

221. Mortuary Temple of Hatshepsut

New Kingdom, Egypt 18th Dynasty

1473-1458 BCE

Sandstone, partially carved into a rock cliff, and red granite

Video at Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ancient-art-civilizations/egypt-art/new-kingdom/v/mortuary-temple-of-hatshepsut-and-large-kneeling-statue-new-kingdom-egypt>

- Dedicated to the sun god Amon-Ra
- Construction of the temple of Hatshepsut took fifteen years, between the 7th and the 22nd years of her reign. . . .The site chosen by Hatshepsut for her temple was the product of precise strategic calculations: it was situated not only in a valley considered sacred for over 500 years to the principal feminine goddess connected with the funeral world, but also on the axis of the temple of Amun of Karnak, and finally, it stood at a distance of only a few hundred meters in a straight line from the tomb that the queen had ordered excavated for herself in the Valley of the Kings on the other side of the mountain
- Reconstruction is still underway
- Hatshepsut's chancellor, royal architect **Senenmut** oversaw construction.
- Adjacent temple of Mentuhotep was used as model (but both are different in many ways)
- Three layered terraces – 97 feet tall . . . lengthy colonnaded terrace all connected by long ramps – once surrounded by gardens of foreign plants
- Square piers
- Proto Doric columns house the chapel
- Classic Theban form: pylons, courts, hypostyle hall, sun court, chapel, and sanctuary
- Relief sculpture inside recites tale of divine birth of a female pharaoh – **the first of its kind**
- Statues and ornamentation stolen or destroyed
- Stepson ordered destruction of her portraits after her death
- Main and axis are aligned with winter solstice sunrise – which light up certain rooms and statues
- Closest Egypt came to “Classical architecture”
 - Representative of New Kingdom funerary architecture, it both aggrandizes the pharaoh and includes sanctuaries to honor the gods relevant to her afterlife.^[6] This marks a turning point in the architecture of Ancient Egypt, which forsook the megalithic geometry of the Old Kingdom for a temple which allowed for active worship, requiring the presence of participants to create the majesty. The linear axiality of Hatshepsut's temple is mirrored in the later New Kingdom temples.
- Original architecture has been considered altered as a result of misguided reconstruction in the early twentieth century
- Site of massacre of 62 people (mostly tourists) by Islamist extremist in 1997





