



Le Jardin d'Eze
RIVIERA CÔTE D'AZUR

Eze et l'architecture traditionnelle

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Eze and traditional architecture

These superpositions of roofs of orange tiles help understand the topography of the village of Eze. The narrowness of the streets, only rhythmized by small squares, allows for saving space and having shade during the summer heat. The ground floors of houses were occupied by cellars or stables for goats, sheep and especially mules. The inhabitants lived on the floors above. The Maison des Riquier, named after the lords of Eze, had plentiful supplies of wine and olive oil in the XVIIth century.

All the houses were built with a type of limestone called "La Turbie" stone. The stones were extracted from the quarries in St. Lawrence d'Eze and carried back to the village by mules or men. Certain houses were built on the remains of a castellaras (ancient fortified wall) from the Iron Age, with blocks of stones assembled without mortar (Dry stone technique).

After the destruction of the ramparts in 1706, the village developed outside its walls. Barri Street - which means walls or ramparts -, is now the hotel of La Chèvre d'Or (The Golden Goat), where the old fortifications used to stand. On the other hand, the street called Bournou, which means "New Borough", is obviously more modern.

The superimposed orange tiled roofs help understand the topography of Eze village. The narrowness of the streets is only ceded to small town squares: this architectural tightness preserves many shaded areas, helping to withstand summer heat. The ground floors of houses used to be cellars or cattle sheds, for goats, sheep and especially mules. The inhabitants lived on the floors above. In the XVIIth century, the cellars of Riquier House, named after the lords of Eze, had plentiful supplies of wine and olive oil.

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