

MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION TECHNIQUES USED IN THE RESTORATION OF VAN TAHIR PASHA MANSION



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ABSTRACT

The initial examples of Van's residential architecture were formed until 1915 in the Old City of Van, located south of the historic Van Fortress. Traditional Van houses were constructed as one- and two-story attached structures with flat earthen roofs in the Old City of Van. During the occupation of Van between 1915 and 1918, residential buildings, along with many architectural structures in both contemporary Van and the Old City of Van, were completely burned and destroyed. After 1918, the houses previously built as vineyard/summer houses within modern Van were arranged in a detached layout with courtyards, vineyards, and gardens due to the vastness of the land. One of the structures damaged by the Russians and Armenians when abandoning Van was the Tahir Pasha Mansion. Following the return of the local population to Van in 1918, Mustafa Dilaverzade, who served as an officer in the Van court, settled in the mansion. Reflecting the characteristics of Van's traditional residential architecture, the Tahir Pasha Mansion was used by its property owners until 1995. In 1979, the Tahir Pasha Mansion was registered as a first-degree protected historic monument. The restoration of the mansion was completed in 2025 in accordance with its original state. The restoration work on the structure was carried out by master craftsmen and laborers from Afghanistan. Traditional construction techniques and local materials were used during the restoration of the Tahir Pasha Mansion. The construction of the mansion was completed using adobe as the primary material, along with rubble and ashlar stone, timber, brick, mud plaster, and cass plaster. The Tahir Pasha Mansion will be utilized by the Governorship of Van and the property owner, Elmas Öztürk, for cultural and artistic activities in the city. The mansion features a detached layout, two stories, an interior hall (iç sofa), double facades, more than two rooms, a kiosk (köşk), and a flat earthen roof.

KEY WORDS: Tahir Pasha Mansion, Adobe, Flat Earthen Roof, Mud Plaster, Timber Lacing