

Week 4a

Amarna Architecture

HPAH7022 - Religious Change and
Resilience: The case study of Amarna

Dr Katharina Zinn

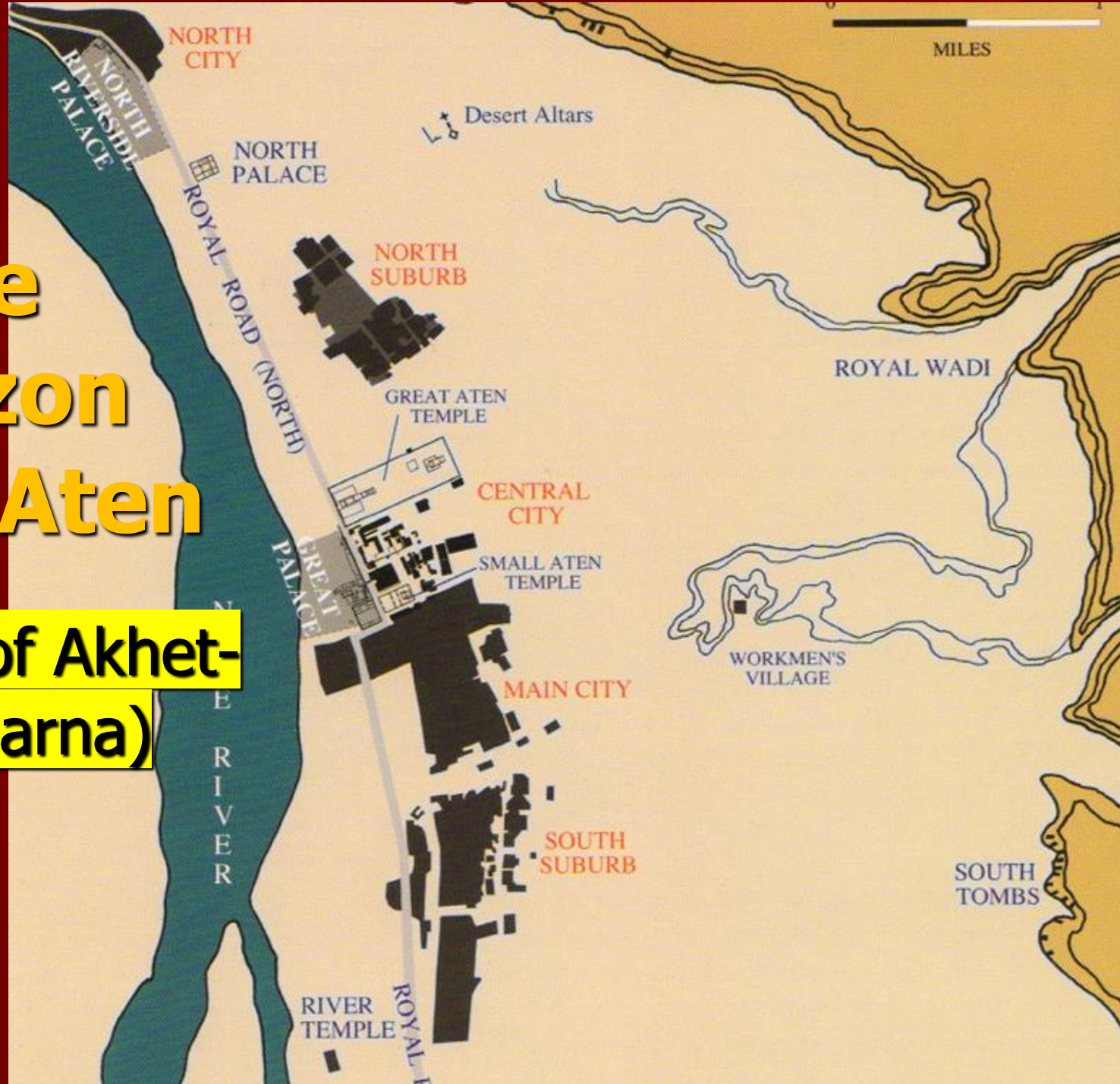
Associate Professor in Egyptian Archaeology
and Heritage

Amarna Architecture

Religious and Palatial Architecture in
Amarna

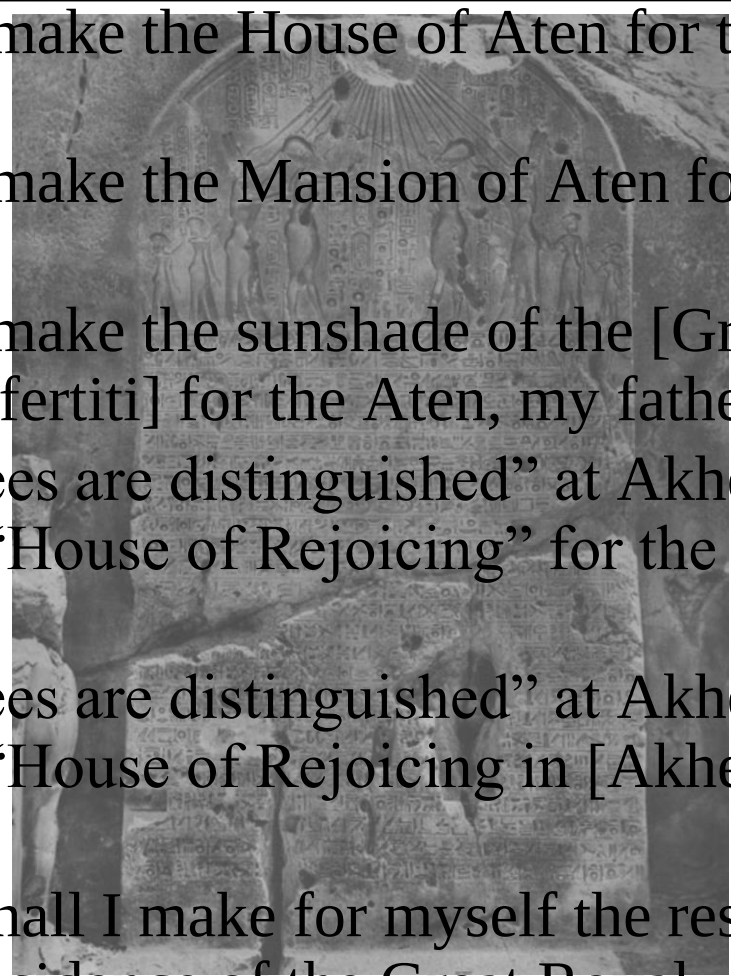
The Horizon of the Aten

- The city of Akhet-Aten (Amarna)



The Boundary Stela Proclamation

- At Akhet-Aten in this place shall I make the House of Aten for the Aten, my father.
- At Akhet-Aten in this place shall I make the Mansion of Aten for the Aten, my father.
- At Akhet-Aten in this place shall I make the sunshade of the [Great Royal] Consort [Nefernefruaten Nefertiti] for the Aten, my father.
- In the “Island of Aten, whose jubilees are distinguished” at Akhet-Aten in this place shall I make the “House of Rejoicing” for the Aten, my father.
- In the “Island of Aten, whose jubilees are distinguished” at Akhet-Aten in this place shall I make the “House of Rejoicing in [Akhet]-Aten” for the Aten, my father. [. . .]
- (And) at Akhet-Aten in this place shall I make for myself the residence of Pharaoh (and) I shall make the residence of the Great Royal Consort.



The Boundary Stela Proclamation

- ❑ Per-Aten (“House of the Aten”)
- ❑ Huwt-Aten (“Mansion of the Aten”)



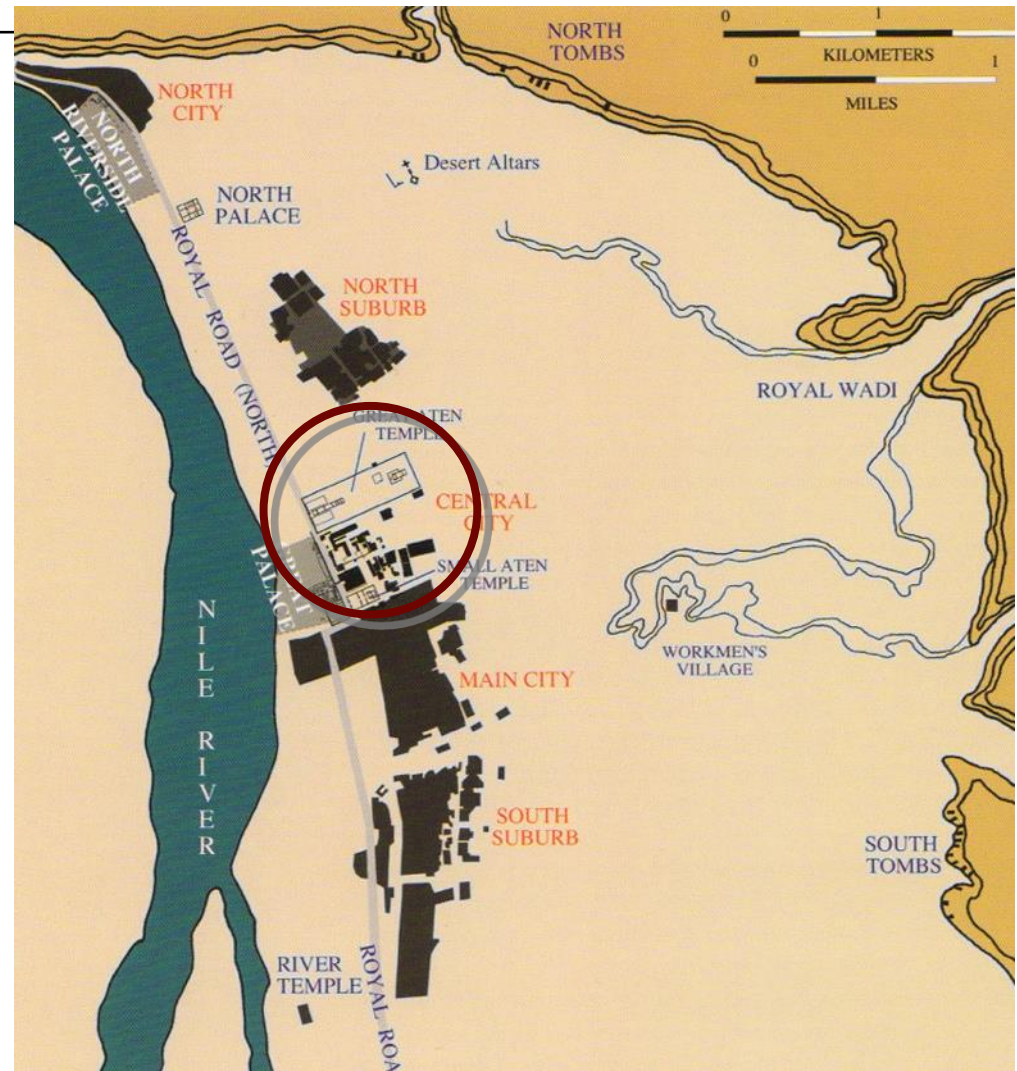
The Boundary Stela Proclamation

- Per-Aten (“House of the Aten”)
- Huwt-Aten (“Mansion of the Aten”)
- “Sunshade” of the Great Royal Consort, Neferneferuaten Nefertiti



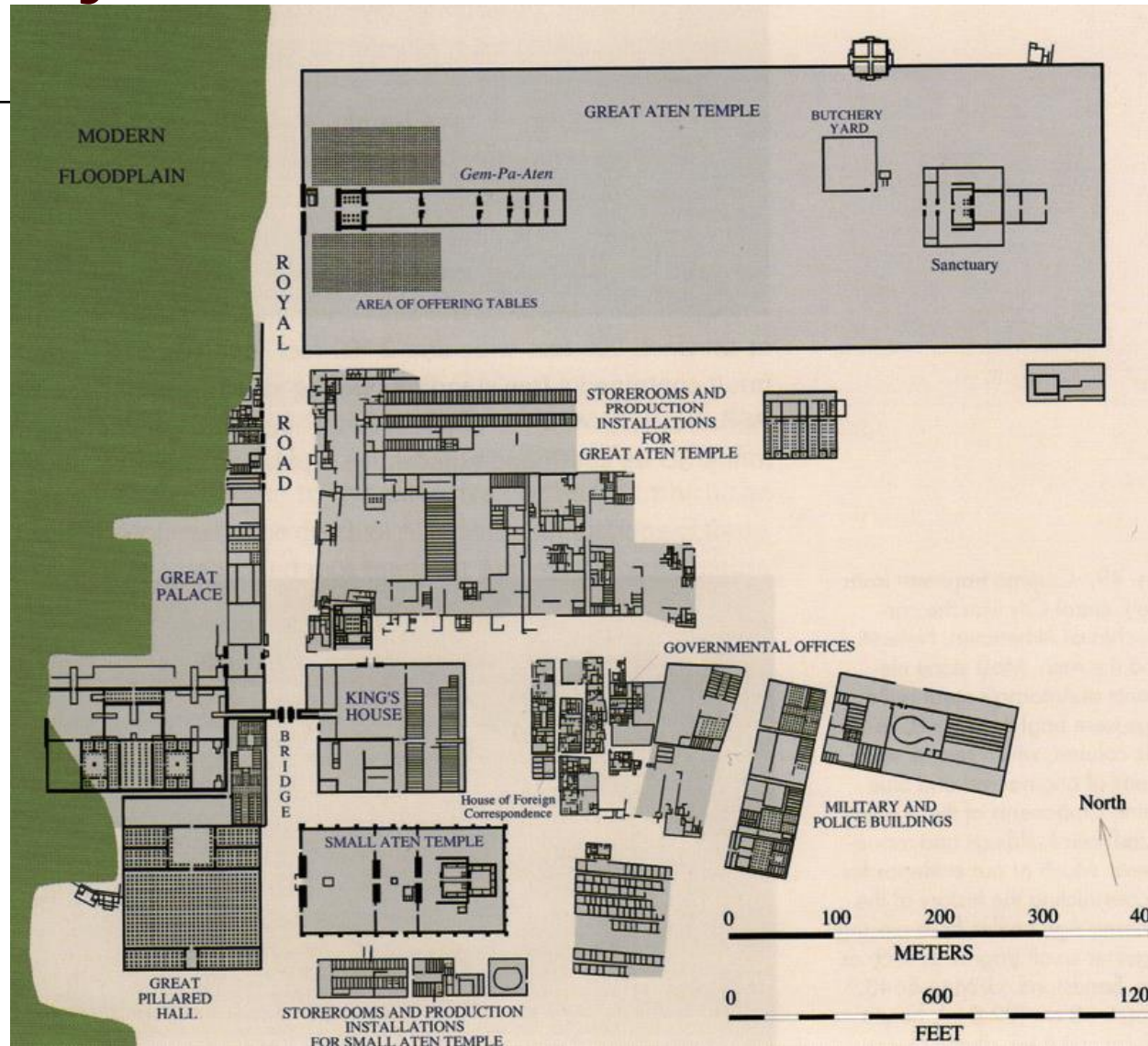
The Boundary Stela Proclamation

- Island of the Aten: Central City?



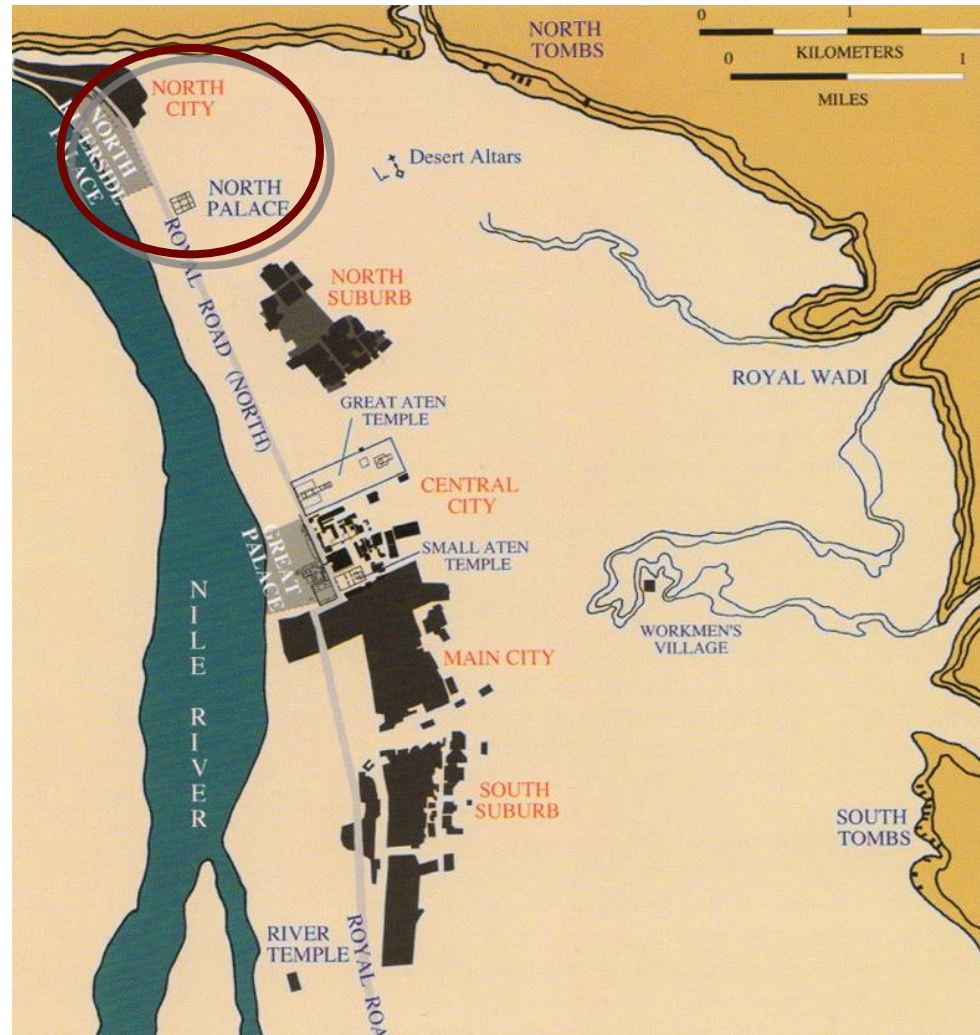
The Boundary Stela Proclamation

- ❑ Island of the Aten: Central City?
- ❑ House of Rejoicing in Akhet-Aten: Great Palace?
- ❑ Residence of the King



The Boundary Stela Proclamation

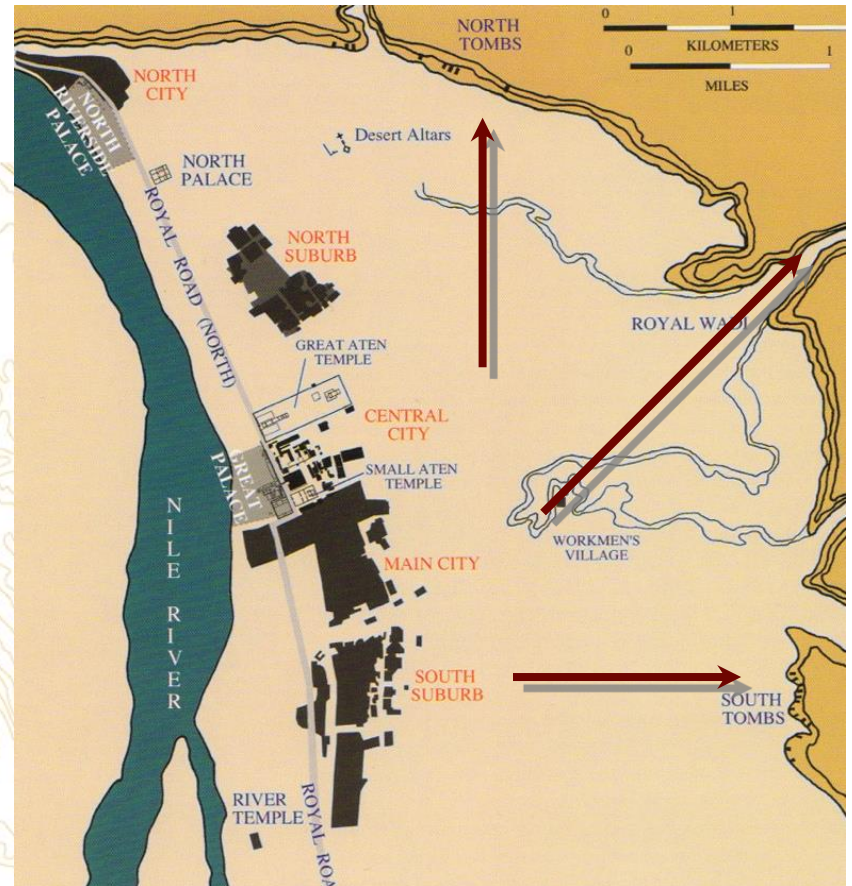
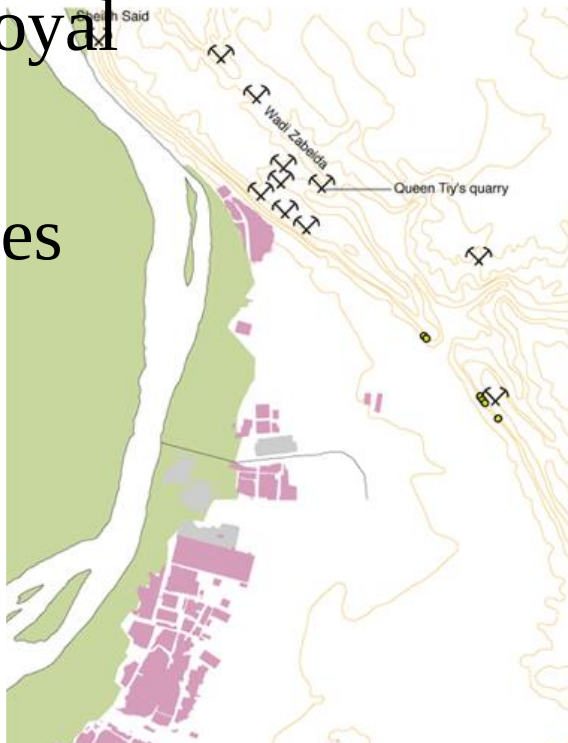
- ❑ Island of the Aten: Central City?
- ❑ House of Rejoicing in Akhet-Aten: Great Palace?
- ❑ Residence of the King
- ❑ Residence of the Great Royal Consort: Located in the north City?



