

A Study on Architectural Characteristics of Traditional Iranian Ordinary Houses in Mashhad, Iran

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Abstract : In many Iranian cities including Mashhad, the capital of Razavi Khorasan Province, ordinary samples of domestic architecture on a small scale is not considered as heritage. While the principals of house formation are respected in all traditional Iranian houses; from moderate to great ones. During the past decade, Mashhad has lost its identity, and has become a modern city. Identifying it as the capital of the Islamic Culture in 2017 by ISESCO and consequently looking for new developments and transfiguration caused to demolish a large number of traditional modest habitation. For this reason, the present paper aims to introduce the three undiscovered houses with the historical and monumental values located in the oldest neighborhoods of Mashhad which have been neglected in the cultural heritage field. The preliminary phase of this approach will be a measured survey to identify the significant characteristics of selected dwellings and understand the challenges through focusing on building form, orientation, room function, space proportion and ornamental elements' details. A comparison between the case studies and the wealthy domestically buildings presents that a house belongs to inhabitants with an average income could introduce the same accurate, regular, harmonic and proportionate design which can be found in the great mansions. It reveals that an ordinary traditional house can be regarded as valuable construction not only for its historical characteristics but also for its aesthetical and architectural features that could avoid further destructions in the future.

Keywords : traditional ordinary house, architectural characteristic, proportion, heritage

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