

## **Van Earthquake's Effects on Mud Brick Houses in Van and the Last Survived Buildings**



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### **ABSTRACT**

Van earthquakes have caused big damages and demolitions in the city center, districts and in villages. As a result of precautions works have been realized to remove its affects shortly. However it can be seen that the either urban or rural areas of the city carry the earthquake's traces. Damages that the earthquake left on the buildings are formed the most apparent and standing ones of the traces. Mud-brick buildings are the primary of those what damaged buildings both in the centre of Van and in villages. Especially roofs' collapsing and then walls' demolition for mud-brick houses which were abandoned, therefore were not maintained properly for a long time, are quite familiar situations after the earthquake. However inhabited and maintained houses have been survived sturdily by contrast of other houses with modern materials and they helped life to continue after the earthquake. In this study, mud-brick houses which were survived after earthquakes in Van and in the villages will be discussed. Reasons for demolition of those demolished and the qualities of those surviving ones will be scrutinized. It is going to be discussed how the mud-brick material which is distinguishing and struggling to gain it deserves as an ecological material today to resist against natural disasters sturdily when it is applied in decent way in scope with examples in the city of Van. Purpose of this study is to document right and wrong usage of the mud-brick materials with examples.

**Keywords:** Mud-brick houses at Van, Effects of the earthquake on mud-brick houses, Van Rural Areas