

## URBAN BUILDING ANALYSIS

*As in other types of operations, success in urban combat depends largely on the ability to analyze the military aspects of soldiers' terrain. This appendix discusses in greater detail building analysis. Soldiers must be able to recognize certain terrain features when evaluating urban terrain. They must also be able to distinguish between mass-construction and framed buildings.*

### H-1. TYPES OF MASS-CONSTRUCTION BUILDINGS

Mass-construction buildings are those in which the outside walls support the weight of the building and its contents. Additional support, especially in wide buildings, comes from using load-bearing interior walls, strongpoints called pilasters) on the exterior walls, cast-iron interior columns, and arches or braces over the windows and doors (Figure H-1). Modern types of mass-construction buildings are wall and slab structures such as many modern apartments and hotels, and tilt-up structures commonly used for industry or storage. Mass-construction buildings are built in many ways:

- The walls can be built in place using brick, block, or poured-in-place concrete.
- The walls can be prefabricated and “tilt-up” or reinforced-concrete panels.
- The walls can be prefabricated and assembled like boxes.

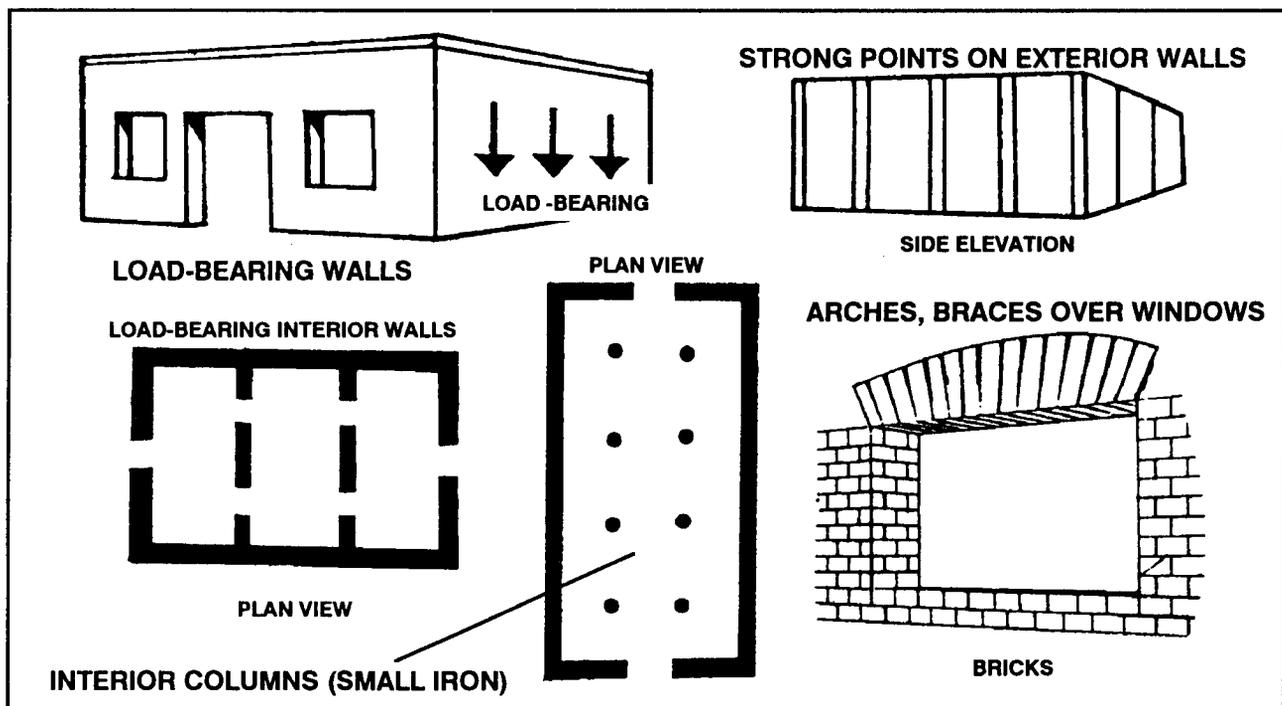


Figure H-1. Mass-construction buildings.

a. Brick buildings are the most common and most important of the mass-construction buildings. In Europe, brick buildings are commonly covered with a stucco veneer so that bricks do not show (Figure H-2). One of the most common uses of brick buildings is the small store. These buildings are found in all built-up areas but are most common in the core periphery (Figure H-3).

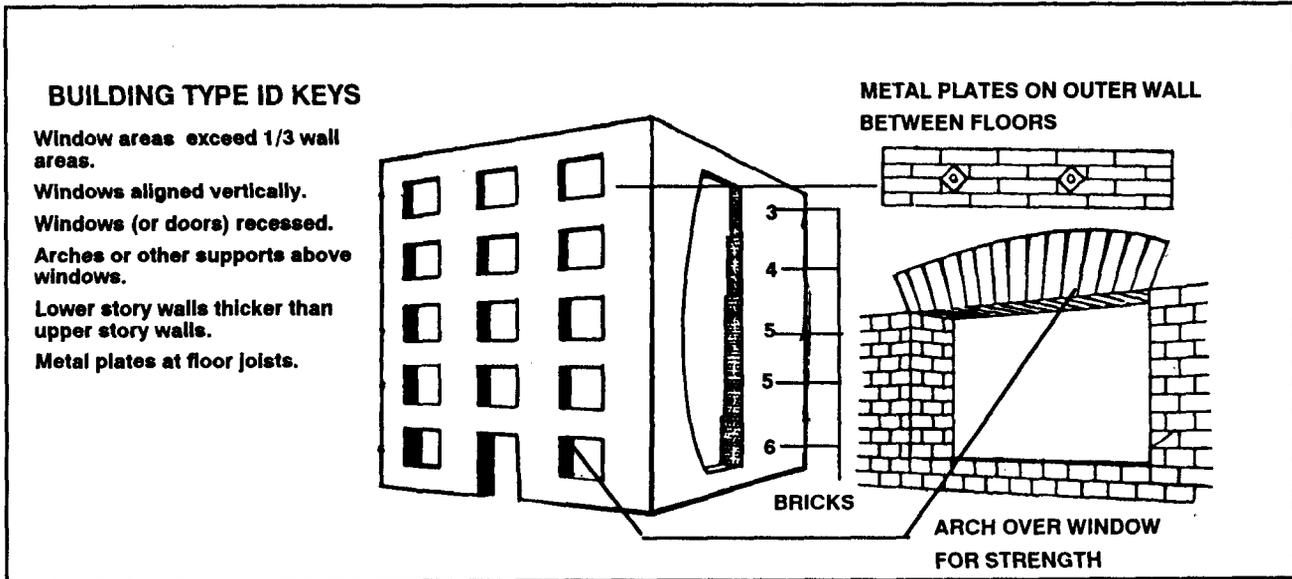


Figure H-2. Brick buildings.

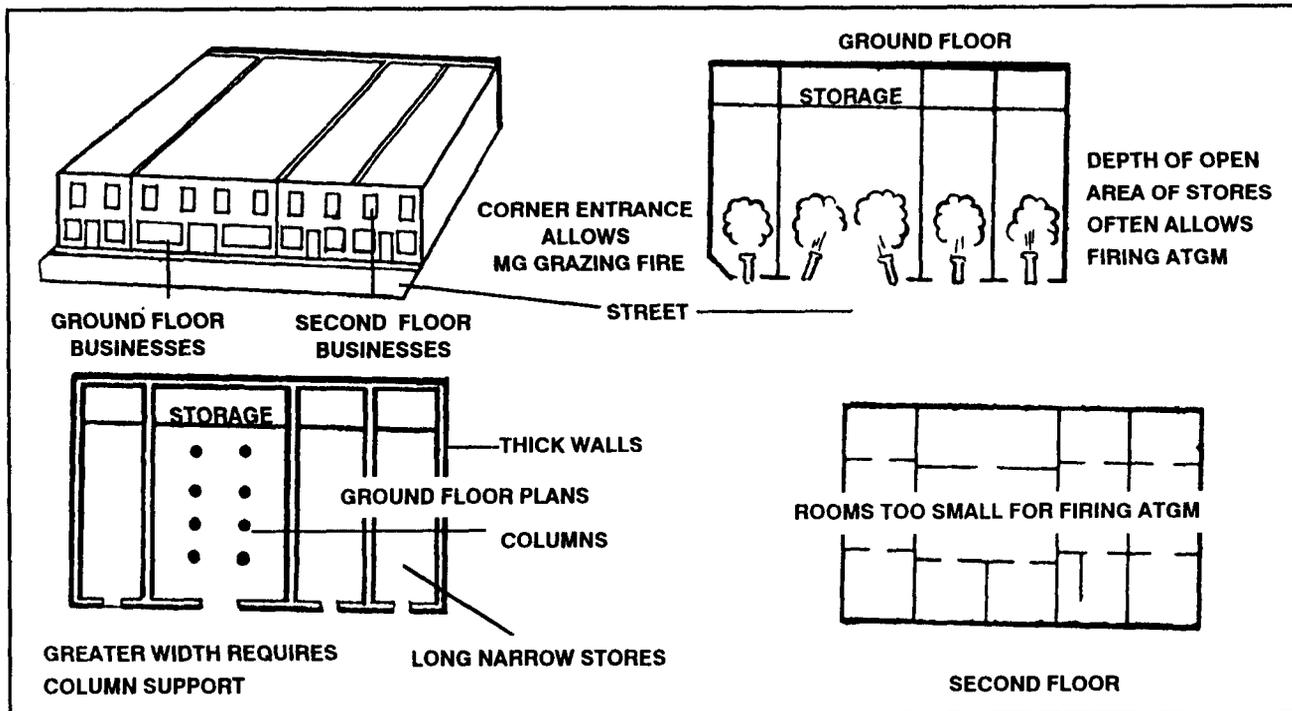


Figure H-3. Brick store.

