

Persian translation of this paper entitled:
سیر تطور سازماندهی فضایی مسکن بر اساس جایگاه اجتماعی زنان
(قیاس تطبیقی مسکن ایرانی و اروپایی)
published in this issue of journal

Original Research Article

The Evolution of Housing Spatial Organization Based on the Social Status of Women (A Comparative Analogy of Iranian and European Housing)

Zahra Akoochekian¹, Seyed Abbas Yazdanfar², Neda Sadat Sahragard Monfared^{3*}

1. Master of Architecture Researcher, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, Iran University of Science and Technology, Iran.
2. Associate Professor, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, Iran University of Science and Technology, Iran.
3. Assistant Professor, Department of Architecture, Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, Iran University of Science and Technology, Iran.

Received: 06/12/2022 ;

accepted: 01/05/2023 ;

available online: 23/09/2023

Abstract

Problem Statement: There has always been an interaction between the spatial structure of the house and social and cultural factors. Women and their new positions at home and in society have been influential factors in house structure changes in the last few centuries. As a place that plays a crucial role in identifying and reproducing social values, the house has always changed to express and harmonize with the residents' beliefs. Since today the trend of changes in women's roles and social identity is changing rapidly, examining the developments in the past few centuries, identifying the influential factors, strategies applied, and the results of these changes can be an excellent way to predict and present patterns suitable for the house in the future.

Research objective: The purpose of this article is to compare the spatial structure between the houses of the 17th to 21st century in Europe with the houses of Iran from the Qajar period until now by focusing on the social status of women. For this purpose, the evolution of spatial organization in Iran and Europe was examined separately then the differences and similarities between them in the same period were scrutinized.

Research method: This study employed the interpretive-historical method, logical reasoning, and comparative analogy to investigate the relationship and the two-way effects of the spatial structure of the house and the social position of women by using the longitudinal and transverse analogy.

Conclusion: The results show that there is a direct relationship between women's social status improvement and the composition of the gender domains of the home. With the improvement of this position, the spatial quality of feminine territories has increased, and many gender valuations of spaces and functions have been eliminated, which has finally led to the balancing of gender roles in the home.

Keywords: *House spatial organization, Women, Gender domain, Women's social status.*

Introduction

The houses are the product of the social, political, and economic factors dominant in their time

and are an important indicator for evaluating the culture, aesthetics, form, and architectural style. Throughout history, there has always been

* This article extracted from Master thesis of "Zahra Akoochekian" entitled "Residential complex design and women's social sustainability (Case study: Isfahan)" that under supervision of Dr. "Seyed- abbas Yazdanfar" and Dr. "Neda Sadat Sahragard Monfared

"which has been done at Iran University of Science and Technology, Tehran, Faculty of Architecture and Environmental Design, Tehran, Iran in 2022.

**Corresponding author:+989125100124, Neda_monfared@iust.ac.

a significant difference between the activities of men and women (Lang, 2009, 139), which has led to changes in the continuity of public and private spaces, the degree of confinement of spaces within the home, and the relationship between the home and the street (Varmaghani & Soltanzadeh, 2015). The social position and livelihood roles have been very influential in society's view of women and in defining the physical structures of the home for them (Fisher, 2002); therefore, it can be said that the social status of women is influenced by factors such as culture, gender values, independence, and financial participation, which result in a qualitative change in the participation and presence of both genders in social spheres.

Today, given the change in the basis of women's position and the acceptance of both genders in social and private matters as a global process, there is a need to reconsider the prevailing pattern of housing and gender-based space divisions in the home. This is because the residents' environmental perception is related to their behavior and participation in the environment (Monfared & Yazdanfar, 2015). Examining the course of changes and observing social effects on the structure of homes throughout history can provide an effective solution for improving homes available to designers. Therefore, in this study, we will investigate the course of the evolution of women's position and the change in the gender valuation of homes in Iran and Europe in a similar time interval. This will be done through a longitudinal comparison of the evolution of Iranian and European housing separately, based on each historical trend. In a horizontal comparison, we will focus on the differences in the spatial organization of Iranian and European homes with regard to the position of women in these two cultures.

The main question of this study is to investigate how the change in women's social position throughout history has affected the spatial organization of homes. Furthermore, the reverse effects of the continuity of the domains of gender-based spaces on the position of women in society will also be examined.

Research Background

To examine the bi-directional influence of women's status and the architectural form of homes, the present research is conducted in two parts: sociology and spatial analysis of home architecture. Firstly, changes in and the importance of women's social status are discussed, the indicators of architectural form are introduced and their respective reasons for importance are identified. Then, by comparing European homes from the 17th century to the present day and Iranian homes from the Qajar period till now, this trend of changes is analyzed, as well as the relationship between the components. Sample selection for the research in Europe, due to the vastness of the area, is based on the starting point of social changes, architectural developments, and the dominant social class of society. Therefore, efforts have been made to present more comprehensive sample documents and specifically the beginning of social changes in the desired period.

• Women's Social and Family Status

For a long time in many societies, women were responsible for household chores, and the home was seen as a feminine domain. However, gradual changes in the social position of women in recent centuries have led to a discussion about gender roles and breaking stereotypes in this area, and the home and society have become two distinct and socially different areas for women, challenging their gender identity "as a personal experience of being male or female and creating a distinction between the two genders" (Zibaiejad, 2010, 26). These changes in female identity have redefined new gender roles in both areas and sociology has overlooked some important aspects of female roles (Alasvand, 2009, 223). Therefore, in addition to physical differences, the attitudes of societies or different social groups toward women's domestic and social roles are among the important issues in the study of social transformations, social movements, and women's studies (Serajzadeh & Javaheri, 2007). Improving and enhancing women's social identity leads to their greater participation in social activities, emotional

empowerment, courage in life, and coping with events (Shayegan & Rostami, 2012), and thus they can seek new social bases, which requires changes and harmony in traditional roles of all family members with new conditions.

It should be noted that these changes are not only related to recent years. Livelihood has always had a significant impact on the internal relationships of households. Separation or connection of the base of women and men in the family determines the segmentation and importance of each space in terms of dimensions, decorations, and location. In areas where occupations such as animal husbandry, fishing, and trade were common and these jobs were only done by men in the house, the home space becomes a confined space with complete segregation of public and private spaces, and each space will have a specific definition and function without any change. However, when there is interactive livelihood through occupations such as agriculture, gardening, and handicrafts in which women have an active presence and participation in social fields, the interaction between the two genders unites them and the home spaces become more open with less spatial segregation, and the main spaces of the house will have the potential for multiple functions in different seasons and times (Varmaghani & Soltanzadeh, 2015).

