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TWO PEASANT HOUSES
The perception of space influenced by cultural
rituals

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TWO PEASANT HOUSES

The perception of space influenced by cultural rituals.

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ABSTRACT

Traditional buildings can be studied to understand the way each culture, uses and lives in them. Studying this buildings could give as an idea of how we should design homes. The idea of the thesis is to study this houses from a different perspective, can we study them by comparing traditional houses from the Altiplano in South America, and from the Balearic Islands in the Mediterranean Sea. With the idea that perception plays a key role in the way we live, the study will be done through the interpretation of our five senses and how they can be translated into architectural terms. Last we will talk about how we connect each space and between each other in this cultures to have a complete panorama.

To the Mus : I owe it all to you. You are my guides in life.

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INTRODUCTION

Climate and Culture influence our way of living, is it intertwined, or correlated? How we understand space has many different points of view. Culture plays an important role in the way space is perceived, understood and used. This is why I think that looking at non-architectural buildings can help us understand how important is for a culture the spaces it uses and lives in. A non-architectural building can be defined as a building that has been constructed by people with no architectural background. It is the most common type of building, and is most present as traditional peasant houses throughout the world, this is why the study will be done by describing and comparing the elements that make a typical house. we will talk about houses from the Altiplano in south America and from the Balearic Island in the Mediterranean sea.

We will do a description of the examples using five chosen elements of study, by doing a parallel study of the two types, it should give us a reading of the elements that can be understood as a multi cultural element. Differences should be understood as individual characteristics to each culture.

In the comparison of the two studied houses, each one of the elements that is important will be studied in a thorough way in order to give a better understanding of the aspects that make every culture unique.

The six elements that have been chosen to do the parallel study are:

See: what do we see?, how do we see it? Light transforms and makes a space, the use of light is a very important element that helps us understand spaces. In traditional vernacular houses, the use is the most important aspect that spaces have, so the light and the lighting of these spaces are completely related to the use. The opening of fenestrations is related to the amount of light needed in the space.

Touch: how do we build?, with what materials and the textures? The techniques and materials that are used for building give the spaces it's different characteristics, and its final aspect and feel. The materials can have a relation with the time that is spent in each space.

Hear: What do we hear? The sounds of the natural surroundings, tools and methods of living as well that the relationship with nature and other human beings. Sound, using sound or protecting against is also an important aspect of building, how the houses are insulated or not, can give us an understanding of the relation between humans and nature in different cultures.

Smell: What do we smell? how is ventilation dealt with? The smell of a place, its surroundings and what we do to deal with them. Ventilation and the ways the spaces ventilate make an important aspect of the space, do to the fact that the air transports cold or warm air that can be used in different spaces.

Taste: How do we prepare food? what meaning does sharing food have for a culture? Food is a nuclear element of living, having a dedicated space to prepare and consume, or the lack of one, give us a reading of the culture, and its way of understanding the built environment and how to live in them and use them. The importance that built spaces have to each culture can also be understood if they are used to share food or not.

Connect: what is the connection of every space with the next one? how every space is used in relationship with each other? Having connected spaces or not is a way we can understand the importance a culture gives to human relations, privacy and exchange.



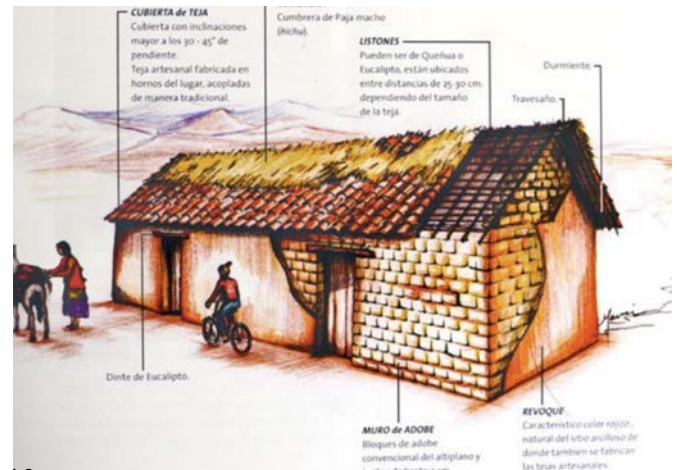
I.1

The altiplano is a high plateau situated in the Andes mountains, the average elevation is 4000 meters over sea level, it has a harsh climate and atmospheric conditions making living there tough. Temperatures almost never goes above 20 degrees Celsius, and plummets to -3 or -4 degrees Celsius at night even during summer. Strong directionless gusts of wind are a common element in the Altiplano, solar radiation and uv indexes are very high as well. The Balearic Islands are an archipelago of islands in the western Mediterranean sea, the highest point in the archipelago is situated at 1445 meters over sea level, the archipelago has a Mediterranean weather with hot summers and mild winters, the lowest average temperature being 11 degrees Celsius during winter. The archipelago has a lot of sunshine during summer and rain during winter.



I.2

The traditional altiplano house is a set of separated rooms that form a living complex, each room has one door, and some windows, most commonly two, that all face the same way, (making the other three walls, blind). Each room is built using adobe bricks, that make walls 30 to 40 centimeters thick, as the main material for the walls, and the roof is made of hey or "totora" (a traditional water reed found in lakes in the altiplano) the number of rooms that make the complex depends on the size of the family and it's wealth. The rooms have no interior connection, between each other. The rooms have a rectangular shape, with a tilted roof to the entrance side. The floor is made of compacted earth. Each room is multifunctional, having usually two beds, each one in every opposite end of the space, and a stove in the opposite wall to the door. The housing complex is developed as the family grows, each new room is built by the family with the help of the community and friends, the rooms are placed in a way that when the complex is big enough it has formed a internal patio.

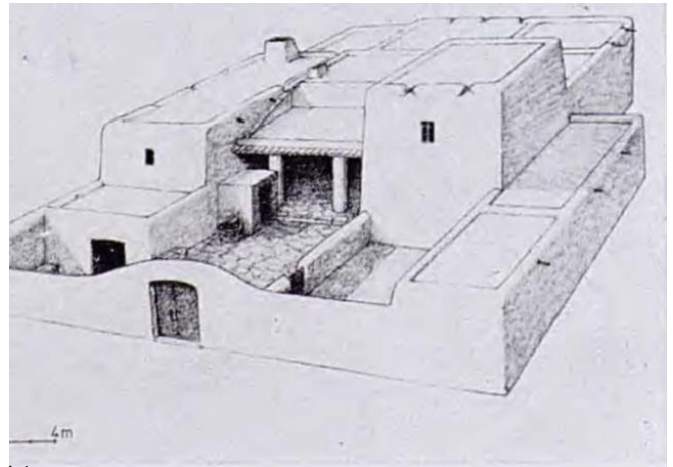


I.3



FP.5





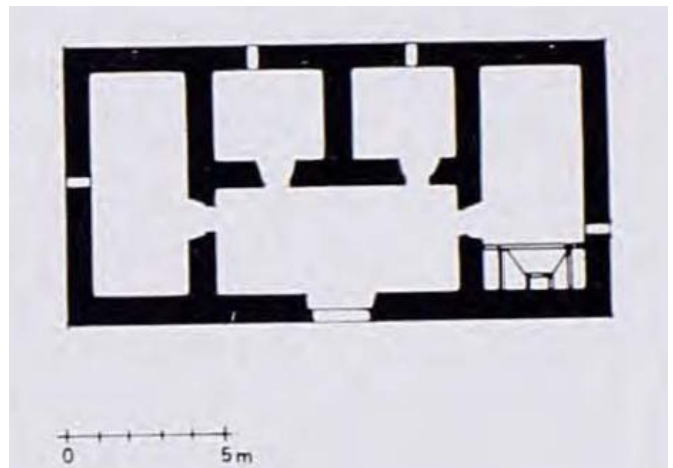
I.4

The traditional rural Balearic house "casa payesa" is a set of square rooms joined together by a rectangular space "porxo" that serves as a common space and to join all the other spaces. Small square spaces that are bedrooms and a large rectangular space that is the kitchen. The two most important spaces of the house being the two biggest, the "porxo" and kitchen.

