



***Traditional, vernacular and historical architecture***



**Erasmus+**

## Traditional, vernacular and historical architecture.

HS

Heritage and Society

EC

Elective Courses



## Traditional, vernacular and historical architecture.



Heritage and Society



Elective Courses

1. Introduction to vernacular architecture.
2. Main climatic areas around the world and bioclimatic strategies. Low latitude climates.
3. Main climatic areas around the world and bioclimatic strategies. Medium latitude climates.
4. Main climatic areas around the world and bioclimatic strategies. High latitude and undefined location climates.
5. Materials and constructive systems in vernacular architecture.
6. Vernacular architecture in Europe: Mediterranean coast.
7. Vernacular architecture in Europe: Atlantic coast.
8. Vernacular architecture in Europe: Central Europe.
9. Vernacular architecture in Europe: Nordic area.
10. Vernacular architecture in Europe: High mountain areas.
11. **Vernacular architecture: Singularities I: Caves.**
12. Vernacular architecture: Singularities II: Architecture and production.
13. Vernacular architecture: Singularities III: External Influences.
14. Vernacular architecture and landscape.
15. Spanish traditional architecture.

## Traditional, vernacular and historical architecture.

# LESSON 11. Vernacular architecture: Singularities I: Caves.

## CAVES

Since early times, caves have been a very useful resource, as they were a shelter offered by nature.

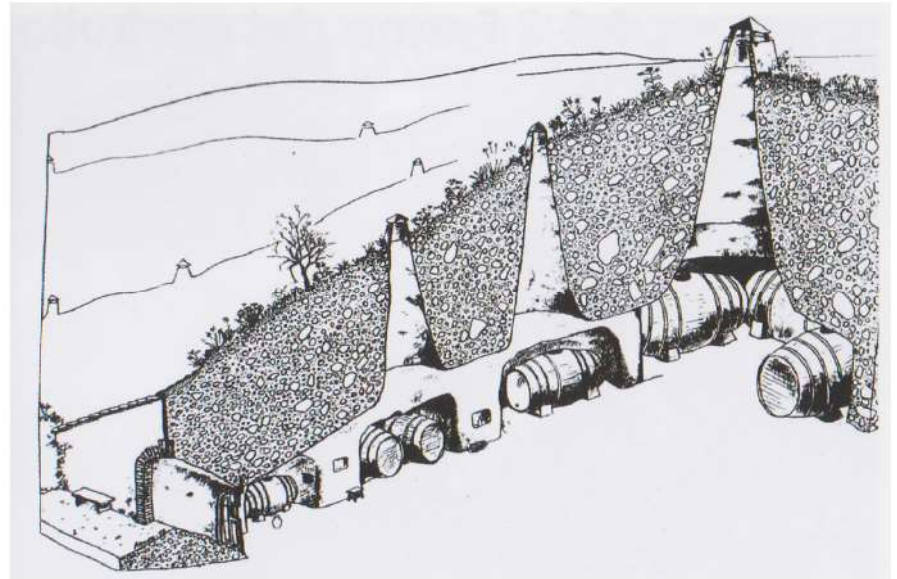
In some areas, the terrain allows to be modelled to create habitable spaces.



## TEMPERATURE CONTROL

High thermal inertia and insulation, as they are underground.

Temperature inside caves is very regular along the year. This also extended its use as wineries



## MATERIALS

Caves are usual in terrains of soft materials, as clay or tuff, that could be easily excavated.

This circumstance also allows to extend the constructions beyond the caves building with the extracted materials.



