

formations take place "spontaneously" through the agency of travelling master craftsmen (mistrees).

The population of the desert region of Bahawalpur is nomadic moving with their herds of camels, sheep, goats and cows, from one water hole, "Toba", to the next. When these dry up they move to the semi-permanent settlements around the wells, or in extreme drought to the permanent settlements at the edge of the desert.

At the "tobas" living is in the open, requiring no permanent structures.

Occasionally a toba, and more often some wells have a "Gopa" shelter or two. The traditional gopa has a low circular mud wall with a gap for the entrance, and a domical thatched roof. The group of gopas at Nawankot, include a "siamese twin" gopa roof on a rectangular room, representing a stage of evolution towards the flat roofed rectangular form.

The gradual assimilation and adoption of new ideas and techniques by indigenous builders and craftsmen is one of the ways in which traditional forms of rural architecture are being transformed. Another phenomenon is the introduction of designs, building methods and materials which are developed "at a distance" (Figs.49,50,51). One of the most bizarre illustrations of this phenomenon are the buildings constructed by the Sheikh of Abu Dhabi in the desert near Rahim-yarkhan. These include neat rows

FIG. 47
Gopa House, Nawankot

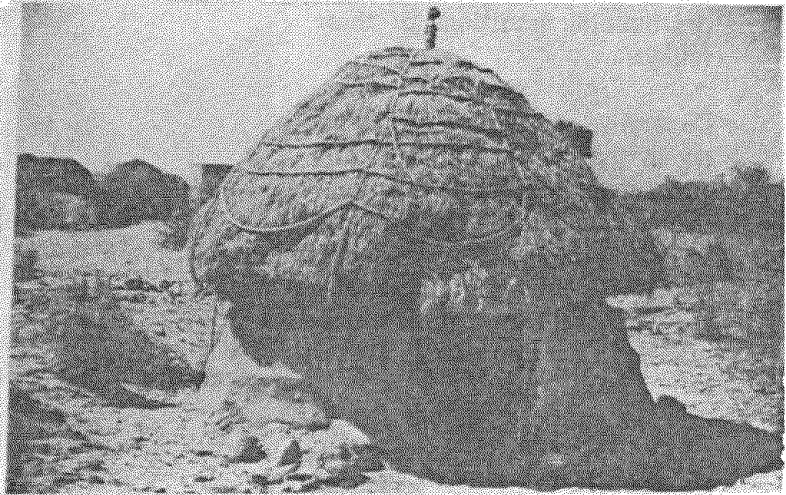


FIG. 48
Gopa Houses, Nawankot



FIG. 49
Abu Dhabi Quarters, Bhai Khan Wala Toba



of brick and concrete barracks with the inevitable "modern" mosque, located at staging points along the hunting routes.

What will be the impact of wholesale transplants of 'modern' architecture in the cultural context of under-development remains to be seen. Will traditional societies "buy" improved methods of mud building or will they be sooner "sold" on the symbols of modernity represented by reinforced concrete and steel. Are "we" any more justified in insisting on the glories of mud in the context of poverty than "they" are in aspiring to the trappings and frills associated with a context of wealth.

FIG. 50
Mosque, Bhai Khan Wala Toba

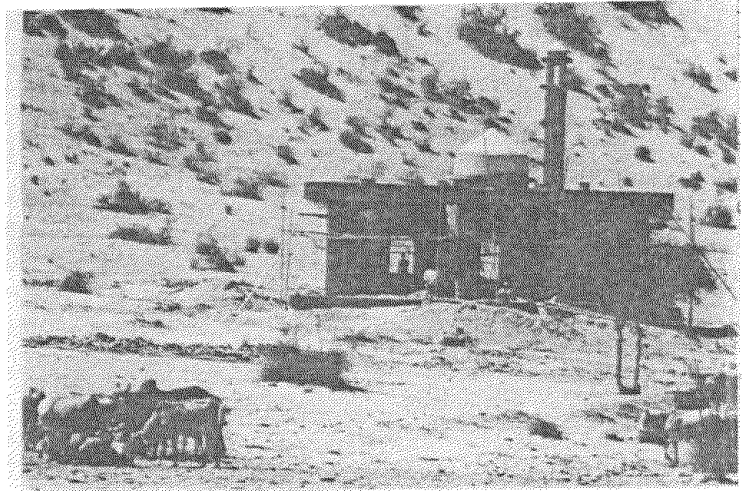


FIG. 51
Abu Dhabi Palace, Rahimyar Khan

