

Pisé and Chineh

by Toshio MATSUTANI

This essay is a technical study on the classification of mud walls built without using sun-dried mud bricks. Pisé and chineh are both mud wall building techniques. Pisé is the name of which is built by pounding sandy considerably dry mud between the formwork. This technique has also been used in China and Japan named *pan chu* 版築 method in Chinese. Chineh (Persian; in Arabic, *tauf*) is another type of wall built of plastic clay moulded with human hands. These two kinds of techniques must be distinguished.

The French word *pisé* has been used in the reports on Near Eastern archaeological sites to imply the mud walls, when the excavators could not identify mud bricks. The author checked every report on the sites in the Near East and he concluded almost all the so-called *pisé* walls are of chineh method.