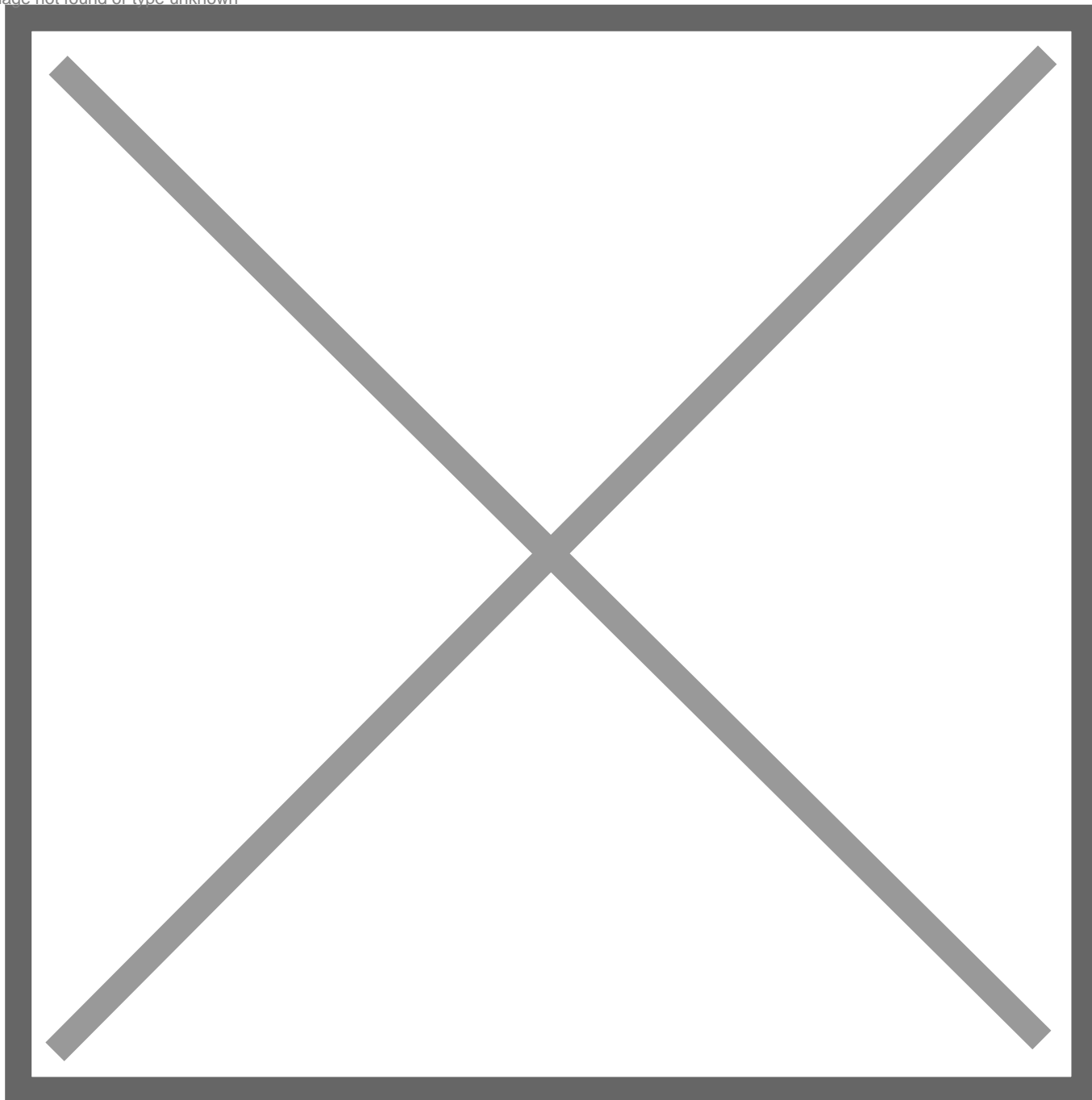


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## ?????????? ?????????? [Apostle Barnabas, Orthodox Church]

### Cyprus

Athalassas Ave.  
Nicosia 49RF+38 Strovolos

### Completion

1970

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## Original name

Apostolou Varnava and Agiou Makariou Church  
[Greek Orthodox Church of St. Barnabas the  
Apostle and St. Makarios]

## Original use

Religious/centre of worship

## Current use

Religious/centre of worship

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## Architects

Neoptolemos Michaelides

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## Concrete by reinforcement

Reinforced concrete

## Construction method

Cast-in-place concrete, in-situ concrete

## Architectural concrete

Architectural concrete

## Structural types

Two-dimensional/[cylindrical two-  
dimensional/barrel] vault, Two-dimensional/shell  
structure

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## Description

Neoptolemos Michaelides is the undisputed leading figure of 20th-century Cypriot architecture. A popular character both in Cyprus and in Greece, his work is characterized by a poetic simplicity, coupled with an honest structural expressiveness; he worked almost exclusively with concrete. This church brings together the best of his architecture. The simplicity of the forms is derived from a clear structural logic: a parabolic vault in exposed concrete – set using a very carefully constructed formwork – evokes both the archetypal forms of religious architecture and an emphatic modernity. The vault divides into arches as it comes into contact with the ground, generating two side naves that increase the width of the space.

The interior, which incorporates a careful treatment of natural light, has been disfigured by a series of subsequent interventions: today the vaults are completely covered with multicolored frescoes that prevent light from refracting. To compensate, the space was filled with large crystal chandeliers to provide artificial light, and the weightless appearance of the vaults has disappeared. These reforms drew energetic protests from the architectural community and the designer himself, but religious authorities did not respond.

On the outside, a series of concrete roofs, supported by pillars and arches, surround the building on both sides and on the front façade, acting as a narthex. The complex is rounded out with a stand-alone concrete bell tower in a truncated cone shape.

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## Links

Prostor magazine: Orthodox Church Architecture in the Northern Districts of Cyprus from the mid-19th Century to 1974. From Eclecticism to Neo-Byzantine