

Ins and Outs of the Pigeons' Loft

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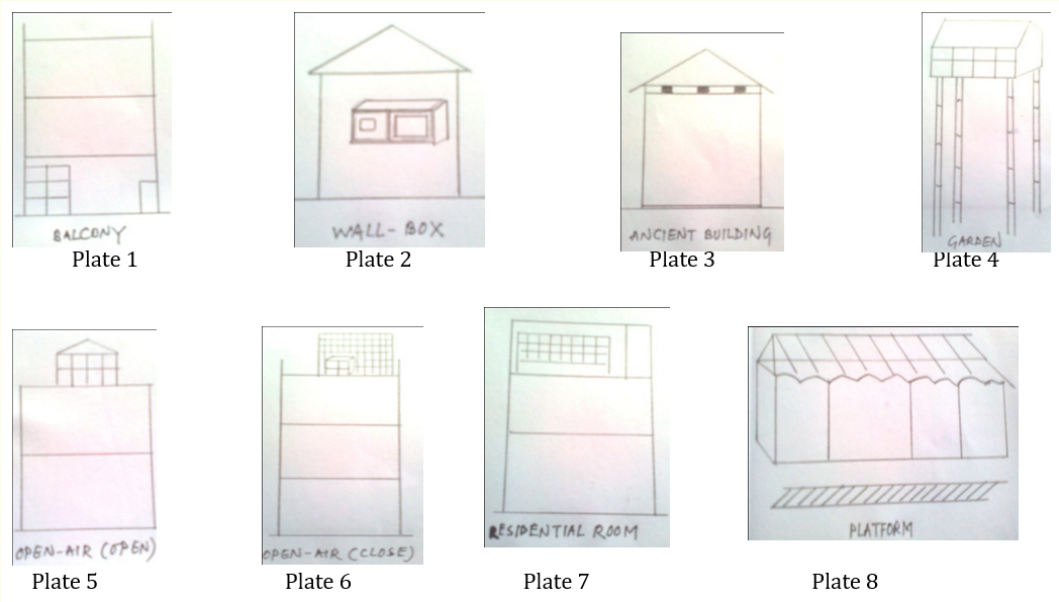
Most of the roof-top loft in Bangladesh is commercial. This study suggests that in smaller breed like Tumbler, Lotan, and Turbit it needs 12 × 12 × 12 inch and for large breed Runt needs 45 × 25 × 25 inch loft. For the medium size Racing Homer needs 24 × 18 × 18 and 18 × 16 × 12 inch loft. In case of tall breed like Pouter only height 18 inch is sufficient. In rural area of Bangladesh there most lofts are considered as garden or wall-box type. In rural areas, open places (in front of house) and in urban the roof-top were the best places for pigeon rearing. During the observation of those lofts, the rearers were interviewed with the researcher by sharing various merits and demerits of their lofts. Lofts' temperature (10° - 30° Celsius) was maintained by a thermometer where the humidity was below 65%. The droppings in the loft were the best indicator of the humidity levels. If humidity is less than 55% gave brown and greater than 65% green watery droppings.

Largest dovecotes with 14000 birds and were decorated with red marks to easily recognizable to the pigeons. Unbaked mud brick with mud was the raw materials for these lofts. Each chamber of loft was 20 × 20 × 27 cm. Pigeon towers were in circular and rectangular in shape. Typical tower was 12.25m × 4.45m at the base and rose 7 to 8m. Pigeons waste collected from the tower once a year. In 1660 a king first killed pigeon from the top of the tower in Iran. Since at the dawn of agriculture, Egypt and Middle East they first used pigeon wastes and in Iran and Central Anatolia of Turkey, we have seen lots of pigeon tower. Need to place the loft 5 metre away from the home. People used pigeon fertilizer for cultivation and made different types of dovecotes. For melon cultivation pigeon waste is good. Now for poultry raising, chemical fertilizer for urbanization and living style of human changes those dovecotes in Iran.

Loft size and number of pigeons: 10 breeding pairs need 6 square meters of floor area or 5 square feet of floor space for each pair of pigeons. For larger breed like Runt its length is 20" and after wingspan 40". Maximum length, width and height of the loft have 45 × 25 × 20 inch. For smaller Portuguese Tumbler, its length is 11.75" and its standard lofts length, width and height is 18 × 22 × 14 or 24 × 18 × 18 inch. Length and height of Pouter Pigeon is 12-13 " and 15 ". If the compartment size is too large it is difficult to catch birds. The best size sections are 6 inch higher than the fancier and 6 feet deep and 5 feet wide. For 25 birds 6 × 6 × 6 feet loft is enough. If we multiply of length, wide and height then divide the result by 15 or multiply length and wide then divide by two then we recognize the exact number of pigeons in loft.

Loft position and ventilation: The best lofts are positioned in the yard to get the most amount of sunlight. Waterproofing loft is a priority, because wet floors endanger the health of the birds. Concrete floors are not recommended in the race loft because they are cold and retain moisture, but this is good for the breeding. When the air inside the loft and if not passes then a ventilation is must.

In past, people reared pigeon only for their hobby. That time, they had no idea on its commercial value. After domestication, pigeons have got great advantages for living in their loft. For the larger variety, pigeon keepers make special type of iron rod loft with tray system. Proper ventilation and drainage system are the first priority in all commercial lofts. In order to get more benefit, a well-organized loft especially for the rare and expensive fancy breeds is important.



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