



Designing the Hall in the City of Sari with an Emphasis on the Improvement and Identity of Architecture of Mazandaran, Taberestan

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Abstract. Being dynamic is one of the features of the city of Sari, that is, no finished shape can ever be defined for the city since it is always changing in the development process to conform itself with the environmental and socioeconomic and ... conditions. The city of Sari is one of the ancient cities of the province which was once the capital city of achaemenian (Zadratca). As the researchers say the city of Sari is built on the layers of a city which was the center of the northern state of Iran since the pre- Islamic ages. The city of Sari with its historic background; and its cultural, social antiquity and the tourism issue is under the focus of the people or the other nations, probably. Designing the hall of the city of Sari is aimed to meet the cultural and social needs of the people. It is tried in this thesis to explain the different periods of architecture by the urbanism studies. Then, we will show the designing steps using the traditional architecture concepts and geometric patterns. Generally, some studies are performed on the Islamic architecture using architecture patterns of Tabarestan with an emphasis on the identity and improvement of the architecture values in this research. The suggested site is located in the eastern side of the city of Sari, in parallel with the river of Tajan where there is the national railroad in its south.

Keywords: City hall, Identity, Tabarestan

1. INTRODUCTION

Tabaristan, also known as Tapuria, was the name of the former historic region in the southern coasts of Caspian Sea roughly in the location of the northern and southern slopes of Elburz range in Iran. The region roughly corresponded to the modern Iranian provinces of Mazandaran, Gilan, Golestan, northern Semnan, and a little part of Turkmenistan (Seif, Asad, 2011).

The Amardians are believed to have been the earliest inhabitants of the region where modern day Mazandaran and Gilan are located. The establishment of the early great kingdom dates back to about the first millennium BCE when the Hyrcanian Kingdom was founded with Sadracarta (somewhere near modern Sari) as its capital. Its extent was so large that for centuries the Caspian Sea was called the Hyrcanian Ocean. The first known dynasty was the Faratians, who ruled some centuries before Christ. During the rise of the Parthians, many of the Amerdians were forced into exile to the southern slopes of the Elburz Mountains known today as Varamin and Garmsar, and the Tabaris (who were then living somewhere between today's Yaneh Sar to the north and Shahrud to the south) replaced them in the region.(Goldschmidt, Arthur,2002)

The intellectual capacity and the ingenuity of the important persons have caused the efflorescence and creation of invaluable works during the history of Tabarestan. The City Hall, one of the most people- oriented public buildings of the city, is a place to do all social city affairs. This space has the role of gathering the citizens and encouraging them for cooperation and involvement in the city affairs. The lack of a valuable hall always annoyed people's mind

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since the city of Sari has gotten the center of the province. This hall can increase the involvement of the people in all social affairs.

2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The province of Mazandaran which is more than 44552 km² is located between 35 ° and 47 min. to 38° and 5 min. of the north width and 50° and 34 min. to 56° to 14 min. of the eastern length of the Prime meridian. It is limited to Caspian Lake and USSR in the north, the provinces of Tehran and Semnan in the south, the province of Gilan in the west and the province of Khorasan in the east.

The green land of Tabarestan, as the historical document shows, includes a vast geographical, historic and cultural area from Astarabad to Deilaman in the north of Iran. It has a shining history in the traditional and domestic arts such as industrial, decorative and imaginative arts, architecture and urbanism, ethic plays, music and ... during the changing history of Iran. Undoubtedly, paying attention to the backgrounds of these arts in the honorable history of this country and its mixture with the religion of Islam provide some specific capabilities to prepare new designs of these fields and to know more about this culture. In this regard, the role of the university and the scientific and cultural organizations is under the attention of the present generation and the demand of the future generation to prepare the background and provide the theory and practical introduction.

So, a modern design for the city hall in the center of the province of Mazandaran is provided to revive the culture and to meet one of the art needs of this ever green land.

According to the above statements, it is tried in this thesis to perform the design of City Hall in the former Tabarestan or the current Mazandaran while explaining its climatic and architectural features.

