

Υπουργείο Πολιτισμού και Αθλητισμού
Ministry of Culture and Sports
Γενική Διεύθυνση Αρχαιοτήτων και Πολιτιστικής Κληρονομιάς
General Directorate of Antiquities & Cultural Heritage
Εφορεία Αρχαιοτήτων Χανίων
Ephorate of Antiquities of Chania

Έργο: Αποκατάσταση του αρχαίου θεάτρου της Απέρας
Project: Restoration of the ancient theater of Aptera
Προϋπολογισμός: 2.440.000€
Budget: 2.440.000€

Το έργο συγχρηματοδοτήθηκε από την Ελλάδα και την Ευρωπαϊκή Ένωση
The project was funded by the Greek State and the European Union

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Προϊστορικών & Κλασικών Αρχαιοτήτων

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Supervisors of project:

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Φωτογραφίες:
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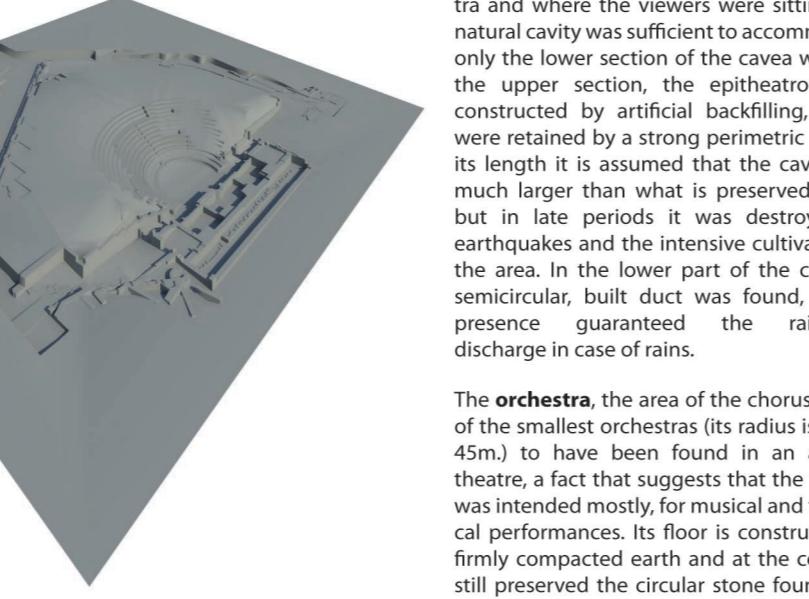
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the parts of the theatre



The ancient city of Aptera was founded on the low hill of Paliokastro in the geometric period (8th c. B.C.). The significance of the city in antiquity, apart from the portable findings (signs, coins, pottery etc.) is also testified by the big public buildings and monuments, which are brought to light by the archaeological excavation. One of the greatest monuments of the city is the ancient theatre, the revelation and restoration of which was accomplished by the co-financing of Greece and European Union.



The theatre was entirely constructed by a local limestone and is situated near the southeast entrance of the city in a natural cavity with a southward orientation and a view to the White Mountains. The main parts of the theater of Aptera are the koilon (cavea), the orchestra and the scene building (scaenae).

the restoration of the theatre



The **cavea** was the space around the orchestra and where the viewers were sitting. The natural cavity was sufficient to accommodate only the lower section of the cavea whereas the upper section, the **epitheatron**, was constructed by artificial backfilling, which were retained by a strong perimetric wall by its length it is assumed that the cavea was much larger than what is preserved today, but in late periods it was destroyed by earthquakes and the intensive cultivation of the area. In the lower part of the cavea, a semicircular, built duct was found, whose presence guaranteed the rainwater discharge in case of rains.

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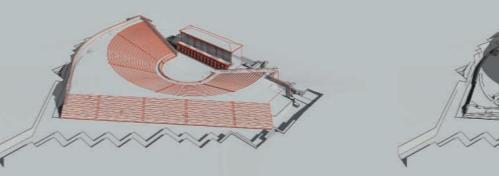
the road

At the east side of the theatre an impressive **stoned-paved road** came to light and it is dated in the Hellenistic period. Being 55m long and 1,60m wide provided access to the orchestra through the east passageway and to the **epitheatro** through the staircase that was found at the east side of the theatre. Excavation data suggests that it also led to other public buildings located nearby the theatre.

