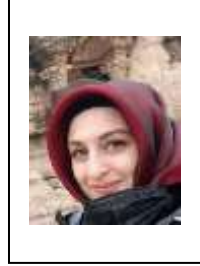


The Tradition of Earthen Architecture and Conservation Issues in Şanlıurfa: An Evaluation of the Andaç Hora Settlement



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ABSTRACT

Adobe is a traditional building material that has been used in Anatolia for centuries and is particularly well-suited to semi-arid climatic conditions. Thanks to the availability of materials and local environmental conditions throughout Şanlıurfa Province, the tradition of adobe construction—which was once widespread, especially in rural areas—has seen a significant decline in use today due to factors such as the availability of new materials and socio-economic transformations. Many structures built with adobe have been abandoned and have disappeared without being documented. Research on adobe structures in Şanlıurfa Province has generally focused on domed structures found in the rural areas of Harran and Suruç. To address this gap, this study aims to examine adobe structures in the Andaç (Hora) settlement, which is part of Harran District—structures built by local master builders but now abandoned and facing various conservation challenges—and to identify these conservation issues. In this context, a literature and archival review regarding the Andaç (Hora) settlement was first conducted; subsequently, a field survey was carried out to document the traditional mudbrick structures in the settlement through photographs. In the final stage, the factors contributing to the deterioration of these structures were analyzed based on field observations and interviews with local residents. The preservation and documentation of these structures—which have been damaged due to neglect, abandonment, and natural factors—and their transmission to future generations are of great importance for the sustainability of local identity. This study offers a unique dataset for the sustainability and transmission of the local identity—which is currently at risk—by adopting a comprehensive approach to the mudbrick architecture of the Andaç Hora settlement, a rural area in Şanlıurfa that has received little prior attention.

KEY WORDS:

Vernacular building tradition, Earthen architecture, Conservation issues, Andaç (Hora) Settlement, Şanlıurfa.