2.1. The Main Research Question

Reviewing the thematic literature on the title of the design has shown that there has been no research in this regard in the mentioned performance area.

The special questions of the research are as following:

What are the effective factors in the designing of the city hall?

What are the effective factors in the designing of the city hall in the province of Mazandaran according to the dimension of its features and history?

2.1.1. Research Aims

Considering the library research, books and articles, we will review the history of Tabarestan to Mazandran in the present research. The main and secondary aims of the research include:

2.1.2. Primary aim

Achieving and designing the city hall in the province of Mazandaran according to its climate and ancient history.

2.1.3. Secondary aims

The secondary aims of the present research based on the main aim include:

To analyses the effect rate of the climatic features on designing the city hall and to determine its manner.

To analyses the effect of the history of Tabarestan on designing the city hall in the province of Mazandaran and to determine its manner.

2.2. Hypotheses

Based on the related thematic literature and the research independent and dependent variables, the following hypotheses will be analyzed and assessed in the present research:

There is a significant relationship between the history of Tabarestan and designing the city hall. There is a significant relationship between the climatic conditions of the province of Mazandaran and improvement and identity of architecture and designing the City Hall.

2.3. The First Habitants of Tabarestan

2.3.1. Iran Flat and the indigenous people

Appearance of Iran history begins since the period when the scientific and those interested in the history and geography could understand the ancient languages and stone scripts and underground works and match them with the Aria scripts and those of the historian, geographers, BC and AD tourists to clear the dark history of Iran somewhat. This appearance is not more than 200 years.

The name of Iran Flat originates from the name of the Iranian Arias who started migration 3 thousand years BC and arrived to this land. The name of the country of Iran dated back to the appearance year of the first Iranian Persian language government (Achaemenian; 550 BC).

Thousand years before the arrival of the Iranian Arias to Iran Flat, some groups of indigenous people four of whom are more prominent lived there. Their previous era is not so clear. We just know that there was a separate history for every group. They selected a part of Iran Flat for themselves and were busy with nomadic, desert agriculture, herding, bird and animal hunting in their precedent manners. The name of one of these four groups was MARD which is under our focus. There is no special history available about this group. What we write in this book is a selection from the books of BC and AD historians, geographers and tourists which were survived in Latin, Roman, Greek and the other ancient live languages with few changes and had been kept away from the fire and looting and can be used well.

The name of the group of MARD is MARAD and AMARD in the above scripts which means MARD in Iranian and domestic language. The ancient language of Armenian and Mardi, Ei Mardi, Javan Mardaneh, Kalleh Mard and Jan Mardi which are spoken all over Mazandaran and Gilan originate from the ancient name of this group.

2.3.2. Domestic Agriculture

Domestic agriculture is a branch of tradition based agriculture which is relied on the place and local culture on which it is placed. This architecture maintains its local specific architectural accent along with enjoying the common principles of site organization in the space configuration, applying the domestic material and symbol and mouths. Domestic culture is considered as the most moderate architecture due to the link of background, physical and clear elements. It is assured that the domestic based architecture can provide an appreciable physical play for the society. Statistic and comfort are fused in the architecture and each one has got its own spatial pattern, is an inherent part of the building and is present in the buildings and spaces by the architectural rules. While there is no power in the domestic based architecture, it includes economical savings, the most usage from the materials and the environment facilities, maintaining the official and political functions and different social and individual aspects. (Articles proposed by the Cultural Heritage Organization, 1997, p322).

2.3.3. Identity in the Contemporary Architecture:

Today, our architects are encountered with confusions and identity crises in many cases. Indeed, crisis in architecture identity and in the Islamic architecture in particular, in the world and Iran causes some shortages due to the society or the individual problems. Nowadays, there are special features for identity in every culture so these special understandings made the Iranian architectures have special insight and value. It is necessary to modify these understandings so that Islam could present its strategies (An Introduction to the Islamic Identity in Architecture).

2.3.4. The Features of the Iranian Architecture

There are some features for the Iranian architecture due to which it has its own values and mysteries, compared with the architecture in the other countries: proportionate design, original geometry, harmonious proportions, exact structures, novel creativities and various decorations each of which in spite of their simplicity, shows the glory of the architecture in this land. This architecture is based on the people's needs, technical principles, using the local materials and avoiding vanity" (Hashem Hashmnejad, 1997).

