Identifying and Investigating to performances from Vachar to Bazaar (Case study: Iran, Kashan’s bazaar)

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ABSTRACT

Background: Bazaar is the beating heart and the biggest public area of any town or city. Kashan’s bazaar, back bone of the historical part of the city, is extended from southwest to northeast as a covered root. In historical cities of Iran, bazaar is a key part which forms the central core. Objective: Thinking about the promotion of bazar’s identifying and investigating in the city, shows the spatial structure and the relationship between the body elements and the functions of bazaar. Results: Askashan’s bazaar in the historical part, is like a back bone which is extended along the city on the basis of an interactive relationship and has formed the shape of the city. Urban spaces are the most important factor in the formation and shaping of a city as a base for the start of collective life and play a key role in attaining the social goal of urban landscape. Urban landscape and urban vibrancy are two key factors that originate from physical and conceptual aspects. They make sense within urban spaces and to achieve desired urban spaces according to the hypothesis of this research we can refer to the effectiveness of these two factors. On Shahrivar 8th, 1976 it was registered as a national heritage no. 1284. Although what is today known as bazaar in kashan dates back to Zandie era, the main part was built in Saljoqie. Enough attention to sustainable growth in cities necessarily accentuates looking back to the past. The findings of the present research show that the existence of proper urban landscape is conducive to the boosting of urban public spaces. Conclusion: So this paper is to study the scientific and theoretical relationship of sustainability of quality of bazaar, explain the importance and necessity of promoting urban spaces emphasizing on the values of bazaar, and also to form the destiny of the city focusing on physical and aesthetic aspects. Today, Iranian bazaars are more of places for trade. However, the geographical location of Iran as a bridge for east and west to connect has made it economically prosper. In the past bazaars were not only places for trade but also for the most important urban elements like mosques, schools, religious schools, public bathrooms, monasteries, convents and other urban facilities.

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To Cite This Article: Hassanali Laghai, Sahar Rasmi., Identifying and Investigating to performances from Vachar to Bazaar (Case study: Iran, Kashan’s bazaar). Adv. Environ. Biol., 7(13), 4438-4445, 2013

INTRODUCTION

Bazaar is the biggest urban space and in different eras of civilization it has embodied all productive and business activities. With strong continuous polarization, so that the use of business economy has dominated organizations of suburban spaces, it has continuously attracted the economic resources from the suburban parts in favor of the city and consequently the resources have been concentrated in the city [1]. The identity is defined by the memories it reminds the citizens of, and in fact the physical gesture of bazaar is a symbol of the cities identity. Naturally the spatial patterns of the city, following the dominant performances which form the fundamentals of the city gradually take the shape of this back bone [2]. Kashan’s bazaar with all those hand craft, carpet, and seasonings stores is one of the most attractive sights for tourists which has attracted many internal and foreigner tourists who have named kashan in their travelogue. For instance in the book ‘Zinat-el-majales’ it is written that “there is no bazaar like kashan’s the length of which is nearly 2000 steps”. Edward Brown, the famous east haster writes “coppersmiths’ bazaar in kashan with the continuous sound of the hammer and furnace in which the cooper is melt is one of the most attractive parts of the east”. This fame has sometimes caused exaggerations such as Abu Ali Sina or people form Isfahan complaining about the sound of the hammer in coppersmiths’ bazaar in kashan. The link between stone and the bazaar or the Mir Emad mosque should be mentioned too which caused the contradiction and integration of these elements using architecture at the same
time as keeping intact the highlighted urban factors. In other words in this complex the principle of variety of urban spaces regarding sustainable growth can be obviously seen. The city and urban spaces are the grounds for urban interactions, events, and daily lives of the people. In this regard, streets are the most basic and major urban spaces. Main axes of cities are main streets which have embodied the majority of shopping centers and the roots for people to come and go. So their quality is determinant of the cities quality [3]. Rob Crier believes that it is the geometrical and aesthetic quality of the city which makes us consider the external parts as urban spaces” [4]. Tavasoli suggests that urban space is one of the factors of spatial structures that emerges, takes a shape, and changes with the history of the people in a city in different ages. This element in which there have always been cultural, social, economic, and political activities beats with the heart and the history of the city and defines the history of it. [5]. The necessity of urban symbols has caused “cooperative systems”, “urban identity”, and “social belonging feeling” to be effective on social and humane relationships in a city. [6]. Historical post mortem of the cities shows that bazaar has always been of fundamental importance in spatial design in cities. In the past bazaar not only was the place for trade, but also it was the place for social interactions, a place to understand the dominating the culture, and a place for social gatherings for different social levels. There are different information about the atmosphere of bazar and how it functioned in the past; but what can be a basis for scientific analysis of bazaar’s characteristics is the business role and its emergence in bazaar [7]. The first bazaar beside the Jame Mosque was the bazar for religious staff sellers. The most important business center was bazaar and it was usually big and head covered. Suburbs belonged to industries which needed more space and caused pollution. Flan Den visited kashan in the early 4th century. Kashan was the first industrial city in Safavis era but now it is in a bad shape [8]. The back bone of the historical part forms the back bone of bazaar which extends from southwest to northeast and is surrounded by three streets. This area is the most important part of the urban space but all parts of it are not of the same importance. Abazar and Rajaee streets are of a greater importance because they are located in the direction of historical movement and act as a joint for the modern and the historical part. In the field of or study there are other studies by other authors namely:[8,1, 9,10,11, 12,38], the works of who can be referred to.

