

West Black Sea Traditional Timber Structure; The Example of Safranbolu Gökçüoğlu Mansion

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The Anatolian houses and its surroundings define strongly the cultural life of its period. The factors give forms to the architecture came up with different perspectives. The Anatolian settlements formed according to the traditions, regional characteristics, application principles and economical standards. Examining the traditional settlements, which has rural architecture examples, in different regions of Anatolian geography it is seen that the traditional regional house environments reflect the life style of its period to the physical spaces. To define the principles of architectural forms in Anatolian vernacular houses will provide a contribution to current forming in architecture. Also the determination of vernacular housing culture in West Black Sea Region will be provided by the past experiences. West Black Sea Region has many settlement units which timber construction technique is interpreted with different construction techniques. The effect, importance and contribution of timber material in architectural forms are constituted within hundred years experiences. Solid block masonry, framework, mixed system constructed houses has an important role in forming the architectural characteristics of this region. Timber-stone or timber-adobe compositions create the original architectural characteristics of this region. The composition of timber, which has an important role of forming the traditional architecture characteristics in the region is also very interesting about the level of ability to use material in traditional architecture.

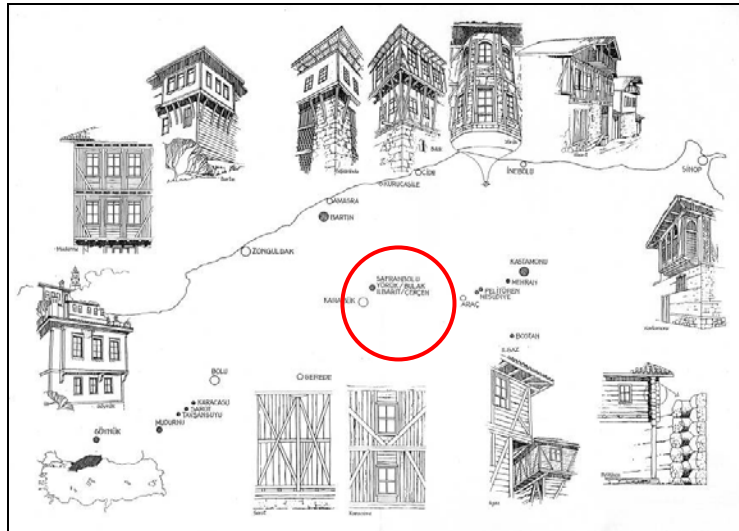


Figure 1- Traditional Black Sea Region houses

Safranbolu has one residential structure that contains the major settlements of traditional Western Black Sea Region. Safranbolu, has architectural forms created by lifestyle and traditions, along with

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local natural conditions. Safranbolu is settled in a valley. The houses on the hillside settlement can not grab each other. Houses, streets, walls and gardens complement each other. The causes of these to shape are topography, direction concerns, material facilities, the way of life according to the housing culture and mostly important one is the production relations.



Figure 2 Gökçüoğlu Mansion garden view

Gökçüoğlu Mansion, is located in the Köyiçi neighborhood of Bağlar which is former alpine pasture district of Safranbolu. Gökçüoğlu Mansion, the most successful building in terms of interior design and the basic principles of traditional Anatolian house is revealed in the very simplest form (Figure 2). Although Gökçüoğlu Mansion has a large garden, this particular building has been located on the border of Değirmenbaşı street. This limits the mansion on this particular side. The layout of a venue has three floors; ground floor, the middle layer and upper floors. The Gökçüoğlu Mansion is one of the unique examples of the timber Anatolian house as space organization and timber material structure. Local wood is a material which has an important place in traditional Anatolian house structural organization. This is a timber frame system on 2 floors on masonry stone infill ground floor. Gökçüoğlu Mansions cantilever layout shows a mass effect (Figure 3).

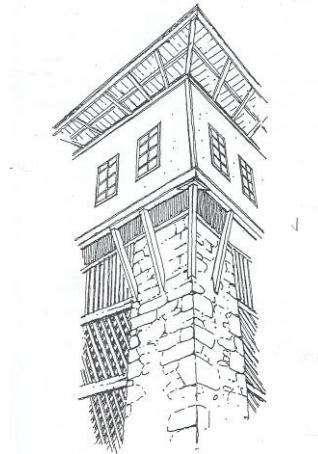


Figure 3 Overhung- floor composition

In this production environment Gökçüoğlu Mansion reflects strong clues on production relations, the social-cultural daily life and social life of its period. These structures are the strong witnesses of the tradition of wooden buildings of the period. So they must be examined with protection principles in terms of sustainability of the architectural heritage.

Keywords timber, Anatolia, regional characteristics