

when the site clearly a pyramid nobody did not require a basal terrace during the earliest pyramid-building period. If we know of in each case, ~~the~~ ~~was~~ ~~not~~ ~~built~~ ~~as~~ ~~constructed~~.

pyramid

The Basal terrace.

Most pyramid stairways rise from single or compound

manually deeper than the terraces of the pyramid.

Definition: A terrace elevated above the court or plaza, from which one or more pyramid stairways rise, and on which the pyramid appears to rest. In original form these elements appear to be local adaptations to topography. Those of K-5-3d and probably of R-16 and O-12/eliminate noticeable slopes in the plaza. R-2 to R-4 masks bedrock above the plaza level as one approaches the temples. Those of J-3 and J-29 have leveling-off functions. On the other hand the basal platforms of R-9 surely, and of J-4 and R-1 were not required by the topography. It is almost certain in the case of J-4, quite certain for R-9 and R-1 that these two terraces pre-date the pyramids, so that their use as basal terraces within our definition is still an adaptation to pre-existent topography, in these cases man-made. Confirmation is found in R-10, immediately adjoining R-9, which is built on a very low pre-existent platform forming a mere plinth, and in the original O-13, which rises directly from the plaza.

If the genesis of the basal platform lies in the practical problem confronting the pyramid builder, no particular connection need arise between the pyramid and the terrace. J-4 is a striking case in point, where the off-center ~~xxxx~~ with relation to the terrace as whole, and strikingly so as to its monumental stairway. R-3 is placed immediately behind such as stairway but R-2 and R-4, on either side, lack separate terrace stairways, which could easily have been built. Further the base of the J-4 pyramid is far above the basal terrace

He may have felt the terrace to be merely an elevated portion of the plaza.

Stelae on the terrace, in line with the center of the pyramid stairway, in six cases suggest a specific relation between terrace and pyramid (J-4, K-5-1st, R-16, R-1, R-4 and R-10-2nd.) But in all cases the stela may be an afterthought. ⁴⁵ ~~Alat 5/exhibits/ anxxx~~ ^{before O 13 and Stela} ~~anxxx~~ analagous arrangement on the plaza itself, and the terraces of J-3, J-29, O-12, R-3, ^{R-5} and R-9 carry no such axially placed ~~xxxxxxx~~ monuments. In the ~~xxxxxxx~~ West Groups all stelae are placed on basal terraces and in the South Group there is only one ⁴⁵ (Stela) exception, apart from three placed on a pyramid. But in the East group the reverse is the case, all but ^{three} ~~one~~ not on a pyramid being placed directly on the plaza. It seems fair to deduce that while basal terraces carry most of the stelae at the site, they were not ^{developed} built for this purpose, except perhaps as secondary extensions of pre-existing terraces (J-3, J-4, K-5-1st, R-5). ^{Entirely} Asymmetrical stela placement on the terraces, ~~xxxxxx~~ (J-4, O-12, R-9), and in connection with an axially placed stela (Stela 31 between R-3 and R-4) J-4, K-5, ~~xxxxxxx~~ confirm the impression that ~~xxxxxxx~~ the terrace is fundamentally thought of as part of the plaza rather than of the pyramid.

All stelae are grouped on that side of the plaza bordered by pyramid temples, and only one pyramid temple exists without a stela associated with it in this somewhat vague sense. I" all cases either the latest or a prior pyramid may have preceded ^{the} ~~stela~~ ^{erectio} ~~erection, before/it.~~ There is positive evidence of this in K-5, ~~xxxx~~ and in R-3 and O-13 ^{earlier} pyramids preceded ^{the} ~~the~~ stelae placed ^{on them} ~~on them~~ in later phases. ~~Wxxxxxxx~~ It is highly probable that pyramids had been introduced before the large plain or carved

