

## The Principles of Designing the “Silk Road Hotel-Faculty” Inspired by the Usage of Caravanserais in this International Road

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### Abstract

Considering Iran’s potential for attracting international tourists in the light of two approaches, which are economic cartels and cultural–heritage tours, it seems that improving services in terms of hospitality and guest lodgings skills is an undeniable need. Moreover, building residential-hotel complexes based on the latest international standards within the framework of these approaches resulted from the legacy of the Silk Road, which has a universal image all over the world, makes it possible to ensure that every tourist that has a worldwide approach to travelling is absorbed.

On the other hand, consequences of the decline of fossil fuels and other political events and developments in the region strengthen the dependence on tourism day by day. As a result, it is possible to use this particular symbol (Caravanserai) in order to take constructive and appropriate steps for the sake of providing huge financial resources for substantial entrepreneurship in Iran.

The question is: how can we institutionalize, through motivating the youth in Iran, the spirit of hospitality and tourist acceptance, and foster and strengthen this scientific and necessary branch of science in society sing a specific behavior–scientific base.

One of the weaknesses of domestic tourism industry, which to this moment has instigated great damage to the body of tourist industry, is inability in providing appropriate road services and receiving undesirable feedback from this important sector of the tourism industry. Based on strong and robust documents, caravanserais have long been used to provide services to travelers as a convenient and safe place for caravans to take a rest, from the Safavid to the middle of Qajar period in Iran. A significant number of these caravanserais are located on the Silk Road which connected the East to the West. Designing and creating educational agencies using caravanserais of the Silk Road can restore the architectural style and create an educational and scientific environment in the traditional Persian architecture. Moreover, with reference to the details and features of traditional schools and through lodging travelers by the motivated students that seek experience create a satisfactory context that might significantly have an impact on creating a spirit of hospitality and foster tourism. It is worth noting that any delays and lack of attention to this issue has irreversible consequences that over time will have increasing negative effects on the economy of the country.

The present article uses documentary study and analytic-descriptive method to introduce an appropriate and effective educational environment for hotel management and tourism training in providing services to travelers and tourists. It is the first hypothesis in terms of establishing a hotel-school, called Road Silk, using the traditional building structure taken from the Iranian Caravanserais and schools in an attempt to foster future growth of tourism in Iran and the Middle East.

According to the former head of the Cultural Heritage and Tourism Organization, the need for 400 hotels for different usages is inevitable in Iran. Therefore, it can easily be concluded that providing professional human resources within the framework of international standards not only

should be emphasized by researchers, but to achieve satisfactory results the construction and establishment of such buildings ought to be carried out using a standard format by the professionals experts trained in the industry. Consequently, the industry's infrastructure must be defined and implemented in 4 dimensions including space, time, financial resources and human resources.

Therefore, it is needed to pay attention to the establishment of specialized educational centers as the main infrastructure of this industry. By providing definitions, planning, and standard frameworks based on the current sample cases in the world, the present research attempts to use caravanserais as the behavioral base and the cultural heritage of Iran in the tourism industry, and on the other hand tries to take a big step in empowering the hotel management culture and science in caravanserai as an ancient icon.

**Keywords:** University - Silk Road - caravanserai - hotel management - Tourism

### **Introduction**

Words such as hotel, hostel, and inn, apart from their exact definitions, are lodgings that offer special services to the guests, but in the past caravanserais provided such accommodations for travelers. Travelers have been concerned about passing through a route to reach a specific destination since the distant past. Long routes that caused fatigue and exhaustion or staying in the distant countries and lands for a long time and away from all of the standards of life led to development of a new industry. Not only did it cause psychological, financial, and physical security but also was a driving force with specific values for other inhabitants of the nearby and distant land and territories. Caravanserais, one of the most valuable monuments of Iranian Islamic architecture, were gradually developed and evolved for various economic, political, military and religious reasons. This indicates that since Iran was located in the east - west commercial route and had an extended territory, had long been interested in creating trade and military routes, as well as building numerous bridges and providing security to caravans and travelers. Iranian caravanserais are unique not only for their artistic value, but have great importance and are worthy of extensive study in terms of social issues. Over time, concept of lodging went beyond providing a simple place for rest and today it is considered as a mother industry. Nowadays, inns and hotels are not just a place of residence for travelers and tourist but it is a place for exchange and interaction of ideas and give-and-take and communication of customs of different nations. Certainly this contact and meeting of different people and ideas will greatly influence the lives of people. Apart from the location and structure of the industry, it is necessary to pay attention to its management system that nowadays requires a very sensitive and extensive knowledge. In the last decade the income from tourism industry in many cases has compensated the countries' needs of selling raw materials and fossil fuels. On the other hand, due to the growing environmental problems, the global village has to move towards industries that don't lead to the pollution and destruction of nature. This process is successful if a tourist with any economic, commercial, cultural and touristic point of view can achieve comfort, security and peace away from home. It would not be only possible by having huge scientific approaches to the industry. With regard to the communication layer, the first and most important perceptual layer of a tourist is the location, then the people who have prepared the place for the tourist. This massive industry will develop with the growth and progress of these two processes. It is clear that education is an important layer that will guarantee the continuity of this development. Given that in recent years due to various reasons we have witnessed the failure and decline of this industry, it is necessary to help and cultivate it by blending culture, tradition, architecture and science. The realization of these aspirations can be achieved by motivating domestic and foreign tourists. Certainly, it is a good idea to have a combination of caravanserai, as the most prominent Iranian Islamic monument in terms of travel and traveler, and a behavioral base

such as a hotel functioning as a School that both educate the qualified people and provide services in this place. The present article examines and provides principles from two perspectives:

A) Providing accommodation and lodging in a specific place for all domestic and foreign tourists.

