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What is a Traditional Windcatcher?



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Published on November 03, 20

Before fossil-fuel powered air-conditioning became widely available, people living in harsh climates had nothing but natural means to [ventilate](#) their spaces and control the interior temperatures. To do so, they took into account several external factors such as their location, orientation with respect to the sun and wind, their area's climate conditions, and [local materials](#). In this article, we explore how ancient civilizations in Western Asia and North Africa have used windcatchers to adapt to the region's harsh climate and provide passive cooling solutions that are still being used in contemporary architecture, proving that local approaches to climate adaptability are fundamental to the development of today's built environment.



Shish-Khan

Turkmenistan

A traditional windcatcher used in Turkmenistan that uses a tower with a series of vents to capture and direct cool air into a building.

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