

The aisled house of the Landes, improperly dubbed the 'Landaise farmhouse', actually coexists with other, rather late, architectural types brought into fashion in the second half of the 19th century, for instance, in the Born region (along the coast). Here is found the single-storey *longère* (lengthwise house), stringing together living-room and bedroom, also built of timber frame, in which day labourers and workers employed in tapping pines for resin (*gemmeurs*) were housed. Also here is the two-storey house with a four-slope roof and with a long-wall facade, built of timber frame and daub infill, which was inhabited by a small landowner, and whose architectural model is urban or *bourgeois*.

The urban architectural type is also to be found in the vine-growing Gironde, where it combined with the various levels of the socioeconomic hierarchy of the wine-making trade to produce houses using stone and half-round tiles as their materials.

The house of the day labourer (*bordier*) is a single-storey room with facade in a long wall, sometimes with an added cellar at the rear to store wine. The small vine-grower has a *longère* stringing together a living-room, a *chai* for wine making, one or two bedrooms, and sometimes an upper floor. The *maison de maître*, or *château*, was a late imitation, in Napoleonic times, of the aristocratic palaces of the *Ancien Régime* (i.e. monarchy). It is a tall building with four-sided roof, symmetrical facade and central-entry plan, fronting a small courtyard with an entrance porch.

Urban models predominate in the Gersois part of Gascony and are of rather late date. Their originality stems from their structural relationship to outbuildings. In the Astarac and the Magnoac areas, the house is laid out at an angle with the barn-cum-byre. It can be either with or without an upper floor according to the builder's financial means, of roughly-worked stone at ground-floor level and timber frame at upper-floor level, or of layers of *pisé* or courses of unbaked bricks, or again of clay blocks and pebbles alternating in a chequered pattern. In the large wine- and cereal-growing farmsteads of the lower Armagnac area, the house, built of half-timber, occupies one corner of the rectangle it forms with the outbuildings round a manure-making yard; the facade of the house looks onto the outside instead of the yard.

A final word must be said of an isolated group of houses found on the borders of Lot-et-Garonne and Dordogne, low single-storey rectangles built of thick oak planks piled up on

edge, under either a low-pitched roof of half-round tiles or a high-pitched roof of flat tiles, whose origin remains uncertain. (Possibly, they were dwellings of 17th-century land clearers, or of woodcutters and pit-sawyers of a later period.)

CHRISTIAN LASSURE

2.III.5.g Île-de-France (France, NC)

Throughout the ages, the Île-de-France has never given the impression of being a region with very well-defined boundaries. Marked by a strong character of its own, it has nonetheless undergone many and successive fluctuations of its frontiers. Centred on Paris, the region unites a number of small country areas around the largest city in France. Some of these country areas, such as Goelle, Multien, Thimerais and Bière, are hardly known at all to the French public in general. Divided of old by the river Seine, the Île-de-France consists most notably of the Pays de France north of the river, and the Hurepoix area to the south. However, the area on the southern bank extends farther than the northern region, as far as the valley of the Loire and on to take in the Sologne, a region full of individuality, continuing as far as Berry.

First and foremost, the agricultural importance of the great plains of the Parisian basin must be emphasized. The yields provide such an incentive that not an inch of soil has been neglected. Consequently the clearing of every piece of woodland, however small, has laid the land as a whole, upon which the first scattering of Roman villas had already left its mark, open to the plough. The grouping of houses into large villages is a phenomenon that arose from the invasions of the 5th century. The 18th-century layout is still traditional, with its basic kernel being the farm-cum-village, and the agricultural buildings and the labourers' housing being all part of the same conglomeration. The movement towards intensive farming was particularly strong in the 18th century, especially north of Paris, where farmers flagrantly exploited all the resources of the land. South of Paris, in the relentlessly flat Beauce region, the country squire occupied a special position, whether he farmed his own land or let it out to tenants. In Brie in the east of the Parisian basin, in particular, the continued existence of large, isolated farms can be explained by their medieval origin as the property of religious orders, who organized their large estates from tithe barns. Generally speaking, large farms predominate, and their average size today is 140 ha (350 acres). To the south of the Île-de-France, however, in the Sologne area south of the Forest of Orléans, isolated houses are more common, and the same is the case in the Gâtinais area, where the land is farmed by owner-occupiers.

With some rare exceptions, as in the Sologne, where brick masonry and timber framing predominate, the traditional building of the Île de France was in stone. Limestone is used for walls usually intended to be covered by a coat of whitewash. However, it must be remembered that north of Paris, in the Valois and Soissonnais areas, the beautiful coarse limestone allowed even labourers' cottages to be built of very elaborately dressed stone. To take the large farm first: whether manorial, lay or ecclesiastical in origin, it consists of an often imposing master's house on two floors with a steeply pitched roof, often

References
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Ground-floor plan of a 19th-century Gascony dwelling with clay-built walls. Similar plan to a 16th-century fortified grange.

- 1 central corridor (between partitions of sun-dried bricks)
- 2 kitchen
- 3 lounge
- 4 bedroom
- 5 wine-making room
- a fireplace
- b cooking stove
- c sink
- d wall dresser
- e wardrobe
- f stairs leading to first floor