b. Another common mass-construction building in industrial areas and along commercial ribbons is the warehouse. It is built of poured-in-place concrete reinforced with steel bars or of prefabricated walls that are "tilt-up." The walls of warehouses provide good cover, although the roof is vulnerable. The warehouses' large open bays permit firing of ATGMs and, because they are normally found in outlying areas, often afford adequate fields of fire for ATGMs. These buildings are built on slabs, which can normally support the weight of vehicles and can provide excellent cover and concealment for tanks (Figure H-4).

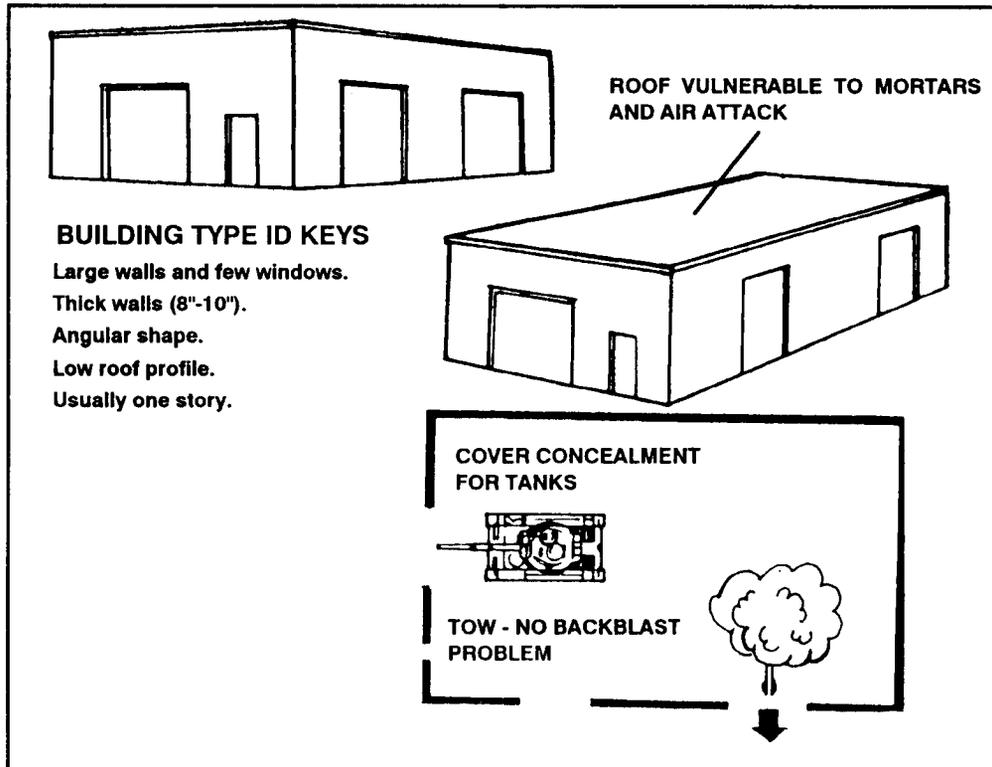


Figure H-4. Warehouse.

c. Another mass-construction building is the box-wall principle type. It is made from prefabricated concrete panels, which are made of 6- to 8-inch-thick reinforced concrete. The outside wall is often glass. The box-wall principle building provides good cover, except at the glass wall. The rooms are normally too small for ATGMs to be fired. A good circulation pattern exists from room to room and from floor to floor. These buildings are commonly used as hotels or apartments and are located in residential and outlying areas (Figure H-5, page H-4).

d. Public gathering places (churches, theaters) are mass-construction buildings with large, open interiors. The walls provide good cover, but the roof does not. The interior walls are not load-bearing and are normally easy to breach or remove. These buildings have adequate interior space for firing ATGMs. They are often located next to parks or other open areas and, therefore, have fields of fire long enough for ATGMs. Public gathering places are most common in core, core periphery, residential, and outlying high-rise areas (Figure H-6, page H-4).

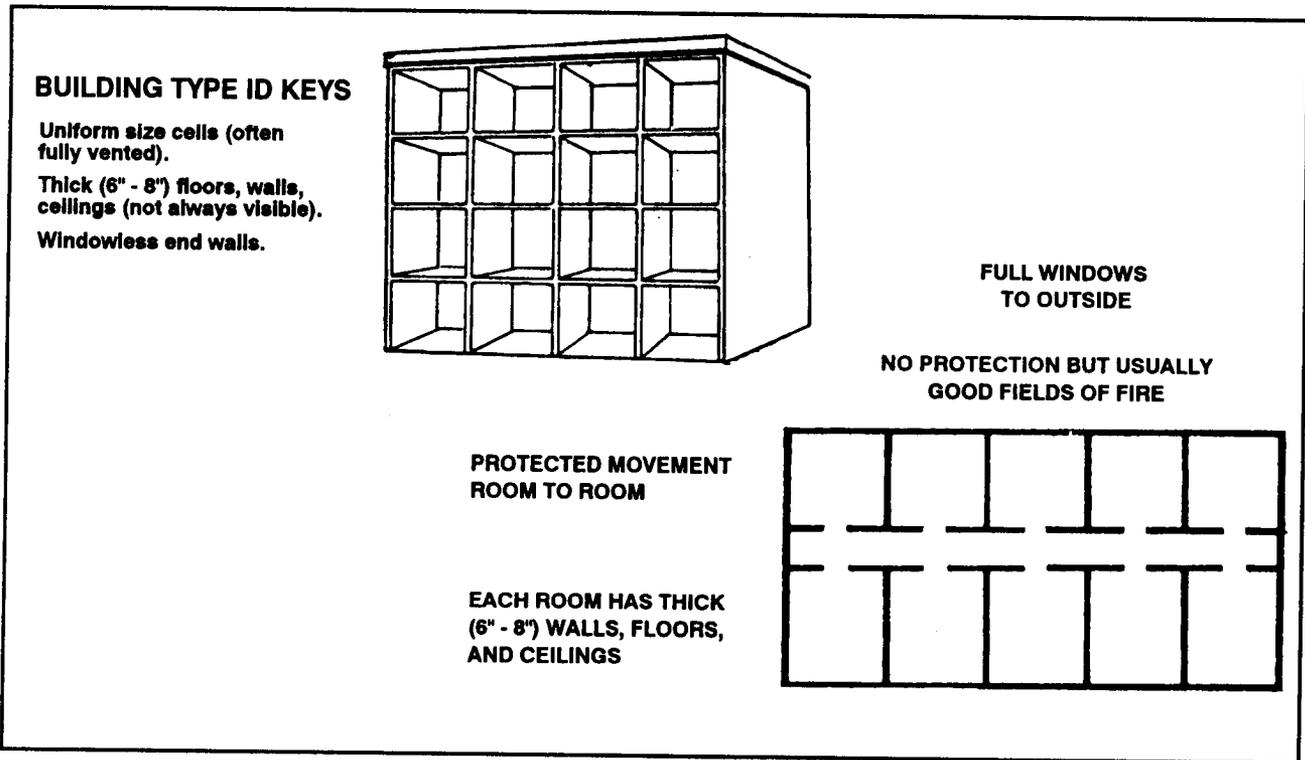


Figure H-5. Box-wall principle building.

