Affect of Urban Design Aspects in the Urban Spaces Creation

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Abstract:

The aim of this paper is to discuss the urban design process in new urban development of cities. Process of urban development Iranian cities is unable to create the quality in urban spaces. Some parts of the traditional urban spaces were damaged except for a few. The urban development follows the modernist model after the 1900s. The Master Plan in 1963s and the Development Plan of City and Surrounding Area in 1974s have less aspects of urban design knowledge. Therefore, in the new developments and intervention in the traditional parts of cities could not create quality urban spaces. Method of the study is by reviewing the content of urban development plans in Iran and recognition of the failures and shortages of urban design. In the survey of Mashhad in the northeast of Iran, the quality of urban spaces and the affect of this type of plans were analyzed qualitatively. It was anticipated in the study during the revision of the content of urban development plans and mixture of the urban design aspects can create new approach for simultaneous design in urban spaces of cities and the creation of quality urban spaces. The results of the research will be a new content of urban development plan. In this new type of content of plans there are design approaches in creating urban spaces as a result of urban design. Product of this research can be useful to change the situation of urban spaces in the Iranian city because with the new knowledge of urban design, the urban spaces and public realm will be important indicators of quality of the life in the cities as the physical expression of democratization of public sphere.

Introduction:

Bacon (1967) mentioned that the form of cities is as a pitiless indicator of the state of the civilization. Mass and spaces create the forms of cities as two major parts (Kreir, 1979; Ching, 1996). Some authors wrote that the spaces of cities are important because they are a part of the public realm and common property (Tibbalds, 1993; Madanipour, 1996; Lang, 2005).

Nevertheless, Spaces of Iranian cities have less good and quality urban spaces (Azizi, 2000), except a few number of spaces there is a crisis in quality of urban spaces (Golkar, 2001; Farnahad, 2003). Mashhad is poor in the good urban spaces as a human setting to form social interaction, behavior pattern, and quality perception (Baftshar, 2000; Farnahad, 2003; Mohammadizade, 2006). Structure of cities in Iran show that cities before modernism have had urban spaces as human setting (Soltanzade, 1991, Saidniya, 1995), but after modernism and especially after introduction of the Master Plan, the urban spatial structure changed and spaces were limited to streets, and roundabouts (Azizi, 2000). Current situation of Mashhad show process of deconstruction the spaces continue and people use of squares and streets as the last opportunity to use as urban space. At

present, the municipality of city demolished three squares and changed them to road junctions, and may be in future the city will be these proceeding and these will result a bare-city of urban space (Report, 2005).

Review on the Background of Designing

Before of modernism in Iran, there were three main activities in urban spaces of the cities: the main mosque, the bazaar and government organizations (Soltanzade, 1991, Tavasoli, 1989). The squares and streets as two basic elements formed the physical feather of cities (Krier, 1979). The urban spaces have included three forms: spaces of bazaars with merchandize function, military spaces with authority of government function, and spaces of districts as public and local spaces with social role (Soltanzade, 1991; Habibi, 1998). City's developments saved the heritage parts and traditional aspects of cities (Saidniya, 1995; Tafahomi, 2007). Modernity entered to the country in around 1900, and brought the urban planning and urban designing theories from Europe and America in the early 20th century (Saidniya, 1995). The new forms of accessibility and

