

CHAPTER 19: LANDSCAPES OF RURAL SETTLEMENT

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- I. Introduction
 - A. Shelter ranks high on the list of human needs
 1. Dwellings serve several functions
 2. A house reveals much about a region and its culture
 3. Layout and function of houses give us an impression of social values and economic needs
 4. Materials used in construction reflect local availability and purpose
 - B. *Spacing* of housing
 1. **Dispersed settlement**—houses lie quite far apart
 2. **Nucleated settlement**—houses are grouped together in tiny clusters (*hamlets*) or larger clusters (*villages*)
 3. Ground plan of villages can sometime help identify prevailing culture
 4. Arrangement of houses in villages take many different forms
- II. Housing and landscape
 - A. Our early ancestors
 1. Assumed early humans lived in bands containing from a dozen to 50 or 60 individuals
 2. Early humans perhaps lived in holes covered with branches and leaves in temporary campsites
 3. Unlikely caves were the first dwelling places because many humans lived where no natural shelter was available
 - B. Functional differentiation
 1. As society developed communal living gave way to single family dwellings
 2. Communities became larger and more highly organized
 3. Chief or headman probably had a larger and more imposing residence
 4. Buildings for food storage and livestock shelter became necessary
 5. **Functional differentiation** began in buildings—example of Africa
 - C. Environmental influences
 1. Ample evidence human communities existed in widely separated areas 100,000 years ago
 2. Migrating people had to protect themselves against the elements
 3. Buildings reflect the adaptations required for environmental changes
 4. Nomadic people needed lightweight transportable shelters such as tents
 5. Example: the igloo built by the Inuit people
 6. Diversity of dwellings around the world has ancient origins
 7. Distribution pattern building practices was complicated by migration
 8. Reconstructing the diffusion of building forms has proved to be extremely difficult
- III. Changing residential traditions
 - A. Unchanged-traditional
 1. Defined as those in which layout, construction, and appearance have not been significantly altered by external influences
 2. Many examples given
 3. In the United States three types of traditional houses can be identified
 - a) New England style diffused to Wisconsin and beyond (Figure 19-1)
 - b) Middle Atlantic style
 - c) Southern style

- B. Modified-traditional dwellings
 1. No fundamental alteration to the original structure or its layout
 2. New building materials or elements can be added
 3. Many examples given
 - C. Modernized traditional dwellings
 1. Modifications involve building materials, a floor plan, and general layout
 2. Elements of traditional house persist, but modernization has overtaken tradition
 - D. Modern dwellings
 1. Most common in the United States
 2. Are similar the world over
 3. Reflects advanced technology
 4. Ranch style house took root in California
 5. Makes up in technology for what it lacks in style
 6. Tradition remains strongest in the domestic architecture of rural areas
- IV. Structure and materials
- A. From cave dwellings to mansions
 1. Some people still live in caves
 2. Dwellings are still built from sticks, branches, grass, and leaves in some part of the world
 3. Housing characteristics can be regionally located
 4. Examples given
 - B. Building materials
 1. Wood
 - a) Shows some association with the world distribution of forests
 - b) Wood-frame houses prevail throughout North America
 2. Brick
 - a) Where wood is not available brick is commonly used
 - b) Western bricks are hard, often contain cement, and are oven dried
 - c) Sun dried bricks are widely used as a main component of traditional dwellings in many areas of the world
 - d) Worldwide, fired or baked brick has become a major element of modern construction
 3. Stone
 - a) Natural stone is used around the world, in places where it is readily available
 - b) Developed as a tradition still followed in many areas of the world
 - c) Wood and mud brick are far more common building materials
 4. **Wattle**
 - a) Houses built from poles and sticks, woven tightly together, and covered with mud
 - b) Many African houses use this type of construction with a thick thatched roof
 - c) Southeast Asia is the leading region in this category
 5. Grass and brush
 - a) Used in Africa in the savanna
 - b) Prevails in the Brazilian and Venezuelan highlands to the south of the forested Amazon Basin
- V. Diffusion of house types
- A. House types were carried by migrants
 1. Example of the U.S. East Coast to the west and southward (insert, Figure 19-3)
 2. The present cultural landscape is a composite of older and newer forms
 3. Western style houses diffused from west to east across the United States

- B. Maladaptive diffusion
 1. Ranch-style houses are not suitable for Eastern United States harsh climates
 2. New England-style houses are found in Hawaii
- VI. Villages
 - A. Settlements
 1. Smallest clusters are known as *hamlets*—may contain only about a dozen buildings
 2. Definition of a *village* varies
 - B. Village forms (Figure 19-4)
 1. Traditionally people who lived in villages either farmed the surround land or provided services to those who did
 2. In Japan, houses are so tightly packed that only the narrowest passageways remain
 3. Western European villages built on dikes take on linear characteristics (Figure 19-4A)
 4. Clustered villages (Figure 19-4B)
 5. Round villages are found in East Africa and Europe (Figure 19-4C)
 6. Walled villages still exist in some rural landscapes (Figure 19-4D)
 7. More modern villages are found in a grid pattern (Figure 19-4E)
 8. Today, more than half the world's people still live in villages and rural areas
 - C. Regional contrasts
 1. In some areas modernization has reached all but the remotest rural areas
 2. In some areas, farm villages lie far removed from the sources of change
 3. Villages where subsistence modes of life prevail share certain qualities
 4. Villages in regions of commercial agriculture share a more materialistic orientation
 5. Communal living is practiced in some villages
 6. Villages everywhere do display certain common qualities
 - a) Social stratification
 - b) Fundamental differentiation of buildings
 - D. Functional differentiation in villages
 1. Protection of livestock and storage of harvested crops are primary functions of farm villages
 2. In subsistence farm villages storage place for grains and other food is constructed with as much care as the house
 3. Functional differentiation of buildings is most fully developed in Western cultures
- VII. Patterns of settlement and land use
 - A. Influence of physical environment
 1. Limitations on types of agriculture that can be practiced
 2. Numbers of people the agriculture can support
 - B. Property inheritance
 1. *Primogeniture*—all land passes to the eldest son
 2. Where land is divided among heirs considerable fragmentation can occur over time
 - C. *Cadastral system*—delineates property lines
 1. *Rectangular survey system*
 - a) Adopted by the U.S. government after the American revolution
 - b) Known as the *township-and-range system*
 - c) Basic unit is the one square mile section
 - d) A similar system is used in Canada
 3. *Metes and bounds survey*
 - a) Natural features are used to demarcate irregular parcels of land
 - b) Used along the eastern seaboard
 4. *Long-lot survey*

- a) Used in Louisiana and Texas
- b) Divides land into narrow parcels

VIII. The diversity of the rural sector

A. Chapter summary