

DISCUSSION

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Polygonal columns in ancient Greek architecture

Polygonal columns were used in Greek architecture from the beginning of their development in the Geometric period until Hellenistic times. These columns were mainly used in buildings; however, votive columns can be found all over the Greek world and there are also some isolated cases of grave columns.

The polygonal columns have often been rejected as a simpler initial stage of fluted columns or as their economical alternative. These explanations are not always satisfactory, since many of the polygonal columns are placed in important monumental buildings in combination with fluted columns or in the cases when the columns are manufactured in inexpensive materials, such as marble. The development of the polygonal columns does not follow the development of the round or the fluted columns and they must, therefore, be studied as a specific architectural form that might have been an intentional aesthetic choice.

Friday May 9

13.30

Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul