



## Risk Mitigation Through Local Building Knowledge: Turkish Van Region Case Study

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### Abstract

Turkey's urban expansion process, has been rapidly growing in the last two decades and, according to the global trend of profit-based strategies, the effects of these urban policies have been harshly criticized for what concerns social and cultural spillover, leading to internal displacement and pauperization of the settled population. Moreover, the same policies have deeply transformed the relationships between the communities and their environment, especially in high seismic-risk area. Resilience, a controversial term referred here to policies and strategies for risk mitigation, is often abused in order to justify large-scale urban transformation projects.

The research was developed in 2016 to support alternative perspectives on risk mitigation strategies in the built environments; the research focused on the traditional constructive technologies in adobe, investigating their sustainability and their enduring capability to respond to the inhabitants housing needs.

This chapter proposes a proactive and participative approach to the construction at large, including the direct intervention from settled communities -still persistent but in serious decrease all around the world- as an important strategy for risk mitigation, an alternative to the profit-based approach of political decisions.

**Keywords:** risk mitigation; adobe; Turkey; earthquake; vernacular architecture.

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