



PAVILION OF
GREECE

SEPTEMBER 25, 1963

GROUNDBREAKING AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR 1964-1965

THE GREEK PAVILION WILL BE A ONE-STORY STRUCTURE COMBINING MODERN AND ANCIENT GREEK ARCHITECTURE. THE EXHIBITS WILL INCLUDE DISPLAYS OF GREEK CULTURE, INDUSTRY AND TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, AND A *TAVERNA* SERVING GREEK FOODS AND BEVERAGES. THE PAVILION OF GREECE IS SPONSORED BY THE GREEK INDUSTRIALISTS ASSOCIATION, THE GREEK CENTER OF PRODUCTION AND THE GREEK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. MESSRS. ANTHONY KITSIKIS AND ATHANASE MAKRIS OF ATHENS, GREECE, ARE THE ARCHITECTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH MR. JOHN JAMES CARLOS, AIA, OF NEW YORK CITY.



Excerpts from transcription of remarks made by Greek and World's Fair officials at groundbreaking ceremonies for the Pavilion of Greece at the New York World's Fair, September 25, 1963.

AMBASSADOR RICHARD C. PATTERSON, JR. [Chief of Protocol]: Mr. Ambassador, Your Eminence, Mr. Carlos, Mr. Moses, Mr. Beach, ladies and gentlemen. His Eminence Iakovos, Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, will deliver the invocation.

HIS EMINENCE IAKOVOS [Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Church]: (Translation) Let us pray to the Lord God Almighty, who hast made the heavens with wisdom and has established the earth upon its firm foundations, the Creator and Lover of all men. Look upon Thy servants to whom it hath singled to set up a pavilion of exhibition of their culture, art and industry in the dominion of Thy power. Establish Thou the same upon a stable ground and founded according to Thy divine word in the gospel, so that neither wind nor flood nor any other thing shall be able to harm it. Graciously grant that we may bring it to an ending and enable all those who shall wish to serve the moral precepts of Thy gospel and promote the cultural values of their ethnic and religious tradition, to successfully reach their noble goal.

For Thine is the dominion and Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and that onto ages of ages, Amen.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Of all the countries represented at this Fair, few — very few — are as well-known as Greece in the minds of civilized men. There is no area of western civilization that has not been influenced or shaped by this ancient and glorious nation, and we in America are especially aware of this. Every section of our national life, thought, language and politics bears the stamp of Greece, and we are pleased, therefore, and honored to have Greece represented at the New York World's Fair.

I am privileged to introduce to you, ladies and gentlemen, the director of International Affairs and Exhibits of the World's Fair, Mr. Allen E. Beach.

MR. ALLEN E. BEACH: Thank you, Mr. Ambassador. Your Excellency, Your Eminence, Mr. President, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. The presence of Greece in our Fair has a deep and special meaning to us



His Excellency Alexander A. Matsas, Greek Ambassador to the United States, speaking at the ceremonies marking the groundbreaking for the Pavilion of Greece.

as Americans. Ancient Athens was the first nation to be governed by its people, with a true and direct democracy. And because of this early democracy, the citizens of Athens were able to create and think freely, which resulted in the gift to the world — of great literature, philosophy, art, and architecture — that students and scholars have studied and emulated ever since. Today, centuries later, here in another great democracy, a Greek Pavilion will be erected, representing the nation that is the home of the ancient Parthenon, a symbol of freedom. This charming Greek Pavilion will stand facing the Unisphere,[®] another architectural triumph that will stand for many years as a

symbol of nations working together under God for peace and understanding.

We are all delighted that Greece is present. Over two years of work by a very dedicated team has brought this project to the point where it is today when the first piece of earth will be moved. One man in particular has been the power behind the scenes. He's my long-time friend, Mr. Makris.

He is the head of European Displays, Ltd., in Athens, a well-known firm on the Continent which has worked on exhibits in all major cities in Europe. Mr. Makris has also worked for the United States Government. We contacted him and he went to bat for us; we certainly can say that he has batted a thousand. He is now managing director of the Greek Pavilion and is its prime architect. Among others who contributed greatly to this project are His Excellency, Mr. Triantafyllis, Minister of Commerce, and Mr. Vlahos, Press Undersecretary.

We welcome Greece to this great Fair, and we salute the hard-working team that has made it possible. Congratulations. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you, Allen Beach. In the tradition of the ancient and modern Greeks, our next speaker has been known to speak his mind and to fight for what he believes is right. For this, and for the amazing contributions he has given to this country over the years, he has won the respect and admiration not only of New Yorkers but of all Americans. I have the

high honor to present to you the president of the Fair, the Honorable Robert Moses.

MR. ROBERT MOSES: Ambassador Patterson, Your Eminence, Your Excellency, and friends. I learned when I was in college, being in perhaps the last generation that was compelled to study the classics, that Greece was the great point of light in history. When I say compelled, I actually studied Latin and Greek, as the Italians say, *con amore*, the greater part of two years.

I can't say too much about Greek as a factor in education. It has been a source of real disappointment and sorrow to me that it has been dropped in so many places.