In our numbered series *began to be included.*
 stelae. These seem to have been always placed in some relation to
 the pyramids, the association being more or less specific.
 of placement
 Deducible rules/seem to be as follows: symmetrically on the
 pyramid top (R-3 and O-13); symmetrically or asymmetrically
 before
~~at~~ the base of the pyramid, therefore on the basal terrace
 if present (J-3, J-4, K-5, O-12, R-1, ~~R-2~~ R-2 & 3, R-4, R-5,
 R-9 and R-10-a.) or on the plaza if not (O-13); occasionally on
 the plaza as well as ^{on} basal terrace ~~xxxxxxx~~ (R-5, R-9, O-12).
 A special case is stelae 13 and 14 which seem to have been
 on a variant of the basal terrace, which may be secondary to
 placement of the stelae on the plaza. (0-13). If so, these are the only
 stelae not placed at the level either of the bottom or the top
 of the pyramid stairway.

While a first glance at the city plan might suggest that
 that basal terraces were planned as parts of pyramid-temple
 units, and specifically to carry stelae, stela placement as a whole
 confirms the other evidence that the terraces are ^{primarily} adjustments to
 natural or artificial topography. Nevertheless at some times
 and spots terrace and pyramid are more or less integrated. ~~At~~ At
 R-1, R-5, possibly in an early R-9 period, at K-5-1st and J-29
 terrace and pyramid have common axes, and this seems to be true so
 far as terrain permitted at J-3 and O-12. The common axis was accented
 central placement of perhaps
 by/terrace stairways in these cases, except for J-29 and O-12 where
 such stairways were not identified. ^{(In three cases} where symmetrical placement of
 pyramid and terrace is absent (R-3, R-9-1st) or not certain (K-5-3rd
~~xxx~~ terrace stairways ^{or their equivalents} are nevertheless on the pyramid axis. J-4 provides
 the only positive exception to the rule that basal terrace stairways,
 if present, line up with ~~xxx~~ pyramids. Remembering that basal terraces

predate the pyramids in some instances, and possibly in all except K-5-3d where ^{the terrace} ~~it~~ was definitely needed for topographic reasons, ~~thaxax~~ it seems ~~probable~~ only natural that axes already established for terraces or terrace stairways, should be used for pyramids placed on them, where practical. For instance, the stairway of the R-2 to R-4 terrace is off-center with reference to the terrace, but approximately on ~~the~~ one axis of the court as a whole, opposite the similar stairway of R-7. Later placement of the pyramid R-3 may have been with reference to this court axis, and only incidentally with reference to the terrace stairway. Where, as at R-1, a pre-existing terrace was selected as the site for a pyramid, too small to serve more than one, a general feeling for symmetry ~~axi~~ seems enough to account for symmetrical placement of the pyramid, where feasible. Such a ^{general} feeling would also account for use of decorative outsets in the pyramid style on the basal Terrace of K-5-3d, the only one known to be contemporary with the pyramid.

All we have said tends to derive the basal terraces from local topography or pre-pyramid construction, factors which might or might not operate at other sites. There is some evidence that even so, they came to have an independent value. ^{The terrace} That of R-9-1st and possibly ^{third} of R-5 were used as supplementary ceremonial stages, ^{with column altar,} and this may have been true of others. ~~But since a typical column altar was set up in the plaza before R-9, and some ~~of~~ larger stone columns which may have some similar purpose lay in disturbed positions before R-1 and possibly R-5, such use does not really set the terrace surfaces functionally apart from the plaza surface.~~

which is a unit with, or corresponds to a later terrace lower than the basal terrace of R-9, but extending across its front

Nevertheless at some times and spots terrace and pyramid are integrated more or less. Terrace and its stairway are symmetrically placed in R-5, R-1, K-5-1st, and, apparently as much as the terrain permitted, on O-12, R-16 and J-29, We do not know the earliest relationship in R-9, but in final form an asymmetrically placed terrace is partly designed with reference to the pyramid axis, and bears a column altar on this axis. In the only case where we know definitely that pyramid and basal terrace were built as a unit, the terrace stairway is symmetrically placed and outsets carry the style of the pyramid to the terrace itself. Centrally placed stelae on the terrace tend to unit it with the pyramid in six cases: J-4, K-5-1st, R-16, R-1, R-4 and R-10-2nd.

