The main axis of the Temple of Ramses II at Abu Simbel coincides with the sunrise direction for New Year's Day, in the "wandering" civil calendar of ancient Egypt, during the time of Ramses II's Jubilee. This was an important time for the kingdom and the pharaoh, and it was associated strongly with the idea of renewal. Before the temple was lifted to escape the rising waters of Lake Nasser, the sun first appeared in a distant horizon notch. This, in fact, is the inspiration for the temple pylon profile and for the akhät glyph itself, which looks like a disk cradled in the rounded arms of a thickly padded couch. (Griffith Observatory)