Optimum house for Rasht peoples
(Based on their behaviors and influence needs)
With special reference to mediocre families

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Abstract

Since Iran's revolution, the population of cities has been growing dramatically due to several reasons which are not discussed in this thesis. As a result of this growth, there have been 2 chief problems in making sufficient number of buildings for Iranian citizens.

The first problem is with the shortcomings which exist in house construction and the second one is new houses which are inappropriate for Iranian families. These problems can be specifically felt more in other provinces than in Tehran.

As I came to Rasht in 1997 and started my career in house designing section, I encountered a number of problems. Most people here, have their house plans modified before or after the construction, pay a lot of money for this remodeling and try to adjust them according to their own needs.

Most of these houses are designed by civil engineers or architects based on the theories which are being taught at universities in Iran and they are also monitored and accepted by some organizations.

This thesis tries to know more about behaviors and identify the needs of people who live in Rasht. It also attempts to present a guide line for house designers to do their duties better than before, along with some designed samples for people to use as models. During the research, we realized that the policies might change during a short period of time, thus, we can't apply the guide line for the future. That's why we try to show a model to make out the current situation and update our information effectively on house designing and the needs of society regarding this model.

Multiple methods-both quantitative and qualitative-were considered to approach the basic data, which were adopted to examine the objectives of this research. In addition 800 samples were applied in order to figure out the influence of residential behaviors and peoples favored models. These samples were processed under municipality license and were chosen randomly.
These houses are designed based on the land lords' orders who want to sell their houses as soon as possible and are according to peoples likes and needs.

Both a questionnaire and the observation method along with taking notes and photography, which was done by architecture students, were employed for data gathering during the work field.

There has always been a big problem using the questionnaires to gather data here in Iran and that is the lack of trust on the questioners.

Mostly there is not accurate information about the salary or the price of houses because people assume that the questioners are related to the governmental tax and ministration, hence in this project, observation was used more than questionnaires.

Meanwhile quantitative data have been analyzed through statistical methods. (spss)

The sample of this thesis consists of mediocre families which is the representative family type in Rasht.

Accordingly approaching this criterion, the samples were chosen from locations such as Golsar and Manzarrieih, in which most residents are civil-servants.

**Arash Mehrgani**

**December 15, 2009**
Acknowledgment

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I am also grateful to her veracious assistance in taking care of our son all on her own while I was away on trips a long time. In particular, my special appreciation to my mother and father for providing a stimulating and convenient environment which has played the main role in my achievement, specifically during the war (Iran-Iraq War) and other crises in my life.

I have been incredibly fortunate to have the companion and guidelines of two supervisors, prof. Peter Berten and prof. Dr. Pakzad.

This study would not be successfully done without my colleagues and specially the deans.

Cooperation in faculty of art and architecture in Guilan University.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to them for their intellectual supports.

At last but not least, my special thanks to all students of mine that have helped me through the research for filling the questionnaire and collecting information.

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# Table of contents

Abstract
Acknowledgement
Table of contents
List of Figures
List of Table

1- Introduction  
  1.1 The reason for selecting the topic  
  1.2. The purpose of the study  
  1.3. Basic topics:  
  1-4: special question regarding the basic topic:  
  1-5: Background and limitations of the study  
    1-5-1: Limitations of the study  
    1-5-2: Background of the study  
1-6: Methodology  
  1-6-1: Description of the research model  
  1-6-2: Method  
1-7: Structure of the thesis  
1-8: Chapters of thesis  

2 - Chapter 2:  
  Studying and recognizing peoples (Rasht) special needs and behaviors (differences and reasons)  
  2-1: Geographical factors
2-2: Historical factors  
2-3: Ecological conditions  
2-4: Cultural factors  

3-Chapter 3  
Settlement activities in Rasht people's family

3-1: Study of Activities  
3-1-1: Behaviors:  
3-2: Hygienic behaviors  
3-3: Worshipping Matters:  
3-3-1: Group behaviors:  
3-3-2: Public and Private Spaces:  
3-4: Dwelling spaces  
3-4-1: Entrance spaces  
3-4-2: Lavatory and washbasin  
3-4-3: Living room  
3-4-4: Living room and guest room  
3-4-5: Bathroom  
3-4-6: Bedrooms  
3-4-7: Kitchen  
3-5: The desired performers  
3-6: The time of the activity  
3-6-1. Fridays  
3-6-2: The mourning days  
3-6-3: The celebration days
Chapter 4: Islam Precepts Regarding House

4-1: Soundness of the house 55
4-2: Reverence and privacy of the house 56
4-3: Hygiene of the house 58
4-4: Building the house 58
4-5: Spaces of the House 60
  4-5-1: the Entrance 60
  4-5-2: the courtyard 60
  4-5-3: Living room spaces 61
  4-5-4: Sleeping Space 62
  4-5-5: Worshipping Space 63
  4-5-7: Service Spaces: bathroom and restroom 63
  4-5-8: Decorations and Furniture of the house 64

Chapter 5: The impact of social relations on houses

5-1: Social relations 68
5-2: inside the family relations 73
  5-2-1: The relation between father and mother 73
  5-2-2: The relation between parents and children 73
  5-2-3: The relation among children 74
5-3: The relation of the individual with the outside 75
  5-3-1: Children below the age of 4 75
  5-3-2: Children between 4 and 12 75
  5-3-3: Children beyond 12 76
5-4: The relation between parents and the society 77
5-5: The relation between family and society 78
  5-5-1: Relation with neighbors 78
5-5-2: Relation with relatives 79
5-5-3: Relation with friends and colleagues 80

Chapter 6: 83-96
Metamorphosis in present society
6-1: Cultural factors 86
6-2: Social conditions and factors 88
6-3: The development of technology 91

Chapter 7: 97-112
Studying and determining traditional cause of space
7-1: System of elements in the society 97
   7-1-1: Traditional model 97
   7-1-2: Foreign model 97
   7-1-3: Compound model 98
7-2: The family’s life style 108
7-3: The society economical security 110
7-4: The space of the warehouses 110

Chapter 8: 112-137
Studying the amount of changes in residential houses
8-1: Governmental projects 114
   8-1-1: Change in needs of society 117
8-1-2: Change in target dwellers 119
8-1-3: Changing the details and finishing touches 123

8-2: Non-governmental projects 124
8-2-1: Changes in the inner part of the house and in the architecture of the plan 125
8-2-2: Change in floor area and number of floors 128

Chapter 9: Results 138-164
Studying and recognizing housing plans in today society

9-1: Inconformity of common residential needs with small buildings 139

9-2: Establishment of Private Banks 140

9-3: Increase in the number of rich people in townships 141
  9-3-1: Hidden Kitchen 141
  9-3-2: Second Bathroom 141
  9-3-3: Cloakroom 142
  9-3-4: North Balconies 142
  9-3-5: Entrance 143

9-4: The common spaces in today's houses 144
  9-4-1: Entrance 144
  9-4-2: Living room and Guest room 147
  9-4-3: Bedrooms 150
  9-4-4: Kitchen 153
  9-4-5: Bathroom 158
  9-4-6: Restroom 160

9-5: Ideal plan for normal families in Rasht 163

9-6: Summery 164-168
LIST OF FIGURES

Picture1: Guilan Mountain 12
Picture2: Mirza koochak khan hero of Rasht 14
Picture3: Municipality of Rasht Building 15
Picture4: The intensity of rain in Rasht 16
Picture5: Roads and forests of Guilan 16
Picture6: Sample of region architecture in Guilan 17
Picture7: Sample of common architecture in the central plateau of Iran 17
Picture8: Local entertainments in Guilan (cow fighting) varza jang 20
Picture9: Local show (rope walking) excerpted from Russia 21
Picture10: Multicolored life and cloths 21
Picture11: Women are full of colors 22
Picture12: A sample of keeping beds at the corner of the room 28
Picture13: Sample of eating (in living room) 29
Picture14: Sample of eating (in Kitchen) 30
Picture15: figure of house and society effected 34
Picture16: Levels of privacy from bedroom to downtown 36
Picture17: sample of separate living room 37
Picture18: Sample of living and guest room mix together 38
Picture19: Private corridor between bedrooms 38
Picture20: Tree kind of mills in one kitchen 40
Picture21: Sample of kitchen spaces 41
Picture22: Usual position of furniture 72
Picture23: Rate of change in families during life 73
Picture24: Sample of an adolescent's private room 77
Picture25: A space that illustrates feminine 77
Picture26: Muzif out door guest room in south of Iran 79
Picture57: Changed Details and finishing 123
Picture58: Changed close kitchen to open system 124
Picture59: constructions with unprofessional people 126
Picture60: Sample of changing on length construction 127
Picture61: Sample of alley In Rasht 127
Picture62: different violating the rules of height 128
Picture63: different violating the rules of height 129
Picture64: sample maps of violating the rules of height 129
Picture65: sample of changing floor area 130
Picture66: sample of changing floor area 130
Picture67: sample of changing area & height in same time 131
Picture68: sample of changing area & height in same time 131
Picture69: sample of changing number of houses 132
Picture70: sample of changing number of houses 132
Picture71: Sample of covered trace 133
Picture72: Sample of changing on roof form 134
Picture73: Sample of changing on public area 134
Picture74: Sample of covered trace 135
Picture75: Sample of Entrance 135
Picture75a: A clock room for normal houses 142
Picture76: Cooling system installation 143
Picture77: Sample of Entrance (large houses) 143
Picture78: Sample of Entrance (mid houses) 144
Picture79: type of entrances in house plans 144
Picture80: type of entrances in house plans 145
Picture81: type of entrances in house plans 145
Picture82: entrances in old house plans 146
Picture83: Sample of new living room in Rasht 149
Picture84: Sample of new living room in Rasht 149
Picture85: Type of bedrooms 151
**Picture86:** Type of bedrooms 151
**Picture87:** Type of bedrooms corridor and privacy 152
**Picture88:** Type of bedrooms corridor and privacy 152
**Picture89:** Type of hidden kitchen (new) 154
**Picture90:** Type of hidden kitchen 155
**Picture91:** Types of open kitchen in new houses 156
**Picture92:** Types of open kitchen in new houses 156
**Picture93:** Types of open kitchen in new houses 157
**Picture94:** Types of open kitchen in new houses 157
**Picture95:** Private bath room 158
**Picture96:** Bath room in normal houses with natural vent. 159
**Picture97:** Big bath room in private corridor 159
**Picture98:** Main toilet in Rasht houses 160
**Picture99:** Toilet location that people like it *(plan)* 161
**Picture100:** Toilet location that people like it *(plan)* 162
**Picture101:** Ideal plan for present families in Rasht 163
LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Guilan province basic Information 11
Table 2: Hygienic behaviors 32-33
Table 3: Activities in bedroom (holiday – non holiday) 45
Table 4: Activities in living room (holiday – non holiday) 46
Table 5: Activities in dining room (holiday – non holiday) 47
Table 6: Activities in rest room (holiday – non holiday) 48
Table 7: Activities in bath room (holiday – non holiday) 48
Table 8: End results of Tables 3-7 49
Table 9: Time of group activities (non holiday) 49
Table 10: Time of group activities (holiday) 49
Table 11: Frequency of guests’ stay at hosts’ homes at nights 90
Table 12: Weakening of social contact 90
Table 13: Effect of technology on metamorphosis 91
Table 14: The minimum space needed for kitchen 108
Table 15: Compared governmental sector project with private sector 114
Table 16: Increase of places for installing compressors 118
Table 17: Number of changing in 2 project in Rasht 120
Table 18: Abundance housing area during 6 years 137
Table 19: Abundance Bedrooms numbers during 6 years 137
Table 20: Abundance families populace during 6 years 138
Table 21: Scale Changing houses Area 139
Table 22: Abundance type of entrance models 146
Table 23: The roots of relations problems 148
Table 24: The roots of relations problems 148
Table 25: tranquility of living room 150
Table 26: Bedroom's activities 153
Table 27: manner of Kitchen changing 155
Table 28: Rooms in kitchen 157
Table 29: Toilets location 160
Table 30: Compare Architecture Idea and people Idea 162
Chapter one: introduction
1: Introduction

1.1 The reason for selecting the topic

In Iran, house is regarded as one the biggest crises for people. On one hand, house has been always considered as one of the main problems for governments and people and on the other hand, the bad quality of house construction (construction materials and incongruity with the conditions of society) has always encountered people with difficulties. This is more tangible in Iranian small towns and townships, because they are not only faced with their own ideational and political issues, but also they are always impressed with the capital city, Tehran.

Having 20 years experience as house assistance and designer, the researcher has always noticed these problems. Furthermore, the 12 year experience as teacher of courses dealing with house, has encountered the researcher with numerable unanswered questions as regards house. Specially, since 1999 when beginning to teach courses dealing with house in the Architecture Faculty of Guilan University and simultaneously, designing actual projects in Rasht has revealed a fact; i.e., nearly all the architectural designs – those designed by huge governmental organizations or private companies in Tehran or Rasht, and also those designed by unskillful engineers or non-technical people "will be slightly or distinctly changed during or after the accomplishment, even if those designs are prepared by observing all the common ideational principles approved by scientific gatherings in the society."

Imposing such changes in designs, wastes a great deal of national investment of our country. Moreover, it reveals the incongruity between the initial architectural designs and the routine needs of people in the cities.

The researcher, due to his personal interest in the issue of house and in order to find the problems to the above-mentioned issues and seek their answers, began to do this study. Thus, the statement of the problem served as the first step in conducting large studies and researches to achieve necessary information in two basic areas in recent years:

1. The amount and type of these changes
2. Knowing people and their needs as much as possible
And finally, beginning this study and moving in this way, has turned this topic to the most significant issue in the mind of the researcher and led him to select it as the topic of his PhD project.

1.2. The purpose of the study

The main and overall purpose of this thesis is to discover the reasons for the current problems and to propose solutions to bring close together the current architectural designs and the desires of the consumers. This is to minimize making changes during and after house construction and to prevent to waste the national resources of our country.

In recent years, the researcher of this study has always observed slight and great changes in buildings and architectural designs. Even the designs provided with experienced architectures based on all the common ideational principles approved by scientific gatherings have undergone such changes. These changes might be the result of the following issues:

1.2.1. The incongruity between the common architectural principles and the needs of people
1.2.2. The lack of knowledge of architectural designers of the status quo of the society
1.2.3. The inefficiency of the architectural designing system in our society and …

The need to identify these issues and to propose alternative models are among the principle purposes of this thesis. Thus, in this study, the following issues are regarded as the initial titles:

1.3. Basic topics:

1- The examination of current settlement activities in Iranian community.

2 - Social relation's effects in society and change on housing
3 - Islam's introductions on housing.

4 - Deducing Iranian traditional and architectural frames and formation factors on these frames.

5-eliminating settlement behaviors process from housing.
6 – The effect of number and age of families on Iranian housing.
7 – Saturday and recognizing current housing plans in today's society.

8 – The examinations of occurred changes by settlers in Iran and their society.

9 - Examining and assigning spaces for Iranian settlement behavior.

10 – How to put settlement behaviors together and assigning- settlement space dimension for an Iranian.

11-designing sample models based on studied being done.

12-people's satisfaction in practical tests from planning samples,( if possible during project's time).

1-4: special question regarding the basic topic:

1- What is the best house plans for Rasht people based on today situations and their present needs:

For answered to this question we need have some sub question same as bellows:

What is the special behavior in Rasht people's life separating from other parts of Iran' and leading to make new standard architectural books unpractical?

What are the effects of social relations in a society on forming, using and housing room size? How many periods does it take to compare housing?

According to the great effect of religion in the people's life, are there any instructions in Islamic books (Quran and Hadiss books) effecting on housing designing to open a way in this cases?

According to old ones?

Why and how housing behavior leaves or enters to housing and be possible to effect on housing level through understanding this mechanism and management?

What are the factors to help us in this area?

Three changing factors in family means: the number of people in a family, their age and the age of family. What these factors effect on required spaces in a Rasht family?

Nowadays, according to the market needs and education in architectures faculties, what are the plans suggested to architects to built residential units? Are these plans classifiable and inspect able after wards?
2- Why most of the houses redesign during construction from the interior and façades point of view by the settlers? Is it possible to obtain a solution for better houses by knowing the causes of these changes?

3- How can we put them together and measure housing spaces of Guilanies family?

4- Can we suggest any suitable rules according to studies being done regarding suitable arrangement and measurement about this case study?

1-5: Background and limitations of the study

Usually, any research is bounded with some limitations and has a limited or rich background. Some of these issues will be mentioned here.

1-5-1: Limitations of the study

The main limitations of the study are as follows:

1. Lack of basic, documented and reliable information in the field of study
2. The inconsistency between the statistics and information proposed by various sections of the society related to the housing section
3. Great variety in the statistical sample due to the matter of immigration
4. Lack of trust of people on the sources that provide the statistics from different administrators and not presenting correct information
5. Not trusting the questionnaire and the use of it due to the above reasons
6. The inconsistency of the rules and the change in the factors which affect the society even in the short period of conducting this research
7. Lack of scientific, documented sources in universities which conform to the current status quo of the society
8. Lack of time to test the truth of the research results in longer periods of time
9. Exorbitant expenditures of providing information at the beginning, concluding, and comparing them at the time of conducting the research
1-5-2: **Background of the study**

We try so much to find something like this project in all library or universities and active site about research projects, but in Iran we have some research about rural housing in Guilan and we cannot find anything the same,

All books that wrote about these people behaviors, talk about their behavior in the past, so we try to use from some project that worked on other ethnics and other cities in Iran Same as Tehran, and try use from their information and their methodology.

Any researches have some difficulties and this research has had big problem with background and basic information, and we just prepare everything from beginning.

We just earn any information about this case study.

During end of this project, some consulting engineers try to do some research about minimal housing in Guilan and Mehr housing (protecting plan for pure peoples housing) but same as everything in Iran they had no time for standard research and start to design before finishing these research, so we cannot use from these project too, and we content our self information finally,

1-6: **Methodology**

1-6-1: **Description of the research model**

Most documented books in our country usually divide scientific researches into two types:

**A: Fundamental researches**

This kind of research provides the scientific infrastructural findings and forms the basics of human activities. The main purpose of fundamental researches is to discover the unknown issues and to expand the areas of human knowledge.

The fundamental researcher deals with finding the relation among the phenomena, compiling and enacting laws and scientific theories and also examining and revising them.

**B: Practical researches**

In comparison with fundamental researches which provide the scientific infrastructural findings, the practical research seeks to provide practical and applicable results. Thus, in practical researches, the major purpose is to find practical
solutions for human activity problems and to discover fields which can utilize the results of fundamental researches.

**Based on the above explanations, the researcher believes that this research can be regarded as a practical research. The reason which will be described later is that this research is constantly seeking practical and usable results in order to eliminate the current problems of statistical sample based on identifying the status quo.**

**1-6-2: Method**

In this study, both Behaviorisms which has been formed based on the philosophy of Objectivism or Realism (Driscoll, M.P, 1994.) and Relativism have been studied and assessed.

Contrary to the realists who define reality in the accordance of knowledge with natural laws, relativists do not believe in materialistic reality that exists out of the mind (Seif-2000-P.326) and mostly emphasize the psychological or social realities and regard them as the interpretation of human from the environment.

These two views have chosen their own tools in encountering with the environment.

The first group has mostly conducted studies by using questionnaires and quantitative methods and considers scientific study as a series of successive and definite actions in a determined situation.

However, the second group regards observation and case studies as the base and takes any thoughtful activity based on assessable observations into account. Generally speaking, this difference originates from the difference in the concept of reality in theses two views.

Positivists generally define reality based on fixed and universal principles; however, relativists seek reality in human and this means that there is no fixed principle and the change in human being can change realities as well. (60.P'1999'BIGGE&SHERMIS)

Thus, positivists search for quantitative methods in research and relativists try to use qualitative methods.

In this study, despite the great interest of the researcher in relativism and the belief that there is no reality out of human and without human, all the possible methods have been used; quantitative methods such as sampling and using various questionnaires
and qualitative methods such as observations and case studies and even comparison and analogy all have been used to achieve documented results. The reason is that the researcher believes that each of these views and methods reveals a part of the reality and not all of it.

1-7: Structure of the thesis

In this study, the aim has been to use all the possible tools to know the status quo and the effective mechanism in all the sections in nowadays and in the past. In this regard, all the possible ways for gathering basic information and identifying the process of change in the selected statistical sample have been examined and utilized. In other words, all the technical skills in architecture, behavioral sciences and statistics have been used as far as possible.

In this research, "the residents of the Guilan apartments in Rasht and Anzali" with the average income of 700 to 1100 dollars per month which form the middle class families have been chosen as the statistical sample. This population forms a large amount of the society - 53%- (Statistical Yearbook of Guilan, 2008). The livelihood of these people is above the poverty line and thus, they do not need the aid of assisting organizations.

In this research, the statistical sample has been regarded as the most significant source of information in order to realize the status quo in the society and its requirements. Attempt has been made to avoid any prejudgment and to prevent any effect upon the project from outside. These effects which originate from the general imaginations regarding people who live in Guilan and specially in Rasht and are mistakenly regarded as the basis for making decisions shall be minimized through this study. It is true even if the achieved information is incongruent with or different from many of the fixed principles of architecture in scientific gatherings.

As regards this study and the opinion of the professors of this project, the buildings which were studied here were built by people with their own interests or the interest of the market and not based on the architectural principles and favors affected by the architectural education at faculties of architecture.

Generally, education in Iranian architecture universities have been always based on the ideals and families which only exist in our mind and today it is difficult to find even one sample conforming the imaginations in our society.
1-8: Chapters of thesis

In order to fulfill the purposes of this study and based on the initial topic, the overall issues of this research have been divided in 8 chapters as follows:

**Contents:**

**Chapter 1:** introduction

**Chapter 2:** studying and recognizing peoples (Rasht) special needs and behaviors (differences and reasons)

**Chapter 3:** settlement activities in Rasht people's family

**Chapter 4:** Islam's devices on houses and Moslems people's imagination about Moslem's house

**Chapter 5:** the impact of social relations on houses

**Chapter 6:** metamorphosis in present society

**Chapter 7:** studying and determining cause of spaces
Effect of number and age of families on houses

**Chapter 8:** changing scale in housing plan and causes (during & after construction)
   - Governmental sectors project
   - Private sectors project

**Chapter 9:** Results
Studying and recognizing housing plans in today society
Chapter 2:
Studying and recognizing peoples (Rasht) special needs and behaviors (differences and reasons)
Chapter 2

Studying and recognizing people in Rasht, their special needs and behaviors – differences and reasons

Iran, as many other countries in the world is poly ethnic. When you – as a foreigner – look at this country from outside, you see all the people of this country as Iranians with very great common points, the most important of which is their country, Iran. But if we observe Iran from inside the country and more exactly, we see that each one of Iranian tribes has their own customs and culture separate from their common points with each other.

One of the known Iranian tribes is Gilak or Deylam. This tribe lives in a plain area centering Rasht (since Safaviyet Era) and has been living and working near Caspian Sea for years.

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Table 1:www.Wikipedia.com
These people, due to various reasons such as cultural differences and accent and even appearance - the form of head and nose – are completely known in Iran and due to these differences, they are called Rahti.

Throughout the history and after the Arabs' attack on Iran until the Safaviyet Era, Guilan has been always regarded as autonomous. Thus, this part of our country has not been affected by the common cultures in the central plateau of Iran. The main reasons for such distinct changes and maintenance of historical originality of this tribe can be categorized as follows:

1. Geographical factors
2. Historical factors
3. Ecological factors
4. Cultural factors

2-1: Geographical factors

The existence of Caspian Sea at the north part of Guilan and the high altitudes of Alborz Mountains at the south part has created a special situation for this part of our country.

Alborz Mountains serve as a firm barrier and naturally, separate Guilan from other areas in the central and western plateau of Iran, forming a separate region which has been the residence of Guilak and Deylam tribes during the history. This separation has differentiated this region from other parts of our country in various aspects such as the common customs, the view toward Islam, the habits and also feedings.
On the other hand, the powerful Ottoman Empire in the west part of Iran and the geographical specifications of Guilan had turned this region to the only land way between Iran and the Europe. The effect of this issue will be noticed later.

