

# ASSESSMENT THE MANNER OF OBTAINING HIERARCHIES AND PRIVACY OF TRADITIONAL HOUSES ENTRANCE IN PROVIDING A SAFE PLACE: A CASE STUDY OF TRADITIONAL HOUSES IN SHIRAZ)

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## ABSTRACT

*In this paper the manner of obtaining hierarchies and privacy entry of traditional houses in providing a safe place in the city of Shiraz will be evaluated by Qualitative – Descriptive methods and 6 old houses case study. The houses of Shiraz, as the houses in other cities in Iran are a response to climate and physical features. The old part of Shiraz has a compressed and dense texture in which the houses are in narrow and tight alleys. In this regard the principles of traditional house entrance design have been introduced. The results show that every house has a private entrance. Direction of the entry of most houses is toward the south and with a turn to the south-east side. Entrance to yard path in all the cases is not straight, and this had been done by using 90 degrees rotates of the corridor leading to the yard. Vestibule provides a private place for the house and entrance stairway to the rooftop is located inside it.*

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### KEY WORDS

*Entrance, Components of entrance, Hierarchy, Frontage, Shiraz houses*

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## INTRODUCTION

From ancient time people of Iran have shown the tendency to introverted architecture due to their attitudes of house and family. Basically Iranian doctrinal and specific issues had influence on formation of different spaces and especially in residential areas. One of those Specifications is respect for private life and reverence for it [1] and for example we can point the entrance and the way in which one enters home from the public alley that is one of the traditional Iranian architecture arts and connects architecture art to Iranian beliefs. It can be said that Iranian doctrinal and specific issues had influence on formation of different spaces and especially in residential areas [1] [2]. The entrance of a house has its own specific entrance to cover the aims and maintaining the traditions of that house. Household needs, lifestyle, culture, and technical skills are all effecting on the formation and architecture of a house entrance. In fact the nature of society and features of what is important in a society usually are reflected in designing the constructions. Entrance area is a part of Contiguous sequence and related spaces off the entire house. While entering a house, the door and the front of the house are both a barrier to enter the house and an area to welcome to the semi-familiar guests. This area is like a waiting place for the strangers. Entrance of a house is also a bridge from the house to alley, street and district.

From what that has been said above, it can be seen that even this small space has its own characteristics, which plays a role beyond its function in the home series. Dr. Kateb in “Architecture of Iranian House” expresses the basics of designing entrance of a traditional house: conserving the house frontage, entering is a gradual process, entering process show humility, entrance controlling is indirect and the view of the house is different in the neighborhood [3]. Also Dr. Soltan zade in “Entrance Space in Traditional Iranian Architecture” expresses these factors: Maintaining privacy and security, ease of access, entering with humility and calm, to gradually entering and solving physical problems, linking urban space with architectural space [4].

By studying historic and old towns and their original homes, the authors have considered the city of Shiraz as an evaluation area, privacy and immediate problem of how to create a safe environment from the street has been evaluated by using 6 old and traditional houses as the sample. In these houses the relationship between the inside

and outside is gradually due to central yard and some areas like vestibule, Corridor and hallway are at the arrival and this process cuts the connection of public and private life in a good method and introversion of homes, has a role in preserving the confidentiality of them [2].

There is not much studies in the assessment of manner of Shiraz houses entrance in providing a safe place and there is few literatures about residential architectural of Shiraz houses. In this field we can name books like “Entrance Space In Traditional Iranian Architecture” by Hossein Soltanzade, “Architecture Of Iranian House” by Fateme Kateb, and “House, Nature And Culture” by M. Reza Haeri Mazandarani that evaluates traditional hoses in the cities of Hamedan, Rasht, Kashan, Shiraz and Bushehr, and published papers including The Assessment Of Stylistic Characteristics Of Residential Architecture In Qajar In Shiraz by Hony Zaree [5] and some other works. This study evaluates the manner of Shiraz house entrance in providing a safe place about 6 old houses in Qualitative – Descriptive methods. Different parameters like frontage, hierarchy and its components have been studied and some ideas about designing new entrance have been recommended.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

According to the few studies about the features of Shiraz house entrance, the main part of data collecting has been due to field harvest and studies. In this research data from 6 old houses as sample and present dates has been used to follow the objectives of the research. Choosing the houses among the old houses in traditional texture being in the map and available has been in the selection criteria method. The steps of the research area as follows:

- Selecting some traditional houses in shiraz
- Field harvest of the maps and the sizes by using Leica Laser meter D5 model
- Evaluating and comparison of different parameters like frontage, hierarchy and its components.
- After providing the above steps, the produced data has been presented in tables and the results have been collected. Some software like AutoCAD to draw the maps and Excel to calculate the data has been used in this process.