Methodology and approach:

Descriptive quantitative study is used for the current paper. In descriptive part, the nature, conditions, and forming elements are studied and described. Data gathering is conducted through the review of the backgrounds and history from libraries and other data bases. Definitions and instances are exploited using library research via descriptive-analytic approach.

What is really significant in the function of surrounding areas is the symbolic role and forming a body shape clearly to connect symbolic elements with access points and the relationship between spatial elements of public areas with the surrounding areas. In each step of the study and as it requires different methods are used. Descriptive method: the impact of promoting the quality of urban spaces in their sustainability in different aspects.

Research limitation/implications:

Macro Objectives:

Setting the overall framework for decision making and strategy setting to strengthen desired spatial elements and the identity of bazaar’s subspaces, the objectives are to identify the bazaar to bring up the feeling of belonging and keep the physical structure at the same time with promoting the quality in different ways to maintain the integrity between bazaar and the city.

Aesthetic and experimental objectives; these objectives include the mental needs of human related to the environment. Objectives like concentrating on visual and sentimental perception with which people experimentally connect with environments and at the same time they make desirability for them. Environment and urban vision perception is paid attention to too.

Identity promoting for the sub-parts of the bazaar in kashan regarding the integrity of historical elements.

Micro Objectives:

With a brief reference to the definitions about the identity, it is tried to descriptively answer the basic question with a deductive and reasoning approach.

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Theoretical bases:

urban identity (Iran, the bazaar in kashan):

Urban identity is not only unique properties which are reagent of the city but also they are the product of a process which is dominated by a general acceptance based on the history. The core identity is formed on the basis of vicinity to natural elements and good geographical location, regarding being on the meeting point of main business roads. In the city spinal elements, are located in the meeting point of crowded roots which
normally end in the two gates of the city. This properties lead to belonging, pride, and satisfactory feelings in the residents. Urban identity as the result of culture and history, makes it inevitable to review the identity of the city historically. The basis for this hypothesis is that history, culture, and local activates are of a great role in the formation of city’s body and its unique properties. [12]. Areas like Timche (Amin-el-Dole), Caravansary, Mir Emad Mosque, Saray (Gomrok, no…) have formed a geometrically regular and extended area with unique properties, which are introduced as the symbols in the main backbone of the city. The existence of open areas (open fields) has led to heterogeneous areas. To emphasize on the geometric space and crossed roots, important urban elements are located on the main axes. In the spatial hierarchy of the spine, spatial varieties such as quality, size and being surrounded are considered. There are other factors which are determinant of the shape and identity of a city. In response to the question “what should be the dominant standpoint in this study” it must be said that the first step to enter the field of identified urban design is to elaborate the meaning of urban identity, and the second step is to elaborate location-time aspects of a city.[11].

The meaning of bazaar:

The term bazar comes from Vachar which was common in Pahlavi language and turned into Vazar in median Farsi (the suffix Zar in Dari language means the place for trade). Today, the term bazaar is used widely in Asian and European countries. Arabs use the term Souq for bazar which means street and dates back to Byblian language. There are different definitions for bazaar some of which are referred to here. Defining and describing bazar, George Clark writes “bazaar is the most functional and comprehensive place for trade human has ever invented. Generally bazaar is the best center for producing and distributing goods and trading them. Bazaar is an appropriate social and economic system and is significant from an urban-design point of view. So it is fair to say that the identity of a city is the reflection of culture in the environment,[16].
Appellation of kashan:

Finding the appellation of cities has always been receiving a great deal of attention by people and they have always tried to find an identification on the names. Kashan has received his name by being the neighbor of Kavir desert on the northeastern and eastern part and in the Iran’s central mountain’s skirt [10].

