

carried by timber posts and the screen walls can be made lighter by techniques such as mud plaster on a timber lath(Fig.7).

In an area of 'slash-and-burn' subsistence agriculture the grain store plays a central role in the family house.

The design of these elements is determined by their location within the building. They may be attached to the building for convenient filling from the roof (Fig.8); or constructed as free-standing structures(Fig.9). In each case protection from damp and vermin remains the principal design constraint.

In a typical Dagati or Lobi house the grain store is placed on a timber raft which isolates the earthen bin from rising damp. A large flat roof provides both protection from rain and a platform for access to the top for filling.

In other areas the grain store may be constructed as a free-standing structure consisting of a timber trestle on which is placed the earthen bin, and a large, conical thatched roof carried on a ring of timber posts.

As much as the form of individual buildings, the cultural context determines the form of an entire village. Considerations of security may lead to a settlement pattern in which the whole village becomes a single compact structure and public circulation is at roof level, with access by ladders down to the courtyards of each house(Fig.10).

Furthermore, flat roofs are generally an important useable space in a warm climate.

FIG. 6  
Mud Walls, Bole

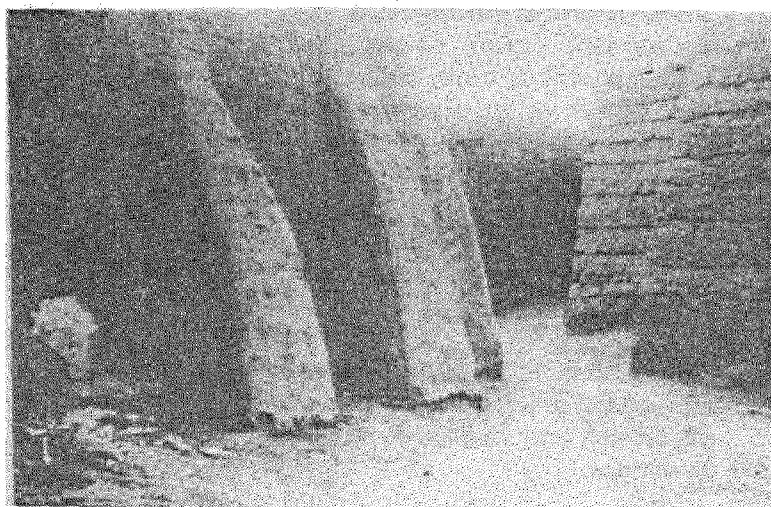


FIG. 7  
Fetish Priests House, Carpenter

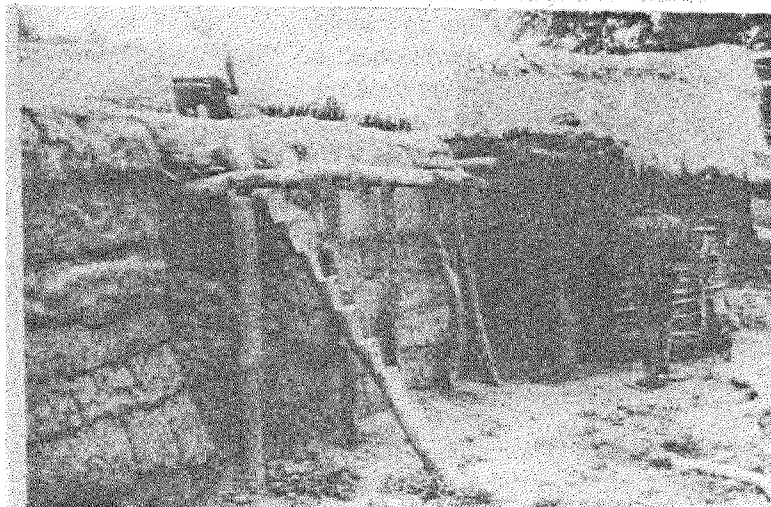


FIG. 8  
Grain Store, Dagati & Lobi Houses

