

containing bedrooms; there were pigeon-holes in the facade of the loft. An outside staircase led to a balcony (Limagne: *estre*; Maurs basin: *bolet*) with a canopy (*courcour*, *aitre*).

Building foundations were of feldspar, sandstone or basalt rubble, and walls were of clay, sometimes reinforced with alluvial gravel or unfired brick (*caïrons*). This method often involved rendering on the south-facing wall, although generally only the house wall was rendered. Sometimes the entire facade was built of stone rubble. The cornice of shortened canal tiles and the extended eaves of the gently sloping roofs protected the walls; the roof tiles were half-round, except towards the province of Bourbonnais where they were flat.

In the uplands and mountains all the farm buildings were placed end-on under a single roof. There might be a vaulted basement with outside stairs leading to a dwelling, but in that case the ground floor would not serve as a work area and the upper storey might well be lived in by the owner when visiting his land.

There was sometimes a barrel-vaulted basement serving as a cheese cellar. Originally there was a single south-facing door, often bearing a name, date or decorative feature, and giving on to the three-fold area of dwelling, barn and animal shed which had a passage (*travadou*) running through it. In the industrial areas of the northeast the window was enlarged to admit more light for a secondary occupation or cottage industry. The fireplace (*cantou*) and the oven were in the end wall; there was a niche, surmounted by a stone arch or wooden lintel, for the sink (*aiguière*). In the north-facing wall there was sometimes an outshot serving as a scullery. The barn sometimes extended over the dwelling and this part often became the bedroom when the house was modified. The roof, with four sides hipped or half-hipped, was originally thatched in rye straw, which accounts for the flat stones covering along the eaves and on the verges of the gable walls, and the lofty, stepped chimneys. Corrèze slate has not completely supplanted volcanic *lauze*.

The main outbuilding was the barn-cum-byre, either detached or adjacent to the house. The barn was built over the animal shed and there were wide variations in orientation and means of access, including a ramp (*montadou*) built up to the barn. The doorway to the animal shed was usually in the form of a segmented arch; it often bore a date and was of fine workmanship, sometimes better than that of the house itself. The inside was paved with pebbles, and had drainage channels for the liquid manure. Slightly to the east of the Dôme mountains are vaulted animal sheds like those around Briançon.

There were two buildings associated with farming, both connected with cheese-making; one was the *jasserie*, which was peculiar to the eastern ranges, and the other the *buron*, which was peculiar to the other volcanic ranges. *Jas*, grouped together in the *jasseries*, comprised a building and a pasture hydraulic system: a spring was channelled into a pond and from this a second channel flowed to the cellar adjoining the house where the cheese was matured. Another channel (*rase*) flowed through the animal shed and carried away the manure which was then used to fertilize the pasture.

Usually, such buildings stand on south-facing hillsides;

from the 18th century onwards they were built of stone rubble; before that they were built of timber. The walls were often double-thickness with some through-stones.

The *buron*, on the other hand, had neither animal shelter nor irrigation channels, but was a combination of dwelling, dairy and cheese-cellar, and sometimes included a pigsty and a *védelat* for calves. It was barrel-vaulted and built perpendicular to the slope so that the cellar, always below ground, remained cool.

Additional structures were chestnut driers, hoghouses, wells, outside ovens, and, in Limagne, dovecots, sometimes in the form of a tower or built in brick or half-timber and clay infill, standing on posts and with a four-sided roof. The access ramp to barns (*montadou*) often sheltered a small room of varying use.

MARIE-PAULE DUPUY

References

Breuille, et al., 1980
Robert, Maurice, 1977

2.III.5.b Béarn (France, SW)

The former province of Béarn, whose capital is Pau, corresponds approximately to the eastern two-thirds of the *département* of the Pyrénées-Atlantiques, while the western third is occupied by the French Basque country. The adjoining *département* to the east – the Hautes-Pyrénées, whose capital is Tarbes – more or less covers the territory of the former province of Bigorre.

Between the Pyrenean mountain range to the south and Gascony to the north, Béarn and Bigorre offer a succession of hills and valleys endowed with rich agricultural lands on which cereal farming and cattle raising have prospered. While in the plains villages are the norm, on the plateaux dispersed settlement dominates.

In the lower Béarn and Bigorre, the centre of the rural estate was the farmstead with enclosed courtyard, comprising a farmhouse (*oustaiü*), built of stone rubble or pebbles, rectangular in plan and having one or two storeys. Its long-wall facade is sheltered under a steep-pitched ridge roof with two hips pitched at 55°. Facing south, southeast or east, the facade is placed perpendicularly to the street and looks onto an enclosed courtyard (*parquié*). The agricultural dependencies such as barn, byre, wine-cellar, hen-house and pigsty are arranged round the second and third sides of the yard, whereas the fourth side is occupied by a wall in which opens an imposing cart entrance (*pourtaü*).

The dwellings in the wealthiest farmsteads follow the bourgeois or urban model of the 18th and 19th centuries: two-storey facade with symmetrically-placed openings, central-corridor plan, monumental-looking roof with dormer windows and covering of nibbed flat tiles or slates. This type of house is linked to the growth of the rural economy (notably the spread of maize growing) and the ensuing wealth of the upper strata of the peasant class.

At a lower social level is a dwelling house which has only a single storey under a granary and follows a different plan, stringing together a common room and a bedroom. This was the dwelling of the smallholder, the sharecropper and the craftsman. Many examples can still be seen in the Tarbes plain and the Baronnies region (Hautes-Pyrénées). The single entrance, set into one of the long walls, opens directly into a