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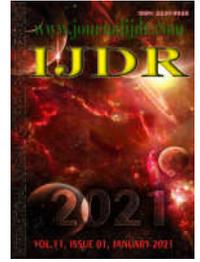
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RESEARCH ARTICLE

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A REVIEW OF ARCHITECTURAL PERIODS AND COMPARING WITH TODAY'S ARCHITECTURE

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ABSTRACT

Looking at the processes of human history, it is known that in pre-agricultural communities, people started with hunting and gathering and adopted the nomadic life in order to continue their lives and meet their basic needs such as eating and drinking. One of the most important reasons for the prevalence of the nomadic life is that the climate and geographical conditions affect the meeting of basic needs such as food and shelter. Scientists divide human history into three parts as pre-agricultural, agricultural and industrial society. The nomadic life, which prevailed in the pre-agricultural period, gradually transitioned to the agricultural society, that is, the transition to settled life. With the transition to settled life, historical, social and political developments that led people to work and produce in order to meet their basic needs and raise their living standards, the mentality of people has also moved towards rationality. With the transition to the industrial society, these developments gained momentum and fast production and consequently fast consumption, consequently consumption society, emerged. The need for resources in terms of raw materials for production has led to a cultural shaping of the lifestyle shaped according to this need. In this study, the issue of cultural-regional degeneration that has emerged in parallel with the historical developments with the effect of globalization, especially in the world that is developing rapidly after the industrial society today, will be examined. The aim of the study is to evaluate the periods in which the architectural culture was passed down from generation to generation with its architectural features and to investigate how it reflects on today's architecture. Although this study is a literature research, it includes the evaluation of architectural structures with case studies.

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INTRODUCTION

Architecture is an art that has existed since the birth of humanity as humans have always been in need of a shelter for their lives. Due to that reason their shelters or other spaces that is, primarily there as a basic human need (i.e. Maslow's Hierarchy of needs) (Maslow, 1954) , and when these basic needs are supplied or owned by human, then further requirements comes into account, this basic needs would make their lives easier in many different ways. This is just a little example of how basic need transforms into luxuries, and in other words, its a just a little story telling us the establishment and development process of architecture. According to this review offers an evaluation of literature on architecture from caves to high- technology, showing how architectural styles have changed and have been repeated. In addition to this, effects of social and historical problems and the importance of art history are also explained. This reviews will give reflect ancient architecture on today's buildings, and then examine the importance of this architectural history for the architects of today.

Ideas will be supported by different sources of different architects and their works will be given as examples.

Medieval Ages: Architecture was born from the Neolithic Era, human beings have existed in a World where they had a struggle to live. While they were trying to survive from the bad weather conditions, wild animals and even other people, they built shelters (Roth, 2001). As mentioned in introduction, caves were the first natural settled space in the World. According to their needs and time passing, people decided to build their first man-made spaces by using branches of trees as structural elements and covering this structure by using shrubs. Roth describe how as time passed and the materials has changed in accordance with the developments. From B.C.44.000 – 12.000 rather than rocks and animal skins; bones and shrubs were used. Then for flooring humans used the hard- lime as a material and B.C. 4500 clay started to be seen as a building material (Roth, 2000). When look through history, Stonehenge near Salisbury in England is an example of a well-known ancient building. The construction was completed in B.C.1500. It is formed by big sand Stones and circular stone columns. This is the rare building that exist now. The other

ancient European monuments is Table – Stone that was the first monument building with stone in Greece (Roth, 2000).



Image 1. Stonehenge

Like art, there are lots of factors which affect architecture. One of the main reason for having different architects in different countries is the differentiation of surrounding conditions. An architect's perspective Geographic conditions, climate characteristics, societies's needs and their beliefs, wars, economic conditions and surrounding materials are the factors that effect architecture. Snow House is a good example for this factors on architecture, to be able to see the differentiation caused by the climate; dome-like houses made from ice blocks in glacier countries can be an example, of how climate affects architecture as can the people who are living in unbelievable hot weather houses which are made by clay material.