The house is orientated to the south. The house are traditionally built with stone walls that are up to 100cm thick, wood, clay and algae roofs.

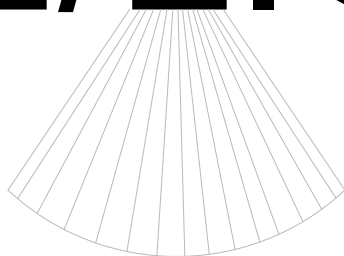
The house forms a complete living complex with water tanks, and animal barns.

The house grows as the family grows by adding adjacent spaces to the porxo, to form a bigger housing complex.



I.14

SEE/LIGHT



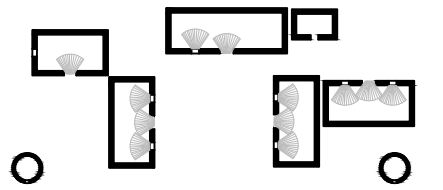
Light is fundamental, it helps us understand the space over all other senses, thus being important for human interaction and working. Light is what allows us to see the space, navigate and use it. The amount of light, or lack of it, that enters a space gives it its importance, and capacity of use. A very bright space or a very dark space have different ways and times of use.



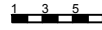
I.5



I.6



FP.1

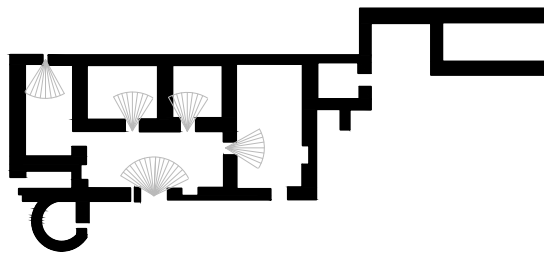


I.7

The Andean houses are traditionally very dark, the houses have one door a one or two windows , all facing the same direction. The windows serve more as a protection element, allowing the inhabitant to see outside in case of someone approaching, without having to have the door open. This windows are very small, no more than 50X50cm, and placed at eyesight. This means that the illumination of the living space is very poor. Daily use of the space is usually limited to food preparation or in case of the weather not being good, so that no work can be done in the fields. This is due to the harsh climate that the region has, strong winds and low temperatures all year round make it very important to try and conserve as much heat as possible inside the house. This means that the traditional houses have as little openings as possible and as small as possible.



I.8



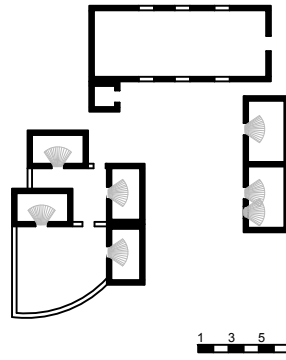
FP.2



I.9

The Balearic house consist of various interconnected spaces, that are used during the day, the house is typically constructed around a big rectangular space the "porxo", that has one side completely open to the exterior, might it be through doors and windows or without no wall, making it a space that is covered with a roof and can produce shadows in the inside but is still open to the outside and is well ventilated. This space is the heart of the house and where most of the everyday actions occur when people are not working on the fields. This space is used as the place for the family to gather, and have guest over, to eat and socialize.

The other spaces are sleeping rooms, as many as necessary each space has a door that connects to the "porxo", the sleeping rooms are typically small square rooms, they have small windows that serve more to ventilate the space than to illuminate them. The rooms are used mainly to sleep so light is not an important element in them.



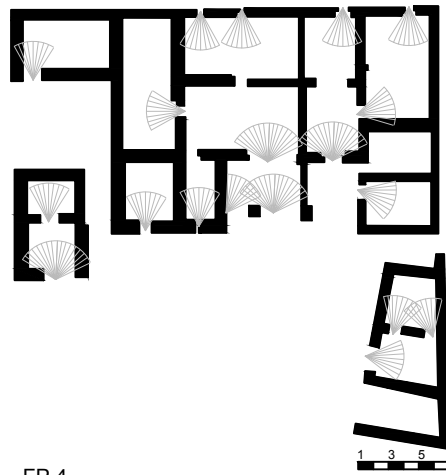
FP.3



I.10

Solar UV radiation in the Andean Altiplano is very strong, this means that when possible one tries to cover and protect himself from it. Whereas solar heat radiation is very low, the force of the wind and lower amount of atmosphere means that the heat that one can receive from the sun is not as strong as one could think. In the Andean houses it is preferred to create heat with fire and living actions and to preserve that heat, than to try and use the heat from the sun. The living spaces have thick walls up to 40 cm and little to no openings to conserve this heat. Light and the lighting of the space become second to warmth inside the spaces.

We have to take into account that traditionally daytime is spent on the fields working and in the patio of the house, most daytime activities happen in the exterior, and that the rooms are predominantly used as sleeping spaces, so that light inside of them is not as important as if the space was used during the day.



FP.4



I.11

The traditional Balearic house has also a kitchen that is a rectangular space connected to the "porxo", this space is used to prepare all of the food. The kitchen has also some small windows that permit the ventilation of the space. Most of the lighting of the spaces comes from the "porxo" and the door that connects each space to it.

This way of building is due to the fact that during summer, the shadow created in the "porxo" cools down the air and allows the rooms to get natural created ventilation, and in term it keeps the temperature relatively cooler than in the exterior.

During the winter the thickness of the walls up to 100cm becomes the element that permits the rooms to maintain a higher temperature than the exterior. The "porxo" is the space that is constructed facing south in order to create the most amount of shadow during summer, maintaining a colder temperature, and with the ability to close it during winter, it can maintain the heat created inside, and receive as much light as possible.



FP.6



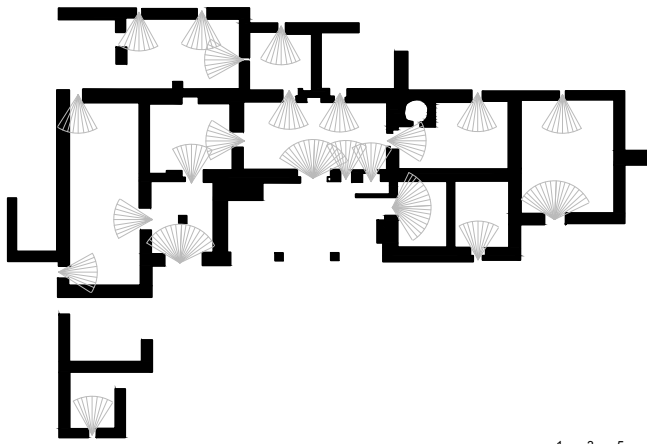
I.12

Inside the house you can find very little in terms of furniture, traditional houses have one or two beds, a cooking stove and some benches, in some cases a table. Because most of the life happens outside of the house, we can consider that the traditional Andean house is more a sleeping space than a living space. This is also true when it comes to the relationship between neighbors and religious and cultural traditions.

The relation with the exterior is very important in the Andean world, all of the traditional rituals, prayers and religious celebrations are connected to nature, being under a roof disrupts the connection with the world of the gods.

The living in the Andean house is translated into sleeping time and working time, sleeping happens in the inside of the house, in a dark, hot space.

The living happens in the exterior with natural light and all of the contrast that come with it.