But the only issue is not the exit or permanent presence of women in the home space and their connection to social positions. Although the average time of working mothers and fathers in home spaces is the same, their experiences of space are different. Men often seek a special place in the home space and are less involved in household issues, and in fact, they are not aware of some responsibilities. While women are always involved in household chores (Ahrentzen, Levine & Michelson, 1989), and it seems that the structure of homes with spatial segregation and gender valuation of spaces exacerbates this issue. Because the segregation and spatial quality of home spaces, by creating gender domains as spaces that each person considers

themselves belonging to, and defines their position and duties based on it, plays an important role in the perception of the environment and the adaptability of the residents.

• Physical Components Affecting Gendered Spaces in the Home

To examine the structure of a house and determine its gendered spaces, the gendered function of each space must be identified, and it must be determined whether the spaces are associated with both genders and specifically belong to women. Additionally, the degree of spatial relationship between these spaces should be assessed to measure the level of gender segregation in the space under study. Therefore, in this study, the public and private areas of the house were selected as spaces with multiple genders, and the kitchen and women's open spaces were chosen as women's spaces. The changes in the spatial and visual relationships and the function of these spaces over a specific period will be examined:

1. Public space: The clearer the position of individuals in the public space of the home, the better the gender roles are stabilized. By participating in and contributing to public spheres, we can expect their participation in household affairs to increase, making it very effective in social acceptance and acceptance of new roles (Amole, 2012). Also, the majority of gender beliefs have provided higher quality spaces and better positions in the public sphere of the house for men with the perspective of "separating the ideal domains of the house," and the trend of changing this position has been related to women's access to social positions in recent centuries (Mallett, 2004).

2. Private space: The traditional gender perspective considers women as belonging to the inner or private space of the house and sees the expansion of their relationship with other spaces as a symbol of gender power and management of household affairs (Bahrami Baroomand & Esfandiari, 2018). On the other hand, the complete separation of the private sphere from the public sphere of the house and the separation of these spaces into completely

separate spaces leads to the complete separation of the managerial roles of family members, which increases the need for direct supervision of each space for family management. This is often considered a feminine responsibility for teaching, caring for, and supervising children and disabled individuals. In fact, with the complete separation of spaces, this responsibility is assigned only to women rather than being a collective function (Mallett, 2004).

3. Service area (kitchen): The permanent activity of the residents in the kitchen and the connection of all family members with this space has made this interior space have special features compared to other spaces (Tabatabaei & Orangnia, 2016). This space has always been known as a women's domain in the house and in traditional views, it was considered the center of women's activities and the main place for the emergence of feminine qualities. However, with the changes that have taken place in the gender identity of women, one can observe the changes that have taken place in this space, and it should be considered a key space.

4. Women's dedicated outdoor space (adjacent to the service area or private area): The relationship between women's domains and open and semi-open spaces is important in two ways. From a privacy perspective, women's use of public open spaces in the home is limited and their connection with the free space takes away desirable air and sunlight. On the other hand, open and semi-open spaces adjacent to the kitchen have always played an important role in the preparation, production, and storage of food (Akoochekian, Yazdanfar & Sahragard Monfared, 2022). Additionally, this space improves the spatial quality of the kitchen and its related environments.

5. Separation of public and private areas: Increasing spatial connections and creating a cohesive space with increased sensory connections and interactions among residents will result in other members showing more interest in participating and supporting the work done by one of the family members (Kwon & Kim, 2017). Class differences between household

areas, by reducing sensory connections between residents, prevent interaction and participation of family members. On the other hand, this creates privacy for certain parts of the house and provides comfort for the residents. However, it should be noted that if this spatial separation occurs between semi-private-public areas and the private area of the house, it will weaken the interactive performance of the house (Segalen, 1991, 262).

• The Social Position of Women and the Separation of Domestic Spheres in Europe

The issue of women's inferiority and confinement to motherhood and housekeeping duties, as well as the explicit designation of a patriarchal position in the family in Europe, was mostly due to religious teachings in the Middle Ages. During the late Middle Ages and the 15th century, households were centered around an open hall with a large bed at the upper end for men or nobles, reflecting the patriarchal values of the Middle Ages. Gradually, over the following centuries, the importance of the main hall diminished, and activities that took place in the main hall were moved to functional spaces such as the kitchen and other service areas, and in the early 18th century, with the complete separation of the bedroom from the main hall, the best room was moved to the upper floor of the house (Johnson, 2015). Although most of these categorizations had a religious foundation for establishing patriarchy in society, classifying individuals' positions had nevertheless led to order, discipline, and increased supervision of all family members, and during this period, according to Evans, "women have been lifelong members of the kitchen and dining hall" (Johnson, 2003, 149).

In the next session, we will investigate this topic more precisely by comparing homes from the 17th to the 20th century and tracing the changes and separation of interior spaces. Until the beginning of the 20th century, the separation of spaces in the home strengthened the trend of role separation. In the 17th-century house plan (Fig. 1), the absence of a dining room and the placement of the kitchen in

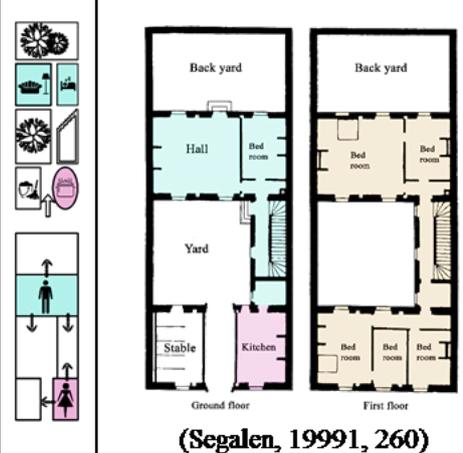
Indicator		17th century house sketched by Lome'o	
Service Zone		. A large space near the entrance of the house	
Public Zone		. The existence of a multi-functional space called the hall	
Separation of public and private zone with elevation differences		. Complete separation of public and private areas using floors	
Private Zone		. Semi-continuous private space	
The amount of spatial connection		. Lack of connection between the space for women's activities and the public and private areas of the house	
Outdoor		. Lack of a dedicated open space for women's activities	
Social position of women		. Restricting women's activities to household chores and childcare	

Fig. 1. Analysis of the gender territories of the 17th century house . Source: Authors.

a completely separate space away from the “hall,” which is a multi-functional space, and the design of rooms in a separate floor away from the public area of the house were features of that period. In addition, a separate open space for the kitchen was not intended as a functional and private women’s space. After that, with slight changes in the 18th-century house plans, homes moved somewhat towards more exclusive spaces (Fig. 2). In these homes, there were no separate corridors connecting the rooms, and to get to one room, one had to pass through consecutive rooms (Segalen,1991, 260-261). Furthermore, at that time, a separate space for men emerged as a workspace or private meeting space in homes, which caused a change in the location of the kitchen from the proximity of the entrance to the end of the house, marking the beginning of hiding household activities.

