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Research Paper

To examine factors affecting on cities historical evolution (case study: Shiraz artillery square)

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Abstract

In this article with aim to understand how form artillery square spatial pattern in a city of Iran, it is tried to track the space background and basic factors involved in it's forming. For this, Shiraz historical structure and governmental centers of ages before zandieh has been examined to know the square bed. Also, we have defined and analyzed the word 'square' to answer this hypothesis whether artillery have been square or formed from a created space. The artillery space has some features of square in terms of operation and surrounded space but on shape and body had been converted into discontinuous body with irregular form due to it's connection to the city old texture. Generally, combining buildings with different operations around the square represents the importance of collecting citizens in a general space and reinforcing social communications in the square, and these combinations give different forms to the square in term of role, performance and characteristics of buildings around the square. Surrounded by defined and continuous walls is one of the square main characteristics. One of the features of the Buildings is it's attaching to the square directly. The square importance is not limited to it's apparent shape and form rather as it is a place of gathering civilizations in most cases is important due to recalling historical events and social needs. The study structure is based on scientific - historical-library resources and first and second hand written and pictorial resources, and evidence analysis and evaluation has been conducted in interpretive_historical form.

Keywords: Square, Shiraz structure, artillery square, zandieh period, Karim khani buildings.

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Extended Abstract

Introduction:

In this article, with the aim of understanding how the spatial pattern of "artillery square" in the Iranian cities is formed, the background of this space and the fundamental factors involved in its formation are analyzed. Creating a very strong image of the city provides the basis for people to be balanced with the environment. In his civil works, Karim Khan paid more attention to the comfort and improvement of the people than more than to the beauty of the city. The art and architecture of the Karim Khan period is a combination of the former architecture of Iran and the continuation of traditional architecture in order to flourish the art and architecture and native engineering techniques. The enclosure of the Artillery Square in Shiraz during the time of Karim Khan Zand with defined and continuous walls is one of the main features of this square in which there is no interruption in the body of the square. In general, combining buildings with different functions around the square shows the importance of gathering citizens in a public space and strengthening social relations in the Zandieh period.

Methodology:

The first form of the structure of the city of Shiraz in the pre-Safavid period is related to its prosperity during the time of Al-e-Buyeh, the fourth century AH. At the time of Al-e-Buyeh, urban elements were established along the Azdi aqueduct and the overall structure of the city was formed as a single center. In the Atabakan period, the separation of urban functions according to the axis parallel to the aqueduct was observed and the central structure was weakened and tended to a corner of the city. In the Safavid period, the backbone of Shiraz, while maintaining the previous position, moved to the north, but due to the surrounding urban spaces by neighborhoods, the new Safavid complex has been formed in line with the old complex and at a distance from the previous complex. Urban open spaces are mainly formed within the elements based on the introverted pattern of urban texture and are transformed into urban squares in stages of ossification development. The first task of the Karim Khan dynasty was to select and decorate the city of Shiraz as the capital, which is not only a strategic and administrative base, but also a psychological weapon to strive for the continuation of public support and their national prestige. Karim Khan built tall buildings with large and stretched spaces due to the dual spirit of "people-war". His designs were a mixture of the architecture of the predecessors and the architecture of the Safavids. It has used the architectural elements of its predecessors, especially the Achaemenids, Sassanids, Safavids and Seljuks in their external and internal buildings and facades.

In general, the ossification of the Shiraz city in Zandieh period has been in line with the market as in the past, and the new urban complex has been developed in a westerly direction. In the Safavid period, unlike the Atabakan period, when the texture of the ossification area was compact and attached to each other, the urban texture was formed around open urban spaces (squares), but in the Zandieh period, the density and openness of the city texture was not similar to the Safavid period. In the context of this period, there are a series of buildings that are separate, which include open and closed spaces separately. A square is a space or place with regular or irregular dimensions that acts as a place for specific activities or functions (permanently or at specific times, periodically). Square identity is defined by three main elements: "function", "center" and "side". Squares are geometrically designed in two ways and lack regular design.

Results and discussion:

The existence of the "open urban space" of the Safavid period, due to its features and potentials, allows prisoners to use part of this space and change it to a larger square called "artillery square". Its features and potentials include: connection to the old Safavid context and connection with Vakil Mosque, proximity to Vakil Bazaar, government garden, possibility of development and expansion, and in general position, being at the top of the city entrance from Baghshah gate and also connection with Isfahan Gate through Vakil Bazaar. General characteristics of artillery square are as follows: Karimkhani Square as an urban facility and arsenal consists of three sections: 1. The political section, including the Pergola Mansion and the Madhouse; 2. The economic sector, including the market; and 3. The military sector, which included the training square. In this square, the citadel served as the king's house and the main core of the square.

The Artillery Square performance is as follows: In the era of Karim Khan, this square was a place where cannons were kept, which, according to William Franklin, were not used. In the square and in front of the citadel, there was a platform on which Khan's music group played a song every day at sunrise and sunset. The Nasiri Farsnameh also states that in this square, soldiers were trained to practice the system. The Characteristics of the spaces around the artillery square including Vakil Bazaar, Vakil Mosque, Bagh-e Nazar, Arg and Divankhaneh as some of the surrounding spaces, are described in detail in this article. The general body of the artillery square, i. e. spaces and buildings in this square are placed side by side and because they have different functions, they display different views in the body of the square. One of the prominent features of Karimkhani buildings is the predominance of the functional role of the building over their form and aesthetic characteristics. In Karim Khani buildings, simplicity and strength can be clearly seen and in the proportions of this building, the climatic conditions of Shiraz have been considered.

Conclusion:

Urban space as a linguistic unit of urban design can be described objectively and mentally. In objective perception, two aspects are raised: the physical perception of space and the experience of space. In mental perception, all areas that are the place of public functions and social activities are built within the urban space. In the urban design of this period, the functional aspects have been given more importance than the aesthetic values. The importance of the square is not limited to its appearance and form, but because it is a public gathering place for citizens, in most cases it is important for remembering historical events and social needs.