

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

Held in: Conference hall of Hirampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 09.06.2016

Title: The city and its defensive elements in Iran presented through pictures, from past to present

Speakers and panel members: Mrs. S. Hanachi and Mrs. S. Torabi

Mrs. S. Torabi began her speech focusing on the fact that men have always paid special attention to the security of their family and country, using different solutions like natural and environmental opportunities. The caves were the first shelters, because they presented proper protection. During the human civilization evolution men needed to develop the agriculture for their life, so day moved to the fields where they used different natural resources and materials to secure the life of the inhabitants. The combination of resources, geographical position and architectural solutions permitted to have primitive defensive structures. The development and progress in human society with its differences (social, tribal or political) caused a new approach, giving a collective and classic characteristic to the defensive matter and manner. The result of this approach were the towers and defensive walls. In Iran too, because of its geographical position as a transit way from east to west, the Iranians made the best choices and buildings for defensive purposes.

Talking about the arising of defensive and fortified cities in Iran Mrs. Torabi said that these characteristics encourage the people to concentrate in these centers. The Iranians knew how to hide the human forces, the equipment and activities, especially in border cities and fortifications.

Mrs. Torabi presented the Iranian defensive cities as follows:

- The underground cities, where the cities had a continued or fragmented design.
- The fort-cities, with different social components, as the principal part of the ancient cities. These structures had one or multi layer walls, like in Shush, Takhte- Soleiman, Khuzistan.
- The concentrated cities that have a long history, generally located in the western and north-west Iran. These cities were located in mountainous parts, so the geographical position allowed to build the defensive structures in a gradual form to better control and supervise the happenings. These cities were built because of the lack of safety and numerous wars in the strategic areas.

Mrs. Torabi talked about the different types of ramparts in Iran in different historic eras. The defensive structures were created following social and political conditions in Iran.

Concluding her speech Mrs. Torabi the urban forms in three types:

The defensive city: pre- Pars era, threatened by the neighbouring countries.

The power city: in Achemenian and Sassanide era (the most powerfull empire in the world).

The strength city: In Islamic initial era (corresponding to the religious and social structure).