### Case Study

The city of Shiraz is located in the heart of one of the most ancient centers of Iran Civilization at the south-west of Iran and has the longitude 52 ° and 33 minutes east, Latitude 29 degrees and 36 minutes north. City is expanded along the main axis and the minor axis over the time [6]. From the beginning Shiraz monuments has been influenced by religion. In traditional society, the family is the basic units of society, and home is the main axis of the integrity of the family [7]. The houses in Shiraz not just are one of the most shining traditions in Iran from the view of map, decorating and arrays, but also are the treasures of art which are unique aspects of inner beauty and cultural value. Traditional homes with elegant and complex designs in Shiraz are derived from cultural and religious traditions, and have achieved their maximum boom and surprises [7].

The houses in Shiraz are related to some different periods of time and remaining houses mostly are belonged to Qajar period. Because almost of the old houses has been ruined and just a few of them was remained. The houses in old and new texture are completely different in Architecture and the features are presented in Table 1.

The location of the houses in the old and central texture is Sporadic and the selection has been in different areas. The selected houses are different in the style of entrance but all of them solve the problem of privacy and being safe and separate the inside and outside area. In this paper the manner and process will be discussed and will be compared in case studies (Fig. 1).

Table: 1. Specifications of case study's Home

Building	Construction Era	Registration No of Nation's Heritage	NO of Floor	Basement	Direction	Area	
B1	Forrogh ol molk Home	Qajar	2040	2	YES	North Eastern-South Western	1020
B2	Owji Home	Qajar	2384	1	YES	North Western-South Eastern	378
B3	Towhidi Home	Qajar	4522	1	YES	North Western-South Eastern	418
B4	Saadat Home	Qajar	10481	1	YES	North-South	406
B5	Hasani Ardekani Home	Qajar	1601	1	YES	North-South	943
B6	Afsharian Home	Pahlavi	8994	1	YES	North Eastern-South Western	584
B6	Afsharian Home	Pahlavi	8994	1	YES	North Eastern-South Western	84

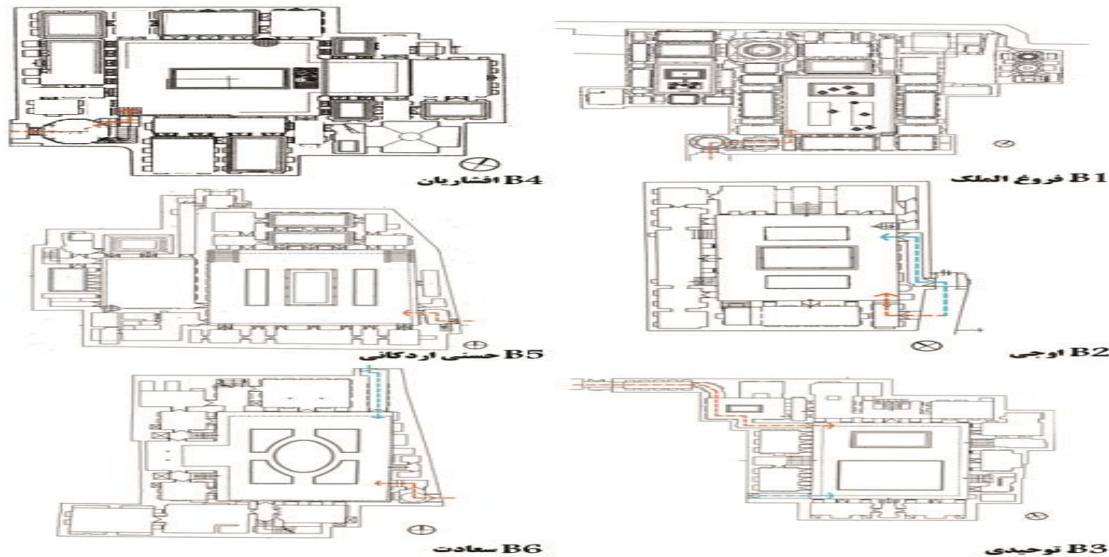


Fig: 1. The map of Shiraz in Qajar period (right), the plan of case studies in Shiraz (left) [8].

## RESULTS

According to what we discussed before, it is obvious that the entrance has specific features and roles in past residential architecture of Iran and every feature can be discussed independently. So in this part we will evaluate and discuss some of these features.

### Hierarchy

The principle of hierarchy is one of the most important principles in formation of Iranian traditional architecture and urbanism. The role of hierarchy in defining a set of components and identifying them is undeniable. Hierarchy is the organization and composition of spaces and elements based on some physical properties or performance that Create hierarchical in arrangement, using or viewing elements [4]. Classification in terms of territory and Privacy shape spaces is done by observing the principle of hierarchy. This structure can be seen in smaller scale in building's Architectural space. Hierarchy is in more traditional buildings, including forecourt and entrance, entrance vestibule, corridors, hallways, courtyards and other performance spaces around the courtyard [2].

