

Preserving the traditional "Wind Catchers" to preserve the urban identity



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Abstract

City of "Yazd" is well known as city of "Baud – Geers"¹ (Wind catcher or wind towers). Baud – Geers have become part of the identity of "Yazd", an exemplar of a desert city in coping with natural forces for many centuries.

During the past decades, the living patterns of the traditional people have changed. People have been leaving the old city fabric to move to newly developed sections and the families that have chosen to live in the traditional houses, have mostly been forced or chosen to follow the modern ways of living to have a more comfortable environment. Traditional ways of living in traditional courtyard house has not fulfilled the need of today's families and summer section of the house has not been used or has been used differently than before. Relatively cheap and mechanically logical water coolers have replaced the use of the Baud – Geers, so, these magnificent elements of traditional Iranian architecture are exposed to wear and probable destruction.

This paper aims at proposing the ways to bring back the Baud – Geers use, so the people will gain the motivation for caring and repairing the structural and architectural conditions of Baud – Geers as a useful element. After explaining the design, construction and climatic characteristics of the case study (The Baud – Geer of "Rasoulia House", past and present use), the selected design strategy and its components will be presented and finally some guides for action will conclude the paper.

The results of climatic analysis of the present use of the Baud – Geer showed that the present use of the Baud – Geer will not bring the space cooling requirements to comfort level. The strategy to make the Baud – Geer work as suction effect and force the cool air from the "Cellar" to circulate through the space is considered as a suitable and logical proposal to bring the Baud – Geers back to life again.

Finally the last part will explain the evaluation procedure of the selected and proposed design solution and will conclude how the design could proceed for action phase.