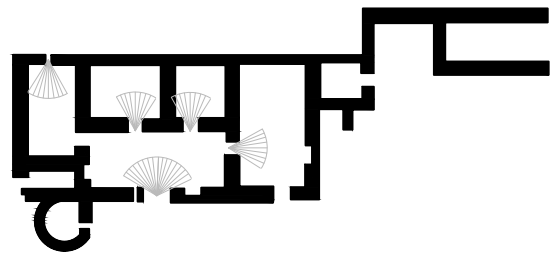


FP.7

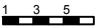


I.13

The house has some furniture that is special to each space, in the kitchen you will find a table, some storage elements and an open stove that is also used as a chimney for heating the space during winter, in the "porxo" there is usually a big table for eating and reunions, and some storing furniture and chairs. In the sleeping rooms there are beds and storing spaces. The leaving in the Balearic houses is translated into sleeping time and working time, the sleeping time happens in small dark spaces, that are kept the coldest possible during summer and the hottest possible during winter, the working spaces vary, from the fields and orchards during plantation, growth and harvest, to the "porxo" and kitchen, for everyday living.

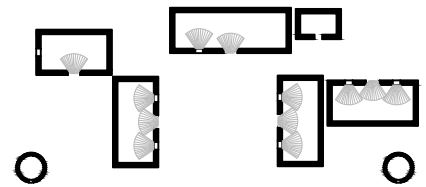


FP.2

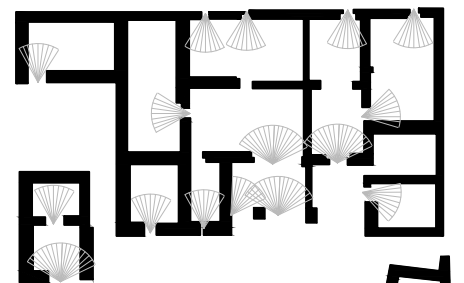


It is interesting then to see that light is not as important as one can think, it's heat, the creation of heat in the case of the Andean and Balearic house, during winter, and the protection from it in the Balearic house during summer. Temperature has more importance in the spaces that light, this mean that in both cases we have very little opening that allow just the necessary amount of light to penetrate so as to use the nigh-times spaces during the day. During daytime we can see that both houses are used differently, making the lighting of most of the spaces not an important aspect of the house.

We can also see that both housing complexes deal with the daytime in different ways, the Andean house has no daytime internal space to use, the exterior as a hole is understood as the space of the day, whereas the Balearic house has a daytime space that is well lit and multifunctional.



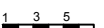
FP.1



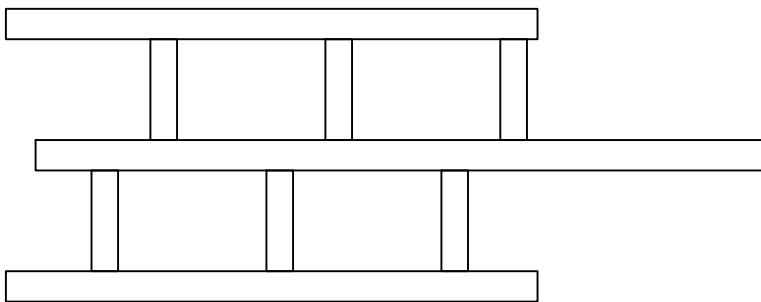
FP.4



FP.6



TOUCH/ MATERIALS



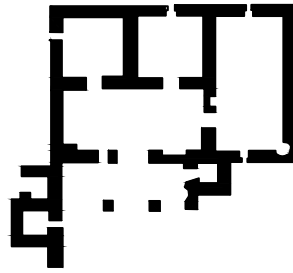
The materials that are used and the way they are used in a space, are very important, textures, finishes and shapes bring an element that transmits a certain amount of information and sensations.



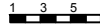
I.15



I.16



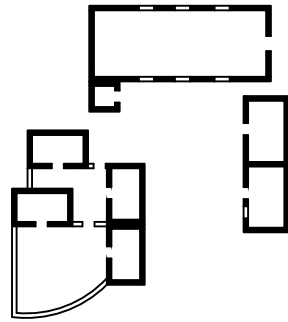
FP.8



I.17

The traditional Balearic house is constructed over stone with stone walls plastered and then painted with lime, the floor is usually the same stone where the house has been built, so as not having to construct a floor. The walls once the lime has been applied become white, this helps with the lighting of the spaces as well as to disinfect the entire house, reducing the risk of diseases. The walls are thick which makes them ideal for thermal inertia, maintaining heat during winter and cooling down during summer. The roofs are flat and conduct all the rainwater to cisterns for collecting and use during the dry months.

The windows are bigger in the inside than the outside, giving an idea and sense of protection, you can consider them as being the same as fortification windows, that allow people to see better from the inside to the outside than the other way around.

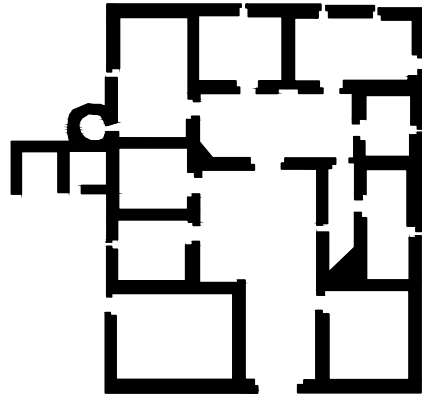


FP.3



I.10

The traditional Andean house is made of adobe bricks, hay or totora roofs and compacted earth floors. The walls can be then plastered with the same earth that was used to do the adobes, giving the space the color of the surroundings. The Andean cultures have a strong connection to the earth, mother earth (pachamama) is the most important god of the Andean worldview, and most of the rituals involve giving thanks to her or asking favors from her. The construction of the rooms have a religious process. This also means that the connection with the goddess is ever present. The rough texture of the walls and its hardness is also present in the culture. The lack of color in the living space, or the desire of mimicry with the surroundings are important because in the vastness of the altiplano, mimicry to the environment is key for protection. Wood is hard to come by in the altiplano, this means that it is only used when necessary, specially for roofs and the structure of doors and windows.



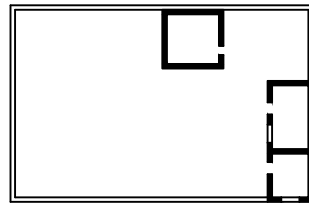
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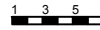
I.18

The houses are constructed by adding spaces to existing spaces, the rooms that are added will connect to the existing spaces through new door openings in the walls, making the housing complex a series of interconnected rooms. Each room will connect with one or two extra rooms, or in some cases if the house grows some rooms might be transformed into transition and storage spaces that connect to various different rooms.

The material that is used to build the rooms is locally sourced, and varies very little in the Balearic archipelago. One of the most important elements in terms of materials in the balers house is the use lime to create a whitewash for the walls, this makes the walls completely white and can help with bacteria and airborne diseases. The color also helps to refract light during winter making the spaces more luminous, and to repeal heat during summer making the spaces cooler.



FP.10



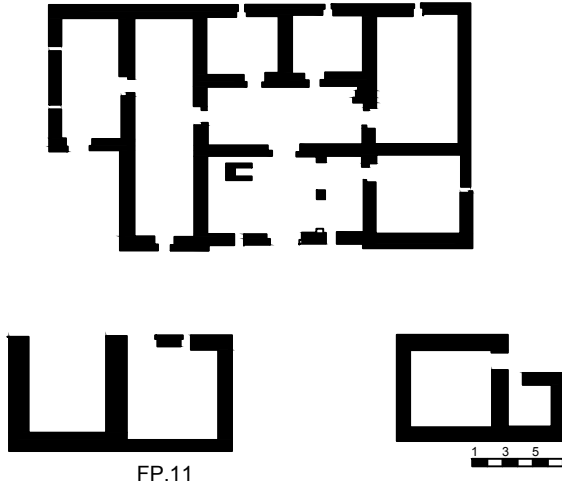
I.19

The houses are built buy adding rooms, the rooms are separated entities that have no internal connections between each other. Hey or "totora" are the traditional roofing materials, a certain type of hey the "Paja Mach" or "Hichu" is preferred because of it's hardness and ability to withstand strong winds, rain and hail.

