

Typology :

House with riwaq

Country :

Syria

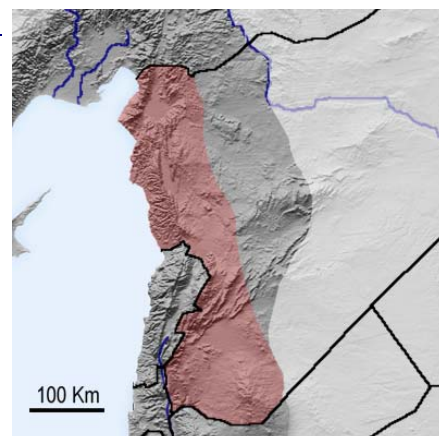


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SYNTHESIS

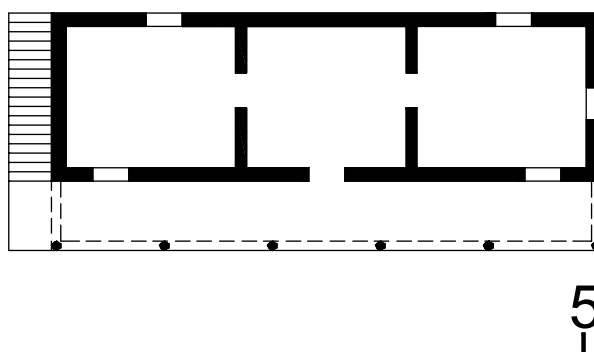
The riwaq is an arcade gallery which opens onto the outside; it is also a furnished area which serves as access to the house and its various rooms. The house with riwaq is constituted of a series of rooms, lined up or staggered, organized around an open gallery. The riwaq is therefore on the front façade of a building, or within the very volume of the house. Each room has its own windows or other openings on the outside, in addition to the riwaq.



ANALYTICAL GROUP OF THE TYPOLOGY

Urban/rural (Environment)	Group (Implantation)	Fixed (Character)	Permanent (Origin)	Permanent (Use)	Rooted (Cultural)	Medium/high (Economic level)	Compact (Morphology)
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FORMS OF THE TYPOLOGY



INVENTORY OF THE COUNTRY'S TYPOLOGIES

Rural house with court	Urban house with court	Basic house	Lebanese house
House with Liwan	House with Riwaq	Tent	

FORMS OF THE TYPOLOGY

Implantation

This type of house can be found in the historical centers of villages and mountain environments, and their surroundings or in agricultural households.

The riwaq can also be part of a large urban house.

Use/associated activity

This house is used as dwelling. In rural environment, agricultural activities are sometimes associated.

Dating

This type of architecture is very presence throughout Syrian history. The gallery is a very useful element of the house, guaranteeing excellent temperature regulation in extreme weather.

It is rather difficult to date the origins of this typology, but it is most probably a very ancient technique, used since the dawn of time, and common until the late 19th century.

Altitude

From seaside up to about 1500 meters.

Orientation

The most frequent orientation is north, but the location can sometimes decide otherwise.

Ground surface covered

This house usually covers 50 % of the plot. In villages, this can reach 100 %.

Surface area of housing

Between 50 and 100 square meters.

Number of floors

One or two levels

Number of homes

1 household

Number of families

1 family

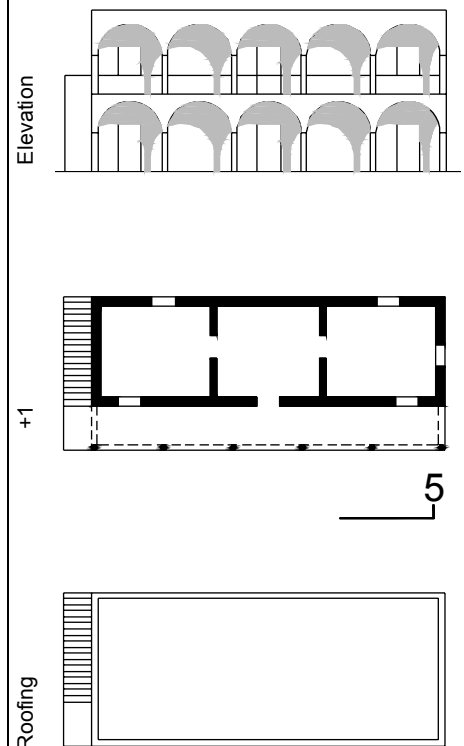
Average number of members per family

5 to 10 people

Functional outline

The house with riwaq is mainly used for household purposes. The main room is behind the riwaq, in a central position. The side rooms fulfil other domestic needs: sleeping, cooking, etc.

In rural environment, the ground floor is used to shelter animals and to store tools.



