

# TRANSFORMATION TRADITIONAL ARCHITECTURE IN SELF BUILT HOUSING

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## INTRODUCTION

Rapid urbanisation, which had become a problem for most parts of the developed world before the 1950's, still prevails in Turkey with a high rural to urban migration rate. With the rise in demand for work force by manufacturing and service sectors and the need for better quality of life, people migrate from rural to urban areas.

Ankara, the capital city of Turkey, also underwent this rapid increase in population, which it was not yet ready to house.

The central as well as local governments have not been able to tackle this problem. Thus, the immigrants-the newcomers to Ankara-have tried to solve their own shelter problem by using building methods derived from their own local traditional building characteristics. This low-income housing form, mentioned in the text as self-built houses, is called “*gecekondu*” which literally means ‘to settle on by night’. This is a new form of house, built by using traditional layouts and elements in a new context.

Immigrants moving from the same locality develop a collective consciousness. This consciousness embodies both collective production and a model for maintenance.

During recent years a case study was initiated in the Şentepe district of Yenimahalle Municipality in Ankara by Gazi University and the municipality. Two settlements, namely Pamuklar and Barıştepe quarters were selected for study. The objectives were to identify causes and effects of the transformation that took place in these areas and to make ways for housing project with the participation of the local people.

Surveys carried out in both of the quarters, demonstrated that the Figures of these self-built houses reflect the transformation of traditional architecture in Turkey. We term this transformation as the first generation in self-built housing. By the time this study concluded, these quarters faced a new Plan lay out due to the emergence of city blocks and high rise buildings.

This article, has two purposes. First, to study reasons and consequences of the transformation process, and secondly, to promote more humane and livable solutions in opposition to the tower blocks as the only apparent answer for self built housing problems whenever they may evolve.



General View.



Pamuklar District.