The other important element of the house, the stove is made out of adobe as well, that with time and use will cook and become a sort of archaic ceramic stove.

Having the stove inside the multifunctional living space gives it the added value of working as a chimney that heats the space.

The altiplano has very little in terms of trees, due to the harshness of the climate and because tall elements are a natural lightning bolt, usually the houses are built away from any tall elements to protect themselves from the dangers a lightning storm poses.



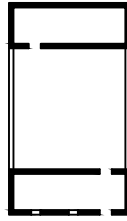
FP.11



I.20

The housing complex has also some water tanks that collect the rainwater from the roofs of the house. This water is stored to be used during the dry seasons.

The roofs are built in layers, the first one is made of wooden beams that run the distance of the space to support the weight of the next layers, the second layer is a vegetal layer made of either small branches, seaweeds and ashes that cover the entire space and finally a layer of clay that insulates the inside from the outside and is watertight, this layer is the one that will help collect the water to the cisterns, it also means that the roof are a flat surface with very little inclination that is ideal to use in case of having the need to use flat open an very well lit spaces. The Balearic houses are a complexe of rooms that grow horizontaly, most of the spaces are single hight and have a flat roof.



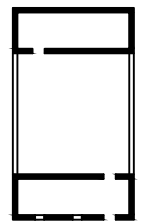
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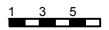
I.21

The altiplano has a climate with specific characteristics, being so high up the atmosphere is less dense, there is less oxygen and less humidity, this means that heat is very easily lost. During the day the temperatures can climb up to 20 degrees, and during the night they plummet to -4 or -5 degrees, the use of materials for building is very important to combat this. Adobe is a very good thermal insulator. And can withstand the harshness of the climate.

The hay used for the roofing of the space is placed in thick layers on the roof, to work not only as a cover from the sun, and rain but as a thermal insulation. It was traditionally held in place by woven nets with hanging stones as counterweights. The size of the house is also important, in the altiplano houses almost never have more than one story, this is due to the strength of the winds, it is important to be the closest possible to the ground where the wind is not felt as strong or there can be some bushes and plants that give some cover from the wind. This means that the housing complexes can be big in a horizontal way but not vertical. The highest part of the house is never more than 300cm away from the ground, and the slope of the roofs brings the lowest part to 180- 200cm.

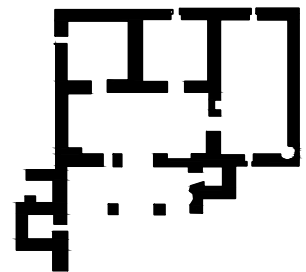


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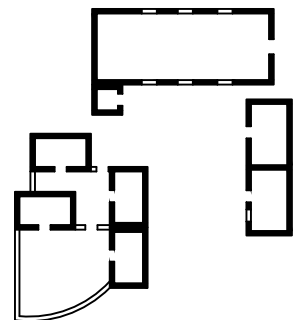
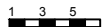


It is interesting to see the difference between the houses here aswell, the Andean house uses very little materials to be built and almost no color, this means that it is very well integrated with the surroundings , making it almost imperceptible at some distance. It is well adapted to the climate.

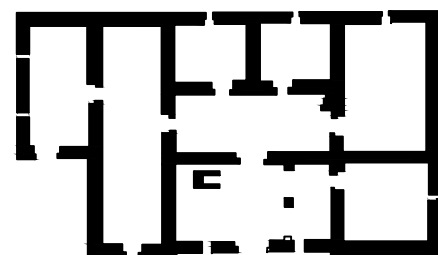
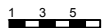
The Balearic house is also built with very little materials, however color and health come into play in the house, painting it white with the limestone makes it white and very contrasting to it's surroundings, but cleans the house. It is also very well adapted to the climate.



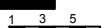
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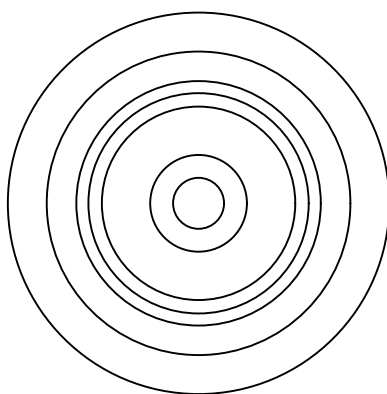
FP.3



FP.11



HEAR/ SOUNDS



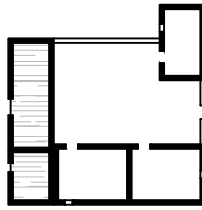
The sounds of nature and of living are another important element to explore, as they not only convey a sense of where one is but of protection.



I.22



I.23



FP.13

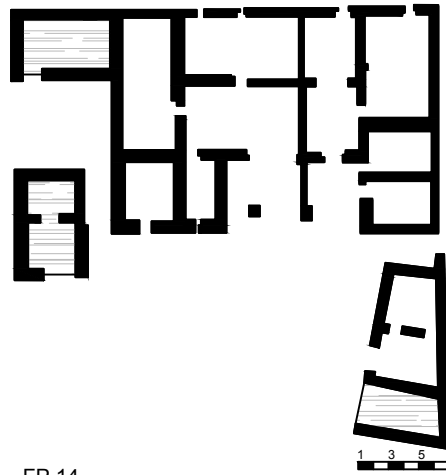


I.24

The altiplano has a specific weather and elements that give it a number of specific sounds. Strong winds carry small particles of sand and stones that erode the surroundings and the houses.

Being an very flat and open surface sound travels very far and easily, making it an advantage point for surveillance and protection, however it also means that during thunder storms and bad weather the sounds are amplified.

The housing complex has also some corrals and barns for the animals that the family posses, this animals range from guinea pigs to cows. This means that the sounds of the animals are ever constant in the life of the farmer. Every animal has a specific sound and a specific space dedicated to it. Cows, llamas, alpacas, pigs and sheep live in the outside of the house, in barns or small structures that provide cover form the sun and rain, but are still inside de housing complex for protection of pumas and burglars. Guinea pigs and rabbits live inside de house in small boxes that are usually placed under the bed, this provides an extra source of heat to the inhabitants of the house as well as extra protection to the small animals from the harsh weather and other animals of pray like condors, or eagles.



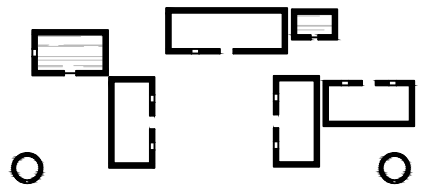
FP.14



I.25

The Balearic archipelago has a specific weather that is consistent in each season, wind is predominantly from the north, this sole aspect means that the distribution of the house has a most of the openings to the south, protecting the house from the wind, during summer the small windows and thick walls work in favor keeping the house cool and during winter the big walls collect the solar radiation and heat the house.

