

common living-room or kitchen (*cousine*), which itself leads into a smaller bedroom (*crambe*) simply partitioned off by a wooden cross wall. Out of a desire to imitate the bourgeois house, the original plan of some of these *longères* was subsequently altered to a central-entry plan with an axially-placed corridor. The bottom of the social scale was occupied by the single-room house (*maysou*) of the labourer tied to a large estate.

The housetype originating from the urban bourgeoisie and inspired by classic architecture actually superseded, from the 18th century onwards, a former type, also of urban origin but dating from medieval times: the *longère* with gable-wall facade, consisting of a kitchen and bedroom laid out in a row at ground-floor level, a granary at upper-floor level behind a half-timbered jettied front, and a steep-pitched ridge roof covered in thatch or wood shingles. A few specimens survive in Béarn, in the Vic Bilh region and at Oloron-Sainte-Marie.

In the 18th and 19th centuries around Orthez and Salies-de-Béarn, the landowning bourgeois families of these cities built farmhouses for their agricultural tenants; these were formed by adding, along both sides of a barn with gable-wall entry, two lean-to aisles, the one to accommodate the sharecropper, the other to accommodate the cows. The outcome is a building with nave and aisles reminiscent of the *métairies* with tripartite plan of neighbouring Aquitaine. The picturesque charm of these edifices is enhanced by the contrast between the high-pitched central roof covered in flat tiles over a granary and the shallow-pitched lateral roofs covered in half-round tiles. In some *métairies* only a single aisle was added to the barn, as a stable was not required.

In the high Pyrenean valleys, where cattle-raising on collectively-owned summer pastures was a dominant activity and pastoral activities were run by the valley communities or *besiaux*, the courtyarded farm tends to disappear while the housetypes of lower Béarn and Bigorre have to compete with mountain houses of elongated plan combining under the same roof both living quarters and agricultural quarters. Built of stone, these houses have their openings in one of the long walls, under a steep-pitched ridge roof originally covered in thatch, later to be replaced by slates.

On the other hand, buildings serving the dual functions of byre (for either cows or sheep) and hayloft are strung out at some distance from the villages, in meadows reserved for mowing. These buildings (*bordes*) were intended to provide shelter and fodder in winter to herds brought down from the summer pastures.

In the mountain valleys of the Aspe, Ossau and Ouzon (Pyrénées-Atlantiques), the mountain house is of the upper-floor hall type: a ground-floor byre is topped by an upper-floor dwelling (*estadge*) while a hayloft occupies the roof space. Access to the upper floor is reached by an internal staircase opening into the long-wall facade, while the byre has its own separate entrance. A lean-to bread-baking oven, built against one of the gable walls, has its opening set in the fireplace of the common room. The oldest among these houses date back to the 17th century: they have a gable-wall facade and a single doorway at ground-floor level for people, animals and implements alike. The house with upper-floor accommodation is

also to be met with in the valleys of Arrens and Estaing and in the Batsuriguère region (southwestern Hautes-Pyrénées), mainly in areas of severe climatic conditions. Thatch survived there as a roofing material well into the 20th century, along with raised gable ends with stepped coping (*pènaus*).

Relics of thatch coverings and stepped copings can also be seen in the valley of Campan, over temporary barns-cum-byres which, in the 19th century, were made into permanent farmhouses by farmers' younger sons, either by adding a single living-room (*caouhadé*, 'heated room') against one of the end walls, or by arranging a dwelling room within the barn-and-byre itself, with only a wooden partition isolating humans from animals. Entry for people was by a door in a gable wall; entry for cows was by a door in a long wall.

In the summer pastures of the high mountain valleys of the two provinces, shepherds once erected dry stone huts (*capane*) of rectangular plan and with low-pitched two-sided roofs of schist flags or turfs of grass piled on top of purlins and rafters. Set in the middle of dry stone pens (*coueila*, *cuyala*) where sheep were gathered to spend the night, these huts stand today in ruins.

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2.III.5.c Breton (France, NW pen)

Breton vernacular architecture is characterized by conservatism, failure to develop specialist rooms and the close juxtaposition of humans and livestock. Use of materials, notably dressed stone, displays a vigour and richness of colour, texture, form and detail. Brittany is a land of dispersed settlement. Hamlets are common and a characteristic of Breton farms was the tendency for them to be grouped in rows of two to a dozen or more houses, related to former openfield. The length of houses (including the byre in the case of longhouses) varies from 10 m (33 ft), or less, to 20 m (165 ft) or, occasionally, more. Rows of rural houses may exceed 50 m (165 ft) in length. Width, limited by available oak timber, is generally 6–7 m (20–23 ft). Only in the greater buildings does width approach or exceed 8 m (26 ft).

Building material, detail and finish show strong regional variations. Stone was common in medieval times but timber-frame building also existed. Primitive houses were known in the 19th and early-20th centuries – hovels built of turf, or of turf and stones. Ashlar was used for door and window dressings and walling, especially of front elevations. Most peasant houses in schist areas made do with lintels of wood with ashlar used sparingly, if at all. Walling in cob (*torchis*) was widespread, particularly in the east where it has a remarkably wide distribution. Windows, unglazed until the 19th century, were fitted with wood frames having shutters opening inwards. Superior construction is shown by transomed, or mullioned and transomed, windows, with two or four shutters. Floor covering was almost everywhere of earth (*terre battue*) until the mid-20th century and stone paving was only rarely found.

Roof covering was once almost entirely of thatch, rye straw being preferred except in low-lying areas where reed was used; for poorer dwellings broom was common. Oak-shingle roofing is known along the Marches; south of the Loire the 'Romanesque' tile roof is ubiquitous. Red tiles of French manu-

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