

Evaluation of the Spatial Organization of Adobe Houses in Rural Van Province: The Case of Özalp



Berfin Şeker¹, Şefika Ergin²,

İbrahim Halil Şeker³

^{1,2} Dicle University, Diyarbakır

³ Bingöl University, Bingöl

brfseker@gmail.com

erginsefika@gmail.com

ihseker@bingol.edu.tr

ABSTRACT

Rural architecture, shaped by accumulated knowledge and experience, is a unique example that deserves preservation not only for its adaptation to physical environmental conditions but also as a socio-cultural reflection. Examples of rural architecture developed to suit the climate of their region have the potential to contribute to user comfort, especially in rural settlements. In this context, adobe houses in the rural areas of Van province, where a cold climate prevails, exhibit balanced spatial organization characteristics in response to the cold climate conditions. Users spend their daily lives indoors, due to the region's cold climate. In the adobe houses examined in the rural Mollatopuz neighborhood of Özalp, the orientation, dimensions, and functionality of the room openings are designed to balance the indoor temperature. The tandır rooms in the adobe houses stand out not only for their function of heating, cooking, and hot water supply but also as a cultural gathering place. The connections between the interior, exterior, and central sofas in the houses are organized to create a buffer zone against external weather conditions. In addition to the spatial organization, the wall and roof structure of the houses incorporates measures taken against the long and harsh winter season. In addition to climatic characteristics, the activities required by livestock farming, the region's main source of livelihood, have been a significant factor shaping the spatial organization of the houses. The construction of storage areas and stables within the houses, adjacent to the tandır room, allows for the utilization of the tandır's heat. The unique adobe architectural examples located in the Mollatopuz neighborhood of the Özalp countryside are facing the threat of extinction due to abandonment, neglect, and non-original interventions in the face of changing living conditions. Documenting, preserving, and passing on these adobe houses, which possess unique qualities in terms of materials and spatial organization, as an architectural and cultural value is crucial for their continuation into the future.

KEY WORDS:

Rural Architecture, Adobe House, Tandır Room