Respecting the principle of hierarchy, causes the separation of public and private areas and shows the role of privacy more important in spatial structure. It can be noted that privacy is one of the physical manifestations of respect for hierarchy that is seen in Islamic cities and creates lasting values such as safety, comfort, privacy and confidentiality in traditional buildings [2].

The entrance space is to connect the input space into the outdoors. Other functions can be changing direction, stopping, waiting to enter, as divider and set the direction or directions. Hierarchy that exists in this run creates the best performance in the entrance space [4]. The creation of social hierarchies rooted in religious beliefs and has helped design an indirect path being formed to not let the people enter the house suddenly and not being any direct view to the interior [4]. In fact conscious design has changed the simple path to a long and spiral path [4]. According to evaluation of hierarchy element in the case studies it was found that all the entrances are indirect and there is turns in the path.

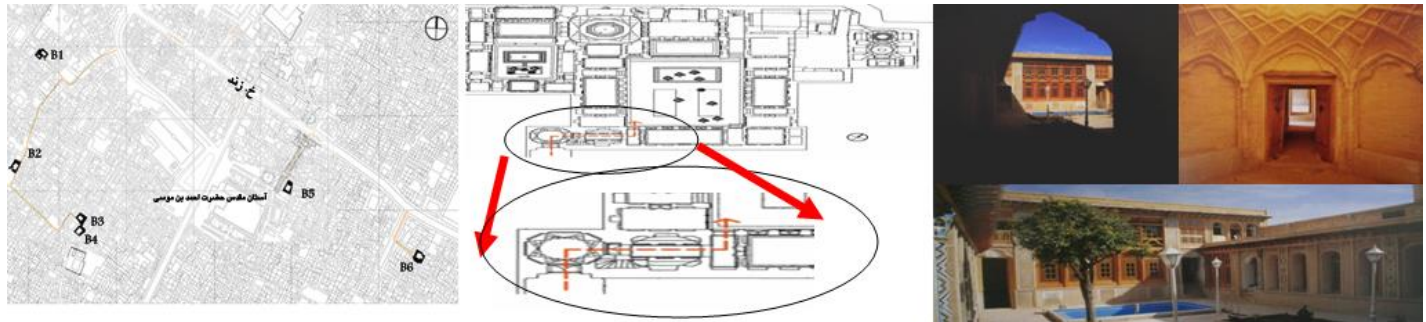


Fig: 2. Using Hierarchy in the entrance components of Forughol molk house in the city of Shiraz, source: Negrandegan

Table: 2. Case Study's Entrance

Building	Entrance	Entrance Direction	Entrance Way	How TO Enter	Porch(Hashti)	First Entrance
B1 Forrogh ol milk Home	1	South Western	Indirect		Yes	
B2 Owji Home	1	South Eastern	Indirect		No	
B3 Towhidi Home	2	North Western	Indirect		No	
B4 Saadat Home	1	South Eastern	Indirect		Yes	
B5 Hasani Ardekani Home	2	South Eastern	Indirect		Yes	
B6 Afsharian Home	1	South Western	Indirect		Yes	

**Privacy**

Artist architect has used the privacy in Shiraz traditional houses in the best way. Keeping the veil in Iranian homes because of family privacy is obvious and is shining in Iranian architecture [9]. It can be said that the meaning of privacy in architecture and urban space is Privacy body to have a space to be two aspects of the physical and semantic. Privacy of having more space within the body is focusing on the principles that will shape the security environment and the semantic domain for architectural features that brought dignity and worth of the individual in such a way to relax. Intimate space is a space that provides to achieve physical and spiritual conditions of confidentiality in all its various dimensions. Privacy can be seen as one of the distant past that has been seen in the architecture of Iran [2].

Privacy and introspection in Iranian architecture, the entrance gets important because it connects the outdoor and indoor and usually is the outside view of the building. Evaluation indicates that how the designer keeps the

privacy and also moving through it. In most of the houses the privacy is controlled by the path. The vestibule turns from entering the house, separates the inside and outside space and provides privacy for the house because it eliminates the view of the house just to vestibule.

By evaluating the privacy in the case studies it has been known that entering to a house has been assisted by the yard. It means that however the entrance path is in indoor, but it does not lead the person in the heart of the house suddenly. The entrance path goes to the yard at first and then it goes to other parts of the house. It is noticeable that in some houses it does not occur, for example the auxiliary entrance of the house of Forughol Molk that one can go from vestibule to guest room. In all the houses that were studied there is a yard. Also in all the cases the path is not direct. This is seen even in the houses that are likely to enter directly like Hasani Ardekani and Saadat. The turn, separates the inside and outside space and provides privacy for the house because it eliminates the view of the house just to vestibule.

