

Subject: History of Architecture - 1

Topic: Egyptian Architecture - 2

Presented by: Kavita Nagpal

## ANCIENT EMPIRE - Pre and early dynastic (5500 - 3050 BC)

### MAIN FEATURES:

- Different tribes evolved and hence cultures developed.
- **Naqada culture** had developed as a very strong civilization in the Nile Valley
- Made **high quality ceramics**, stone tools, and used copper.
- Manufactured societal **personal-use items**, such as combs, small statues, painted pottery, high quality decorative stone vases and **jewellery** made of gold, lapis lazuli and ivory
- Use of **written symbols** that eventually developed into a full system of **hieroglyphs** for writing the ancient Egyptian language

### ARCHITECTURE:

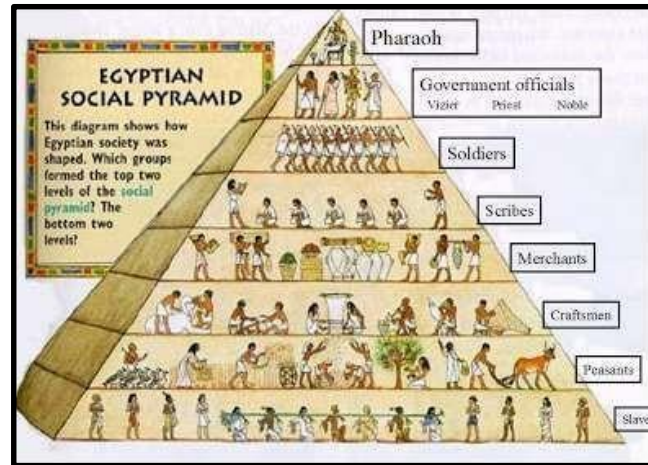
- Royal tombs of first dynasty
- Simple brick-lined rooms with wooden roof
- Foods, wines bearing official seal were kept for after life
- 3 chambers for family members.
- 9 other chambers for servants.



Plan of Royal Tomb at Abydos (3200 BC)

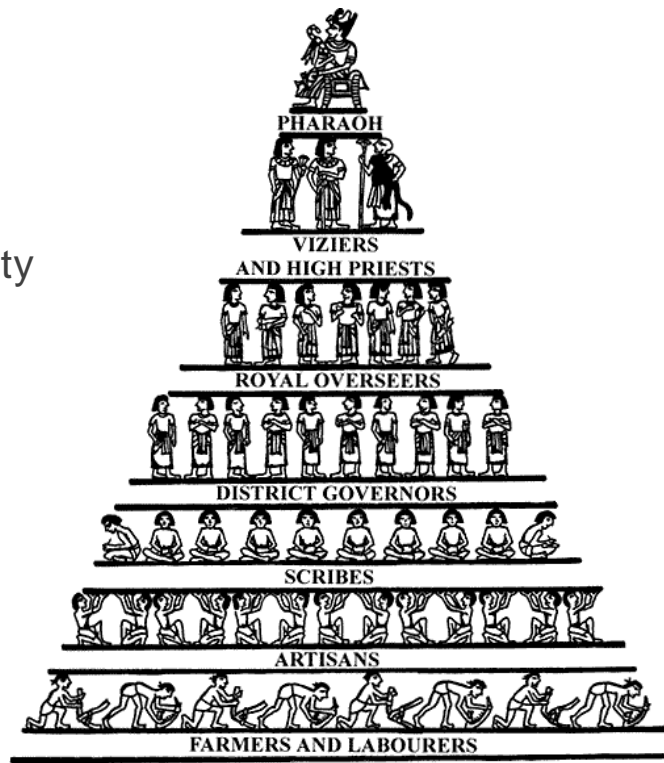
## Egyptian Society

- Bureaucrats were in charge of tracks of land on which poorer people or farmers lived.
- The bureaucrats were considerably richer than the peasants.
- Farmers were taxed by the bureaucrats.
- Peasants made up a large portion of the population.
- All foreigners were considered enemies.



