

HISTORY OF ARCHITECTURE I

ARC 2313 - SPRING 2022

LECTURE-23
28 MARCH 2022

For Wednesday, 30 March

Ingersoll: 192 - 202

Reminder: Test #3
Friday, 22 April 2022
(Lectures 22-31)

COMMON LANDSCAPE OF AMERICA

John Stilgoe

Common Landscape: Medieval Europe & America

Spatial Awareness in the Middle Ages

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Mythology, Landscape, and Language

(Take note during this lecture of the intersection
of history // architecture // language)

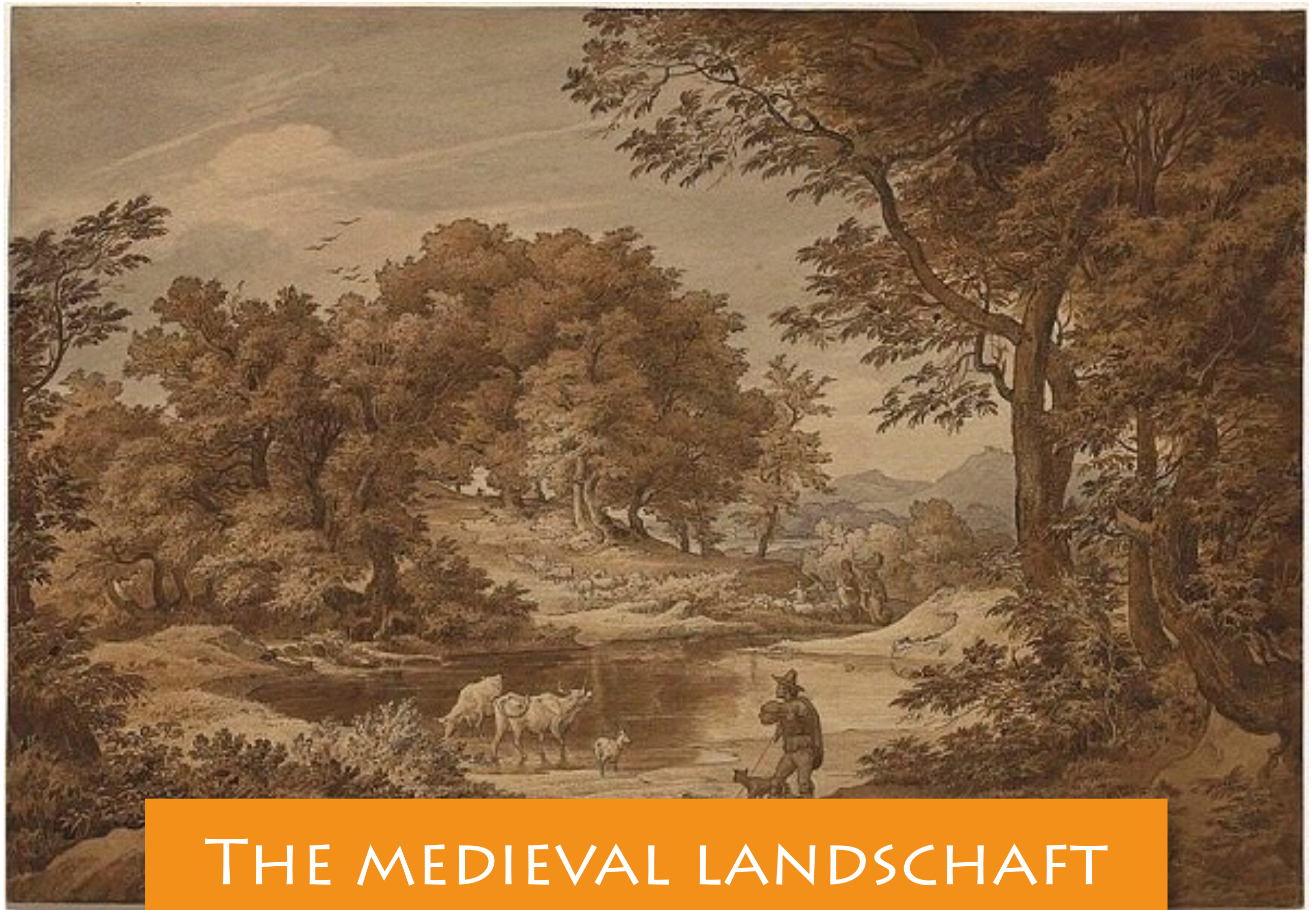
medieval

(medi - eval)

(middle - times)

The basic concept we'll focus on is that of the medieval *landschaft*...