The concept of private space with a separation of workspace and home first emerged in the early 19th century. Prior to this, there was no small, private space for the family, but rather a large combination of work and residential spaces that also housed servants and staff (Heynen, 2005, 6-7). However, in the 19th century home, spaces were completely separated and functionally differentiated, fulfilling specific needs.

During this period, two-story homes with Victorian and Edwardian styles prevailed, featuring two areas: a women’s work area and a formal and respectable public area. Therefore, private, and public rooms in both houses and apartments were kept separate and distinct, and heavy household activities such as laundry and cooking were conducted in the back and the largest room and reception hall in the front of the house, respectively (Fig. 3). Despite adding amenities such as hot water and electric lighting, this design style created a notion that women’s domestic work should take place in the most private part of the house and be removed from public view. As kitchens became smaller and spaces for interaction and dining were removed from this environment, the kitchen had no other function for the family besides cooking (Fig. 4). Furthermore, Coward (1984) believes that since all the ground floor spaces are used by non-residents, these spaces must always be kept clean and tidy, resulting in women spending more time on household chores in addition to the exorbitant cost of decorations and furniture. As a result, this design not only failed to improve gender divisions and women’s position in the home but had the opposite effect (Roberts, 1990).

After the separation of the professional sphere from the home, gradually the home became a feminine

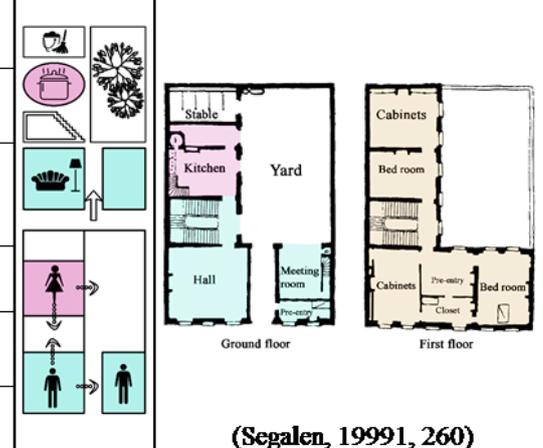
Indicator		18th century house sketched by Brisar	
Service Zone		. The kitchen is located in the rear section of the house . It is a large space separate from other areas	 <p>(Segalen, 19991, 260)</p>
Public Zone		. There is a multi-purpose space called the hall . There is a dedicated work/guest space for men	
Separation of public and private zone with elevation differences		. Clear separation of public and private areas using floors	
Private Zone		. Semi-continuous private space	
The amount of spatial connection		. There is no connection between women's activity space and the public and private areas of the house	
Outdoor		. There is no dedicated open space for women's activities	
Social position of women		. Restricting women's activities to household chores and childcare	

Fig. 2. Analysis of the gender territories of the 18th century house. Source: Authors.

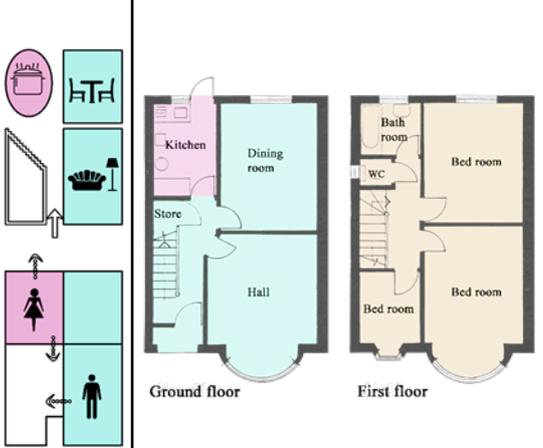
Indicator		19th century Victorian two-story house plan	
Service Zone		. The kitchen is located at the end of the house, away from view and in the interior space . Small space with inappropriate spatial quality	 <p>(Roberts, 1990)</p>
Public Zone		. Completely separated, eliminating the semi-public-private living room	
Separation of public and private zone with elevation differences		. Completely separated the public and private areas by using levels	
Private Zone		. The private spaces are fully segregated	
The amount of spatial connection		. There is limited connection between the women's activity space and the public area of the house, with spaces connected through a common joint	
Outdoor		. There is no dedicated open space for women's activities	
Social position of women		. Restricting women's activities to household chores and child-rearing . Attempting to remove household chores from public perception	

Fig. 3. Analysis of the Gendered Territories of the Victorian Two-Storyed House. Source: Authors.

sphere and a place for taking care of children, and the focus shifted more towards the child as the center of family life. In the late 19th century, on the one hand, in the middle and poor classes, men's participation in the home and their masculine identity were considered contradictory to each other, and on the other hand, in the affluent classes, early movements emerged to reduce male domination and empower women in the environment (Heynen, 2005, 8-9).

Therefore, affluent, and middle-class women sought to gain power in the home and family by changing their way of life and details, and they transformed the home space into a maternal-dominated space (Miller, 2005, 201). In the midst of this, feminist movements also protested against the separation of the home sphere from the public sphere and the separation of domestic economy from political economy, calling for "a complete change in the spatial design and



Fig. 4. Victorian kitchen. Source: www.pinterest.com.

material culture of American homes, neighborhoods, and cities.” Supporters of this movement argued that the built environment should provide conditions that reflect equality in home production and reproduction (Vestbro & Horelli, 2012).

In the 20th century, towards the end of the Victorian era, relative income balance, the growth of the middle class, an increase in the number of working women, and the complete elimination of domestic servants led to young wealthy couples having no significant difference in living conditions from lower-income couples. As a result, men took on tasks that had previously been the exclusive domain of women. These changes led to increased partnerships between couples and women’s participation in management and decision-making for their lives, going beyond the role of homemaker (Segalen, 1991, 265). Also, according to Singleton and Maher (2004, 228), a new definition of masculinity emerged in Western societies in the 1960s with greater participation of women in the workforce. In this new definition, the ideal husband is one who is employed but also participates in domestic tasks such as childcare, cooking, and cleaning, thus transforming the home

from an exclusively feminine space to one that also defines masculine identity (Gorman-Murray, 2008). Gradually, after the end of World War II and the emergence of modern architecture, new patterns for house construction were introduced that had almost identical layouts and spatial arrangements. In this type of design, the house was divided into two parts, private and public, with the public area consisting of a living room, toilet, and dining area around the kitchen, and connected to the private area, which consisted mostly of bedrooms and bathrooms, by a corridor or staircase (Fig. 5). Although this design brought women closer to the center of the home and created a direct connection between the kitchen and the main living area, it appears that the kitchen and adjacent services were the only spaces assigned to women in this spatial arrangement (Fig. 6). According to McCoy (1989), the courtyard-kitchen-living room triangle was designed as a “domestic station” for women to provide services and supervise children. In this design, there was practically no space left for men to contribute to domestic tasks (Havenband, 2002).

