



Comparison of Housing Plan and Furniture in Turkey and Sudan Which Believe the Same Religion

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Abstract

In this research, it was aimed to compare plan, similarities, differences and specific parts of detached and apartment type houses in Sudan and Turkey, where the majority of the population is Muslim. For this purpose, the solutions of detached and apartment type residence plans in Sudan (Khartoum) and Turkey were researched and examined. Common and different parts are determined. As a result; unlike the houses located in Turkey, there were two entrances to the use of men and women in Sudan's detached housing, the beginning of the layouts with the living room, there were two living rooms for the use of men and women, and two separate toilets for guests and households. It has been determined that the furnishings are similar characteristics and showy.

Keywords: Furniture, Housing, Planning

1. INTRODUCTION

Housing is an organized pattern of communication, interaction, space, time and meaning. On one hand, it reflects characteristics, life styles, rules of conduct, environmental preferences, images, time and space taxonomy of the culture or an ethnic group to which it belongs; on the other hand, it reflects images related to the nature of its user, self-actualization and self-expression tendencies and so personality and privilege of the individual through design, outfitting and style (Gür, 2000).

People take several factors into consideration while they are planning and presenting the environment in which they live. They form the environment by combining culture and traditions of the society they live with the climatic characteristics of the geographical place where they live (Karpuz, 1984:9). Features such as climate, topography, vegetation, materials that exist in the immediate environment are the natural/environmental factors which are effective in formation of the traditional houses. Housing policies, laws and regulations relating to the subject, zoning conditions etc. are the social/legal factors which play a role in formation of the modern-day housing. Social structure, world-view, beliefs, cultural values and norms are the cultural determinants. Size, socio economic status, world-view, life style etc. of the family that uses the house can be said to be the social determinants which affect the organization of the house. Individual factors are another significant factor which is effective for housing and especially for interior space arrangements. When housing/house styles are compared to each other in different counties, it can be seen that they reflect various socio-cultural worlds and social structures (Zorlu and Sağsöz, 2010).

Rahim (2014) examined the influence of culture and religion on the conception of visual privacy, its regulation, and housing design attributes affecting visual privacy of Malay Muslim families living in terrace housing, in Malaysia. Findings indicated that changes in



living condition in the urban area, a new paradigm in culture-housing and the lack of consideration for visual privacy in housing design, the conception of visual privacy and its regulation were influenced by both the Malay culture and Islam as a way of life.

Bekleyen and Dalkilic (2011) compared the characteristics of courtyard houses in Diyarbakir, Turkey, to houses in some Middle Eastern countries. The results of the study revealed that, like the similar houses in Middle East, there is a horizontal movement around the courtyard all year long and a vertical movement in summer units.

Saaed (1989) attempted to analyze the influence of the expansion of the national economy of the Gulf States on traditional house design. Some urban centers representing different climatic types from Saudi Arabia and Sudan selected as case studies.

Spaces in traditional Turkish houses are the volumes that convey Turkish-Islamic ideas until today. Turkish family structure formed domestic architecture. Old Turkish house is the symbol of the life of its era. It can be seen that the main factor which began to shape the Turkish houses was the necessity that its functions generated. Traditional Turkish family sheltered by the house was a patriarchal family type. A room was designed as a space in order for every Turkish family to take shelter. Sofa was designed as the big family gathering place (Eriç et al. 1986:35). As a matter of tradition and building system, rooms in old houses were totally separate volumes and each of them is perceived as one by one (İmamoğlu, 1992:41). Each room has qualifications that could host a married couple (Günay, 1998:46). As each room was resolved as a separate unit in a traditional Turkish House, furniture was also suitable for this understanding. People used to sit, sleep, work and eat in the rooms and that multifunctional usage of the house would undoubtedly affect the furniture. Furniture in the traditional Turkish house was developed depending on the building shell and space. Its measures, locations and places are limited. Most of the time, furniture was built together with the construction (Eriç et al. 1986:35). Furniture which underwent and made progress within the historical process became non-spatial after the industrial revolution when the machine effect came into existence. Machines changed individual dependent artistic production and brought discretionary quantitative production (Kürel, 1996:30-33). Such a development laid a burden on designers because every product was manufactured in large quantities, the same mistake which was made before would be repeated a thousand times. Building facilities and industrial conditions do not concern a vast majority of users. What is important for users is end product or the environment that they will create by these products. In order for furniture to find a user, all the stages beginning from the designing process to finishing process should be correct and form that is obtained in the end should be perfect (Eriç et al., 1986:52). Traditional architecture began to be left at the beginning of 20th century when mechanization started and materials such as concrete and iron began to be used (Karpuz, 1984:9). Time dimension came in sight with respect to space understanding within the twentieth century. Permanent understanding in terms of space equipment gave place to variability. Variability was brought to spaces with environment building components of which place and location could be changed and reorganized. In addition, furniture that can be used for a while and changed began to be produced instead of durable furniture that could be used for a long time (Eriç et al., 1986:49). Non-spatial furniture belonging to modern day houses of which users are not known has prompted users to adapt interior space to their lives (Eriç and Yener, 1987:43-45).

