

# Developmental and Structural Analysis of the Social and Cultural Changes and Its Effects on Local House in Turkmen, Gomishan and Gorgan

<sup>1</sup>Behnam Rajabifar, <sup>2</sup>Seyed Mostafa Mokhtabad-Amrei, <sup>3</sup>Farah Habib

<sup>1</sup>Ph.D. Department of Art and Architecture, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.

<sup>2</sup>Associate Professor, Tarbiat Modarres University, Tehran, Iran.

<sup>3</sup>Professor, Department of Art and Architecture, Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran.

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**ABSTRACT:** The Clarification of the field-oriented thought in Iranian contemporary architecture through the sociological knowledge model can be studied and analyzed as a comparative model as well as the location of the phenomena of Iranian contemporary society, especially architecture. Although sociology of knowledge must be able to control the cause of social and historical deviation in the context of Iranian architecture and identify ways by correct standards of human thought to guide the social phenomenon, such as Architectural. In this article, structural and evolutionary analysis methods and data collection tools such as in-depth interviews, observation and local navigation, documents analysis, photographs and fieldwork to observe and analyze the social behavior and cultural changes in the design of the house were used. At the end of this study, the concept of approach, methodology and understanding the operational range were mentioned, and then the impact and influence of culture on the architecture in native housing areas and vice versa in the cases of surveys area were analyzed.

**Keywords:** Native Housing, Social and Cultural Developments, Structural and Evolutionary Analysis in architecture, Sociology of knowledge.

## INTRODUCTION

Subsequently expanding the small cities and changes in community determining definition such as development (which in today's world with relativism and skepticism), the crisis and the deviations in understanding of social phenomena such as human relationships and its products such as architecture can be seen in many communities, especially contemporary Iranian society (Afrough, 1998; Pourjafar, et al., 2006; Conlantonio, 2007). The main target architecture audiences are people and architecture is the direct product of society and human relations. Architecture crisis is unconsciously among the people. The crisis is in the economic, social and cultural areas. The proof of this is the loss of cultural and social norms and values. This means that people who do not know what they want from an architect. It seems that an expert architect with deep study of the cultural, social, economic must find the best option for the audience. Without infrastructure at all relevant parts, the social, and architectural design make not only solve the problem, but

complicate the situation and causes double crises of architectural crisis (Golmohammadi, 1999; Shaikh Zainuddin, 1999). It is clear that the architectural crisis is rooted in epistemology and social fields. The social context of architecture based on specific cognitive domains, that is, flexible and adapted to today's society leading to social phenomena and innate creativity (Habib, 2001; Pourdeihimi, 2011). Many contemporary theorists complain about constraints in the epistemology of contemporary societies. Therefore, more research is required in the field of sociology and societal and architecture norms., It is essential to explain the epistemology of society, and social contexts of Iranian contemporary architecture, and is necessary to offer the ideas and suggestions to resolve the contradiction between sociology of Iranian contemporary architecture and pluralist in the world (Pajohandeh, 2001; Tavalae, 1999; Bremner, 1994).

In this study, the concept of approach, methodology and understanding the operational range were mentioned, and then the influence of culture on the architecture in native housing areas and vice versa in the case of surveys was analyzed.

\*Corresponding Author Email: [behnamrajabifar@yahoo.com](mailto:behnamrajabifar@yahoo.com)

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

Methods in this study were used as follow:

**Evolutionary analysis method:** In this method, the researcher does not define the concepts, but rather he tries to find the internal law developing according to the main law. Also, in this method, the social reality is not an external phenomenon that can be reasonably defined. The social reality is being dynamic that humans are part of it and it is formed and evolved through the verdicts and rules of social consensus rule in the development process.

**Structural analysis method:** It is most important method in this study and it is included the structure, scale, size, position, placement on the site and construction methods and social etiquette related to it.

**Data collection techniques:** In this thesis, the Turkmen house was investigated based on historical documents, descriptions, photographs, architectural drawings, a field work and reconnaissance in the area. First, lifestyles were investigated by dialogue with local Turkmens and then they were informed about study and the the interviews were done and questionnaires were collected. Therefore, the techniques were used as follows: "Depth interviews" with local residents to define dependent variables, "local view and navigation" to investigate ways of living, residential patterns and Turkmens lifestyles in Gomishan, "people participation" to collect information resources through the participation of local residents, "study documents" to study the effects of lifestyle and social, cultural and political developments, "Photography and fieldwork" for observing Turkmens social behavior and various ways of settlement and the latest techniques were "photography and take pictures," to show spaces and Evidence.

**Study population and sample:** The study population was the houses that located on the northern part of countries on the sidelines of the Caspian littoral with major emphasis on the Turkmen and Gomishan.

