Investigating Erosion Reason, Planning, and Executive Actions In Improvement and Recreation of Urban Worn Out Textures

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Abstract

The historical textures of Iran are valuable works reflecting the culture, history, architecture knowledge and past urban design of the Iran and exhibit the identity and social-cultural features of cities of Iran in an explicit way.as time goes by, Cities of Iran like any other artificial and hand-made works by human beings have been worn out in body and in their functions in some cases. Therefore, paying attention to improving and reconstructing the historical texture of the city and generally interfering in the historical textural have been constantly one of the main issues of the historical cities with identity and special characteristics. The most important objective and the main strategy of interfering actions for improving and reconstructing of historical cities is bringing them back to the life cycle. This is the only objective through which the improving and reconstructing of historical cities of Iran can be guaranteed and performed successfully. Ignoring the past, that is historical and natural environment of the textures and buildings could have consequences such as disharmony and chaos in city view. The present study enjoys the investigation of the reasons for historical textures erosion and presenting some working methods for overcoming these inefficient and vulnerable textures as well as working methods for preventing the conditions for creation of such textures during the time.

Keywords: worn out texture, improving, erosion reasons, the general regulation of the plan, interfering in the texture

Introduction

A quick review on historical view of Iran's urban face reveals valuable textures with inherent cultural heritage. But in recent decades the mentioned textures have lost their dynamicity and have brought about uncomfortable and unpromising place for people living near them (Shafaghi, 1997). The historical textures of Iran generally have been formed from a harmonic structure with a geometry resulted from life organism. The linear axis of bazar with outdoor spaces and adjacent situating of main governmental and religious centers accompanied with small and big residential neighborhood have formed the historical texture of the city. The linear and connective shape of the city body has provided an opportunity for appropriate and heterogeneous development of the city (Darman, 2005). Investigating the skeletal characteristics of Iran's historical textures reveals that the passages as twisting, bending, and narrow lanes have served as the connection between buildings and main passages of the cities (Gharib, 1997:27). But following industrial revolution and the consequences resulted from moving population and activities toward central parts of the cities, the traditional textures dropped regarding physical, economy, and social aspects and this processes caused the traditional textures to lose their dynamicity and to be unable to meet the need needs and demands of new urban communities (Khangel Sade, 2007:2). However, the traditional and worn-out textures of the city have historical and cultural values and have the potential for money making and paying the rental since they have geographic centrality, easy access, and location of the bazar. Despite these characteristics, the residential neighborhood around commercial centers has lost their popularities for the settlement because they were poor in infrastructures and have environmental problems (Rahban, 2009:2). As a result, by moving rich population from the central parts of the

cities toward the surrounding or suburbs areas, preserving a desired urban environment for having a healthy urban life has been gradually difficult (Pacione, 1997:233). On the other hand, the historical textures of Iran not only have seldom found aesthetics values and are a ground for continuation of social memories and urban identity but also they are still the places for the settlements and living of millions of citizens and are vulnerable and inconsistences regarding natural disasters which are great threats for the. (Pour AhmandVand, 2007:28). Therefore, the historical texture of the cities must be preserved and be reflected with greater majesty and glory (Kalantari, 2005: 103). The presence of historical texture differentiated from other textures adds more importance and attraction to the city and presents the whole texture as an attraction (Dinary, 2005: 85) moreover, improvement has effect on the optimization of the environment (Norbe, 2002:109).

Statement of the Problem and the significance of the study

The settlement in cities in Iran is not accidental and cannot be stopped but it is an unavoidable regulation in line with world developments that must be understood, welcomed and for its sustainability some programs must be designed. But, the elements and spaces in our urban texture have limited lifetime and they become worn out as the time goes by. In other word, any space or building cannot live long without restoration. The importance and necessity of preserving traditional works from the past not as symbolic phenomenon but for recognition of development and evolution trends in urban design and city dwelling civilization, the identity and city originality preservation and our city vitality explanation based on present scientific observations and documents have been always in the focus of attention. This textures cannot meet the needs of citizens since they are old, worn out, also they lack primary and essential services and utilities for modern urban life. In general these kinds of textures are not in the current of the healthy life of the cities and are increasingly facing with new perils and risks. Some neighborhoods and parts of the cities have not been provided with equal facilities and growing factors during the time, and still are not, and this has brought about sea of differences in city face and the qualities of textures, while the development and creating new spaces must create a logical and consistent communication between old and new spaces and reinforces and preserve the coherence.

Objectives of the Study

•Renewed restoration of historical textures of Iran including: renewed construction of abandoned buildings, creation possibilities for settlements for people with little investments, creating beautiful and appropriate city face, prevention run away expansions from city to suburbs.