Figure 1: map of Bam city with Organic fabric
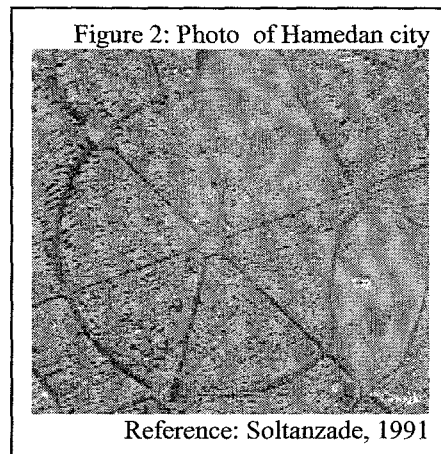
Reference: Soltanzade, 1991
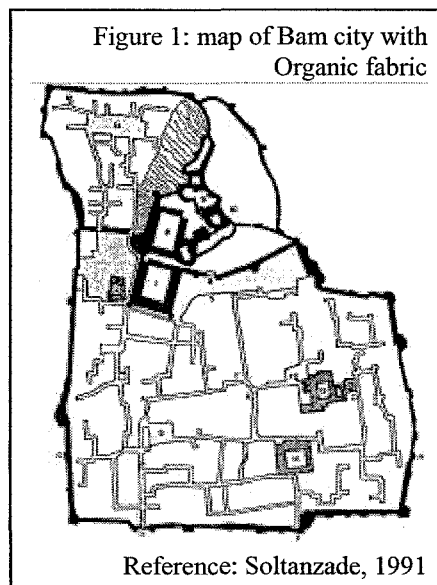
movement especially automobile made change the traffic and size of streets and the traditional structures of cities (Tavasoli, 1989; Mahdizade, 2005). Therefore, the forms of urban spaces changed.

Changing of urban structure of Iranian cities began in the early 1900s with the adaptation of modernism. At the beginning of Pahlavi dynasty, new regime with idealism that had imitated of Europe tried to implement these models in Iran. General Karim Agha Boozarjomehri, Head of the municipality of Tehran was building new streets in the old districts without any regards to heritage fabrics and historical texture (Saidniya, 1995, Mashhodi, 1997). Similar to Baron Houssmann (Paris mayors of Paris) acts under Napoleon the 3rd in 1853-1869. In Tehran, the municipality installed many flags over walls of people's houses and one day after that was beginning destroys actions. So settlements moved to new districts. In this process built some streets such as Khayam, Babhomauon, Naser Xosrow, Sepah, Bozarjomehri, and Shahpor. The municipality damaged many districts and number of districts destroyed. Government imitated this model of intervention in the other cities of Iran as a model of city development.

Therefore, this process involved more of traditional cities to this challenge (Saidnya, 1995; Soltanzade, 1991; Mashhodi, 2001; Jahanshahi, 2002; Tafahomi, 2007).

In 1961 to 1963, Iranian Ministry of Settlement and Housing established the deputy of Architecture and Urban Development. This department legislated cities Master plans (Saidniya, 1995; Pirzade, 1999; Ahsan, 2003; Abazari, 2006). Master plan as a development model enacted law to Iranian cities and it continued until 1974 (Ahsan, 2003; Abazari, 2006). With the change of title of Ministry of Housing and Settlement to Housing and Urban Planning, the name of the Master Plan changed to Development Plan of City and Surrounding Area. Although the department reviewed on the content of the Master Plan, but content of the Plan changed a little and basic change was the name (Saidniya, 1995; Mashhodi, 2001; Mashhodi et al, 1997; azizi, 2000).

After Islamic Revolution in 1987s, the Development Plan of City and surrounding Area continued in the country. In recent year's impact of this kind of plans motivated sensitivity of the experts (Mashhodi et al, 1997; Golkar, 2001).

Figure 2: Photo of Hamedan city

Reference: Soltanzade, 1991

Urban Design Condition in Iran

Iranian cities have difference in forms and spatial structures. Traditional parts of cities have had hierarchy in forms and variety of the urban spaces (Soltanzadeh, 1991; Rafeiyan, 2005; Azizi, 2000). In opposite the streets, junctions, and roundabouts are the form of urban spaces that built in the new development. Although these spaces are, a part of city's spaces (Krier, 1979, Madanipour, 1996; Varkki, 1997) but cannot create those types of spaces that people need to it (Gehl, 1987; Tibbals, 1993, Madanipour, 1996; Woolly, 2003; Lang, 2005).

