

## SURVEY CORRELATION BETWEEN CONTEXTUALISM AND ARCHITECTURE WITH EMPHASIS ON SUSTAINABILITY (CASE STUDY: KAZAJ VILLAGE)

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### ABSTRACT

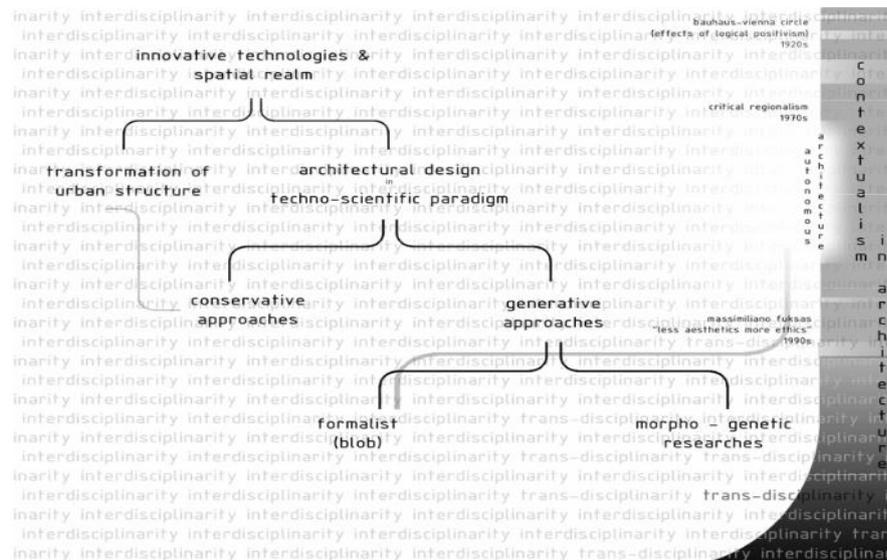
In the long term, sustainable design is not an option it will be an obligation because of we have destroyed the source, water and ground. Nowadays environment and sustainable architecture's purpose is creation sustainable and organized balance between nature, creatures, and artificial environment. Contextualism, a trend in thinking in the later parts of 20th century, came from the desire to resolve the problems regarding harmony with the environment and the placement of new buildings within historical surroundings that was apparent throughout the postmodern period. Contextual architecture, or contextualism, can be defined as the architecture that responds to the specific physical characteristics of its site. Since, pay attention to context, texture and relation between environment with space have emphasized is original architecture characteristics Kazaj village that with understanding the message his bed has formed. The purpose of study is to definition of contextualism concept and close approach connected to role of it in architecture and surveying all effective features of context on Kazaj village (located in the southern province of Ardabil) by analyzing and investigating it. Research methodology in this research With regard to the topic of discussion is descriptive and area study. The result that comes from this investigation offer that in contextualism architecture, any building design based on using of Climatic, Historical, Sociable, Physical, and Cultural aspects. Context architecture, understanding of environment and receive message from texture is important principles of sustainable architecture.

**KEYWORDS:** Contextualism, Kazaj Village, Sustainable Architecture.

### INTRODUCTION

From the Latin *contextere*, wearing together, 'context' in modern usage is the setting of an event, composition, or text, in the sense of describing the spatio-temporal parts immediately preceding or following that determine its meaning. The now obsolete 'contexture' is probably more explicit for architectural use—a mass of things interview, the weaving together of words and sentence, or the structure of a composition. While contextual may be the adjective now used instead of 'contextual', in architecture textual (as against 'textual', which, while perhaps a very significant term in current theory-talk, carries a quite different meaning) is evocative of the very stuff of architecture. The mix of elements, the tactility of surface, the perceptibility of material property, the cue to scale, the sign of handiwork. In its modern architectural usage, however, context refers to either the physical built fabric within which a project is situated, the 'ground' in a figure-ground perception, or the 'milieu' (French for 'middle place'; also environment, surroundings) within which an architect or group of architects, a work or body of work is culturally in particular aspects. In either case, context implies a saturation of influential qualities. (Jahnson, 1993).

Contextualism -the antagonist of the Fragmentation- has obviously been a dominant obsession for a number of architects in recent years, especially those appalled by the anti-urban ravages of slab and object planning. Contextualism is the way the architect can approach the day-to-day work of design, from which it can contribute towards the public good and the quality of the environment. Contextualism persuades the architect to see an individual work as a building block that related to its zones, district or community, and not as an isolated object. In the process of searching for continuity and transformation underlying of the context, zone and district. The deeper reading of a context requires the penetration into the spirit of a place and also the attention to the traditional grain. Unfortunately, as a result of the misunderstanding of Contextualism, most Contextualism involves little more than lining up with the moldings of neighbors and mimicking their colors and textures. Moreover, Contextualism is the kind of congregational power raised by the community members to keep the homogeneity of the community. (Luke Tan, 1992).



