

Forgotten Situation of Architecture In Iranian Social Housing

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Abstract: Social housing mainly has been looking for investment and management point of views. This paper investigates situations and values of architecture in the theme of Social Housing; also it states why the architectural quality indexes are decreasing. At the first part, the necessity of social housing is considered, then historical experiences and its effects on modern Social Housing are studied. Finally, by looking at the history, the forgotten Architecture values in social housing are explained.

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1. Introduction

Certainly, having a proper House is a social right. It is explicitly stated in Rule 31 of constitution of Islamic Republic of Iran that family house must have the minimum of human requirements for living, so social facilities and conditions and having a house with minimum requirements should be considered¹.

Preparing Social Housing is a process that families with low income, based on their financial level, could have a house with facilities.

According to revised version of Köln proposals³, that have been prepared by International Family Union in 1971, for constructing a proper residential environment; the project without identity must be avoided, because this kind of projects will harm the social context of neighborhood, and mental and peace of residents. It will be possible, only if the family' needs to be related to the residential environment will be recognized. (Figure 1)

The population of under-developed countries is increasing, so the land value is increasing too. House is considered as a material, and human especially in large cities will face a serious problem. It's such a serious problem that its solving is the most important concern of planner in recent decades. (Figure 2)

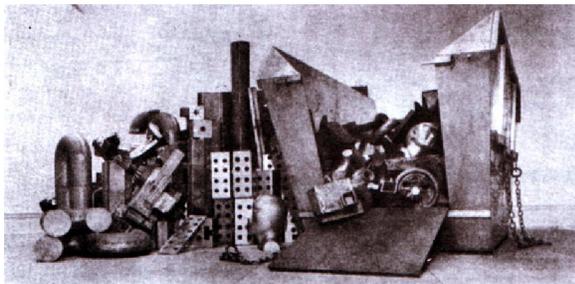


Fig 1: "The entire thing in the nature and history are art works that speak to us explicitly." (Gadmer)



Fig 2: Forghan Leje- memorial of Lui David -1948-49 National Modern Art - Paris

Today, even the most optimistic house planners accepted that the cheapest house with simplest design is beyond the financial ability of at least one out of third families of the third world countries⁴. So Social Housing is formed to resolve the problems of families with low income. It always is the form of minimization in large scale. In common view, Social Housing means access to a constructional system. This kind of house has an architectural regular volume, and also is cheap. Mass production with industrial and traditional methods is possible, and materials are not waste in structure, and the house is placed on the Frame of Modulation System as much as possible.

Additionally, it can be used all over the world, and be matched with modern technology and answered to different tastes and demands. It should be like a car, and can be applied in various countries with minimum adjustment.

2. Pyramid of Requirements

Certainly the social Housing -from the beginning of its formation- should know that how much it answers to requirements. In social housing (Maslow, 1954), by analyzing the bottom level of Maslow's Pyramid, We will find out that the bottom of this paradigm belongs to answering the needs of a safe

house; and other human desires (such as ethics, creativity, internal satisfaction, family, sex, and etc.) are not considered in the upper level of paradigm. This problem will show the difficulty of architecture responsibility.

Minimization and changing of scale: One of the criticisms of social housing is the childish view about structural changing of scale that causes to ignore quality indexes which effects on small space. However the architecture of small social housing is a unique phenomenon and has a pattern and different anthropometry.

3. History

International trade of social housing, especially after World War II, showed that repeating of same pattern and prototypes formed these places. But they are not according with quality analysis of this behavior –psychology; and are without flexibility of Convergent product, so the result would be self-Product and it flexibility matched with environment.

On the other hand, in many of this pattern, the repeating of size, form, and lack of excitement (partly structural) caused a lifeless creation. (Yorg Groter, P.236) which caused serious harm to the mental health of its residents in such a way that the deterministic approach in the architecture will be one of the negative index of this pattern. (Aynee Far, P.114)

4. Methodology

The process of development of social housing shows that the reflection of universalism has the most effects on its formation and by changing the spirit of time, after post-modernism, this house is creates based on structuralism and according to following parameters:

The regional approach (such as reducing the space with sun light, creating shadow on roofs, placing houses near each other, the proper construction for a region) (Ayozyan, the beauty Art, 83-6); the environment, culture and custom features ; social factors; the effects of techno-base with ecologic and constant approach.

But the present conditions did not completely change the prospects and values, and economic is the first factor which will change this equation.

