

Talking to Houses

Questions to Ask When Encountering Vernacular Architecture

1	What are you?	What is your general function, origin, situation?
2	How were you made?	What techniques were used in construction? What physical elements were incorporated in your design? Just how were you put together?
3	What are you made out of?	What materials were used in your construction? Where did they come from?
4	What are your virtues as a building for this place?	How are you suited to this physical environment? How do you fit in with the economic and cultural needs of this place?
5	What are your faults as a building in this place?	What weaknesses are exposed by this environment? What are the problems fitting in with the economic and cultural situation?
6	What can you tell me about the values, culture, and lifeways of the people who built you and lived here?	