

As can be expected such a settlement pattern is accompanied by appropriate design details for elements such as steps, handrails, and surface water disposal.(Fig. 11) The courtyards in these villages have an ingenious soakpit in the centre, filled with potsherds and finished with a neat outlet at floor level made from the neck of a broken earthen pot.

Permeability to water is perhaps the single most common cause of erosion and damage to earth structures.

Periodic maintenance thus becomes an important aspect in the culture of societies in which earth building is traditional. A variety of protective mud plastering techniques are employed, and often this is applied by women.(Fig.12)

The seasonal maintenance can become a social event with the pooling together of skills and labour, frequently resulting in highly decorative results.

Mural decoration may take the form of indented patterns made by fingers in wet plaster or of areas of coloured plaster.(Fig.13)

The indented finger-pattern is believed to improve resistance to erosion by rainwater as it flows down the face of the wall. But they are probably used as much for their decorative effect as for other functional reasons.

The patterns, symbols, motifs and design schemes of mural decoration specific to each culture must be seen in the context of the ideology, symbolism and value systems specific to that culture.

FIG. 9
Grain Store, Wagawaga



FIG. 10
Roofs, Seripe

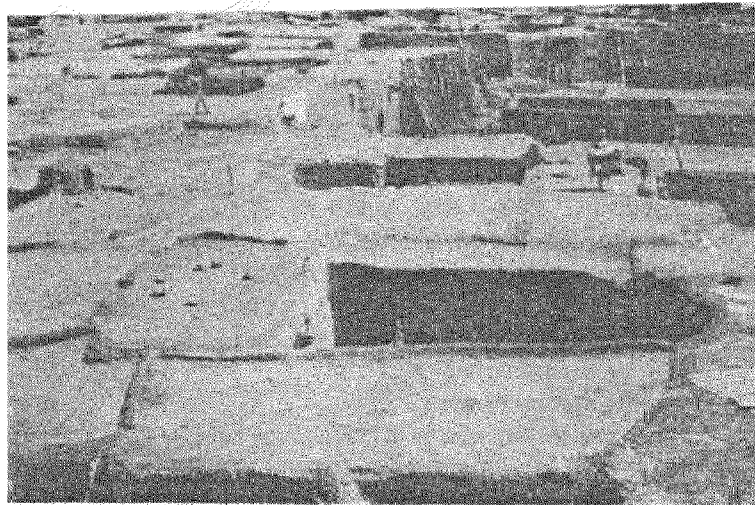


FIG. 11
Roofs Access and Rainwater Spout, Bole

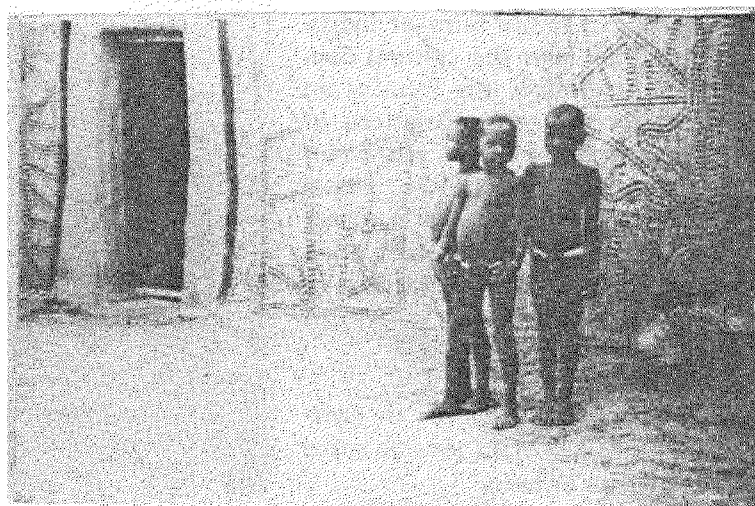


FIG. 12
Mud Plastering Sakpa

Photo not available

FIG. 13
Wall, Chief's House, Seripe

Photo not available

FIG. 14
Mural Patterns, Tongo

Photo not available