

tical accommodation for each of his four wives.

In another case, the Yiwasi Chief's Compound, the traditional round house form provides an intricate but elegant complex of living quarters, grain stores and courtyards (Fig.4). The basic unit of this cellular structure is the bin-shaped round house with mud-pise walls and a conical thatch roof. Two or three such cells make up a typical family compound. In the extended structure of a chiefs household a number of family units are combined into a series of distinct courtyards. Access to each courtyard is by climbing with the help of a ladder, over the screen walls.

The pottery-smooth red finish is achieved with a traditional formula for mud plaster which includes juices from the Boabab tree.

Door openings with low head-room are shaped like large key-holes to admit a slightly crouched adult. Old enamelled basins provide convenient collars to thatched roofs.(Fig.5)

Massive high walls, layered or coursed mud pise construction, buttresses, mud plaster with finger-patterned decorations(Fig. 6) reflect appropriate traditional building techniques evolved within a specific cultural context where earth is the principal building material.

In a wetter climate earth is used as a secondary material with timber providing the primary structure. Flat roofs are replaced by pitched roofs, the load of the roof structure is

FIG. 3  
Chiefs Compound, Ghana

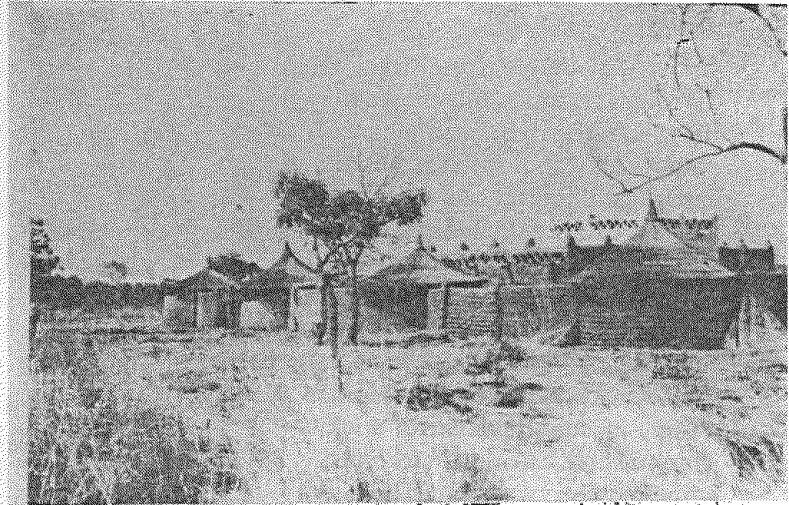


FIG. 4  
Chiefs Compound, Yiwasi



FIG. 5  
Chiefs Compound, Yiwasi