# Social structure

Influenced the city planning & Architecture



## Egyptian Society

- The Nile River **flooded the fields every year** at the same time, **after harvesting season**, and when it receded, it left behind fine silt – Cultivation by farmers
- **Domesticated animals** were used to pull ploughs
- Crops like barley were planted because they would withstand the harsh sun.
- **Irrigation canals** were dug from the river to the fields as well
- Grain and other non-perishable **goods were stored** for drought
- Dikes were built on the sides of the Nile to protect villages and farmland from over-flooding
- **Papyrus plants** that grew on the coast were used to make sails, ropes, and paper
- They were also hunters and fishermen.
- **Specialized in crafts** such as tool-making, architecture, and trades.
- The Egyptians developed **stone tools**, and made bricks out of mud and clay
- The creation of the Pyramids, Sphinx, and other fantastic temples not only represented the amazing advances in technology and science made by the Egyptians, but art as well



# Culture

- People believed that life was made up of continuous cycles, like **the flooding of the river**
- Their religion was based on nature around them, and the **Pharaoh was their link to the gods**
- **Religion stressed preparing for the afterlife;** those who could afford it were wrapped in linens (called mummification) and buried in elaborately decorated sarcophaguses - tombs filled with their possessions and wealth.
- The Pharaohs were buried beneath the most elaborate archaeological tombs



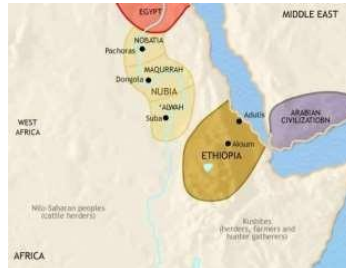
# Religio

n

- A close connection between religion and architecture.
- The **priesthood was powerful**, possessed of almost unlimited authority, and equipped with all the learning possible
- The religious rites were traditional, unchangeable and mysterious
- A very high degree of learning in **astronomy, mathematics, and philosophy**
- The remains of their literature have been preserved in the papyrus scrolls
- **Monotheistic in theory but polytheistic in practice**
- A multiplicity of gods was created by personifying natural phenomena, such as the sun, moon, and stars, as well as the creation
- Strong beliefs in an afterlife; hence preservation of the dead, and the building of everlasting monuments like the Pyramids

## Economy

- No real money
- Trading system based on grain and coins made of silver and copper.
- Trade routes were developed between neighbors like Aegean islands, Nubia and Canaan.
- Good timber was obtained from Lebanon.
- Minerals such as Obsidian and lapis lazuli were imported from Anatolia and Afghanistan.



