# VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE RECOGNITION

**NIUSHEH MOHAMMADI**

Islamic Azad University – Saveh Branch
E-mail: Niusheh@gmail.com

**Abstract**— Due to the importance of sustainable development in general and sustainable architecture specifically everyone's attention has shifted to vernacular architecture. Due to the importance of this issue, Views has been attracted to the vernacular architecture which has been responded appropriately to the conditions and needs of human in its temporal and spatial conditions. Thus, the correlation between vernacular architecture and sustainable architecture is visible, so it is possible to take an important step towards sustainable architecture by recognition of vernacular architecture. Vernacular architecture is a term which has been raised in many architects conversations, books, articles and other references, here the question arises, that what is vernacular architecture? Anyone can comment on this question, and to distinguish a special meaning for it. Unlike efforts that took place on localization concepts in the field of architecture and related disciplines, inadequate attention to local factors caused a non-native Look to the native values and vernacular architecture. Due to this matter, with recognition of vernacular architectural we have studied the elements of the formation process, values and durability secrets. This research is in the field of fundamental and theoretical and has been done based on descriptive - analytic method and library studies. At the end, results of this research shows that the lack of attention to these components and thus creating obstacles are leading to the separation of today's architecture and vernacular architecture.

**Index Terms**— Vernacular Architecture, Sustainable Architecture, Style, Beauty, Unity.

## I. INTRODUCTION

Vernacular architecture, have an ancient history. In every corner, there are buildings with different architectures, these buildings have in common with each other at the same time, this feature made them in need of review. Vernacular architecture is shaped on Indicators and cultural factors, climate factors and economical factors. It is So that this is evident in various methods of construction, type of plan, type of configuration, and types of materials and other matters. On the other hand, the formation of vernacular architecture has been created in order to maintain the comfort of the inhabitants, with the use of climate elements, while respecting the nature and the site, but these no impression of this architecture and lines in buildings is observed. Today's architecture not only is not reflecting the local, regional and climatic factors of it site Without a doubt, this architecture not only does not strengthen local identity and community, but it is moving toward the path of the unipolar world and a single voice and a single culture.1

## II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This research is in the field of fundamental and theoretical and has been done based on descriptive - analytic method and library studies, such that with reviewing the books and articles we have studied and done the meaning expression, formation process, values and durability secrets, value and application of vernacular architecture.

## III. VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

Vernacular architecture or regional architecture, can be any kind of architecture that belong to a specific location. This architecture can involve the simple rural - urban constructions to large buildings, and even Historical Memorials and in the majority of cases vernacular architecture is called rural architecture. Amos Rapoport is One of the pioneers of this debate in the world. He offers a specific definition of vernacular architecture. Rappaport, says a vernacular architecture is an architecture that is standing in a different place than the official architecture, known architecture and memorial architecture. In other words, it is an architecture which is simpler, more Popular and overall an architecture to meet the needs of the general public. He also argues that monumental architecture could have roots in the vernacular architecture.2

By Paul Oliver's definition, vernacular architecture is an architectural style that grows within the communities and it will adapt with the social and climate and technological situations and it evolves and it is synced with the values, lifestyles and the cultures which created them. or in simple words the architecture of the people, and by the people, but not for the people.3

It has been about half a century that vernacular architecture has been raised as part of the theoretical and empirical research of architecture. This topic has been named under various names such as unknown architecture, traditional architecture, people architecture, substandard architecture or even an architecture without architect. Although this architecture has historically been subject to various phenomena, it has been able to maintain its special identity. Since the ecological, is a valid certificate from the people of a country, it represents their traditions, spirit and emotion, thought and belief, taste and art, it deftly reflects in the formation of vernacular architecture, some social and economical

relations in the natural environment and cultural icons, in a way that at the same time, simplicity and decorations has been manifested in them.

These days vernacular architecture is seen as a legacy of the past. legacy of the people who were not educated in architecture and they were started to create architecture. Special buildings had simulated people's way of living as some collective living spaces thoughts which caused the fixation of the people on the location or their habitat and that was leading to unity between them or their habitat. Knowing the vernacular architecture can be recognize as knowledge of society, a society that is struggling with the nature to survive since the inception.

