

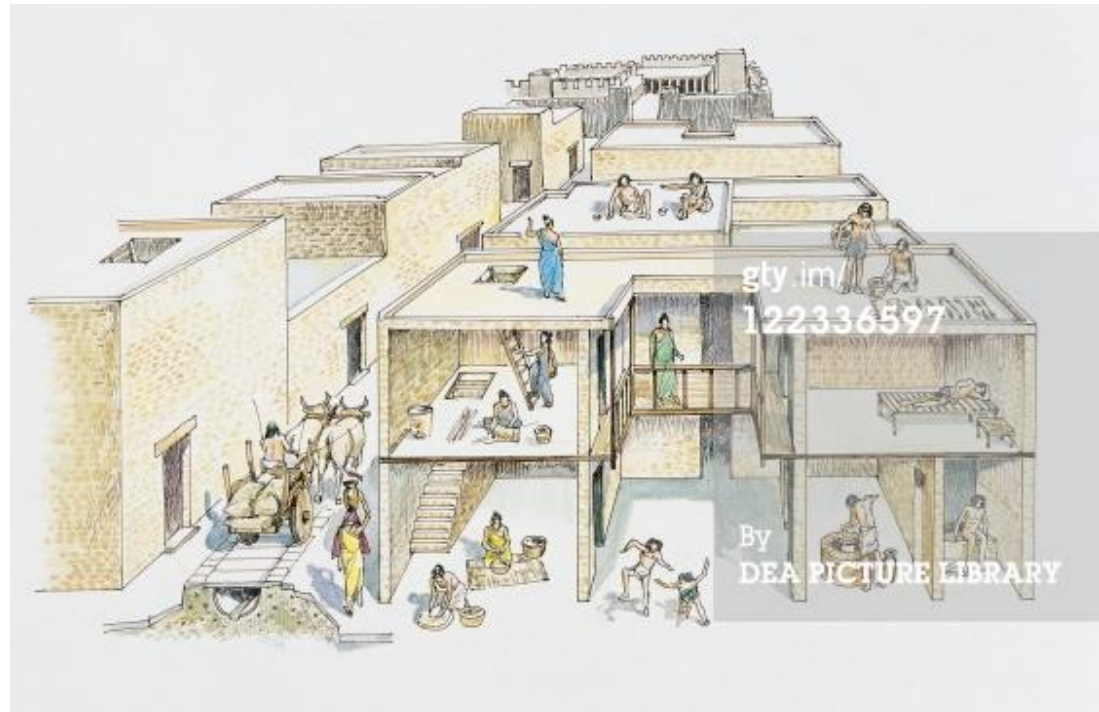
## The City of Mohenjo Daro: The Lower Town

The name “Mohenjo Daro” literally means *the Mound of the Dead*. But this was not the original name of this city. It was called Mohenjo Daro by local people hundreds of years after the city was abandoned. It is thought the name Mound of the Dead came from the ruins of the abandoned city.

But at its peak, Mohenjo Daro was a thriving city of around 30,000 people. The standard of living was high, with most families in two story brick homes that had multiple rooms and high standards of cleanliness. For example, they had a sophisticated sewer system and they only built windows on the second floor to prevent dust from entering the home.

Homes generally the following rooms:

- Kitchen
- Well room
- Bathing room
- Bathroom
- Bedroom(s)
- living space on the roof



## Homes: The Kitchen

Kitchens in Mohenjo Daro homes featured both stove tops and ovens. They were made from brick and allowed people to cook in a variety of ways. Stoves and ovens were often placed against outer walls to allow ventilation for cooking fires.



While it was common for houses to have kitchens, the marketplace also had kitchens in the street. These outdoor kitchens are thought to be the world's first version of fast food. Vendors would cook and sell ready-made meals to people out shopping.

