

## **11. Iranian Ancient Urban Structure, And Its Situation in Contemporary City**

Nayyereh Mousavi

Graduated of University of Tehran

In Master of Restoration and Revitalization of Historic Buildings and Textures

Email: atefeh.mousee@gmail.com

The main topic of the following article is based on a study of the structure of Iranian ancient cities. Most of the Iranian ancient cities have had recognizable basis bone and structure, which have been expanded from the most public places of the city (such as Bazaars and Squares) to the most private parts (such as neighborhoods). This type of unique structure organized the city form, and the development of the city occurs within this framework.

There are a lot of examples of such cities that have maintained their main structure, and their ancient form can be easily identified even until the last fifty years which some cases of these structures and details (such as their axes and joints) have been mentioned in this article.

However if we observe the current situation of Iranian cities, we will face the fact that the major expansion of cities has occurred in the contemporary era- specifically in recent decades- and outside of the historical core. Whilst the physical structure of ancient city is suffering severe erosion, and collapse though it is a valuable and integrated social structure. The disconnection and erosion of the physical appearance of the urban pattern, and diffusion of city landmarks, are not only do not show the unified structure, but have transformed the valuable ancient pattern into a major issue.

The main pattern of the city structural body, and its basis, which had been constant through the life cycle of the city, has been transformed due to diffused and unorganized development of the cities. The structure of the Iranian ancient cities which have had unity, integrity and regulation are collapsing within this inconsecutive and irregular development and are remaining as broken frames of the city.

Finding a perfect solution for dealing with historical cities which are collapsing within themselves and expanding towards their suburbs, we have studied the definition of the main structure of the city and the perspective of the theorists in this aspect so that with concluding their concept, we can provide a framework for sustainable development for these cities to propose constant changes in urban cities today and in the future.

Eventually, this paper studies the ideas of structuralists, and the definition of the structure of the urban city, structure of ancient Iranian cities and it's details (joints and axes) and few examples of it. Afterwards, it refers to some examples of expanding ancient cities. Due to the conducted studies, it will present solutions and strategies to achieve sustainable development and returning the expansion of the city to its structural regulations. This paper also refers to successful Iranian and European examples of reviving the ancient structure of the city as a public territory.