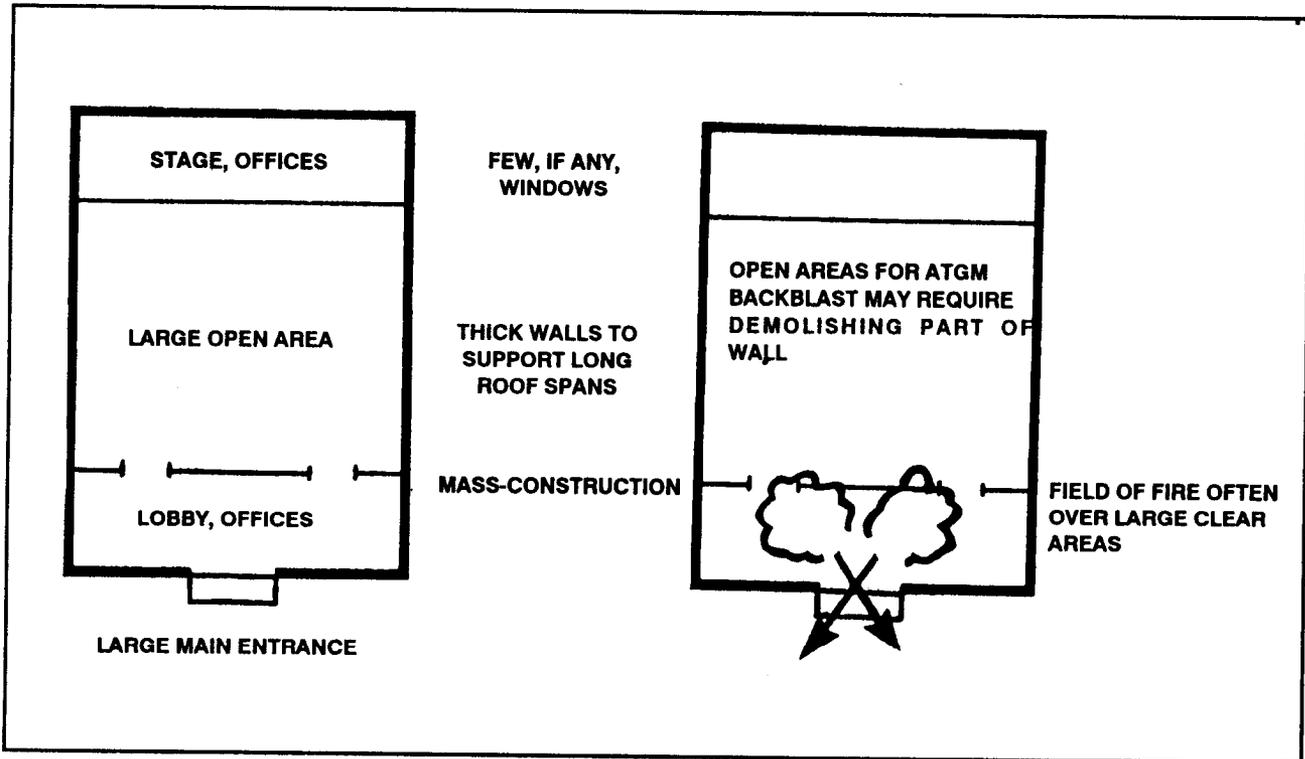
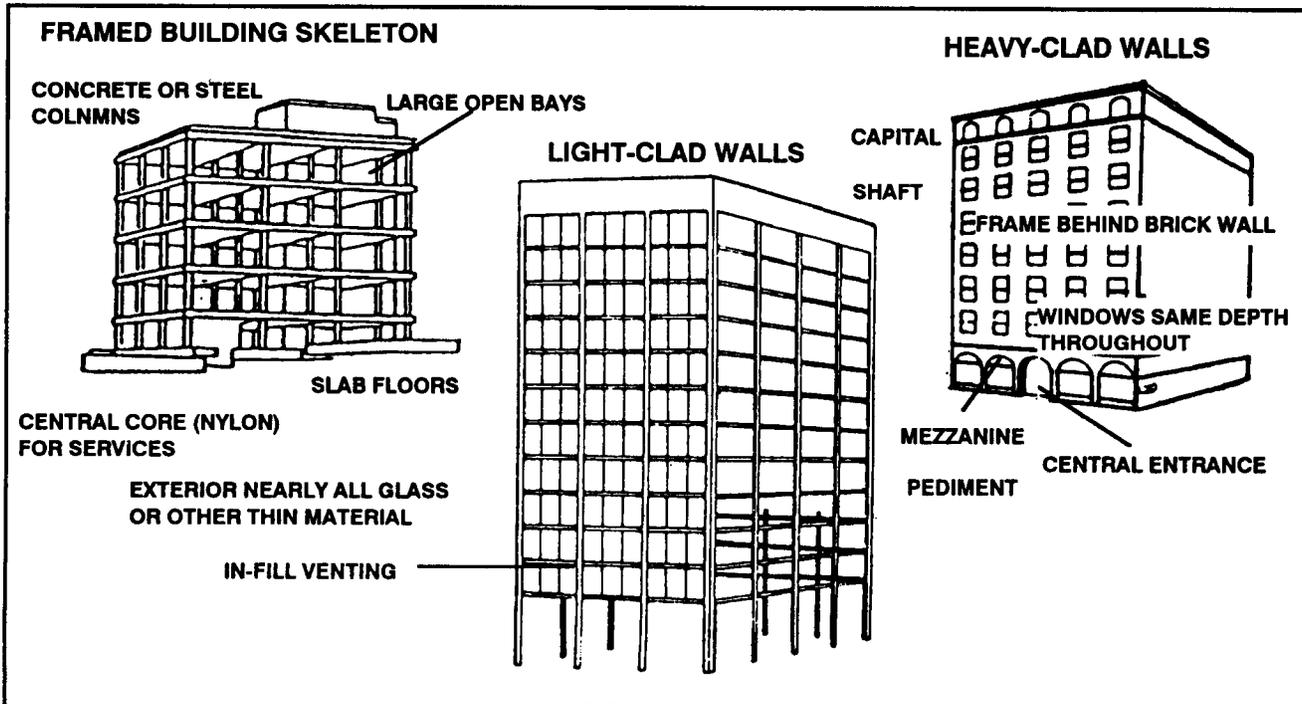


Figure H-6. Public gathering places.

## H-2. TYPES OF FRAMED BUILDINGS

Framed buildings are supported by a skeleton of columns and beams and are usually taller than frameless buildings (Figure H-7). The exterior walls are not load-bearing and are referred to as either heavy clad or light clad. Another type of framed building often found in cities is the garage, which has no cladding.



**Figure H-7. Framed buildings.**

a. Heavy-clad buildings were common when framed buildings were first introduced. Their walls are made of brick and block that are sometimes almost as thick as frameless brick walls, although not as protective. Heavy-clad framed buildings are found in core and core periphery areas. They can be recognized by a classic style or architecture in which each building is designed with three sections—the pediment, shaft, and capital. Unlike the brick building, the walls are the same thickness on all floors, and the windows are set at the same depth throughout. Often the frame members (the columns) can be seen, especially at the ground floor. The cladding, consisting of layers of terra cotta blocks, brick, and stone veneer, does not provide as good a cover as the walls of brick buildings. It protects against small-arms fire and light shrapnel but does not provide much cover against heavy weapons (Figure H-8, page H-6).

(1) The floor plans of these buildings depend upon their functions. Office buildings normally have small offices surrounding an interior hall. These offices have the same dimensions as the distance between columns (some large offices are as large as two times the distance between columns). These rooms are too small to permit firing of ATGMs but do provide some cover for snipers or machine gunners (Figures H-9 and H-10, page H-6).

