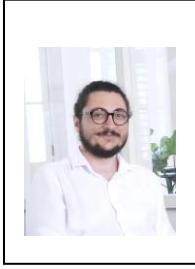


Current Practices of Earthen Architecture in Northern Cyprus



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ABSTRACT

Earthen architecture represents one of the most significant components of the vernacular built heritage of Northern Cyprus, reflecting local identity, climatic adaptation, and sustainable construction traditions. Despite its cultural and environmental value, contemporary applications and preservation practices of earthen buildings remain underexplored in the regional context. This study investigates current practices in earthen architecture in Northern Cyprus by focusing on the variations in construction and application techniques used in selected case studies. The uniqueness of the research lies in its emphasis on comparing existing earthen structures through both observational and physical analyses, while integrating architectural documentation such as measured drawings, plans, sections, and façade analyses. Case selection is based on differences in application techniques, including adobe construction, stone-supported earthen walls, and hybrid systems combining traditional and modern interventions. The methodology includes on-site observation, physical condition assessment, material examination, and architectural drawing analysis to evaluate structural characteristics, preservation conditions, and adaptation strategies. The significant findings reveal that construction technique directly influences durability, maintenance requirements, and adaptive reuse potential. Hybrid intervention systems demonstrate better resilience, while purely traditional methods show stronger cultural authenticity but greater vulnerability to environmental deterioration. The study contributes to the development of a more informed framework for conservation and sustainable adaptive reuse of earthen architecture in Northern Cyprus.

KEY WORDS:

Earthen Architecture; Northern Cyprus; Vernacular Heritage; Construction Techniques