HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE 1.
BEGINNINGS AND
VERNACULAT ARCHITECTURE

Vernacular architecture
In Africa
AREAS FOR LIVING IN AFRICA
In addition to the well-known social issues of illiteracy and immeneracy, there also should be such a concept as “immaprancy”, meaning insufficient geographical knowledge.

A survey with random American schoolkids let them guess the population and land area of their country. Not entirely unexpected, but still rather unsettling, the majority chose “1-2 billion” and “largest in the world”, respectively.

Even with Asian and European college students, geographical estimates were often off by factors of 2-3. This is partly due to the highly distorted nature of the predominantly used mapping projections (such as Mercator).

A particularly extreme example is the worldwide misjudgement of the true size of Africa. This single image tries to embody the massive scale, which is larger than the USA, China, India, Japan and all of Europe....combined.
# Shelters and Tents

## Shady Structures Against Brilliant Sunshine

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Shelter supported by four posts and covered with thatch</td>
<td>Niger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Shelter covered with branches</td>
<td>Ivory Coast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Conical roof covered with thatch</td>
<td>Niger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>House of men (Toguna)</td>
<td>Mali</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Shelter supported by pillars made of sun dried bricks</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tent covered with felt</td>
<td>Morocco</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tent covered with bulrush</td>
<td>Somalia</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tuareg tent</td>
<td>Tunisia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Frame and mat tent</td>
<td>Eritrea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TENTS

a. **black tent** (felt); b. **tent covered with skin** (Tuareg); c. **tent with curved wooden framework** (covering with mat / bulrush)

6. felt tent (Maroc); 7. tent covered with mat (Somalia); 8. nomadic felt tent (Tunisia); 9. felt tent (Eritrea)
Sudan
Sudan
Sudan
Pigny hut / Central-Africa
domical form, curved branches, covered with leaves
Nomads, hunting and gathering: migration
SHELTERS / CAMPGROUNDS

Pigmy camp / Ruanda / Central-Africa / K. G. Murphy with pigmies (1921) / small family – large family / open clearings
SHELTERS / MODERN SHELTERS

UN refugee camp / Somalia (traditional structures, modern materials)
PLANS: CIRCULAR

1. Conical, covered with thatch, Nigeria, Sudan
2. Domical, framework with curved branches, Somalia
3. Same as above, Nigeria
4. Conical, covered with bundle of thatch, Somalia
5. With low wall and main post, Sudan, Ruanda, Kenya
6. With high wall, Niger, Nigeria
7. Zaire, Mali, Cameroon, Senegal
8. Sudan, Nigeria
9. Niger, Nigeria
10. With round veranda, Guinea, Cameroon
11-12. Plaster up with mud, Cameroon, Ghana
13. Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali
14. Lesotho, Botswana
15. Liberia, Tanzania
PLANS: CIRCULAR

Each symbol placed on the map represents the general location of the cultural group written next to it, rather than a specific quantity of dwellings.

- Conical roof, thatched earth, wattle and daub, poles or stone walls
- Flat roof, earth, earth
- Conical roof, thatched no walls
- Domical roof, thatched, skin or matting, no walls
- Beehive-dome, thatched, no walls
- Parabolic dome, earth, no walls
- Conical or domical roof, thatched, stone walls, two storey
- Domical, corbeled stone, walls or no walls
- Imbuvum, thatched, earth walls
DOMICAL ROOF / NO WALLS

Fulani / Senegal / West-Africa / Berber origin nation
DOMICAL ROOF / NO WALLS

Masai camp / Kenya / East-Africa
Masai camp and hut / Kenya / East-Africa

2. Young animals
3. Men
4. Women
MASAI VILLAGE, TANZANIA

- Gate
- Huts
- Fold for cattles
- Fold for calves
- Sheepfold

Surrounded by thorn-bushes (Boma)
BEEHIVE-SHAPE ROOF / NO WALLS

Dorze house / valley of river Omo / Ethiopia / Elephant house (trunk = small roof above entrance / curved bamboo / 12 m high
PARABOLIC ROOF / NO WALLS

Mousgoum house / Cameroon, Chad / made of mud / there are lot of knob on the covering used as scaffolding for plaster
CONICAL ROOF / ROUND SHAPED PLAN OF WALL

ROUND SHAPED HOUSES

Log wall / Tanzania
Mud wall with flat roof / Ghana

stone wall / Lesotho
mud wall with conical roof / Burkina Faso
Granaries / Benin
GRANARIES / made of mud
PLANS: SQUARE

1. Zaire
2. Zaire, Angola
3. Zambia, Cameroon
4. Nigeria, Cameroon
5. Tanzania, Zaire, Nigeria
6. Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia
HOUSES OF TANZANIA

tembe, wagongo, wazaramo, plan of tembe (deepend into the hillside)
tembe
SPECIAL FORMS: MUD WALLS

Dwelling with mud walls, Burkina Faso

Village with mud walls, Ghana
(there are no roofs where the dotted areas can be seen)

Dwelling with mud walls, Burkina Faso
SPECIAL PLACE OF LIVING: PILE DWELLINGS

Village of Akan fishermen in Lake Nokwe, Benin
SPECIAL PLACE OF LIVING:
DEWLLINGS DEEPENED INTO THE SLOPE

Matmata, Tunisia
SPECIAL PLACE OF LIVING / „UNDERGROUND“ SETTLEMENTS

„Cave-houses“

Matmata / Tunisia
GRANARIES

Ksar Ouled Soltane / Tunisia / fortified granaries / since 11th century / ksar = fortress, (berber) / ghorfa = room (arab)
SPECIAL PLACE OF LIVING / DWELLINGS BELOW EDGE OF CLIFF

Dwellings made of mud and framework with plaster, storages and granaries
Bandiagara escarpment, Land of Dogons, Mali
SPECIAL PLACE OF LIVING: DWELLINGS ON CLIFF

Dwellings made of mud and framework with plaster, storages and granaries

Tiogou, Land of Dogons, Mali
SPECIAL PLACE OF LIVING: DWELLINGS ON CLIFF

Dwelling made of timber framework with plaster, the upper end of posts were the origin of (late) moulding
House of priest, Bandiagara, Land of Dogons, Mali
House of chief / Djenné / Mali