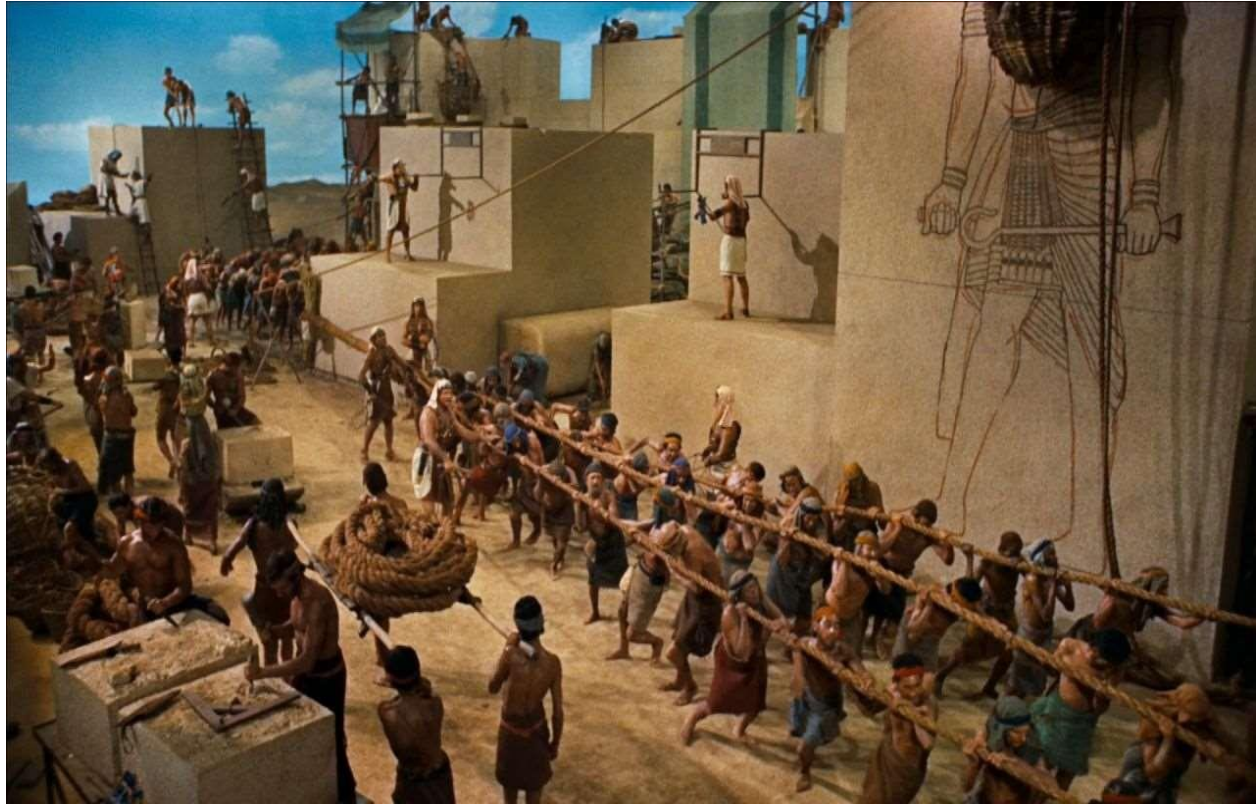


# EGYPTIAN TOWN PLANNING

The regularity and richness of the annual Nile River flood, coupled with semi-isolation provided by deserts to the east and west, allowed for the development of one of the world's great civilizations.

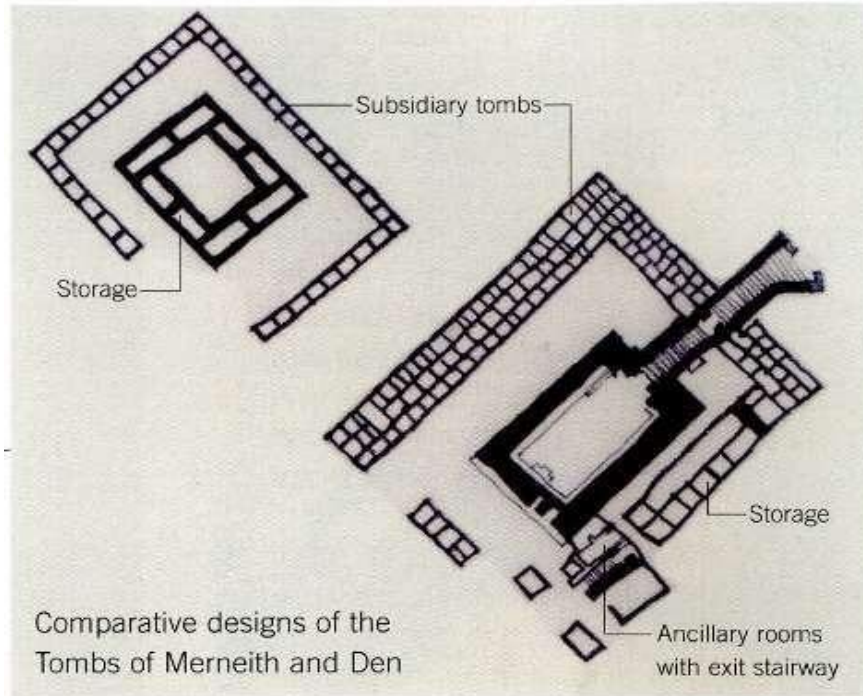
- SECURITY
- ECONOMICS
- ELEVATIONS, KEPT ABOVE THE SLOWLY RISING PLAINS.

