



The Interaction of Lifestyle and Housing and their Reflection in the Interior Spaces: Case Study of Armenians' Houses in Tehran

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ABSTRACT

A set of legacies associated with individuals in the past are immaterial and intangible, which is visible in "places" where they live. The house is a reflection of the life style of a family lives in. One of the most important and effective ways to prevent a society from losing its identity is to study it and prove its reflection in real life. With regard to Armenian lifestyle in Iran (in particulate housing) and dealing with it closely, few studies have been conducted so far. Therefore, a research on the theme is important in terms of recording and transmitting it to future generations. The present study is based on the principle that one of the main pillars of housing quality is the connection of houses with the culture of their occupants. To improve the quality of housing, in which, a family resides from a certain community and shares common characteristics, it is necessary to increase a bond between cultural and habitat. This study aims to identify the effects of lifestyle on housing and subsequent effects of Armenian social and individual lifestyle patterns on their neighborhood, the exterior and interior layouts. For that purpose, a mixed research method has been applied to reach the desired objectives, with an Armenian neighborhood of Tehran being taken as a case study. Also, in the qualitative part of the study, the daily life of residents in the area and its surrounding, as well as short interviews with them were conducted and validated using space syntax analysis techniques. The results show that people engage in activities throughout the day, weeks, months and year, depending on everything that goes into their lifestyle. These are reflected in specific functions at specific places of the house and eventually, there are spaces that are more important for Armenians' activities. Finally, all of these findings and outcomes provide solutions for an appropriate housing design for Armenians in Tehran.

Keywords: housing, lifestyle, housing interaction, Armenians in Tehran

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INTRODUCTION

The house is a place where people from different backgrounds can find their identity. Since individual, public relationship and social interaction begin at home, the culture and lifestyle of an individual or a family plays an important role in shaping the housing. The mutual relationship between lifestyle and residential environments is becoming increasingly blurred, which is the most fundamental issue of this research. The separation of the two components is taking place in any community, whether minority or majority. The main requirement of this research is to overcome the disappearance of what is known as Armenian culture and identity.

PURPOSE

The importance of maintaining a consistent home and lifestyle relation is something that is more pronounced in minority and sparsely populated areas. One of the most important and effective ways to prevent a society from losing its identity is to study it, to prove what reflects the identity in real life and also to create a resource for future researches. The present study attempts to analyze and determine how different components of lifestyle affect the home (Armenian), as well as to examine the relationship between the two components. The purpose is to identify the effects of the social and individual Armenian lifestyle in the neighborhood, physical structure, and spatial movement and how to use the residential spaces. We are looking for everything that reflects the everyday life of Armenians in their homes.

METHODOLOGY

In this research, a combined method was applied in an Armenian neighborhood that was selected as a case study in Narmak district of Tehran. Also, descriptive, analytical and logical reasoning methods were used. During the process, the data were collected through literature study, observation, field survey, interviews, simulation and finally using the space syntax analysis from DepthMap software.

FINDINGS

The spatial structure of the neighborhood is influenced by the design of a large part of 8th district of Tehran, known as Narmak. The general plan of the area is predictable with checkered layouts, including 100 public squares. The selected site is located in the eastern part of the 85th Square. In fact, there is no special symbol or element in the neighborhood that can differ from a non-Armenian one, still there are many tangible and immaterial differences found during the course of the study. There is no Armenian-style architecture in this neighborhood. In other words, the housing design has no difference from other structures of houses of non-Armenians. The pattern is the typical east-west geometry in Tehran.

In most cases, the hall is formed after the entrance space where close guests can be accommodated and entertained. Public spaces such as formal living and dining

areas are used for large number of guests. It should be noted that in homes where there is no hall space -only 20% of housing- many of the social activities take place in the living room. This space - the hall or living room - is used for socializing activities in most homes. Research into the social connection reveals that socialization is vital for the both physical and mental health of all people, but especially for the Armenian family.

The coffee table is the most important piece of furniture in daily routine of every Armenian family. Generally, drinking coffee with friends and guests is one of the most valuable daily activities in an Armenian household and it is somehow the heart of the home.

In the studied houses, it can be said kitchens, halls and in some cases living rooms in Armenian housing are the most important spaces because their biological functions as well as the most important social needs that are met there on a daily basis.

CONCLUSION

We tried to answer the questions and present the results in this research. We found that culture and behavioral factors are supportive and in a way represent the history, identity and the lifestyle of individuals in a housing and community. The cultural lifestyle has many components, and since humans are social beings, they know how to associate with their fellow humans in a peaceful manner. These interactions highlight important principles that can guide us in their daily living, and ultimately their household environment. Examining the two-way relationship between the Armenian lifestyle and their homes in a Tehran neighborhood inferred from social behaviors.

Moreover, the results found the people to be engaged in activities throughout the day, weeks, months and year, depending on everything that went into their lifestyle. These are reflected in specific functions at specific places of the house and eventually, there are spaces that are more important considering Armenians' activities. Finally, all of these findings and outcomes provide solutions for an appropriate housing design for Armenians in Tehran.



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