

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Look at Ancient Egyptian Architecture

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## Major Outline

- I. Early Development – Materials and Structures
- II. Temples
- III. Relation to Later Architecture

## Early Development

- Influencing Factors
  - Nile
  - Climate
  - Natural Materials
  - Social Conditions

## Early Development

- First Structure: The House
  - Types:
    - Pole and covering
    - Wattle and Thatch Hut
    - Mud House
    - Square House
  - Other Features

# Temples

- Egyptian Math and Geometry
  - Golden Section 8:5
  - Numerical System
  - No  $\pi$  and no  $\phi$

# Temples

- Imhotep and the III Dynasty
  - Capital established at Memphis
  - First great architect
  - Lead the “stone revolution”
  - First great monument: Step Pyramid

## Step Pyramid at Saqqara

- Oldest pyramid in the world
- Built for King Zoser
- Form is of stacked mastabas



## Temple of Deir el-Bahari

- Built for Queen Hatsheput
- Architect was Senenmut
- Traditional niche treatment
- Partially destroyed by Thutmose III



## Temple of Amon-Re, Karnak

- Largest columnar structure built
- Largest religious structure in the world
- Brought about by wealth of sun-worshippers
- Key points:
  - Size
  - Lack of unity



## Temple of Kom Ombo

- Ptolemaic
- Situated toward river
- Double temple for two separate rituals
- Shows a clear Graeco-Roman influence



## Relation to Later Architecture

- Egyptians were influenced by Greeks/Romans and vice-versa
- Common Forms:
  - Column
  - Post and Beam
  - Colonnade
  - Portico

## Some Examples

- Hall of Pillars – Caryatids
- Temple of Kom Ombo – post and beam, entablature
- Step Pyramid Temple – columns and capitals
- Dado
- Frieze Cornice