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Keystone Recreates the Byzantine Period in a Church Amphitheater

Although many buildings across the country have tried to reproduce the architectural style of the Byzantine Period, not many come as close to the true structural stylings of the 8th century as the Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church and Amphitheater in Marietta, GA. The Holy Transfiguration Leadership Team had the grand vision to construct a church and surrounding grounds that were reminiscent of the same building style, design, materials, and craftsmanship found in the ancient cities of Asia Minor (now Turkey). Keystone Country Manor was selected for its distinctive random-pattern look of hand-masoned stone, which fit perfectly with the church's theme.

"We were passionate about creating an authentic amphitheater structure reflective of the roots of Greek theater-in-the-round during its golden time," commented Alex Miltiades, Holy Transfiguration Church Construction Committee Chair.

It was imperative to the church leadership team that the materials selected for the 600-seat amphitheater also remain true to the Byzantine design and style of the church, without sacrificing structural integrity and necessary durability. This outdoor amphitheater was expected to withstand years of direct public contact, plus extreme weather conditions including heat, humidity, and acid rain. With these requirements in mind, the final product solution, meeting both the stringent aesthetic demands and the necessary performance, was a Keystone Country Manor retaining wall system.

Project contractor, ECM Modular Walls, Inc., out of Marietta GA, had used Keystone Country Manor in a number of other amphitheater applications and showed the church committee some local examples. "We instantly fell in love with the look and feel of Keystone Country Manor when we visited another local amphitheater that used the material," noted Miltiades. "Keystone Country Manor exudes the kind of style that you would think to find in the theaters of ancient Greece."

Mike Heer of the Keystone Group in Marietta, GA., helped supply the Keystone Country Manor product, and worked closely with ECM's installation crew. "I've worked with ECM's manager, Bill Johnson, on a number of Keystone Country Manor amphitheaters. Bill likes the product because it's easy to handle and installation is a snap due to the unique pin method that assures Keystone Country Manor unit alignment," notes Heer.

ECM's Bill Johnson adds that having three sides textured makes Keystone Country Manor different from a lot of other products on the market today. "It is an easy product to use in building corners, and its design makes it easy to

end a wall because you're not left with a non-textured unit side glaring at you. We've used it in a lot of projects and have always been extremely pleased with the installation and the outcome," Johnson concludes. Johnson also said he installs Keystone Country Manor in many amphitheater projects because his customers are impressed with its appearance and ultimate durability.

Whether for castle, cathedral, home, or commercial property, Keystone Country Manor provides an old-world charm and handcrafted appearance in any application. With the ultimate design flexibility it offers, Keystone Country Manor can build graceful curves, monumental corners, freestanding parapets, and more. For more information on Keystone Country Manor, along with the full line of Keystone products and services, please visit us on the web at www.keystonewalls.com.