**2-2: Historical factors**

Based on the geographical situation of Guilan and according to the historians, the history of this region has been seldom affected by or coordinated with other regions in Iran (at least until the Safaviyet Era).

Although Deylams were defeated by the Arab troops in the war, Arabs could never dominate this region. The residents of this region were the last group of Iranians who believed in Islam and the sect of Zeydiyeh Shiite.

The victorious Arabs were under the attack of the Guilaks and Deylams for years and they had to build a garrison in Caspian to fight them and they prepared a troop to confront them.

In Abbasian Era and at the period of All-e-Booyet empowerment, Deylams became very powerful and dominated many parts of Iran. After that, the powerful local governors have dominated this region autonomously and only in some periods they have been the tributary of the central government. This method has been common until Shah-Abbas era. In this period, Shah-Abbas who was aware of the value of silk in this region, made great attempts and finally defeated the last local governor at this area and joined Guilan to Iran officially.

Shah-Abbas officially transferred the throne to Guilan and selected Rasht as the center of a vast area of Iran. The separation of Guilan and Iran during long years can be deduced from the fact that at the time of Afghans' attack on Iran, the people of Rasht sought help not from the central government, but from Peter the Great, the Russian Emperor and this was the reason why the Russian stayed in this area for 14 years (Rasht Islamic Council Internet Site).

The industry of silk and after that tea in this region made great benefits for the people of this area and this caused the presence and trading of European reputable merchants in Rasht. The monopoly of silk industry by Safaviyeh dynasty caused them to get many concessions from the powerful European governments in this trade and this made Guilan and Rasht twice as important as before.

Throughout history and the wars between Iran and Russia, Rasht and Anzali have been always attacked and conquered by the Russian troops who always considered
Rasht as one of the regions dominated by them. Even in the Russian Revolution period, the Bolshevik troops frequently traveled to Rasht in order to find the survivors of White Russians. This was the reason which turned Rasht to a bridge between Iran and the Europe and at the same time a vulnerable part of our country. Consequently, this city was not taken into account by the central government for investment especially at Qajar era.

Mirza Koochak Khan Jangali’s insurrection which lasted for two years turned this region totally autonomous so that even coining money and publishing bank-notes became common in this area. However, this insurrection was finally suppressed by Reza Khan – the first king of Pahlavit dynasty and Guilan was once again under the central government of Iran.

After Pahlavi dynasty which was interested in western governments wore the crown and after the formation of Union of Soviet Republics with its closed boundaries, it was not possible for Guilan to continue its contacts with Russia or Baku. This turned Guilan to a remote region and its significant geographical value was markedly reduced. Following the same lines, silk industry had become very weak due to incidence of diseases and numerous wars.

After the division of Soviet Union and appearance of new autonomous countries, the significance of this region especially Rasht as the official center and Astara as the land way of this province was once again increased.
We may get some distinctive points by a quick analysis of the history of this region and its comparison with other regions of Iran:

a) The time and the way of belief on Islam
b) Lack of political contact between Guilan and the central government in most periods of time and the independence of this region
c) This region was not practically or culturally affected by the attacks of invaders such as Arabs, Mongols, or Tatars.
d) The local and independent economy of this region and the vast exchange of this region with European merchants

According to the above-mentioned reasons, we can see the effect of this history on the behavior, acts, and other aspects of life of these people. The effect of Europeans in this region and the social exchanges with them can be easily recognized even from the old buildings of Rasht.

Municipality of Rasht Building (an imitation of European Neo classic style)
Photo:www.g-max-tk

2-3: Ecological conditions:

The high humidity (nearness to the sea) and temperate weather of this region has created a distinctive view at this area of our country which is different from other areas; a green and full of water area in a dry and desert like country.

All the ecological features at this region are clearly different from other parts of Iran.

As regards the amount of rain, Rasht is called the city of rain and is one of the rainiest areas of Iran. Based on the statistics presented by Iran Meteorology Organization, the
average rain at this area is about 1359 mm mercury while in many central parts of Iran this amount is only 35 mm.

Besides differences in the architecture of Guilan province, some changes have been found in the social behaviors of the people of this region. That is, because there is 167 cloudy and 104 semi-cloudy days out of 365 days of a year, people presence out of the house at these 270 days is not easily possible. Thus, people use the sunny days and warm months of the year as well as possible and their presence at open spaces of the city is salient when rain is stopped.

This is especially vital for women who usually have to stay at home along their children at rainy days and they use the sunny days as much as possible. Consequently, their presence at city spaces is more tangible than men. Women use sunny days to buy the necessities of their homes and use sunshine at the same time.
In fact, two factors of cloudy weather and constant rain make the people of this region to be depressed because they have to stay in closed spaces for long hours. People, by experience have found that the best way to confront this condition is by staying at open, public spaces.
2-4: Cultural factors:

As everybody knows, many cultural factors of a society are the consequences of geographical, historical and ecological factors.

It's the same about the people of this region. As noted in the previous sections, for several years geographical factors have separated these people from other parts of Iran and this fact results in a different and special history and destiny in this province.

Besides, the temperate climate which is different from other parts of our country has influenced people's habits and all these result in conspicuous cultural differences in this region. Even TV and media which practically weaken many cultural differences not only in Iran, but also in the whole world, cannot wash out many of these conspicuous differences.

These differences are absolutely obvious for the writer of this research who has lived in this city just for 10 years and used to live in Tehran and many other cities of Iran due to his job.

The presence of women in the society and their great influence, men's obedience from women, easy communication between men and women in the society are some of the most important parts of these differences insofar as many Iranians discuss this matter in their dialogues and jokes.

Another issue which is quite obvious in society is the amount of people's presence in urban places up to midnight in the non-rainy days, and unlike most of the cities in Iran, all stores and shopping centers begin to work late (10 O'clock) and continue up to 12 o'clock at night. In many days of the year, especially in hot seasons that other people travel to this province, one can feel life flowing everywhere in the city.

Yet another issue quite patent in society is people's love for entertainment, using good quality clothes and serving dinner or lunch at restaurants which occupies these places in most days of a week. Most families, due to their regular schedule go to restaurants to launch at least once a week.
For people of this region, vacations are the days of leaving home and being in nature. On vacation days people seldom visit their relatives and instead spend their time outdoors as in parks with other acquaintances. This is contrary to other places in Iran in which vacations are the days of staying at home and visiting relatives.

People's diet in this region is quite different. Just like all waterside places in the world, fish is an inseparable part of people's diet. Besides fresh fish, they eat smoky and salty fish and kipper with their food, everyday.

Using garlic, either fresh or fried, is also quite common in most of the foods. Accompanying each meal, various and colorful flavors are provided and this shows that eating is one of the major pleasures for these people. That is the reason why cooking is very time-consuming and causes a lot of smell. Other Iranian people think Rashti foods are very delicious but while being cooked, they cause very bad smells. Natives believe that due to the moisture in the air, the smell is not felt intensely and so they eat garlic regardless of the smell the foods have.

It's quite obvious, that people living in this region are less religious. Many people living in other parts of Iran do not consider Gilaks as true Muslims. This may be due to the short time they have accepted Islam or because of the communist movements formed in this region because Guilan was a neighbor of the Soviet Union.

Using liquor and intoxicating beverage is more common than before and many families consider it a part of their entertainment. It is, in particular, noticeable at parties. Using light color and colorful clothes is more eye-catching in this city than other places of Iran. This is perhaps because of the geographical location and the green environment.

Other than geographical- historical and ecological issues, the emergence of modernity and its signs in Rasht and Anzali sooner than other places in Iran and its cultural exchange between this region and Europe are the major factors why culture in Guilan is different from other places in Iran.

Constructing the first city hall in Iran in Anzali with the help of Russia, forming the first city council in Rasht for solving urban problems in 1285 A.H, constructing the first school having modern educational system by Sheikh Hassan Khan knows as Sheikh-ol-Melik in 1894, and constructing a school for theatre and music that boys
and girls could attend in 1938 in Rasht by Mohhamad Ali Khan Tonekaboni, might be considered as the major traces of the movement.

This caused the choir group of Rasht's city hall consisting of boys and girls, wearing clothes common in Europe of the time, to appear in the streets several times without wearing scarf and play music, and this belongs to a period before the time in which hejab was banned, while in other places in Iran, playing most of the musical instruments were considered as sinful.

Publication of newspapers in this region began in 1907 and as many historians note, the amount of publications in those years in Rasht due to the presence of European business men and rich people and also due to the economic and social exchanges in those years superseded that of Tehran.

The emergence of modernity and the role women play in family economy has given them a high social place since very remote past and women have been transformed into the most important pillar of the society in the region in the last 100 years.

Local entertainments in Guilan (cow fighting) varza jang
Photo:www.samaPix.ir
Local show (rope walking) excerpted from Russia  Photo: Mehrgani.A

The inhabitants of Rasht are the Iranians with different culture and tradition separable from those of other Iranians who posses many aspects of their own culture.

As mentioned before in this chapter, while having the same tradition and religion and following the same laws, different cultural aspects are noticeable in this region which can affect people's residential needs and form this question in the mind whether the household of a family living in Rasht is similar to that of a family living in Tehran sharing the same number of members or is it different and how much the difference is. Some of the obvious differences these people have from other Iranians are as follows:

Multicolored life and cloths  Photo: www.mehr.net
Some results:

1- different social behaviors in urban environments
2- different kinds of fun in life
3- different attitudes towards domestic bounds and social relationships between men and women (private bounds)
4- different behaviors in vacations
5- different attitudes towards religion and religious commands in a large part of the society
6- different alimentary customs affected by regional facilities
7- Considering clothing very important and paying high expenses for clothing
8- existing special jobs and careers
9- Habits derived from European culture

We hope that in following parts, the practical results of these differences and their effectiveness/non-effectiveness make them recognizable in residential needs of the people of this region.
Chapter 3:
settlement activities in Rasht
people's family
Chapter 3: Settlement Activities

Human is a creature with materialistic and non-materialistic needs and because of this all his behaviors head towards meeting these needs. All the human behavior, being willingly or unwillingly are done in order to meet some of his needs, and the more suitable and better responses, the more calmness and relaxation in human life.

Materialistic needs reply to needs behaviors
Non-materialistic needs

All these activities are called human behaviors.

Furthermore, human is a bi-dimensional creature; on one hand, he is involved in his own personality globe, behavior and personal activities, and on the other hand, human is a social creature and hence, many of his needs will promote in opposition with other members of the society. It is due to this feature that human is known as part of a society.

![Personality globe]

Therefore, we can divide human activities into two broad categories:

1. *Personal activities*
2. *Group activities*

1. **Personal activities:** These are the behaviors that each person shows in order to meet his own private needs. These include activities such as sleeping, washing hands and face, eating, etc.
2. **Group activities:** or collective activities are the activities that each person does in order to meet his societal needs. In such activities, each person is considered as one of the doers (performers) of the activity such as playing, speaking, etc.

On the other hand, we know each activity needs a temporal and spatial context; therefore, doing each activity correctly needs its own suitable temporal and spatial field.

![Diagram](image)

Here, the topic of discussion is *house*; therefore, those human activities (personal or group activities) will be considered which are formed and taken place at home.

To speak more precisely, the main issue here is human and his activities in settlement environments. This is the first section in such activities. In the following sections, it might be possible to study the activities which do not take place in the house, but can directly or indirectly influence such activities.

There is a strong claim that each person spends most of his childhood, half of his youth, his middle-agedness, and his oldness in a space called home. Home is a space in which human can form their lives as they wish. Thus, human do many of their activities there, raging from the most private behaviors to the broad scope of societal relationships. In this project, the human activities which take place at home are named as *residential activities*. These activities, as mentioned above, include all the personal and group activities which take place in the house.

Home is one of the most significant places for our activities; therefore it is of particular importance to make it suitable for and compatible with the human needs and behaviors, because as mentioned before, place is particularly significant in each activity.

In order to make each space suitable for doing the activities, first we should correctly identify the activity and the behavior compatible with it. This will familiarize us with the conditions and requirements of each activity and will later lead us to making a suitable environment.

We, as architects and creators of space must know that:
First: what activity takes place in each space?
Second: Who does this activity and how?
Third, what are the conditions and tools required for doing each activity?

Likewise, one way to construct the house appropriately is to examine and to identify exactly the settlement activities to realize the place and time of them. Then, once we have
identified and used the behavior of these spaces, we can plan and make the sections of dwellings appropriate.

In fact, the purpose is achieving the design of sections of dwellings from behavior of the spaces. To do this, on one hand, we should trace and extract all the settlement behaviors done by members of the under study families as regards their performers, and on the other hand, we should identify the exact time and place of doing each activity. Finally, we need to determine what are the elements and the furniture required for doing each activity.

Moreover, it is essential to determine the culture of the families, because this, in practice, will make various differences and therefore, examining the way each activity or behavior is done seems necessary as well.

Regarding all the above arguments, these procedures have been taken in the next discussion:

1. The variety of each behavior in the under-study families have been studied and presented.
2. All sections of dwellings of the house have been introduced.
3. In each section of dwelling, bi-dimensional and three-dimensional tables of behavior-time have been depicted along with doers of the activities.
4. All the possible elements in each section of dwelling have been recorded in order to select the necessary elements among them.

3-1: Study of Activities
As noted in the beginning of the argument, the main purpose of this discussion is to study the behavior of the human space in the house. Therefore, three basic arguments will be introduced in this part:

1. Behaviors themselves
2. Space or context of the activity
3. Performer of the activity

Each of these three arguments indicates a rather large set with various sub sets. Thus, in order to avoid any confusion in the discussion, this part initially deals with specifying the limitations of each of the above mentioned arguments and then their relations will be discussed.

3-1-1: Behaviors: As mentioned in the introduction, here we are concerned with the human activities which take place in the house; they are called settlement behaviors. Generally, settlements behaviors are divided into some main groups, each of these groups have small and large sub sets. This study, moving from whole to part, attempts to record all the settlement behaviors in the under study sample.
Settlement behaviors are grouped into 6 basic categories:

1. Cooking
2. Resting
3. Eating
4. Leisure time
5. Hygienic
6. Worshiping

3-1-1-1: Cooking: All the activities which lead to cooking and making meal at home (suddenly or during time). These are divided into three basic categories:
1. Preparing the raw materials
2. Cooking
3. Serving the meal

a: Preparing the raw materials: All the behaviors which lead to preparing the required materials for cooking the meal such as cutting vegetables and meat, cleaning vegetables and meat, mincing, grinding, drying, freezing, cleaning rice and grains, mixing, squeezing, washing the dishes, drenching rice and grains.

b: All the activities which lead to cooking and preparing the raw materials. These include frying, warming, scalding, using oven, making pickle and jam.

c: These include behaviors which transfer the ready meal to suitable dishes; these activities make the meal more pleasant and enjoyable. For instance, pouring rice in the dish, pouring stew in dish, etc. Furthermore, the act of putting each of the meals in suitable dishes and bringing them to the tablecloth and then turning back what remains.

Usually, the above mentioned activities occur in the kitchen. Only a part of serving the meal and laying the table can take place both in the kitchen and in the living room.

3-1-1-2: Resting: Human physiologically needs to rest and decrease their physical activities after a couple of hours so that the toxin formed at the time of activities leave their bodies.
Resting or sleeping has various definitions in Medicine; those who are interested in such discussions, in order to understand the human physiological modes while resting or sleeping can refer to relevant books such as Gytone.
In this section, we will not deal with details of sleeping which are among the mysteries of human life; rather, we are concerned with the way and the how of sleeping in settlement spaces.
Resting usually takes place in two ways:

1. Short rests: rests in the evening
2. Long rests: rests at night

Each of these requires different space and requirements.
3-1-1-3: Short rests: short rests usually take place in most spaces such as:

1. **Bedroom**
   Due to the shortness of these rests, people usually do not think of carpet or blanket; they rest anywhere, when they sit or lie down, they close their eyes and take a rest. Therefore, this kind of rest may take place on bed, furniture, or canapé or even on floor; also, any thing may function as blanket like jacket or chador. Consequently, this rest is not confined with space or particular elements and due to its shortness, it is extremely flexible.

2. **Living room**

3. **Study room**

   a: Sleeping: This kind of rest which usually takes place at night (except for night shift workers), takes a long time. On the average, each person sleeps 6-8 hours a day. During this long time, human cannot protect himself well and will be in a very vulnerable condition. As a result, this kind of rest should receive more attention and because of this, all the conditions such as carpet, blanket, light, ventilation, etc. are of high importance.

   (Light - ventilation - noise - religious laws - necessary elements)

   Due to the importance of this activity, there are numerous traditions and narratives in Islam concerning rules and conditions of sleeping, and the relations between members of one family while sleeping.

   This activity usually occurs in two cases:

   1. *on the bed*
   2. *on the floor using bed*

   In the first case, a fixed element called bed is used in the space and the act of sleeping occurs on it. In the second case, bed will be spread on a suitable place on the floor and then the act of sleeping will be done using the bed. In this second case, although there is no fixed element, a cupboard (80 cm. width) will be needed in order to put the beds inside it.

   ![A sample of keeping beds at the corner of the room](mehrgani.A)
3-1-1-4: Eating: Human cells, like any other organism need food and oxygen to survive. The required food for our cells will be provided by circulation of blood after eating meal and digestion of it by stomach. Therefore, eating—a vital element for survival—gains particular importance for organisms. For many people especially in societies similar to our society, eating is one of the most important pleasures of ordinary life, and people are highly concerned about it. To illustrate this point, it is sufficient to point out to the long time people take daily for making food, which at most takes 10 to 20 minutes eating it.

The more delicious the food, the more absorption will occur. There are several factors in making the food delicious:

a) taste of the food
b) conditions of eating food
c) environment and conditions of the dining space

In addition to the taste of food, the more the place and tools of eating be consistent with the human psychological characteristics, the act of eating will become more enjoyable; it is due to this fact that nearly 70% of the tools of our lives are used in preparation, cooking and eating meals. This issue is so important that many people pay great attention to the design of their plates, knives, and forks and pay careful attention to selecting these utensils and spend a lot of money on them. Eating usually occurs in 3 major times, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and also fruits and desserts which are eaten between them.

Eating occurs in two ways:

1. on the floor: in the living room
2. on the table: in the kitchen/in the living room and dining room

Of course, in order to follow the hygienic issues, most families do not serve food on the floor of the kitchen.
From the beginning, the difference between these two ways is clear. Eating on the floor does not require a fixed element; tablecloth, which defines the scope of eating meal, will be folded away after the meal and might be placed anywhere due to its small size.

However, eating on ordinary tables requires a fixed element, which, depending on the number of family members or their needs, is made in various sizes. Dining tables always occupy a certain space of the house that can hardly be allocated to other functions (but eating).

Dining in a traditional way, namely, spreading the tablecloth on the floor does not require a fixed element and permanent space. This system occupies space only during the short time of eating meals; therefore, this system is highly beneficial concerning the space and infrastructures it occupies. However, it has numerous demerits too. For example, this system does not account for the human body’s physical health (inappropriate way of sitting on the floor) while eating.

Today, regardless of the above merits and demerits, dining table is gaining more importance in the eyes of our people and is getting known as a definitely necessary element in many families.

This issue was proved after conducting some researches on buying furniture in Golzar area "Manzarieh streets Rasht and some small town in Rasht country side (The full research will be presented in chapter 6). In this research, many families, even the middle ones, regarded furniture and dining table as essential tools in the house. In fact, one of the necessary elements in the brides’ dowry, even for middle families is furniture.

The effect of this issue can be clearly observed in the market, too. That is, furniture was definitely sold along with dining table. Furthermore, furniture were designed and produced with different costs for all people with different salaries. This supply of commodity indicates the demand of the society and notifies that furniture is an essential element of any house and it is entering our culture, rightly or wrongly.
3-1-1-5: leisure or refreshment: They refer to the activities that people carry out after doing daily activities in order to rest and reinvigorate. These activities are different for different people.

They are divided into 5 principal categories:

1. studying
2. family contacts and relations
3. watching TV
4. eating dried fruits
5. Doing works of art, etc.

In this section, only the personal aspects of these behaviors will be accounted for and the group aspects will be propounded in the group behaviors discussion in families.

In sum, we may state the above discussions like this:

a) Studying usually takes place in two ways:
   a) Reading newspapers (daily news)   b) Reading books and journals (continually)

Studying can usually take place both in personal rooms and public places and depending on the topic of the book or journal and the complexity of the materials, the place for doing this activity may vary. That is, if the amount of information in the book is so high that its combination with the world knowledge leads to information beyond the understanding of the human, one needs an isolated place and might follow this procedure until the total elimination of disturbances. On the contrary, for instance, for reading humor magazines which do not require careful attention, any environment especially public ones are more appropriate; because in these situations, the speech of others and the increase of information will add to the attractiveness of the matter.

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Psychological conditions</th>
<th>Physical conditions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Book information</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Comprehensible</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Needing similar wave-length</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Environment information</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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b) Family contacts:
These contacts usually take place in two ways:

a) Talking and verbal contacts  
b) physical contacts

Among this kind of contact, we may name joking and verbal arguments between members of the family and also, father’s playing with his children or children playing with each other.
Watching TV: Television is a vocal box which presents us with pictures of the people and the things which are otherwise inaccessible. Today, this apparatus highly fills the peoples’ free time throughout the world with various cultures and customs. Generally speaking, TV has a marked function in raising the knowledge, understanding, and world knowledge of the spectators. Watching TV nowadays is considered as one of the daily habits of human and its absence for citizens far from nature will not be filled with any other thing.

Eating dried fruits such as fruit, dried nuts, sherbet, and cookie, etc besides meeting a large amount of physical needs, has marked influence in mental relaxation. Eating dried nuts such as the roasted pumpkinseeds amuses human and takes him out of the troublesome and daily preoccupations to a relaxed situation; a situation in which the human’s most significant purpose is to shell the roasted pumpkinseeds and to extract its kernel. This matter might seem trivial, but meeting this need at the appropriate place of kitchen can be particularly important.

Doing works of art: Many people spend their spare time doing artistic activities and breaking the logical world to enter the art world; a world which is free from any restriction or scientific and legal frameworks. Doing such activities require appropriate spaces (private rooms) and cupboards for maintaining the relevant tools, all of which will have an impact on the house.

3-2: Hygienic behaviors: One of the most distinguished dwelling spaces include hygienic spaces and this is because today personal hygiene is regarded as one of the most important principals of human life.

As you will see in the following chapters, today the hygienic behaviors inside the house have been improved; behaviors such as taking bath, washing clothes and dishes all of which were used to done outside the house space, are nowadays considered as settlement behaviors.

Hygienic behaviors usually take place at bathroom, restroom, and kitchen; the usual behaviors at these spaces are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Washing hands &amp; face</th>
<th>Urinate</th>
<th>Washing the body</th>
<th>Cropping the beard</th>
<th>Washing clothes</th>
<th>Brushing teeth</th>
<th>Washing dishes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Restroom &amp; washbasin</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bathroom</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
<td>●</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Although some of these items can take place at two spaces, they are preferred to be done at one of them. For example, shaving is typically done in the bathroom because of the mirror; however, due to the mist in the bathroom and the turbidness of the mirror, it is better to do shaving in the restroom which is not usually a humid place. Or washing clothes in the kitchen and bath room, each of these spaces has its own advantages and disadvantages. On one hand, nowadays most clothes washing is done by washing machines and the humid climate of the bath room may be detrimental for it and reduce its long life; on the other hand, the dirty clothes are piled up in the bathroom and if the washing machine is placed there, it can be helpful. Moreover, even if the washing machine filter is clogged due to water leakage, it is less troublesome if the machine is in the bath room.

3-3: Worshipping Matters:

One of the important behaviors of human in our society is doing religious duties, which requires its own space and necessities. The place where human would pray God is very important. Praying, reading the Koran, or doing other religious duties requires special places; a place suitable for praying in retirement far from any noise and crowd place. Furthermore, the environment conditions, such as the purity of the place, the kind of the tools, etc. are all in all the matters which can improve worshipping and therefore, meet one of the most important needs of human.