On the other hand, in the far past, Indian and European tribes resided in the central Europe and the vicinity of Aral Sea and northern parts of Caspian Sea and finally due to some reason which could be bad environment or the freezing temperature the forcibly immigrated to the south and started civilizations in the southern sea sides of Caspian Sea and central Iran as well. Kas, Kash, Kashu, and Kasu are of this tribes. The remaining memory of these terms in Caspian Sea[10].

4-3-1 volumetric-body tissue, system, and shape of historical areas

A) Spatial set of this tissue: although tissue is made of separated seeds, these seeds are only defined together with each other. Maintaining valuable historical and serving roots and elements there are still facilities and capabilities which can be relied on.

B) Volumetric and body tissue: existence of historical body and modern changes have given this tissue properties that can be studied under three titles:

1) Spatial and volumetric indexes, 2) volumetric and formational relationships, 3) the social meaning of the tissue[1].

Body classification of the historical tissue:

Body tissue is made of different parts every one of which follow specific regulations regarding their properties. In other words, these classifications are basically formed in relation to regulations and rules. These parts include: urban services axis around the tissue, limited urban services inside the tissue, valuable parts inside the tissue, and residential neighborhoods inside the historical part[1].

Functional properties of kashan’s bazaar in the urban area:

the shape of kashan:

The vital business route of Khorasan-Bagdad-Rey is connected with Isfahan, Yazd, and Kerman through Rey-Qom in the margins of desert (Qasan Desert) and has greatly influenced the development of the city. In this order eastern route is extended to CharSouqeMianchaland crosses the north-south route in the entrance of the chain beside which existed the gate and the port and wharf for trading goods (known as Paqpan) so that an important and crowded urban knot is formed and until the late 4th century the main back bone if the city was formed in accordance with these normal routes and gates ended on north to Qom, south to Isfahan, west to Fin and east to Souq gate which was located on the east-west axis that was in fact the main direction of the bazaar and grew toward east (renovation and improvement of kashan, house and town, urban renovation.[11]
Analysis of theoretical basis:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Policy</th>
<th>Strategy</th>
<th>Objective</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creating the possibility to live for communities in the area</td>
<td>Controlling the area and human behavior</td>
<td>Convenience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vision, movement, hearing, and smell</td>
<td>Connecting people with the area</td>
<td>Designing dimensions of the area in accordance with physical and mental abilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uniformity in maintaining congruence</td>
<td>Variety in special points in the area</td>
<td>Relative uniformity of bodies if necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The feeling of seeing and being seen</td>
<td>The ability to make social interactions in the area</td>
<td>Obedience of the bodies’ design from the same regulation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identifying the area and use of aesthetic vision</td>
<td>Deploying a memorable architecture</td>
<td>The way areas are connected and separated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlighting valuable buildings</td>
<td>Clarity of the area</td>
<td>Glory and seductiveness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being unique</td>
<td>Historical or religious property</td>
<td>Power and sanctimony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highlighting the bodies and ceilings</td>
<td>Controlling the area and human behavior</td>
<td>Using monumental accessories and elements</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shoemakers, coppersmiths, and goldsmiths’ of Charsouq way</td>
<td>Clarity of sequences</td>
<td>Presence of natural elements</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Results:

Finding the importance of Kashan’s bazaar in organization of urban areas:

Whereas urbanization and its sensible expression, city, was the center of civilization for ages in relation with the role of bazaar in the organization of the city and the way it is connected with surrounding elements it is mentionable that entrance: plays the first role between two geometric disciplines in the concept of inside and outside, important parts to mention are the way GomrokSaray is connected with Sang Square on one side and Bazaar on the other. Also Mir Panj Caravansary, School, and Gozar No Cistern are valuable in this regard. There is meeting point in bazaar called Mianchal which plays the role of covered urban space. This meeting point is the point where five roots meet; two roots in the main direction of bazaar (The Great Bazaar and Gozar No Bazaar), architectural combination of several crossing roots which are not in the same direction and secondly architectural connection between the Great Bazaar and Gozar No Bazaar which has a more elementary architecture and thirdly existence of Timche Amin-el Dole which is located at the two normal entrances as one of these linking roots, act as to normal and heterogeneous areas (renovation and improvement [11]
The formation of germination of the first bazaar direction:

6-1 Extension in first centuries:

In a theoretical expression to explain the reasons for a city to emerge at least four theories are accentuated among which the economic theory and “city as a bazaar” is of a greater importance. In this theory city is the place for trading goods and is the main center of business so that the city is the center for business roots to meet [10]

Classification of economic activities in bazaar:

Generally economic activities in bazaar are divided into three major groups; business, productive, and storage activities

  - Business activities
  - Business activities are divided into two groups of wholesale and retailing.
  - Wholesale forms the most important activities of bazaar.
  - Retailing are the second most important activities. Retailing stores are mostly located in the main direction of bazaar, therefore the Great Bazaar has turned into a long street for buying and selling. However, there are places in the main direction which produce and distribute special items, like shoemakers and goldsmiths [9].