•Improvement, reconstruction, and rebuilding of historical texture of Iran`s cities, in a better word, recreating and renaissance considering the potential possibility and talent of the place.

The Main Research Question

The main research question in the present study considering the dynamicity of the urban texture is:

What are the factors responsible for the inefficiency of the urban textures?

Other questions derived from the main question are as:

•What factors are responsible for erosion of traditional texture of the city?

•What are the probable solutions to overcome these problems?

Considering the research questions these hypothesis are presented:

It seems that abnormality of old texture presents in most of historical and traditional textures of Iran and new changes in worn out textures have added a new problem to these textures that with recreating approach we could have fundamental changes in urban spaces of these areas and revive the dead environment in there.

Methodology

The subject of the present study suggests that this is an application research study that applies the theories, regulations, principles and techniques used in basic research studies to solve the actual and executive problems. In early phases of the discussion, the present study enjoyed the descriptive method and then with analytical method the building blocks of the system and relationships of the elements were analyzed.

Literature Review on Improving and Reconstructions of worn out Textures in other Countries

The diversity of world experiences in urban restoration of our country is very interesting. Different countries with different cultures, languages, attitudes, have left valuable experiences during the history indicating of the identity of every historical city of the world. These experiences initiated with works of Haussmann in Paris and writings of Ruskin and Maurice in England and actions by Austria. After world War two especially after 1960s very important event happened that changed the trends of urban restoration in the world (Habibi et al. 2002, 71). In the following two instances of world experiences in urban restoration will be presented.

Beth (England)

•Main aim: the complete protection of old texture with granting the role of tourism

•Economy observations and objectives: Increasing urban income through tourist attraction (transformation of urban applications for creation added value) preventing land and buildings trading.

•Social observations and objectives: Transportation of population.

•Cultural observations and objectives: Preserving local and cultural values of the texture.

•The skeletal policies and working methods: Observations on the design and architecture of the building, granting new performance to the building or complex in the case of lack of main transformation.

•The policies and communication and transportation working methods: Soothing the traffic in old cities, building and expanding express passages underground or in surrounding.

•Actions and working methods on urban utilities and equipment: Contemporizing in adjustment with leisure times of the citizens and creating tourism equipment and utilities and tourists recreational

•Programming method: Precise determination of old textures` applications

• Procedure: Improvement and reconstruction

•Interfering method: Protection, hygienic interference (Taherkhani, 1389).

Paris in twentieth Century (France)

•The main objective: The renewed definition of city considering new demands of economy, social, political forces, defending the collections and urban historical textures against decision making powers, creating coordination between skeletal and cultural spaces.

•Economy observation and objectives: Creating financial facilities and outright grants from the government to prevent early damages to the buildings or urban texture, upgrading the economy status through tourism and tourist attraction.

•Social observations and objectives: Applying encouraging, supportive, directive, and executive regulations and increasing people contribution in changing social stratum.

•Cultural observation and objectives: Renewal of valuable spaces, reviving and renewing the value of reconstruction and spatial skeletal restoration.

•Skeletal policies and working methods: Restoration of buildings with destructive value, reviving the old skeletal texture by skeletal and practical repairs, Applying protective and security actions for old buildings under creating space along with the environment.

• Coming and going policies and transportation strategies: Hierarchical differentiation of passages and urban street and adjustments of special performances of each, prioritizing and giving importance to special passages for pedestrians.

•Actions and working methods for utilities and equipment: Equipping the city with latest utilities and equipment facilities.

•Programming method: strategy

•Interference method: Protective, decorative, topical, the comprehensive method of urban restoration (ibid).

The reasons and factors responsible for traditional texture erosion

The traditional textures, in most cases look as inappropriate environment and sometime abnormal places in the cities. The textures once owned the appropriate pattern for the culture and the climate of that time now are being considered as undesired and unwanted environment in urban spaces. While the life exists in most of these areas but day after day more places turn as ruins abandoned or are allocated for some inappropriate performances (Amiry, 1995: 119). Effective ground in erosion in urban spaces includes economy, social, skeletal, environmental, legal, and urban management's dimensions. These factors known as the common ground for erosion causes disturbing balance in the life place, negative growth, and destructive performance for these places. The common ground of erosion of traditional texture of Iran could include as following:

•The economy factors which bring about activities recessions and the settlement of people in need therefore a drop in price and value of lands, buildings, as well as postponing the constructions in those places.

•The social-cultural factors with symptoms of social-cultural abnormalities and problems.

•The skeletal factors such as unsustainability of buildings and inefficiency of the infrastructures.