In this research, it was aimed to compare detached and apartment type houses in Sudan and Turkey where the majority of the population is Muslim with respect to housing plan and determine similarities and differences along with specific parts of the houses. For this purpose, the solutions of detached and apartment type residence plans in Sudan and Turkey were examined through researches and finding out the common and different parts was aimed.

2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

In this research, it was aimed to compare detached and apartment type houses in Sudan and Turkey where the majority of the population is Muslim with respect to housing plan and determine similarities and differences along with specific parts of the houses. Sudan or Republic of Sudan (official name of the country) or North Sudan is the third largest country of Africa and Capital city of the country is Khartoum. 90% of the population is Muslim, and the rest of the people are animist and Coptic and Orthodox Christians. Majority of the Muslims are Sunni and some Sunni are Shafii and some of them are Maliki. Tropical climate of Sudan is affected by dry air that comes from the north and humid air mass that comes from the south to a large extent. Dry air mass of the north brings cold air in winter and hot air in summer. It has a low humidity rate and the average temperature is almost 47 degree. Humid air mass of south brings high level of humidity and plenty of rain from Atlantic and the Indian Ocean. Average annual rainfall is around 120 mm in the south. There is almost lack of rainfall in the north especially in desert areas. (<http://www.cografya.gen.tr/siyasi/devletler/sudan.htm>). Turkey or Republic of Turkey (official name of the country) is a country where the majority of its land is in the Anatolia and small part of its land is in Thrace which is extension of Balkans. Dominant religion within Turkey is Islam and 99.8% of the population is Muslim according to various data. The common sect is Hanafi which is a school of Sunni Islam. Turkey is between temperate zone and subtropical climate zone. There are different climatic types in Turkey because of its geographical location and geographical formations. A milder climate is seen in coastal areas of Turkey because of seas. Height of the mountains hinders ocean effect to reach the interior parts. Therefore, continental climate is seen in the interior parts. (https://tr.wikipedia.org/wiki/T%C3%BCrkiye%27deki_iklim_%C3%A7e%C5%9Fitleri).

In the research, 6 detached houses and 1 apartment type house which are located in Sudan and reflect general architectural features and 4 detached houses and 1 apartment type house in Turkey were selected and examined in order to determine similarities and differences along with specific parts of the houses through comparisons.

3. FINDINGS

Detached house plans in Sudan (Khartoum) numbered 1 and 2 are presented in Figure 1.