- WHEN OLD HOUSES CRUMBLED, NEW ONES WERE BUILT ON TOP OF THE DEBRIS.
- Didn't continue to occupy the same site
- No economic necessity, to take advantage of the enormous economic capital investment of walls
  - Each successive Pharaoh had the freedom to spend his reigning life on earth preparing his tomb for after-life.
  - Less time to settle down in each place
  - Most permanent building materials were used in temple or tomb construction

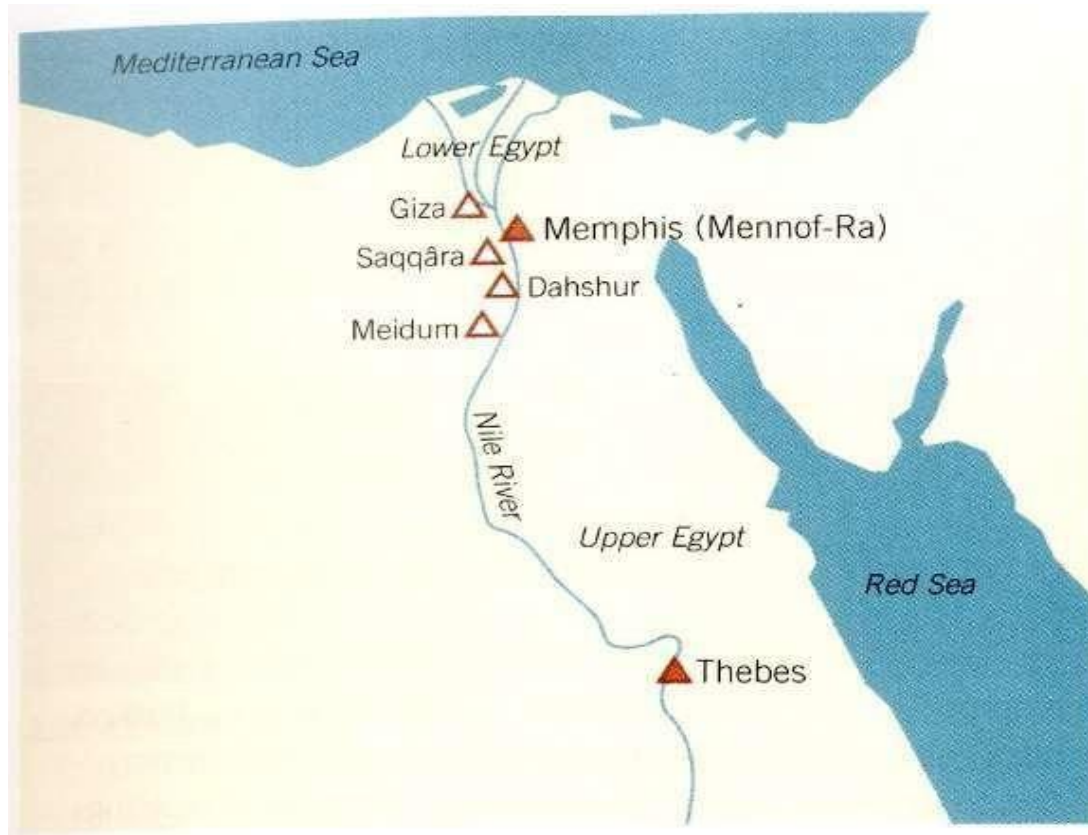


ANCIENT EMPIRE - Pre and early dynastic Egypt (5500 -3050 BC)

- Tombs consisted of a main chamber surrounded by storage rooms with provisions for a lavish life after death



The Old Kingdom (3050-2086 B.C.E)



Subject: History of Architecture

Topic: Egyptian Architecture

Presented by: Pankhuri Arya

# The Old Kingdom

(3050-2686 B.C.E)

## MAIN FEATURES:

- Capital city was at **Memphis**
- Large work force having a population of several millions
- Abundance of stones like red granite, white marble, black basalt and sand stone

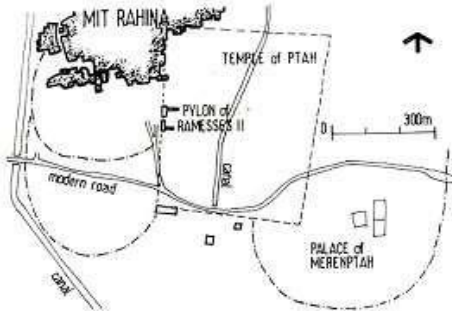
## ARCHITECTURE:

