

The Baluchistan plateau is extremely dry. Not surprisingly large sectors even of the major cities of this province are of adobe construction. The high windowless external walls of massive earth, the flat roofs and chimneys all bear witness to the extreme climate and social values of this highland culture.

A very different form of earthen buildings are the "cave" dwellings carved out of the compact loess soil on the Pothowar plateau (Fig.37) and in the North West Frontier Province. While being a picturesque reminder of human ingenuity and adaptability, these dwellings are often also indicators of extreme poverty. They are normally used by the poorest families in the Campbelpur District of the Punjab or by outlaws and fugitives in the tribal area of the North West Frontier Province

Strong clan affiliations, jealously guarded privacy and blood feuds in tribal societies produce their own unique architecture of clan compounds with up to 20 families within their high walls, and all the accoutrements of tribal warfare - watch-towers, shooting galleries and loop-holes.(Figs.38, 39). Each household within the fortified compound has its own courtyard with rooms and lean-to verandas around it, and includes a bathroom and kitchen.

The clan compounds of the Khyber Agency are among the most striking. Constructed of mud pise these walls have no copings but each floor and roof is marked by a projecting cornice or moulding. In one

FIG. 35  
Royal Tower, Phulra Fort

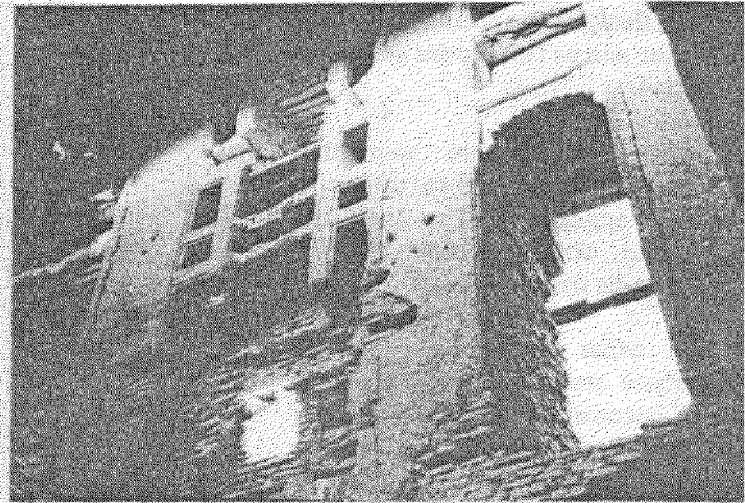


FIG. 36  
Mastung, Baluchistan



FIG. 37  
Cave Dwellings, Jallo

