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Original Research Article

Being Home; An Exploratory Study on Residents' Descriptions of the Meaning of Home in the Middle Texture of Kermanshah (Patterns for Improving the Apartments)*

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Abstract

Problem statement: The question of the quality and the meaning of home is a profound question, which is as old as human life. In this connection, the wide gap in research between home architecture and the texture called home in today's life requires investigating the relationship between these two areas. A relationship also involves the missing link between the position of residents and their understanding of what they experience by staying in homes. How can the architectural patterns of apartment homes and the main spaces constituting them be improved to meet residents' needs based on how they define the meaning of home? How can these patterns be converted into generalizable patterns of various forms?

Research objective: The goal of this study was to understand the core criteria underlying the meaning of home from the views of residents, represent this meaning in home architecture, and then develop patterns for improving the existing situation of apartments based on residents' parameters for approaching life-centered environments.

Research method: The present study used a qualitative approach and had an applied goal. This study also fell under descriptive-analytical methods and data were collected from library sources and field surveys. Also, data were analyzed by using the Grounded Theory method. Here, to collect data, in-depth semi-structured interviews were conducted with 42 residents of apartment homes located in the middle texture of the city of Kermanshah, Iran. The sampling process continued until theoretical saturation was achieved. Also, field observation and surveys of existing spaces were carried out.

Conclusion: The repetitive and uniformity of architectural forms of various scales cannot turn a living place into being home; rather, it is the patterns that function to turn living places into being home. In this connection, three patterns of various scales were examined within six main spaces of apartment homes; personal rooms, private rooms, collective spaces, semi-open spaces, entrances, and kitchens. The layering of pre- and post-spaces beyond interior spaces, broken patterns in spaces with private-public accessibilities, and middle spaces were found to be the main optimal patterns in all spaces.

Keywords: *Home, Home architecture, Meaning of home, Patterns, Residents, Apartments.*

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Introduction

The most difficult questions are raised about the nearest things, such as questions about self, life, and home (Tabatabaie Ebrahimi, 2021, 10); these questions may also include asking the fish what water is, which is answered “Fish won’t know about water unless it comes out of it”; however, what is understood from coming out of water is nothing but life. As architects, we can evaluate plans, facades and sections but what appears to protect life is the possibility of understanding home while experiencing life in it. This possibility won’t be materialized by distancing from it and removing residents; rather, the meaning of home is crystalized by all its complexities. In fact, understanding home requires understanding the life in it (ibid., 14). It actually requires understanding the meaning of home from the views of the residents, who have the experience of staying and being present at home. This is because there may be a wide network beyond the personal meaning of home space where homes obtain, pattern, and imitate meanings not from people but from all people or the entire environment (Fox, 2021, 85).

In this connection, an apartment home appears to be unable to meet the daily needs of its residents; for this, the predominant problem may arise from the lack of natural light, the lack of open or semi-open spaces, the lack of private spaces, the lack of workspaces, and the lack of combined space for living and working (Hekmatnia & Kamalkhani, 2022, 30). In fact, standards and quantitative criteria have created identical types of apartments, which has made the possibility of structured creativity more difficult (ibid., 33). On the other hand, this has reduced residents’ attachment for their homes due to their failure to meet their needs.

Accordingly, the goal of the present study was to discover some rules in the form of patterns by means of a three-part relationship between the research background as the theoretical section, the existing situation of apartment homes as the practical section, and home residents as the loop linking these two sections.

Also, the study aimed to resolve the inconsistencies between these three sections and examine the damages that they may inflict on humans, the architecture, and their interrelationship. In fact, these three domains are seeking to arrive at a concept differently, which prevents the accomplishment of the ultimate goal of home architecture.

The significance of the study lies in improving the relationship between these three elements that make up home and arriving at a generalizable solution. It should be examined which spaces the residents regard as the main home spaces, and how existing patterns of spaces can be made better, more effective, and affordable based on residents’ description of the criteria of being home.

Research Questions

1. What criteria do residents consider for being home or a good home?
2. How are these criteria represented in the home architecture?
3. How can the meaning of being home be turned into rules in the form of generalizable patterns that would take on various forms at various homes?

Literature Review

One of the ways to understand the building blocks of home and find theoretical and practical gaps in this connection was to refer to research conducted in this connection. Accordingly, the following deals with the subject, its methodology, and the findings reported by various studies in this regard. The research in this regard falls into two basic areas: the first group of research critically views the existing situation of homes and their quality of life. This research considers the existing situation as largely poor, expresses dissatisfaction about it, and blames external conditions such as engineering system criteria, lifestyle changes, changing thinking, municipality criteria, axial quantity, and socio-economic conditions as factors contributing to the deterioration of this situation. The second group of research deals with more profound concepts and describes homes for

residents in the form of several keywords, which would help resolve the problems of the first group. The basic problem is that the simple reference to this research cannot directly help the architect or designer to work out his design issues, because these concepts may be indeterminate or provide not useful rules. For example, a home should be vital and lively, but how it can be vital or what should be made for its vitality remains to be unknown and should be defined by residents. This uncertainty has made much research

similar to each other and yielded unpractical results. Much research has been done about the meaning of home in various worldviews. The following lists the main research in this regard (Table 1). In this area, other scholars such as Jane Moore, Buttimer and Simon, Peter Saunders, Tsai Pei-Shu, Kimberly Dovey, and Geoffrey Broadbent have done research, which shares many points with previous ones. Also, some other studies have undertaken this subject in recent years (Table 2).

Table 1. Research literature on home meaning and finding criteria that make it up (first-hand sources). Source: Authors.

Researchers	Approaches	Criteria for making up home	Sources
The Qur'an	Islamic	Attaining desirable perfection (remembrance of the Lord), reminding of the superior world (fleeting life), comforting and soothing (Sekkinah), giving identity, meeting physical needs, meeting spiritual needs, privacy and respect, moderation and contentment, focusing on nature and history	The Qur'an (2011) Verse 3, Surah Hamzeh Verse 80, Surah Nahl Verse 28, Surah Raad Verse 27,28, Surah Nur Verse 31, Surah Araaf
Martin Heidegger	Phenomenological	Thinking and making, the center of the universe, profound concepts and real roots, raising, dwelling, and being	Heidegger (2002)
Christian Norberg-Schulz	Phenomenological	The center of the world, the point of return, beyond material dimensions, comfort, identification, the sense of belonging to the place, resident' flow of life, determining a material location, establishing a meaningful relationship between man and the environment, home, abode	Norberg-Schulz (2016) Norberg-Schulz (2019)
Clare Cooper Marcus	Psychological	Home as a symbol of self, referring to archetypes, collective unconscious and symbols, interior spaces: internal enclosure and privacy, external forms: open outdoor and public spaces, message to others, and the material symbol of humans	Cooper Marcus (2003)
Gaston Bachelard	Phenomenological	Imagination, poetic aspects of home, the first human world, shelter, memories, hidden splendor, closeness, and depth	Bachelard (2018)
Seyyed Hossein Nasr	Islamic	The world of form and the world of meaning, the relationship between meaning and spirituality at home, qualitative approaches, the soul and the meaning as equaling each other, spirituality	Nasr (2010)
Jeffrey Heyward	Psychological	Physical structure, realms, certain places in the world, self, and identity	Hayward (1975)
Amos Rapoport	Psychological	Beyond texture and shelter, the position of culture and community, material expression of a way of life	Rapoport (2013a & 2013b)
Christopher Alexander	Phenomenological	Anonymous quality, living, unsensual, coherent, comfortable, free, perfect, mortal	Alexander (2011)
Julian Tognoli	Psychological	Centrality, continuance, privacy, manifestation of self, social relations	Tognoli (1987)
Robert Gifford	Psychological	Shelter, private, protection, security, safety, individual's position in the world, residents' mental needs	Gifford (1999)
Tim Putnam & Charles Newton	Psychological	Privacy, security, intimacy, control and comfort	Putnam & Newton (1998)
Henry Corban	Islamic	Suhrewardi, meaning of everything as being the return to the thing itself, the realm of existence, interpretation	Shaygan (2015)
Carole Despres	Psychological	Security, control, a reflection of ideas, individual beliefs, manipulation with housing, continuance, and survival, communication with the family and friends, activities, shelter, individual position indicator, physical structure and ownership	Despres (1991)
Edward Relph	Psychological	An irreplaceable place, identity basics, center of importance, sense of attachment to the environment, center and the destination of human goals	Relph (2018)
Ola Nylander	Phenomenological	Three main features: materials, details, and forms of organizing rooms: Seven criteria of being home: materials and details, axis configuration, enclosure, movement, spatial forms, lighting and illumination, spatial organization	Nylander (2011)
Witold Rybczynski	Phenomenological	Home texture as forming sentiments, sheltering, intimacy, and attachment	Rybczynski (1987)
Sadrolmotalihin	Islamic	Spirit of meaning, a shared and basic meaning various examples of being	Sadr ad-Din Shirazi (1995)

The innovation of the present study lies in its evaluation of residents' views of homes and their physical qualities. The descriptions and their resulting codes can serve as chains that link the theoretical and practical aspects of the study while contributing to home architecture design rules. It

Table 2. Research literature on the meaning of home in papers and the media (second-hand sources). Source: Authors.

