference of the natural rock at this site.
  - Can you distinguish between the Doric and the Ionic columns of the Propylaia?
3. The north wing of the Propylaia is known as Pinakotheke (Picture Gallery) because, according to Pausanias (2<sup>nd</sup> c. A.D.), its walls were decorated with paintings or frescoes. It is possible that there were also couches where pilgrims could rest or formal meals could be held.
  - What themes do you think the paintings in the Gallery would have had?

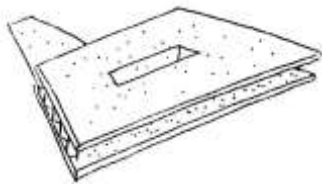
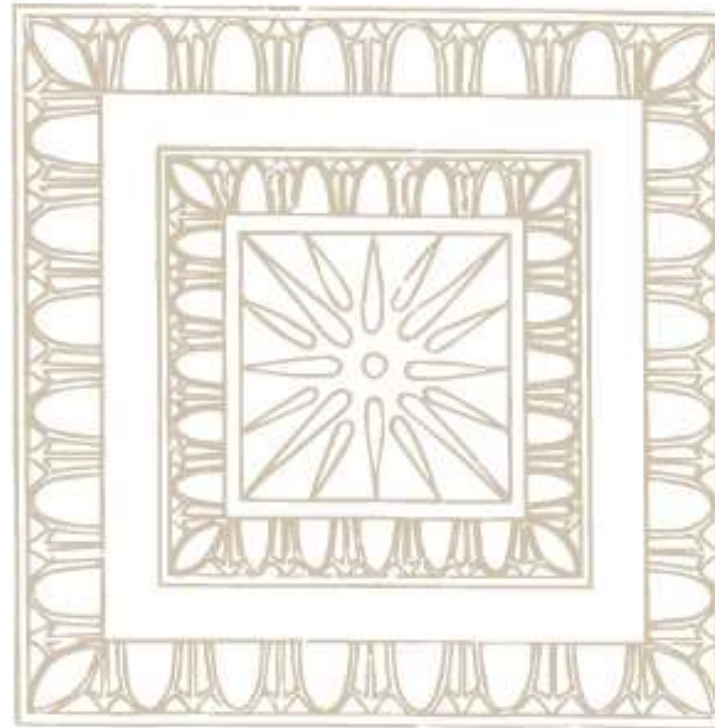
**Did you know that...**

the construction of the building was interrupted because of the Peloponnesian War and the building was never completed?

- Note the small projections on each stone on the outer side walls of the Propylaia. These once facilitated the transfer of the stone and they should have been removed after the construction of the building. The fact that they are still there shows that the building remained unfinished.

**Make your own creation!**

The marble ceilings of the Propylaea were particularly impressive, with coffers, square marble slabs decorated with colour and gilded metal ornaments.  
Note the ancient coffers that have been placed in the building forming a part of the roof, as it was in antiquity.  
Colour in the design as you imagine it!



Don't forget to search for the original architectural members of the building in the Acropolis Museum!