At the north side of the theatre a long stepped construction was uncovered, which exact function is not clarified yet. The dimensions of the steps and the distances between them, as well as the stepladders which are inserted make clear that it was probably a space of viewing events that took place in the area in front of it. In the middle of the building the stones are carved probably for supporting an external platform made of wood. Judging by the width of the foundation we can assume that the steps in total were over 10. Although it is dated to the Hellenistic period it doesn't belong to the initial building phase of the theatre but it must have been a later addition.



building phases



On the basis of the excavation and architectural data of the ancient theatre, three main building phases can be recognized that reflect the economical and social state of the city in each period; the Hellenistic phase, the first and the second roman phase. The construction of the theatre began in the early Hellenistic period (first half of the 3rd c. B.C.). To this phase belong the strong wall south of the scene, most part of the retaining walls of the passageways (parodoi) and the peripheral retaining wall of the **koilon** (cavea).

In the second half of the 1st c. A.D. the Hellenistic theatre was entirely modified. It is possible that the modification took place after the big earthquake that happened in 46 A.D. In this phase the **cavea** shaped into its final form, the scene building (skene) was replaced and the floor of the orchestra was lowered. It is difficult to determine the exact date of the 2nd Roman phase, as later interventions have disturbed the data. However, it is plausible that the final modification of the theatre took place in the 3rd c. A.D.

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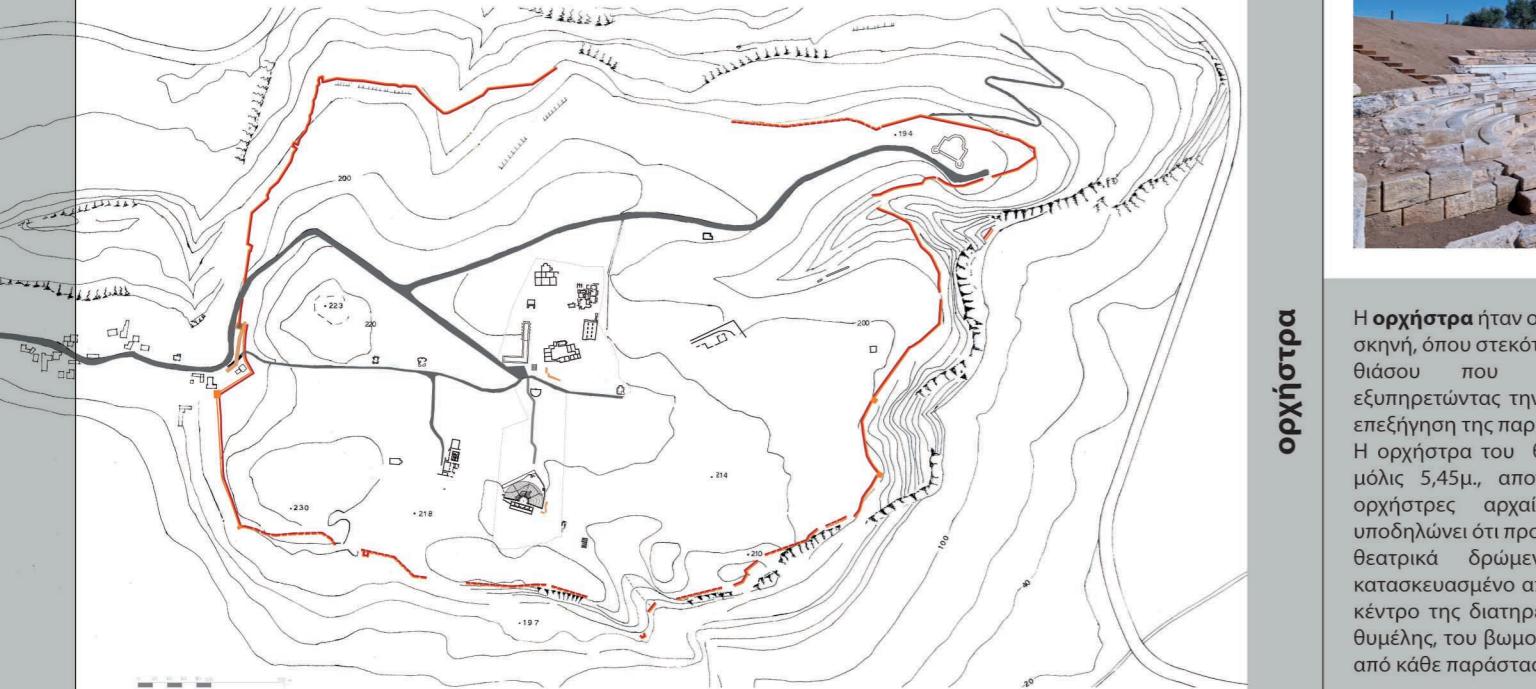
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In the early 20th century the theatre was severely