Subject	Approach	Methods	Results	Sources
Investigating the effects of physical developments on the concept of home during the contemporary era in Tehran	-Phenomenological	-Housing physical changes from later Qajar era to Pahlavi in five features: texture, building establishment, building formation, component formation, construction -Concept of home in the mind of residents; in-depth interview	-Describing the role of physical developments in the concept of home -An empirical and abstract combination of time and place -Effective sensory dimensions in converting a house into a home -Reducing memories of home -The transformation from qualities to quantities -Changing the concept of the ideal home in various generations	Aghalatif & Hojjat (2019)
Home narration: a method for understanding and representing the desirability of lived experiences	-Phenomenological -Lived experience	-Home narration from the view of residents in the transition era of Tehran City from 1941 to 1961: Interviews, presence at home Non-reduction of home into components	-Good home: Understanding the quality of life, the relationship between man, and the possibility of the place -Describing two narrations by residents and the view of the researcher -Overall and integrated impacts of home over the years on residents -Concurrent effects of events and texture -Describing the narrative method, discussion, and formal reasoning	Tabatabaie Ebrahimi & Tafazzoli (2018)
Deep exploration of local home meaning using phenomenology (Mukrian Village)	-Phenomenological -Max Wennen's theory	-Finding the main components identifying the local homes of Mukrian based on open and in-depth interviews and field surveys based on lived experience	-Discovery of the semantic system, the essence of home -Mukrian home: representation of oneself, manifestation of the sense of being, and explanation of man's existence -Providing findings in three categories: meanings from the view of residents, meanings from the view of the researcher, and the meanings in the literature	Golabi, Bayzidi, Tahmasbi & Sahabi (2019)
Understanding the nature of Iranian home using the phenomenological method (Case study: Shevadan ¹ and Pish-Boum ² in Dezful homes)	-Phenomenological	-Investigating architectural patterns and emotional themes of home	-Two semantic categories: dynamic and stationary; fluidity of mind and pleasure; comfort and closeness to God, attention to the concept of place and the role of parts and the whole in forming the concept of home	Sadughi (2011)
Desirable Iranian homes; a study on the concept of home based on the views of users' conceptions in the past and present	-Social -Context -Sociology		-Providing the concept of desirable Iranian home: small scales and human's man-made world: describing the living styles of a nation. Home changes proportionate to the social situation of society	Ilka (2017)
Recognizing the concept of home in the Persian language and Iranian culture	-Linguistic	-Investigating home, cultural concepts, historical and value concepts from the perspective of the Persian language	-Home: a symbol of human existence, the intersection of space and time -Home represents the human's interpretation of the surrounding world	Barati (2003)
Recognizing the meaning of home in the Qur'an; an approach to explaining theoretical basics about home	-Islamic -Hermeneutic and interpretive	-Finding the meaning of home, house, and settlements in the Qur'an -Extracting Qur'anic terminology of home -Referring to Qur'anic verses	-The comfort that comes from home and remembrance of God -Geometry and values -Immediate relation between nature, texture, and home space -Home as a place for thinking	Kabirisamani, Malakooty & Yadeghari (2017)
Describing the effective traits of home on human attachment formation (providing a causal process pattern)	-Causal method	-Identifying the architectural role of home, its physical qualities in the formation of man's attachment	-Home criteria: being a shelter, an indicator of social position, a context for the formation of memories, and a background for meeting needs; -Home characters are causally linked with their texture	Hojjat, Mozaffar, & Saadati, P (2017)

Rest of Table 2.

Subject	Approach	Methods	Results	Sources
House meaning, re-reading the narration of yesterday's house for today's life	-Islamic	-Finding Islamic housing criteria -Comparing them with today's housing criteria	-Describing the position of the family in forming an Islamic home-house means: meeting material needs, spiritual comfort, and psychological needs such as thinking, worship, and heart solace -Today's housing: Undermining the transcendent concepts of residence, undermining house identity and originality, the lack of mental and psychological comfort, reducing respect and security, and the formation of economic approaches instead of value approaches	Mahmoodi Mehmandust (2018)
Home as clothe on the family's body	-Islamic Psychological	-Understanding the family institution; illustrating life from various perspectives	-Describing the significance of family position in forming home concepts -Describing the behavioral and spatial perception of humans	Azizi (2002)
Re-defining desirable contemporary Iranian-Islamic housing design patterns by evaluating the quality of traditional homes	-Islamic	-Analytical Hierarchical Process, interviews, observation, investigating spatial and place characteristics, providing analysis and measuring houses	-Criteria for increasing contemporary housing quality, lifestyles, human needs, social relations, meaningful relationship between the quality of traditional houses and humans, architecture and lifestyles, environmental, physical, functional, and structural qualities	Asefi & Imani (2016)
Novel pattern of linguistic rules, forms in today's home architecture (Case study: Qajar era homes in Tabriz and Tehran)	-Linguistic	-Novel pattern of linguistic rules, forms in today's home architecture (Case study: Qajar era homes in Tabriz and Tehran)	-Concepts such as a bond with the environment, happiness, comfort, and separation from routine life in spaces such as porches, cellars, greeneries, vestibules, and alcoves	Hasani & Nourouzbazajani (2018)
Evaluating the semantic principles of Mashrebiyeh and contemporary balconies; interior and exterior interaction in Kermanshah City homes	-Phenomenological	-Qualitative: Qualitative grading of various balconies based on residents' analysis of narration	-Physical, functional, social, and semantic criteria in home architecture, as well as security, readability, and urban views; protection, dominance, interactions pleasure, sense of belonging, proportions, accessibility, and climatic issues	Bakhtiary Manesh & Bemanian (2023)
Investigating housing from the semiotic perspective (Case study: Qajar era homes and contemporary residential complexes in Shiraz)	-Semiotic	-Investigating housing from the semiotic perspective (Case study: Qajar era homes and contemporary residential complexes in Shiraz)	-Home is a text made of various historical, political, ideological, economic, and structural, as well as familial and religious layers. Using semiotics, the effects of these layers in various home spaces can be examined.	Berahman, Parva & Nasr (2020)
The human approach to house	-Phenomenological	-Defining an identity and a place for forming it from a holistic and phenomenological perspective	-Pattern of the formation of identity in relation to place for being close to creating meaningful places	Pourdeihimi, Zamani & Negintaji (2011)
Home reading	-Phenomenological	-Investigating the homes of the period of Tehran's transition -Collecting views of residents of their lived experiences in these homes	-Describing 12 indicators for making the living place as home: experiences of past homes, being higher, shared corridors, summer houses, porches for view, centralization, privacy, ambiguous corners, patterning, mother courtyard, houses remaining in the mind	Tabatabaie Ebrahimi (2021)
Homes remaining in the mind	-Phenomenological	-Finding diverse components of home meaning in Iranian literature stories	-Presence, border ownership, privacy, feminism, authority, six criteria for home meaning -Realms, the boundary between the interior and the exterior, memories, object worthiness, using senses, ownership, and authority	Armaghan, Khansari & Shafieyan (2021)
Everything about home	-Composite	-The analogy between home and abode, diversity of homes, significance of place and residence	-Understanding the meaning of home in various approaches, home, homelessness, future homes	Fox (2021)

is noteworthy that these rules have been developed based on existing conditions.

Theoretical Foundations

It is critical to understand the concept of home in the contemporary era and how this concept has transformed, which will help get closer to the study questions. At first, the Dehkhoda Dictionary defines home to be a dwelling, a place for residence, a settlement, and a room (Dehkhoda, 1998). The Moein Dictionary also defines home to be a place of residency or an accommodation. This term is also synonymous with place, position, haven, abode, and usually house, though home and house may differ semantically. In English, home denotes the physical structure where one lives and it is a “place” the family creates it. This word has a wider semantic scope than the word house and thus involves a larger scope of meanings. On the other hand, a house refers to the physical place of a residency, shelter, or a “building” (Wehmeier, 2004,744). Therefore, a house may be defined as a physical structure and a home is a sum of this physical structure and relevant concepts (Aghalatifi & Hojjat, 2019, 43). In fact, by home or being home, it means a place for living and exploring the characteristics of a good home, which can meet man’s needs and is suitable for his living. This place certainly includes various hidden components and layers to be revealed (Tabatabaie Ebrahimi & Tafazzoli, 2018, 127). Therefore, understanding the place of living as being home is directly associated with residents and their experiences therein. This is because a focus on home is the same as living, while a focus on the concept of residence grew due to the failure of the home environment to meet all life aspects, in the post-modern era (Aghalatifi, 2022, 18). Homes have always been places for gatherings; places for taking shelter; they serve as central places in human life. As a result, many theories have been presented about home and many have longed for it. Hence, one may conceive of home as a commonplace, transparent, and easily construed concept; however, one needs to

rethink it. Home is a truly fundamental and universal concept that involves a multitude of integrated layers for different people under different situations (Fox, 2021, 13). Basically, one needs to seriously think of some intrinsic and fundamental components that make up having a home and being in a home and thus give meaning to it (ibid., 19).