Walls

The masonry walls are made with stone, and are between 40 and 60 cm thick.

Framework

Load bearing walls are made with stone, as well as pillars, and arcades which all make the vertical structure. Floors are made with wood.

Roofing

The waterproofing of the roof is made with a layer of earth on a wooden lattis.

Rendering

Walls are rendered with lime or earth wash.

The ground is made with compacted earth.

Openings and projections in the facade

Windows are rectangular or surmounted by a segmented arch.

Traditional systems of air-conditioning

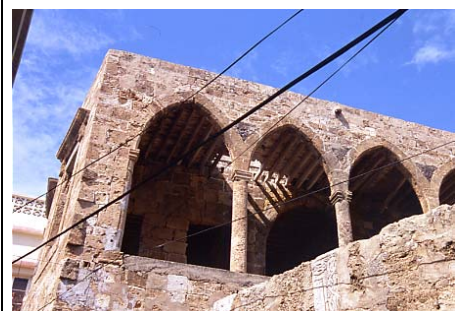
The air-conditioning is natural in these typologies with many openings.

Drinking water supply systems

In villages with public supply systems, water is brought directly to the house. Otherwise, water must be fetched at public accountants or wells.

Waste water drainage systems

Public waste water systems are frequent where water supply systems exist. Otherwise, waste water is evacuated into the ground.



CURRENT STATE OF VITALITY AND PRESERVATION

Most of these houses are still inhabited and are regularly maintained. In rural environment, however, they suffer from abandonment and lack of upkeep and interest, threatening this typology with destruction.

TRANSFORMATION PROCESS

Effect / cause

Typological transformations

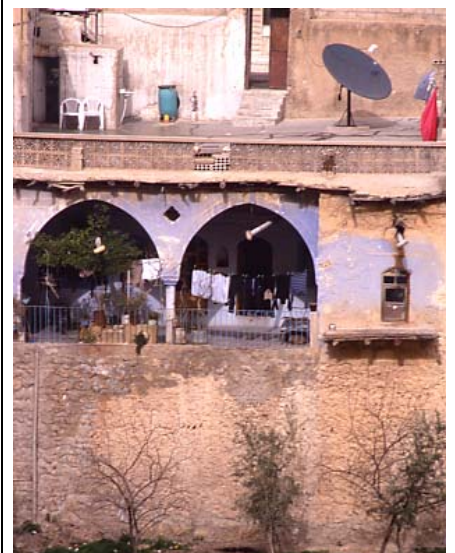
- **Volume**
The Riwaq is often closed to integrate its space to the rest of the building. This is quite damageable to the original typology. Concrete add-ons are also quite common.
- **Facades partitioning**
Gallery arches are often tampered.
- **Structure**
New volumes and add-ons are often made with concrete.
- **Space organization**
Bathrooms or a kitchen have been integrated into some rooms.

Change in use

The house is still used for dwelling.

Change in use of construction materials and techniques

- **Used, live**
Stone
- **Little used**
Wood
- **No longer used**
Lime rendering, and earth rendering
- **New use**
Concrete, aluminium and plastic



CAPACITY FOR REHABILITATION

Aspects of the typology

Score from 0 (very poor) to 10 (excellent)

- | | |
|---|---|
| · Capacity for sale or rental on the property market | 5 |
| · Capacity for adaptation to present-day family and social requirements | 5 |
| · Capacity for adaptation to present-day comfort requirements | 5 |

Score from 0 (insignificant) to 10 (major)

- | | |
|---|---|
| · Technical difficulty of rehabilitation | 2 |
| · Administrative difficulty of rehabilitation | 1 |
| · Financial difficulty (very high cost) of rehabilitation | 5 |

Obstacles preventing rehabilitation/causing the user to decide not to rehabilitate

Score from 0 (does not represent an obstacle) to 10 (represents a major obstacle)

- | | |
|---|---|
| · Administrative difficulties | 2 |
| · Major technical difficulties | 2 |
| · Irreversible deterioration of the structure | 6 |
| · Listed/protected building | 0 |
| · High cost of rehabilitation | 5 |
| · Absence of aid/subsidies | 8 |
| · Cost of the project and permits | 3 |
| · Status of building/lease | 5 |
| · Inflation of property prices | 2 |
| · Social decline (delinquency, ...) | 1 |
| · Poor environmental conditions (absence of minimum infrastructures, ...) | 5 |
| · Desire to change the building for a modern one | 8 |
| · Lack of sensitisation/appreciation on the part of the users | 8 |
| · Not considered necessary (by the user) | 8 |

Comments



LEXICON

Riwaq: open gallery with multiple arches.