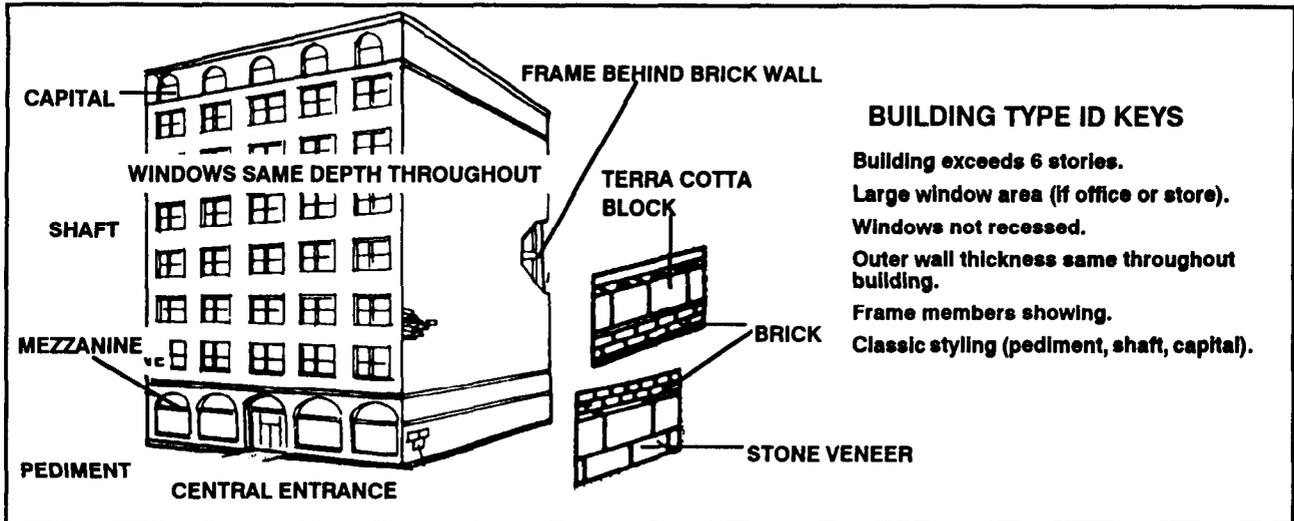


Figure H-8. Heavy-clad framed building.

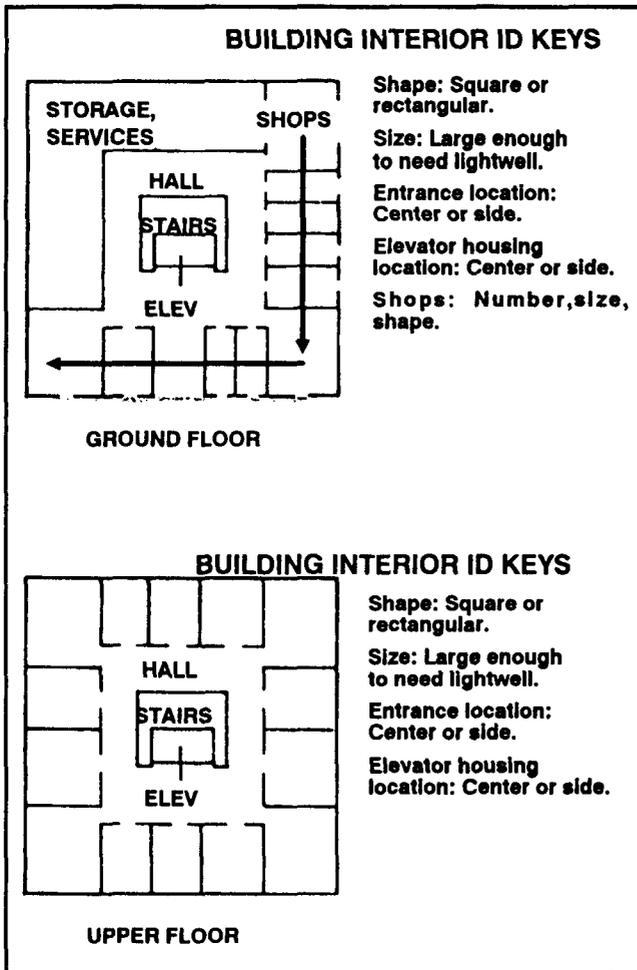


Figure H-9. Floor plan of heavy-clad framed office building.

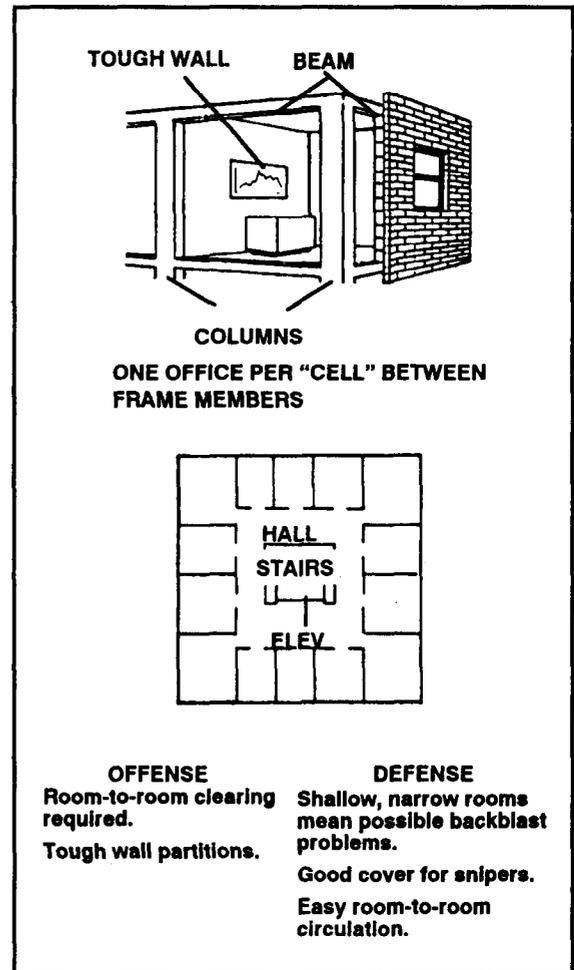


Figure H-10. Heavy-clad framed office.

(2) Department stores normally have large, open interiors (Figure H-11). Such areas permit firing ATGMs (if there are adequate fields of fire). Often a mezzanine level with a large backblast area permits firing down onto tanks. Steel fire doors often exist between sections of the store. The steel fire doors are activated by heat. Once closed, they are difficult to breach or force open, but they effectively divide the store into sections (Figure H-12).

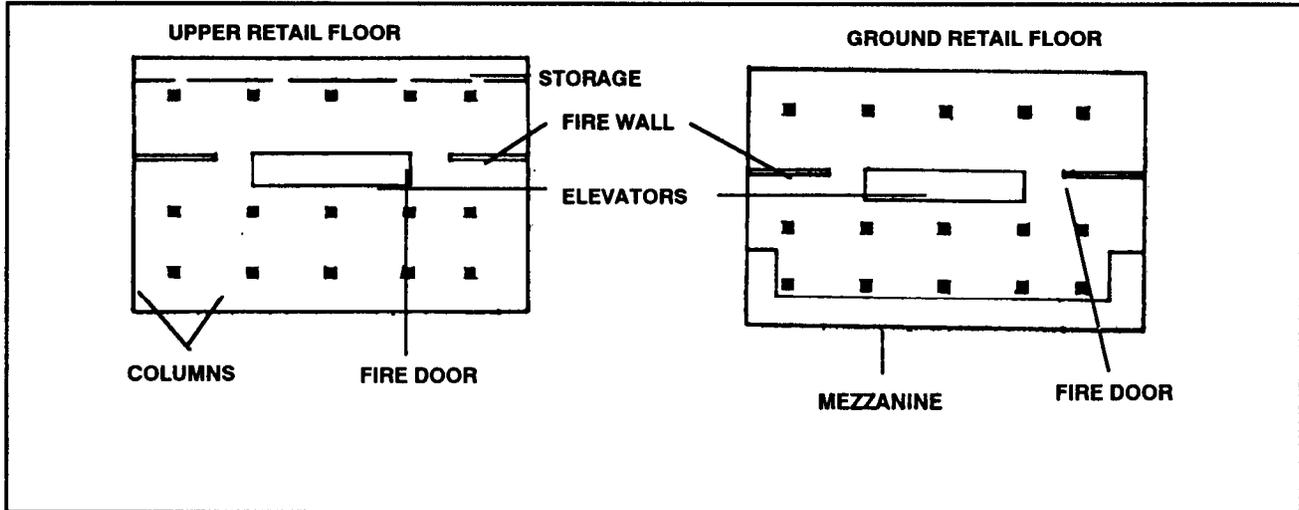


Figure H-11. Heavy-clad framed department store.

