

A

I think this is a good place to say something about this stucco work and the buildings they covered with it.

First let me say that no one who has not seen this himself can really have ~~an~~ a true idea of how bright this white ~~st~~ surface is. When the indians build a temple, it is made up in its core of many kinds of rock filling and rubble all mixed with a cement and allowed to cure.

When this is ready the outer surface is coated in a thick coat of another, ~~kind~~ much finer kind of cement carefully applied and smoothed which upon drying is coated with a fine white stucco to be followed by a final coat of very pure whitewash.

At this stage the buildings have a whiteness ^{that of} somewhat like many of our moorish buildings, but the ~~indians~~ natives here have one further step to do which makes their buildings so extraordinary.

When the ^{+ polished} whitewash is quite dry they take some finely cut stone tools and thoroughly burnish the entire surface creating a very shiny almost glass like polish somewhat like the best enamel only more so. To these people any thing that shines possesses a very special sacredness and this last considerable effort is a bit of fawning ^{to} which is in itself a sacrifice of their time and labor ^{to} toward the honor of their gods. It also has a practical purpose since in this climate such a surface resists the effects of weather better than others. This is important for this city

B

is build upon ^a ~~the~~ soft and unstable lake bed which even under good conditions requires that these buildings be stronger than ^{any of} most other places. Yet even at that they are always working on them as they settle in the earth. This is ^{one of the} ~~the principle~~ reasons that these places appear always brand new.

Indeed in this land there are many large towns and great cities in which no structure is allowed to fall into decay. It is a matter of pride and ^a sacred obligation that it be so, ~~and~~ this belief when combined with the ~~indians~~ ^{personal} mischievous natural inclination to cleanliness as well as to the tidiness of their surroundings results in an impression of great beauty, order, and serenity ~~as well as this~~.

Although their buildings lack the grandness or complicated sculptural ^{facades} of our Spanish buildings they ~~are~~ in their own way possess a grandness no less impressive. There are buildings ^{standing on their simple platforms} that in their staid give you a feeling of great strength and solidity with surfaces that are only broken by the simplest of moldings or a change in the angle of wall planes. But this feeling of strength is lightened by delicately worked carved ^{and} painted columns or the ^{painted} ~~panels~~ above their colonnades and doorways or by the wonderful decoration of interior walls and floors. They have patios often painted a shining brick red or laid in beautifully colored stone patterns like a chess board.

C

They also built houses that were much lighter than the ones I have been describing with thinner walls and wider ~~por~~ porticos with columns of wood often round ^{and set} on pretty curved stone bases. These they used as summer houses in their gardens, sometimes using wooden lattice work screens for privacy, but even here the use of walls buttresses and cornice panels was similar in principle to ^{those of} the grander houses.

There was always very little in the way of applied decoration. These people had sumptuary laws among other restrictions so that only those of a certain class or level of attainment could have the right to use certain external decorations on their houses.