Based upon this view, analysis and comparative study on samples of Social housing, we will clearly discover the forgotten situation of architectural principles and values. Of course, there is no surprise, because crisis in Modern Iran architecture is a social problem(Ghamamai 1995), and it is not merely limited to Social housing.

Our world is called Modern or postmodern by some people. In this world, many beliefs are destroyed, and replaced by doubtful approach for any believable system. (Paya 2006)

Today, neglect and dualism in the architecture of Social housing result the lack of identity in contemporary architecture. In traditional architecture, contrast of interior and exterior, and moving from interior to exterior are considered. In traditional architecture, Cultural and religious concepts are used as interior context and materials; and texture and color are used as physical body (exterior) (NaderArdalan 1978). While in contemporary architecture, physical body and plastic model are considered too much.

The lack of quality values in architecture of Social housing results from this fact that the social housing are consider as a cheap, monotone repeat and mass production. In another word, social housing is formed in mass production framework, and mass production is formed in industrial production framework; it also needs a modeling system based on western models, while the desired quality of Iranian house is based on traditions.

These explanations result from universal experience (especially after the Second World War). In 70 years ago, countries such as Russia, Germany and France tried to build houses for war refugees, thus it formed a strange and unknown architecture of Social housing in the limitation of time and economic context. For example, in Russia a Social housing, called Khoroshosfki, take the responsibility of war refugees' houses. (Fig 3).

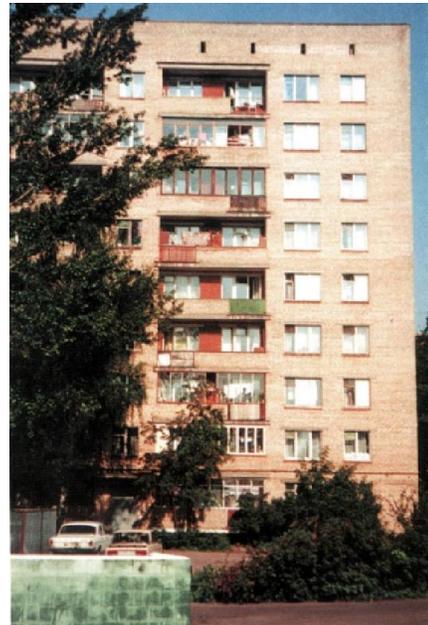


Fig 3: Social housing after war in Moscow -1948
Location: Krowinski shoes in Moscow. Reference from Residential Library, pp. 39
Publication: Moscow House Research Center (CNIEP)

Irregular and repeated constructional elements are dictated in a frame; and for its residents it was a bored, disappointed and distasteful space. This kind of place was unfamiliar with any excellent thoughts and architectural body – space values.

Architecture of Social housing isn't individual language and architecture, which nobody understands it except its architect. It should be known and familiar for public; in another words it should have a general language and view. The architect should not enter public acceptance in his/her arts, because by doing this, she will closed his/her genius; it's the mission of an architect. Architecture isn't tool or business, but it is vocation .

By considering Performance and nature of social housing, we clearly find out the discrete nature of its architecture's value. We need more precise study in historical architecture to re-joint and redecorate quality values, and then we can return the lost rings back to it. In this review, we learn that we should abandon all kind of habits. In art and architecture, our experiences are the most important part, not our final products or the process.

Any sensory perceptions in architecture space of Social housing are immediately transformed to habit, and performed automatically, so habits and automatic function will be boring. The important role of architecture is to avoid these habits, and also this boringness and it must able to gradually promote this specific situation. It isn't possible unless we expand our architecture knowledge beyond the words. We must criticize dead ideas of information. We should make clear the ambiguity in our heart and tongue.

There are economic problems and barriers in creating architecture of social housing, but against all these factors, we must consider familiarity and intimacy; because it is peaceful and reliable. The Familiar corner in a house lead to calmness and strange things lead to anxiety, fear and secret .(Sarakofmen) Also we must consider the desirability of form and beauty, and we should note that the beauty of form and feeling in social housing can form a general satisfaction, It is presumed that judgment of aesthetic is to speak about concepts. Creating beautiful architecture means creating general and independent enjoyment of concepts.

According to Hidger: “when the human presents became fading in his art, it will be farer from its origin; and it indicates less things and its practical method will demonstrate less things.”

