

cap keystone, ~~and~~ ^{led} Their roofs were constructed with the high, vaulted, corbel arch~~=~~ of cantilever design where each successive stone protrudes beyond the one below it until the arch narrows to the point where a single stone covers the remaining gap.

THE EAST ANNEX

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the East Annex which adjoins the Monjas, is the fact that the entire surfaces of the building, unlike most Maya façades in Yucatan, are covered with elaborate sculpture with no lower zone of plane masonry. It seems as though the Maya sculptors were given a free rein to decorate, and on this building more than any other at Chichén Itzá hardly an unornamented surface remains. The excessive use of the curled nose masks is only partially relieved by bands of varied design which the Maya used as freely in stone as ^{did} European ~~artists in murals and other forms of decorative art.~~ ^{decorators used such design in wall or painted decoration.} The variety of motifs used ~~on moldings~~ ^{architecture} ~~decoration~~ is extraordinary and in this instance some of the apron-like courses of the molding, so typical of Maya ~~design~~, bear decorations rather than a smooth surface.

Almost touching the East Annex is a small building called the Iglesia ^{*} (Church), just why no one seems to know, though it must be ^{remembered} ~~borne in mind~~ that nearly all Maya buildings served a religious purpose. The people lived in sapling huts with thatched roofs in the area surrounding the temples. Chichén Itzá was the religious center of the Maya in Yucatan, as its great temples testify.

All of the buildings are made of cut limestone, worked with stone tools, and were bonded together with a lime mortar. The Maya never solved the secret of the true arch with its

*Eaglayzeeah
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