In the second half of the twentieth century, research on housing in Norway showed that with the increasing presence of women in social and professional fields, homes were no longer suitable spaces for homemakers and child-rearing, and the needs of residents and the use of spaces had undergone significant changes. At this time, the living room was no longer the main space of the house and was only used as a TV room, and other activities had been transferred to other rooms. Kitchens also encompassed a wider range of activities other than cooking and needed a larger space for gathering and various activities, and it had to be considered as a second living room so that this space would be the largest in the house after the living room (Manum, 2006). As a result, modern architecture, with much criticism of the patriarchal and individualistic social system, attempted to change the space of the house by creating open and integrated spaces and modern kitchens that are compatible with the new way



Fig. 5. Images of kitchens and limited connection with the living space in the first half of the 20th century. Source: www.homeyou.com.

Indicator		First half of the 20th century house plan	
Service Zone		.Improving the spatial quality of the kitchen by expanding its dimensions, providing access to open and semi-open spaces, and adding semi-professional workspaces to this area of the house	
Public Zone		.Fully separated spaces .Increasing the importance of the semi-public/private space of the living room	
Separation of public and private zone with elevation differences		. Complete separation of public and private areas using floors	
Private Zone		. Fully separated private space	
The amount of spatial connection		. Strengthening the connection between women's activity space and the public area of the house by directly connecting the public area and kitchen to each other Eliminating domestic help and initiating men's participation in household chores	
Outdoor		. Adding a secluded courtyard to the kitchen space for women's activities	<p>Ground floor (Loffhouse,2012,111)</p>
Social position of women		.Start of women's presence in social arenas and professional work .Gradual elimination of domestic workers	

Fig. 6. Analysis of the gender territories of the house in the first half of the 20th century. Source: Authors.

of life, designing the kitchen and living room as an integrated space so that the combination of the functions of the two spaces would be possible, and proper control would be established over both spaces (Fig. 7). Initial designs for mobile and flexible living spaces were also presented to reduce some of the women's household burdens (Heynen, 2005, 18). At this time, in addition to the changes that occurred in the public sphere of the house, rooms were also directly related to the living room, and the level of sensory communication and supervision between these two spaces increased more than before.

• The Social Position of Women and the Separation of Domestic Spheres in Iran

Almost simultaneously, we can also witness such changes in the categorization of homes and male and female domains in Iran. The shift from the courtyard house pattern to modern homes, considering that courtyard houses are one of the best models of homes for climatic reasons, is one of the results of reducing the segregation of men's and women's activities. In fact, centralizing the kitchen in modern homes has been aimed at increasing women's participation in activities other than housework (Lang, 2009, 139).

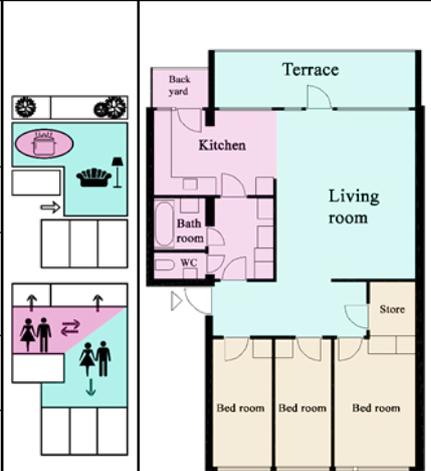
Indicator		Second half of the 20th century house plan	
Service Zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Increase in the importance of the kitchen and its transformation into a multi-functional space . Improvement of the spatial quality of the kitchen through lighting, ventilation, connection with outdoor space, and modern technologies 	 <p style="text-align: right;">(Manum, 2006)</p>
Public Zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Combination of the kitchen and the public area of the house as a cohesive space 	
Separation of public and private zone with elevation differences		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . More prevalence of single-story houses and increased connection between public and private areas 	
Private Zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Separation of private areas . Direct access to the public area of the house 	
The amount of spatial connection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Gender neutralization of functional and public spaces . Increase in interactive facilities in the environment 	
Outdoor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Integration of the kitchen with an exclusive outdoor space 	
Social position of women		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Expanding women's presence in social and professional fields . Paying attention to women's issues and helping improve their living conditions in line with modern lifestyles 	

Fig. 7. Analysis of the gender territories of the house in the second half of the 20th century. Source: Authors.

In the introspective architecture of the Qajar era, religious beliefs and the veil and clothing of women were among the main reasons for the separation of gender domains and the expansion of male domains (Armaghan, Soltanzadeh & Irani Behbahani, 2015). The division of space architecture into internal and external styles was considered a solution to create a veil and keep women away from male spaces. Therefore, women's identity and social status were only recognized as housewives and mothers, and the kitchen was the main place for women in a location away from the main spaces of the house (Fig. 8).

During this period, houses were built as single-story and double-story buildings. However, as Foucault (2005) also points out, the exercise of male power over the family and women through hierarchical architecture and introspective architecture was to care for and protect inner femininity (Bahrami Baroomand & Esfandiari, 2018). Thus, the separation of women's and men's domains was through the use of courtyards, which completely cut off the spatial connection between different parts of the house. However, by creating a separate women's open space indoors and a separate functional space near the kitchen, a suitable position was provided for



Fig. 8. Qajar era kitchen. Source: blog.termehtravel.com

women to use the free environment (Fig.9). Other factors, such as the existence of the royal court as a male space and its location in the best part of the house, as well as different internal and external decorations in the Qajar era, confirmed the gender values in the house spaces during this period. During the late Qajar period, due to the expansion of communication and travel by women in the royal court to Europe and the introduction of Western culture to the country, gradually the necessary conditions for the promotion of women's awareness

