Catalhoyuk Dwellings

The inhabitants of Catalhoyuk lived in mud-brick and timber houses built around courtyards. The village had no streets or alleyways. Houses were packed so close together people entered their houses through their roofs and often went from place to place via the roofs, which were made of wood and reeds plastered with mud and often reached by ladders and stairways.

Many dwellings contained a burial platform under which people (presumably family members) were buried. One of the small rooms had an oven which was used make meals with lentils and grain.

It is believed each building was occupied by a family with five to ten members. The main room was “the center of family living, cooking, eating, craft activities, and sleeping." The side rooms were used mainly “for storage and food preparation."

Each house seemed to have its own hearth (camp fire), domed oven (set into the walls), obsidian supplies, storage rooms, and work rooms. The bins in the houses suggest they were used for storing plants.

The inside walls were made of mud brick covered by plaster, on which sometimes murals were painted. Benches and platforms were constructed with plaster. The walls were windowless, but even without windows the rooms could be quite bright in the middle of the day when light shined down from overhead through the roof-top door and reflected off the plaster walls.

Furnishings in the main room included reed matting, three platforms, a plastered tomb post, an oven and stairs to the roof. Arched doorways connected the rooms. They only way out of the house was via the stairway to the roof. It is believed the stairs were made of logs with steps notched into them.