

FIG. 29
Fort, Mirgarh

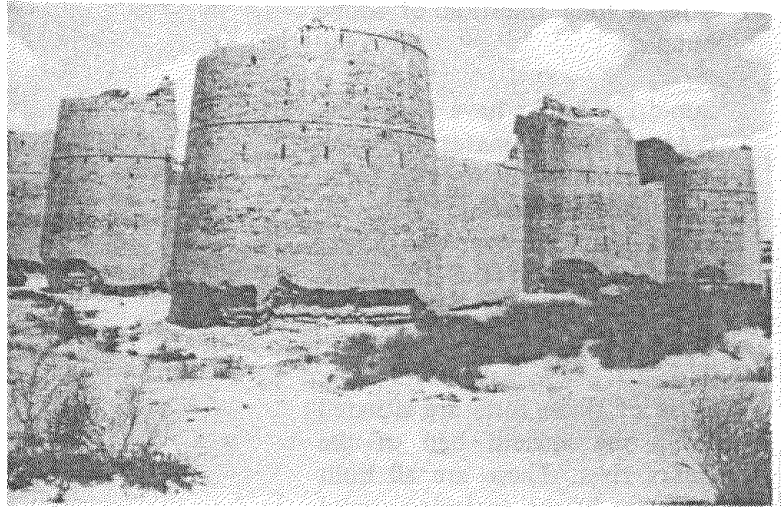
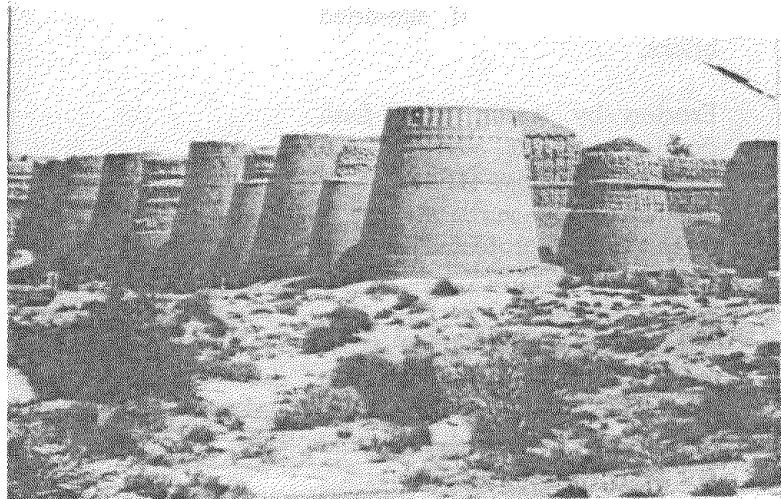


FIG. 30
Fort, Derawar



The largest and still most imposing of the Forts of Cholistan is Derawar. Once the stronghold of the Nawabs of Bahawalpur, its rolling battlements rise out of the desert like giant waves, or a mountain range.

The numerous palaces and pavilions inside were levelled by the Nawab himself to make room for parade grounds in preparation for the expected Japanese thrust in World War II. That was when the Nawab was a Nawab. Today his State, his privillages, his army are gone. And with them the camp-followers. The once populous city outside the walls of Derawar lies deserted. Soon the fort too will sink back into its native earth.

While earth building for the poor, in both the rural and urban context, survives as a continuing tradition, examples of earth building in the service of the state and the wealthier classes are becoming increasingly rare.

Amongst the few that remain are some of the buildings still in the custody of the family of the Nawabs of Bahawalpur. The lake Pavillion in Derawar (Fig.32) must be amongst the last of the royal structures built in the traditional style. It combines a simple exterior or structure of wood, burnt brick and adobe with a lavishly decorated interior.

As social and property relations changed, the rich became the first to discard traditional building practices in favour of modern techniques and materials. Many an exquisite palace or pavillion, which used mud as a primary or secondary material,

FIG. 31
Fort, Derawar

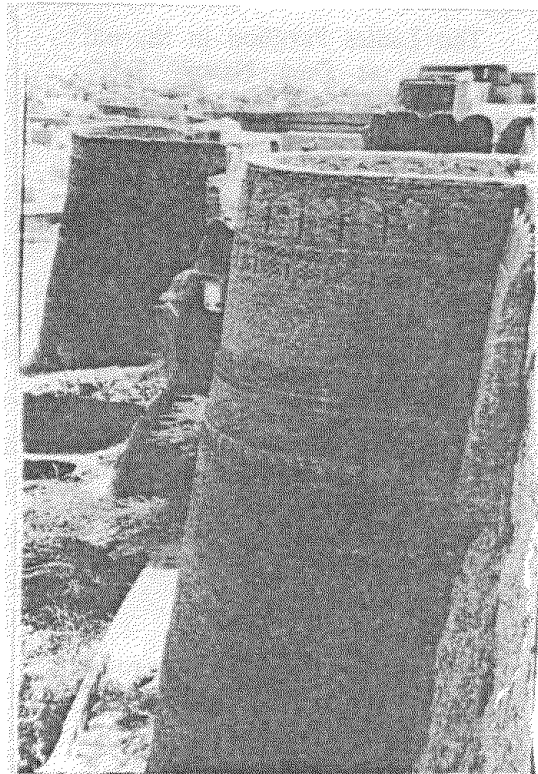


FIG. 32
Lake Pavillion, Derawar

