



ABSTRACT SUBMISSION

Earthen Architecture in Syria: A Cultural Heritage Through the Ages

ALSHARA ALFAKEER E. 1,2*

¹ DSAterre/CRAterre, Grenoble, France

² École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Grenoble (ENSAG), Grenoble, France

*Corresponding author

Abstract

This study investigates the continuity of earthen architecture in Syria over more than 11,000 years, beginning with Mari (2nd millennium BC). The discovery of a wall adorned with colorful motifs highlights the significance of ornamentation and innovative techniques from that period.

As a vital aspect of Syrian heritage, earthen architecture has both shaped and been shaped by various civilizations. The research analyzes the resilience of these structures through periods of historical upheaval, including the Mongol invasions, the Ottoman period, the French mandate, modernity, and contemporary conflicts. Today, earthen architecture remains prevalent, particularly in rural areas and refugee camps, providing sustainable solutions adapted to local resources.

Additionally, the study compares the use of earthen architecture in urban settings, such as Damascus, and in rural areas through the ages. The study relied on various sources, particularly those from archaeological expeditions to the region in the 1990s. Ultimately, it traces earthen construction techniques over the centuries, revealing the richness and enduring legacy of this architectural heritage.

Keywords

earthen heritage in Syria, Cultural resilience, Construction techniques, Ville de Mari, City of Mari

Session

3. Heritage and archaeology

Type of paper

Oral presentation