

## Earthen Beehive Domes of Northern Syria



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### ABSTRACT

The beehive dome vernacular architectures constitute a cultural and architectural heritage, as well as a technique, shared between the Orient and the Occident. The “tholos” domes, or “beehive” cupolas, result from an ancient tradition of construction, which produced traditional architectures and rural and urban habitations characterized by environmental performances in hot and dry climate regions.

The Syrian architectural culture of the earthen beehive domes “*qubab*” is rich and varied: the habitations with domes in Syria, realized in raw earth, can be found as little groups of habitations or bigger villages composed of hundreds of domes. A certain number of inhabited or still maintained villages can be found in the regions of Aleppo, Hama, as well as in some scattered zones in the east of the country, along the Euphrate River.

There are only very few studies interested in constructions with domes in Syria, although they represent one of the most interesting particularities from the Syrian traditional architecture, and constitute an important chapter of a shared heritage in the Mediterranean area.

This Culture 2007 project, focused on a strong interdisciplinary approach, is implemented in cooperation between the Syrian authorities in charge of Culture and Heritage and a group of European specialized institutions (I, F, B, E, GR) with complementary profiles and competencies.

### KEY WORDS :

tholos, dome, Alep, earthen dome architecture