2.3.5. What is the Civil Society?

Historically, the concept of the civil society is used in the political thought in five different conceptions: 1) the state before the family in Aristotle thought and before the natural situation in the thought of social contractors. 2) a civilized society against a primary society from the thought of the people like Adam Ferguson in the book on The civil Society History 1767 The basic shape of state genesis in the thought of Hegel, 4) the domain of the material and economic affairs and the class and social interests against the state and as a base in the Marxist thought and 5) the civil society as a part of superstructure (not the understructure domain as Marx believes) and the center of forming the ideological power or the governing intellectual hegemony in Gramsci's conception (Bashirieh Hosein, 1997, p 33).

2.4. The Definition of Urban Design

So, urban design begins with building urban spaces and it should meet all of the urbanism aspects and the physical issues of the city. There is an extent view from all over the city in the urban design and it draws the future portrait and looks at it more carefully..."

"Undoubtedly, the credit of the urban portrait is generated by linking between the spaces and the urban elements. Designing the city portrait would fail without a general and comprehensive view and dominating it..."

2.5. What is Public Space?

Historically, public space is defined as "open space" in the urban planning. It includes the streets, parks and the recreational areas, squares and the other external spaces which are under the property and management of the public sector. These spaces are versus the privacy of the homes and work place. However, the recent evolution in the urban settlements and increasing the number and variety of the semipublic places- managed by the public/ private sector or just by the private sector- questions this concept remained from the juridical prospective. Today, it is need for the public space to be understood spate from the zone under the domination of the government or its subdivision and to be viewed as a space available for the public. The public space is closer to the older concept of Common in juridical meaning. Nevertheless, it should be

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noted that every piece of land, at least in the western countries, is under the proprietorship regulations and it is this fact that makes to know everything common difficult- without being encountered with its legal owner or manager (Stephan Tonault, translated by Zohreh Dodangeh?).

3. DESIGN BACKGROUND

3.1. Public cultural social centers in our country

In our era, the human and social science scientific has devoted a seasonal concept to the culture which can be recognized as a collection of the society heritages, formed and determined over times by the generations and has get portable in time and place. Now, we can understand the culture issue and its propagation and what kind of space a cultural center can be. The leisure time and how to spend it should be solved. It is better to guide the young towards the directions without diversion or less diversion as much as possible, in this regard. The universities young are under the attention as a great guild in the societies.

3.2. The first public plays centers

The term Tekieh used in Iran for the places devoted to public morning ceremonies of Shi'hs is employed for any other places used for such intentions, either in the city junctures or in any well-built building with the capacity of thousand people. But we generally make a difference between the various places used for the public morning ceremonies of shi'hs long ago and the fixed theaters originally built for concentrating Ta'zieh plays in late 1990 to analyze the history of Tekieh(or Hoseinih, which is familiar for the people). There were advantages in using the smaller places such as the mosques or the private house of a person who was capable of providing tea, syrup and refreshments for the audiences and the other different parts of the home which were the rooms opening towards the yard and being for the VIP gusts, the yard for the usual people. The roof was for the women and children if there were a lot of audiences.



Figure 1. A view of the ceremony of Shabihkhani and Ta'zieh in Iran by Vamirbach in 1377-78 After Hejrat.

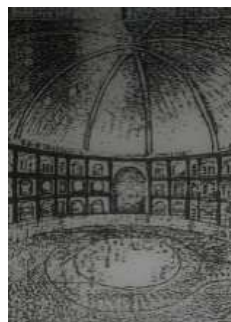


Figure 2. Oil painting picture by Kamal al Molk from Tekieh Dolat during performing Ta'zieh ceremony in Nasaraddin Shah Time.

