

E10 Week 4 Monday

**Facts and Infotainment:
Saqqara as media star**

HPHP4013

From Egypt to the Near East: Phenomena
of the Mediterranean

Dr. Katharina Zinn

★ World Heritage Site



Saqqara as UNESCO World Heritage Site

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**44th session
of the World Heritage Committee**
Fuzhou, China, 2021

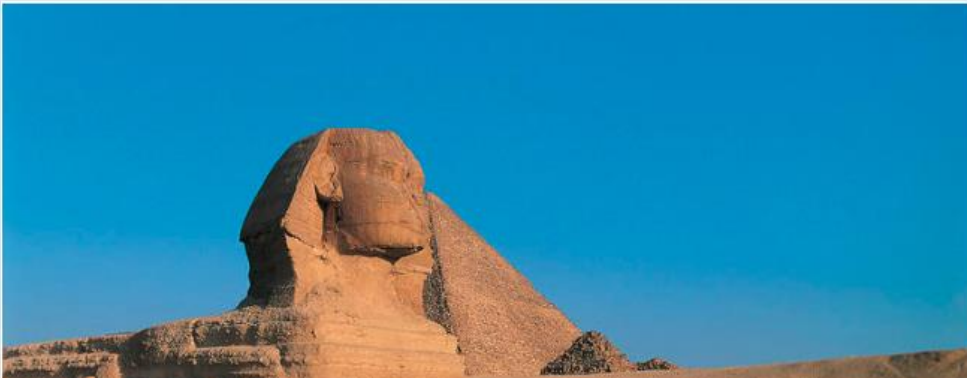
Advanced

Memphis and its Necropolis –
the Pyramid Fields from Giza to
Dahshur[Description](#) [Maps](#) [Documents](#) [Gallery](#) [Video](#) [Indicators](#) [Assistance](#)

Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur

The capital of the Old Kingdom of Egypt has some extraordinary funerary monuments, including rock tombs, ornate mastabas, temples and pyramids. In ancient times, the site was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

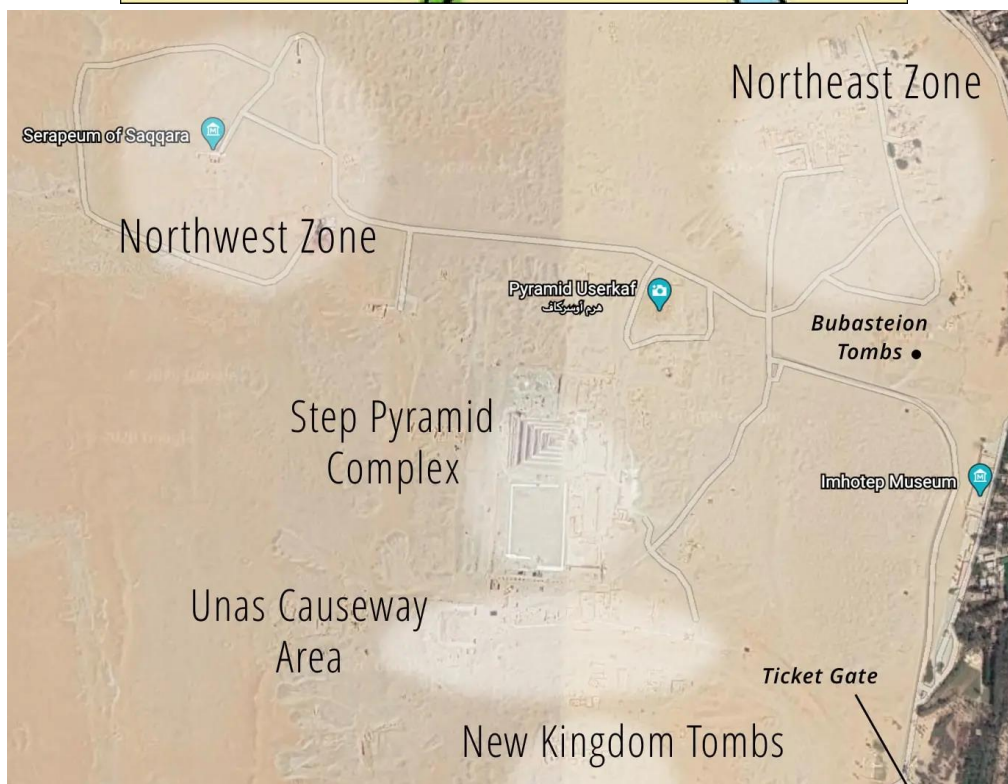
Description is available under license CC-BY-SA IGO 3.0

[English](#) [French](#) [Arabic](#) [Chinese](#) [Russian](#) [Spanish](#) [Japanese](#) [Dutch](#)**Egypt**
Governorate of Giza
N29 58 33.744 E31 7 40 470
Date of Inscription: 1979
Criteria: (i)(iii)(vi)
Property : 16,368.52 ha
Ref: 86



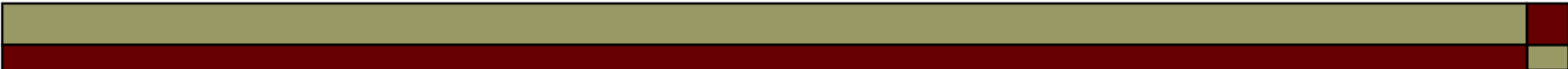
Location of Saqqara

- ❑ on the west bank of the Nile
- ❑ about 15 km south of the Giza Necropolis
- ❑ opposite Memphis
- ❑ bordered by the necropolis of Dahshur in the South and Abousir/Abusir in the North (then Giza)
- ❑ necropolis is oriented North-South about 8km long + 1.5km wide, with a central part more developed than the rest of the area
- ❑ vast flat limestone plateau



Saqqara at Artefact of Excavation

- ❑ **Alternative site names:** Sakkara; Sakkarah; Saqqarah; Saqqâra; Saqqârah
- ❑ **Arabic site names:** سقارة
- ❑ **Type of site:** Temples; pyramids; royal tombs; non-royal tombs; mastabas; cemeteries; Serapeum; animal necropolis
- ❑ **Timeframe:** Temples (Late Period, Graeco-Roman Period); pyramids (3rd -13th Dyn.); royal tombs (2nd Dyn.); non-royal tombs (1st Dyn.-Graeco-Roman Period); mastabas (1st-2nd Dyn.); cemeteries (Early Dynastic Period); Serapeum (Graeco-Roman Period); animal necropolis (New Kingdom, Late Period, Graeco-Roman Period)