- 41 meters high Obelisk near Aswan
- Material used is Red Granite



# National capitals – Memphis and Thebes

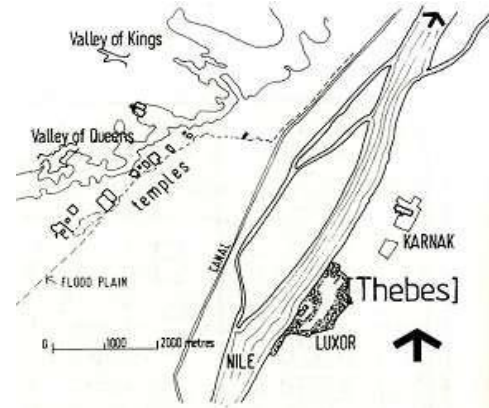
- National capital / administrative centres – most important towns
- Memphis – Capital of Northern Egypt
- Thebes – Capital of Southern Egypt



Memphis; located about 21 km south of the medieval Islamic nucleus of modern Cairo

On the fertile west bank of Nile

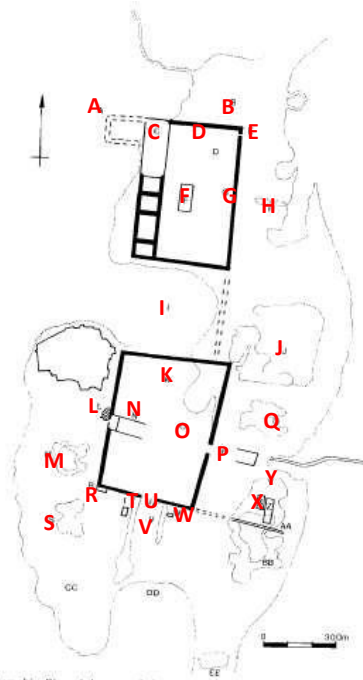
Numerous temples and palaces, and pyramid complex of Sakkara (step – pyramid of Djoser)



On east bank of Nile, houses Temple of Luxor, Temple complex at Karnak with the great temple of Amun (c.1991-785 BC)

Right across on west bank, was the Necropolis of Thebes – Tomb of Tutankhamun

# Memphis



24. Memphis. Plan of the central city area and principal monuments: A, extension to C; B, temple of Neith (?); C, palace of Apries; D, late enclosure; E, great gate; F, small temple; G, Kom el-Kelb; H, Kom dal Baby; I, lake of Ptah; J, Kom en Naby; K, Kom el-Khanzir; L, pond; M, Kom el-Fakry; N, west hall; O, temple of Ptah; P, Ptolemy IV approach; Q, Kom el-Abbayn; R, temple of Ramesses II; S, Kom er Rabya; T, Hathor temple; U, Colossus; V, Dromos; W, temple of Ramesses II; X, temple of Merneptah; Y, Kom el-Qal'a; Z, palace of Merneptah; AA, late wall; BB, Kom el-Qatama; CC, Siamen; DD, Temple of Apis (?); EE, Kom Helul. (Drawing by Helena Jaeschke.)

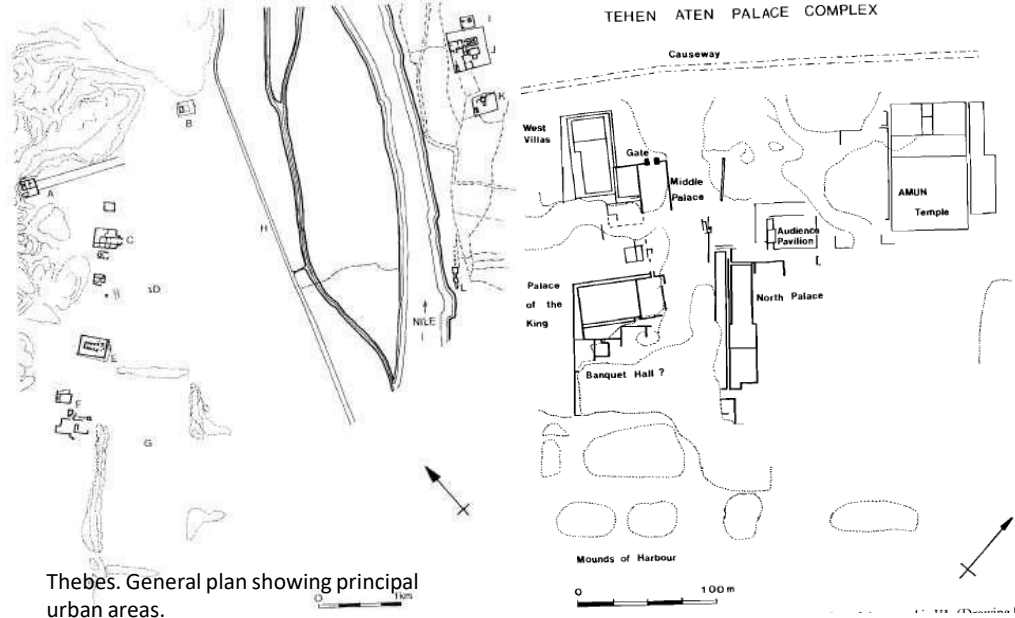
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25. Memphis. View of the site of the Ptah temple showing ruins of the great hall. (Photograph by Eric P. Uphill.)



