

Professional scientific sessions for art, architecture and urban planning Thursday evenings
Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers
Date: 22.02.2018
Title: Landscapes Protection: Cultural Landscape and Agricultural Heritage.
Speakers and panel members: Mrs. P. Eshrati and Mr. A. Parhizi Rad.

Cultural landscape and the agricultural heritage, analytical and revision of texts regarding the cultural landscape. In the essay that Mrs. Eshrati presented having a special approach based on an architectural view, the principal argument on the matter have been studied and analyzed.

Beginning her speech Mrs. Eshrati explained that in her work two manners of study have been considered and applied, the first based on the etymology and the second on the explanations points of view.

In order to be closer to a logical analyze, the approach of the competent organizations on the matter of cultural landscape focused on the traditional approach and a new general approach have been considered. For the first approach the activities of two related organizations, UNESCO and the American National Park organization, have been studied and presented. For the second approach the case study has focused on the British Heritage Organization and the European Society. Mrs. Eshrati explained that having two different manners of considering the matter, we are able to have two different theoretic bases for the identification, classification and presentation of matters on cultural landscapes, that permit us to have the necessary bases for the development of the study.

Talking about the relationship that existed between the two spheres of culture and nature, Mrs. Eshrati explained that the natives had a general-comprehensive view on the matter. In this mentality all the components like the geography, culture, the global order and the spirituality, are inserted in a general frame that makes a unity of the different components. The essence of this approach shows how the western society through the cultural approach and the idea the men are the dominant part of the nature, wins the supremacy of the nature, and step by step are transformed from a savage creature to the men that create the modern society.

Mrs. Eshrati defined the existing relationship between philosophy and the knowledge of the ecosystem, based on the mental approach and comprehension through imagination and mental construction; she explained that because of the fallibility of the human mind, in many cases the result of its imagination can offer wrong and imperfect results, exactly as it happens in different scientific fields, that through their path need to be continuously updated and corrected.

Talking about the cultural landscape Mrs. Eshrati showed how it is formed through a natural landscape by a cultural group. In this process the culture is an intermediating factor and the cultural landscape is the result. In the western society the science based approach and vision of

the nature caused a distorted reflection of the natural phenomenon that in their composition make a complete and inseparable unity.

Continuing her speech Mrs. Eshrati presented the classification of the cultural landscape by experts of UNESCO's world heritage organization. In this classification the first group that are easily recognizable, like elements that conceived and designed by mankind like gardens or tree based areas, that in many cases are present in relation with religious and holy constructions and buildings. The second group has completed an organic process and are not strictly in relation with social, religious, economic duties and obligations. Mrs. Eshrati talked about the fossils like one of the examples of the mentioned group. Another example reported by Mrs. Eshrati are natural formations of the landscape spread all around world, formed by different natural factors like the effects of the winds and water flows.

During her speech the first speaker explained how these processes are formed in a very long historic era, where each period reports sand its characteristics on the formation of the natural or artificial environment, that finally become part of the natural or cultural landscape. In her opinion the landscape as a continued process has been formed in an organic way in a process lasted at least 2000 years, when its components are religious sentiments and gods veneration, the protection of the heritage based on an historical tradition, the cultivation of the land and the creation of new capacities in the local societies. She concluded her speech explaining how the final result that we define as cultural landscape is formed by different components, that can vary from an area to another, but basically they have common routs that are the main component of our heritage.

The second speaker was Mr. Parhizi Rad. He began his speech talking about the role and position of agriculture in the life of the human society. He said that when we talk about architecture, the first thing that we think about it, is that agriculture aim is the procurement of the alimentary needs of the human society. Regarding our society and production systems, Mr. Parhizi Rad explained that the use and application of technological achievements is very limited, causing several problems that everybody knows.

Mr. Parhizi Rad divided in two groups the experts that treat the traditional agriculture. The first are the engineers and the second the technocrats, that have a unilateral approach on the solution of the problems. He said that from 1950 all over the world the agricultural production systems have experienced the introduction of technological and industrial solutions, in order to increase the quantity of production in the same area and conditions, transforming the target markets from local to global. Mr. Parhizi Rad said that there are many people in our society that have a nostalgic approach when it comes to understand and appreciate agricultural realities. This approach, in his opinion, creates serious problems for the transformation of the agriculture as a modern production sector. Another group is formed by persons that our historic condition to the conditions that traditional agriculture, but after the speaker even though agriculture has an important role in the production-economic trend of the country, but it is not the sole factor or

sector that the country can count on. Mr. Parhizi Rad criticized the operation of various government organizations, that during the last 40 years, aiming to find solutions for the problems that agriculture faced, created many other problems that today are becoming global problems for the country and the region. Meanwhile the responsible and policy makers of the country stressed on the independence and self sufficiency of the production of agricultural products, the speaker believes that in these conditions in order to reach self-sufficiency we are using and somehow destroying the agricultural lands, meanwhile the self-sufficiency is not an important factor and the country can purchase its alimentary needs from abroad, investing on other economic sectors to ensure the economic and social development.

Mr. Parhizi Rad continued his speech talking about the relationship that exists between agricultural production and the landscape on the territory, linked to economic, ecologic, social and cultural factors and components. The second factor is the scale of the facts and problems. In this regard the activists of environmental matters have well understood and focused on the importance of a large scale vision, because today is impossible to define the problems without considering the relationships that exist between different areas and fields. Mr. Parhizi Rad Talked about the European convention on the matter and how the Europeans well described the problems that they have to face for the solution of the problems.

Mr. Parhizi Rad about the natural and cultural components. This phenomenon has various aspects, where in one side is the human society and in the other is the nature, these components interact on each other creating the conditions for the transformation of the landscape and the consequent activities. Talking about the conditions and the problems of Tehran as a concrete matter, Mr. Parhizi Rad said that it happens in many other parts, in the case of Tehran there is a legislative lack for the protection of the environment and specifically the protection of the gardens, that once were the fame and matter of proud in Tehran. The speaker tried to focus on the reasons that make possible the destruction of such important and precious heritage, but in his opinion there is no specific solution for the safeguard of the gardens in Tehran, because the first basic factor is the interrelationship of man and nature, that can ensure better solution than engineered solutions.

Continuing his speech Mr. Parhizi Rad said that if we want understand and find solutions for the problems, like the problems of the gardens in Tehran, we must study and focus on facts of a larger scale. It is important to know the different conditions and characteristics of the Iranian natural environment and how in each region people found the appropriate way to create a harmonic coexistence between man and nature. In his opinion the lack of a global and extended knowledge is the cause of many problems, because when the low maker is not prepared to face the problems, the solutions that he offers, are the source of new problems, without solving the existing one, that it was conceived for.

Mr. Parhizi Rad reported the case of different societies that concentrating in specific areas, ensure their existence. In this process that in many case lasted for thousands of years, the

societies found the ways manners to ensure their existence through the use of natural resources, ensuring on the same time the continued existences of the natural source that is truly the source of life. What is happening in our days is that the human society is using the natural resources without considering and ensuring their protection and maintenance. , forgetting the golden rules that have been observed and respected for thousands of years, guaranteeing the human life.

Returning to local problems, Mr. Parhizi Rad talked about the pollution sore that is affecting the everyday life of Tehran's inhabitants. He explained how experts are proposing ways and solutions to the problem, like the revitalization of the river-valleys, that once acted as natural filters offering the conditions for the supply of clean air in the capital city. He concluded his speech saying that there is one way to recreate the optimal conditions for a balanced coexistence between man and nature and that is to have a territorial management order, that many labeled it as culture and specifically landscape culture.