

English Translation:

An Iraqi house is a simple one, in fact, because the financial situation for most families has been highly affected¹. I mean you can see a financially capable person trying to minimize the expenses because, as I have said, I talk from a personal experience as I have grown up during the wars.

What I can tell you is that during the wars, life of austerity was imposed on us; and until now honestly because Iraq has not experienced a peaceful era starting from 1980 with the war with Iran until today. The last 25 or 28 or 30 years were wars and unrest²; so, people's financial situations were severely affected.

An Iraqi house contains in general the main room which is the living room. In this room you can find a TV, sofas, a place to sit down, a dining table and chairs if the room is spacious. This room is the cleanest because it's the room where you receive guests or friends; they sit in the hall³.

Bed rooms; there is usually one bed room for the father and mother and a second one for children. There is also a kitchen. We don't have a thing called a dish washer in Iraq. Washing dishes is a manual task; we don't have a mechanical thing regarding this aspect.

Generally, a house contains a living room, bed rooms, a kitchen and a bathroom. An Iraqi house is known for having a roof because most people sleep upon the roof during summer as the weather is very hot and the electricity is out as it almost doesn't exist. People resort to roofs because the weather is unbearable. That's why you see an Iraqi never dispenses with a roof. Everybody has a roof.

Gardens; most people have gardens, but some who used to have a garden started to utilize the space and build houses, or an annex⁴, bed rooms for instance; they might enlarge an original house, or something similar.

¹ She means deteriorated.

² *Qalaqil*: "unrest" in Iraqi dialect.

³ Another name for the main room.

⁴ *Mushtamal*: a small house which is separate and built as an annex to a bigger house. It is rented or just inhabited by the owner.

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