# Thebes



Thebes. General plan showing principal urban areas.

26. Thebes. General plan showing principal urban areas on both sides of the river. West bank: A, Deir el-Bahri; B, Qurna temple; C, Ramesseum; D, colossi of Memnon; E, Medinet Habu; F, Tehen Aten complex; G, harbour; H, canal; East bank: I, Temple of Montu; J, Karnak; K, Temple of Amun; L, Luxor temple. (Drawing by Helena Jäschke.)

## The Old Kingdom - Architecture

### ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES:

- Tombs
- Temples
- Mortuary Complex
- *Mastabas and evolution of Pyramids from them*

### AVAILABLE BUILDING MATERIALS:

- Mud, reeds, palm trunks, bricks and stone, mainly Limestone (in northern region)
- Sandstone and granite was available in abundance in central and southern regions respectively.

A very distinct reminiscence of the primitive **reeds tied together** at intervals, and **crowned with the lotus bud**, is found in the later granite column and capital.



## Tombs during Middle Empire – Mastabas and Rock – Cut Tombs

- In the Middle Empire tombs were either of the Pyramidal form, as at Abydos, or were rock-cut, as in the vertical cliffs bounding the Nile valley.



# Mastaba

3100 BC

*Dwelling house – Mere temporary lodging ; Tomb – Permanent abode*

**Mummy – Embalmed corpse wrapped in linen bandages for burial**

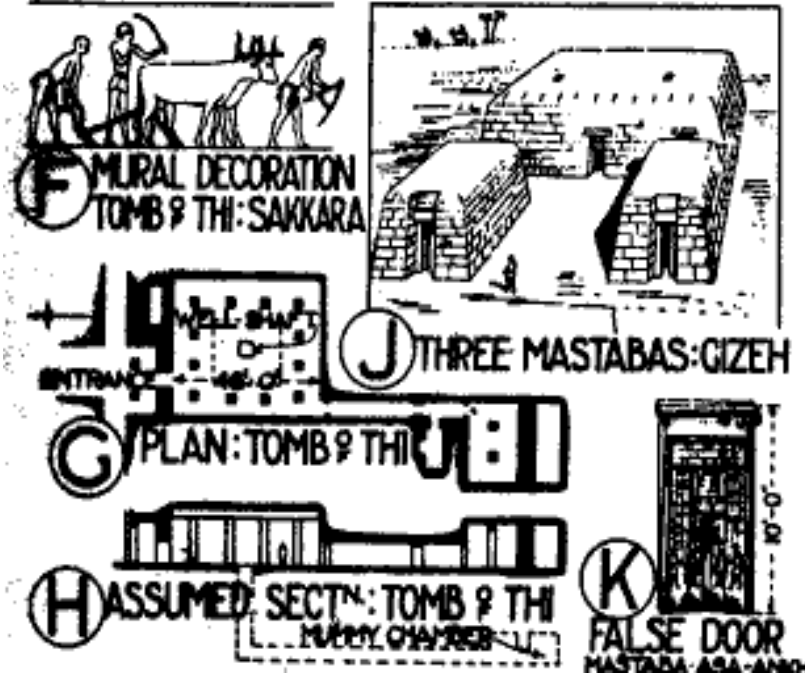
The 'Ka' was a spiritual double, born with every man and lived on after he died as long as it had a place to live. Hence tombs had a statue of Ka.



