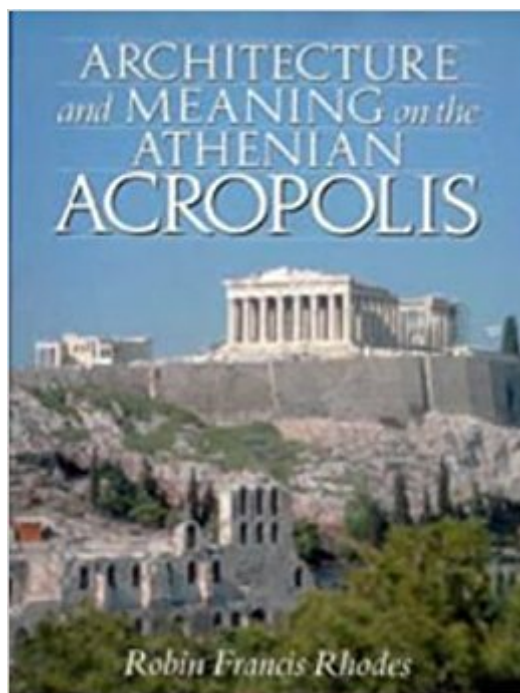


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Architecture And Meaning On The Athenian Acropolis



Synopsis

Architecture and Meaning on the Athenian Acropolis focuses on the architectural complex that is generally considered to be one of the outstanding achievements of Western civilization. Though the buildings and sculpture of the Acropolis, erected over the course of the fifth century B.C., have been scrutinized by scholars for more than a century, Robin Rhodes' sensitive analysis is the first to consider the ensemble as a whole and to explain how the monuments communicate meaningfully with one another to form an iconographic narrative. His study also examines the sculpture and decoration, which were conceived together with the abstract features, while relating both to the larger issues in Greek architecture and aesthetics.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Written by a scholar with a sensitive eye for the Greek landscape and a firm grasp of architectural principles, Rhodes's interpretive essay is enjoyable reading. For the beginning student it will serve as a thoughtful introduction to one of the most impressive religious complexes ever created..."

Jenifer Neils, Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians

Erected over the course of the fifth century B.C., the buildings and sculpture of the Acropolis have been scrutinized by scholars for more than a century. This analysis is the first to consider the ensemble as a whole and explain how the monuments form an iconographic narrative.

A wonderful and enjoyable book to read and come back again and again to it. Even for a physicist who works about theory at High Energy Physics, the structures of our universe etc. etc. I have attended 2-3 classes given by this author -- he is an excellent teacher.

Robin Rhodes' intuitive approach to one of the most discussed monuments in the history of art and architecture equips the reader to comprehend the work of a society which, facing destruction, re-interprets a building tradition hundreds of years in the making to express the innovative, nostalgic, and brilliantly defiant nature of the turbulent 5th century B.C.E. Drawing from sculptural attitudes, ritual practices, and political atmospheres, Rhodes places the Athenian Acropolis not at an assumed "zenith" of Greek architecture, but in a very alive and therefore constantly evolving context of artistic achievement. This book appeals to those who enjoy free thought in the most enlightening sense of the words.

If you are interested in Greek Architecture, this book is great for examining the Athenian Acropolis as a whole, and how the structures function in relation to each other, and to the viewer. Compared to some of the other books on the subject, this book was extremely readable, not to mention informative. To the first reviewer - I actually had Professor Rhodes for a class several years ago, and I have to say I totally disagree with your assessment. I learned volumes from him, and he couldn't have been a nicer person.

Not only is Professor Rhodes's book far from boring, but rare in that it allows easy access to a scholar's interpretation of Greek architecture. I was lucky enough to have been a student in a few of the Professor's classes. A wonderful read for those expanding their knowledge on Greek architecture, or those just beginning.

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