B) Educating human resources for this industry in a joint behavioral and cultural base while providing special services.

### **Steps already taken**

#### ***The Historic Gouged Stronghold (Greatness of Adobe)***

Gouged Stronghold Hotel located in Golpayegan is the second adobe and mud structure in Iran built approximately 400 years ago. The only written document related to the building dates back to about 140 years ago, indicating that half of the building was given as a dowry by a person named Alikhan to his wife and since then it is called Alikhan Stronghold.

Gouged Stronghold was located in the rout of Silk Road and the downstairs and upstairs in the building represent the existence of class system in the society in that era. Mules and muleteers lodged downstairs together and the merchants and important persons in the upper floors. Therefore, in the peace time, the stronghold was used as a caravansary, but during the war time or when the bandits attacked, it was used as a military fortress. Also, there are holes on the high walls (Figure 1) used as security warning system. This means that the pigeons were settled in these holes and their restlessness and noise at night was a sign of the arrival of the attackers by hooks or a ladder.



**Figure 1: Golpayegan, Gouged Stronghold**



**Figure 2: Golpayegan, Gouged Stronghold, interior**

Currently the complex is as a guest house with modern facilities, beautiful rooms with bathroom, television, heating and cooling fan, central satellite, video, traditional tea house, restaurant, and wedding hall ready for the reception of the domestic and foreign tourists. (Figure 3) This is evidence that the idea and concept of hotels in the ancient and historic sites of Iran is a special opportunity and beneficial at the highest standard.



**Figure 3: Golpayegan, Gouged Stronghold, interior rooms and restaurant complex**

#### **Recognizing the importance of culture and hidden potentials in tourism development**

In today's world, unlike decades ago, the tourism industry has a scientific and realistic approach and to achieve its objectives functions based on sociological and psychological principles. This means that to increase the cross-cultural communication among the countries it uses the findings and results obtained from cultural and social studies and researches and customs and attitudes of different nations. They develop a plan for the sake of cultural communication and its expansion among different nations based on the understanding gained from the research on these cultures. It is clear that the development of the tourism industry in the present era is not possible without having a genuine understanding of cultures, customs, traditions, values and attitudes. Nowadays, tourism industry acts based on the principles and theoretical views that are grounded, first and foremost, on a true understanding of other cultures. Tourists, who travel from a country to another, first of all need accurate information about the host country's people and know their beliefs, values, and their social and cultural predispositions. Here some of the characteristics of Iranian caravanserais are briefly discussed.

#### **Review of the history of Iranian caravanserais**

Human need for shelter and refuge, not only at rest but also on a journey, has been important since the ancient times. In Iran, there were the works and manifestations of these road shelters and resorts since the very distant past time. Many of them can be regarded as the architectural and artistic masterpieces of their times in terms of construction. During Islamic era, the construction of these buildings started to grow and develop with different features in every town and village, roads near the deserts, and mountain roads with different names such as Ribat and Caravanserai. Building caravanserais has a very old history and according to historical sources, Iran is the pioneer in the construction of caravanserais and the communication system.

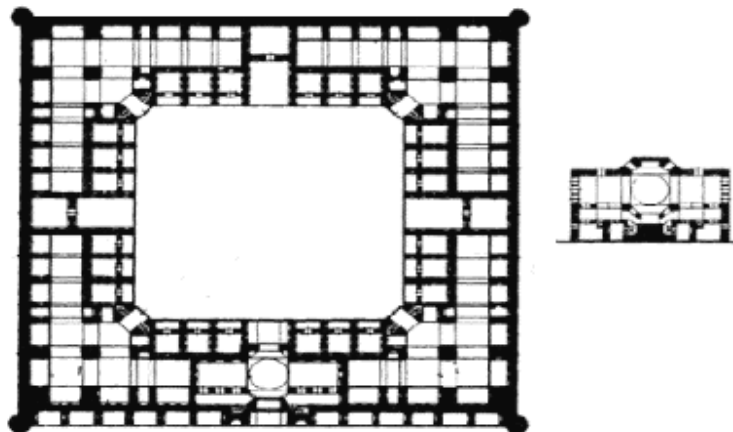
Historical sources suggest that the Achaemenids were the founder of these monuments. Greek historian Herodotus, in his fifth book, writes about lodgings in made by the Achaemenids between Susa and Sardis.



**Figure 4: Iranian Caravanserai**

This historian states that there are one hundred and eleven buildings known as Caravanserai (Chaparkhaneh) at a distance of about 2500 kilometers between the capital of the Achaemenid and Babylon and caravans go through it in a period of three months. Although there is no remnant of such monuments from the Achaemenid era, it is clear that at that time there was a vital need for the waypoints and security and wellbeing of caravans and the messengers (Kiani, 2001).