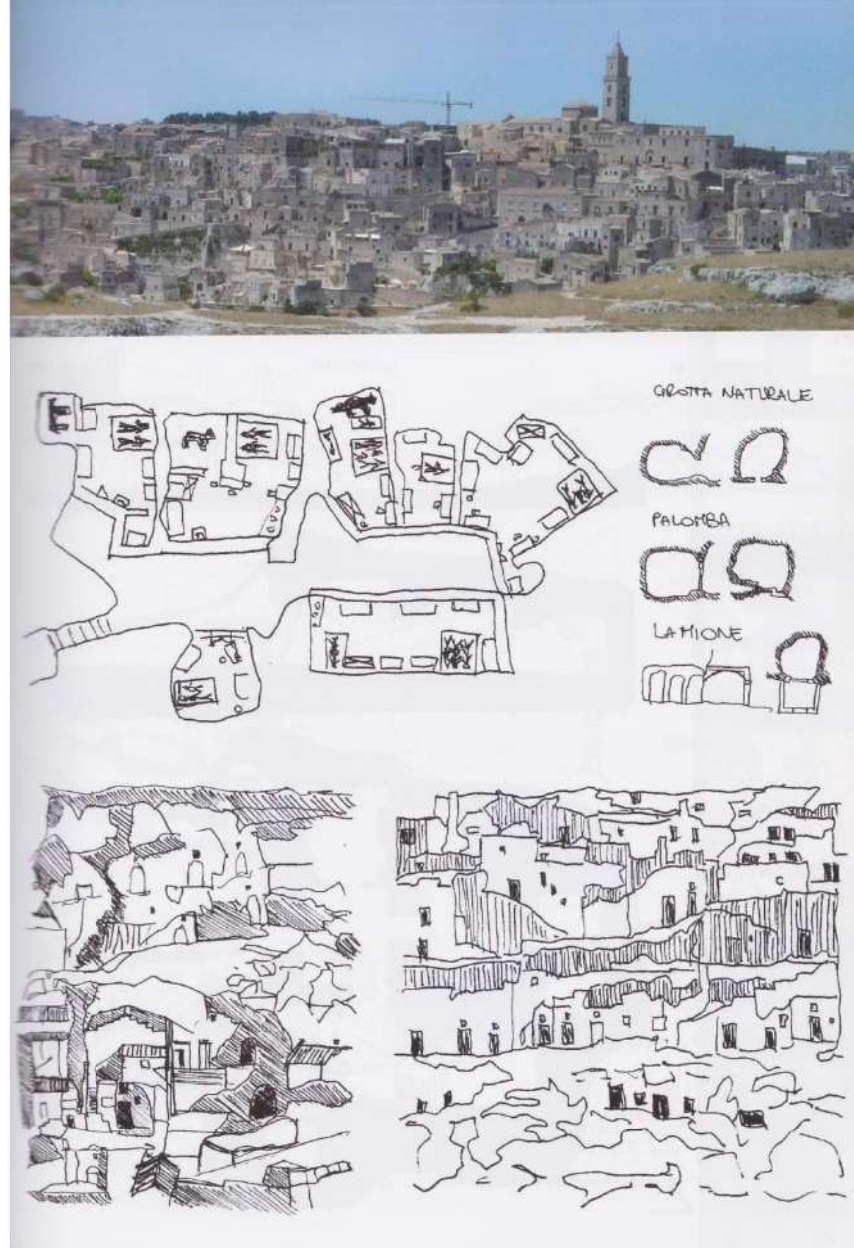
[Source](#)

## EXAMPLES



## Matera, Basilicata (Italy)

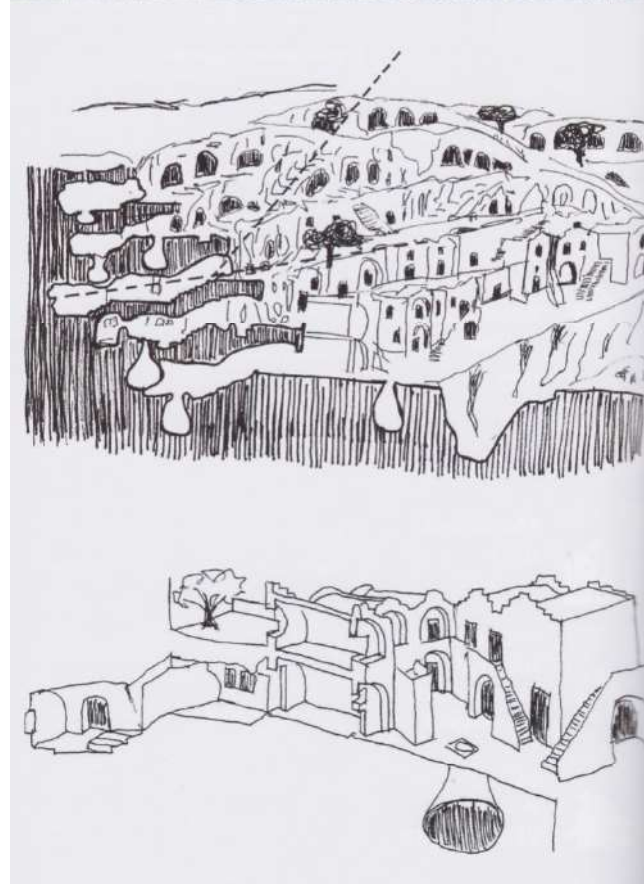
The city grew along two  
thalwegs defining two areas  
known as the *Sassi*.  
The most rudimentary houses  
were just unitary spaces  
closed by a façade.