3-3-1: Group behaviors:

Although human is a creature with a totally independent personality, he is at the same time a social creature who cannot survive unless he communicates and negotiates with other members of the society. The smallest and perhaps the most important society with which human has a close relation from his birth is the family. In order to meet its needs and solve its problems, any family carry out some acts and behaviors that shares all of its members. We call this type of family behaviors as group behaviors. These behaviors are generally of two kinds:

a) Inside the family behaviors: watching TV - speaking – eating – playing – etc.

b) Outside behaviors: social intercourse with relatives – special ceremonies (mourning, wedding)

As we see, all these behaviors can be done by more than one person from the family. It is noteworthy to say that a more precise study of behavior of spaces necessitates that we, after introducing the settlement behaviors and determining the conditions, set out to accurately recognize the dwelling spaces and their elements and then to introduce the members and kind of the families. Consequently, we can explain the principles and clarify any doubt about the issues and then we may achieve the main part, namely, the study of behavior of spaces. Afterwards, we can draw tables and figures on the basis of
time and the performers of the behaviors so as to attain the accurate measures of all behavior of spaces in chapter 7.

**3-3-2: Public and Private Spaces:**

One of the primary classifications of settlement spaces divides them into two types of public and private spaces. These two qualities, like any other quality in the world, are relative; i.e., we may have different interpretations from one fixed space depending on the priorities and the definitions of privateness and publicness.

As we know, house or dwelling place is the family shelter in the society. Therefore, house is a private place in relation with the society. However, human and hence, the family have a social nature. Consequently, some parts of the human social relations will penetrate the house; likewise, the events in his private life will influence his environment to a definite degree.

Due to the fact that this project considers only the behavior of spaces from the doorway to the entry, the effects of house on its environment will be put aside for the moment and only the behavior of dwelling spaces will be dealt with. Accordingly, the issue of privateness and publicness of the spaces will be examined in the boundaries of house.

Generally speaking, dwelling spaces are categorized into two groups from the viewpoint of the families:

**a.** The spaces in which people other than the members of the family can enter (living room, guest room).

**b.** The spaces which are specific to the family members and seldom do other people enter it (private rooms).

In definitions, the first group is usually called public spaces and the second group private spaces. However, human believes that the most private space in house is the restroom; no body likes any one in, even his parents when he/she is in the restroom, although he may easily tolerate his friends in most hours in his bedroom which is said to be a private space.
Bathroom has a lower degree of privateness compared with restroom and one may let others (husband, wife, or small children) come in under certain circumstances. Generally, in a space where the human personality globe dwindles due to physical or mental states, the person feels more private.

Although the percentage of privateness in a space like restroom is the highest, one does not feel personal ownership towards such spaces due to the shortness of the time spent in them. On the contrary, spaces such as bedroom or kitchen are in a way that, because many instruments in them are owned by the family members, these persons have particular feelings towards them and towards the way they are arranged. This makes family members have special feelings toward these spaces and therefore, they treat these spaces as part of themselves and closer to themselves rather than the restroom, etc. Although this feeling exceeds the house and continues to local areas, city and country, but due to the determining role of any person in spaces which belong to him, human feelings in dwelling spaces such as bedroom and kitchen are tighter and therefore, the human’s demand for guarding these two spaces are stronger. It is due to this reason that these two spaces are known as the more private spaces of the house.

In house, the nearer we get to the doorway, this feeling of guarding becomes more blurred and it is due to this reason that many families allow guests easily to come into the house, but let only few guests enter their bedrooms. The continuum of privacy and intimacy in the house will always fade when we leave the private places and it will get its minimum degree when we get to the doorway of the house.
Of course, the degree of intensity of these layers can vary regarding the life style, beliefs, and age of the families. Usually, when the religious beliefs of the families fade away, the intensity of these layers diminish or when the age of the family increases, the intensity of the layers increases too.
Therefore, the more feeling one has towards a space and the more impact he has upon that space, he will feel the length of his personality in that space more and this, will make that space more important for him.

3-4: Dwelling spaces
In dwelling spaces, our bases are the spaces and the current names in today’s architecture. The name of each space and the activities done there and also the furniture and the elements in that space are the common things in our current society. The introduction in this part is only an interpretation of the current conditions of the under study sample without any evaluation. This part introduces names of each part and the behaviors and the elements in them.

The methods used in this section include observation and questionnaire.
As mentioned above, the basis for this section, whether it be the names of the spaces or the behaviors and the elements in dwelling spaces, is actually the status quo in the under study sample; in fact, no personal idea or particular evaluation has been done.
Generally speaking, the usual spaces in current houses which are designed and constructed by various types of people (architects, civil engineers, masons and the land owners themselves) are some kind of understanding of the current spaces in European and American houses, with the same names, structures, and spatial classification (This matter stems from the type of education and the models in our society in recent years).
Chapter 3

The poor domestic sources and journals in comparison with foreign ones as well as the Iranian professors who continue their studies in foreign countries and their poor familiarity with Iranian architecture, on the whole lead to direct transfer and imposition of the foreign patterns into the education system and thus construction and especially house in Iran are severely influenced by these issues. Without interpreting this matter, the status quo has led to spaces with new names in house that will be discussed later. These spaces include:

1. Entry space  
2. Restroom and washbasin  
3. Private living room  
4. Living room and guest room  
5. Bathroom  
6. Bedroom  
7. Warehouse - balcony  
8. Kitchen

3-4-1: Entrance spaces:

Taking off clothes – taking off shoes – welcoming and seeing people to the door – arranging the clothes – lavatory for guests

The furniture: cloakroom – shoe rack – shoe-horn – door bell – cupboard

3-4-2: Lavatory and washbasin:

Washing hands and face – brushing teeth – shaving – urinating – combing the hair


3-4-3: Living room:


3-4-4: Living room and guest room:

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Chapter 3

Receiving the guests – speaking – eating – watching TV – sheeting – play with play station


3-4-5: Bathroom

Taking shower – collecting dirty clothes – washing the clothes – going to lavatory – washing hands and face – hanging the clothes – drying the body – shaving


3-4-6: Bedrooms:

Photo: Mehrgani.A
6.1. Parents’ room
6.2. Younger child’s room
6.3. Elder child’s room

3-4-6-1: Parents’ room:
Sleeping – studying – tailoring, ironing – repairing instruments – worshipping – parents’ intercourse – make up


3-4-6-2: Younger child’s room:
Sleeping – studying – playing – receiving guests – changing clothes


3-4-6-3: Elder child’s room:
Sleeping – studying – receiving guests – changing clothes – trimming – extra curriculum activities, music, painting, etc. – exercising


3-4-7: Kitchen:
[We should note that pointing kitchen at the end of the discussion is not due to its trivial nature; rather it is due to the huge amount of activities which take place in the kitchen.]
There is a strong claim that kitchen is one of the most crowded and hence one of the most complex dwelling spaces in Guilanies houses. On one hand, in kitchen one of the human’s most significant physical needs, namely, the need for food is met and on the other hand kitchen is a good place for spending time, dining and family intercourse. Even the activities done for preparing food from raw materials and serving food might be divided into many small parts, many of which require their own specific instruments. In addition, each of these instruments (electrical or manual) needs to be put in a place and because they are often used daily, they cannot be stored somewhere. The difference between the sizes of these instruments which results from the excessive import of them in our society has worsened the situation.
Iranian markets are filled with goods from Western and Eastern European countries as well as South-Eastern Asian countries; each of these goods has been produced in different sizes and their costs have been determined in relation with each other. Therefore, except a few expensive trademarks, the rest especially those produced by Asian Union Countries have similar prices.

Despite the above mentioned arguments, we have tried to classify and present the activities done in the kitchen and the instrument used there. Here we should note that the activities and the instruments mentioned below are the results of the observations and the questionnaires conducted by the research group of this study on the sample of this study.

3-4-7-1: The activities done in the kitchen:
Cleaning meat, chicken, fish
Cleaning rice and grains
Washing the dishes
Frying
Cooking
Drenching rice and grains
Washing clothes
Making jam and pickle
Filling the dishes with food
Cutting and mixing
Juicing some fruit
Now, after studying the settlement activities and dwelling spaces and the activities which may be carried out in each of these spaces, two other issues should be defined and examined before dealing with the Time-Place-Activity table and the Time-Performer-Activity table.

1. The desired performers
2. The time of the activity

3-5: The desired performers
As we argued from the beginning, because settlement behaviors in the house are studied and examined here, the performers are the permanent residents, namely, the families. However, the argument does not end here; rather, the number of family members and the kinds of families are important as well.
First, family in our definition conforms to the government programming and the Ministry of Interior definitions of family which call a 4-member family an ideal family; such a family consists of the father, mother, and at most two children and the children may have different sexes and ages.
Second, family in our discussion presumably refers to a one-nucleus family, namely, a family who lives separate from their grand fathers and grand mothers.

The reasons for selecting such kind of family are as follows:
1. The current tendency in our society, in particular in young families is towards more independence and more separation from the parents’ homes
2. The time limit of this project and the excessive extension of its items regarding the multi-nucleus family are far from this research.

3-6: The time of the activity
As we know, any activity needs to be carried out in a temporal background. Human is restricted to 24-hours each day for doing his activities; it is the case for settlement

Photo: Mehrgani.A
activities likewise. The seconds make the hours, the hours make the days, and the days make the weeks and the years.

On the whole, human activities may be classified into two groups regarding time:

1. The activities which are done in specific times
2. The daily activities

The days of the year are not considered the same for family members or their activities. The behavior of the family members in the house vary in different days of the year due to reasons such as the time of settling in that house, the accumulation of family members in that building, TV programs, etc. Settlement behaviors of all family members, with regards to the days of the year, are classified into two groups:

1. Settlement activities on working(usually) days
2. Settlement activities on holidays (Fridays – celebrations – Mourning days)

1. During working days, the members of the family who work outside spend the minimum time at home, especially nowadays that many people spend nearly 70% of their time outside their homes and at the most they dine two times a day (breakfast and dinner)
2. In contrast, the same people spend less time at home in the last days of the week. Therefore, the variety in behaviors and the activities by families in these days gets its minimum amount. All families go outdoor to seaside, mountain or hill for using sunlight and escape from long bore day because most of days in this province are cloudy.

Even for those members of the family who do not work outside, the last two days of the week are different. Although their presence at home might not seem especially unusual, their daily activities at home in these days are markedly different due to the presence of all members of the family and the crowd of the home. For example, on Fridays, these people spend a long time talking with other members of their families, while in working days, they should engage themselves with other issues. This change basically influences their behavior. However, this is not the whole story, because we cannot classify all the holidays under the same category. Holidays vary principally. Holidays can be grouped into three classes regarding settlement behaviors:

1. The weekends
2. The mourning days
3. The celebration days

Each of these days has their own characteristics and situations.

3-6-1. Fridays: The members of the family, who work outside from morning to evening and have passed a busy week, find opportunity on Fridays to do their ordinary activities at home and help their families in morning. Thus, in the afternoon they spend less time at home. People spend the minimum time at home on Fridays because of two reasons:

1. The boredom of the members of the family due to the one week working and the possibility of resting and more hours on these days outdoor and use beautiful nature.
2. Most of the activities and attractions of the cities are off on Fridays and they go to
countryside for finding new attraction

Furthermore, the large number of people in amusement parks, etc. on Fridays makes many people stay at home on these days. Thus, leaving home is for parties between relatives and such parties usually end early because people should go to work on Saturday mornings and so, they should prepare themselves hastily for the following busy week.

3-6-2: The mourning days: Mourning days in our culture are among the most important days of the year. These days which remind us of sorrowful points in our national or religious history, fill a considerable time of the year. Although family members are off these days and stay at home, their daily activities are highly different from other holidays, nevertheless.

First, on these days people usually do not go to parties and try to stay at home or go to mosques for lamenting.

Second, the atmosphere of the society does not let many things to occur on these days. Based on their beliefs, people on these days, rarely deal with personal or materialistic issues. Even they do not do activities such as washing, shopping, etc. and do only the essential things. Even the bakeries are off on some of these days, e.g., the martyrdom day of Imam Ali (peace is upon him).

Thus, these days are not similar to ordinary holidays and although it may be the case that all members of the family are at home, the amount or variety of settlement activities reach their minimum. The family members often try to be alone and therefore, the group activities in the family will be diminished.

3-6-3: The celebration days: These days are filled with extraordinary passion and enthusiasm in the families and the atmosphere of the society and television programs heightens these excitements. The number of parties on these days reaches its maximum; people try to share their happiness with others, they pay visit to their parents, they go to excursions, etc.

These activities make people spend fewer hours at home rather than Fridays and so, the amount of settlement activities reduces noticeably on these days.

Nowadays, Thursdays are viewed as special days among other working days. There are several reasons regarding this matter, some of which are as follows:

1. On these days, most people work half the time they work on other days
2. The commercial activities are continued until night on Thursdays
3. The day after Thursday (Friday) is holiday

All these reasons have made many families do their weekly shopping and social intercourse on Thursday evenings, because on one hand, the city centers work regularly, and on the other hand, the following day is holiday and one can remove the fatigue by resting on Fridays.
Thursday play a particularly important role in the lives of employers and students, because after Thursday, they would have a holiday; therefore, they try to enjoy maximally from the sweet Thursday evening and thus, most families leave their homes at this time. Consequently, the amount of time people spend at their homes on Thursday evenings reaches its lowest possible. Furthermore, performing some religious beliefs, such as visiting the dead tombs and some holy places which are common in our culture, usually take place on Thursdays. Many of the families who go to visit the dead tombs spend a couple of hours in cemeteries. The crowded streets also take a long time for people to move and reduce the time families spend at home on Thursday evenings.

With regards to all the arguments above, we see that the settlement time and thus, activities of the families are not the same throughout the year. The activities are on a continuum of minimum settlement time and maximum settlement time. The minimum time people spend at home are on working days and the maximum are on mourning days (expect housewives). Other days are between these two extremes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mourning days</td>
<td>celebrations</td>
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**Figure of the intensity of settlement activities**

This research attempts to study the family in these two extreme points, i.e., the minimum and maximum points people spend at home and thus, these two days naturally cover other days. As mentioned above, the rest of the days are between these two extremes.

Thus, the behavior of the family members were observed and examined on two days of the week, one working day and one holiday using research techniques of questionnaire and observation. This research has recorded all the behaviors of family members on working days as well as holidays.

In order to examine these behaviors in time and space and with regards to the performer of each behavior, bi-dimensional and three-dimensional tables have been employed. In these tables:

1. In each space, the performer of the activity has been specified
2. The time of performing the activity in the day has been determined
3. In each space, the time of performing each activity has been determined by specifying the performer of that activity

Therefore, by comparing these primary principle tables, one may establish multi-functional spaces and overlapping the spaces.

**BEDROOM (Non-holidays)**
Table 3

**LIVINGROOM (Non-holiday)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES/PERFORMER</th>
<th>Sitting</th>
<th>Speaking</th>
<th>Eating</th>
<th>Keeping dishes</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Studying</th>
<th>Watching TV</th>
<th>Mental games</th>
<th>Receiving guests</th>
<th>Using computer</th>
<th>Repairing things</th>
<th>Exercising</th>
<th>Ironing</th>
<th>Weaving</th>
<th>Handcraft</th>
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- ● Usual
- ○ Rare

Holidays
### Holidays

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<th>ACTIVITIES/PERFORMER</th>
<th>Sitting</th>
<th>Speaking</th>
<th>Eating</th>
<th>Keeping dishes</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Studying</th>
<th>Watching TV</th>
<th>Mental games</th>
<th>Receiving guests</th>
<th>Using computer</th>
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- ● Usual
- □ exists
- ○ Rare

### Table 4

**DINING ROOM (Non-holiday)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES/PERFORMER</th>
<th>Sitting</th>
<th>Serving food/1,2,3</th>
<th>Breakfast</th>
<th>lunch</th>
<th>dinner</th>
<th>Keeping dishes</th>
<th>Cleaning table</th>
<th>reading</th>
<th>studying</th>
<th>Watching TV</th>
<th>Mental games</th>
<th>Being with friends</th>
<th>Repairing personal things</th>
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<tr>
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### Chapter 3

| Daughter | • | • | • | ○ | • | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Son      | • | ☐ | • | ○ | • | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Child    | • | • | □ | • | | | | | | | |

- • Usual
- □ exists
- ○ Rare

#### DINING ROOM (Holidays)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES/PERFORMERS</th>
<th>Sitting</th>
<th>Serving food/1,2,3</th>
<th>Breakfast</th>
<th>Lunch</th>
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**Table 5**

#### RESTROOM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ACTIVITIES/PERFORMERS</th>
<th>Urinating</th>
<th>Washing hands &amp; face</th>
<th>Washing foot and socks</th>
<th>Brushing teeth</th>
<th>Shaving</th>
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<tr>
<td>ACTIVITIES/PERFORMERS</td>
<td>Taking bath</td>
<td>Changing clothes</td>
<td>Washing clothes</td>
<td>Brushing teeth</td>
<td>Shaving</td>
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- ● Usual
- □ exists
- ○ Rare

Table 6

**BATHROOM**

Table 7

**End results of Tables**

**Non-holidays**

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<th>PLACE/ GROUP ACTIVITY</th>
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</table>
● Usual
◻ exists
○ Rare

### Holidays

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Table 8

### Non-holidays

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<tr>
<td>Playing</td>
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Table 10
Summary

1. The pivot of all these activities is the dimensions, suitability, and spirits of human.
2. Human is a creature with two kinds of behavior: personal and social.
3. Settlement activities include a large area of human activities.
4. Three matters are important in examining each activity: 1. the activity itself
   2. The performer of the activity  3. the procedures for doing the activity
5. The amount of information transferred from the environment should not
   influence the activities. Thus, each behavior and activity requires appropriate
   environment and environmental information of its own.
6. The activities which usually take place in several spaces are preferred to be
   done in one of those spaces.
7. House, as an element of the society, has been always influenced by it and the
   house itself may affect the environment.
8. The thicker the human’s private aura in space, the higher the privateness of
   that space.
9. The amount of concern about a space leads to the feelings of possession and
   contact with that space.
Chapter 4:
Islam's devices on houses and Moslems people's imagination about Moslem's house
Chapter 4:

Islam Precepts Regarding House

For all Muslims, information resources about Islamic devices are equal; in other words, the Holy Quran and Hadith books are documental resources for them. However, it is obvious that different interpretations from the same sources due to different attitudes and cultures, leads to apparent differences in every part of Muslim's life.

In fact, the phenomenon that is current in Islamic countries and is called Islam is not Islam, but it is Muslim's interpretation of Islam, and these attitudes are accepted by people as Islam. These attitudes besides some basic similarities in Islamic countries, leads into different manifestations in their architecture, culture, veil, men and women's wear, social relationships, music and,…

In this section – regardless of the regional interpretation of religion — we try to derive the possible Islamic devices from Islamic texts, source textbooks and modern information systems and in case they affect the home design, we try to prepare some practical trends for using them in planning.

Of course, as everybody knows, when different religions encounter different nations, they are transformed by those nations and cultures, and emerge in a new form. Now after passing several years they are accepted as a religious belief in society and have been changed many times in their history.

What seems important is the interpretation of modern society of Islam and it makes some concerns for the religious men that our current attitude towards Islam is very different from the basic principles of the Prophet Mohammad's Islam.

In fact, the purpose of this section is recognizing and measuring the distance between beliefs and principles. In writing this chapter, almost all searching softwares used by Iranian religious authorities, the holy Qoran and all authoritative Hadith Shiite books were used to search the word "bayt" which means house and "bayt-ol-mosalman" which
means Muslim's house. This research has been conducted with the help of professors in Islamic knowledge such as Ayat-allah Boloury Guilani.

Two issues constitute the main goals of social life in Islam: First, to do works for public utility and second: to train pious children.

The first point in training, results from education, cultural illumination and religious attitude and the second point is fulfilled under the care of parents. Obviously, the second point is the source of thoughts, intentions, and pious actions and also it leads to the works for public utility and thus, pious child has been assimilated to works for public utility; because the pious child, at least during his life, is the source of constant blessings for his parents.

However, what causes the above-mentioned characteristics to appear, is attaining equilibrium both for the trainer and the trainee.

As we know, Islam has predicted programs for the lives of each individual since his birth to his death and it has stated these programs in diverse ways such as religious jurisprudences, emphasized advices, recommendations, and Islamic morals. In this discussion, we call them life instructions. Various fields are included in these instructions and often each instruction includes several fields.

We dealt with the discussions about human, family, different ages, needs and behaviors of human in previous chapters and will follow them in the following ones. Thus, in this part, we will deal with that part of these instructions which are concerned with house and its conditions:

The most significant issue in this part is to have a house of your own. There are emphasized recommendations which state that each Moslem should certainly have a house of his own. House in Islam is remarkably important. Islam wishes that anybody has a house of his own to rest in it comfortably. (House of a Moslem, p. 16)

“Homelessness is one of the miseries of life.” (House of a Moslem, p. 16)

“Islam considers leasing a house as abominable; rather it desires that every body has a house of his own.” (The First University of the Last Prophet, vol. 2, p. 156)

This issue is so important that it is narrated: “Since the day a Moslem seeks money for building a house he is considered as the companion of God and the Moslem needs not to pay one-fifth of this money to those who need it.(unlike other matters) (ibid, p. 140)

This tradition is so significant that once someone attains it, according to Prophet Mohammed “it is a tradition to give feast and hold party.” (Helyat-ol-Mettaqin, p. 255)
Chapter 4

The goal of possessing a house and thus, equilibrium (the rest of the life) “is to attain the perfection and to please the God. Human is the Caliph of God, is not enslaved by this world and its pleasures; rather, he is constantly attempting to attain the afterlife and a constant life.” (Al-Mizan, vol. 31, p. 238)

Thus, “human’s house is a means to attain this end.” (House of a Moslem, p. 27)

“The Moslem uses his house as a place to rest himself, his family, to do divine duties, to make oneself self-made and to enter the society’s different fields in order to choose the heaven as his dwelling place and permanent residence.” (ibid, p. 27, summarized)

“And God placed your homes as your resting places.”

Thus, “house in the eyes of Moslems is not something more than a place for keeping his family and doing his duties. He wants the house for these reasons, not something else. Therefore, his house is first built with lawful money, and second it has been built with the intention to provide a secure and suitable place for himself and his family, not for any other intention.” (ibid, p. 36)

“Loosing house is so unfavorable and it has so much psychological impacts that Islam has considered it one of the exceptions of debts, and does not permit the law or the creditor to demand it.” (The First University of the Last Prophet, vol. 2, p. 140)

Now that possessing house has been regarded as one of the major properties of a Moslem, there need to be firm precepts all through it, but it is not the case. The reason for this can be derived from the characterization that Islam regards for each person (of course, under the banner of unity and Islamic precepts in personal and social fields) and that Islam believes in unity and multiplicity simultaneously. Thus, it is firm in the precepts and generalities and it is dynamic in its details. Therefore, what follows is not a determining precept that leads to quantifiable quantities and qualities.

The first argument regarding dwelling house is concerned with its location and conditions. Some principles about its location are: “The land should be lawful and pure; it should not be usurped, because house is a place for worshipping God and is built with the intention of pleasing God.”(Imam Khomeini Thesis, Of the conditions of prayers chapter)

“It is recommended that house has an exhilarating and mirthful space. Thus, Imam Ja’far-Sadeq states that buildings should not be constructed on top of the graves, because Prophet Mohammed abominated this action.” (Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 285)

The book entitled “The Position of Woman in Islam” considers four conditions for building a house correctly:

1. Avoid constructing a building on top of the graves
2. Avoid constructing a house in an usurped place
3. Avoid using prohibited construction materials in the house
4. The house needs to be firm and stable

The second important issue regarding house is considered with neighbors and their relations with each other; as our prophet declares: “Any thing might have bad omen and the bad omen of house is having bad neighbors.”

(The First University of the Last Prophet, vol. 2, p. 141)

Furthermore, Imam Ali declares: Before you come home inquire about your companion and before buying anything inquire about your neighbor.

It is noteworthy to say that the issues such as the above-mentioned ones which do not refer to the inside-the-house relations (personal and social relations which are not related to the frame of the house) have been omitted where they were not necessary. The above-mentioned issues were introduced as statements of issues due to their significance.

After choosing the location of the house which includes providing psychological health, considering quality of the space and personal and social rights, the next issue is the largeness of the house.