The key point here is the transforming attitude of the concept of home from a classic period to a modern period because home is a time-dependent concept and a change of attitude toward it could play a determining role in its texture changes. Nuclear, smaller, and more restricted families require smaller apartment homes more easily than large families (Aghalatifi, 2022, 19). In this connection, the roots of these changes date back to the Qajar era when gradual changes were made to the housing architecture. Prior to the Qajar era architecture, the homes of the middle classes were the same as before, with the courtyard serving as the private area and the middle space, to which no entry could be made directly from the alley. All windows could be open to this space; service spaces were separated from the living area, and there was an outside-to-inside hierarchy to which no one could have access. There was also a pond in the middle of the courtyard, with trees and a skyline. However, transforming homes began during the Pahlavi Era I, when apartment homes gradually began to form. In this period, Iranians felt weak against the holistic approach of the West. For this, the modern reforms and modernization of cities reinforced the tendency towards vertically-shaped homes, which is mainly represented in recent decades (Semsar, Sarabian & Moghadam, 2013, 9). Meanwhile, fundamental changes to the past, the degradation of the relation between spaces with each other, hierarchies, flexibility, multi-functionality, prioritization and parking lots have eliminated human spaces (Haeri Mazandarani, 2016). Thus, the priority of being home in today’s life is with apartment homes, which raises a question: “How are the criteria of being home or actually being a good home, as extracted by researchers, represented in

the minds of apartment home residents within the real flow of life?” On the other hand, the special characteristics of residential architecture have never been examined by students and professors (Nylander, 2011, 9). In her doctoral dissertation titled “An Ideal Home or Emergency Housing”, Bridgette Andersen describes two value factors at home and two various methods to explain the problem of residence, i.e., quality and quantity. Referring to officials’ policies of construction following World War II, she states that these policies have sacrificed quality for quantity while suggesting that the growing need for construction technology and economic issues have eliminated good architecture. She also asserts that architects have failed to reveal their good design processes due to a variety of economic and political needs. Today, the impacts of the quantification of residential areas and the elimination of qualitative aspects and features have caused senses of discomfort and inconvenience among residents (ibid., 11). Hence, home architecture should be viewed as a being blended with tangible and intangible characteristic. In this connection, the applicable features of the home have been clearly discussed in numerous studies. For this, criteria, rules, and standards that meet the functional needs of homes have been investigated. However, what appears to be critical for people’s perceptions of home are qualitative symbolic and aesthetic features of home (ibid., 13).

A review of the literature on home and its architecture helps divide the central theme of these studies into three main areas: First, the research that measures home with its quantitative components, the relation between the variables and the role of criteria; second, the research that criticizes home issues but has offered no solutions. This category of research also involves pathologies, inconsistencies, and undesirable changes in the past. Third, the research investigates the qualitative concepts of home, discussing the sense of attachment, vitality, neighboring interactions, etc. In fact, the components underlying the concept of home are defined within these features (Fig. 1).

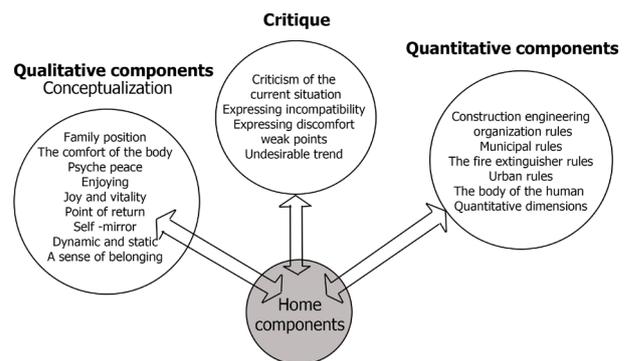


Fig. 1. Partial conceptual pattern; a theoretical framework for the components making up home based on literature review. Source: Authors.

Methodology

The present study fell under qualitative research and had an applied goal. This study also used a descriptive-analytical method and collected data through library studies, along with field surveys. Data were also analyzed by the Grounded Theory method. Meanwhile, to collect data, semi-structured in-depth interviews were conducted with residents. Also, observation and field survey techniques of different spaces were performed. In the first stage, apartment homes were visited and their texture patterns were extracted. Then, the meanings, uncovered by researchers, were elaborated by residents’ descriptions. These descriptions were then analyzed in MAXQDA software. Data were also categorized in the first coding order, which helps find concepts and categories. This order is followed by the axial coding that links the main and secondary categories. In the end, selective coding in the extracted categories was extracted to integrate them, i.e., which architectural features these meanings include and how their representative examples will be (Fig. 2). Since in most qualitative research with social backgrounds, the results cannot be necessarily repeated by other researchers due to the personal nature of the interview and the specificity of field dimensions (Groat & Wang, 2016, 39), less generalizability in qualitative research is made. However, relevant results can be generalized into an extended theory (Creswell, 2019, 328). In sum, the key criterion in qualitative research is its believability based

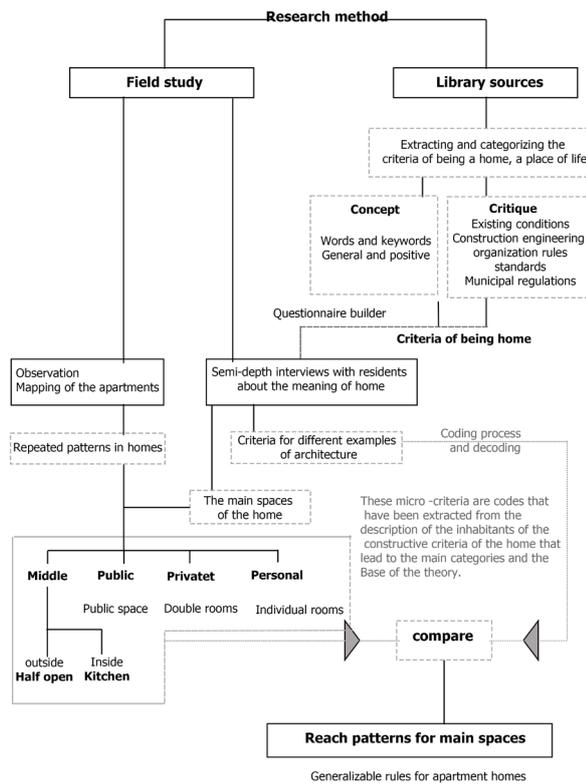


Fig. 2. Study method; field and library section interaction. Source: Authors. on coherence, insight, and reliability beyond ordinary indicators of validity, reliability, and generalizability (ibid., 333).

Field Research

The statistical population consisted of 450 apartment homes constructed from 2001 to 2021 (a time interval of two decades) in the middle texture of Kermanshah City, Iran. Apartment homes cover areas of 80 to 200 m2. The reason why this texture was selected was firstly due to the sudden transformation of homes with independent courtyards (villa houses) into apartment homes at this time interval and the prioritization of apartment homes in the future of this process. The second reason was the failure to meet the needs of the residents in the process of designing this generation of homes. The third reason was the researcher’s understanding of this process and the possibility of establishing a better relationship with residents as participants in the study. In the first section, since the goal is to accurately describe and analyze the concepts obtained, the need to deepen talks with residents was felt; therefore, 42 residents were interviewed. These residents were living in the apartments in the spring and

summer of 2022 (This sample population was obtained based on the theoretical saturation when examining the questions). This study was performed in the form of two main sections. The first section involved 5 semi-structured questions about the criteria making up a home and the second section concerned with the spaces making up a home and their desirability criteria, as provided by 42 residents living in the said texture, who had all the experience of having independent homes with courtyards, but are now living in apartment homes. Each question was assigned to a specific subject, which included the extracted meanings of being home and a living place. In the end, the interviews were fully recorded and its codes were elicited. These codes are the features of each space that can reveal the various examples of house architecture (Table 3). In the second section, based on residents’ views of apartment homes, the current patterns of home construction in these two decades were explored. This can, on the one hand, improve the future of house construction, and its patterns can, on the other hand, directly provide physical alternatives for house architecture (Fig. 3).

