



## Cultural Identity in Sustainable Architecture

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### Abstract

A highly debatable topic in architectural fraternity is the 'sustainable architecture' which has been addressed in many publications. Literature terminology applies to different types of such architecture: 1970s eco-design, 1980s green design, late 1980s and 1990s ecological design. This demonstrates the emergence of a construction-oriented architecture that prioritizes the natural environment until the mid-1990s. Sustainable architecture, on the other hand, as with all previous architecture approaches, can not only be considered a moral and architectural practice, but its contribution to social, cultural and economic infrastructure in the region. [1] UNESCO has coined "real life sustainability" to expand the overall concept of sustainable architecture from design to architecture incorporating local identity as part of the design process. [1] UNESCO coined the concept 'absolute sustainable life.' [2] Frampton aims to tackle local and contemporary global architectural culture at the same time as the notion of 'critical regionalism.' In his narrated essay, he stresses on value of sustainability in architecture as a cultural framework, not just a technique or process. [3] Culture defines a diverse concept that incorporates all intellectual activity of society. [4] Culture is; dynamic, exchanged, transformed into a new generation, expressed within the group and the person, interpreted in each community member. This includes laws, beliefs, principles, convictions and expectations. It transmits longevity and can improve the community's vitality. These are the assertion of "culture" in Matsumoto's book "Psychology and Community." [5][6] The paper discusses about the sustainable cultural with architectural aspects. Part 1 discusses about eco-cultural architecture from various aspects of sustainable architecture. Next part 2 analyses world-class construction practices as eco-cultural reasoning practices, and part 3 discusses a case study of Turkey's sustainable solutions to local issues.

**Keywords:** local identity, eco-cultural, sustainable architecture, culture.

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1. The sustainable architecture eco-cultural design rationale

The sustainable architecture eco-cultural design rationale

Guy and Farmer [7] defines sustainable architecture as an eco-technical, eco-centric, eco-aesthetic, eco-cultural, eco-summary in Table 1, by six sections, and by the key rationale and methods. [8] The key environmental concern is one or more sustainable design logics. The principle of 'sustainable' can

depend on logic to improve architecture. Sustainable architecture is defined as an energy-sufficient architecture that emphasizes technology development. Sustainable architecture is known as an infrastructure which is part of the nature utilizing natural resources and also has an ecological footprint of zero. Green architecture embraces environmental aesthetic philosophy with sensual, trendy and imaginative qualities. On its contrary, architecture creating a "healing environment" and encouraging people's healthy lifestyle is regarded as eco-medically sustainable.

There is also an eco-social theory defining a sustainable architecture as collective spirit, freedom, and unity. The eco-cultural argument underlines that for society's stability, the majority of existing cultural archetypes is preserved and retained. This logic contributes to the conversion and use of traditional building methods, building typologies, and settlement patterns. This approach rejects standardized and technologically oriented design methodology, which sometimes does not suit a given place or person's cultural values. [9]

**2. Architectural projects with eco-cultural rationale**



**Figure 1: Gourna Village in Egypt dsignedby Hassan Fathy**

The regional studies of Egypt's Hassan Fathy and Indian Charles Correa indicate a dedication to preserving cultural resources, to the continuity of spatial features, local materials and to the proper response of nature. New Gourna Village (Fig.1) translates from the common context of development and design the early perspective of Hassan Fathy's sustainable architecture. This ensures social security through the use of local resources, infrastructure and environment along with its exceptional resilience towards climate challenges. This is one of being an excellent example of merging the heritage of vernacular with contemporary architecture. Fathy placed mud (adobe) bricks behind and kept building cooler during the day, using a variety of techniques and warmer during the nighttime. [11]. According to Fathy, new and older architectural methods should be mixed in architecture. Older techniques are sustainable and energized to contribute to reducing the reliance of villagers on modern technology, which both cost and impact their environment and culture. Notwithstanding the modern show of the "veranda" on a typical Indian bungalow in the Kanchenjunga apartments (Fig.2), the garden

terraces have concrete constructions and large areas made of white panels.