Figure 3: Photo of Esfahan- Naghshe-Jahan Square about 1800
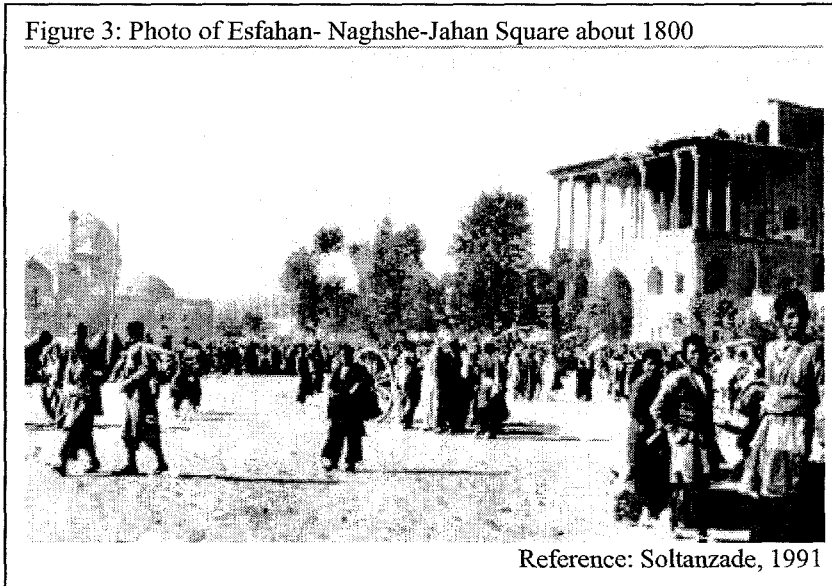
Reference: Soltanzade, 1991

Urban spaces show the public realm in the city (Tibbalds, 1993; Madanipour, 1996; Lang, 2005), also a place for attending and interaction of people together (Fisher, Bell, Baum, 1984; Woolly, 2003). Traditional form of spaces in Iranian cities was a place for people and events took place (Soltanzadeh, 1991; Habibi, 1998) because studied show the traditionally architects have been responsible for the design of building; thought in many cases this responsibility has been extended to aspects of urban design (Romaya, 1993). In contrast, the new form of development that implemented in Iranian cities, the urban design aspects are missing and urban spaces are not good spaces for people (Golkar, 2001; Habibi, 2005; Rafeiyan, 2005).

Al-Douri (2006) write the design content embraces three interrelated tiers of substantive elements of urban design plans: design consideration, design policies, and design aspects. He discussed the first tier, design considerations, expresses the qualities that urban design, as a process, seeks to achieve. Design plans should set out what constitutes the full range of design considerations, recognizing that they have different weights in different areas and cities. The second tier, design policies, identifies the key factors and considerations that designers should take into account. The third tier, design aspects, includes the aspects addressed or covered in the policies and the degree of emphasis on each design aspect. Urban design aspects are less in the Development Plan of City and Surrounding Area (Azizi, 2000; Golkar, 2001; Pakzad, 2002, Zekavat, 2002).

However, there are critics on process, content and implantation of these plans, but content of this plan is major problem, because this plan has less the other aspect of designing such as urban design and landscape (Saidniya, 1995; Mashhodi, 2001 Mashhodi et al, 1997; Habibi, 2005). In addition, process of approval and implementation of the plans have different stages in the different commissions and the departmental offices (Ahsan, 2003; AUPSRC, 2005). Nevertheless, these stages reduce the possibility