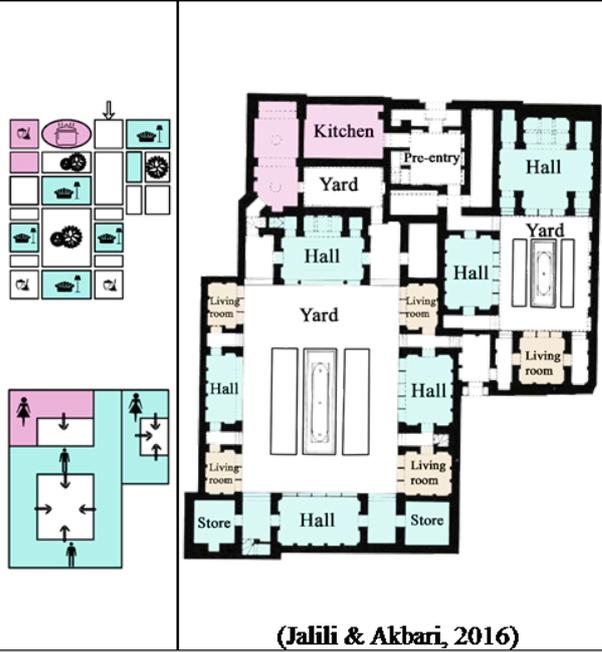
Indicator		Qajar house plan	
Service Zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . The kitchen is located near the entrance of the house . There is a large completely separate and enclosed space 	 <p style="text-align: right;">(Jalili & Akbari, 2016)</p>
Public Zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Complete separation of gender domains and allocation of specific spaces for male and female activities . Valuation of gendered spaces with different placements and decorations for each domain 	
Separation of public and private zone with elevation differences		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Creation of a level difference between the courtyard and the interior with a half-story height 	
Private Zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Semi-continuous private space . Distribution of private spaces among the public spaces in the house 	
The amount of spatial connection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Lack of connection between the kitchen and other public and private spaces in the house 	
Outdoor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . The existence of a secluded courtyard inside and a kitchen for female activities 	
Social position of women		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Restricting women's activities to household chores and childcare 	

Fig. 9. Analysis of the gender territories of the Qajar column house - Karezegahi of Yazd. Source: Authors.

were provided, which led to the disappearance of the inner and outer boundaries as feminine and masculine domains (Armaghan et al., 2015). Following this trend, in the Pahlavi I period, with the growth of women’s personal development and knowledge and their increased presence in social spheres, the traditional model of a housewife was gradually transformed, and the kitchen in modern architecture moved from the backyard and the margins of the courtyard to the center of the house, which resulted in the combination of feminine and masculine spaces and the creation of common spaces in the home, especially in lower and middle-class households (Kami Shirazi, Soltanzadeh & Habib, 2018). At this time, women’s roles as wife, mother, and house manager were accepted, and with the new spatial combination, their involvement in home spaces increased, allowing them to monitor and manage the activities of their children and spouse, ultimately leading to increased family communication, movement, and interaction (Bahrami Baroomand & Esfandiari, 2018).

In addition to this, the connection of this space to an open private space behind the kitchen had a significant impact on improving the spatial quality of the new kitchen, with improved lighting, appropriate ventilation, and access to this functional space. However, the entrance and view of the kitchen into a space called “Hall,” which was mostly a place for traffic, remained open and did not have direct access to the main spaces, which were often gathering places for family members (Fig. 10). After significant advancements in technology during the Second Pahlavi era, the increased use of electric kitchen appliances and new materials and designs transformed kitchens from dirty and dark spaces into luxurious and beautiful ones. This allowed family members to gather and showcase the interior space of the kitchen, which also became a symbol of taste and feminine art (Tabatabaei & Orangnia, 2016). Additionally, due to the modern lifestyle, there was a need for a greater connection between the kitchen and other main spaces in the home such as the living room, dining room, and reception

area. Therefore, by eliminating the hall space, the kitchen was directly connected to the living and dining rooms, which provided the possibility of watching television and communicating with other family members (Fig. 11). Finally, with increased interaction among family members and the expansion of ventilation technology, openings gradually emerged in the kitchen walls towards the living room (Fig. 12). However, in the design of these homes, the importance of private open space gradually disappeared, and this space was transformed into a closed or semi-closed space used only for storing food or washing dishes. Finally, kitchens have moved towards open kitchens by gradually removing walls. The process of changing the form, the level of privacy, and the interior space of the kitchen have had a significant impact on the satisfaction and performance improvement of users of the environment. In these kitchens, a complete sensory connection exists between the people inside and outside the kitchen, and the spaces have a full view of each other. Although the kitchen as a closed space can increase privacy for women during work, and reduce pollution and cooking odor, open kitchens have also gained attention from many

women due to sufficient light, appropriate view and landscape, and no interference in work relationships in the space (Azad-Armaki, 2014). Additionally, adding a semi-open space to many kitchens replaced the secluded courtyard due to the increase in the number of apartment buildings. However, this idea has not been able to provide the necessary privacy for women to use the open environment (Fig. 13). Nevertheless, today we can see that the use of the kitchen as a place for gathering, eating, watching TV, and even doing daily chores in side spaces has become common, and the presence of other family members in the area traditionally known as a women’s domain has gradually increased family members’ participation in many household chores, reducing women’s responsibilities and increasing their time for personal growth, creating the necessary grounds for more women to enter social arenas.

Research Method

In this study, to investigate the evolution of houses and the changes in women’s spaces and their relationship with women’s social status, firstly, by collecting house plans in the mentioned periods, the changes in the structure of houses were determined.

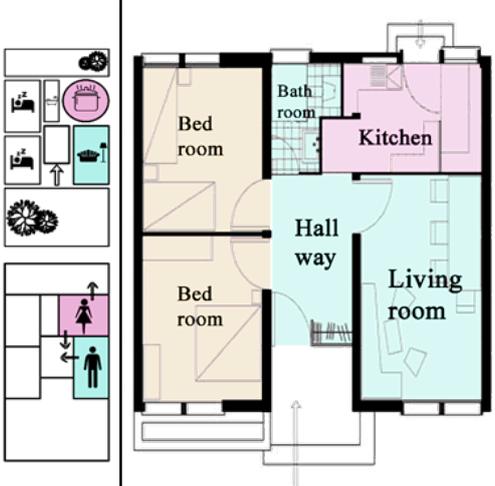
Indicator		First Pahlavi era house - Narmak	
Service Zone		. The kitchen is located at the end of the house, away from view and within the interior space	 <p>(Kami Shirazi et al, 2018)</p>
Public Zone		. The diminishing of gender boundaries with the introduction of modern architecture . Completely separate spaces	
Separation of public and private zone with elevation differences		. Direct connection of private space to the hall in single-story houses . Connection of private space to the private hall on the second floor in two-story houses	
Private Zone		. Completely separated private space	
The amount of spatial connection		. Creating limited connection between the kitchen and public/private areas by connecting spaces to the middle hall	
Outdoor		. The existence of a private courtyard in the kitchen space for feminine activities	
Social position of women		. The beginning of women’s presence in social fields and professional work . Increase in women’s participation in household affairs and management	

Fig. 10. Analysis of the gender territories of the first Pahlavi period house - Narmak. Source: Authors.