**Figure 2: Kanchanjunga Apartments in India designed by Charles Correa**

The garden veranda provides shading with protection for the high-rise units against sun and mountain rain. [12].

**3. Interpretation of Sustainable Architectural Practices:**

Residential buildings are the most famous examples of Turkish sustainable architecture (Fig.3).



**Figure 3: Turkish Architecture**

There are a wide variety of households, including organic ones which reject modern building methods and harmonize nature with traditional and intelligent architecture, which saves energy consumption and is technologically rich. It is clear that sustainability and its main principles are not adequately explored and understood when studied in practice. Sustainable architecture in Turkey Sustainable constructions are referred to in some activities as high technology, self-production, low-energy, passive, carbon neutral, sustainable building. In other words, Turkey's architecture deals not with social, political, environmental or economic realities but with the concept of morphology. Indoor and outdoor regions with green components show a systematic concept of sustainable growth, first digging virgin nature and then reaching it, avoiding locations while selecting materials such as the use of wood (natural)

materials, and so on. [13] Architecture, childcare systems, settlement trends, land management mechanisms and land-ownership arrangements, dietary habits, symbolism. [14] Unlike contemporary architecture, the above-mentioned local cultural elements and suitable solutions to the local environment and geographic conditions are contained in Turkey's traditional architecture. Some traditional practices in Turkey are also usually considered sustainable.

**Discussions and Conclusion**

The new philosophy of sustainability contributes to debates on the principles of sustainable design. There have been advances in environmental design, including theory of eco-culture. It demonstrates the value of maintaining the architectural culture. This argues that the vital

relationship between culture and environment is continually redefined. An ecological and cultural sustainability is accomplished through a regional architecture strategy. [15] Architecture is regional in landscape and topography. Architecture aims to reinforce regional culture by taking into account current regional systems, current building architectonic characteristics, existing resident lifestyles, and current cultural questions. In short, ecocultural meaning in sustainable architecture is met by regional design. In Turkish cases, it can be regarded as the absorption of modern architecture that is robust in understanding and utilizing traditional elements in a modern way. In this paper, finally, many sustainable design logics are examined. This provides a national study of sustainable building practices and outstanding architectural impact.

**Table 1: Concurrent sustainable architectural rationale [8]**

Logic	Image of space	Source of environmental knowledge	Building image	Technologies	Idealized concept of place
<b>Eco-technic</b>	global context macrophysical	technorational scientific	commercial modern future-oriented	integrated energy efficient high-tech intelligent	Integration of global environmental concerns into conventional building design strategies - Urban vision of the compact and dense city
<b>Eco-centric</b>	fragile microbiotic	systemic ecology metaphysical holism	polluter parasitic consumer	autonomous renewable recycled intermediate	Harmony with nature through decentralized, autonomous buildings with limited ecological footprints - Ensuring the stability, integrity and "flourishing of global and local diversity
<b>Eco-aesthetic</b>	alienating antropocentric	sensual postmodern science	iconic architectural New Age	pragmatic new non-linear organic	Universally reconstructed in the light of new ecologically knowledge and transforming our-consciousness of nature
<b>Eco-cultural</b>	Cultural context regional	phenomenology cultural ecology	authentic harmonious typological	local low-tech commonplace vernacular	Learning to "dwell" through buildings adapted to local and bioregional physical and cultural characteristics
<b>Eco-medical</b>	polluted hazardous	medical clinical ecology	healthy living caring	passive non-toxic natural tactile	A natural and tactile environment which ensures the health, well-being and quality of life for individuals
<b>Eco-social</b>	social context hierarchical	sociology social ecology	democratic home individual	flexible participatory appropriate locally managed	Reconciliation of individual and community in socially cohesive manner through decentralized "organic", nonhierarchical and participatory communities

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