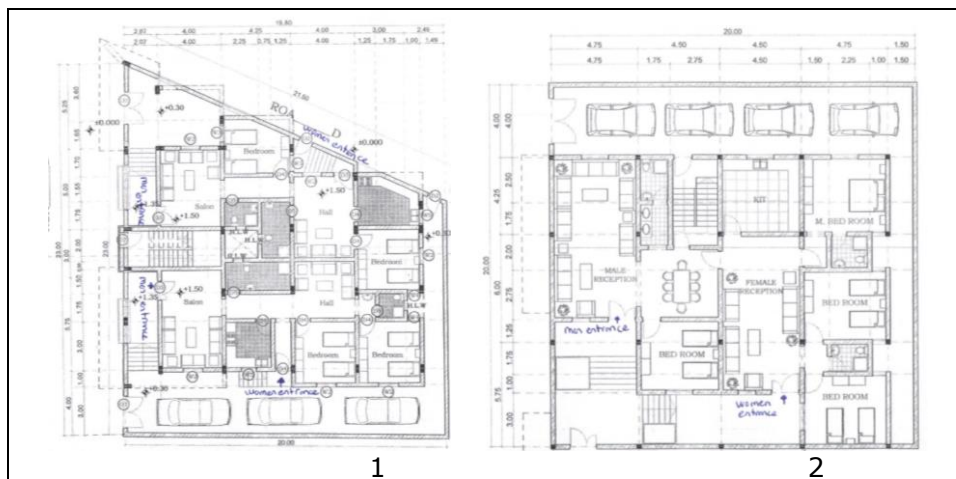


Figure 1. Detached house plans in Sudan (Khartoum) numbered 1 and 2

According to the Figure 1, there are two entrance doors for the use of men and women in the detached house plan numbered 1, entrance door for men directly opens to living room for men and entrance door for women opens to a hallway which is close to kitchen. There are two living rooms, two rest rooms, bedrooms and kitchen in the plan for the use of men and women in the plan. Kitchen was designed away from the entrance for men.

In the detached house plan numbered 2, there are two entrance doors for the use of men and women. Entrance door for men directly opens to living room for men while the entrance door for women opens to living room for women. There are two living rooms, rest room-bathroom which are close to the living room for men, two rest rooms-washing room, bedrooms and kitchen for the use of men and women. Detached house plans numbered 3 and 4 are presented in Figure 2.

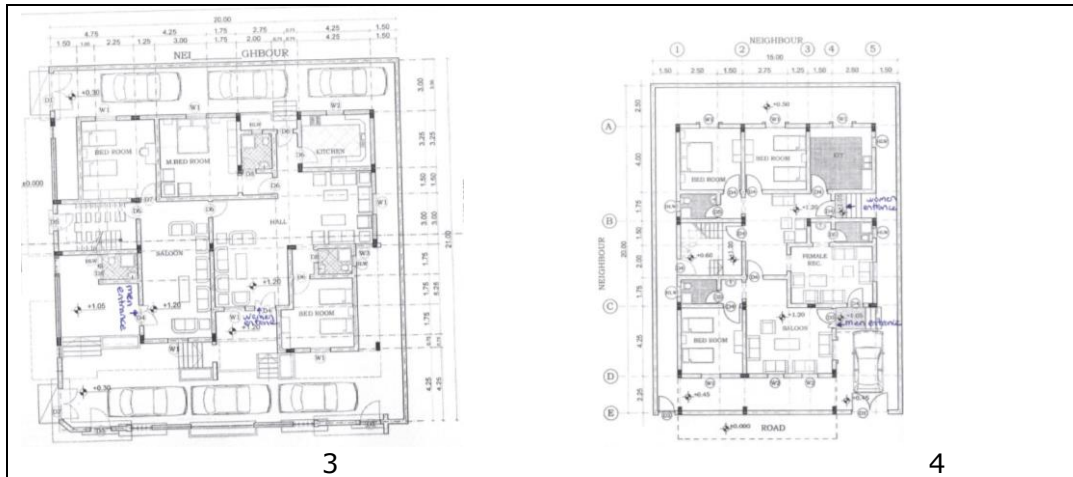


Figure 2. Detached house plans in Sudan (Khartoum) numbered 3 and 4

According to the Figure 2, there are two entrance doors for the use of men and women in the detached house plan numbered 3, entrance door for men directly opens to living room for men and entrance door for women opens to living room for women. There are two living rooms, two rest rooms-washing room which are close to the living room for men, two rest room-bathroom bedrooms and kitchen for the use of men and women in the plan. In the detached house plan numbered 4, there are two entrance doors for the use of men and women. Entrance door for men directly opens to living room for men while the entrance door for women opens to living room for women. There are two living rooms, rest room- washing room which are close to the living room for men in addition to two rest rooms-washing rooms, bedrooms and kitchen for the use of men and women in the plan. Detached house plans numbered 5 and 6 are presented in Figure 3.

