

## How much from Heritage?



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### ABSTRACT

Architecture, emerged to protect all living creatures from the negative effects of the environment. Then it progressed to create a better quality of life for them to survive their different functional needs. The first architectural formation was built by natural materials which were given from nature. Later they produced new natural materials and used them in their construction. In their nature form they have natural insulation. This helps to create a suitable and comfortable internal atmosphere for the users. On the other hand, plan organization, architectural features and their ratios were shaped by existing environmental inputs. This process helped to realize the “heritage”, which include common historical values, character, identity and traditional outcomes. In recent years, with new technology, new materials like concrete, steel, .... were produced. Because they need less manpower, are less time consuming, are more economic and are appropriate for the construction of long span, they were preferred to be used in the construction of buildings. Due to the lack of natural insulation, their usage adversely affected the comfort of the internal space. Besides that, architectural feature ratios, their plan types, reflection of site inputs on the building were affected by the rise of the cost of the site. This formation was clearly observed in housing scales, which were the most important shelter of the user.

Cyprus Nicosia traditional houses were formed during the Ottoman period. They were built in the walled city on Lusignan and Venetian building foundations. These traditional houses were built from natural materials -adobe, stone- which existed nearby. After the Ottoman and during the British period, the city was extended from the city walls and yellow stone was used as a building material. Building plan and their architectural feature ratios were shaped with the existing climatic and living style of the city. But this building formation changed in recent years because of the rise of the cost of the site and new technology. This new formation did not answer specifically the needs of the house users. They are unsuitable for climatic factors and do not create a comfortable internal space for its users. In this research, the main aim is to analyze of the building materials, plan organization and architectural features of traditional houses which were the witness of history and are mentioned as an architectural “heritage”, and by using the “heritage” to solve today’s house user’s problems.

**Keywords:** Building material, house, heritage, Nicosia.