

The impact of mountainous geography of west of Iran on architecture and form of Hawraman dwelling

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Abstract

Hawraman is a mountainous region located in western Iran or Iran Kurdistan, which includes the cities of Pawe and Meriwan, and north-eastern Iraq or Iraq Kurdistan, which includes Halabja. In spite of researches and studies about cultural and social specifications and living at rocky and rude mountain in the west of Iran, Hawraman architecture and its impressive potentials have seldom been scrutinized. Hawraman is best known for its unique arrangement of cities and villages built along the mountain slopes of the region. It has such a marvelous and special architecture that requires particular design for building settlements. One is shocked and amazed at how the people liveing in this area have managed very skillfully and orderly build their homes in the shape of a lot of long and wide stairs at the foothills of the mountain. These structures have been built in such a way that in most instances, the roof of a house built in a lower altitude is actually the patio (balcony) of another house built just a few meters above it.

The purpose of the present article is to survey configuration process and form of Hawraman dwelling, especially rural settlements and effective elements in unrivaled staged (stair shaped) structure and centralized texture of houses of the region. Are dwellings in sharp slope an answer to geography of this region?

In this article original architecture of Hawraman and its rural settlement as a descriptive and case study have been introduced and scrutinized.

The research findings show that architecture of the region is according to the organic architecture concepts formed at the passage of time, not predefined. Conclusion of research determines specified basis by scrutinizing the form and figure of stairs and Mastaba shaped settlements. These concepts consist: topography and form of Hawraman mountain (part of Zagros chain), climatic and atmospheric effects, economy and occupation of inhabitants and cultural and social specifications.

Keywords: Hawraman, village dwelling, form, mountain architecture.