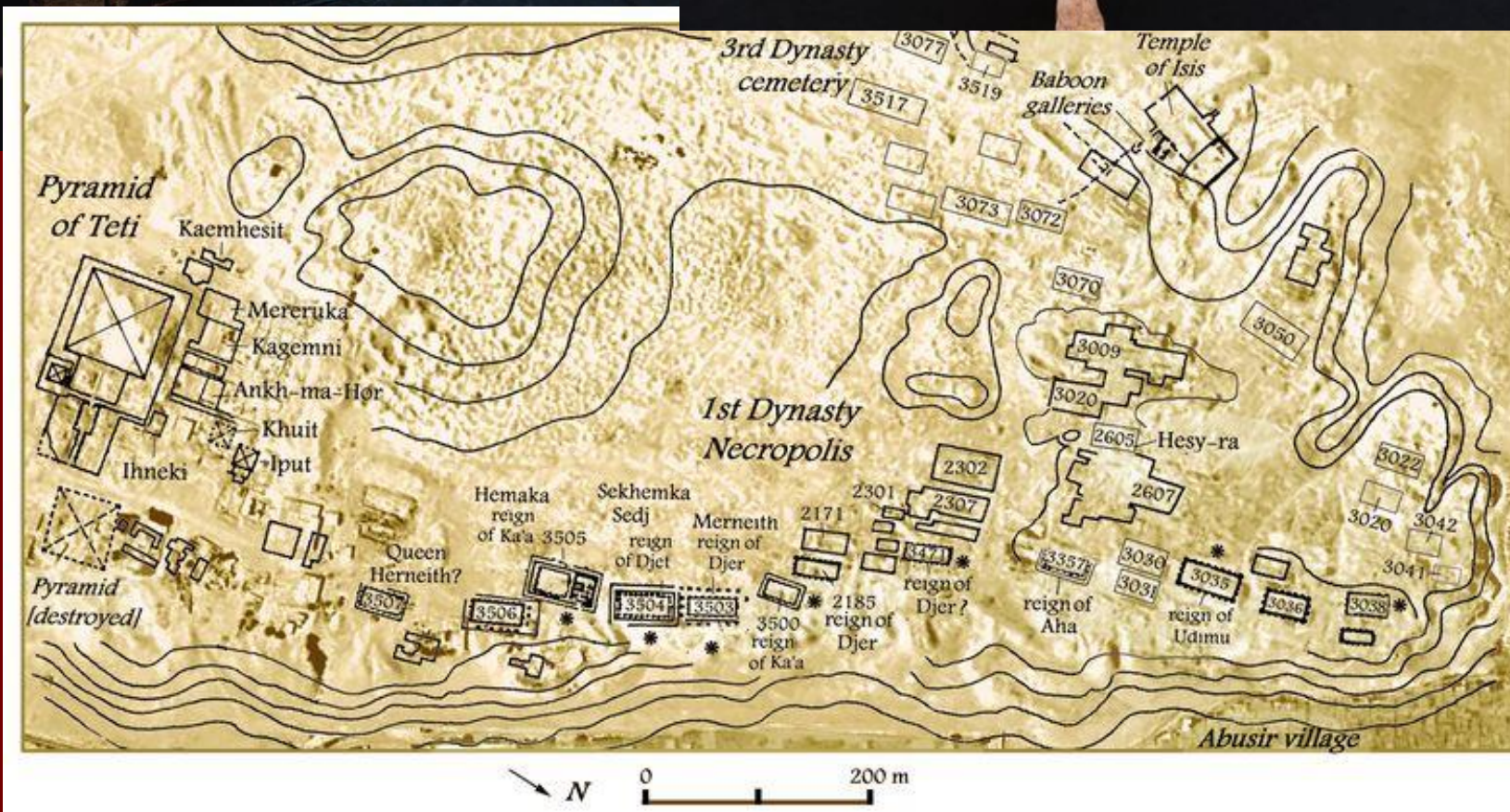


Periods

- ❑ Pre- and Early Dynastic Period
- ❑ Old Kingdom
- ❑ First Intermediate Period
- ❑ Middle Kingdom
- ❑ Second Intermediate Period
- ❑ New Kingdom
- ❑ Third Intermediate Period
- ❑ Late Period
- ❑ Ptolemaic and Roman Period

Dynasties

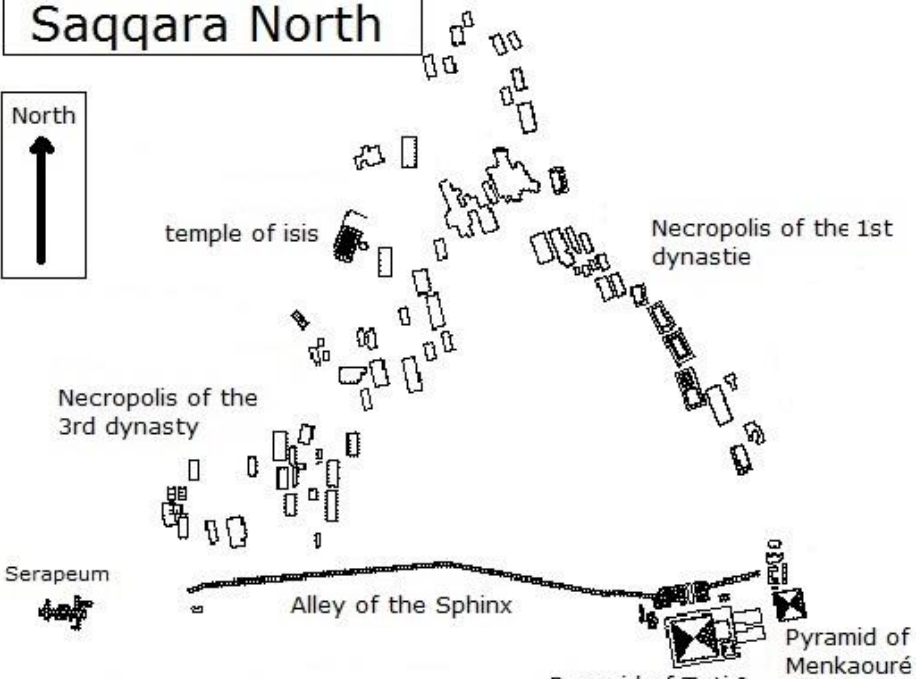
- ❑ Predyn. (5300-3000BC), 0-2
- ❑ 3-6
- ❑ 8-11
- ❑ 11-12
- ❑ 13-17
- ❑ 18-20
- ❑ 21-24
- ❑ 25-”31”
- ❑ No dynastic time anymore (332BC -331AD)



Saqqara as space to reflect upon ancient Egyptian society

- ❑ Case study – Lived Ancient religion (LAR)
- ❑ LAR as set of experiences, practices, conceptions in regard to religion – shared by individuals in diverse social spaces → “the walking dead” of Saqqara help to understand ancient Egypt
- ❑ Tracking religious interactions which for Egypt are part of the whole approach to life, interactions, definition as culture (“cultural geography”)
- ❑ Saqqara identified as good place to celebrate postcolonial and post-orientalist celebration of Egyptian Egyptology

