

“Conservation of Architectural Heritage, CAH” 23-27 November 2015, Luxor

Cognitive safeguard of the Tunisian middle class dwellings architecture.

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Abstract

Our study proposes a cognitive and virtual safeguard, of architecture of tunisian middle class dwellings at precolonial period. The Tunisian domestic architecture included two main forms; the urban dwellings intramural and the suburban dwellings extramural, only one form was subject of work and scientific research; the intramural houses. Through this study we try to understand and to know the particularities of the Tunisian suburban domestic architecture for better conserve our heritage which is lost from day to day.

The morphological and structural analysis of these buildings allowed us to study their logic of internal organization, their evolution and we are trying to extract the identity system.

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Peer-review under responsibility of IEREK, International experts for Research Enrichment and Knowledge Exchange

Keywords: Cognitive; Virtual; Intramuros; Extramuros; Heritage; Morphological; Structural; Evolution; Identity system.

1. Introduction

In this work we propose a cognitive and virtual safeguarding, of the architecture of middle class dwellings of Tunis at precolonial period (Simon, 1991). Our study is part of research for a thesis in architecture degree. The cognitive and virtual safeguarding allows the conservation of knowledge and knowledge make architectural, this is to retain the model that governs this architecture and allows the reproduction of a building (Tabary, 1991). This is not an archaeological restitution. The Tunisian domestic architecture included two main forms; the urban dwellings intramural and the suburban dwellings extramural, only one form was subject of work and scientific research; the intramural houses. However these two forms of habitat have been inhabited by the same users, at the same time but

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at different periods of the year. The wealthy city dweller loved going on vacation during the summer season, they had houses of pleasure in orchards in the surrounding countryside the city (Monchicourt, 1904). They have simultaneously lived intramural and extramural houses. In our study we consider the area of Tunis 'Tunisois' as a particular system which is a part of the global system "Tunisia". Within this particular system, which is the "Tunisois" (Walliser, 1991), we study two forms of residential architecture; intramural and extramural dwellings of Tunis. We try, in this work, to understand and to know the particularities of the extramural dwellings architecture of the suburb and to compare it to the particularities of the residential architecture of the intramuros city. We believe that, by considering the particular system 'Tunis residential architecture' in its entirety we will find the logic of organization of this particular system (Le Moigne, 1984). We will also try to demonstrate that researchs that focus only on one form of habitat; dwelling intramuros, have attributed to this architecture of the characteristics that are not proper to him, and thus can be mislead. This work is intended to conserve this heritage which is in loss, to preserve the model of this architecture, characteristic and characterized, which is part of the collective memory of the region of Tunis and of Tunisia.

2. Method

We propose to analyze city dwellings intramuros "dār"¹ (Revault, 1968) and dwellings suburban extramuros "bordj"² (Revault, 1884). "Dār" and "bordj" belonged to a particular social category; the "khāssa", it is a social descent that has a particular rank. "Khāssa" correspond to the major notables of the city. We also set the period on which we will work (1750-1880) with the aid of a histogram that shows the period during which the number of House of pleasure is the most important. First of all, we will try to identify the component places of the two forms of Habitat. To do this we will try to use the method of the incidence matrix (Fig. 1.). The incidence matrix is a decomposition mechanism that allows to identify the different elements component the entity, identify the different relationships between the elements and measure the intensity of their interactions.

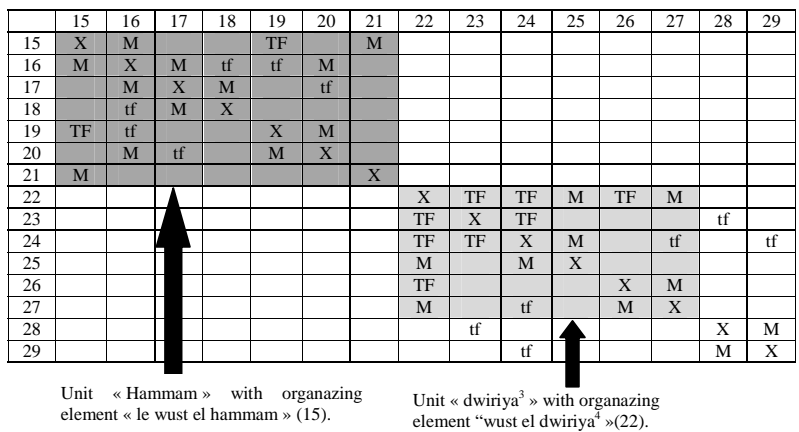


Fig. 1. Example of incidence matrix

¹ Dār: Intramural house of the medina of Tunis.

² Bordj: extramural house of suburban in orchards of the region of Tunis.

³ Home service.

⁴ Courtyard of home service.

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