

and which sometimes accommodates both the sink and the internal staircase up to the loft, when such a staircase exists.

The loft may also be reached by an external staircase in some hard material, set on the gable end wall or parallel to the facade, in which case the space under the stairs may be fitted out as an alcove, hen-house, woodshed or toolshed. In some houses built with a particular purpose in mind, for instance weavers' workshops, this external staircase is larger and covered with a roof called a *balet* in Poitou; the living-quarters are on the first floor, and the ground floor is the workshop with access under the stairs.

The floor, originally of beaten earth, may be paved with flat stones, or tiles in tile and brick-making regions. The roof structure, made of local wood, may have either trusses or purlins (in which case the house is described as *cul levé*, 'bottom raised'). The dimensions of the house are determined by the length of the beams used (5–6 m [16–20 ft]). If the roof is extended by the gable, it is difficult to connect the two roof frameworks, and a lower ridge is erected.

The outhouses may adjoin the dwelling or be loosely arranged round an open or enclosed farmyard. Open yards are found in areas of dispersed settlement (*bocage*), enclosed yards in the areas of clustered settlement (limestone plains).

There are various ways in which outhouses are arranged: sometimes a barn has accommodation for livestock in aisles at the sides, sometimes the hayloft is above the cowshed, in a space open on at least one side and held up by wooden posts (in coastal regions). The hay is then let straight down into the shed through a trapdoor. In wine-growing regions (e.g. the Loire valley and Saintonge), the wine-making room (*chai*), which can be recognized by its wide, often arched door, might have been turned into a cowshed after the phylloxera disaster at the end of the 19th century destroyed the vines.

Small toolsheds which may be built entirely of dry stone walling, and roofed over with a corbelled vault, stand in the corners of fields or vineyards. The Poitou plain marks the northern limit of the area where these huts are found.

The walls of the houses and outbuildings have holes in them and bear various excrescences: there are holes to take scaffolding, or to provide nests for pigeons, or closer to the ground for hens; and unfinished bondstones or the foot bones of cattle allow vegetables to be hung under the *balet* or help climbing vegetables to clamber up the front of the house.

The architecture of the coastline, islands and marshes has many special features. The original house (*bourrine*, *bourre* being a mixture of earth, straw and chopped reeds), of which many examples still exist, is roofed with thatch or reeds and white-washed both inside and outside. The roof has a hipped west gable, the side most exposed to the rain. There is no loft or ceiling. Houses built in hard materials are similar, but some have a partially raised loft with access by way of an outside staircase. Some roofs have eaves with pantile cornices (*génoise*). The door frames are painted in bright colours, with shipbuilder's paint; the lower parts of the walls are often coated with coal tar. The walls may have protruding stones pierced with holes into which a framework for drying fish can be fitted. In Baugé (Anjou), roofs may be covered with half-round tiles with the hole side outside,

rim to rim, and joined with lime. They are hung on framework, or timber, boards with ligs jutting out on the round side.

Cave dwellings (*caves demeurantes*) are found in the Saumurois, Loire valley and Loudunais areas. MARIE-PAULE DUPUY

#### 2.III.5.k Lorraine (France, N, NE)

Lorraine today consists of the Meurthe-et-Moselle, Meuse, Moselle and Vosges *départements*. It is one of the historical and administrative regions of France which show the greatest uniformity of domestic architecture, with farms built as single ground-level units sharing common walls and situated on both sides of a wide road. The adjoining facades are broken at regular intervals by a succession of cart gateways and the entrances of dwelling houses and cowsheds, to the point where the overall composition predominates over the individual character of each facade.

The basic features of the farms of Lorraine are an extension in depth; a division into two or three functional areas with the dwelling house, barn and stable arranged side by side; a passage usually running through the unit, with the dwelling area of three rooms disposed along it; a heating plate at the back of the fireplace; a lightwell with a *flamande* often illuminating the windowless central room; a roof structure with uprights rising from the ground under the principal rafters or the purlins, and finally a roof with only a slight pitch, traditionally covered with half-round tiles.

This is the basic type of farmer's house, and the dwellings of the day labourers and vine-growers of the Meuse hills conform to it. The structural elements of accommodation in Lorraine remain the same, but these last two types of house have only two functional bays; people and animals sometimes use the same entrance, the stable being behind the barn. The wine-grower's house, like the day labourer's where it abuts on the street, differs in the depth created by the existence of a second building doubling the extent of the main farm beyond a small internal yard. This building is the vat room (*bougerie*), intended for the wine-making operation, and accommodating the wine press, the tuns and the casks.

The very characteristic basic type of Lorraine farmhouse does not mean there are not many variations in the proportions of facades, volume, the arrangement of the door and window openings, and the building materials used. For instance, the round-arched cart gateway is not found everywhere; on clay soils taller gateways with wooden lintels are favoured. Fine facades of dressed stone are found in the Barrois area, as far as stone masonry is concerned, and so far as roofing is concerned, the influence of Luxembourg on the Pays Haut brought the spread of slate in the 19th century, and a break in the ledge line over the dwelling house.

In the eastern Moselle area, the farm gives up its depth to develop along its facade: an extra stable is built at the end of the barn, and upper storeys are known from the beginning of the 18th century. The dwelling house, which is inevitably less deep than before, loses its windowless central room, but the passage is still present. As one crosses the line between Romance and Germanic dialects, there is a rise in the pitch of the roof, and the typical roof structures of Lorraine give way to roof trusses in the German style

#### References

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