

Tishk International University (TIU)

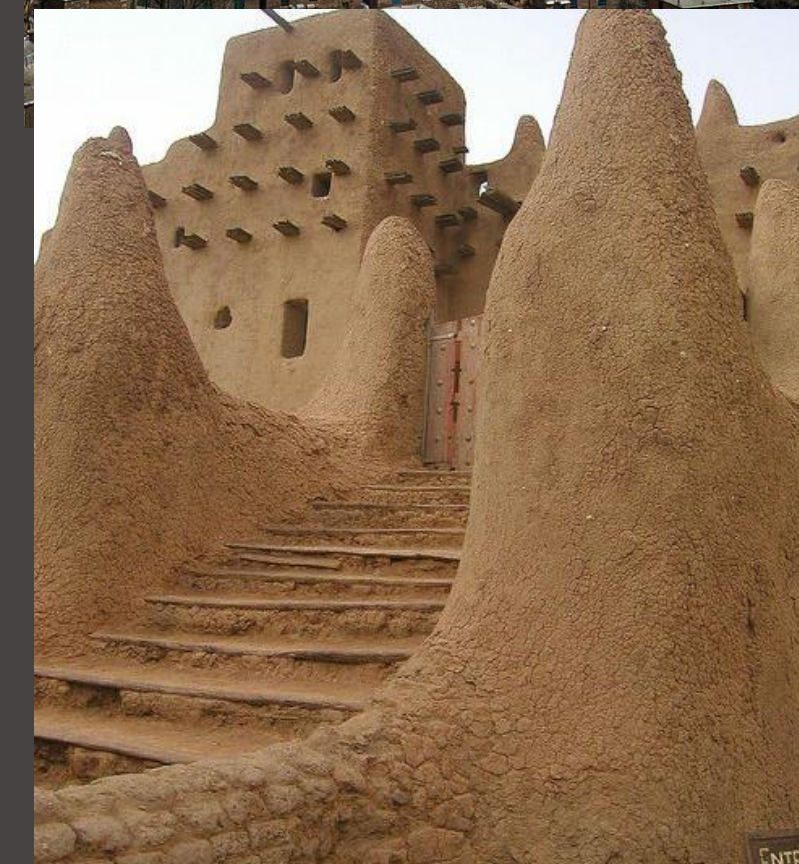
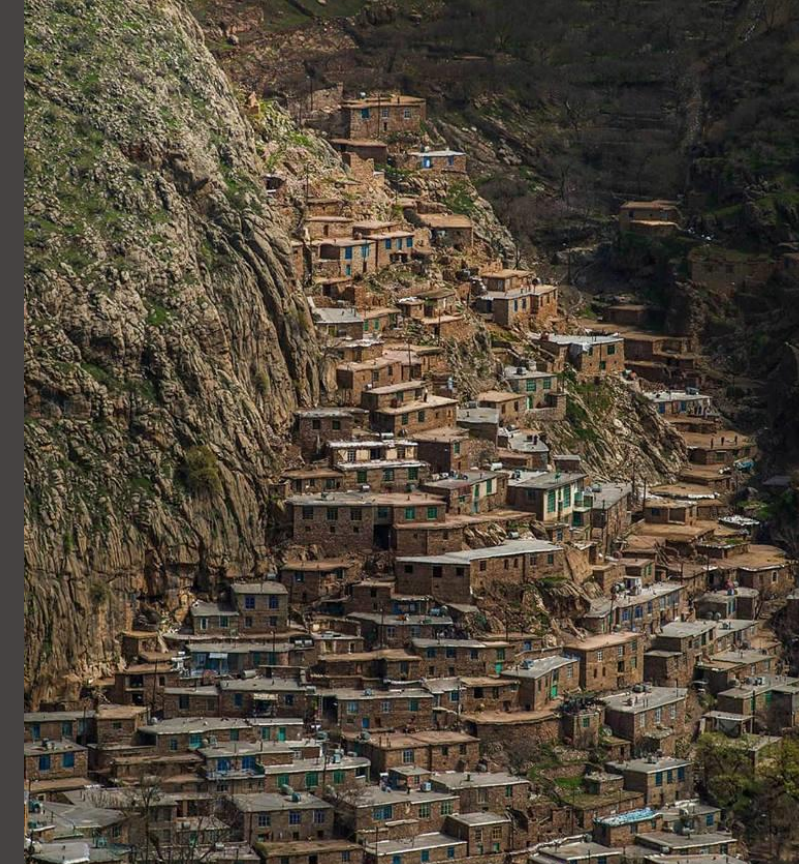
Vernacular architecture

