APPENDIX ONE

A TYPOLOGY OF FRANKISH HOUSES IN THE LATIN EAST

One of the most decisive factors influencing the form of the house is the locality in which it is found; coastal or inland, level or mountainous, rocky or wooded. Even more consequential is whether it is in an urban or rural setting. I have divided this typology into three parts: town houses, village houses, and manor houses and farms.

Town Houses

In the towns of the Frankish East there appear to have existed at least six distinct types of houses: courtyard houses, palaces, tower houses, merchant houses, houses on burgage plots and hovels. The division of these houses into Eastern and Western types includes among the Eastern types the courtyard houses and among the Western types the palaces, tower houses and houses on burgage plots. Merchant houses and hovels can fall into either category. In Caesarea we find courtyard houses (houses 3:1–2) and one building (house 3:7) of decidedly Western design that has been interpreted by Pringle as a merchant house. In Caymont we have Eastern type courtyard houses (houses 4:1, 4:2) as we do in the faubourg of Chastiau Pelerin (house 5:1). In Jerusalem in the restored Cardo there is a Western type town house with shops on the ground floor (house 8:2). On the Ophel there is an Eastern plan courtyard house (house 8:1) with Western diagonally tooled masonry. Several of the houses in Acre combine both Eastern plans and Western features (notably houses 1:8 and 1:20—both of

1 Although the courtyard house is typical of Eastern domestic architecture it is also a type that appears in the West—particularly in Italy but elsewhere as well. Therefore the use of the courtyard plan by the Franks may in some cases be a continuation of Western traditions rather than the influence of the domestic architecture that the Franks encountered in the East. Only where it is combined with additional elements that are typical of Eastern architecture but not usually found in the West can we say with certainty that a house is an Eastern type courtyard house.

which are Eastern type courtyard houses with such Western features such as embrasure windows, masons’ marks and chimneys). House 1:8 is perhaps the best example of a house that combines both Eastern and Western planning. It is a complex consisting of a central courtyard entered via a narrow passageway that takes a right-angle turn before entering the courtyard—a classic example of Eastern house design. On the other hand, the main element of this complex is a large hall constructed of six connected groin-vaulted bays probably forming the ground floor warehouse of a large palace or apartment building, a type of house not uncommon in Italy, where underground cellars and occasionally ground floors were built in this manner to serve as warehouses above which rose the merchants’ living quarters. This hybrid may point to the beginning of a trend in the thirteenth century to combine distinctly Eastern and Western types.

A. Courtyard Houses

From the buildings examined it is possible to identify at least 23 town houses with courtyards (houses 1:2, 1:3, 1:4, 1:6, 1:7, 1:8, 1:9, 1:11, 1:16, 1:17, 1:20, 1:21, 1:22, 1:23, 1:24, 2:1, 2:2, 3:1, 3:2, 4:1, 4:2, 5:1, 8:1). These include a variety of buildings with three prominent sub-types:

Type 1: A large rectangular complex with an entrance passage from the road into the courtyard, from which the surrounding apartments are entered (houses 1:6, 1:7, 1:24). These were probably occupied by several families or rented out by the commune to seasonal merchants. Because of their size Kesten has called them mansions.3

Type 2: A smaller, single-hearth dwelling with a centrally located courtyard (house 1:8). Entrance to these houses was often via a covered passageway from the street into the courtyard and from there into the rooms of the house.

Type 3: A single-hearth dwelling with an attached, walled courtyard (houses 1:4, 1:11, 1:21, 1:22, 2:1, 3:1–2, 4:1–2, 5:2 8:1). Some of these houses differ from type 2 in the irregularity of their plan, which possibly is a factor of their being located in less densely populated areas.

3 See above, pp. 8, 16.