

MODERNISM IMITATION

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Introduction

The issue of the relationship between culture and architecture and the effect of intellectual movement on them are interdisciplinary issues that attract different sciences such as sociology, architecture, urban design, archaeologist, etc.

The main function of culture is the expression of human subject ideas. Architecture helps the culture to make subject ideas visible.

In our age, modernism movement impacts on our lives and on the former generation and any incorrect perception of that creates problems.

This proposal tries to survey the effects of modernism, urbanization and globalization on one of the olden locale of Tehran and tries to probe the issue as far as it can.



Fig .1: Oodlajan residential architecture Chopani St.

Tehran was known as a city when the "Qajar" administration started to administer the country. Tehran had 12 small locales. Due to city development and increase of the population the locales joint and Tehran finally had 5 important locales. "Oodlajan" was one of them.

Oodlajan was close to the important and huge market called "bazaar" that played a great role in the economic activity of country and Qajar palace. This neighborhood made Oodlajan architecture valuable but now there is not much information about it. Researchers had studied the urban planning of Oodlajan and its issue to some extent, but they had not realized enough information. The author and his colleagues in their new research found some documents that show the value of Oodlajan architecture. This locale deserves to be investigated more to be completely known. This research briefly surveys the cultural change in past century on Oodlajan and expects to answer the questions and to encourage another researchers to study about that.

Methods

A. Research Questions

The main questions of research are:

1. What is the main reason that Oodlajan is forgotten?
2. What factors have changed Oodlajan function?
3. What is the relation between intellectual movement, culture and architecture?

B. Research Hypothesis

Oodlajan that once was considered as one of the most majestic residential locales in Iran, is now in an awful situation and it will perish soon if the situation remains the same.

The hypothesis of this research indicates that modernism movement, globalization and urbanization have changed the previous old culture and the new culture requires new activities. So, the place expanded. The impossibility of constructing new buildings makes old buildings to function in different ways. Continuing this unexpectable function makes the building start to ruin. In fact, incorrect perception of modernism movement, globalization and urbanization and aggressive efforts to achieve it caused the locale culture(silk road culture) to be replaced by the stranger one.

C. Research Method

The research method is logical ratiocination.

Result

Oodlajan before social revolutions: Locating Oodlajan near Qajar palaces and bazaar made it one of the excellent and rich residential locales. Many of the residents of this locale were politicians or rich businessmen. Political and economic potency influences the architecture and the residents tried to introduce the Iranian art and culture by architecture. In that locale, there is a wide variety of architectural design details, made by brick("Ajorkari"), tile("Kashikari"), stucco("Gachbori"), mirror, detail in "Oroosi" door and etc. And these are just a few examples of this valuable forgotten architecture.

For example, latest researches and conformity of the documents with Iran contemporary history helps us to find the house of "Abdolghadirazad" senator and minister candidate.



Fig.2: Abdolghadir Azad's house, Fakhromolk St.

Oodlajan mutation: Leading country by Mohammad Reza shah(second king of Pahlavi), occurring important events like dependence on bargaining oil, increasing relation with foreign countries, increasing the population, etc, caused some changes in the bazaar. Bazaar needed to have more space and must have started to develop to answer the new economic activities. The only solution for developing was changing the function of residential buildings next to the bazaar. Oodlajan is one of these locales that had been hurt. Some huge effect of this mutation on Oodlajan locale are:

1. Changing the function of building from residential to economic units such as workroom or storage. This irrelevant changing function reduces the standard of a residential building while missing the architecture behind.
2. Replacing local residents with immigrant workers. Due to the increasing economic activity in bazaar new worker migrated and worked in this new workroom and started to live there .The cultural difference between immigrant workers and local resident made problems and these problems are reasons to forget Oodlajan and its valuable architecture and any effort for repairing it.
3. The absence of the sense of belonging to the locale by entering the multi foreign cultures is the other reason to forget solving locale problems since these new residents fundamentally did not recognize the locale as their own.
4. The security problem is one of the other reasons that has stopped foreign researchers to study about it, mostly due to the existing different and irrelevant cultures.
5. The traffic issue is one other problem that makes the condition of locale harder to act as residential.

Oodlajan after mutation

These reasons altogether cause below events:

First, the local residents who are the first potential hopes to come over the problems have no willing to stay there and almost all of them want to migrate.

Second, the price of Oodlajan building reduces daily and it makes the situation better for immigrant workers and also for replacing the residential building with workrooms and storages.

Third, because of the cultural and security problems a few researchers accept the conditions and accept the hardship of studying it.

Now the main problem in studying on the architecture of buildings is convincing residents of buildings. They do not welcome researchers and it is hard to find a way to provide a document of the oldern architecture. The author and his colleague have been trying to find new documents of this architecture and could registrate some of them.

Conclusion

Oodlajan and its valuable architecture need more studies. This proposal tried to have a very brief introduction about this forgotten architecture.

Results show that:

1. Incorrect perception of modernism movement, urbanization, globalization and fast imitation of it will cause removing and forgetting the culture that has been formed there. The depth of alienation and abandoning is understood when you find out that this forgotten area is located in downtown and center of economic activity.

2. Each architecture is defined with events that have occurred in it. Oodlajan architecture before its mutation has the residential identity but after mutation, its identity changed. So the architecture that has acted as the residential place plays the economic role now. So, one fixed architecture can do a wide variety of functions and exactly these functions define its identity. The influences of intellectual movement on culture and what has happened to it as we saw in Oodlajan intellectual movement can directly have an effect on architecture and its identity.

References

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note: most of these information are released by our research and there are few sources about that. so visiting our site is strongly recommended.