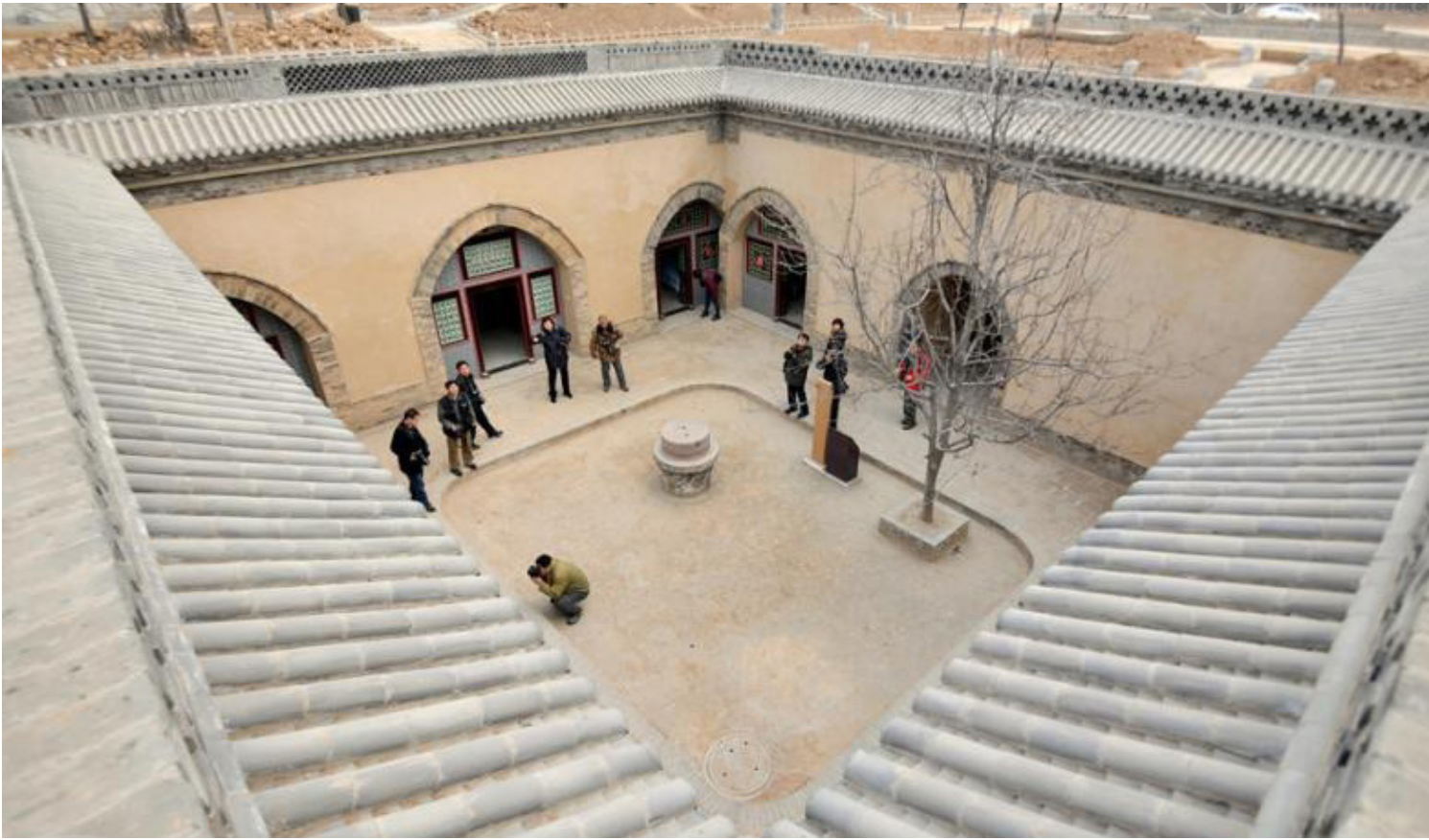
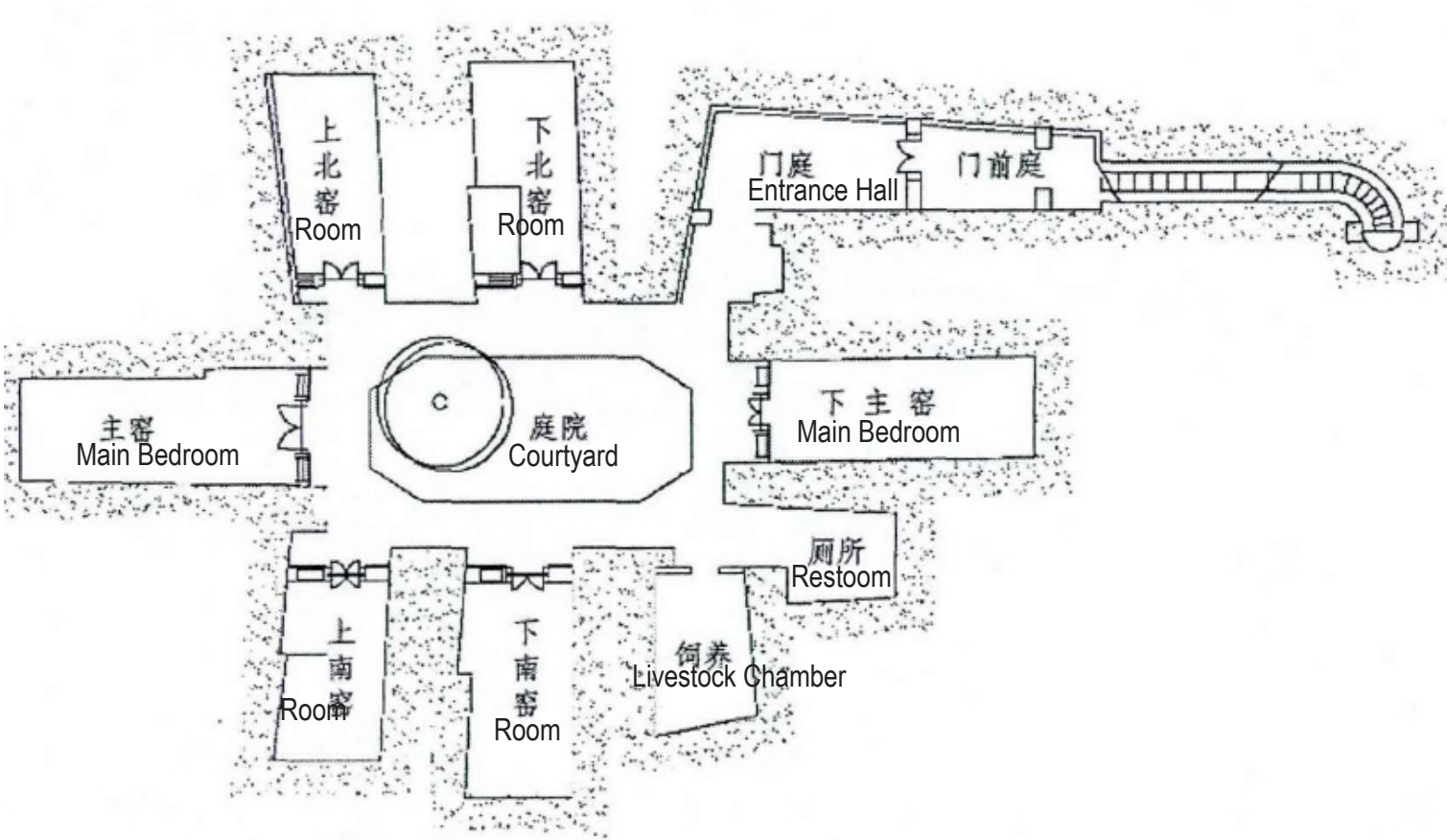