## Homes: Wells and Bathing Platforms



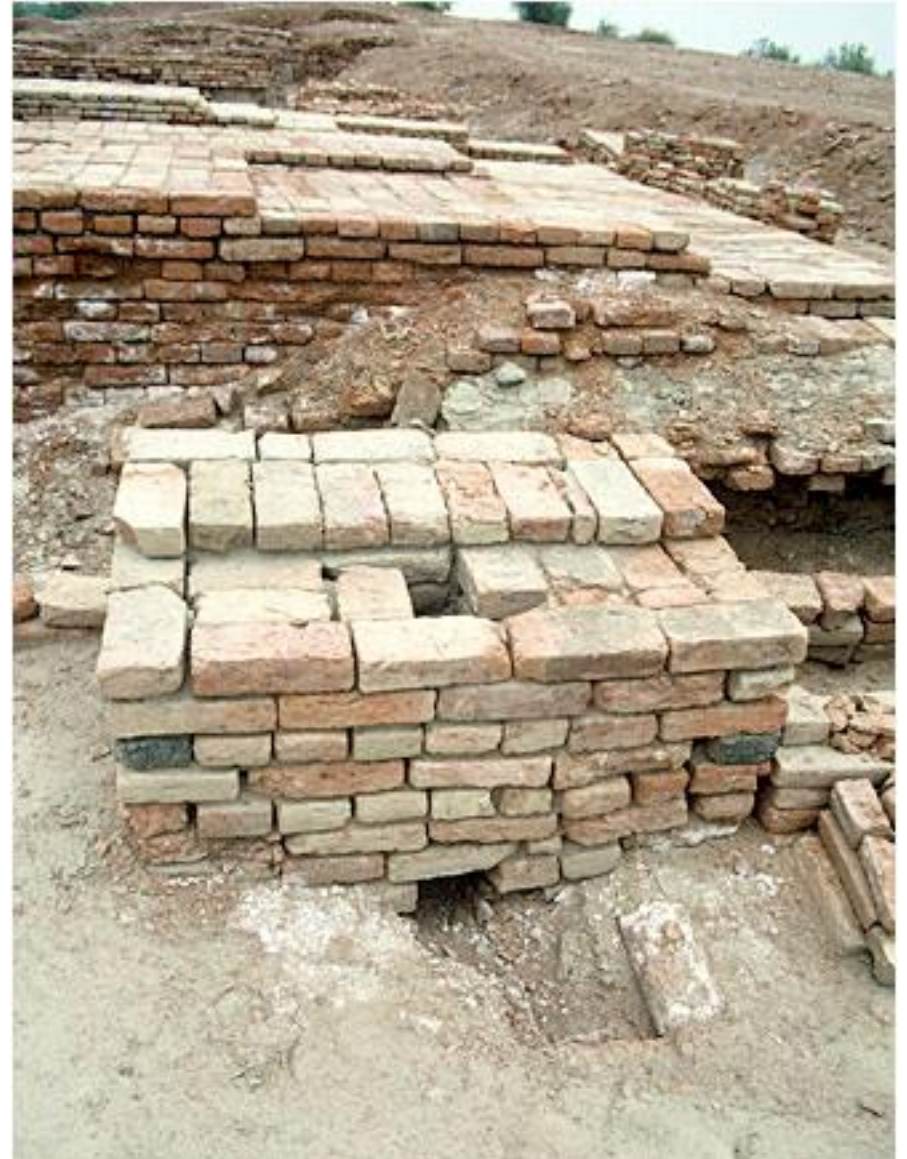
Many homes in Mohenjo Daro had their own well as a water source. The well was generally centralized in the house, so water could be used for cooking, bathing, and flushing toilets. The top of the well was surrounded by a raised, water tight platform made of bricks. This prevented any damage to floors in case someone spilled water.

Most homes also had their own indoor bathing platforms which served as showers. The floor was water tight with a raised edge to prevent splashing. People would bring pitchers of water to bathe with, dumping the water over themselves. The floor was slightly sloped toward a drain that would lead to a pipe running down the side of the house to the complex sewage and waste water system that ran below the streets of Mohenjo Daro.



## Homes: Bathrooms

Mohenjo Daro had one of the most advanced and complex sewer systems of the ancient world. Covered sewers ran below or beside streets, carrying waste water away from individual houses. This made Mohenjo Daro an incredibly clean city. Many homes had indoor bathrooms rather than outhouses. Each bathroom had a toilet that was piped into the central sewer system. People would have pitchers of water next to the toilet to “flush” after use. This drastically reduced germs and disease by ensuring waste was removed from the home and the city itself.



## Homes: The Second Floor



Most homes were two stories with common living spaces on the bottom floor and bedrooms and workshops on the second floor. Bedrooms were spacious and seemed to be divided, suggesting families slept separated adults from children or men from women. This is unusual, given most ancient families slept in a central room with the exception of very wealthy families.

The wealthier citizens of Mohenjo Daro also had home offices or workshops in their own home. The main example found was a dyer's workshop with shallow wells for dyeing cloth and a sink and drain to the sewer system for rinsing finished cloth.



## Homes: The Roof



Roof tops were used as living rooms. People created wooden and cloth shade covers and placed rugs or chairs on the roof. The roof had light, breeze, and was much more spacious to host guests or talk as a family. It was also high enough to avoid the dust of the streets. Homes were close together on either side of narrow streets. As people walked or drove their animals

to market, the street would cause noise and dust that people could escape by talking on the flat roof of their home. Open rooftops also helped create a sense of community, allowing neighbors to wave and talk to each other across the narrow streets. This practice is still used in parts of the world today.