



3rd International Conference TMM_CH

**Transdisciplinary Multispectral Modelling and Cooperation
for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage**

**Recapturing the World in Conflict through Culture
promoting mutual understanding and Peace**

20-23 March, 2023 Eugenides Foundation Athens, Greece



The Archaeological Aspect of the Rehabilitation of the Varnakova Monastery: Preliminary Results of the Archaeological Project

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HELLENIC REPUBLIC
Ministry of Culture and Sports





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- ❖ The Monastery of the Assumption of the Virgin (Panagia) Varnakova is situated, in central Greece, on the foot of the Vardousia Mountains. It was declared as a historical monument in 1993 with a surrounding zone of 1000 m and it is protected according to the Archaeological Law (L. 4858/2021)
- ❖ It was founded in 1077 AD., during the reign of Emperor Michael VII Doukas or Parapinakis (1071-1078). The second more elaborate church was constructed in 1148 by the emperor Manuel I Komnenos. In 1151 A.D. The Narthex was erected and decorated with murals
- ❖ After the Fall of Constantinople in 1204, the monastery came under the supervision of the Despotate of Epirus. In 1229-1230 A.D. the Exonarthex was erected and decorated with murals.
- ❖ During the Greek War of Independence in 1821 it became a stronghold of the revolution and was blown up during the Siege of Kioutachis
- ❖ In 1831 A.D. during the Governance of I. Kapodistrias, it was rebuilt in the form of a basilica with three naves and narthex, according to the plans of the army lieutenant and architect Andreas Gasparis Kalandros and were executed and completed by masons from Epirus in 1838. The restoration included a double bell tower.

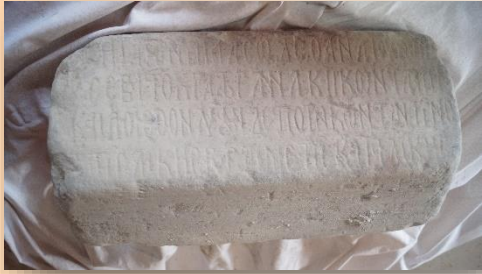


- ❖ By 1990 it reached a state of total neglect by 1990 due to lack of resources. Reconstruction work in the living areas took place during the last two decades by the current monastic community due to lack of resources. Reconstruction work in the living areas took place during the last two decades by the current monastic community.
- ❖ A devastating fire in January 2017 destroyed the living quarters of the monastery and a considerable number of liturgical artifacts held in the monastery, while second fire incident in 2020 saw the destruction of the temporary chapel and of the worship icon of the monastery with Theotokos (Virgin Mary) and Child
- ❖ After the fire of 2017, all sixty-eight surviving movable architectural sculptured parts of the temple were transferred in Delphi.
- ❖ The current project of restoration and rehabilitation project of Varnakova commenced in 2020 after the completion of the Architectural and Static study of the National technical University of Athens under the Direction of Prof. A. Moropoulou, which was approved by the Central Archaeological Council. The project forms a collaboration of the Monastery of Varnakova, the Ministry of Culture, and the National technical University of Athens