Data Analysis: Criteria of Being Home

Consistent with the data collected from in-depth interviews, the 42 residents provided their own narrations of home characteristics (experienced homes compared to ideal homes). In this connection, their homes were examined and surveyed (Fig. 4). These narrations provided both architectural features and other hidden data, referred to as innovative features. These features were coded based on the main feature theme of each space and relevant categories were provided in the form of home architecture. It is noteworthy that this process is not linear and includes a reciprocating process



Fig. 3. Process of field studies in three in-depth interviews, home acquisitions, and comparative study of the results. Source: Authors.

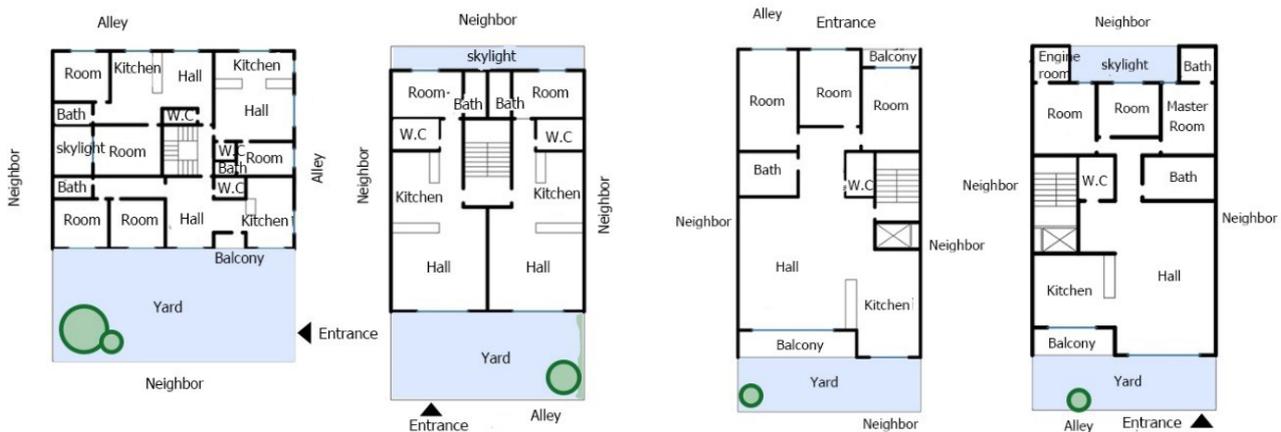


Fig. 4. Patterns of the totality of existing apartment homes (from the right side, the 2001-2011 homes (Northern), and (Southern), 2012-2021 (Northern) and (Southern)). Source: Authors.

Table 3. Coding residents' description of home meaning (good home criteria) based on research literature. Source: Authors.

The main core of the questions	Codes derived from residents' narrations; an explanation of codes	Characteristics of each space; extracted concepts and good home criteria	Examples of architecture on home forms; categorization
Stagnant but dynamic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Establishment: A certain place in a fixed geographical location, that is strong, safe, and secure; -Ease of mind: physical harms by changing conditions; The node connecting place, time and events, the context, neighborhood neighbors, climates, culture, society, and correspondence -Space diversity: Closed, open, semi-open, various arrangements, semi-open spaces, not so large or not so small, but usable, desirable proportions close to a square, novelty while focusing on the past -No view from outside: Being comfortable, privacy and intimacy, feeling greater stillness, -Proportionate to demographic developments and the needs of the family (children; adults), proportionate to residents' changes during the year, flexibility and multi-functionality -The possibility of making changes and developments based on residents' needs and demands -Viewing a fleeting life, climate change, changing seasons, tree growth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Certain places: temporary and permanent ownership)Semi-open spaces as being more functional than open spaces/ predicting the flow of lie and occurrences: definition of spaces(-Semi-open space: From 6 to 20 m2. A value above this will reduce the interior space, while a lower value is practically unusable. 3:3 and 2:5 proportions are good, with minimum and maximum widths of 2 and 4, respectively. -Flow of life activities in semi-open spaces: Raising flowers and plants, reading books, making barbecue, cooking food for morning and afternoons, good for sitting, and small gatherings, viewing outside without being seen, touching rain, snow, fresh air, sunlight, and tree growth -Non-repetitive stories: Good for the living of various families -Non-simple and uniform, and rigid and frightening forms. -Non-simple, uniform, rectangular, and seemingly undecorated facades 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increasing the possibility of various activities in a single space and performing a certain activity in various spaces -the possibility of various activities occurring in diverse spaces -long-term presence at home, increasing sense of attachment -courtyard, usable balconies, and courtyards; Usable open, semi-open, and closed spaces: diverse spaces -Performing various activities -The possibility of changing space arrangement -Considering all occurrences in that space, and viewing the flow of life -Interior and exterior spaces can infiltrate; the home is wider than its interior space -In modern lifestyle, semi-open spaces are More effective than open spaces -Extra control over their visibility -Space flexibility and the possibility of separating or combining them
Point of return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Forced to return (No other place): personal items, family, assets and ownership; confidence over safety and security, shelter, the minimums, habituation, difficulty changing, adopting conditions -Interested to return: Family, intimacy, happiness respect, sense of warmth, independence, privacy, not being judged, not being controlled by others, being the real self, for ourselves, having control, reducing daily concerns, proportionate to the needs of all members of the family, separation from the rest of the world, while controlling relationship with it, welfare facilities, good financial conditions, family's satisfaction with living conditions, comfort, the non-interference of spaces, reducing unwanted tension 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Certain boundaries between family and strangers -Personal space: for activities of one individual: a given room for rest, studying, doing homework and individual work can be a good place measuring 7-15 m2. -Private space: by two people; a shared room (spouses and several children), privacy, WCs, separate bathrooms for 12-25 m2 -Collective space: for all family members, good for performing common activities, a fireplace (sense of warmth), a TV, dining table (eating with the family), spending time at night with all members of the family, a pausing space, measuring 20-60 m2 -Public space: guests, not viewing other spaces, close to the entrance, possibility of frequenting in other areas without being seen, separating spaces 40-60 m2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Protection from me, my family, and my assets when I am in the most vulnerable situation; sleeping, fatigue, rest, not being present at home -Ownership over home -Not feeling controlled inside or outside by others The need for a certain border: the layers of the boundary inside and outside Space separation inside -Having control over peoples' entry without permission, strangers and familial people -Hierarchy of spaces: view, accessibility, movement -Kitchen: pause as the beating heart of home, being warm, earing -Shared activities: Viewing other members of the family

Rest of Table 3.

The main core of the questions	Codes derived from residents' narrations; an explanation of codes	Characteristics of each space; extracted concepts and good home criteria	Examples of architecture on home forms; categorization
Beyond the interior space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Mental needs: Current conditions, confined to home, depression, being closed, feeling suffocated, fatigue, captivity, feeling entrapped, annoyance of children, non-reduction of daily concerns, unawareness of season changes, climate, uniformity of interior -Functional needs: The need for one or several external private spaces (open or semi-open spaces), drying clothes, making barbecues, awareness of climate, changes in nature, raising flowers and plants, a space mainly related to the kitchen, children's games, reducing tensions among family members, receiving light and fresh air, interest in increasing children -Being forced to enclosure, the current conditions, being seen from adjacent homes, overlooking neighbors, increasing robberies, and the need for security at home and in the family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Middle private spaces: Intermediaries from the space genus, between the interior and the exterior, for reducing being seen and increasing protection, direct access from interior spaces to exterior spaces -Open or semi-open spaces: these provide accessibility from inside, though providing no accessibility from outside Kitchen (greater parents' presence), the possibility of children's games and security Courtyard, backyard, balconies, terraces, rooftops, windows, etc. Fall under these spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Specific open or semi-open spaces related to outside; home lungs street security, restricted view from outside to inside -Desirable view and landscape without being seen, inside the home, possibility of easy control Direct access to interior spaces -Flow of Life: predicting possible activities in each space, residents' narration of home occurrences -Priority is given to the kitchen, presence of the living room as a semi-open space with separate sleeping rooms
Physical comfort	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Being a shelter: protection of the body against hazards, floods, rain, snow and winds, the sun, and natural hazards like earthquakes, robbers, and strangers. -Human scale: Considering human physique dimensions under various conditions of length, width, and height -Welfare facilities: providing desirable temperature (uniform cooling and warming), utilities, access to the Internet, safe place for parking cars, easiness of movement between stories, different shelves for various items, accessible and large warehouse, large spaces, luxurious materials, light and illumination in all spaces Endurable and comfortable furniture, electronic devices, controlling doors, ventilation, lighting and shading, locking openings, and being smart -Not being obligated: comfortable clothes, not being judged, not being seen, not being seen & accessible by strangers -Primary human needs: Political and economic conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Height, minimum height of 3.80, Maximum height of the room:3.5 m., Maximum height of the living room of 0.65 m (Being higher or shorter associates the feeling of fear and suffocation) -Space proportions: Minimum width of the room: 3 m, 1:2 and 3:4 proportions ,minimum living room width: 5 m, proportions should be close to a square 3:3 proportions -Separating movement and pause pathways. - Separating private and public space -Air temperature, controlling temperature in different seasons, central systems, split duc. Inlet of fresh air: drawing windows or shelves, controlling the level of being open -Level of light received and orientation -High-quality materials, lasting and showing the social and economic status of the family 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A support area for sitting, a place for seeing, and something for eating -Being above the surrounding environment, having a view and domination -The flow of life: movement and pause pathways -Places for sitting, sleeping, stretching, and lying down Standing, doing activity, talking Proportion between the texture and activities done -Being protected: Entrance security and home accessibility. -Technology: Easiness of doing work -Being smart: Adjusting various aspects of the home based on residents' needs without their direct interference
Ease of mind	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Self: Reducing daily concerns, forgetting work-day issues, personal, economic, and social issues. Unawareness of adverse world events, the news, the Internet, fewer physical concerns, fewer economic issues, fewer obsessions, interested occupation, sufficient thinking and income, thinking -Other: family, happiness, intimacy, satisfaction, vitality, liveliness, ease of mind, gathering, health, welfare, future occupation for future, mental security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Personal and familial life -Communication with nature: hearing the sound of water, birds, the smell of plants, seeing greenery, the blue color of the sky, the night sky, the wind blowing. -Pleasant spaces: Wide, tall, and illuminated. Vital space: Plants, water, light, fresh air, tree shades. -Protection against strangers, items, and assets, personal items. Meeting physical needs and hierarchy of outside to inside and entrances 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Fewer concerns: economic, political, and social concerns -Not being repetitive: images, sounds, environmental conditions, relation with natural elements. Family, collective spaces -Inside-outside relation: controlling how to connect with the world. -Being immune from pollution, noise, and visual pollution -An area for viewing events -Imagination

