

The Necessity of Identification and Protection of Green Spaces Based on Local and Regional Condition in Iran (Case Study: Akbarieh Garden of Birjand)

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Expanded Abstract

Introduction

Iranian traditional cities represent a real symbol of stability and health. These conditions indicate that such urban planning design and program have been done thoughtfully and wisely. In these cities, the natural resources are used with minimal damage to existing endowments with the highest efficiency in management. However, it is often destroyed due to some people's ignorance and legal rules. For this reason, identifying and describing the position of such infrastructure and spaces can affect their conservation and sustainability. This paper is to discuss one of these spaces-the Akbarieh Garden of Birjand - and identify its location in this desert town. It is considered internationally as one of the nine important Iranian gardens. For this reason, this study is set out to provide and identify new information for people who are interested in this case. As the matter of fact, lack of winter and summer rainfall increasingly reduced green spaces and natural green areas. This concerned the public greatly. In addition, the politician traffic had been increased after Birjand were regarded as gate of East and India. Some countries such as English established a political office in Birjand. This traffic makes the political representatives try to consult with local authorities before central government conservation. Such meetings and traffics required particular situations. Thus, the proper condition is designed and constructed for natural and social condition in different eras. Various reasons caused the garden to remain ordinary or be destroyed over time. Undoubtedly, the remained cases have a particular condition. Introducing these attractions could improve their maintenance and it encourages some creative people to build such gardens.

Materials and Methods

This study has descriptive and analytical approach and the required information are compiled through field visits, expert opinions and use of historical documents. For this purpose, individuals and groups have been questioned related to restoration of the historical garden of Birjand in Iran. Finally, the gathered information was summarized and categorized accurately. According to the type of data collected, the analysis was based on the content type and on the view of experts. Because there is no single opinion about damage kind and destruction process, all commands have been studied and the elements which overlap in the cases under study have taken into account in final analysis. For example, among functions of the garden, after Iran revolution, the item which was accepted plentifully was considered. Therefore, only one function was analyzed. Other cases should be used based on the context.

Akbarieh Garden is located in the south of Birjand, an ancient city near the Bagheran foothills. According to the available information, the construction of the complex was started in the late Zandiye era and continued in early years of Pahlavi era. More ancient part of Shams Al Moluk building is in easternmost part of the garden. It is built on two floors. Before constructing the garden and the building, some structures were connected to the surrounding residential context. We can see some composition in the new space now. Last part of the complex is a building known as ceremonial building constructed by Shokat Al Moluk at the final Ghajar era. This part of the building is decorated with beautiful views and currently considered as the central part of the complex.

Results and Discussion

According to geometry regularity in tabulation and adaption of entrance axes with palace axes and entrance portal, Akbarieh garden involves absolute regularity geometry. It is a great example of Iranian gardens. Based on situations and functional requirements for various purposes, several different buildings are added to it. They are

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formed between the main and south gardens organically. Efficiency, hierarchy, view quality, and creating movement path with a beautiful perspective of the garden and buildings were regarded in the next development. Existing the wide terrace and porch caused dominated perspective and increased its visual quality.

The main courtyard of the garden is rectangular with dimensions of 217×94 m located along north-south side and its building located on the south side. Like most Iranian gardens, the main axis of the garden is located on the longitudinal axis and the two rows of old age pine trees with boxwood shrubs are demonstrated in the outlook. In the end of the garden path and in front of the building, there are pools as the main element. In addition, the garden image is beautifully reflected in water. The harmonious relationships between the carved form of main building view and the sky line and main terrace are very appealing. The garden area is 35000 m² surrounded by mud-brick wall. Architectural space is divided into three parts: main structure, service space, and stable.

Generally, the buildings are extended from East to West. The first building is in the eastern area in the main Street. Other buildings have arisen according to the demands coordinate with the previous structure. Although Akbarieh garden and its buildings were not constructed in a particular time and in a specified period, but it is considered a full complex due to the similarity in construction and architecture.

