

## **An Urban Fabric Mainly Based On Adobe: The Old City of Van**



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### **ABSTRACT**

In this study, housing pattern in Van city which is located on a seismic belt in Eastern Turkey and majority of which is in ruins today, is being examined. As a result of examination in place and literature studies it is observed that old city is mainly built of earthen material except monumental structures. The mentioned area which was registered as ‘‘Archeological Site Area’’ in 1979 was excluded from today’s city of Van and left functionless. This area which is an important footstep of the past is almost left to death. However these old city ruins which were composed of earthen (having low production cost but high heat insulation value) civilian buildings provide most suitable living conditions for the user in every season. The conveyal of these old city ruins to the future seems to be important. The aim and expectation of this study evaluated in this context is to remind the forgotten face of adobe which is an ecological construction material once again together with this old city pattern. On the other hand in recent years it is well known that technological developments which have global effects have also important positive impact on quality and comfort conditions in production of structures (which are most basic element of artificial environment) such as functional, figural, rigidity and aesthetic measures expected by consumers. However despite of all positive effects, the negative effects of technological developments on environment and human health have been neglected. Abandonment of traditional materials and usage of high tech materials (high tech required in production and usage stages) implied environmental pollution which can no longer be cleaned by the nature. As a result a tendency towards local-natural construction materials occurred paying attention to environmental protection, requiring low energy and providing maximum comfort with minimum energy during its usage and these materials, most important of all, are recyclable. Earthen which above mentioned natural materials continues to be an environment sensitive ecological construction material with minimum energy requirement starting from production to consumption. At the study of which aiming to remind the forgotten importance of adobe construction material (in light of the finding obtained); the importance of planning and protection studies in Archeological Site Area composed of ruins of Van city was emphasized. As a result of projecting studies depending on scientific data, redounding life to the region by reconstructing some of the adobe building ruins and revealing the city pattern and reconstructing awareness about earthen which is a local material constitute the conclusion part of the study.

**Keywords:** Adobe building, archeological site, reconstructing.