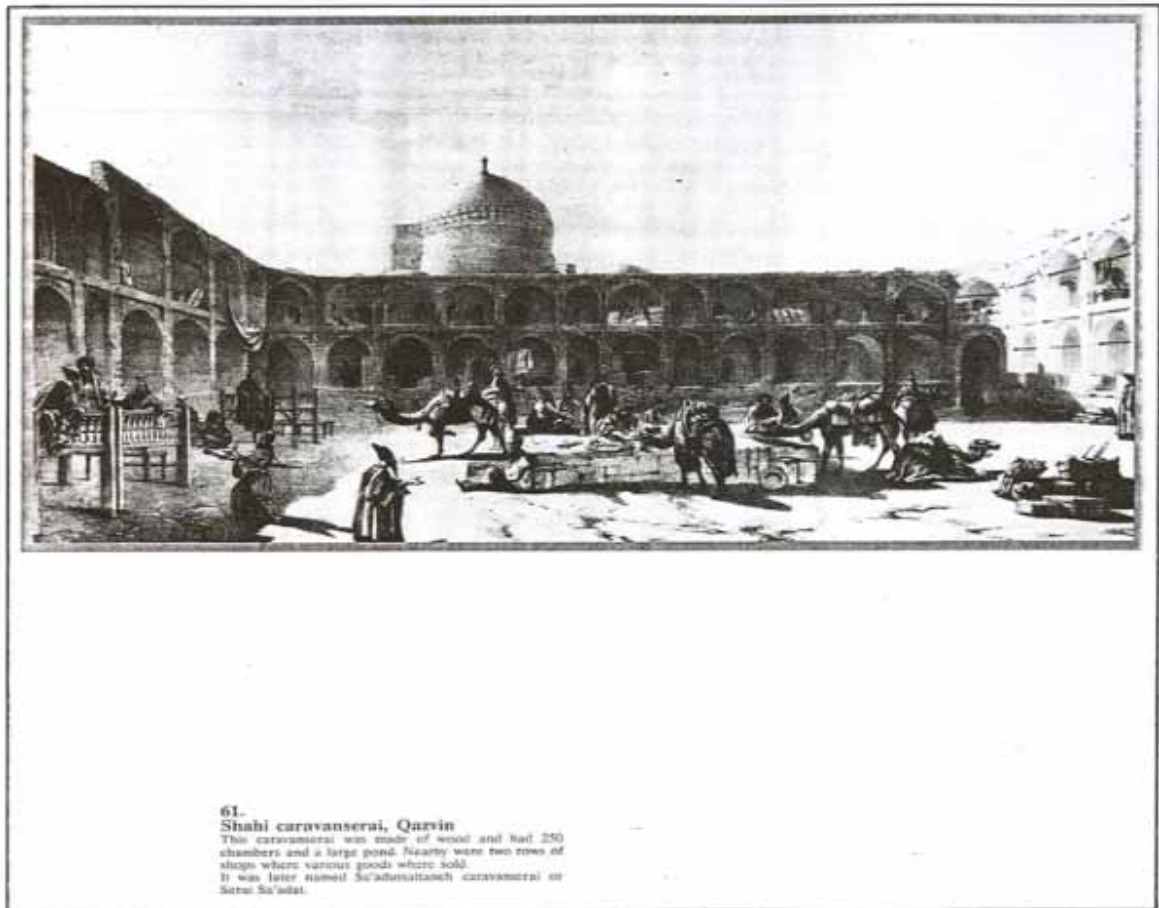
Since the Achaemenid period, these constructions were made as governmental stations and were called Chaparkhaneh to change Chaparhas (the riding messengers) for providing rapid communication. According to Herodotus, Cyrus had ordered checkpoints and stopovers to be built for Chapars (letter carriers), travelers and the military along the main route all over the country. These stations had great importance in the initial communication. Government's rulers could use Chaparhars to get information by short messages from the farthest parts of their territory. Furthermore, they used watchtowers to watch around the surrounding areas or to send visual signs and signals at regular intervals, such as a telegraph, to transmit news and commands from station to station (Ehsaee, 2002).



**Figure 5: A plan for Iranian Caravanserai**

Arthur Pope, the American Iranologist, in the Review of Iranian art believes that "the emergence of the caravanserais in the old age dates back to the time when commerce and trade was in common in Iran (Upham Pope, 1986). These constructions were first absolutely necessary as simple stations along the trails for merchants' commuting for commodity exchanges. In this way,

travelers could safely put their belongings and properties in a corner and rest for a while at that place along with their livestock (Ehsaee, 2002)



**Figure 6: Shahi Caravanserai in Qazvin**

In The Parthian period, like the Achaemenid era, the development of roads and creating waypoints and supporting the caravans were extremely important, and in most of the roads, especially in the Silk Road constructions like caravanserai were established. Unfortunately, the art and architecture of Parthian era that ruled Iran almost 4 centuries has not been fully understood and features of various arts, especially architecture and decoration, in this period are unidentified. Therefore, it is not possible to provide a theory about the architecture of caravansaries in this period, but compared to the Parthian fortresses and cities that have recently been identified in Gorgan Plain. It is likely that the caravanserais at that time had a square or rectangle shape with rooms and stables around made with materials such as adobe and bricks. The Sassanid period must be regarded as one of the important periods of architecture and development of caravansaries in pre-Islamic era. In this period, due to the vast economy, creating roads and providing security for caravans had great importance, therefore numerous caravanserais were built along the main roads and pathways. Some of the precious mementos are "Deyremoghan" on the Tehran-Qom road, "Anushirwan Ribat" on the Semnan-Damghan road (on the Silk Road), and "Darvaze Gach" (Kiani, 1998) which according to Hertz Feldik is the chalk gate of a Sassanid Caravanserai consisting of a courtyard and long galleries located on four sides (Siro, 1944). The "Kebar Siah" in the Fars Province is also one of them. Map of caravanserais in this period usually had four porches and the building materials were generally

rubble, stone, lime and plaster. In the Islamic periods, several factors affected the formation and development of caravanserais that the most important are religious, military and economic factors. In this regard, in terms of design many types of caravanserais were created.

