Enriching public spaces in Iran, challenges and opportunities

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Introduction

- Today the urban spaces and attendance of people in public spaces are very problematic and urban planners discuss about it very much.

Theories of urban planners after nineteenth centuries
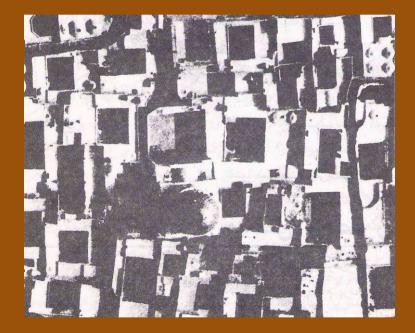
- Kamillo sitte : He pointed to urban space as a "place of social interaction" and the importance of the attendance of people in city.

- Pogin , Raskin , Moris : all recommended to review the history and returning to aesthetics of the past.

- Jane Jacob : emphasized the attendance of people in public spaces and enriching social relationship

Principals of traditional urban spaces in Iran

- In historical urban planning of Iran, there were some valuable principles which haven't been continued by our contemporary urban planning and these urban spaces have been changed to some unvalued spaces which were just allocated to automobile.
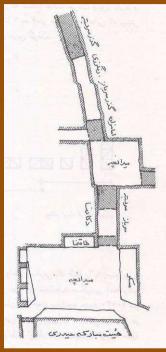
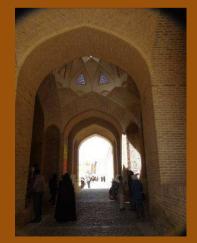# 1- The principle of juncture of urban elements and houses:

- In the old cities of Iran residential units have been jointed to each other with central courtyard and create a united complex. The arrangement and the orientation of all of the elements of houses were obeyed from "modularity" and "order", so there was harmony in city.
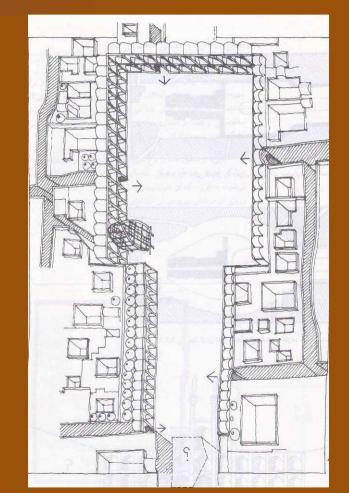
2- The principle of contrast spaces:

- Contrast spaces are some spaces which have different width and length and height. The worth of contrast spaces is that it can mitigate the monotony of the space.

3- The principle of encompassing the space:

- Encompassing the space is the first principle of traditional spaces in Iran. This principle is common in all old cities. In Iran, traditional urban spaces are surrounded by arcades and colonnades to create a symmetrical and balanced space.
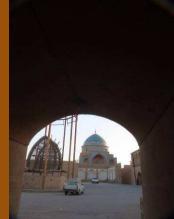

The main plan of Shah Tahmasb square in Yazd city before interruption

4- Inner space and outer spaces:

- Traditional urban designing was involved with "outer" spaces which include public spaces such as squares and streets and "inner" spaces that include inner courtyards within the houses.

⇧ Inner space
(a courtyard)

Outer space ⇨
(a square)

5- The principle of perception of spaces:

- A traditional urban designer had a good perception of the meaning of "space" and "mass". He believed that the city is a combination of "mass" and "space".

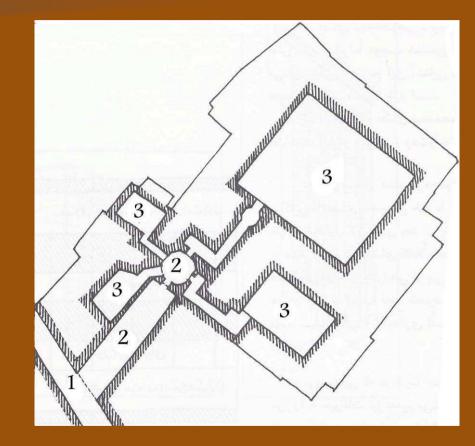mass →

space →

6- The principle of composition:

- In old cities we can find a composition by integrating different elements, and this composition showed a strong identity.