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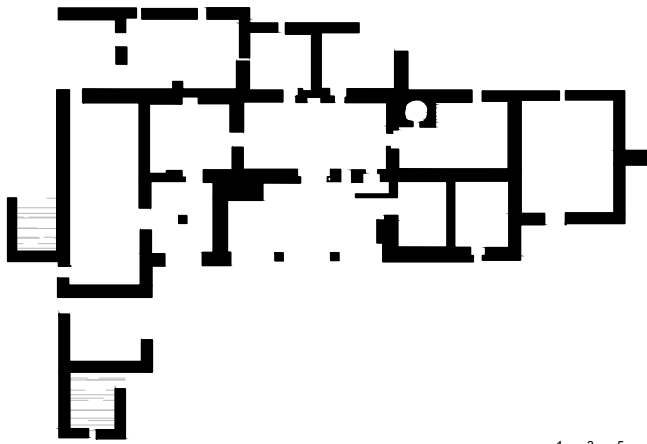
FP.1



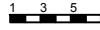
I.8

The altiplano has an abundance of small lakes and rivers that go across it meaning that the sound of water is another element that is important.

This means that protection from sounds, make the closeness of the living spaces an extra addition to the way of building. The housing complex is distributed so as to have the different spaces protected from the wind. Wind in the altiplano is directionless, the strong gust of wind don't have a particular direction, this means that you can not prevent or built the spaces with a specific orientation, so the housing complex is built in a way that not every space is facing the same direction, meaning that some spaces might be hit and cooled by the wind and others not, so that people can rotate to the spaces that have been less affected by the wind and have conserved it's heat. The doors and openings of the spaces are as little as possible in order to also prevent winds from affecting the inside. Usually doors will measure 150cm of height by 60cm with. And windows if they have any are no bigger that 50x50 centimeters Walls are think measuring up to 40cm width, this also give acoustic insulation.



FP.7



I.13

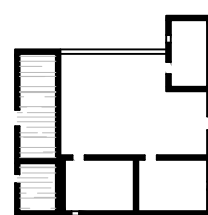
The house is also protected from the outside noise that can be storms or even fights that would be common during times where pirates and thieves were a threat.

The thickness of the walls also give acoustic protection.

The connection of the housing complex through adjacent rooms with thick walls makes acoustic insulation from room to room that are not connected almost perfect.

The housing complex being mostly horizontal, the heights of most housing complexes never surpass two stories, means that it is also protected from strong winds that can occur during storms and from the tramontana winds.

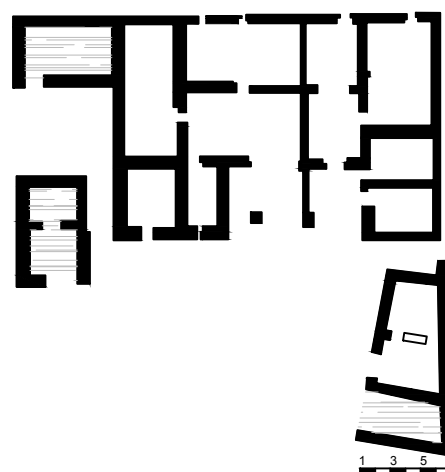
The biggest opening to the exterior are the doors of the porxo to the exterior, they are usually a set of big doors that can be fully opened during summer, there might be even windows that can also be open. All the other spaces have small doors, that measure no more than 100x100 centimeters. The walls are very thick measuring up to 100 cm width.



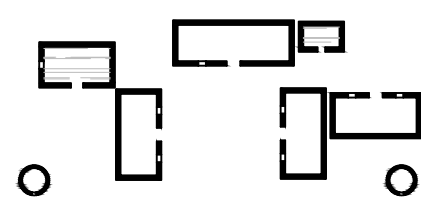
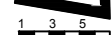
FP.13



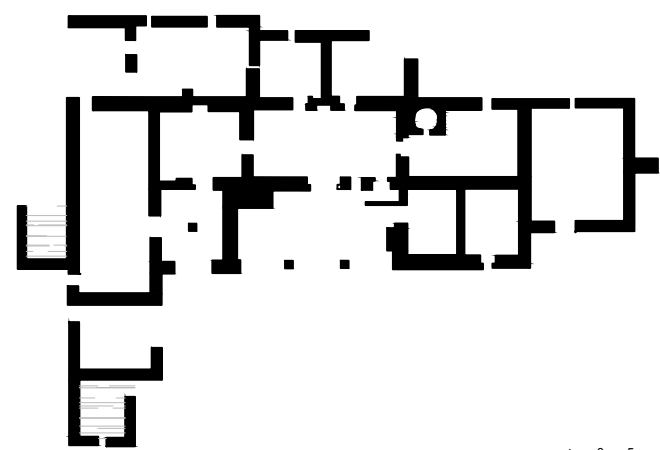
The way of building the houses have many similarities with the way sounds and wind are handled, both the Andean and balearic houses try to deal with wind as to not having problems when it is strong and cold. The difference occur when dealing with hot temperatures, in the altiplano this is almost never a problem, meaning that the house is constructed in a way to maintain the most amount of heat produced inside the spaces, whereas the balearic house has to deal with very hot summers, and does so by sealing itself of from the outside via thick walls and small windows, and as much shadow as possible. Taking into account that sound and heat travel in the same way, protecting against one means that one is also dealing with the other.



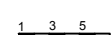
FP.14



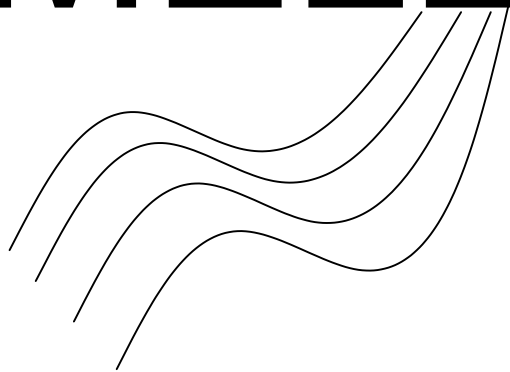
FP.1



FP.7



SMELL/USE



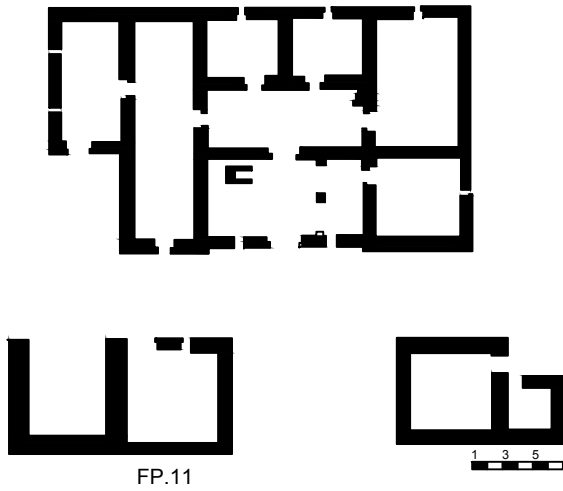


I.26

Animals, Food, Earth, Rain, smells and the use, or importance that we give to them is another aspect of the house and it's design that we can study.

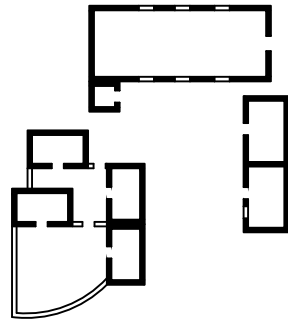


I.27



The Balearic house has a ventilation system that work by creating crosswinds inside the spaces, that will help with maintaining the freshness of the air inside the house. The Balearic houses are built as so to have the barns and corrals the further south in the complex, this mean that with predominantly north winds the smells of the farm animals are carried away from the living quarters.

The kitchen is used in many ways, it is directly connected to the "porxo" and is well ventilated, The housing complex might also have an small herb garden, this means that the "porxo" and kitchen are most of the time perfumed by herbs smells. This means that the relationship with smells is at most important in the house.