This is true as to the terrace stairways not having been looked for.

Further evidence that the basal terrace came to have more than a practical value occurs ^{of} in the only two pyramids built ^{originally} without them. R-10-1st was secondarily provided with one. O-13 was provided with terraces on either side of the stairway, not deep enough to cause the later to rise from it, duplicating in this respect the situation in K-5-2nd. ^{Here} These elements also fail to reach the pyramid corners, so that neither the pyramid nor the stairway appears to rise from them. They fall outside our definition ^{of basal terrace} but if they were more examples, would form a sub-type. These secondary changes transfer some of the ^{pre-existing} pyramid height, as it were, to the terrace, and no topographic necessities seem involved. *These are the only two instances*

where practical necessities did not or may not have accounted for the basal terrace idea. It is at least plausible to suppose that necessity having dictated the presence of the terrace at the great majority of pyramid sites, a feeling that these should be brought into line was finally generated.

three
 In ~~five~~ cases other ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ components, surely or possibly
 are known to
 pre-dating the pyramids, ~~int~~ interpose themselves between the pyramid
 base and the plaza ~~(R-11)~~ (R-10-2nd) ~~and R-11~~ or between it and the
 basal terrace (R-16, J-4), and in two other cases (J-3 and J-29)
 we have deduced the same situation on less than certain evidence.

In view of all these considerations it would appear safest
 to compare pyramid heights directly, but ~~to~~ in each case to ^{indicate} allow
 other height This is done visually in Plate ~~for the added factors.~~, where all
 pyramid tops are placed at the same level, the sections proceeding
 up from this to the building floor, and down to the plaza level.

We have not data for arranging them chronologically, and have
 arbitrarily placed them in order of ascending pyramid height.
 Even after adopting such an arbitrary rule, some judgment has
 had to be exercised in determining what is the pyramid height.
 This is discussed for J-4, p ~~1st~~, J-3, p ~~1st and 2nd~~, J-29, P ~~1st~~,
 R-10, p ~~1st~~ and R-16 ~~1st and 2nd~~, in all of which the pyramid stairway
 height is greater than the pyramid height according to our
 interpretation. Had the arrangement been in order of stairway
 heights, the order would have been somewhat different (Table ~~1~~).

Basal terraces in general.

While at first some of the ^{basal} pyramid ~~has~~ terraces seem to ^{components} us to be integral/parts of temple substructures, detailed consideration leads us to conclude that they are adjustments to natural or artificial terrain. If so, they should not differ essentially from terraces where pyramids were not erected, and this seems to hold good. The platform ~~xxxxxxx~~ reached by the stairway K-2 like it is long and broad, lies opposite the basal pyramid terrace of J-4, and likewise masks bedrock, which actually rises ^g through it at the northeast end. Those of P-7 and O-2 serve non-pyramid types of buildings with which they are more or less symmetrical and are furnished with the same type of large-stone stairways as are the pyramid basal terraces of R-2 to 4, and J-4. We hope the discussion has justified the following two definitions:

Basal terrace: A single or compound terrace rising to the general ^{usually,} level (court or plaza)

Court or plaza terrace: a ^{platform} ~~single or compound terrace~~ rising from the general level of a court or plaza, usually believed or known to serve the purpose of extending the court or plaza area over ^a more elevated natural or (obsolete) artificial areas. (examples J-5 and J-7)

Basal ^{platform} terraces. ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxx~~ A single or compound terrace from which ^{the front of} another structure or structures, ~~placed well behind its~~ ^{or their stairways,} ~~face,~~ appear to rise, the other structure or structures usually being placed well behind its face. ^{at Mosano time} May be a court or plaza terrace (R-2 to R-4)

Basal ^{platform} Pyramid terrace A basal terrace serving a pyramid or pyramids or their stairways.