

## **The Concept of “in situ structures” and The Spirituality of Earthen Architecture**



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### **ABSTRACT**

We frequently find structures that do not ‘fit into’ their environs. They are not part of their surroundings because they are in ‘poor form’ and they are ‘lifeless’. These structures, you can also take them as rigid monologues if you wish, have nothing to do with the spiritual needs of the individuals they shelter nor do they have any relation with the ecological cycles of the topography they appertain to. Today, a building, can be designed in one country and constructed in another, in other words, a design of one culture is being implemented in another. They are detached of their topography, erected and standing cursorily, it does not matter where they are, they do not belong anywhere. Whereas, architecture has such a huge impact on human being, the environment and naturally the globe itself, it is irresponsibility to let it be an instrument for design and fashion trends.

Although most of them were not designed by an architect, the earthen structures of yesterday constitute the disregarded, unconventional part of the structure world and they strive to save us from the limited imagination perceived as architecture. Today, this increasingly forsaken cultural inheritance, as relics of the past will be turned back to earth tomorrow, just like living bodies. At the end of its function, we will see the adobe structure will turn out to be soil instead of regular waste material.

Gaia, trying to save us from the limitations of today’s commercial architecture, aims before anything else its imaginary earthen structures to be a part of their location and surroundings. If we define the ‘ecological movement’ as “constructing environmentally friendly buildings” holistic approach would be missing. Here, holistic approach has an interdisciplinary form embracing spirituality. The “in situ structures” integrated with their surroundings and environment, offer the richness of modesty. They are erected from the ground they stand on and they turn back to earth in the end, on the same spot. If we only can see, they can demonstrate us how ‘much’ ‘little’ can be.

### **KEY WORDS :**

In situ structures