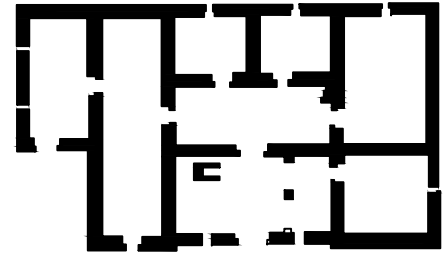
FP.3



I.10

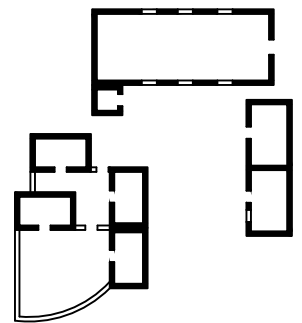
Andean houses are usually very badly ventilated.

The distribution of the housing complex help with not having strong odors enter the sleeping rooms. The barns are located on the back of the entrance to the rooms. To allow the foul smells to get away form the sleeping area. The preparation of food when possible is done on the outside, and when the economic possibilities of the family permits it, a separated kitchen is built. However the fact that every room has a stove that serves as a heating element that is fueled by traditional fuel and wood, means that the smell of smoke is always present on the rooms. The air inside the Andean house due to the lack of ventilation is somehow stale. The Altiplano is a place where very little vegetation grows, meaning that the traditional way of cooking is very simple and with not much addition to flavors in terms of herbs.



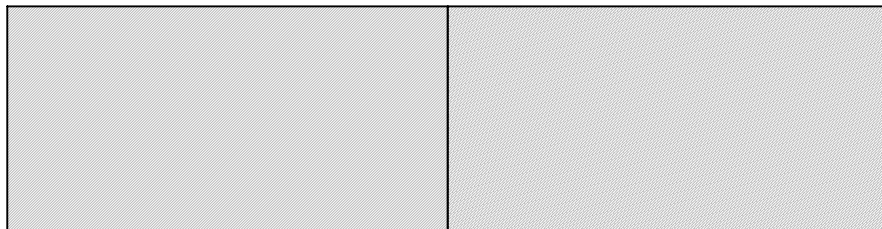
FP.11

Here we can see that both houses deal with the problem in the same way, just get the smells away as fast as possible, with the same technique, keep them away from the house when possible and use the wind in your advantage. However we see that the Balearic house also deals with internal ventilation for summer a problem that is not present in the Andean house and that creates other types of problems.



FP.3

TASTE/COOK TRADITIONS



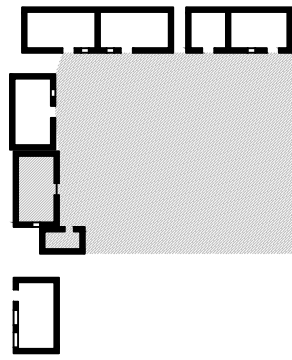


f.28

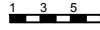
Food is at the center of cultural, religious and familiar events, the way food is prepared, cooked, presented and consume lets one understand cultural, traditional and ritualistic aspects of people.



f.29

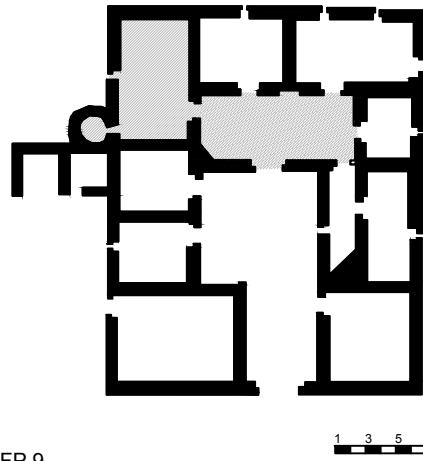


FP.15



I.30

The Andean culture is centered around the earth, the gods that exist in the culture are directly related to nature and its phenomena, the most important one been "Pachamama" or mother earth, the goddess is at the center of most traditions and rituals. The majority of the rituals consist on giving thanks to the gods by way of an offering to them, in the place that belongs to the god, this means that a offering to the gods of mountains will happen in the mountains, the gods of rain or hail, after a storm or before one is thought to take place. The Andean religion is a very literal one, that uses few abstractions as to convey messages. So that in order to have a connection with the gods, one has to be near them or have them on sight.



FP.9



I.18

The Balearic island have had many different religious and cultural traditions along their history, starting with Phoenicians, passing through Romans and today Christian cultures. The relation to the gods in this cultures is one that has many relations between them, gods have temples and are worshiped through masses, in rituals that usually involve abstract representations. The gods are worshiped with the help of a central figure that will have a certain rite, offerings have a symbolic meaning and most of them use a tables and altars as a central element of the rites.

The Andean culture gives much importance to the act of sharing elements, most of the parties and cultural events involve a traditional dish that is called "Aptapi", it is a meal where every person that is involved will bring some of the food or products that they have in order to be shared with the others. This dish is served over traditional "aguayos" Andean clothes, every one sits on the floor around the "aguayos" and eats and shares the food that has been prepared and brought for the occasion.



I.31



I.32

Food in the Balearic islands has also a special meaning, the island where in a route concurred by many different cultures along the history of the Mediterranean seas, this means that the islands have been a place of cultural exchange with many different cultures that have translated in many different ways of preparing food. However being at this crossroad also meant that the islands were very often the places of pirate sieges and battles, this made the Balearic people become as self-reliant as possible in terms of subsistence in case of being attacked. The houses are built as small fortifications and have large storage spaces as well as small orchards, barns, corrals and greenhouses inside the protected housing complex. One typical dish being the "sofrit pages" that is cooked during Christmas time and is prepared with the meats of the animals of the region and potatoes.

Huatia in the Andean culture is another method of preparing food that has an very important meaning to the people, it consist of digging a hole of 60 to 100cm diameter and 30 to 50 centimeters deep, then a dome of earth is constructed in top of the hole, with one opening facing the predominant wind, once the dome is constructed wood, rocks and traditional fuel is placed inside the dome and lit, this fire is kept lit for the time it take for the dome and rocks to become very hot, at this point food is place inside the dome and the dome is collapsed on top of it. This "oven" is left to cook the food while the people attend to the harvest of their fields, when the days work is done, people return to this secret treasure of cooked food and consume it.

"Chicha" is another element of traditional food, it is a alcoholic beverage produce with corn that is prepared by women and is a central element of rituals and parties.



I.33

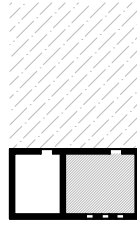
In the Balearic archipelago food is mostly prepared with whatever can be grow, harvested and bread in the island, however the Mediterranean climate allows for a big variety of herbs, fruits and vegetables to be grown, as well as being in a rich sea in biodiversity means that the diet has a strong marine element.

The house in itself is constructed as to have many storage spaces for the food, in case of many more rooms being added to the house, all the previous rooms that where adjacent to the "porxo" will become storage spaces and not only corridors that connect to the other spaces. The roof of the house being flat and made out of clay is also used to dry up some food, herbs and fruit to be used during winter.

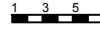
Wine is also produced in the island, the production of the wine is a usually a communal effort that will end with celebrations for the end of the harvest.



1.34

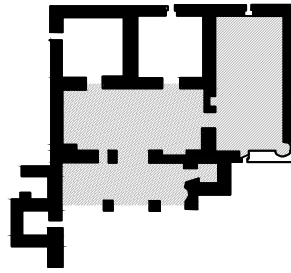


FP.6



I.12

In the Andean houses most of the food preparations and elements happen in the exterior, on natural places and with the community, this means that the housing complex and life inside the house is a very internal and personal aspect of the Andean culture. Community life happens in public spaces, only the closest of family members are allowed or invited inside the most private of the living places.