•The environmental factors such as different kinds of pollutions (air, water, visual, sound).

•Legal and management factors due to inefficiency of plans, programs, methods, procedures, the shortcomings of regulations and obligations (Andalib, first volume, 1997:19).

Different interfering perspective in urban worn out textures

Generally the aim of interfering in urban textures is finding optimal solutions to meet the needs of people and eliminating problems citizens facing. Therefore, to interfere in worn out urban texture from different perspectives the following points can be pointed out:

The culture orientated perspective: in urban planning based on culture-oriented pattern the material needs are superior than spiritual needs, the local culture is superior than non-local one, small city is superior than the big one, democracy is preferred to dictation and the group needs are more important than the individual ones. As a result, a big and geometric city is negated and the public spaces and buildings are emphasized. A culture-oriented city is situated in a defined area and every parallel constructions and same patterns are negated. It is also characterized by varieties and differentiations as an organic arrangement since this school believes that the nature and the temperament of the people is varied and pay attention to the cultural differences. Advocates of this perspective believe that interfering in old and worn out textures such as improving and reconstructions is done through bringing the life back to the cultural values. Considering the aesthetics values of old cities and minimizing the interference in valuable textures, is giving value to the whole texture and increasing the attractions and calmness in the cities.to do this, considering

the old values is of highest importance. The advocates of culture-oriented perspective know the interfering in and facing with urban problems as a way for continuation of local culture and believe that cities and urban textures have defined areas. They know the cultural values as space formation and believe that the urban spaces must be different and unpredictable. (Choay, 1996:22).

Progress-oriented perspective: in school of progress- orientation, the focus and attention is on individuals and the main point is the human. The human beings are overwhelmed by the future and consider that applying technologic facilities earned by advancement of science is the solution for solving all urban problems. For them, streets and lanes as the most important public spaces in the past is nothing but some obstacles on the way of human and they must be demolished. Therefore, all social and cultural performances are negated in this perspective and pattern (Choay, 1996:12-16). This school considers the urban improvement and reconstructions mainly as improving urban hygiene and health. Attention to hygiene and more urban green spaces motivated the progress-oriented urban designers to compress or compact the closed old spaces for hygienic or health reasons so that the buildings were exposed to the sun distinctively and had enough green spaces. Based on this many urban designers of this school recommend high buildings instead of short and connected old ones. Advocates of Progress-orientation pay attentions to modernism aesthetics. In improving and reconstruction they preserve nothings but ways. To criticize this pattern it can be said that this pattern creates a showing and exhibition atmosphere. Cutting off from the past is kind of invading to the history. In fact, the progress-oriented actions are more reconstructions without paying attentions to the history and culture (Shamaee& Pour Ahmad, 2005: 132-137).

Human-oriented perspective: the theories of this perspective in under the influence of partnership urban designing theories of last decades of twentieth century. The main aim of this group was paying attention to people in their participations in improving and reconstructing of the urban spaces. The improving and reconstructing of human-oriented designers is done based on the theories and the participations of citizens and through necessary investigations. The human-oriented interference thinks about the urban programming before the designing. The programming in which people or citizens have important roles in urban organization (Queen Lynch, 1997: 3). This school believes that the industrial cities of the twentieth century are not able to meet the mental and physical needs of their settlers thus paying attention to nature and culture is one of the important principles of this perspective.

The general criteria of Iran`s traditional texture design

All different presented issues in architecture and restoration interferences area are common in historical textures of Iran regardless of climate, culture and historical background. The issues considered as the general criteria of design in the architecture and texture restoration area are as following:

Tradition and identity: a constant approach to modernism is the result of social needs and hasty and sectional actions and has faced the area of traditional construction with main changes (Kiani, 1996). In modern design in historical areas paying attentions to customs and traditions is of highest importance because it acts as the dynamic force of the city. The old architectures emphasized on connecting them with the history and tried to recreate the visual history.

Perceiving latent concepts from historical textures: paying attention to historical textures must take the attention to the latent concepts and meanings (Varan, 1998:38). Sensitivity of the designers toward historical places brings about huge responsibility for them. If the place be historical for no reason, then it may look historical excessively with disturbing the balance. In contrast, if new and disturbing ingredients be injected the historical quality would reduce. Therefore, the power of the designers is that, by sense of responsibilities, respecting the special characteristic of

the place, a principled attitude toward changes, and by reducing or increasing historical text improves the texture (Varan, 1998:39).

Cohesion: all politicians emphasize the necessity of sense of cohesion from different perspectives. The prominent points done in new projects and are considerable in main historical area are that all of them pay attention to the terminology of twentieth century, as well as to the history, so that it could be claimed that modern architecture of today is not cutting off from past and traditions (vertingten,1998:40).

