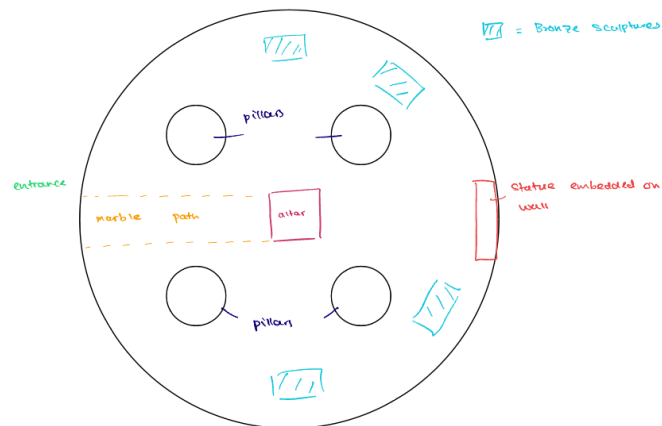


AGRS 28 Writing Assignment: Making a sanctuary for Zeus

General visual overview of what I envision the sanctuary to look like. I've included a detailed description of the sanctuary below the floor plan.



With the following floor plan:



Statue of Zeus:



Here, he is holding a lightning bolt in his right hand, and his signature scepter in his left.

Description of Floor plan and statue:

The overall shape of the sanctuary is a large circular structure, with four large pillars that support the structure from the inside, in a very similar fashion to the design shown in the photo. On the pillars are carvings synonymous with Zeus: bulls, eagles, and also some scenes of warfare and combat. The entrance is a marble arch that leads down a smooth marble path to an altar placed in the center of the sanctuary. The sanctuary should also be situated on a mountain or hilltop, away from civilization. The statue of Zeus will be embedded into the wall, and also situated below a carving of an eagle.

Responsibility of Deity:

Zeus, as the king of the gods, embodies the qualities of triumph and victory. As such, this sanctuary will primarily attract military leaders and warriors who are about to head off to battle, and present offerings to Zeus in order to gain favor in their upcoming conflict. Beyond this responsibility, this sanctuary is also responsible for attracting ordinary people who are facing hardship in their lives, as they pray to Zeus to give them the courage needed to overcome their personal struggles. In terms of ritual offerings, as discussed in lecture, only the bull was seen as a fit animal to offer as sacrifice, and that should still remain true in this new sanctuary.

Paragraph highlighting design choices

I drew the primary inspiration for the sanctuary from Elden Ring, a game I recently finished playing. As for design specifics, I chose the sanctuary to be situated on a mountaintop, since I believe that as the most important of all the gods, it only makes sense that his sanctuary is situated at the highest point, closest to the gods. In terms of the shape, one reason I chose the sanctuary to be circular is to highlight

the idea that Zeus as a figure is all-encapsulating as the "lord of the heavens and the Earth ... the most powerful of the gods" (Vegetti, 261), similar to how a circle encapsulates everything it surrounds. Furthermore, in making the sanctuary a circle, it also highlights the perfection Zeus represents, as circles are often thought of as perfect shapes.

For the interior, I decided to fill the sanctuary with symbols commonly associated with Zeus – the bull and eagle are symbols that are synonymous with Zeus himself, hence their inclusion in a sanctuary dedicated to him. Further, in lecture we discussed that Zeus is also closely related to victory, which heavily inspired the sculptures depicting scenes of great conflicts.

To me, the portrayal of Zeus throughout Greek culture is incredibly interesting, as it seems like the Greeks forget that Zeus isn't without his flaws. Throughout our study of Zeus we've come across many stories of Zeus using mortals for his own benefit: perhaps most obviously, when he kidnapped Ganymede to serve as his cupbearer on Olympus. Despite these stories of Zeus leveraging ordinary humans for his own desires, he is still worshiped as a divine, perfect being.