Central courtyard in Tabatabayi house
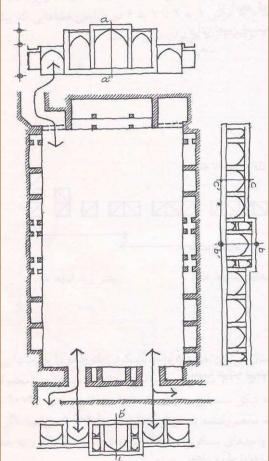
7- The principle of territory:

- We can identify three different spaces in traditional cities:
- 1- private space such as courtyards
- 2- semi-private or semi-public space such as a deadend street or a "Hashti"
- 3- public spaces like streets and squares.

1- public passage 2-individual deadened 3-private courtyard

8- The principle of proportion and scale:

- Scale is the relation between the sizes of a space with other spaces and Human scale is good relation between the sizes of a space with the size of human beings.

- In traditional urban spaces we could find a good proportion and human scale in their spaces.

Vali soltan square and its proportion in height and width

■ Unfortunately most of the traditional urban spaces of Iran expect few of them were destroyed during the renovation of streets and erecting highways and new regions.

Naghsh jahan square

Ganjali khan square

Tekiyeh and Hoseyniyeh and Moharam ceremony

- Tekiyeh or Hoseyniyeh are of the important spaces which were used mostly for howling ceremony in the month of "Moharam". People howl for their third martyred leader (Imam Hossein) by holding special ceremony, they cry and beat on their chest.
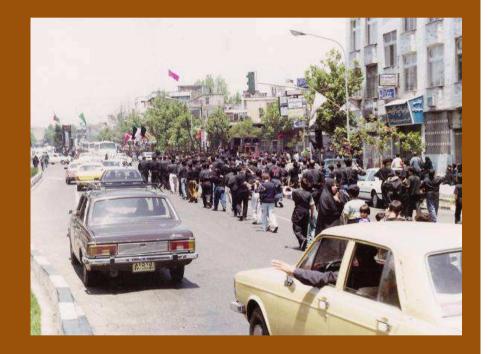
- The ceremony of these days is one of the most important ceremonies between Shiite Muslims that people try to hold this ceremony in the best way.

Shah Vali Hoseyniyeh in Taft city

- In the past the space for holding this ceremony was identified clearly in traditional cities and now we can't see these spaces in contemporary cities of Iran like past time. Nowadays just some streets and squares are allocated to this ceremony and they are not suitable for it.

Interrupting the traffic of vehicles with parade of howlers

Some recommends for designing Hoseyniyehs and Tekiyehs

- In designing Tekiyeh and Hoseyniyeh we should notice the aspect of spatial relation of this element wih other urban elements.

- In designing Tekiyeh and Hoseyniyeh spaces should be surrounded simply and proportionately.

- It should be avoided to convert Tekiyeh and Hoseyniyeh to vehicle access squares.

- Every intrupt in old and historical spaces such as Tekiyeh and Hoseyniyeh should be under surveillance of authorities and axperts.

RECENT SITUATION OF URBAN SPACES IN IRAN

- Urban spaces of Iran have lost their property as a social space. Our urban spaces such as streets and squares don't present any attraction to attedance pedestrian.

Toopkhaneh square

Some renovation activities to enrich urban spaces in Iran

- pedestrianization and respecting principles in designing historical urban spaces have been launched Recently in Iran but there is still a long distance to ideal situation.

Bazar region in Tehran

Saff street in Tehran

CONCLUSION :HOPES AND CHALENGES

- By some alteration in urban planning of Iran and suitable execution, we can lead cities to a more human manner

- in designing urban spaces especially in historical districts we should define the principles of their combinations, proportions, scales and forms of buildings and issue some codes about them.

Thank for your attendance