“House should be large, it should not be narrow; it needs to be large enough so that dwellers feel comfortable and calm inside it.”
(House of a Moslem, p. 144)

“Large courtyard is one of the signs of good house.” (ibid, p. 145)

“Small, narrow house is one of the miseries of life.”
(Vasael-o-Shiite, vol. 3, p. 559, Imam Mohammed-Baqer)

“Good life is in largeness of the house and great number of servants.”
(Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 243, Imam Moosa-Kazem)

“It is admirable to have a house with large (sitting) rooms.”
(House of a Moslem, p. 145)

Although the aforementioned sentences do not directly mention the largeness of the house, we know that large parts often lead to large whole.

What we can infer from the traditions is that: “Living in a small and narrow house is abominable and it is one of the miseries of life. If the believer wishes to have a comfortable life and to live peacefully it is essential that he lives in a large house.”
(ibid, p. 57)

However, Islam in order to oppose the usurers and discrimination of social classes and also to organize social economy, has defined a relation between the largeness of a house and the needs of an individual or the family not with the financial possessions of the
family. Moreover, Islam has emphatically stated that: “The size of the house should be chosen exactly on the basis of human needs.” (ibid, p. 142)

“One who builds a house larger than what he needs to show off, has built his house on the hell.” (The First University of the Last Prophet, vol. 2, p. 156,185)

“Any building built larger than the needs of its owner will be imposed on him on the Judgment Day.” (Makarem-ol-Akhlaq, p. 127)

Thus, “the boundaries are clear: build your house as much as you need and use it, but if you go beyond it, the house will be imposed on you on the Judgment Day. Do not go to extremes.” (House of a Moslem, p. 63)

Summarizing the discussion about the size of the house, we may say, although Islam has highly emphasized the largeness of the house, we should always bear two points in the mind:

“First, people are different and have diverse needs. Therefore, largeness is estimated for each individual according to his own needs and so any house should be considered in relation with his owner. Second, any body in any status should always remember that if he builds a house larger than what he needs, that house will be imposed on him on the Judgment Day.

Thus, an appropriate house for any individual is:

1. A house in which the individual can live calmly and comfortably.
2. No vain or useless space exists in the house and nothing beyond the needs of the dwellers is built in it.” (ibid, p. 63)

Final word:

“House has a dignity which is defined in terms of large courtyard and pious family members. The blessing of a house is on the basis of its location, largeness of the courtyard and good neighborhood. “ (Makarem-ol-Akhlaq, p. 126)

Although all the aforementioned issues consider mental, social, and economical balance in one way or another which can guarantee a healthy life, there are other traditions and points of view regarding the frame and quality of the house. These traditions have been classified and prioritized as the following:

*Soundness of the house-Reverence and privacy of the house-Hygiene of the house-Building the house-Spaces and decorations of the house.*

4-1: Soundness of the house

“God dislikes three types of man: one who enters a ruined house, one who sits on the way, and one who sets his animals free and asks God to protect them.”

(The First University of the Last Prophet, vol. 2, p. 157)
“God refuses the prayer of three types of man: one who steps into a ruined house, one who sets his animals free and asks God to protect them.” (Nahj-ul-fasaheh, tradition 1225)

ءَمِّكَ لِيَ مِّن قُلُوبِ فَانِقُمُ أَن يُسَاءَ عَلَيْهِ مَلَكُ مَلِكَ فَمِ فَقَهَّهُ تَاهُ لَهُ مِّن حِيْرَاتِ

(Holy Quran, Surah An-Nahl, verse 26)

Others like them have schemed in the past, and consequently, GOD destroyed their building at the foundation, causing the roof to fall on them. The retribution struck them when they least expected.

(Translation of the Quran by Rashad Khalifa )

As it is clear, the purpose here is not merely soundness of the house frame; however, health of ‘the house’ and ‘the family’ as the spirit of the house are concerned. In other words, Quran refers to the sacredness of a house in which divine laws are dominant.

“Therefore, we see that ruined condition of the house does not merely mean that physical frame of the house is impaired. Nevertheless, a sound house is one which, in addition to the firmness and stability of its frame, has no spiritual impairment.”  
(House of a Moslem, p. 44)

Although a Moslem should not require others to remind him of divine laws and worship, some of the religious authorities believe that all the manifestations of life in a Moslem should notify and emphasize his Islamic mottos. This approach needs to be practiced both for the individual Moslem and for the political issue of valuing the Islamic rites and for degrading the enemies of Islam and Satanic manifestations.

4-2: Reverence and privacy of the house

Another significant point is the reverence of the house. As we know, Islam does not allow other people or the legal executers to enter one’s house without legal ground (due to legal, religious, and moral laws).
O you who believe, do not enter homes other than yours without permission from their inhabitants, and without greeting them. This is better for you, that you may take heed.

If you find no one in them, do not enter them until you obtain permission. If you are told, "Go back," you must go back. This is purer for you. GOD is fully aware of everything you do.

You commit no error by entering uninhabited homes wherein there is something that belongs to you. GOD knows everything you reveal, and everything you conceal. (Translation of the Quran by Rashad Khalifa)

It is not righteous to beat around the bush; righteousness is attained by upholding the commandments and by being straightforward. You shall observe GOD, that you may succeed. (Translation of the Quran by Rashad Khalifa)

"Thus, when you want to enter any house (even your own house), you should have permission from its owner; and all these matters are because of preserving the reverence of the house as much as possible." (House of a Moslem, p.50)

"Allowance means obtaining permission to enter the house. This shows the sacredness and reverence of the house. This reverence is so high that if a landlord bankrupts, Islam does not permit the creditor to ask for (the house as) his debts." (Montahi-ol-aamal, vol. 2, p. 241)

Each person in his private times does not like to be observed by others; thus, concealing the house from the strangers and concealing some parts of the house from the acquaintances and intimate friends are among the rules of Islam.

"Another crucial point in Islam is the veil of women. The one who spends the most time at home is the woman. In order for the woman to wear a veil at home and at the same time has sufficient freedom, it is necessary that the house is built in a way that protects him from the people outside the house and provide her a suitable and safe boundary." (House of a Moslem, p. 46)

It is abominable to sleep in a house without covering and door. (Vasael-o-shiite, vol. 3, p. 577)

(Holy Quran, Surah An-Nur, verses 27-29)

وَأْتُوا اﻟْﺒُﯿُﻮتَ ﻣِﻦ أَﺑْﻮَاﺑِﮭِﺎ وَاﺗﱠﻘُﻮا اﻟﻠّﮫَ ﻟَﻌَﻠﱠﻜُﻢْ ﺗُﻔْﻠِﺤُﻮنَ   وَﻟَﯿْﺲَ اﻟْﺒِﺮﱡ ﺑِﺄَن ﺗَﺄْﺗُﻮا اﻟْﺒُﯿُﻮتَ ﻣِﻦْ ﻇُﮭُﻮرِھَﺎ وَﻟَﻜِﻦﱠ اﻟْﺒِﺮﱢ ﻣَﻦِ اﺗﱠﻘَﻰ

(Holy Quran, Surah Al-Baqara, part of the verse189)
Thus, it is essential to regard the principle of reverence and privacy, but the form and amount of it are determined by the current culture and tradition of the current time and people.

**4-3: Hygiene of the house**

Paying attention to personal, mental, social,… hygiene are among the indispensable commandments and the famous notion “cleanness is a sign of faith” indicates the same matter. Among the hygienic issues which have been mentioned about the frame of the house, are the hygiene of the light and cleanness of the spaces.

Islam pays noticeable attention to the light of the house to the extent that our prophet has declared one of the features of a good life is to have a luminous and expansive force home.

“It is abominable to enter a dark house unless a light or fire has been set before you.”

(Helyat-ol-Mottaquin, p. 254)

“Turning on the light before sunset will remove distress and enhance the sustenance.”

(Helyat-ol-Mottaquin, p. 254)

Sweeping the courtyard will enhance the sustenance. 

(Vasael-o-Shiite, vol. 3, p. 571)

Therefore, this amount of emphasize on cleanness of the house prompts Moslems to pay attention to the cleanness of their homes and keep them hygienic. On the other hand, the architect who wishes to design a plan for a Moslem’s house, needs to notice this matter and draws the plan in a way that enables the Moslem to keep his house clean easily. Furthermore, cleansing the house should also be considered. The architect needs to pay careful attention to places such as the restroom which have the potentiality to pollute the home. (House of a Moslem, p. 56)

**4-4: Building the house**

In this part, it would be better to take a look at the previous items which were some commandments about the frame of the house. Due to the fact that all the deeds of a true Moslem are accounted as worshipping, so he will carry out all his deeds in order to please the God. Whatever he does, he does not mean to please himself or others, but to please God and to perform his duty. Pleasing God in building a house indicates reverence and cleansing of the house and actually, the purpose of building a house is to attain perfection and esteem of the God and to rest. Resting is the main element of thought and thought is the basis of knowledge and theology and this leads in love and love is the prerequisite of worshipping. The sacredness, reverence, and inner cleansing of the house is so much that traditionally, construction workers perform their ablutions before starting to work, they
do not use prohibited construction materials in building the house, and start and end their works calling the God.

“Do not use prohibited construction materials in the building; otherwise, the building will be ruined.” (Nasayeh, p. 25, tradition 453, Prophet Mohammed)

The above-mentioned and the previous instructions have specified the politics of designing a house; however, the frame of the house will be determined in accordance with place, time,…

The common culture and tradition in any society is variable and dynamic and is selected by the landlord and the architect. There are, however, some traditions regarding the height of the building.

“Any building which is higher than nine cubits (an ancient linear unit from 17 to 21 inch or 43 to 53 cm) is the house of souls.”
(Makarem-ol-Akhlaq, p. 126, Imam Hosein)

“The height of the house should be seven or eight cubits; otherwise, if it is higher than this, it will be the house of devils.”
(ibid, p. 126, Imam Ja’far Sadeq)

“If the height of a house is more than seven cubits, it will be the house of souls. And if the height is more than eight cubits, write Ayat-ol-korsi (Holy Quran, Surah Al-Baqara, verses 255-257) within the house.
(Vasael-o-Shiite, vol. 3, p. 567, Imam Ja’far Sadeq)

There are numerous traditions about the height of the house. Most consider a maximum height of seven cubits (336 cm.), eight cubits (384 cm.), and nine cubits (432 cm.) and believe higher heights to be abominable.
(House of a Moslem, p. 64)

The aforementioned measures need to be followed to the extent that they do not ruin the comfort and convenience of the home, and if these measures cause trouble for people, the height of the house can be increased.
(ibid, p. 68)

One of the justifications of the above conclusion can be inferred from the following tradition:
“Prophet Mohammed gave permission to the person who complained about the stuffy atmosphere of his house. One of Mohammed comrades complained that: The houses (rooms) are choking me. Thus, our prophet ordered the man to enhance the height of his house as much as he can and to ask God to help him to enlarge his house.”
(Makarem-ol-Akhlaq, p. 127)
4-5: Spaces of the House

There are a few traditions regarding the spaces of a Moslem’s house. Only few spaces such as the courtyard and the place for worshipping have been discussed; however, there are traditions which mention some behaviors of a Moslem which take place in his home and thus, it is necessary to provide an appropriate space for doing such activities in the house. (House of a Moslem, p. 70)

4-5-1: the Entrance

The entrance of a house is a space which separates the private boundary of the family from the outside boundary. Thus, because in a Moslem’s house preserving inside intimacy is considerably significant, entrance has a conspicuous place and is highly valuable. (ibid, p. 72)

The entrance of the house should first “protect the family’s private boundary against the outside public view and separate these two. Moreover, it should point out to any one who enters the house that he is coming in the boundary of the house so that he observes the rules of etiquette for entering the house and allows the landlord to keep her veil.” (ibid, p. 72)

Secondly, “the entrance is the common section between the inside and outside home spaces. Outside the home there is traffic and the sole of the ones who enter the house might probably be polluted. On the other hand, the space inside the house is cleansed and pure that should not be polluted. Thus, the entrance should be a common section which provides this diversity for the ones who enter the house.” (ibid, pp. 72-73)

Thirdly, “a Moslem should constantly take step remembering and calling God; otherwise, he will go wrong. In order for the person to constantly remember God while exiting the house and entering the society, numerous traditions have been narrated by Shiite Imams. Moreover, some prayers have been narrated which are useful for the Moslem to recite while he exits and enters the house. Here, the third function of an entrance of a Moslem’s home is obvious.” (ibid, p. 73)

4-5-2: the courtyard

“The courtyard in a Moslem’s house is greatly significant. The significance is so high that the blessing, dignity, and welfare of the house depend on the quality of the house.” (House of a Moslem, p. 75)

“House has a dignity which is defined in terms of large courtyard and pious family members. The blessing of a house is on the basis of its location, largeness of the courtyard and good neighborhood.” (Makarem-ol-Akhlaq, p. 126, Imam Ali)
“Appropriate seat, largeness of courtyard, and cleanness of restroom are signs of welfare for human.” (Makarem-ol-Akhlaq, p. 126)

“Three things illuminate the eyes: looking at grassland, looking at flowing water, and looking at beautiful faces.” (Al-khesal, p. 104, Imam Moosa-Kazem)

Therefore, “if there is a large courtyard with grass and water within the house, it can illuminate the eyes of the dwellers and make their faces mirthful.” (House of a Moslem, p. 76)

4-5-3: Living room spaces

Islam in interested in large living rooms; the rooms which are built for sitting. As we can see:

“The First University of the Last Prophet, vol. 2, p. 157"

“It is admirable that the rooms of the house which are built for sitting be large.”
(House of a Moslem, p. 145)

The explanation, interpretation, shape of largeness and feeling of largeness will be dealt with in the following parts.

One of the activities which are manifested at home spaces, particularly in the courtyard and living room is the children games which are significantly important in Islamic training.

“Any one, who has a child, should behave as a child when they are with each other.”
(Rowzat-ol-Mottaqin, vol. 8, p. 599- Family in Quran, p. 217, Prophet Mohammed)

The above tradition stated by Prophet Mohammed is so expressive and widespread that we do not need to narrate other traditions in this regard.

“Now that Islam has paid so much attention to the issue of children playing, therefore, it is necessary to predict and allocate a suitable place in the house to the children playing. This space is required both in roofed areas and open areas. (House of a Moslem, p. 96)

In the old houses, because the tradition of guest and receiving guest were among the authentic values and guests were honored in a particular way and were considered as sacred, living rooms were and are still constructed to receive the guests.

“Honor your guests, even though they are unbeliever.”
(Ethics and Association in Islam, p. 254, Prophet Mohammed)

“Any house which does not receive guests, will not receive angels as well.”
(House of a Moslem, p. 79, Prophet Mohammed)

“All pious man, who hears a guest’s voice and becomes happy, will be saved even if he has committed countless sins.”
(House of a Moslem, p. 79, Imam Ali)
“Regarding open spaces, any child needs to be in open air to run and jump, to be exposed to the light and warmth of the sun and the beauties of nature, considers oneself connected with the infinite world, looks at the widespread sky, etc.”
(Disorganized Child and Family, p. 236)

“Furthermore, the child needs some spaces in the roofed area of the house to play in. If such spaces has not been predicted for the child and he does not have any place to play in, this will harm the physical and psychological health of the child.”
(House of a Moslem, p. 96)

4-5-4: Sleeping Space (Bedroom)

What was said before about other spaces in the living room of a house is also applicable here. What follows only refers to the conditions of sleeping among family members.

“Separating the bedroom of parents from that of the children is an issue which has been markedly emphasized in Islam.” (House of a Moslem, p. 86)

“Undoubtedly, little children who cannot perceive their environment very well sleep in the parents’ bedroom beside them. However, once they reach the age of 6-7 and they get familiar with the diverse worlds of men and women, their beds should be separated, and once they are 10, their bedrooms should be separated if possible.
(Disorganized Child and Family, p. 116)

“In addition to separate the parents’ bedroom from that of the children, we should also separate the beds of children from each other. In other words, when children reach an age that they can perceive their environment, two brothers, two sisters, or one brother and sister should not be allowed to sleep in one bed beside each other unless there is a space between them.” (ibid, p. 116)

“Children should sleep separately from each other since the age of 6. Other traditions propose the age of 10.” (Rozat-ol-Mottaqin, vol. 8, p. 357 - Family in Quran, p. 243)

Besides separating the bedrooms, there are other issues which can affect the design of bedrooms such as: “It is a tradition to sleep on the right hand and towards kiblah.”
(Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 122)

And also “sleeping alone is abominable and has been reproached.”
(House of a Moslem, p. 87)

“Prophet Mohammed cursed three types of man: one, who eats alone, travels alone and sleeps alone, and declared if someone sleeps alone he might go mad.”
(Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 121)
4-5-5: Worshipping Space

“It is admirable that as human considers special tools and spaces for doing his ordinary activities at home, regards special space for his worshipping. This place should be:
First: pure and clean
Second: without many material manifestations
so that human gets involved in an appropriate space away from the material world and towards God in his worshipping.”

“Imam Ali had a chamber at his home which was average size; while saying prayers and at nights, Imam brought a child with him into the chamber and they prayed together.”
(Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 247)

4-5-6: Kitchens

“We could not find a tradition which directly relates to the kitchen.”

4-5-7: Service Spaces: bathroom and restroom

“Because cleansing and cleanliness is very essential for Moslems and they considerably care about their indispensable and recommended ablutions, bathroom is one of the main spaces in a Moslem’s house and it is necessary that each Moslem has one bathroom in his house so that he does not need to go to public bathrooms.”
(House of a Moslem, p. 98)

“One who believes in God and the resurrection day will not go to the bath without loincloth and will not allow his wife to go to public bathrooms.”
(Alkhesal, p. 182, Prophet Mohammed)

The two points mentioned above indicate the necessity of bathroom in the house. However, there are other traditions regarding the place of this space (bathroom) at home. For instance:

“Build the bathroom in the corner of the house.”
(The First University of the Last Prophet, p. 150, Imam Mohammed-Baqer)

Three major points have been pointed out about restroom:
Largeness, cleanliness, and the direction of restroom.

“It is a good luck for the one who has a nice, large, and clean restroom.”
(Makarem-ol-Akhlaq, p. 126)

“Brushing teeth is abominable in the restroom just as it is in the bathroom.”
(House of a Moslem, p. 102)
“It is abominable to brush teeth in the restroom, because it will render the teeth a bad smell.” (Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 137)

“It is prohibited to pass urine or excrement in the direction or opposite the direction of the kiblah, weather you are in desert or building. It is a tradition to do these things towards East or West and it is recommended not to do it in the space between the East and West.” (Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 138)

**4-5-8: Decorations and Furniture of the house**

“In Islam drawing, painting, and portraying with shadows are prohibited, and portraying on the walls and clothes is abominable.” (Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 245)

“Thus, it is recommended that houses be not decorated with too much designs and ornaments, and hanging pictures and sculptures on the wall is abominable.”

(The First University of the Last Prophet, vol.2, p. 153)

“The pictures which depict angels like girls are prohibited and photos of Prophets and Imams should not be kept as well in the houses.” (ibid)

“There is no problem in keeping pictures at home, if their faces are disguised and the rest of their bodies are remained the same.” (Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 245)

“There is another tradition by Imam Ga’far-Sadeq who states: Don’t draw portraits on the ceilings. Imam’s companions asked him: How about drawing trees, sun, and moon? Imam replied: No problem, if that thing is inanimate. (Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 245)

Therefore, if portraits have one of the following characteristics, the abominable nature of paintings and sculptures would be eliminated to a large extent.

1. If portraits/pictures are not animate
2. If portraits are disguised and not complete
3. If portraits are trodden, and people sit and walk on them

Moreover, “the items which are used in the house should be selected to be used in daily activities and convenience of life and they should have special applications. In this case, human will use blessings of God correctly and truthfully and will apply them for his comfort; otherwise, if there is a different intention and human wishes to show off the items of his life, this is not desired by Islam and has been reproached.”

(House of a Moslem, pp. 128-129)

The general formula about items of the house is the above-mentioned paragraph. In the following part, some traditions and narrations about carpet, chair, and bed have been presented:

“Regarding carpet in the house, Imam Moosa states:

“Three things are fair: good beast, cheerful servant, and precious carpet.”

(Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 245)"
“Therefore, carpet is considered very important in the house, but it should have two conditions: First, The number of carpets should not be more than three. Second, some visages should not be drawn on the carpet.” (House of a Moslem, p. 133)

With regards to the first condition, when someone asks Prophet Mohammed about carpet, he replies: “There is a carpet for the man, one for the woman, one for the guest, and a last one for the Satan.” (Alkhesal, vol. 1, p. 60 - Vasaol-o- Shiite, vol. 3, p. 587)

Regarding the second condition, there is a tradition which narrates: Someone told Imam Mohammed-Baqer “someone sits on a carpet with visages on it. Imam stated non-Arabs bow such a carpet, but we regard it as enemy.” (Helyat-ol-Mottaqin, p. 246)

With regards to the amount of furniture, there is a tradition which narrates: once a group of people went to the house of Imam Hosein and told him: “O’thou son of the Prophet Mohammed, we see abominable items in your house?! We see attractive carpets and pileless carpets in your home?! Imam replied: We marry women and give them their dowry. They buy what they want with their dowry and thus, these items belong to them and not to us.” (House of a Moslem, p. 131)

Islam has not introduced a reference for using chair or seat. In stories of Quran, “Prophet Josef sat on the seat and Imam Ja’far-Sadeq also had a bench.”

(The First University of the Last Prophet, vol.2, p. 157)

Nevertheless, the narrations which describe the quality of our prophet and Imams’ lives regarding furniture, all mention that they sat on the floor. (House of a Moslem, p. 138)

“Prophet Mohammed often slept on a cushion which was filled with date and made up of hide, and occasionally sat on it.” (Makarem-ol-Akhlaq, vol. 1, p. 40 - Prophet’s Traditions, p. 143)

“Our prophet never dined when he was leaning against a wall except once that he sat on the floor and apologized the door (My God, I am your creature and prophet).” (Da’vat-e-qotb, Tafsir-ol-Mizan, vol. 12, p. 214)

“Prophet Mohammed did not dine in a leaning position since the day he was appointed to be prophet until his death; rather he dined and sat like slaves. We asked the reason? Prophet declared: in order to show humility in front of the God.” (Kaafi Principles, Tafsir-ol-Mizan, vol. 12, p. 214)

“Prophet Mohammed dined and sat like slaves, both on the floor.” (Kaafi Principles, Tafsir-ol-Mizan, vol. 12, p. 215)
“Once some followers of Imam Hosein asked him: Is it prohibited to keep a bed made up of gold in the house or not? Imam replied: If it is made up of gold, it should not be kept, but if it is made up of gold plate, there is no problem in keeping it at home. (Makarem-ol-Akhlaq, p. 132)

In sum, we can say this part focused on simple, but comfortable life.

Summary

1. The most significant goals of social life and marriage in Islam are to do works for public utility and to train pious children.
2. In order to achieve the favorable results, equilibrium for both trainer and trainee is one of the initial principles.
3. Anybody should have a house of his own and leasing the house is prohibited.
4. Neighbor and contact with neighbors are the divine blessings.
5. In Islam, living in narrow and dark houses is abominable.
6. A house larger than what the human needs will be imposed on him in the afterlife.
7. Each space in the house should be as large as required, neither larger nor smaller.
8. The reverence and intimacy of the house need to be preserved and protected from others.
9. Psychological, personal, and social hygiene need to be provided in the house.
10. The entrance of the house should separate the inner private boundary from the outside boundary.
11. It is recommended to predict a space for children playing in the house.
12. The space in which parents sleep should be separated from the space in which children sleep.
13. Since the age of 6, children, even homogeneous children need to sleep in separate bedrooms.
14. In Islam, it is recommended to build the bathroom in the house.
15. Restroom and bathroom spaces should be clean.
16. Restroom should not be in the direction or opposite the direction of kiblah.
Chapter 5:

the impact of social relations on houses
Chapter 5:
The Impact of Social Relations on House

The purpose of this chapter is to study the human’s mental and psychological states in different stages of his life from birth to the age that the individual can live independently. This chapter does not aim at designing space, rather it seeks to find out the impact of an individual’s psychological and physical states on his life and his social relations and also, to realize the impact of communication and social relations on dwelling spaces. In order to clarify the issue, some examples have been presented at suitable points. This chapter has benefited from the current psychology books in Iran, especially the ‘Field of Psychology’ by E.R. Hilgard because the arguments presented in this book are close to our present discussion.