The Zones of Akhet-Aten

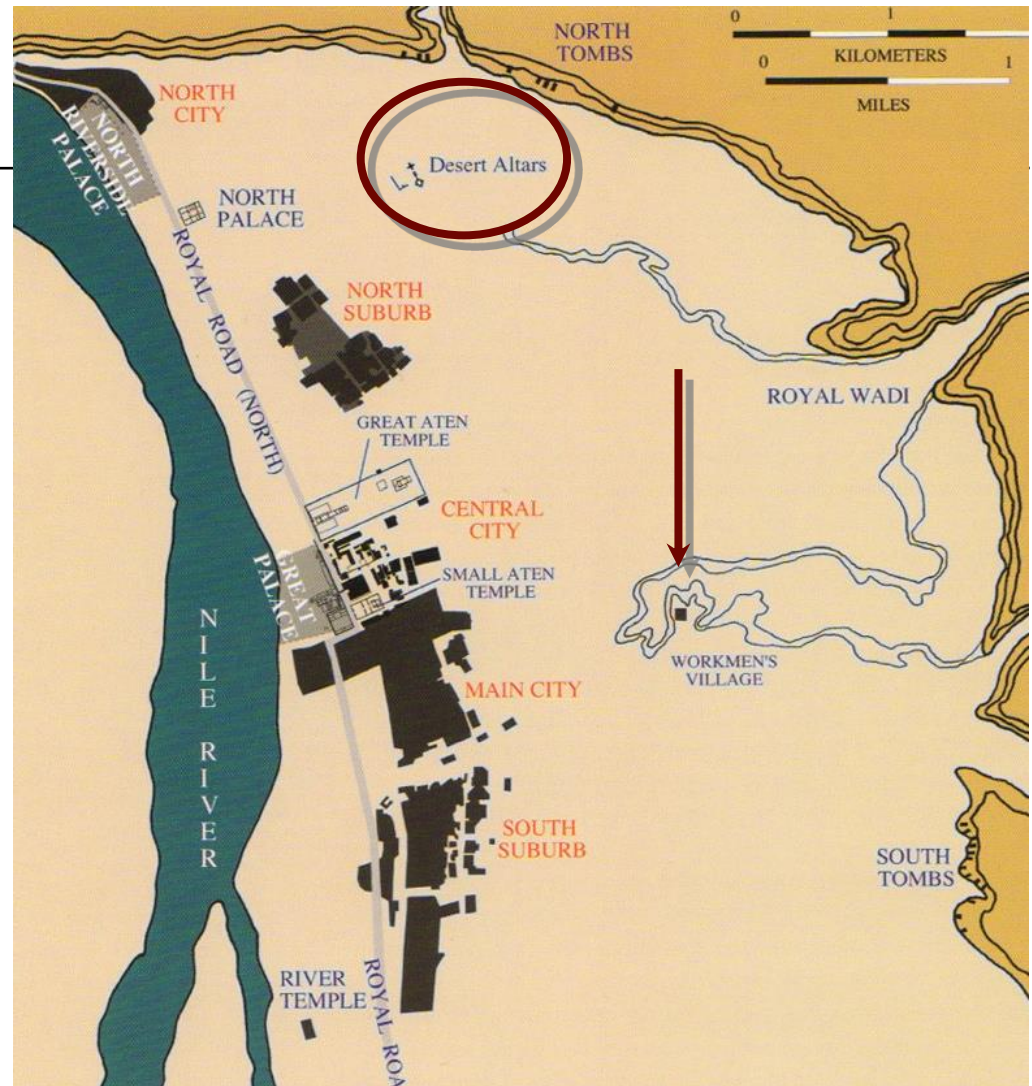
Mountainous zone

- Northern and Southern Tombs
- The Royal Tomb
- Quarries



Desert zone

- ☐ Desert altars
- ☐ Workmen's village
- ☐ “Stone village”



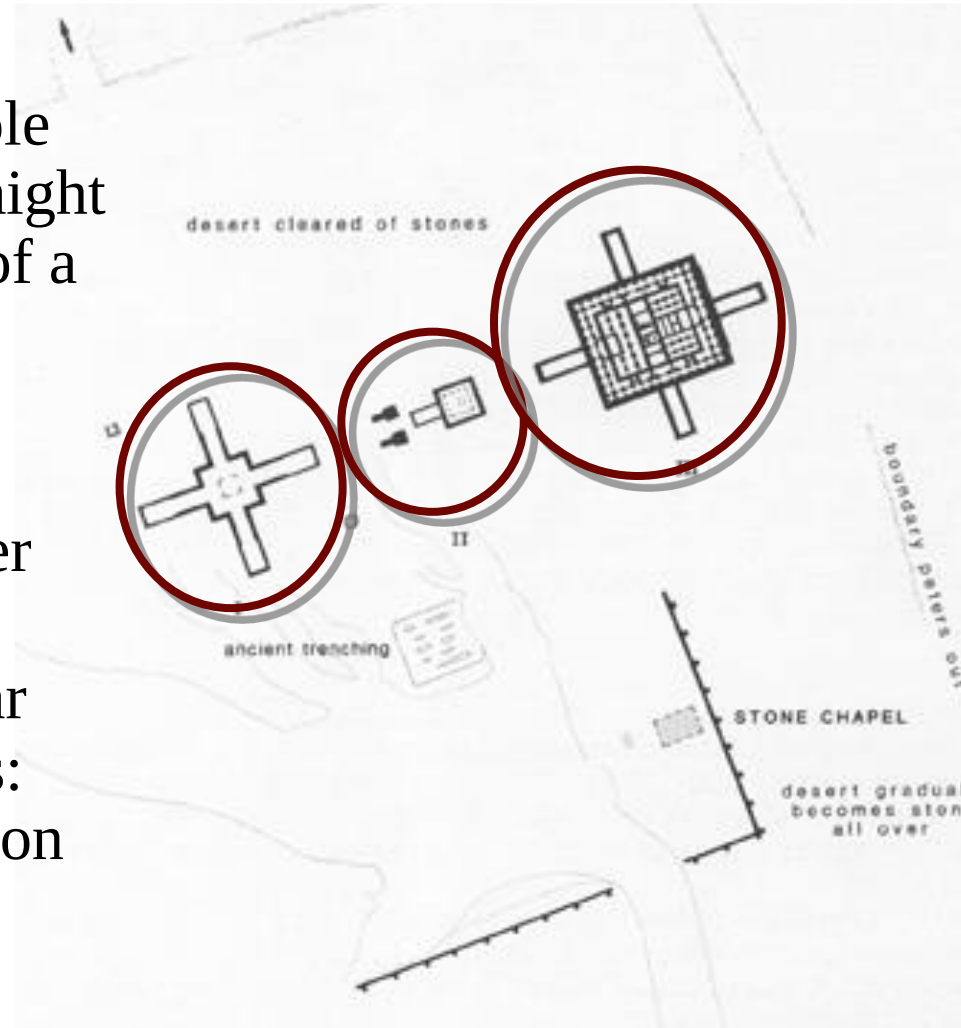
Desert altars



- ❑ Series of mudbrick constructions located to the south of the North Tombs
- ❑ Aligned along the road leading to the tombs

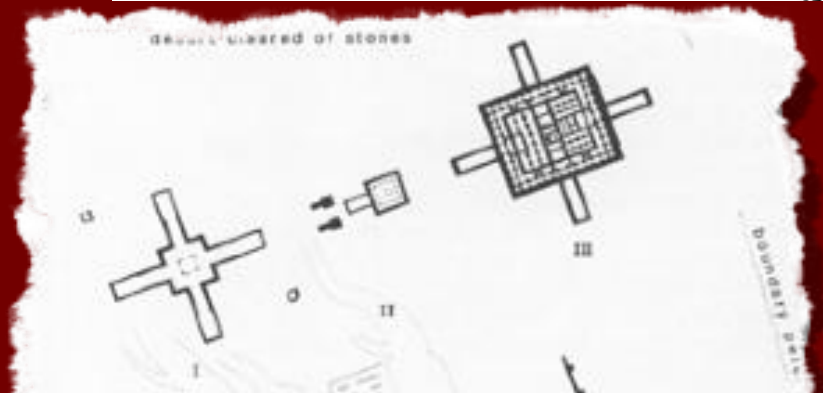
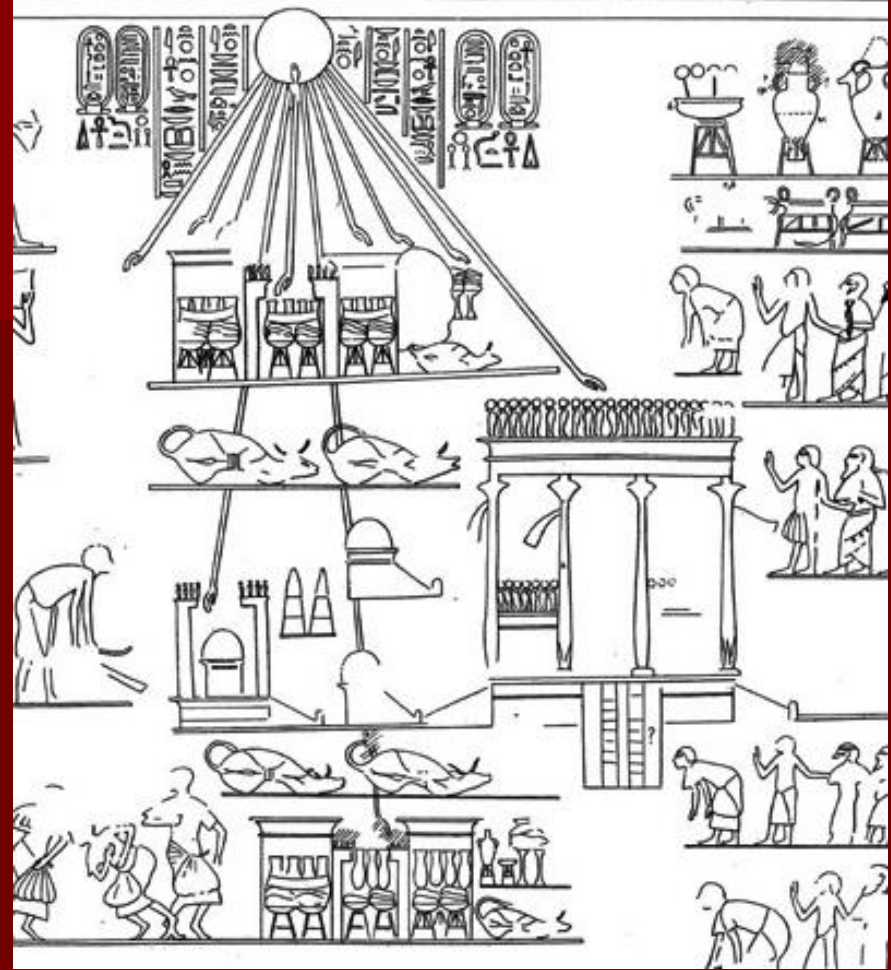
Structures: original intention unclear

- ❑ Structure 1: Square platform with ramp on all sides: deep hole in the middle of the platform might point to the original existence of a standing stone
- ❑ Structure 2: Group of 3 platforms accessed by ramps: Largest rebuilt in stone at a later period
- ❑ Structure 3: Large rectangular platform with ramp on all sides: several columned rooms stood on top, surrounded by an open colonnade



Purpose of the desert altars

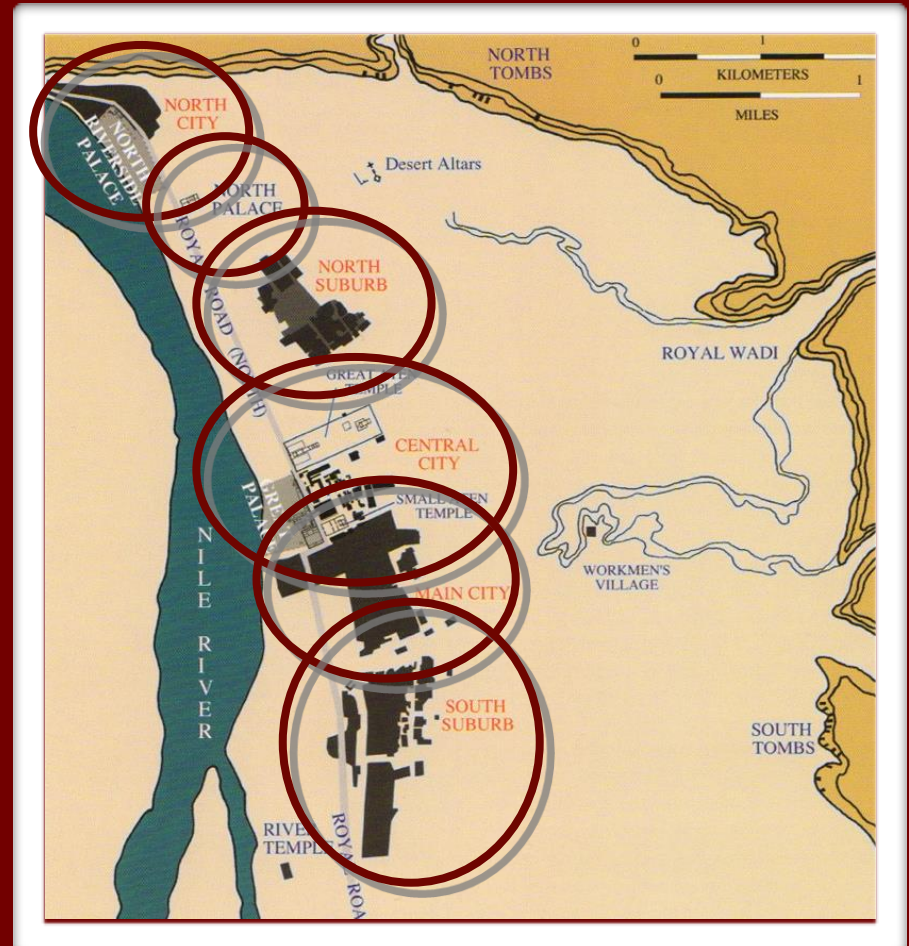
- “sunshades” (solar temples?) of royal women?
- Location of the regnal Year 12 reception of foreign tribute (“durbar”)?
- Desert watch post?



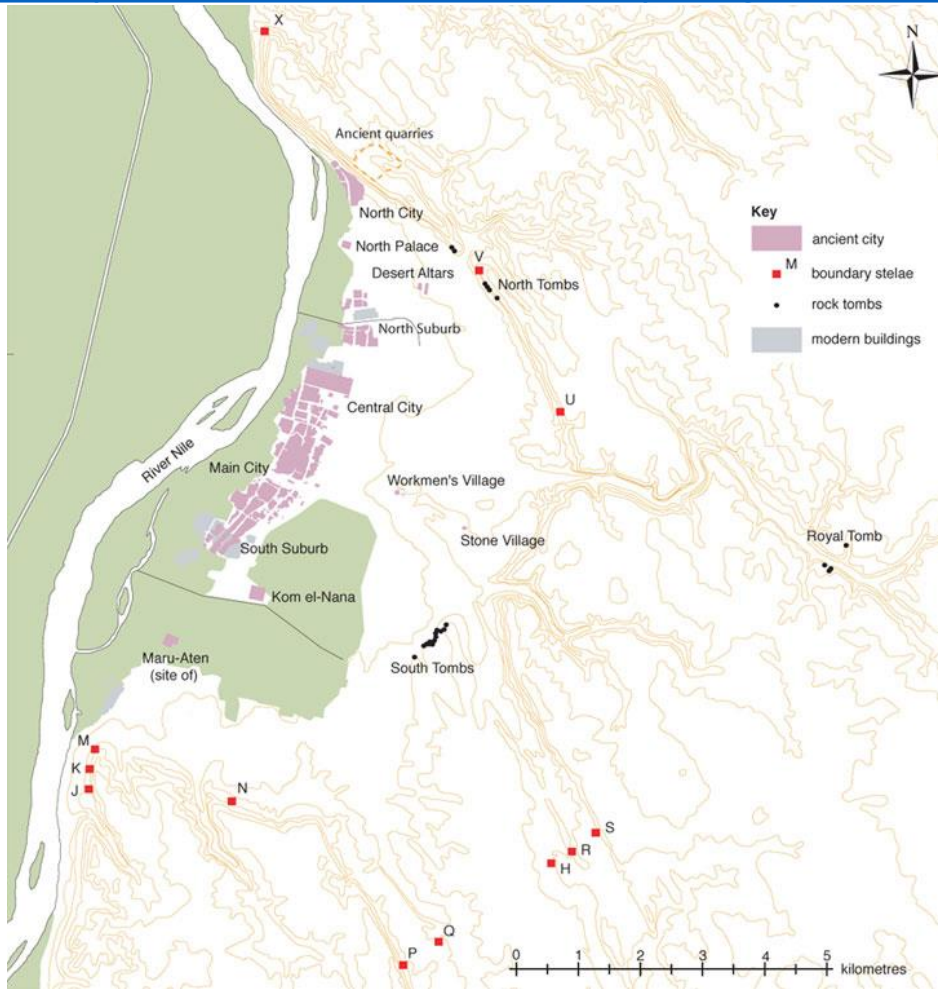
The Urban Zone

Urban zone

- North city
- North Palace
- North suburb
- Central city: temple, palatial, and administrative district
- Main city: urban housing
- South suburb

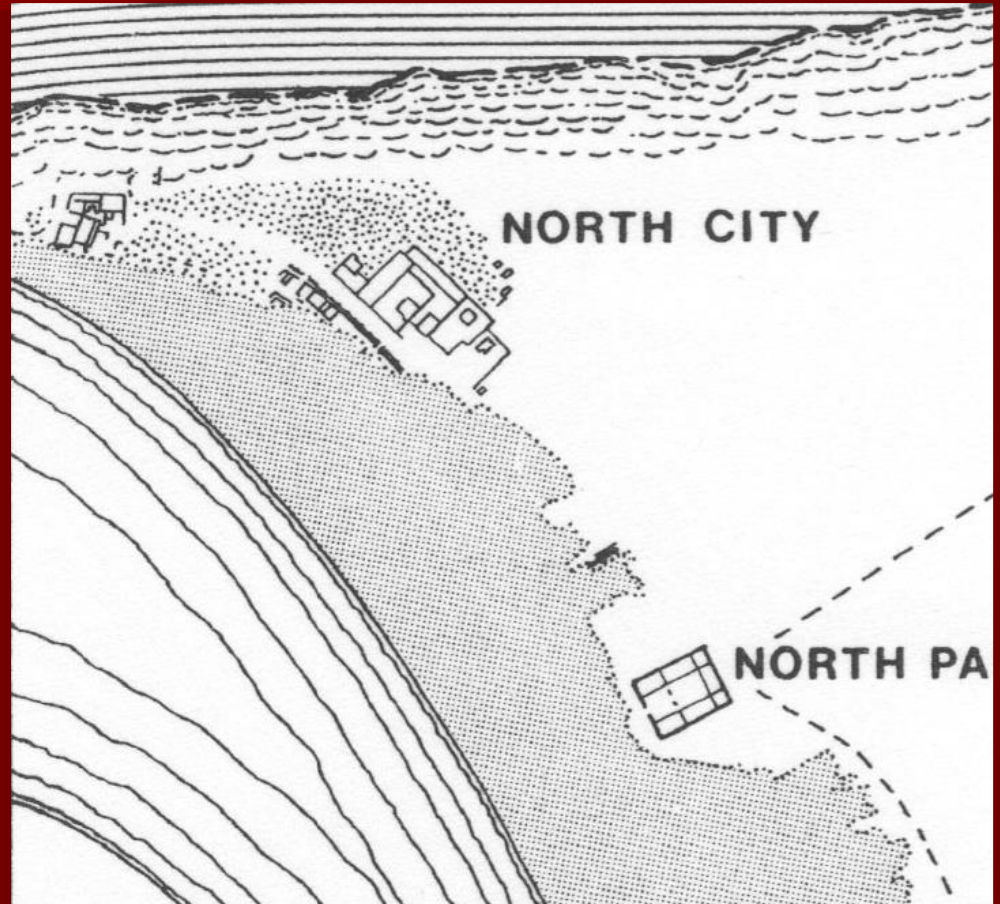


<http://www.amarnaproject.com>

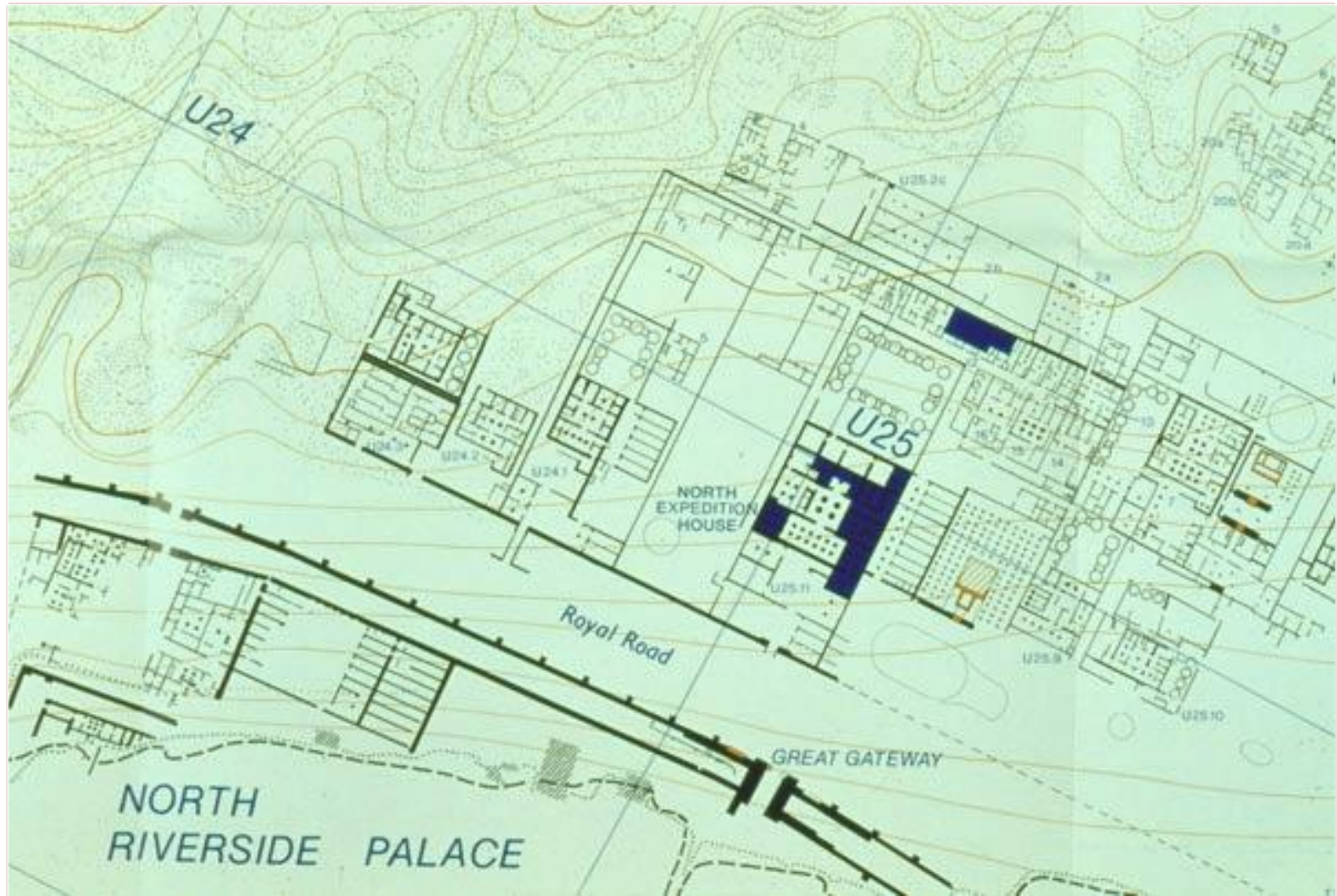


North city

- Self-contained zone on north perimeter of Amarna
- approx. 800 x 250 meters
- follows the Royal Road



North city



North Riverside Palace

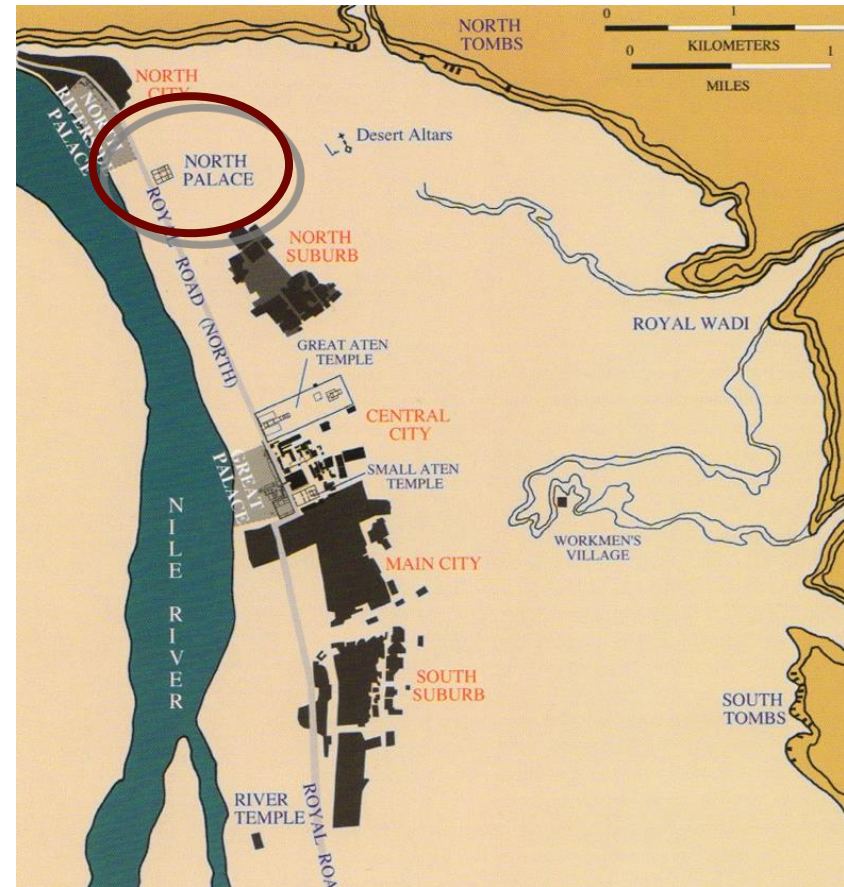
(North City)

- mostly lost; change of Nile's course
- principle royal residence (Kemp)
- Lushly decorated with painted plaster
- massive mudbrick, casemate wall
- Great Ramp: possible bridge over the Royal Road



