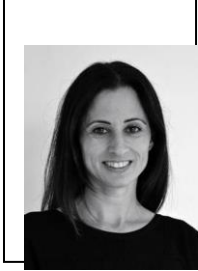


Earthen Heritage: Adobe Housing Traditions of Alaniçi Village, Northern Cyprus



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ABSTRACT

Traditional rural architecture in Northern Cyprus constitutes a significant component of the island's cultural and architectural heritage. Over centuries, this heritage has evolved through the continuous interaction between environmental conditions, local building materials, socio-economic structures, and everyday cultural practices. Among these materials, adobe has played a central role in shaping vernacular residential architecture, owing to its local availability, thermal performance, low environmental impact, and suitability for the Mediterranean climate.

This study examines the traditional residential architecture of Alaniçi village, where adobe-based housing continues to reflect long-established rural building practices in Northern Cyprus. The research aims to analyze the spatial and typological characteristics of existing adobe houses, document traditional construction techniques, and assess current conservation problems. A qualitative methodology is adopted, based on field observations, architectural surveys, photographic documentation, and typological analysis.

The findings suggest that adobe construction in Alaniçi cannot be understood solely as a technical building method. Rather, it represents an integrated vernacular knowledge system closely embedded in rural life, social relations, and production practices. Today, however, modernization processes, transformations in rural life, and insufficient conservation policies have contributed to the gradual deterioration and abandonment of these structures. The study highlights the need for systematic documentation and context-sensitive conservation approaches that address both the tangible and intangible dimensions of adobe architecture.

KEY WORDS:

Adobe, vernacular architecture, Alaniçi, cultural heritage, context-sensitive conservation.