PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

URBAN CHANGE IN IRAN

8-9 November 2012

University College London, UK

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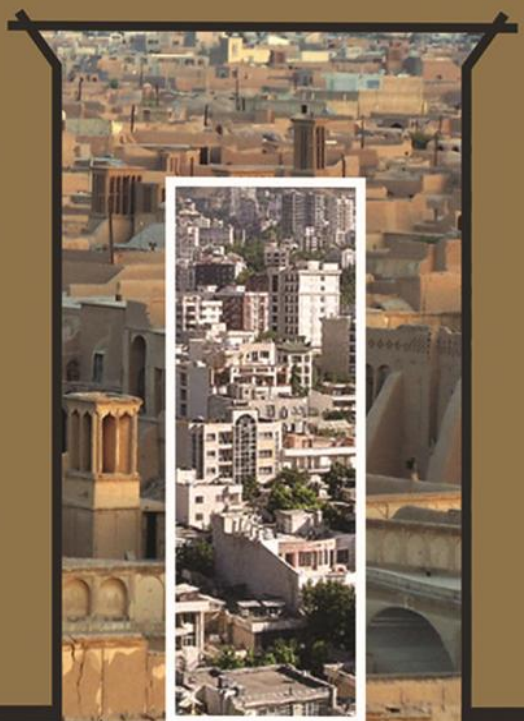

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Welcome Message

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Message from Ms Irina Bokova,
Director-General of UNESCO
on the occasion of the international conference "Urban Change in Iran"

London, 8 November 2012

I am pleased to extend warm greetings to the participants of this International Conference devoted to 'Urban Change in Iran'. I wish to commend the University College of London for undertaking this initiative on a topic of such importance for contemporary Iran and such relevance for cities across the world.

Cities are key actors for peace and development in the century ahead. Our challenge is to ensure that this peace is lasting and this development is sustainable. Half of the world's population today lives in the cities – in one generation, this will rise to two thirds. One billion people today live in urban slums -- this will also increase. Cities are our greatest motors of dynamism, growth, innovation and 'living together.' While making the most of our diversity, cities are the world's rising creative hubs. These vibrant centres of innovation open up tremendous new opportunities for employment, learning and exchange. At the same time, cities raise serious questions about injustice and poverty. Urbanization processes are often deregulated and uncontrolled, leading to social and spatial fragmentation, inter-community tensions, a deterioration in the quality of the built and natural environment and increased vulnerability to the impact of climate change. Across the world, cities share common challenges – and yet every city is different, and every solution must be specifically tailored.

Our urban heritage is the result of complex interactions between tangible and intangible components. Together, they constitute a key resource for enhancing the liveability of urban areas and supporting economic development and social cohesion in a changing global environment. Preserving this heritage is one of the major challenges facing all societies today. Tackling this challenge calls for effective planning and management of resources and a clear understanding of the complex social, economic and cultural factors that shape development.

Over the past five decades, urban heritage conservation has emerged worldwide as an important sector of public policy -- in response to the need to preserve shared values and draw full benefit from the legacy of history. However, existing policies and tools need to be revised and adapted to reflect the progressive shift from an emphasis on architectural monuments towards a broader recognition of the interrelated social, cultural and economic processes involved in the conservation of urban values.

UNESCO is working at all these levels. As the specialized UN agency with a mandate to preserve cultural diversity, UNESCO has crafted an integrated approach to safeguarding humanity's heritage. This underlies UNESCO cultural conventions, such as the World Heritage Convention and the Intangible Heritage Convention, which set international standards for heritage protection. The most recent UNESCO instrument is the 2011 *Recommendation of the Historic Urban Landscape*. This Recommendation prescribes a holistic approach to the sustainable development of our historic cities, by taking into account contemporary realities. Conceived as a practical tool for local authorities, this non-binding 'soft' law calls for the direct participation of local communities and private sector in conservation efforts.

Iran has given humanity one of the world's oldest 'urban civilizations'. It possesses a rich cultural heritage that is embodied in 15 sites inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List, several of which have been listed for their urban values -- the Meidan Emam in Esfahan, Sheikh Safi al-din Khānegāh and Shrine Ensemble in Ardabil, the Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex and the serial property known as the Persian Garden. For UNESCO, these outstanding sites carry vast potential to inspire future sustainable urban development. They enshrine centuries-old social and cultural values that can provide valuable reference points to guide all parties responsible for urban change in Iran today.

In this spirit, I wish you rich and productive deliberations, which will contribute significantly to the global debate on the future of cities.

Irina Bokova

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Evaluating the Role of Tourism Potentials in the Development of Chabahar Free Zone

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Abstract

The development of tourism industry requires comprehensive knowledge of the economic, social and cultural situation of the region. The commercial–industrial free zone of Chabahar presents plenty of potentials to cause regional development in South-East Iran. Having a significant number of natural, cultural and historical tourist attractions, proximity to the Persian Gulf littoral states and having the particularly strategic position as one of the most important transit corridors of Iran, this region can become a major tourist hub of Iran. However, due to numerous problems and obstacles, this area could not fully benefit from its existing potentials. The purpose of this study is to introduce and review the tourism potentials in Chabahar free zone and their role in development of the region. FUZZY AHP method has been used for this analysis. Finally, some guidelines have been provided for tourism development in Chabahar.

The results of the research show that among the investigated indicators, through application of FUZZY AHP technique, improving facilities and utilities, development of advertising and marketing and infrastructure investment respectively will potentially have the most significant roles in the development of tourism industry in Chabahar. In addition, the results of field studies indicate that multiplicity of decision makers, poor management, lack of adequate infrastructure and weak marketing are main weaknesses of the region. However, the existing employment context as the main opportunity and various tourist attractions as the main strength can be efficient in the development of Chabahar Free Zone.

Keywords: Tourism and Development, Chabahar Free Zone, Fuzzy AHP

The Recognition of Structural-Spatial Development Models in the Immediate Primary Nucleolus Ranges of Iranian Historical Cities and Presenting Design Approaches

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Abstract

A general view of the expansion in historical districts of Iranian cities indicates a similar process in all of them. Prior to the last two-hundred years ago, urban development was responsive to the insufficient space inside the existing limits of a city, and it passed through a soft and reasonable growth. During Qajar and the first Pahlavi, the areas surrounding the existing urban nodes continued a gradual growth towards (or around) the old city walls. Since the mid- second Pahlavi era (following the Land Reform), the urban growth became faster and more intensive, particularly after the 1978 revolution. The urban space of this era had no particular location quality; therefore, the necessity of communication between an urban space and its structural and socio-spatial ground was neglected. Peripheral developments took place copying western building models. The above three periods have more or less occured in all Iranian cities.

Historic city centres in Iranare generally connected to the peripheral developments and other urban cores through a middle layer, which is neither fully modern nor fully traditional. Environmental designers on one hand face traditional spaces, and on the other hand the increasing changes in Iranian lifestyle. As it appears, it is a necessity to define the structural-spatial patterns of the immediate peripheral areas around city centres in order to re-establish a dialogue between the historic texture of central cores and contemporary developments. To address the above need, this research provides a brief study of changes in peripheral areas of five historic cities. The research offers a conceptual model for those changes in structural-spatial dimensions, followed by an extraction of spatial and social structure indexes of those parts. It concludes by suggesting some suitable approaches to the characteristics of cities. The aim of this paper is to re-define structural and spatial patterns of peripheral fabrics around historic cores that can be used for urban recreation in the intermediate layers between two new and old areas. The research hypotheses include the following:

- Attention to adjacent local characteristics in re-designing the intermediate areas would improve their local identity and promotes its spatial-visual quality.
- Regulating the dialogue and consistency between peripheral areas, the historic fabric and new developments is possible through understanding spatial, visual and morphological characteristics.

Keywords: Historical District, Pattern of City, Contextualism, Spatial Characteristics, Visual Characteristics, Morphological Characteristics

Urban Continuity and Urban Change; Lessons from Jolfa, a Historical District of Isfahan

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Abstract

There is a dialectical relationship between continuity and change in urban phenomena. When urban change accelerates, especially due to external forces, cities are likely to face the crisis of identity. Iran is a country that has undergone very different situations throughout its history, and its cities have respectively responded through different ways of survival. One of these cities is Isfahan, which includes a district called Jolfa: the first designed neighbourhood of a city in Iran. Jolfa as a place to settle Armenian immigrants to Iran in Safavid era is the most viable historic urban space with 2% effete, and it is the heart of social life in contemporary Isfahan. The main goal of this research is to find out how Jolfa has adapted to changing situations. Thus, the process of site allocation for Jolfa, its development and current position is studied. In response to the key role of ecologic and social aspects in Jolfa this research is focused on the relation of socio-ecologic aspects and the built environment. The majority of Iran is located in the climate where supplying water is much of a struggle and inhabiting in such a situation was deeply based on innovative methods of managing resourses. Therefore the form of capital in this territory was, unlike Europe, water rather than land. One of these innovative methods was building creeks diverged from rivers called Madi and another was bringing green space into built environment. Apart from their ecological functions, water canals function as infrastructures prompting social interaction. This research focuses on historic processes of development and the role of water. Although, some wrong decisions threaten this unique neighbourhood, the sense of community is the key to Jolfa's survival now. This research used historic documents and traced the footprint of history in the contemporary city in a field study; in addition, GIS was applied as a method of study. This research goes beyond the shape of city and focuses on social aspects of it. It is also hoped that the results of this case study can be used beyond Jolfa in other cases.

Keywords: Urban Change, Historic Development, Isfahan, Jolfa, Eco- social Development

The Impacts of Urban Design Interventions on the Night-Life of Urban Areas in the Case of Mashhad, Iran

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Abstract

In contemporary societies modern life, based on technology, sets out new forms of social activities and entertainments and the possibility to experience them during both day and night. In Western societies, different leisure spaces including theatres, opera houses, cinemas, restaurant, fast food restaurants, pubs, bars, clubs and cafes attract various groups of people for socialising at night.
Night has been known and experienced differently in various cultures and time periods. Local and international forces related to economic, cultural and political issues shape the night-time activities of each city. As Roberts and Eldridge (2009) discuss there is no singular night-time economy, but a number of economies in different cities or even in different areas of one city running side-by-side in support or opposition to each other.

The discussion about the city at night is dominated by Western frameworks and experiences. In this paper I will investigate Mashhad as a 24-hour city in Iran. Night-life in Iran as a middle-eastern country cannot be explained using available literature because of religious practices or a response to the climate. In Iran, religious rules and regulations do not allow any pubs, bars, casinos or clubs. However, the cities work at night continuing day-time activities. Mashhad is the second largest city of Iran. It is one of the holiest cities in Shiite Islam as the shrine of Imam Reza is located at its centre. It has a population of almost three million and annually hosts over 25 million pilgrims. This large number of visitors and the shrine characterises the city and 24-hour activities. As the boundaries between day and night in Mashhad are less visible, the night-time activities include all kinds of urban activities whether religious, business, recreational, social or commercial.

The shrine area with its old urban fabric, almost covering the fortified old city of Mashhad, is the main destination of pilgrims during day and night. This area has been working 24-hours for many years, and will continue to work as long as it hosts pilgrims. However, an important issue threatening the 24-hour feature of the area is the Regeneration and Reconstruction Plan of the Shrine Area started in 2001. The main purpose of this plan, following the modernisation wave started in Iran in 1930s, is to modernise the area in order to attract and accommodate more pilgrims. This plan is based on changing the area's features and improving its performance by replacing the small shops, guest-houses and the residents' houses with new multi-level shopping centres and hotels and widening the current streets to facilitate the traffic. Financial exclusion, emergence of neglected spaces, public space invaded by vehicles, loss of authenticity and growth of placelessness are the initial results of this plan.

In this paper Mashhad is investigated as a city with organic 24-hour attributes, influenced by religious, cultural and commercial issues, while the modernisation efforts of Iranian urban plans are threatening the continuity of its night-life.