- Ancient form of Tombs – **Flat roofed rectangular structure with sloping sides**
- **Mastaba** – Arabic word for 'bench of mud'
- Probably derived from heaps of stones piled up over earlier mummy holes
- Design and decoration on the tombs
- Standard type of tombs for the Pharaohs and also the social elite
- Brickwork

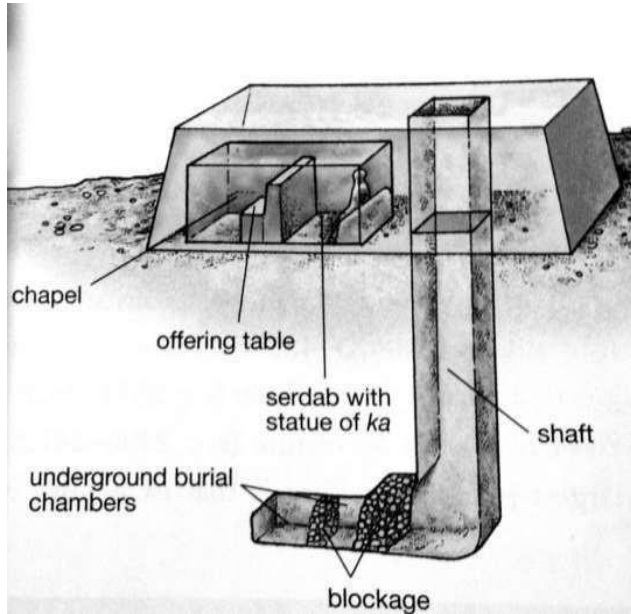


# : MASTABA TOMBS :

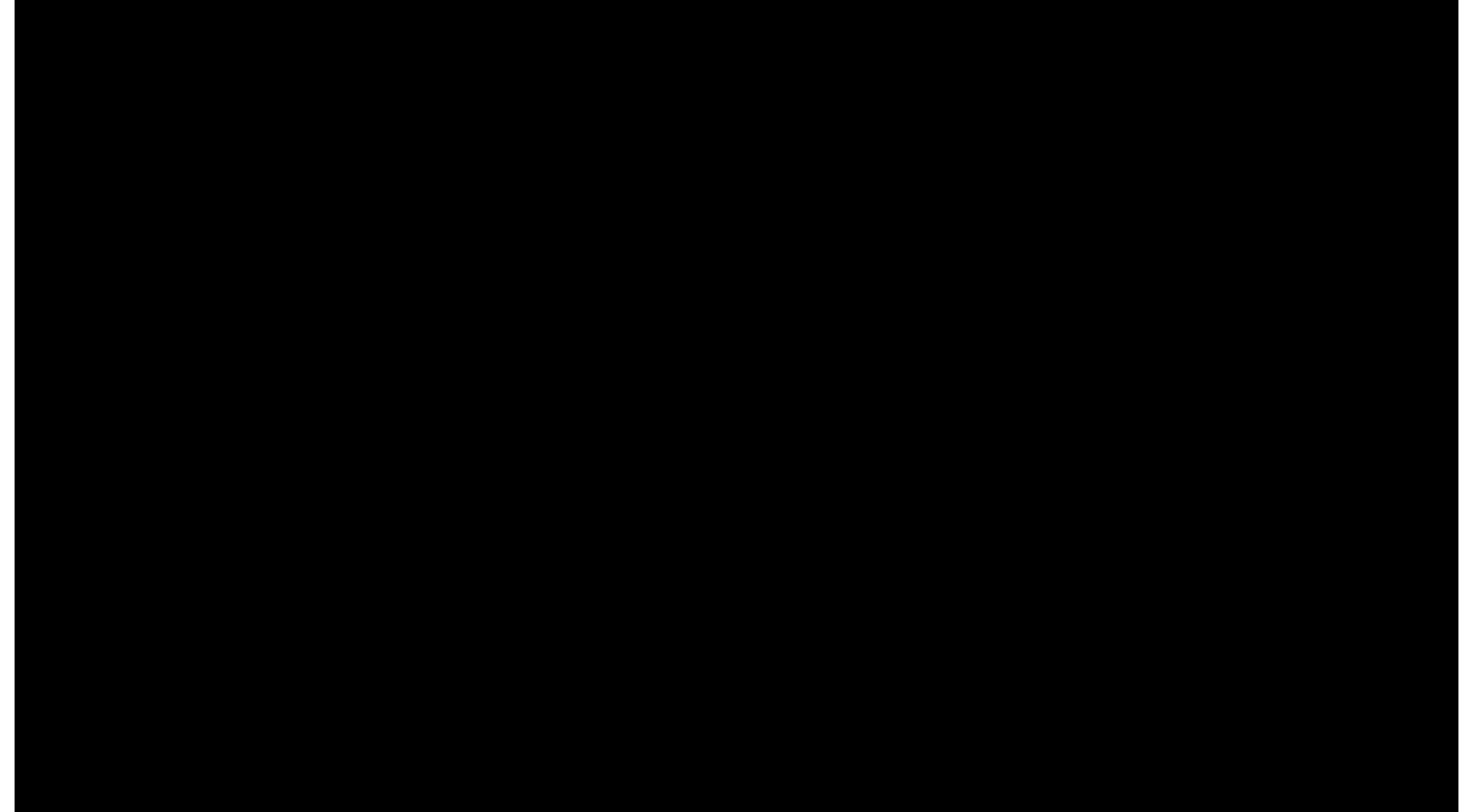


• At first priests & high ranking officials came to be buried in tombs that were known as mastabas. Most of them had many storage chambers for storing all types of goods needed in the next life. However, due to frequent thefts, an underground tomb known as the stairway mastaba came to be preferred. The picture above shows the early mastabas at Giza with false doors & other safety devices.

## Mastaba – Further evolution

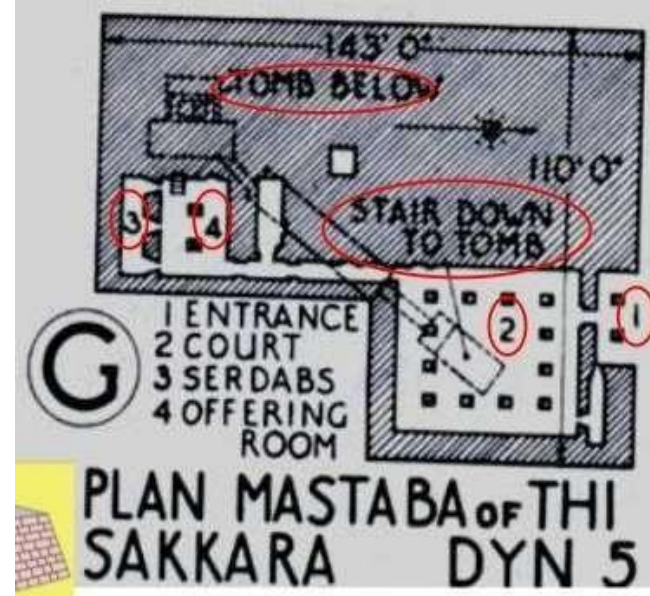


- These were rectangular structures, with sides sloping at an angle of 75 degrees, and having flat roofs
- They were divided into three parts:
  - I. **The outer chamber**, in which were placed the offerings to 'Ka', having its walls decorated with representations of festival and other scenes
  - II. **Inner secret chamber**, known as the 'serdab', containing statue of Ka and other items- grains, clothes, jewellery, etc
  - III. **A shaft of great depth**, leading to the chamber containing the sarcophagus with its mummy



## Example - Mastaba of Thy, Sakkara

- Well preserved and restored.
- **Thy** was a **royal architect and manager of pyramids** in 5<sup>th</sup> dynasty.
- It consists of a **small vestibule**, beyond which is a **large court** where offerings to the deceased took place, and from which a mummy **shaft** led through a passage to a **tomb chamber**
- The masonry of this tomb is carefully jointed and covered with flat reliefs.
- The **decorative reliefs** represent harvest operations, shipbuilding scenes, scenes representing the arts and crafts of the period, the slaughtering of sacrificial animals, and Thy himself sailing through the marshes in a boat with papyrus plants surrounding





- **Pharaoh Djoser** – capital city of Memphis
- Burial site changed from Abydos to Sakkara
- **Imhotep** – Architect, Astronomer, High Priest
- Low Mastabas were no longer considered to be worthy of Pharaohs
- Hence- Original Mastaba was covered with a stone super structure
- Expanded again into a 60 m high structure (6 steps)
- Complex consisted of courtyards and temples

