

# ELEVATING THE GRANARY

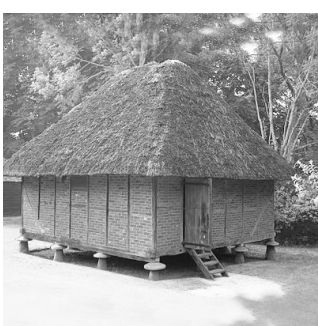
A cross-cultural study of the details and climate-sensitivity of vernacular granary buildings in Western Europe.

The elevated granary type is a cross-cultural vernacular form that provides a path forward for understanding regional methods for building more sustainably and with a lower carbon footprint. As buildings situated specifically in local means of production, studying them can re-focus our discussions on pressing issues of how to build with local materials, how to perform passive climate-control, and how to find both individual and regional expression through that search. **Displaying both remarkable consistency in total form and remarkable variation in specificities, elevated granaries address issues not only of regionality, but also of function, sustainability, and identity.**

The granary in general is a type of building meant for agricultural storage- to hold dried grain through seasonal fluctuation from one harvest until the next. Its logic, therefore, is inherently and cross-culturally one that distills the problem of occupancy to the problem of climate-control in the most inhospitable parts of the year. There is a particular, recurrent type of granary raised and separated from the ground to protect from vermin and moisture found in almost all areas of the world that have been home to agrarian people. This version of the granary, the elevated granary, is particularly interesting for the way in which it becomes a-scalar and ‘object’-like, and thus amenable to comparison. A region’s elevated granary type epitomizes the architecture of that region. Because the elevated granary is present in many different cultures and regions, it displays remarkably differentiated constructive patterns. The details of these granary constructions therefore provide an excellent metric for understanding differences between climates and cultures.

This research is both a nucleus of further research, extendable to differentiation across many other parts of the world, and also an attempt to cut a cross-section through three major groups of elevated granaries that are abundant, accessible, and also clearly distinct in tectonic and form. As such, it will zoom in on the Hórreo of North-Western Spain (some 14th c.), the Ställes & Raccards of Southern Switzerland (18th c.) , and the Staddle-Stone barns of the British Isles (18th c.). These three types were chosen not just for their relative abundance, accessibility, and proximity, but also because they display clear similarities and differences of form. While they all share the simple shed roof, the proportions of their footprints, envelope-porosities, and materials vary greatly. The result of the research will take the form of comparative studies in photography and orthography that look for the edge and typical conditions of each region, which attempt to bring together a total narrative of the relations of production, seasonality, construction, materiality, and even domesticity through these singular forms and across these three locales. Particular emphasis will be put on the cataloguing of construction techniques and anatomies of ventilation strategies, but will extend to siting, form, etc. **The question of how to build sustainably is a question of how to build with the local conditions of landscape - adapting construction, structure, and materiality to climate and availability, and the granary is a way forward.**