4. THE CULTURAL AND GATHERING CENTERS IN IRAN

4.1. Iranian gatherings

These centers include different complexes and official sector serving within the zone and its vicinity and have the following parts:

- The national saloon of the gatherings and celebrations with the capacity of 900 persons
- The public library with the capacity of 7000 books

This building is a lofty architecture formed in a perfect simplicity far from the update fashion of architecture style based on an accurate engineering rhythm. The apparent shape is formed by relatively two separate triangle masses in relationship with each other make unite mass. The bigger mass includes the hall, library and council rooms and there are the city, town and province associations in the smaller one (the official sector). There is enough area for parking in the basement due to the climate of this place and it is related to the different parts of the building by stair. The open space is considered for gardening.

5. THE CULTURAL AND GATHERING CENTERS IN THE OTHER COUNTRIES

5.1. The cultural center of Istanbul

This center is located in of Odra, one of the district of Damascus. It includes the basement, ground and first floor. The basement includes shelter, radiator installations, and the place of book trusting and library of the ground floor.

It is considered as a small complex. While there are interesting ideas there and the spatial plan diaphragm is very simple and regular, the building mass is very magnificent. Although no special domestic features are seemed in the plan, there is a special domestic morale in the building plan. The diagonal movement has removed the simplicity of the plan. Designing a traditional door in a structure module and repeating this beautiful module in the two symmetrical views has created domestic and memorable feature in the complex.

6. CITY HALL, THE ARCHITECTURAL DEMOCRACY SYMBOL

With a high respect as one of the most people oriented public city building all over the world, City Hall is a place to perform all the city public affairs. In the first rank, it is a space for one of the most people oriented urban institutions i.e. associations and city council, and a center for public gathering and interaction among people for the urban issues. Citizens come to gather in this space and are encouraged to cooperate and take part in the city affairs. So, City Hall should belong to all of the citizens and city collective activities.

To introduce a unique typical point in the urban interwoven texture is the important point to be mentioned in brief in this article. It gives a special direction to the city public texture, the different service centers, pass ways and the green spaces and even the daily movement course of the people and the events. It is practically shaped as the characteristic portrait of the city and the characteristic aspect of the architecture and urbanism of a country in the mind of the people of this land and the foreigners. The square of Naghsh-e- Jahan is the most important example which is registered as a turning point in the city of Esfahan and in Iran in a large r scale and again in a much larger scale as a world cultural heritage.

7. CITY HALL IN IRAN

Despite of the long history of establishing the city hall in the world some of which was mentioned above, this important is still in the stage of design and holding architecture competitions. The most serious attempt in this regard was the design of Tehran City Hall which came under competition in 1977 when the design of the Tenzo Tangeh, the Japanese architecture won the competition. However, his design was never performed.

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There is a rich background in the public spaces for our country. In the past, the bazars and squares were the important communication, social and economic places in the city and always considered as a gathering place and establishing the different kinds of the economic, social, cultural and sport activities.



Figure 3. The Hall in the city of Khorramabad.



Figure 4. The hall in the city of Kermanshah.

8. THE REQUIRED INFORMATION TO REACH THE DESIGN

Generally, some basic studies and special researches are required for designing the City Hall, in particular, for the city of Sari. It needs a sufficient and appropriate time as well as the cooperation of the multidisciplinary experts such as the urban designers and sociologist. Unfortunately, there is no enough space in this student thesis to consider it.

9. SELECTING THE DESIGN SITE

To select a perfect site to establish the architecture building requires studies on the urban and local planning. According to the function of the City Hall as a center of cultural activities, it is necessary that the complex to be in a direct relationship with the society and people to have a reciprocal and essential effect on each other in the first rank. Existing the potentials required for meeting the needs of the designing is one of the features of the selected site. The street of Salman Farsi- the square of Sa'd e Salman in the eastern side of the city is considered as the suggested site which is a piece of land with the area of 15600 m² ,currently in the hand of the municipality of district 1. The urban position of the site is important due to its location in a street which is open from the four sides so that its three side of south, east and west are streets and its north side is a bystreet. The area of the selected land is perfect both to meet the requirements of the design and to be utilized in different parts.

