

Characteristics and Distribution of Rural Dwellings in the Diyarbakir Basin: Traditional Architecture and Natural Environment Relations



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ABSTRACT

Rural settlements in the Diyarbakir Basin have a unique architectural texture shaped by the lithological, topographical, and climatic conditions of their geographical environment. In this study, the cultural ecology relationship between the construction materials, structural forms, and distribution of traditional rural dwellings in the basin and the natural environment is examined. Depending on the geological diversity of the basin, three main materials stand out in rural architecture: "basalt" stone dwellings in the southwestern parts of the basin where the Karacadağ shield volcano is effective; massive "limestone" dwellings on the borders of the Southeastern Taurus Mountains and the Mardin-Midyat Threshold; and "adobe" (mudbrick) dwellings in the wide alluvial plains along the Tigris River. As an adaptation to the severe summer heat and winter cold of the region, thick-walled and small-windowed structures are preferred, while the lack of precipitation and insufficient forest cover have revealed a "flat earthen roof" culture in rural areas. Towards the mountainous and rugged areas, in order to adapt to the topography, the houses expanded vertically rather than horizontally; tiered, two-story stone house types with a stable on the ground floor were developed. However, today, with the development of the transportation network and economic transformations, this ecological and traditional architecture, which is in harmony with nature, is rapidly being abandoned, leaving its place to reinforced concrete structures that destroy the rural architectural identity.

KEY WORDS :

Diyarbakır Basin, Rural Dwelling, Traditional Architecture, Cultural Ecology, Geographical Environment.