The remains of Greek architecture give us a window back in time to an age where balance, beauty and hope for perfection were considered the goals of life and art. The now-famous Greek columns, such as those of the Athenian Treasury in the once important ceremonial shrine of Delphi, were built to hold up the heavy stone roofs of Greek temples. Delphi, built on the side of a mountain was sacred to the god Apollo and believed by the Greeks to be the center of the world. It was also the favorite haunt of the Muses, who looked after the arts. The Athenian Treasury was not a temple but a small building where offerings of money and precious objects were presented to the gods. Here columns were placed across the front of building. At other times they were used on all sides. The top of a Greek column is called a capital. In ancient Greece, capitals came in three different styles; Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. The Athenian Treasury has Doric columns — the simplest of the three orders. The earliest columns were made of wood. Next came columns of stone, usually constructed piece by piece, and piled on top of one another to look like a solid whole. Each column had decorative grooves running up and down, called flutes. The pediment is the triangular area at the front and back of the building, high up under the roof. The Athenian Treasury was built ca. 500-480 B.C. It stands alongside a processional route up to the temple, which held the famous Delphic oracle. There are many excellent examples of Greek revival architecture in Atlanta, Roswell, Athens, Augusta, and Macon, GA. For good examples of Corinthian capitals find the one in the Carlos Museum’s Classical galleries and look at the capitals on the columns of the Performing Arts Studio here on Emory campus.
**BUILD THE ATHENIAN TREASURY FACADE!**

This replica of the Athenian Treasury facade (the front of the building) is intended to be built with group and family participation. Children and adults can have fun together solving the architectural problem of setting 24 separate pieces into a structure that closely resembles an ancient Greek temple! The pieces fit together using velcro tabs already in place. Try building the facade on your own without looking at the directions. It’s almost as much fun to take apart as to build. Good luck, and have fun.

Step 1. Start by laying the foundation stones end to end.

Step 2. Add the step-stones on top.

Step 3. Build the two four-sided columns and the two round columns progressively.

Step 4. Add bowl-shaped capitals to the round columns and the square capitals to the four-sided columns.

Step 5. Place the three entablature stones to span the capitals.

Step 6. Add the wedge-shaped pediment stones and the roof.

Step 7. Stand back and admire your architectural skill.

Step 8. Please help dismantle the structure for the next family’s turn.