The *landschaft* is a self-sustaining cluster of dwellings surrounded by arable fields.



THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPE



THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCHAFT



THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPE



THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCAPE



THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCHAFT
The arable fields outside the cluster of dwellings



THE MEDIEVAL LANDSCHAFT
A recreation of a medieval garden (in the landschaft)

Beyond the fields surrounding the landschaft was:

WILDERNESS

Wilderness was the spatial representation
of *chaos, evil, bewilderment, danger,*
madness...

Literally, ***wylder ness*** was an old Anglo-Saxon word meaning the ***lair of a wild beast***



The wilderness

The *landschaft*, basically, was the alternative to the *wilderness*.

THE FEUDAL ARRANGEMENT

Who were the people, what were the relationships to each other, and what was their architecture?

SERFS AND LORDS

The life of serfdom was not pleasant. The land that the ***serf*** lived on was owned by a ***lord*** or ***noble***. The serf was obligated to work off the debt of being able to live on the land, either by agricultural production or military service - the agreement of ***indentured servitude a.k.a. serfdom***.

SERFDOM - A FORM OF SLAVERY TIED TO THE LAND

This arrangement was the ***feudalism*** or ***manorialism*** of the early Middle Ages

This arrangement was the

FEUDALISM OR MANORIALISM

of the early Middle Ages



manorial lord

serfs working in the fields

FEUDALISM OR MANORIALISM

SERFDOM

The *landschaft* must be walkable for the *peasants* and *serfs* who occupied the land.

Therefore at the end of the workday, **serfs** and **peasants** must be able to walk back to their small community from across the fields, back to their **landschaft**



Archeologist and Linguist Simon Roper (YouTube)
speaking phonetic recreation of ***Old English***

All these people were ***peasants***

free tenant (peasants or tenant farmers)

paid rent to lords, subject to fewer laws,
taxed

villein or **cottar**

paid rent to farmer - tied to land
taxed, moved their **cottages**

serf could not be bought and sold

but could be transferred with the land,
taxed, built roads, etc.

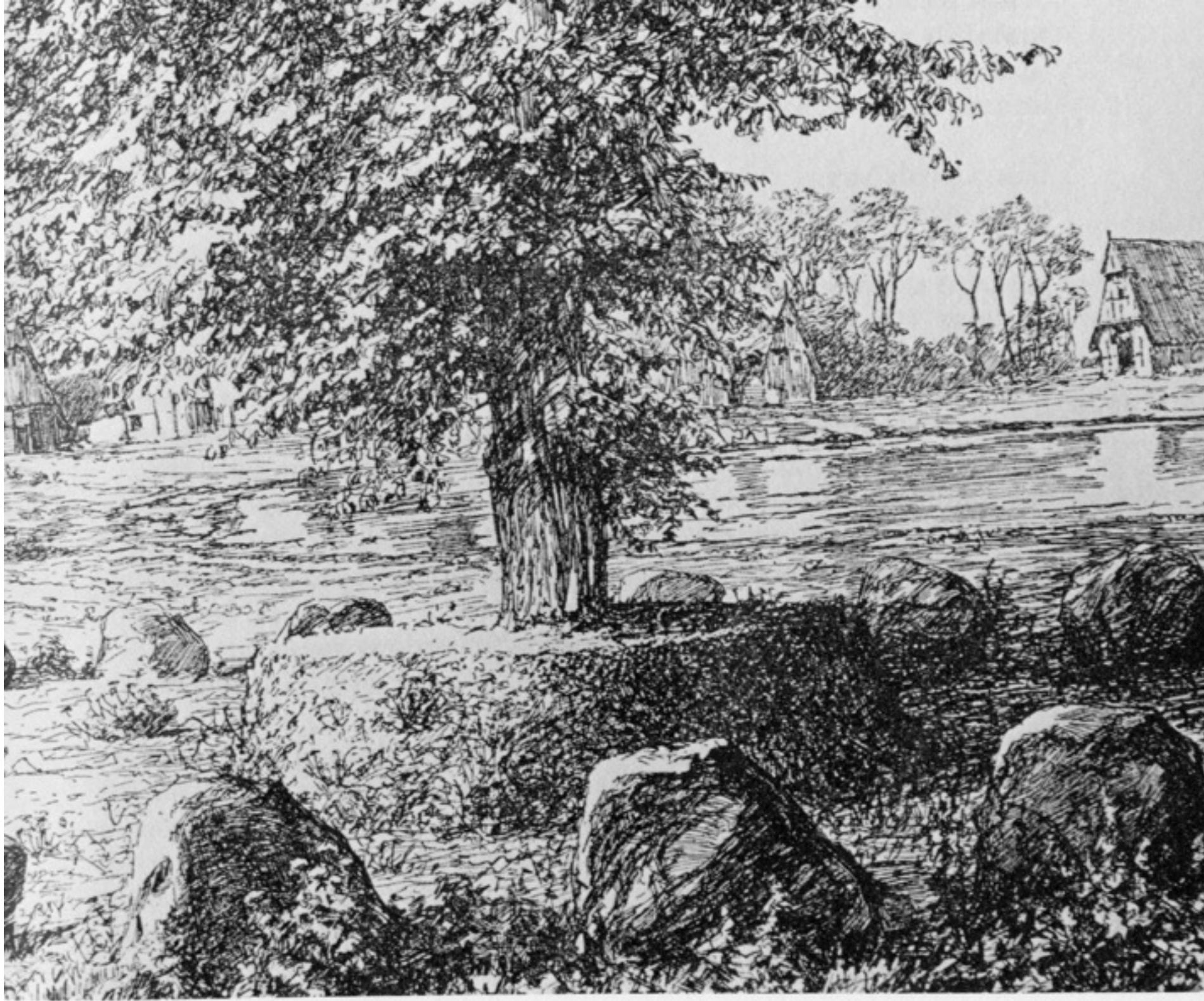
In any case, life was hard and people needed to
live together - hence an architecture -
for their own safety and fortitude