Keywords: Night-time Economy, Urban Design, Mashhad, Iran, Regeneration, Historic District

Environmental Regeneration of the Historic Urban Fabric: A Case Study of Sarcheshmeh-Oudlajan, a Historic Neighbourhood in Tehran

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Abstract

There has been a sharp increase in the world's urban population in recent decades. This has caused a large array of new pressures in urban settlements and their historic areas, which have become centres and drivers of economic growth in many regions of the world. The scale and speed of development and the changing economy, have transformed urban areas as they adopt a new role in cultural and social life.

Under processes of global market liberalisation, Iranian cities have been subjected to dramatic development challenges. These have had an impact on the integrity of the urban fabric, and the identity of communities, which had historically been successively produced by traditions and good practices according to climate diversity and existing cultures. The new disruptive processes in the urban development context with the aim of more income from real estate have resulted in a drastic deterioration of the quality of the urban environment and life. Challenges include a standardised and monotonous urban landscape, debilitating poverty, social isolation, and an increasing risk of climate-related disasters.

This research is conducted in order to revise the methods of analyses, and the ways of their interpretation; and to determine targets and strategies for better management of physical and social transformation. By criticising the current urban policy and using international good practices, and prioritising social and environmental factors with their reciprocal relationships, which is important for a better regeneration and redistribution of resources, it also aims to define improved strategies and policies with a scientific interpretation method of analysis. In consequence, the focus of this research is not only on the clash between conservation and innovation of a single fabric with its physical dimensions and historic values, it also tries to suggest a paradigm to re-integrate the historic urban fabric as a component of the broader context of the territorial system in which it is physically located, historically dated, anthropologically stratified, and socio-economically integrated.

The case study of Sarcheshmeh-Oudlajan – a historic neighbourhood in Tehran – is chosen for its characteristics as a both historic and contemporary built environment, its infrastructures above and below ground, its land use patterns and spatial organisation, as well as all other elements of the urban structure. It could be a good new model based on ecologically sensitive policies and practices in order to improve sustainable growth, economic health and the quality of urban life. In this way the research approach offers assistance in managing and mitigating the impacts on urban heritage neighbourhoods through regeneration and conservation on the basis of eco-efficiency aspects. These strategies may be generalised for other parts of the city, to achieve a balance between urban growth and well-being of communities, and between technological culture and environmental sustainability of the historic urban landscape.

Keywords: Historic Urban Fabric, Environmental Regeneration, Liveability, Bioclimatic Approach, Open Space

An Investigation on the Effects of Neighbourhood Borders on Equity and sustainability of Contemporary Iranian Cities

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Abstract

The city is considered as a whole that is divided into components with different characteristics. The neighbourhood might be known as its most important component; and while each of the components is a specific unit, they get together and create a city. The concept of neighbourhood is rooted in Iranian tradition, but nowadays modern spatial divisions in cities change the definition of neighbourhood. These divisions change the link between neighbourhoods, and redefine borders of them.

While borders are considered essential for defining an identity for the neighbourhood, they also create new spaces that always remain undefined. These spaces have a dual nature: separation and connection. Hence, borders determine the quality of relation between neighbourhoods. They can create equity or spoil it, and ultimately cause neighbourhoods' growth or decline.

In this paper, after reviewing the literature on spatial division and neighbourhood borders, I have tried to recognise socio-spatial qualities of these spaces in contemporary Iranian cities. Therefore I chose Azarbaijan Street - located in the central part of Tehran - as a case study and investigated social and spatial features by observation and interviews.

This paper argues that neighbourhood borders should be considered as an urban space that is a place for appearance of differences; and they have specific characteristics that are different from adjoining neighbourhoods. Borders are shared spaces between neighbourhoods and have a significant effect on forming social interactions and consequently creation of congruity and equity among neighbourhoods. If we eliminate pedestrians from these spaces, the city becomes as a collection of islands without meaning.

Keywords: Spatial Division, Neighbourhood, Neighbourhood Borders, Urban Space, Azarbaijan Street

Mapping Cultural Landscape: A Step towards a Socially Responsive Urban Design

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Abstract

Examining the built environment along Jomhouri Street in the city of Tehran, and the process of genesis of its landscape, this paper presents a conceptual framework for applying cultural landscape to inform urban projects carried out in the city. Whether new constructions or conservative interventions in the existing fabric, urban design in Tehran, especially in old urban fabrics has been a controversial issue, puzzled by contradictory desires for moving towards future and looking to the past. New approaches, introduced in recent years, though tried to be sensitive to history, often failed to recognise the uniqueness of each case, capture the multiple stories embedded in the landscape and address them properly. Of particular importance are urban projects intervening in the streetscape of downtown Tehran, especially in those streets constructed during the first Pahlavi's (1921-1941) radical-modernising urban projects. Despite the long-discussed harms and problems these streets brought to the city, they provide us with a unique opportunity to view cross sections of the city. 'Palimpsest of past forms super-imposed upon each other', as David Harvey (1990) puts it, landscapes of these streets are tangible and visible articulations of numerous historical and contemporary discourses throughout the last century. Not only these landscapes are not monotonous, but also each embraces multiple zones with distinct identities. Hardly, following the structure of urban grids, these zones are products of a syntax between various socio-economic factors, varying in time and place.

Acknowledging the importance of landscape as 'public history' (Hayden, 1995), this paper argues that any urban design or policy should be fully informed by discourses that have shaped, and are shaping landscape of the city. It further demonstrates the shortcoming of conventional maps which only record and project fixed sets of data, and introduces a different approach for mapping memories, daily activities and historical discourses that shape the cultural landscape of the street but are absent from conventional maps. This mapping technique allows us to visualise sets of important but often disregarded information in the form of a new layout, which shall be added to the conventional maps always present in urban design projects. To further explore and articulate this mapping technique, Jomhouri Street is used as a case study. Through extensive fieldworks and historical analysis, the landscape, its various zones and processes of their genesis are examined and mapped; in order to enable us to capture and present values embedded in the site, which will inform future policy making and design decisions for the entire or part of the street.

Keywords: Cultural Landscape, Spatio-cultural Layers, Collective Memories, Mapping

An Assessment of Tehran Metropolis Globalisation Factors: Indispensable Changes on the Way to Globalisation

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Abstract

As globalisation expanded in recent years, a great number of cities especially in developing countries have concentrated on effective efforts in order to be considered as global cities. Among these cities, the absence of Tehran, as one of the largest cities of Asia, is tangible. Although Tehran has a great potential for taking the advantage of being a global city, on the grounds that it is located in the Heartland Area, GAWC world-city status classified Tehran among the cities that are neither global nor shared their national territory with a world city. Therefore, continuing denial of such trend can leave Tehran deprived of enormous advantages following these flows. In this regard, this study is carried out to propose some strategies to promote Tehran as a global city. The research is based on identifying key factors which can lead to Tehran being considered as a global city.

Keywords: Globalisation, Tehran Metropolis, Factor Analysis, Regression Analysis

Tehran: a Call for Spatial Justice

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Abstract

Space is not an empty void. It is always filled with politics, ideology and other forces shaping our lives and challenging us to engage in struggles over geography.
Edward W. Soja (2010, p.19)

Placed among a blend of geographic *collages* and augmented landscapes, societies are continuously striving for security, equality and drawing fair and democratic boundaries all the while injustice embeds itself into space. The phenomenon of the 'city' and 'urban life' is born through the evolving process of satisfaction of social primary and secondary needs. Overcoming the basic needs in life furthermore calls for a certain profound personal spiritual fulfilment, sometimes seeking a powerful definition of existence among the dynamic complex of urbanism. Needs lead to the formation of traditions that entail the repetition of desires. Through the continuity of a functioning social structure, urban fabrics come to being. Consequently, the space is socially produced. Justice defined as 'the quality of being fair and reasonable' is also suggested to be socially created over time and therefore can be considered as a temporal entity. 'Time brings us to life, tempers our existence, makes us unalterably and irreversibly contemporary, and in the end unavoidably temporary' drawing us to behave accordingly to the situations we are placed upon. Just or unjust behaviour manifested into space is an utter and clear result of our own decision making; whether personal, economic or political.

So long as the ultimate goal of any decision would be the persistence of social welfare, spatial justice would relatively be accomplished. However, the other end of the spectrum would be the study of the immense gap between the affluent 'who seal themselves for protection' and the deprived who become poorer by default. This favours the wealthy and disfavours the unfortunate and therefore uneven developments form upon the geographies we live upon.

Tehran, a city that has welcomed rural migrants for decades, is an evident example of a collection of social gaps which have widened over time through various divisions including class and social background. As implied before, cities are living, responsive beings. Like every living entity a city can reach the brink of a nervous breakdown. *Inside every city, there is a breaking point, for Tehran, that point is NOW. If she is pushed too far, one day she might just push back.*

There always has been mutual interaction between man and the city. To implement one of the most precious yet neglected factors of human rights, the freedom to shape and reshape ourselves and the city, a collective force beyond that of the lone individual is required. 'If our urban world has been imagined and made, then it can be re-imagined and re-made.'

For Tehran this paper aims to extract opportunities, situations, ideals and dreams of a nation with an eye for beauty and a taste for socio-economic happiness through the lens of *seeking spatial justice*.

Keywords: Right to the City, Tehran, Spatial Justice, Social Structures, Uneven Development

The Relationship between Urban Governance and Sustainable Urban Development in Iran

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Abstract

Cities in Iran face major challenges in all domains of sustainability relating to environmental, social and economic dimensions of development. These challenges are manifest at different spatial scales from metropolitan to local neighbourhood levels. Environmental challenges include high and ineffective energy consumption, destruction of natural environment, pollution of air, water, soil, noise and other related problems. On the social and economic fronts, poverty and inequality in access to public services and infrastructures and employment has led to rapid growth of informal settlements and informal economic activities inside and on the fringe of medium and big cities. Furthermore, dependence of municipalities on unsustainable and irregular revenues that mostly derives from construction levies and taxes, has led to numerous challenges for long-term provision of basic city services.

Previous research and reports on evaluating sustainability of Iranian cities and regions support these claims (e.g. TURPC, 2011; WGES, 2009; World Bank, 2005). However, these have largely focused on assessing what Faludi has described as 'substantive' issues in planning, i.e. methods and application of planning such as identifying and measuring sustainable development indicators in environmental, social and economic areas. As a result, and again using Faludi's terminology, they have neglected to examine underlying 'procedural' issues affecting sustainability, e.g. urban governance, and the relationship between 'substantive and procedural' aspects. This paper argues that the 'procedural' factors, including institutional and social capacities are fundamental for progressing and achieving sustainable development goals.

The main aim of this research, therefore, is to examine the institutional and social capacities for moving and progressing towards sustainable urban development in Iran. The paper adopts a systematic review or meta-analysis approach and brings together results of a number of previous studies undertaken by the authors and other researchers on social and institutional development in cities of Iran more generally. The findings indicate that there are not sufficient social and institutional capacities for progressing towards sustainable cities. Nevertheless, the paper contributes to better understanding of the potential that already exists, the barriers that must be overcome and the role that main agents play in shaping and utilizing these capacities. The paper finally presents a discussion about what may be the most appropriate future agenda for research on relationship between sustainability and governance in Iranian cities.

Keywords: Sustainable Urban Development, Urban Governance, Social Capital, Institutional Capital, Iran

The Role of Residents' Perception in Creating Sustainable Neighbourhoods Based on Subjective Indicators

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Abstract

Despite the fact that sustainability has been turned into an essential and multi-functional goal in planning and designing neighbourhoods, in recent decades, well-developed approaches to achieve this goal are still usually restricted to objective-oriented and environmental-based issues in many developing countries, including Iran. It is important how residents perceive sustainability in terms of subjective-oriented indicators. Such perception affects well-being, one of the most important subjective indicators in the quality of life, which directly affects and is affected by sustainability.

This paper argues that if subjective indicators derived from principles such as 'place attachment' and 'sense of belonging to place' are used to explain residents' perception of a sustainable neighbourhood, significant differences will be found between residents' valuations of subjective criteria of sustainability even in neighbourhoods located in the same city, Tehran. These neighbourhoods were examined here through defining and localising related criteria and special indicators derived from them.

