



ΣΑΡΡΕΙΟΝ
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION CENTER

The historical heritage
IN THE GREEK CULTURE



ZAPPEION MANSION

The Zappeion Megaron is a part of national heritage of Greek civilization, designed by T. Hansen (1874-1888). Evangelis Zappas, a Greek patriot and benefactor from North Epirus, envisaged the rebirth of the spirit of ancient Greece and devoted his life to the revival of the Olympic Games and the promotion of the Arts.

The Zappeion Megaron has been an active part of Greece's history and that of Hellenism, for the last 130 years. Cultural events of great importance take place within the precinct. The Olympia(d) and Bequests Committee, not only highlights the historical milestones related to the Olympic activities, but also to those related to the cultural identity of Greece in general.

The Committee aspires to fulfil the aims of Zappeion and to be conducive to the industrial, financial and cultural growth of Greece.

Located in the center of Athens, the Zappeion Exhibition Hall is surrounded by some of the most important buildings in Athens, such as the Parliament building, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; the Maximou Palace, which is the official residence of the Prime Minister; the Foreign Ministry, and other public buildings. Nearby are the National Gardens and, opposite, on the side of the Ardittos Hill, the Panathinaic Stadium; Hadrian's Arch and the ancient Temple of the Olympian Zeus.



HISTORY

Evangelis Zappas and the modern Olympics

The 1821 Greek War of Independence, which lasted almost eight years, led to the creation of the modern, independent state of Greece. Its Christian-Orthodox inhabitants strove to separate themselves from over 400 years of occupation by the Ottoman Empire and to build on elements of language and history harking back to Ancient Greece.

In the 1850's, when the issue of reviving ancient ceremonies and contests was being discussed in Greece, Evangelis Zappas, a native of the Greek province of Epiros, lived in Romania where he had made his fortune. He began to consider how such institutions could be revived, and even proposed that they be called 'Olympic'.

It was the poet Panagiotis Soutsos, founder of modern

Greek Olympic ideals and the man responsible for inspiring Zappas, who essentially introduced the concept of establishing parallel cultural activities and exhibitions modeled on the first world's fair in London (1851).

Zappas drafted a memorandum proposing that a new institution be established that would help Greece keep pace with the industrial revolution. The memorandum was sent early in 1856 setting forth the proposal that the contests be organized in Athens on March 25th, 1857.

Zappas would bear the cost of this event, as well as that of constructing an Olympic building to house an exhibition of samples of Greek art and industry. The building would also function as a museum displaying antiquities. To expedite this plan, he immediately sent 2000 Austrian florins to cover the costs of the First Olympia, which was also called the First Zappeian Olympiad.





SERVICES

Zappeion Megaron, is one of the most emblematic Monuments of our country, distinguished for its prominent architecture, offers the ideal conditions for conferences, cultural, scientific and sports exhibitions.

Zappeion Megaron is located in the historic center of Athens, very close to the most important archaeological sites of Athens. Located South of the National Garden and the West of the Panathenaic Stadium offers easy access.

It has 4,546 square meters of exhibition and congress halls and a Peristyle Central Circular Atrium. The Zappeion Megaron is fully technologically equipped to meet even the most demanding needs for a perfect conference.

The conference rooms have modern translation systems in 9 foreign languages, while for all the rooms there are luxurious reception areas with all the necessary infrastructure, telephony, wireless internet, security and control systems.

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