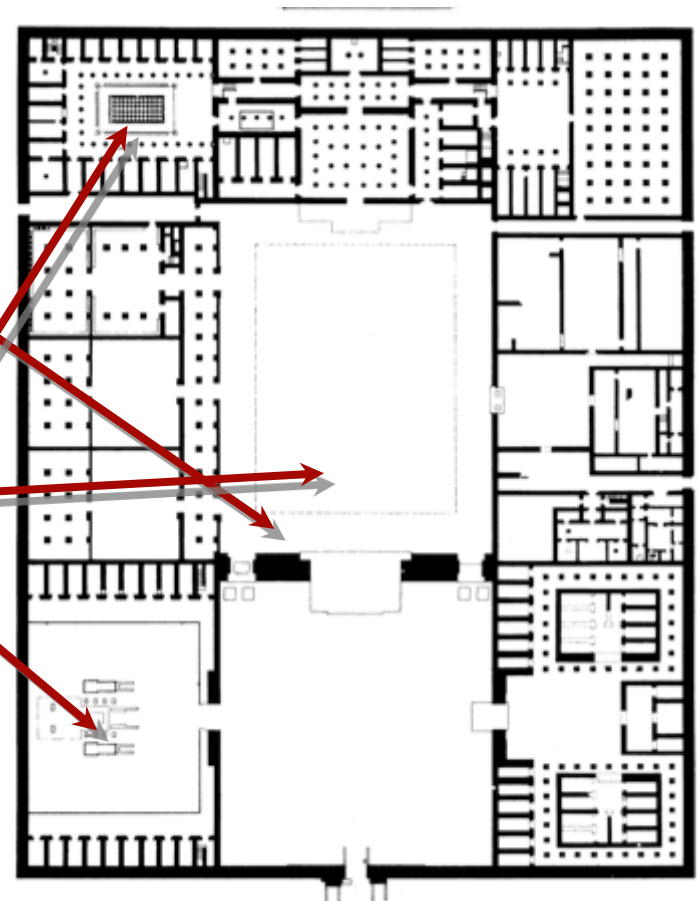
The North Palace

- ❑ Isolated structure (112 x 142 meters) between the North City and the North Suburb
- ❑ Perpendicular to the Royal Road
- ❑ Originally the residence Kiya, but later that of Meritaten

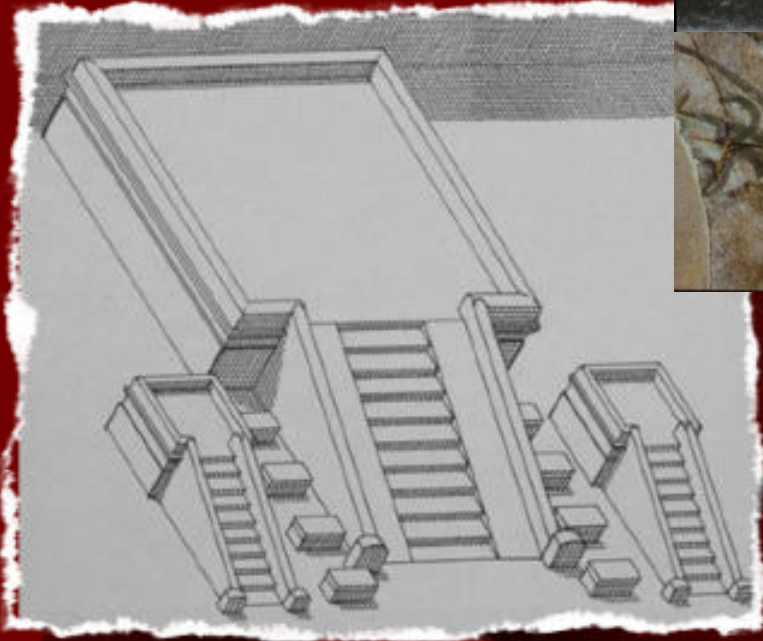


The North Palace

- ❑ Two courtyards divided by a Pylon gateway
- ❑ Three solar altars
- ❑ 8 meter deep well in 2nd court
- ❑ Well fed water to the sunken garden to the northwest via a conduit



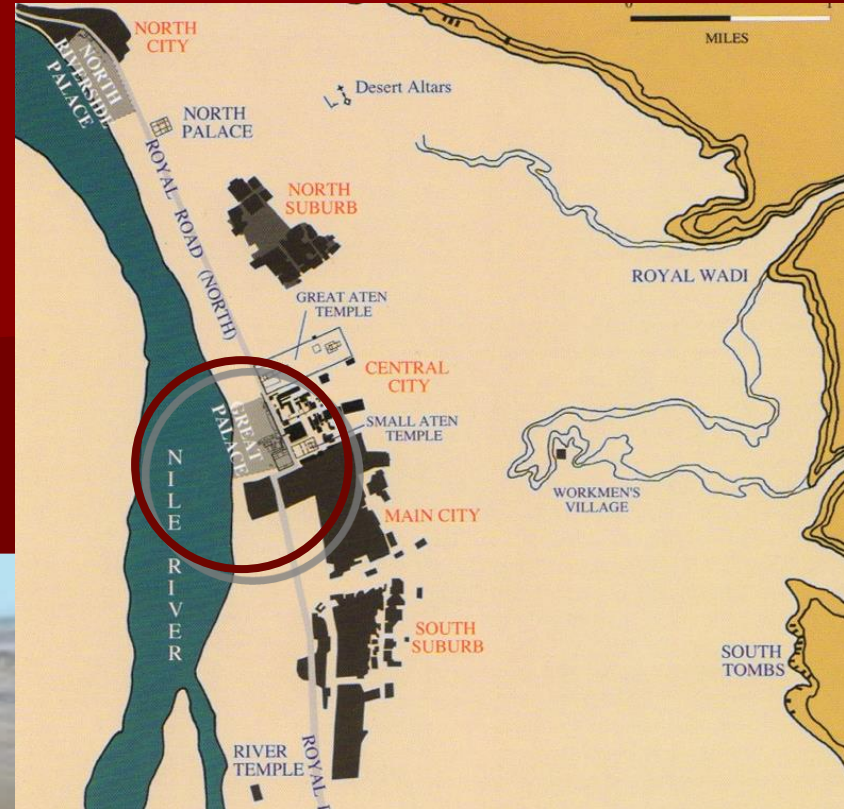
The North Palace



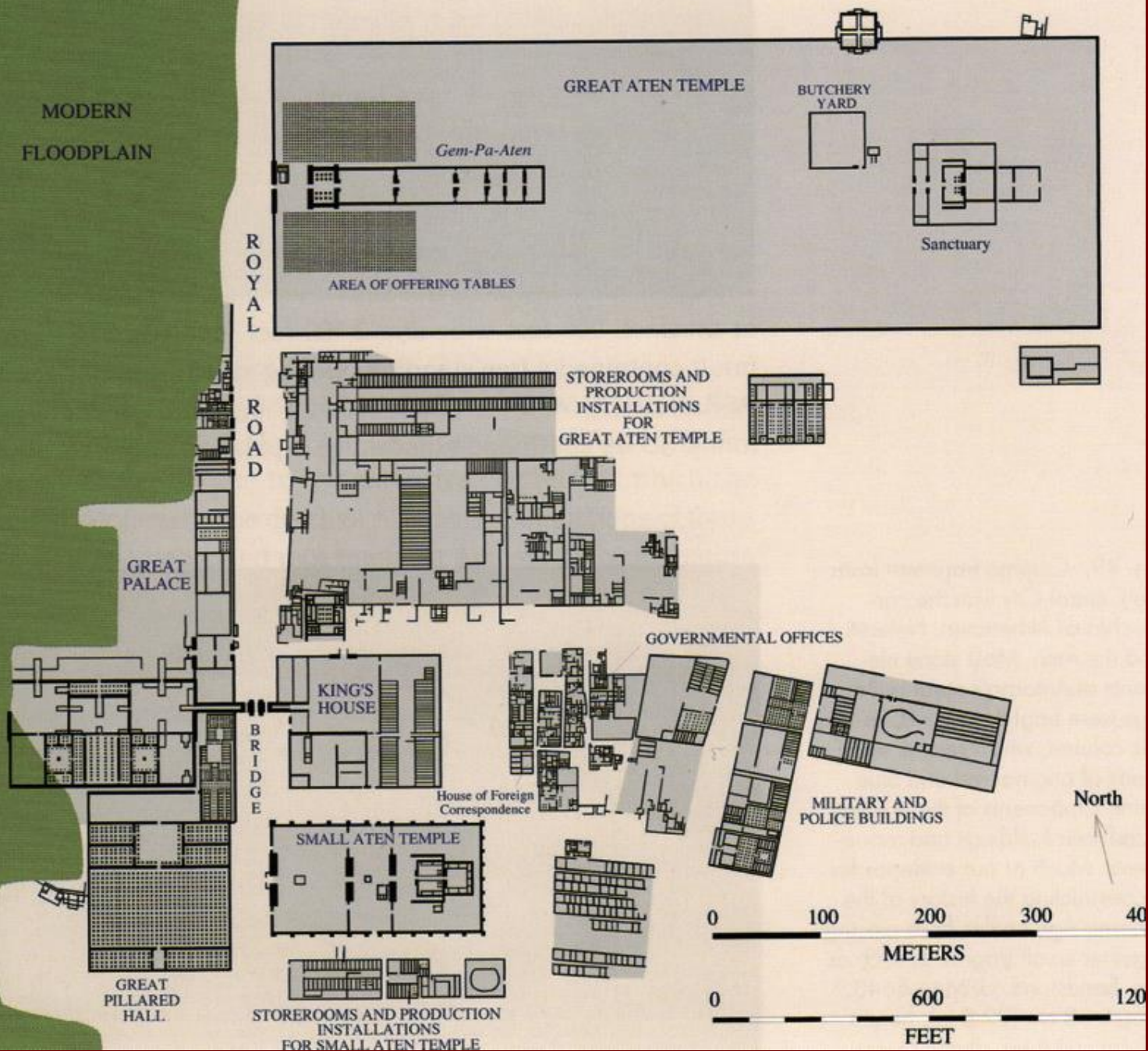
The Central city

The Central City

- location of the two central temples of Aten, the king's house, the Great palace
- Major buildings aligned to the Royal Road
- most buildings made of mudbrick with stone façades (now gone)

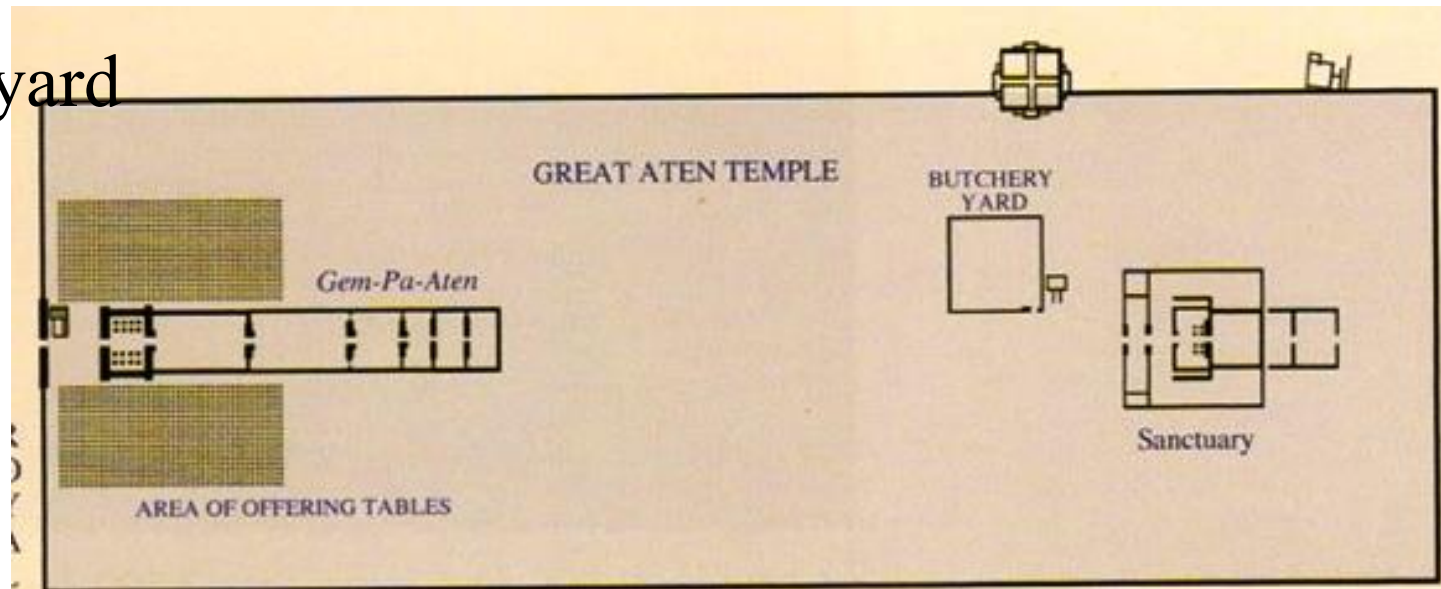
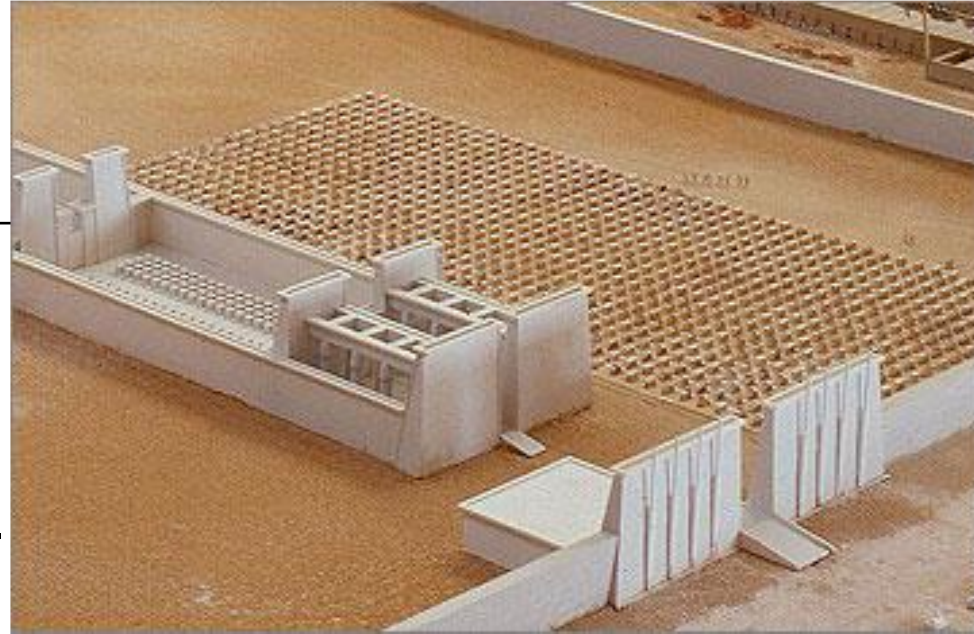


MODERN
FLOODPLAIN



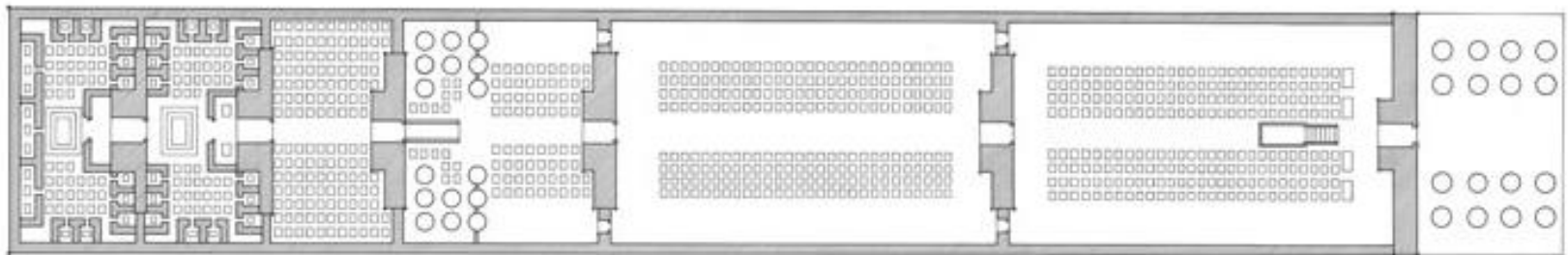
Great Temple of the Aten

- Temenos wall enclosing 800 x 300 meters
- Pylon
- The “Long Temple” (Gem-pa-Aten?)
- Sanctuary
- Butchers’ yard

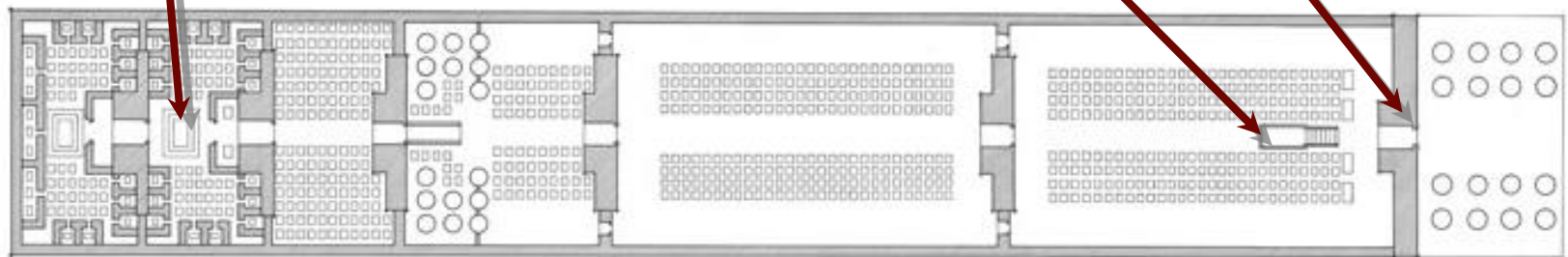
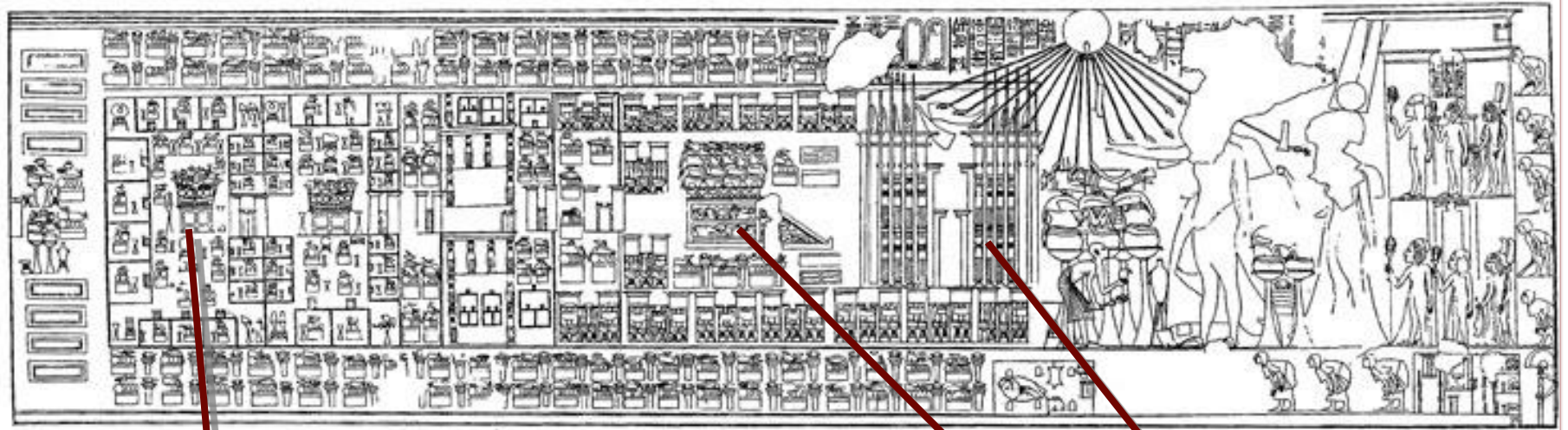


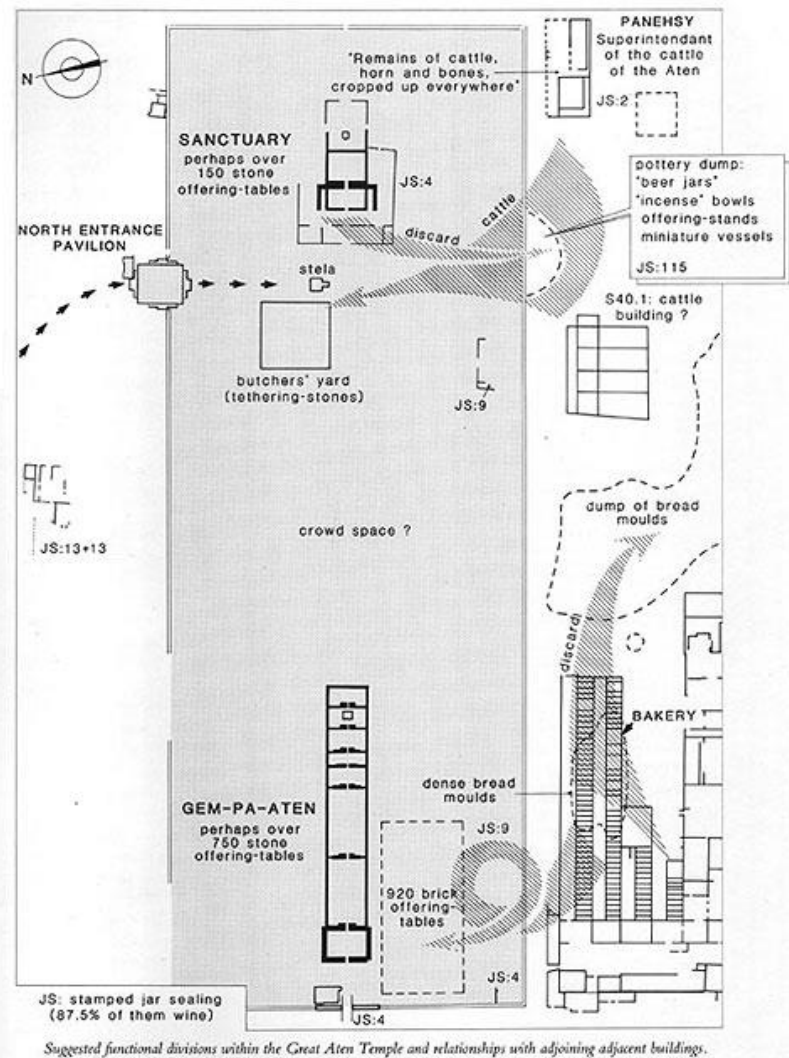
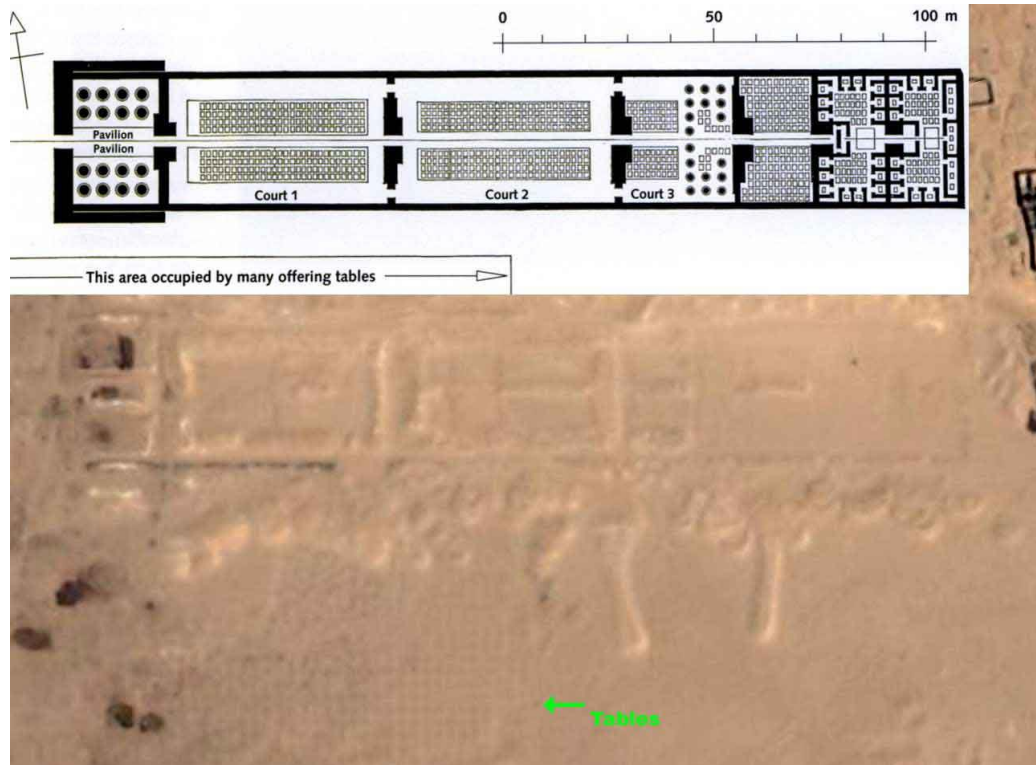
The “Long Temple” (within the Great Aten temple)