involving description, codes, concepts, and categories. The patterns explored based on residents' experiential narrations in homes were revealed for measuring their results (Table 3).

Discussion: Physical Representation of Criteria of Being Home: Getting Close to Patterns

According to residents' views of factors making up home meaning within the process of coding

and decoding, as stated in Table 3, six main spaces constituting home directly involved in the formation of home meaning were referred to. Personal rooms, private rooms, semi-open spaces, collective spaces, the kitchen, and the home entrance. In this connection,

and in response to the second question of the study, the physical representation of the criteria constituting home in each space was extracted, as suggested by residents.

• **Personal rooms/ single-person use**

According to residents' views of personal rooms,

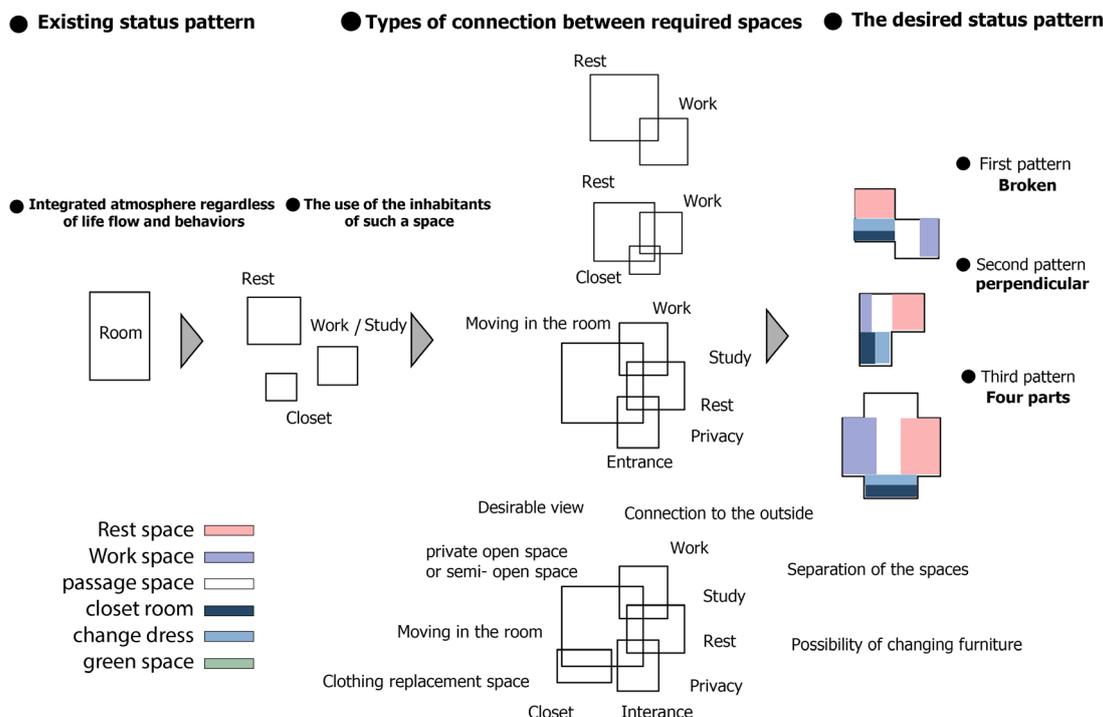


Fig. 5. Patterns of existing status in relation to primary patterns of desirable personal rooms based on residents. Source: Authors.

Table 4. Physical representation of extracted criteria for desirable personal rooms based on residents' views. Source: Authors.

Discovered criteria	Sub- criteria	The Physical Representation of Criteria			
Independence	Privacy and separation	Outside	Not being seen from the outside	Layering of borders	Using middle spaces/ semi-open
		Inside	Not being seen from the inside	Separation of private and public	Turning the room entrance
	Room facilities		Two-way sound filter	No sound transmission	Middle space between rooms
			Rest, work, closet, suitable ventilation, desirable lighting, friend or guest		possibility of separating or combining them
Flexibility	Access and control		Moving and changing the decoration	Suitable dimensions	Broken forms
			Seeing children, controlling	Monitoring the route	Shared family fun
	Increasing The Age, Changing Needs	Physical changes	Ceiling height, communication with the outside, room development, multi-functional		
	Variety Of Spaces	certain activity in various spaces, open, semi-open, and closed spaces	Non-shared personal access	Not being seen from the outside	
Calmness	Silence	Inside	Voice Control	Space Filters	Middle spaces
		Outside		Layering the facade	Middle semi-open spaces
	Cozy		Not available to everyone, controlling		Have a corner
		Comfortable		Ownership, being yourself, not being judged	
	View		Seeing beauty	Nature, city, humans, green space	Sky, changing seasons, children playing, human happiness, beautiful buildings
		Not seeing the ugly	Buildings, inside homes	Non-facing windows	

this room is made of four sections: a bedroom, a wardrobe (closet), a changing room, a study space, and a workspace, which can be expanded or restricted based on the area of the room (Fig. 5). These are the rooms built for protection against stresses caused by routine day life (Wentling, 2022,13). These are the rooms with criteria that can be keys for design and patterning (Table 4).

• Private rooms/two-person use

Residents’ narration of two-person private rooms for parents indicates that these rooms can be divided into five subsets: a bedroom, a closet, a shared or

separate changing room, a WC, a bathroom, and two-person sitting spaces for study (Fig. 6). These spaces are in fact established for gaining comfort and escaping from all home, children, and working concerns (Table 5). In this connection, the way these rooms relate to each other and the collective space is critical; changing axis direction, layering boundaries, considering the hierarchy, controlling sound (eliminating shared walls), no direct view of various spaces, non-accessibility of the guests to private home spaces, separating private, public and personal spaces (Fig. 7).