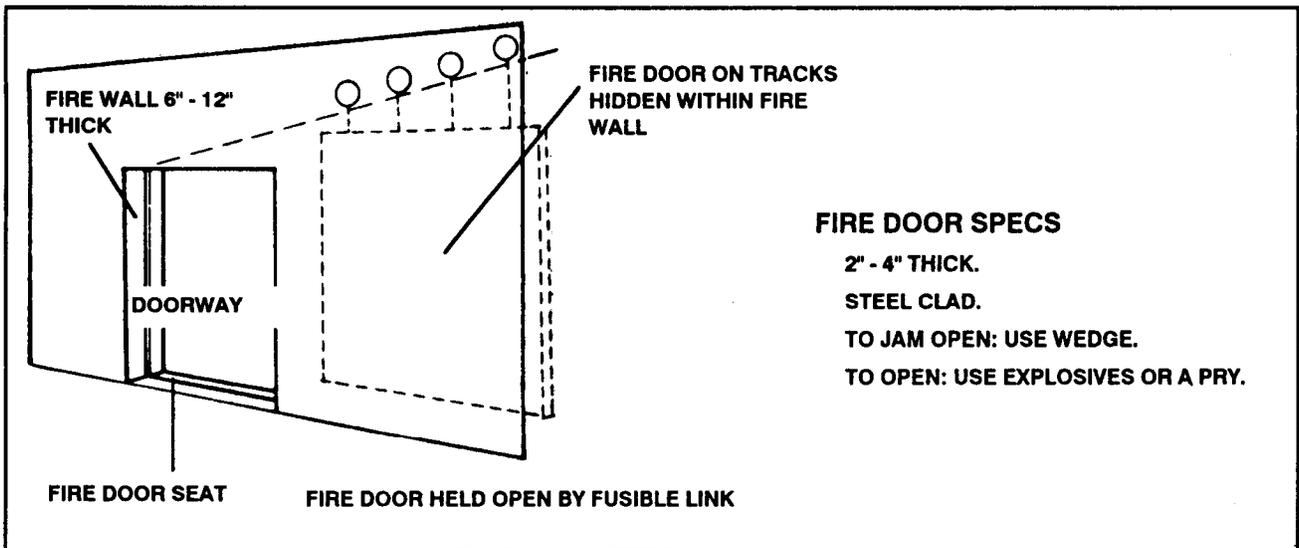
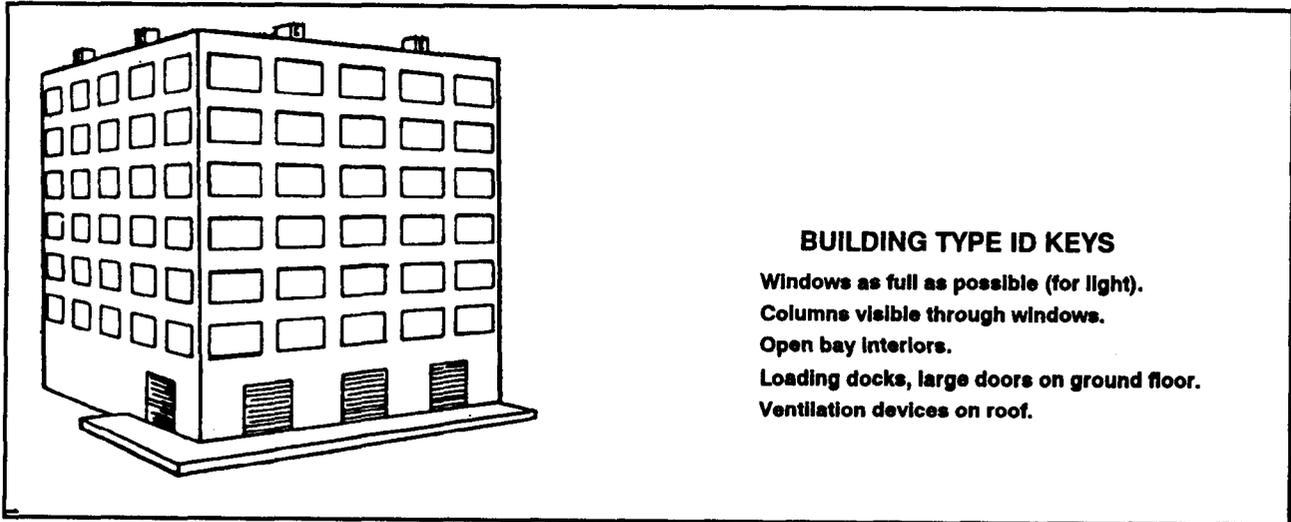


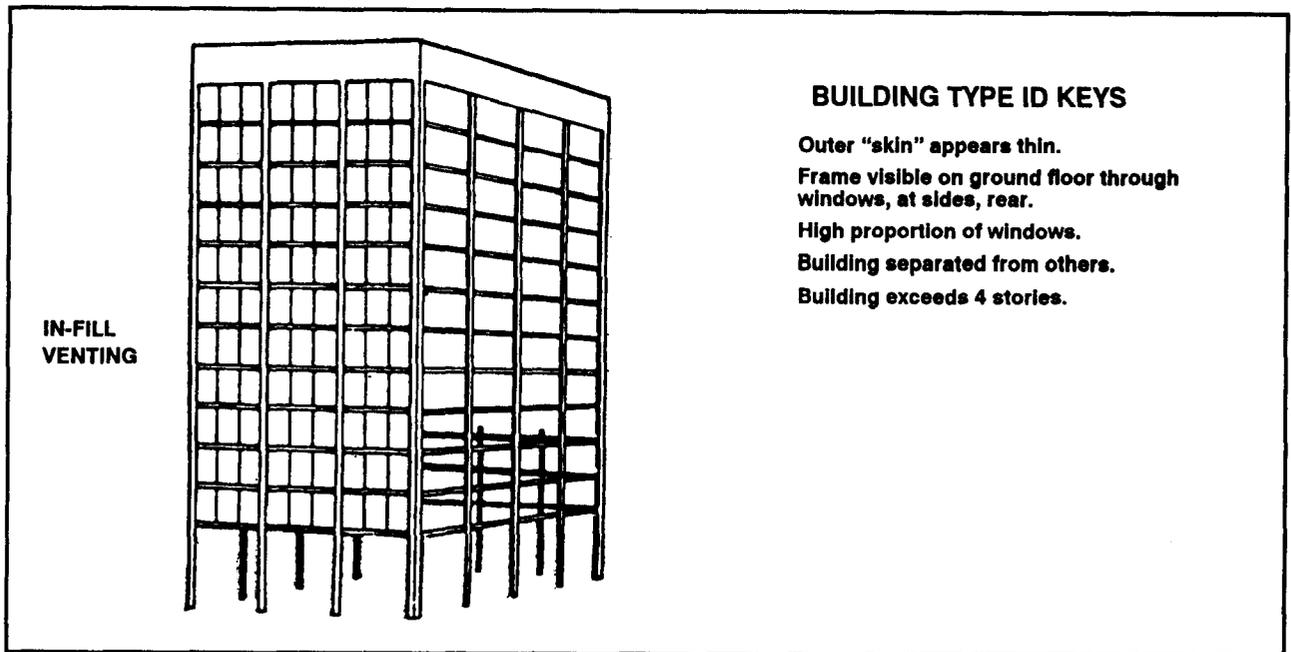
Figure H-12. Fire wall and fire door.

(3) Another type of heavy-clad framed building is used as a high-rise factory (Figure H-13, page H-8). Such buildings are normally easily recognized because the concrete beams and columns are visible from the outside. They are usually located in older industrial areas. The large windows and open interior favor the use of ATGMs. Because the floors are often made to support heavy machinery, this building provides good overhead cover.