#### **Architecture of types of caravanserais:**

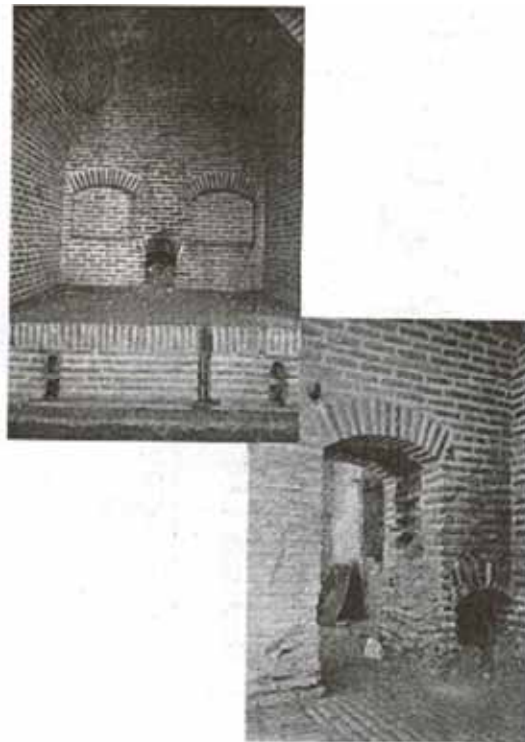
The Iranian caravanserais had diverse architecture and Iranian architects used various plans and designs to build caravanserais. In terms of architecture, although there have been progress in the form of the building of caravanserais over the centuries and despite several similarities in the structures in each group, each contains remarkably various differences in their details (Siro, 1944).

The valuable research done by Maxim Siro, who classified caravanserais into two groups of mountain caravanserais and caravansaries with courtyard in the plains, should be reviewed to identify all Iranian caravanserais that are built and developed for various reasons including weather conditions and the regional architectural style. Therefore, the Iranian caravanserais are divided into the following groups:

- Caravansaries in the mountainous areas
- Caravansaries in the lowland banks of Persian Gulf
- Caravansaries with courtyard of the Safavid era to the present
- Round Caravansaries
- Polygonal Caravansaries
- Caravansaries with two porches (ivan)
- Caravanserais with Hall
- Caravansaries with four porches
- Caravanserais with different plans

#### **Features of Iranian caravanserais**

- studying the Iranian caravanserais indicated that like other constructions the architecture of these buildings is based on the prevalent method, tradition, and style of the time. Thus, it can be assumed that the pre-Islamic caravanserais are also based on the architectural style of their time. It should be noted, however, that the architectural style, place and region, building materials and geographical location of these buildings play a significant role on the development of these consecutions. Building and architectural style of caravanserais have not change dramatically from ancient times to the present day and often the building style of the constructions includes "bere band (stable)" and rooms that have been built around an enclosed courtyard. But the plan and characteristics of each one are different .Various types of simple Ribats to large caravanserais with interesting architectural plans are built across the country. Caravanserais usually have a fence with towers located in the corner and sometimes between the sides and the walls, so that the gate is located between the two towers or semi-columns and sometimes contain an entrance with a two-story building on top. Travelers' rooms were usually made around the yard of the caravanserais and stables were located behind them. The entrance doors of the stables were at the four corners of the inside of building and sometimes could be opened to the porch of the yard. The remnants of the ancient caravanserais show that the rooms would open directly to the courtyard but later a porch was added too. Caravansaries made in the plains are generally one-story buildings and sometimes on the entrance gate and the porch of the opposite entrance there were a room or rooms to guarding agents of the caravanserais (Kiani and Wolfram, 1994). But commercial caravansaries within cities are generally two-story buildings.



**Figure 7: Combinations of brick work in the room**

- On both sides of the entrance gate inside the caravanserais usually there are room for the guards and the owner of the caravanserai. Usually, each caravanserai has water well and water reservoir (cistern) that are sometimes located in the middle of the caravanserai or outside to provide the travelers with water. In terms of architecture, cisterns were made in different forms, some had a rectangular shape with a simple roof and some were cross-shaped with roof made of bricks. Cisterns were sometimes built inside caravansaries and sometimes outside, for instance, cisterns in the Persian Gulf are located outside of the building, while in the central regions they are generally made inside the caravansaries.

- Interestingly, to meet the needs of passengers in a number of caravansaries there were even bakeries, butcher shop, mill, a mosque and a few shops for buying and selling goods. “Deir Ghachin” Caravanserai in southern Tehran on the sidelines of the desert and Mahyar Caravanserai on Isfahan - Shiraz road are among them.

- Caravansaries on the edge of the desert and central parts of Iran have wind-catchers that bring cooling air into the rooms of the caravansaries in summer. Wind-catchers are generally built at the opposite of the entrance gate on the porches (ivans).” Zein Alabedin” Ribat on the Yazd-Kerman Road and “Jokar” (Jokhah) Caravanserai near Tabas are among them.

- In many of caravanserais, especially since the Safavid period, there was fireplace or places to set up fire. The fireplace was either built in the indoor or in the enclosed places outside the rooms (Fig. 6). There were also tall heaters in the stables for keeping animals warm.

#### **The number of Hotels in Iran by 2014**

To count the high-quality hotels, Iran has 29 five-star hotels and 75 four-star hotels in the tourism industry. According to Mehr News Agency, among the 1,100 hotels in Iran, that have two to five stars and are categorized into TOP, A, B and C, only there are 29 five-star hotels and 75 four-star hotels.



