

Safavid Houses in Isfahan

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This paper is a survey on 32 existing houses and 4 existing palaces in Isfahan. It includes investigations at sight as well as on literal sources. In addition through the inquiry of existing ones, it examines and restores 16 non-existing palaces which were drawn by Europeans from the 17th to the 19th century and some houses which were described by Chardan..

The mentioned houses and palaces, whose architectural styles suggest that they were constructed between 1600 and 1800, were. From the relation between the garden and the building, especially the main rooms where the interior style of safavid is survived, they can be divided into 4 groups. 1.Pavillion-type. It has an enclosed garden in which an isolated building opens on four sides. 2. Kushk-type. It has two courtyards between which a main room opens on two sides. 3.Court-type. It has a main room at one edge of the courtyard, therefore the main room opens on only one side to the court. 4. Gatehouse-type. It has a main room on top of the gate where is also an entrance of the garden.

The already described four types existed at the new colony, being Abbasabad and Jolfa, had a rectangular building site. The inhabitants of old city, being Latfar, Jubareh, and Dardasht, however seemed to have preferred court-type, as most of the mentioned houses in old city were as such. The old houses had already built and had formed an irregular site there.

Main rooms in the houses and palaces dealing with this paper generally have high vaults and decorated interior. For this survey there were two important points to consider. First, the number of the rooms in the back side. Second, it is necessary to specify the nature of the rooms. I found out that there were seven kinds of rooms to form the main rooms. One could consider

as follows talar , corridor, flat-ceiling room , iwan, domed-iwan, domed room and longitudinal room.

The garden and the building refer in this paper are closely related to each other. Safavid nobles and merchants seemed to have enjoyed luxury of daily life with a view of the garden, fountains in the room and a dazzling interior of muqarnas, orosi, wooden-mosaic, mirror-work and murals.