Overview of the Monastery of Varnakova

Conservation and Study of Architectural members



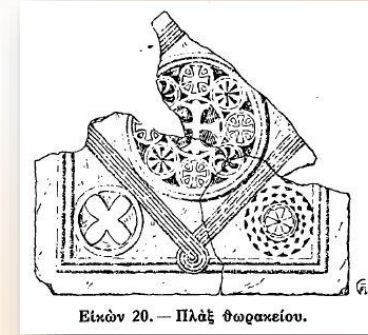
Fragment of Inscription



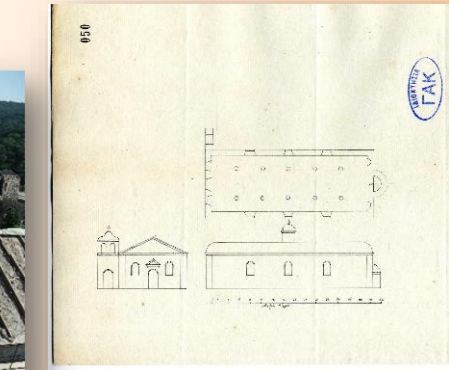
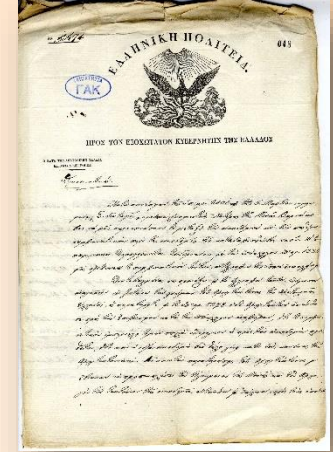
Fragment of *Thorakion* Slab



Osteological
Material



A. Orlandos
Archive



Documents of the
Kapodistrian period from
the State General
Archives



Colonnade of
earlier building
phase



Tombs in the perimeter of
the Temple



Uncovering of the
Modern tiling

The Komnenian Gate



Arched Opening closed at the 13th century A.D.



Photo mosaic of the Gate by A. Mimigiannis



The Central Arch



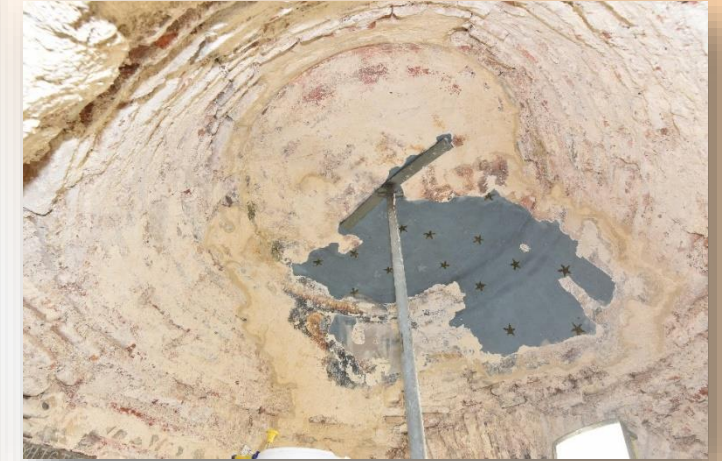
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The Outer Narthex



Restored Dome of the 19th. Cent. A.D.



Lateral Dome of the 13th cent. A.D.