Figure 4: map of Tehran

Reference: Google Earth 2004
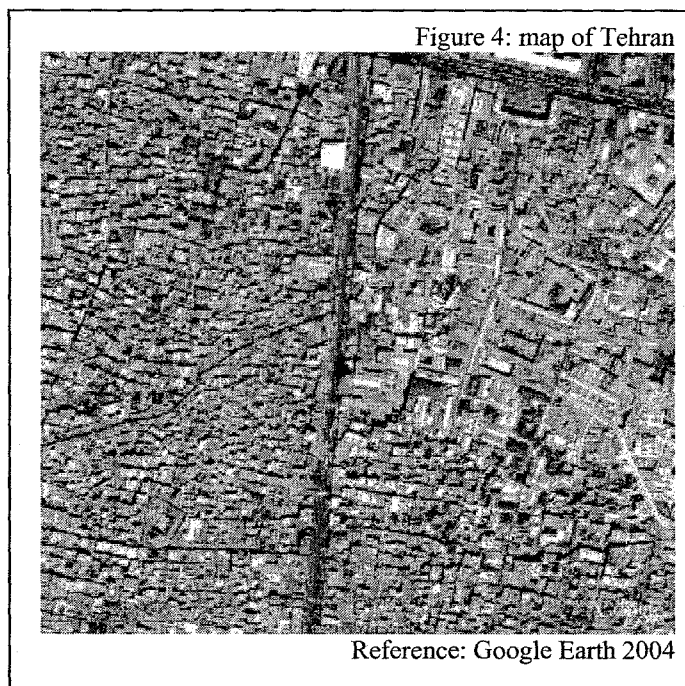
of failure and neglect in studies by researchers. Therefore, the content of urban development plans has lack of the urban design aspects to create urban spaces (Rafeiyan, 2005; Golkar, 2001; Bahreni, 2006).

Welbank (1993) about of situation the England urban design wrote that, "the visions in this volume may be fine but the absence of any sensitivity to the social culture of this country makes the book an interesting comment by dilettantes rather than any serious consideration of the problems of high quality urban design in our cities". Such as Iran, although have been scholar and urban designer but they cannot influence the content of urban development plans (Rafeiyan, 2005; Golkar, 2001; Bahreni, 2006). Similar of Iranian the Process of planning in Iran have based on the two important problems. First, is the expansion of cities including allocation of land to city in suburb, and second, is land use (Saidniya, 1995, Mashhodi et al, 1997, Mashhodi, 2001; Aghadadashi, 2002).

Mashhad as case study has had two plans. Studies of first plan began in the 1967 with Master Plan pattern. The High Council approved this plan in 1973. Studies of second plan began in 1989 with the Development Plan of City and surrounding Area and they approved it in 1997(Mehrazan, 1997; AUPSRC, 2005). Nevertheless, these plans had not urban design aspects in the detail of plan therefore, the results of studies are lack of urban design aspects and it has failure in build of urban spaces (Aghadadashi, 2002; Golkar, 2001; Rafeiyan, 2005).

Creating public places and the quality in city is important purpose of urban designer (Welbank, 1993, Madanipor, 1996; Shurch, 1999; Lang, 2005). Zekavat (2005) wrote the significant approach in cities would have to create conditions for safety, liveliness and encouraging the people to attend the public urban spaces. The regional plan of Mashhad named this city as the largest and most important city of the region and Federation counties (Farnahad-2003). However, Mashhad with regard to the limitations in public places and lack of quality in the urban spaces cannot meet the increasing demands of every stratum of the people (Baftshahr, 2001; Geno, 2000).