**Study domain:** The study domain was the eastern coast of the Caspian Sea and Golestan province especially Gomishan.

Turkmen Sahara is located in vast plain between 5/54 to 3/56 degrees eastern longitude, 36 to 38 degrees north latitude. It covers an area of 16,375 square kilometers. Plain height is higher from sea level, as we move towards the east, it is higher as far as it seems 38 meters in Gonbad. Atrak River on the border of Iran and the former Soviet Union (Turkmenistan) is located on the north of Turkmen and king farm is located at the south.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Evolutionary and Structural Analysis of Turkmen house

Turkmen farmers used to hut called "Oy» due to their constant mobility and to respond to economic and social needs."Oy" has long been the Turkmen house and it is best for their nomadic life and also it will be set up at short period. Actually "Oy "is the smallest social unit and the "Oy" is usually located on side of another "Oy" that belongs to their relatives and create the

smallest Turkmen socio-economic unit (Fig. 1).

The families within a tribe are living together with a little distance from other tribe in the villages. At one glance at the village, we can recognize economic and social units with each other. The Turkmen villages are Sporadic due to nomadic system. The materials in the surrounding environment were used in the construction of traditional houses. Wood has been used in housing in abundance. The most important reasons of this are the cultural factors, ownership and juniper forests. Northwest of Khorasan is owned by the Turkmen and they have taken juniper forests and other natural resources in the region. Written document is not available about the traditional architecture of the Turkmen and comprehensive scientific research has not been done in this regard. There is only briefly mentioned in some books of ethnography. Iranian Turkmen are living in the mountainous area, plains and coastal. When they established, Turkmens have a variety of houses. Four types of housing in these areas have been identified:

- Turkmen yurt (Oy);
- Beach house wood (Tam);
- Wood and brick House;
- Stone house in mountain areas.

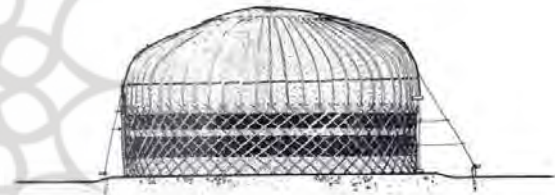


Fig.1: Turkmen Oy,

### Deployment practices of Oy (Priori Housing), Tom (Intermediate Housing) and New House (Posteriori Housing)

In addition to Turkmen house divisions due to climatic factors, it can be divided to three in the social and culture impressions: traditional housing, intermediate housing and new housing (modern). Also, it should be noted that the Turkmen are patriarchal, and they have a very large extended families with an authoritarian and despotic head before the twentieth century. The Turkmen community has a tribal structure. In this structure, Family Ties in one tribe are many important. The social division of labor is organized in the family form. The Oy establishment has been affected by chief living style in Turkmen. However, social and cultural fabric in modern housing does not affect establishment.

### The Spatial Development Patterns of Localization of Oy (Priori Housing), Tom (Intermediate Housing) and New House (Posteriori Husing)

There are three patterns:

**Central Spread pattern:** It was indicated by an interview with

local elder that the distribution of a large family or tribe was around the father and the tribal center in the old Oy. The reason was to respect for the elderly and social rules. This pattern can be seen as a common pattern.

**Sporadic Spread pattern:** This pattern has been seen if the father dies or the families have separated due to disputes.

**Tape and cumulative Spread pattern:** In some areas, especially in Tom (intermediate housing), this pattern has been used. Basis of this Dispersion is around a straight axis and occasionally as a ring. In most cases, impressive order cannot be seen in space layout.

The new pattern is roughly similar to elsewhere in Iran, with new residential complex, and based on municipal regulations, patterns and licenses in Iran as similar to other regions.

### The Formation of a Functional Diagram of House and Economic Activities and Livelihood

Turkmens house is directly related to the type of their livelihood. Not only is house a place of comfort, but also it is the where for cattle, stock food, dairy products and food preparation area, storage room for the production of wheat and barley and handicrafts (Felting, mat weaving, carpet weaving, needlework, etc.). "Oy" shows this property. Similar spaces are also available in Tom. But in modern house, any relationship is not observed within the economic and livelihood practices. Unfortunately, in the new housing according to other regions of Iran, special attention to modern housing elements can be seen like open kitchen, master bedrooms, privacy glass, and integrated space.

### Space Elements of Housing

At the beginning of industrialization, signs of Oy still can be seen in rural houses.

Space without walls, houses with limited room and open spaces without privacy division has been seen in the first built house on the shore of the Caspian sea in Gomishan, Khaja nafas, and Turkmen. Model of spatial organization and spatial elements is different in Tom. The most important feature of Tom spatial organization is coexistence of three types of space: Outdoor (courtyard), semi-outdoor (Ivan and Telare) and confined spaces (room). Each of these areas always has been used depending on the type of social relations with neighbors and relatives. Outdoor and semi-Outdoor (yard and Telar): Yard and Telar are considered two integral elements and it is very dynamic due to daily activities (cooking bread and animal stable). The traditional houses are made on the wooden foundation. In some cases, these are so tall that infrastructure remains blank. This space is usually used as animal shelters and in some cases as a warehouse or carpets workshop for women. However, often whereabouts or animals and plants barn are separated from main building. In some building, a place has been seen that called Talar (Telar) and was used as a comfort place for summer with a high wooden base that blank infrastructure is considered a place for keeping livestock. Confined spaces: Interior spaces have been formed one or more rooms, kitchen and bathroom. These closed spaces are multi-

functional spaces that all household activities such as eating, sleeping, sitting and family Sociability are doing there. Also, small niche in the wall and a large closet for clothes or bed can be seen indoors.

