



ARCHITECTURE & TRADITIONAL HOUSING **OF THE PAHARI TRIBE**

Pahari tribal architecture is a blend of practicality, sustainability and cultural identity, perfectly adapted to the Himalayan environment, shaped by their hilly terrain, climate and available resources. Due to the steep slopes of the Himalayas, Pahari homes are often terraced into hillsides, blending seamlessly with the landscape. The Pahari community constructs homes on elevated terrains hill slopes, raised hillocks and upper reach of mountains. Houses are typically built with locally sourced materials like stone, mud and timber. Roofs are sloped and made of wood or slate to withstand heavy snowfall and rain in the Pir Panjal region, showcase a blend of functionality and artistry. While modern pucca (permanent) houses are emerging, most rural hamlets retain traditional mud structures. A typical Pahari mud house comprises many distinct sections:

Dub/Bandi: The ground-level section serves as a multipurpose hall and stable. It includes a fireplace with a small chimney (hole) to vent smoke, crucial for warming livestock during winters.

Main Residence: Built atop the Dub, this section includes an open verandah, kitchen, Baithak (drawing room), bedrooms and a Kothar (storage unit). The Kothar, centrally located, stores grains like maize and wheat, alongside valuables such as jewelry and heirlooms kept in wooden chests.

The Baithak is furnished with simple decor, wooden beds (charpais) and seating mats (Furri) woven from paddy waste (Parali). Elderly family members often gather here to socialize or smoke the hukka (water pipe), while women engage in cooking and crafts around the kitchen hearth (chulha).

Dhok: Known as *kothas* or *dhokas*, these single or two-story homes are compact, with thick walls for insulation. The ground floor often serves as cattle shed or storage, while living quarters are upstairs, a practical layout for the cold climate. During summer, many Paharis migrate to highland pastures (Dhoks) with their livestock - buffaloes, cows and goats. They inhabit temporary Dhok huts, rudimentary one-room structures built from wood, mud and stone.

ARCHITECTURAL FEATURES OF PAHARI HOUSES

Pahari houses are built to withstand cold winters, heavy rainfall, and earthquakes. Key characteristics include:

<u>MATERIALS USED</u>	<u>PROPERTIES</u>
Stone & Wood	The houses are typically constructed using locally available stone, wood and slate.
Foundation & Walls	Built with dry stone masonry or mud mortar for insulation.
Roofing	Slate or wooden shingles are common, providing protection from snow and rain.
Mud & Clay	Used as plaster to insulate walls and keep interiors warm.
<u>STRUCTURE & DESIGN</u>	<u>PROPERTIES</u>
Sloping Roofs	Steeply pitched roofs prevent snow accumulation.
Compact Layout	Houses are often two-storied Ground Floor: Used for livestock (cows, goats) and storage. Upper Floor: Living quarters with wooden balconies ('Kath-Kuni' style in Himachal).
<u>TRADITIONAL TECHNIQUES</u>	<u>PROPERTIES</u>
Kath-Kuni (Himachal Pradesh & Uttarakhand)	Interlocking wooden beams and stone layers without nails. Earthquake-resistant due to flexible wood joints.
Mud & Timber Houses (Jammu & Kashmir):	Wooden frames filled with mud and stone.
Small Windows	To retain heat during winters.
<u>TRADITIONAL PAHARI VILLAGE LAYOUT</u>	<u>PROPERTIES</u>
Clustered Settlements	Houses are built close to each other for warmth and community bonding.
Granaries (Kuthar)	Separate storage huts for grains and supplies.
Temple or Community Centre	Often the focal point of the village.
<u>CULTURAL & FUNCTIONAL ASPECTS</u>	<u>PROPERTIES</u>
Verandas & Balconies (Dhajji)	Used for drying crops and socializing.
Heating System	Traditional bukhari (wood-burning stove) keeps interiors warm.
Decorations	Wood carvings of deities, floral motifs and geometric patterns.