THE LANDSCHAFT REPRESENTED ORDER, AGRICULTURE,
PROTECTION, CIVILITY, THE OLD RELIGION (PAGANISM)
AND LATER, THE NEW RELIGION (CHRISTIANITY)

This architecture of the
LANDSCAPE

The center of the *landschaft* was marked by
the *roland tree ~ an axis mundi*

The Roland Tree represented the harmonic
agricultural life that circled this self-sufficient
cluster of humble dwellings



Living roland at *landschaft* center. From Mejborg, *Das Bauernhaus im Herzogthum Schleswig*.

The Roland Tree

A sacred *axis mundi* in the center of the medieval landschaft



*The **Manor House** ~ Estate ~ Landed ~ Demesne*
(lord, liege, noble, feudal lord, sire, seignor, señor, monsieur, mister)

Three levels of dwelling besides the ***Manor House***

¶ ***house*** or ***stead***: if you were lucky enough or wealthy enough to own a small parcel of land you had a much greater social status.

A ***stead*** or ***homestead*** included a house and a yard. If you *held* this status you were a ***householder***.

¶ ***cottage***: less permanent - could be dismantled and moved. A cottar lived here.

¶ ***dwelling***: basic shelter for the laborer or shepherd



Impermanent medieval hut



Recreation of a medieval dwelling



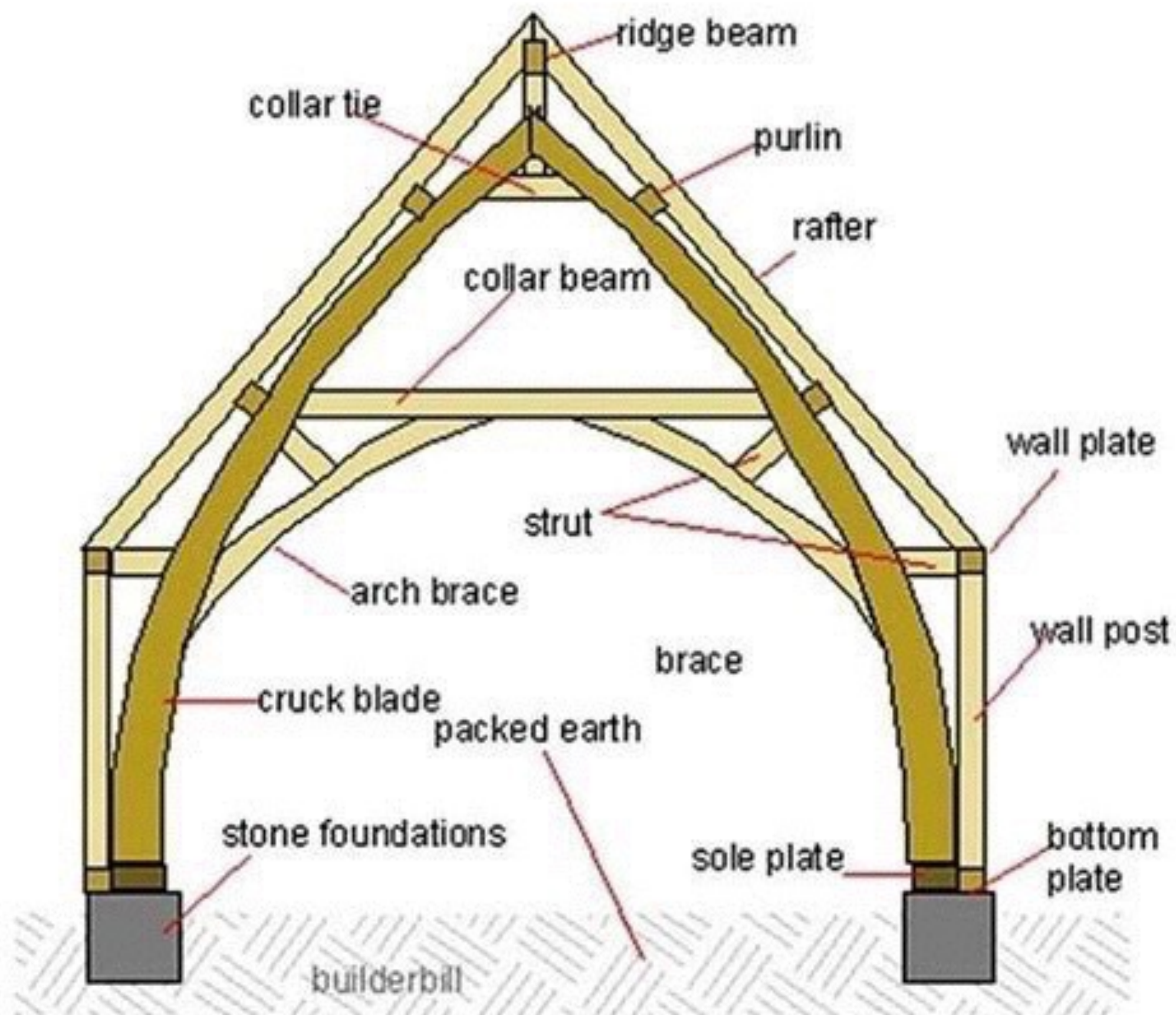
An old picture of a cottar's dwelling (cottage)
A ***cottage*** could be dismantled and moved



Reconstruction of a medieval cotter's dwelling



A small medieval **cruck-framed** house (curved timber)







Traveling between *landschafts*

Thus, we see *spatial and social position*
directly tied to the landscape

We also have during this time the development
of *common law*. The wilderness was dangerous
and unruly.

People walked from landschaft to landschaft