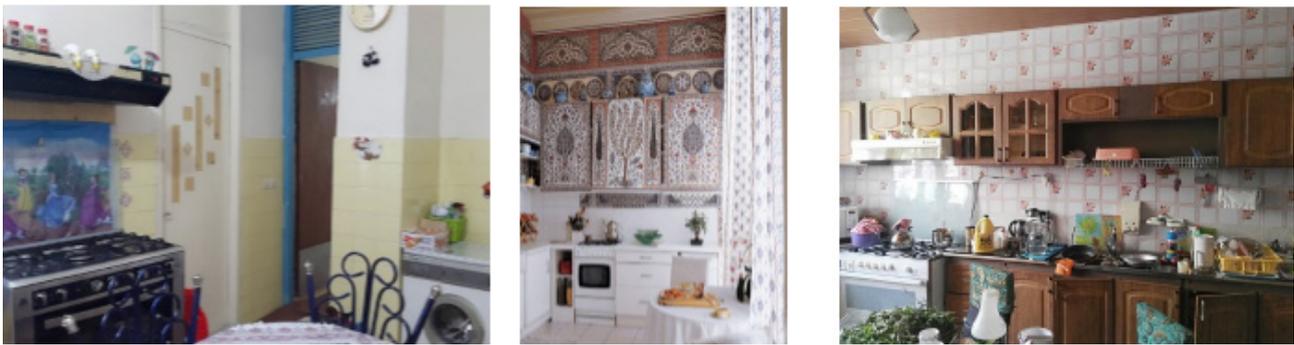


Fig. 11. Second Pahlavi kitchen. Source: www.pinterest.com; www.archline.

Indicator		Second Pahlavi era house - Mehran quay	
Service Zone		.Increasing the spatial quality of the kitchen by expanding its dimensions, providing access to open and semi-open spaces, and adding modern equipment and technology	<p>(Kami Shirazi et al, 2018)</p>
Public Zone		.Transforming the sitting area into a main and integral space of the house .Separating the public area for guests from the semi-private/public area of the sitting room	
Separation of public and private zone with elevation differences		—	
Private Zone		. Completely separated private space. . Distribution of private spaces among public spaces in the house	
The amount of spatial connection		. Strengthening the connection between the kitchen and the main living area by connecting them. . Possibility of communicating with other family members and watching TV from the kitchen	
Outdoor		. Elimination or reduction of the quality of the private courtyard space for women's activities	
Social position of women		. Expansion of women's presence in social and professional fields . Reduction of gender gap in affairs and household management	

Fig. 12. Analysis of the gender territories of the second Pahlavi house - Mehran Cove. Source: Authors.

In selecting samples to investigate the changes, library studies and examination of accessible historical documents, as well as samples mentioned in studies related to women's architecture, have been used. Despite the limited scope of the study area and the structural, material, and decorative differences in both Iran and Europe, the studied indices were most common in the mentioned areas, and the style and key point at the beginning of the process of change in each period were used as criteria for selecting case studies. Also, the most common style of house in each period was chosen

for study so that the existing conditions could be analyzed for the majority of residents. The method used in this stage is an interpretive-historical method, which, as a scientific method with the ability to objectively reconstruct and analyze past events (Saei, 2009), determines the employment status and social status of women in each period using available documents. After that, to create a link between the physical and theoretical concepts and to determine the related indices between these two areas using logical reasoning (Mirjani, 2006), the changes identified in the spatial structure of

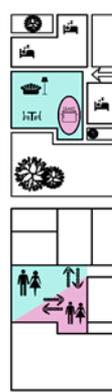
Indicator		Contemporary House - Homayouni House, Ma studio		
Service Zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> .Increasing importance of the kitchen and transforming it into a multifunctional space and second living room .Improving the facilities and ventilation of the kitchen with the introduction of new technologies and connecting the kitchen to the semi-open space 		
Public Zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Integration of the kitchen and public space as a cohesive space 		
Separation of public and private zone with elevation differences		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . More prevalence of single-story homes and increased connection between public and private spaces 		
Private Zone		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Separate private space . Direct access to the public space of the house 		
The amount of spatial connection		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Gender deconstruction of functional and public spaces . Increasing interactive facilities in the environment 		
Outdoor		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Connecting the kitchen to the exclusive outdoor space 		
Social position of women		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> . Empowering Women's Roles in Social and Professional Fields . Paying attention to women's issues and helping to improve their living conditions based on modern lifestyles 		

Fig. 13. Modern house plan - Homayouni house, Ma studio. Source: Authors.

houses, including the kitchen, public space, the presence of stairs (division of spaces with floor-level differences), private space, the degree of spatial communication and women’s open space, have been studied separately. Finally, by using a comparative approach, Iranian houses from the Qajar period to the present and European houses from the 17th century to the present have been compared longitudinally and latitudinally, and a conclusion has been drawn based on this comparison. This period was chosen due to the relative stability of gender realms in previous periods and the beginning of demands and changes in the cultural paradigm of women in this period. It is also worth mentioning that changes in the contemporary era have intensified and there is still no end in sight for them.

Discussion

After examining the trends of social evolution and gender roles in the home and their mutual influence, it can be understood that social position plays a significant role in determining gender

roles in the home. Changes in this position are mostly influenced by the economic system and the cultural values of gender in society. In societies where women have been involved in providing for the family, have participated in decision-making, and have had an active social presence, they have experienced fewer boundaries within the home, whereas, conversely, men have sought fewer privileges for themselves and had greater participation in family affairs. On the other hand, valuing gender has a significant impact on the placement and spatial quality of gendered activities and individuals. The placement of gender activities in the house plan shows that in times when there has been a significant gap between men and women, men have had larger and more decorated spaces as their exclusive place, while the kitchen, as the most essential women’s area, has always been located in a distant space with limited visibility and, in most cases, had a very limited spatial quality. This issue has often had reasons such as creating religious privacy for women in Iran and ignoring and concealing housework activities in Europe.

But after the start of women's movements to achieve equal rights and global attention to this issue, as well as an increase in women's entry into social spheres, we have witnessed gradual changes in these realms. In such a way that in each period, the relationship between gender spheres has increased, and a more balanced spatial quality is experienced in all home spaces. This has led to a strengthening of the sense of participation of all family members in household affairs and the strengthening of women's position in the family. It should be noted that the combination of semi-private-public spaces such as the living room and kitchen can be effective in achieving these goals, and public spaces such as the guest space should still be considered as an independent part of the home to maintain privacy and reduce the amount of work required in that space. Nowadays, most homes try to strengthen this relationship and make use of multi-functional spaces by combining indoor spaces such as the kitchen and living room and, in some cases, flexible spaces such as the bedroom and study. [Table 1](#) compares the similarities and differences between gender spheres in a similar time frame in Iran and Europe:

Conclusion

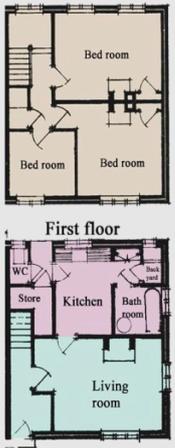
In the first period, which pertains to the Qajar era in Iran and the 17th and 18th centuries in Europe, when women did not have responsibilities beyond housekeeping, the kitchen was considered a marginal and completely separate space, organized in a way that eliminated visibility and communication with other areas of the house. Meanwhile, the queen's chambers and the special workrooms of men have often considered the best positions in the house and were heavily decorated and visually appealing. Another important point in this period was the continuity of private spaces and the lack of confinement of individual spaces with nested doors and the possibility of combining adjacent spaces, which increased interaction in this part of the house and facilitated the monitoring of

the spaces and other family members, including children or the elderly. Additionally, with increased sensory communication, such as visual and auditory communication between adjacent spaces, the participation of other family members in this area increased. Despite the similarities mentioned in this period, the distinction between public and private areas in houses differed in Iran and Europe. In Europe, the private area was often separated by being located on upper floors from other areas, but in Iran, private rooms were separated from other areas using hallways or secluded courtyards inside.