**Figure 1:** Diagram illustrating the paradigm shift in Contextualism. (Okten, D, 2007).

### What is Context or Concept of Contextualism?

Contextualism describes a collection of views in philosophy which emphasize the context in which an action, utterance, or expression occurs, and argues that, in some important respect, the action, utterance, or expression can only be understood relative to that context. Contextualist views hold that philosophically controversial concepts, such as "meaning P", "knowing that P", "having a reason to A", and possibly even "being true" or "being right" only have meaning relative to a specified context. Some philosophers hold that context-dependence may lead to relativism; nevertheless, contextualist views are increasingly popular within philosophy. In ethics, "contextualist" views are often closely associated with situational ethics, or with moral relativism. (Contextualism, 2014).

Context can be described as the combination of one phenomenon /circumstance/fact/event with others for the creation of a whole; and as a result, "context" is the term that denotes the generation of items through the combination of all events/circumstances. The term context can be also defined as the background, environment, framework, setting, or situation encircling an act or a circumstance. The completeness/unity that the context provides us to use our workspace in an effective manner allows us to clearly identify solutions to any problems that we face and their successful resolution; and is useful for the evaluation of the elements that belongs to it. The importance of context emerges when its ability to express and bring to light an item's contents, its inclusion within a combined unity, its definition and its formation and attainment of a meaning is the matter of discussion. Thus, the item becomes an element of the entirety/whole and becomes an integral part of the context .According to Nesbitt (1996), the main belief behind contextualism is that 10 every knowledge is context related; in other words, context is the key to understand any knowledge it is associated with. (Çizgen, 2012).

The word context was generated from the field of linguistics. It developed within a specific historical category which contains extremely far-ranging contents. In a narrow sense, context can be understood as the language of an article or the connection between each sentence. It is a word that used for limiting language and meaning of an article. As an object, article can be treated as a linear (one-dimensional) form, and context is the expansion before and after the one-dimensional form. Presently, the commonly accepted explanation is that context is the background of certain region (nation, city, scenic zone) which includes physiographic condition, cultural atmosphere, cultural transmission, and social and cultural background. Therefore, the so called Contextualism is an interpretation of the whole environment, partial characteristics, or the structure. Specific speaking, it is the correlations between squareness, geography, drainage, plants, street pattern, fundamental space structure, locations of buildings seen from the city, architecture style, and architectural complex features. (Jing, 2005)

## Definition of 'Context' in Architecture

As it is in many other fields, context also has a very important role to play in the field of architecture. It is one of the rare architectural concepts involved in all of the three main essential fields such as; architectural discourse, theory and architectural practice. The relationship between architecture and context has much variety and we can thus mention different approaches. While sometimes there is a rejection of the context or environment within which it is placed, other times there is an engagement with them to exist in a coherent fashion. Occasionally there is a tendency to deplete the environment, while other times there appear approaches that try to add value to it. Contextual data are sometimes the essentials of design solution; while other times they can be seen as difficulties that can be easily disregarded. Context is made up of many components. Some approaches aim to highlight the characteristics of the contextual components. Others ignore or exhibit the components in a superficial manner. From these differing attitudes, we are able to see the maturing development of contextual design attitudes within the architectural field. The fact that context is found in the design of different components, that it gives direction to design and that it plays an important role in the formation of architecture is not a novel concept. There has been both conscious and subconscious awareness and experimentation of this even in architectural history and before the architectural profession became institutionalized. In this regard, architecture has been inevitably intertwined with contextual thinking. (Çizgen, 2012). Context comes from the Latin "contexere", which means to merge together. Any site, to begin with, contains number of designing features that should be portrayed in architecture. In contextualized architecture, all these features should be determined, examined as well as considered in the design process in order to fit the building in its context. Contextualism can also be defined as a kind of architecture that responds to the specific physical characteristics of its location. Unlike any specific architectural style, contextualism can be seen as a set of values, which help distinguish the architectural work. In an architectural wisdom, context can be perceived as the unified whole that gives meaning to the various parts of the building. (Molae & Mahdavijad, 2011)