The *Plinthoperikleiston* Masonry



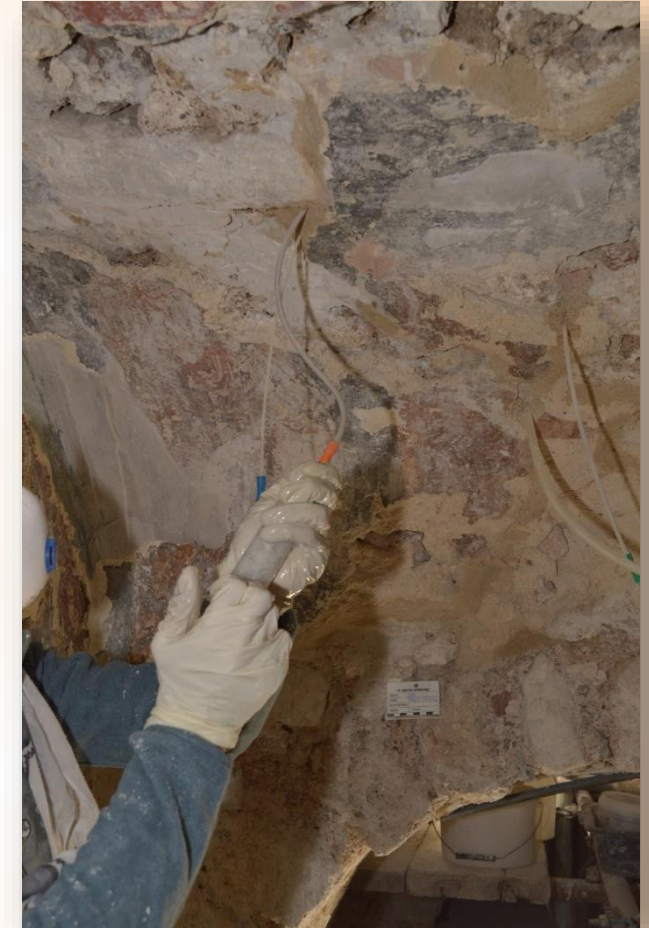
The Murals



Details of Geometrical Decoration



Male Figure Holding an *Eilitarion*



Conservation Works

The 11 cent. A.D. Marble Floor



Marble inlets with Griffons



Lion Charging



Overview
of the Floor

Geometrical
Decoration



The Templon of VARNAKOVA

Colonnettes of
the Templon

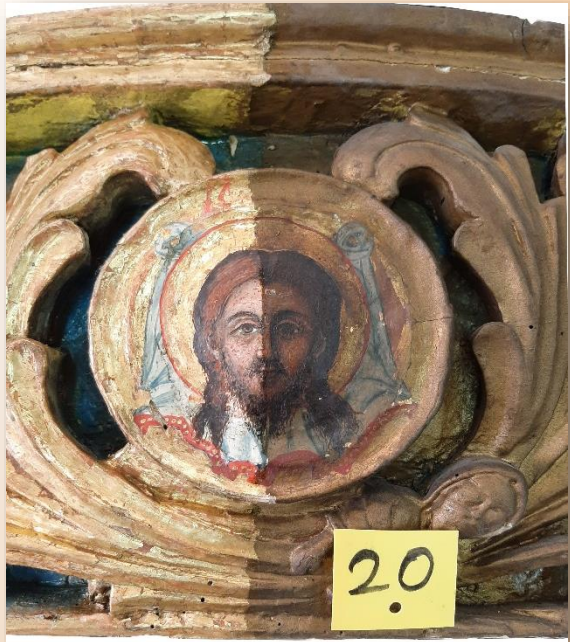


The Process of Conservation



Overview of the Templon Before Conservation

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The Templon of VARNAKOVA



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Before Conservation

After Conservation

The scene of The Last Supper



The Expulsion from the Garden of Eden



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Conclusions and Outlook

- The aim of the archaeological project is to collect all the available evidence from the architectural decoration of the monument, date them and assess the original position, use, and form.
- All the existing literary evidence that have survived, archive material and land contracts and building restoration reports of the 19th and 20th century are collected to restore the historical line of events that took place during the modern era.
- Archeological data deriving from previous archeological reports, from trial trenches excavations during restoration projects and, the currently occurring data from the recent excavation of the Ephorate that takes place during the present project of restoration.
- The synthesis of the evidence will produce the final architectural proposal for the consolidation of the temple, which will take into consideration all the historical phases of the monument.



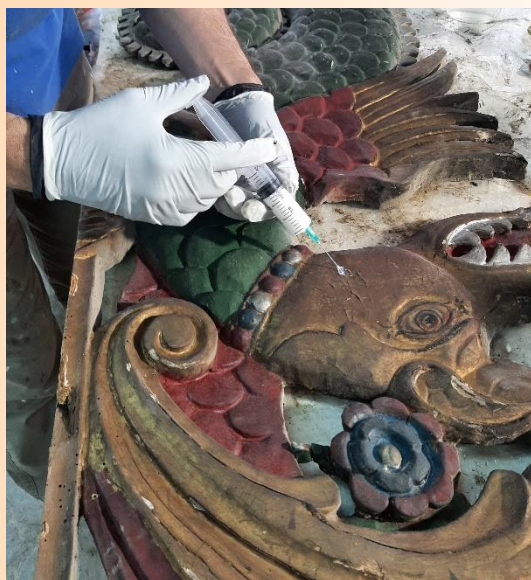


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**Thank you
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