through the wilderness, fearing the spatial
disorientation, the chaos, and the danger that
lay outside of the ordered space

From 1400 onward, the kings and other landowners found it useful and profitable to construct **roads** through the wilderness...

A **King's Highway** provided a sense of regulation and control between *landschaften*

Many concepts of the **road** emerge...
literary connotations also emerge of *travel, mystery, spatial linearity, anonymous people from unknown places, romance of the road...*
... yet essential for *commerce and vitality*



At this time, ancient French word *vill*
(the cluster of dwellings and houses inside the
landschaft) becomes the word ***village***

The villages, surrounded by arable fields now
connected by roads through a cultivated land,
a land of artifice (artificial) became the
dominant spatial organization



Medieval village



Reconstruction of a *Medieval Welsh* village



The **medieval village** evolves into the **medieval town**

The **Gothic Cathedral** will emerge as the
centerpiece of the medieval town

From *landschap* to *landskip* to *landscape*

Stilgoe tells us that by 1580 the word *landscape* emerges in English, from the Dutch word *landskip*

Landscape is transported to America in terms
spatial awareness as three types ::

- ... dreaded *wilderness*,
- ... managed and profitable *agricultural land*
- ... privately owned *homestead & garden*



1960.108.1.5-21—View on the Road from Newark to Patterson, New Jersey
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Romance of the Road

The American Landscape - New Jersey Turnpike in 1800
(painting by Benjamin Henry Latrobe)

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