

The study at hand focuses on an architectural complex or ensemble that regularly occurs in temples of the Thirtieth Dynasty and the Ptolemaic and Roman period. This ensemble generally combines an open court with an elevated and covered chapel, and is referred to as 'court' and wabet, respectively. The present study aims to bring together the common characteristics and essential components of all ensembles of wabet and court in order to get a better understanding of the ensemble's role in the temple and its development over time. Following a brief introduction to the thirteen temples that appear to contain this ensemble in their core and to the complexes themselves (chapter 1), the following chapters focus on the ensemble's location, orientation, layout, and chronology (chapter 2), the designations in use to refer to this complex (chapter 3), a description and analysis of the texts and reliefs applied to its walls (chapter 4), and a study of the origin and development of this decorative scheme (chapter 5) in order to gain a better insight into the activities performed in the complex and its role within the temple. With the main components of a typical complex of wabet and court in mind, the question is raised whether and to what degree various older spaces in temples from the New Kingdom and the Late Period correspond to the image of wabet and court as it is known from later temples (chapter 6).