As the main objective of vernacular architecture is to adapting the building with the characteristics of the building and user's place, we can mention that as the basis of the interactions between the three area of environment, economy and society, if we remove one of these columns system will lose its balance. since the vernacular architecture of a building belongs to a particular place or time and it wouldn't be copied from one place to another, so we should seek concepts and Ideas in this type of architecture, because traditional, vernacular and climate accord architectures despite the apparent that they may seem simple, they have very measured phenomena and multi-dimensional concept and they are in the way of creating stable environmental development. Therefore the vernacular architecture away from any particular stylistic forms and models, retains the improvisation character which it can help to improve the society knowledge by knowing it, so in the majority of vernacular architectural assessment systems which meets different needs of man, they are in priority.

## IV. THE PROCESS OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE FORMATION

1. Formation of architectural products, becomes widespread in particular period of time which it seems it has been renewed. The buildings associated with the people who lived in them is considered as a fundamental principle.

2. In the mix and influence of nature, along with effectiveness and with respect to it. From the simplest forms derived from the combination of more than two stones together to revealing plant, water and light and the sun in order to Sanctification the structures and showing them as a symbol of hereafter life in this world, is an evidence of the rule of this principle in the man-made spaces.

3. The gap between the need and fulfilling it, is the gap between imagination and creating a space which can have the highest conformity to that imagination, it is the gap between thinking to the field and structure and the owning or taking over and acquisitions the arena and structure, this is one of the main features of vernacular architecture.

4. Reflection of the tastes of producers of optimized architecture, in the shapes and in the corners and on surfaces and decorations and in proportions of built structure body, it is so important that it represents ethnic culture and at the same time it can represent individual culture. If we consider the ethnic culture as the primary driver of forming architectural units and architectural complexes, tastes and personal insights cannot be anything but some variables in that culture, and now we can mention the presence of two features, which they are in Confrontation and evolution of each other. The first feature makes the architecture collections identical and the second feature makes a character suitable to the identity of the owners of buildings and complexes. In other words culture with various aspects in the building, direct effect on the external shape of the built environment and its placing in the natural environment.

5. During the process of formation of a building a set of Visual features, made of elegance intellectual tastes and local customs and culture and reflector of indigenous people culture and history, it will remove both city and buildings from public wealth in a symbolic way. What can we add to this category is to focus on people's identity which are in organic Collectivity, which has been measured and intertwined with precision and elegance, in the body of Improvisation construction architecture.4

## V. LONGEVITY SECRETS OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

In addition to important factors in building a structure which is raised these days, there are other issues and concepts that must also be paid the necessary attention to make a lasting architecture of both physical and semantic terms. Therefore, understanding the characteristics of a lasting structure, is beyond the physical body survey, it needs recognition of mysteries hidden in the form of society culture, respect for nature and meet the daily needs of people, which have been represented in the architecture. In other words, in addition to scrutinize the body of the structure, we must study what gives the architecture, meaning and it causes the buildings survive. Some mysteries of vernacular architecture is focused on the following:

- Identity and nature:

In today's chaotic world, identity is an elusive mystery. These days identity has been mentioned so many times, human identity, artistic identity, architectural identity and etc. all are due to the fact that "identity" is missing and everyone is looking for it ! The fact is, identity is a concept which connects the structure to its principals, roots and origin.5 The presence of humans in nature, means his propinquity to God and his origin. And this propinquity has some Symptoms, and the Symptoms are the nature signs.

The signs are the secrets of nature, so human and his appearances such as art and architecture, the more natural they are closer to their identity.

- Unity and harmony:

The purpose of art is to impart human environment and the world (in the way which has been made and polished by mankind) in an order that is the most direct way, is a manifestation of Divine Unity. Art bright and refines the world, it helps the spirit to avoid Intensity of great anxiety of the affairs and return to the infinite unity. Burke's intention can be found in the vernacular architecture with insight. In the vernacular architecture all of the homes combine in a single order (while none are alike), and they create a coordinated and integrated texture.

- Beauty:

Vernacular architecture is beautiful and pleasant, because the manufacturer thinks beautiful. Vernacular architecture's beauty is not in showing off, it means that it deliberately did not want to make itself beautiful, but the beauty of it comes from the knowledge of universe and the world, because in conformance to what has been created at first, everything it builds will be more beautiful proportional to its understanding of the universe and the world. So the secret of vernacular architecture's beauty lies in the knowledge of the universe. Correspondingly anyone faces this matter with any view, they unconscious are forced to admire, but all viewers are not aware of all this beauty. To understand this meaning, depth of insight is required.6 The intended use of the color raises an order which in the absence of it, it will create a confusion in the mind of the viewer's and understand the colors in architecture and art represents Intellectual awareness of the integration of quantitative and qualitative. One of the main sources of this integrity should be considered as nature.