Field study of top hotels in Iran shows that provinces such as West Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Bushehr, Kermanshah, Kerman, Hamedan and Markazi have only one five-star hotel. East Azerbaijan province has two five-star hotels. Statistics reveal that the highest number of five-star hotels is in Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, and Fars which have five, five and six five-star hotels, respectively. Hormozgan Province has three five-star hotels but still a city like Yazd, despite having numerous residential centers in the list of Iranian Hotel Association, does not have any five-star hotel. This city has four four-star hotels, just like Khuzestan Province, which has four four-star hotels too. Mazandaran and Isfahan have five four-star hotels, Guilan has six four-star hotels, and Kerman, Fars and East Azerbaijan each has two four-star hotels, Sistan and Baluchestan, Kermanshah and Qom have three Four-star hotels, and then Tehran and Khorasan Razavi each with 11 and 10 four-star hotels has the largest number of four-star hotels in Iran. However, among the 31 provinces of Iran, provinces such as Kohkiluyeh and Boyerahmad, Lorestan, Hamedan, Hormozgan, Markazi, Lorestan, Ardebil and Zanjan only have one four-star hotel. Moreover, Alborz City, Ilam, Chahar Mahal and Bakhtiari Province, Southern Khorasan, Northern Khorasan, Semnan, Qazvin and even Golestan have no four-star and five-star hotel. Jamshid Hamzezadeh, president of Iranian Hotelier Society, told Mehr News Agency that this is the latest statistics regarding the four and five star hotels in the country. Apart from the statements of Jamshid Hamzezadeh, many of four and five star hotels do not have the required standards for achieving these high-quality stars. Although some of them seemingly have five stars, in fact the services they provide are similar to or even lower than a four-star hotel.

### **Reviewing the Quality of Education in the Hotel Management Faculties and Institutions in Iran**

According to the latest statistics, there are only 4 to 5 semi-professional Hotel Management Faculties in Iran which mostly belongs to The University of Applied Science and Technology.

- Shadi Bahonar University of Kerman (Morning classes) - Tourism Management Associate Degree (capacity: 45)
- Allameh Tabatabai University of Tehran (Morning classes) - Bachelor of hotel management (capacity: 20)
- Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman (Evening classes) - Hotel Management Associate Degree (capacity: 45)
- University of Applied Science and Technology
- Bonyad Institute of Hotel Management

It should be noted that a large number of these schools teach and center around tourism.

### **Hotel Management Syllabus**

#### ***Basic Courses***

Principles of organization and management, general economics, principles of accounting, recognition and application of computer, history of Iran, principles of the study of countries, principles of sociology, social psychology, effects and results of tourism, biographies of great figures whose tombs are national monuments, understanding minorities' culture in Iran.

#### ***Main courses***

Labor rights and social security, computer applications in tourism and hotel management, marketing and advertising management, tourism economics, laws and regulations of tourism and hotel management industry rights, public relations, understanding the mentality of nations, the analysis of social issues of Iran, the fundamentals of anthropology, health and first aid, reading and understanding maps, public tourism geography, tourism geography of Iran, understanding tourism

industry, spending leisure time, second language (any of the following languages: German, French, Arabic), English language.

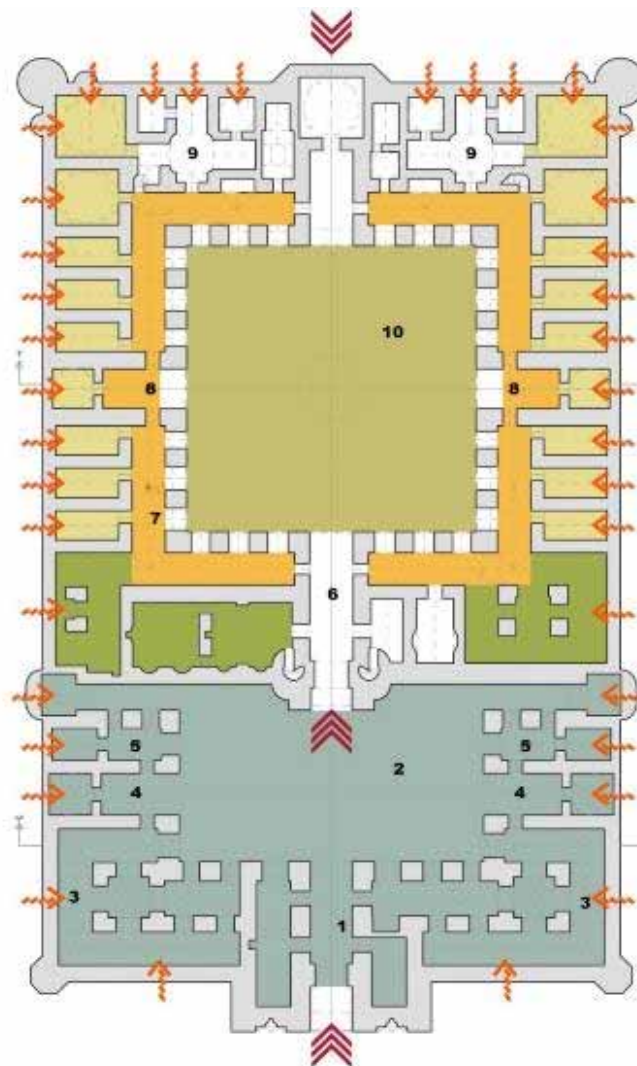
**Specialized courses**

Understanding and organizing lodging and catering facilities, hotel management accounting, reception, restaurant services, cooking, baking, food hygiene, principles of nutrition and diet, occupational health and safety, cost calculation, understanding and maintaining hotel facilities, housekeeping, technical English, internship.

**Extensive examination of three well-known caravanserais in terms of their plans for the simultaneous educational-residential usage**

With reference to the above explanations and definitions in this part 3 well-known caravanserais in Iran will be reviewed, stressing that even without any alternation in their structures, caravanserais in Iran can function efficiently.