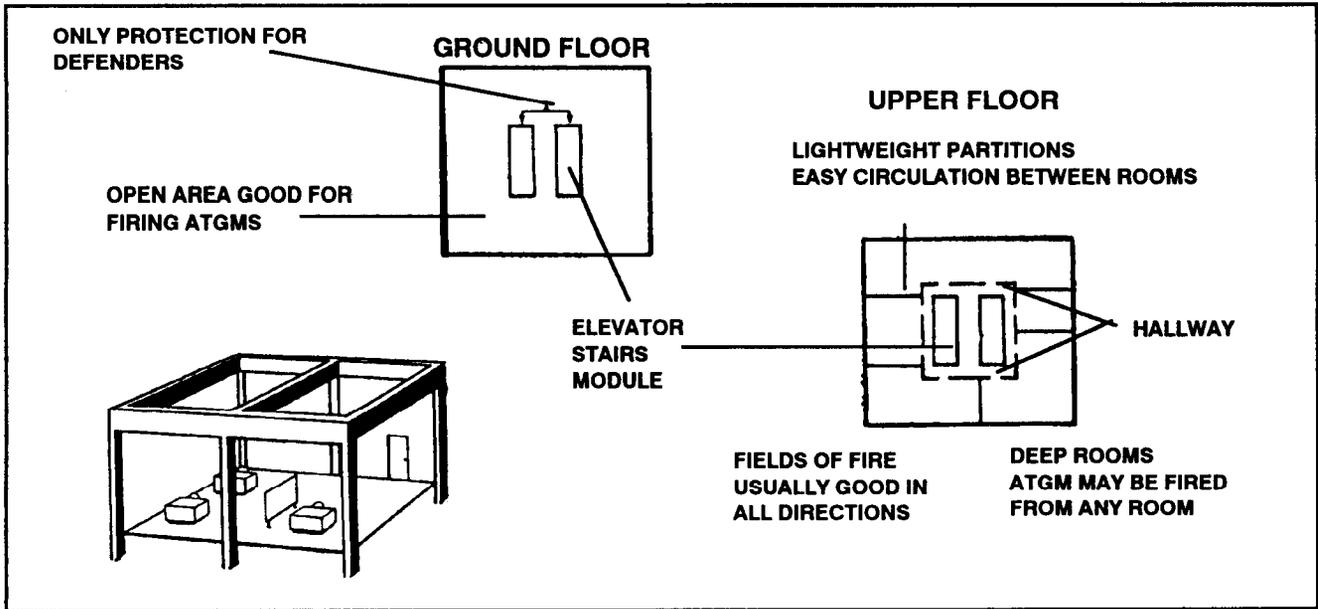


**Figure H-13. High-rise factory.**

b. Light-clad buildings are more modern and may be constructed mostly of glass (Figure H-7). Most framed buildings built since World War II are light-clad buildings. They are found in both core and outlying high-rise regions. Their walls consist of a thin layer of brick, lightweight concrete, or glass. Such materials provide minimal protection against any weapon. However, the floors of the buildings are much heavier and provide moderate overhead cover (Figure H-14). The rooms in light-clad buildings are much bigger than those in heavy-clad. This feature, along with the fact that the buildings usually stand detached from other buildings, favors the employment of ATGMs. The interior partitions are thin, light and easy to breach (Figure H-15).

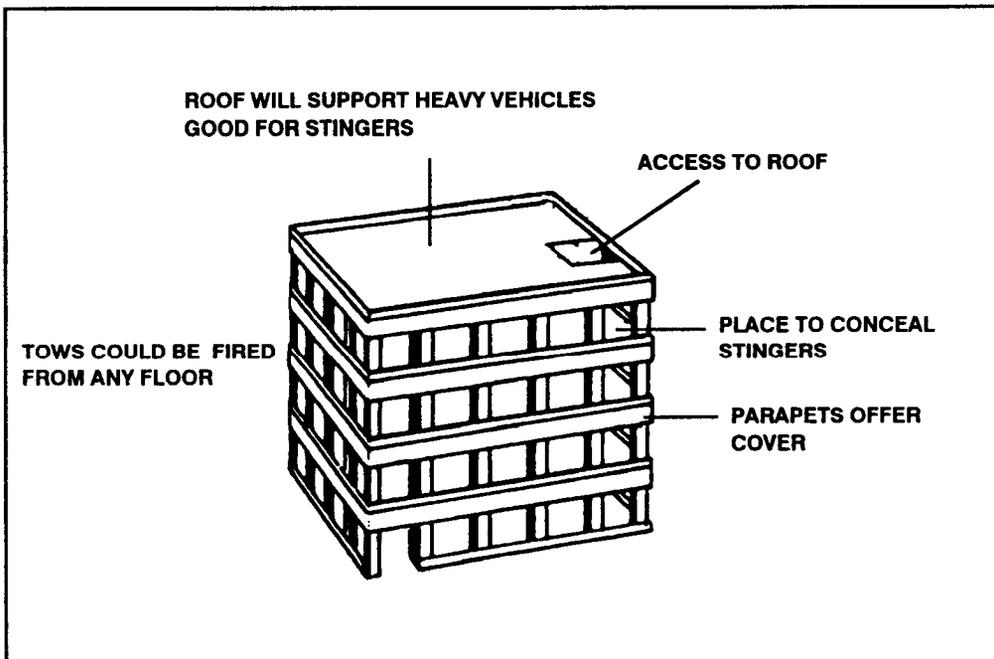


**Figure H-14. Light-clad framed building.**



**Figure H-15. Light-clad framed room.**

c. The garage is one of the few buildings in an urban area in which all floors support vehicles. It provides a means to elevate vehicle-mounted TOWs, and the open interiors permit firing of ATGMs. Garages are normally high enough to provide a 360-degree field of fire for anti-aircraft weapons. For example, a Stinger could hide under the top floor of the garage, come out to engage an aircraft, and then take cover again (Figure H-16).



**Figure H-16. Garage.**

**H-3. FLOOR PLANS**

Floor plans in buildings follow predictable patterns. One of the factors that determines floor plans is building shape (Figure H-17). The basic principle governing building shape is that rooms normally have access to outside light. This principle helps to analyze and determine the floor plans of large buildings.

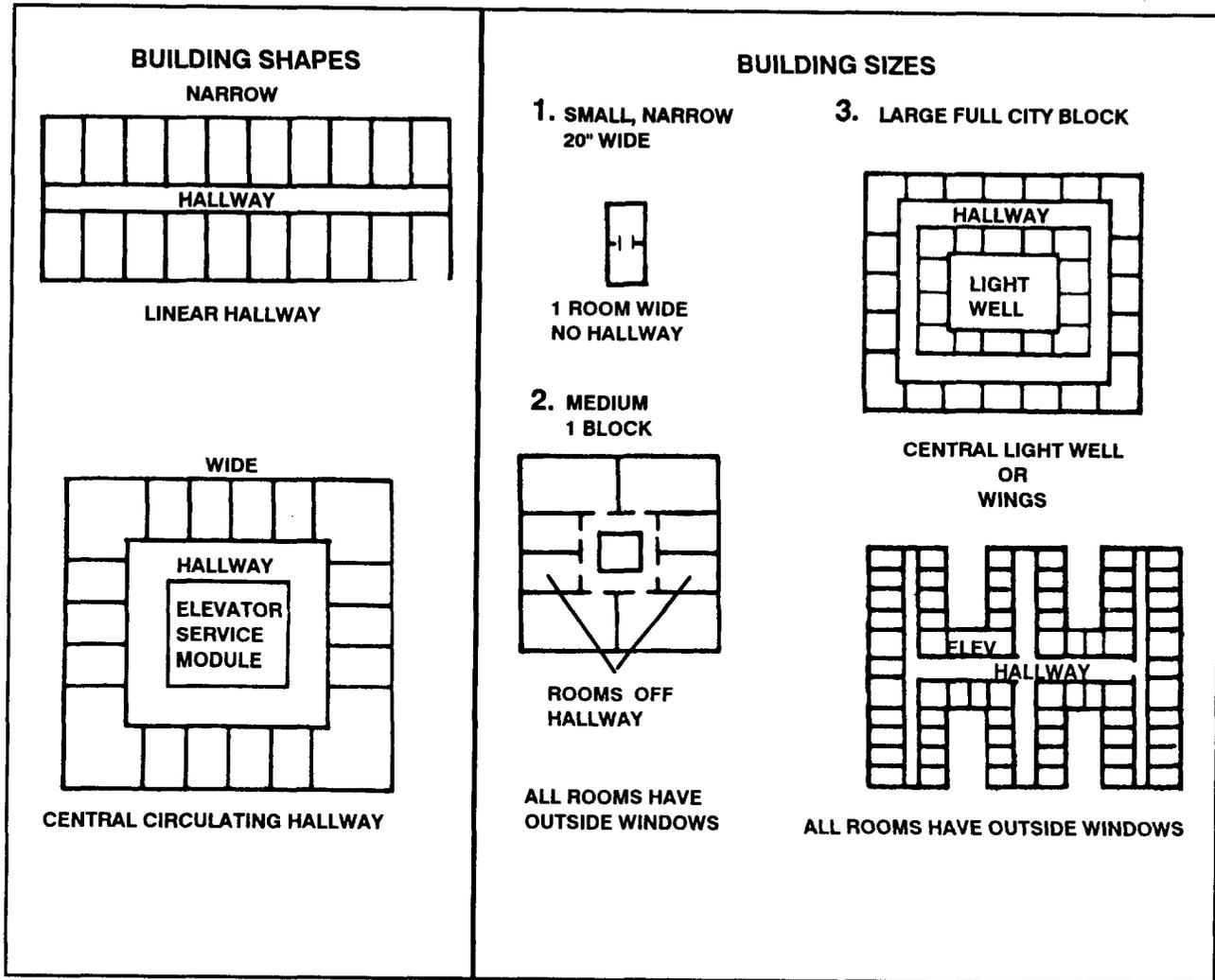


Figure H-17. Building shapes and sizes.

**H-4. RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

The two basic types of houses in the western world are located in and around cities and in rural areas. City houses are normally mass-construction brick buildings. Rural buildings in the continental US, South America, and Southeast Asia are commonly made of wood. In continental Europe, Southwest Asia, and sub-Saharan Africa, where wood is extremely scarce, rural buildings are normally constructed of concrete blocks (Figure H-18).

a. Another common type of building structure in cities with European influences is called the Hof-style apartment building (Figure H-19).