In the second period, which includes the First Pahlavi era and Victoria, with the entry of women into professional and social positions, the kitchen was placed for the first time in the interior space of the house. This was done to promote the managerial position of women in the household. However, the kitchen space, which had only a weak connection to the hall or entrance corridor and was designed as a very small space in Europe, could not provide a suitable response to women's needs. Also, other spaces in the house, both in the private and public spheres, such as living rooms, reception areas, and rooms, were completely separated and partitioned. In these conditions, all the mentioned spaces were only connected to a small space through the entrance door and minimized the spatial connection, resulting in spaces that only had one type of specific function. One of the differences in this period is the existence of an informal family gathering space called a "Living room" in Iran. In addition, in Iran, the private courtyard in the backyard of the house was used for service activities or as a private space for women's leisure. In this period, in Victorian homes, there was no space designated for intimate family gatherings, and family members were only connected during mealtimes.

In the third period, which coincides with the first Pahlavi era and the first half of the 20th century, women found a more established social position,

Table 1. Comparison of the evolution of gender territories in Iranian and European homes. Source: Authors.

Europe		Difference	Similarity	Iran	
Era	Plan			Plan	Era
18th century		<p>Europe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete separation of the private space of the house by placing it on upper floors. <p>Iran:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Separation of private space using hallways or inner courtyards 2. Existence of private courtyard and women's open space inside and near the kitchen 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete separation of the kitchen from other spaces 2. Incomplete separation of private spaces from each other 3. Lack of separate hall and pathway between spaces 4. Existence of a multifunctional space called the hall 5. Existence of an exclusive male space for work or meetings 		Qajar
19th century (Victorian and Edwardian)		<p>Europe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete separation of the private space of the house by placing it on upper floors. 2. Lack of family and informal interaction space in the house (living room). 3. Small kitchens and corridor-like spaces. <p>Iran:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existence of private open spaces for women in Iran (such as secluded courtyards) 2. The existence of informal family interaction spaces (such as living rooms and halls) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete separation of spaces from each other. 2. Transforming the kitchen into a small and hidden space. 3. Determining a specific function for each space. 4. The first direct connection of the kitchen with the interior space of the house. 		Pahlavi I
First half of the 20th century		<p>Europe:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete separation of the private space of the home by placing it on the upper floors. 2. Turning the kitchen into the centre of domestic and childcare activities by adding a workspace and a secluded courtyard to the kitchen. 3. Eliminating ornamental spaces such as the reception room. <p>Iran:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The existence of both formal and informal seating areas in the private space of homes. 2. The absence of dedicated workspaces for women. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The emergence of a separate informal family interaction space (living room). 2. Direct and limited connection of the kitchen to the main public spaces. 3. Transformation of the living room into the main and largest space of the house. 4. Introduction of technology and equipment into the kitchen. 		Pahlavi II
The second half of the 20th century		<p>The meaning difference does not exist between a women's approach and a men's approach.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reducing the significance of the living room as a multi-functional space. 2. Transforming the kitchen into a hub of gathering and a multi-functional space. 3. Increasing the size and importance of the quality and equipment of the kitchen. 4. Removing kitchen walls and creating a unified space with the living room. 		Contemporary

and the discussion of balancing household roles and dividing labor between spouses and other family members became more important. In this period, gender-specific boundaries for spaces such as the “Shah Neshin” and inner spaces disappeared in Iran. Additionally, in Iran and Europe, the direct connection of the kitchen to the main living area significantly increased the sensory relationship between the two spaces, and family members became more involved in both spaces than before. One of the weaknesses of this period was the lack of attention paid to a specific open space for women in Iran. The private courtyard was only intended for large houses, and this greatly reduced women’s direct relationship with open spaces. However, a different structure was proposed in Europe to reduce women’s household work. In this period, spaces such as reception rooms that had many decorations and required daily care were eliminated, and a new definition of women’s place in the home was proposed with the placement of three spaces—the kitchen, workroom, and private courtyard—next to each other as a triangle of homemaking. However, this spatial design failed to create a specific place for women, and placing them at the center of all household activities, along with a decrease in privacy, led to increased tension and mental fatigue for them.

In the fourth period, which describes the current status of homes, very similar patterns can be seen between Iran and Europe. During this time, the employment and effective presence of women in society seem obvious, and many efforts are being made to promote culture and distribute household chores. This has led to a combination of traditionally feminine spaces with public spaces in the home. Kitchens have now become multi-functional spaces that encompass many household activities. Additionally, with the significant addition of technology, improvement of materials, attention to the connection between the kitchen and semi-open space, and so on,

better spatial quality is being considered for it. This has led to all individuals participating in the activities that take place in this space and seeing themselves as part of them. However, the issue of reducing the connection between private and public areas of the home makes supervision, care, and educational activities for other family members, such as the elderly or difficult children, seem difficult. This is because, in these circumstances, parents and those responsible for household chores will not be able to simultaneously carry out care, household, and professional activities at home due to the lack of connection between spaces. Nevertheless, in recent years, the discussion of flexible spaces and combinable rooms has provided a suitable solution for this issue, but this solution is not widely used.

Finally, it seems that the processes and developments that have taken place in all areas of the household have resulted in a balanced distribution of domestic roles for all family members, making it easier for women to manage household affairs and reducing their burden of household duties. However, it cannot be said that the current household model is the best model for women, as there is still no suitable solution for issues such as privacy, women’s seclusion, and women’s care and support.

