

## Dimensions of Housing Design, Construction, and Utilization in Religious Teachings, with an Emphasis on the Doctrines of Imam Reza (A.S.)

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### Article info

### Abstract

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The present study employs an analytical-interpretive approach to revisit the principles of housing design and construction within the framework of Islamic architecture, with an emphasis on the conduct (sirah) of Imam Reza (A.S.). In addressing contemporary challenges in residential architecture, such as consumerism, loss of identity, and detachment from authentic living concepts, the primary research question is: what are the principles and foundations of Islamic architecture in the domain of housing based on the teachings of Imam Reza, and how can these principles be reproduced in the form of a balanced and practical model? To this end, by drawing upon verses from the Holy Quran, narrations from the Infallibles (Peace Be Upon Them All), and particularly the conduct of Imam Reza (A.S.), a systematic framework is presented. Within this framework, a house is analyzed not as a merely physical phenomenon, but as a "vital and blessing-generating nucleus." The findings indicate that Razavi architecture is founded on multidimensional principles, among which are: qibla-centricity as the axis of spatial organization, balanced spaciousness, preservation of privacy, simplicity coupled with beauty, structural integrity and security, and the integration of material and spiritual functions. Furthermore, with innovation in detailing the design of interior and exterior spaces-including the kitchen, sanitary facilities, and façade-based on religious texts, this study proposes an operational and implementable model capable of adapting to contemporary housing needs. Ultimately, this research emphasizes the revisitation and modernization of these principles as a strategy for creating sustainable, identity-rich housing that is responsive to the needs of Islamic society.



**Keywords:** Imam Reza (A.S.), Housing Design, Home, Islamic Architecture, Engineering Compliance.

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## 1. Introduction

Housing, as one of the most fundamental human needs, is defined within the intellectual framework of Islam as going beyond the purely material function of “shelter.” In the Holy Qur’an, it is introduced as a divine blessing and a source of “tranquility” (sakan) and peace. However, contemporary housing architecture faces numerous challenges, including consumerism, loss of identity, distancing from authentic living concepts, and the dichotomy of extremism in design. This research aims to reinterpret the principles of housing design and construction within the framework of Islamic architecture, emphasizing the theoretical and practical conduct (sirah) of Imam Reza (A.S.), seeking to present a balanced and practical model in contrast to the consumerist and non-indigenous architecture of the present age.

## 2. Research Objectives

The primary objective of this research is to systematically elucidate the principles and foundations of Islamic architecture in the domain of housing, relying on a library-based method and drawing upon verses of the Holy Qur’an, narrations from the Infallible Imams (A.S.), and especially the conduct of Imam Reza (A.S.). The central research question is: What are the principles and foundations of Islamic architecture in the domain of housing based on Riđawī teachings, and how can these principles be reproduced in the form of a balanced and practical model? Ultimately, this research seeks to present a divine and operational model in opposition to the prevalent consumerist and identity-lacking models.

## 3. Methodology

This research falls within the category of qualitative studies and employs a descriptive-analytical method with a library-based approach for data collection and analysis. The statistical population of the research includes verses of the Holy Qur’an, narrations from the Infallible Imams (A.S.), and reliable scientific texts in the field of Islamic architecture. The data analysis method is interpretive-hermeneutic, through which principles and design criteria are deduced from religious texts and presented within a systematic framework. The innovation of this research lies in its systematic and detailed-oriented

structure in examining design components, which unprecedentedly explains the specific requirements of each individual space within the house.

#### 4. Findings

The research findings indicate that Riḍawī architecture is based on multi-dimensional principles, which can be categorized into three levels: macro, meso, and micro.

##### A .General Principles in Riḍawī Architecture

**Balanced Spaciousness:** Emphasis on having adequate spaciousness within the framework of moderation and avoidance of extravagance, as a factor for mental health, consolidation of social relations, and preservation of privacy.

**Adorning the Home with Sacred Names:** Installing and inscribing sacred names as an active factor in spiritualizing the living space and preparing the ground for the descent of divine goodness and blessing (barakah).

**Qibla-Centricity:** Organizing the living space around the axis of the Qibla as a symbol of the unity and cohesion of the Islamic society, integrating spiritual function with material benefits.

**Solidity and Security:** Attention to the solidity of the structure as the backbone of safety and urban sustainability, with both worldly and otherworldly dimensions.

**Simplicity and Avoidance of Ostentation:** Emphasis on simplicity and avoidance of unnecessary luxuries as a factor for facilitating social relations and strengthening kinship ties, while accepting balanced beauty.

**Preserving Privacy through Wall Design:** Intelligent design of architectural elements to preserve the family's privacy and ensure the modesty and psychological security of the residents.

##### B .Interior Design

**Proportional Height of the House:** Observing a balanced ceiling height with technical, ethical, and spiritual considerations, and attention to the rights of neighbors.

**Position of the Kitchen:** Designing a secluded and separated space from public areas to safeguard the modesty and chastity of women and to control unpleasant factors.

**Location of the Toilet and Bathroom:** Siting them in the furthest and most

concealed point from the main living spaces, considering physical hygiene and psychological purity.

### **C .Exterior Design**

**Selection of the House’s Location:** Attention to the lawful (halal) nature of the land and materials, the quality of air and water, and the social and cultural fabric of the area.

**Relationship with Neighbors and Environment:** Inquiring about neighbors before selecting a residence and observing mutual rights and architectural privacy.

**Beauty and Adornment of the Exterior Facade:** Emphasis on balanced and natural beauty in contrast to extreme ostentation and showiness.

**Principled Design of House Outlets:** Designing gutters, sewage, and waste disposal points in a way that does not cause nuisance or pollution for passersby and neighbors.

### **D .The Role of Housing in Generating Blessing (Barakah)**

Imam Reza (A.S.). by explaining the reciprocal relationship between the physical structure of the home and material-spiritual blessing ,transforms the house into an” active nucleus “which ,through rituals such as hospitality ,performing the night prayer (Salat al-Layl)and observing devotional etiquettes ,prepares the ground for the flow of divine blessing in various dimensions of life.

## **5. Conclusion**

This research, through a systematic analysis of Qur’anic foundations, narrations, and the practical conduct of Imam Reza (A.S.), has presented a comprehensive and multidimensional model for “Islamic Housing Architecture.” The findings show that housing in this paradigm is not merely a physical structure, but a “living spiritual-social system” that integrates material, psychological, ethical, and devotional functions. The fundamental innovation of this research is crystallized in the “Theory of Housing as a Nucleus for Generating Blessing,” which provides a divine response to the crises of contemporary housing, including loss of identity, extreme consumerism, and the lack of spirituality in living spaces.

**Suggestions:**

The extracted model provides a practical and referential framework for architects ,planners ,and policymakers to create spaces rooted in Islamic-Iranian heritage ,not only addressing physical needs but also taking a significant step towards the realization of the New Islamic Civilization .It is suggested that these principles be localized in the form of building codes and regulations and considered in macro housing planning .Furthermore ,conducting field research to assess the adaptability and efficacy of this model in contemporary Iranian society can pave the way for further development in this field.

**Keywords:** Imam Reza (A.S.), Housing Design, Home, Islamic Architecture, Engineering.