INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ISLAMIC ARTS & ARCHITECTURE (ICIAA)

December 10-12, 2007, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Architecture with soil

Dr. Mohsen Vafamehr

Iran University of Science and Technology (IUST)
Dr.Vafamehr@gmail.com

Abstract

In this article the effort is based upon the research done on soil and its evolving and developing stages in the framework of traditional and modern buildings. The tradition of structure building making is a dynamic outcome where structure builders consciously but gradually and progressively put their efforts into action for the development and improvement of their methods and shapes. If the new structures be built with modern stuff and materials they will be of more favor and acceptance, but for finding innovative solutions in the use of traditional building materials such as soil, rocks and pottery clay suitable in certain cases there should be no reason to hesitate. The use of soil in housing projects not only was a fashion prevalent all over the world but also Iran since ancient times. Masons and architects knew the significance of this substance and the role it played in building structures. But today people are more habituated to other types of atmospheres that include concrete and metal buildings, go after materials which accord with the needs of the day and are abundantly available and easily acquirable. Experts as well as lay people have become rather oblivious and estranged from a true and beautiful humanistic way of life, a way that is centered on human interests and values. But if they be exposed to and be able to have a close touch they will surely be enamored by it.

The response to the question that why soil, as an element of value, is used in buildings should be sought in the facts and premises which determine the many abilities it has. The main focus of this article is to present these qualities as well as the innovative methods with which many problems can be solved.

Keywords

Architecture, Soil, Structure building, Traditional, Modern, Methods