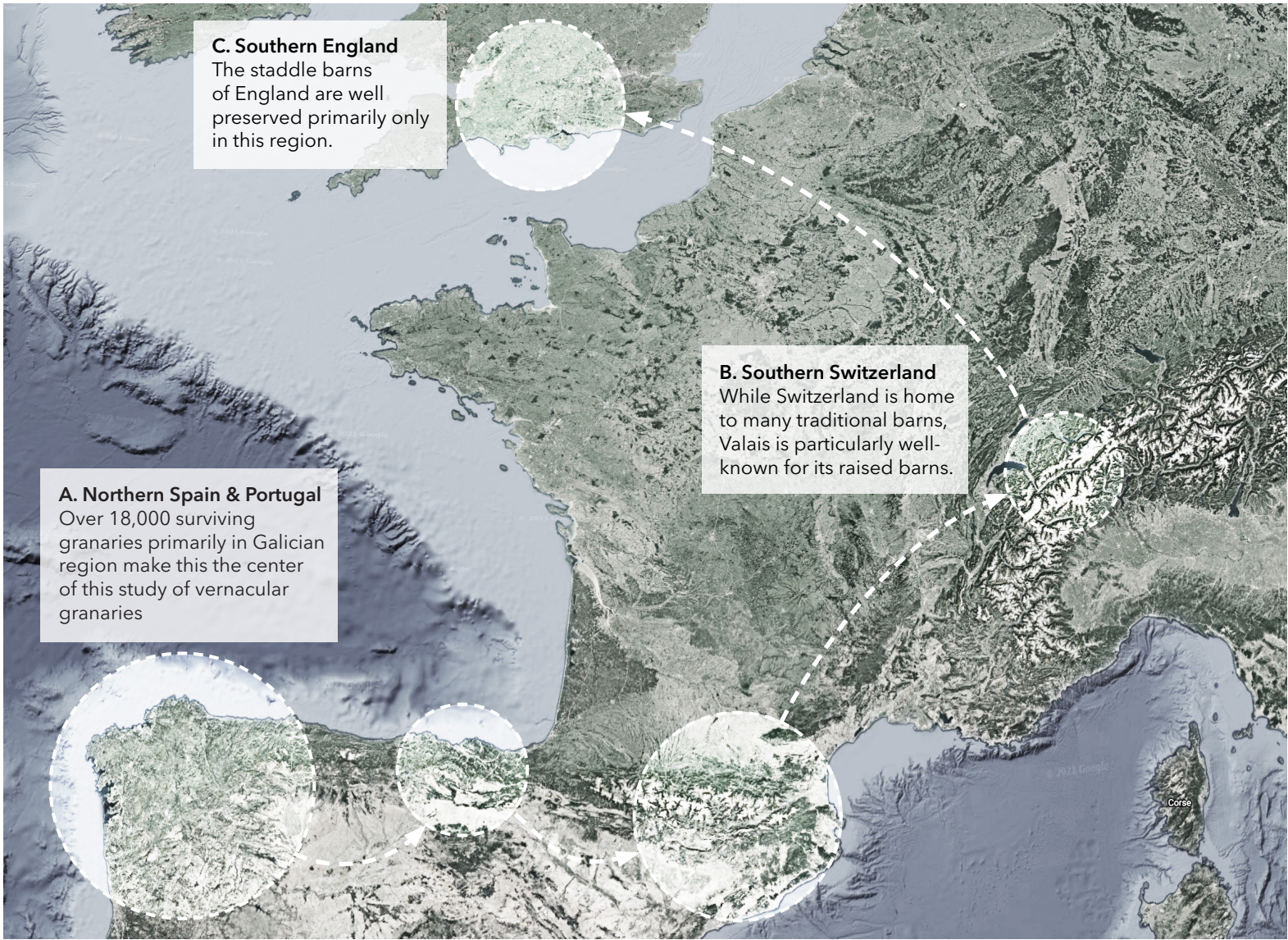
Note: Other elevated granaries have been identified in North American First Nation Architecture, in Black Sea region vernacular, in Norwegian and proximal Scandinavian vernacular, in Asian vernaculars, notably Nepal and Japan, and in many African countries including modern-day Sudan, Burkina Faso, Madagascar, and many more, but were not included in the interest of concision.



A. Hórreo - Galicia

B. Raccard - Valais

C. Staddle Barn - Hampshire



**C. Southern England**  
The staddle barns of England are well preserved primarily only in this region.

**B. Southern Switzerland**  
While Switzerland is home to many traditional barns, Valais is particularly well-known for its raised barns.

**A. Northern Spain & Portugal**  
Over 18,000 surviving granaries primarily in Galician region make this the center of this study of vernacular granaries

## Schedule

Fly USA to \_\_\_\_\_ **Day 1**  
Santiago de Compostela

N.W. Spain - N. Portugal — **Day 2 - 20**  
Soajo, Portugal  
Santiago de Compostela, Galicia  
Oviedo, Asturias  
Barinaga, Basque

Fly Barcelona to Geneva — **Day 21**

S. Switzerland — **Day 22 - 27**  
Grimentz, Valais  
Zermatt, Valais

Fly Geneva to London — **Day 28**

S. England — **Day 29 -37**  
Reading, Berkshire  
Southampton, Hampshire  
Chipenham, Wiltshire

Fly London to USA — **Day 38**

## Budget

Plane Flights	\$1,800
Rental Cars	\$1,600
Other local transit	\$200
Lodging Swiss \$100/day	\$800
Lodging Spain \$70/day	\$1,400
Lodging England \$90/day	\$900
Food \$50/day	\$1,900
ISIC card	\$100
Fees	\$200
Contingency	\$1,100
Total	\$10,000