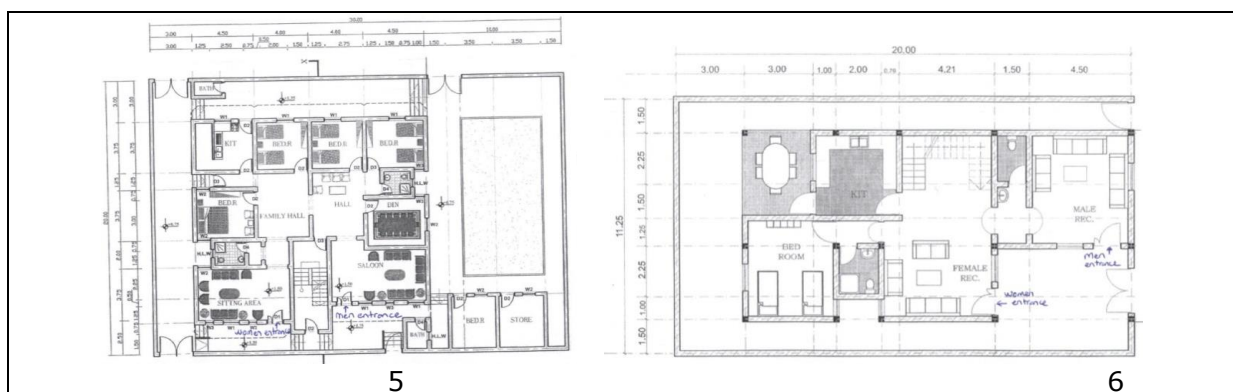


Figure 3. Detached house plans in Sudan (Khartoum) numbered 5 and 6

According to the Figure 3, there are two entrance doors for the use of men and women in the detached house plan numbered 5, entrance door for men directly opens to living room for men and entrance door for women opens to living room for women. There are two living rooms, rest room-washing room which are close to the living room for men, one rest room-washing room, bedrooms, dining room and kitchen for the use of men and women in the plan. In the detached house plan numbered 6, there are two entrance doors for the use of men and women. Entrance door for men directly opens to living

room for men while the entrance door for women opens to living room for women. There are two living rooms, rest room- washing room which are close to the living room for men in addition to one rest room-washing room, bedroom, dining room and kitchen for the use of men and women in the plan. Detached house plans in Turkey numbered 1 and 2 are presented in Figure 4.



Figure 4. Detached house plans in Turkey numbered 1 and 2 (www.yeniprojeler.com)

According to the Figure 4, space organization begins with entrance and continues with living room, kitchen, bedrooms and bathroom-restroom in the detached house plan numbered 1. Kitchen and living room are located in place which is close to the house entrance. In the detached house plan numbered 2, space organization begins with entrance and continues with living room, kitchen, bedrooms and bathroom-restroom. Kitchen and living room are located in place which is close to the house entrance.

Detached house plans in Turkey numbered 3 and 4 are presented in Figure 5.

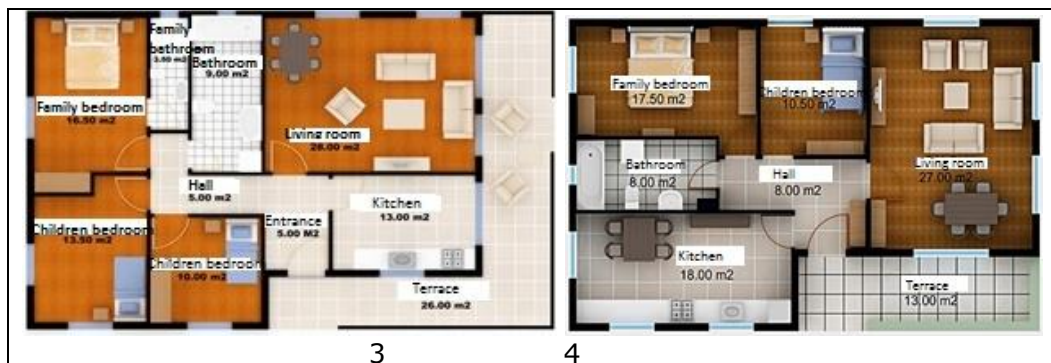


Figure 5. Detached house plans in Turkey numbered 3 and 4 (www.muskon.com)

According to the Figure 5, space organization begins with entrance and continues with living room, kitchen, bedrooms and bathroom in the detached house plan numbered 3. Besides, there is a bathroom-rest room for use of the parents in the plan. Kitchen and living room are located in place which is close to the house entrance. In the detached house plan numbered 4, space organization begins with entrance and continues with living room, kitchen, bedrooms and bathroom. Kitchen and living room are located in place which is close to the house entrance.