Results show that residents' perception of sustainability varies in these neighbourhoods according to social classes, counteractions between the more and the less traditional neighbourhoods, level of awareness of environmental concerns, and even factors such as average age and gender. Therefore, in order to plan and design a sustainable neighbourhood, it is not only necessary to consider objective-oriented environmental, social, and economic indicators, but also, subjective and perceptual indicators should be employed. These perceptual indicators should emphasise on local customisation based upon environmental, political, cultural, and economic context of the place.

Keywords: Sustainability, Subjective Indicators, Residents' Perception

Monotechnic and Polytechnic Aspects in Iran's Contemporary Urbanism and Architecture

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Abstract

Approximately seven decades after the industrial revolution, modernism became a growing trend in Iran. The sparks of 'being modern' appeared in the Qajar period (through the Naser-e-Adin shah's abroad joineries in the late of 1880s). However, its related changes in the morphology of society has been documented since the 1920s. Analysing the social, political and cultural context of this change, according to 'philosophy of technology', reveals specific field of science and thought.

Based on Mumford's opinion, the philosophy of technology presents two aspects of technique in the procedure of applied technology; they are Monotechnic and Polytechnic. Polytechnic offers, receives and deals with instruction in many industrial arts and applied science, and it is adapted to various needs and demands of human life. Monotechnic, offers instruction in a single scientific of technical subject. According to Mitcham, Monotechnic is a powerful technique based on scientific intelligent and quantitative productions. The word Monotechnic entered literature in 1900s.

This paper presents a new framework to ease understanding of the multi-layered situations of Iran's contemporary urbanism and architecture based on Monotechnics and Polytechnics. The result obtained from this review is presented in a comparative model. The research method is qualitative; and it is based on interpretive-historical research.

Keywords: Polytechnic, Monotechnic, Iran, Contemporary, Urbanism, Architecture

The Role of Qanat and Irrigation Networks In The Process Of City Formation and Evolution in the Central Plateau of Iran, the Case of Sabzevar

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Abstract

'*The morphology and spatial patterns of cities have gradually developed to satisfy the cultural needs of their populations and to respond to their surrounding environment*' (Kheirabadi, 2000). The main cities of the central plateau of Iran are mostly located on the outer edge of this region. This distribution of the cities within the territory is determined by climatic impacts. Due to the scarce precipitation and the rapid evaporation of water for more than six months of the year, the region lacks permanent rivers, for that reason it was hard to establish permanent settlements. The population had to move between mountains and plains seasonally, but the invention of 'Qanats' changed the history. By means of these underground aqueducts water was funnelled from mountainous areas and aquifers to lower lands. Alluvial fans could be opened up to settlement and an agrarian civilisation evolved. Qanats became a crucial factor for the habitat.

Sabzevar is located in the northeast of Iran, south of the Sabzevar mountain range on the outer edge of the Central Plateau of Iran. A close examination of the Qanat dispersion maps of the Sabzevar region reveals that Sabzevar and the neighbouring villages are located in parallel with the Sabzevar Mountains. The distance between the mountains and the settlements depends on the length of the Qanats.

'Qanat also underlies the street pattern of cities as well. In some cities, Qanat water flows in tunnels beneath residential areas and surface near the cultivated area' (English, 1997). This water supply system is one of the important factors of the morphology of the desert cities. By comparing old maps of the Sabzevar Qanats and water routes with maps of historical streets and alleys in Sabzevar we found that the urban development pattern of Sabzevar is based on the transformation of farming lots to urban residential spaces. When in the course of urbanisation the fields were turned into houses with gardens, main streets were laid out along the course of main Qanats and alleys along subsidiary channels. The resulting street pattern corresponds with the old irrigation network and interestingly, the hierarchy of streets follows the hierarchy of the water distribution net.

Keywords: Qanat, Irrigation Network, Iranian Cities, City Formation, Morphology, Sabzevar

A Perceptual Approach to the Urban Colour Changing and Its Impacts

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Abstract

Imagine the city without colours...
Have you ever thought about that?
What is the colour of your hometown, or an ideal city in your mind?
Do you recognise a city through its colours or just by a single obvious colour?

These are our questions!

Today, as in the past, colour represents an important element of recognition, belonging, legibility and quality of the city. However, perhaps we are not aware of changing the colour of our spaces and its deep impacts. Same as with other countries, colour plays an integral role in shaping cities' identity in Iran. Therefore the research concerns an analysis of the city colour palette reflecting urban change in Iran as a developing country. A comparison between studies undertaken in other countries with those in Iran showed that we need a new and exact perspective toward this subject. Adapting research achievements in other countries to find a new effective approach for Iranian cities is our goal. The city of Qazvin was chosen to examine the implementation of this approach.
In Iran some experiments has been done by the municipality of Tehran last year (2011). This was through a survey, which involved two different groups of interviewees - experts and ordinary people. However, it did not cover a balanced statistical society. The considerable gap between the research results and its practical method showed us that redesigning questions based on interviewees' categories and also preparing new illustrated data with more parameters are needed in order to fill the gap between the research results and its practical codes.

Therefore, three different statistical groups have been selected, namely, ordinary people (residents), tourists and experts. The group 'ordinary people' included three sub groups, namely, elderly, adults and children. Qazvin city has been selected as a case in order to analyse those groups in an ancient city, and to find more reliable data. New data generated from different types of questions for each group, on the basis of each group's characteristics. The outcome helped us to find out more about people's perspectives on their contemporary city and also their ideal city.

In conclusion the outcome of this research reminds us to rethink the impacts of city colour palette on ever changing cities. Moreover, it might create a responsive path to fill the gap between the contemporary and the ideal city; developing previous studies and potentially establishing a new perspective for further researches.

Keywords: Urban Changing, Colour Palette, Shaping Cities, Process of Colour Analysis

Iranian Townscape and City Form, From Water-Based To Oil-Based Cities

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Abstract

The development of cities is based on economy in Iran. Water and later oil have been the main economic resources and therefore associated with power. Taking this point of view, this research discusses what traits influenced the form and townscape of some Iranian cities in the past. It includes two parts: the first part, the way the geopolitical situation of Iran valued the water and how the movement of water affected the form of Iranian cities in pre-modern Iran are discussed, and later, how water as an influencein the formation of the city was replaced by oil after industrialisation and discovery of oil. The process of deterritorialisation of water and consequently reterritorialisation of oil can be distinguished through previous discussions, with two distinct examples of water-based city, Isfahan (Isfahan) and oil-based city, Abadan. In the second part, historic constructions and their original and current usage are introduced, like some water systems that were exploited in pre-modern Iran such as Qanat (subterranean aqueducts), Yakhchal, Abanbar, Badgir (Wind Catcher), and madi, that shaped the townscape and skyline of Iranian cities and how they worked and were used. The paper is concluded by discussing how aquatic constructions lost their meaning and function and either were destroyed or turned into tourist sites after the emergence of oil is concluded.

In fact, with the emergence of oil based cities many vernacular types of urban infrastructure ceased to exist and the criteria for locating cities considerably changed. Thus, oil discovery caused a quasi-revolution in Iranian cities' form and location.

Keywords: Water-Based City, Oil-Based City, Form of the City, Deterritorialisation, Reterritorialisation

A Review of Urban Images of Tehran in the Iranian Post-Revolution Cinema

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Abstract

Both metropolis and cinema are the products of modernity. Since the end of the nineteenth century, the fortunes of cinema and the city have been inextricably linked to each other on a number of levels. It can be said that cinema, space and place need each other for description. First images of cities in the movies almost coincide with the birth of cinema; and after a short time all major cities in the world were shown in movies. As a result of such links, the social and physical changes in cities such as Berlin, Paris, Rome and the cities of the United States can be reviewed through cinema along with other sources. All these contributed to the emergence of a new genre in cinema: 'city film' or 'urban symphony'. Subjects such as alienation, population growth, mass storage, informal settlements, urban semiotics and so on, repeatedly and in different time periods have been displayed in movies.

An analysis of a filmic representation of a city begins with observing how individual films represent the conditions of a city or neighbourhood in a specific historic moment. The analysis then moves beyond seeing film as a mere representation of social reality towards focusing on how the cinematic text constructs and comments on those conditions. Any analysis of a city film can begin with an examination of the primary urban spaces which are portrayed in the film. How are these urban spaces staged and linked (or not linked) to other spaces in the city? How are interior and exterior spaces defined? How are public and private spaces defined? How do such spaces reflect the social reality of race, class, and gender?

In Iran, Tehran has been the major location of the films in recent decades. This city has been cinematically analysed, sometimes as a context of the story, and/or sometimes as the main theme of the film. The purpose of this paper is to provide a review of urban images of Tehran by using Iranian films since the 1980s. For the purpose of this research some movies are selected based on a) their themes in presenting urban problems, and b) their relationship with Tehran. Following that the Tehran cityscape will be reviewed through those cinematic perspectives.

Keywords: Post Revolution, Cinema, Tehran, Film, Urban Image

Re-visiting Three Neighbourhoods of Modern Tehran: 400 Dastgah | Narmak | Nazi-Abad

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Abstract

In 1945 the municipality of Tehran planned for the first time the development of large-scale Residential Neighbourhood projects. A young generation of Iranian architects would take up this assignment. The municipality of Tehran approved the construction of 1000 housing units in 'dead lands' in the south and east of Tehran. Over-population, increasing rents and land prices in the centre of Tehran made de-centralisation and expansion necessary. With the approval of the first seven-year development plan in 1948, the construction of 'Low-Income Housing' got a prominent place on the development agenda. The 'Rahni (Lease) Bank' was appointed by the Tehran Municipality as executive organisation for the low-income housing projects. The organization included young Iranian architects with European training and fresh ideas for the creation of a modern Tehran and adhering to the credo of modernist urbanism. The first modernist residential neighbourhood '400 Dastgah' was built in 1946 for low-income employees. As in so many (official) discourses (worldwide) of the time a lot of emphasis went to the efforts to attain affordable prices, what was supposedly related to materials, economy of scale, modern techniques, etc. but also land prices and the affordability for (low income) target groups. Typically, some financial schemes were elaborated (instalments during 20 years at a low rate, etc.). The approval of the law of 'Recording of Dead Lands' in 1952 opened up large fields (that were considered as/declared as State properties) around Tehran beyond the border of the time. Afterwards the new cabinet of Dr. Mosaddeq approved the construction of 2 large townships, respectively, Nazi Abad fields in the south and Narmak in the north-east of Tehran. These are the first major operations of township development in Iran in which modern urbanism would be applied. In 1953 the 'Sakhtemani (construction) Bank' was established. This financial instrument for the future development of housing in Tehran was initially funded through the selling of houses in Nazi-Abad and Narmak fields. Kuy-e-Narmak was designed in the North East of Tehran on a land of 600 hectares (one-sixth the size of Tehran) for 25,000 residents. An area of 200 hectares of that land was allocated to public functions and facilities, predominantly concentrated in a Central Square. In experts' opinions of the time, the construction of Narmak neighbourhood had a great impact on preventing land price prosperity and rent speculation. In designs for Narmak and Nazi-Abad the challenges of modern and traditional life style were clearly seen. These two new towns were the prototypes of modern urbanism in Tehran, and were repeated in subsequent new town developments (like Tehranpars, 1000 Dastgah …). Creating independent, modernist neighbourhoods (as new towns) on the border of Tehran was the main strategy for directing the city growth, and fundamental modernisation of Tehran. The three earlier mentioned modernist residential neighbourhoods (400 Dastgah, Narmak, and Nazi-Abad) did indeed set the path for the modernisation of Tehran and other Iranian cities in the 1940s and 1950s. Understanding the histories of such developments (including conception, implementation, reception and appropriation) are crucial for understanding the metamorphosis of Tehran from a traditional

city into a modern metropolis. The paper attempts to clarify these development histories as particular case studies that articulate the specificity of Iranian modernism and modernisation.

