

and is entirely dependent upon this controlling influence. The Ethiopian temples are modeled after the plan of the Egyptian ones. Pianchi, the builder of the altar, who for a time, (about 720 B.C.) controlled all of Egypt and made sacrifices to the gods, may himself be presented as a proof of this unity. It is easy to see the dependence of this altar on the hotep type, even if the projection is greatly produced.

III The Step Altar.
(Figs. 8 - 10)

a - The Step Altar of Deir El Bahri (figs. 8A, B)

The only known original of this type of altar was found in the courtyard of the great temple of Deir El Bahri near Thebes. It is partly destroyed, but the remains are so well preserved that a reconstruction is possible. The altar is built of 4 layers of white limestone and rises about 1.5 Meters above the ground. The upper surface is about 4 x 5 metres. The edges ran parallel to the walls of the court and the shorter walls lie north and south. From the West there is a stairway of 10 steps about one meter wide leading up to the upper altar surface..... The upper surface of the altar is closed in by a stone sill about 30 centimeters high which runs entirely around the outer edge though only preserved in two places on the original enclosure. The entire quadrangle is enclosed with the exception of the entrance to the stairway which is left free. The great temple of Deir El Bahri was built by the Queen Hatshepsut (18th dynasty, about 1500 B.C.) The inscription on the altar declares that the queen "erected the great altar out of white stone to her father Re-Haracht." The altar was ~~not~~ not used for burning for one fire would have sufficed to destroy the limestone. The small sill of the presentation altar had hardly any practical purpose to fulfill. It served to decorate the construction.

B. The step Altar on El Amarna Reliefs
(figs. 9 and 10)

Amenophis IV (18th dynasty, 1375 B.C.) introduced the worship of the Sun God alone, in his newly founded capital, El Amarna, In this city, which bore the name horizon of the sun, "The Living Sun", Aton, was