- 190 x 33 meters
- Pylon followed by 6 open court yards, each fronted by a pylon
- total of ≈ 790 offering tables
- thought to be the “gem-pa-aten”

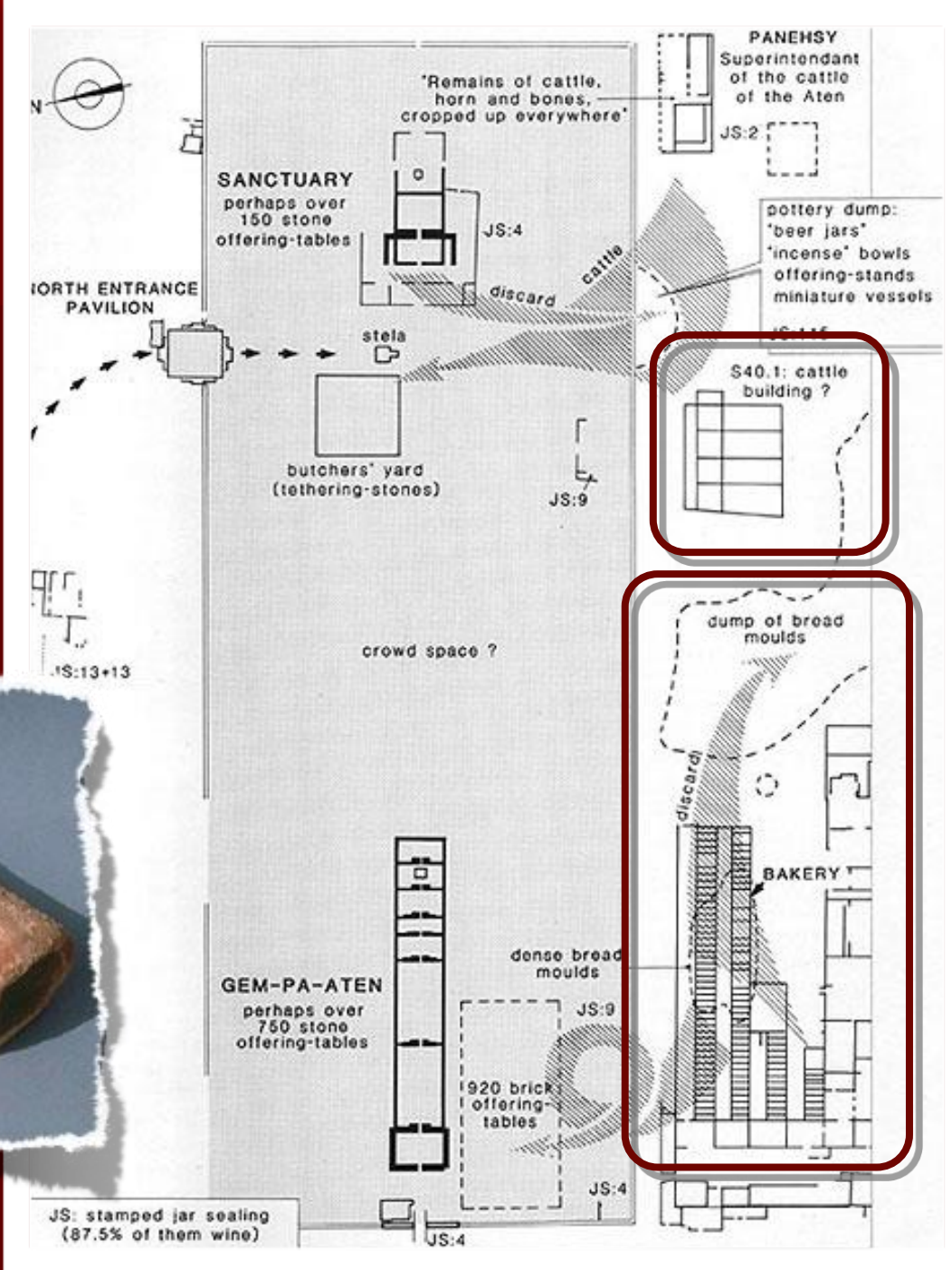


The “Long Temple”





- bakery and bread mold dump
- Cattle stalls



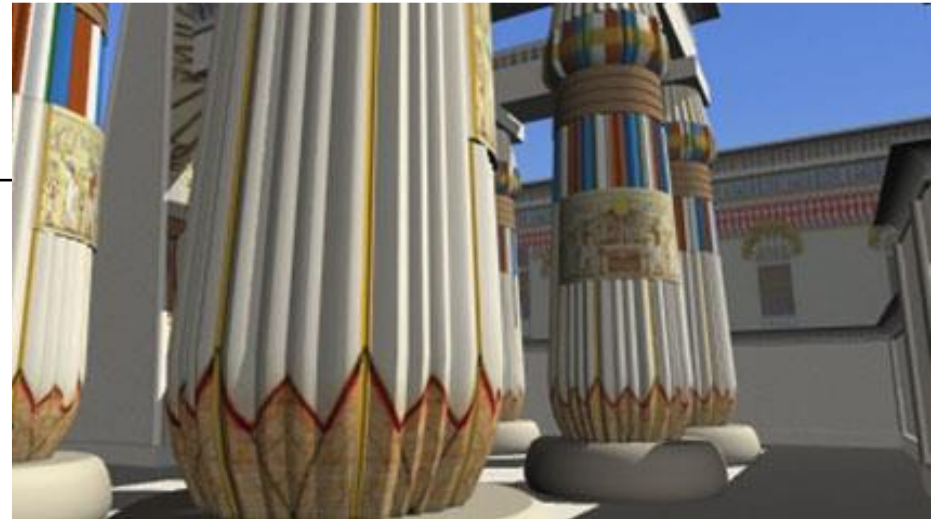
The Small Aten Temple

- ❑ Temenos wall: 191 x 111 meters
- ❑ Three court yards fronted by pylons
- ❑ 1st court: large platform (“Great Altar”)
- ❑ Removed earlier
- ❑ Original dedication altar?



The Small Aten Temple

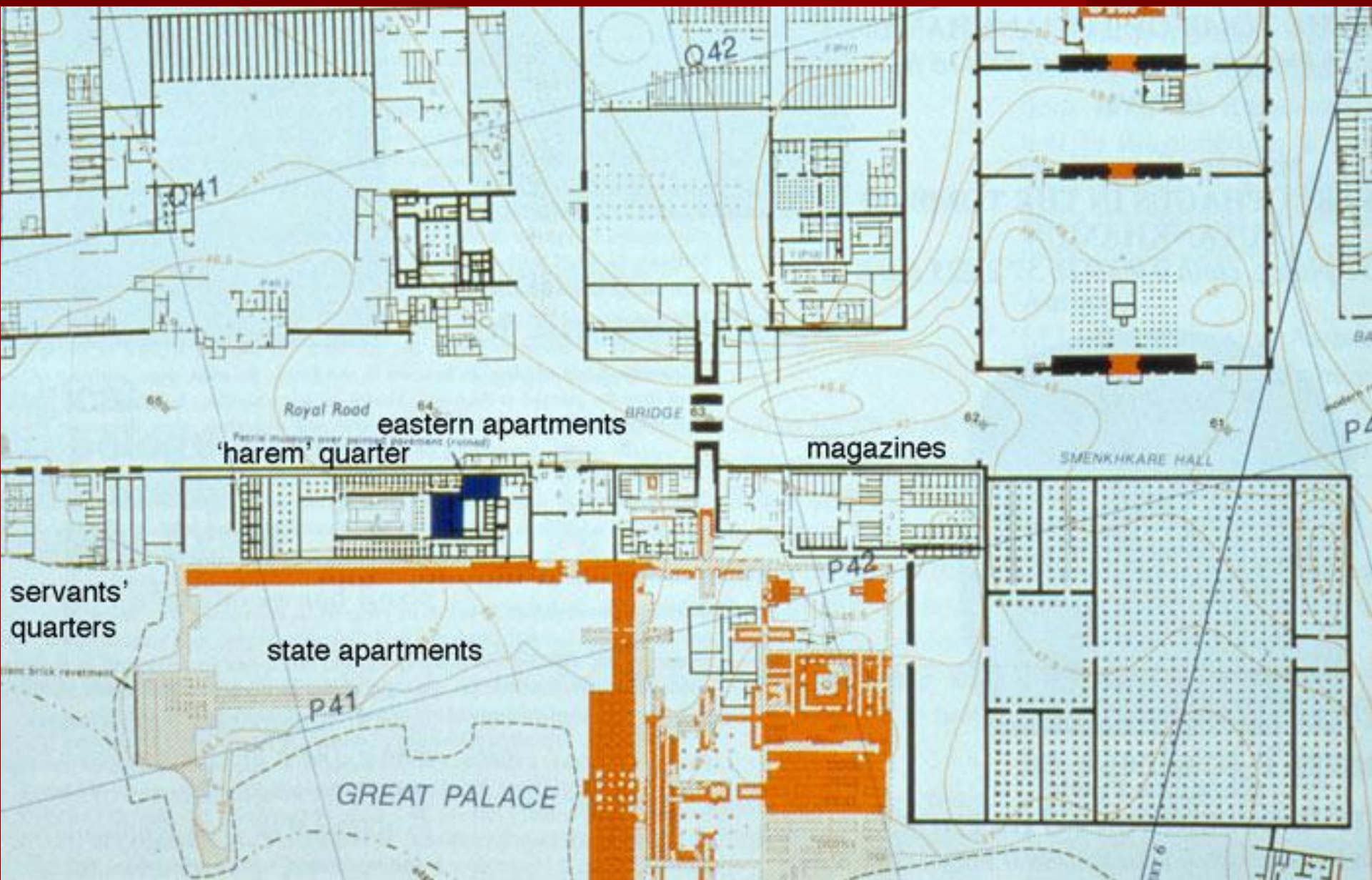
- ❑ 3rd court: sanctuary almost identical to that in the Great Temple
- ❑ Entirely constructed of stone
- ❑ ≈ 150 offering tables



The Great Palace

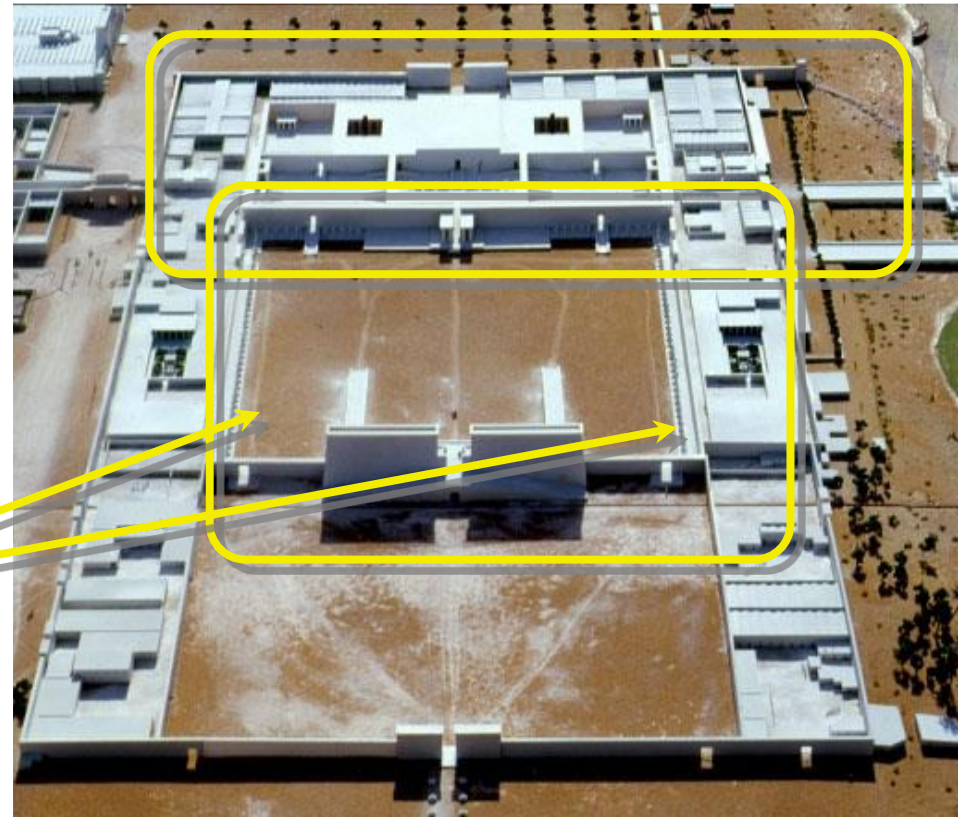
- ❑ Occupied entire area west of the Royal Road
- ❑ $\approx 200 \times 580$ meters, but about $\frac{1}{2}$ lost
- ❑ 40,000 square meters within palace





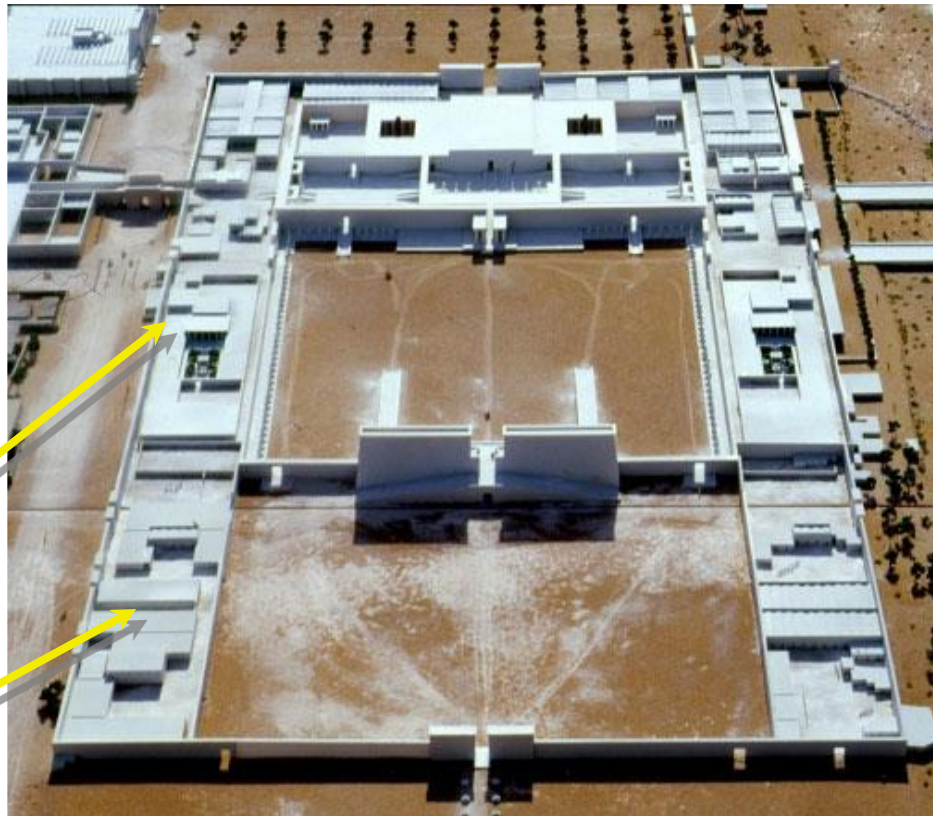
The Great Palace

- ❑ State apartments
- ❑ Stone construction
- ❑ Fronted by a courtyard 160 meters square
- ❑ Granite colossal statues of the king on east and west sides



The Great Palace

- Eastern apartments
- Mudbrick construction
- long narrow set of individual buildings
- width of ≈ 35 meters
- 2 sections:
 - “Harim” quarter
 - Servants’ quarters



The Great Palace

- sunken garden in “Harim quarter”
- Floor: gypsum plaster painted with scenes from nature and bound foreign captives
- Plastered and painted walls depicting lush, natural world

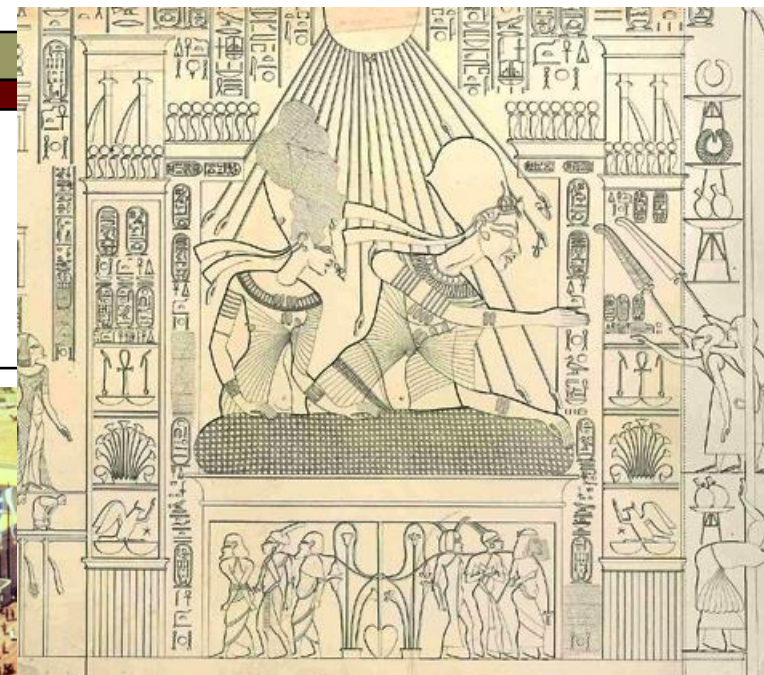
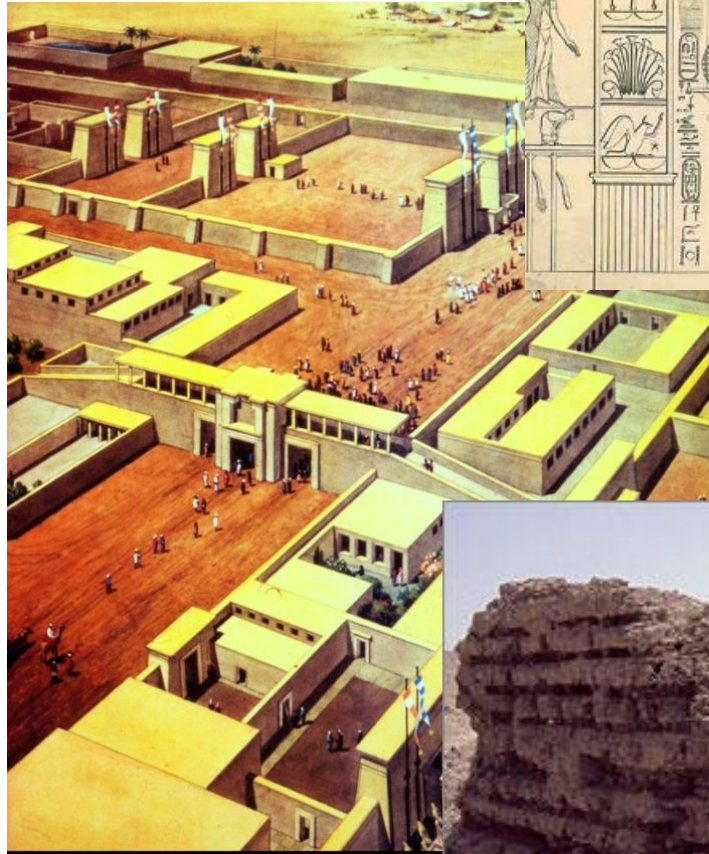


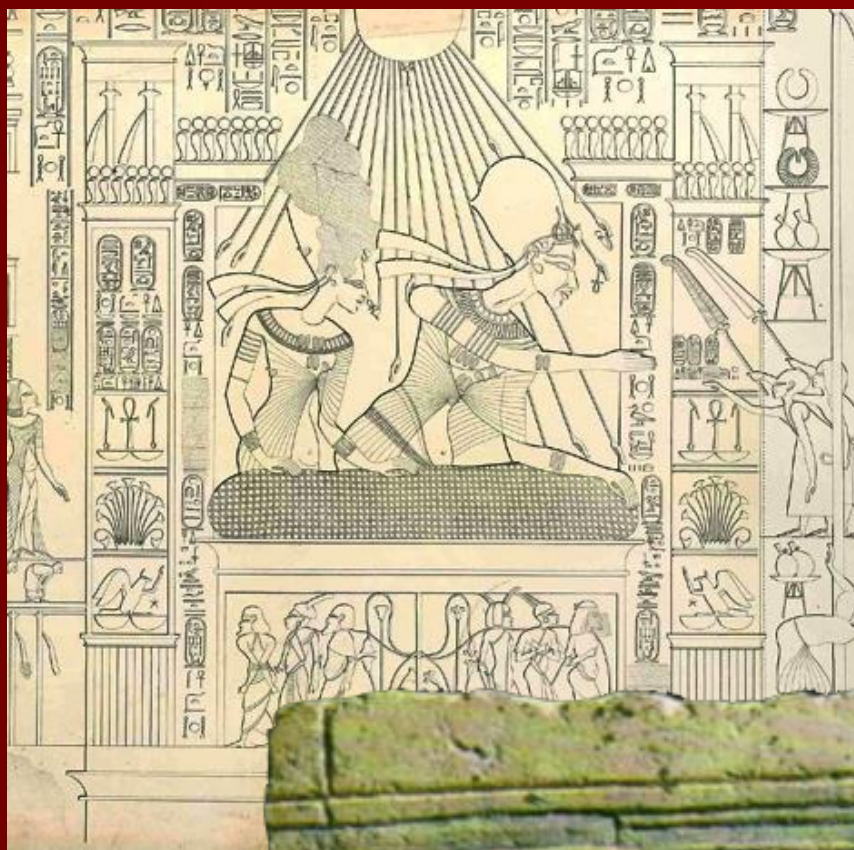
The Great Palace

- ❑ Coronation Hall or “Smenkhkare Hall”: southern end of the Great Palace at the end of the Amarna Period
- ❑ rectangular building: 130 x 135 metres, large number of brick piers (544 in main central part)
- ❑ Ancient destruction of the floors + general disturbance → little additional evidence
- ❑ re-examination in 1935 stamped bricks found: bearing the cartouche Ankh-kheperura
 - Not certain if “Ankhkheperure Smenkhkare” or “Ankhkheperure Neferneferuaten” = Nefertiti
- ❑ suggested :
 - C. and F. Traunecker: huge vineyard
 - Kemp: banqueting hall

Bridge as link between King's House and Great Palace

- 9 meters wide
- Possibly the site of the “window of appearances”
- Kemp disagrees: feels the king should be able to hand rewards to officials; therefore too high



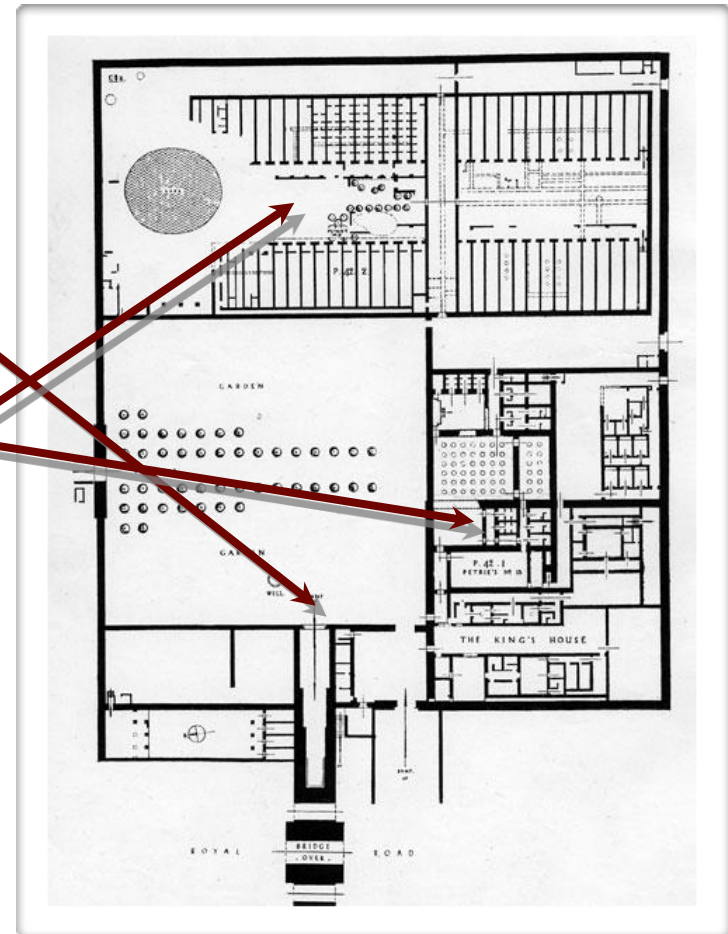


- THE WINDOW OF APPEARANCES
- entrance from below!
- Indicates high up



The King's House

- ❑ 38 x 120 meters
- ❑ open court with trees & the entrance to the bridge
- ❑ apartments of different sizes
- ❑ storerooms & well
- ❑ Exterior: depictions of foreign captives
- ❑ Interior: Royal family