Key Words: Iranian Modernism, New Towns, Residential Neighbourhoods

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In the Shadow of Written History: an Exploration of the Tehran Bazaar as a Non-Place

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Abstract

To provide the answer for the simple question: 'what is the Tehran Bazaar?', one will fall into an architectural and socio-political labyrinth of historical classifications, definitions and descriptions. These are based on travellers' accounts, map productions, the monarchies' role in shaping cities, revolutions, theories of city evolution, the contradictory debates on Iranian/Islamic cities, as well as archaeological approaches to signs of civilisation and even linguistic approaches to the Persian root of the word 'Bazaar'. The most widely accepted definition of the Tehran Bazaar is that it is a linear structured marketplace, and a united socio-cultural entity consisting of several public buildings, which vary in form, function, and historical value.

This labyrinthine approach firstly ignores the transformative nature of the Bazaar and presents it as a still, immobile and silent complex of static places. Secondly, this approach leaves little room for investigating the plurality of events and multiplicity of meanings that are taking place perpetually in this market place. In other words, we need an entrance to this complexity without denying its incessant transformation.

This paper utilises the concepts of 'anthropological place' and 'non-place' by the French anthropologist, Marc Augé in his text 'Non-places, an introduction to super modernity' (1995), in order to open new possibilities of looking at the multivalent context of the Tehran Bazaar. This paper aims to go beyond the predictable traditional understanding, towards presenting an insight to a marketplace problematising any enduring meaning.

Keywords: The Tehran Bazaar, Tehran Urban Planning, Marc Augé, Non-place, Anthropological Place

Spatial Autocorrelation in the Study of Neighbourhoods: Empirical Evidence from Kerman, Iran

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Abstract

From the earliest cities to the present ones, spatial division, in order to forming residential zones and neighbourhoods, is the universal feature of urban areas. The role of neighbourhoods and face-to-face interaction is probably a strong factor in structuring smarter cities. This research focuses on comparative study on spatial autocorrelation of residential zones of cities like Kerman; it therefore provides a conceptual framework that can guide modelling and planning research. This study explored issues of measuring neighbourhoods through spatial autocorrelation method, which is based on Moran's I index on achieving the best neighbourhood model for forming smarter cities. The aim of this comparative study is to explore how characteristics of historic neighbourhoods can be successfully linked to new developments towards making smarter Iranian cities, and whether health and happiness of people can be related to the way that neighbourhood patterns are defined.

Keywords: Neighbourhoods, Urban Smart Growth, Spatial Autocorrelation, Iranian Traditional Cities

An Investigation on the Effects of Iran's First Baby Boomers (1976-1986) on the Housing Economy of Iran andthe Government Policies to Deal with the Problems Stemming from It

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Abstract

Iran's first baby boomers were born between 1976 and 1986. Annual growth rate of population in Iran during this period is said to be 3.9 %, which means that 16 million people were born in a ten- year period. The population in the initial and final year were recorded to be 33 million and 49 million respectively. Nowadays, there are roughly 16 million peopled aged 25-35 in need for residential units. Therefore, there will be an extra demand in the housing market, and it will apparently lead to high inflation in the housing economy, as well as housing prices. Therefore, prices for houses and flats are bound to significantly soar. In this paper, we discuss the impacts of this growing demand on the housing economy. The research also shows that the government approaches to mitigate this problem, through initiatives such as new towns and Mehr Housing, are not successful because these solutions are just emphasising on construction of houses without considering other vital aspects of housing, for example services, creating job opportunists and so on. Furthermore, the research provides some proposals to ameliorate the shortfalls of these ongoing policies.

Keywords: Baby Boomers, Housing Economy, Demand and Supply of Residential Units, Government Housing Policies

Developing Climate Friendly New Towns, a Case Study of Iran

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Abstract

New towns as a relatively new form of urban development in Iran may have a considerable impact on climate change and energy consumption. In the case of Iran, energy consumption and climate change consideration in urban areas is more significant due to its rapid population growth, young population and massive uncontrolled urbanisation. Nevertheless, climate change in Iran is not on top of the agenda. Iranian cities are vulnerable to climate change and have potentially significant contribution to global Greenhouse Gas emission in the medium to long term. However, such issues are the neglected areas for research so far.

New towns, unlike the existing towns have the potential to be energy efficient from the start of their construction. Sustainable urban development and adequate management system at local level are the two essential factors in this context. On the contrary, new towns and particularly their governing process have received very little attention from Iranian scholars and new towns' responsible organisations. The current new town governance structure is incapable to achieve its goals and objectives. This paper recommends adjustments in the New Towns Development Corporation's statutory framework and its managing system. Also, an inter-sectorial mechanism is needed to improve cooperation and interaction between a new town and its host provincial- county government authorities. Furthermore, this paper suggests both top-down and bottom-up governance approaches, through a multi-level governance framework, in order to identify the best actions and policies that could change the local governance, into a key effective element for developing climate friendly new towns.

Keywords: New Towns, Climate Change, Governance and Multi-level Governance

Pilgrimage, Power and Identity of the Place

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Abstract

This paper consists of a theoretical research on segregation and polarisation of Mashhad city; it shows, firstly, how religious globalisation has structured the city in historical steps into dominant and marginal spaces and secondly, it has stratified the city, resulting in two cities: one for the inhabitants and the second for the religious and the state, the latter of which tending to favour the global and the power.

The aim of this research is, to unveil the complex and extensive process of globalisation, and its space-place effects on the city of Mashhad. It illustrates the mutual effects of globalisation such as the degeneration of local fabrics especially in the historic centre, the abnormal growth of city-dwelling, and the increase in slums and segregation in the city of Mashhad. Mashhad, the second largest city of Iran with a population of about 2.5 million, is as an example of pilgrimage sites in the Middle East in which the globalisation of the religion has transformed the whole structure of the local fabric in the historic centre. The wave of globalisation has affected the whole aspects of this metropolis, the way the city has been structured by successive interventions which intended to achieve some aims of dominant powers in different times, which is in turn associated with increasing polarisation and exclusion based on class and income.

The Shrine of the eighth Shiites' Imam is located at the centre of the old radial nucleus of the city, with 16 million pilgrims per year (Rezvani 2004). The city has witnessed rapid growth in the last two decades, mostly because of its religious attractions. The Shrine acts as a part of particular configurations of high value places with structured spatial relation to the city's power centres to some's advantage but at the expense of neighbourhoods The purpose of this paper is to demonstrate the historical structuring of the city in the context of its long-term connection to global influence and the way this structuring has tended to polarise the city. The aim is to understand the condition of marginalised areas in the city today.

This research employs a historical analysis methodology. The analysis is an attempt to cast some light on the major period of the city's fundamental changes in order to unveil the powers behind urban transformation and the interrelation between place and power in every stage of its growth. The four key stages of the city's fundamental changes are:
• Safavid period 1500 - 1722
• Pahlavi I period 1920 - 1940
• Pahlavi II period 1947 -1979
• Islamic Republic period 1979 – Present

This research answers the following questions:

- Why the richest area of the city, the Shrine, which allies itself with spaces of power in the city, has more importance on the global scale, while on the local scale its direct surrounding neighbourhoods are the poorest, most segregated, least prosperous and least sustainable areas of the city?
- What are the political forces behind the physical transformations of the historic core and those opposing them? How the Holy Shrine has become a political space? How rulers have established frameworks of legitimacy to coordinate and organise societies?

Keywords: Globalisation of Religion, Polarisation, Place and Power, Urban Transformation, Marginalisation, Dualism

Measuring Essential Changes of Neighbourhood Walkability Improvement's in Tehran Metropolis

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Abstract

Walking is a significant mode of transport; almost all human beings are pedestrians on roads from time to time, even though motorisation is increasing at a rapid pace. Even people, who use cars and motorcycles, walk for shorter or longer distances, depending on their need. The traditional Iranian cities were generally walkable and constructed on human scale. The walkability in Iranian cities has gradually deteriorated due to the increase of motorised vehicles. The research aimed to help city planners to understand the scope and extent of existing pedestrian conditions, and to identify specific pedestrian-related shortcomings. The method, data, and approach applied in this study must be viewed within the context of the current state of the walkability literature. A walkability survey has been conducted in a neighbourhood in the Borough 10 in Tehran that is located in the central part of the city; and it is one of the most populated regions in Tehran. The empirical literature on the walkability survey varies widely based on the quality of research methods and strength of results. Several indexes were developed in the last decade in order to quantify and evaluate the walkability and bike ability of communities. For the purpose of research, twenty-one variables have been collected from seven main studies, and they were translated into twenty-one questions. These questions were asked in the pedestrian interview survey, which involved designing a questionnaire to find out people's perception of pedestrian facilities and evaluate walkability in the neighbourhood. Interviewees were asked to rank twenty-one questions from one to five and answer an additional question (numbered 22) to illustrate their general opinions about the neighbourhood walkability. Seven factors were found with the help of factor analysis method. The relationship between factors (independent variables) and the answers to the 22th question – as a dependent variable – have been measured by linear regression analysis. Then, the main ranking of variables in the neighbourhood was extracted, based on interviewees' dissatisfaction with each variable, loading factors of variables, and the correlation between the factors and their dependent variables. Sidewalk Shade, Disability Infrastructure, and Street Trees and Green Ways were found as the most important subject matters to plan. The research ultimately proposes a list of recommendations to improve each variable. Such diagnosis of important issues and addressing them during decision making in planning process can help us return to Iranian Walkable Cities.

Keywords: Walkability, Neighbourhood, Factor Analysis, Regression Analysis, Tehran Metropolitan

From Modesty to Immodesty: A Quranic Reading of Change in the Islamic Iranian City

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In the Name of God

Abstract

To comprehend traditional Islamic urbanism, and draw urban lessons for contemporary practice, a deep conceptual understanding of the philosophical and religious parameters that influenced the development of Islamic cities is essential. Nowadays, traditional Islamic urbanism is appreciated and promoted in academic circles and architectural schools, while in many cases its lessons are ignored in practice. A mitigating factor is that traditional urbanism is considered merely on the basis of the physical aspects of the city, whereas a city in fact contains and makes human life. These two dimensions of the city reciprocally affect and inform each other and are both necessary to obtaining more useful knowledge about Islamic urbanism, its historical traditions and its contemporary future.

Urban paradigms can be studied and understood according to their principles and physical structures under two categories. One relates to specific times in history, with their cultural norms and associated technical and ecological conditions. The other is time-free and constant across various eras. Contrary to all existing evidences, surveys and research on the Islamic city has generally presented these two concepts ambiguously. In some cases, research has been limited purely to physical aspects of the city, in others, it has dedicated so much to the past physical appearance that more essential socio-cultural and symbolic formative concepts have been ignored. The case for the applicability and implications of such concepts to the contemporary Islamic city remains to be made.

One of those significant time-free concepts, with roots in Islamic philosophy and value systems, which differentiate the character of today's cities from traditional settlements, is the prevalence of *modesty* and *humility* in traditional urban fabric. This research aims to identify the intellectual basis of these two themes in Islamic beliefs, to investigate their roots in *The Quran* as the central text of the Islamic tradition, and to venture some of their possible urban and architectural implications. A reflection of how the concept of modesty is reflected in traditional urban fabrics compared to the contemporary cities of Iran suggests that a degree of *immodesty* accompanies the design and eventual urban form of the contemporary Islamic city. The essay will suggest urban design principles and implications for those wishing to maintain traditional Islamic philosophical, religious and ethical precepts in contemporary urban design.

Keywords: Islamic City, Modest City, Islamic Urbanism, Quranic City

Spaces of Sovereignty: An Alternative Reading of the Concept of Iranian Cities

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Abstract

The complexity of the spatial structure of contemporary Iranian city is not only about the physical outcome of the delicate interactions between land markets, topography, infrastructure, and regulations, but it has also been shaped by the overlaying of various political layers, of various political projects. Every attempt towards an alternative future for the city is presupposed by having a careful reading of its dynamism, while each historical layer is characterised by its own rationality.

