

## **The Historical and Artistic Developments of Bam during the Pahlavi Period (with an Emphasis on Ahvieh School and Soroush House of Zabulestani)**

### **Abstract**

The period of Pahlavi rule (۱۹۲۵-۱۹۷۸) in Iran was a different period in terms of culture and art. In this period, new changes were made in the physical structure, architecture and urban planning of Iran, which were dissimilar from the Qajar period. In the interim, internal factors in the field of political situation, historical, intellectual developments, social changes and external factors during the transition from Qajar to Pahlavi period are significant in the physical structure of cities and the urban planning of the Pahlavi period. The historical city of Bam is one of the cities that has undergone changes in terms of architecture during the mentioned era. The present study, with a descriptive-analytical method, aims to understand the most important effective factor in the historical-artistic developments of Bam during the Pahlavi period. For this analysis, two buildings in the city of Bam including the Ahvieh School and Soroush House in Zabulestani are examined. The findings of the research indicate that imitation of the western model, land reform and its consequences and the dominance of modernity were among the most imperative effective factors in the historical-physical transformations of Bam during the Pahlavi period, as a result of which the middle and new context were created around the older context of the city of Bam. This, in turn, led to the expansion of Bam towards farms and gardens; also it alleviated the migration of villagers to Bam city and the expansion of suburban settlements and the land market.

### **Research aims:**

۱. Explaining the historical and artistic developments of Bam during the Pahlavi period.
۲. Investigating the reflection of the historical and artistic developments of Bam during the Pahlavi period in the architectural structures of the city.

### **Research questions:**

١. What were the effective factors in the historical-artistic developments of Bam during the Pahlavi period?

٢. What effect did modernity have on the architectural developments of Bam during the Pahlavi period?

**Keywords:** historical and artistic developments, Bam city, Pahlavi period, architecture.

## **Introduction**

During the Safavid period, for the first time, the people of Bam moved out of the Citadel and began to live in the other areas of the city, however, the Citadel was not completely evacuated. During the Qajar era and following the arrival of modernity in Iran, citizens gradually left the old city and built houses in the southern areas around the Bam Citadel and around the Tahrud River. The establishment of small accommodations in the courtyard of Imamzadeh Asiri by Harandi, Yazdi and Indian merchants; founded the means for creating a market that created a communication corridor between the city and the old fortress of Bam with the newer sections. Following the construction of markets such as Amir Nezam, baths and the new street during the reign of Abdul Hossein Mirza Farmanfarma, there were noticeable physical changes in this city. By planting palm trees, citrus fruits and pomegranate trees among other vegetation, the city transformed from administrative, political and commercial purposes to a more agricultural and cultivation form and city resembled a garden. Despite Iran's transition from tradition to modernity during the Qajar period and the historical-physical developments of Bam city, this movement did not cause the complete evacuation of the old part of Bam. With the spread of modernity in Pahlavi period of Iran and by imitating the West, changes were made in various configurations and this was clearly reflected in urban planning and architecture. The key focus of the current research is to respond to the effects and consequences of modernity in the historical-physical developments of Bam during the Pahlavi period.

Regarding the effects of modernity in urban development and the physical transformations of cities; the situation of urbanization and urban development in Iran has been researched during the Pahlavi period by experts in this field including: Habibi (١٣٩٤) in "From Flow to City" has provided comprehensive and complete information about the way of urbanization and the physical

changes of Iranian cities throughout history. Rajabi (۱۹۷۶), in his work "Architecture of Iran, Pahlavi period"; Jabri Moghadam (۲۰۰۵) in "City and Modernity" and Hosseinzadeh Delir (۲۰۰۵) in the article "Modernism and its effect on architecture and the urban planning of Iran", have addressed the different effects of modernity in the urban planning and architecture of Iran. Among the works of writers who have paid attention to the developments of Bam during the Pahlavi period, the work of Noorbakhsh (۱۹۷۶) who examined the historical developments of Bam and its urbanization process throughout history can be mentioned; however, the impact of modernism on its physical developments had not been addressed. Hassan Karimian (۲۰۰۴) has discussed the historical developments and urban development of Bam in a general way in his two articles. However, an independent research on the historical-physical developments of Bam city during the modernity and Pahlavi period has not been compiled; therefore, emphasizing the effects of modernity on the physical developments of this city is the main focus of the present study. This research has been accomplished by a descriptive and analytical method and relying on the data of library sources.