When I first went to Oxford, I found that the great subject, studied by the ablest of the students and those who later became the heads of government, was Greek and Roman civilization, what they called "Greats," *litterae humaniores*. They figured that, if anyone understood the Iliad and especially if he knew Greece and Greek literature, he was on his way to being an educated man. I still feel that way about it.

I have only one other thing to say about this exhibit. We are delighted that Greece is here for the reasons given by my friend Allen Beach. I heard a rumor that there was a possibility that Greece might send over the Hermes of Praxiteles. That is one of the great works of art of all time, I believe one of the few authentic surviving works of Praxiteles. I hope this can be done. I think it would rank next to the Pietà as an object of interest in the Fair. If I

and my associates can do anything to make it possible to bring this great work here, we would be simply delighted. I hope that they will give this particular objective serious consideration. Thank you.

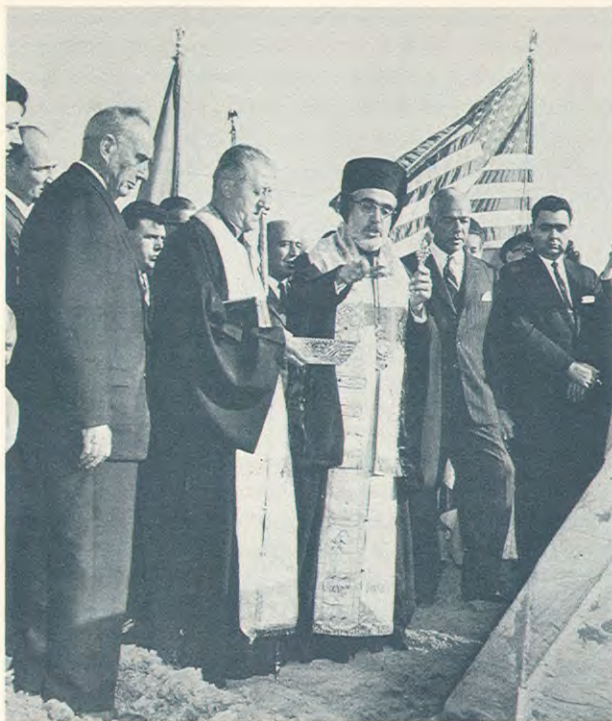
AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Moses. Before presenting the next speaker, I should like to introduce the very popular and distinguished Dr. Basile Vitsaxis, Consul General of Greece in New York, who has done so much to cement the bonds of friendship between our two countries.

HON. DR. BASILE VITSAXIS [Consul General of Greece in New York]: I thank you very much, Ambassador Patterson, for your very kind words. I'm very happy to be here today and to witness this beautiful ceremony.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you. Next, a good friend of ours, Theodore Pyrlas, Commercial Counselor of the Greek Embassy.

MR. THEODORE PYRLAS [Commercial Counselor, Embassy of Greece]: Thank you very much, Mr. Ambassador. I'm very happy to be here today.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Our next speaker has, for many years, enjoyed a national and international reputation as an architect. There is hardly any type of building he has not planned and constructed. I am privileged to introduce Mr. John James Carlos, Commissioner General of the Greek Pavilion and designer of the pavilion in association with Anthony Kitsikis and Athanase Makris.



His Eminence, Archbishop Iakovos, Primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America, delivers invocation at the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Pavilion of Greece at the New York World's Fair.

MR. JOHN JAMES CARLOS [Commissioner General of the Pavilion of Greece]: Your Eminence, Your Excellency, Commissioner Moses, ladies and gentlemen. Let me submit that this is a very proud and happy moment. This groundbreaking ceremony celebrates a sharing of the Greek nation and of its people. It is a sharing of 25 centuries, of a cultural heritage which still lives in the minds and hearts of civilized men the world over. Greece — the glory that was — and the wonder that it is — is the homeland and treasure house of the shining ideals of western culture. Greece has been rediscovered again today, as it has been rediscovered in the past, in the imbricate historical periods of the European renaissance, the Greek revival of the last century, and the present day renaissance of contemporary Greece.

This pavilion shall stand as a symbolic sharing of the 20th century rebirth of the cultural, social and economic forces of this most ancient land. Thank you.

AMBASSADOR PATTERSON: Thank you, Mr. Carlos. Our final speaker, in every way, has been true to the political and intellectual heritage of Greece. He has had a brilliant career in the diplomatic service, and numerous times he has been honored by his country and many foreign countries. He was Ambassador to Turkey, he was Ambassador to Iran and Pakistan, before he became Greek Ambassador to the United States in 1961.

He is also a scholar and a writer of great renown, has had volumes of poetry published and three tragedies pro-

duced for the Greek stage and radio. It is a very great honor for me to introduce the Greek Ambassador to the United States, His Excellency Alexander A. Matsas.

HIS EXCELLENCY ALEXANDER A. MATSAS [Ambassador of Greece]: Your Eminence, President Moses, Ambassador Patterson, Mr. Beach, Mr. Moses, Mr. Consul General, and distinguished guests. I regard it as a great privilege to be called upon to attend this most important groundbreaking ceremony at the site of the Greek Pavilion at the New York World's Fair. This pavilion, as you know, is the result of private enterprise, and it will illustrate one of the most deeply rooted and ancient beliefs of the Greek nation, which is, as we all know, profoundly shared and constantly applied in this great country of the United States of America. I mean the belief in private enterprise and private initiative.