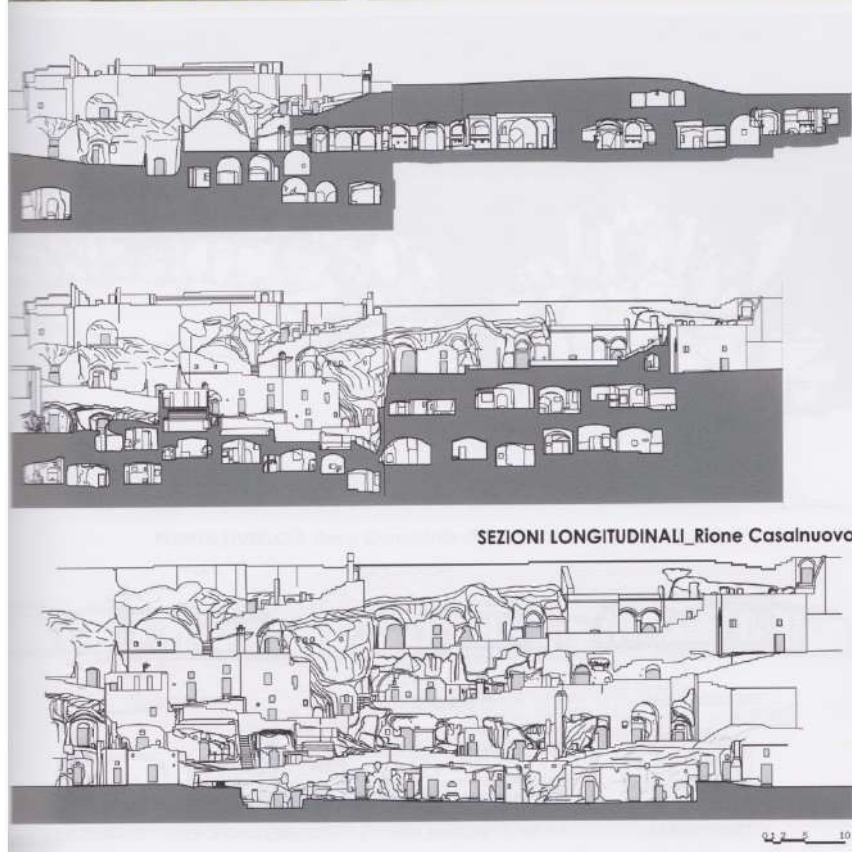
## Matera, Basilicata (Italy)

Houses were evolving, enlarging the space of the caves by building more room with the same materials extracted in excavations.