**Spatial structure of Turkmen house:**

Three spatial structures can be seen in Tom that has an effect on the home activities.

The first type is linear pattern that rooms layout are located around a central corridor. The second, which is based on joint cross pattern, corridor connecting is east - west on the first floor and north-south on the second floor. The stairs are in the far south east and northwest. The third one is mixed type in mud houses from Qrnaveh (Fig. 2).

- 1. linear pattern :** rooms layout are located around a central corridor.
- 2. cross pattern:** corridor connecting is east - west on the first floor and north-south on the second floor.
- 3. mixed pattern:** in mud houses

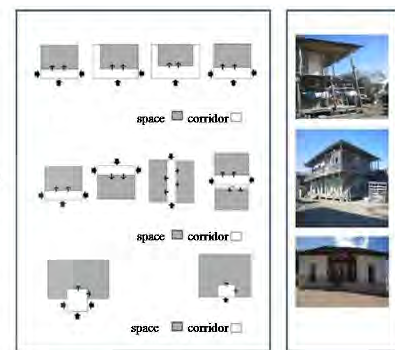


Fig. 2: Spatial structure of Turkmen house:

Over the years, the Culture of Turkmen Oy accommodation is remained as tradition and it is assimilation with the climate and livelihood functions and can even be said that the design of this type of buildings affected the modern buildings. Over the centuries, the Turkmen houses have been affected by two factor. First one is climate and local geography and second one is culture and the neighborhood with the northern neighbor of Iran, Russia (Qadiri, 2006; PoorKarimi, 1966; Kanani, 2000). In modern house also, significant differences in the ways of living and Turkmen housing can be seen. With the integration of culture in each other, there isn't an integrated culture that anthropologists study. In fact, a culture in general establishes the attitude of the environment, universe and life (Sarli, 2002; Afshar Naderi, 1999). This view of life creates a set of expectations of good house design and construction that must occur with standards and rules.

### The Influence of Turkmen Culture on the Housing

The form and function are two factors that reflect as follow (Ashtari, 1986; Kanani, 2000):

Sense (meaning of Turkmen settlements and physical standards and native house architecture);

Human (beliefs, customs, social and cultural changes in historical time);



Behavior (economic, social and livelihood behavior and changes of these in the history).

### Variability Criteria of the Turkmen House in the history

Turkmen beliefs and opinions, nomadic to sedentary lifestyles, government policies related to sedentary the tribes during Pahlavi, and even the type of livelihood and living conditions of rural life to urbanization are notable examples of specific changes that have an effect on the manner of next residential and the new houses (Bigdelli, 1986; Goli, 1987).

### Turkmen House Characters Resulting from the Socio-cultural Changes

These characters are necessarily resulted in the nature, but it should not be considered semantic content but has been seen in a variety of natural and human senses. Nature as the first Turkmen house is an important character. Turkmen desire to maintain beliefs, and traditions have shaped second characters. Finally, the components of the aesthetic and cultural utility have shaped third characters of Turkmen house (Bahraini & Tajbakhsh, 2008).

### CONCLUSION

It must be stated that the livelihood, economic activities and Turkmen lifestyle are most important effects on the type of Turkmen house. Turkmen life in Turkmen local house is the first reason why the indigenous settlements formed that has also endorsed by the findings of this study.

The second form of Oy refers to the ways of Turkmen life. In the third form, the most importance part is imagination and memories, and the sensory experience in the field of cultural cognitive component of Turkmen house.

In the end, the concept of culture is complex and difficult to understand without knowledge of related variables. Finally, this study about communication and interaction of culture and architecture helps to achieve the great place for social epistemological studies in architectural design field:

Since the advent of civilization has not suddenly occurred but gradually occurred, the biological body is the manifestation of civil life and also, it is required to continue this life. In order to continue these requirements, social organizations are essential.

If particular attention has been paid to the demands of life derived from social change in urban spaces and specific ethnic groups, urban and native houses and the related architecture would have the proper performance to design new houses.

The constructive interaction between architecture and culture is the most important, and is expected to further study and research in the cultural and architectural field. Review and analysis of residential units in terms of their use is more importance than the components of the design should be based on the needs and favorable assessment for those stationary .

The necessary instructions to respond to changes should be considered with regard to social structures and cultural needs in different geographical areas.

Finally, it is recommended that organizations, especially the ministry of Housing and Urban Development as the main agency should pay more attention to accommodate houses in the local culture in the country with Preparation "a comprehensive plan for house cultural studies" as an outreach document.

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