**Akhetaten/Armana**

**The Amarna Years: Architecture and Art**

**- Early in Year 5, Akhenaten founded a new city for the Aten in Middle Egypt, known as Tell el-Amarna, likely due to resistance to his programs in Thebes.**

**- Events are known from fifteen boundary stelae, marking the first anniversary of the proclamation.**

**- The city, named Akhetaten (Horizon of the Aten), included temples for the Aten, a sunshade shrine for Nefertiti, palaces, burial places, and provisions for festivals and rituals.**

**- Over twelve years, major structures were largely fulfilled.**

**Chronological Markers and Development**

**- Few firm chronological markers exist for the city's development.**

**- The increasing size of the royal family and the form of the Aten’s didactic name serve as markers, though their dates are debated.**

**- Two pieces of evidence suggest a late date for the second version of the Aten’s didactic name, likely introduced after Year 12.**

**City Layout and Major Structures**

**- The initial formal plan had a royal road from north to south, connecting various key buildings.**

**- The Great Aten Temple was central, with ongoing excavations revealing substantial construction changes.**

**- The temple was open to the sky, with offering tables, altars, and chapels.**

**- The ceremonial palace (Great Palace) was elaborately decorated and designed to impress.**

**- Sunshades for royal women, such as the Maruaten and Kom el-Nana, featured lush natural settings and composite statuary.**

**City as an Egyptian Settlement**

**- Akhetaten was home to an estimated 30,000 people, including officials and dependents.**

**- The city was preserved in its abandoned state, providing insights into ancient society.**

**- Official’s villas formed nucleated clusters with smaller houses, creating an “urban village” atmosphere.**

**- Industries within these clusters produced items for the royal buildings and other needs.**

**- A separate Workman’s Village housed royal tomb workers.**

**- Common housing featured central rooms with hearths, bedrooms, and workrooms.**

**Industry and Technology**

**- The city revealed advanced use of gypsum for various construction purposes, indicating technological advancements.**

**- Evidence of spiritual concerns and involvement in Aten religion exists, with some private chapels for royal family devotion.**

**- Excavations have revealed continued interest in traditional gods and ancestor worship.**

**Cemeteries and Burials**

**- Recent excavations have uncovered general populace cemeteries.**

**- The South Tombs Cemetery likely held about 3,000 individuals, with evidence of simple burials and signs of poor diet and duress.**

**- The royal and elite tombs contained more elaborate interments, but many were unfinished before the city’s abandonment.**