κοίλο

Η αρχαία πόλη της Απτέρας βρίσκεται στο ύψωμα Παλιόκαστρο και η ίδρυσή της τοποθετείται στη Γεωμετρική εποχή (8 ος αι. π.Χ.). Την σπουδαιότερά της στην αρχαιότητα, εκτός από τα κινητά ευρήματα (επιγραφές, νομίσματα κεραμική κ.α.), μαρτυρούν τα μεγάλα δημόσια κτήρια και μνημεία που έχει φέρει στο φάσις η αρχαιολογική σκαπάνη. Στα σπουδαιότερα μνημεία της πόλης συγκαταλέγεται το αρχαίο θέατρο, η αναδείξη και αποκατάσταση του οποίου υλοποιήθηκε με συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης.



ορχήστρα

Το θεατρικό οικοδόμημα κατασκευάστηκε εξ ολοκλήρου από τοπικό πωρόλιθο και χωροθετήθηκε κοντά στη νοτιοανατολική είσοδο της πόλης σε φυσική κοιλότητα του εδάφους με νότιο προσανατολισμό και θέα τα Λευκά όρη. Η παλαιότερη φάση του θεάτρου χρονολογείται στους ελληνιστικούς χρόνους, αλλά κατά τη Ρωμαϊκή εποχή, όποτε αναπτύσσεται η σκηνική πρόσσωφη (Scaena Frons), υπέστη ριζικές μετασκευές.



οδός

Η ορχήστρα ήταν ο χώρος ανάμεσα στο κοίλο και τη σκηνή, όπου στεκόταν ο χορός, δηλαδή η ομάδα του θάσου που τραγουδούσε και χόρευε εξυπηρετώντας την πρώθηση της δράσης ή την επεξήγηση της παράστασης.

Η ορχήστρα του θεάτρου της Απτέρας με ακτίνα μόλις 5,45μ., αποτελεί μια από τις μικρότερες ορχήστρες αρχαίου θέατρου, στοιχείο που υποδηλώνει ότι προορίζοταν κυρίως για μουσικά και θεατρικά δρώμενα. Το δάπεδο της είναι κατασκευασμένο από καλά πατημένο χώμα και στο κέντρο της διατηρείται η κυλική λιθινή βάση της θυμέλης, το βωμό του θεού Διονύσου, όπου πριν από κάθε παράσταση προσφέρονταν θυσίες.

