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Uyghur Vernacular Architecture

**Cultural Form and Syntax of Built
Environment**

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UYGHUR VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE
Cultural Form and Syntax of Built Environment

By Rushan Gul Rozi

Abstract

This book outlines a piece of ethnographic research undertaken on Uyghur vernacular architecture for the purpose of understanding Uyghur cultural identity in the design and planning of the built environment in Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, China. From a historical perspective, this research examines Uyghur culture and vernacular architecture on the assumption that culture is the mental structure of an ethnic group, and that it is composed of four interactive parts, the social system, belief system, economic system, and political system. The built environment is a part of culture. Like any language, the built environment has a syntax (as in the grammar of a language), which is the underlying structure, the ways and rules that connect the different parts of the built environment. As in the grammar of a language, this syntax remains relatively consistent through cultural change. Components of the built environment may change just as the additions of borrowed or newly invented words and forgotten of old words in a language while the syntax holds. This syntax can be regarded as the abstract form of the identity of the built environment and it can be transferred into the contemporary built environment. Applying this theory in examining the impact of culture on architecture, this research explores the identity of Uyghur architecture in order to translate this heritage into contemporary architectural and urban design.

This book outlines a piece of ethnographic research undertaken on Uyghur vernacular architecture for the purpose of understanding Uyghur cultural identity and interpreting this identity during the design and planning of the built environment in "Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region" of China. From a historical perspective, this research examines Uyghur culture and vernacular architecture from the four interactive parts of culture, the social, belief, economic, and political systems. The built environment is a part of culture with a syntax remains relatively consistent through cultural change, just as the grammar of a language, while the components of the built environment may change just as the additions of borrowed words or newly invented words, and forgotten of old words. This syntax can be regarded as the abstract form of the identity of the built environment and it can be transferred into contemporary built environment. Applying this theory in examining the impact of culture on architecture, this research explores the identity of Uyghur architecture in order to translate this heritage into contemporary architectural and urban design.



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Holding a PhD in Geospatial Science, M.Philosophy in Architecture, and a Bachelor's degree in Urban Planning, the author has over 15 years' experience working as an architect, urban planner, project manager, teacher and researcher on variety of projects and in the areas of architectural and urban studies, Uyghur and other Central Asian cultures.



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