FP.8



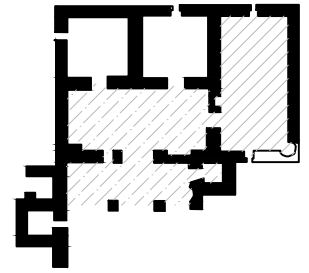
I.17

In the Balearic archipelago sharing food is done in different ways, among friends in special occasions, this means one family might invite some people to their house where food has been prepared by the host family, and is served in the "porxo".

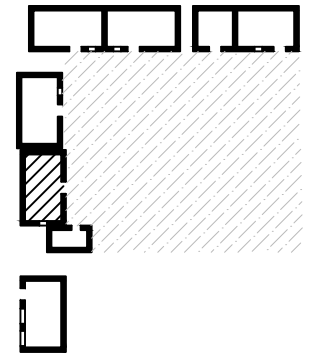
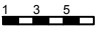
For larger gatherings or special celebratory occasions, families will bring some food that has been prepared to the places where the celebrations will take place, this might be the squares next to the churches or someone's house.

The Balearic housing complex has two different type of private spaces, the most private one the sleeping rooms are reserved for the person it belongs to and it's most priced possessions, then we have the private communal spaces, shared by the family that are also open to other people that might have been invited to spend some time with the host family.

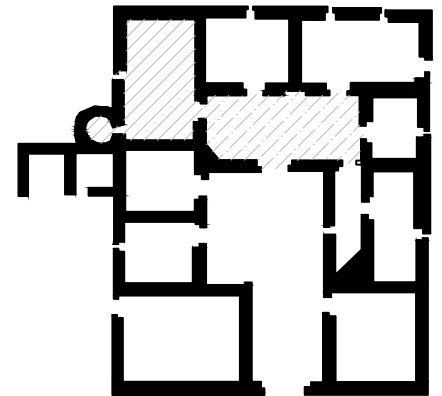
When looking at the way food is prepared and consumed we can understand many things about the culture, traditions and even architecture of a group of people. We can see that the Andean house has no built space to prepare and consume the food, it is seen as a way to connect with the gods, it is consumed usually in the outside where the connection with the natural world is the strongest. In the Balearic house we have special spaces that are used to prepare and consume the food, in tables as the religious tradition dictate as well. Both houses have this aspect of everyday life imbued with a very strong religious connotations.



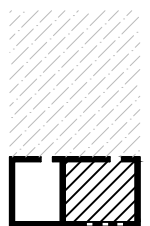
FP.8



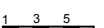
FP.15



FP.9

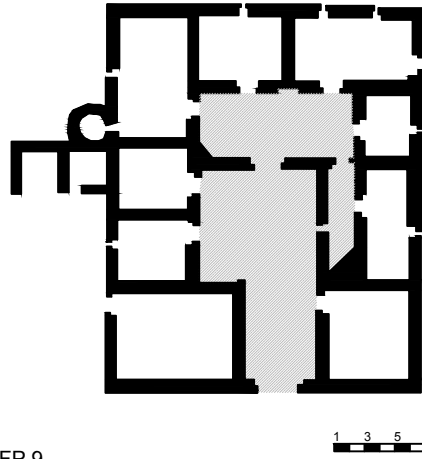


FP.6



CONNECT

The way we connect spaces gives us an understanding on how a culture sees the importance of privacy, and public interactions,

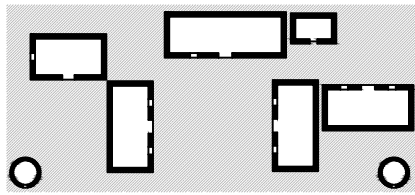


FP.9



I.18

The Balearic house is built as a group of rooms that are interconnected between each other through the use of rooms that are multifunctional. The most important of the rooms is the "porxo", that serves as a gathering room, a dining room, a working room, and even a storage. This room is connected to the sleeping rooms and the kitchen. With the growths of the family, rooms are added in an organic way, the house extends where the terrain allows it and in a way of creating more "porxo" like rooms that will have the same uses as the first one, specially storage spaces, that will connect to new sleeping rooms. This means that the house and its inhabitants grow with the addition of new family members, marriages and so on. If the family stays together the house will grow to have many wings, but stays as a unitary element.



FP.1

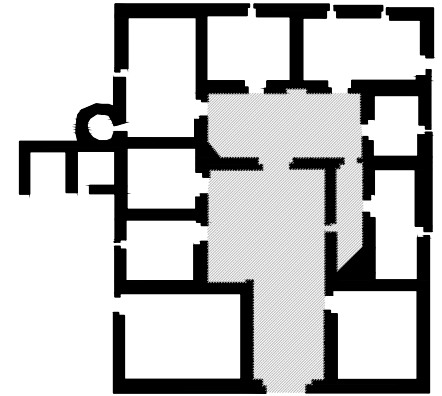


I.8

The Andean housing complex is built as a set of separated rooms, that don't connect between each other through the inside, this mean that every time you want to go from one space to the other you have to go outside into the nature.

This relationship with nature is very present into all of the aspect of life in the Andes, having a such imposing natural backdrop, and a such important religious elements means that the connection with nature is very important.

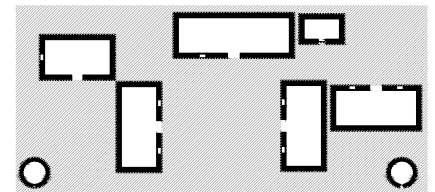
Another aspect is the fact that the housing complexes grow over time not only to house one or two generations of a family but multiple generations, this means that a room that once was the children's room can become a family room to one of the children that has married, this child will in time build another room for its children. The use of every room is very personal and private, meaning that each person or family has its personal private space in the housing complex, that is seen as a separate entity inside the housing complex.



FP.9

The Balearic archipelago have a religious backdrop that starts with the Phoenicians and ends with today Christian community, rituals in most of this cultures use temples and churches as the places of prayer. The religious rituals happen inside the temples, the implication is that being inside and protected has a special meaning to the people. The use of spaces for religious ceremonies is well orchestrated and the altars and ceremonies have a way of being performed. When we take the fact that most traditional families have a saint that will protect them and that most of the houses might have an altar dedicated to the saint we can imagine that the protection given by the temple can be also attributed to the housing complex and the safety that being under a roof implies.

On the other side in the Andean culture, religion happens in contact with nature. Nature plays such an important role that to be in contact with it on a regular basis is desired, this means that the house is connected to itself by using nature as the connecting space.

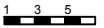


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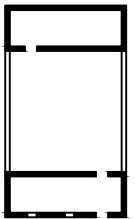
CONCLUSION



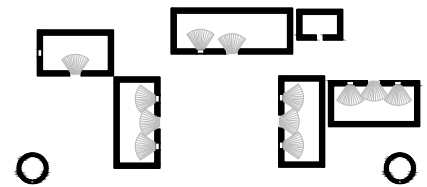
FP.6



The construction of traditional houses doesn't need the design of an architect, it uses traditional methods and know-how that has been passed from generation to generation throughout time. There are elements that by studying them can help us understand the importance that culture plays when we build. Most of the elements present in the construction of the traditional Andean and Balearic houses come from a purely utilitarian necessity. The houses are built in a way that the inhabitants can use the most of the house in as many ways possible. Making each one of the spaces extremely important and multifunctional. We can see that space in itself is easily accessible, when needed the inhabitants will just add a space to the house, and when no longer needed the space will be abandoned and left to decay, this means that the houses are extremely adaptable.