Plan belonging to one of the apartment type houses in Sudan (Khartoum) which are few in number compared to the detached house plans is presented in Figure 6.

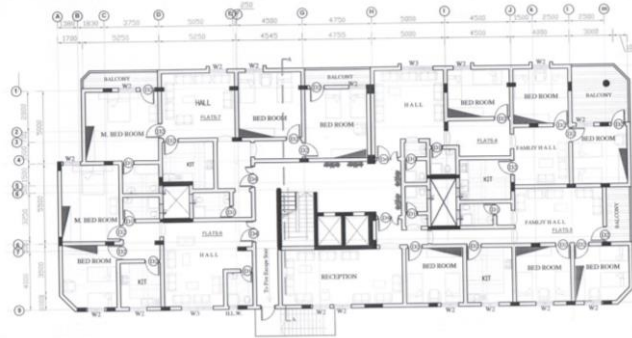


Figure 6. Plan belonging to an apartment type house in Sudan (Khartoum)

When the apartment type house plan in Sudan (Khartoum) is analyzed, it can be observed that there is only one entrance door in the plan and the entrance directly opens to the living room for men, there are two living rooms for the use of men and women in the plan, there is a rest room-washing room close to the living room for men, besides there is one rest room-washing room, bedrooms and a kitchen. A plan belonging to an apartment type house in Turkey is presented in Figure 7.

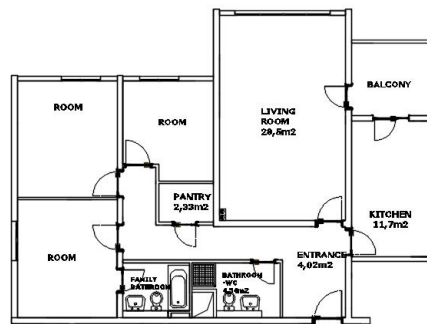


Figure 7. A plan belonging to an apartment type house in Turkey

According to the Figure 7, space organization begins with entrance and continues with living room, kitchen, bedrooms and bathroom. Besides, there is a bathroom-rest room for use of the parents in the plan. Kitchen and living room are located in place which is close to the house entrance. An external view of a detached house in Sudan is presented in Picture 1.



Picture 1. An external view of a detached house in Sudan

Living rooms of different houses in Sudan for men and woman are presented in Picture 2.



Picture 2. Living rooms for men and women

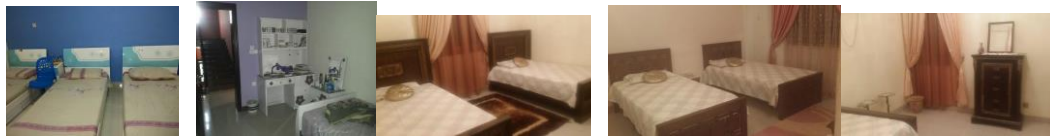
According to the picture, it was determined that there are two living rooms for the use of men and women. They are furnished with different furnishings and they have showy

furniture. However, there is generally only one living room in architectural plans in Turkey. Views from the bedrooms are presented in Picture 3.



Picture 3. Views from the bedroom

Furniture used in the bedrooms are similar to the ones used in Turkey and they are showy. Views from kid's room are presented in Picture 4.



Picture 4. Views from kids' rooms

Furniture used in kids' room share similarity with the furniture used in Turkey. Views from the kitchens are presented in Picture 5.



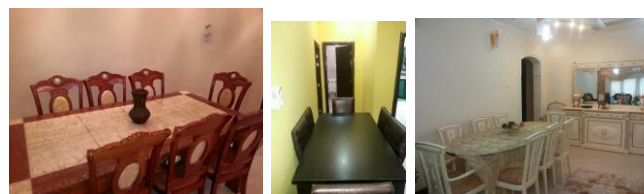
Picture 5. Views from kitchens

Kitchen furniture share similarity with the furniture used in Turkey. Bathroom views are presented in Picture 6.



Picture 6. Bathroom view

Bathroom furniture share similarity with the furniture used in Turkey. Dining room views are presented in Picture 7.



