

Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 05.07.2018

Title: Industrial Heritage (Khorramshahr Port Holy Defense Museum).

Speakers and panel members: Mrs. S. Ravanshadnia and Mr. H. Mohammadpour.

The first speaker was Mrs. Ravanshadnia. She explained that the presented project was the restoration project of Khorramshahr custom building as a competition won by Mr. Mohammadpour. She added that Mr. Mohammadpour won also other architectural prizes like Avandrah and Mirmiran competitions.

Beginning her speech Mrs. Ravanshadnia talked about the technological and scientific achievements and how many industrial fields have been created after the industrial revolution, experiencing challenges and transformations. The importance and hidden values in industry, have introduced the argument of industrial heritage to the sphere of world culture, creating the conditions for programs for protection, maintenance and use of centers, mines, complexes, industrial areas and their registration in world heritage list. Considering the history of industrial production in Iran, she asserted that the level of knowledge of such heritage is very limited and in many cases it has been partially ignored.

Talking about the world existing heritage, Mrs. Ravanshadnia said that in every city and village there are historical buildings and traditional handmade tools, that create the conditions for the positive relationship of the inhabitants. In a larger scale there are many places in the world, like the museums, where are collected precious objects of our history, which attract visitors from all over the world and this trend is continuously increasing.

The industrial revolution has created great transformations in the human life. Beginning from Britain, these industrial novelties have been transferred to other countries, opening new routs of development and changes.

The industrial heritage includes sites, buildings, plants, machineries, equipment, houses, industrial complexes, industrial landscapes, products and technologies.

Talking about the important changes in the 20th century, Mrs. Ravanshadnia explained how after the Second World War and during the '70s the process of production has been completely transformed, especially in the U.S.A. and Europe, based on scientific knowledge. These transformations caused changes in the mining field and other sectors affecting also dramatic environmental changes with the consequent damages.

After the treaty of UNESCO the sphere of heritage interpretation has been enlarged including different concepts and comprehensions. The new approach has helped to include also industrial achievements as part of the world heritage. Continuing her speech Mrs.

Ravanshadnia explained what heritage means and which spheres can be included in this interpretation.

Continuing her speech Mrs. Ravanshadnia explained what meant heritage before as something inherited by somebody alive by somebody dead. In a more general context it's what a generation inherits by the past generations, becoming a capital that they enjoy and are proud of. Today the idea of heritage changes with the development and progress process in the human society and its life, including spheres like time, believes and behavior.

Mrs. Ravanshadnia presented a historical passage from 18th century to our century, when the achievements in industrial world influenced the development of modern societies, and how in different countries were founded societies that had the duty to know, evaluate and preserve the heritage of industrial production in the past centuries. She explained that the industrial heritage is part of the cultural heritage that is divided in tangible and non tangible. The first is material like buildings and monuments, the second can be a matter of experience or professional capacities.

Talking about the Iranian industrialization process and experiences, Mrs. Ravanshadnia presented a short history of Iranian industry from Qajar era in 19th century, when different industrial factories were founded paving the way for the modern era's achievements introduction in the Iranian society, influencing social, cultural, economic aspects of the country's life. The principal problem that the Iranian society faced during the industrialization phase was the lack of proper infrastructures and an acceptable link with the western industrialized countries. She explained how the industrialization process was characterized by the political problems and goals that the country pursued, so the introduction of specific industrial spheres could help the country to overcome problems that it had with other countries.

Talking about interesting examples of industrial buildings that present precious architectural heritage, Mrs. Ravanshadnia talked about the factory of leather making in Tabriz, the matches factory. Talking about the leather factory of Tabriz in the beginning of 20th century, she explained about the process of restoration began in 1998, becoming an amphitheater, an administrative building, sport hall, library and self-service refectory. Another successful example presented by Mrs. Ravanshadnia was the transformation of Qasr jail complex to a cultural center in 2010. In this project the renovation activities gave the possibility to clean up the existing buildings and areas taking them back to the characteristics that they had in the Qajar era. The last case that she presented was the project of Shiraz textile factory that after the restoration became the Iranian National Documents Library. All the projects that she presented were shown thru pictures, so the presents could exactly understand what during the renovation and transformation process.

The second speaker was Mr. H. Mohammadpour who began his speech talking about Venice treaty that is the manifesto for parameters of design and restoration. The edition of these principals for the first time a pack a documents as national documents, documents edited by ICOM and UNESCO, founding an international study center, for the protection and

restoration of cultural heritage. The increasing knowledge regarding the problems and critical approach dictates a new challenge and interpretation of Athen's treaty, during the second congress of architects and technical experts of historical monuments in 1964 in Venice.

The explanation of Venice treaty includes the architectural building, the geographical position of cities or villages that can have historical content of particular civilizations or historical events. This approach includes both artistic and historical events.

Mr. Mohammadpour explained that the goal of protection and restoration of the memorials, is their protection as artistic works and historical witnesses. The protection of the monuments is continuous and facilitates social goals, considering that the restoration can't change the initial content and aspect of the monument, maintaining the traditional position of the monument. He explained that the general principles can be partially ignored in particular cases when the existence of the monument or art work is endangered.

Continuing his speech Mr. Mohammadpour repeated the idea that where there is no scientific approach it's impossible to talk about science based restoration, trying to separate the original architectural content from the renovated parts, that carry signs of modern times. In case a monument carries signs of different eras, showing the hidden parts is permitted only in special and important cases, when the hidden part has particular historic and artistic values. In this kind of works what is important is to maintain the integrity and a harmonic combination of the restoration works. The principles regarding the matter have been edited during the UNESCO congress in 1956.

Talking about the restoration and new rehabilitation of Khorramshahr port customs building, Mr. Mohammadpour explained that all the principles reported above were took in consideration during the study phase and realization of the project. The Museum of Holy Defense has been realized in the building of the customs, heavily damaged during the Iran Iraq war.

Mr. Mohammadpour explained that the competition for the restoration of the customs building was organized by Port and Maritime Organization. The location of the building was near the Arvand river, so there were many problems related to the landscape, visual and acoustic pollutions. The idea of using a memorial wall that maintained physical signs of war, was in part inspired by the principles that the Venice treaty had edited. The important and principal approach of the restoration is that introducing new parts and uses in the building the designer has maintained the initial and historical face and aspects of the building, so the users can always go back to the past and feel the essence of the historical building, that now has become a historical monument, showing the atrocities of the Iraqi army and how the Iranians suffered the consequences and damages of the eight year war.

Mr. Mohammadpour explained how modern elements and technological tools and equipment were used in the building in order to facilitate the goals that the organizers of the project took in consideration.

In the Museum of Holy Defense the presence of the wall is considered as a memorial element, reflecting memories that are physically present in the visual part. The visitors can visit and experience the years and problems of the war, visiting the different halls that contain the related documentation.