References List

- Ahrentzen, S., Levine, D. W. & Michelson, W. (1989). Space, time, and activity in the home: A gender analysis. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 9(2), 89-101.
- Akoochekian, Z., Yazdanfar, A. & Sahragard Monfared, N. (2022). *Identifying the model of women social sustainability in the context of housing design*. Social Life Cycle Assessment International Conference (S-LCA 2022), Aachen, Germany.
- Alasvand, F. (2009). *Naghsh-ha-ye jensiat-i* [Gender roles; Gender Identity and Roles]. Tehran: Presidential Office, Centre for Women and Family Affairs.
- Amole, D. (2012). Gender differences in user responses

- to students' housing. *Procedia-social and Behavioral Sciences*, (38), 89-99.
- Armaghan, M., Soltanzadeh, H. & Irani Behbahani, H. (2015). Redefining women's role in the family and its impact on the painting decoration and structure of aristocratic houses in Tehran during the Qajar era. *Bagh-e Nazar*, (34), 11-24.
 - Azad-Armaki, M. (2014). Apartemen neshini va ashpazkane dar Iran [Living in Apartment and kitchen in Iran]. *Cultural Studies and Communication*, (31), 0-63.
 - Bahrami Broomand, M. & Esfandiari, Z. (2018). The Symbolic Meaning of Spaces and Gender Messages: Women's Social Exclusion. *Haft Shahr*, 4(61), 94-107.
 - Fisher, H. (2002). *First Genus* (N. Safarianpour, Trans.). Tehran: Zaryab Publications.
 - Gorman-Murray, A. (2008). Masculinity and the home: a critical review and conceptual framework. *Australian Geographer*, 39(3), 367-379.
 - Havenband, L. K. (2002). Looking through the lens of gender: A postmodern critique of a modern housing paradigm. *Journal of Interior Design*, 28(2), 1-14.
 - Heynen, H. (Ed.). (2005). *Modernity and domesticity: tensions and contradictions: Negotiating domesticity: spatial productions of gender in modern architecture*. London: Routledge.
 - Jalili, T. & Akbari, S. (2016). *Baresi-ye Tahavolat-e Pelan-e Maskouni az Dore-ye Qajar ta Pahlavi-ye Dovom* [Investigating the evolution of residential plans from the Qajar era to the second Pahlavi era]. The first annual conference on architecture, urban planning, and urban management research. International Institute of Architecture, Mehrzad Shahr Urbanization, Mashhad.
 - Johnson, M. H. (2003). *Housing culture: traditional architecture in an English landscape*. London: Routledge.
 - Johnson, M. H. (2015). 3 English Houses, Materiality, and Everyday Life. *Archaeological Papers of the American Anthropological Association*, 26(1), 27-39.
 - Kami Shirazi, S. M., Soltanzadeh, H. & Habib, F. (2018). The Impact of lifestyle on Spatial Organization of Residential Architecture in Iran (Case study: Kitchen between Years 1304-1357 SH). *Women's Studies*, (2), 33-70.
 - Kwon, H. A. & Kim, S. (2017). Variation in the characteristics of everyday life and meaning of urban housing due to the transition of social structure: Focusing on articles published in lifestyle magazines. *Sustainability*, 9(8), 1298.
 - Lang, J. T. (2009). *Architecture for human behaviour: the nature of problem*. (A. Einifar, Trans.). Tehran: Tehran University Press.
 - Lofthouse, P. B. (2012). *The development of the English semi-detached house: 1750-1950*. Unpublished PhD Thesis. Department of Archaeology, University of York, England.
 - Mallett, S. (2004). Understanding home: a critical review of the literature. *The Sociological Review*, 52(1), 62-89.
 - Manum, B. (2006). *Apartment layouts and domestic life: the interior space and its usability: a study of Norwegian apartments built in the period 1930-2005*. Oslo: The Oslo School of Architecture and Design.
 - Miller, L. (Ed.) (2005). *Denatured domesticity: an account of femininity and physiognomy in the interiors of Frances Glessner Lee: Negotiating domesticity: spatial productions of gender in modern architecture*. London: Routledge.
 - Mirjani, H. (2006). Logical Argumentation as a Research Method. *Soffeh*, (50), 35-0.
 - Monfared, N. S. S. & Yazdanfar, S. A. (2015). Model of Perceptual Concepts and Related Physical Principles for Participatory Local Center: Chizar local community in Tehran as a case study. *Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences*, (170), 78-88.
 - Roberts, M. (1990). Gender and housing: the impact of design. *Built Environment*, (170), 257-268.
 - Saei, M. (2009). Ravesh tahghigh tarikhi: shiveha va karbordhaye an dar ertejabat [Historical research method: its methods and applications in communication]. *Resaneh*, (1), 0-167.
 - Segalen, M. (1991). *Historical sociology of the family* (H. Eliyasi, Trans.). Tehran: Markaz.
 - Serajzadeh, H. & Javaheri, F. (2007). Barabari gerae jensiasi dar mian daneshjooyan va moteghayerhaye zaminei va negareshi mortabet ba an [Gender egalitarianism among students and contextual and attitudinal variables related to it]. *Iranian Journal of Sociology*, 7(2), 3-40.
 - Shayegan, F. & Rostami, F. (2012). Social Identity and Sense of Security (Case study: Tehran Women). *Social Development and Welfare Planning*, (9), 151.
 - Singleton, A. & Maher, J. (2004) The "New Man" is in the house: young men, social change, and housework. *Journal of Men's Studies*, (12), 227-240.
 - Tabatabaei, N. & Orangnia, Sh. (2016). *Baresi naghsh ergonomi dar tarahi ashpazkhanehaye modern karbari maskouni* [Examining the role of ergonomics in the design of modern kitchens for residential use]. The first competition of the comprehensive international conference of engineering sciences in Iran. Gilan University, Bandar Anzali.
 - Varmaghani, H. & Soltanzadeh, H. (2015). The Role

of Gender and Livelihood Culture in Forming House (Comparing the Qajar' s Houses of Gilan and Bushehr). *Armanshahr*, 23(11), 123-134.

- Vestbro, D. U. & Horelli, L. (2012). Design for gender equality: The history of co-housing ideas and realities. *Built*

Environment, 38(3), 315-335.

- Zibaeinejad, M. (2010). *Tafavot-ha, hoviat va naghsh-haye jensiat-i* [differences, identity, and gender roles]. Tehran: Presidential Office, Center for Women and Family Affairs.

COPYRIGHTS

Copyright for this article is retained by the author(s), with publication rights granted to the Bagh-e Nazar Journal. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution License (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>).



HOW TO CITE THIS ARTICLE

Akoochekian, Z.; Yazdanfar, S.A. & Sahragard Monfared, N. (2023). The evolution of housing spatial organization based on the social status of women (a comparative analogy of Iranian and European housing). *Bagh-e Nazar*, 20(124), 75-92.

DOI: 10.22034/BAGH.2023.374906.5303

URL:https://www.bagh-sj.com/article_176559.html?lang=en

