Plan to Rebuild the Historic Castle of Yek Langi
(The Original Core of the Village)

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Abstract
After emerging the practices of industrial production and migration from agricultural areas to industrial cities happened with no acceptable plans, leaving the villages, castles and city castles, takes place every day. Iran is among the countries that according to official statistics more than 20 percent of its population belong to its rural areas and there are around 67000 small and large villages in this country. Since early societies were formed through villages, they have kept valuable buildings such as original core or forts in themselves. But unfortunately, after years the buildings formed based on the architectural, cultural, historical and geographical conditions were collapsed for some reasons and have been forgotten. So that rural communities confirmed that the buildings and lack of high interests in these historical and valuable buildings are the reasons for forgetting rural life there is a lot of interest, and they have not worn buildings of value. While historical monuments and generally historical tissues which seem dead in the villages are from the heritage of our ancestors, which represent the national identity. Therefore, in this study, it was tried to provide the restructuring plan of the original core of the historic village of Yek Langi a small step was taken in the direction of preserving the national identity of the country. Methodology and research method used in this study was an analytical-descriptive one. The findings of the study about rebuilding the original core of the historic village of Yek Langi based on the use of local materials and not considering new materials and retrieving the heart of the village or historic castle, the researchers hoped to create interaction on rebuilding historic elements of the other villages in the area as well as creating motivation for villagers to stop migration from the village and reactivating cultural, social and economic circles of the village and hope to attempt to preserve national identity of the land.

Keywords: Yek Lengi, village, rebuilding

Introduction
The village of Yek Langi is one of the valuable and historic villages that have preserved its identity and origin after hundreds years. This village dates back to old time and like other historic sites remained from Iranian ancient civilization is telling past truth about the old and ancient land. Further understanding of the complex can familiarize us with parts of the history our homeland. Architecture, customs and social relations and etc. all represent past of the historical village. Since the culture of a nation is directly related to its past and, in fact, it is a direct result of the nation's past, therefore, it is clear that the monuments of any civilizations and nations is part of the culture of the people and keeping them and even expanding them is the responsibility of the people. For this reason the importance of the village of Yek Langi which is a part of great Iranian civilization and in fact parts of our culture is clear and the need for a clearly articulated plan to maintain it and introducing it to the people and the world and the discovery of hidden facts is completely obvious. Today, unfortunately, due to the economic and social situation and migration of people to other cities, year-on-year the rural population decreased and is expected to lead to total annihilation. And
if practical strategy for social and economic issues as well as protecting and retrieving the body of the village were not considered and applied, the village would lead to isolated ruins in near future (Shafieiyoon, 2014).

**Review of the literature**

Given that research is the basic cycle of planning, it was tried to mention the previous studies on the village of Yek Langi because getting familiar to them can significantly help to find the best method for the study. The village of Yek Langi has always been regarded as an important village due to its valuable historic tissue and the need to preserve it and preventing its destruction especially its original core (castle) has been considered since last years. But given the importance of the village and the need to preserve it and even contributing to the village dynamism and preventing the depopulation of the village, unfortunately no effective and efficient measures have been done yet (Shafieiyoon, 2014). Although over the past few decades, some measures were done by state agencies and universities to study people in the village but due to some technical and commuting problems it led to cancelation of the study. And according to the request of the village council to compile guidance plan in the village, unfortunately no comprehensive measures have been done by considering the history of the castle there. As a result, these measures have been unsuccessful and hence the studies did not lead to the preparation and presentation of the applied documents and maps of the village and especially the core of the (castle) (authors).

**Methodology**

The study tries to acquire information on the subject by using effective tools such as observation, study, photograph, map, interview, simulation software and AutoCAD software, Architecture view and things like this and by examining the characteristics of the original core of the village (castle) in particular, provide a plan to rebuild the historical castle of the village of Yek Langi. The methodology used in this study is descriptive – historic and descriptive – analytical (Gerot & Wang, 2013). In descriptive researches, the researchers try to report the facts without any interference or subjective inference. In fact, they seek to describe the objective, consistent and genuine characteristics of a situation or issue (Shafieiyoon, 2014). In this research the core and the center of the village, the castle natural position, its history and description, profile records of the castle, its characteristics, measures done for the castle, the current status, the reasons of the damages to the castle, providing images and maps of the village and its castle and technical documents of the plan will be studied. In more remote areas where nature matches with the people and their locations caused better business and income for the residents, some individuals stayed there and started living there. Since there was no security in the past as well as the presence of some thieves trying to make money in illegal ways, the residents of the village faced to build castles, tower and tall walls to protect themselves against their enemies. Nevertheless, in the Qajar era security was considered as an important issue and, therefore, the need to build castles and make the fortification around the city at this time has been more visible. Materials used in the construction of castles according to the type of the land there were different. For example, towers and walls of the castle built in flat lands and plains were made of mud and bricks and in mountainous areas they were made of stones from mountains and plaster and lime from river but the materials used in the inside of the castles all were made of wood, mud, bricks. Most castles are in square or rectangular shape with at least four towers to monitor and shoot there in four corners. Most houses of the castle have two floors and the first floor was usually used for livestock and their food and due to good security in the castles the villagers and farmers lived inside the castles. Most castles were built on high places or if built on flat areas they were surrounded by ditches (Archive of Cultural Heritage). The village of Yek Langi is located in a deserted area where leads to flat lowlands from all four sides. The original core of the
village (castle) was in a form that residential neighborhood were in it. Although the castles were not important based on the military issues but their defensive characteristics were regarded to secure the people’s lives. Now much of the castle constructions were destroyed by natural factors and human factors (probably because of finding treasure) and some parts of it have been buried (authors).