The manual and content of urban development plans adapted on the rational and quantitative method of planning, such as the Master Plan and the Development Plan of City and Surrounding Area. Hence, they have been failure in other aspect of skill and profession such as urban design and landscape (Saidniya, 1996; Mashhodi et al, 1997; Mashhodi, 2001).
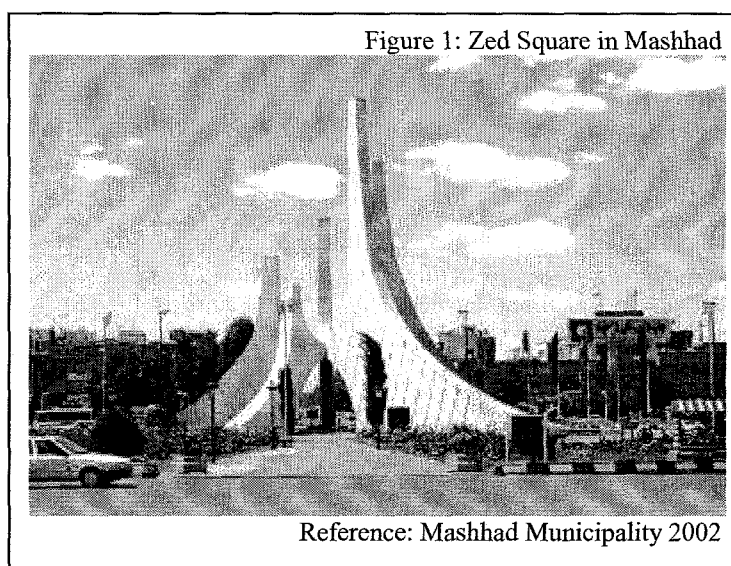
The design content of urban design plans is the coverage of the strategic vision, core design issues, and detailed and subject- specific design issues (Carmona, Punter, and Chapman, 2002; Al-Douri, 2005). Urban designers of Iran emphasized on the lack of urban design aspects in the urban spatial forms especially in urban spaces (Golkar, 2001; Rafeiyan, 2005; Bahreni, 2006;), although in recent years there are try to the review and revision of these types of plans (Mashhodi et al, 1997, Farnahad, 2003).

Currently, some of designer tried to issues new approach in Iran. This approach believes to participant of urban designer with planners in the urban development plan in the same time (Zekavat, 2002; Pakzad, 2002; Azad, 2002). Nevertheless, the urban development plans have not urban design aspects (Golkar, 2001; Rafeiyan, 2005; Bahreni, 2006). Urban design methods help the designers create concern with planners, other profession and citizens in the decision-making process (Varkki, 1997; Davis, 2006). Content of urban development plans can create the connection between professions.

There are approaches to separate the development plans from urban design plans in the progress process of urban design. They believed that the urban design plans continue the results of urban planning plans (Barnett, 1982; Varkki, 1997). However, now, there new approach that they believe the urban design profession must engage in the urban development from initial (Madanipour, 1996; Varkki, 1997; keramati, 2003; Lang, 2005; Shane, 2005).

Process of using of the Development Plan of City and Surrounding Area is continuing in Iran (AUPSRC, 2005), although experts have criticized on this type of plan (Mashhodei et al, 1997; Saidniya, 1996). This process has resulted to lose the quality of cities and urban spaces (Pakzad, 2002). The effect of development and forming the new part in cities is failure of the urban spaces. Therefore, revision on the urban development plan content can save the traditional urban spaces in the historical cities and create new places especially in the damageable cities such as Mashhad (Rafeiyan, 2005; Azizi, 2000).

Mashhad as a regional city has so many tourists from country and other countries (Farnahad, 2003) but quality of spaces in this city cannot show a good and beauty city (Baftshar, 2000). Farnahad (2003) as the consult company of planning mentioned in the results of the studies which Mashhad is a significant factor to develop this area. Similar of this opinion there are this synthesis about the five great cities of Iran includes, Tehran, Tabriz, Shiraz, Isfahan (Abadi, 2004). Therefore, significant of this research is to find the way for change the method of urban development with urban design method. The addition of urban design aspects to the content of urban development plans can provide condition to pay more attention to quality of spaces in Iranian cities.

Figure 1: Zed Square in Mashhad

Reference: Mashhad Municipality 2002

Urban spaces are the indicators of urban quality therefore; the developed countries pay more attention to urban spaces (Madanipour, 1996; Lang, 2005; Shane, 2005). Existence the urban spaces explain the level of democratization of spaces in the city and it belongs to and for every one (Schjetnan, Partner, 2006). Variety in the urban space and its hierarchy in the cities is one of the attribute of urban spaces (woolly, 2002). In reason of importance of urban spaces therefore, urban design knowledge can create these kinds of spaces via the urban design plan.