In order to facilitate the discussion and to categorize each individual’s social relations, these relations have been studied in two ways:

1. The individual’s relation with members of the family

   First section •

2. The individual’s relation with the society outside the home

   Second section •

In each of these cases and in various points of an individual’s life, the person will be studied, his characteristics will be defined in each point and finally, the effect of his characteristics on social relations and house will be assessed.
It should be noted that our basis of discussion here is one-nucleus families; this selection has two main reasons as following, but it does not mean to value anything.

1. **The time limit for studying other matters**
2. **The status quo of our society**

As mentioned before, nowadays, we can claim that all the young persons of this study tend to be independent and live separated from their families. Therefore, almost all the young people, after they marry, try to buy or rent a house and to live independently from their parents. This matter expands and deteriorates the issue of house every day. This is a widespread fact in the society which seems to become pervasive gradually. Due to the fact that throughout this research, every attempt has been made for studying the status quo and orientation of our present society, therefore, examining one-nucleus families at present circumstances will provide us with more practical solutions.

5-1: **Social relations**

The child’s primary social contacts are usually with his mother. The method the mother chooses to treat her child, whether it is patient and warm, or harsh and cool, will extremely affect the attitude of the child towards all the people in his environment. These primary contacts are among the most important factors which influence the personality and attitude of an individual towards other members of the society. Psychologically speaking, any person, at various points of his life, responds almost similarly to the issues and customs of his society, whether he has been born in Iran, or thousands of kilometers away in China with absolutely different cultural and racial backgrounds.

In order to feel secure, the child tries to communicate with special individuals and this leads to feeling of dependence in child. (Dependence will gradually turn to affection and attachment).

The amount of dependence in child changes with different ages, heads towards different individuals and appears in various ways. Human regularly feel more secure and can explore their environment more courageously when they are near their acquaintances on which they are dependent. The affection makes the unfamiliar environment a familiar and tangible one for the human.

As long as the child stays at home and cannot leave the home physically and mentally, all his social contacts are confined to home. Of course, these contacts are bounded to family contacts. However, as soon as the child goes out of the home, his contacts within the family and outside the home will be changed. The personality of the child will be extremely influenced by the environment outside the house and his social contacts will be expanded by finding friends and contacting them.

The fact that the child gets out of the home to touch the society is definitely indispensable; this leads to the coming of his friends, playmates and classmates to his home from the society. These relations, in various ages of the child, appear in different shapes and have their own advantages and disadvantages.
The coming of these social contacts into the house of the child requires a suitable atmosphere for communication. This will considerably influence house and composition of dwelling spaces. In addition, there are other factors which might have an impact on the social relations of the child such as:

- **a) Culture and custom of the society**
- **b) Religious issues**
- **c) Financial status of the family**

For instance, in societies such as Iran, girls are more restricted in their social contacts than boys. Girls cannot communicate with everybody and they have fewer entertainments than boys. They are more under control which results from the culture dominated in the society.

On the other hand, the families with less financial abilities have fewer social contacts. Because these families are not financially able to receive guests frequently; besides, they go to parties less frequently. This will reduce the social contacts to a large degree, and people try to solve this issue outside the house. A tangible instant of this issue is the gathering of women in front of their doorways, especially in poor areas.

In all the aforementioned arguments, there are two determining points:

The older the child becomes, there will be more opportunities for him to go out of the home. This is because of his physical development and improvements of his understanding and thought. After leaving the home and the growth of the child, the scope of his activities in society expands and he finds more chances to be away from the home. Thus, the age of the child has a direct relation with the scope of his activities in the society.

Alternatively, the child’s sex has a remarkable role in the type and amount of his personal and social behaviors. For example, from psychological point of view, girls and boys have the following characteristics respectively:

**Girls**

*Play with dolls.*
*Help their mothers*
*Talk a lot*
*Don’t quarrel*
*Seek others’ help*
*Hope to become teacher or nurse, or actually give service to people.*
Boys

Play with toy cars
Play with computer games
Help their fathers
Like to make something
Show off their power to others
Hope to become important people and dominate others

One essential point here is that the above mentioned characteristics are enormously affected by the personal qualities, social status, and social contacts of the child. That is, a girl who plays more with her brothers or other boys will obtain masculine characteristics and, on the contrary, a boy who grows among his sisters or plays more with girls will acquire more feminine characteristics. These conditions will create exceptions in behavior of the child.

These mental conditions of the children can have notable effects on their modeling of the biological spaces and changes their dwelling needs drastically.

Generally, we can divide the child’s life from psychological perspective into three stages:

a) Childhood
b) Adolescence
c) Youth and Puberty

In each stage, the individual has particular physical and psychological conditions which influence his behaviors largely. Therefore, in each stage, the environment around the child has specific conditions and features which can be discussed. Due to the significance of this matter, Islam has introduced different commands and methods for each of these stages which might be the most practical methods in the lives of our people.

As mentioned above, the child’s primary social contacts are with his mother. These initial social contacts are extremely significant in forming his social personality. Mother and her child are the first society formed by birth of the infant. This first society requires its own suitable practical context. Mother speech with her child, child’s mincing, mother being alone with the child or even confiding in her child who cannot even reply are all important for both mother and the child. Thus, the context of the activity can be very
important as well; a space in which mother can communicate with her child without any jangles of inside or outside the house.

The next society for the child is his family; a group composed of mother, father, sisters and brothers. The child obtains his early social experiences in this small social unit. Every member of the family can have an impact on the child. Up to the age of 4, family is the most significant society that the child has relation with and spends most of his time in it. Thus, the context of these social transactions and the growth of this society should be in a way that the members of the family do not oppose each other in any way and the family turns to a secure and reliable environment for all its members. In such an environment, the child will spend the best seconds of his life.

From the age of 4 until adolescence, the child drastically wishes to live in groups. During these ages, the child has no particular understanding of dimensions of space and does not regard any specific space as his property. The feeling of ownership toward space is very weak in the child; this feeling is restricted to things. Children try to create a dreamy world using the things around them.

In these ages, there is the possibility of using dwelling spaces collectively for children and they are usually fond of living in common rooms with others, because they feel more secure in this way. Besides, they have more affection toward the environment. In this period, children typically attempt to form small spaces with childish criteria and try to be away from their parents’ environment. As a result, children play with their friends in their rooms, act as imaginary persons, and close the door while playing.

At these times, children enthusiastically like to play with other children of their own age and with homogeneous children (boys with boys, girls with girls) in particular. On the basis of these discussions, we see that at these ages, sleeping of all children in one room is positive and there is no need to separate some private spaces for children. (By managing the joint ownership spaces around the apartment or the area of living, we can fill most of the child’s time).

From the age of 12 that the adolescence begins, the individual feels more independent and normally tries to change some of the environments and the spaces of the house for himself (regarding his needs). In these ages, the individual, in addition to the need of communication, requires some time to be alone with himself and his dreams. The feeling of dependence on the space and ownership of the space will be reinforced in the adolescent and the human’s personality globe starts to be formed.

Consequently, the environment should respect this personality in turn and allow the adolescent to be alone. Private spaces become necessary for the individual from these ages. If possible, the spaces should be designed in a way that let the person realize the boundary of his possession.
Based on the above-mentioned discussions, the family is classified into two types regarding changes:

1. Father and mother: more gradual and slow changes
2. Children: younger children, elder children faster changes in behavior and diverse needs in short terms

In fact, the family is grouped into two types of adults and children. In the first type, the diagram of Time/Change has a slighter slope compared with the second type.
As discussed before, adolescents between the ages of 12 to 15 pass through great psychological changes several times. These changes also affect their social morals severely. Generally, the social relations of the family members can be classified as follows:

1. Inside the family relations
2. Social relations

In both cases, we can study both children and adults separately, but in the second case, i.e., social transactions, it is better to study each member of the family first, and then the family as a whole.

5-2: inside the family relations

5-2-1: The relation between father and mother

This relation is nearly permanent after the marriage (if no problems emerge). A private space for the contact between these two chief members of the family is essential; a space for occupational or educational consultations and for lying with one another without any disturbance. This space needs to be separate from the children generally and from their bedrooms in particular, parents should be able to get inside it alone and at the same time, receive the children in it at particular times.

5-2-2: The relation between parents and children

This relation permanently exists until the child leaves the family. However, the amount of this relation is usually alterable throughout time and as children grow, this relation
decreases. This relation is particularly true about mothers, because mothers normally spend more time with their children. As long as mother breastfeeds her infant, the relation between she and the infant is maximum. Once the mother weans her infant, the relations between them decrease gradually. In fact, as the child grows, he needs less support from his family and spends more time with other children and his friends. In puberty, the adolescents feel independence from their parents more than any other time. Mostly, they confide with their friends who have similar problems and thus, their contacts with their parents will reduce day by day.

Of course, the emotional relation between the adolescent and his parents will remain permanently. This results in stability of the family and holds the family contacts at a normal level. Stable families usually dine with each other, watch TV at nights together, go to parties jointly, and discuss the family’s issues collectively. These activities guarantee the survival of this small society and the social intercourse between them.

One of the most important facts in this relation is mother's job. So if mother is housewife she spend a lot time in house and usually have strong relation with children and if mother is from middle layer she like play and relation with others more than other social stages.

Psychologically speaking (although boys consider their fathers as model and girls their mothers), until the age of puberty, boys have emotional relations with their mothers and girls with their fathers and after this age these relations fade so that boys find more common point with their fathers and girls with their mothers. Of course, this is not something fatalistic. The parents’ morals, the amount of time each spend at home, social and cultural issues of the family, the society’s custom, etc. might affect these relations. Thus, there is an essential need for spaces in which the members of the family converse with each other, whether inside the house or outside it.

5-2-3: The relation among children

The relation between children highly depends on their sex and age. As said before, children between the ages of 4 to 12 typically tend to communicate with homogeneous friends and feel discontent about the moral of the opposite sex. In these ages, the amount of contact between brothers with each other and sisters with each other reaches its maximum quantity. However, after puberty the relation between brother and sister in a family will be strengthened and a deep emotional relation will be created between them.

This, however, does not allow for a common space for brother and sister (neither in religion nor in custom), because both of them have reached an age in which they have their true characteristics and these characteristics leads to non-shared interests and heterogeneous personalities. Attaining sexual puberty is another matter which orients brothers and sisters to separate from each other; nevertheless, the emotional relation still remains at a high level.
Based on the above discussion, it is indispensable to consider separate spaces for girls and boys at these ages, especially at nights. However, this space should allow for relation and social intercourse between them.

According to the aforementioned discussions children between the ages of 4 to 12 do not have a special feeling toward space, but they have feelings of possession toward things. Therefore, it is better for children to have two small desks rather than one big one, or at least to have separate drawers on both sides of a desk. It is suggested that beds are separate from each other. However, after puberty (due to the sense towards space), the space should have the potentiality of being divided and separated at particular points of time. The existence or the possibility of making independent spaces for young members of the family is the best method to meet their mental, psychological needs.

5-3: The relation of the individual with the outside society

5-3-1: Children below the age of 4:
Children below 4 typically do not have contacts with the outside environment and they are not allowed to leave the house or go far away. Their social environment is limited to the house or the house courtyard. The main reason is the child’s low capability in these ages.

5-3-2: Children between 4 and 12:
The child’s social scope is expanded in these ages. The child’s motional and physical capability will be improved and he can slightly protect himself. The children’s scope of activities in these ages will be spread out to the spaces of local games (today, the alleys and streets). In this regards, suitable spaces (near the apartments or secure spaces for playing or even rather large corridors in the apartments’ floors) can fill a long time for children.

The transfer of game spaces for children from dwelling spaces to public and nearby spaces chiefly decreases the spaces which children need at homes, the spaces which children need for intellectual and physical developments. If children do not have suitable spaces for playing near their houses, and their houses or dwelling spaces are small, this will reduce the movements of children and create depression in them.

In these ages, children begin their outside home social lives and play with their friends and coevals. However, in this period, children typically do not go to their friends’ homes because of shyness except specific ceremonies (e.g., birthdays, friendly celebrations).
Thus, the amount of friendly intercourse is not considerable at these ages. However, the children are ready to have social intercourse with family friends of their parents. Considering the type of communication between the children and with regards to their morale, the spaces for children and the furniture should let us spread and collect them frequently and easily so that the space becomes appropriate for sitting games. Providing mental, interesting sitting games for children contributes to this matter. Moreover, computer, television and games, although occupy a specific space, make children sit in small spaces and avoids dynamic games. This will contribute to the decreasing of the required space.

On the other hand, the excessive use of these games among children reduces their motions and negatively affects their social relations. These matters will have undesirable effects on the child’s physical and mental personality (In addition to the above-mentioned issues, there is the problem of psychological health of these games which is proved nowadays. Therefore, these games should be controlled and oriented well).

5-3-3: Children beyond 12:

These children feel they are grown up and the society accepts them as adults as well. They have fewer problems in the society. They communicate with their neighbors and classmates easily and have a vast scope of social contacts.

The adolescent’s motion at home gradually decreases and they understand that dwelling spaces are not suitable for large motions and tend to be silent. After the turmoil outside the house, they need a quiet place. Adolescents usually discharge all their energy outside the home in playing with their friends and come back to home for taking a rest.

Furthermore, the spontaneous physical and mental growth of the adolescent creates a peculiar confidence in him which removes his shyness. This matter increases the adolescent’s social intercourses. He may go to his friends’ home and invite them to his home as well. The more intimacy between friends, the more private spaces they will be received in at homes. They reveal their secrets to their friends in private rooms so that the family does not become aware of them. They spend long hours in these rooms. During these hours, the only interaction between them and the family is for getting food and the like in order to entertain their friends.

This matter requires that the adolescent’s private room has the capacity of receiving one or more of his friends for long hours. This will definitely influence the furniture and space of his room. It is probably better to design the furniture in a way that the room functions as a private living room for the adolescent when he receives guests. It is possible to use a few chairs, small desks or a bed to solve this problem.
5-4: The relation between parents and the society
Typically the parents’ relations in long run end in social intercourse with their relatives, neighbors and colleagues. Mothers have more time to communicate with their friends (Women usually arrange collective appointments outside the home and plan women parties at home).
Several programs such as attending tailoring classes, cooking classes, etc. are among the activities women carry out outside the house and are very popular and various in our present society. Unlike men, women allow their friends to enter their most private spaces such as their bedrooms and there, they start talking. This is because first, women have freedom in behavior and do not need to veil at home and second, because the type and amount of their speech is beyond the normal speech (They usually talk about private and feminine issues or about their friends, dresses, jewelries, etc. which are beyond the patience of other members of the family).
5-5: The relation between family and society

In this part, we study the social relations of the family as a whole, and a smaller society with the mother.

The social relations of a family may be seen in the following forms:

a) Relation with neighbors
b) Relation with relatives
c) Relation with friends and colleagues

5-5-1: Relation with neighbors

The relation with neighbors and social intercourse with them due to the closeness of the residential spaces can take place in various forms. The lavatories of the neighbors are usually shared (specially between women). It is possible to see and talk with the neighbors in public corridor, courtyard, garage, park, market, alley and passages and to discuss the issues between them.

Moreover, neighbors can communicate with telephone without any face to face contact. However, it is usually the case that neighbors live nearby and (if there is intimacy between them), the social intercourse will be increased highly. Thus, the entrance and doorway spaces as well as the public and private spaces will be available for receiving the neighbors.

Relation with neighbors

Nevertheless, leasing the houses and consequently, the rapid change of the neighbors, and the occupation of people busily in very large cities like Tehran, has devalued and blurred the traditional neighborhood contacts; moreover, lack of appropriate spaces for communication with neighbors in public spaces has had an unfavorable impact on neighborhood relations. Thus, these contacts have been restricted to superficial greetings in public corridors. The neighbors, who, in our traditional society were regarded as the
most sympathetic companion and faithful friend of one another, have nowadays turned to nearby societies with no common origin; the only thing they share is the stairs they take for going to work and returning from the work.

5-5-2: Relation with relatives
Nowadays, the economical problems of the families have affected relations between relatives from two sides. On one hand, the great amount and time of work for men and women outside the family has diminished the possibility of intercourse among relatives on working days. Particularly, if families do not have a car, they will arrive home so late that they won’t have a lot of chance to move in a city like Rasht.

Further, on holidays, most members of the family prefer to go out and rest with families in country side.

On the other hand, the financial problems have diminished intercourse among relatives which are typically expensive. Because the families with low and middle salaries neither are able to prepare for a party with some guests, nor do they have a suitable space for receiving the guests. Of course, some families envy each other the various foods they make and this worsens the issue. Controlling such matters can solve the problem to a great degree.

These days, telephone has replaced all those noisy and pleasurable intercourse between families and has become the main mode of communication among the relatives.

Needless to say there are still many families who communicate with their first-class relatives and depending on the intimacy and kinship, receive them in the guest room (as a more formal place) or in the living room (as a little more personal place).

A possible solution for maintaining this least social intercourse of families might be to allocate the joint spaces in the apartments to all residents so that it can be used in appropriate situations. For instance, it can be in the form of living room spaces which have been common in the Southern provinces of Iran traditionally.

A sample of Muzif in the south (Muzif is place outside the entrance door of the houses in which the guests are received. They particularly exist in Khuzestan in southwest of Iran). www.wikipedia
5-5-3: Relation with friends and colleagues

This type of relation is normally confined to workplace or restaurant or it is in the form of telephone conversations. If friends and colleagues are intimate, they might be entertained at home and family relations may emerge. Perhaps the only social contact which has increased in these days is the contact with colleagues. Because of the long hours people spend in workplaces, they usually see their friends and colleagues more than their family members. Thus, family intercourse will not be formed with many of the colleagues and if there is any contact, it will be very blurred with long intervals.

According to our present society, due to the problems mentioned above, the social contacts are decreasing daily (especially, contacts with relatives) and this can severely impact the biological spaces of the house and dimensions of the living room. This will help us diminish these spaces at home.

Conversely, lack of social intercourses turns the society into a society with feeble family bases. Consequently, a suitable spatial alternative should be considered for these intercourses in the joint spaces so that these contacts revive as far as possible.

Establishing social contacts in parks

photo: khnevadeh magazine 1989
Summary

1. The psychological and personality states of a person directly influence his social relations and thus, his dwelling spaces.
2. The under study family is a one-nucleus family.
3. Any person, in any place and age, with any nationality gives similar responses to social stimuli.
4. Up to the age of 4, the child’s social contacts are restricted to the contacts with his family and relatives.
5. Once the child leaves the home, his social contacts expand and in some cases, the scope of these contacts reaches the home.
6. Three factors influence social relations: A) Culture and custom of the society  
   B) Religious issues  C) Financial status of the family
7. Other factors such as the age and the sex of the person might influence his social relations.
8. Any person’s life can be divided to three periods: 
   A) Childhood  B) Adolescence  C) Puberty
9. The spaces of the home should be secure and reliable for children.
10. in childhood, it is better for children to sleep in one room.
11. in adolescence, individuals have the feeling of possession of space; thus, it is essential to allocate an independent space or definable area to them in order to satisfy this feeling.
12. in puberty and youth, it is useful to assign some spaces to the children that can be separated from other spaces of the home whenever necessary.
13. As children grow, they need less support from the family and distance from their dwelling spaces.
14. Children below the age of 4, due to their physical and intellectual weaknesses, rarely enter the society.
15. Children between 4 and 12 find the opportunity to enter the society and thus, outside family social behaviors appear. The appearance of these relations requires suitable spaces inside and outside the home.
16. Individuals above 12 receive their friends in private spaces.
17. Individuals above 12 feel they are grown up and thus, they wish to receive their guests just as their parents do.
18. Women let their friends enter their bedrooms; however, men consider bedrooms as extension of their chastity and prevent other people enter it.
19. The social relations of a family are classified into three types:  
   A) Relation with neighbors  B) Relation with relatives  C) Relation with friends and colleagues
20. Relation with neighbors expands from the local areas and markets to corridors and courtyards of the apartments and then, it will reach inside the houses depending on the distance between the neighbors.
21. Leasing houses and great occupation of people has enormously reduced the relation among neighbors.
22. Modern architecture and designing civic spaces have decreased neighbors’ contacts to a minimum level.
23. Relation with relatives has reached its minimum due to financial problems and time limits; Telephone has replaced family intercourses to a large extent.
24. Decrease in the size of dwelling spaces, has lessened the opportunities to entertain guests.
Chapter 6:

metamorphosis in present society
Chapter 6: 
Metamorphosis in present society

It is an obvious fact that our present lives differ from that of our ancestors’. This great change in recent decades can be seen in the way of clothing and every detail of our customs.

Many behaviors which were regarded as inseparable part of our ancestors’ lives have been blurred or totally removed from our lives. Even imagining most of the things and instruments which we regard as very common and handy today, has been difficult for the previous generations.

Naturally, these changes have had impacts on settlement behaviors, and family, as the central core of the society, has been influenced by social changes (whether these changes have been right or wrong). As a result of these changes of attitudes towards life and residence, the origin of these changes, namely, the house has been altered principally too (changes in both the relations and the design and shape of the space).

Today, many of the activities which were used to done at home, have been either completely deleted from the dwelling activities list or have been incorporated into the civic activities; also, many of the activities which were used to done in public places, are nowadays considered as dwelling activities. Moreover, several new activities such as watching TV – satellites, etc. have been added to dwelling activities.

These days, activities like baking bread are considered as civic services in municipal Societies and almost no body bakes bread at home. Therefore, designing spaces for baking and ovens are not necessary at homes. Furthermore, making other foodstuffs such as ketchup, verjuice, lemon juice, and distilling plants do not take place at home. Because of some reasons (which will be stated later) most of the families buy these foodstuffs. As a result, those parts of the house which are related to these activities will be deleted. In the past, a large area of the warehouses at homes was occupied by the instruments for doing these activities. Because these instruments which were used only once a year, were responsible for supplying the annual necessities of one or more families. Thus, after the deletion of these instruments from the houses, the warehouses have been considerably decreased in size.
Large tools such as big pots, huge wheels, etc. have left the houses and instead, huge industrial workshops meet the needs of most people in these issues. Conversely, activities such as taking bath which were used to taken place in public spaces are nowadays considered as one of the major dwelling activities and this has added a space called bathroom to the houses.

Apart from these credits and debits between house and society, there are types of activities which have entered the society in regards with the present situation of the society; activities which have never existed before, and are completely new such as watching TV, listening to music, etc. Each of these activities has had various impacts on house and these will be studied in this chapter. These changes in dwelling activities have been occurring throughout history and are continuing in our society unnoticeably. A precise recognizing of these changes and their causes will help us attain the mechanism of them. By understanding the mechanism of these changes and providing an appropriate background, we can accelerate the changes necessary for achieving the desired purposes and prevent detrimental changes.

In this procedure, we can also benefit from experiences of the developed countries, because they have had similar crises such as inadequate houses and inappropriate dwelling spaces in the past decades and have been almost successful in coming over these crises. Of course, what is significant here is the method they have used in dealing with their problems and not the solutions they have achieved for the problems. Definitely what has been appropriate for one society cannot be directly applied in another, because the people and the conditions of the society which are the raw data for one system differ from the raw data of the other system; hence, different results.

Thus, the aim of such a research is not to study the developed countries’ solutions or data, rather it is to discover the mechanism they have used to find the solutions. If we examine the changes and their causes more carefully, we can find some major reasons for these changes such as:

- **a) Cultural factors**
- **b) Social factors**
6-1: Cultural factors

A careful look at the present culture of our society reveals that we are far distant from our traditional culture. In recent times, our society has been exposed to various western cultures. The suitable way of presenting and the deceitful appearance of these manifestations of western culture has created a cultural infatuation in our country just like many other countries.

Every day, the distance between us and our fathers enlarges and we appear like "advanced and polite people" so as to compensate for some of the lacks which we untruly feel in ourselves. This procedure has always existed in our society from the past decades, sometimes it has been accelerated and at some other points, due to particular situations like war, etc. it has been stopped or slowed down. Despite a few returns to our traditional culture at some points, we have followed wrong ways and have proceeded to make our society as western-like as possible.

