

# A CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY ON THE CHANGING AND VANISHING FORM AND CONCEPT OF COURTYARD HOUSES IN THE NEAR EAST

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## **ABSTRACT**

Large scale growth of modern urbanization caused a new trend in architecture and building in urban and architecture activities which currently gained global importance of confusing implications in architectural forms. Consequently, this growth dramatically brought an end to the courtyard houses in the Near East. The paper searches different traditional courtyard housing types, as it seeks to analyze them within typological changes. The hot arid Near Eastern region is taken as the case study of this paper, because this region witnessed considerable development in sophisticated forms and concepts of courtyard houses in the history of this region.

The paper will study the different architectural elements (Riwaq, Liwan and Fountain) of the courtyard house as important forces in the formation of traditional housing layout and as the concept of family and role of women in the society; with relation to the juxtaposition of public, semi-public, semi-private, and private domains to the seclusion of women and family social needs. The paper will evaluate, by illustration, the changing and transforming forms of courtyards in the Near East as a result of technological changes and emerging of new architectural trends that brought an end to the courtyard. Furthermore, the reasons that brought the end to the courtyard houses will be discussed. Finally, guidelines will be derived, on the basis of courtyard concept, for future considerations in the design of houses in Near Eastern regions.

**Keywords:** Traditional housing elements, Courtyard houses, Indigenous housing typology, Privacy, and Architectural design guidelines.