

Process of Housing Transformation in Iran

Samira Forouzmand & Saloumeh Kahouei

Iranian houses have changed dramatically in recent decades.



TRADITIONAL IRANIAN HOUSES

Change in three different periods



Social, Economic, Technological



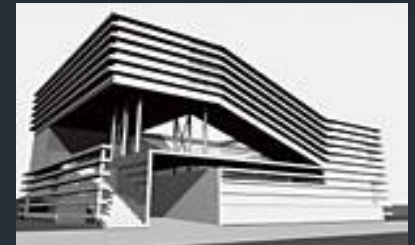
Physical and Morphological changes.



- The process of change analytically, emphasizing the importance of compatibility between the house form and lifestyle.

- Nowadays, the physical characteristics of the house have changed , while living habits and lifestyles have not changed at the same pace.

CONTEMPORARY HOUSES



TRADITIONAL IRANIAN HOUSES

Demographic Features

The main household model in Iranian traditional society → extended family.

Physical and Functional Characteristics

An important aspect of the traditional Iranian house is its adaptation to the **harsh climate** of the central parts of the country.

- The majority of traditional houses are introverted, or look **inwards**

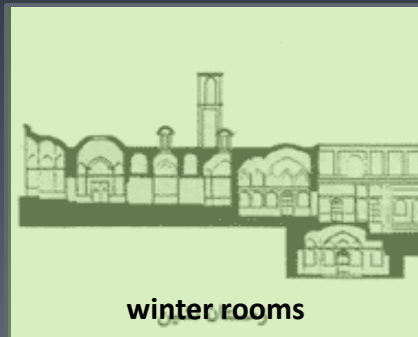


All the spaces were arranged around an open, rectangular courtyard in such a way that

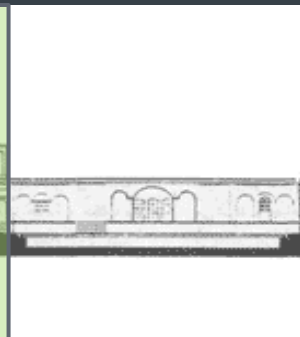


Summer room : always face the north

winter rooms : are located on the south side



winter rooms

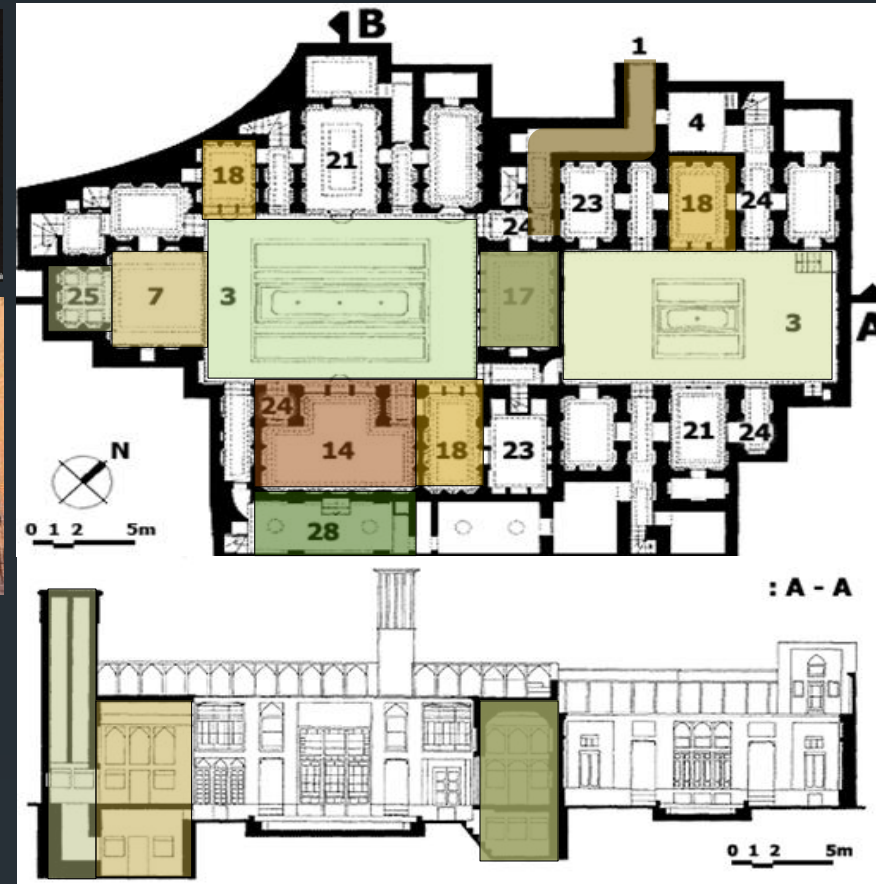


Summer room



Traditional house had several spaces such as:

- Dalan
- Sedari
- Panjdari
- Andaruni
- Biruni
- Iwan
- Badgir-wind catcher
- Talar
- Matbakh



Lifestyles

Extended families were the dominant household model in Iran, composed of up to **three generations**, living together in the same house. In this case, the house, like a living organism, would grow and adapt to the new situation.