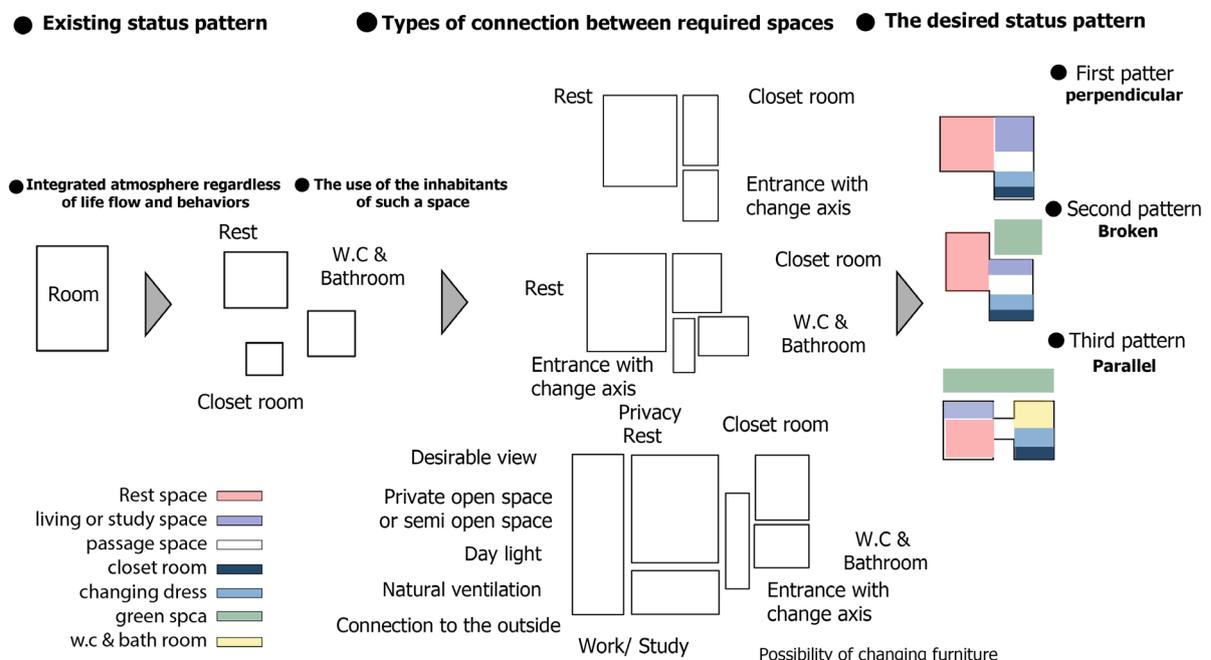


Fig. 6. Pattern of existing status in relation to primary patterns of desirable private rooms based on residents’ views. Source: Authors.

Table 5. Physical representation of the criteria extracted for desirable private rooms based on residents’ views. Source: Authors.

Discovered criteria	Sub- criteria	The Physical Representation of Criteria		
Separation/ Privacy	Inside	Inside the rooms	Rest, studt, closet, w.c	Control view to each other, no disturbance
		Other rooms	Sound transmission control, see inside the rooms, privacy for parents	Secondary spaces, Middle spaces, far from other rooms
	Outside	Street	Sitting, watching alley’s events	Semi-open spaces, joint activities, windows, gardening
Quality		Up to date	Visual experiences, virtual space	Light colors, indirect light, hidden light, simple forms
	Room facilities	Beautiful	Fixed body Non-fixed and semi-fixed body	Architecture, people’s taste Furniture, people’s taste
		Pair of anything	Noninterference of preparation and private spaces	Washroom, locker room, closet room, w.c
	Desirable view	Windows	Possibility of watching outside, reducing sound transmission, ease to opening and closing curtains, safety, view control	Beside the restroom, without OKB, window protector, external canopy

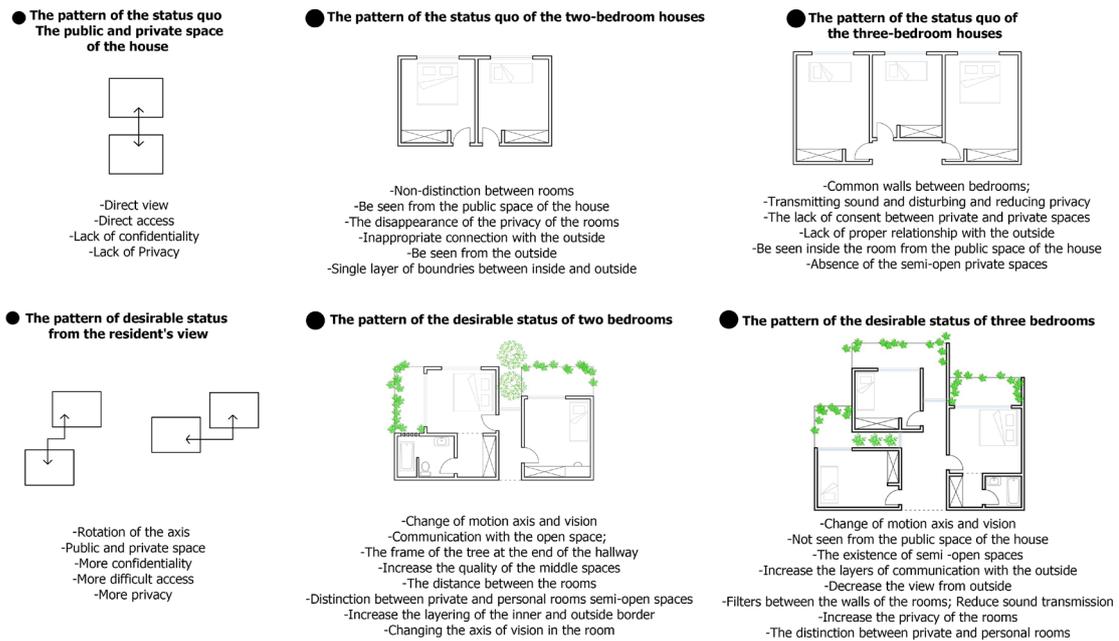


Fig. 7. The way home rooms are related together based on residents' description. Source: Authors.

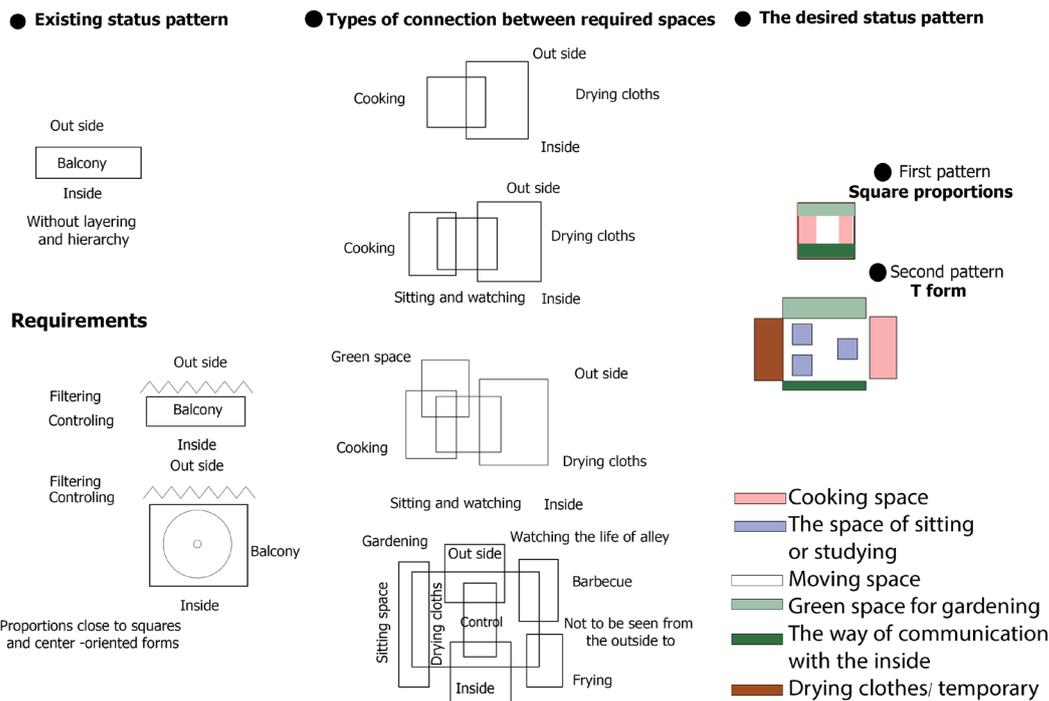


Fig. 8. Pattern of existing status in relation to primary patterns of desirable semi-open spaces based on residents' views. Source: Authors.

Table 6. Physical representation of the criteria extracted for desirable semi-open spaces based on residents' views. Source: Authors.

