

highest achievement of the native tribes in wood construction that has been observed. The genius of this people applied to building with stone in a stone environment might well have placed them among the foremost builders in America. Vast labor was expended in getting out the huge trunks, in hewing the planks, posts, and beams, in carving the house and totem poles, and in erecting the massive structures. The facade, with its mythological paintings and huge heraldic columns, is distinctly impressive. In early days the fortified towns, described by Vancouver and other pioneer explorers, were striking and important constructions. It is indeed a matter of regret that the genius of such a people should be expended upon a material of which no trace is left, save in museums, after the lapse of a few generations.

The contrast, due to differences in environment, between the buildings of the N. W. coast and those of the Pueblo region is most striking. With greater ability, perhaps, than the Pueblos, the northern peoples labored under the disadvantage of employing materials that rapidly decay, while with the Pueblos the results of the skill and effort of one generation were supplemented by those of the next, and the cumulative result was the great pueblo. The lot of the Pueblo tribes fell in the midst of a vast region of cliffs and plateaus, where the means of subsistence admitted of the growth of large communities and where the ready-quarried stone, with scarcity of wood, led inevitably to the building of houses of masonry. The defensive motive being present, it directed the genius of the people toward continued and united effort, and the dwelling group became a great stronghold. Cumulative results encouraged cumulative effort; stronger and stronger walls were built, and story grew on story. The art of the stone mason was mastered, the stones were hewn and laid in diversified courses for effect, door and window openings were accurately and symmetrically framed with cut stone and spanned with lintels of stone and wood, and towers of picturesque situations, now often in ruins, offer suggestions of the feudal castles of the Old World.