Conclusion

The failure and the problems in the Iranian urban spaces have root in the content of urban development plans. The Development Plan of City and Surrounding Area formed on the planning theoretical framework with focus on the land use and land production (saidniya, 1995; Mashhodi et al; 1997; Mashhodi, 2001; Mahdizade, 2001) therefore this type of plans are missing the urban design aspects to create the urban spaces in the cities (Golkar, 2001; Keramati, 2003).

With recognizing the urban design consideration, policy and aspects (Shirvani, 1984) can add urban design aspect in process of urban development (Al-Douri, 2006). Process of urban development in the Iranian cities cannot create new urban spaces qualitative in spaces of cities and in most parts, active place- spaces have root in traditional parts of cities such as Isfahan (Azizi, 2000; Golkar, 2001).

According to new studies, (Madanipour, 1996; Varkki, 1997; Inam, 2001; Lang, 2005) urban design can cooperate and contribute in all processes of development include of planning and designing. This opinion believes the urban design in reason of the profession can guide the process of decision-making and play the coordinating role in the urban development plan (Varkki, 1997). Contribution of the urban designers result which the urban development take form with urban design aspects in process of planning.

The development plans have different process in the study. However, the changing of the plan content affects on the process, but researcher assumes that the

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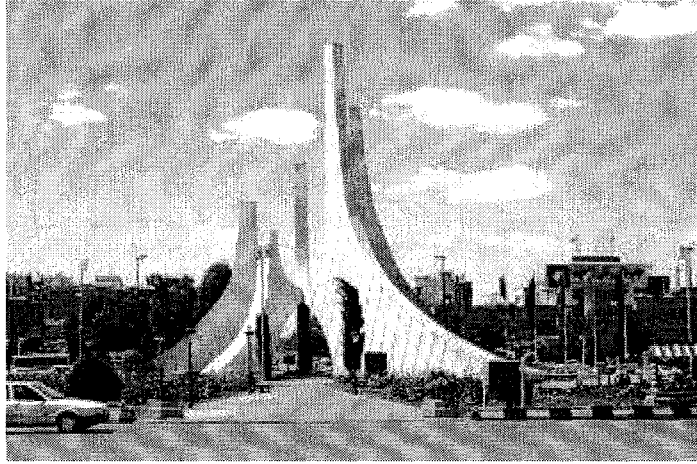
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The development plans have different process in the study. However, the changing of the plan content affects on the process, but researcher assumes that the

content of plans is more important than process. As a result, with add the urban design aspects to the plan content, the process of studying need to review.

This research has on two main methods. The plan contents of urban development analyze with the content analysis. In this part, all articles of the plan content analyze and classify to the planning, designing, geographic, engineering and management. Then, look for the urban design aspects.

Second analysis method in the research is qualitative method. The qualitative method includes the observation, interview, and graphic analysis.

The scope of this research is use of the urban design aspects to change the content of urban development plans. This research seeks the urban design aspects that add them to plans. This scope result that in urban development and in renovation save the quality of city and the urban spaces. For example, in the criteria of the PPG of UK there are rich aspects of the quality (Carmona, 2001). The urban design aspects show itself in the physical expression in the city. This research follow the way which find the plan content to show the urban space quality in the urban development. To continue this scope, the research follows the urban design plans and content to find the urban design elements and aspects.

Content of the plan play the role of the manual for doing the planning or designing. Therefore, the content of the plan not only determine the quality of plans but also it guide the process of plan. Hence, content in itself have method for data collection and analyze. Addition of the urban design aspects to the content of plans can change the substance the plan. As a result, new approach to the plan produces the new plan that is quite different from original. In discusses about urban design try to show the interrelated parts of urban design and after that analyze the urban design aspects of cities urban design guidelines.

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