- Rabat Sharaf Caravanserai
- Agha Bozorg Mosque in Kashan
- Lat Caravanserai


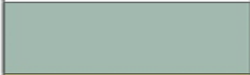
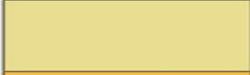






**Figure 8: Sarakhs, Rabat Sharaf Caravanserai**

**Table 1: Determining the current usage of Rabat Sahraf Caravanserai**

Current Usage	Title	row
1	main entrance	1
2	Small courtyard	2
3	stable	3
4	Ivan (porch)	4
5	Hojre (Chambers)	5
6	Large courtyard entrance	6
7	Riwaq	7
8	Ivan	8
9	Private Residence	9
10	Larger courtyard	10

**Table 2: Determining the recommended usage of the existing structure of Rabat Sharaf Caravanserai**

RECOMMENDED USAGE ARE	TITLE	ROW
	ENTRANCE	1
	ACADEMIC AREA	2
	ACCOMMODATIONS AREA	3
	CORRIDORS	4
	PUBLIC AREA & COFFEE SHOP	5
	GENERAL UTILITIES AREA	6
	LIGHT ENTRANCE ZONE	7

**Some Explanations**

As seen in the picture, this great Caravanserai is located Sarakhs and is considered as one of the most famous monuments of Islamic architecture in Iran. Considering that all the caravanserais in Iran in terms of their usage are defined as a safe place for accommodation of the travelers, it is not possible to have opening walls to the outside of the caravanserai, as a result of the light source is the central courtyard. Based on the results of the study, it is intended to analyze the existing conditions to provide special suggestions. (Table 1) displays the usage of the old structure with references to acceptable documents. Due to the type of lodging of caravanserais it covers part of the aim of the present articles. This caravanserai can be divided into two separate but related parts. The first part, which is the entrance of the caravanserai, can be used as an educational environment for the personnel. The second part, which was the residential environment in the past, can be sued as the new residential area. As seen in Figure.1, the areas determined by colored coatings indicate that this old and valuable building has a high potential in terms of providing educational-residential services.



Figure 8: Sarakhs, Rabat Sharaf Caravanserai

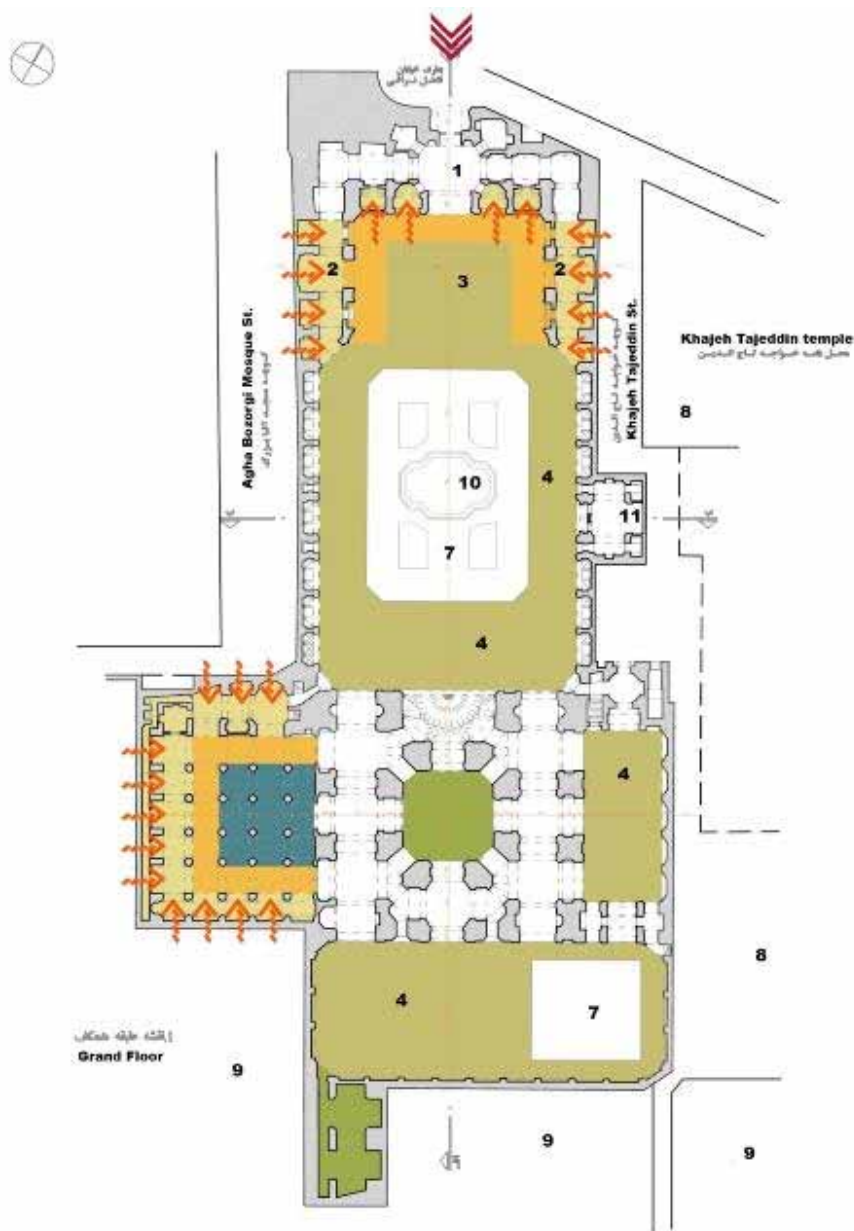
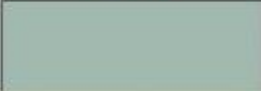


