


Book Review

Traditional Window Designs of Kirklareli, Turkey

Nevnihal Erdoğan, İzzet Yüksek

Bentham Science Publishers, ISBN 978-1-60805-742-9

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Traditional Window Designs of
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N. Erdoğan, İ. Yüksek
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This article reviews the book "Traditional Window Designs of Kirklareli, Turkey", authored by Nevnihal Erdoğan and İzzet Yüksek. The book delves into the standardisation of windows found in traditional houses during the late 19th and early 20th centuries within the Kirklareli region of Turkey. Within the scope of the study, 109 houses were examined, and 20 houses were excluded because they lost their original features due to deterioration and destruction. According to

researchers, urgent measures need to be taken to protect the cultural heritage in the region. In this regard, one of the book's aims is to contribute to developing new design models by archiving traditional window details. The study examined 103 traditional window types belonging to 89 houses in detail.

The cultural change that has occurred rapidly in recent years is also reflected in the buildings and construction techniques. The materials and

construction techniques used in traditional architecture have especially been replaced by different techniques because they are fast and cheap. The wooden frame system, widely used in traditional Turkish architecture, has become standardized due to the necessity of certain dimensions. In this system, the ground floor generally consists of masonry stone walls, and the floors added above it consist of wood frame and infill walls. In the wooden frame system, the spaces between the posts and buttresses that make up the structure are divided by intermediate posts and the gaps are filled with filling material. This standardization ensures window sizes are within certain dimensions, affecting the facade layout.

Erdoğan and Yüksek structured their work through two basic sections. In the first chapter, titled “Traditional House and Window Designs of Kırklareli”, the window concept is generally defined. The position of windows in the building and the window-light relationship are discussed in the context of architectural history. In the study, which examined the 19th and 20th centuries in scope, window examples from that period throughout the world and Turkey were mentioned. The place of Kırklareli province in Turkey is explained along with geographical, social, and economic changes. In addition to general features, traditional houses were evaluated in terms of urban texture, traditional typology, construction system and facade system. The 103 windows are classified by 10 headings. These titles include wall-profile relationship, frame-sash relationship, wing-sash relationship, wing-sash movement, number of movable wings of the profile, window arrangement, movable wings of the profile, fixed wings of the profile, window ratio and presence of details. The literature discussed in this section, which constitutes the theoretical part of the book, is relevant and comprehensive. It will be an important resource for those working on this subject.

“In the second chapter titled “Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century Windows in Kırklareli”, the research conducted in Kırklareli is presented in detail and visualized. First, information is given about the general characteristics of the

building where the window is located, the structural features of the window are explained, and complementary elements such as sills are mentioned. The features of the window style are mentioned. Later, photographs, scale plans, sections, interior and exterior views and details of the window were added. This presentation style was applied to 103 windows. This section, which discusses fieldwork, offers scaled and comprehensive details, especially for those interested in traditional buildings.

As a result, window type has both visual and functional importance within the traditional housing texture. The deterioration that occurs over time due to natural disasters or external weather conditions causes the tissue and material to deteriorate and cannot be passed on to future generations. In this context, Erdoğan and Yüksek's work has the nature of an archive. The study will make a significant contribution to researchers working in the fields of architecture, design, urban conservation, and planning.

References

Erdoğan, N., Yüksek, İ., (2013). *Traditional Window Designs of Kırklareli, Turkey*, Bentham Science Publishers, USA.