The alternative reading, proposed in this paper, has grown from a complex culture, which is closely bound up with the relation between the state and the individual. This understanding of the city, however, refers to the very idea of the political, which is determined by the specific constitution of opposed unities; a dichotomy between the sovereignty of the state and the movements, which contests its legitimacy, between the norm and the exception, between friendship and enmity, inclusion and exclusion. Nevertheless it stresses on the very dynamism, while the opposing forces motivate or shape a creative tension: the state of antithetical, which becomes specialised in the form of city.

This paper offers a reading which departs from the contemporary city of Tehran, but goes beyond any specific case to formulate a new category of city space: spaces of sovereignty.

Methodologically it will not be merely limited to historiographical narrations; by questioning the relationship between the role of historical knowledge and the position of architect-scholar toward the city, it employs a series of paradigmatic examples that exist over the limits of time and geography. Therefore, here, the concern is not so much stylistic periods than is the issue of continuity; a specific conception of space which has remained constant despite the advent technological and economic development.

This political understanding of the concept of city has become embroiled in theological polemics. In fact the very notion of separation, which is embedded in theology, here becomes a fundamental concept, when an ideological power aims to define itself through the act of exclusion. The spatial dimension of this dialectical process lies in moment of conflict when the opposing forces collapse and projects are initiated. Cities, thus, become laboratories of projects and counter-projects; through which the space is shaped and organised.

Keywords: Capital Cities, Space of Sovereignty, Political Project, Ideological, Paradise, Medina

Bazaar, the City and the Flows of Social Capital

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Abstract

With its social architecture and contextual flows of crowd, exchange and encounter, the 'Bazaar' has been regarded as the dominant and rooted structure of Iranian cities over the years. The charismatic place of merchants in the society and the mutual comportment and trust among the people of Bazaar [Ahl-i Bazaar] and the entire citizens have set this institution as an important feature of the Iranian culture.

Bazaar is supposed to support the allocation and organisation of space in accordance with the trade activities and complementary urban functions. It simultaneously covers various domains of human needs, not only as a trade hub but also as a civic centre. In other words, the social activities of a city flow into every other part like blood through the veins of the Bazaar. Consequently, the architecture of the Bazaar was shaped by and, at the same time, was shaping the flow of inhabitants' civic interaction. Such repositories of civic interplay, we argue, are considered as 'social assets' for the process of urban change.

Accordingly, in this paper we plan to reveal the secrets applied in durable, compatible, and reliable Bazaars of Iran by which 'informal networks' of 'social capital' were generated, maintained and developed. Afterwards, we propose a framework within which, socio-architectural logics correlate with the possibilities brought up by the flows of capitals (including objects and goods, information, people and organisational interaction, and the like). This practice would organise and mobilise the experience, activity, event and meaning around nodes of flux in cities.

Keywords: Landscape of Flow, Social Capital, Architecture of Engagement, Bazaar, Social Architecture

Investigating Today and Yesterday Roles of River-Valley Ecosystems in Mountainous Cities of Iran and Their Reviving Guidelines, a Case Study: Alloosjard River in Moradbeig, Hamedan

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Abstract

Many important Iranian cities are located in mountainous regions because of climatic conditions and suitable ecological facilities. The change of height, variety of slopes and roughness created different forms of cities and urban lives. Most of these cities are located in valleys, near rivers and on fertile ground, therefore providing access to the greenery around the rivers. Thus, there are potentials to utilise the ecological, social and economic benefits of these regions.

The beginning of modern urbanisation movement in Iran and industrialisation of cities affected the natural and ecological features in many cities. These cities spread unsustainably with human dwellings penetrated into river-valley regions. Therefore, flora and fauna ecosystems detached themselves from the urban environments. The disposal of industrial and urban waste into rivers made rivers polluted; there are examples of urban authorities being forced to cover rivers.

Reviving the riverside ecosystems in urban spaces cansafeguard the presence of the flora and fauna ecosystems and bring about a sustainable green framework, thereby enhancing urban ecology and social and economic activities while reviving the collective memories of the past.

The most obvious example of these cities is Hamedan which is surrounded by seven river-valleys while they are mostly ruined because of the urban rivers being covered.

Based on 6 principles of Carmona, this paper aims to investigate the role of river-valleys in mountainous cities of Iran and the factors influencing the change and destruction river-valley cities focusing on Alloosjard River in Moradbeig, Hamedan.

Keywords: River-valley, Urban Ecology, Iran, Reviving

Disrupted Planning Paradigm Shift in Iranian Planning Culture: Challenges to Strategic Spatial Planning in a Developing Country

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Abstract

Strategic spatial planning revival in the 1990s, finds its modern roots in post-positivist epistemological assumptions, postmodernist tenets, and communicative turn in planning theory. Its application in traditional planning cultures, therefore, demands planning paradigm shift. Iranian planning culture provides an intriguing case study, some elements of which have variably put efforts into applying strategic thinking in its practices over the past four decades. However, each time they encountered thwarting forces from opposing elements of the existing planning culture. One must search resistance to change and hindered adaptation to the exigencies of planned development in the underlying culture of governance, where centralised and authoritarian governments have increasingly defied power-sharing policies and while some socio-cultural attributes have imposed additional impediments to successful attempts. By analysing Iranian planning culture through an institutional perspective, this research demonstrates how opposing political attitudes, low institutional capital, and 'command and control' mode of governance has rendered Iranian planning culture shift-resistant and even anti-planning. This research concludes that 'planning' *per se* is the most unsustainable feature of the culture, wherein lies the rationale behind the fragile legitimacy of planning institution in this country.

Keywords: Iranian Planning Culture, Strategic Spatial Planning, Paradigm Shift, Institutional Approach

Tehran, the Scene of Modernity

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Abstract

Urban plans and urban transformation have been associated historically with ideas of social reform (the building of an industrial society) in modern and industrial era (Harvey, 2003; Rabinow, 1989). The social reform impulse was not always absolutely clear but urban transformation was always a factor in the resolution of spatial contradictions arising out of the obsolescence of old and the institution of new social forms (Rabinow, 1989) and in the shifting from one 'spatial fix' to another (Boyer,1986). Tehran as the capital city of Iran, has witnessed specific phases of urban transformation and development and this has provided its urban form with a variety of different urban and social patterns. Since the 1850s, successive plans in the city of Tehran have accompanied changes in economic, social and cultural forms, from the small village of the 15000 inhabitants to the metropolis of the 12 million. However, the aims and intentions behind these planning interventions were never simple and not always absolutely clear; nevertheless they, as well as their forms, typologies and procedures were products of real and definable contemporary political arguments and events and led to real and definable urban outcomes. In a larger project on the planning and transformation of Tehran since 1850s I trace these processes and investigate the relations between political and social visions, plans, interventions and expected and unexpected social and urban outcome.

In this paper I explore these links during the last 60 years of the history of urban development in Tehran and over the last two periods of transformation. This study is divided over these two historic periods, within which different political and social conditions concluded in different planning decisions and strategies and more or less distinctive spatial outcomes for Tehran and its surroudings. Therefore I'll concentrate on two plans for Tehran since 1960: these two plans correspond to two political conditions, virtually two different Tehran born on top of one another. Without judging the aims themselves, I trace how these plans produced new forms of urban society while at the same time they produced new forms of the city. The attempt here is to find a better understanding of the links between social and urban transformation by tracing them historically and to question and explore these links in their contemporary form. This paper forms an accompaniment to my previous broader studies on social reform and urban changes in the context of my PhD research.

Keywords: Urban Form, Modernisation process, Urban Transformation, Political subject

Tehran and its Lost Nature

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Abstract

Tehran, Iran's capital, and the most populated city in the region, was once called Chenarestan which means a place with a lot of oriental plane trees. The image of Chenarestan in comparison with the countenance of Tehran today indicates the drastic changes the city has undergone (mostly in the recent fifty years). This is to the extent that it is hardly possible to find a row of plane trees except along Vali-asr Street (ex-Pahlavi Street), the rare remnant of Tehran as Chenarestan. Tehran is a city under constant construction and little is known about all these changes are headed. In the midst of the rapid growth and expansion in Tehran, due to modernisation and globalisation in recent decades, green spaces, gardens and fruit orchards have been treated as the only available and accessible spaces for new roads layouts and new developments. Thus, high-rise buildings and apartments, on the one hand, and roads and highways, on the other, have gradually replaced what used to be green spaces. This trend has continued to the point that contamination, congestion and lack of green spaces have gained an irreversible momentum and turned into a serious dilemma in Tehran.

Moreover, the alarming rate of population growth as a result of periphery-to-centre migration, as well as expensive housing prices in Tehran (not to mention the urge to take refuge from pollution and the hustle and bustle of the city in the nature), caused emerging urban sprawls around Tehran. These urban sprawls are growing and expanding rapidly. This reverse migration, in turn, has an important role in the destruction of natural resources in the Tehran suburban areas.

This paper is an effort to describe some aspects of urban changes in Tehran by employing nature and green space as the central theme. In order to achieve this purpose, some of the positive and negative measures implemented during the recent decades are reviewed. The role that humans play as the instigators as well as the victims of this situation is irrefutable. The data collection is mostly based on library research, online resources, and field studies.

Keywords: Tehran, Green Space, Urban Changes, Cultural Factors, New Constructions, Urban Sprawl

Textural Differences in Street Patterns of Iranian Cities

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Abstract

The textures of cities are primarily derived from their buildings and street patterns. Some cities have essentially uniform textures, whereas others have differing textures, particularly between their old and new parts. Here we analyse the street patterns of four Iranian cities, focusing on the effects of landscape constraints on the street networks, as well as on the differences in texture between the old and new parts. With the number of streets in parentheses, these cities are: Yazd (14136), Khorramabad (8481), Dezful (6539), and Nain (2319). The street- trend results show that landscape constraints have significant effects on the shape and street patterns of Dezful (river constraints) and Khorramabad (mountain constraints), but no clear effects on Yazd and Nain. Using Gibbs/Shannon formula for entropy (a measure of dispersion or spreading), we show that where the trend is peaked, the entropy is low (Yazd and Nain), but as the distribution becomes more uniform because of landscape constraints the entropy increases (Dezful and Khorramabad). The street-length size distributions follow power laws. The entropies showing clear positive linear correlations with the scaling exponents (slopes of the straight lines) and the length ranges (differences between the longest and shortest streets) of the street populations. Also, the entropies of the old inner parts of the cities are less than the entropies of the outer and more recent parts. This difference in entropy can be partly explained by the streets in the inner parts being, on average, shorter and denser (more streets per unit area) than the streets of the outer parts. The results imply that the street-length distribution gradually becomes more dispersed as the city expands. These quantitative methods for texture analysis can be used for cities worldwide.

Keywords: Street Patterns, Urban Texture, Landscape Constraints, Size Distribution, Entropy

The Recreation of the Spirit of the Place: An Approach towards Making Urban Texture Durable

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Abstract

This paper suggests approaches in order to enhance the quality of urban contexts; to make them durable and beautiful. The study examined the influence of the spirit of the place on the context's spatial durability. Relevant issues in the field of behavioural sciences and environmental psychology were reviewed and expert opinions were taken into consideration. The study sought to find out whether the task of urban planning is merely addressing physical aspects of space, or it must deal with human considerations as well:in other words, whether spatial quality enhancement is only satisfied through respecting material considerations, or psychological factors deeply rooted in human nature should also be involved. In order to answer these inquiries the concept of durability as a general term was studied, and then its special role in relation to urban context was addressed. Next, the relationship between the spirit of the place and durability was examined. This was from the phenomenological perspective regarding different concepts of place. This study tries to answer these key questions:

- Is the concept of the spirit of the place and what results from it, capable to enliven urban textures?
- Is the reason for durability of ancient urban textures basically because of respecting psychological and behavioural criteria?

The hypothesis assumes that respecting the concepts of psychological and behavioural elements of the spirit of the place may make the residential neighbourhoods durable. The claim was initially examined qualitatively. The existing descriptive analyses were obtained from the existing literature and examined. Then, a statistical survey of the population of Jolfa neighbourhood, Isfahan, was conducted. This examinations confirmed the hypothesis.