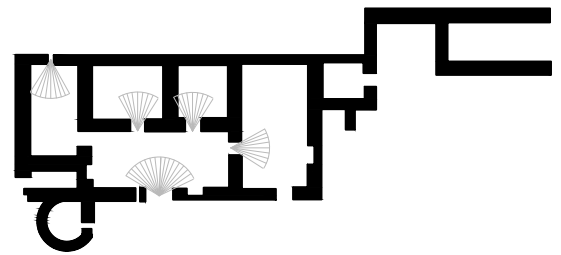


FP.12

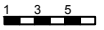


FP.1



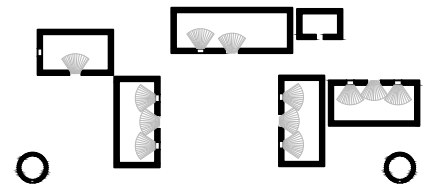


FP.2

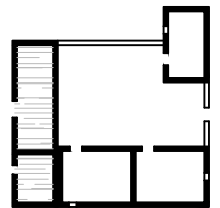


We can also see that there are many aspects that repeat themselves in all of the examples this means we could take the assumption that this elements might be multicultural and could be defined as the elements that make a "house" in the broad sense of the word. Being able to withstand harsh climate, dealing with smells, ventilation and physical protection. Adaptability, meaning that people like to be able to change, growing or reducing ones house when necessary, are then things that characterize and could be used to define what a house is.

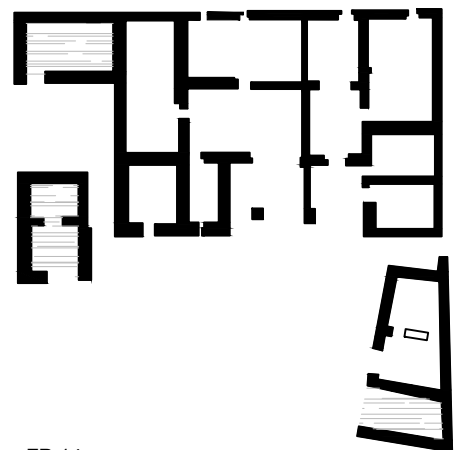
The third element that comes from this analysis is that culture plays a much more important role in the construction of the houses than what we could think, eating and preparing food, one of the elements the most related to religion and cultural believes has a direct relationship with the way it is done.



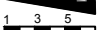
FP.1



FP.13



FP.14

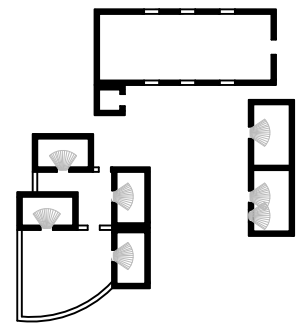




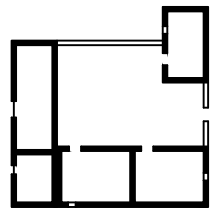
FP.5



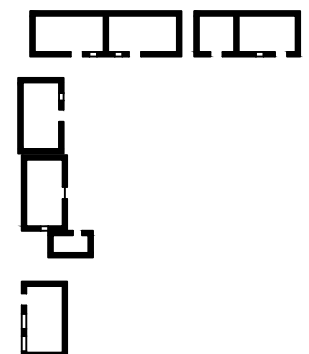
One culture has a very literal way of looking at religion, it is there and you need to be with it to be able to connect with it. You need to touch the earth to pray to it, you need to see the sky to talk with the gods of the skies, you need to see the mountains to talk with those mountains, meaning that food and rites are performed where they have to. This means that food in a everyday basis is consumed in contact with this gods, outside of closed spaces. Making the Andean house a set of rooms that are not connected and have a direct relationship to the exterior. Even if the Altiplano has a harsh weather, this is second in importance when it comes to the possibility to connect with the gods.



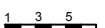
FP.3



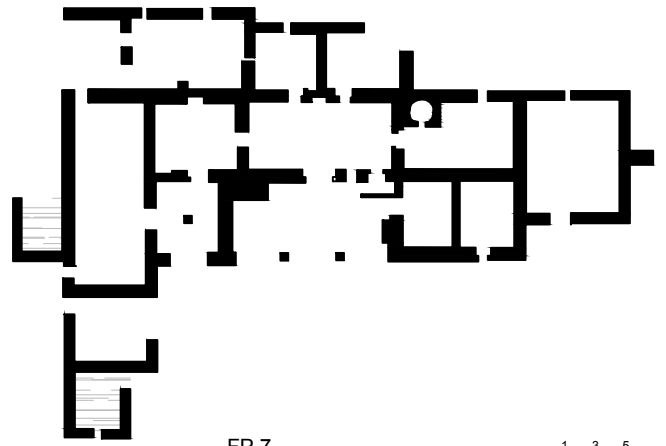
FP.13



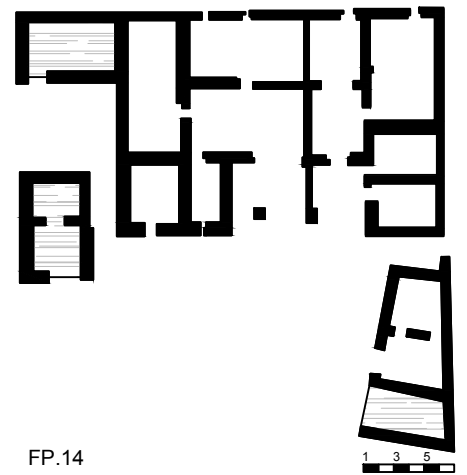
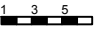
FP.15



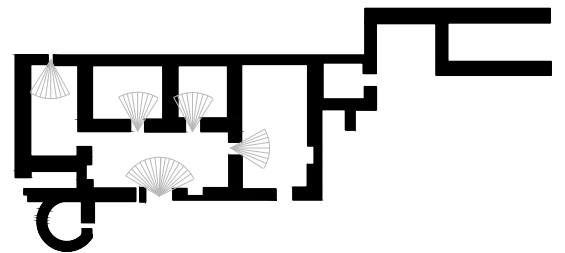
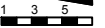
The Balearic house in the other side has a dedicated space to prepare and a space to consume food, historical the Mediterranean cultures have a figurative way of looking at religion and can be very abstract. They have churches and altars where the gods can be prayed to, and this places and spaces have a special meaning, the tables where the rites occur and are performed can be understood as the spaces in the houses where food is prepared and consumed. This is probably the most important difference between the two houses, it is a difference in use that makes a big difference in the final look of the houses, however it is not a difference that comes from the methods, materials or ways of building, but a difference in cultural and religious understanding that translate itself in an architectural and morphological way.



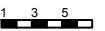
FP.7



FP.14



FP.2



Studying traditional houses can give us an understanding of what we as architect should take into account when we design spaces, by studying the traditional ways of living we can see that there are things that are same across cultures, and others that have more meaning to each culture. Embedded tradition dictates subconsciously how we behave and how we understand our surroundings. The creation of architecture should take this into account and architecture as a whole might not be able to adopt the term of global if we take the element of culture into account.

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- I.22 Vista del lago menor desde Taraco, Altiplano Boliviano, Ronald Alejandro Grebe, Bolivia.
- I.23 Amanecer en la península de Taraco, Altiplano Boliviano, Ronald Alejandro Grebe, Bolivia
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- I.26 Los olivos forman parte indisoluble del paisaje mallorquín / Foto: Meitzk E
- I.27 Vista de Lequepalca desde la carretera Oruro-Cochabamba, Ronald Alejandro Grebe, Bolivia.
- I.28 Arroz de matança, by ibiza5sentidos
- I.29 Aptapi, Taraco, Altiplano Boliviano, Ronald Alejandro Grebe, Bolivia
- I.30 Vivienda en Laquepalca 3, Altiplano Boliviano, Ronald Alejandro Grebe, Bolivia.
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