The most visible garden space is the main floor located in the middle of the fence. This space includes tabulate, main and sub streets, general road and pools. Tabulate are considered a section to build the original garden space. The main space was created with replicates. Although these units include an order internally, it includes the total garden space externally. In relationship with other spaces, they formed wider space.

The streets are enumerated as other garden body. There is a main street branched in sub-street. It is related to the main garden portal into central structure. There are various spaces and scenes in the main street. Such scenes and spaces are the main street wall consisted of shadowy green tree and a pool in the middle of the garden. There is also an extended scene in which the main building with a pool in front of it and flowerbeds with ornamental flowers were appealing.

The important structural elements of the garden can be studied in three main sections. Garden fence is constructed from the brick surrounded with farms. Urban development is changing it into residential area. Fence is the most important element of garden space and can be affected by internal and external view.

All the elements of garden are water movement, tree, and plants and other spaces. These were displayed with a bed called ground. Against the sky, ground creates a space heated with garden fence. Some factors such as slope, required area, the water presence time, geometry and order of organizing the garden and climate influenced the forming floor.

Entrance façade and central building are the most important elements in garden. Although, structures such as main garden façade, court building, main building, and service building and overhead stair are considered a little scale, they have spatial performance.

In Akbarieh Garden, the specific performance was identified for the main streets and main façade. Nevertheless, it is used for reception of some quests. Other performances are also defined for the main building. The defined performances are as following:

First section: external space is for service and special functions located along the main building.

Second section: Some sub spaces are defined as a set of performance related to the habitation located around the main space.

Third section: Some service performance and guard house such as stable are located out of the main space.

Conclusion

Due to terrible heat and dust resulting from warm and flaring wind and lack of proper water, availability of green space is inevitable in desert and semi desert areas. It was important in Birjand, because this city was the path for traffic of political representatives. Such necessity formed various gardens such as Akbarieh which had been identified a territory of horizontal development by extending town forward over the proper farms.

In fact, such space corresponds with nature as well as show planning and formation of habitants. However, relationships and factors of such a garden survival can be used as guidance for new generations in post modernism in which people suffer from lack of green space. The issue may seem interesting; if we know some gardens got destroyed intentionally or not intended. In fact, documenting the garden history can be an entrance to maintain and regenerate them. Because the garden is a dynamic organ, it can change over time. Thus, it should remain unchanged permanently.

If early garden plot is changed and some elements removed or added, it could find the different schema in various eras by distinguishing the natural and historical layers of the garden. Based on the obtained data, historical structure or initial plan is improved. To this end in view, current study has emphasized on explanation of Akbarieh garden's position as one of the elements affecting the structure and performance of Birjand, particularly the green space supply and their performance.

These gardens as a complete structure indicate a close relationship between the cultural and natural bed and it

is a sign of aligned needs of humans and nature. Manufacture can create the garden based on experience resulted in survival of natural bed. Survival of this garden is important because Birjand is located in the desert area of Khorasan where encountered challenges of green and natural space. Birjand is developed in Safavids era. Some of the historical gardens are developed in the last Zandie, Ghajar and Pahlavi eras. The Birjand City affected by the Sistan 120 days winds could not survive without these spaces. For this reason, this garden was registered in Cultural heritage list in 35th UNESCO meeting, 2011.

In addition, creation of this garden was based on special bed corresponding with principles and methods of Iranian architecture. Proper site selection for preparing the early bed, choosing appropriate plant species, and the method of agriculture demonstrated the Iranian creativity for planning and implementation with limited sources. The plot of this garden plays an important role in developing Birjand because all geometric principles such as symmetry, view extent, water axle, and rectangular geometry were used. In fact, regarding to position and localization is resulted from environmental ability and affected development of the city. Therefore, this caused internal development and keeps originality of the city.

Finally, it can be stated that Akbarieh garden is highlighted due to its special conditions, historical construction period and bed design, in addition to various features of other gardens. This special feature affected Birjand structure and any destruction threat the originality of Birjand. In addition, the mentioned garden demonstrated a close relationship between cultural and natural bed. It also corresponds with human being and nature.

Keywords: Akbarieh Garden, Birjand, Persian garden, sustainability, traditional cities.

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