Saqqara North



Mastaba of Ptahotep and Akethotep

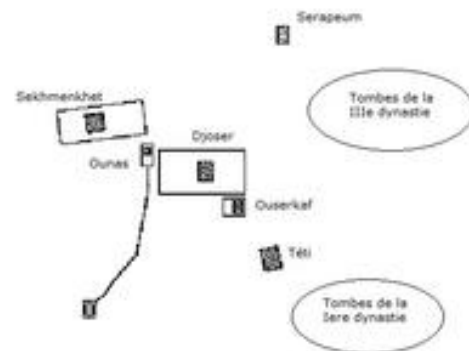
Pyramid of Unas

Pyramid of Sekhmenhet

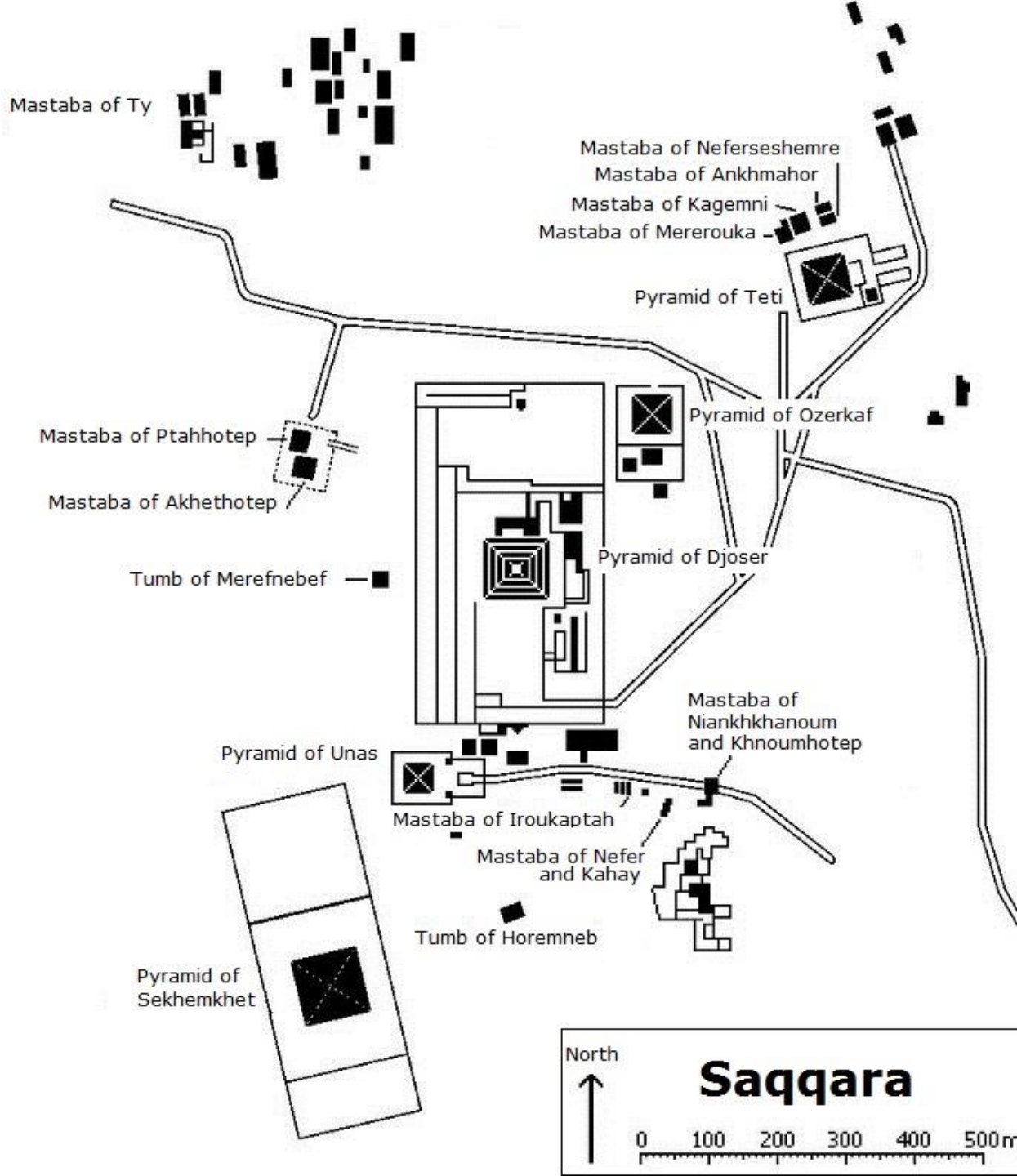
Necropolis of the new empire

Monastery of St Jeremy

Saqqarah Sud

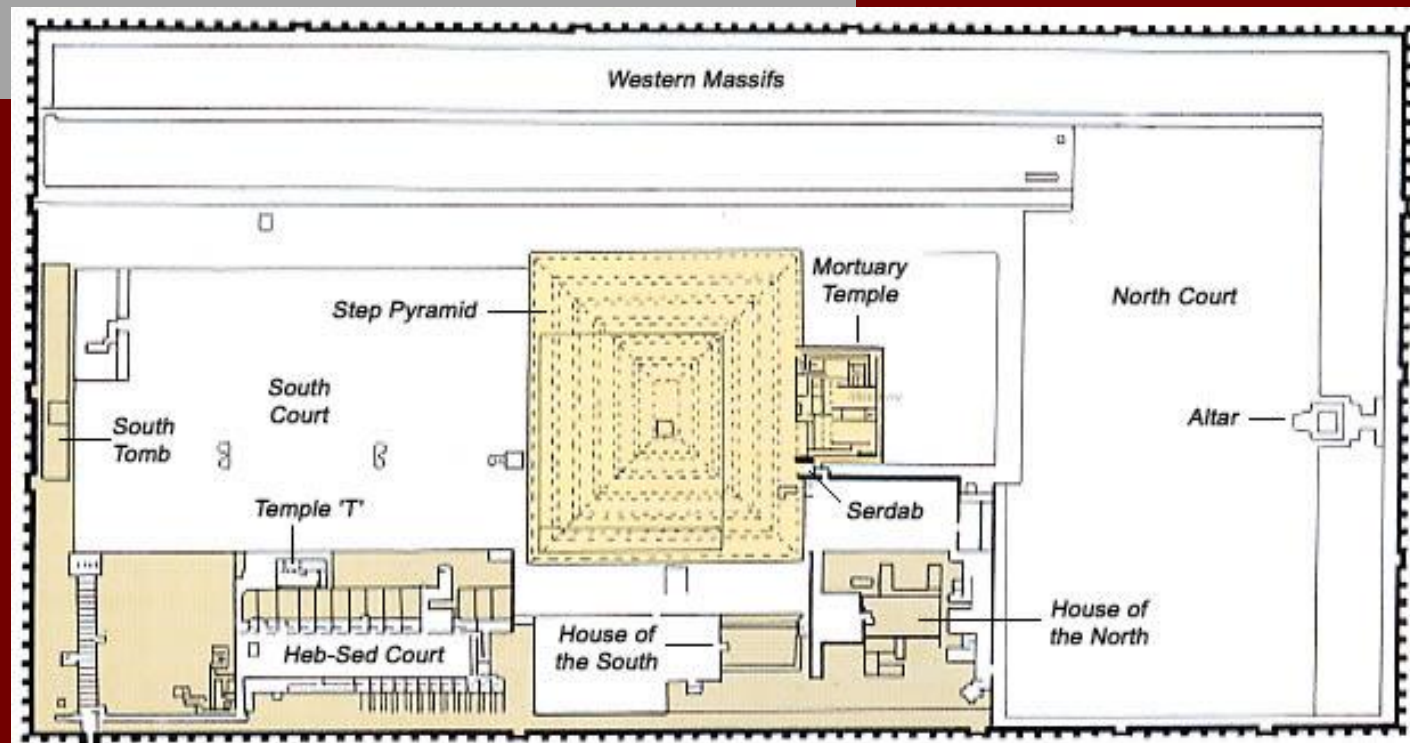


Main tombs







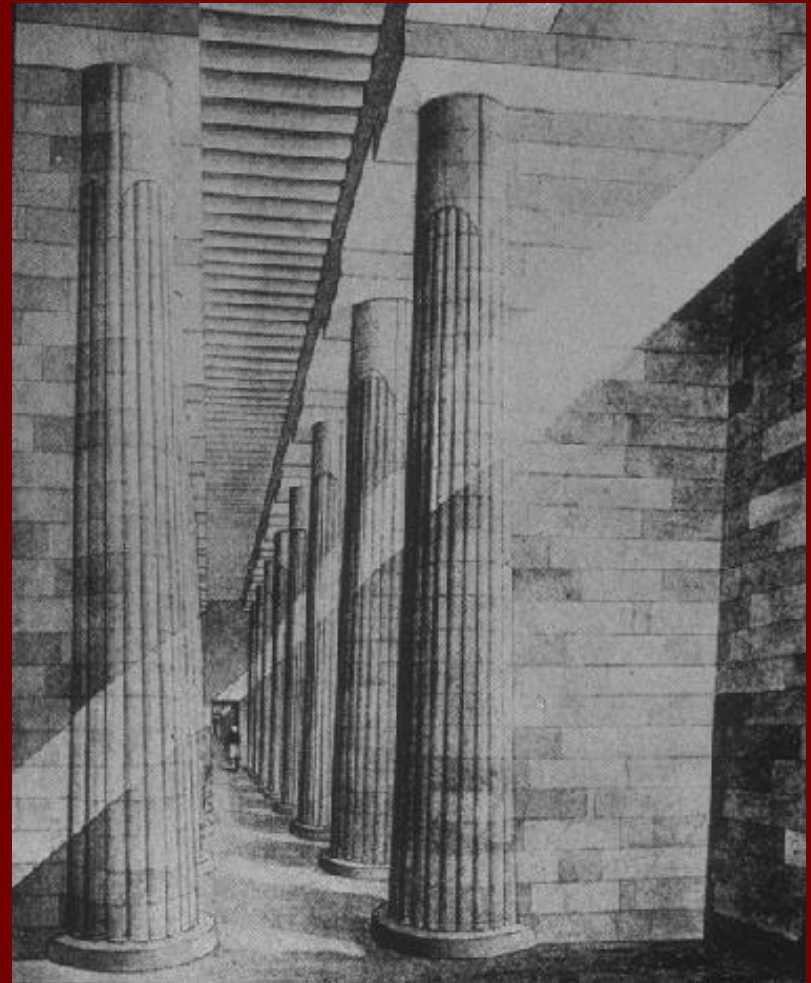


Djoser Pyramid Complex

Entry Hall (excavation)



Entry Hall (reconstruction)





