

The Old Texture Houses of Gorgan (A Look at Khorasani House)

Eskandar Mokhtari Taleghani¹, Seyed Mohsen hoseini foojerdi², Shahrzad Aynечи³

¹Art Research,P.h.D ,Art &Architecture Faculty Islamic Azad University,Central Tehran branch
^{2,3}Repair&Reduction of Historical Buildings and Textures Islamic Azad university, Tehran Branch

ABSTRACT

This article aims to introduce the historical house of Khorasani located in Sarcheshmeh district, Gorgan, and identifying this valuable building in order to reestablish it and rehabilitation of this ancient texture.

Key words: Gorgan, historical texture, Sarcheshmeh district, historical house of Khorasani.

1. INTRODUCTION

Old texture and its urban elements and their tie with new texture illustrate a clear image from structural and observable characteristics of Gorgan like scale, form, and architecture location and style; the texture that has fostered historical and religious roles since far past.

What has been remained from Qajar architecture today are several houses built all around Iran. Qualitative and quantitative comparison of these constructs with state buildings indicates the premier idea, further evolution and independency of non-governmental system and public classes.

City texture, districts and public houses either aristocrats or middle class indicate the importance of private ownership, independency domain, choice power and diversity and also lack of interference and limitation of government.

Economical condition and community wealth, however, is disappointing it is easy to understand from the form and mixture of districts and especially houses with patterns for private life, family privacy, neighborhood units, and keeping local and cultural values that the shape of public classes had been in accordance with social situation of citizens.

Therefore, the purpose of this article is to review the characteristics of old texture houses, in Gorgan, and especially Khorasani house because of paying more attention from people and authorities side to this worthy building.

2. THEORETICAL REVIEW

2-1-introduction to historical texture and architecture characteristics of Gorgan:

Living position of people who are living together forms a texture. A texture consists of people residential houses, economic, religious, military and service centers.



Imamzadeh Nour-Saljughi
A view of existing streets on Sarcheshmeh districts

*Corresponding Author: Eskandar Mokhtari Taleghani, Associate Professor of Psychology, Islamic Azad University, Sari branch, Iran.

Each texture according to people traditions, past generation knowledge, kind of people activities, and the geographical area located in involves its own architecture and form. The architecture of each texture based on the climate features of that certain area has a specific form. But each texture with each architecture consists of common elements without it is impossible to call that is a texture. For instance the residential houses are the most important factor for making a texture.

2-2-the status of residential houses of texture:

The texture residential houses are divided into two classes based on the economic condition of a family:

1. Aristocrats classes and a part of middle- class
2. Lower and poor middle- classes.

The buildings yards are closed by thick, long and tall walls that often they were located in two stories and inside existed a big yard full of trees especially citrus.

The second floor was imminent to alley from outside and had a wooden balcony that its construction was due to security problems and the buildings mainly were made of brick and had large and separate rooms.

These rooms were connected together and decorated by wooden porch designed with wooden fences and big figured columns.

Many of rooms specially dining room possessed beautiful stucco , shelves and steep and clay roofs have been installed on wooden strong truss that often stick out 1 to1.5 meters in order to prevent from smash of rain on windows and walls.

The toilet was located in the corner of basin at the center of yard and crypt under the building. Crypts were basements that went 20 stairs down from the floor and ended to a 1*1.5 meter milieu that were used because of being cold for storing foods.

In homes there were a sewage system connected to some nearby neighbors and mutually carried whole swage out in the alley or a specific place. The courtyard was nicely decorated by paving and windows were wooden and netted and hardly with pretty fretwork. A few of them got paving.

Some of windows got sliding closed and open. The facade of aristocratic buildings had rectangular openings with ogee arches semi-circle were used in Qajar period by middle classes.

Entrance door was made of wood and very thick, its façade was decorating by metal flowering shrup. This door got cloned from behind by a piece of wood had horizontal movement, then by another small piece of wood named "kheyzeh" located vertically inside clone locked. The portals were decorated by brick and plaster and sometimes the top semi-circle ogee got decorated with arabesque or verses tracteries.

The middle and lower class had small yards paved by river cobblestones. The decorations were insignificant and the buildings were often covered by adobe with cob cover. Every building had two or three rooms that were connected together by a balcony upraised one meter from the floor.

The courtyard had a matbakh (kitchen), a small warehouse(Andar-khaneh),a reservoir at the middle of yard, crypt and canal (O-ra).the door and windows were wooden and simple ,the roofs covered by clay and stand on wooden columns. Inside rooms there was no decoration and only a few ninches and shelves were significant. The courtyard door had no decoration except two seats were made outside for temporary stay.

3. An introduction to Khorasani house:

The historical Khorasani house is one of remained buildings from late Qajari period that is located in Sarcheshmeh district, Gorgan , near Imamzadeh Nour. It is divided into two northern and southern parts in which southern building is more important than northern part. Its architecture is totally introvert and is constructed in two stories and one half-story.the access way to both northern and southern part goes over southern part that in southern part the door opens into and in northern part after opening to a big corridor it enters the yard.



Khorasani house entry
Southern view of southern building

3-1-description of southern building:

In southern part of building the main construction exists that is in L shape and is built in western and northern yard and is in two stories and one half-story which reaching the upstairs is through two rows of stairs located in northern and western part. The northern stairs is spiral and western one is simple that in two sides of northern stairs two three-door rooms and a dome is built. In the second floor this plan has been rebuilt.