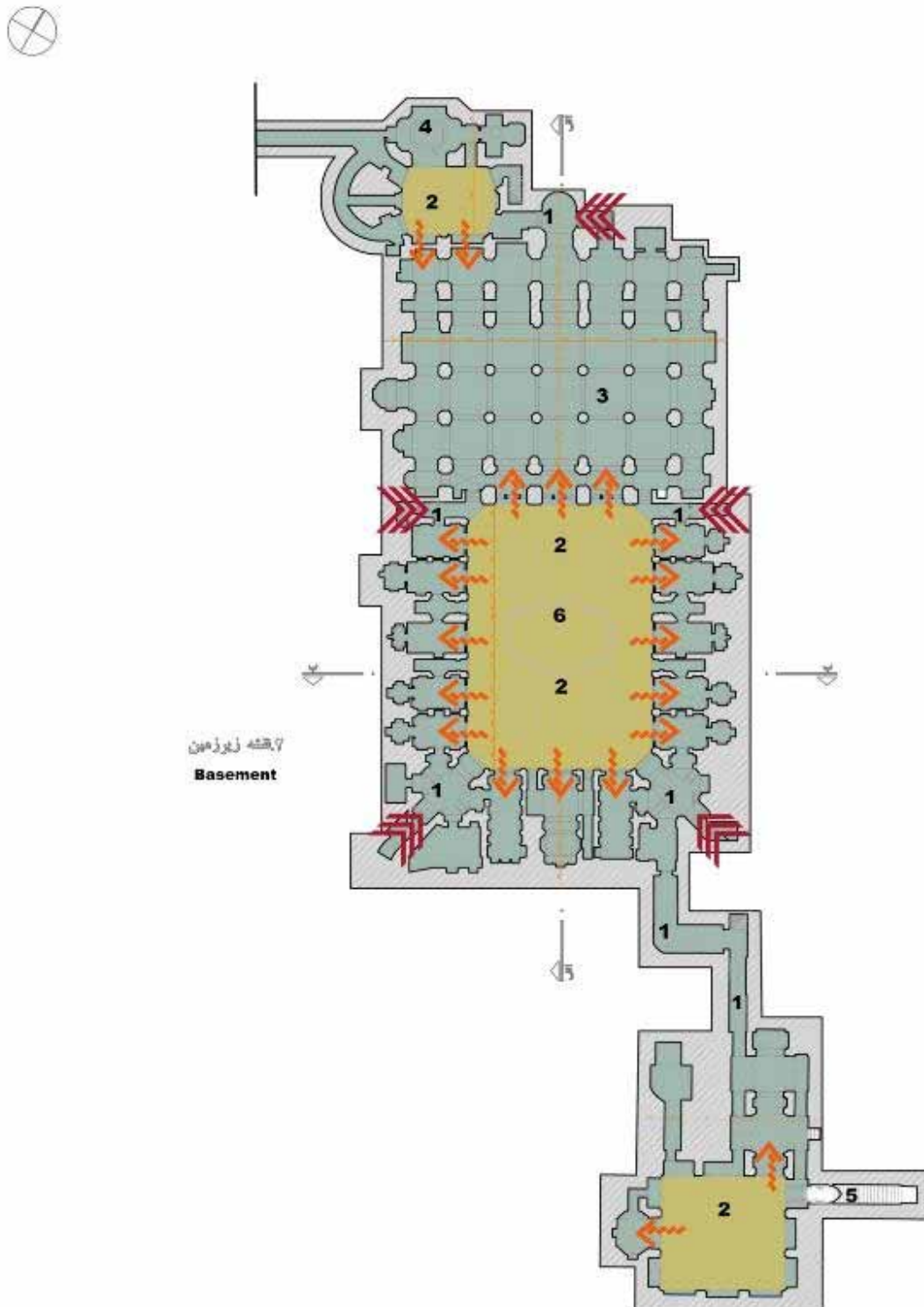
Figure 9: Kashan, Agha Bozorg Mosque and School

**Table 3: Determining the current usage of the old structure of Agha Bozorg Mosque and School**

Current usage	Title	row
1	Entrance vestibule	1
2	Corridor	2
3	Shabestan of old mosque rooftop	3
4	Ground floor courtyard	4
5	Summer mosque	5
6	Winter mosque	6
7	Basement floor Courtyard	7
8	Wastelands	8
9	Adjacent buildings	9
10	Fountain	10
11	Tomb	11

**Table 4: Determining the recommended usage of the existing structure of Agha Bozorg Mosque and School**

RECOMMENDED USAGE ARE	TITLE	ROW
	ENTRANCE	1
	ACADEMIC AREA	2
	ACCOMMODATIONS AREA	3
	CORRIDORS	4
	PUBLIC AREA & COFFEE SHOP	5
	GENERAL UTILITIES AREA	6
	MOSQUE	7
	LIGHT ENTRANCE ZONE	8


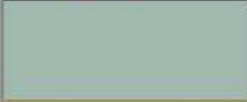







**Figure 10: Kashan, Agha Bozorg Mosque and School**

**Table 5: Determining the current usage of the old structure of Agha Bozorg Mosque and School**

Current usage	Title	row
1	Entrance corridor	1
2	Courtyard	2
3	Old mosque	3
4	Ablution place	4
5	Cistern (water storage)	5
6	Fountain	6