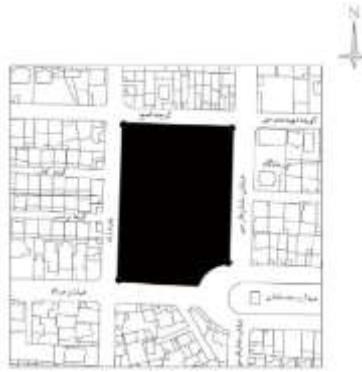


Figure 5. Site Analysis.

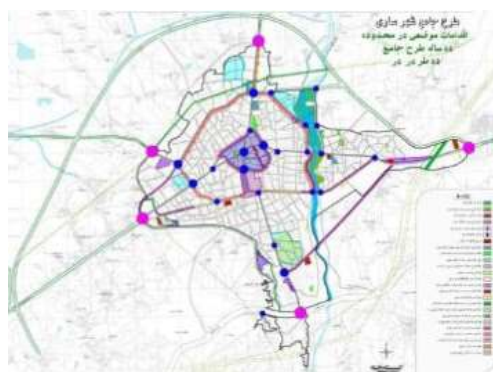
10. THE EFFECTIVE CLIMATIC FEATURES IN DESIGNING

10.1. The physical structure of the city of Sari

Cities are the most and comprehensive product of the human civilization and plays an important contribution to improve the civilization in its own place. Ascendancy and the positive direction of such a contribution are dependent on the extent of using the quality and the inherent ability of this compound system in the universality of today city and its movement toward future. It is essentially important to utilize past long -standing abstract values and contributing them in the quality of today life especially in a situation where the historic-national identities fade away under the pressure of the revolution. One of the tangible results of maintaining the historical cities and collections is their informative aspects for today and future generations. This collections help to enhance the perception and the feeling of esthetics.

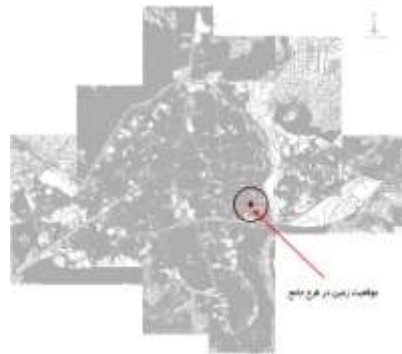
The city of Sari as the other historical cities is developed in the natural development process during continuous centuries and has been shaped as it is now. This city has been serviced its citizens in an organic manner till the present century. The constituting elements of the city including the spatial organization, physical structure, the valuable parts and buildings and the active urban centers have created a unique identity for this residential complex.

Following the different shapes of development in the present century, i. e. the planned interventions in the early of the century and then the gradual developments in the third to sixth decades and eventually, the immersive revolutions of the last 20 years, the city of Sari has multiplied by 20 in its dimensions.



Map 1. The current situation of the city of Sari.

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Map 2. The situation of land in the map of the comprehensive design of the city.

11.STATEMENT OF THE DESIGN IDEA

It is tried in designing the current project to make a conformation by making a modern space of which the center of the province was in lack with a sustainable function of finding a point in the city which meet the demands of the people. All of the aspects of the modern and traditional architecture are considered in the building structures based on the four entrances. We have shown harmony of the nature of Mazandaran within the campus using the waterfronts (the traditional architecture symbol), the ancient houses existed in Sari, the trees and gardens along with the applicable traditional elements and materials in the buildings.

If curiously analyzed, this design prospective can be more felt around the considered site which is near the urban and natural resources (river) and next to the park of Mellal (one of the new urbanism architecture model), in the city of Sari beside the river of Tajan.

As an example, this hall will be the only gathering place in the city where the music is conjugated with their life and the conferences are hold in the unsuitable places such as the sport saloon.

There is an access from this place to the different urban textures and it has near relation with the city entrance and exit roads following which there are suburban relationships and meets all of the functional needs such as being in relation with Tehran (the capital city).

So, concerning the most important above mentioned issues, predicting the mental and practical needs as far as the designing restrictions in the city allow, is one of the features of this hall where the elements like wood can be used in making puddle as well as material façade by modeling from the historical buildings like the house of Kalbadiha.

