

road exhibits new forms of social integration transcending clan affiliation that characterized village living quarters up till then.

#### IV. The Transformation in the Spatial Organisation of the House

The essence of change in the spatial organisation of the house can be summed up by saying that the individual house (el-beit) as well as the extended family courtyard dwelling ceased to be the focal point of production activities.

The new peasant individualism generated by emigration, wage labour, market relations, marginality of agricultural activities, individual ownership of land and the considerable change in occupational structure, led to the destruction of the functionality of the extended family. The traditional courtyard dwelling, which once housed a number of extended families, has been replaced by the individual house. These individual houses no longer form a boundary including the central introverted courtyard (hosh) which protected this semi-private domain of the sub-clan from the rest of the village (chapter 4).

Today as figure II.11 shows each house is located in the middle of an individually-owned plot of land, hence breaking away from the traditional pattern of compact juxtaposition of houses. Appendix I illustrates that the majority of newly-constructed houses in the twenties and thirties belonged to a new stratum whose identity was increasingly being defined by their occupation as opposed to their lineage.



Fig. II.11: New houses built in the midst of individually owned land