

Recognition of the Cemetery locating and development principles from the past to the present (Case Study: Takhte Follad and Baghe Rezvan Cemetery)

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Abstract

The cemetery commemorates the current and the after-death life as one of the principles of the religion of Islam and is one of the most important manifestations of the culture and beliefs of the people. Iran's cemeteries in the Islamic era have identities and concepts different from those they do today and have been considered as a place for pilgrimage and recreation; The fact is being neglected in the design of today's cemeteries and replaced with typical designs. This research with a qualitative research approach and an analytical-comparative research method and field research with library studies is aimed at identifying the needs and the reasons for site selection and construction of the cemeteries. The results indicate the cemetery as an indigenous urban space, a place for social interactions, manifestation of belonging to survivors, cultural identity, and the readability of urban spaces in the past. For example, the cemetery of the Takhte Follad of Isfahan has been considered as one of the most valuable cemeteries in the world of Shiism. This research examines to revive the past cemeteries concept with the comparison of the Baghe Rezvan cemetery, which was built outside the city and the Takhte Follad cemetery which is being gradually destructing.

Introduction

Cemetery is a place that reminds the life after death as one of the principles of the Islam, and is one of the most important beliefs between people. Iranian cemeteries, in the Islamic era, had different identities and concepts with what

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is happening today and is considered as a place for pilgrimage and recreation. The thing that has been overlooked in the design of today's cemeteries is replaced by equal designs. Resurrection as one of the principles of the Islam, emphasizes important recommendations about death, graves, cemeteries and pilgrimages of the graves in the Quran, the hadiths of the Prophet (Mohammad) and the Shia Imams. What has been the subject of the contemporary era, with the location of the ceremonies outside the urban area causing physical separation and difficult access for Muslims, and undermined the qualities of remembrance, tranquility, and beauty of urban landscapes. Today, in most cities of Iran, cemeteries have become open spaces on large and outlying cities, while it seems that urban space with cemetery function has many capacity and potentials in terms of cultural and social aspects. The "Takhte Follad cemetery" of Isfahan is also part of this city, which has a long history and can become a dynamic and stimulating member of the city structure. Therefore, the main issue of the present study is to criticize the rules and criteria for locating of cemeteries in the contemporary urban planning and without paying attention to the principles of locating cemeteries in contemporary urbanism, which is recognizable in comparison with the old cemeteries.

Materials and Methods

The present study deals with qualitative research approach and analytical-comparative research methodology and field research with library studies to identify the necessities of locating and constructing cemeteries. This research is aimed at "analyzing the necessary criterions for choosing locating, planning, designing and construction of cemeteries", which is carried out with a qualitative research approach. The research method used in this research is descriptive methods, analytical, comparative and case studies that are carried out in thematic areas of the field, with the use of documentary library studies and field impressions. In this regard, the most important research question is, "What are the architectural and urban considerations of the construction of cemeteries with an emphasis on Iranian-Islamic values

The present study has been developed using a qualitative approach, using a descriptive-analytical research method and a comparative comparison method between old and contemporary samples. In the present study, the word cemetery was first presented in various dictionaries and sources, and then, using Delphi technique, we compiled the effective factors and evaluation criteria in locating the cemeteries.

In this method, a questionnaire was developed and distributed among 35 experts of this field. The results of the questionnaire are summarized and presented in the form of factors influencing of choosing the location of urban cemeteries. Subsequently, the explained and clarified factors by the experts are more fully and distinctly examined and the criteria for evaluation and

impact on each axis are presented; and finally, the framework of the research has been developed.

In the second part of the research, case studies (including the Takhte Follad Cemetery and the Baghe Rezvan in Isfahan) were introduced and the research framework in the samples was tested and evaluated. According to the research framework, a second questionnaire was developed and distributed among the clients of both spaces to compare the comparative comparison of these two cases. The statistical population in each space was 50 people. This questionnaire was distributed among 100 of the clients in both spaces. Finally, by summarizing the research findings, suggestions and guidelines for planning and designing cemeteries with emphasis on choosing location considerations are presented.

Discussion and Results

In this part of the present research, the research framework has been investigated in case studies including the “Tahkte Follad” and “Baghe Rezvan” cemeteries of Isfahan. “Tahkte Follad” cemetery is a historical and ancient collection within the city of Isfahan, which deals with the dynamic system of the city and The Baghe Rezvan cemetery is located outside the city of Isfahan and is merely a functional space for the burial of corpses. The link between this “Tahkte Follad” cemetery and other urban texture has created a sense of belonging in the people, and the desire of the people to attend the ceremonies in this space is greater, but the Baghe Rezvan cemetery unfortunately is empty of such senses. According to the research framework, a questionnaire was developed and distributed among the clients of both spaces and compared to the two spaces. The research findings are presented in Table 9. In this table, the components and criteria of the research framework have been put and the results of the questionnaires are summarized in this table. Finally, a comparative study has been carried out based on the research framework between two case studies. From the results of this study, it appears that the cemetery, as a native urban space, has been used extensively for social interactions, manifestation of survivors' affiliation, cultural identity, and legibility of urban spaces in the past, and is an inseparable part of the city's structure.

Conclusions

The results of this study suggest that the cemetery was used as a native urban space for social interactions, manifestation of belonging to survivors, cultural identity, and the readability of urban spaces in the past. For example, the “Tahkte Follad” cemetery of Esfahan has been considered as one of the most valuable cemeteries in the Shia world. This research is carried out with comparative comparisons between Baghe Rezvan cemetery, which was built outside the city, and “Tahkte Follad” which is in gradually destroying state to reconstruct the living concept of the previous cemeteries.

Keywords: Cemetery, Cultural Landscape, Locating, Takhte Follad Cemetery, Baghe Rezvan Cemetery.

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