## **Conclusion**

During the Qajar period, Iran was faced with western modernity, which from the time of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar and on the eve of the constitutional revolution in the structures of the Iranian society, including urban planning and the physical space of the cities, initiated modifications that first started in the city of Tehran and then applied to other cities. Nonetheless, since during the Qajar period, Iran was in the period of transition from tradition to modernity, the physical changes of the cities were not so noticeable and Safavid and Tehran style of urban planning were used in a combined manner. With the formation of the Pahlavi dynasty by Reza Shah, since he was influenced by the trends of modernization, antiquarianism, militarism, the use of foreigners in the construction of industrial buildings and factories, he paid attention to the creation of unified buildings. The physical transformations of the cities in ۱۹۳۴ started from the city of Tehran and its new design with the preparation of the first street map, the destruction of the Naseri palace and the creation of new streets with east-west and north-south axes (Chalipaei), the creation of squares, the widening of passages and the formation of the northern parts of the city which was then applied throughout the important cities and resulted in a fatal blow to the neighborhood organization and

the main markets of the cities. During the era of Reza Shah Pahlavi, extensive changes in the urban structure and administrative bureaucracy system and government institutions appeared. Following the destruction of towers and ramparts, the construction of squares and new government buildings, and streets of traditional cities (vs. industrial) participated in these transformations. During the reign of Reza Shah, following the withdrawal of the military from the fort and the old part of the citadel, the military use of the citadel was terminated. After that, a perpendicular street was built from north to south in the city of Bam, which also included a part of the gardens of nobles such as Sardar Majalal. In ۱۳۱۶ AH, Bam became the center of the city and the central streets of the city were created. In the following years, other streets were connected to the main street of the city and gradually new shops, office buildings were built next to the said streets. In addition, at the beginning of the Pahlavi period, due to the slow growth of the population and the slowness of the physical development of the city, the transformation in the urban system and architecture was limited to newly built structures, noble neighborhoods, government buildings, squares and main streets of the city, but despite this, most of the residents lived in the old quarters of the city. This issue shows the positive interaction between tradition and modernity in the field of urban body. However, for reasons such as the lack of change in the role and performance of cities compared to the previous period, the continuity of economic foundations and the landlord system; The aforementioned changes did not cause a fundamental, all-round and inclusive change in the physical-structural system and urban image of the country. In addition to these changes, they were mainly formal for they did not have the role of a modern city, like the function of the city in industrialized countries, nor the necessities and the requirements of new urbanization had arisen. The years ۱۹۴۱-۱۹۴۳ are the actual beginning of the transformation of the urban system in Iran. In this regard, the old cities were collapsing and new cities were being formed. Following land reforms and the collapse of the landowners, the flood of migration of villagers to the cities, the creation of diverse new jobs, the citizenship rights plan, new social groupings, the growth of assembly and consumer industries, The transformation of cities into production centers of knowledge and wealth have caused a transformation (although slow) in the function, structure and appearance of cities in terms of government buildings, streets, squares, neighborhoods of Tehran and other big cities. In the meantime, the new city of Bam also expanded in such a way that during the years ۱۹۴۱-۱۹۵۱, it had many shops (over ۵۰۰ shops), roads, offices, hospitals and new schools, and new products entered its markets. In addition, the old citadel and castle of the city

were restored and the mayor of Bam was responsible for dealing with the affairs of the Bam castle. Sometime later, in ۱۹۰۸, Chaharfasal mansion, Qurkhaneh and Jame Mosque were completed, and its paving was done in ۱۹۷۳. In ۱۹۰۷, urban developments in Iran found a new wave; In such a way that following the continuation of the trend towards modernization, modernism and westernization, five economic development programs were planned in Iran, some of which included the physical transformations of the cities. The Pahlavi dynasty until the land reforms in ۱۹۰۳ was the creation of the middle fabric of Bam city around its old fabric, in which the new streets showed themselves as the first manifestation of the physical transformation of the city. Demolition of the old structure, the alternation of sections of the market into the main street, squares in the center of the city, perpendicular streets, erecting buildings on the edge of the streets, new-style offices such as the municipality, governorate, culture department, health department and other purposeful building with a new plan; thus, the growth of the city was formed in the way of dividing fields, gardens and irrigating them in the mentioned period. Although the new texture penetrated the old texture, the coexistence of the old and new textures in the body of the city continued to some extent. The second historical-physical transformation of the city of Bam was the creation of a new texture of the city in (۱۹۶۳-۱۹۷۷). In the meantime, following the recruitment of labor and migrant labor and the development of marginalization, the city of Bam became the administrative and service center (health, medical, educational, administrative, cultural, and commercial centers) of the city in addition to being a political midpoint. During the mentioned period, the development of Bam city took place on the north side up to the right bank of the Bam River with perpendicular paths and straight alleys and three squares were built in this area. In addition, the dense structure of residential units and roads occurred due to the lack of gardens and the different appearance of the northwest, west and southern areas of Bam city in the mentioned period. Also, in the south-eastern side of Bam, the land exchange and its sale to the immigrant settlements of Bam, Barwat and Narmashir appeared, which expanded the process of marginalization in this city.

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