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Lecture 1: Introduction to Vernacular Architecture



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- **The word Vernacular : Derivations and Definitions**
- **The contrast: Vernacular and the Architect**
- **Benefits of vernacular architecture**
- **Factors influencing vernacular architecture**
- **Summary (homework)**

The word : vernacular

Etymology of Vernacular

The term "vernacular" originates from the Latin word "**vernaculus**," meaning "**domestic**" or "**native**," initially used in ancient Rome to describe things related to the **home** or **homeland**. Its meaning evolved over time.

In language, it refers to the everyday speech of **ordinary people**, distinct from formal or classical language.

In architecture, it denotes traditional building styles and techniques specific to a region or community.

Therefore, "vernacular" comes from Latin and has special meanings in both language and architecture.

The word : Vernacular Architecture

The terms vernacular, folk, traditional, ordinary, popular, and indigenous architecture are used interchangeably.

"Vernacular architecture refers to the type of architecture that is indigenous to a specific time or place, not imported or copied from elsewhere."

It is architecture that is passed down from to person, generation to generation, orally.



Norman Foster's Definition of Vernacular Architecture

Norman Foster definition of vernacular architecture:

“Vernacular architecture is an architectural style that is designed based on local needs, availability of construction materials and reflecting local traditions, vernacular architecture did not use formally schooled architects, but depend on the design skills and tradition of local builders”



Difference Between Vernacular Architecture and Architecture

The vernacular architecture is constructed by individuals who are not professionally trained in building arts.



Architecture created by professional architects is typically not categorized as vernacular. This term is commonly associated with residential structures.



Laurie Baker,

“The use of local materials with consideration to local climate and participation of the people leads a holistic or comprehensive design approach” .



Built to Meet Needs

Cultural Issues in Vernacular Architecture



Paul Oliver



PAUL OLIVER

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“It is the architecture of the people, and by the people, but not for the people.”

Paul Oliver describes vernacular architecture as being organically created by **local communities** to **meet** their own **practical needs** and **cultural values**, rather than **external** or **commercial demands**. It's a key part of **architectural heritage**, preserving unique traditions and **local identities**.



RONALD BRUNSKILL

RONALD BRUNSKILL "

"It is a building designed by an amateur (Nonprofessional) without any training in design"



Frank Lloyd Wright described vernacular buildings as structures naturally developed based on **people's needs, designed to blend with the environment** by those who knew how to do so using their local understanding and skills.

Vernacular Architecture

Vernacular architecture is a type of local or regional construction, utilizing traditional materials and resources from the area where the building is situated, reflecting local traditions and years of trial and error.

Consequently, This type of building design is **closely** connected to its **surroundings**. It takes into account things like the **landscape, climate, and local customs**.

For this reason, they are **unique** to different places in the world, becoming even a means of **reinforcing an identity**.



Architecture Without Architects

The basis of vernacular is that it responds to contextual aspects: Climate, Place, Culture, Local skills, Maintenance, Durability and aspects.



Vernacular architecture vs. Traditional architecture

Vernacular architecture should not be mixed up with what is often called :

"traditional" architecture, although they are related. Traditional architecture, which is a broader term, usually doesn't fall under the category of "vernacular."

Vernacular architecture is a specific part of traditional architecture. It focuses on building styles that are naturally adapted to and shaped by the culture and environment of a particular area. These styles are often informal and developed out of the local community's needs and ways of living.

