What is a Vernacular Architecture?

- Vernacular architecture is a category of architecture, based on localized needs and construction material, and reflecting local traditions.
- All forms of vernacular architecture are built to meet specific needs, accommodating the values, economies and ways of life of the cultures that produce them.
We Could Say That Vernacular Architecture Is:-

• simpler than what the technology of the time is capable of maintaining
• characterized by inexpensive materials and straightforwardly utilitarian design
• makes use of common regional forms and materials at a particular place and time
The factors effected on Vernacular Architecture Are:-

1- Climate
2- Environment
3- Materials
4- Culture
5- Context
6- Geography & Topography.
Why Vernacular Architecture of Kurdistan

• In the present the Kurds are one of the major ethnical cultural groups.
• No experienced of developing studies about the local Kurdish traditional architecture and how to develop modern local architecture.
• It is an opportunity to develop the required knowledge about the local Kurdish architectural heritage and how to bring this heritage into the development projects in Kurdistan.
In General we can classified Vernacular Kurdish Architecture Into Three Category:

- Architecture of general buildings like Bazars &
- Architecture of Castles
- Architecture of Housing Units

We will Choose the Architecture of Housing unit to Explain it in Details.

- Architecture of Housing Units
  - Temporary Type
    - Nomads Type
  - Permanent Type
    - Sedentary
      - Village Type
    - City Type
**Nomads**

Historically large portion of kurds have lived as nomadic herdsmen, Today there is a small minatory that still follow same traditional lifestyle.

The Nomads use a tent (The skin) of Goat hair fixed with columns from the trees steam.
To raise the tent three rows of Holes are dug which wooden poles are placed in a quadratic plan. 2 meters from each other. The middle row is 2 meters high while other two rows are 1.6 high.
The sitting and sleeping area covered by carpets that are placed around small Hole (40 cm) wide that used as the fire place, the tent has a Hole with Hatch over fire place that used as ventilation.

In summer cooking done outside while in winter was inside.
Sedentary Type: Village Housing Unite:-

Mountain villages are located on the slopes, dwellings form a compact unit. Have simple form and built as terrace on two levels. Rooms are small and multifunctional such as eating, sleeping, and sitting. Has small fireplace in the middle, covered with carpet. Walls have niches that used for storage and decoration. Usually...
Sketch showing the plan of the main living area in the upper section of the visited house in the town of Tewéllé. (Author, 2014)

Sketch showing the positions of the lower and upper sections of the visited house in the town of Tewéllé. (Author, 2014)
Mountain have been organized to allow for social interaction and gathering spaces as well as preserving thermal energy. Here an optimum adoptable solution of durability has been achieved through trial and error and has been passed down the generations. Social interaction.
Sedentary Type: City Housing Unite:

ancient Erbil citadel:
the citadel is located in the middle of the Erbil city, it rises some 60 meters above the ground level of the lower city. The overall form of the citadel town is circular. And it has many traditional houses built as the Kurdish people needs.
The citadel consisted of nearly 500 of traditional courtyard house. Which divided into 3 type of housing according to size such as:
1- large palace-like houses that were mostly located on the peripheral wall but some were located inside the town proper(30)
2- Medium-sized houses numbered about 120
3- smaller houses of poorer families numbered about 350
All these houses had open courtyards.

Most houses are designed as two floors, the lower floor usually at one to one and half-meters under courtyard level.
most of Houses oriented according to sun access and prevailing wind.
Conclusion :-

1-Being Energy Efficient.
2-Tends to evolve overtime to reflect the environmental, cultural and Historical context in which it exists.
3- Provide desired context.
4-Introducing vernacular architecture and specially kurdish style which applied in their region in a sustainable way how the environment effected in their style.
5- using local material in a sustainable way that also identifying their cultural and heritage.
6-Those style different depending on the topography, climate community, traditions, life style and Environment.