Underground Cities in Northern China

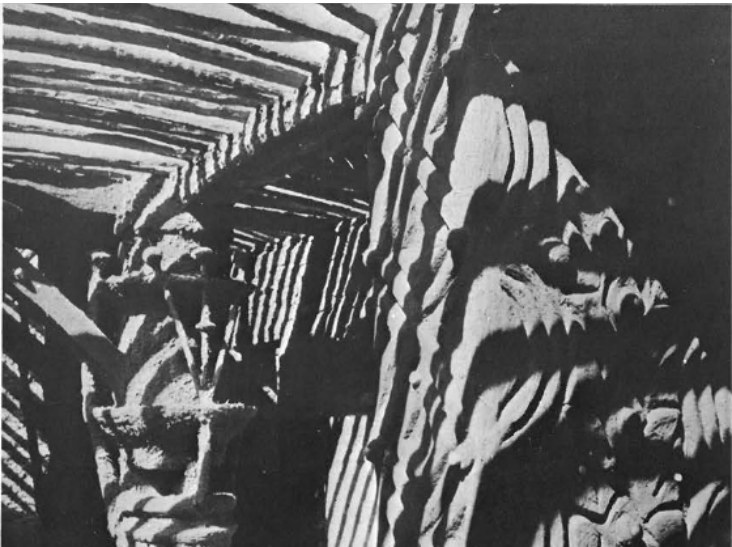


A partial view of an underground village near Loyang in northern China. The dark squares in the flat landscape are pits an eighth of an acre in area, or about the size of a tennis court. Their vertical sides are 25 to 50 feet high. L-shaped staircases lead to the apartments below whose rooms are about 30 feet deep and 15 feet wide, and measure about 15 feet to the top of the vaulted ceiling. They are lighted and aired by openings that give onto the courtyard.