σκηνή

Η σκηνή, ορθογώνιο, μακρόστενο οικοδόμημα στην περιφέρεια της ορχήστρας απέναντι από το κοίλο, ήταν ο χώρος που εκτυλισσόταν η θεατρική δράση. Η σκηνή που σώζεται στην Απτέρα προέκυψε κατά τις μετασκευές των ρωμαϊκών χρόνων. Η όψη της, κατά την τυπική διαμόρφωση των ρωμαϊκών θεάτρων, διέθετε τρεις μεγάλες κόγχες που αντιστοιχούσαν σε ισάριθμες θύρες. Ο τοίχος μπροστά από τη σκηνή, το προσκήνιο, συνολικού μήκους 20,50μ. ήταν επενδυμένος με ασβεστολιθικές πλάκες σε τοιχοβάτη διακοσμημένο με κυμάτιο. Δύο στενές μονολιθικές κλίμακες στα άκρα της εξυπηρετούσαν την άνοδο στο ζύλινο δάπεδο της σκηνής, εκατέρωθεν της οποίας διαμορφώνονται τα παρασκήνια, χώροι που λειτουργούσαν όπως και σήμερα για τις ανάγκες των ηθοποιών. Πίσω από τη σκηνή υπήρχε το παρασκήνιο, ο κύριος χώρος αποθήκευσης της σκηνής του θέατρου και το σημείο από όπου γινόταν η είσοδος και η έξοδος των ηθοποιών.

βαθμιδωτή κατασκευή

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πάροδοι

Τα κοίλα, ο χώρος γύρω από την ορχήστρα όπου κάθονταν οι θεατές, διαιρείται κάθετα με πέντε κλίμακες σε τέσσερις κερκίδες και οριζόντια, μέσω ενός διαδρόμου, του διαζώματος, σε άνω και κάτω κοίλο. Το κάτω τμήμα του κοίλου ακολουθώντας τη φυσική κλίση του εδάφους διαμορφώνεται με αργολιθοδόμη κλίμακα για την εφαρμογή των εδωλίων. Ουστόσο, το άνω τμήμα, το επιθέατρο, κατασκευάστηκε με τεχνητές επιχώσεις, τις οποίες συγκρατούσε ισχυρός περιμετρικός τοίχος. Από το συνολικό μήκος αυτού του τοίχου μπορούμε να συμπεράνουμε ότι το κοίλο ήταν πολύ μεγαλύτερο από αυτό που διατηρείται έως σήμερα, αλλά καταστράφηκε από σεισμούς σε μεταγενέστερες εποχές και από τις εντατικές καλλιέργειες στον χώρο. Στο χαμηλότερο μέρος του κοίλου εντοπίστηκε κτιστός ημικυκλικός αγωγός, ο γνωστός από την αρχαιότητα με την ονομασία εύριπος, που εξυπηρετούσε την απορροή των όμβριων υδάτων σε περιπτώση βροχής.

οικοδομικές φάσεις

Η αρχαία πόλη της Απτέρας βρίσκεται στο ύψωμα Παλιόκαστρο και η ίδρυσή της τοποθετείται στη Γεωμετρική εποχή (8 ος αι. π.Χ.). Την σπουδαιότερά της στην αρχαιότητα, εκτός από τα κινητά ευρήματα (επιγραφές, νομίσματα κεραμική κ.α.), μαρτυρούν τα μεγάλα δημόσια κτήρια και μνημεία που έχει φέρει στο φάσις η αρχαιολογική σκαπάνη. Στα σπουδαιότερα μνημεία της πόλης συγκαταλέγεται το αρχαίο θέατρο, η αναδείξη και αποκατάσταση του οποίου υλοποιήθηκε με συγχρηματοδότηση της Ελλάδας και της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης.

κοίλο

Το κοίλο, ο χώρος γύρω από την ορχήστρα όπου κάθονταν οι θεατές, διαιρείται κάθετα με πέντε κλίμακες σε τέσσερις κερκίδες και οριζόντια, μέσω ενός διαδρόμου, του διαζώματος, σε άνω και κάτω κοίλο. Το κάτω τμήμα του κοίλου ακολουθώντας τη φυσική κλίση του εδάφους διαμορφώνεται με αργολιθοδόμη κλίμακα για την εφαρμογή των εδωλίων. Ουστόσο, το άνω τμήμα, το επιθέατρο, κατασκευάστηκε με τεχνητές επιχώσεις, τις οποίες συγκρατούσε ισχυρός περιμετρικός τοίχος. Από το συνολικό μήκος αυτού του τοίχου μπορούμε να συμπεράνουμε ότι το κοίλο ήταν πολύ μεγαλύτερο από αυτό που διατηρείται έως σήμερα, αλλά καταστράφηκε από σεισμούς σε μεταγενέστερες εποχές και από τις εντατικές καλλιέργειες στον χώρο. Στο χαμηλότερο μέρος του κοίλου εντοπίστηκε κτιστός ημικυκλικός αγωγός, ο γνωστός από την αρχαιότητα με την ονομασία εύριπος, που εξυπηρετούσε την απορροή των όμβριων υδάτων σε περιπτώση βροχής.