Keywords: Sense of Place, Spirit of Place, Durability, Urban Texture

New Supplementary Planning and Design Documents for Urban Development Management in Tehran

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Abstract

He who rejects change is the architect of decay.
Harold Wilson

Early in 2003, as Tehran Strategic Master Plan and Detailed Master Plan were drawn up, an unprecedented opportunity for improving urban quality arose in different aspects of urban places. As a result of the inherent weaknesses and rigid characteristics of the former Tehran Master Plan, they could cover only a portion of land uses and city circulation issues at best. In other words, there were several items missing in the former Master Plan, which was created based on simple comprehensive planning. In an attempt to alleviate the problems associated with implementation and the lack of suitable systems to control environmental aspects of cities, authorities and practitioners have introduced Tehran Strategic Plan and Detailed Master Plan not only to provide a flexible approach to direct the city development but also to cover other aspects of urban places such as environmental issues and quality of urban places. The new kind of planning is supposed to be an apt technique to change Tehran to a people-friendly place at a time when there are ever-increasing pressures for construction and acceleration of economic benefits.

The idea of supplementary urban development documents was expressed clearly in 2003, taking as its point of departure localising and translating visions and goals of Tehran Strategic Plan and Detailed Plan into practice. New tools, i.e. supplementary urban development plans, coupled with flexible systems of planning are employed officially to localise holistic policies and make the precise enough to apply in smaller areas. The supplementary documents brought together quantity and quality concepts into one single framework. The Ministry of Roads and Urban Development as a leading body worked closely with Tehran municipality to carry out Tehran Strategic Master Plan.

The focal point of this paper is to introduce new supplementary documents, the way these documents have become a part of official urban development documents in Tehran, and the processes of their application. We show how supplementary documents are the significant part of the constant planning process in urban developments. Furthermore, the assessment of supplementary documents before and after approval is another issue explored in this paper. Drawing a comparison between the former urban development and the new one, this paper lists the advantages and disadvantages of the new supplementary documents from different perspectives.

The paper concludes that in spite of these efforts, the successful application of all these kinds of documents calls for a greater degree of flexibility and openness on the part of legislative bodies.

Keywords: Tehran, Strategic Master Plan, Detailed Master Plan, Supplementary Urban Development Documents

The Interaction of Structural Form and Quality of Content in Iranian Bazaars, the Case of the Historical Bazaar of Tabriz

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Abstract

In Iranian cities, the Bazaar as a beating heart of human interactions is an exhibition of manufacturing technology remaining in the minds of Iranians. Hence, identifying its durability factors over the centuries, and utilising them in designing new commercial spaces guarantee the life and the quality of these new commercial spaces. A review on the literatureshows that the quality of Bazaar construction plays a crucial role in its memorability and people's satisfaction levels. The overall objective of this study is to explain the relationship between physical systems of the Tabriz Bazaar and it's memorability. The Tabriz Bazaar as the world's largest brick-roofed complex has every known pattern in the architecture of Iranian commercial spaces. That is why it was selected as the case study to examine the research hypothesis, and answer the research questions. The main research questions are as follows:

- Is there any relationship between the construction quality of the Tabriz Bazaar and the quantity of people interested in that?
- How was the construction quality in the memorable parts of Tabriz Bazaar?

To achieve the objective and to answer the research questions, a descriptive–analytical research method was employed. Required information was collected through survey, observations and questionnaires. The analysis was based on comparing physical features of the Tabriz Bazaar and durability of its spaces in people's minds. Research results indicate a significant relationship between content and physical specifications in the traditional Bazaar of Tabriz.

Keywords: Bazaar, Structural Form, Quality of Content, The Tabriz Bazaar

Tehran: Old and New Emerging Spatial Inequalities

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Abstract

Social and spatial inequalities are two important challenges in today's urban life. Socio-economic inequalities sometimes emerge in the form of spatial inequality. In other words, spatial inequality is considered as the representation of the social inequality or distribution disorder in a social system.

Tehran as a metropolis and the capital of Iran enjoys an effective urban system national importance. The urban system of Tehran is unbalanced due to continuous growth and development. This city with its complex system has attracted a large population intoit. As a centre, Tehran plays an important role within the macro socio-economic system of the country, but its urban components suffer from spatial inequality and unbalanced distribution of services.

One of the most obvious and distinctive characteristics of Tehran is its North-South spatial inequality and polarisation, which appeared as a result of modernisation and its elements, such as cars and new emerged commercial districts. The 1979 revolution came with a promise of equality and improvement of lifestyles of the poor and marginalised groups, but the growing gap between the rich and the poor, and therefore spatial inequality in Tehran, have been widened afterwards. Although many of urban planners and sociologists in Iran assume that spatial inequality in Tehran is a historic trend and it is not related to globalisation, others believe that it is intensified by globalisation.

Notwithstanding discussions on whether Tehran is or is not a global city, this paper aims to examine the spatial inequality in Tehran. It tries to project and illustrate the old and new emerging patterns of spatial inequality in Tehran. By doing so the paper also tests the theory of 'Global City' (Sakia Sassen's theory) between 1996 and 2006 in this context.

Keywords: Polarisation, Spatial Inequality, Tehran

A Cross-Cultural Investigation of Public Spaces in Iranian Cities

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Abstract

This paper draws on user perceptions derived from 3,856 interviews conducted in eight Iranian cities, to elicit the popular qualities of public spaces across different cultures and to investigate the link between culture and built environment in Iranian cities. Based on a substantial body of qualitative and quantitative material, findings relating to the user identification of popular public spaces and the qualities of places are reported. Analysing the reasons and attributes guiding these selections, the paper contributes to new knowledge of public spaces from cross-cultural user perspectives. Making the case that some qualities of public spaces are consistent across different cultural contexts, the paper is of theoretical and practical interest. Drawing attention to some universally popular qualities of place, the findings are anticipated to be especially useful for the planning and design of public spaces which are diverse and welcoming various cultures. The result identified six main themes: Social attributes, Spatial attributes, Symbolic attributes Environmental attributes, Functional attributes and wellbeing. The types of favourite places across all settings are also highly similar. The findings suggest that despite cultural differences, approaches to selection and use of public spaces in cities have great commonalities.

Keywords: Public Space, Place-Making, Cross-Cultural

Spatial Identification and Comparison of Different Segregated Areas and Their Connection with Their Surrounding Areas: A Case Study of Tehran

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Abstract

There have always been various urban divisions in cities, which are not necessarily something negative. They make it possible for people – to some extent – to choose their residential area according to their own financial status and their social, religious or even racial preferences. But, at a certain point, urban divisions might turn into the problem of 'segregation'. It emerges when anomalies, such as inequality in land-use, lack of basic infrastructure services, traffic congestion, social abnormalities, become palpable in some parts of a city and, consequently, the region changes into a separate and isolated locality.

This research aims to identify significant causes of socio-spatial segregation in Tehran. As its case study; it focuses on segregations with obvious effects on the spatial structure of the city. Highways are the most important disturbers of the connection between areas through creating isolated islands. The hysteria of building highways as a traffic management strategy, too, intensifies such isolations.

The theoretical framework of this research is based on Henry Lefebvre's ideas about the 'right to the city'. In *The Urban Revolution* he explains the concept of 'segregation' as distinguished from the concept of 'difference'. The former is a type of detachment that destroys the totality of a complex; in other words, it tears the city apart. On the contrary, the latter, is internal to a relationship, creating proximity or distance. Difference also produces 'form' through the freedom of information, while segregation brings a reverse situation: formlessness and isolated information (Lefebvre, writing on cities, p.153).

Segregation in Tehran has taken different shapes in different ways, evolved hand in hand with various social changes. Tehran is divided into North and South by 'Enghelab Avenue', comprising several models of socio-spatial segregation. Through 1930s a spatial zoning pattern, based largely on class segregation, was one of the priorities of urban management, dominant until the Islamic revolution in 1979. Meanwhile, the large immigration of villagers brought about informal communities into the city; and in turn, they were repelled and took the marginal status. On the other side, there were the most opulent neighbourhoods at the far north, including the first gated communities in the Middle East.

Although some of these urban divisions faded away after the revolution, they were reproduced in new and different forms in recent decades. Today, the segregated areas of Tehran consist of a wide range of fabrics, from the inner part of the 'Bazaar' to the self-contained 'Islam-Shahr' and the isolated South Islam-Abad, besieged by some of the wealthiest neighbourhoods of Tehran.

This research attempts to pave the way for future strategies and suitable planning for these segregated and isolated neighbourhoods in Tehran. The research methodology is based on historical, social and spatial analyses. The required data is obtained from literature, available maps and statistic data.

Keywords: Segregation, Right to the City, Difference, Social Exclusion

Application of Semantic WebGIS in Integrated Natural Disaster Risk Management in Iran

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Abstract

At least 31 natural disasters have been recorded in Iran. There is no region in this land that could be assumed safe and secure against natural incidents. Thus, avoiding danger, reducing casualty rate and integrated natural disaster risk management is essential. While in the emergency phase organisations need to cooperate with each other and collect data about the incident from various sources, interactions are usually in the form of telephone and fax between individuals; and sources of information are inaccessible. Therefore while in the aftermath fast communications are required, interactions are slow and rely on limited facilities. Organising information is the first step. It is believed that Geographical Information System (GIS) should play a major role in integrated natural disaster risk management. Building a firm structure for data in a notable variety of scales, formats and subjects, GIS assists to preserve, develop and publish databases. At present organisations use GIS individually producing information without awareness about other organisations' needs and capacities. During a crisis this causes inaccuracies, slower operations and the taking of more responsibilities. All of these deteriorate the situation, and may lead to irretrievable loss in a crisis. In recent years semantic WebGIS has been developed to share geographical data, updating it during a crisis through metadata develop database. It makes integrated natural disaster risk management possible by producing fast networks for cooperation of all users around the world. This paper examines a model for standardisation of geographic data for integrated disaster management in Iran. The model was implemented in ESSEX, and the paper examines the potential implementation of that model in Iran during the earthquake crisis, and also the practice of integrated disaster management with the help of this system.

Keywords: Integrated Disaster Management, Natural Disaster, Semantic WebGIS

Tehran Grand Bazaar as a Diorama of a Persistent Urban Artefact

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Abstract

This paper aims at presenting the Tehran 'Grand Bazaar', the biggest and oldest public space of Tehran and a critical form-place or as Kenneth Frampton describes an 'arriére-garde' (Frampton, P.20, 1983). It attempts to explain the persistence of the 'Grand Bazaar' through its present-day condition; it approaches the Bazaar as a diorama of such an in-transition city as Tehran, a way to envisage the challenges that Tehrani society has been through.

Bazaar is rooted in the Persian city, and later it became aconstituent of the Islamic city and an essential part of its morphology. It has always played an intermediate role between residential, religious and governmental parts in the city. The Bazaar has had an active role in the urban scene of Tehran, its socio-political trends, as well as the creation and decline of the society. It introduces itself as a cultural landscape, a monument of everyday life of the people and a productive space (legal and illegal economy, culture and knowledge) for the city. During different periods of the Bazaar`s history up to present, different approaches have been implemented to weaken or control the Bazaar, physically and organisationally, as the central point for gathering diverse people and the economic heart of the city. Today the Bazaar is still the destination of more than 500,000 visitors a day. The Tehran Grand Bazaar is a challenging piece of urban fabric to study the underlying relations between socio-economic and cultural forces and the city, as well as the process called the 'modernisation' of Tehran.

The concept of persistency of the Bazaar provides an interesting response to the question of preservation of the Bazaar as a space of cultural identity. It does not refer to the Bazaar as the resistant urban artefact encountering the changes; rather, it pursues persistency in a dialect of change and resistance, dependence and autonomy, or as Aldo Rossi explains it 'transformative process' (Rossi, P. 62, 1982).

This paper, as the Bazaar itself, consists of different episodes. These fragments and episodes are interrelated, in a way that they envisage the body of the research as a whole. To understand the Bazaar`s persistency, we need to look at it through different perspectives. By looking at different disciplines the research aims to sketch a portrait of the Bazaar, its networks, relations, objects, spaces, habitants and its position in the city. What is important is beyond each episode, i.e. a holistic image is more than a narration of the subject. This paper attempts to understand the possibility of reading the Bazaar beyond its mere historical past and its problematic present, and to represent the invisibilities in architectonic, socio- economic and cultural layers of its existence.