## The Role of Contextualism in ARCHITECTURE

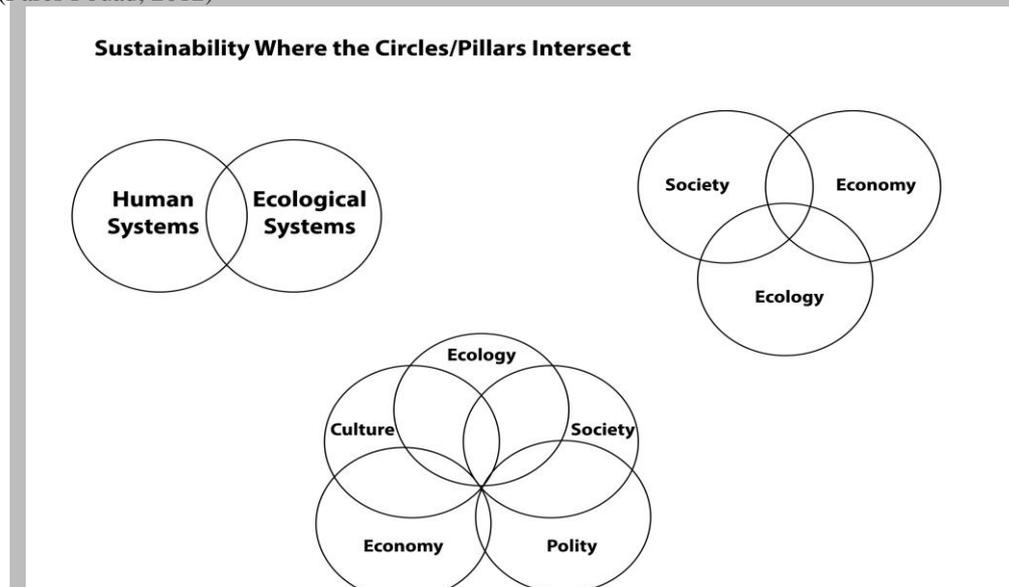
Architectural contextualism, as a theoretical body of discussion and particular design approach, was mainly developed within the years of 1950 and 1980. However, contextualism is mainly disregarded in contemporary architectural debate mainly after the 1980s. Koolhaas's 'fuck context' statement became a motto in the field (4). In addition, contextualism was started to be defined as a very limiting approach. For instance, Wigley and Johnson (1988p.17), in the catalogue of the MOMA exhibition in 1988, state that: 'contextualism has been used as an excuse for mediocrity, for a dumb servility to the familiar'. This current understanding of architectural contextualism is mainly shaped by the discussions of 1980s that can be defined in reference to two main approaches. The first one is the 'fitting in approach', developed with the influence of American Preservationist Movement, and the second one is 'hetero style' and 'postmodern eclecticism', disseminated mainly by the writings of Charles Jencks. However, contextualism covers multiple approaches mainly developed after the 1950s when the criticism of Modern Architecture was getting harsher. In these approaches, contextualism was not defined as an act of creating visual sympathetic fitness, designing analogous to neighboring buildings or reviving historical styles and forms. Rather, understanding contextualism as 'continuity and regeneration' as oppose to 'fitting in', 'formal association' instead of 'formal analogy' and 'historical continuum' rather than 'historical revivalism' is promoted. Below is a brief summary of these three main approaches developed in post-war architectural theory and practice. (Kömez, 2012).

In the architectural field, the term context is frequently used in the second half of the 20th century. The ideas behind the concept, however, have existed long before. Beaver (2007) also argue that it is apparent that designing in relation to the context has existed for a long time; although the formal theory of contextualism has only existed in the last five decades. Concerns have, to varying extents, always existed surrounding context in the architectural practice and discourse-even before architecture and design theory had taken a strong hold. This is especially so in the modern period where it appears that even a developed experienced contextual thought was not interacted with and from time to time, strong attitudes against it appear to be taken. Even so however, it is clear that context is still inadvertently given attention through the various aims behind the context; and therefore we can say that it is influential still. In short, although it seems that the contextual approach was introduced in the postmodern period, interaction with context was apparently existent even prior to this period of time. After the second half of the 20th century, through the investigation of subject, the approaches are defined. In this part of the thesis, attention is given to the approaches and concepts within the scope of the Pragmatic Attitude, Sincere/modest Relations and Adaptive approach. Each are examined under separate headings. Modernism, organic and environmental are all corresponding designs that emerged in the same period. They

shall be analyzed and discussed at length underlined headings that highlight their respective attitudes in relation to context. (Çizgen, 2012)

### Sustainable Architecture

Used more in the sense of human sustainability on planet Earth and this has resulted in the most widely quoted definition of sustainability and sustainable development, that of the Brundtland Commission of the United Nations: “sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.” It is usually noted that this requires the reconciliation of environmental, social and economic demands -the "three pillars" of sustainability. This view has been expressed as an illustration using three overlapping ellipses indicating that the three pillars of sustainability are not mutually exclusive and can be mutually reinforcing. (Fares Fouad, 2012)



**Figure 2: pillar concepts of sustainability.** (Sassi .P, 2006)

Several attempts have been made to describe sustainability concept. Sustainable development defines in any words and from different point of views. Sustainable development is about ensuring a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come. This requires meeting four key objectives at the same time in the world as a whole:

- Social progress which recognizes the needs of everyone;
- Effective protection of the environment;
- Prudent use of natural resources;
- Maintenance of high and stable levels of economic growth and employment.