Of course, our purpose here is not to evaluate the dominant procedure in our society or to explain the ways to prevent it; rather it is to explain the status quo. We seek to find the effects of this issue on architecture.

If we consider architecture as an entire-representing mirror of culture of one society, we may clearly find the effect of these cultural changes on architecture (both at the surface and the inner part).

In new models, architecture has changed from an introvert mode to an extrovert one. Instead of making the inner side of the house a secure place, new architecture notices the outside spaces and tries to display all the secrets of the house using long glasses. However, the residents of these homes still cannot let their neighbors visit all the secrets of their lives from the vitrine of their homes and thus, try to use thick curtains to avoid this nakedness as far as possible.

Further, the tendency towards luxuries and showing off in today’s architecture makes every one attempt to build his house more prominent than others. This is totally in contrast with what was prominent in our past architecture. Architecture was entirely linked with modesty and if there was any superiority, it would be limited to inside the houses and the outward shape of houses was not different for poor or rich people.
Due to the above-mentioned reasons, larger houses are built every day with more expensive construction materials to show the power of their owners. This procedure, however, was slowed down during the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979 and the Iraq-Iran 8-year war starting at 1980. Throughout these years, some attempts were made in constructing simple buildings exaggeratively. Nevertheless, the tendency to build large and expensive houses has been accelerated in the period of restoration and security of stabilization of the Islamic Revolution and the society. This can be seen in the odd and expensive buildings which have found a good deal of proponents in the market. The change of attitudes in cultural issues has targeted the house architecture basis in its first stage and has entirely changed the form of architecture and civic spaces compared with the previous forms.

Alternatively, the same procedure has been present inside the dwelling spaces. Names of the spaces are exactly the equivalents of the European and American dwelling rooms. The traditional furniture has been replaced by the western furniture; small cushions have been substituted by heavy and large furniture, and instead of spreading the Iranian tablecloth on the floor, today dining tables of 6 and 8 persons are being used. These changes, all in all have influenced all the behavior of the family and even the guests. The tendency towards luxury items also brings about buying various clothes with different colors and models and this has chiefly enlarged the private cupboards of the house dwellers.

Perfect obedience from the imported models, has caused the entrance of foods such as pizza, hamburger, etc. and thus, the nourishment regimen of the Iranian families and the cooking instruments have been changed as well. Buying ornamental items, china and crystal dishes instead of domestic copper, clay and glass dishes has brought about changes in the size and form of the cupboards which keep these items.
The high cost, delicacy and vulnerability of these items have caused the main rooms of the house like dining room and living room to keep these items rather than the warehouse spaces. Furthermore, the instruments which had practical uses in the past, are nowadays used as symbol of the rich family’s wealth. Any family attempts to buy the most expensive instruments to a large extent and to show it off to others; the instruments which may not be used any time.

All these matters, although seem trivial, have considerable effect on the space of the house necessary for the family and we cannot ignore this issue.

6-2: Social conditions and factors

Social conditions are one of the most effective factors in house. Also, the presence or absence of economical and social security has direct impact on house. This issue influences the dwelling’s required per capita from two parallel ways:

A) When factors such as expensiveness, inflation, lack of vital items, etc. threatens the society economical and social security, the storage of items at homes ascend. In other words, if the members of the family feel they cannot buy their necessities with a high quality and a sufficient amount any time they need, they will attempt to store the foodstuffs and their necessities as far as possible and this will worsen the problem.

We have experienced this feeling at the time of the Iraq-Iran war; families used to buy large amounts of washing materials, oil, rice and grains and stored them in their homes. Buying large freezers for keeping the nourishment items healthy were common. The reason for all these was that the responsible organizations were not able to distribute the required foodstuffs of the society adequately and justly. This social problem, for one reason or the other, considerably affected the house; the spaces required for storage of items and instruments at homes extremely increased.

Moreover, coming of freezer into the kitchen requires the enlargement of this space. In addition, lack of economical security in the society had made families keep their used items such as pieces of boards and broken glasses for the rainy day (Pay attention to the cost of the used items and the place of storing them).

Therefore, we see that the presence or absence of security in any society can deeply affect the families’ required dwelling spaces.

B) On the other hand, inflation and expensiveness left its effect on house and daily necessities of people, and decreased the financial abilities of the families gradually. This led to two events in the society; first, the families seek for smaller houses day by day and second, all the adult members of the families are forced to work in order to survive. They need to work more hours and spend a little time with their families.
Other effects of inflation and financial problems of the families have led the women of our society work outside the home. The work of women outside the homes is not a simple issue and has a remarkable influence on house. Because women exit of the family:

\[ \text{a) decreases the presence of women at dwelling spaces} \]
\[ \text{b) decreases the housekeeping activities of the women} \]

The reduction in the amount of time women spend at house, leads to the decrease of their daily activities at homes; alternatively, the absence of women at homes and their fatigue from work lessens their housekeeping activities noticeably. The families in which women work, tend to use ready raw materials or fast foods. This matter might affect the families’ nourishment culture and hence, the space of the kitchen. Moreover, the working women typically do not have time to do activities like weaving, tailoring, etc. and thus, the spaces for doing such activities have been deleted from houses. Therefore, on one hand, the decrease of financial power of families and on the other hand, the families’ style of life decrease the measures of dwelling spaces and this is an avoidable thing. Considering these issues, we should attempt to prepare the existing conditions and spaces for a suitable and optimal life.

From another perspective, the financial problems of the families make both men and women spend more time outside the house to earn their livelihood. Also, after they come home, they do not have patience for going to parties or to receive guests. Besides, the high cost of holding parties which is not possible for many families has reduced the family intercourses to a minimum degree and has influenced the number of guests as well (On the average, the expense for holding a party for 4 persons equals 10 thousand tomans).

Financial problems
\[ \text{a) fewer hours of presence in the house} \]
\[ \text{b) decrease in family and friendly contacts} \]
\[ \text{c) impossibility of receiving many guest} \]

Even if a family attends a party, they stay there very short hours and thus, there are very few people today who sleep in the houses of their hosts. The field study done by Ghavidel (a thesis justifies in Tehran university) this matter.
Based on these issues, we can easily and strongly state that nowadays it is possible to allocate a minimum space of the house to the guests and maybe to delete the guest room. Receiving a limited number of guests can take place in the dining room. The decrease in the number of guests and parties has a noticeable effect in the kitchen, too. Because on one hand, a minimum number of dishes is required for parties and this decreases the space of the kitchen cabinets; and on the other hand, limited number of foods and less various cooking demands smaller space of the house. As mentioned before, the status quo of the society and the problems of the families have enormously influenced the house. Studying the reasons and orienting these impacts and trying to optimize the existing spaces might make these problems more tolerable. This issue might not be acknowledged in the society, but it is a fact. The great amount of work for people because of the mechanical lives and the financial problems has made the social relations weak and identifying this issue will affect the amount and the way of allocating spaces for living in houses.

**Weakening of the social contacts**

**Table 11**

**Frequency of guests’ stay at hosts’ homes at nights**  
Source: Mehrgani.A

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6-3: The development of technology

Technology has brought about various effects on our lives. Every day, technology produces new items and facilities and offers to the market. Many of these items are produced for the human to use in the house. Mostly all the instruments which worked mechanically in the past, work with electricity nowadays. Moreover, the size of these instruments has been decreased several times as much as the old ones. Large mechanical mills have been replaced by small electrical ones; electrical instruments to extract juices are common. In this regard, technology has contributed to decreasing the size of houses and making them more comfortable.

However, technology has also created variety in the number and type of these items and thus, the families’ desire to buying various forms of them has become natural. Particularly, buying multi-functional items along with single-functional ones has made these instruments repetitive and thus, many families have some instruments that may not be used in years; instruments such as rice cooker, slow cooker, coffeemaker, confectionery tools, etc. which exist in most houses, are only used very limitedly. This matter has a crucial impact on the space of the house.

Of course, we cannot absolutely claim that all the items brought about by technology to our homes have caused an increase in the space of the house. Because items like refrigerator and freezer, although are added to the space of the kitchen, have decreased its space in two ways. On one hand, they keep a large amount of foodstuff in themselves and function instead of warehouses. On the other hand, they remove or fade many time-consuming activities like drying vegetables, preserving meat, etc. from the house. People nowadays keep their foodstuffs by freezing which is less demanding and needs smaller spaces. Despite all these merits, refrigerator and freezer occupy a space of the kitchen; a section which might worth more than these instruments.

In addition to these instruments, another set which plays a crucial role in the space and design of the house is television. This role is so important that many people consider a space in their homes as TV space or even TV room. Especially in societies such as our society TV fills a considerable amount of the people spare time.

Although TV set occupies a space of the home, it is greatly effective in decreasing the space of the house. Because children and adults spend a long time every day to watch TV. In addition to television, the lateral sets linked to it, such as computer, etc. chiefly fill
children’s spare time. Thus, TV and its lateral sets have reduced the amount of other activities inside the house.

The effect of technology on the size of house items
Comparing the size of mechanical mill with electrical mil

Therefore, as seen above, the invention and use of all these technological instruments in the house brings about two aspects, a positive and a negative aspect. We may markedly reinforce the positive aspect using emerging technologies and use it for decreasing the size of the houses while maintaining the optimal conditions in them.

Some of the potentialities of technology include:

- Producing movable furniture
- Producing multi-functional furniture like sofa-bed
- Maximum use of one space with addition and deletion of some parts of the walls
- Making the spaces multi-functional by changing the lighting, furniture, and moving the walls, etc.

The purpose of all the aforementioned discussions was to find out what factors are involved in the entrance and exit of the activities in the house and how. As mentioned above, even the minor events in the society will leave their impacts on all walks of life and hence, the dwelling space. Thus, in order to reach the minimum house with optimal conditions, all the people of the society should gather and help.

Different media such as the broadcasting media and the publications can be very effective in familiarizing the people with methods of optimal use of small spaces. Both the experts’ opinions and the peoples’ experiences can be helpful. Correct advertising and reducing the infatuation of people toward the western culture can enable the people and
the society to choose the positive points of the western culture and this will be effective in all walks of our lives.

The Ministry of Health and other relevant organizations can precisely control the preparation, production, distribution and cost of raw materials of cooking, and make some facilities for industrial units so that they do many of the cooking activities in large scale; in this case, people will consume the nourishment items comfortably. As said above, today many of the raw materials of cooking such as ketchup, vegetable, verjuice, and pea are sold as canned food. Moreover, activities such as washing meat, making barbecued chicken, cleaning and peeling vegetables, etc. are being done in industrial units in small scales and this brings a number of people to the market.

For example, if the vegetables which are produced around Tehran and are taken to the city with a large amount of waste grass, microbes and pollutions, were instead cleaned and peeled by hygienic-industrial units over there, it would have several advantages. First, it would reduce the amount of garbage from the houses. Second, the waste grasses can be used as peat in cultivating the farms. Third, it would create jobs and employ many farmers. All these would improve the society development and the gross national income. Regarding all other nourishment items, such as meat, chicken, fish and other raw materials for cooking, the same procedure works. With regard to the status quo of the market in this context, (according to problems such as pressure of time, etc.), this will facilitate the job for sides, the producer and the consumer.

Most important than all, it will decrease the spaces needed for cooking. The same systems can be employed in all walks of the life. For example, instead of having a private library or swimming pool in each house, it would be better if each local area has its own library or swimming pool. It is possible to live in a minimum dwelling space and at the same time, not to delete any of the regular vital, entertaining activities which occur in the developed countries from our lives.

This issue necessitates the cooperation of the organizers of houses and cities and all the other relevant organizations so that the behaviors which are compulsorily or intentionally removed from the settlement activities, are applicable in civic public spaces with higher quality. In fact, the civic spaces should bear a more noticeable role in meeting the people needs. Unless the above-mentioned issues emerge in a society, it is not possible to decrease the size of the houses without hurting the personality and behaviors of the people.

When we compare the welfare of Japanese with a dwelling per capita of 6-9 meters with that of an Iranian with much higher dwelling per capita, we find that these two measures are totally different. A Japanese family is in any sense wealthier than an Iranian family. This success results from the exact programming of Japan to meet the needs of all people in any age within the cities and not in the dwelling spaces. Likewise, we need to do the same thing in Iran in order to reduce the dwelling per capita. Unless this matter is fulfilled, we might state the best measure for Iranian families’ houses is the one which the banks give loans to.
Rural Architecture - Guilan

Photo: www.mehr.net

Town architecture 100 years ago Rasht

Photo: Mehrgani.A
TEHRAN

Architecture in the Modernism Era

Photo: Mehrgani.A

Picture 31

Architecture after the Iran’s Revolution (1980) Era- Rasht

Photo: Safardoost.A

Picture 32
Summary:

1. Structural changes in the society lead to changes in the house of the families.
2. In order to guide changes in life styles, it is essential to identify the mechanism of the changes up to now.
3. Three factors might be influential in types of settlement of the families: culture-society conditions-technology.
4. The entrance of foreign cultures into our society has changed the inward and the outward surfaces of architecture.
5. Architecture, like people, has changed from an introvert face to an extrovert one.
6. Changes in culture have made changes in types of clothing, food, house items, and the ambitions and ideals of people. Thus, cultural changes have influenced all areas of life and naturally, they will entirely change settlement and settlement culture.
7. Factors like inflation, the society economical security, etc. all have direct impacts on the house.
8. The increase in expenses has reduced the contacts between families and relatives.
9. On one side, the development of technology has led to the use of new items, and on the other side, it has decreased the size of life items and serviceable items in the house.
10. The designers can design furniture in a way that it affects the space of the house and the appropriate use of it.
11. The amount of space the family expects about a section of dwelling should be paid attention and it should be met as far as possible.
12. Changes in the systems of production and distribution of nourishment items might decrease the amount of housekeeping activities and the expenses and amount of civic services.
Chapter 7:

Studying and determining traditional cause of space
Chapter 7:
Studying and determining traditional cause of space

Each collection consists of some elements. These elements have been put together systematically and they are related to each other. Likewise, the dwelling space is a collection and a small society which is composed of certain elements. These elements consist of:

1. the human
2. the furniture

Each human being is able to and likes to change his environment as he wishes and to orient his environment in the direction of his interests and concerns. House is actually the place in which people have authority and choice. Each person can show these feelings in his house more than any other place. All the interests and concerns of a family can be shown in his dwelling space. The way of decorating and arranging the items in the house resembles a whole-representing mirror of the interior concerns, thoughts, economical status, social status, etc. of the members of the family.

Just as the concerns of the human vary noticeably, their interests differ, too. Thus, the system dominating the type and decoration of their houses vary as well.

In this discussion, we attempt to identify all these systems and classify them. Then, the positive and negative aspects of each system and their consequences in each house and in the society will be examined.

7-1: System of elements in the society

The initial studies on the system of furniture and elements decoration in dwelling spaces reinforces the belief that there are currently three different systems in our society:

a) traditional model
b) foreign model
c) compound model

7-1-1: Traditional model:
This method uses the traditional elements of furniture in Iran, namely, carpet, cushion, small box, etc. The cushions are leaned to the side walls, and the carpets and rugs fill the space between the cushions. In fact, all the middle part between each space is empty. The main feature of this system is the lack of any proper name for spaces defined by furniture. In other words, the furniture does not merely define spaces such as bedroom, living room, or guest room.

7-1-2: Foreign model:
This method is a perfect modeling of the European furniture systems. It uses furniture to create various positions for different activities in each space of the home.
The items used in this method include furniture, chair, small and big tables, dining table, drawers, vitrine, beds and most important than all, piano. This pattern is typically popular in modernized families or the families which are familiar with and interested in western culture.

**7-1-3: Compound model:**
This system which is nowadays very common in our society is a system combined of the traditional and foreign models. In other words, the western items and furniture will be used combined with the traditional items like carpets, etc. in a traditional decoration. That is, the furniture, without creating position and considering the boundaries will be leaned to the walls and the space between them will remain empty.

The present day compound model is the most common system in civic societies and for employers as well. This model is being used widely for all the measures and measurements of the houses. In order to study the effects of these three models on the house and its decoration, it is necessary to regard them in all sections of dwelling spaces; and also, the reasons of using one model or another and the advantages and disadvantages of each should be studied. Then, there should be the possibility of determining the correct decoration and the optimal system.

Thus, the common arrangement systems have been studied in the following spaces:
1) A space for rest and sleep (bedroom)
2) A space for meeting each other (living room and guest room)
   A space(s) for cooking
3) Bathroom
4) Warehouse
5) Lavatory and washbasin
6) Entrance

**1: Space for rest and sleep:**
This space usually consists of a place for sleep, a cupboard for private items, a desk or a place for doing daily activities. In such a place, items such as drug, clock, etc. can be placed.
Due to its general features, this space is considered as a private space in the house; its noise and lighting should be controllable and they should be ready to change in certain required times.

**1. Traditional model:**
The items for sleeping include one or some beds which will be spread at nights and folded away in the mornings, and they will be kept in the corner of the bedroom or inside a cupboard while they are not used. One or more small boxes are also kept in the room (The bed is usually spread in North-South direction). Shelves are used for placing items such as clock and drug. Even the invaluable items which are nowadays placed in vitrines were used to be placed on the shelves.
A primitive bedroom  

II. and III. Foreign System-Compound System

The European system and the current system in Iran are similar to each other with regards to the furniture. That is, they use fixed elements which typically have standard and well-defined measures.

The main elements in the bedroom in addition to carpet include:

1. bed and the beside table
2. desk and chair
3. cupboard and library; toy commode
4. dressing table in the girls’ and parents’ rooms
5. Mirror, etc.

The similarity between the western system and the current system in Iran is more apparent in the parents’ bedroom. Typically, most families use double beds along with
beside tables. Today, bed and beside table are regarded among the indispensable items in the brides’ dowry.

The principle feature of this furniture is the presence of fixed and large elements, which occupy some space of the house; this avoids from any multi-functional using of the space.

Of course, if these elements have appropriate industrial designing, with little changes, they might:

1. be used for various activities
2. be removed easily in various conditions
3. use the space volume

Besides, they might also affect the consumers’ psychological and physical health.

As it is seen in the previous three photos, this kind of furniture, with lateral equipments and little expense, can be moved and they give new definition to space in various circumstances.
In new models, shelves and small boxes have been replaced by cupboards and drawers, commodes and vitrines. Books are put in the libraries and the number, color, and type of them are considered as its owner’s social personality. The use of elements such as shelf or vitrine has been increased because of the increase in the number of decorative and useless items and the abundant publication of books.

2. Living room and Guest room (spaces for social-recreative contacts)

Living room is where the social contacts of the family occur in. Thus, the attitude and types of these contacts may have a considerable effect on the shape of this space. The method of using the space and the furniture is influenced by the activities and their procedures.

This space represents the attitude of the family towards social and cultural issues. This attitude directly influences the decoration of items and the furniture and their colors as well. Therefore, the system dominating the house is highly apparent in the living room and the guest room. Consequently, studying the triple systems dominating the house furniture about this space will help that the procedures and reasons of forming these models and the positive and negative points of each system be discussed.

I- Traditional model:
In traditional systems, the living room consisted of the internal and external parts; these parts were separate and had a particular shape. This system is nowadays completely extinct and it is not suitable to discuss them here. However, traditional model does not mean the repetition of the current system in the past; rather, it is a method which is common nowadays and it is applied in the present architecture spaces.

This system has been modified by the entrance of technological elements into the house and has accepted some changes in order to adapt these technologies. The common
furniture in this system consists of some cushions and carpets with some folded blankets near the cushions, in order to make sitting more comfortable. In this system, usually cushions are located all around the living room and a corner is allocated to the cupboard or small box and tea equipments. Of course, today television is added to this space and TV set is typically placed at the head of the living room.

The distance between two opposite cushions depends on the width of the room, and the issue of the suitable distance between people for talk is not considered in decoration. Because in this method, two or three persons sit near each other and talk (The items for receiving guests will be placed on the tablecloth or carpet) and they move from one side to the other and do greetings. This kind of relation and the great number of guest makes this space to be considered as an entire space. Sometimes the distance between the persons gets so far that they cannot see each other. All these systems result from the kind of social relations dominating the society which still follow the old traditions. And as was mentioned before, in this type of social relation, there is no need to create small positions with furniture, because the purpose is not to make contacts among all guests.

Traditional living system
Photo: IRNA

II- European System:
In this system, various certain activities are carried out in the living room such as collective games, playing piano, etc. Each of these activities requires its own particular position. This is due to two reasons: first, the number of people in the living room is maximally 5. Second, all the guests and the landlord take part in each activity: i.e., all of them contact each other. As a result, a certain space with suitable boundaries is considered for any activity.

For instance, because all the above-mentioned persons participate in conversations and discussions, the distance should be in a way that the speaker’s speech can be heard by every body. Or the table for playing cards should be round so that every body has the
same chance in playing games. These forms and standards will be practical in our society only if these life patterns become current in our society.

2 type of new living room

Photos: Mehrgani.A

The type of furniture in this system differs greatly from the traditional system. This difference can be seen in the form, size, and type of use. Furniture, chair, table, etc. are elements which occupy space and each has a standardized boundary which should be considered while using them. Of course, furniture can be moved easily using wheels, etc. On the other hand, with the development of ergonomics in the world, these elements are being designed more easily and practically each day.

Unlike our present day spaces, TV does not play a determining role in these spaces; each activity and each position has a certain use and is important by itself. The major difficulty with this system is the largeness and the great number of furniture which might cause problems for walking in the house especially in small spaces. Furthermore, these types of
furniture are expensive in our society and it is not economical for many Iranian families to buy them. The living room typically includes:

Furniture - chair - table - vase - bar - game table - heater - library - rug - different buffets, etc.

III- Compound model or Current model:

This is the most common method among Iranian families. It consists of the European furniture in the traditional arrangement system. Indeed, only the cushions have been removed and instead, furniture has been replaced. Thus, cushions are typically leaned to the walls and the space between is empty. The wider the space, the more furniture will be used and the arrangement and the space between them are fully flexible.

The most significant features of this system in the living room include:

1. Using foreign furniture
2. Following the traditional decorative system
3. Replacing the old items with new items of similar use (replacing the small box, drawer or buffet)
4. The centrality of TV in this space
5. Poly function spaces
In our society, the major item used for covering the floor is still carpet. In many houses, despite the expensive costs for covering the floor with ceramic, the floor will be covered with carpet again. This issue has some reasons including:

1. The warmth of carpet
2. Regarding carpet as capital
3. Blending of carpet and its designs with our culture

The aforementioned reasons have made our people cover their floors with manual carpets or machine-made carpets. The use of carpet in traditional furniture is a common and necessary thing, but in the present systems which use the foreign furniture as their epigraph, the use of carpet with the same methods and sizes leads to some problems:

1. All the legs of the furniture might not be located on the floor or carpet and thus, there will not be balance between them.
2. The legs of the furniture might leave trace on the carpet and damage them.
3. Carpets may move on ceramic (especially the machine-made carpets).

Neither carpet, nor furniture is usually bought with regards to space and they often coincide. The size and forms of the old common carpets do not match the decoration of the furniture; they are not designed for each other and along each other. Maybe it is due to this reason that most carpets are nowadays woven at 3.5 * 2.5 measures or even smaller measures.

The problem of placing the legs of tables and furniture on the carpet

Unlike the European systems (which regard chairs and furniture for 5 persons at the most), in this system, the number of furniture used in the house depends on the size of the living room and the guest room. The larger the spaces of the living room and the guest room, the greater the number of furniture bought. Of course, field studies demonstrate that the custom dominating the present day furniture is producing 6 persons’ and 8 persons’ furniture. Each family buys one or several sets of furniture considering the space of his house.
Some of the major difficulties of this system include:

1. Lack of conformity between the furniture and the carpet
2. Difficulty in moving the kind of furniture present in the market
3. The largeness of the furniture and occupation of a wide space
4. Difficulty in sweeping the furniture with carpet sweeper
5. The high cost of buying furniture
6. The uselessness of a large space of the living room which is surrounded by furniture

Despite all the problems mentioned, it is not possible to delete this model and system. Every day, a considerable number of families buy furniture for their houses and as pointed above, buying furniture as the brides’ dowry is to become common among the civic families. Thus, we should think of a remedy. We should design simpler and lighter furniture and design wheels for them so that people would move them easily when necessary, sweep beneath them, or prepare the space for a new item.