In this building most of rooms are located in second floor and in northern part that the first floor rooms due to the half-story have higher altitude than second floor. The whole building is built on a cathedra by 80 centimeter height considering rooms it is about 6 meters height.

Main materials in the building are 20*20 centimeter bricks are arranged by plaster. Pillars of building are about 80 centimeter thick. In highest point on the wall some thick wooden rolling – pins are installed that because of lengthy size have surrounded and hanked all of walls.

And this skein has a 20*20 size it has to be said that the cathedra is netted kind called “Gorbe-e-ro”. The building pillars by creating arches and shelves are lightened and often on the top of doorway the shelves are established that except making a space for putting things on help lightening of pillars.



Ceiling coverage of stairs with puncheon, mud and reed
available Shelves and arches inside building

The shelves and ceiling coverage on second floor is in ogee form and on second floor is flat. The room light is provided through windows, sashes and inscriptions that open to the small yard. The first floor coverage has been done by mud and reed that the puncheons are installed close together to have more strength.

In the first floor coverage with pillars prominence towards north a wooden corridor located outside building has been created that has one meter wide. This corridor that is called “pishkan” in local architecture style functions as a connection to rooms and on the other hand by making a barrier prevents the rain to come in rooms. The building coverage is gable roof with clay that is prominent for 2 meters in order to keep rain coming in and therefore banish water on roof.



Prominence of pillars for creating Pishkan which the Quran verses are curved
Date 1295

Inside rooms there is stucco that has been removed at present but in northern octagonal these stucco has been remained more can be seen on walls in form of mouth teeth and relief decorations. In spite of all of attempts for keeping humidity in building architecture unfortunately the humidity has percolated inside the building that attention must be paid to.

3-2: decorations:

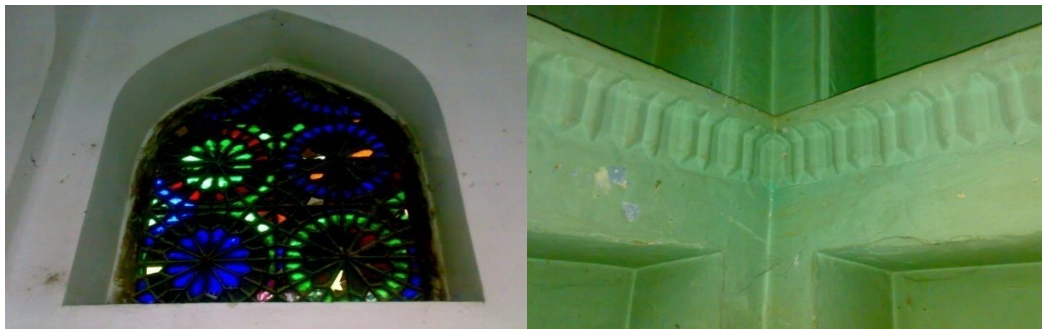
1. Plaster decorations that can be seen in form of relief and mouth teeth.
2. Dome and wooden netted windows with color windows and carving of Quran verses.
3. Decorations and drawings lower surface of head windows with flowering and shelves that in spite of elegance functions as lightening of pillars.

3-3: building form:

Suitable placement of open and close spaces with general and specific function

- Proper skylight by wooden sliding and ceiling coverage in accordance with temperate and wet climate of Iran (clay)

The general form of building is in form of a perpendicular rectangular (L) and this is the best possible form for using air circuit for conditioning and use of light in this ecology. The openings in northern and southern part are more than other parts. Using dome in southern part is more for lightening and in upstairs also there is a balcony and in winter it can use from winter sunshine.



Color windows and skylight, decoration in form of mouse teeth

The building stretch is eastern-western and has a narrow width that is one of main characteristics of temperate and wet climate. Windows are without glasses but are two part and wooden and this shows the privacy keeping that is one of interior architecture and keeping privacy in Iranian architecture. Also the .of building structure is in accordance with ecological problems and need to create air circuit and at least in general from two directions of north and south to free space (private yards or street) is connected.

Need to use local useful winds (southern northern and mountainside) and also past social life conditions in form of extended family are among the main reasons for the establishment of residential buildings in comparison to lands and streets. The average free and closed space is 60% to 40% respectively.

The main parts of building are in the form of cubes perpendicular to eastern-western axis. The linear form of building in combination with buildings with side function like balcony-warehouse and kitchen forms the surrounded yard. Rain water also collected with woods around the house .in southern part of building there is chimney that was winter living room.

Main living building spaces in two upstairs floors are considered for spring and summer ad downstairs for fall and winter.



Wooden decoration, netted skylight- wooden decorations-dome

4. Conclusion:

Valuable historical and cultural textures and buildings of our country are full of worthy concepts that because of lack of sufficient attention are tiring.

These types of buildings along with having importance economically and general welfare, keep our touch with past to learn more from their experiences. Recovery of an old building has several values means making it alive.

On the other hand their proper function guarantees their persistence within time passage since a no performance building will disappear sooner or later.

The old textures because of having different values and more importantly the continuation of cultural memory have the restoration and prevention value. And since the prevention of past is an attempt in finding logical and true way for future, it's our job to take the responsibility and deliver the past to the future.

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