Image 2. Snow House

The development of the different countries' cultures; ancient tombs, icons, Wall sculptures, formal letters and books are the references for us. These have now become the most important historical sites and places of religious worship. Generally, beyond the 20th century, the monasteries, castles and the churches are the places that attract attention as much as the kingdoms. Due to the importance of the church's investments in the past, scholastic philosophy played a great role in architecture. 20th century was a very important period for architectural history and architecture developed through each period before. The middle age period is examined and the author explains the process after the Dark Ages and its architecture, Romanesque architecture is characterised by a big clumsy masses which grow in modular systems. The supports which are used in building walls are the most important examples (Roth, 2000). Gothic Architecture has a great impact on the structure of 20th century buildings. Its structure is like today and in harmonious with the skeleton systems. Point arches, ribbed vaults and flying buttress are the characteristic elements of the Gothic architecture. When the Gothic architecture compared with Romanesque, we can say that in contrast to Romanesque, Gothic produced high, elegant and distinguished buildings (Roth, 2000)

Renaissance and Baroque: Renaissance and Baroque movement's has similarities and differences. Beside the divine value humans

started to acquire in the Renaissance, it also had an importance for architecture. In that period, socio-economic conditions changed and scholastic philosophy lost its effect. Science, philosophy and research were the factors that formed the Renaissance. As a result of these researches, Greek architecture, beauty and human anatomy were discovered. Rather than being affected by the Gothic period, the Renaissance sought inspiration from more ancient periods. It firstly and mostly appeared in Italy and there were 3 systems: Humanism, Neo-Platonism and Aristotelism (Trachtenberg, 1986). In the 20th century architects can be classified into two groups. These were the people who lived history again and saw it as in decline, and the architects who turned away from history and tried to find different ways of searching. In architecture Renaissance was the most powerful, normative and revolutionary movement. After that much of a rigid movement, people required an opposite style which is called Baroque. Baroque is a style of architecture and art originating in Italy in the early 17th century and variously prevalent in Europe and the New World for a century and a half (Trachtenberg, 1986). Irregular shapes, plants formed an organic surface which means Baroque pearls, free and sculptural use of classic orders and ornaments is used. On the contrary to the Renaissance, in Baroque a dramatic effect was used in which in architecture, paintings, sculptures and the decorative arts worked to create a combined effect. After Baroque, Rococo movement has prevailed. A principal current, generally known as Rococo, refined the robust architecture of the 17th century to suit elegant 18th century taste. This movement was more ornamented than Baroque. Neo-Classicism was the successor to Rococo in the second half of the 18th century. It formed an integral part of the Enlightenment in its radical questioning of received notions of human endeavour. In the history of architecture, Neo-Classicism is one of many revivals of ancient Greek and Roman styles. Arguably, the most original phase of Neo-Classicism anticipated the political revolution in France with which it is inevitably associated, providing visible expressions of ideology in buildings and images (Roth, 2000).

The 20th Century Architecture: The 20th century architect's has their important famous sentence which describe each periods architect's ideas. So these sentences are really important for new generation architects. Mies Van Der Rohe believes that " Less is more " and Frank Lloyd Wright said that " Less is more only when more is too much " (Tietz, 2000). Robert Venturi who is pioneer of Post-modern architecture is in response to featureless International Style popularized by Mies Van Der Rohe explain that with the quotes " less is bore " and " Form follows function " quotes firstly used by sculptor Horatio Greenough, more popularly by Louis Sullivan. These opinions are important because they changed architectural history. In the 20th century there were two principles. These were,

- Architects who gave the importance of form and aesthetic.
- Architects who believed the function is more important than form.

From these points of view Art Nouveau, Bauhaus, Arts and Crafts, Rationalism and even today's favourite movement of minimalism started to appear. For instance, in according to the 20th century principles mentioned above, Art Nouveau and Bauhaus could be explained.

Art Nouveau: Art Nouveau, one of the art movements that emerged in the 19th century, emerged in Europe as a reaction to the Industrial Revolution. Industrialization and ideology were the most effective reasons for the art of the period. It was added to art under the technological conditions brought by the age, such as the decorative processing of iron. This is an art which is known by asymmetry and is decorated by plants, birds, insects and geometric forms. Nature, geometry, city art, Islamic art and Japanese art were the sources of inspiration for Art Nouveau. It appeared between the years 1880-1890 and Antonio Gaudi and Henry Vande Velde were two of its representatives (Tietz, 2000).

Bauhaus: Bauhaus Art Movement, defined as the design of modernization, refers to the economic, cultural and social

modernization program that has been in force in Europe since 1850, beyond an education movement or a style. It is known for its championing of function. In this principle, rather than decoration, the material, structure and integrity of building was very important. At the Bauhaus, for the first time, Art and Crafts came together in one school and Basic Design lectures started to be taught (Tietz, 2000).



Image 3. Museum of Applied Arts – Budapest



Image 4. Avraham Soskin House, Tel Aviv, 1933

Modernism and Postmodernism: Modernism is the name of a period which came into existence from the development of Industry. In this period, quick production, functionalism and few decorations were the order of the day. However at the same time human needs had to be met. In Modernism colours are rejected. It refused history and used the geometric forms. In Russia Constructivism, in Holland Destijl, in France rationalism and in Germany it took the name of Bauhaus.