On the other hand, the way of using and arranging the furniture should be taught to people so that a minimum space needs to be allocated to them. Producing plenty of furniture industrially can also decrease the cost of them and increase their qualities. Designing and producing multi-functional furniture like sofa-beds can reduce the problems of this system as far as possible and contribute to making the living room a multi-functional space.

3) Hygienic Spaces (bathroom and lavatory)

Because these spaces need installations such as sewage, cold and hot water, they are predesigned by the experts and the dwellers have no interference in the decoration of these spaces. The elements and the furniture which are used in these spaces are clear and because the technology of production and design of these elements (lavatory-bathtub-washbasin) are borrowed from the west, the decoration and the way they are used are typically copied from the west likewise.

Because the elements of these spaces are defined by designers, they are fixed in all the systems of life, but the way we use these spaces is different. In order to clarify this issue we can mention the following issues:

a) Using bathtub:

Bathtub is among the elements whose use varies noticeably in various systems. Old houses usually do not use such an element and water flows from the shower on the floor; in new houses, however, bathtub is considered as one of the common elements of the bathroom. Bathtub is abundantly used in European bathrooms. Lying down in a bathtub full of water is usual and this function justifies the occupation of the space by bathtub. Because of using the bathtub and drying the body after getting out of it, there is no need to use sewer in the bathroom.

However, in traditional systems and in our present day common lives, bathtub is used either as shower or as a pot for washing clothes. Excessive use of shower leads to water
sprinkle and this justifies the need of a sewer in bathroom. Religious issues and beliefs of people about defilement and pureness increase the need of sewer twice as much.

**b): Bidet and toilet bowl**

Bidet and toilet bowl are the other elements which are used in European bathrooms. They are consumption elements and thus, their existence is absolutely essential. They exist in many Iranian bathrooms as well. However, because of the people beliefs about defilement and pureness of things, bidet is never used and toilet bowl is used in very limited cases merely for the sick people who cannot use the Iranian lavatory.

In European bathrooms, washing machine has a special place because it is very close to dirty clothes. In European system, the washed clothes are usually hung in the bathroom to become dry; thus, bathroom is a suitable place for washing machine. Although the machine will be damaged and stained in the bathroom, it is easy for the European to buy another washing machine and so there is no problem with placing the machine in the bathroom. However, washing machines in our houses are typically placed in the kitchen (a drier place) due to their high cost and the difficulty of buying another machine.

Moreover, our people believe that clothes must be necessarily hung in the outside air and hanging them inside the bathroom is nonhygienic.

As mentioned above, blind use of the elements in space decoration which do not go with the consumption type, merely occupy some space. These elements are expensive and because they enlarge the hygienic spaces of the bathroom, they widen the spaces for insulation, tile-work, sewage pipes, and cold and hot water pipes. Today, this matter imposes very high expenses on the dwellers and house constructors. All these problems and expenses result from imitation and the non-cognizant use of European items. The most logical items in Iranian bathrooms are shower, washbasin, and sometimes toilet bowl. Using other elements or predicting space for them is a fault and expensive.
4): Cooking space

Kitchen is also among the spaces which are highly pre-designed and stabilized beforehand. The elements and the form of the kitchen are totally imported and thus, there is no need to study the impact of settlement systems on this space. Typically, a noticeable part of this space is assigned to the cabinets and the gas pipe is located among the cabinets because of the vent. The only elements which can be moved in the kitchen are refrigerator and freezer, but even these elements cannot be moved easily (because they should be near an electric socket, etc.).

Nowadays, cabinets have replaced the old big warehouses; Families usually put all the items for cooking and serving food, and also the raw materials of unspoilable foods in the kitchen cabinets. The spoilable materials and foods are kept in the refrigerator and freezer.

Consequently, some elements are important in the space of these small, separable warehouses:

1. the number of family members
2. the family’s life style
3. the society economical security

1. The number of family members:
The number of family members influences the number and size of the cooking dishes; it also affects the size of instruments such as gas stove, refrigerator and freezer. Therefore, the number of family members directly affects the house space. Because of this matter, many standard books offer a ratio between the kitchen space and the number of bedrooms.

Table 14: The minimum space needed for kitchen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Three bedrooms</th>
<th>Two bedrooms</th>
<th>One bedroom</th>
<th>Without bedroom</th>
<th>Work areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>Sink</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Counter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>Cabinet(length)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Refrigerator depth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Worktable</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The width of all the items has been regarded 60 cm. The measures are in centimeter.

7-2: The family’s life style:

The family’s life style can play a crucial role in determining the space and size of the kitchen cabinets.
How much space the family expects
The amount of the family’s intercourse
The amount and type of cooking (how much ready-made food does the family use)
The family’s wealth (it influences the type and number of kitchen utensils)
The variety in the family’s food

All the items above are studied under the family’s life style and as it is clear, they have a considerable effect on the kitchen space.

For example, one of the major factors which has increased the Iranian families’ spatial expectation regarding the cooking space over the European families, is that there are typically more intercourses among Iranian families and relatives. Thus, the need for buying and keeping dishes is higher in Iranian families in comparison with the European families.

The fact that Europeans usually have fewer intercourses makes them have at the most some extra cups or plates. However, even the poor Iranian families keep a great number of extra dishes in their homes to be able to receive the probable guests without difficulty.

Even some families buy dishes as much as there are dishes in wedding parties. These dishes need space for keeping. This space might be in the kitchen or other spaces such as the cupboards in the guest room. Any way, they impose a new space on the house.

The way of cooking foods and preparing raw materials has a considerable impact on the space of the kitchen cabinets and hence, the kitchen space. Using the ready-made materials and electronic instruments such as vegetable cutter or mincer instead of board and cleaver are all important in this regard.

The financial power of the family can affect the number and type of the food they eat. Because various foods are cooked in the house, more dishes and raw materials and also larger spaces for cooking food are needed.

The size of the kitchen walls and the way of keeping the dishes can influence the size and measures of the cabinets as well. It is possible to hang some items on the walls. Moreover, separating the dishes can increase the kitchen space.

The period of time the woman stays at home can as well affect the kitchen space. Because if she spends more time in the kitchen and thus, does more activities, she might increase the cooking space in two ways:
First, because each activity requires a certain space, the addition of new activities might indirectly increase the cooking space in the kitchen.
Second, the increase of time in using one space leads to qualitative and quantitative changes so that they make the space tolerable in a larger period of time.
7-3: The society economical security:

The presence or absence of economical security in society can increase or decrease the space of the warehouse in the houses. Cooking materials are among the materials needed at home. In our society, the problems of distributing these materials have made families to store them in large quantities (e.g., buying rice for a year, buying meat for a month). This matter causes the increase in size of the cupboards, cabinets, refrigerators and freezers and on the whole, the space of the kitchen.

7-4: The space of the warehouses

Some reasons such as the nonsecurity of the society in both political and economical fields, the impossibility of quick and secure transfer of the industrial and agricultural products, the inaccessibility to producing and distributing sources, etc. caused the old houses to have big warehouses. The annual consumption of the family including meat, rice, and fruits as well as the trivial items was kept in the warehouses. Usually, some of these warehouses were built close to the cooking spaces for preserving foodstuffs.

Other storages were built for keeping animals’ provender, and tools like spade, etc. Today, the increase of economical and social security, the change in the form of civic activities, and the development of technology have decreased the warehouse spaces and also, have changed types and forms of warehouses.

Instead of buying things for a year, people nowadays buy things for a day or a month. Elements such as cupboard, buffet, cabinet, refrigerator and freezer have been replaced with the old warehouses. However, small warehouses are still needed for storing unnecessary and big items. Of course in countries like Iran, because there is little economical security, the warehouses are bigger (Even some people keep their broken furniture to use its wood some day). If the society economical security increases, these spaces will be noticeably reduced.

Refrigerators can preserve fruits, vegetables, etc. for some days. On the other hand, root cellars in the cities allow for buying any fruit at any time of the year. There is no longer need for drying and preserving the dried fruit during the year. If we need dried fruit, we can buy it easily and calmly (due to the increase in hygienic issues) from the stores.

According to the issues mentioned in this chapter, in order to realize the appropriate standards of spaces for an Iranian family, vast field studies of the status quo and limiting the interfering factors are required. In fact, we should first determine all the required frameworks, and identify the future conditions of the society so that we use these two pieces of information in order to realize the space needed for Iranian families in an optimal condition.
Summary

1. Any human wishes the space to have high conformity with him.
2. House is the most significant environment which human can decorate as he wishes.
3. The decoration of each house indicates the thoughts and the financial status of the family who lives in it.
4. In Iran, there are three different models working together to decorate dwelling spaces.
5. Paying attention to the optimal models in construction and performing hygienic spaces is essential.
6. In decorating the kitchen, three issues should be concerned:
   A) the number of family members  B) the family’s life style  C) the society economical status

Notice: The dimension of Iranian people and the spaces of their movements and activities are not that much different from the universal standard dimensions.
Chapter 8:
Changing scale in housing plan and causes (during & after construction)

Governmental sectors project

Private sectors project
Chapter 8:

Studying the amount of changes in residential houses

During construction

After construction

According to the present statistics, 98% of constructed houses are not compatible with their construction licenses and they have undertaken small or big changes while construction (Guilan Statistics Yearbook, 2005).

Table No. 11

![Graph showing changes in residential, commercial, and office buildings from 2004 to 2007]

In addition, based on the statistics issued by Rasht Municipality in 2007, the number of sent requests and reports from the municipality to the Construction Violations Unit (Commission article 100) has been twice more than the number of issued construction licenses. This means that all buildings have at least made two violations of law. In addition, changes in architecture and location of walls, if does not lead to fundamental changes in structure and installation of building, will not be considered as construction violation.

This indicates the vast amount of changes in Rasht buildings after getting the license till ending the construction; changes which impose high expenses on people and society. Studying the reasons of this issue might help those who decide for house construction in following years so that we prevent from wasting our country investments in house section. The process and the manner of these changes are different in private and governmental projects. The rest of this
chapter attempts to examine the reasons of these changes accurately in different sections. Generally, the house projects in Rasht can be divided into two parts:

1. Governmental projects or dependent and semi-private companies' projects

2. People projects and private projects

However, it is noteworthy to state that in Rasht, buildings constructed by governmental and semi-governmental companies at most, in one year involved 2% of construction and in some years this amount has reached 0%. The rest of residential buildings have been constructed by private section and people, and the government has only helped by giving house procurement loans to people through banks.

**Table 15:** (Guilan year book 2005)

![Bar chart showing government and private sectors over years](chart)

**8-1: Governmental projects**

Most house projects constructed by governmental companies have been designed and executed based on the current problems of the country and sudden projects.

Unfortunately, as soon as governments face problems, they think of a remedy in a minimum amount of time. This matter has not been effective in house construction projects which take a long time and require governmental bureaucratic systems.

These plans are usually prepared without any study or with quick, non-scientific studies in a very short time in Tehran, but are prepared for all the cities in Iran. Most house planners in consulting engineers complex do not know the people who will live in those houses and in many cases, the
designers do not have the sufficient experience for doing such a critical job. Many of these huge plans are prepared by young engineers and planners in prominent consulting engineers companies. On one hand, the weakness of governmental systems in controlling the plans and on the other hand, the political problems behind them cause many of these plans to be approved without efficient control and to be notified for execution. Usually in these types of projects, the number and quantity of houses gain more significance than the quality and satisfaction of residents.

Pardisan project in Rasht

Lakanshahr project in Rasht

Picture 46

Picture 47
It is usually the case that in contrary to the quick process of designing and approving such projects, in practice they encounter many problems and the accomplishment and exploitation of them takes many years (in many cases, more than 10 years). For example, the projects conducted in Rasht such as Lakanshahr or Pardisan project took 10–15 years since the beginning till the exploitation.

**Some of the prominent reasons are as follows:**

1. **Not giving continuous budget and the predicted, calculated financial supports to the projects**
2. **Not caring about the details of project accomplishment and the effect of this on the plans due to the quick process of designing initial plans**
3. **Fluctuation in estimating the expenses of accomplishing the project due to the inflation and great changes in the price of construction materials such as cement, iron, etc.**
4. **The inability of local house contractors in management and construction of great projects**
5. **People do not welcome forward purchasing of crowded buildings and do not trust some governmental companies**
6. **Changes in the government policy and in the major planning of the country**

Generally, the long period for accomplishing these projects changes most of the initial information. It is especially noticeable in a country like Iran in which many of the factors that affect house are constantly changing.

The rapid change in construction materials in specific times such as New Year, summer and warm seasons which stem from more demand or less offer in the market make many of these projects more costly and consequently create many financial problems for the contractors.

Many house contractors who win governmental tenders only by proposing low prices, do not have the financial, technical capability and necessary equipments for accomplishing the project based on the predetermined time plan. Thus, they continually encounter problems during the project and stop it for trivial reasons.
The low quality of accomplished projects by governmental companies make many people avoid purchasing such buildings during the construction; rather, they prefer to wait until the end of the construction. This delays the return of investment and increases the initial investment for conducting the project. People only welcome the projects in which they can benefit from bank facilities.

Among the major negative consequences of delay in accomplishing house projects we can mention the following items:

a) Change in needs and demands of people from house in partial and general aspects

b) Change in target dwellers

8-1-1: Change in needs of society:

The increasingly entrance of new items and furniture to our country and the change in the society behavior and norms have made a quick change in the residential needs of people in Rasht. Today, many habits such as permanent social relations between family members and friends have principally changed because of the engagement of people and their economical problems. The social relations between men and women are quickly changing and this is apparent all-through the country.

People imagination as regards separation of private and general spaces at home is fundamentally changing and all these matters have influenced house throughout past years. Using new items in
the house such as microwave, LCD televisions, side-by-side refrigerators and daily use of furniture like the westerns all have principally changed the decoration and size of the houses nowadays. Today, there are very few markets in our cities to sell pillows and cushion; in turn, there are many markets for selling Iranian and Chinese furniture.

All these matters call for a change in the size of general spaces of the house, living room and kitchen, size of the window, etc. Moreover, change in cooling systems of the house makes it possible to use the closed spaces in hot days of summer. This cooling system has consequently changed the architects' plans in Rasht as well.

**Table 16: Increase of places for installing compressors (current research results)**
The long time of accomplishing the above-mentioned house projects make many families who intended to buy them purchase or rent house in other locations of the city and the house projects would be purchased by other people who can afford buying them.

A good example of this is Lakanshahr town in Rasht which was designed and constructed for the Industry City workers, employees, and middle class, but because the project went too long, only 15% of the houses were purchased by the workers and employees of Industry City and the rest were bought by nonnative people for investment or use of weekends.

This matter has made many problems in giving service to the residents of this town, because in most days of the week 40% of the houses are empty and the population will be increased only in New Year and summer holidays.
According to the fact that these types of projects must be accomplished based on the initial plans and any probable change requires confirmation from the Capital city (Tehran), sometimes even awareness of these issues cannot solve the problems and contractors have to construct buildings according to the initial plans. In such projects, even if structure and installations have a suitable quality, its architecture cannot meet its residents' needs and after purchasers buy such rather cheap buildings, they change them according to their interests. These changes include painting the house, changing the arrangement of walls, minimizing the number of rooms, changing traditional kitchen to open shaped kitchen and even changing the location of balconies. On the basis of the studies and statistics offered by directors of residential towns, more than 83% of purchased houses have undertaken little or great changes. The result of the studies on two towns of Lakanshahr and Pardisan are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kind of changing</th>
<th>Pardisan project</th>
<th>Lakanshahr</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of bedroom</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>kitchen</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living room</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finishing (roof, sail, color, ...)</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>286</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>balcony</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public area (Staircase, ....)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Adding one bedroom to living room

8-1-2-1: Turning hidden kitchen to open kitchen

As illustrated in Table 14, the design of kitchen in many houses was close shaped which was not compatible with people interest, so they changed them to open shaped kitchen.

These picture shows to kind of encounter with to spaces and two kind of usage
8-1-2-2: Adding or deducting the number of bedrooms

In many houses, not caring about the ratio of spaces in relation to one another has been problematic for residents. For example, due to the equal size of 2,3,4 bedroom saloons in many of Lakanshahr houses, most 4-bedroom houses have turned to 3-bedroom and the area of bedroom has been added to the saloon so that the main space in the house become more appropriate for daily needs.

The way of changing 4-bedroom houses to 3-bedroom ones – Lakanshahr in Rasht

The way of changing 2-bedroom houses to 3-bedroom ones – Pardisan town in Rasht
8-1-2-3: Adding balcony and terrace to the inside spaces of the house

One of the changes in small houses is the change of semi open terraces to closed spaces or adding them to the main spaces of the home which is done in order to make the size of living room more appropriate. One of the principal reasons for inefficiency of terraces in these houses is the highly compact shape of the house blocks.

Sample of turning terrace to a closed space – Lakanshahr in Rasht

8-1-3: Changing the details and finishing touches

One of the chief changes in residential houses relates to the change in the characteristics of finishing touches. Using low quality construction materials, dim colors, and cheap floor covered by constructors lead most residents to modify the appearance of their home after they buy it and this imposes many expenses on the family's economy.

Picture 56-57: adding some lighting and suspended sailing

Photos: Mehrgani.A
8-1-2-4: Adding to the number and changing kitchen cabinets and commodes

In governmental projects, usually, kitchen cabinets are designed in the minimum size which is not compatible with the needs of people of Rasht at all; nearly all residents have to add to and change the systems of cabinets in their kitchens.

Comparison of two similar houses-before and after changing kitchen cabinets-Lakanshahr

Photo: Mehrgani.A

8-2: Non-governmental projects

As was stated at the beginning of this chapter, about 98% of projects and residential houses in Iran are built by private section. Of course, many of these houses are built by getting bank facilities and thus, they are affected by loan payment policies to a high degree. In private section, because house constructors have more freedom, they are able to make more changes in houses while construction. The laws and regularities of Rasht Municipality make no hindrance for such changes; even the violation of law is supported by Rasht Municipality experts and authorities because they are beneficial for them.

First, employers and landowners receive house construction licenses based on the laws and regularities of the Municipality and then, they make any desirable changes in the size of the house and at least add one floor to the building. Then, supervisor engineer and Municipality experts receive some money from the house constructor as penalty which is a trivial amount compared with the profit gained by him from committing such violation of law. Thus, the Municipality legitimizes that violation of law.
Therefore, there is always a legal opportunity for making fundamental changes in the initial plans of houses and this actually has turned to a culture in house construction. Even as was mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, the number of house construction licenses related to violation of law is almost twice as much as the number of issued licenses by Municipality during one year. (1)

Sample of changes in the initial plan and accomplished building (Rasht)

The initial plan for receiving construction license

**Changes in the plans are usually of two types:**

Change in the location of inner walls and spatial decoration

Change in the size of the house and adding the number of floors

**8-2-1: Changes in the inner part of the house and in the architecture of the plan:**

These types of changes are typically due to two major causes:

A) The unfamiliarity of employers with topography and their unawareness of 2-dimentional maps

B) Changes in the conditions and requirements of the society

Most house constructors in the private section do not have the required specialty; however, only because they have enough money they can invest in this section of the economy. A very certain investment in this section has an average profit of 100% in Rasht yearly and this is the reason why most landowners, physicians, factory owners, etc. in Iran who have high income have invested in this section. Thus, a great number of people in the society have entered house construction section without having any specialty. These people refer to architects to draw plans for them and then, they receive house construction license from the municipalities.

Because these people do not understand 2-dimentional and 3-dimentional plans, only when they are at the stage of brickwork, they wonder whether the initial plan has been compatible with their demands or not. This matter normally leads to great changes in the architecture of inner spaces of the house and sometimes these changes occur several times. The unprofessional house constructors make all the changes take place based on their personal experience and thus, it creates many problems for other people and for the purchasers.
Sample of residential houses constructed by unprofessional constructors (in Rasht)

Another effective factor in internal changes of houses is unawareness of the engineers who prepare architecture plans; yet another reason is the change of interests in the house market which is conveyed to house constructors by real estate agencies.

Due to the lack of architects in Rasht in the past years, many of architecture plans have been prepared by civil engineers. On one hand, civil engineers were not familiar with architecture standards and on the other hand, they were not aware of the effect of people needs on residential houses; these two reasons have turned their plans inefficient and thus, these plans were typically modified and optimized in the process of construction by the constructors.

There are several problems in such plans such as the inappropriate location of spaces, the smallness and unsuitableness of sutter and inappropriate sights are observable. The change in the needs of society and purchasers which is often identified by real estate agencies and conveyed to
the constructors is considered as another reason of change in internal architecture or change in
the number of residential houses.

The enlargement of the houses due to the wealthy purchasers, the decrease of size and increase
of number of the houses due to the same wealthy people or even the change in the internal spaces
such as enlargement of the living room or minimizing the bedrooms are among the information
that are usually transferred to the landowners and are fulfilled by them. Such changes are
typically very effective in the sale of houses and return of investment and are highly considered
by house constructors and architects in Rasht. The permanent relation between purchasers and
real estate agencies and their demands regarding their favorite houses and their financial power
to buy or rent them turn real estate agencies to the principal sources of information regarding
residential houses in Rasht.

![Picture 60]

**The initial plans**  **The accomplished plans**

![Picture 61]

**The initial plans**  **The accomplished plans**
8-2-2: Change in floor area and number of floors:

These changes are usually preplanned and the direct result of the incompatibility of laws of municipalities with the economical conditions of the society. Perhaps economical reasons are the principal cause of huge changes in house construction licenses and violations of law. Although the price of land throughout the past 10 years in some parts of Rasht has been risen 30 times, the laws dominating building accumulation, land uses, etc. have remained unchanged and they are still observed in the city.

Thus, observing the rules is not economical for landowners and house constructors and so municipalities cannot severely treat the violations of law. Furthermore, other governmental organizations do not treat these violations because there is not quantitatively sufficient number of houses in Iran and also because they are afraid if the investments in the house section be spent in other sections. An interesting point is that many of the managers and experts of municipalities and other governmental organizations are among the house constructors in the private section. Thus, any rule which treats house construction violations, economically damages them and thus, these people are opponents of severe punishment for house construction violations.

The common changes in this section can be observed and categorized as the following:

8-2-2-1: Changing the height of the building or adding to the number of floors

These types of buildings usually violate one floor more than the construction license or exceed the height of floors. This is normally done in order to lower the price of land for each floor and also for the economical justification of using elevator in buildings with more than three floors.

![Picture 62](Image)
Sample of accomplished buildings violating the rules of height (Rasht–Golsar St. 96)
This kind of violation has been repeated even in alleys with the width of 8 meters and in low altitude structures and has created lots of problems regarding the view and light for the low altitude buildings.

Sample of accomplished buildings violating the rules of height (Rasht–Golsar St. 96)

Rasht – Manzariyeh – Golestani Alley  Photos62-64: Mehrgani.A

Such changes are clearly observable in the following plan:
According to the laws of municipality, house constructors are permitted to plan and use maximally 60% of the land on its northern part and any plan which does not observe such a rule is not permitted to receive house construction license. However, in practice any house constructor violates this amount as far as he can in order to reduce the effect of price of the land on the total price of the building; almost all the house constructors violate this amount (60%). This group of house constructors and landowners typically avoid building houses with more than four floors due to the problems of structure and installations of such buildings which are bound to very strict rules in Iran.

**Sample of changes in floor area of the buildings**
The accomplished plans  the initial plans

8-2-2-3: Increase in floor area and also the number of floors (both)

Some landowners because of their great experience in house construction and their precise knowledge of such rules take maximum advantage of the weaknesses in those rules and on the basis of their influence in executing organizations add to the floors and enlarge the floor area of the houses simultaneously. Such people have enjoyed the maximum profit in house section at the time of economical inflation and they are increasing in number every day.

In the following photos, violating the rules of number of floors and floor area of the house in comparison with adjacent buildings is plainly observable.