Architectural Features



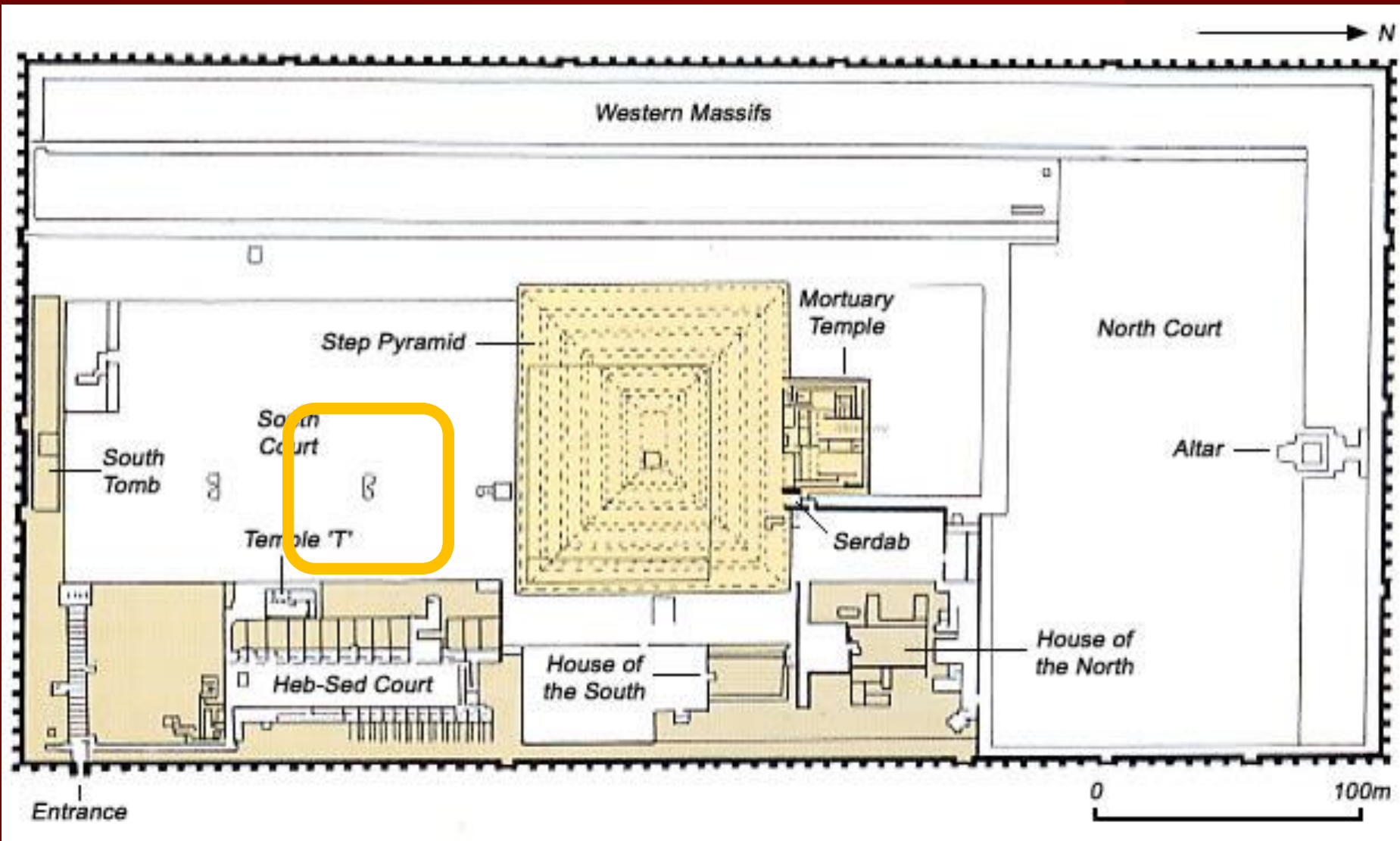
Left: an imitation open door near the entrance to the complex.



Right: the rounded stones in the ceiling of the Entrance Corridor are made to resemble wooden beams.



Below: another example of an imitation open door, at the Heb-Sed Court.

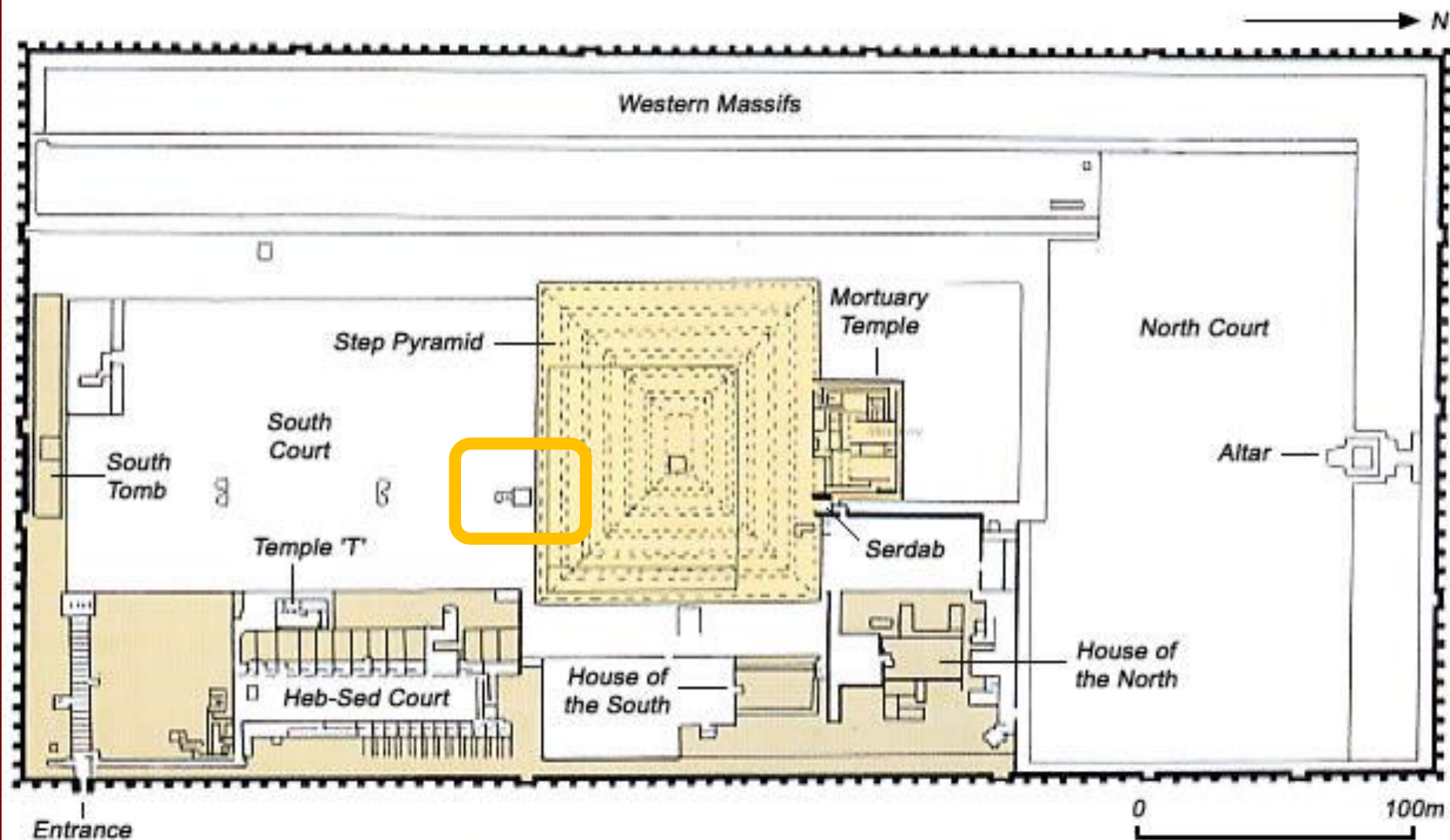


Heb Sed court with runner stones (horseshoe altars)



BM EA 32650
Jar Label (Den, 1st dyn.)

