



Village artisan's self-built house

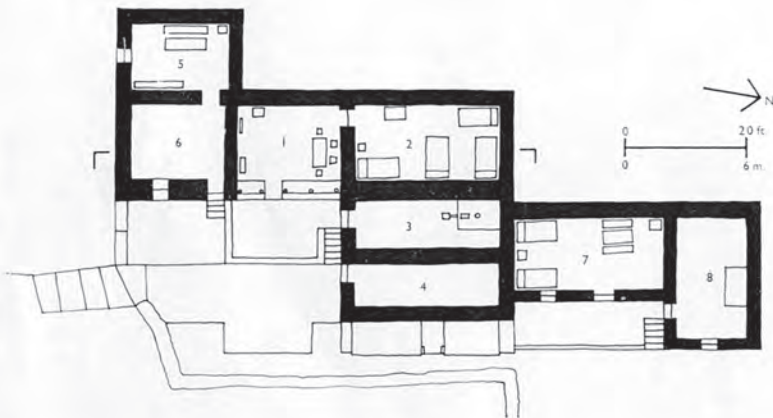
Pedro Vizcarra's house, Arequipa, Peru, provides a measure of how far, given the opportunity, one man's skill and resource will reach in housing his family

Left: Vizcarra family in their living-room

Below: the Vizcarra house bedroom

Bottom left and right: plan and section through the Vizcarra house

Key: (Date of building is shown with room). 1 living (1931) 2 bedroom (1931) 3 kitchen (1931) 4 store-room (1933) 5 and 6 shop (1935) 7 bedroom (1956) 8 kitchen (1956)



This is a house in a small, scattered village near Arequipa, in the valley of the River Chili in Southern Peru. It has been built over the past 32 years by the owner and occupier Señor Pedro Vizcarra, a local house-builder, working on his own as he always does. The site was a sandy slope that needed levelling before building could start. His wife helped him build the first rooms in 1931 when he had a job in a factory. In those days he would work on the house from 4 a.m. until he left for the factory, and again when he came home until it got dark, carrying stone for the foundations and walls on his back one mile to the site. The first rooms took a year to complete.

The white-plastered roof (*techo torteado*) of the house is traditional to this part of Peru, where rains are very moderate.

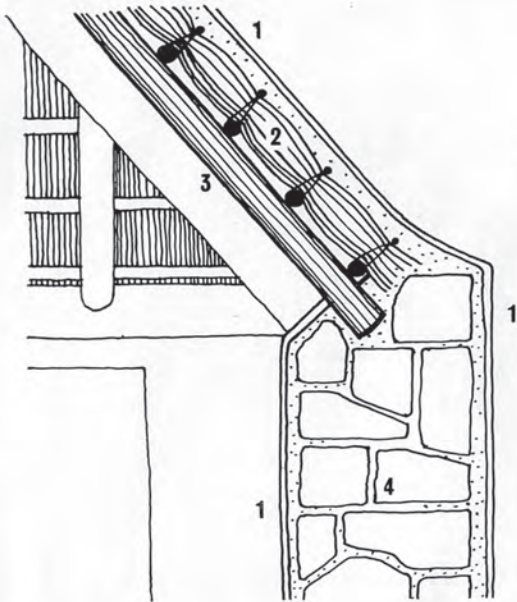
Señor Vizcarra reckons that he has spent altogether five years building the house; it is the only property he owns.





The John Turner Archive:
Village artisan's self-built house

Dwelling resources in South America, Architectural Design 8, August 1963



Right: interior views of living-room roof and walls



Left: detail sketch of constructional system

Key: 1 lime-faced mud rendering 2 thatch wired down to bamboos 3 rafters of eucalyptus trunks 4 stone and mud wall

