

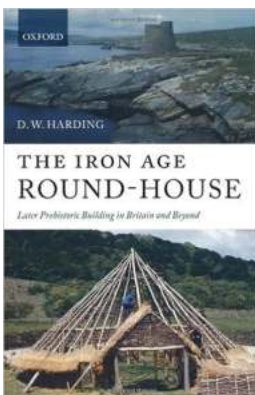
Discover the Secrets of the Enchanting Iron Age Round House - a Fascinating Journey into Ancient Architecture

Have you ever wondered how people lived during the Iron Age? The Iron Age Round House is a unique structure that has captivated historians and archaeologists for centuries. In this article, we will delve into the intriguing world of the Iron Age Round House, exploring its origins, construction, and cultural significance. So prepare yourself for an enchanting journey back in time as we uncover the secrets of this ancient architectural marvel!

Origin and Significance

The Iron Age Round House originated in the British Isles around 800 BCE and remained in use until around 43 CE when the Romans invaded. These circular dwellings were built using traditional construction methods passed down through generations. They typically had a diameter of 6-15 meters and were made using locally sourced materials such as timber, wattle, daub, and thatch.

The round shape of the house was not only aesthetically pleasing but also offered structural stability. The curved walls provided resistance against strong winds and harsh weather conditions, ensuring the safety and comfort of its inhabitants.



The Iron Age Round-House: Later Prehistoric Building in Britain and Beyond

by D. W. Harding (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.5 out of 5

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File size : 7959 KB

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Print length : 350 pages

Lending : Enabled



These houses were more than just shelters; they were the heart of Iron Age communities. They served as living spaces, storage areas, workstations, and gathering places for social and ceremonial activities. The round shape allowed for a sense of communal living, fostering a strong sense of community cohesion among its occupants.

Construction Techniques

The construction process of an Iron Age Round House was complex and required skilled craftsmen. The frame of the house was created using wooden posts or massive stones positioned in a circular pattern. These posts were then connected by horizontal beams, forming a sturdy framework for the walls. The walls themselves were made by weaving flexible branches (wattle) through the framework and securing them with daub, a mixture of clay, straw, and animal dung.

Once the wall structure was complete, a thatched roof was added, providing insulation and further protection from the elements. The roof was held in place using a central supporting post known as the 'hob' or 'fire tree'.

The entire construction process was painstaking, requiring cooperation and initiative from the community members. As most houses were built by the inhabitants themselves, it allowed for a sense of pride and ownership.

Interior Design and Functionality

The interior of an Iron Age Round House was designed with functionality in mind. The central part of the house was an open space known as the 'hearth', which served as the main source of heat and light. The hearth was also used for cooking and provided a gathering point for the family or community members.

Living quarters were typically located around the outer edge of the house, divided into separate compartments known as 'bays'. Each bay served a specific purpose, such as sleeping, storage, or workspace. Animal pens were often incorporated into the design, allowing livestock to provide additional warmth during colder months.

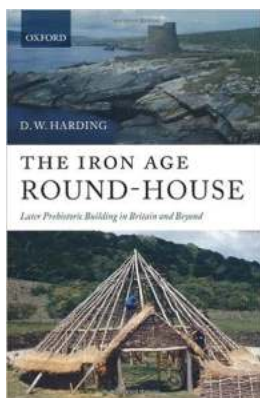
The absence of windows in the round house necessitated the use of animal hides or woven blankets to cover the entrance and provide privacy. These coverings were known as 'skins' and not only served practical purposes but also added a touch of aesthetic appeal.

Cultural Significance and Legacy

The Iron Age Round House played a central role in the cultural and social life of its inhabitants. It was a place where stories were shared, traditions were passed down, and skills were honed. These houses reflected the close connection between humans and nature, as the materials used were derived from the surrounding environment.

Despite the passage of centuries, the legacy of the Iron Age Round House can still be felt today. Many modern attempts at recreating these structures have emerged, both as historical educational exhibits and as experimental archaeological projects. They continue to inspire architecture and design, reminding us of our shared heritage and the ingenuity of our ancestors.

The Iron Age Round House offers us a unique glimpse into the lives of our ancient predecessors. The circular shape, ingenious construction techniques, and functional interiors make it a remarkable example of early architectural brilliance. As we unravel the mysteries of these captivating structures, we not only gain a better understanding of history but also a deeper appreciation for the resilience and creativity of human civilization.



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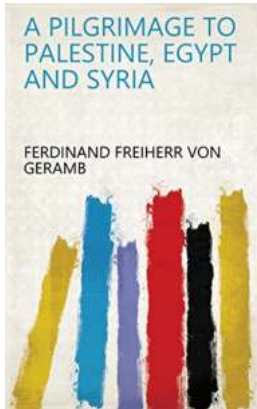
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In contrast to Continental Europe, where the Iron Age is abundantly represented by funerary remains as well as by hill-forts and major centers, the British Iron Age is mainly represented by its settlement sites, and especially by houses of circular ground-plan, in marked contrast to the Central and Northern European tradition of rectangular houses. In lowland Britain the evidence for timber round-houses comprises the footprint of post-holes or foundation trenches; in the Atlantic north and west, the remains of monumental stone-built houses survive as upstanding ruins, testimony to the building skills of Iron Age engineers and masons.

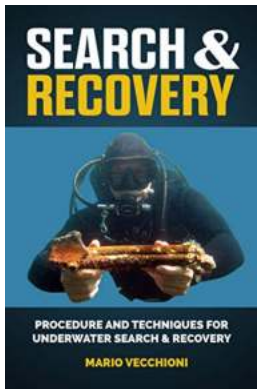
D. W. Harding's fully illustrated study explores not just the architectural aspects of round-houses, but more importantly their role in the social, economic and ritual

structure of their communities, and their significance as symbols of Iron Age society in the face of Romanization.



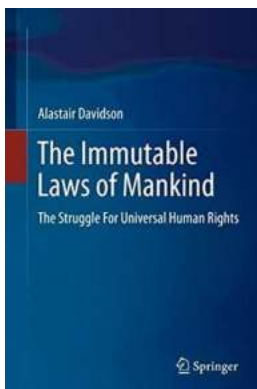
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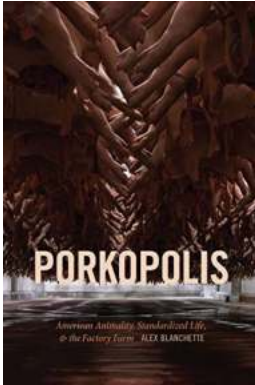
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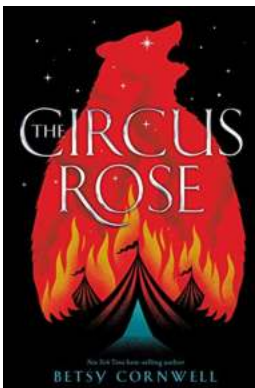
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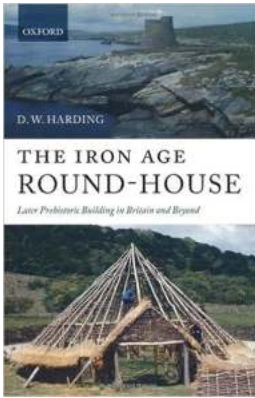
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