πάροδοι

Το κοίλο, ο χώρος γύρω από την ορχήστρα όπου κάθονταν οι θεατές, διαιρείται κάθετα με πέντε κλίμακες σε τέσσερις κερκίδες και οριζόντια, μέσω ενός διαδρόμου, του διαζώματος, σε άνω και κάτω κοίλο. Το κάτω τμήμα του κοίλου ακολουθώντας τη φυσική κλίση του εδάφους διαμορφώνεται με αργολιθοδόμη κλίμακα για την εφαρμογή των εδωλίων. Ουστόσο, το άνω τμήμα, το επιθέατρο, κατασκευάστηκε με τεχνητές επιχώσεις, τις οποίες συγκρατούσε ισχυρός περιμετρικός τοίχος. Από το συνολικό μήκος αυτού του τοίχου μπορούμε να συμπεράνουμε ότι το κοίλο ήταν πολύ μεγαλύτερο από αυτό που διατηρείται έως σήμερα, αλλά καταστράφηκε από σεισμούς σε μεταγενέστερες εποχές και από τις εντατικές καλλιέργειες στον χώρο. Στο χαμηλότερο μέρος του κοίλου εντοπίστηκε κτιστός ημικυκλικός αγωγός, ο γνωστός από την αρχαιότητα με την ονομασία εύριπος, που εξυπηρετούσε την απορροή των όμβριων υδάτων σε περιπτώση βροχής.

οδός

Το κοίλο, ο χώρος γύρω από την ορχήστρα όπου κάθονταν οι θεατές, διαιρείται κάθετα με πέντε κλίμακες σε τέσσερις κερκίδες και οριζόντια, μέσω ενός διαδρόμου, του διαζώματος, σε άνω και κάτω κοίλο. Το κάτω τμήμα του κοίλου ακολουθώντας τη φυσική κλίση του εδάφους διαμορφώνεται με αργολιθοδόμη κλίμακα για την εφαρμογή των εδωλίων. Ουστόσο, το άνω τμήμα, το επιθέατρο, κατασκευάστηκε με τεχνητές επιχώσεις, τις οποίες συγκρατούσε ισχυρός περιμετρικός τοίχος. Από το συνολικό μήκος αυτού του τοίχου μπορούμε να συμπεράνουμε ότι το κοίλο ήταν πολύ μεγαλύτερο από αυτό που διατηρείται έως σήμερα, αλλά καταστράφηκε από σεισμούς σε μεταγενέστερες εποχές και από τις εντατικές καλλιέργειες στον χώρο. Στο χαμηλότερο μέρος του κοίλου εντοπίστηκε κτιστός ημικυκλικός αγωγός, ο γνωστός από την αρχαιότητα με την ονομασία εύριπος, που εξυπηρετούσε την απορροή των όμβριων υδάτων σε περιπτώση βροχής.

σκηνή

Το κοίλο, ο χώρος γύρω από την ορχήστρα όπου κάθονταν οι θεατές, διαιρείται κάθετα με πέντε κλίμακες σε τέσσερις κερκίδες και οριζόντια, μέσω ενός διαδρόμου, του διαζώματος, σε άνω και κάτω κοίλο. Το κάτω τμήμα του κοίλου ακολουθώντας τη φυσική κλίση του εδάφους διαμορφώνεται με αργολιθοδόμη κλίμακα για την εφαρμογή των εδωλίων. Ουστόσο, το άνω τμήμα, το επιθέατρο, κατασκευάστηκε με τεχνητές επιχώσεις, τις οποίες συγκρατούσε ισχυρός περιμετρικός τοίχος. Από το συνολικό μήκος αυτού του τοίχου μπορούμε να συμπερ