The core and center of the village: The core of the territory is the main focus on its structure. If for some reasons the center of the territory were weakened or eliminated the collection resolution would be reduced (authors).

The natural position of the castle: The castle is located in Yek Langi village, Kuhpayeh area, Esfahan city, and Esfahan Province, 35 kilometers away from east Esfahan with moderate to cold and dry weather.

The history of the castles: According to the previous studies and the comments by the local officials this castle belongs to Qajar era and is 200 to 250 years old. Yek Langi means to be one. Because in the past among the people of the area only this village had one language (Farsi) and the other villages of the area had local dialects as well as farsi (Bonyade Maskan, 2007) and on the other hand the farmland of the village were more fertile than other villages (Shafieiyoon, 2014).

Profile records of the castle: According to the village officials the castle has no profile records (Shafieiyoon, 2014).

Description of the castle ownership: According to the village officials the castle is now dilapidated and unused and is owned by more than a hundred residents of the village (Shafieiyoon, 2014).

The castle specifications: The castle of Yek Langi as the original core of the village dates back to Qajar era. The castle has a plan in square shape with the height of 9 meter above the passage in northeastern southwestern direction. has an entrance, four main yards and four watchtowers around 8 meters height used for observation and guarding. The towers were divided into two sections, the bottom of the towers as a place to store grains and animal food and the top of the towers used as a place for observation and guarding. The materials used in the building of the castle were bricks and mud and four yards with the width of approximately 1.5 meters are connected in some areas. There are four neighborhoods in the castle, and each neighborhood occupied one fourth of the castle. It seems the only way to save water in the castle is aqueduct flowing next to castle. The rooms in the castle were heated by furnaces and fireplaces. It is interesting to know that the furnaces and fireplaces were used to bake bread in the room. The roof of the house (room) to have arched forms which were widely used in the past in Iran’s architecture due to lack of wood and difficulty in providing it from different point (Shafieiyoon, 2014).

From the viewpoint of stability all arched forms including dome and arches are in different types such as: 1. Tagh Ahang, 2. Kolanboo, used in earthquake-prone and weak areas, 3. Charbakhsh or Chadori, 4. Tagh and Toyzeh, 5. Chartaghi, 6. Tagh Cheshmeh (MohebAli et al., 1995). The curved roof had an important role to circulate the air in the space. One of the yards and its rooms and also the entrance of the porch belonged to the village mayor and the total area of the castle is about 2500 square meters (Shafieiyoon, 2014).

Kind of castle application: At the present time it is not being used and generally abounded (Shafieiyoon, 2014).

Measures done to preserve the castle frontage: The frontage of the castle was recently determined by village officials but constructions near and around the castle has no limitation (Shafieiyoon, 2014).
Description of the existing situation and causes of damages to the castle

The human factors (to find treasure and valuable things) and on the other hand, natural factors such as wind and rain as well as the passage of time has caused the current situation of the Castle in destruction form which due to its antiquity, it needs to be rebuilt (Shafieiyoon, 2014).

Maps of the village position and its original core (Castle)

![Figure 1: The position of Yek Lengi village](Source: Google Earth, 2014)

![Figure 2: The position of Yek Lengi castle](Source: Google Earth, 2014)

Images of the village and its original core

![Figure 3: View to the village](Source: Shafieiyoon, 2014)
Figure 4: Original core of the village (castle)

Technical documentation project

Figure 5: Rebuilt plan of Yek Langi

(Source: Shafieiyoon, 2014)
Figure 6: the rebuilt view of Yek Lengi castle

Figure 7: the rebuilt Sections of Yek Langi castle

Figure 8: the rebuilt Sections of Yek Langi castle

Figure 9: the rebuilt Sections of Yek Langi castle

(Source: Shafieiyoon, 2014)

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Conclusion

The findings of the study on rebuilding the original core of the historical village of Yek Langi (castle) are as follows:

- Rebuilding the castle as the heart of the village plays an important role to retrieve the main identity of the residents and as a heritage from the villagers’ ancestors.
- The use of local materials and not considering new materials in rebuilding the castle leads to creating a space in accordance with the weather conditions of the region and preserving the old architectural tradition of the village.
- Rebuilding the original core of the village (castle) to the first shape is the least measure to reactivate the cultural, social and economic cycles of the villagers and preventing them to migrate to the cities.
- By rebuilding the castle the motivation to rebuilding the historic elements of the other villages of the area destroyed for some reasons would be provided to preserve the national identity of the country.
**Recommendation**

Of course, in further research to keep the castle active (the original core of the village) and other rural areas should be considered so that by maximum utilization of the available condition as well as providing some functional and spatial needs of historic tissue of the village add more economic-social credit to the village and public and private sections get encouraged to invest in the tissue by correct and accurate plans and programs therefore the village can be retrieved.

**References**

- Archives Isfahan Cultural Heritage.
- Google Earth (2014).