Ancient Incan Construction Details

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» Photolog from Peruvian site visit
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This ancient Incan wall is still in use today as an exposed building foundation / retaining wall.
This wall is an example of “Imperical Incan” stonework. Notice the tight fitting between the stones which can’t even accept a piece of paper in the joint. This stonework is indicative of ceremonial and temple structures.
This ancient Incan wall is a retaining wall for an agricultural terrace and is an example of looser, more utilitarian stonework as opposed to ceremonial.
These steps were located in agricultural terrace walls to allow workers to climb between the levels. The riser and tread dimensions are relatively consistent throughout.
Incan doorways are never rectangular but rather trapezoidal. Incan walls and windows are constructed sloping back towards the top, opposite of doorway construction.
This cantilevered stone is located on an exterior façade at the roofline. It is thought that a roof beam could be lashed to these secure points to help support a thatch roof.
This door jamb has an hole cut through the stonework. With rope, this could be used to lash a door securely to the wall or jamb.
This ceremonial wall incorporates giant slabs intersected with small vertical accents. Note the “Incan cross” symbol carved into the face in the center stone.
The ancient Incan builders took great pride in their work. This attention to detail is incredibly impressive given their limited tools and equipment. Ceremonial and temple stonework is so precise and thoughtful that it has not been replicated in any other society. Given our modern understanding of sustainability we should consider their methods extremely “green”. Many of the Incan structures are still in use today, more than 400 years later.