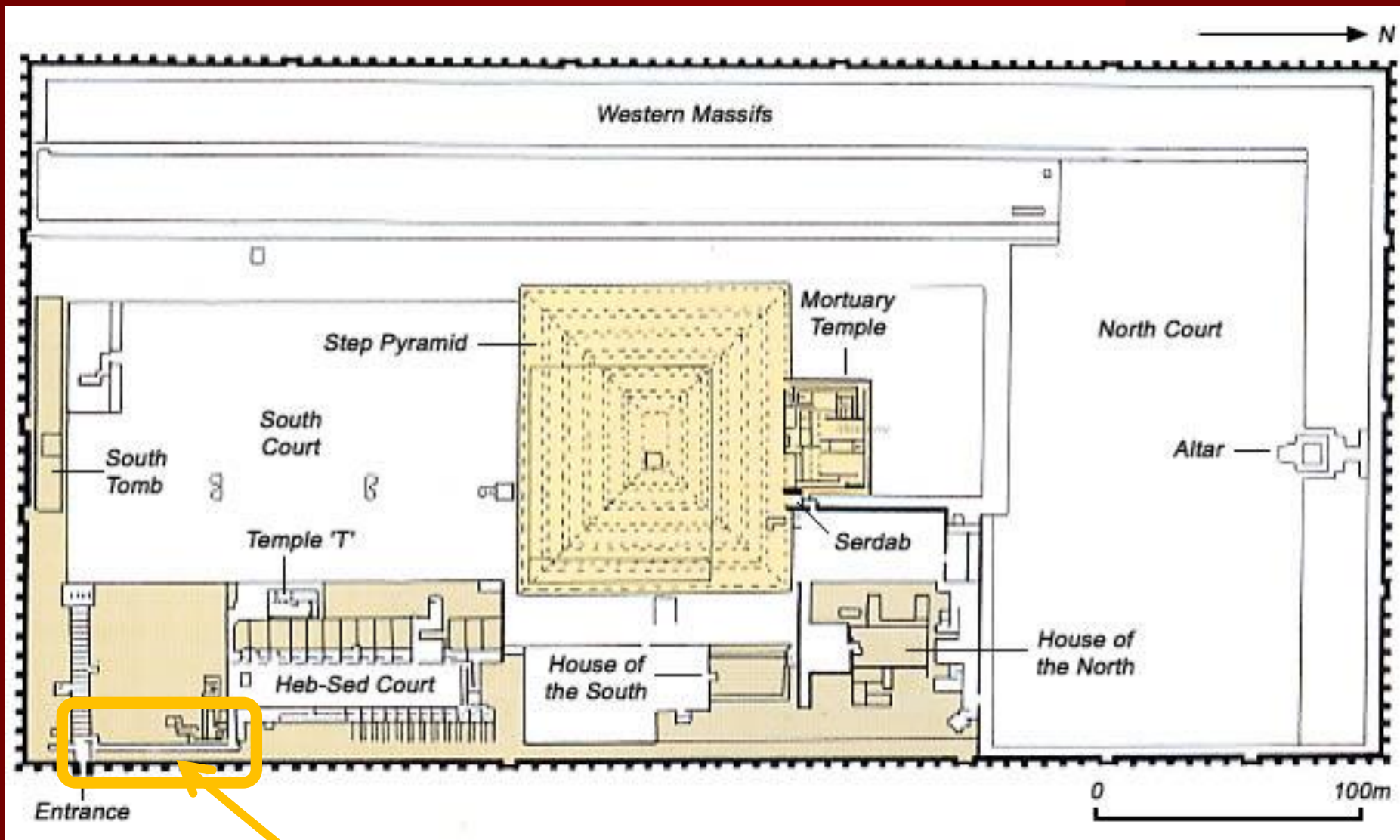




Throne dais at south side pyramid

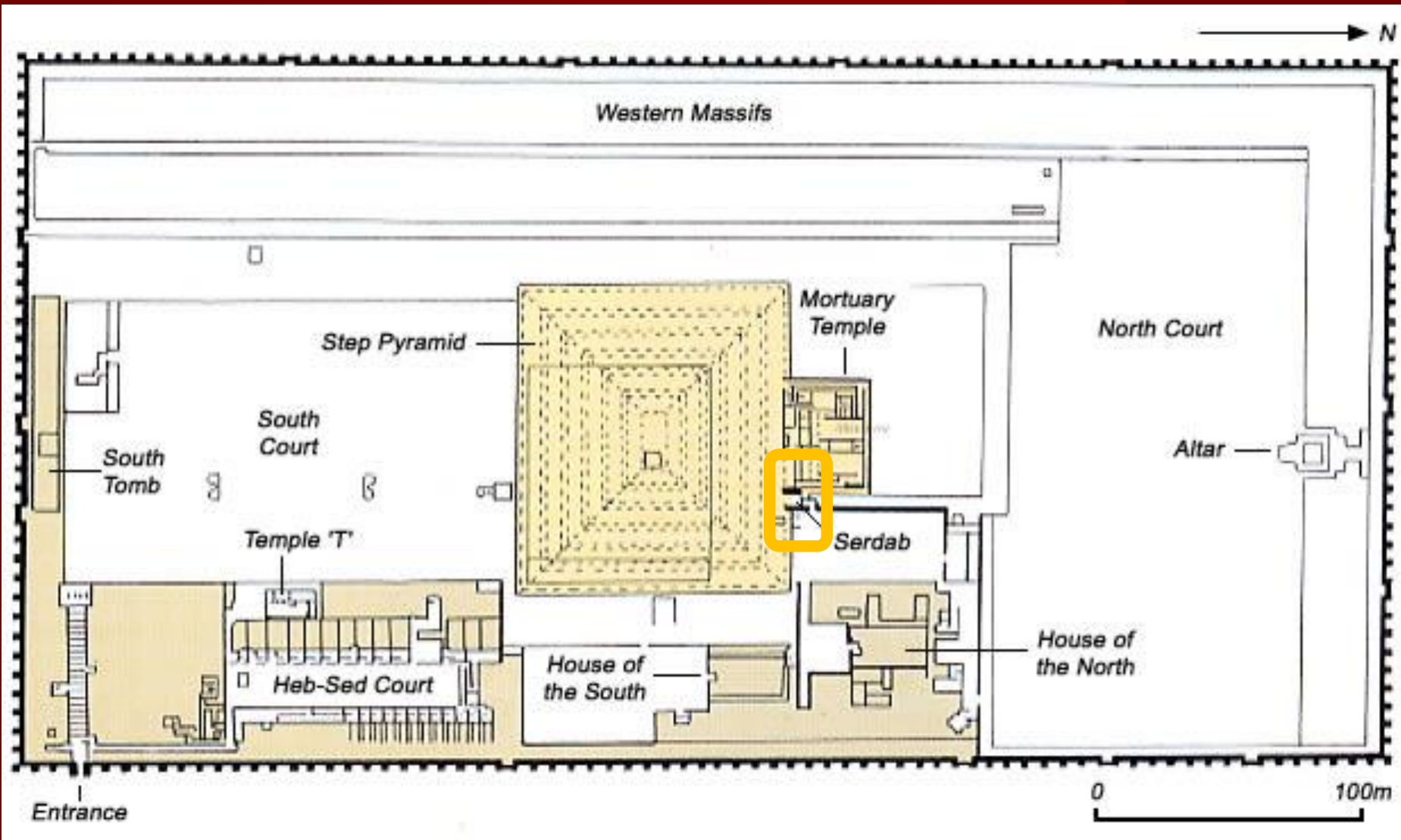
- approached by ramp or stairs





Processional Way



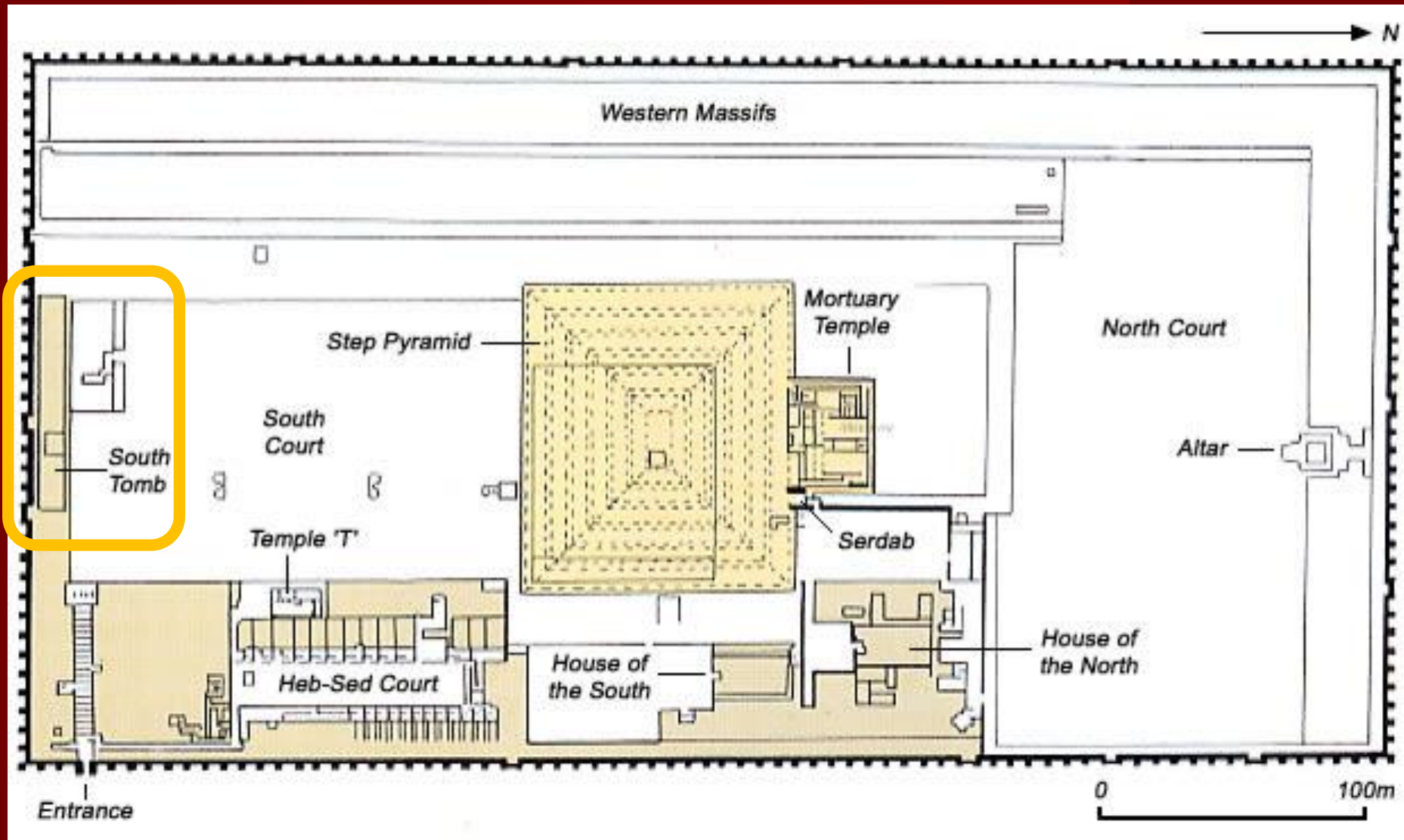


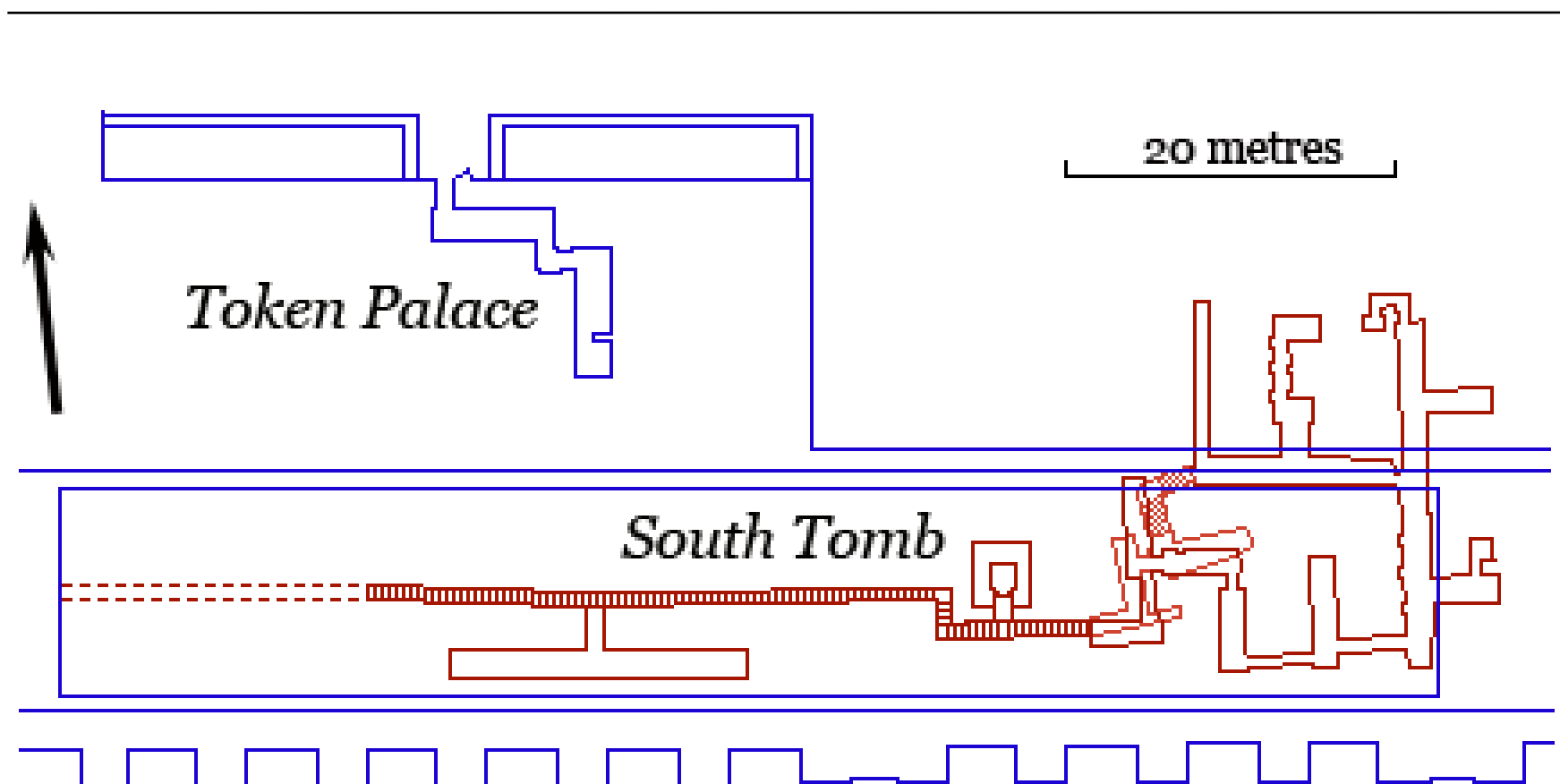
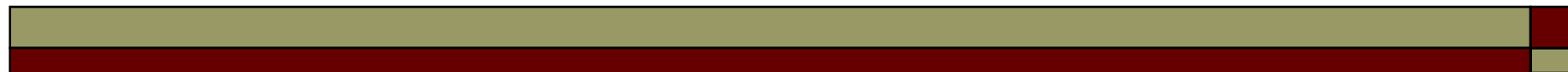
Dyn 3: Netjerjkhet (Djoser) Serdab statue

Replica in serdab (small structure in court situated in north-eastern corner of the pyramid) = tiny sealed chamber: tilted upwards (angle of 30 degrees), gazed out through a peep-hole towards the northern stars and the land of Osiris

