

Cultural Architectural Heritage Element: The Harran Example



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ABSTRACT

Historic urban areas, reflecting a pattern of climate, building materials, traditions, and ethnic groups, are historical environments that must be preserved due to the cultural values they carry. Many of our cities possess unspoiled examples of civil architecture that have preserved their old character. The revitalization and functionalization of urban fabrics in accordance with contemporary conditions are crucial for their social, economic, and cultural quality, as well as for the transmission of knowledge to future generations, serving as a vital historical and cultural factor. For societies whose ties to the past are beginning to be severed, architectural values serve as the most concrete examples for defining and promoting their history, transmitting it to future generations or nations, and meeting their needs.

Architecture, as an element of cultural heritage, plays a role in transmitting its values to future generations without losing them. This study examines the architectural features of historical residential buildings in Harran, which are part of our cultural heritage, and their importance in preserving them for the future. The aim of the study is to examine how the Harran Historical City Center, which possesses cultural heritage architecture, can be preserved and passed on to future generations through its use. The selected area is presented under the title "Harran Historical Residential Center". Harran Historical City Center is located within the borders of Harran district, forty-four km south of Şanlıurfa province. Harran is at the intersection of roads in the South-North and East-West directions. Harran is located within an ellipse-shaped city wall that is approximately four km long. Architectural design, building elements, materials properties and construction techniques of the domed buildings in Harran have been examined. The factors that led to the emergence of domed houses in Harran appear to be climate, architectural and living culture, as well as local materials and natural environmental factors.

The structural characteristics of houses in the Harran region of Şanlıurfa, which represent the domed residential architecture within the borders of Türkiye, have been examined. The reuse of the domed houses in Harran, which have survived to the present day but are empty and neglected due to lack of use, is of great importance. In conclusion, it is expected that the preservation of the Harran domed houses, which are endangered and have cultural heritage value in the region, will ensure the continued existence of cultural heritage.

KEY WORDS: Cultural Heritage, Architectural Features, Harran.