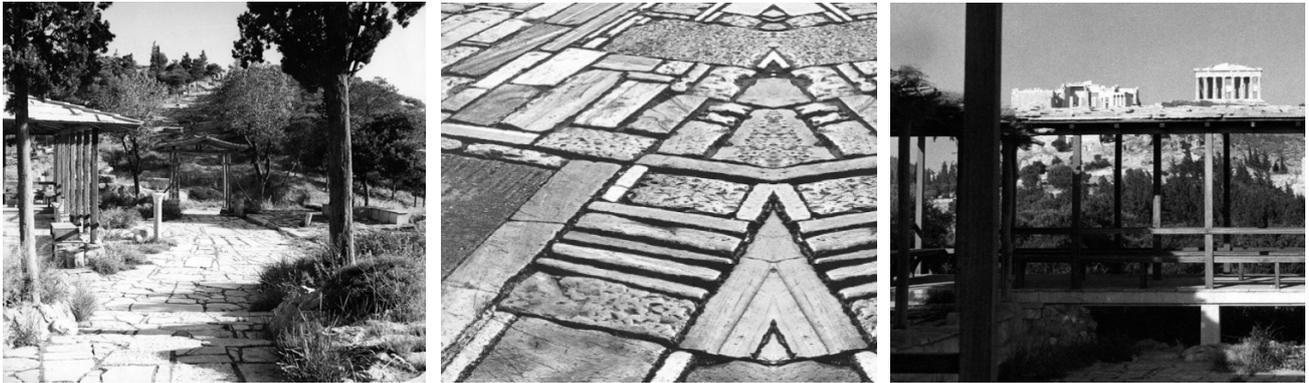


HERITAGE IN DANGER

THE NEED TO PROTECT DIMITRIS PIKIONIS' ACROPOLIS WORK - AN OPEN LETTER



2018 marks the 50 Year Commemoration of the death of the great architect, academic teacher and painter Dimitris Pikionis (1887-1968). Pikionis left behind him a significant work which redefined the architecture of the 20th century and its discourse by introducing an alternative modernity grounded in modern art, global cultural heritage and the natural environment.

Pikionis' 'handmade' work on the Acropolis hills, which was accomplished sixty years ago, is internationally recognized as one of the most interesting architectural projects of its era; an original composition of high historic and artistic value, a multivalent project which merges art, architecture and landscape architecture within the sensitive 'ecosystem' of a distinguished archaeological site. Strolling on the pathways of the hill across the Acropolis has been described, by architects and scholars, as a staging of dense visual symbolisms and pure aesthetic pleasure. Similarly, the open sitting areas around the church of St. Demetrius and the belvedere on Philopappos hill, were described as unique places for contemplation in the contemporary Attic landscape.

However, the site has been abandoned over time and immediate action is required in order for it to be protected and preserved, so that it continues to serve as an enlightening work for the coming generations to experience and appreciate. Spaces like the small open pavilion by the church of St. Demetrius can host daily activities and come to life again. Several mild cultural events could bring more Athenians and foreign visitors back to the site and restore its relationship to the Acropolis monuments. Despite a few occasional conservation efforts in the past, its current condition does not guarantee its sustainable future. We believe that its prolonged abandonment is unacceptable, especially when considering the fact that the cost of its proper conservation is relatively low.

On behalf of the Greek working party of do.co.mo.mo. international we ask you to share the need for immediate action and we welcome your contribution to the active revival of this important Athenian, if not global, architectural landmark. Do.co.mo.mo. Greece will assist you in any way possible.

On behalf of do.co.mo.mo. Greece - docomomo.gr

The coordinator

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