

cum-advisors are the village councils who take care of developmental and social activities. As was customary among the Adi, each clan in Nocte, Laju, Tutsa and Wancho society has its own bachelors' and girls' dormitories (morung) as the focal point of community life. Architecturally they represent even bigger variants of the already large houses.

Unlike other peoples of Arunachal, the art of the Changlang and Tirap peoples is only partly expressed through their textiles. Thus, the traditional dress of the Nocte and Wancho men consisted merely of a number of cane hoops worn around the belly and a loincloth. However, they are highly creative regarding their methods of embellishing their costumes. This is particularly evident in their headdresses that consist of hats of plaited red-dyed cane and yellow orchid stems, ornamented with boar tusks, hornbill feathers, mithun horns, red-dyed goat's hair and human hair, as well as their bridal costumes that include numerous body cloths, necklaces and beaded headbands. Their true art, particularly among the Wancho, however, is woodcarving, the motifs of which are derived mainly from hunting and headhunting. In this cultic form of art, heads of slain enemies are depicted, human figures, and the animal world — mithun, hornbill, elephants and monkeys — which has been physically and spiritually succeeded. The Wancho decorate their entire world with these motifs. They are even included in the design of objects of daily life such as tobacco pipes and combs. The banishment of headhunting from social life, be it through conversion to Christianity or the Indian legislation, as well as the decimation of wildlife has led to an unfortunate but compulsory decline of these indigenous forms of art that have yet to be filled with new forms of content.

Opposite: *Probably the most picturesque village of all Naga groups is Wakka, a Wancho settlement in Tirap district. Every single house is thatched. Photo by G Heller.*

Below: *Wancho houses, eg, in Pongchau, resemble giant turtles with their thatched roofs reaching almost to the ground.*

