

## **Arab House Country and During Byzantine Period in South Syria as Unique Local Architecture"Case Study: Flophouse Seuse House in Alhyat Village – Arab Mountain "<sup>1</sup>**

**Ghassan Barjas Abood <sup>2</sup>**

### **Abstract**

During the ancient period, a human being looked at a residence unit as a temporary place for living. It was considered less sustainable due to its building materials (e.g., mud, timbre, ....etc) whereas other buildings like worship and shrines considered sustainable because they were built from stones.

Based on this , ancient residential units in southern part of Syria (Houran Hill) have distinctive historical value due partly to its building materials (stone), and this is an exceptional case in the architecture of residential building.

All houses in Houran Hill have one shape and one form. They consist of enclosed units surrounding the interior courtyard.

The dominating architectural style of these houses can be described as follows:

- their building materials are stone, -their roof coverage are slabs made of stone based on arches and contain two sections, one for human beings and the other for animals.

This style could be regarded as specific to the region of south part of Syria and north part of Jordan , and also one of the indications related to the old architectural dynasty which goes back with its roots to the Bronze and Anbat Arabic periods which affected, to a large extent, the urban fabric style of the Roman and Byzantine periods.

Furthermore, the house of Flophouse Seuse, in the village of Alhyat (situated at the north east part of Arab Mountain ), is considered as one of the good remaining exampl of residential buildings that contain courtyard which were built in 578 and still in use until now.

This paper concentrates on studying the courtyard house ,in the village of Alhyat, in terms of: 1– the main construction ( social, economic, environmental, political, and building materials ), and 2– the changing processes that affect it until now.

<sup>1</sup> For the paper in Arabic see pages (313-383).

<sup>2</sup> Faculty of Architecture- Damascus University.