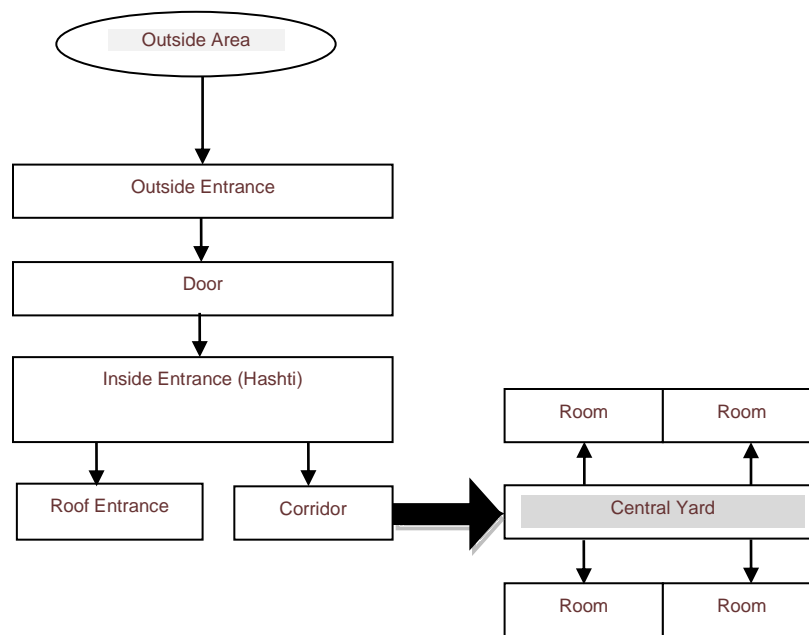


Fig. 3. The steps of entering a house in functional view

**Entrance components**





The entrance area of a traditional house has different components including doorway, vestibule and corridor. The entrance door is the boundary between inside and outside. The small place in which the door stands is called doorway [4]. The doorway has a little shadow and protects the guest from snow and rain while he or she is at the door. In addition to the oven and departed, there are two platforms, which is aid "old settlement," [10]. Facade shows the house entrance and also is evidence to start or final part of a house. The entrance begins from a corner and the doorway is the only place to move in and the wooden door has completely closed it. It seems that safety has been very important for the people of Shiraz which base such architecture: Tall and closed walls. But it is not the only reason of being closed; the reason also can be finding in vestibules.

Vestibule is a space that locates after doorway and is a place to branch the ways [4]. Vestibule often is Octagonal-shaped or semi-octagonal or sometimes four corners. Vestibule usually has a short roof and there is a light hole in its domed roof and has some places to sit [3].

Corridor is an indirect path from vestibule to yard [3]. The most important role of it is providing a connection between two places in this way the privacy was produced [4].



Table 3: The vestibule of case study's

	Building	Porch	The Form	Ways from Porch	Porch to Yard	Entrance Plan
B1	Forrogh ol molk Home	Yes	Eight Sides	Corridor, way to roof	Corridor	
B2	Owji Home	No	No	No	No	No
B3	Towhidi Home	No	No	No	No	No
B4	Saadat Home	Yes	Circle	No	Corridor	
B5	Hasani Ardekani Home	Yes	Four Sides	Way to roof, yard	No	
B6	Afsharian Home	Yes	Eight Sides	Corridor, way to roof	Corridor	

### DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

The entrance in the houses of Shiraz originates from the residential culture just like other ancient structures. At first there is the door and after that the vestibule and is Octagonal-shaped or semi-octagonal and play the role of pre entrance space. This space is lower than the alley about one step. The entrance is from a path which is normal to vestibule. By this turn, there will be no view to the house and it is obvious that the privacy is provided in this series.

By evaluating 6 houses we will understand that:

- Almost all the houses have private entrance. Two houses of Hasani Ardekani and Tohidi have two entrances and one of them has not vestibule and directly goes to the yard. It means there is no stop place for the strangers to get more familiar.
- The entrance direction is toward the south or south-east and in all the cases the entrance is in a corner
- The entrance path is indirect and has one or two 90 degrees turn in corridors toward the yard.
- Just two houses of Owji and Tohidi did not have vestibule and in other cases it was in different shapes. Vestibule is a private place for the house and the stairs to roof is also in it.
- Entrance corridor is another place of vestibule that provides stop and turn for the guest.
- The direction is in a way that entering person does not see the main house and after 90 degrees turn he or she will see the house.

### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Authors declare no conflict of interest.

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None.

### FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE

None declared.

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