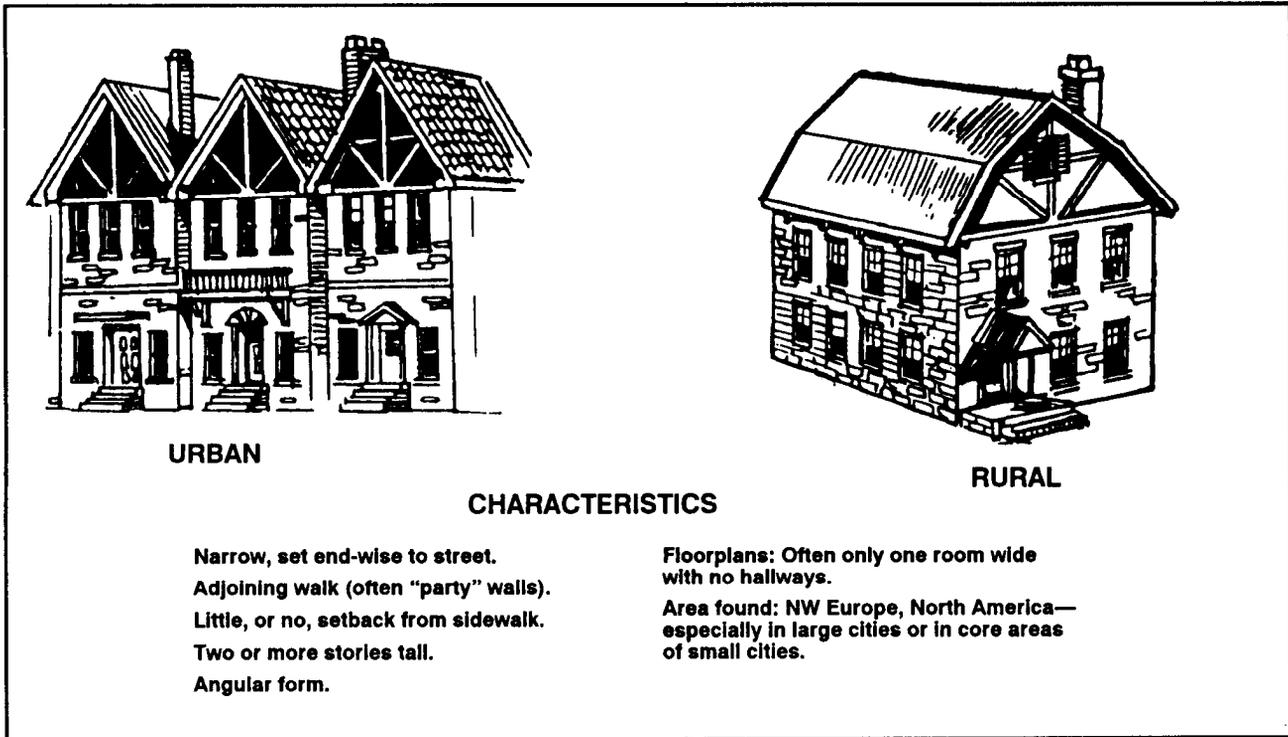


Figure H-18. Types of housing.

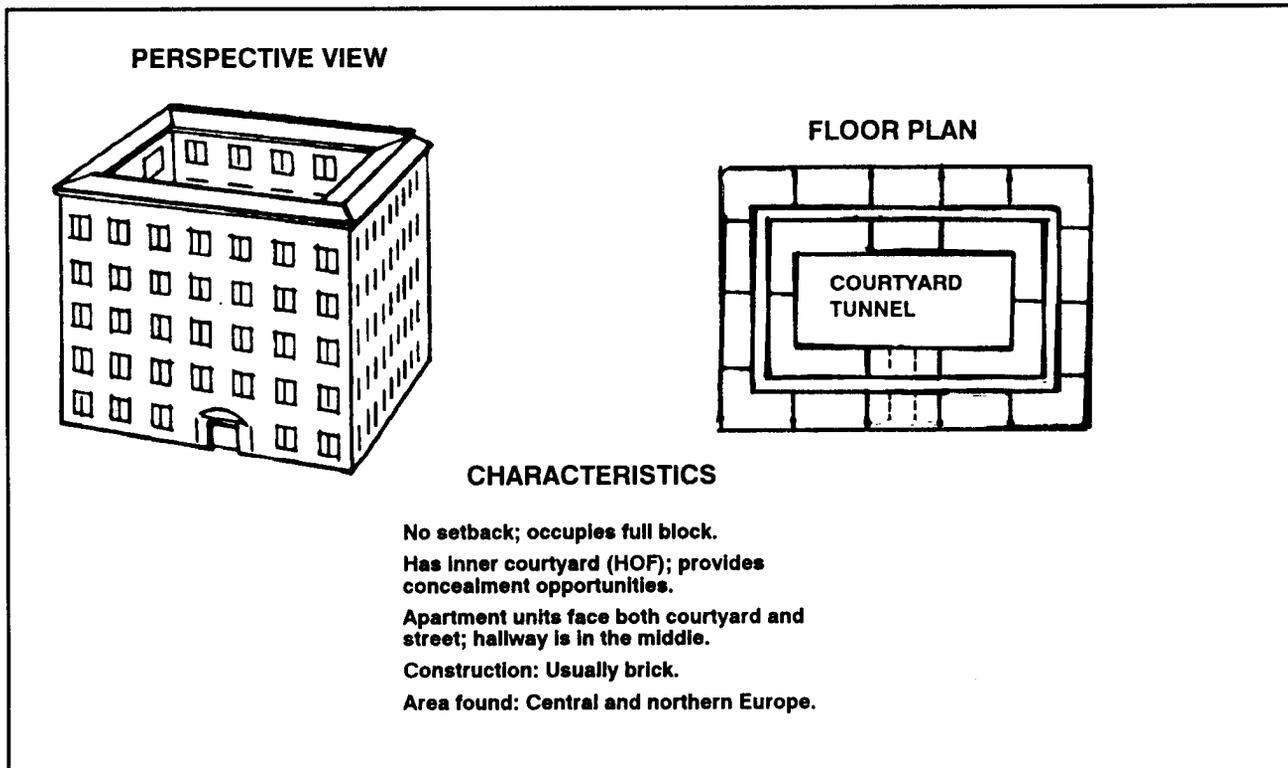


Figure H-19. Hof-style apartment building.

b. In the Mideast and tropical regions, the most common housing is the enclosed courtyard. Houses are added one to another with little regard to the street pattern. The result is a crooked, narrow maze, which is harder to move through or fire in than dense European areas (Figure H-20).

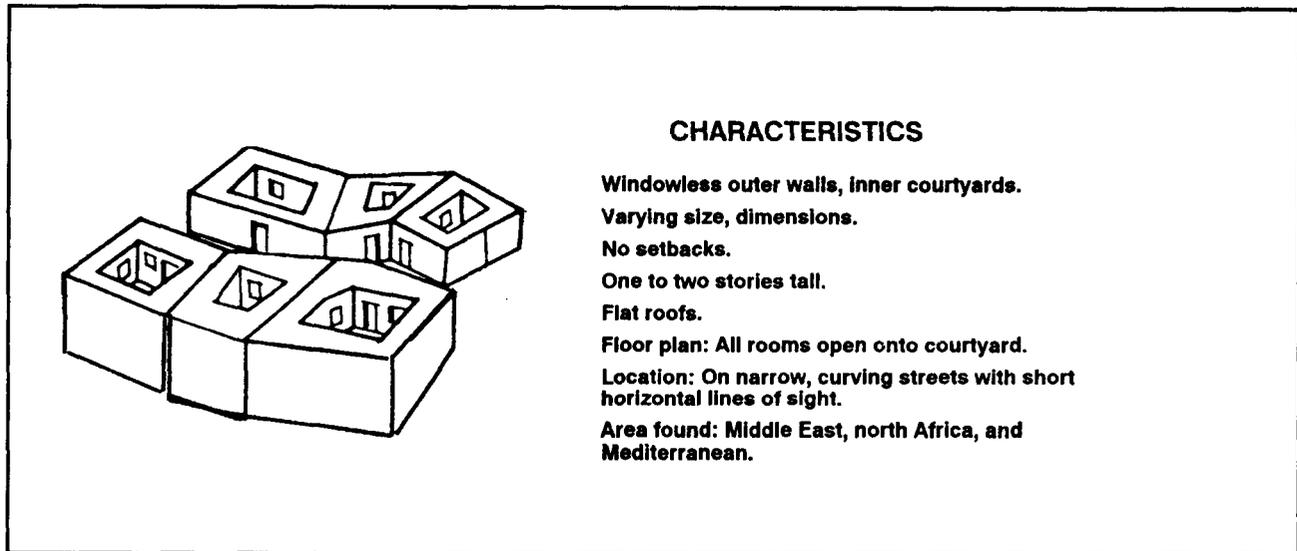


Figure H-20. Enclosed courtyard.