The structure of guilds in bazaar:

Activities are placed in bazaar on the basis of dividing tasks among guilds. Each guild is placed in one neighborhood. (16). Placing guilds in Iranian bazaars follows regular basis. Goldsmiths are located in the entrance, bookstores and bookbinding are placed in the Jame Mosque corridor and then go fabric sellers, crystal and porcelain sellers parallel to goldsmiths. Another factor related to wholesale is caravansary. In the past Caravans who transported goods and passengers to other cities, entered caravansaries which were located at the end of the main division of bazaar near the city gate[10]

Bala Bazaar Direction (Great Bazaar):

After Mir Emad Mosque to Mianchal complex there is crowded way called Bala Bazaar.

Mint bazaar which is located next to the Mir Emad Mosque was the place for minting coins, which is now dyeing center.

Sabaq bazaar which is located in the center of Great Bazaar and was the Dyeing center currently has the same function[10]

8-2 Mianchal complex (main direction)

From a location point of view, it is located in the central part of bazaar which is the focal point of bazaar and even the historical part of the city in a closer look.

Different bazaars in this complex are shoemakers, drapers, rope sellers, and Malek bazaar which are continuing their declining life in a cold and dark place beside their normal function[10].

The study of elements of Bazaar Complex:

9-1 Mosques and Schools:

Mianchal Mosque and School

Mianchal School is built in Safavis era. The cultural value of this building is due to the age and the combination of areas in relation with each other beautifully connecting to Char Souq next to the entrance. It contains two yards and chambers around it and a big porch which is built on the school’s cistern[15].

Timche Amin-el-Dol, Caravansary:

Timche Amin el Dol, Kashan Bazaar (19th century). Persian architects used these structures to naturally decrease temperatures, regulate sunlight, and ventilate the interior spaces during the daytime.
Comprehensive description of different parts of kashan’s bazar is about to study the paper in three sections:

10-1 A general image of Bazaar’s plot:
In this general plot it can be seen that bazaar starts from DarvazeDolat and on an east-west it extends to Panakhil root. So that from the old entrance of the city in DarvazeDolat, in front of Dolatkhane there is an old caravansary after which bazaar is started.

Integrated tissue of northern neighborhood of kashan:
Named Tamaqchi root, this neighborhood is widened with many constructions, and creating a wide organic root via inorganic approaches which buries all the bodies belonging to Safavis in the negative balance of Qajari in the name of flooring the newly built root. Bodies which could be a remedy at least after renovation. Regarding the formation of bazaar and the process of its promotion it seems that renovation and building a sidewalk (from Feyz Square which connects to two main streets of BabaAfzal and DarvazeDolatSqaure) and building rooms for comforting people using bazaar leads to promotion of bazaar economically.

Discussion and Conclusion:
Regarding the importance of bazaar on kashan, the main objective in this study was to analyze the promotion and identification of kashan’s bazaar and its area of penetration and the connection between bazaar and the surrounding area, and also to study the role of bazaar in serving suburban areas and influencing centralization of some services in the center of historical parts of the city. Therefore the emphasis is on renovation and maintaining cultural identity of bazaar as a part of historical tissue and to put and emphasis on the necessity of a sustainable standpoint with respect to cultural and historical indexes to help the dynamics of the city.

These factors have properties, the most important of which include
1. Independence of Identity; each architectural element has its unique independent characteristics which shows its identity.
2. The ability to create a substantive whole; aforementioned elements can turn into similar elements in a layer (Urban design layer). When looked at closely these elements are independent but when looked at from a further view only one layer is seen which is, urban design layer. Therefore these elements are able to stick together and act in a bigger set while being independent.
3. There is a need for an area to connect these elements to one another.
4. There should be a design for shape and meaning of each element and in the end the art of urban design connects these elements.

The current study accentuates on optimizing bazar elements and developing a process for promotion. In this regard after a brief expression of theoretical methods and frameworks for the research, different theories were considered one by one divided by the resemblance of ideas. Results were analyzed and finally a plan for a walkway from Feyz Square to the bazaar’s entrance was suggested.

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