

The elements of similarity between Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates within their Dwelling heritage

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Introduction:

There is no doubt that in the past our Kuwaiti and Gulf ancestors lived in simple homes, and not know luxury or modern buildings until after the emergence of oil and the beginning of the urban renaissance in the fifties. Their homes were modest close to twisted roads, and often these roads were closed at the end but they were sufficient for the passage of transportation and animals.

This research aims to identify and investigate the cultural heritage of interior and furniture design within residences in the Gulf countries to determine the extent of connection and unity even in ancient times. The research will be limited to studying the cultural heritage of interior and furniture design within residences in Kuwait and The United Arab of Emirates.

the questions are:

- What are the similarities in the cultural heritage of interior and furniture design within residences between Kuwait and The United Arab of Emirates?
- To what extend will the documentations of those similarities adequate as references?

Purpose of The Study/ Methodology

This study deals with the issue of similarities in the cultural heritage of interior and furniture design within residences between Kuwait and the United Arab of Emirates with the aim of seeking evidence on elements of such similarities.

The research Methodology is the descriptive analytical one, and method was used to investigate the layout of the traditional elements of dwelling, then to analyze and extrapolate the data in the research on the heritage of both Kuwait and the United Arab of Emirates. The tools used for data gathering are:

- Annotated photographs of interior and furniture elements of the actual heritage residences at Beit Al-Othman Museum.
- Semi-structured interviews with specialists in heritages studies, Professor Hussain Ahmed Al-Qattan, Abdullah Yaqoub Al-Tamimi, Ahmed Abdullah Al-Rashid and Tariq Mal Allah, researchers in the ancient Kuwaiti heritage. The interviews focus on the similarities of traditional elements in heritage residences.

key words:

Similarities - Heritage - Home Elements

1. Planning of traditional heritage residential unit in Kuwait:

The old Kuwaiti house is characterized by simplicity in its construction and harmony with the environment, and it was divided into three main spaces: the yard, the Liwan, and the Madraban. The Kuwaitis took a good care of isolating their homes from trace pathing, therefore all windows were directed towards the "Yard" in the middle of the house. The yard was private for use of the family and members of the house, as it was open to the outer space to provide natural lighting and necessary ventilation to all rooms and facilities of the house. (Al-Khars and Al-Aqrouqa, page 46) The research documented with explanations the full sections with details that characterized the old Kuwaiti residents such as windows, doors, primitive towers for ventilations, wells, and the roof elements.

1.2. Interior spaces:

The old houses usually consisted of 3 to 4 rooms, and this number was according to the size of the family. As for the roof of the house, it was used for sleeping in the summer. Al-Diwaniyah was a section for men called after the name of the family. It was an area for men gathering which had an external door directly to the street so that they have no contacts with family privacy. There was also an opening between the two sections and it was called "the kilt" and is also known as "Alfreyra". It is a hole in the wall that allows communication between the two sections without entering. Alewan and the Dahliz are another sections at the heritage residence in which had been explained in details. (Al-Ghunaim, page 228)

2.Planning of traditional heritage residential unit in the United Arab Emirates

Emirati house was simple and consisted of many rooms with high walls, with inner windows towards the internal Yard. Full details were explained in the main research.

3. Traditional Heritage furniture in Kuwait:

The furniture of the old Kuwaiti house is characterized by simplicity, which reflects the aspects of the old heritage in building the house and its tools. The old Kuwaiti furniture can be limited to the following:

- The housing box: it is a moving staircase, usually part of a cabinet, and it is a type of box that is placed in the bedroom, and was made of copper and decorated with yellow copper stars in the form of beautiful circles. (Al-Ghunaim, page 224)
- Mat: it is a wicker mat used for sleeping, sometimes it was made of wicker, papyrus or Barry leaves. The mattress is furnished with cushions, sheets or flyers. (Al-Ghunaim, page 219)
- The basket of roses: with a woven cover of tapes, branches of grapes, grapes or pomegranate. It consisted of two sections, one of which is like a bowl in which to put clothes and the other is the cover. It was made of material from which the basket is made to facilitate the holding and moving of the cover. This basket was like a must that all old Kuwaiti houses had it, which were used by women to store clothes and other things. It was placed on top of the built-in box until. (Khars and Aqrouqa, page 153)
- The research studied in details many items that were characterized the old Kuwaiti Furniture.

4. The traditional Heritage furniture in the Emirates:

The furniture of the old Emirati residence is characterized by simplicity and environmental materials that suit the atmosphere of the UAE, and the furniture varies according to the use. The research documented most of the old heritage furniture in details and the use of each one of them.

Conclusions:

The research established two comparison tables, the first one in heritage residential elements between Kuwait and The United Arab of Emirates which indicated the similarity in most of the heritage residential elements. This similarity is a distinctive feature and a link between the two countries since ancient times. The second table was a comparison between the two countries in the field of old heritage furniture, similarity was also detected.

Though Arabs are attached to their neighbors since ancient times and evidences showed the similarity in heritage residences and furniture design. The research recommends the necessity of focus on elements of similarity in the ancient heritage between the State of Kuwait and its neighbors from the Gulf Cooperation Council, as this will benefit the heritage library as a reference for students in the course of heritage and design inspired by ancient time.

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