Airy Semi-covered Street in African

Grayer and more airy are the lacy coverings that are the delight of oriental streets and courtyards. Their shadow-plays are staged with simple means: canopies of trellises, mats, nets, or vines are turned to good account for distilling the raw sunlight into a sort of optical liqueur.



Indigenous Culture In Catalina



← Ceremonial Soapstone Bowl

Soapstone Carvings of Canoes →



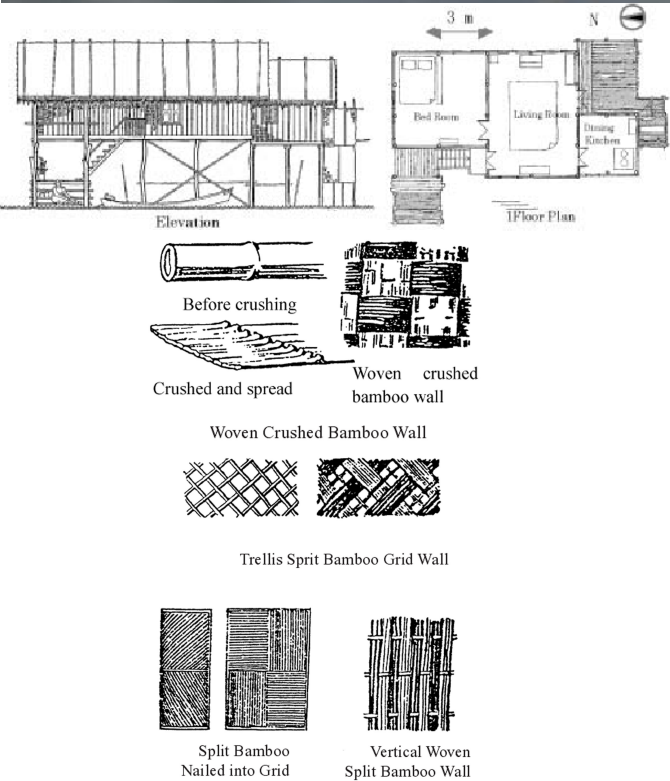
The Gabrielino Native Americans have been recorded to have lived on Catalina Island before the spanish arrived. They called the island “Pemú’nga” and have baptismal records going back as far as the 1820’s. Gabrielino homes called “Kiys” were constructed by placing poles upright in a circle and joining them at the top creating the frame. The frame would then be covered by shrubs, ferns, and mats woven from tules. These homes were large enough to house 50 to 60 tribe members with 3 or 4 shared family spaces. The Gabrielino had a good supply of steatite, also known as soapstone. They were able to carve out pots, bowls, and other cooking utensils, as well as small figures of animals from soapstone, particularly whales.

Sustainable living - Korowai tribe and tree houses

The tribe live in a remote region of the hot and humid West Papuan rainforest. But, they have adapted perfectly to this hostile environment by building their houses high in the jungle canopy, away from the dangers of flooding and unfriendly animals on the forest floor. This fantastic towering piece of architecture is a perfect illustration of the Korowai’s incredible knowledge, skill and ingenuity in adapting to the demanding jungle environment. The tribe show great resourcefulness as all the materials they build their treehouses from can be found in and around the surrounding jungle.



Traditional House in Myanmar



As for the type of floor and the height of the flooring, like as the houses of other tropical countries, the traditional houses are commonly provided with the raised flooring. The earthen floor is widely used for ground floor in the two stories house. In case of the village of Nampan, the height of the flooring is the highest among the traditional villages, because they have to keep the open space for increasing the water level of the Inle Lake on the rainy season. These open spaces under flooring are used as the tie-up boats. The raised floor not only prevents the moisture penetration in the hot-humid weather but also protects the hot sunshine in the hot-dry weather. The whole space of under the high raised floor (che-tan-she) serves well as an extra living and working space for the family. In the hot-humid area the room upstairs of the raised-floor house is clean and dry for family and in the hot-dry area the space under the raised-floor is cool and airy during daytime.