

Egyptian Arabic transcript:

الشكل العام للبيت بالريف يكون مكون من طابق أو اثنين أو ثلاثة طوابق ليس أكثر. طبعا في إختلاف بسيط عن المدينة، ليس شقة، البيت في الريف ليس مثل الشقة في المدينة. ولذلك مصطلح شقة لا يستخدم في الريف، نستخدم مصطلح شقة في المدينة فقط ولكن مصطلح بيت، مستخدم في لغة الريف أكثر، أو لغة أهل الريف أكثر. البيوت مفتوحة على بعضها. يعني بمعنى البيت قد يكون بيتي... من الممكن أن جاري يأتي إلي بيتي وأنا أذهب إلي بيته وكأن بيتي وبيت جاري شيء واحد. هذا ليس شيء غريب لأن غالبية الحيران يكونون من الأهل والأقارب. يعني على مثلا بيتي أنا، أنا أسكن في الشارع، وجانبي جاري هو عمي وعائلة عمي، والجار الثالث لي هو بنت عمي وعائلة بنت عمي. فذلك يعني مجموعة من الأقارب، الشوارع عبارة عن مجموعة من الأقارب، هم حيران وأقارب في نفس الوقت.

English translation:

Generally, houses in the countryside are no more than one, two or three stories high. Houses in the countryside are slightly different from houses in the city. A house in the countryside is not like an apartment in the village. That's why the word apartment isn't used in the countryside. The word apartment is only used in the city, while the word house is used in the vocabulary of people in the countryside. The houses are open to one another, meaning that I can go to my neighbor's house and my neighbor can come to mine -- as if my house and my neighbor's is one. This isn't something weird, because most neighbors are either family members or relatives. For example, I live in a street where my house is next to my uncle's and his family's house, and the next house is my maternal cousin's and her family's house. So, all of a person's relatives live in houses on the same street. Therefore, your family members are also your relatives [neighbors].

About CultureTalk: CultureTalk is produced by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages and housed on the LangMedia Website. The project provides students of language and culture with samples of people talking about their lives in the languages they use every day. The participants in CultureTalk interviews and discussions are of many different ages and walks of life. They are free to express themselves as they wish. The ideas and opinions presented here are those of the participants. Inclusion in CultureTalk does not represent endorsement of these ideas or opinions by the Five College Center for the Study of World Languages, Five Colleges, Incorporated, or any of its member institutions: Amherst College, Hampshire College, Mount Holyoke College, Smith College and the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.