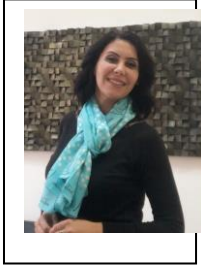


THE ROOF REPAIR OF A BORANHANE



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şefika Ergin, Berfin Aydınalp,
Berhat Yakut
Faculty of Architecture, Department of Architecture
Dicle University, Diyarbakır
erginsefika@hotmail.com

ABSTRACT

Pigeons have had an important place since they have been benefited from many of their features from the past to the present. In addition, pigeon manure was used in agriculture to obtain fertile products as well as gunpowder production. Pigeon manure and eggs are still used today. Throughout history, people who have benefited from these features of pigeons have built shelters in many countries to protect pigeons. In Turkey, different names have been given to these shelters, which were built specifically for the regions. These shelters are named as “burç” in Gesi region of Kayseri province and “güvercinlik” in Cappadocia region. In Diyarbakır province of the South-eastern Anatolia, these structures built for the protection and breeding of pigeons were called “boranhane”. These *boranhane*s built in Diyarbakır represent a symbol of the lost cultural heritage and tradition. It is important to protect these structures, which are important both culturally and as a part of the tradition, in order to pass them on to future generations. In addition, it is of great importance to protect these structures, which still exist today, in order not to disturb the ecological balance. As a result of the increase in the use of artificial fertilizers instead of pigeon manure around Diyarbakır, *boranhane*s are no longer used. Over time, these unused structures have suffered many damages due to neglect, such as the damages on the floors above the ground, on the walls, and on the parts that provide the entry and exit of the pigeons. In addition, as a result of insufficient attention and protection, some of these structures have been destroyed and some of them have survived to the present day with great damage.

In this study, the architectural features of the existing *boranhane*s in Diyarbakır as well as the building materials, planning and forms used during the construction were examined. In addition, the repairing applications of the damaged roof of one of these traditional *boranhane*s with the traditional system were examined in detail. Today, these structures are faced with the problem of losing their originality due to the decrease in traditional construction techniques. In order to solve this problem caused by the gradual decrease in traditional construction techniques, it is aimed to observe and document every stage of this traditional construction technique.

In this context, the roof construction phase of a *boranhane* located in Diyarbakır has been observed practically. The surveys and the plans of the examined *boranhane*s, located within the borders of the province were drawn, their architectural features were examined on-site and their original conditions were photographed and archived.

Keywords: Boranhane, Pigeon houses, Soil based top cover, Traditional structures.