Basic concepts of modernism;

- Using material faithfully
- Extra production,
- Functionalism
- Rejection of historical styles
- Internationalism
- After the 2nd World War, in most of the countries lots of the buildings had been damaged and it left bad effects for people psychologically. Reform was needed. With Modern Architecture running out of ideas, Post Modernism appeared.

Postmodernism is appropriate for the popular enjoyment and with its surprising expression. So, it is totally against the Modernism. Post Modernism is the reflection of the American dynamic and changeable culture. After that “*Less is more*” turned into “*Less is Bore*” by Robert VENTURI. In this style, symmetry is turned into asymmetry and it becomes irregular. It contains strangeness and confusion. Finally, because these buildings have got a decorative and enjoyable quality to their elevations this style is used mostly for cultural and leisure spaces (Tietz, 2000).

Today’s Architecture: After Western, High-Tech and Deconstructive movements are seen in today’s architecture. Now, computers have a great role in architecture. By the development of technology, 3D software started to be used. These programmes help us to design more flexible facades and technical calculations can be done easily. Asymmetric forms, bent walls, shell structures started to be designed more easily. Consequently, design has become more creative. By the developments of technology, different materials are being used. These materials create attractive spaces in relation to the lighting. Structural elements, building materials and construction systems were developed day by day. In the last 50 years, different architects and their styles become interesting. One of the important and great architects is Frank GEHRY. Gehry believes his designs are irregular. It’s really true, because he did not design vertical walls, perpendicular corners and it is impossible to understand where roofs start and end points begin (Ekincioglu, 2001). While designing his extraordinary buildings he used different materials. Guggenheim Museum is an example for using different material of titanium, Music Centre in Seattle, USA can be given as an example of using blue titanium on facades. Gehry also used poultry strings in his designs.



Image 5. Guggenheim Museum



Image 6. Music Centre

The other great architect is Zaha HADID. One of the big characteristic of being a popular architect is being a woman architect. (Ekincioglu, 2001). If look through the architectural books, generally can see male architects rather than woman. She rejected the standardization in her designs in 21st century. Hundertwasser was another great artist who died in 2001. He is an Austrian artist who was also rejecting standards and creating irregular shapes. He found that the straight line is “godless” (Restany, Hundertwasser, 2011) That’s why, he designed everything with organic forms which are not based on straight lines. He used live colors at his paintings as well. He also used greenhouse designs which have roof and balconies with trees and flower and innovative gardens. His projects look like each other, but they are very famous and iconic at Austria, New Zealand, Japan. To be different is always perceived as a positive attitude to people. As the time passes in history, sometimes we can see a return to the ancient periods where the history duplicates itself. However, structural material never returns to the past and always develops. For example 18th century supports returned to the steel beams but between the structural system of the Gothic Architecture and Reinforced Concrete there is a similarity. In addition to this, sometimes newly constructed buildings refer to the history. For example, the Sydney Opera building in Australia has a sharp shell structure which has a similarity with the

ancient vaults which were used for bridging big spans and space frames take the place of it (Mainsrone,1998)

Conclusion

As the time passes in history, architectural styles repeat themselves and even sometimes a return to the ancient periods can be seen. However, structural material never returns to the past and it always develops. For example 18th century supports returned to the steel beams but there is a similarity between the structural system of the Gothic Architecture and Reinforced Concrete. In addition to this, sometimes newly constructed buildings refer to the history. For example, the Sydney Opera building in Australia has a sharp shell structure which has a similarity with the ancient vaults which were used for bridging big spans and space frames take the place of it. (Mainsrone,1998)



Image 7. Sydney Opera House

The sum up by the helpings of this literature review I have learned that, architecture can sometimes repeat itself and sometimes make radical changes. Buildings are designed for people for their culture, psychology and social needs. It becomes conscious and powerful for contemporary architects to look for their architectural designs.

Today's architects are keen to and aware of the importance of historical fabric which inevitably leads them to put effort in guarding such. This is because of the long coming understanding that history is one of the greatest values that a city should have. In considering and looking into various ancient and vital European cities such as London, Paris, Rome, Florence presence of historical and revolutionary creations/arts are clearly visible. For instance, Big Ben, Eiffel Tower and Collesium are some of creations that were made with most developed technology and innovatory attitude at its own time. Although the aforesaid were built at different eras, the whole lot possesses 3 common primary points; Thoughts at the stage of planning, logic and philosophy. There is no doubt that the most crucial piece that today's architects should learn from history are the 3 primary points mentioned. The way of every architect's interpretation of history is parallel to its development. Interpreting and influencing from history is not only a formal sham but a way re-enforcing it with the 3 primary points in creation stage by using current technology.

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