

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

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 09.01.2020

Title: Form Metamorphosis in Architecture and Calligraphy.

Speakers and Panel Members: Mr. Alireza Madadi and Mr. Houshang Mehr Ardalan

At the beginning of the session Mr. Arfaie presented the speakers. Talking about Mr. Ardalan said that he was a well known personality in his professional fields. He affirmed that thanks to the help of Mr. Ardalan and indications, he experienced and found the way in his professional life of architecture.

Presenting Mr. Madadi he said that he is a well known architect and professor. His works realized in Hamadan are so interesting that tours can be organized to Hamadan and enjoy the city and his works. Mr. Madadi is also an affirmed artist in calligraphy, having developed his own style and creations.

Mr. Arfaie also presented another guest. He was Mr. Dishidi, having worked in Tehran University for about 56 years as a professor of civil engineering. During the mentioned years he has been active as a constructor, cooperating in the creation of works that presented aspects of national, Iranian, traditional and Islamic architecture and culture. Even though Mr. Dishidi can be considered a figure in Iranian architecture world, at the same time we see that he is not well known in the mass media world.

Mr. Ardalan was the first speaker. He said that accepting the invitation to the session, he would be there as a “mirror keeper”. This was a respected occupation in the courts in past times, when after clothing and preparing the noble courtesans to participate in an event, when the preparations were completed, a mirror keeper let him-her admire the final result of fashion experts.

Talking about architecture and its mission, Mr. Ardalan believes that it's creation in general and life in particular, principals that unfortunately are not transmitted in our universities of architecture. Even though there are about 900 universities where architecture is taught, the educational level is very low and unacceptable. So if there is a metamorphosis in the universities, it has a negative nature and the way to come out from this situation is to focus on the moral content of professional behavior, transferring it to the students that aim to be part of the architectural world.

Mr. Ardalan said how during his 45 long professional years has learned to refuse many things that would disturb his activity in architecture. He concluded that unfortunately in the everyday life of Iranians art, literature, architecture, music, calligraphy... are not present preferences. Talking about who could be a successful architect, Mr. Ardalan said that he would be able to combine proportions, beauties and decorations, creating a construction that can last in the time, maintaining vitality and attractivity. He mentioned the affirmation of a colleague who said that a house should have mother's smell and the quarter should have father's smell.

The second speaker was Mr. Madadi. Thanking Mr. Mahmoudi for the offered opportunity, he said that when Mr. Arfaie proposed him to talk about the relationship that exist between

architecture and calligraphy, first of all it was an occasion to think about if there was really a relationship between the mentioned activities, because usually calligraphers are artists that work in solitude and far from social-theoretical sessions and analysis. The practical result of their activity is what they impress on the paper.

Mr. Madadi presented on a power point his meditations and conclusions mostly regarding calligraphy and how it could be related to architecture. He believes that many aspects and conclusions both in calligraphy and architecture are not physically measurable and in many cases it's possible just to have spiritual conclusions.

Presenting different schools of calligraphy known in Iran, Mr. Madadi mentioned calligraphers like Mir Ali Tabrizi, Mashhadi, Heravi, Neishabouri... Each of them has created artistic works that have had their own positions in the world of Iranian calligraphy. He continued talking about Mir Emad Hasani who is considered one of the Iranian calligraphy school makers and how at the end he was assassinated by Shah Abbas. Another figure in Iranian calligraphy is Mirza Kalhor, who was dedicated to the art and profession of calligraphy. He was the first to print his works using the newly introduced lithography in Iran. Unfortunately all the originals of the Maestro have been lost and we can admire the printings of his works. Mr. Madad presented the characteristics of Mir and Kalhor schools of calligraphy.

Talking about the contemporary school of calligraphy he explained that many prefer to avoid symmetric scriptures, using a new concept of geometry at the same time creating conditions for the practical use of calligraphy in everyday life.

Trying to find similarities between architecture and calligraphy, Mr. Madadi explained the characteristics of ancient, for example Greek, and modern architecture and how they have common principles used as in calligraphy (in ancient architecture the symmetry, the use of huge quantities of decorations, external order and rich facades. In modern architecture the refusal of symmetry, minimizing decorations, focusing on internal-spiritual beauty and the practical use of the construction. He also presented a compact schedule to show how the art of calligraphy was used in the past and in our days.

At the end of the session was Mr. Ardalan who talked about the scholastic experience of his generation regarding teaching in general and calligraphy in particular. He remembered the devotion of his teachers to teach and transfer their knowledge and how the students carried the accumulated knowledge and dedication during the rest of their life. Unfortunately in our days teaching centers don't pay enough attention to the basic education of the students, and this is the reason for such confusion that we see in our academic world. He concluded that to come out from this situation the key is to pay attention to classical music, literature, calligraphy... The session was concluded by the musical presentation of Mr. Ardalan, welcomed and enjoyed by the participants.