Keywords: Persistence, Tehran Grand Bazaar, Urban Artefact

Citizens as Drivers for Urban Change: Citizens' Exhibition as Participatory Tool to Integrate the Citizens' View in the Development of Hashtgerd New Town Unique Paper

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Abstract

At present the discussions on the reasons and consequences of climate change are taking place at different levels, but only marginally reaching people (Walk and Schröder 2010). Attempts to change people's consumption behaviour in order to adapt to, and mitigate the consequences of climate change, are not reasonable without considering some questions, i.e. whether climate change matters to people or not, which aspects of the topic are crucial to them and why, and which aspects are hindering or supporting the change of energy consumption behaviour in the given context. It is, therefore, necessary to analyse these questions to be able to adapt the design of the Young Cities project to the needs and lifestyles of the inhabitants of Hashtgerd New Town and to develop urban concepts that support energy-efficient and ecologically sustainable lifestyles.

Therefore, as part of the Young Cities research project, an activating survey was carried out in order to find out the view and attitudes of the citizens of Hashtgerd New Town on climate change and energy efficient buildings, and their energy consumption behaviour. The survey also tapped on people's readiness or hindrances to save energy within the framework of the existing structures of the Hashtgerd New Town, because the possibilities of saving energy or using it efficiently are dependent on urban structures which can hinder or support sustainable lifestyles. From this survey a Citizens' Exhibition was developed, in order to present the results of the study to a broader public, to start a thinking process and a dialogue on energy-efficient lifestyles in Hashtgerd that should put the voices of its residents in the centre. The Citizens' Exhibition aimed to serve as a starting point for a further participation process, in which other participatory instruments such as planning cells, future workshops or focus groups, could bring about further solutions by the citizens to improve living conditions in Hashtgerd New Town and thus start a change process.

Keywords: Participation, Citizens' Exhibition, Hashtgerd New Town, Young Cities Project

Typo-morphological Analysis of housing layout and density in Tehran

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Abstract

This paper provides a historical analysis of morphological changes in housing in Tehran, as they have been constrained at each successive period in the city's growth. The paper aims to understand this evolution by investigating the relationship between housing typology and urban morphology. A GIS analysis is made of plots, buildings, and blocks in three areas of the city representative of significant stages of development. The analysis focuses on five topics:

- the question of block size and shape
- configurations of plots within blocks
- pedestrian and vehicular access
- provision of open space around dwellings (ground coverage)
- natural lighting

The argument of the paper is that, in the transition from courtyard houses to narrow row houses and later to row apartments, besides cultural conceptions and the effects of land value, are the constraints imposed by certain 'generic functions', most importantly access (pedestrian or vehicular) and daylighting. This transition is arguably the result of limits imposed on frontage width, which have their origins in the provision of street access to each plot of land in the first phase (from courtyard to row houses); and in the second phase (from row houses to row apartments) the need for more houses and higher densities.

The findings of the work suggest that the transformation of courtyards to single-family terrace houses in the first phase of housing development in Tehran was not just an attempt to modernise the city and the result of Westernisation. The desire for vehicular access was a major driving force. For planners at the time, the old house types and street structure were regarded as unable to adapt to modern ways of living that entailed having a car for each family and driving it to the front door. A rectangular grid structure with shallower blocks seemed better fitted for this new style of life. Therefore planners in Tehran limited the depths of blocks to make them two plots deep in every part. This allowed separate vehicular access to all plots. There were also changes in the lengths of blocks, so as to increase the number of narrower plots in a block to obtain improved vehicular access. The second phase in turn was the result of planning controls and the limits they have imposed on ground coverage and density.

The conclusion from the analysis is that although many different cultural, social, physical and environmental factors are involved in the evolution of housing, which should not be treated simplistically, the basic generic functions, such as vehicular access, can dominate all other considerations in defining a new type.

Keywords: Housing, Tehran, Typo-morphology, Built Form, Plot and Block Shapes, Access and Day-lighting

From Utopia to Dystopia: Shushtar-e-No, Endeavors towards a Paradigmatic Shift

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Abstract

In the 1970s, to meet the needs of the growing urban population, the Iranian government was able to plan for large scale investment in the housing sector, thanks to the suddenly increased oil revenues. For a while, the Western approach to housing and dwelling, crystallised in the proliferating and internationally appreciated style of modern architecture, dominated Iran's new architecture and urban planning. However, a number of architects and urban planners resisted this dominance and tried to create a paradigmatic shift in the approach to housing and dwelling, focusing on the place-specific aspects of the context. The Shushtar-e-No project was an endeavour of this kind.

This paper attempts to address this paradigmatic shift, focusing on the case of Shushtar-e-No, a satellite city located two kilometres away from the old city of Shushtar and designed by Kamran Diba. After a short introduction to the political, social, and architectural context of the scheme, this paper highlights how the architect's unique approach to the built environment promised a paradigmatic shift in the question of housing and dwelling, the aim of which was to 'synthesise' the two modes of tradition and modernity in quest of a 'local style', and to promote a 'social agenda'. Next, an investigation of the current environmental, social, and physical situation of the community will show its degeneration from the initial utopian image into a state of dystopia. This can be linked to both the initial architectural pre-suppositions and with later unexpected political incidents. Ultimately, using Foucauldian terminology, it will be concluded that Shushtar-e-No has transformed to a 'crisis community', a 'forgotten land', which represents a heterotopia *par excellence*.

Keywords: Utopia, Dystopia, Paradigmatic Shift, Shushtar-e-No, Community Design

Safeguarding Our Fragile 'Historic Urban Landscapes': Should Historic Iranian Cities Be Worried?

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Abstract

At its 29th session in July 2005 (in Durban, South Africa) the World Heritage Committee recommended 'that the General Conference of UNESCO adopt a new Recommendation to complement and update the existing ones on the subject of conservation of historic urban landscapes, with special reference to the need to link contemporary architecture to the urban historic context' (Decision 29 COM 5D). Following the Committee's decision, the Vienna Memorandum formed the basis for the 'Declaration on the Conservation of Historic Urban Landscapes' (HUL) which was adopted by the 15th General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention in October 2005 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris (Resolution 15 GA 7).

With the present level of urban expansion and foreseen population growth living in urban areas within the Middle-East, and exacerbated by insufficient policies to recognise and facilitate the sustainable use of heritage assets, pressures on historic cities will continue to rise, making the safeguarding of historic urban landscapes in this region one of the most daunting tasks of our time. Similarly, UNESCO World Heritage Committee has witnessed over recent years a growing number of problematic situations such as high-rise buildings in or around historic centres inscribed on the World Heritage List (e.g. Isfahan) or ruptures in the urban fabric due to constant development pressures or even some urban reconstruction projects with total disregard to its inhabitants' cultural roots and way of life (e.g. Bam). All too often numerous and inter-related issues ranging from high-rise constructions and inner city functional changes, to traffic and tourism pressures, tend to negatively affect the protection and conservation of valuable historic centres. However, in the case of threats to the authenticity and integrity (physical, functional or visual) and continuity of historic urban landscapes, as opposed to uncontrolled urban development or large-scale planned development (such as public works), there is a clear emphasis on targeted urban renewal projects that use their location in or around historic or more often the World Heritage sites to attract attention, investment and visitors.

Consequently, there is a critical need for the stipulation of new guidelines and practical tools to properly assess architectural development schemes and contemporary urban interventions within the historic context, although this issue is not a new phenomenon, and has already been under debate within the urban conservation discipline for a long time. Nevertheless, it is believed that the conditions under which urban projects are presently being developed have changed profoundly. This, in addition to the fact that the last UNESCO Recommendation on historic urban conservation was established more than 30 years ago, makes the examination of current issues and ways to deal with them evermore important. This paper seeks to outline the significance of the concept of HULs as a rich source of our collective cultural identity and diversity and draws on present challenges and issues in the management of historic cities in Iran and possible effective approaches being developed on the conservation of historic urban landscapes, led by UNESCO, in preparation of a new recommendation on this subject.

Keywords: Historic Urban Landscape, Cultural Identity, Historical Integrity, Rehabilitation, Urban Conservation, Heritage Protection

The Evaluation of State-Led Regeneration in Large-Scale Property-Led Regeneration Projects in Iran

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Abstract

During the last two decades numbers of state-led large-scale projectshave been implemented in Iran under the name of property-led regeneration,. This paper evaluates the reasons of the failure of these projects by critically discussingtwo case studies in Tehran (Navvab) and Mashhad (City Centre).

Mega-scale regeneration projects are usually associated with some concerns about their resultant social polarisation and spatial fragmentation in cities. These concerns can be observed more or less in many European redevelopment initiatives. Yet, reviewing the mega-scale regeneration in Iranian case studies reveals the high intensification of the same concerns in the context of the Iranian cities.

The relationship between the agents of a project would determine the achievement or failure of the project. Based on Khan's theory (2004) about state failure, I argue that the intensification of the above issues originates from the dominance of the state-led approach, and the lack of institutional capacities in regeneration programmes led to failure of these projects.

Keywords: Large-Scale Regeneration, State-failure, Social Polarisation, Institutional Capacity, Navvab Regeneration Project, Mashhad City Centre

Cultural Heritage of Urban Definitions: Centres and Borders

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Abstract

Climatic and ecologic diversity in Iran have brought up unique traditions of thinking, living and constructing – a diversity whose roots are often neglected in typological studies.. For instance, if we divide the country's land by the Alborz Mountains it can be observed that different climates on the two sides have resulted in completely different lifestyles and construction traditions. Cities to the south are formed on flats or foothills; they radially spread, almost in each direction, around water resources or other historic centres. Neighbourhoods and houses also follow the same pattern, and shape central voids with all masses (building bulks) around them. On the other side, cities are formed linearly along resources of attraction, such as seashore, rivers or tourist roads. The organisation of traditional houses in many areas on this side also follows this pattern; a main terrace, which hosts most important functions, lines up all other spaces along it.

The concept of the centre for people to the south (e.g. Iran's Central Flats) is defined by a radial arrangement and its borders are decorated facades in all scales; roads are boarders which surround, limit and define any space in house, neighbourhood or city. In contrast, for people to the north, the centre linear, which offers many advantages (natural and/or economic); roads as linear objects reflect more an image of a centre rather than a border.

The result of applying one side's approach to the other is disasterous. Unfortunately the amount of such practices in urban developments is far more than acceptable. In northern cities one of the tools for limiting the city growth is to build a ring road outside the city. These ring roads in many cities of Mazandaran and Guilan (Northern provinces) have turned, after a while, into the new growth cores, leaving many empty holes in the city fabric. In fact these new centres were planned to be the borders; but they are understood as centres by people. In the south side, however, most larger cities (with more population and higher density) again experience another misunderstanding. In these cities, and especially in Tehran, socio-economic centres are reincarnated into main streets. But, traditionally on this side courtyards form main fronts and streets are the 'back sides'. As a result residential buildings have shirked into city centres: this time a linear object planned to be a centre whilst unconsciously treated inversely by the society.

This research reconsiders the old concepts of typology and city growth through a deeper attitude, and employs the cases in media and facts provided by other typological studies. It will try to take a step back and see the whole scene together.

Keywords: City Organisation, City Growth, City Borders, City Centres

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Panel Discussions

Panel discussion 1:
Global Dimension of Urban Change

The workshop focused on the global dimensions of urban change, allowing us to consider the transformative forces that have (re)shaped our cities over the last century. While paying particular attention to recent events and changes, the presenters articulated the social, political, economic, and cultural dimensions of change from various areas of the globe. A short presentation by each panellist was followed by an in-depth conversation that illustrated the degree to which urban changes have converged or diverged based on urban localities within the larger network of cities and nations. This workshop provided the necessary context within which urban changes in Iran can be situated and understood.