statue would have represented the King's 'ka' emerging from burial chamber



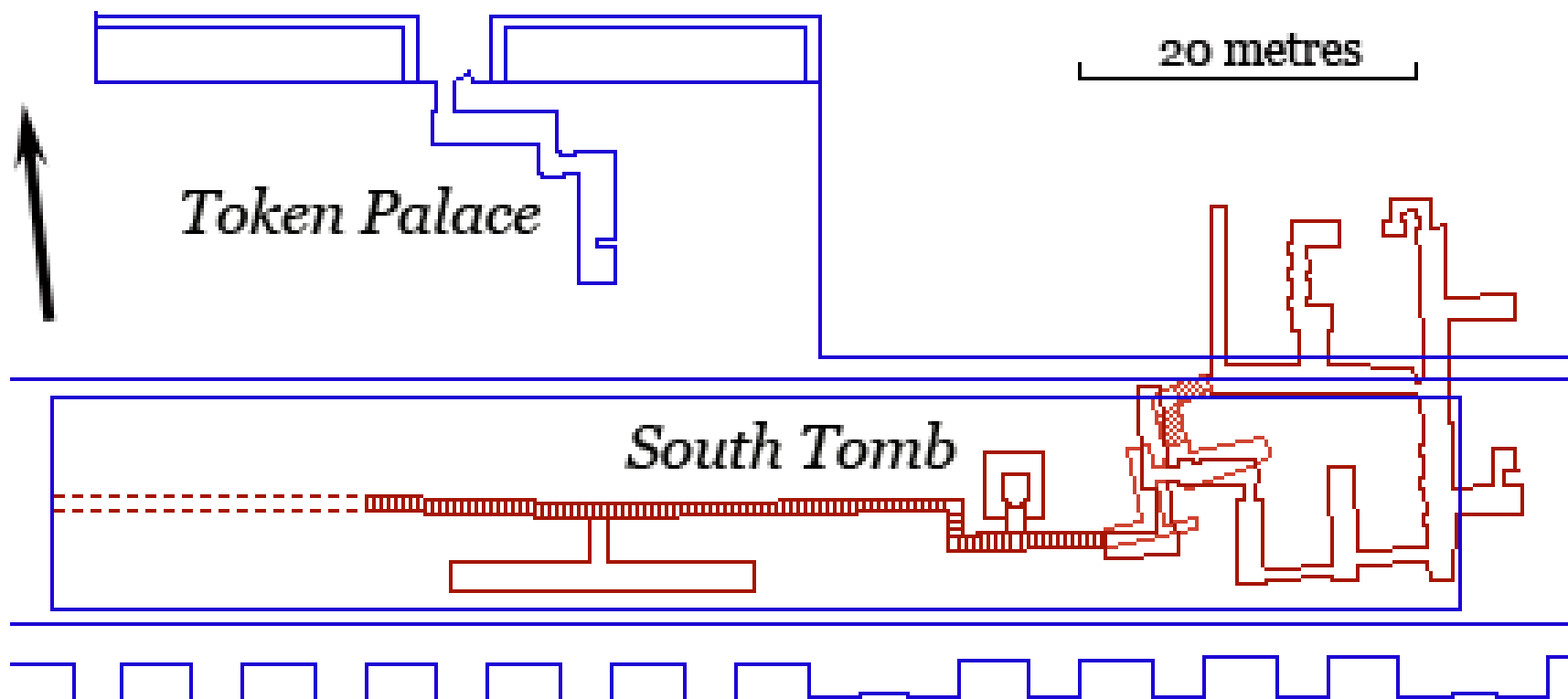


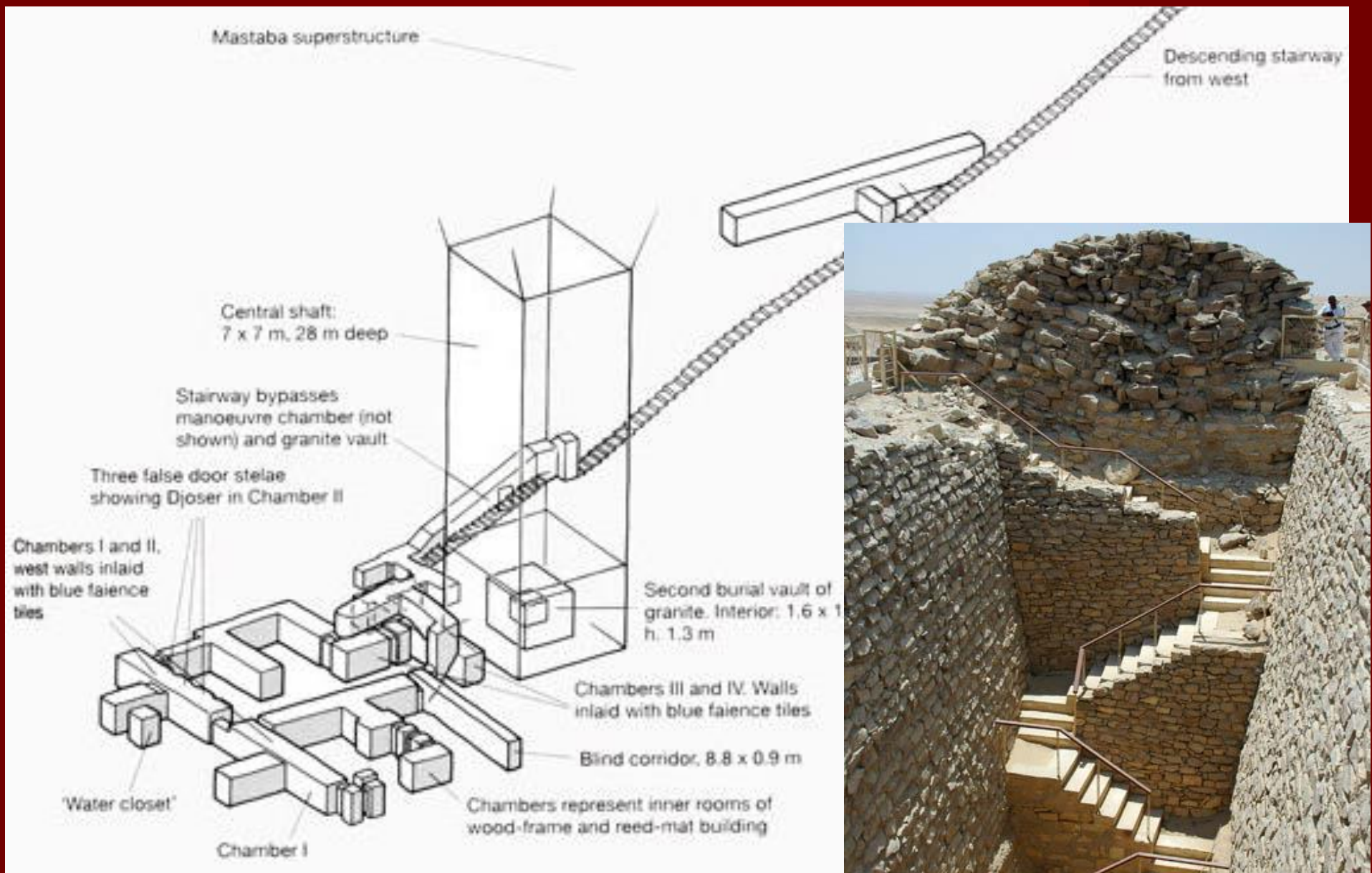


Token Palace

dummy building :
represents the temporary
pavilion set up for the pharaoh
to rest and refresh himself
during rituals







