

Wine grower's house with pigeon tower and gallery, north Macon, (Saône et Loire).

associated with the upper levels of rural society, minor nobility and clergy.

The two-cell house is a relatively recent development, and a few may result from the conversion of the byre of a longhouse. From the later 18th century, two-cell houses developed in coastal areas and spread inland to become known in the interior a hundred years later. Only after World War I was the type to become widespread. This two-cell peasant house is not to be confused with the two-cell Renaissance *manoir* known from the end of the 16th century onwards. Multi-cell houses are more complex.

There are proportionately few surviving medieval buildings at the vernacular level, and it seems likely that the 'permanent' building styles now regarded as 'traditional' came to take the place of earlier structures from the 16th century onwards.

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2.III.5.d Burgundian (France, EC)

Burgundy and the Lyonnais region are areas of too much diversity to have a monotypical building heritage. In the Amognes (Nièvre) area, the architecture is similar to that of central France: roofs with dormer windows, barns-cum-stables with *porteaux* (porches projecting from the facade and sheltering the cart entrance). In Morvan, where only a couple of thatched cottages have been preserved, slate sets the tone for the colour of the roofing. In the Yonne *département*, in Puisaye and around Joigny, late-19th-century dwellings show the predominance of brick, at least around the doors and windows. It is not unusual to see remains of timber framing, common in Yonne in the 18th century.

Divided between influences from central France and the Massif Central, the Bourbonnais *botage* area has adopted the most classic type of housing, its volume being a parallelepipedal rectangle, with a roof of plain tiles having one or two dormer windows in it. In the south, half-round tiles give a look of the south to farmhouses almost of the mountain type. The more unusual forms of local housing are found in the Bourbonnais Sologne area, with some remains of timber framing, and rare structures of superimposed beams in the Thionne region.

The clay soils of the Lyonnais lend themselves naturally to the use of *pisé* in the building of large farms with yards. In the Lyonnais mountains, the farm building opens out in a U-shape. The ground floor is usually built of stone and the upper storey of *pisé*. Near Affoux there is a group of farms with interior galleries of stone arches or pillars.

In these circumstances it is difficult to describe types of housing which are more representative than any others of the regional architecture. It is probably in the Maconnais area that accommodation remains most faithful to the image of the Burgundian house: large in volume, roofed with plain tiles, with an outside staircase leading to a short gallery built into the facade. The plan conforms to that of the classic wine-grower's house built as a single unit on more than one floor, with wine-cellars, a vat room on the ground floor, people's lodgings on the first floor, and a pitched roof. Some of these houses look almost manorial, with a large covered



gallery running along the facade and culminating in two dovecot turrets at the gable-ends.

So far as timber framing is concerned, while the Bresse area links Burgundy and the Lyonnais area, it should not be forgotten that an original type of timber-framed building exists further to the north, in the Saône valley, a type characteristic of the thatched cottages of the past built as single ground-level units with no internal communication, and answering the requirements of a mixed farming economy. These farms are built lengthwise in the form of regular modules, the house itself occupying two modules and the threshing floor (*chappe*), barn and stables one each. The timber framing is of ground posts going one and a half storeys to two storeys up and intersecting the intermediary wall plate. Wind-bracing is by means of diagonal ties linked by a rather densely placed set of stud posts. The roof timbers consist of principal rafters, a collar, struts under the collar and hammer-beams. The tie-beam, situated below the top of the long side wall, acts as a girder for the joisting. Situated between the agricultural bays, the farmhouse often has only a kingpost and two struts bearing the principal rafters under the intermediary purlins. The ridge-purlin has an under-purlin beneath it.

The dwelling house generally consists of two independent two-room units. The two fireplaces and the bread ovens stand on either side of a double chimney stack. In general the ceiling is made of imitation joisting in the French style, with a girder resting on one of the jambs of the doorway.

Although this type of house is now disappearing in the Saône valley, there is plenty of timber framing in the Bresse plain (the northern part of which belongs to Burgundy), going hand in hand with steeply pitched roofs. It has very clear characteristics: a house with a central chimney stack and double living-quarters; a farm consisting of two parallel buildings (the people's dwelling and the agricultural building or *hébergement*); a considerable projection of the roof, protecting the facades from excessive heat; and timber framing consisting of posts of moderate height spaced about 1 m (3 ft) apart, with diagonal braces and struts fitting into squares.

In the Ain *département*, the Bresse type of house shows a considerable increase in length as a substitute for sloping volume. The decrease in roof pitch allows the construction of wide canopies protecting the ears of maize hung under the eaves of the roof. The main attraction of this architecture lies in the existence of some thirty farms with the kind of chimney called

See also

- 1.V.2.n-1 Slate-roofing (France)
- 1.V.3.h Box bed
- 1.VI.5.k Wssh-house

Reference

- Meirion-Jones, Gwyn, 1982