**Table 6: Determining the recommended usage of the existing structure of Agha Bozorg Mosque and School**

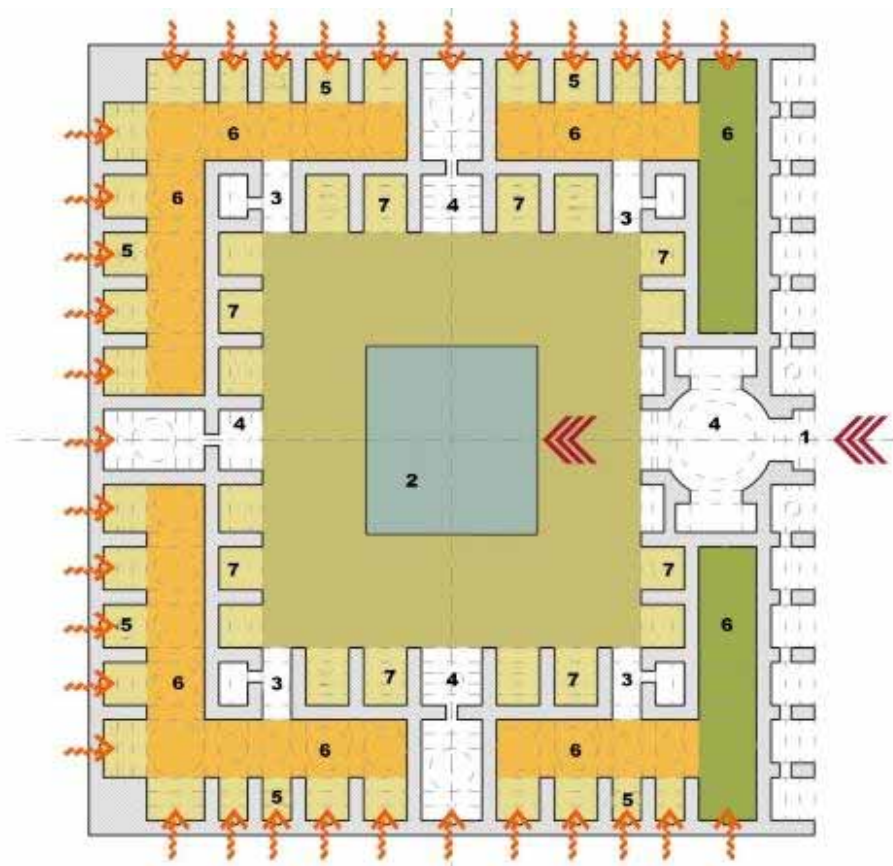
RECOMMENDED USAGE ARE	TITLE	ROW
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	ACCOMMODATIONS AREA	3
	CORRIDORS	4
	PUBLIC AREA & COFFEE SHOP	5
	GENERAL UTILITIES AREA	6
	LIGHT ENTRANCE ZONE	7

**Some explanations**

The main difference of Agha Bozorg School and Rabat Sharaf is the type of arrangement of stories, that is, in Agha Bozorg School the distribution of stories have an almost vertical form, but in Rabat Sharaf the segmentation is horizontal. The stories can create a suitable composition for the sake of visual communication. As introduced in the color range section, the central courtyard also plays an important role in the provision of light and perspective. The mosque-caravanserai pattern at Aqa Bozorg in Kashan provides valuable context for a combined residential-educational facility.



**Figure 11: Kashan, Agha Bozorg Mosque and School**










**Figure 12: Rasht, Lat Caravanserai**



**Table 7: Determining the current usage of the old structure of Lat Caravanserai**

Current usage	Title	row
1	Entrance	1
2	Central courtyard	2
3	Platform to the stable	3
4	ivan (porch)	4
5	Stable	5
6	Corridor	6
7	Location of travelers' lodging	7

**Table 8: Determining the recommended usage of the existing structure of Lat Caravanserai**

RECOMMENDED USAGE ARE	TITLE	ROW
	ENTRANCE	1
	ACADEMIC AREA	2
	ACCOMMODATIONS AREA	3
	CORRIDORS	4
	PUBLIC AREA & COFFEE SHOP	5
	GENERAL UTILITIES AREA	6
	LIGHT ENTRANCE ZONE	7

**Some Explanations**

Due to the variety of caravanserais' patterns, the third mode can be a one-story building pattern, such as Lat Caravanserai in Guilan province. As shown in Figure 4, this building has a square-rectangular span with a very appropriate and separable layering and a pattern with proper integration. The two rows of rooms, located on the edge of the main corridor shown in the map, lead to a proper usage of the complex in terms of lodging services. But creating an educational location, as a pattern in caravanserai, requires making a separate structure.



**Figure 13: Rasht, Lat Caravanserai**

### **Conclusion**

Given that, in terms of geography, Iran was in the middle of the old world and connected the East and the West travelling and trading, which are among the most important events in human life, are much more significant in this country. However, some of the serious obstacles to travel and trade in Iran are its vastness, diversity of climate, having wilderness and dry deserts, and insecurity of the roads. Such buildings were created due to the lack of necessary equipment to provide food and water on the road of Iran. The routes were full of mountains and vast desert. In addition, one of the leading causes of creating caravanserais along roads was the heterogeneity of people of that age. Local nomads and rebellious, villainous people of the mountains were troublesome to travelers and peddlers and demanded road tolls; therefore, no matter how small caravanserais were built, they were considered safe locations for the peddlers' stopover. After a while, due to the commuting of traders and merchants from different areas, caravanserais turned into an important education and training place for exchanging information and trade news for the passengers. At this place they exchanged news of trading and buying and selling goods. Perhaps during the period of relaxing and rest at this place they would exchange information and discuss religious issues and informed each other of their observations and local events. Given that at the time of Shah Abbas Safavid's era, political and trade relations with European and Asian countries developed, the need to create such buildings across the main roads in the country were taken into account and the profits gained from the incomes from the buildings were spent on the development and well-being of the country. The buildings were made around the country and along the main roads. In conclusion, the importance of the caravanserais in economic, commercial, cultural and political connections arises from the fact that at that period the number of caravanserais built was more than any other period. Inspired by this limitless potential and given the history of cultural-tourism of these sites, both service providers and users can be motivated. Nowadays, it is required to move in the direction of promoting the name and superiority of such buildings in accordance with the taste and needs of tourists. Even if due to the structural reasons we are not able to benefit from the main building as suggested, it is possible to use these buildings as models and make exact copies of them next to the main building which itself is a sign of love for culture and fostering economic growth in the tourism industry.

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