

## **Typology of Traditional Houses with the Courtyard Element in Yazd**



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### **ABSTRACT**

The evolution and development of culture and architecture in Iran has a long and complex history. Iran has been the center of world action for centuries; it has been a capable exporter of not only architecture but also other cultural impacts. The architectural shapes and forms of many important houses in Iran have been developed by the concept of introverted culture. The essence of the internal organization of space in Iranian housing is the “courtyard”, an interconnected and integrated structure which is an appropriate answer to the physical and spiritual lives of people. One of the primary forms of housing development is houses with courtyards, which can be found in various patterns in different regions, especially in the hot and arid regions. Over the centuries, this type of historical housing has developed into a logical configuration. This configuration of forms has been strongly influenced by the local characteristics of its content and culture; thus, the user has been able to enjoy maximum benefits with minimal impact on the environment. In the courtyard, cultural concepts that induce an archetype aspect have been cleverly integrated. Climate and culture have formed the type of courtyard housing in Iran, particularly in the historic city of Yazd. In fact, courtyard housing has become the prevailing historical housing pattern in the hot and arid region of Iran and has shaped the urban areas. In addition to cultural patterns, climate conditions have had a significant impact on the formation of the courtyards of Yazd's historical houses. In this study, with the help of literature and field data collection and a review of the existing houses in the historical texture of Yazd, a classification of the form pattern of the courtyards has been concluded. The three overall classifications of houses with courtyards are central courtyards, four-platform courtyards (Chahar Soffeh), and garden houses. Architects, with the assistance of the typology of courtyards in the hot and arid region of Yazd, are able to re-integrate culture and climate into their designs and, as a result, produce more sustainable buildings which can respond to local needs.

**Keywords:** Historical Housing - Courtyard - Yazd - Pattern - Climate