Aesthetic: aesthetic is in accordance with reality and elegance. But ant simple thing is not necessary beautiful. Robert Venturi in Complexity and Contrast in Architecture claims that: beauty is defined as simplicity and a beautiful object does not have any redundant part (Kntakzino, 1988:43). Creating harmony is related to relation and communication. Creativity could convert the old, new, and different elements to a uniform totality. A building can be harmonic in inside or be in harmony with adjacent buildings. As it could be in contrast with its adjacent while there are different degrees of differences. According to Stravinsky contrast is an element of variety but it divides our attentions (Stravinsky, 1974:44).

Management: the need to management must not be ignored. Another issue in old textures is the development and design of the architecture beside these buildings.

While working with historical environment, we need to be sensitive to the roots. The aim is preserving values of the past while being ready for changes in some parts due to inserting new elements for adaptation to new patterns of activities, developing technologies and the possibilities for continuation of life to the building and texture be provide. So that not only it preserve the past but also it adds something to our understanding and creates opportunities for future generations. The historical buildings and textures need to be used if they want to be livelier (Vertingten, 1998:37).

Different designs for recreating urban worn out texture

Constructive-strategic design: this design studies the old texture according to its role and position in the whole city. The constructive-strategic design present policies and strategies by examining capabilities, potential abilities, problems, issues, and the need of the area for providing development in macro scale. This design avoids details (Zingy Abadi, 2012).

The special topical designs: this design identifies the homogenies area and suggests different areas of interference such as improvement reconstruction, determining general criteria and regulations in any area as well as presenting general suggestions on implicational area, accesses and density (ibid).

The designs of urban designs: this design is prepared in those areas, which had been determined in the improvement plans. The urban designs projects present suggestions for organizing the face, view and urban spaces (ibid).

Restoration designs: they are the plans prepared due to restoration and revival of historical buildings. This designs restore the ruins and damages to the buildings as well as considering the subject of revive and adding new performance to these buildings in proportionate with needs of everyday life (ibid).

Architectural designs: they are those designs can be prepared and applied in both areas of improvement and reconstruction and its most important feature is applying the values of last architecture (ibid).

Interfering approaches in urban texture

The historical worn out urban textures need to be interfered to present living conditions. There have been different approaches for interfering methods in facing with urban worn out textures so far that can be divided into three general categories:

•Organizing worn out texture;

•Protecting worn out texture;
•Interfering in worn out texture;

Each of these approaches and interfering pursue different objectives and include different actions. In facing with any urban texture at first and after recognizing issues and reasons of erosion we can interfere with one or some method in form of strategies (Farshidi, 2010).

Table 1: Objectives and methods of actions in different interference (Farshidi, 2010)

Kind of interference	The aim of interference	Methods of action(type of program)
Organizing	Development direction and control	Editing directive documents(criteria and regulation)
Protection	Protection(absolute)	Editing directive documents (criteria and regulations) and (necessary actions by responsible organization)
Interference (useful)	Improvement, reconstruction, reforming or reviving preserving urban space (active)	Preparing the design, directive documents and the organizing and investment program
Interference (fundamental)	Reconstructing, preserving(active) creating space and modern urban construct	Preparing the design and program (action) organizing and investment

Conclusion

The historical and traditional textures of Iran once possessed dynamicity and hardness with appropriate and proportionate structure and efficiency for their settlers and still have preserved some capacities of dynamicity and liveliness and have suitable capacities to be protected and revived. Paying attention to historical textures as the main structure of historical cities is an important issue that has been forgotten in development of new cities. The historical and cultural and architectural nature of these textures and their lack of adjustments with modern advanced have convicted them to decline and destructions and this is such an event very common in historical cities of Iran. But by sudden changes of citizenship increase in last four decades, not only they have lost their centralities but also they are not even able to be adapted with changes. Continuation of this trend may cause lack of identity and losing all local and cultural belongings. Therefor the textures are facing with extensive objectives, policies, and actions for different responsibilities. Because the historical and traditional centers are so valuable that can change the neighborhood and following that the cities. Therefore, if historical and traditional textures aim to continue their life they must be organized and this organizations include different dimensions such as social, economy, skeletal, transportation, access and other areas. Thus to prevent the factors that have been the reason for lack of growth and development and disturbing the balance in these textures, some grounds and areas must be organized, the problems must be recognized and then overcome them by presenting objectives and working methods. We can conclude that every urban texture demands its own solutions, designs and programming according to its special characteristics.

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