Discovered criteria	Sub- criteria	The Physical Representation of Criteria	
Inside: home	Communication with the outside	More than a door, moving walls, increase interaction, more presence, and stay	
	Mostly Use	In connection with the kitchen, living room, bedroom It is better than every private space communication with private semi-open spaces	
	Functions	Moving part of the internal functions to the semi-open spaces, cooking, drying clothes, enjoying the fresh air, barbecuing, and gardening.	As a yard in villas
Outside: street	Controlling	View to the outside, reduce view from outside to inside, alley events, change the mood, flow of life	Open and closing canopy or sunshades
		Non access from the street to the semi-open spaces especially on trips	Be sure of safety, open and closing walls

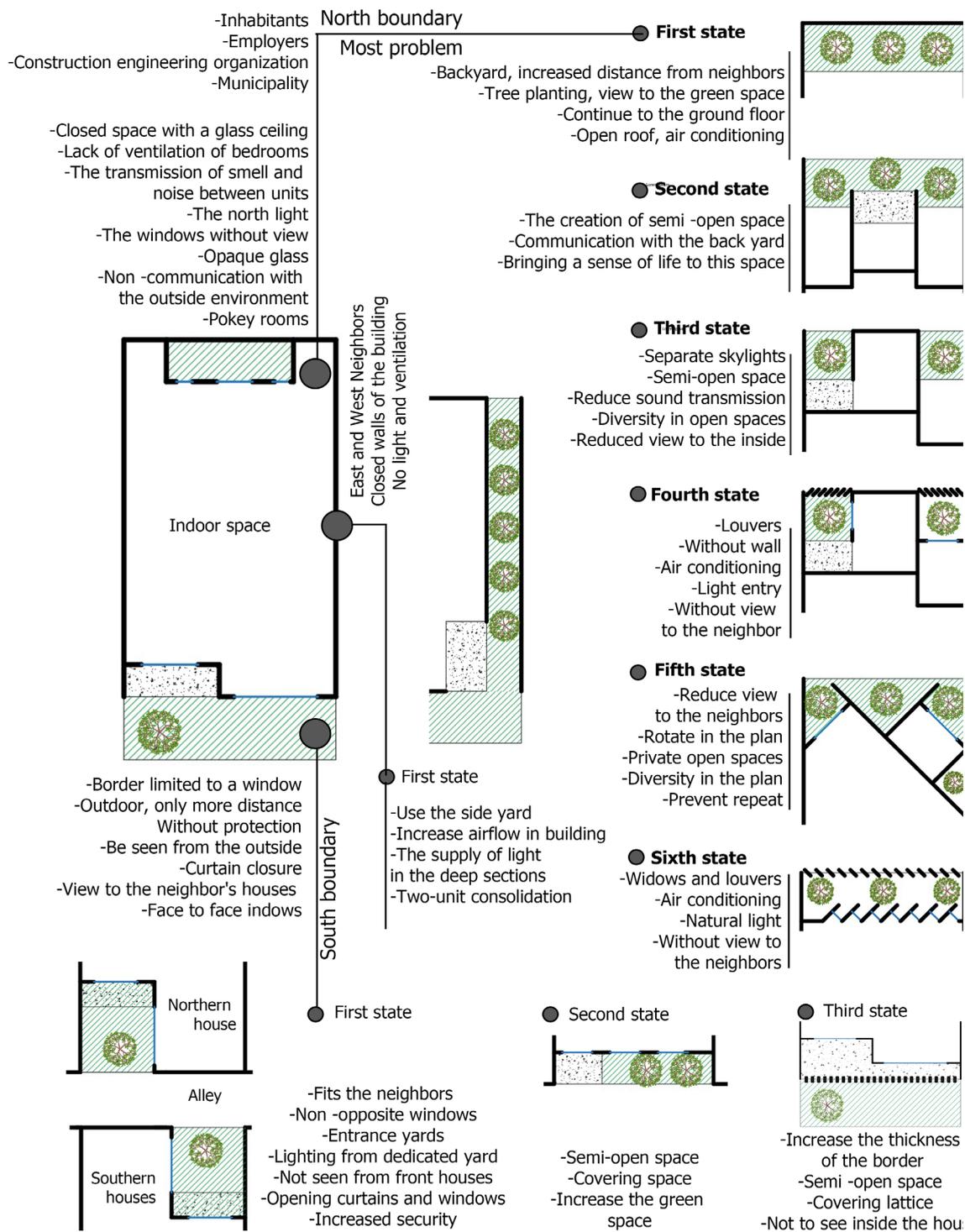


Fig. 9. An example of proposed options for relating the inside with the outside (building boundary). Source: Authors.

Table 7. Physical representation of the criteria extracted for desirable collective spaces based on residents' views. Source: Authors.

Discovered criteria	Sub- criteria	The Physical Representation of Criteria	
Intimacy	Joint activities	Gathering together, TV axis, fireplace, windows, or semi-open spaces	Centralism, axism Change and variety in the guests' sitting situations, group games
Separation/ Privacy	Access without disturbance	Separation of public, personal, and middle spaces	Integration and separation, separated guest space, hidden access
Connection	Access to middle spaces	Kitchen, closet, w.c	The possibility of moving guests between several spaces increases intimacy Porous walls, open and close ability, without doors

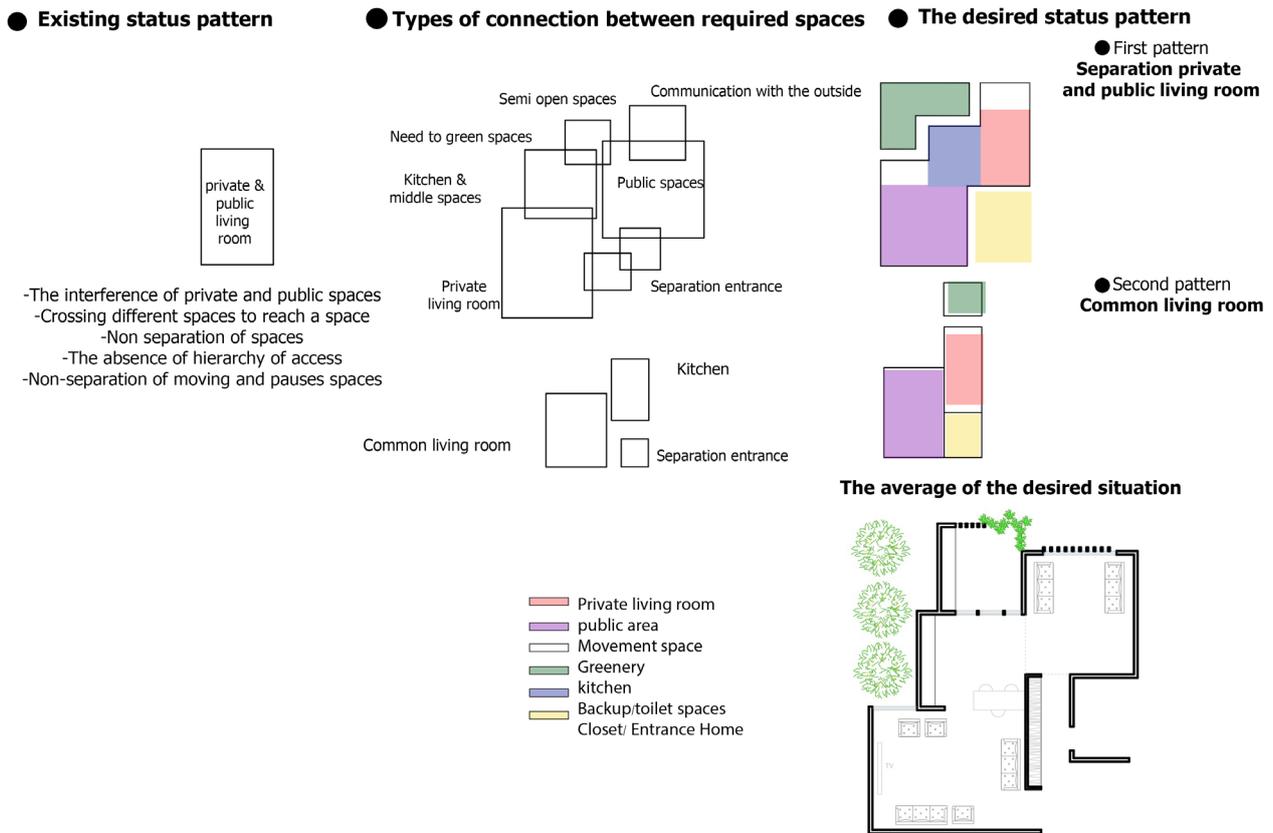


Fig. 10: Pattern of existing status in relation to primary patterns of desirable collective spaces based on residents’ needs. Source: Authors.

Table 8. Physical representation of criteria extracted for desirable kitchen based on residents’ views. Source: Authors.

Discovered criteria	Sub- criteria	The Physical Representation of Criteria	
Be safe	Direct access	Pantry, dining space, cooking, private open or semi-open space with access to cooking space	Multi parts
	Indirect access	Hidden access to the home entrance, without being seen, with access to the living room	
	Without access	W.C., dirty space with unpleasant noise, unpleasant feeling	
Be cheerful	Bright	Controlled daylight, enough light at night	Brightness of the hidden corners of the kitchen, wide lights but dim and hidden
	View	Trees, natural views, distance from other buildings	Gardening
Facilities	Equipment and body	Coordination between the number, type, and space required of each device with the kitchen/ anticipated needs	
Access	Heart of home	Access to any parts of the home without disturbance to others	Strategic situation

• Semi-open spaces

This space is highly important for defining the boundary between the inside and the outside, bringing inside a part of the outside, reducing daily concerns, reviving the lost courtyard, and performing various functions (Table 6). As suggested by

residents, this space is subdivided into four sections of collective sitting space, communication with nature, support interior spaces such as drying up clothes, and cooking sections (Figs. 8 & 9).