The pavilion is being built by a group of private enterprising corporations who founded, for that purpose, a special corporation for building this pavilion. It will house a comprehensive series of Government exhibits, which will aim at showing, as fully as possible, the varied economic and cultural efforts which are now being accomplished in Greece. Thus, the pavilion will not only show an image of the endeavor of the Greek nation on economic industrial, commercial and cultural levels, but it will also stress the philosophy which lies at the root of our system and which is the belief in private enterprise and in private initiative.

The Greek nation, of which the modern achievements will be shown by this pavilion, has a very ancient tradition in trade and commerce. As a matter of fact, I don't think that there has ever been another nation which has ever deified commerce.

Commerce is a free flow of ideas, of ethnic, aesthetic and artistic concepts, of techniques and of knowledge. In fact, it is the exchange of the spiritual and material wealth of nations.

That is why, I think, a universal manifestation of the magnitude of this New York World's Fair is connected to a very great extent with this deeper meaning of commerce. On this site which proudly bears this great metropolis of the new world, the nations of the world are invited to meet in a friendly competition and exchange of industry, technology, knowledge and culture. They will learn from each other, and in doing so they will get to know themselves a little better.

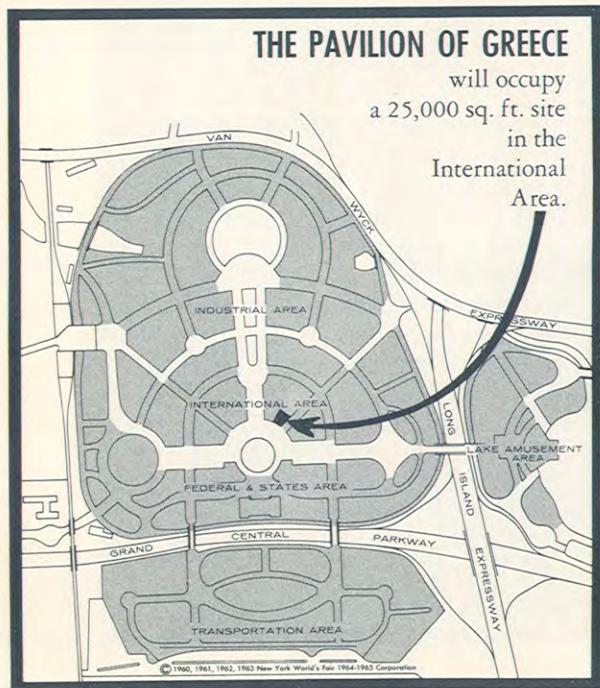
This great challenge is the best teacher that we can find for testing our capacities, for measuring our limitations, and for promoting our aptitudes. I would also like to say that the ancient Greek city had as a center the market place, which was then and is today called *Agora*, which became the center of the public life of the first democracy ever known to mankind. I hope that this New York World's Fair will be another great forum for the better understanding between nations and for the promotion of their peaceful and constructive cooperation. Thank you.

PAVILION OF GREECE AT THE NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR

HIS EXCELLENCY ALEXANDER A. MATSAS, *Ambassador of Greece*
HIS EMINENCE, ARCHBISHOP IAKOVOS, *Primate of the Greek Orthodox
Church of North and South America*

THE HONORABLE DR. BASILE VITSAXIS, *Consul General of Greece*
MR. THEODORE PYRLAS, *Commercial Counselor*
MR. JOHN JAMES CARLOS, *Commissioner General of the Pavilion of Greece*
MR. ATHANASE MAKRIS, *Managing Director of the Pavilion of Greece*

Architects: ANTHONY KITSIKIS, *Athens, Greece*
ATHANASE MAKRIS, *Athens, Greece*
JOHN JAMES CARLOS, *AIA, New York City*
Consulting Engineers: MARTIN LOVETT, *P.E., Structural, New York City*
MESSRS. WALD & ZIGAS, *Mechanical & Electrical,
New York City*
Contractor: ORESTES DALLAS, *New York City*



Unisphere® presented by  United States Steel
© 1961 New York World's Fair 1964-1965 Corporation

NEW YORK
WORLD'S FAIR
1964-1965
CORPORATION
Flushing, N. Y. 11380
Tel. 212-WF 4-1964

ROBERT MOSES, *President*
THOMAS J. DEEGAN, JR., *Chairman of the Executive Committee*
WILLIAM E. POTTER, *Executive Vice President*
CHARLES POLETTI, *Vice President, International Affairs and Exhibits*
STUART CONSTABLE, *Vice President, Operations*
WILLIAM BERNS, *Vice President, Communications and Public Relations*
ERWIN WITT, *Comptroller*
MARTIN STONE, *Director of Industrial Section*
GUY F. TOZZOLI, *(Port of New York Authority) Transportation Section*
ERNESTINE R. HAIG, *Secretary of the Corporation and Assistant to the President*
WILLIAM WHIPPLE, JR., *Chief Engineer*