It explicitly appears in Social housing, fading role of architecture values and goals causes lack of identity and disappointed. The industrial and repetitive features of spaces haven't a common principle for specific meaning and basic. While analyzing Iran

architecture shows that, despite of many variety and complex of buildings, it has been used basic principles and few samples in different models of architecture. (Mirmiran – Abstract of lecture on AA School in London)

Evolution of Social housing's architecture has been relied on promoting basic principles and concepts in skillful and intelligent action. These concepts consist of variety, different, conformity, space stratification, reaming, and tone, fluidity of private and public spaces as integrated factors to promote quality of Social housing. Attention to absolute functionalism and forgetting these principles decrease real place of architecture.

Dynamic decoration inside and outside spaces (internal plan- plan site), will create creative architecture with variety of attractiveness.

We can interpret Lookach words about art in Social house architecture that creator of architecture and art must be strange and unfamiliar to the content. What separate our mental interaction from experiencing this fact and creation, is unfamiliarity. If we put aside all this difference between art and mental and natural interactions, then we understand concepts such as variety and difference in architecture of mass production and we understand that it is necessary and inevitable to exist.

Russia House Research Institute CNIEP showed that providing plan variants (planirofka) is an effective factor to absorb addressee to bio-sociological collections. In statistics, the resident's satisfaction has reported 75% that indicates to its success. (Compare it with another collection which has reported 40% for the resident's satisfaction.) (Fig 4)

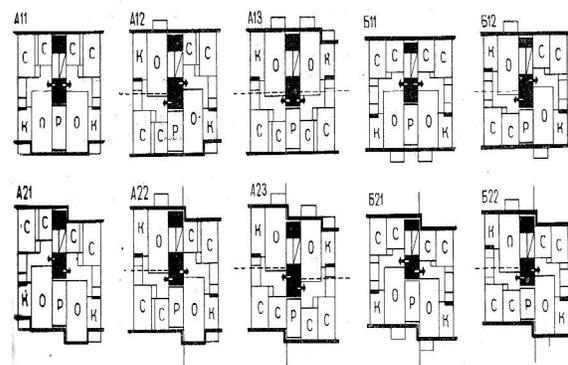


Fig 4: study on flexibility of plan abilities in desgning Social house in fix frame

A book of categorization residential building and study on parts and their abilities,

Author: Matosowich, Phase A, Burjnowi 1974

Publisher: Moscow building and architectural publication.

In summary all of words were a precise study for understanding of privacy in Iranian dwelling and the influence of religion and culture, and Spatial Analysis in Iranian Housing Typology can be used for solving social housing problems.

people were always perusing privacy, due to their cultural beliefs and their religion. The traditional Iranian house has several different open and closed spaces which were designed to articulately combine the nature and life space together, so Concentrate on the spatial figures and ability of movement creates a useful space for dwellers.

Western privacy means a territory of individuals or groups that decide on the extension of how much of their life they need to share. This kind of privacy is a voluntary and temporary back down from the general society. It can happen in a small groups or a large group, in a condition of anonymity or reserve.”

The right for freedom from undue encroachment on the privacy was recognized by Islam, so in many parts of Qur’an talks about the privacy of the house. For instance, a verse says, ‘O ye who believe! enter not houses other than your own, until ye have asked permission and saluted those in them’ and, ‘if ye find no one in the house, enter not until permission is given to you. if ye are asked to go back, go back: that makes for greater purity for yourselves, and Allah knows well all that ye do’ (Qur’an, Su. 24:27, 28).

In following sections we will talk about privacy of the Muslim house, which can be divided into visual and acoustical categories.

5. Visual and Acoustical Boundaries

Main concern of Iranian family is visual privacy which means protection of female members from the eyes of male strangers. One of verse of Qur’an said: ‘O Ye who believes! Enter not houses other than your own’.

It is a command for Muslim to maintain this visual privacy. There are several Hadiths for this case. Mohammad, the Prophet said ‘He who pulls the curtain and looks into a house before he is granted permission to enter has committed an offence.’ He also said, ‘if a person ever peeps [or steals a glance] at you without permission, then you throw a stone at him, even if it puts out his eye; you are not counted as sinful’

Dwelling buildings in traditional Iranian architecture were built on more than one floor. High altitude of the Iranian houses (without any opening on the outdoor facades) has blocked the view from outside and has caused the construction of an inward looking building with visual and acoustical privacy. By this method, (Rising the level of rooms and living spaces from the level of the courtyard) visual privacy in interior parts of house has been

created, due to breaking the direction of the view from the courtyards to the rooms. Rooms place in upstairs as individual areas, so the more privacy has been created. The most important point in the Iranian traditional house is that the direction of the view has been more easily observed from private to public.

The importance of acoustical privacy is not less than visual privacy. The elements (walls, roofs and floors) of the house should not allow the penetration of the inhabitants’ voices, particularly females’, to streets and neighbors.