• Collective spaces

This space is actually created for the use of the

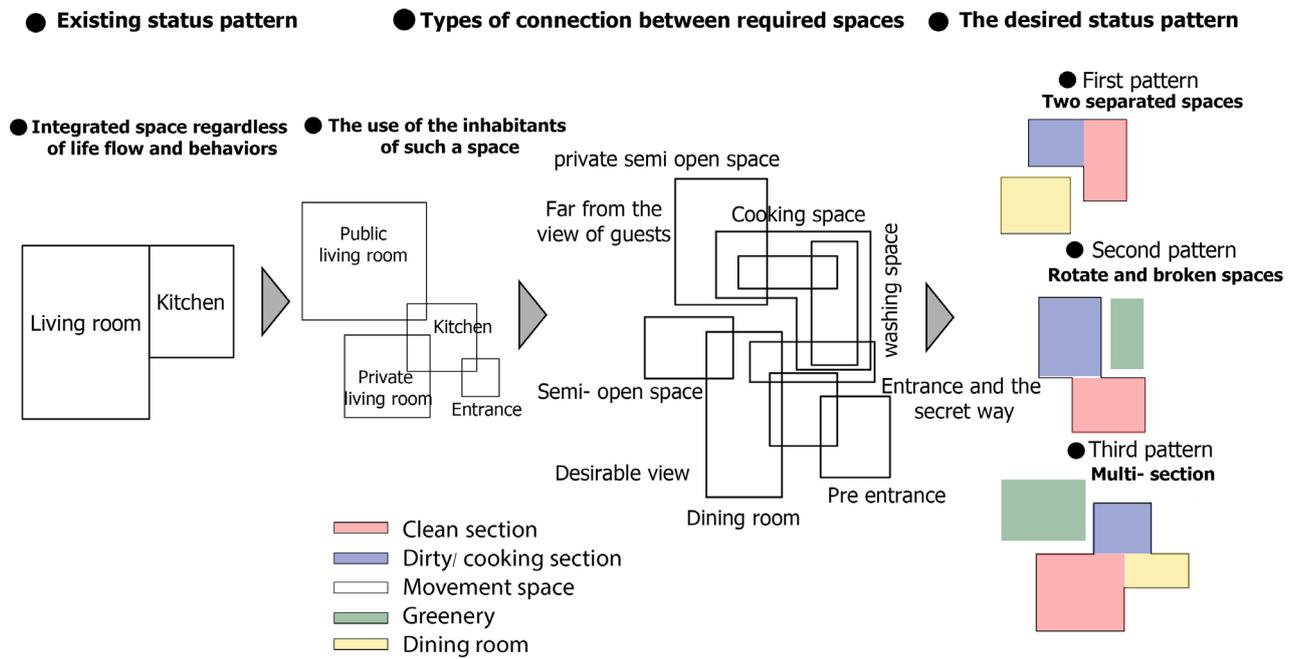


Fig. 11 . Pattern of existing conditions in relation to primary patterns of a desirable kitchen based on residents' views. Source: Authors.

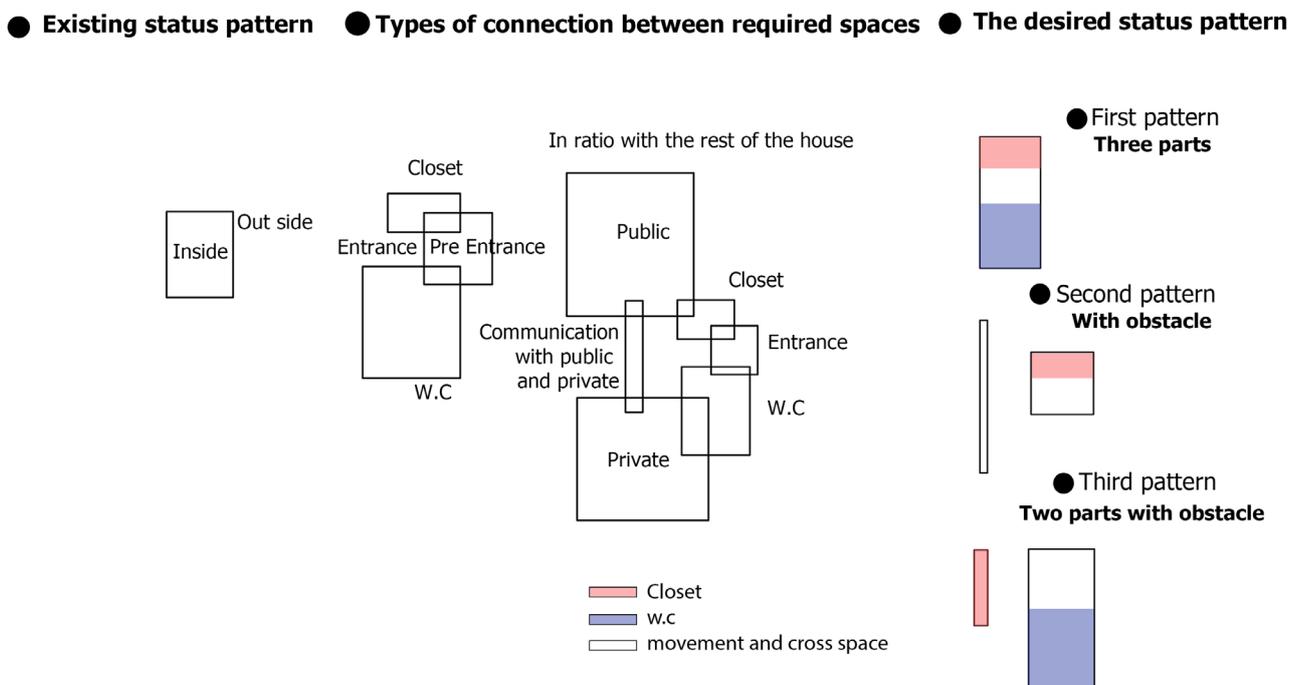


Fig. 12. Pattern of existing conditions in relation to primary patterns of a desirable home entrance based on residents' views. Source: Authors.

Table 9. Physical representation of criteria extracted for desirable home entrance based on residents’ views. Source: Authors.

Discovered criteria	Sub- criteria	The Physical Representation of Criteria	
Protection	View	Hierarchy, everything is not sight, protection of home and family	
	Safety/ access	With access	Enough space for equipment, shoes, and clothes
	Waiting space	Without access	Stranger people, being alone at home, controlling the access of children
Be unique	One family, hav control	Having a shared entrance for many families is not a pleasure The entrance is more than a door, before and after spaces are in the entrance	
Inviter	First impression of beauty	Visual appeal, happy colors, symbol of inside, sitting and waiting space, dirty space without moving the dust to home	

members of the family, gatherings, increasing intimacy, and talks between residents of homes (Table 7). Notably, the view line and the direction of the space are not related to private spaces. This collective space is divided into two main private sitting and public hall sections for guests (Fig. 10).

• **Kitchen**

As suggested by residents, the kitchen is one of the main spaces in a home; it serves as the heart of the home or makes it warm and thus helps form the family (Table 8). As a main middle area, this space provides access to both private and public fronts. For residents, the sense of cooking is a sign of the presence of people around each other, which may also improve or reduce life stresses (Fig. 11).

• **Entrance**

According to the residents, the home entrance provides the first encounter and is the most important place for influencing the guest, which indicates the dignity of the home (Table 9 & Fig. 12).

Conclusion

Following a gap emerging in research between home and home architecture and apartment homes in recent years, a missing link was found to relate these two areas. For this a major question was raised: How can the architectural patterns of apartment homes and the main spaces constituting them be improved to meet residents’ needs based on the meaning of home? How can these patterns be converted into generalizable patterns

of various forms? To answer this question, the residents’ views of home meaning in the middle texture of Kermanshah City, which could describe the architectural texture and its relation with the existing situation, were extracted. Then, the most frequent patterns constituting home were discovered and then some options of these patterns were proposed for improving the existing situation. In sum, these proposed patterns were provided to the residents to investigate their satisfaction in real time. Therefore, the study’s novelty lies in the linking of the indicators discovered in research and the criteria proposed by residents, as well as in measuring these indicators in real time. The goal was also to provide patterns used in designing apartment homes based on home-meaning criteria for residents (Fig. 13). In sum, the key point is that there is no single scenario for the nature of being home. Moreover, the sequencing of these homes has not been defined either. One would suggest that the meaning of home for residents does not just cover a set of spaces with certain dimensions and standards; rather, it relates to the flow of life in these spaces and provides rules that change this flow. In fact, home spaces change physically proportionate to residents’ life needs. In other words, one specific form cannot be used for all functions on all scales. Failure to focus on this will not only cause repetition instead of patterns but also create dissatisfaction among residents and cause them to turn away from their living places from the meaning of being

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