READING ARCHITECTURE:

a conceptual understanding of the traditional urban house of CYPRUS

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The island of Cyprus

fusion of several great cultures ...

Egyptians, Romans, Byzantines, Lusignans, Venetians, Ottomans, British....
Cultural layers not only on top each other but also side by side ...not only successive cultures but also co-existing cultures.

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Different architectural styles

Byzantine, Gothic, Renaissance, Ottoman, Colonial traces....
...reveal private and public identities, aesthetic and constructional purposes, routine and spiritual aspirations of people from different cultural backgrounds...

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The shared image of all people and densely dominated the urban settlements ...even, its effects are traced in the major rural settlements.
Ancient coastal settlements & the capital town

NICOSIA-LEFKOSIA-LEFKOSA

At the geographic center of the island...
as a socio-cultural, economical and administrative heart of the island

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The walled city Nicosia

... commonly settled in by the people from the ruling class... Lusignan princes, Venetian provvidetores, Ottoman Pashas, British Colonial high commissioners and governors... Principal Greek and Armenian families...
3 key entities display the multi-cultural character of the city:

- Venetian city Walls
- Medieval Street pattern amended with and structured by the Ottoman urban concerns.
- Its prevailing house form
The walled city Nicosia

A typical Ottoman City Embedded within a post Medieval walled Latin City with its pattern and the prevailing house form

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Early Traditional urban house form

Transformation of the house image in the city by the end of the Sixteenth Century

- Late Gothic and early Renaissance entries,
- Arms of Latin Families,
- Latin fine ashlar stone ground floors
- Cumba
- Rooms with decorated ceilings,
- Ottoman interiors
- Ottoman upper floors with Baghdad and Catma wall construction techniques
Synthesis of different building techniques gave birth to a house form which would be the prototype for the following periods’ houses.
Traditional urban house form

Two stories_ Service spaces on the goround floor... Living at the upper floor.
Site Organization...

I..... U..... L .... Building block layouts.
Building Block-site relationships: An attempt to create outdoor room

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Spatial Elements of the house

different degree of openness in room, sündürme, havlî

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Havlı as the elementary spatial cell of the urban fabric.
Dense green... Daily houseworks: laundry, cooking, having guests...
H a v l i _ an outdoor room

A walled garden... Strongly enclosed by the body of house itself and additional garden walls ...

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Sünürme _ the transitional space

Semi-open Space _not only a circulation place but also a multi-purpose space in front of the rooms.

Act as a private extension of the street and it flows in the house,
Sündürme – the transitional space

Functional, climatic and spatial transition between public-private domains, indoor-outdoor spaces and open-close entities

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Room — a multi-purpose space

Flexible organisation of the fixed and non-fixed spatial components.

Built-in sitting elements...

Shelves....

Cupboards

‘ev’ = house...
Room — a self-sufficient living unit

Geometric decoration of ceiling conveys the spatial segregation in the room

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Spatial organisation

outer sündürme
inner sündürme

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Generic forms and Derivations

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Generic forms and Derivations

Plain forms

Additive forms

(sundurme extend)

Additive & subtractive forms

Additive forms

(room extend)

Subtractive forms

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The traditional urban house of Cyprus

Duality of introversion and extroversion in one body of the building

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Introverted Street Facade & Cumba

The sign of room and sündürme on facade

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Extroverted Garden Facade

Sündürme as the perforated borderline / bounding volume on the garden facade

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reforms in Anatolia ..new administrative system ... opening to international lifestyle and world-view ... Technology and technical advancements...

- Foundation of royal railways
- Introduction of electricity,
- Distribution of the motorways networks
- New building functions...

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Planned living environments

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The meaning of the house shifted from:
utility-based to image-based.

Thus, image of the urban house was transformed from:

Latin Occidental into
Ottoman Turkish Oriental and then to the
twentieth-century Levantine suburbia
as the late version of the traditional urban house of Cyprus.
Change & Break: Late British Period

new building materials, structural systems & construction techniques, worldwide innovative architectural forms.

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Teşekkür ederim!
Thank you ...

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