Most Iranian houses were a **multifunctional** unit designed for **residential**, **economic**, and **service functions**. In some cases, the house was also the **workplace**. In this case, the interior territory of the house (**andaruni**) would be separated from the exterior area (**biruni**) with the andaruni occupied by women and children, and the biruni by men and visitors



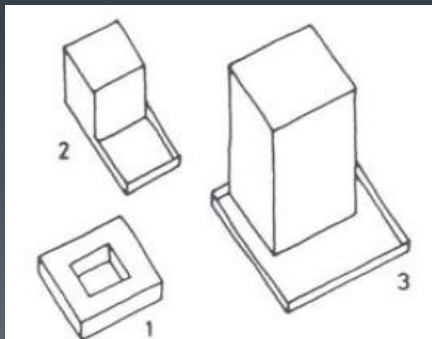
CONTEMPORARY HOUSES

- Contemporary housing began to be constructed in Iran around 1961. The period from the last years of the Qajar dynasty to the beginning of 1961 was called the transitional period. The architecture of the transitional and contemporary periods saw the appearance of different styles, depending on new building technologies and various other influences.



• Transitional Period (the last years of the Qajar dynasty to 1961)

In the transitional period, neighborhoods lost their mixed-use social and economic functions and changed to strictly residential districts. Land parcels were reduced in size and shaped more geometrically, mostly in rectangular forms. In this period, electrical and mechanical systems were introduced to the buildings for the first time.



Contemporary Houses (1961 to Present)

▪ Demographic features

Household changes imply that presently there is no need for big houses to accommodate several families. Higher living standards generate more demands and expectations from the family members.



▪ Physical and functional characteristics

In the new type of residence, each household had smaller living areas and a shared courtyard.

New building regulation, which allows buildings to cover 60% of the land parcel and left 40% for open space, had a great effect on the spatial organization of houses as well as on urban design.

The biggest change was the assignment of single functions to the living spaces, transforming the multifunctional character of the room. This new type of residence introduced modern facilities for more comfortable living, but departed greatly from the familiar traditional houses.

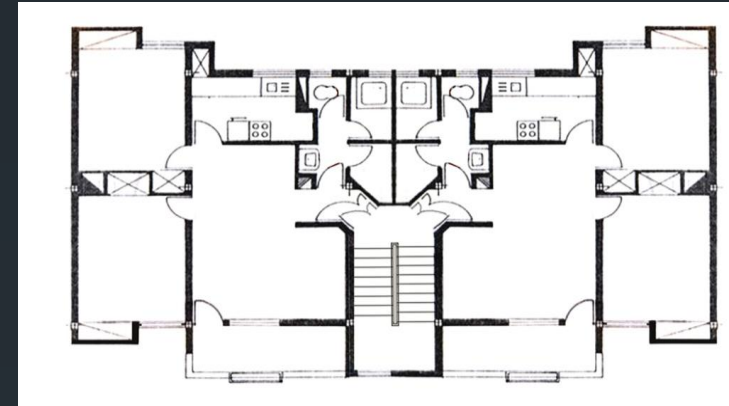
Lifestyles

- Modernization in Iran has led to many **social**, **cultural**, and **physical** transformations. Contemporary dwellings are much **smaller** than the traditional ones; thus, semi-public and private spaces could not be separated physically.
- **New apartment** houses are extroverted and have windows opening to the **streets**. However, as Iranians are accustomed to hiding their living spaces from the view of outsiders, windows are always covered with thick **curtains**.
- Modern facilities played a great role in changing living habits.



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CONCLUSION

- In the traditional period, house forms were compatible with people's needs. In the contemporary, in contrast, house spaces were not designed in accordance with current lifestyles.
- The **physical characteristics** of houses have been transformed profoundly. Inward-looking courtyard houses changed to outward-looking residential complexes with a **shared courtyard**.
- The arrangement of the housing space, which used to follow **geometric** rules, now follows the geometry of land parcels.
- **Multifunctional** spaces are replaced by **single-function** rooms.
- Experience has shown the failure of this process: habitats should be **physically harmonious** with traditions and lifestyles otherwise, residents will react by changing the environment according to their wishes.
- When the environment itself is not changeable, residents have to adapt themselves to the new conditions; **consequently, some valuable traditions would be lost forever**.