South Tomb

**Reconstruction South
Tomb Chamber by Firth**



**South Tomb Chamber
panel Djoser running**



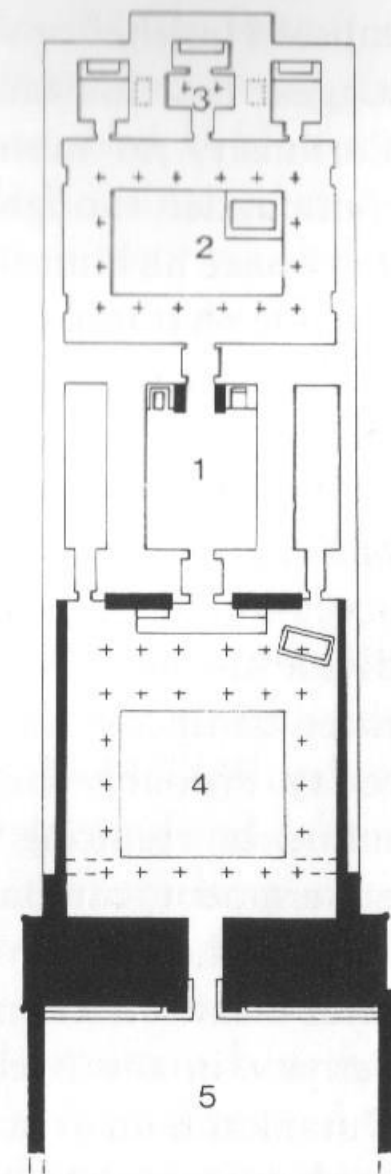
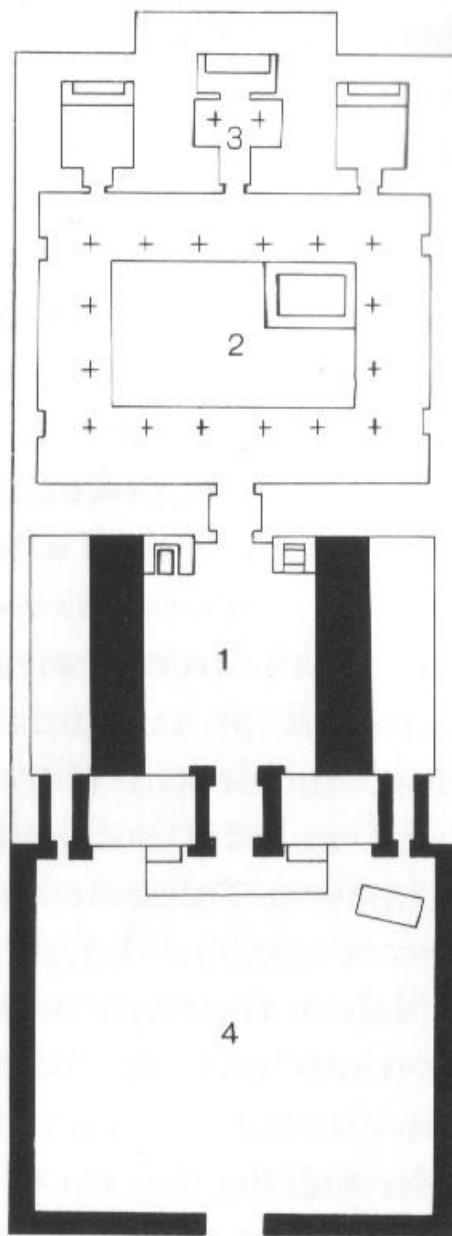
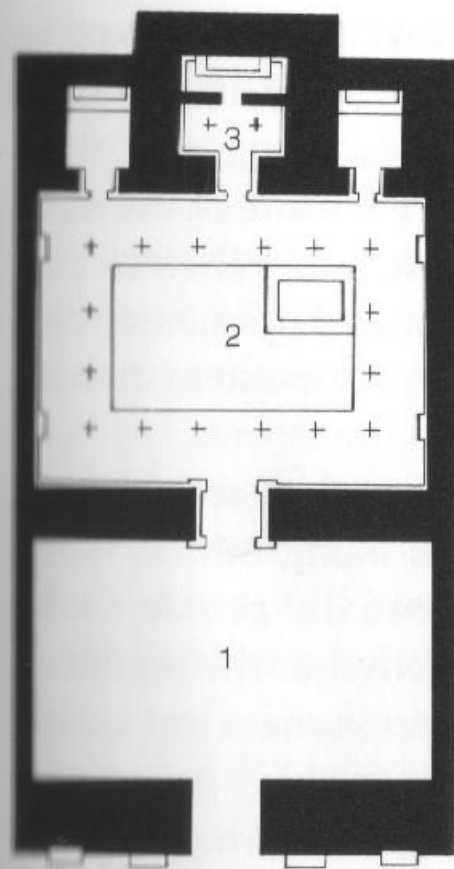


Tomb of Horemheb in Saqqara: the temple tomb



**Martin:
“Temple Tomb”**





Leiden





**SAQQARA AS (CONTEMPORARY)
MEDIA STAR**

Constantly new excavations and finds



VIDEO

LIVE

SHOWS

CORONAVIRUS



Egypt unlocks more secrets in Saqqara with discovery of temple, sarcophagi

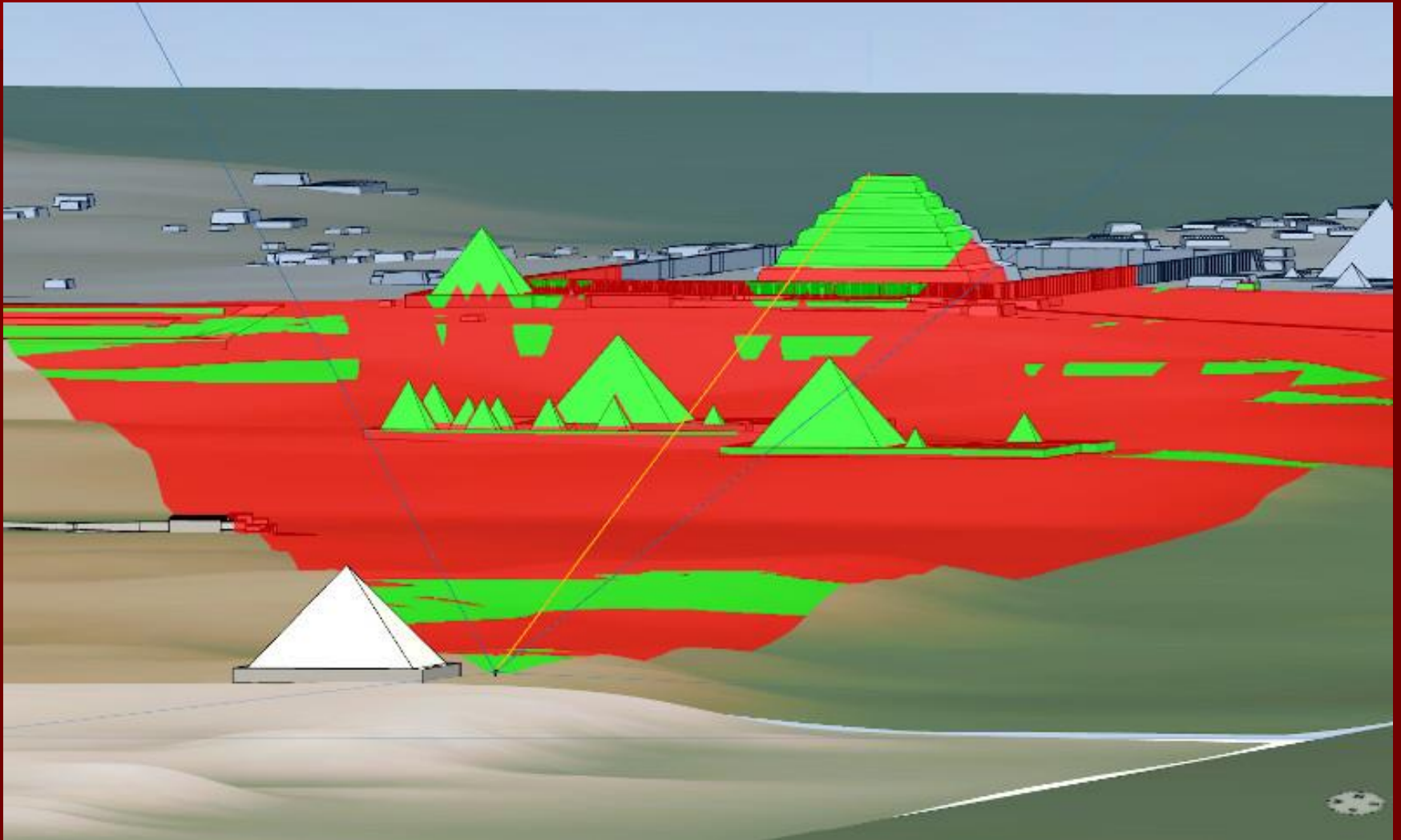
The coffins are from the New Kingdom, the oldest found in the necropolis so far.

By **Hatem Maher**

18 January 2021, 19:31 • 6 min read



Saqqara 3D (here visibility in Saqqara)

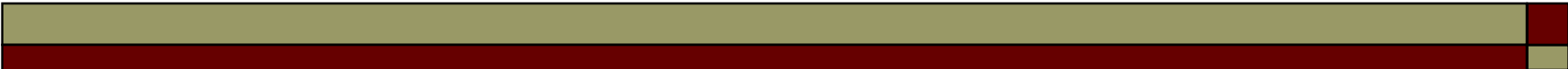


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SECRETS OF THE SAQQARA TOMB



Headline of Arab News - Egyptian dig crew
steals the show in 'Secrets of the Saqqara Tomb'



<https://www.arabnews.com/node/1758326/lifestyle>

- [...] as a small team of Egyptian archaeologists uncover a tomb that has been untouched for 4,400 years, leading to a glut of further discoveries and some staggering breakthroughs with regards to ancient Egyptian culture. [...] Director James Tovell, focus[es] on the team, and their connection to Egypt's ancient history.
- Despite being blessed with no shortage of incredible moments of discovery, “Secrets of the Saqqara Tomb” is at its most remarkably moving when the local workforce and experts are given the opportunity to explain just how and why this history resonates so intently. Whether it's digger Ghareeb sharing a rest break with his son, Dr. Amira Shaheen being moved to tears as she tries to empathize with long-dead Egyptians, or foreman Mustafa finding kinship with his ancestors in their use of the same tools, it is these human interactions, and the palpable excitement of the exhausted workers as treasure after treasure is pulled from the sand, that linger longest in the memory. And those special examples of human connection that make it easy to forgive the more contrived moments.