In Iranian traditional houses, there is spatial arrangement. It is an invisible three-dimensioned network which controls all small and large spaces, so several type of activity such as watching the flowers can occurred between public and private spaces.

Places such as Shah-Neshin, Se-dari, Panj-dari with large measurement are parts of public territory. In these spaces, big ceremonies were held.

Places such as the courtyard, pool-house (Howz-Khaneh), or small sitting rooms are places in-between spaces or family area. In these places, other activities such as family gatherings of relatives or other personal activities happen. A person could be alone, rest, read and enjoy company of others in these places.

Before 1910, Iranian houses reflected the concept of interior parts. Based on Haerri words, the indoor parts of Iranian houses represent the private spaces for the family. In these traditional houses were places for tranquility from hard daylong.

Invisible three-dimensioned network and public and private boundaries are visible and sensible through vertical and horizontal layers, so Iranian called it architecture of spatial networks..

The guest room was close to the entrance which separated family domain and maintain the privacy of women in the rest of the house.

A space for hosting guests is necessary in the Muslim house, and called it Public domain. It’s derived from maintaining strong relationships with society members such as neighbors, relatives and friends. The invitation of guests was encouraged by Islam. But the relationship of unrelated male guests and the family females are disallowed. So the direct visual access between the guests’ domain or reception area and the family is prohibited. Based on these facts, the form of houses should be in such a way which eliminate access and to maintain the privacy of the family’s domain.

6. Spatial Analysis in Iranian Social House

In 20th century, dramatic global changes affected Iran. Urban structure changed and life style of people changed. In that time the small-scale houses emerged, So Iranian houses changed from central courtyard houses to apartments. The main reason of these changes was the growth of population. Physical or

external aspects of life changed, but several cultural norms and values remains. What we want to discuss in this paper is the lack of privacy inside the house and different apartments.

The modern Iranian apartments usually include living room, kitchen, bedrooms and bathrooms. By considering the explanations above and the size of modern house, all of these functions which are enforced to contain, open, closed and covered traditional architecture, just includes combined and separated masses. In modern houses some spaces that were considered to be private have become public nowadays. Let's consider more details.

We want to compare this spaces one by one. Kitchen is 'Mat-bakh' of traditional houses, it was a place used only for cooking and washing, so women were the only people who dwelled in it.

But modern kitchen is placed in the public areas, because people use it during whole day and it might play the role of a small dining room. In the rest of this paper, the function and activities of traditional private place as compared with today's private place, as well as the traditional public place as compared with the combined places of today were analyzed.

The first obvious point is the mixture of the open (courtyard) and closed (rooms) space in public boundaries of the traditional house, and absence of open space in today's apartments. The next one is the multi functionality of spaces in traditional living places which created, variegated of spaces and activities in both public and private places. On the other hand, this fixed functionality of modern compact apartments is because of the shrinkage of private area and the tendency toward individual territories in the house, which has caused the loss of private quality and quantity of space. A standard of housing design is extracted from Iranian's life style.

The main goal is making deep changes in housing design and construction, the close review of the spatial arrangement and life style is compulsory. Life style includes the family, interaction among the relatives, eating and spending time with them, storing food in winters, using walls for boards and pictures.

Such examples specify a particular family. These activities depend on each person's personality; also each activity requires a relevant space. For a typical activity, each detailed space can be suitable, distressful, or alleviating. Unfortunately, limiting the activities to few ones within limited rooms maybe lead to a disintegrated life style.

Designing system of sub-spaces like old building (about 50 years ago) can help to establish more functional convergence instead of the current divergence in today's life style. The reality of life

encompasses a wide range of human activities that people do individually and collectively for doing so a wider range of tools are utilized in these activities.

In this perspective, many meanings, feelings, beliefs or sympathies are felt and needed within the house. A House must include too many types of inside activities and conduct different feelings of people, so contemporary apartments need to have the minimum space territories and area as mentioned below:

Public area: It includes family gatherings with friends and relatives, and needs the maximum potential of expanding.

Semi-public area: It is the common area for gathering all family members. This area can be expanded with preparing the minimum privacy.

Semi-private area: It is made of two or three people of family members. This space is only for family members, and cannot expand as the semi-public spaces can.

Private area: It is a territory of individuals. This space has included all the privacy boundaries, so it created a specific indoor area.