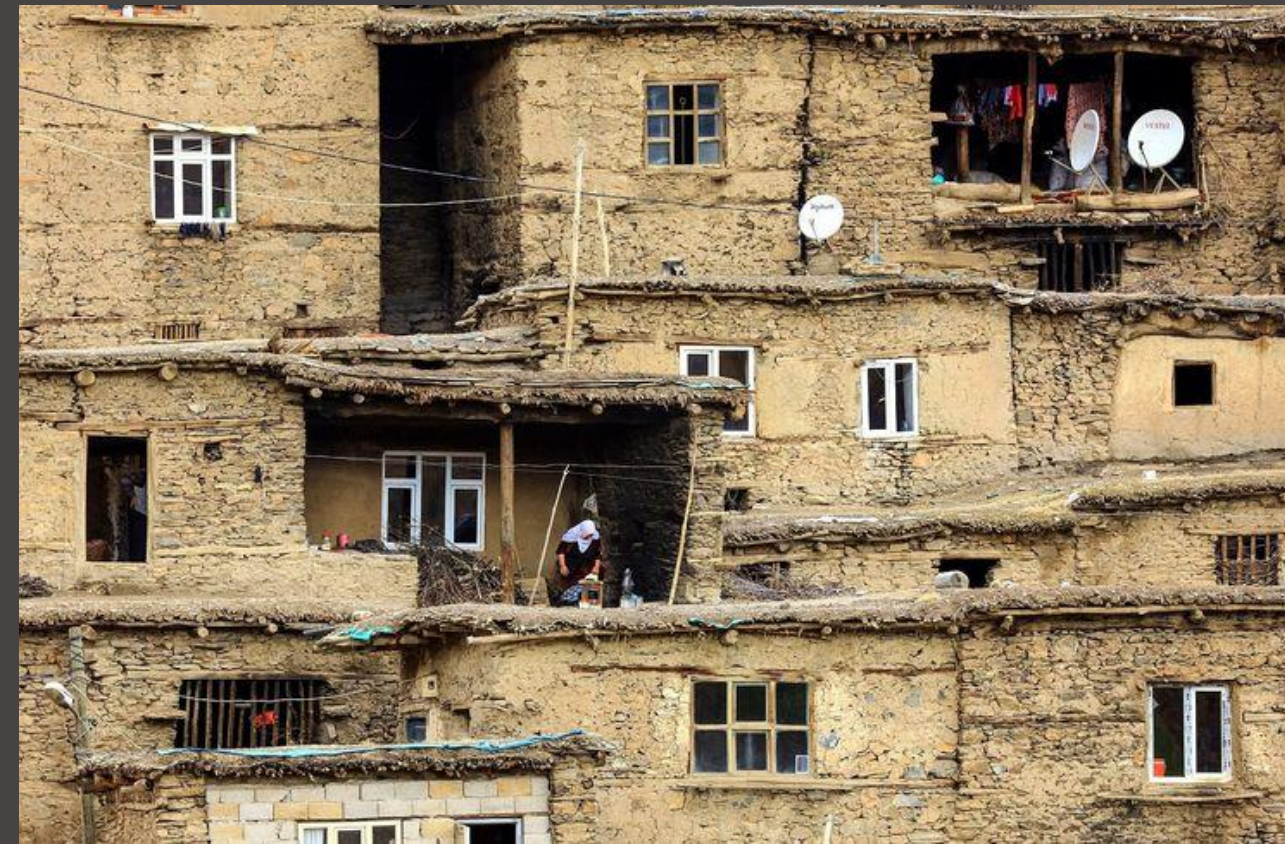
Therefore, while **all vernacular architecture falls under the traditional category**, **not all traditional architecture is vernacular.**

Benefits of Vernacular Architecture

- Using local knowledge and traditions to our advantage.
- Using local materials and resources, which makes them energy-efficient and sustainable.
- Providing essential link between humans and the environment in which they live.
- They can be designed **specifically** with the **local climatic conditions** in mind, and **often perform well.**

Factors influencing vernacular architecture

Vernacular architecture is influenced by a great range of different aspects of human behavior and environment, leading to differing building forms for almost every different context; even neighboring villages may have different approaches to the construction and use of their dwellings with significant similarities in structural forms.



Factors influencing vernacular architecture



The design of buildings is strongly affected by how people live and use their homes. Family size, how space is used, cooking, and how people interact shape the size and layout of houses.

Local customs and beliefs also influence how buildings look, as people often decorate them in traditional ways. Vernacular architecture is known for its variety of designs in similar situations, all influenced by culture.

Factors influencing vernacular architecture

We can summarize all the factors that have been derived from human behavior and the environment, as follows

- **Climatic and geological.**
- **Tangible resources or physical resources such as Local construction materials technology adopted.**
- **Intangible resources such as society and the culture.**
- **The localized and the way of life need.**

Homework For Next week

Every group Should prepare presentation about the topic the have

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