The main idea of sustainability is to concentrate on environmental conditions to achieve a designed product with maximum internal attributes of environment so that it can minimize the undesirable aspects of these constructions. Buildings must reply to environment from design stage and settling when they are to decrease confronting with nature. (Zabihi, Habib, & Mirsaeedie, 2012)

### Contextualism with Sustainable Architecture

This feel strongly that performance and efficiency cannot come at the expense of aesthetic form or functional excellence. These elements should enhance and improve the building environment. To achieve this, integrated design approach that gives equal consideration to all disciplines. The approach requires a comprehensive realizing of each building element and its function within a larger context, within both the built and natural environments. Developments that have a greater understanding of environmental context will support healthier lifestyles and respond to the changing needs of the planet. Buildings designed in response to their environments will make the best latent value of their site

and generate natural, environmentally-friendly energy. This approach, which takes into consideration building orientation, daylighting, generation of wind power, solar absorption, and a site's geothermal properties, represents a fundamental change in the design process, in which form facilitates increased performance. This philosophy, which we've termed 'global environmental contextualism', is predicated on the understanding that everything within the built and natural environment is connected, and that a building's design should stem from an understanding of its role within that context---locally, regionally and globally.

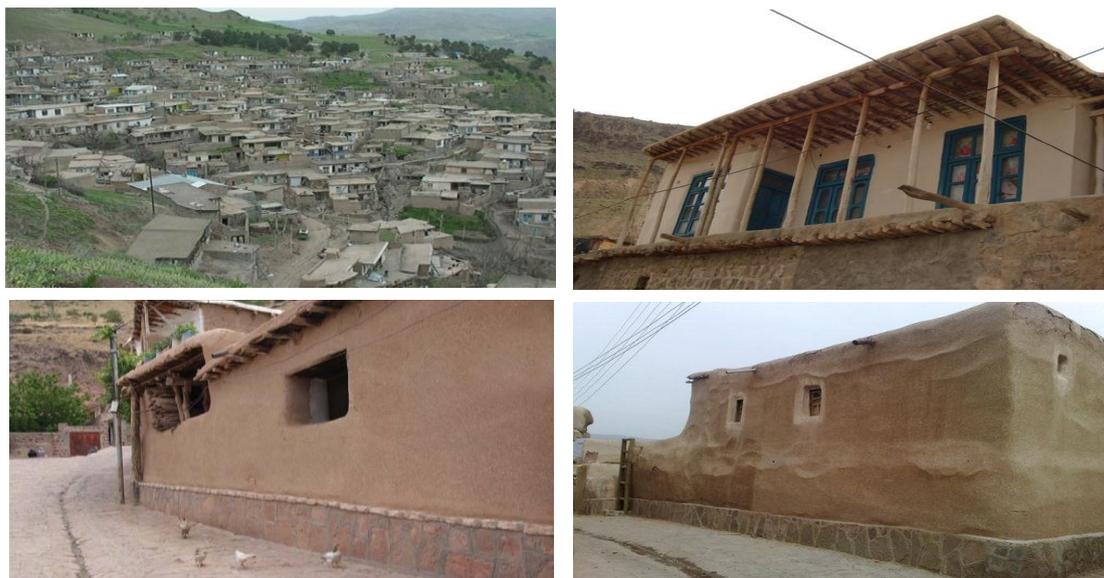
Designing a building that responds to its global environmental context begins with a strong understanding of existing conditions: environmental data, relationship to existing and future developments, the policies in place that support site development. Architecture that responds to each of these specific conditions forms an inextricable connection to its site and relates symbiotically to its environment. (Adrian, Gordon, & Robert, 2008).

### **Kazaj Village**

Kazaj is located in khoresh Rostam-e Shomali rural district, Khoresh Rostam district, Khakhal county in Ardabil Province, and its geographical coordinates are longitude 48 degrees and 16 minutes east and latitude 37 degrees and 25 minutes north. The village is in a mountainous area and in steep foothills of Balad-Dashi Mountain. The Qezal Ouzan River, one of the most important surfact water resources of the area, is running a kilometer away from the west of the village.