The King's House



Amarna Architecture

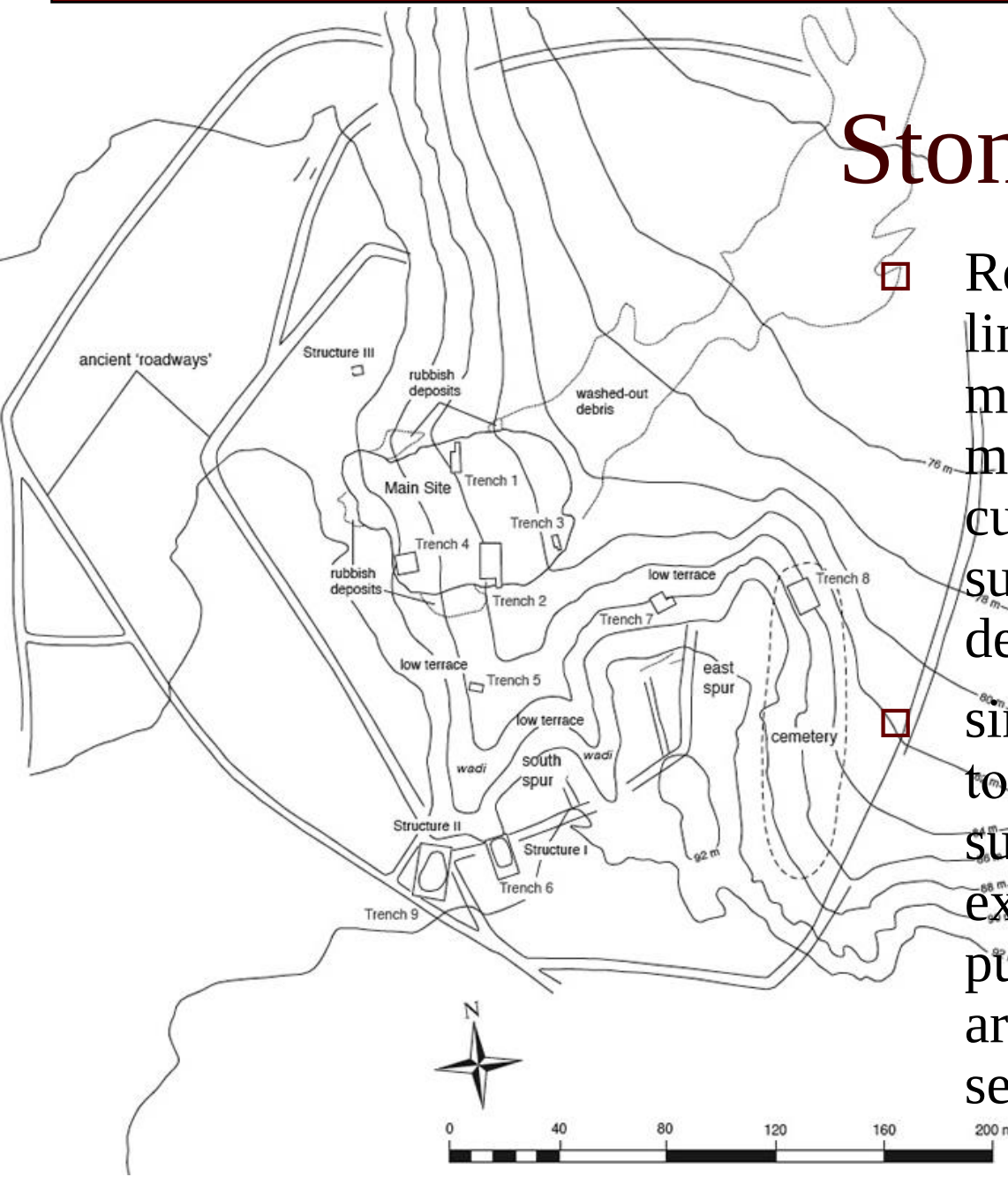
Urban Architecture and Lived-in
Zones of Akhet-Aten

Desert zone

- Desert altars
- Workmen's village
- “Stone village”



Stone Village

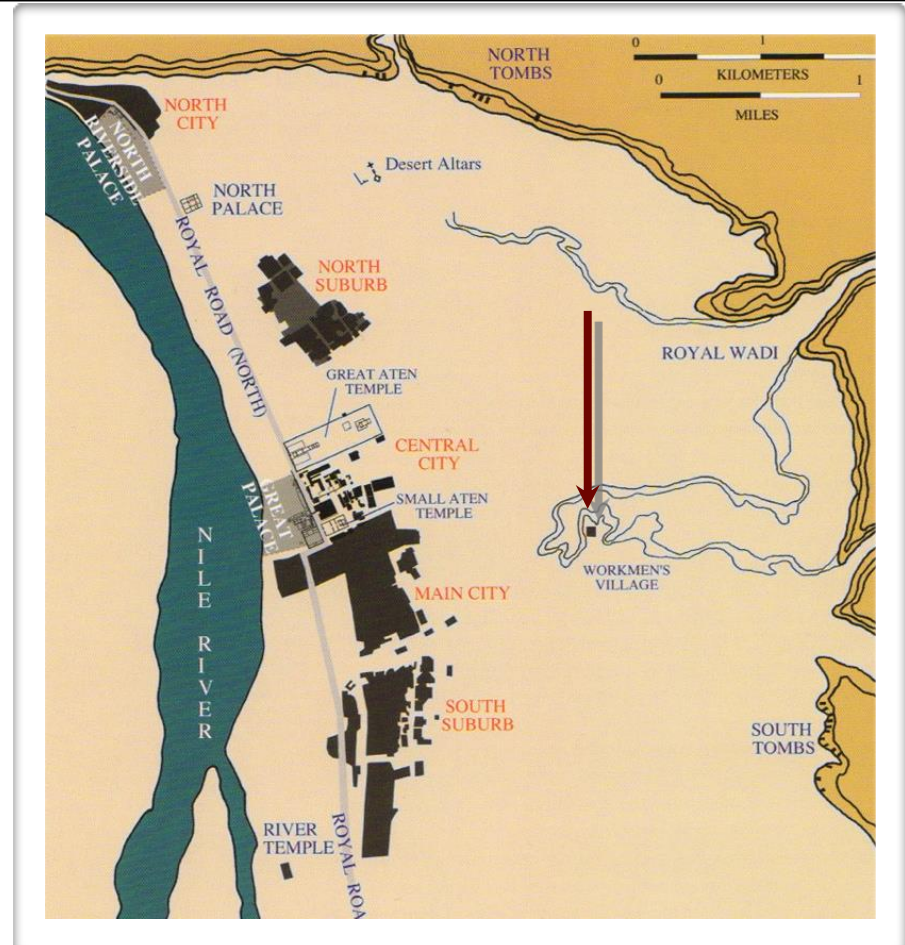


□ Rectangular concentration of limestone boulders, low mounds of crumbled orange marl clay, sherds and other cultural debris scattered across surface → prominent in barren desert setting

□ similar in location + character to Workmen's Village, but less substantial: roofed structures + external areas (residential purposes?), but same neat arrangement of rows of houses separated by laneways

Workmen's village

- Located just south of the entrance to the Royal Wadi
- Isolated location lead to high state of preservation



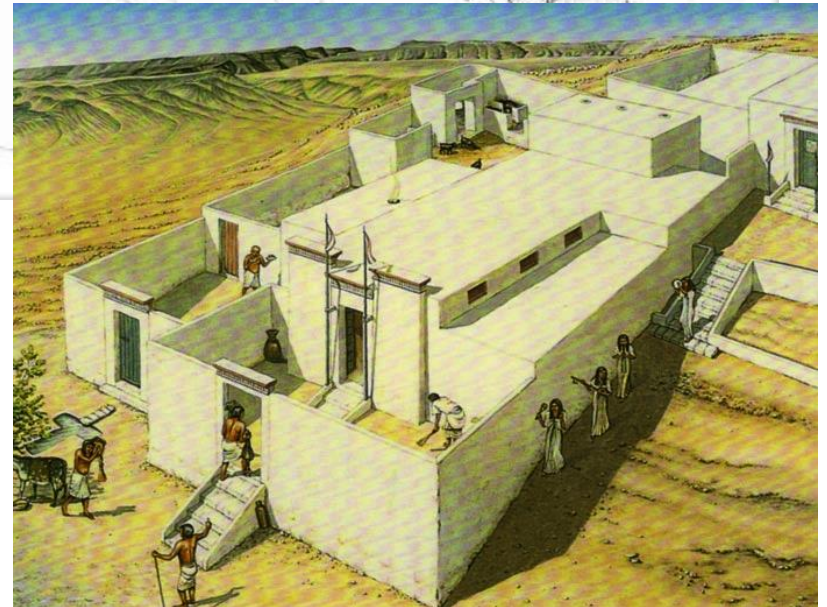
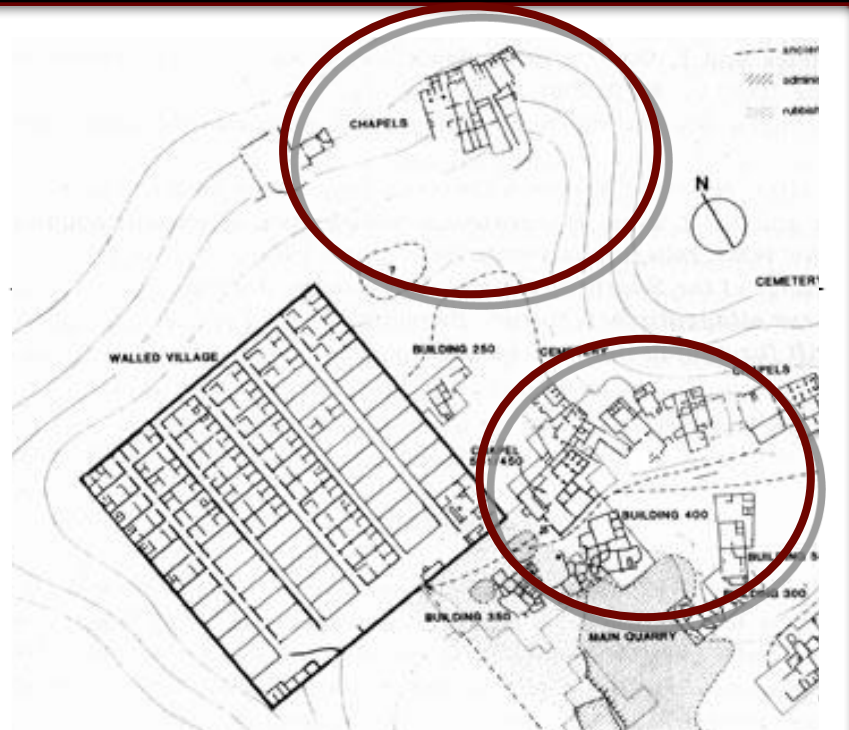
The village proper

- Walled village 69 square meters
- Possibly extended at a later period
- ≈ 72 housing units
- Large building in southeast prob. home of an official



Religious areas

- Approx. 23 chapels
- Roofed, and sometimes with ovens and food remains
- Decorated with painted scenes



Religious areas

- ❑ Approx. 23 chapels
- ❑ Roofed, and sometimes with ovens and food remains
- ❑ Decorated with painted scenes
- ❑ Aten is absent, but there are references to Wepwawet and other deities



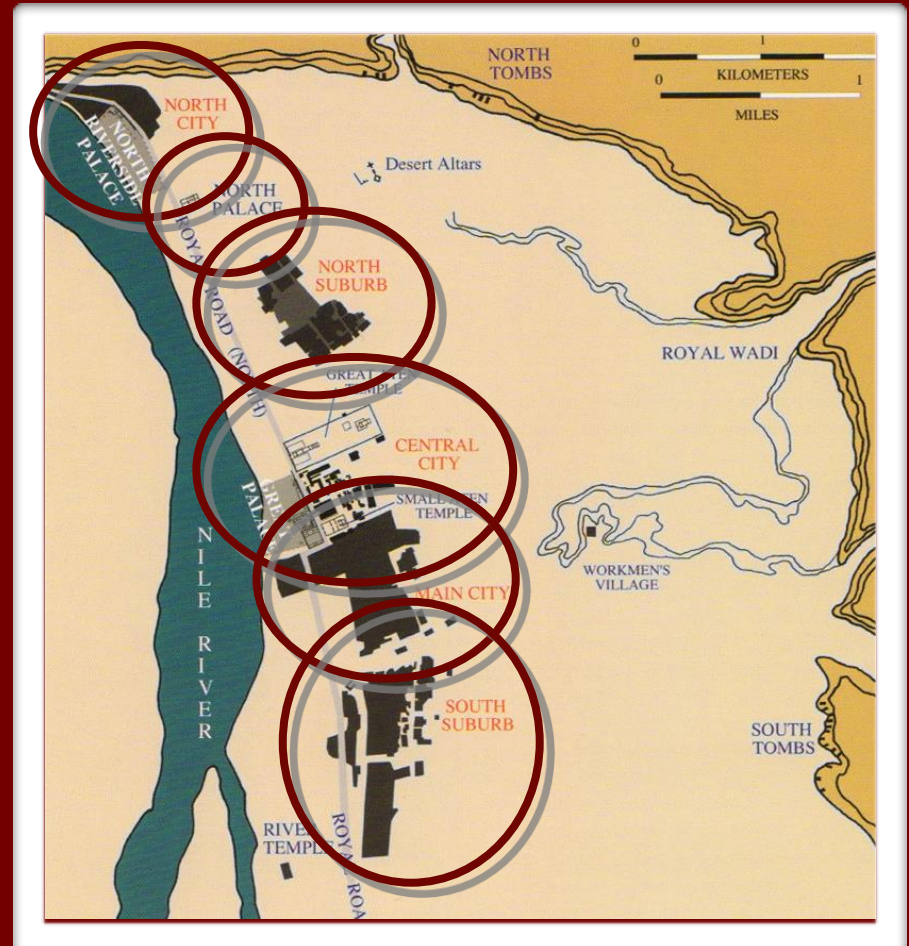
Other areas

- Large brick making area and clay pits to the southeast
- Later used as garbage pits
- Zīr area for water supplies
- pig-styes in southeast
- Demonstrates relative importance

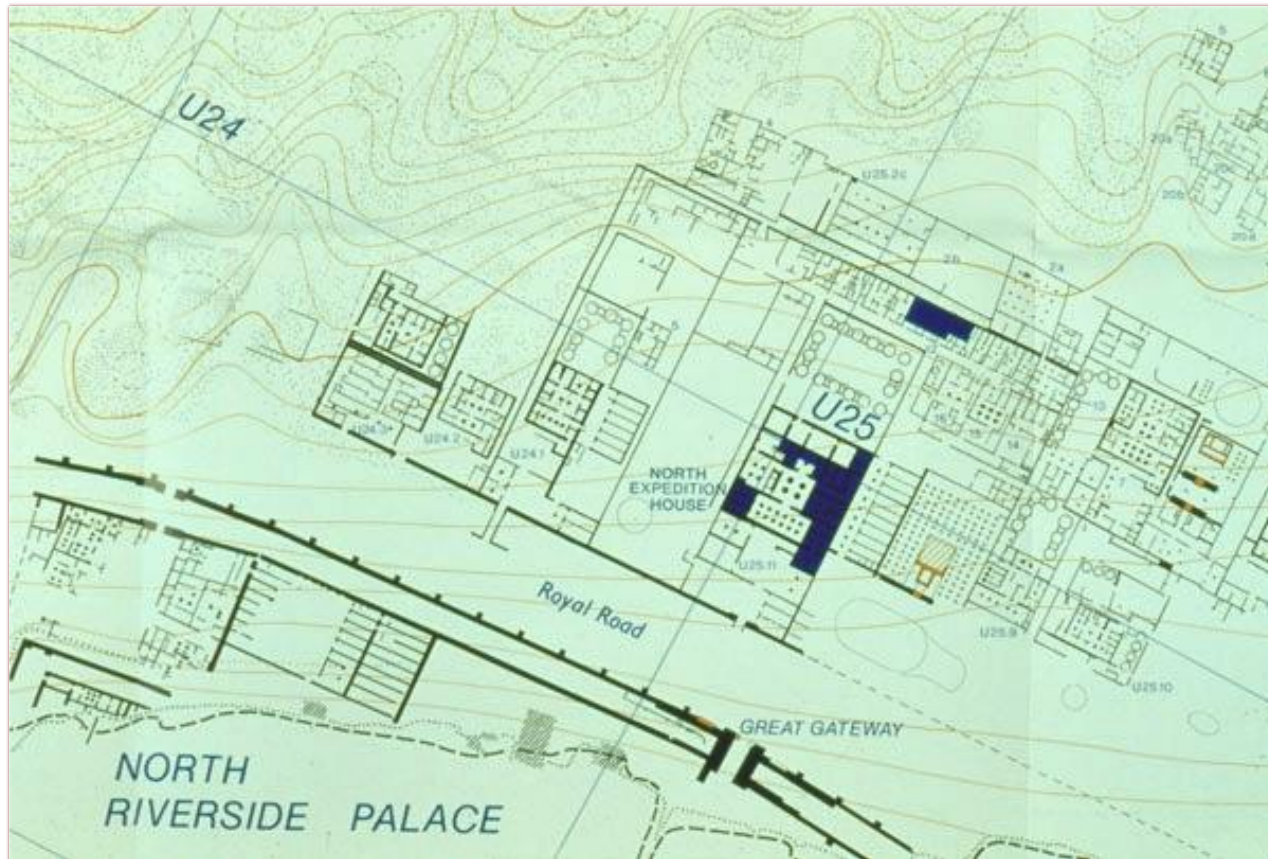


Urban zone

- North city
- North Palace
- North suburb
- Central city: temple, palatial, and administrative district
- Main city: urban housing
- South suburb



North city

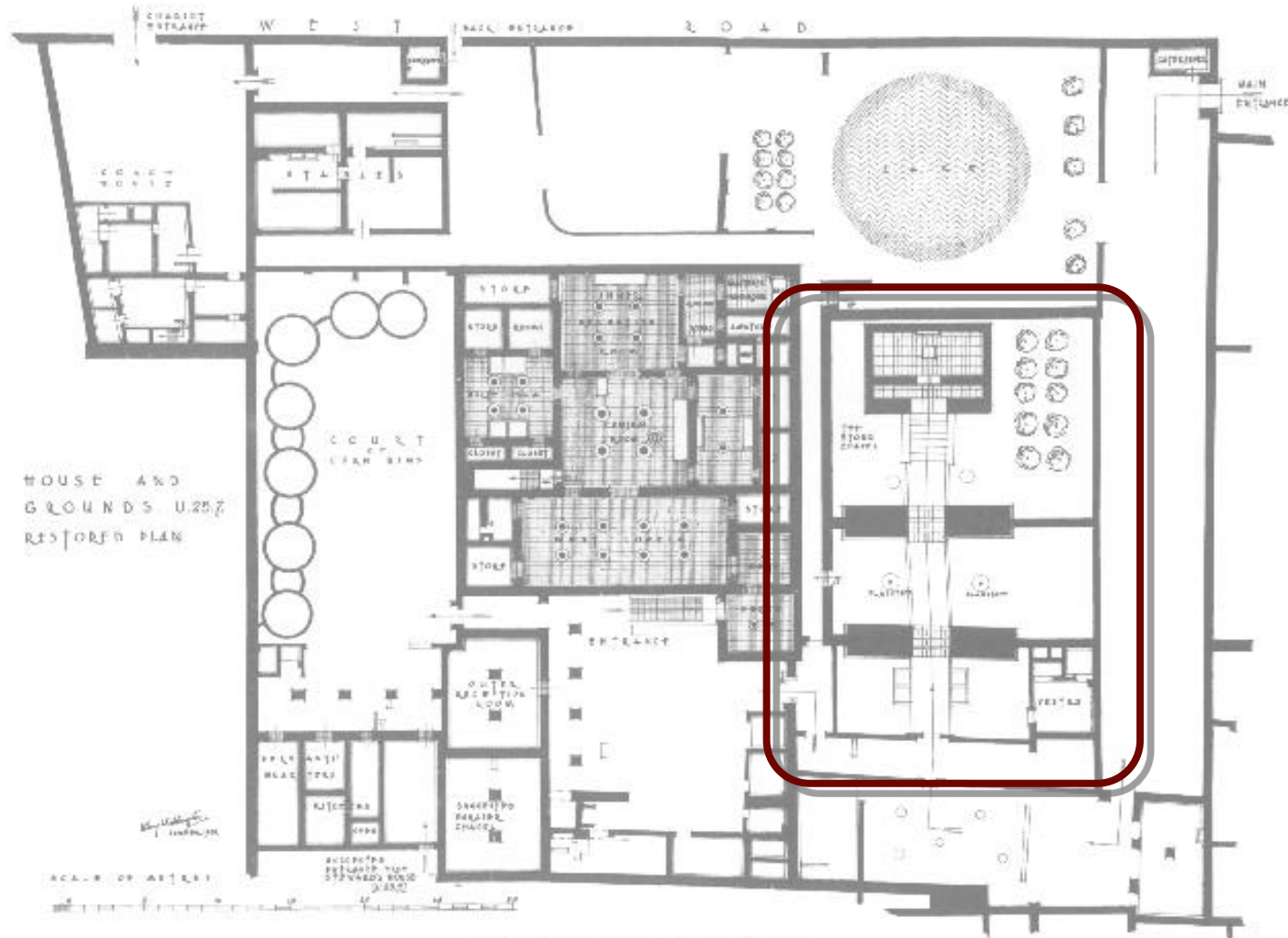


Eastern side

- Large houses and estates of officials
- Largest house opposite the gate way
- Private chapel made of stone with 2 pylons
- Often interpreted as the dwelling of Nefertiti, but Kiya equally possible



house U.25.7



Tell el-Amarnah. House U.25.7.