**VI. VALUES OF VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE**

1. Looking at the nature and associated sanctity with it: An architecture, architecture from the moment of birth, since the first taken steps to turn into a body ,it blends with the earth, it receives water from earth and after transforming the appearance and chemical and physical content, it gives back to earth in varying degrees, it turns side to the breeze and turns back to the winds which they hurt it. In fusion with nature, both associated with the subordination of nature and the efficiency of it. The establishment in the natural environment, either because of its adherence and respect, or in relation to beliefs that were born in the land of ancient culture and adventurous history of that land, it is done with grace and elegance.7

2. The design process and humanized design: In sustainable architecture is utmost importance to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the residents. Peopleization is concerned to the needs and related outcomes of the applicability of a building, it means all of the needs of the building's user has been considered due to their social ranking. In vernacular architecture, purpose is to understand the spirit of the place and not the vernacular architecture itself. Human design, is the most important principle of the vernacular architecture which is perpend on the environmental viability of all the constituents of the universe.

3. Structural Durability: One of the architectural characteristics is usage of geometry, geometric rules in designs are leading to a better understanding of size, proportionality and beauty and the structural related forces concerned the construction of the building. Accurate understanding of geometry and related issues enables architecture to provide more stable and more valuable forms.

**VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE APPLICATIONS:**

Vernacular architecture applications:

Recognition of environment and architects only is only possible with understand human activities on the surrounding world and the purpose of architecture can be seen in building the image of a human in a physical form. So if we accept that the architecture is the physical of the human life, we should understand the life with all aspects (needs, beliefs, etc.), architecture of today and tomorrow cannot be in no relation to the architecture of the past. However, in certain stages, in fact, not in terms of architecture but also in terms of dealing with the issue of living place after industrial revolution.

The fact which makes us to apply the term of the past, present and the future. It is an undeniable event in a part of architectural history which is undeniable that in terms of the underlying characteristics, it was an attitude for conclusion of the concept of habitat for societies.

According to this fact, in a situation which knowing various environmental factors and undeniable links, makes it impossible. In order to set the living places, we are in need of culture, because in fact, what the architectural culture of the past had it as a tradition inside itself, Today's Vernacular Architecture is posed as an inanimate body in ahead of us and naturally today's societies, in order to find and use the values of the past, are Inevitable to search and find in their own unknown and forgotten values. With the hope that our today's effort for tomorrow would be a way to find a road to connecting to the past.

## CONCLUSION

Although vernacular architecture has been affected by transformative phenomena, was able to maintain its special identity throughout history and the fact that the people of a territory are considered as a valid certificate which represents customs, spirit, thought and belief, taste and their art. Vernacular architecture

is shaped in harmony with the climate and compatible with local culture and vernacular architecture has some values which some of them could be replicated in today's architecture. we must realize that Today's and tomorrow's architecture cannot be in no relation to the architecture of the past. Such as it goes in the future we just can search sought the vernacular architecture only in the books. But we can rely on the correct way to understand the culture and return to their logics, through activated thought we start to do the review and detailed analysis of the obstacles on the way of the vernacular architecture, and considering the ways of resolving this issues and obstacles and as a process we revitalize our vernacular architecture.

## REFERENCES


[1] S. Veysi, Architecture, Human identity and Local identity, Collection of specialised articles of architecture and Urban Development, pp. 38, Spring 2005.

[2] A. Rappaport, housing anthropology, translation: K. Afzalyan, Herfe Honarmand publications, pp. 90, 2009, Tehran.

[3] S. Noormohammadi, understanding the nature of architectural space, reflecting the similarity space in native settlements doctoral thesis architecture, School of architecture, College of Fine arts, Tehran University, 2009.

[4] N. Yousefi, role in shaping the nature of architecture, monthly green paper, the sixth No. 53, June 2006.

[5] J. Satari, 2002, Titus Burckhardt, Sarv Honar Moghadas publications, pp. 63-64, Tehran, 2002.

[6] Gh. Akrami, the secrets of rural architecture, Journal of Housing and the rural environment, the secrets of rural architecture, pp. 50-52, Autumn 2010.

[7] M. Falamaki, 2005, Vernacular Architecture, Journal of Cultural Science Institute, pp. 82-83, Tehran, 2005.


★★★