

Tranquility, the Landscape Identity of Houses in Yazd

Two platforms are placed at the entrances of houses. Passers-by can use them to rest for a while and the residents of the house can be there during the day to socialize or to be informed about the neighborhood.

The vestibule as the first interior space of the house draws a boundary between the outdoor and the indoor. The angle between the door and the hallway hides the indoor from the strangers. The yard is the first space after the vestibule. Aligned with the financial status of the proprietor, the yard can be small or large. However, its structure stays always the same. A shallow pond of water, square or rectangular sits in the middle of the yard surrounded by several small and large gardens. A bed stands out on the pond. The height of the yard wall is between three to five meters or can be more. The house is kept away from wind, dust, cold, heat, noise, and outside view. There are rooms around the yard. They come in different sizes and have a variety of uses. The room facing the sun is for winter and the hallway or room facing the sun is for summer: living room and sitting room or parlor. One has a windshield and maybe a small pond under the windshield. Closets in the corners of the house, whose uses need a separate discussion.

The kitchen is generally in a space in the basement where food is stored and equipped with vents that let the smell of food go out.

The underground space also has an identity and is used in summer for the storage of materials, clothes, and equipment. Sometimes it shows the path of the aqueduct (Qanat in Persian) presenting the residents of the house with special tranquility. Qanat water outlet is both a place to supply water to the yard and house and a place to sit and rest.

The physical structure of the traditional house is built in the heart of the desert, and the combination and array of its various elements gives its residents a sense of tranquility more than anything else. High and wide walls, unique landscapes of water and plants as well as quiet and cozy spaces seem to be deliberately designed to be a source of comfort. House is a peaceful environment and its components are peaceful.

The space serves the peace of the people of the house, and for this reason, the house is designed to be a spot to unwind and experience matchless tranquility. The space requires people to talk more quietly and there is less movement between parts. The people of the desert have always been away from the hustle and bustle of life. That justifies such an alignment. Time even seems to move more slowly to maintain serenity.

Interestingly, renovated houses can evoke the same feeling in visitors. The rare silence, the smell of clay and water and plants, the color of the wall and the door, and nature, give a different feeling and mood to tourists who have reached a house amidst the hustle and bustle of the city, where peace is a part of its identity. Those hotels and guesthouses that have been able to preserve this element in the renovation are favored by tourists.

The landscape approach demands that this identity be prioritized and scrutinized from different angles. It should be determined what amalgamation of elements has caused this meaningful image and how this identity has affected other functions of the house in the sense of home. A meaningful identity that has not been lost after years, even in the physical reconstruction, but it has attracted more attention in contrast to the busy current society, and the fast rhythm of life.

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