

## THE CHURCH OF AGIA FOTINI IN MANTINEA

The paradoxical temple. Quite a lot of people visit the area just because they have heard talks about this “myth of stone”. Located directly across the archaeological site of Mantinea, seems like conversing with it. In fact, it combines ancient architectural rhythms with Byzantine elements, like if it seeks to become a bridge between cultures.

Firstly, the consecration of the church to Agia Fotini (the name of the saint, Fotini, means light) reflects the relationship of Arcadia with light. It is known that Mount Lykaio means bright mountain and the same applies for the name of Lykaon, the founder of Arcadia. The same spirit of syncretism continuous on the frescoes of the church. The persons of the saints are depicted as ancient Greek philosophers. There are also some cultural references to the, abounded in Arcadia, temples of Isis.

The temple was inaugurated in 1972 and is already a part of the Arcadian myth. The overall aesthetic result is of great interest and even greater are the spiritual implications of this work. In the surrounding area, there is a memorial in honor of those who died in wars governed by the same logic, as well as the so-called well of Jacob, an elegant columned fountain of impressive construction.