Formation of Kazaj village dates back to the Qajar period. Its name is driven from the word Kazaj (Daganak or Al Aqaji) which means walking stick. In addition, Kazaj means "dominant from o higher position" that refers to the position of the Kazaj village over and the bank of Qazel Ouzan River in the south of Ardabil Province.

Inhabitants of the village speak in Azeri Turkish language. However, it seems that long time ago Tati language was also current here. All the residents are Muslim, dividing into Shiite and Sunni.



**Figure 2: Photos of Kazaj Village (Author, 2014).**

The main economic activity of the village is farming and gardening, and the main crops and gardening products are wheat, barley, lentil, grapes, cherry, walnut and berry. Basketry and weaving Jajim, Palas, socks, hat and rope are among the handicrafts of the village. This village is a target of domestic tourism for different reasons including its unique architectural style and elements such as vernacular materials, colored walls, beautiful doors and windows, the waterway for wasted water of houses as well as its original intact social life, the gentle coexistence of Shiite and

Sunnis, and some-hundred-years cedars. Kazaj village currently is constituted of five quarters namely Kharmanlar, Dare-Doran, Ashaqi-Bash, Youkhari-Bash, and Pilar. Kazaj is a multi-story buildings. Through a staircase, and by the minimum usage of the space, it is possible to reach the upper floor. Houses are built of wood and other local materials, and roofs of most houses are covered by thatch and mud. Functions of the internal spaces of the houses are in accordance with the climate and lifestyle and livelihood of the Villagers. In the past, it was usual to use baked clay bricks and even unbaked bricks for building the houses in the village, but nowadays, due to the neighboring stone mines it is also common to use some materials such as stone. (Jalayer, 2012). Architectural characteristics of Kazaj village Main architecture in this village are traditional architecture. Most of buildings have been built in two floor forms because of limitation and high slope of earth in small area – which the first floor is for keeping domestic animals and forage store and food stuffs store of people – and in second floor of building a place is made wooden pillars for resting and eating foods in hot days of year which intricate rooms are characteristics of architecture of Kazaj buildings and one of rooms is for the guests and provided with suitable decorations and handicraft industry products of the village – and there are some niches in each of rooms – and they are for putting valuable, precious and decorative thing and native material for whitening in coloring which is better than plaster from brightness view and the houses are whitened two times with this material. Specific architecture and buildings and lanes view is stony and staircase and old texture of this village second Masooleh among the village people and visitors. The materials used in roofs and walls of building are plaster of clay and straw which is a suitable insulator which prevents buildings and it is done once a year. (Azizzadeh, 2011)

The harmony between the components of economic, social, environmental, and physical structure makes rural residential spaces valuable.” Also “one can posit that all successful urban and rural places are comprised of three sets of elements:

- 1) Activity-economic, cultural, and social
- 2) Form -the relationship between buildings and spaces
- 3) Meaning sense of place, historical and cultural.

Historical events, living style and production, conventions and habits, as well as management procedures of valuable rural and urban structures exist as subjective or objective patterns. Therefore, the functional relation between behavioral and objective patterns in rural societies makes these fabrics architectural and cultural heritage. (Bell, 2003). Some architectural feature in Kazaj village is remarkable in this research that in the long term adapted been to a culture of native architecture or contextualism architecture.

- built in two floor forms because of limitation and high slope of earth in small area
  - native material- *Physical*
  - using plaster of clay- *Physical*
  - straw which is a suitable insulator- *culture*
  - use colored windows-*culture*
  - roofs as a yard (in some houses)-*culture*
  - orientation of building or village-*climatic*
- all of this features is essential in configuring of village with contextualism architecture.

## CONCLUSION

After investigation and analyzing Kazaj Village, this is realized that attention to bed of any site lead to a harmony architecture with their entire feature base on environment sustainable. Contextualism refers to an approach in urban planning which considers the city in its totality. It also emphasizes on the role of social, cultural, geographical, and historical influences on individual development since of the focus of increasing interest in understanding environment in contemporary architecture. Contextualism insists on having a conversation with context, consequently, designing by this approach starts with an extreme coherence, and understanding of existing realisms in context of each project; including all climatic, cultural, and historical aspects. As a result, the building will be an integral part of its environment. Achieved inference can be claimed like: Context can be a designing generator in architecture and designing suggestions can originate from it. Consequently, it does not only prevent creativity but also guarantees its unity with its context.

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