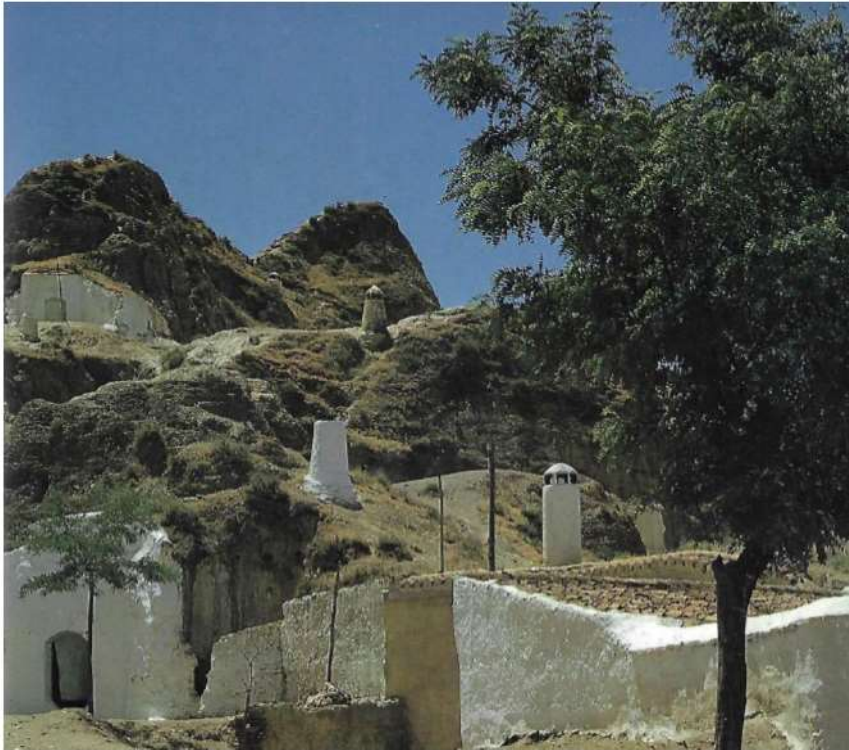
## Matera, Basilicata (Italy)

In the Baroque period the city extended to the upper part, where buildings were bigger and had little parts excavated.





## Guadix, Granada (Spain)



In this case the houses are spread and not so densely populated as Matera, so the typology is always the same. The chimneys help ventilating the interiors.

## Matmata (Tunisia)

In this city, located in a desertic area, houses were conceived as a patio house underground, creating a shaded exterior space to which the rooms communicate and ventilate.



[Source](#)

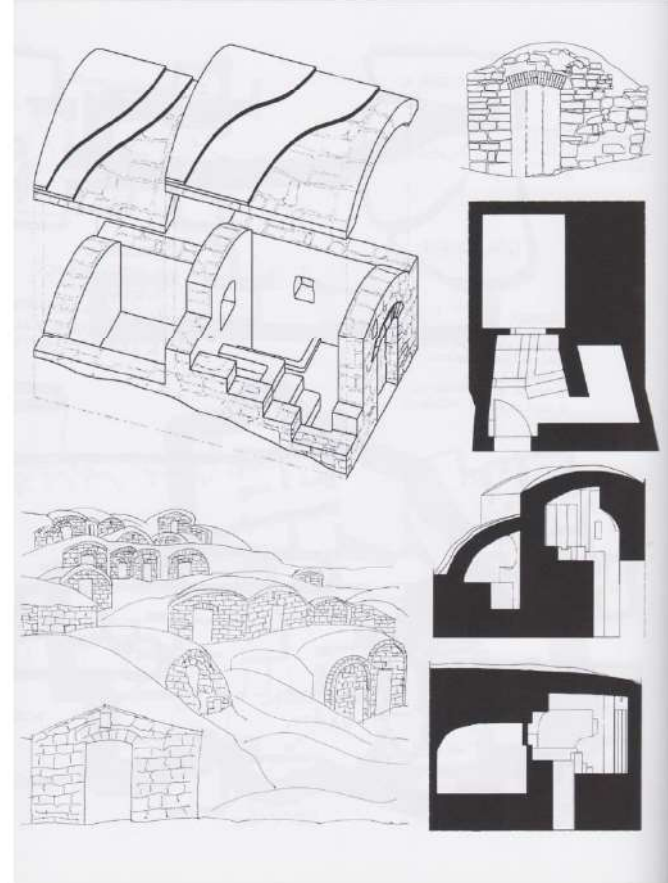
## Ribera del Duero (Spain)



In the north half of Spain excavated wine cellars were very common as they easily preserve the optimal conditions for the wine.

They have a descending corridor to a room where the wine was stored, and a small chimney for air circulation. In the villages wine cellars are grouped in *barrios* (neighbourhoods).





11. Vernacular architecture: Singularities I: Caves.



**Project "SURE - Sustainable Urban Rehabilitation in Europe"  
implemented in frames of Erasmus+ Programme  
Key Action 2: Strategic Partnership Projects  
Agreement n° 2016-1-PL01-KA203-026232**

**This publication has been funded within support from the European Commission.**

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**Co-funded by the  
Erasmus+ Programme  
of the European Union**

