The Impacts of a Political Quarrel on Heritage: The case of traditional Bazaar in Tabriz

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i. present in person (with a written paper)

Bazaar as the core, has shaped the urban form of many traditional Iranian cities. Without Bazar, a settlement is not considered as a city. Several functions can be listed for Bazaar due to its close spatial relations with different parts of the urban form. Activates like social, religious and cultural activities are among these examples. Nowadays, Bazaar considers as one of the most valuable heritages in Iranian cities. Tabriz, as one of the important and effective cities on the silk road, connected several regions. It was the connection hub with Europe and Anatolia on its West, Caucuses and Russia on its north, Persia and Middle East on its south and east regions. During the transition from tradition to modernity, the Bazaar of Tabriz had been the target of several changes and transformations. One of the most crucial and destructive acts
which affected the structural and physical form of Bazaar was the street widening act enacted under the Reza Shah’s reign and continued through the ruling years of his son Mohammad Reza Shah. This act tore down the old and historical urban fabric in almost all cities in Iran between 1920 and 1960. Tabriz was one of the first cities that experienced this act.

In this study, the transformation of traditional Bazaar within the urban form of Tabriz will be analyzed and historical documents will be employed with reference to the theoretical framework derived from Lefebvre’s and Harvey’s accounts. Visual documents will be utilized to support the main arguments of the study. Briefly, this paper aims to highlight the effects of the ruling class during Pahlavi period on the urban form and demonstrate the struggle between the “Bazariyan” (merchants and conservative middle class in bazaar) and intelligentsia who took upper hand in Bureaucracy and cabinet of Reza Shah. Attempts of changing the face of Iran eventuated a political quarrel between these groups.

• Author Biography (200 words each):

Born in Tabriz, Iran in 1990. I received my Bachelor Degree from faculty of architecture at Azad Tabriz University in 2012 and started M. Arch in Department of Architecture of METU in 2015. For now, I am working on my thesis titled “Structural and Ideological transformation of public spaces: The case of Tabriz” under the supervision of Assoc. Prof. Inci Basa and looking forward to finish my master degree in architecture.

Recently, I presented my new article titled “Transformation and Destruction of Gardens and Green Spaces in Tabriz” in 10th METU Architectural History Graduate Symposium and the full paper is going to be published in the book of the symposium as one chapter.

At the same time, I am doing professional photography and my main field of interest is architectural photography.

I have a vast archive of iconic buildings, landmarks and historical heritages in several cities such as Tabriz, Kashan, Shiraz, Pasargad, Birjand, Cappadocia, Frig Valley, Muğla province. I held my first Solo Exhibition of collected works in 2008 and also won couple of prizes in photo contests like 4th international Firoozeh photo contest and 2th international photo contest of Birjand.

In 2017, I have two selected works for the exhibition of “#SosBrutalism” which is a growing database that currently contains over 1000 Brutalist buildings centered in Frankfurt, Germany.

I am one of the commissioned photographers of METU Architecture Faculty and you can find my works from the link down below.

https://arch.metu.edu.tr/collection/ali-rad-yousefnia