The structure is 35.64 metres wide and 33.4 metres deep; the front stairway alone is almost 20 metres wide.

The base is decorated with a frieze in high relief showing the battle between the Giants and the Olympian gods known as the Gigantomachy.

In a set of consecutive scenes, it depicts events from the life of Telephus, legendary founder of the city of Pergamon and son of the hero Heracles and Auge, one of Tegean king Aleus’s daughters.

Italian restorers reassembled the panels comprising the frieze from the thousands of fragments that had been recovered (in Berlin).

...an emerging power with the desire to demonstrate their importance to the outside world through the construction of imposing buildings (Attalids/political dimension).

No research is undisputed concerning this most famous artistic masterpiece of Pergamon, neither the builder nor the date nor the occasion nor the purpose of the construction. -- Wolfgang Radt (long-time director of excavation).

Excavated by the Germans: saved from the scavengers who were taking the marble to reuse or to melt down for the lime.

History is interesting: Christians took it over and no longer used it as intended, then arabs partially destroyed it during battles . . . then the Turks.

A Museum built to house it, then torn down and another built (finished in 1930’s) where it still can be seen (renovations to building, which started last year, should be completed by 2019).

Followed ionic order (capitals on top of the columns – and order of construction).

High relief friezes are Hellenistic.

The frieze is 113 meters long, which makes it the longest surviving frieze of Greek Antiquity after the Parthenon frieze.

Foundation can still be seen at Pergamon.

Fire altar: offerings of sacrificial (parts) of animals.
Great Altar of Zeus and Athena at Pergamon

Athena at Great Altar of Zeus and Athena at Pergamon

Laocoon and his sons