

2019-01-18 - Lecture 06

3.2 New Kingdom Egypt; Axial Temples and Colossal Statues

1) **New Kingdom Egypt — c. 1560 - 1070 BCE**

- A **new spatial awareness** which brought about several architectural inventions
- Great temples at Karnak, Luxor, and mortuary temples such as at Deir-el-Bahri

2) **Thutmose I — 1505 - 1493 BCE. Pharaoh**

- Found New Kingdom about 1500 BCE by driving out the **Hyksos People** who had ruled Egypt for 200 years. Hyksos People had come from Palestine, militaristic tribal nomads.
- Capital city **Thebes**, 400 miles upstream (south) of the delta.

Housing stock was impermanent so nothing remains. Brightly colored mud facades, active urban streets, palm frond balustrades, courtyards....

- Thebes and Thutmose put all their wealth and resources into the great **Temple of Amon-Ra at Karnak** on the east bank of the Nile. Amon was the local cult God of that spot and Ra was the Egyptian Sun God, so they were combined into **Amon-Ra** to create this major temple.
- Thutmose's architect **Ineny**
- Thutmose's daughter was **Hatshepsut — 1479 - 1458** who was the **High Priestess** of Karnak when the temple began to be built and modified. (A small cult temple was there first)

3) **Temple of Amon-Ra at Karnak - 1500-1200 BCE**

- Giant threshold openings were created called **pylons**, that led from one courtyard or hall to the next. Karnak has ten of them, added by different pharaohs. **Pylons IV and V** were begun by Thutmose I and were completed by Hatshepsut.
- **Thutmose II** succeeded **Thutmose I** but Thutmose I had married his son (Thutmose II) to his half sister Hatshepsut. Thutmose II's son Thutmose III then was the step-son of Hatshepsut.
- This is important to be clear, because **Hatshepsut became the queen (pharaoh)** after her husband's (he also was her half-brother) death in 1479 BCE. Hatshepsut was the first female ruler, a pharaoh, in history, promoting herself and propagandizing for herself, dressing and depicting herself as a man.
- Hatshepsut's architect was **Senemut** and the relationship may have been much more than just professional.
- Hatshepsut completed her father's pylons IV and V, and also installed two great obelisks. She also built two pylons heading to the Temple of Mut.
- **The axes of Karnak.** The first six pylons led from west to east connecting a series of courts and halls leading to the inner sanctum of Amon-Ra. At the innermost shrine, priests would pray for: benevolence of the rulers, glory of the armies, abundance of the Nile.

The cross axis of four pylons went from north to south toward the **Temple of Mut**, who was the wife of Amon.

- Another axis, divergent from that axis by just a few degrees, led to the **Temple of Luxor** 2 miles south, along a road lined with sphinxes.

- The pylons had a notch in the center or what was known as the **window of appearances**, or known as the *fastigium*, where the pharaoh would appear to the crowds. The pylons' strong architectural characteristic, its thickness, gave it its unique spatial quality.
 - The central passage through Karnak, through the six pylons going west-east, and passing through the hypostyle hall of **Seti I** and his son **Ramesses II** was symbolic of the Nile passing between its long passageway of cliffs abutting the river.
 - The 12 central passage columns were blossoming papyrus buds because they were next to the clerestory lighting slabs between roof levels. Each hypostyle hall (north and south) was made up of 61 columns with bud capitals (not blossomed because not in the light).
 - Besides the main **Temple of Amon-Ra at Karnak**, and the **Temple of Mut** (his wife), there was the Temple of Khonsu (their son).
- 3) **Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut** in *Deir-el-Bahri*
- A giant mortuary temple of terraces planted with myrrh trees as an **earthly paradise** directly across the river from Karnak on the western side. Small temple to Hathor, the mother Goddess. Second level marked by giant statues of **Hatshepsut dressed as a male pharaoh**. Sculptures at the bottom of the ramp of the **Horus, the falcon god**. Horus often depicted as wings and disks over the doorways, and as a falcon with a man's body.
- 4) **Thutmose III**
- Hatshepsut's step-son, 20 years after her death, **erases, eradicates, or destroys as many images or visages of her they can**. Only a few images of her escaped and came down through history. She often was carved as a sphinx, or as a male pharaoh.
- 5) **Temple of Luxor**
- **Two miles south of Karnak** along a boulevard lined with sphinxes
 - Begun by Hatshepsut // added to by **Amenhotep III** (Thutmose III's son) // added to by **Ramesses II**
 - See image for **Gate of Ramesses II at Luxor**
- 6) **The Renegade Pharaoh - Amenhotep IV - changed name to Ahkenaten**
- Changed the religion-cult of **Amon-Ra** to one of **monotheism**. Moved capital north and created his own city **Ahkentaten** ... Queen was **Nefertiti**
 - They attempted to live a less ego-maniacal rule - a more normal life...
 - His son **Tutankhamen** (commonly know as "King Tut" succeeded him and returned the capital to Thebes and returned the religion to the Temple of Karnak.
 - He was effectively erased from history, removed from the List of Kings, and his city razed.
- 7) **Ramesses II — 1279 - 1213 BCE**
- Continued the work at Karnak and at Luxor, making many gigantic statues of himself.