The initial plans  The accomplished plans

Picture 68: Rasht – Golsar –St. 96
The initial plans

The accomplished plans

Picture 69: Rasht – Golsar –St. 161

8-2-2-4: Change in the number of residential houses

The constant changes in the rules of paying house procurement loans to house construction projects in the last year has stimulated many landowners to use plans with more number of units for getting license, but actually to construct the buildings with less units. The landowners do this in order to benefit from more bank loans which are nowadays payable based on the number of residential units. Based on the common rules of municipality, this makes them pay less construction charges.
As it is clear from this section, the unprofessional house constructors, the incompatibility of rules with the economical and social status quo in Rasht, and also the unwillingness of Rasht Municipalities are among the basic reasons of vast changes in the process of constructing residential buildings in private section projects. The highly bureaucratic governmental system in Iran is an obstacle for changing the rules which have been approved by governmental authorities. For instance, although three years have passed from the time of introducing new rules by the Moshaver Company in Rasht, these plans and rules are still under study and it is not clear when they will be approved and informed to be executed.

Therefore, we are actually managing the city with the rules based on the information which goes back to 20 years ago. The enormous changes of policies in Iran's government and the rapid change of managers in the government and in municipalities have turned the executers of law to instable people who do not dare doing great works.

The temporal and huge inflations in the house section (almost 100%) has turned this section to one of the most beneficial sections of economical activities in Iran and this has attracted almost all investors and authoritative people to this area; the only thing which matters is the economical profit. By an exact study and careful guidance, it is possible to take maximum advantage from this condition and besides supplying a certain amount of profit, trying to minimize the present time problem in architecture and urban planning in Rasht.
Covered balconies spaces for satellite accessories

Add wooden sail same as ancient time

Picture 72

Photo: Mehrgani.A

Picture 73

Photo: Mehrgani.A
Change sample in public area for security reasons

Close some open balcony for appraises
Chapter 9: Results

Studying and recognizing housing plans in today society
general rooms
rooms arrangement (people like that)
Chapter 9: Results
Inspection and Study of Common Houses
-- General Rooms
-- Room Arrangement

A study of the process of construction in Iran throughout the past six years indicates that the average area of buildings due to the issued licenses and plans have increased saliently whereas the governmental policies in Iran have always tended to minimize the size of the houses.

Table 18: abundance housing area during 6 years (current research)

Moreover, in the same period, while the number of houses with two bedrooms has decreased, the number of houses with three or more bedrooms has markedly increased.

Table 19: number of bedrooms (current research)
This means that throughout the past six years, despite the governmental policy such as rise in price of the lands, construction materials, executers' earnings, and consequently, a 400% increase in the price of the houses, the average area of the houses has not been decreasing. As shown in the following diagram, the number of houses smaller than 70 square meters has been noticeably decreasing while the number of houses larger than 120 m\(^2\) has been increasing along with an increase in the number of the rooms within the buildings.

It is interesting to mention that the number of family members in this period, due to the social factors and the hygienic system advertisements, has been decreasing and the majority of urban citizens are three or four member families.

Considering the relative stability of the Iranian families' income and expenses, and the 100% increase in the employees' salary, this does not seem logical. There might be two reasons:
1. The inconformity of small buildings with the people's residential needs
2. The change in paying house procurement loan due to the establishment of private banks in Iran since 2002

9-1: Inconformity of common residential needs with small buildings

Throughout the previous years, many experts in Iran have emphasized that the considerable presence of family members in the house during the day, and the lack of alternative spaces in the cities in order to exercise, play, or study and also the replacement of television and satellite programs instead of going to the theaters and cinemas, have turned the house to a place for fun and amusement and out of the house as a place for work and earning money.

This matter along with the inappropriateness of the city spaces have caused that residential behaviors, in contrast to the country’s policies, have been developing and consequently, residential spaces, especially the spaces used throughout the day (dining room and living room) have been increasing in size. Furthermore, using personal computers, etc. in most of the houses as a device for work or amusement has necessitated designing a new space in the houses.

According to the same reasons, due to the present research, from 2002 to 2008, the percent of 70 m² or smaller houses have been changed from 45 % to 9 %, the percent of houses between 70 – 90 m², have been changed from 33% to 27 %, and the percent of houses between 120 – 150 m², from 22 % to 64 %.

Table 21: Changing houses Area
9-2: Establishment of Private Banks (Change in the system of House procurement loans)

With the opening of private banks and to encourage people to invest in them and also in order to make financial accounts and benefits, a competition was shaped between the private banks and the traditional, powerful governmental banks. In this competition, the private banks followed the policy of paying house procurement loans in a novel way. These banks started their work by paying 50,000 $ loan for any building which was being built and also for buying any building costing 70,000 $.

In other words, in contrast to the past, there was no need to follow the housing system in order to receive loan. On the contrary, the governmental banks used to pay 10,000 $ loan only for the houses which pursued the housing system.

The renewed change of policies in paying house loans on the basis of house size and not on the basis of the number of built houses led house constructors to build house units unworried about financial sources and on the basis of people needs. Even the low value of encouragement rules in municipalities which had not changed markedly during 1996 to 2004 to control inflation could not stop constructing buildings with large areas.
9-3: Increase in the number of rich people in townships
The increase in the cost of land due to the increase in money in the previous years, which were caused by selling country's oil, caused many villagers living in the suburbs to own millions of dollars in a very short period of time. This made the chance for the villagers to invest in and buy houses. Also, the large size of the houses in villages encouraged them to buy large houses in the cities as well.
Paying low-interest and long loans to the physicians has turned them to the main buyers of large buildings. They can benefit from the governmental loans and the government's supporting laws.
The villas' owners who were from middle or even low class of the society turned to wealthy people by selling their houses using the traditional laws of Rasht Municipality and cooperating with the banks and the private companies. In this case, they could sell their villa and instead, buy two large apartments in a 4-5 unit apartment.
All these reasons caused that increase in the house price which was due to high inflation and enlargement of house space, does not affect house purchasers and instead, the number of these people increased.
The increase in the house space, in addition to enlarging the common spaces in the houses, led to formation of new spaces in them. These issues will be briefly mentioned in what follows and will be completely studied in their own place.

9-3-1: Hidden Kitchen
The interest in people to have open shaped kitchens and the specific way of cooking in Rasht using garlic and fish and smoked fish usually forms a bad smell in the houses while cooking. The increase in the space of novel houses has made a good opportunity for building a new space for cooking or a closed kitchen for the residents. This space exists in all the apartments larger than 120 m2 and more than 93% of these apartments have a hidden kitchen.

9-3-2: Second Bathroom
The development in the people awareness as well as the pollution in the air and in the cities has increased in the number of bath taking among the people. This has necessitated building another smaller bathroom in the houses for parents. The enlargement of buildings has largely contributed to this space so that all the apartments larger than 120 m2 have two bathrooms.
In addition to the increase in the number of bathrooms in the houses, their space has been enlarged as well. This has paved the way for using new elements in the bathrooms such as bathtub and jaccuzi which had been already absent from the houses due to their small spaces. Thus, the bathroom space has been enlarged from 2.5% in 2002 to 8% in 2007.

9-3-3: Cloakroom
Making cloakroom in the parents' room to add to the number of commodes has been directly caused by the enlargement of buildings and for meeting one of the most significant needs of the people of this city (Rasht), namely, using various clothes during the year.

9-3-4: North Balconies
The change in the cooler system of the houses and using new coolers has demanded open spaces and spaces away from the sun light in order to install them. Thus, contrary to the old balconies, the new ones are not built toward the sun light and they are built in a very small size only for installations tools.
9-3-5: Entrance

The entrance space is rarely considered in Rasht houses; however, because designing large buildings is done by architects, these buildings have a space between the inside and outside of the house which is called pre-entrance.
9-4: The common spaces in today's houses

9-4-1: Entrance

In the sample of this study, the entrance has been designed and built in the following shapes:

1.1. Straight without the pre-entrance space: in this case, the inner space has been separated from the outer space simply by a door.

Directly with pre-entrance space: in this case, the entrance with a small pre-entrance space separates the outer space from the inner one. This space does not usually hinder the direct view toward the inner spaces, but functions as a filter.
3.1. Indirectly with change in direction: in these entrances, the visual connection with inner spaces has been omitted due to the change in direction and this creates the maximum space for the inner parts.
This type of entrance space is the closest one to the house entrances in Iran traditional architecture.

A sample of an entrance in a traditional house (Yazd)

Research on more than 800 construction licenses and also the conducted polling indicate that more than 80% of the buildings have type 1 entrance space, 18% have direct pre-entrance space (type 2), and only 2% have indirect entrance space (type 3).

Table 22: Abundance type of entrance models (current research)

![Bar chart showing the abundance of different entrance types](image)

Although in Iran, almost all Architecture collages emphasize on designing houses with entrance filter (samples 2&3) due to the Iranian culture and the Islam emphasis on protecting the family's private boundary, in practice this idea has not been accepted by people. The reasons might be the following ones:

1. Difference between the thought dominating the society and the university courses and also the change in people thought regarding the private boundaries
2. The interest in people to show off their furniture to others in Rasht and try to show that the inner spaces in houses are larger than what they really are

3. The rise in price of constructing buildings – unnecessary spaces – savings in constructing small buildings

Today, the private and family boundaries in our society are obviously different from the past. Any body can realize this easily from the way we wear dress, from the presence of women in society and the way we communicate with each other. This is particularly true in Rasht in which the dominating boundaries have been different and fainter from other areas in Iran. This issue has also made a change in the thought dominating the division of private spaces.

Living in apartments, on one hand, has brought about more engagement for people and on the other hand, there are economical problems that forces men to have more than one job outside the home and thus, women are the only residents in apartments most of the day. The rather high humidity and the inappropriate air current in Rasht due to the condensed structure of the city lead people to use any kind of instrument for ventilation during the temperate seasons. One way to do this is opening the entrance doors.

Feeling that there is no need for a strong boundary between the inner spaces and the stairs, causes unprofessional constructors and owners to ignore the pre-entrance spaces; thus, they delete them and this actually enlarges the living room spaces.

Not only many people are not bothered when others observe their house and furniture, but also they will be happy when neighbors see their expensive instruments inside the house and their good taste in arranging and cleaning the house. Thus, they wish that the inner spaces of their homes be more salient for other people and the pre-entrance space is considered to be the most important interruption for their aim.

All the above-mentioned items have caused that, contrary to the common training of architecture in universities, in more than 80% of the houses, the entrance door has been designed like a blade which immediately links the outer space to the inner one.

9-4-2: Living room and Guest room

The largest and the most significant room in the houses under this study is the living room which approximately occupies 35% to 45% of the entire house space. It is usually a bright, clean and tidy space which is located near the entrance space next to the kitchen.

As was mentioned in chapter 6, most residential behaviors occur at this space. Particularly in warm seasons, the existence of common cooler systems and the possibility of cooling merely the living room make people use this space for sleeping of all the members of the family.

On the other hand, living room is the place for setting TV at home which is the most important instrument for spending time and having fun for Iranian families and usually make many residential activities such as eating, sitting, studying, speaking, and even sleeping occur at this space.

In architecture collages, there is a belief that this space should be divided into two sections: a private and a general section or otherwise, by using L-shaped forms we should make the possibility to divide this space. However, most samples of this study
prefer an integrated and large space for living room and guest room. They have correctly realized that integrated spaces can be used for multiple functions.

On the other hand, the economical and social problems in this sample has caused men to spend less time at home (from 10 p.m. onwards because they usually have more than one job) and have less parties (especially, the middle class people). These two reasons minimize the possibility of arriving unwanted guests. Today, in contrast to the past, there are few guests who sleep in their host houses.

**Table 23:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Economic difficulties</th>
<th>2 or 3 jobs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Don’t have a lot of guests</td>
<td>Don’t have time for recreation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multiple function During a day</td>
<td>Like stay with their family max of time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special ceremonies same as wedding</td>
<td>TV</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The cloudy and usually dark weather in autumn and winter and the high humidity of Rasht highlights this issue, because in such weather, tolerating small spaces is more difficult than large ones. The families are actually fond of a large space for living; a space to receive guests in it which is very popular in our culture.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>month</th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
<th>Nov</th>
<th>Dec</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rate of rain</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>41.5</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>22.5</td>
<td>241</td>
<td>108.5</td>
<td>236.5</td>
<td>100.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rainy days</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frozen day</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cloudy day</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 24:** 210 days of a year is cloudy in normal years during 20 years ago
Of course in most buildings larger than 150 m\(^2\) designed by architectures, based on the architecture trainings in universities, living room and guest room are separate from each other. That is, the interests and tastes of people are not still concerned in construction and the largeness of spaces make less problems occur for the families.
Table 25

9-4-3: Bedrooms

The minimum family member in Iranian families, as was mentioned before, consists of three members. That is, nearly all couples think of having at least one child at the outset of their marriage. This has provided a good demand for houses with at least two bedrooms so that in this study, among the 800 samples surveyed, all of them had at least two or more bedrooms. In this study, buildings between 65-100 m$^2$ have two bedrooms and buildings larger than 100 m$^2$ have three or more bedrooms. It is noteworthy to say that except the main bedroom and the parents' which are about 12 m$^2$, the rest are 9 m$^2$ or even smaller.

The study also indicates that the number of bedrooms is more important than the quality and area of them and the interesting point is that most people do not complain about it. Nevertheless, in architecture universities, the minimum area for bedrooms is considered to be 12 m$^2$ and there is a belief that smaller rooms are unusable.

Of course, this matter seems true considering the complete furniture of bedrooms and their functional boundaries; however, the difference lies in the fact that contrary to the architects' view, people regard bedrooms not as functional spaces, but rather as warehouses for clothes and issues and they sometimes sleep in them.

For the same reason, today there are two types of bedrooms from the perspective of residents:

A): **First, bedrooms in which a bed is located:**
In these bedrooms fond bed 1or two – desk – drawer – mirror and

B): **Second, Work room:**
Bedroom to locate P.C or sport items and games
Types of bedrooms (Rasht)

The other main difference between the trainings of architecture and the status quo is the way bedrooms (private space) are linked to living rooms (general space). In the plans designed by architects, the doors of bedrooms are mostly opened in a long corridor in a hidden way so that none of the doors open to general spaces. However, in the houses which are constructed by landowners and people, bedrooms are located in a short corridor which is towards the living room.
In fact, in architectures' view, if the doors of bedrooms can be seen by other people it is a big sin; however, in the residents' view, this has no problem and the doors are open during the day.

**The way to separate private and general spaces (Rasht)**

![Picture 87](image)

**In architects' view**

![Picture 88](image)

**In people's view**

We might find two main reasons for this difference:

1. The common sense in the sample society about separation of general and private spaces is not compatible with architects’ view which is the same all through Iran. This means that in this region, separation and zooming is not very important although in most hours of the day and year, all the spaces are used by the family members themselves. If any problem occurs once or twice a year, they can provide the required boundary by closing the doors.
2. Another effective matter here is the air flow. People by experience have realized that if the bedroom doors are directly set opposite to the living room, it will facilitate the inner air flow and minimize the use of cooling systems which are expensive. For people, air flow is more significant than separating the bedrooms from the living room, because life is always current in house spaces but separation of zones can be helpful only when they have guests at home. The less social relationships between families, the less important will be this separation.

Perhaps, the most significant difference between people and architects especially in this region is the oldness of architecture universities regarding the people requirements. Most information about people and their needs goes back to 30 to 40 years ago. Besides, this kind of information has been distributed throughout Iran in the same way. This approach is compatible with the approach of people living in the central plateau of Iran. Nevertheless, the variety of cultures and the rapid changes in the needs of the society necessitates exact awareness of society needs and the compatibility of architecture with those needs.

Table 26:

**9-4-4: Kitchen**

Kitchen is the most significant space in house after living room especially for women. In fact, when buying house, living room is the most important space and the next one is the kitchen. Variety in food is highly important in Rasht; Cooking and eating is one of the main entertainments for Rasht people. All the 800 kitchens surveyed in this study have been designed in open format and they all open to the living room. On the other hand, there is always a tendency to build kitchen near to the entrance space.
Such a plan for kitchens began with designing small houses in apartment units and because kitchens lacked enough light, their light was supplied indirectly from the living room. This process became gradually accepted by people and every house, whether small or large used this kind of kitchen although all these kitchens had natural light and ventilation.

This type of design, especially in Rasht, makes living room seem larger and it can be tolerated more easily in dark and cloudy days. Furthermore, this design makes it possible to show your expensive furniture to your guests. This interest is so much that when people buy old houses, they spend a high cost to change the format of the kitchen and turn it to an open shaped kitchen. Some samples of this matter were mentioned in chapter 7.

Using such kind of kitchen, especially in Rasht, makes some problems as well. Using garlic and fish every day for cooking food makes a bad smell in the house. As was mentioned at the beginning of this chapter, this problem was solved in larger houses by building a larger and closed shaped kitchen which is called hidden kitchen. Hidden kitchen was initially built in a very small size for locating the stove and cooking food with high smell, but it has been changed and enlarged during the past 4 years so that in many houses, many things such as cooking, washing dishes, installing washing machine, … all are done at this space and the open shaped kitchen is merely decorative and impractical.
The following photos depict the design of kitchens and their decoration in small and large houses. In the following samples, the number and kind of under-study kitchens can be observed:

Relevance between 2 kitchens

Photo: Mehrgani.A

Table 27
Today, architects in order to solve the problem of bad smell out of cooking have thought of a remedy; they think smaller houses should be equipped with a more controllable space besides open shaped kitchens. In this method, the door or a part of the wall of the kitchen will be hidden so that despite the openness of the kitchen, one can benefit from the advantages of hidden kitchen as well.

Today, usually, as the size of the house increases, the size of hidden kitchen enlarges as well. In the samples of this study, houses up to 180 m² had hidden kitchens between 4-6 m² and houses with 200 m² or larger, had traditional (not open-shaped) kitchens of 12 m².
Traditional kitchen in 200 m² houses (Rasht)

Hidden kitchen in 180 m² or smaller houses (Rasht)

Table 28
9-4-5: Bathroom

In the past, because people did not use bathrooms for a long period, the size of this space has been about 2 m²; a small place with a shower and a wash basin.

In recent years, the hygienic institutions’ advertisements and also the air pollution have increasingly added importance to this space. Furthermore, adding toilet to bathrooms has enlarged this space. In houses up to 90 m², bathrooms are between 3-4 m²; in 120 houses, bathrooms are 6 m²; and in houses larger than 150 m² and in 3-bedroom houses, there are two bathrooms, one is for all family members in private spaces of the house and the other is merely for parents in their own bedroom. Due to the high humidity of bathrooms, ventilation of this space is very important. Most people consider natural ventilation as the major characteristic of a good bathroom.
Although Jacuzzi and steam-bath rooms might not be used more than once a year, they are the constant elements of bathrooms in houses larger than 120 m² and this turns bathroom to one of the most costly spaces in the house.
9-4-6: Restroom

Restroom is separate from bathroom and existed in all the samples of this study with a minimum space of 2 m² and a maximum space of 3 m².

In architecture courses, this space is named guests' restroom and it should be located next to the entrance in the pre-entrance space.

However, in most samples of this study (83%), restrooms are built near the private spaces of the house and people do not like it to be located in the entrance of their homes.
The common plan in Rasht – restroom is located near the bedrooms

The different opinions about restrooms can be studied from the following perspectives:
1. Difference in viewpoint and attitudes regarding this space
2. The existence of technical problems

9-4-6-1: Difference in viewpoint and the attitude of society regarding restroom

One of the crucial differences between ordinary people and architects results from their diverse viewpoint about the users of this space. Iranian architecture universities, using American patterns, know restroom for guests' usage; thus, they believe that entrance is the best place for it. However, ordinary people view this place as common restroom for all members of the family and they rarely use toilet which is inside the bathroom except at the time of sickness.

Therefore, people prefer to build restrooms near bedrooms and living room. Another matter which impacts this issue is that in Rasht, the general and private spaces of the house are not well separated. Thus, it is not important for most people if guests enter the private spaces of their homes, while architects regard building restrooms at private spaces of the house as a big sin.

9-4-6-2: The existence of technical problems

In Iran, the methods of constructing buildings and the installations issues are among other reasons why people dislike locating restroom at the entrance of their homes. The sound made by restroom flush tank and the disgusting smell at this space creates some problems for residents and also for the living room.
In addition, the inappropriate ventilation and the high cost of separate installations for any wet space encourage house constructors to build bathroom and restroom next to each other in the private space of the house and this has been welcomed by people.

In order to handle this matter and meet the needs of residents, architects can locate restroom at the center of the private space so as to minimize the encounter of residents at these two places.

![Picture 100](image)

**The recommended sample for location of restroom (Rasht)**

The following diagram clearly depicts the differences between viewpoints of architect and that of ordinary people.

**Table 30: different view point**
As was stated before, in order for an architect to realize the needs of his society, he has to gain a precise understanding of his society and update his information of society needs and people wishes. If architects wish to manage construction in the society once again, they should adjust and organize their information not based on pure guesses, rather based on the realities of their society.

9-5: Ideal plan for normal families in Rasht
9-6: Summary

Out comes

1- Culture of Guilanies people under impression of history, ecology and…is unique that Iranian said to these people Rashty.

2- Different culture makes different behaviors in: food-relationship-belief about religious and normally make special settlement's behaviors in these regions.

3- Different settlement behaviors caused to special houses needs and rooms Arrangement.

4- The one of most important needs in Rashties houses is planning 2 different kitchens; one for cooking with smells and another open kitchen for show something and using for light cooking.

5- In this culture something like toilet's installation is different and we just attended to these things carefully.

6- Living room’s Dimensions and area for special weather condition in this province is bigger than the other parts of Iran and on the average take up about %40 of homes area.

7- For Guilanies people, number of bedrooms is more important than bedroom sizes, so they prefer, a house with 3 small bedroom to another house with 2 standard rooms.

8- The arrangement of room just prepare to air current between them, and this arrangement is so important than other things and orders same as boundaries and.

9- House designing must conclude based on real dwelling behaviors, so we just know and update our knowledge about people and their needs.

10- people believes about religion’s devices is more important than primary orders, Because these believes are religion, so we don’t need to try find everything about primaries, we must studied about current society and their today believes.
11- For this reason, all Iranian are Moslems, but they have different understanding from some Islam's order, and for this you can see a lot of differences between them in this point of view.

12- Our teaching in Architectural school is unfitted with people's need and unadjusted with their behaviors, we teach some thing to student that our teachers teach to us many years ago, and we repeated these old information and teach to our student again, we talk about people that overthrown today or just lived in our Imagination. We just try more to update our information about people that live around us, and don’t design based on idle imagination about them.

14- our graduated from school of architecture are unnoticed about society and real life, they just know something that we teach them and most of teacher thing, they are know everything better than the others and they are solver of all problems and don’t need to study about people, because Architect know them better than themselves.

15- Today, we have Architectural school and University in most of city In Iran, so we can use from this situation and move on right way, we must start to understand everything about people behaviors with these schools in local area, specially about dwelling behavior, and then published all outcomes, without any fear about old idea or old beliefs and update our information yearly.

16- We must supplant our teaching system from our opinion and surmise to truth and social fact.

17- unpredictable factors same as construction laws, urban codes, loan policy and something like this make big problems for long term programming, some policies change 3time per years, and directly change something in construction in short period of time, and till society try to conformed with this new situation something change again.

18- The best way to start programming based on social truth is tranquility in everything same as policy and orders.

19- Normally local Architecture and consulting know local people and their behavior more than foreigners, because they live in same situation and perceive people, they are local.

20- At present, that we don’t have enough letters about people needs and their behaviors in all regions of Iran, we must use from local Architecture and designer, especially their experienced.

21- Using from consulting engineers that work in Tehran, is the worth choose for design of mega projects in townships. In this company young Architect without any knowing about dwelling target and their behavior begin to design, and after construction, dweller have a lot of problem with these building, so we can replacing them with local. All of governmental director think everything
that come from capital is the best and for this idea local people confronted with a lot of problem.

22- Any changes in house rooms or elaborate work after construction is difficult and expensive, especially during living, so the best ways for control these problems are:

A: if possible color and finishing material selected with customer and dwellers idea.

B: all room designed base on poly function ideas,

C: try to eliminate some room’s name and change name of bedroom or living room to Room number 1 or number 2.
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