

# BURNING DOWN THE HOUSE: A PROJECT THAT IS AN INTERSECTION OF TRIBAL AND ACADEMIC INTERESTS

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This poster reports on a collaborative research project between CSU-Fresno Anthropology Department, UC San Diego and the Santa Rosa Rancheria (Tachi Yokut). The project is a wonderful model for possible future collaborations.

Baked clay or daub is an under appreciated piece of evidence from our past. Archeologists often find pieces or concentrations of daub in the old Native American village sites that occur in California's Central Valley and Foothills. They have not caught our imagination like arrow heads or maybe bedrock mortars, but they have quite a story to tell us if we know how to listen.



The end result of the burning was daub that looked very much like archeological examples that have been recovered. As part of her dissertation research Shelby Jones-Cervantes is looking at archeomagnetism which could help date these structures and the use of magnetometers which could help locate them.

One way to learn this story is by what is called Experimental Archeology. The basic idea is learning by doing. Collaborating with a former student of mine, Shelby Jones-Cervantes who is getting her doctorate at UC-San Diego and Santa Rosa Rancheria we built a traditional Tachi Yokut structure made of tules and earth covered, then burned it down to better understand daub.



Tribal members of Santa Rosa Rancheria were excited to see one of their traditional structures come to life and this work will help them demonstrate the significance of this piece of their rich cultural heritage.



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