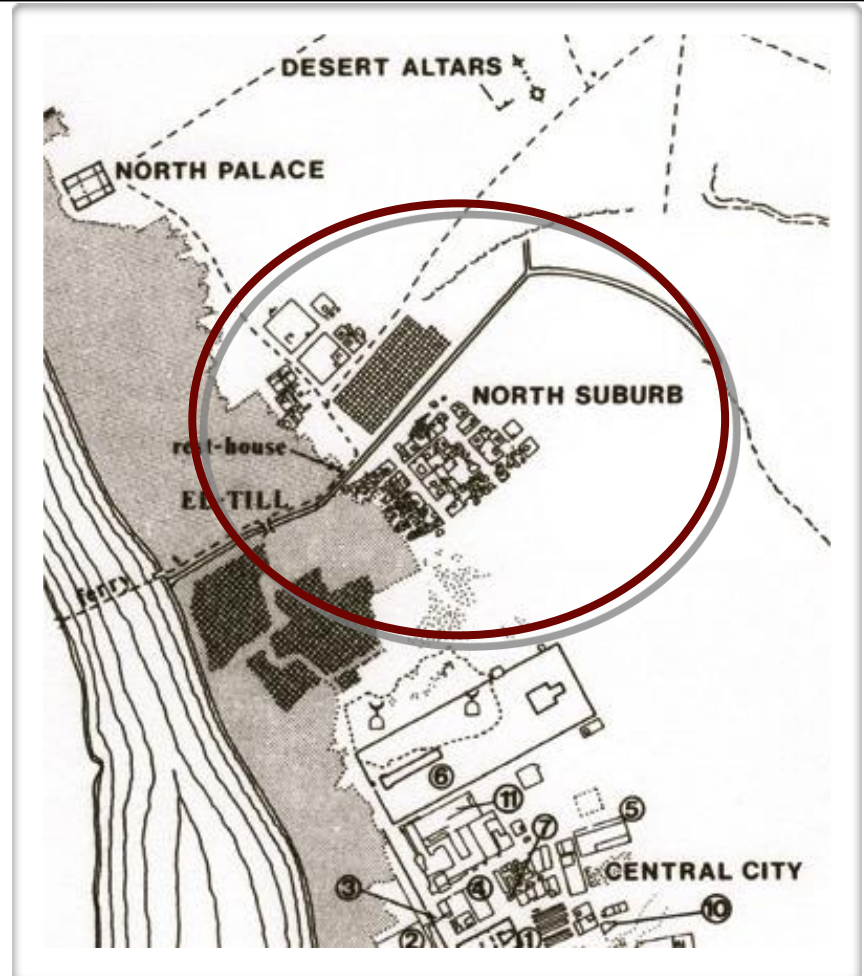
Eastern side

- Ring bezels naming Nefertiti throughout the north city
- Tutankhaten/-amun also attested, along with Ankhsenpaaten
- Ankhenaten rarely attested



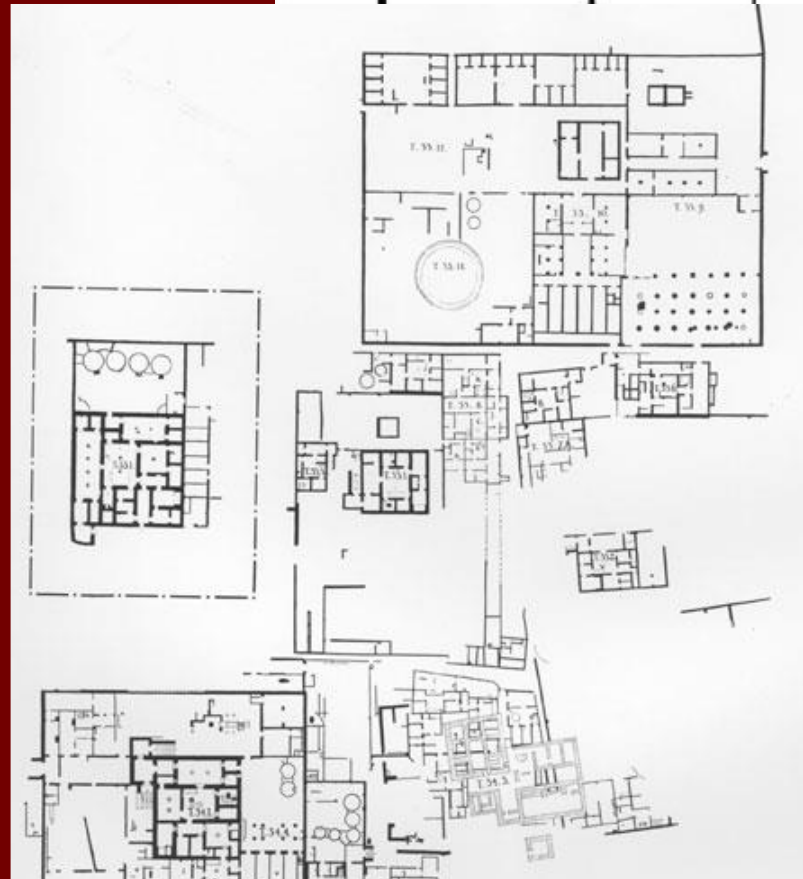
The North Suburb

- ❑ North of the central city
- ❑ Separate from other sections of the city
- ❑ Occupied into the reign of Tutankhamun
- ❑ Older sections closer to the Royal Road
- ❑ Newer sections to the east



The North Suburb

- divided into neighborhoods by North–south streets
- broad range of housing sizes
- west: small and closely packed (“Slum”)
- east: large estates
- House of Hattay

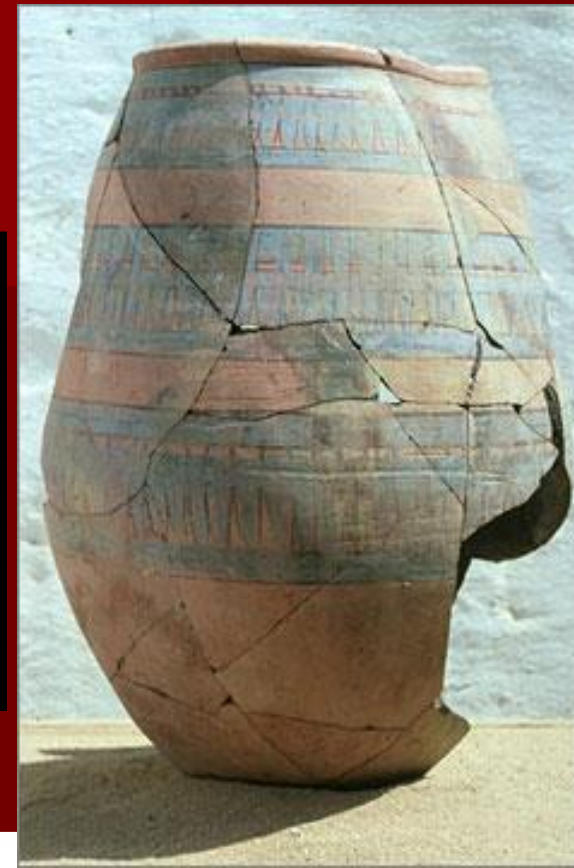




LINTEL FROM THE HOUSE OF HATTIAY (Chief Builder)

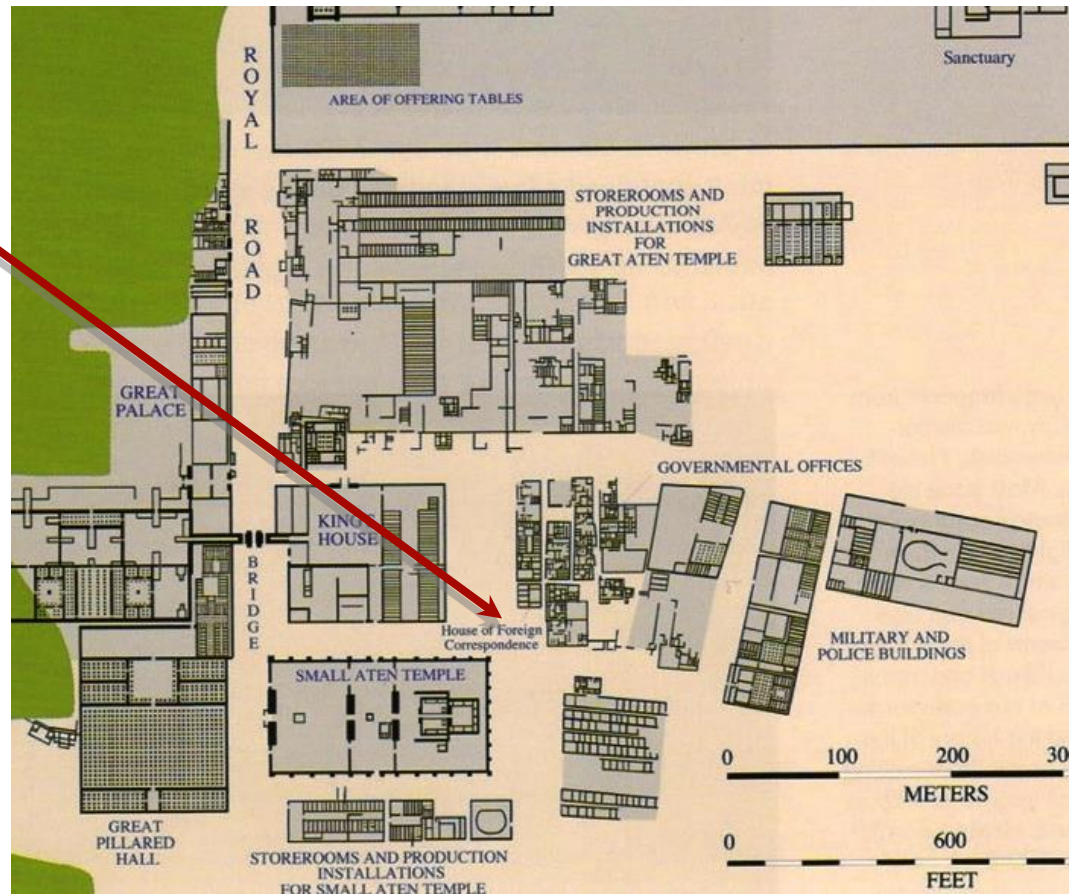
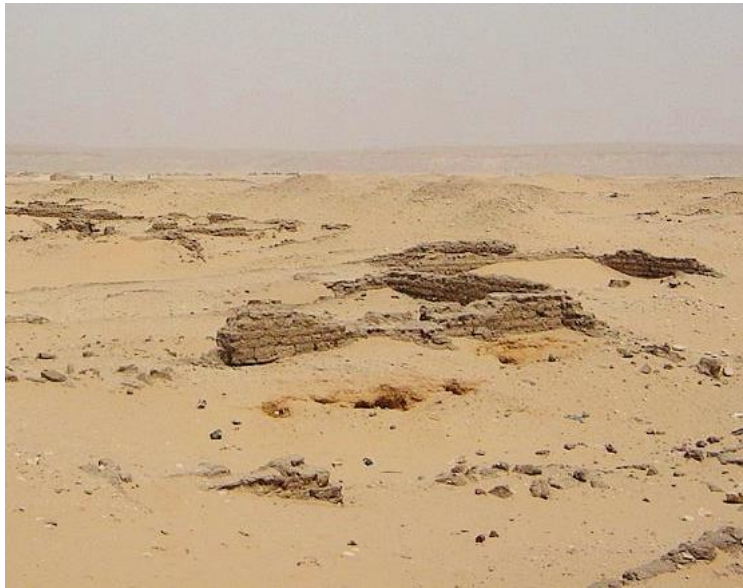
The North Suburb

- Industrial areas
- Glass
- Faience (Frit)
- Ceramics
- Blue-Painted ware



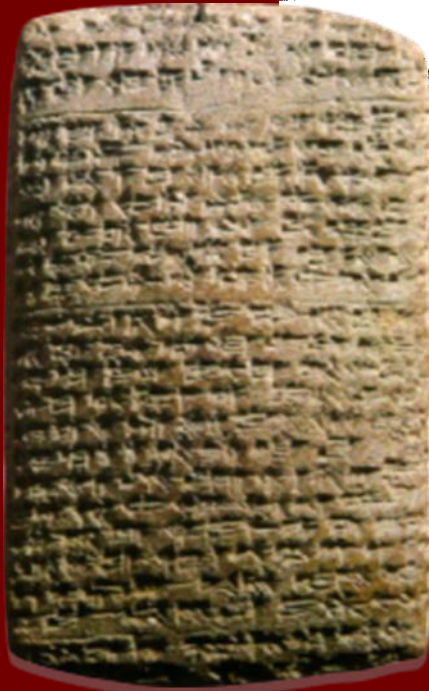
THE CENTRAL CITY – Eastern buildings

- Bureau of Correspondence of Pharaoh



Amarna: Records Office (*t3 s.t (n3.w)š^c.(w)t pr-3*)

- ❑ Known from stamps on bricks
- ❑ Amarna letters discovered circa 1888



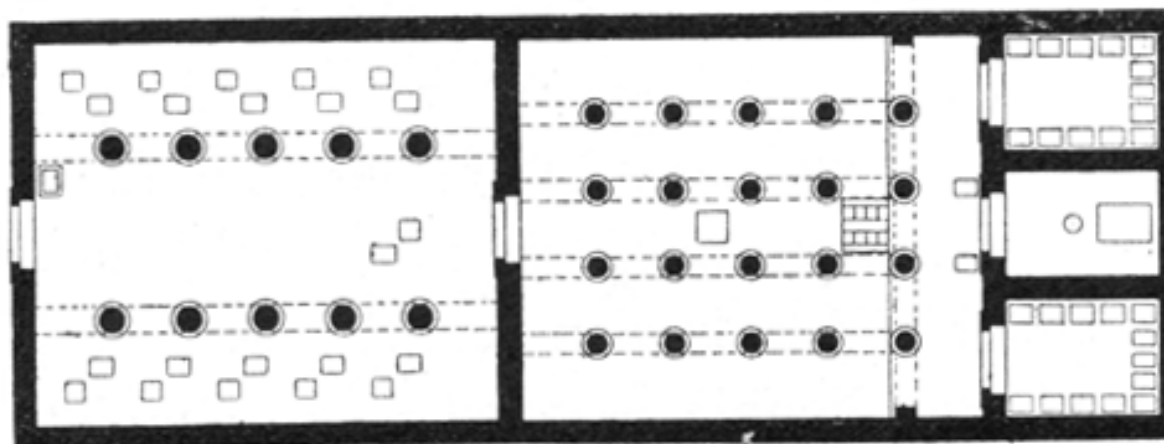
Archive in TT23:

zh š^c.t nswt t^cy with s.t zh.w

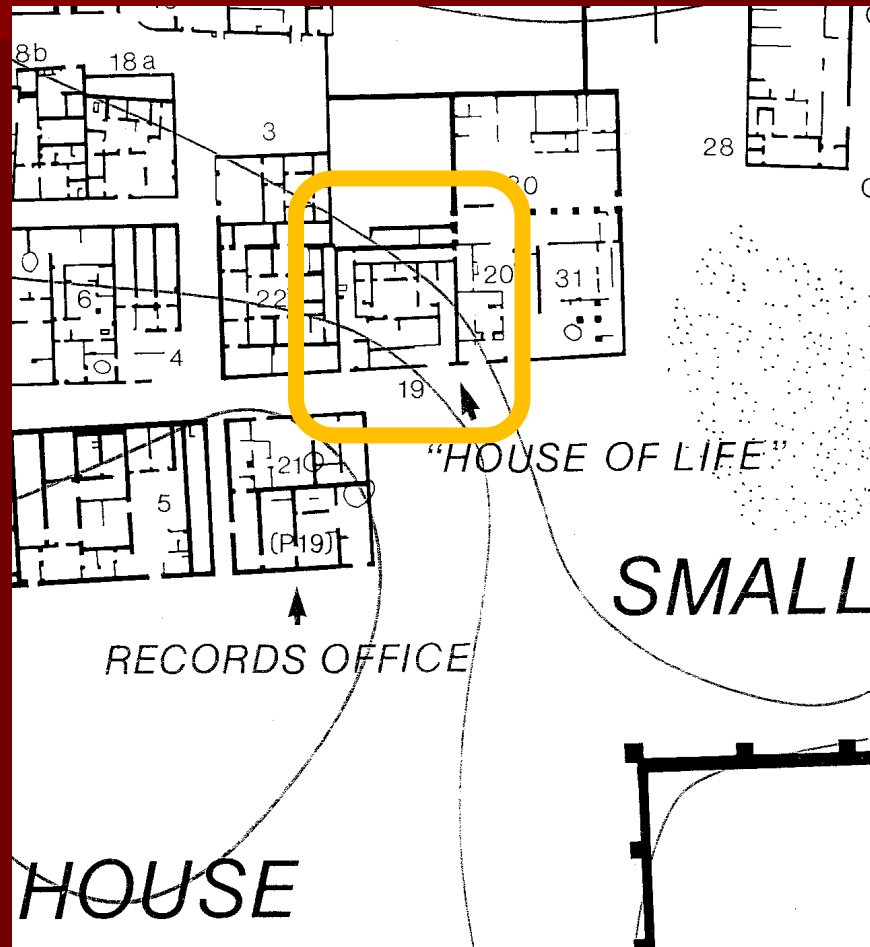




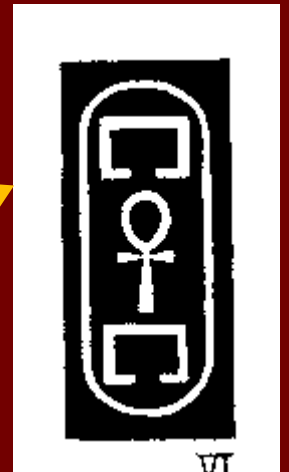
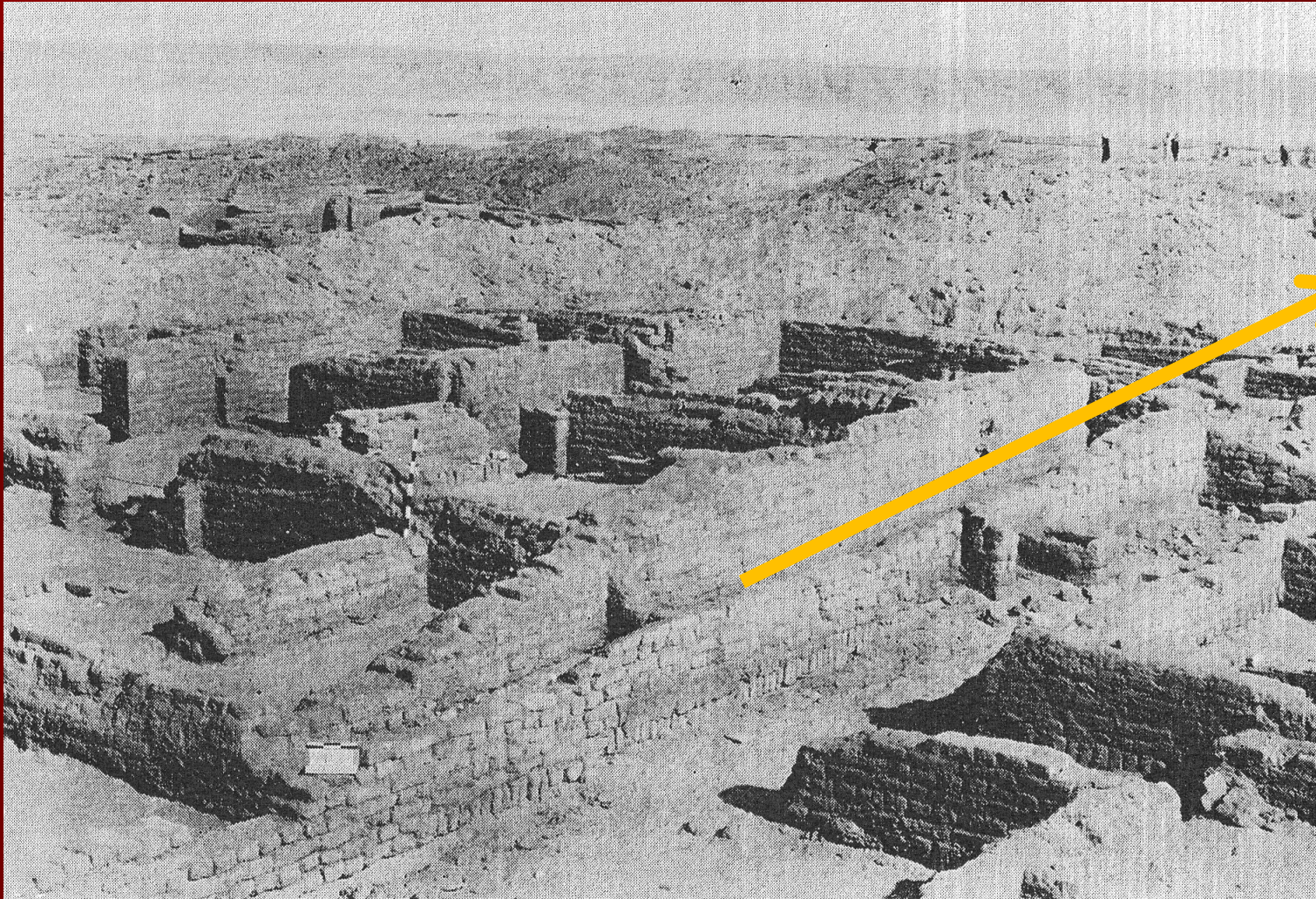
		Trans- versal hall	Archiv 1 (S. F. ZH. W)
Bureau consisting of one nave with two aisles, separated by 2 rows of 5 columns each	Hypostyle (4 rows with 4 columns each and upward ramp towards the rear part of the building)	with statues of baboons	Thoth- sanctuary
		as god Thoth (raised)	Archiv 2 (S. F. ZH. W)



Amarna: House of Life (*pr-^cnh*)

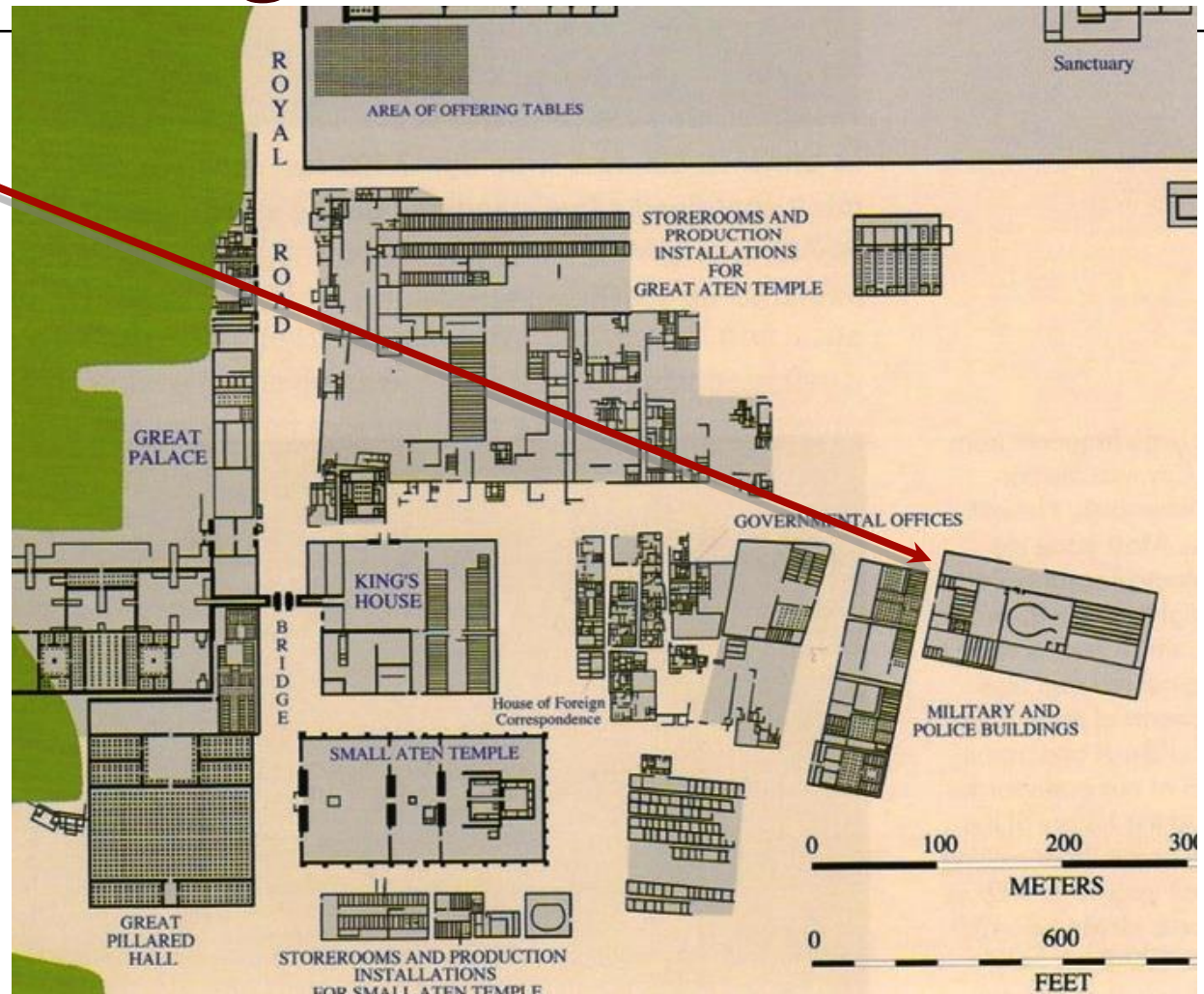


Amarna: House of Life (*pr-^hnh*)



