

## Architectonische toelichting op Nasa foto van een kasteel in Tenius Cavus, Mars, gespot door Andre Boudreau op 5/12/2019,

- Boudreau, A. (2019-b, 5 december). *Photo's from André Boudreau's Post, Tenius Cavus, PSP\_009166\_2650* [Facebookbericht]. Geraadpleegd op 15 december 2019, van <https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=10156807029766313&set=pcb.2654704351423853&type=3&theater>

Mail van K. Michael Hays ontvangen op 15/12/2019

If this structure were related to similar structures on earth, it would probably be European. The Russian castles tend to have thinner turrets and often “onion”-shaped tops. English and Irish (Norman) castles tend to be more rectangular. The Martian structure looks closer to German or French (chateau) examples. It would be a later style, not so much for defense as for show. It looks like a hilltop type. So, I would say it could be called “gothic Bavarian.” If it were on earth. But I suspect the story is more complicated than mere style. Since, as far as we know, Europeans never tried terraforming Mars, we must assume that this structure was built by indigenous Martians or, more likely I think, space traveling aliens. If it were indigenous, we would expect there to be other examples. If, instead, space traveling aliens came to Mars, they may have tried to settle in one place, as a test, building just one structure, but then leaving for some reason.

I suspect that is the case. The visitors to Mars would obviously have a high level of technology, but they would want to build quickly and efficiently. So they wouldn't take the time to carve stone or bake brick. Instead they might have used Martian soil, which comes from weathered volcanic rock and no organic matter. It has clay and silt-sized particles, so the builders could. The low strength of this material would help explain the arches used for the large openings at the bottom. The square openings

at the top must be built smaller because the material cannot bear long, straight spans. The rammed earth construction has a high thermal mass so it can hold heat, which was probably some sort of radiant-energy system, since they would have no wood. This is not a defensive structure. It is “representational” architecture, meaning its presence is as symbolic as it is functional. It means there was some social hierarchy, with a royal family or some other ruling group housed in this castle and a small village of more modest structures. The towers have decorative tops, which also may have incorporated some communication system. The complex volumetric organization suggests a sophisticated program, which probably included various domestic or religious rituals. It is all very interesting. – K. Michael Hays, (Harvard University)