Accessibility to public spaces shows the importance of expanding these spaces. The private spaces and semi-private ones show the importance of independence of spaces. On the other hand, different spaces should be flexible in order to do different activities. According to fixed measures of land and designing system, the combination of different spaces shows the flexibility of space besides keeping the privacy.

Applying this kind of design in modern architecture needs the designing of spaces and subspaces. It means that spaces with common functions, such as the bedrooms, can be converged in a specific area in order to create the semi-private spaces.

This kind of design has the ability to be flexible for rooms, when for example there is a need for two bedrooms to be mixed and expanded. Another combined group can be the kitchen and living room to create a semi-public area. Some spaces should be prepared for storing and keeping tools. It means that area should be flexible to respond to more activities, and can optimized limited space.

Generally, the goal of this article is achieving privacy in today's compact apartments by using the flexible architecture.

For the first step, there must be a detailed analysis of the suitable settings, functions, and accesses; whether from spatial sight, dimensional, or privacy. Privacy is a complex issue, which has a direct link with the human senses of place, and is affected

on different levels ranging from visual and acoustical to mental and psychic privacy. Providing all kinds of privacy is not possible in modern compact apartments. Understanding the minimum level of privacy for each apartment, can be a good solution.

In this paper by reviewing ideas from the traditional architecture of Iran, and analyzing apartments in contemporary architecture of the country based on the cultural conflicts of housing, we reach to two goals.

The first one is the problems that people are facing in today's compact apartments which were demonstrated, and second one flexibility, as a solution in this case, was introduced. Flexibility is a helpful tool and method for setting, which was introduced in this paper. As elaborated, it increases the relation of dweller with space in which he lives. Generally, having a correct setting of spatial masses near each other by keeping the privacy is important. Then by using the flexible architecture, variegated spaces will be created and it would become suitable tool for changing these spaces.

7. Conclusion:

We can say that we live in utopia and architecture is challenging with various levels, and creative architecture plays various roles in this challenge. According to Marx, art works exceeds its history and vice versa. He writes in Grondiseh that it is clear that art flourishing hasn't been proportional with general evolution of society and material basics. In his view, art is a historical and social phenomenon and it is dependent up on evolution of tools, production and technology.

Architecture is the same and it has exposed to new changes. These changes have been appeared in various architecture fields such as Social housing and there are limitations for it. We can't find words of spatial shape in Social house architecture that indicated anything definitely.

Conclusion:

In conclusion we can list the factors which effects on improvement of pattern of aptitude of social housing in Iran.

1. Diversity, flexibility, Harmony: The meaning of harmony in modern design of social house is special flexibility and placing human make and changing it to acquire the circumstance of new need. (eyni far. Beauty Art, 82-13) this consist of three special organization, nine constant space and a semi-constant space and a variable space.(hall, 1376; P. 143-159)
2. Using of different color, Rhythm in building and changing the same details, the different in high level in paradise, diversity in shape of doors and

the lightening, using harmonic context and the shape of features and changing the space of trace and balcony will be useful way. We advised to consider the following factors in internal decoration: The balance, weight balance, Contract balance, repeated pattern, repeating, the law of uniqueness. (the professional journal of decoration, Building 9-1389-5)

3. The mutual relationship between the internal and external with changes: Considering the physical change and the quality aspect, while passing from internal to external, will give the people a pleasure. The size, contrast, Scale, smell, color, visual diversity and general goal; and the level of boundaries are physical features of understanding. (phryz Esteal, 1981- 18) Considering the environment changes means giving the comfortably and mental peace. The results of sampling shows that almost all people which lived in a social housing, prefer to spent most of their time in the work space. According to this, The partial matching of performance, Creating a light space and changing boundaries on different hours on the frame work of a regulated pattern will be effective in such a way that the total space could be answered to all the different needs of its residence.(vantori, 1357; 49-60)
4. Attention to harmonic design and process of audience: because mostly the mental effects of minimization patterns are not appropriate for residence, creating attractive process along with attraction in visual and quality feature could help to decrease the discussing feeling. Changing the way of audience when he passed the entrance to the entrance of house (Organic line and similar); Creating visual attractiveness in lightening, change the pattern of processor are sample of proposed methods.

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5- Arabel Toomeh, the consulting engineers of yard – a paper about Management of House

*Making cheap: Today, a house that is cheap isn't economy because quality construction and materials are low and the costs of repair and maintenance will be increased in utilization. It will be repeated in longtime.

In national economy dimension, it is not accountable because much loss and lack of saving.

* Quality of Social house is done by providing some solutions such as: decreasing social and mental effects, spatial acceptability and increasing participation.

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