Moderator: Prof. Ali Modarres

Panellists:

- Prof. Goran Cars, *New Trends in Urban Development-Accessibility and Attractiveness*
- Prof. Nigel Harris, *Thoughts on Iranian Cities in Economic Globalisation*
- Prof. Jennifer Robinson, *Thinking with the Difference of Cities*

Panel Discussion 2:
Urban Development and Energy Efficiency in Iran

Integrated, strategic urban planning and high quality performance in the construction sector are fundamental pre-requisites for creating sustainable, energy-efficient urban structures. The workshop explored potentials and challenges of the Iranian planning system in the context of Iran's thriving New Towns development programme, and under the looming threat of climate change. It discussed the institutional setup, planning instruments and regulations, as well as the core competencies of the building sector on the basis of research results generated in the application oriented German-Iranian research project 'Young Cities – Creating Energy-Efficient Urban Fabric in the Tehran-Karaj Region', which is part of the German Megacities Research Program.

Moderator: Prof. Rudolf Schäfer

Panellists:

- Prof. Rudolf Schäfer: *New Towns and the Challenge of Climate-Friendly Megacity Development – An Introduction to the Young Cities Research Project*
- Prof. Pahl-Weber / Dipl.- Ing. Seelig, *Energy-Efficient Neighbourhoods in Iran: Challenges, Approaches and Solutions*
- Prof. Rückert / Dipl.- Ing. Mahrin, *Transferable Technology, Materials and Approaches to Proper Workmanship*
- Dr. Parhizkar / Dr. Mirmoghtadaee, *The Role of Building Code 19 for Sustainable Housing Development in Iran and Urban Planning inn Iran-Existing Instruments*

Panel Discussion 3:
Cities in the Region

This panel opened the opportunity to put in perspective Iranian urban transformations with those taking place in other metropolis from the region such as Istanbul and Cairo. It addressed as well some cross border growth collaborations practised by Iranian cities as one of the key drivers of global integration and economic development.

Moderator: Mr. Farrokh Derakhshani

Panellists:

- Prof. Mohammad Chaichian, *Greater Cairo's Urban Development: Caught Between 'Local' and 'Global'*
- Prof. Yves Cabannes, *The Cost of Becoming a Global City; Lessons from Istanbul When National Policies Stand Against Human and Housing Rights*
- Dr. Ramin Keivani, *The potential for the Formation of a Cross Border Growth Corridor Between Iran and United Arab Emirates*

Panel Discussion 4:
Urbanisation and Resilience to Natural Hazards in Iranian Cities

Risks to natural hazards are created through the process of urbanisation, through the quality of physical construction of cities and through social vulnerability of its people. Many urban areas in Iran are exposed to natural hazards, especially earthquakes. The decay of urban buildings and infrastructure, as well as poverty, are increasing urban risks in cities. This session looked at the complexity of factors manifesting disaster risk in Iranian cities, and the governance approaches that are being used to address these urban risks and to build resilience to natural hazards.

Moderator: Dr. Cassidy Johnson

Panellists:

- Prof. David Alexander, *Urban Vulnerability in Iranian Cities*
- Ms. Fatemeh (Farnaz) Arefian, *Dialogue between Reconstruction Management and Urban Management*
- Prof. Ben Wisner, *Towards Win-Win Urban and Regional Development in Iran*
- Dr. Alireza Fallahi, *An Introduction to the Reconstruction Department at Shahid Beheshti University*

Guest Speakers

Opening Remarks

- **Prof Alan Penn**
  Dean of Faculty, Professor of Architectural and Urban Computing at The Bartlett School of Graduate Studies, University College London, and Director of the VR Centre for the Built Environment.

Guest Speakers, panellists and Session Chairs

(Alphabetic Order)

- **Prof. David Alexander**
  Urban Vulnerability in Iranian Cities
  Chief Senior Scientist at the Global Risk Forum, Switzerland

- **Ms. Fatemeh (Farnaz) Arefian**
  Dialogue between Reconstruction Management and urban management
  PhD Researcher at UCL, Director of Civitas Phoenix

- **Dr Camillo Boano**
  Academic Session Chair
  Director of MSc Building and Urban Design in Development, The Bartlett DPU, UCL

- **Prof. Yves Cabannes**
  The Cost of Becoming a Global City; Lessons from Istanbul When National Policies Stand Against Human and Housing Rights
  Chair of Development Planning, Development Planning Unit, University College London

- **Prof. Iraj Etessam**
  Academic Session Chair
  Professor Emeritus of Architecture and Urban Design at University of Tehran

- **Dr. Alireza Fallahi**
  An Introduction to the Reconstruction Department at Shahid Beheshti University
  Lecturer and Director of the Reconstruction Department, Shahid Beheshti University, Iran

- **Prof. Goran Cars**
  New Trends in Urban Development - Accessibility and Attractiveness
  School of Architecture and the Built Environment, KTH - Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm

- **Prof. Mohammad Chaichian**
  Greater Cairo's Urban Development: Caught Between 'Local' and 'Global'
  Professor of Sociology, Coordinator of International Studies and Sociology Program, Mount Mercy University, Iowa

- **Mr. Farrokh Derakhshani**
  Panel discussion (3) Chair: Cities in the Region
  Director of the Aga Khan Award for Architecture, Geneva

- **Prof. Nigel Harris**
  Thoughts on Iranian Cities in Economic Globalisation
  Economist and specialist in Urban and Economic Development and the Economics of Migration; former director of the Bartlett Development Planning Unit, University College London

- **Prof. James Jackson**
  Geological Aspects of Earthquake Vulnerability in Iran
  Head of the Earth Sciences Department at Cambridge University, Cambridge

- **Dr Cassidy Johnson**
  Panel discussion (1) Chair: Urbanisation and Resilience to Natural Hazards in Iranian cities
  Lecturer, The Bartlett Development Planning, University College London; coordinator of CIB TG63 Disasters and the Built Environment Task Group

- **Dr Hassan Karimian**
  Academic Session Chair
  Senior Lecturer in Department of Archaeology at the University of Tehran

- **Dr. Ramin Keivani**
  The potential for the Formation of a Cross Border Growth Corridor between Iran and United Arab Emirates
  Reader in International Land Policy and Urban Development,
  Faculty of Technology, Design and Environment, Oxford Institute for Sustainable Development

- **Prof. Ali Modarres**
  Panel discussion (4) Chair: Global Dimension of Urban Change
  Department of Geosciences and Environment, California State University, Los Angeles

- **Prof. Elke Pahl-Weber** / Dipl.- Ing. Seelig
  Energy-Efficient Neighbourhoods in Iran: Challenges, Approaches and Solutions
  Chair for Urban Renewal and Sustainable Development, Technische Universität, Berlin

- **Dr. Parhizkar** / Dr. Mirmoghtadaee:
  The Role of Building Code 19 for Sustainable Housing Development in Iran
  And Urban planning in Iran – Existing Instruments to Tackle Energy-Efficiency
  Director of the Young Cities activities in Iran

- **Dr. Parviz Piran**
  Urban Change in Contemporary Iran: Urbanisation Lacking Context Based Urbanisation
  Sociologist, Community Development Specialist and lecturer at Social Research Department at Allameh Tabataba'i University and, School of Architecture and Urban Planning at Shahid Beheshti University, Tehran

- **Prof. Jenifer Robinson**
  Thinking with the Difference of Cities: The New and the 'Now'.
  UCL Department of Geography, University College London

- **Prof. Dr. Rückert**/ Dipl.- Ing. Mahrin
  Transferable Technology, Materials and Approaches to Proper Workmanship
  Chair for Structural Design and Construction, Technische Universität, Berlin

- **Prof. Rudolf Schäfer**
  Panel discussion (2) Chair: Urban Development and Energy Efficiency in Iran
  New Towns and the Challenge of Climate-Friendly Megacity Development – An Introduction to the Young Cities Research Project
  Project director of Young Cities; former chair for Planning and Building Law and former dean of the Faculty of Planning, Building, and the Environment, Technische Universität Berlin

- **Prof Ben Wisner**
  Towards Win-Win Urban and Regional Development in Iran
  Emeritus Geography Professor and Director of International Studies at California State University, Long Beach

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

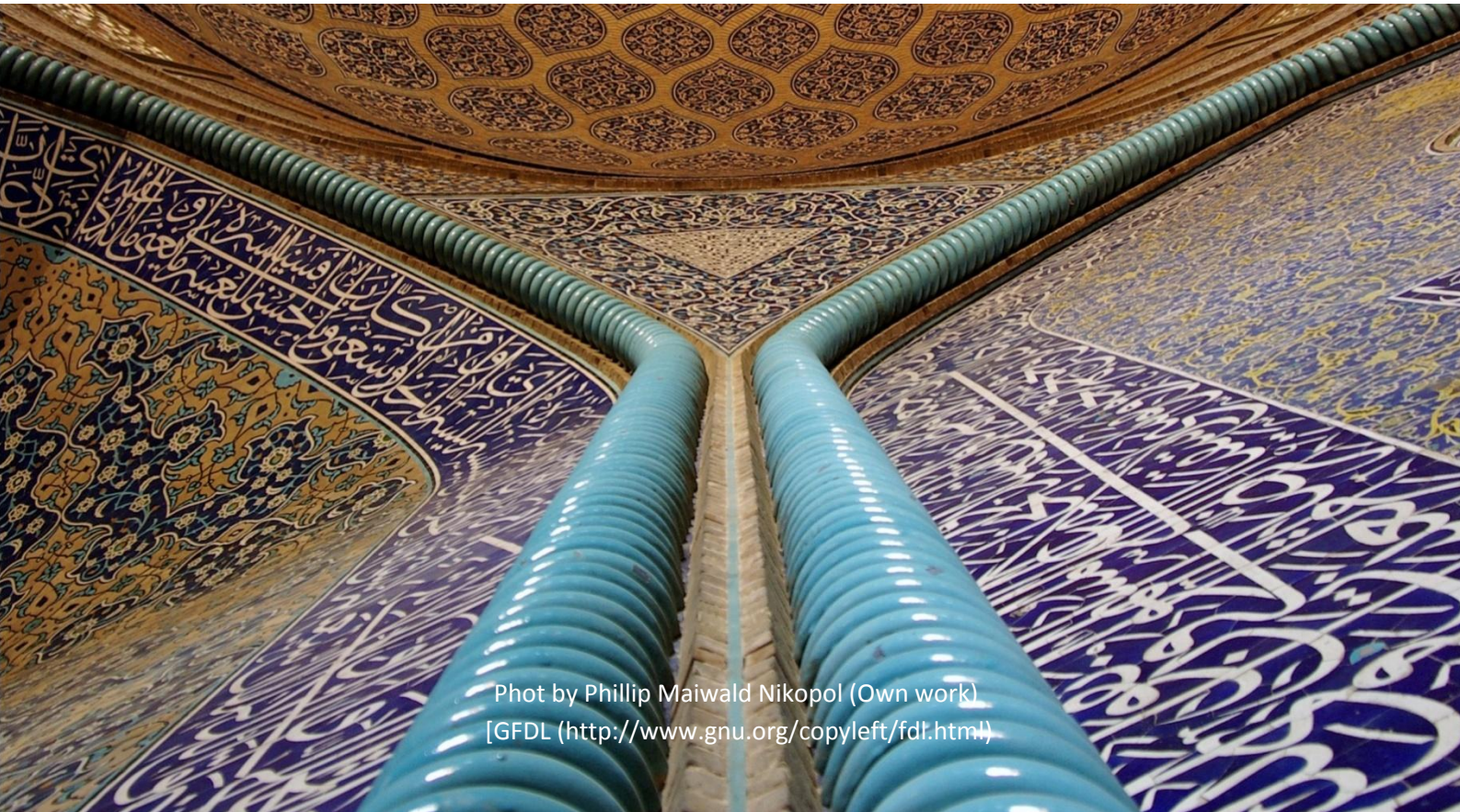
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

URBAN CHANGE IN IRAN

8-9 November 2012

University College London, UK

کنفرانس بین المللی **تحول شهر در ایران** ۱۸-۱۹ آبان ۱۳۹۱



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