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Persian Garden, Cultural Sustainability and Environmental Design case study Shazdeh garden

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Abstract

This study will help researchers in coming up with designs that will develop the situation of life of people living in harsh environs also will help designers in coming up with designs that preserve the environment while getting better the life of people at the same time, and people will be capable to realize how culture can promote the environment and revamp barren land to sustain life. These types of gardens try to balance out the structure by complementing it with greenery. The study investigates the ancient Persian garden and the harmony with nature as means to achieve living quality. It is to make this desire a reality that such gardens came into existence, combining the serene beauty with the living space.

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Keywords: Persian garden; cultural; sustainable; environment

1. Introduction

This research focuses on Persian garden and cultural and religious effect to create the garden. The history of the world gardens tells us that from the beginning of the birth, the Gardens have to meet human physical and spiritual needs. During the development of the gardens, the material construction and the

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cultural connotation were always closely linked with each other, the tangible heritage and the intangible heritage, which the gardens contained gradually, achieved a perfect harmony. Among cultural heritage properties, the garden is a unique cultural phenomenon and also is the product of the development of human civilization [Medghalchi, I., et al. 2014]. The gardens are the cultural products, and also the carrier of the traditional culture. Composed of various material forms, the Gardens contain a lot of social and humane factors. Design of the garden of Shazdeh is one of the best of their time. It's a marvelous example of technology of that time. Shazdeh gardens' greenery is truly an oasis in the deserted plain, where water from the deepest layer of the region was used [national climate change 2009]. Transporting water from distant resources being still the *modus operandi* of many modern gardens in deserted plains, Shazdeh gardens did the optimum utilization of available resources.

Iranian culture strongly believes in the harmonious existence of nature and humans. Place of Shazdeh is considered to be the most vibrant example of Iran's harmonious human-nature blend, and a garden of Shazdeh is the typical example of this. Understanding nature aids the co-existence of human beings in it. Gardens of Shazdeh shows the environmental tangibles and it look forward to the real world's ideal sublimation [Hirbod, N. 2012]. The ideal and real lives are combined, so that the Shazdeh gardens realize the combination of ideals as well as realities and thus thereby make notable contribution to the human civilization. In the ancient mind sets, paradise exists, where flowers and trees never fade and the mountain delights changes day and night. Paradise is said to be a comfortable and convenient environment for living. Carriage and horses are busy outside the door and one could go into real life, whereas inside the doors, the vision is different where birds sing and flowers blossom. When materials and spirit are put together, then nature and humans exist in harmony [Medghalchi, L. 2014].

2. Sustainable design

Classical Gardens of Shazdeh also has ecological aesthetics concepts. Garden design is based on ancient re-creation, of giving back to nature. The main purpose of the garden building is to give back to mother earth, whether it be digging the ground for a pond or laying foundation. Subjective consciousness of Iranians is quite strong and dense in gardening, creating an ecological and poetic landscape. As such the garden fun is from nature and art. Such landscapes are higher than the natural landscapes and ancient Persian literature, calligraphy, philosophy, music, poetry, opera and art were embedded in them. The traditional Iranian landscape poetry and painting were pre-dominant in them. These gardens are known as 'Silent Poetry' and 3D paintings. Shazdeh gardens have their names for specific reasons. For example, the Humble Administrator's Garden is the retired National Ombudsman's need to grow vegetables. The Retreat and Reflection Garden, the owner of the garden thinks about the mistakes he did in the past. Another example is the Couple's Garden Retreat is a pair that was willing to cultivate a harmonious life together. Gardens give back to nature for various reasons. Gardens sequester her from the world; she calmly lives with her lover, thinks on the past mistakes upon retirement etc. The ultimate aim of gardening is to live in an environment harmoniously with mother earth [Halsted, L. 2014].

Iran has different climates due to the large geographical area of the country [national climate change 2009]. The climates vary from hot to dry, where rainfall is less. This part is in the Eastern Iran at its central region. There are hardly any plants in this region and thus no rain. Anyhow in such a hard climate of Iran, traditional architects in Iran have made use of methods that suits the development of a living environment that is suitable and comfortable. This is reflected widely in Iranian gardens. A close association between nature and humans is gained in a simplified manner and there is no border line between the mansion and the remaining parts of the garden and thus the beginning and end of the gardens cannot be seen. Many trees are planted for the purpose of getting shade which paves way for the gardens to have narrow walkways. Canals are also designed in such a way that the flow of water produced sound.

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