THE TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE OF CYPRUS

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TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE

- Traditional architecture refers to the monumental and anonymous architecture of the cities

- Part A: Analysis of the urban tissue
- Part B: Analysis of the buildings
  - Monumental Architecture
  - Public Buildings
  - Residences and private shops and workshops
EVOLUTION OF URBAN TISSUE

- Co-existence of buildings of the Medieval, the Renaissance, the Ottoman periods, the British Colonial Rule.

- Nicosia and Famagusta had a high degree of organization due to
  - The existence of defence walls
  - The societies which inhabited them

- The main characteristics which the conquerors wanted to add to these cities were:
  - The magnificence of the Administrative and Religious buildings
  - The establishment of organised open spaces
EVOLUTION OF URBAN TISSUE
FAMAGUSTA

TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Monumental Architecture

- Defence Walls (Nicosia, Famagusta)
- Castles (Limassol, Paphos, Larnaca, Kerynia)
- Administrative Buildings
- Religious Buildings
  - Gothic, Renaissance churches
  - Greek Orthodox churches
  - Islamic religious buildings
TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Monumental Architecture

Greek Orthodox churches

- Franco – Byzantine type of church
  - Elements of Gothic art with regard to construction (wide use of ashlar, pointed arches)
  - Byzantine plans of churches

Ay. Nicolas (Bedestan)

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TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Monumental Architecture

- BUILDING MATERIALS
  - Wide use of ashlar stone
  - Rustication in some facades

Building of the Renaissance period - Famagusta
Famagusta Gate
PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Khania

- Two storey buildings with rooms around a central courtyard

PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Baths (Hamams)

Buyuk Hamam – St George of the Latins church - Nicosia

Francish Baths - Paphos
TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Residences - Workshops

- “Wide front and flat roof type” encountered in the Eastern Mediterranean – with the long side of the house along the street

- Earlier times - placing of the house in the inner part of the plot
- Later on - the house is situated on the road boundary

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TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Residences - Typology

Arcade – iliakos at the rear façade of the house
TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Residences - Courtyard

a) Original Courtyard house type

b) Minimal Courtyard house type

c) Planned serial house type
d) New Courtyard house type

TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Mansions

The Mansion of the Dragoman of Cyprus Hadjigeorgakis Kornesios
TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Mansions

- Private Baths in Mansions

TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Residences - Morphology

ROOFING
- Flat roofs
- Inclined roofs
TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE
Residences - Morphology

- ENTRANCE DOORS

Symmetry in neoclassical buildings
One of the side rooms becomes larger because of its function as a reception room thus the façade loses its symmetry.

Co-existence of balconies, covered balconies and kioskia in Nicosia.
TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE

Building Materials – Ceilings and Walls

- **CEILINGS AND WALLS**
  - Plain timber planks
  - Carved planks with painted decoration

TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE

Workshops

- Single storey
- Arches and iron beams in the interior
- Large rectangular or arched openings
TRADITIONAL URBAN ARCHITECTURE

CONCLUSIONS

- The urban architecture of Cyprus Cities comprises a mosaic of different styles and influences. The gothic religious buildings, the venetian defensive works, the mansions of Ottoman rule co-exist with the houses of the British Colonial Rule, creating an interesting urban character of the cities. In the buildings themselves ancient and more recent morphological elements are incorporated in a unique manner.