Picture 7. Dining room views

Dining room furniture also share similarity with the furniture used in Turkey.



4. RESULTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this research, it was aimed to compare detached and apartment type houses in Sudan and Turkey where the majority of the population is Muslim with respect to housing plan and determine similarities and differences along with specific parts of the houses. According to the research findings, a specific feature of the detached houses in Sudan (Khartoum) is that the detached houses have two entrances and space organization begins with living rooms. Although there are two entrance doors of the detached houses, entrance door for the use of men and women are separate. Men generally enter through the big door while women enter through the small door. There is a living room located in the entrance of the house for men. The reason behind this is thought to be the necessity of privacy.

Because visual privacy is one of the most important aspects of privacy as far as built environment is a concern particularly in the design of houses. It is needed to provide a visual insulation from outside as it allows control of visual exposure and freedom from visual access. Visual exposure is the probability that one's behaviors seen by sight from one's immediate surroundings. Visual access allows one to look out and to monitor immediate spatial surroundings by sight. In the context of housing providing visual privacy, is needed to control visual exposure of the family members from strangers and allow for freedom of visual access (Rahim, 2014).

There is only one entrance in modern day houses of Turkey and the entrance door opens to hallway. In apartment type of houses the following method is applied for welcoming the guests: When people go on a visit to someone, first the man knocks on the door. The door is opened by the male landlord. Guests are taken into the house then guest women knock on the door. The female guests are taken into the house by landlady. Female guests do not see a man who is the owner of the house. Male guests are welcomed in the living room which is in the entrance for men and female guests are welcomed in the living room for women. When there is not any guests, time is spent together in the family room. If there are overnight guests, female guests sleep in the bedroom of the girls while male guests sleep in the bedroom of male house owners. Sleeping in single beds in the living room is another solution. Kitchens are generally planned away from the house entrance. The reason behind this is preventing male guests from seeing the female house owner. Besides, smell of the food is another concern which is taken into consideration for planning the kitchens not somewhere close to the house entrance but away from the house entrance. Generally, there is not a dining table in the kitchens but the dinner table is put in a separate room generally for the guests. However, the kitchens are planned in a place which is close to house entrance in Turkey. There are generally two rest room-bathroom for the use of men and women in the houses. Generally, the place of these rest rooms - bathrooms is close to the living rooms of men and women. When there are guests in the house, men use the rest room which is close to the living room of the men while women use the rest room which is close to the living room of the women. It is also observed that there is bathroom-rest room for the use of parents in some houses. In recent years, bathroom and rest room are considered to be a single place in Turkey. While ceramic material is used as floor covering in Sudan (Khartoum) where high temperature degrees are observed, parquets are used as floor covering in Turkey. While air conditioners and ventilators are essential for houses in Sudan (Khartoum), air conditioners and ventilators are used in the summer months according to the climatic zones in Turkey. While an air stream is desired within the houses in Sudan (Khartoum), there is not such a concern in Turkey. Furniture generally share similarity with the furniture used in Turkey. As a particular case, very little part of the wardrobes are reserved for hanging clothes since hanger culture has not developed much. Clothes are generally folded and put into shelves. Natural/environmental factors, social/legal factors, cultural determinants and social determinants are effective in house formation and when housing/house styles are compared to each other in different counties, it can be seen that they reflect various socio-cultural worlds and social structures (Zorlu and Sağsöz,



2010). Sudan and Turkey where the majority of the population is Muslim are in different continents and different climatic zones. Geographical locations and conditions of the countries show variability. There are also differences between the economic situations of the countries. All these features and other factors undoubtedly affect the house formation. In this research, influence of beliefs which are cultural determinants (Zorlu and Sağsöz, 2010) of the two countries that believe in the same religion on house designs was tried to be determined. However; as it is stated above, there are many factors which play a role in house designing. Therefore, it is very hard to name a key factor for house designing. In this research which has been conducted taking common religion as a basis, it is thought that religious life style and denominational differences may have an influence on housing style independent from the factors such as climate, temperature, geographical location etc. It is considered that the reason why there are two different entrance doors, two living rooms and two rest rooms in houses of Sudan along with the understanding of having a guest is independent from factors such as climate, temperature, geographical location etc. and related to Islamic religion and the culture of the country as stated by Rahim (2014).

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