

## ARTYOM NO. 85VIZ

A Tongan house suits the free, sunny climate and the easy habits of the people. It is a rectangular building, the front end of which is broadened to a slight overhang considered as a porch. The roof is made of coconut leaves. With the exception of the dwellings of the chiefs or higher rank, and the palaces of the nobles, their dimensions are small, and the construction but low of apartments. They are, however, constructed with an eye to neatness and comfort, and the interior is generally finished in the best native style; their interior appearance is by no means to be despised. That they are much smaller than the houses of the neighboring islands will range from four to eight feet in length, and are furnished either of a single or double banking of reeds, which serve as a covering by means of the palm, of bamboo, or stakes, or, in some places, all around the eaves of the building, raised very much above the level of the ground, and water tight by the addition of a lining of plaited coconut leaves; but at the same time, they afford a sturdy resistance to the wind, and are, on the other hand, there is capital ventilation. To compensate for the lowness of the walls the roof of a Tongan house is raised to a considerable height, and the rafters are closely set, and are generally made of the water wood, the coconut, iron, or the bread-fruit tree, the latter being the most common appearance of cedar wood and have a very pleasing and beautiful effect when nicely finished. The large beams, which the rafters support, are made of the same wood, and of high and durable woods which reach about half way up the entire height of roof. The inner ridge pole is made of a single piece of wood, and the rafters are made of a single piece of wood, and are perfectly water-tight. A well built house will last a good many years, but for the most part they are not intended to last more than a few years, and are under the most favorable circumstances, about once in five years. The floor is built with a pavement of dried leaves, and the walls are made of the same material, and are made from the coconut leaf, upon which again the floor sitting and sleeping mats are placed. No partitions are used, and the interior of a house is open to the air, and the owner or white man has no objection to a house of this kind. A very large number of houses are built of this kind. A very large number of houses are built of this kind. A very large number of houses are built of this kind.

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