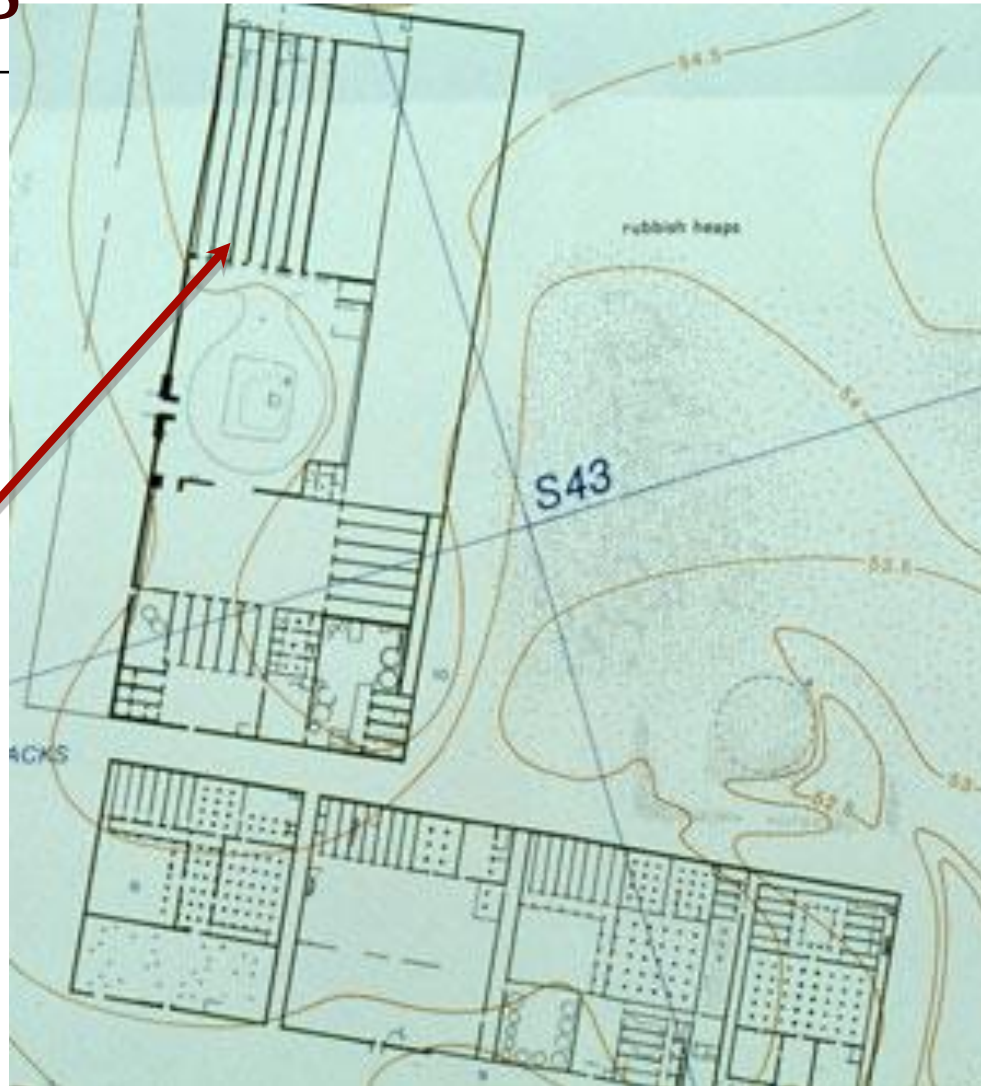
Eastern buildings

- Military and police quarters
- rectangular mudbrick buildings

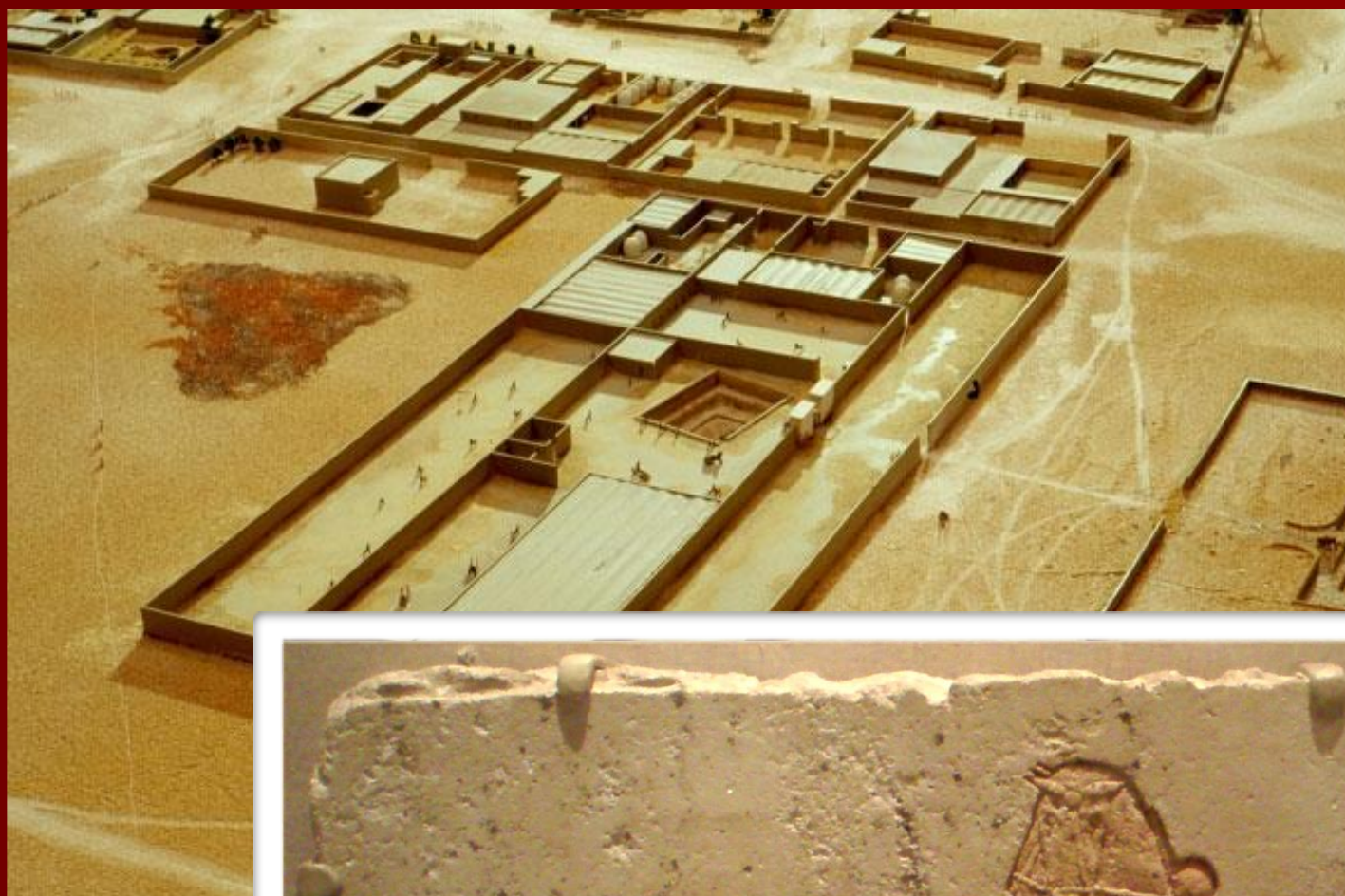


Eastern buildings

- Military and police quarters
- rectangular mudbrick buildings
- 6 long chambers with tethering rings and mangers
- 15 cm thick horse manure
- ±200 chariot horses

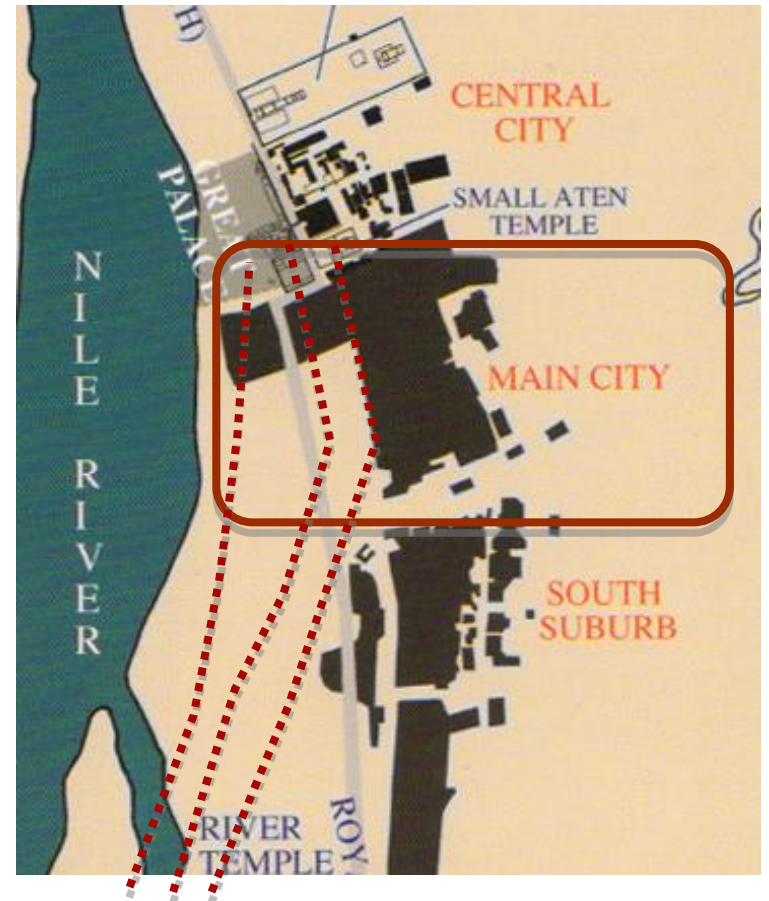


Chariotry Stables



The Main City

- Located just south of the Central city, and not to be confused with it!



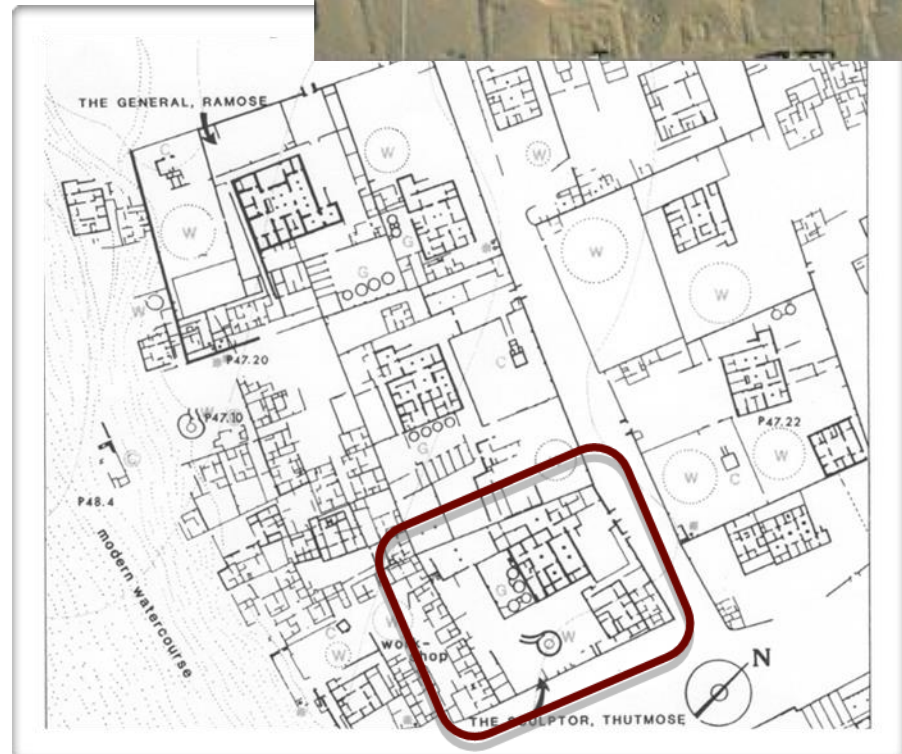
The Main City

- ❑ Located just south of the Central city, and not to be confused with it!
- ❑ arranged along three north–south thoroughfares
- ❑ Primary residential area of high officials
- ❑ names of some known from door lintels

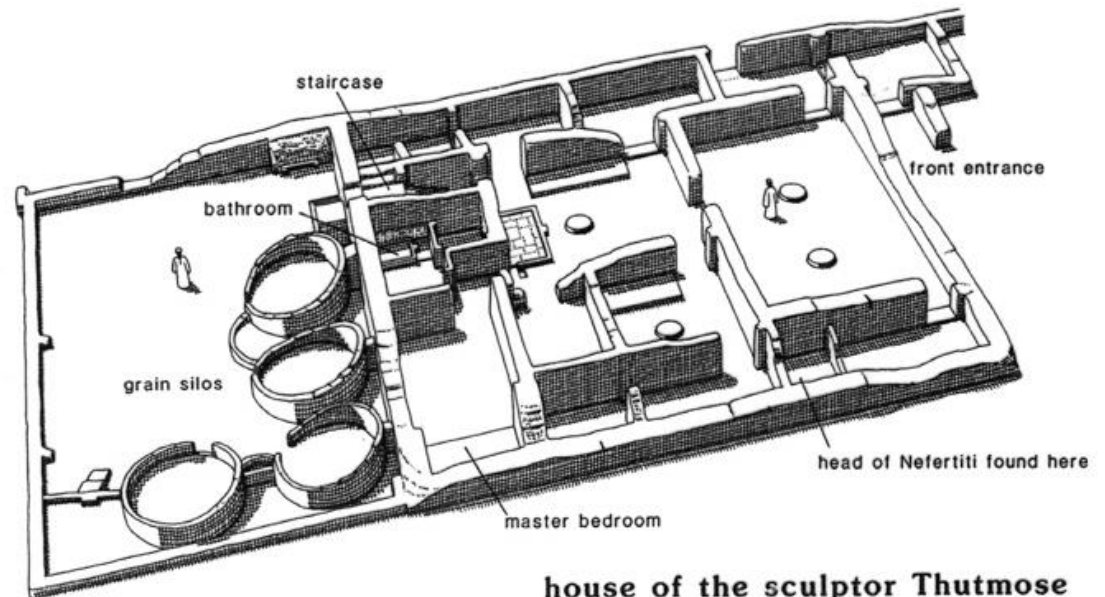
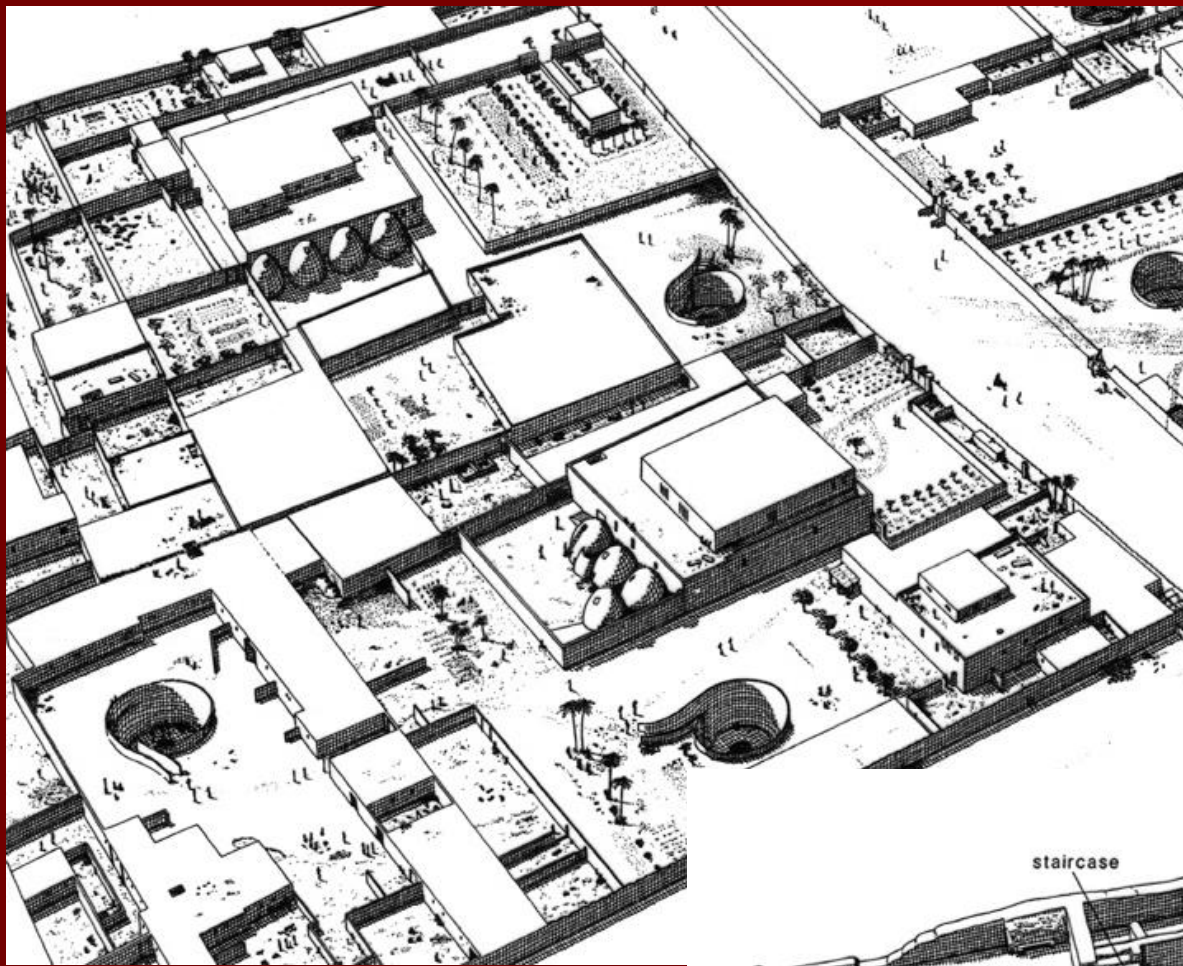


Main City

- Large estates
- Represent the elite of Akhetaten
- Many (most?) are tomb owners
- House of the sculptor Djehutimose



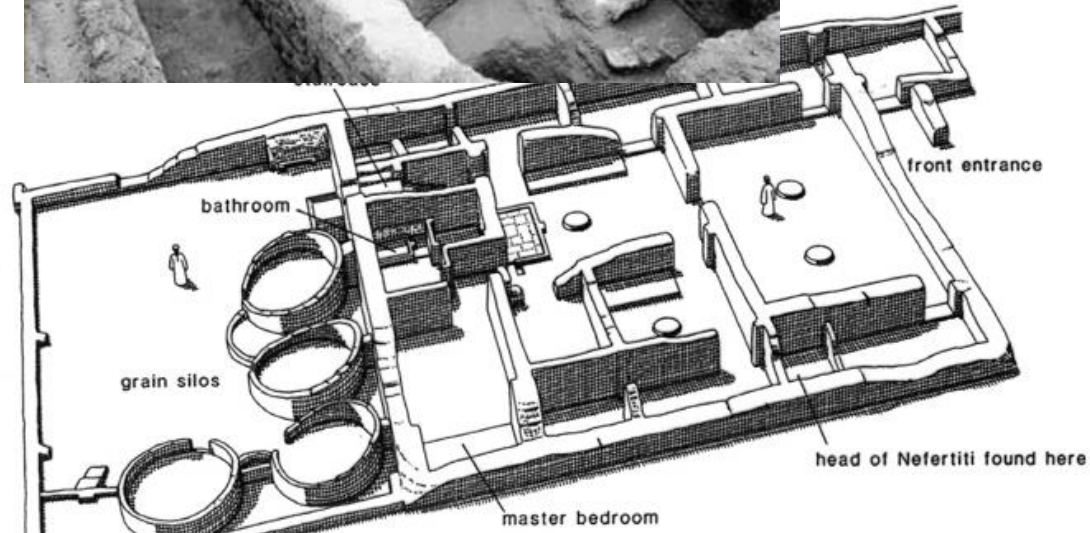
HOUSE OF THE SCULPTOR DJEHUTIMOSE



house of the sculptor Thutmose

Typical layout

- ❑ Mudbrick with stone column bases and lintels
- ❑ often with an outdoor chapel
- ❑ surrounded by courtyard with kitchen, garden, granary silos, wells



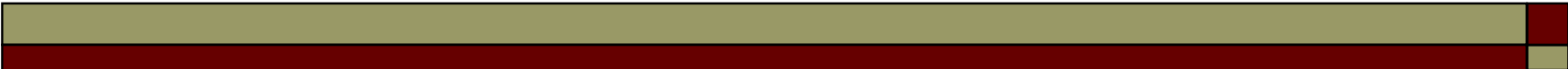
house of the sculptor Thutmose



Typical Layout

- Public area:
Entrance hall
leading to a square,
central living room
- opened into a
“Loggia” (reception
area for guests)
- Private areas:
bathroom, lavatory,
bedroom, square
hall, women’s
quarters

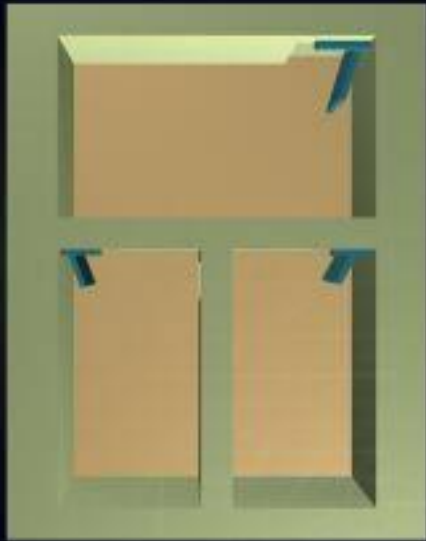




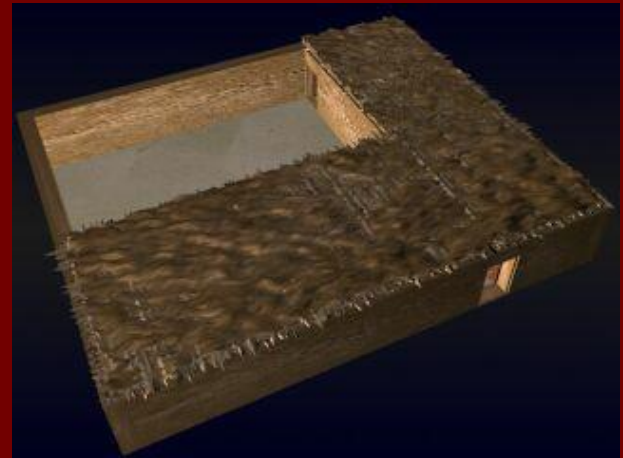
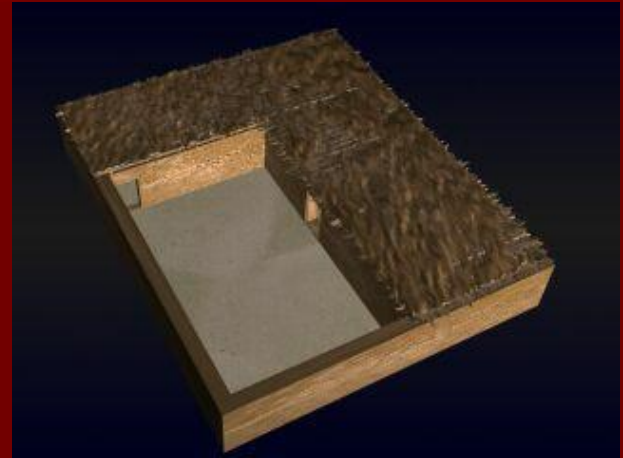
House types in Ancient Egypt

- ❑ Three room type
- ❑ Courtyard house
- ❑ Tripartite house (higher status)
- ❑ Tripartite house (lower status)