**H-5. CHARACTERISTICS OF BUILDINGS**

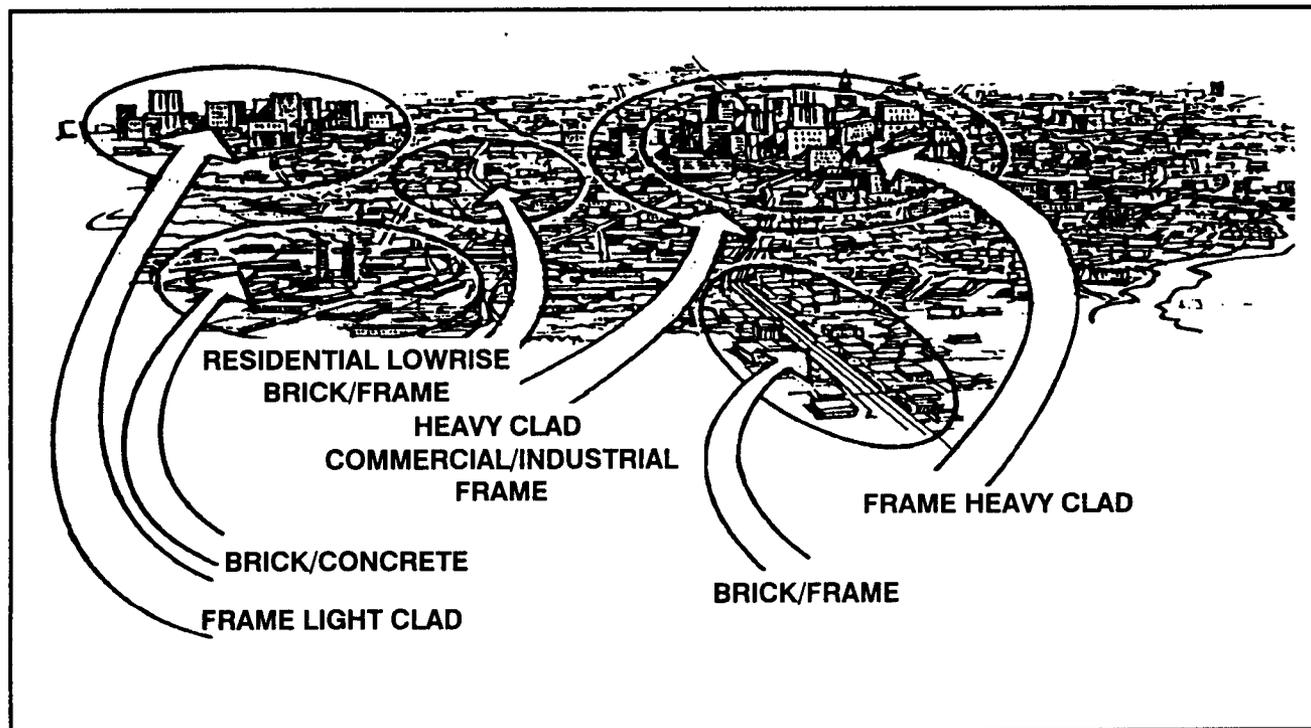
Certain characteristics of both mass-construction and framed buildings can be helpful in analyzing a built-up area. Leaders can use Table H-1 to determine how to defend or attack a certain building given the unit's available weapon systems.

TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION	BUILDING MATERIAL	HEIGHT (STORIES)	AVERAGE WALL THICKNESS (CM)
Mass	Stone	1 to 10	75
Mass	Brick	1 to 3	22
Mass	Brick	3 to 6	38
Mass	Concrete block	1 to 5	20
Mass	Concrete wall and slab	1 to 10	22 to 38
Mass	Concrete "tilt-ups"	1 to 3	18
Framed	Wood	1 to 5	3
Framed	Steel (heavy cladding)	3 to 50	30
Framed	Concrete/steel (light cladding)	3 to 100	2 to 8

Table H-1. Characteristics of buildings.

## H-6. DISTRIBUTION OF BUILDING TYPES

Certain types of buildings dominate certain parts of a city, which establishes patterns within a city. Analysis of the distribution and nature of these patterns has a direct bearing on military planning and weapon selection (Figure H-21).



**Figure H-21. Distribution of building types.**

a. Mass-construction buildings are the most common structures in built-up areas, forming about two-thirds of all building types. Brick structures account for nearly 60 percent of all buildings, especially in Europe.

b. Steel and concrete framed multistory buildings have an importance far beyond their one-third contribution to total ground floor area. They occupy core areas—a city's most valuable land—where, as centers of economic and political power, they have a high potential military significance.

c. Open space accounts for about 15 percent of an average city's area. Many open spaces are grass-covered and are used for parks, athletic fields, and golf courses; some are broad, paved areas. The largest open spaces are associated with suburban housing developments where large tracts of land are recreation areas.

d. Streets serving areas consisting of mostly one type of building normally have a common pattern. In downtown areas, for example, high land values result in narrow streets. Street widths are grouped into three major classes: 7 to 15 meters, located in medieval sections of European cities; 15 to 25 meters, located in newer planned sections of most cities; and 25 to 50 meters, located along broad boulevards or set far apart on large parcels of land. When a street is narrow, observing or firing into windows of a building across the street can be difficult because an observer is forced to look along

the building rather than into windows. When the street is wider, the observer has a better chance to look and fire into the window openings (Figure H-22).

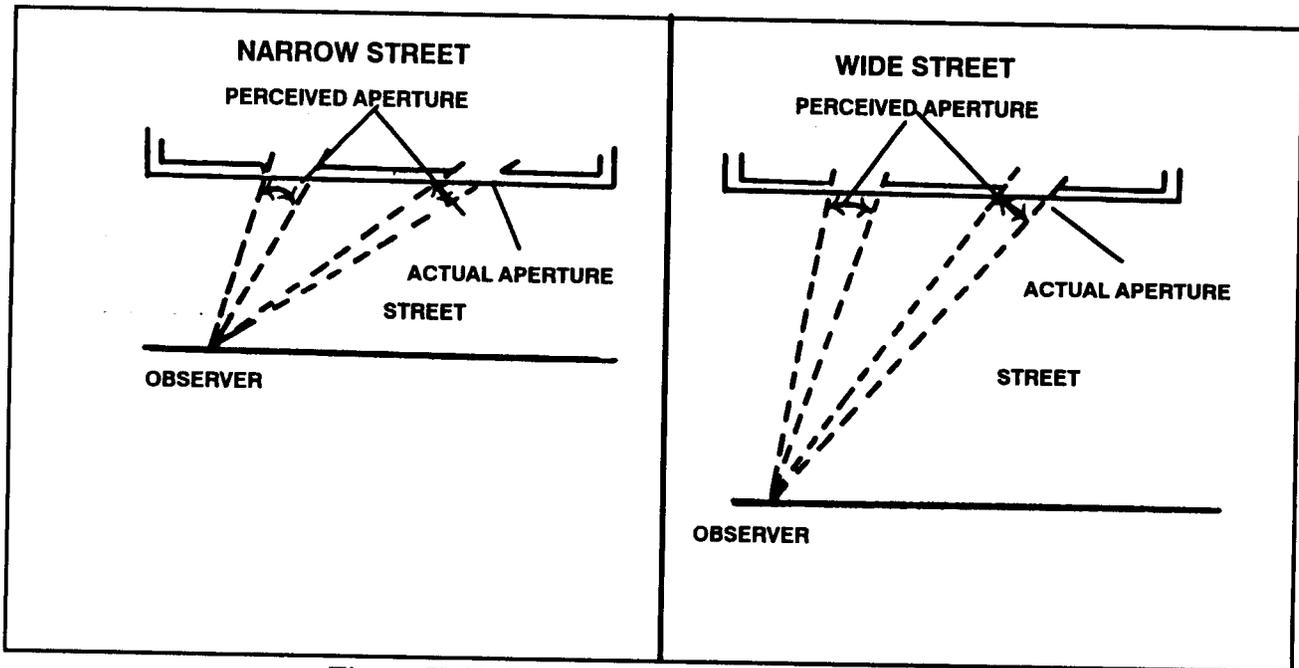


Figure H-22. Line-of-sight distances and angles of obliquity.