Since the concerned land is situated at the confluence of the affluent streets and is related to the avenues in four sides, it can make a strong social relationship among all people in the society.

As it is said before, the concept of order and harmony can be indicated by the numbers and geometry. Numbers and geometrical patterns are used in the height of the buildings and plans, respectively, in designing the buildings: numbers 3, 4, 8 each has its own special meaning in the Islamic Iranian architecture, religions and mythologies and the shape of rectangular, semicircle and ellipse.

11.1. Numbers

The science of numbers is a method to understand the unity in the nature. The cardinal numbers are the roots of all sciences: the first manifestation of spirit on the soul. The concept of number in Islam is similar to the Pythagorean system in which the numbers are both qualitative and quantitative (Nader Ardalan & Laleh Bakhtiar, 1973, P55)

11.2. Geometry

Geometry as the statement of number personality allows the traditional human to analyze the natural process more (Nader Ardalan & Laleh Bakhtiar, 1973, p57).

Architecture consists of two aspects: Physic and Space. There are two quantitative and qualitative features for these two elements:

1- Quantitative features: including geometry and proportions, the principle of using the scientific geometry.

2- Qualitative features: including the principles and rules.

Geometry shows the shapes not numbers; shapes like square, rectangular, and octagonal. We are dealing with the shapes here not the numbers.

11.3. Geometric Pattern

The geometric pattern concept is based on number 1 and there is its manifestation in the world full of shapes and patterns. In its numerical form, this concept is based on symmetry and harmony in the dimensions, shape and the relative situation of the parts in one totality (Nader Ardalan & Laleh Bakhtiar, The Concept Morphology, p70).

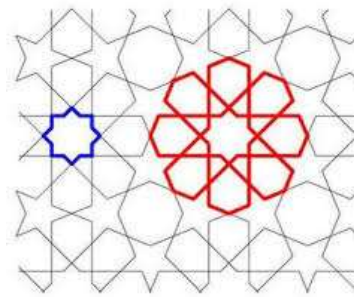


Figure 6. An example of the geometrical pattern.

It is tried to use the geometric pattern in the mentioned complex in which square was the main geometry. Some other shapes are used such as circle, ellipse, and triangle and rectangular.

12. Proposing the Design According to the general Aims

The entire complex consists of an elliptical and semicircular mass: a semicircular and rectangular mass in the south and a rectangular mass in the north which constitute the first and end of the main axis of the design.

There are four old towers around the campus preserved due to its harmony with the design.

The main entrance of the complex and the walking part are in the south of the site. Introducing another tower emphasize on the entrance. The handicraft booths are considered in the western south to make a connection with the culture of architecture and urbanism in the city of Sari.

We will reach to the main hall and the official building with a little surface difference from here. The green space and water are the symbols of the natural sceneries of Mazandaran.

There is the center or the pause place of the complex after another surface difference. It is the associate of the yard in the old houses like the house of Kalbadiha and Fazeliha. Some alcoves remembering the domestic architecture and are predicted in both sides of the pause space which is a return to the past identity of Mazandaran.

After the pause space, we observe the library building in the north side beside which there is an open space to perform the cultural programs.

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The sub entrance and driving entrance are located in the north side to avoid traffic congestion as far as possible.

The garage is situated in the two floor basement in the north basement.

The building of the main hall consists of two elliptic and semicircular masses and in eight floors including lobby, information, Water closet, the official sector of hall, meeting room, VIP resting room, Make up sector, music concert saloon and restaurant and coffee shop is considered in some floors.

The next building consists of two rectangular and semicircular masses in four floors and includes the official sector of the city council. There are lobby, water closet, cleaning room, official rooms, book selling, conference saloon and restaurant there.

The library building in a rectangular form includes lobby, information, water closet, official sector, searching and computer room, book storage, resting room, studying and eating saloon.

In the end of the building, a free space is considered for performing the cultural programs of the hall in the western south of the building.

Two traditional restaurants are considered in the end of the north side and the sub access.



Figure 7. The map of situation plan.



Figure 8. A longitude view of the complex.



Figure 9. A cross view of the complex

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