

# Family structure and spatial configuration in Turkish house form in Anatolia from late nineteenth century to late twentieth century

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## Abstract

With a background that embraces various cultures and civilizations, the evolution of house form in Anatolia is a particularly interesting case. Previous research has examined configurational properties of Turkish houses during the Ottoman Empire period, with interpretations about relationships to social structure. Building on this research, this study examines the transformation of Turkish house and apartment plans from the late nineteenth century, early twentieth century and late twentieth century through analysis of spatial configurations. Observed transformations in spatial configuration in these three periods are interpreted through their relationships to shifts in family structure represented by household compositions and women's status. House plans in these three periods were analyzed utilizing space syntax methods. Since the "sofa" (hall), as a central living space, has always been an integral part of Turkish family structure, and since the kitchen has been a woman's space, their transformations were emphasized. Family structures were examined through the changes in women's employment status and education level, in addition to household types and size in all periods. When house plans from these periods were compared, findings revealed that the transformations in spatial configuration were parallel to shifts in family structures. Results of the study about spatial configuration – family structure relationships were stimulating for further research into accommodating contemporary household needs in current housing practices.

## Keywords

s p a t i a l  
configuration, family  
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