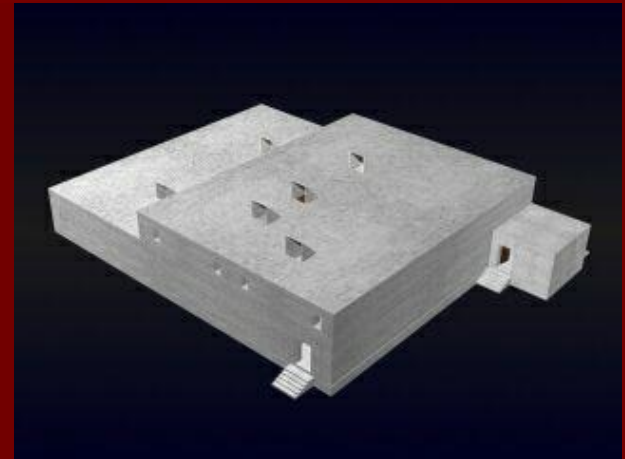
Three room house

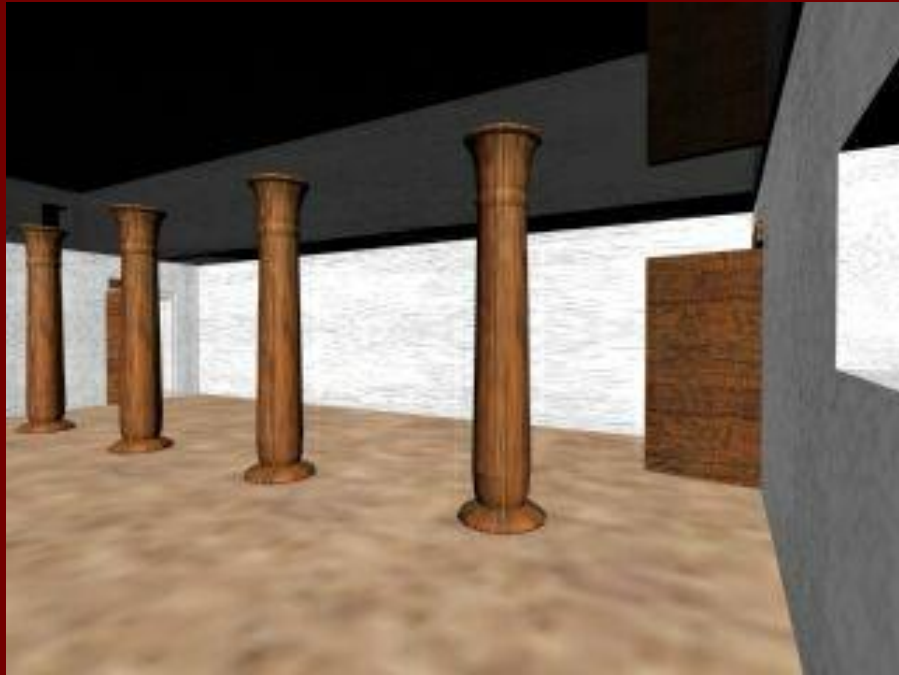


Courtyard house

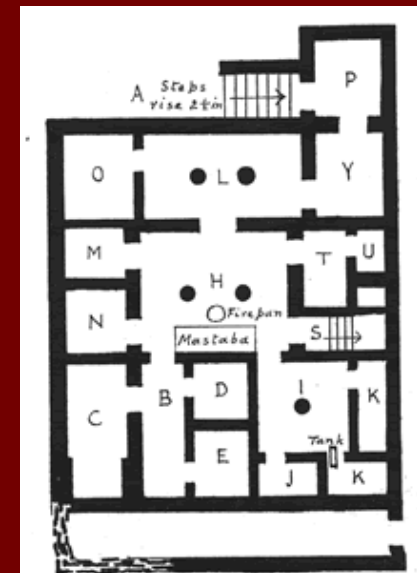
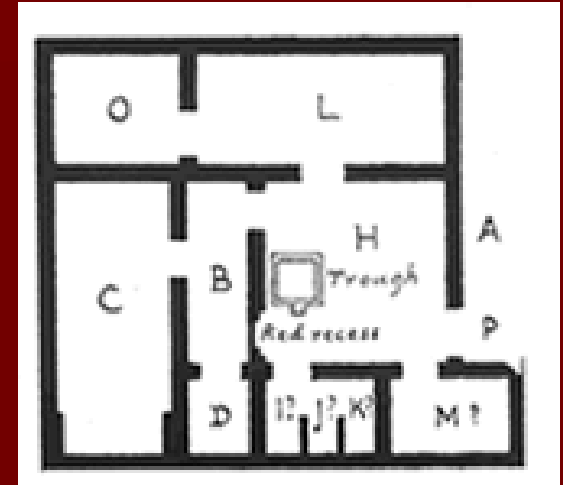
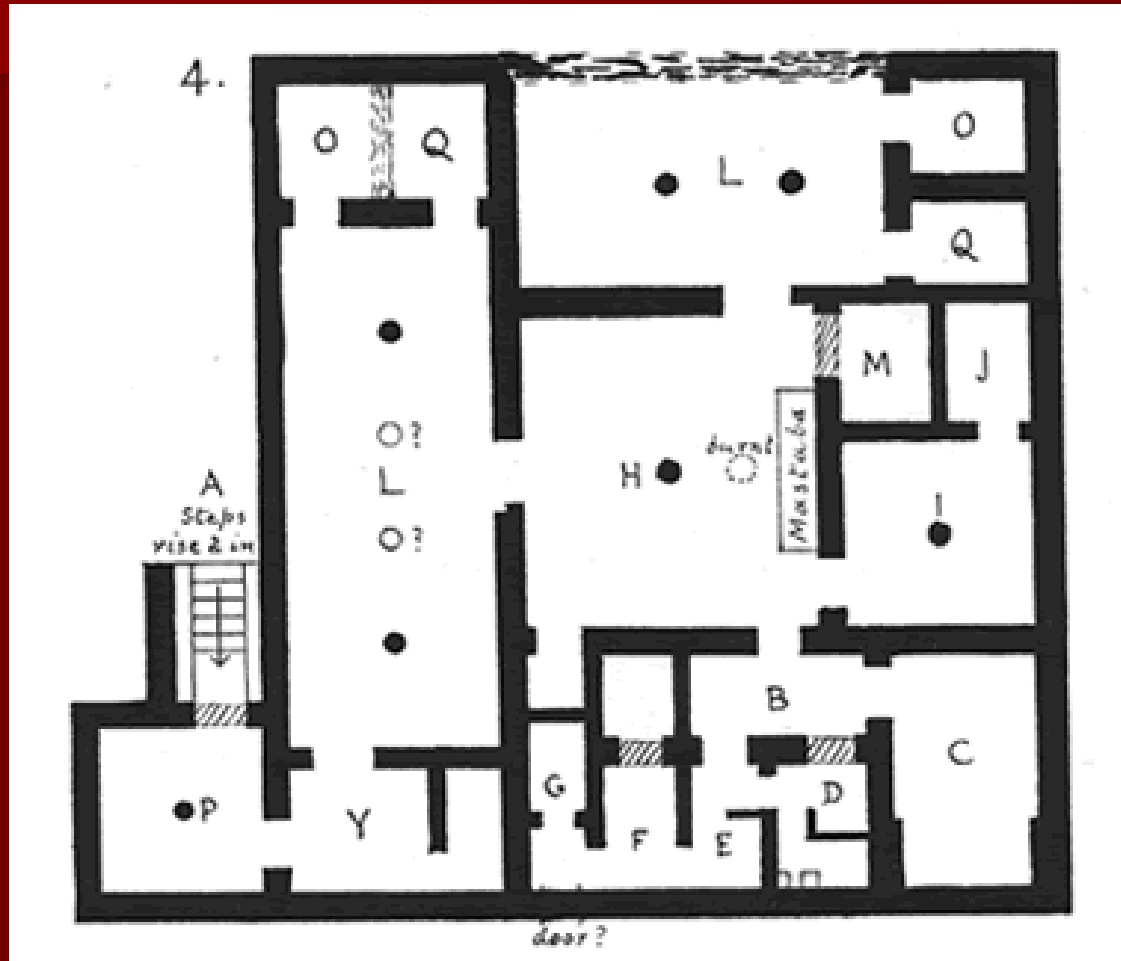


Tripartite house (higher status)





Houses in Amarna (type 4)





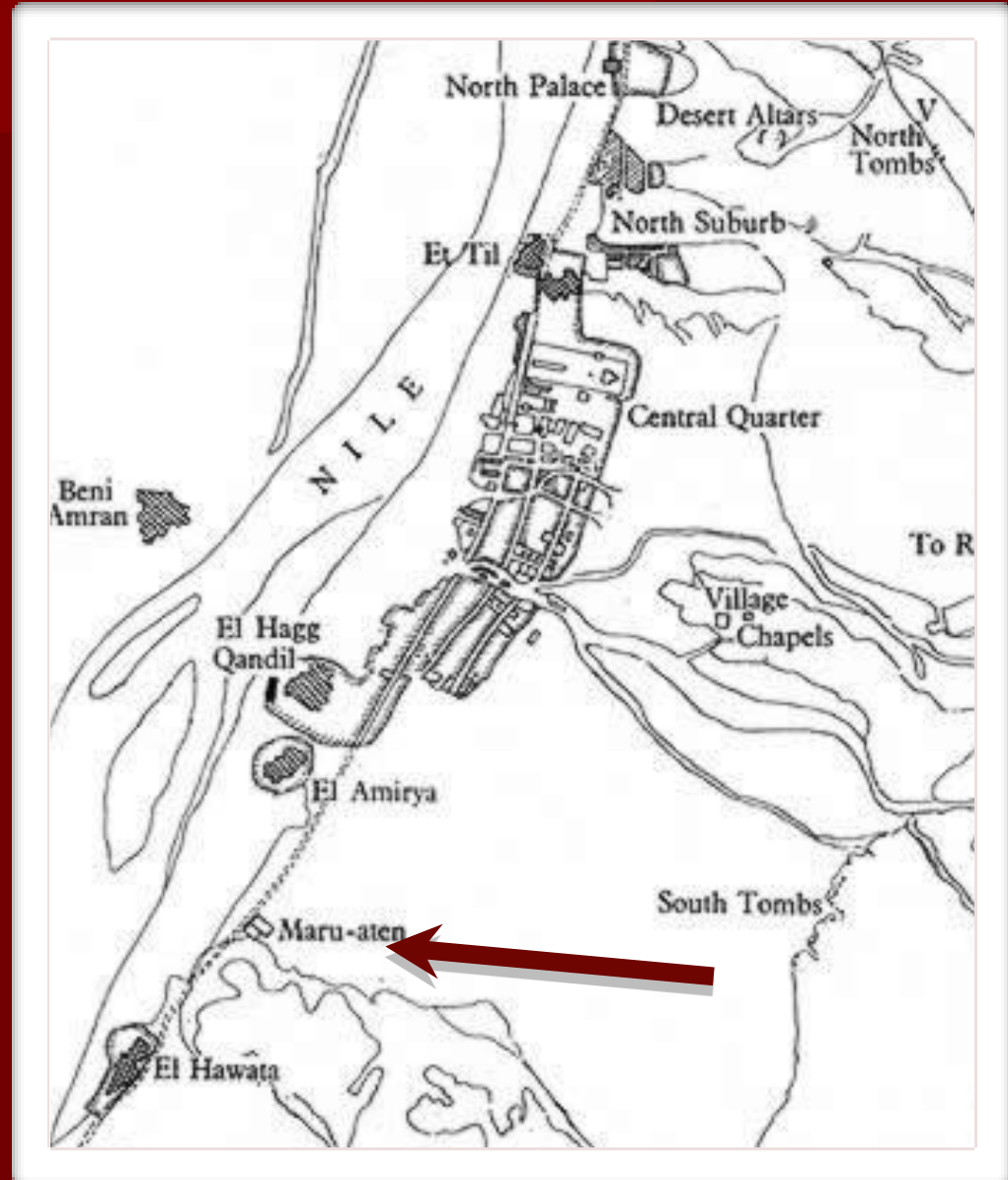
■ the entrance part of the house

■ the reception rooms

■ the private rooms

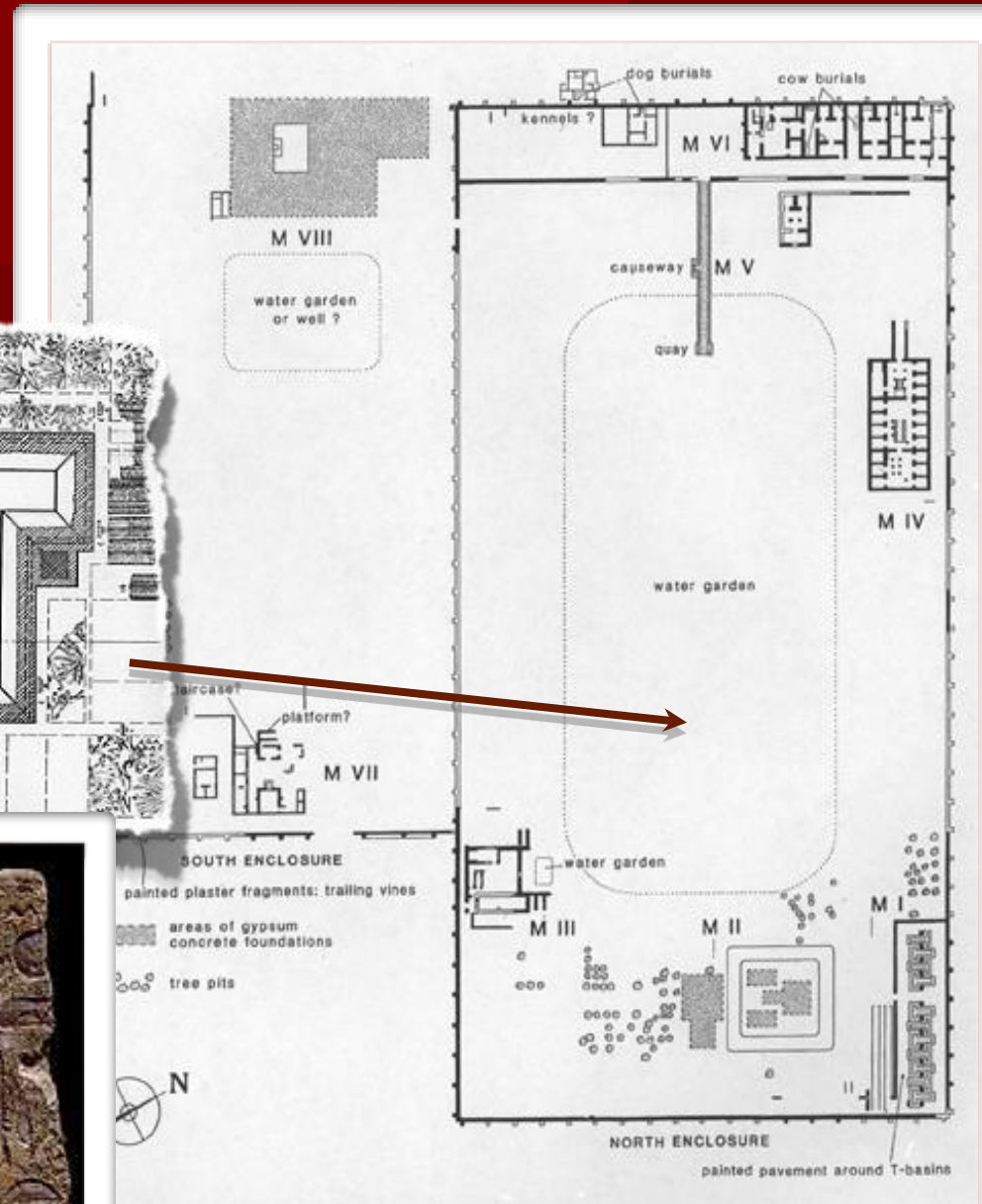
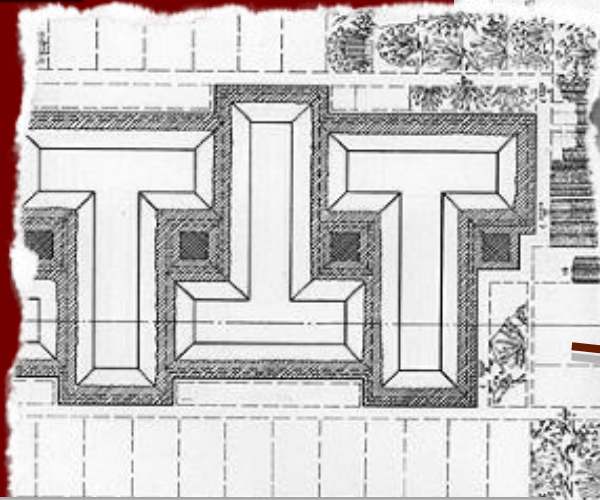
Other urban features

- **Maru-Aten**
- south of the main city, now under the village of al-Hawatah
- two enclosures surrounded by a brick wall
- pools and gardens
- Texts associate with the “sunshade” of Kiya



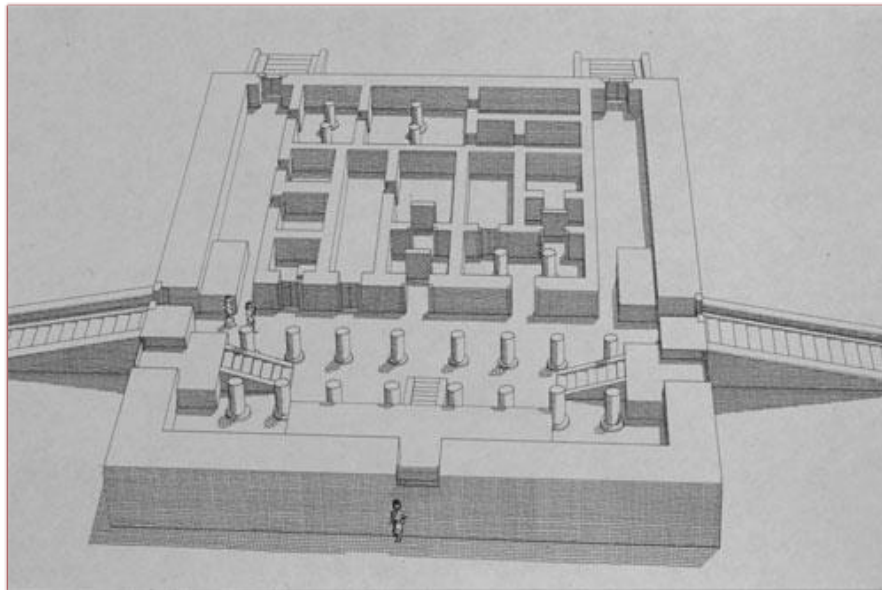
Other urban features

■ Maru-Aten



Other urban features

- Kawm ("Kom") al-Na'na
- enclosure: 228 x 213 meters
- similar to Meru-Aten



**Garden
plots**

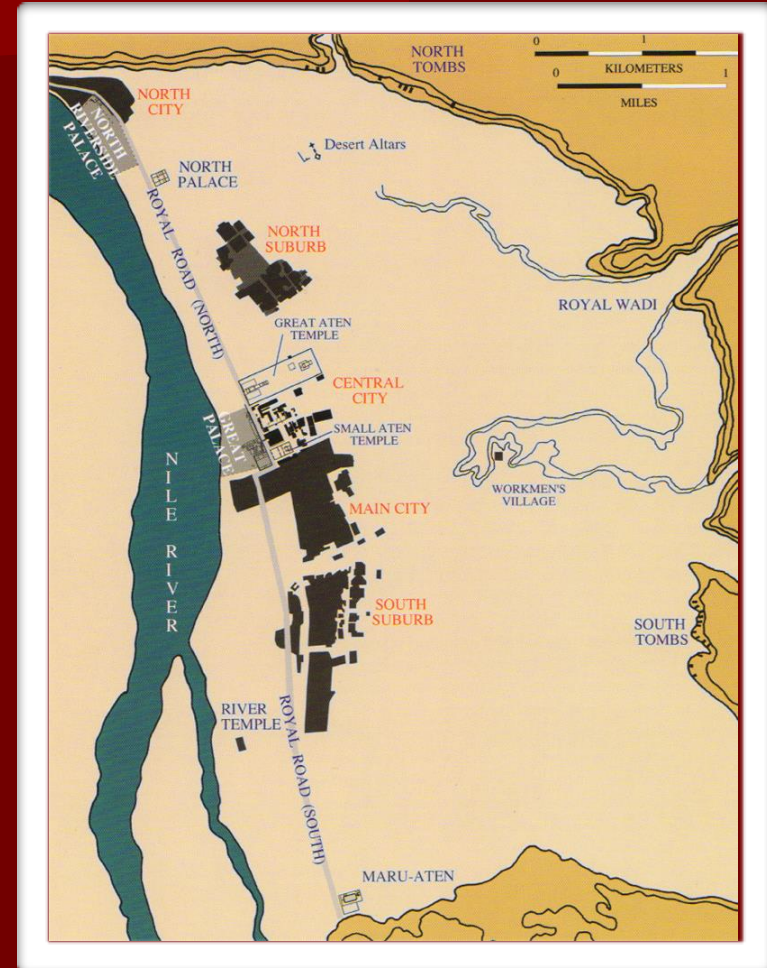
Other urban features

- Kawm ("Kom") al-Na'na
- Brewery & bakery areas
- associated with Nefertiti



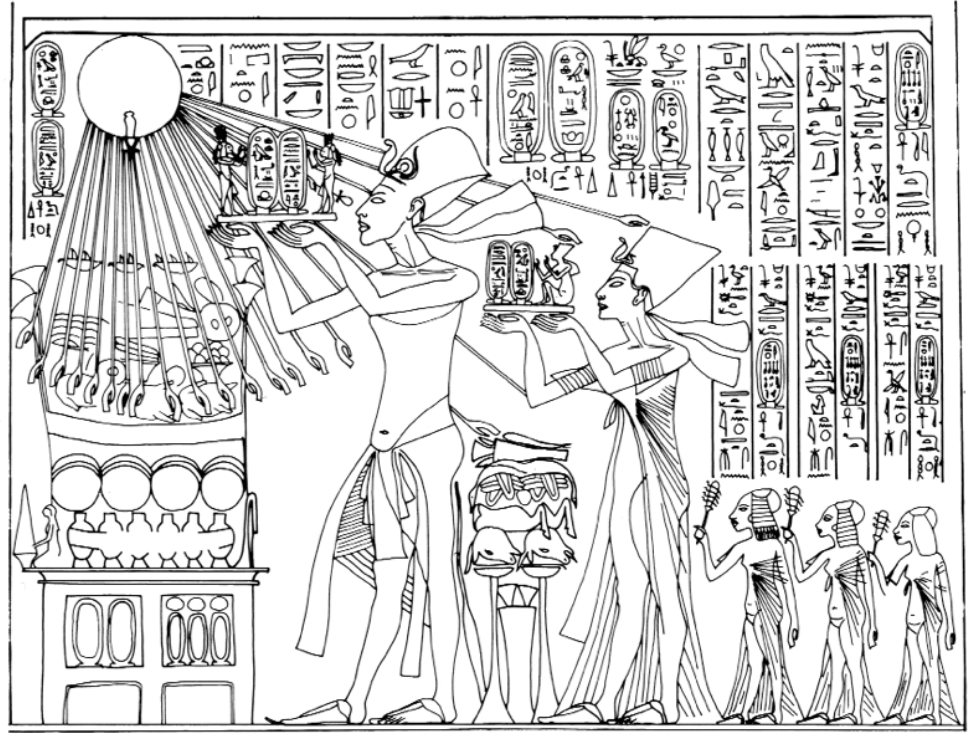
interpreting Akhet- Aten

- What sorts of general characteristics did Akhet-aten (Amarna) possess? Examples:
 - Estates are self-sufficient
 - Palaces are not exactly residential
- Of these, What seems unusual to you?



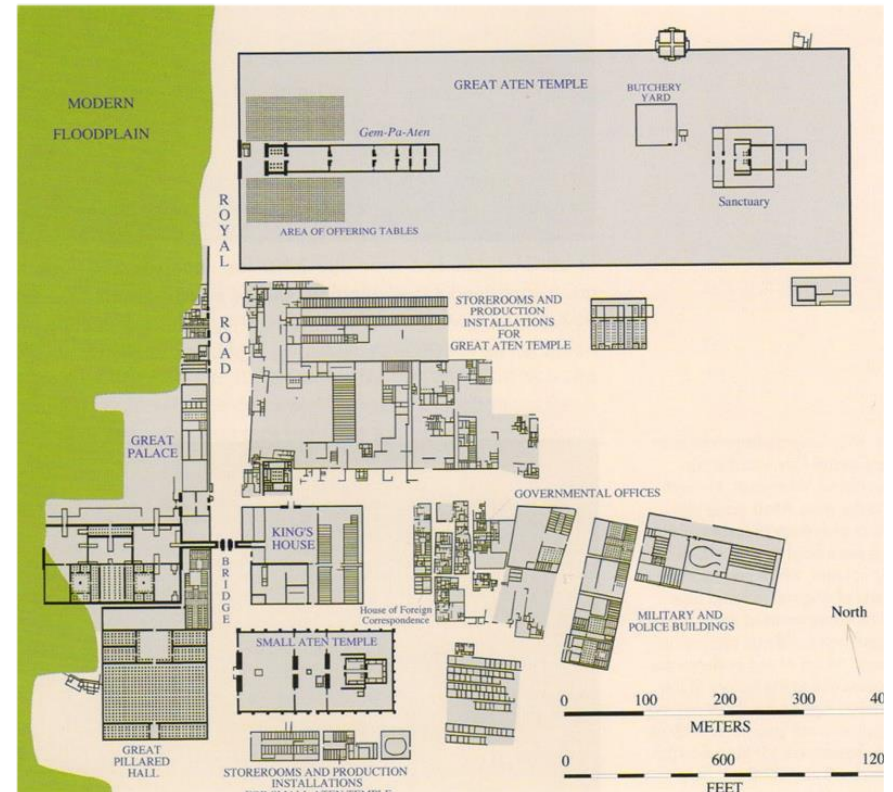
Amarna as a Palace

- Not really a royal residence
- Rather a cult place dedicated to the Aten, his “Prophet,” and the royal family
- civil Administration for Egypt as a country is completely lacking



Amarna as a Palace

- “city of villas and palaces” [Joachim Spiegel]
- social underclass (servants, slaves, etc.) integrated directly into estates
- no real poor neighborhoods; no time to develop?



Amarna as a Palace

- Central city surrounded on North and south by self-sufficient villas
- Governmental institutions are in the central city
- apparently no shops, taverns, schools, etc.

