

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

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 20.02.2020

Title: Conversation with Grandees of Art, Architecture and Urban Planning. Mr. A. Saeed Samiee

Speakers and Panel members: Mr. M. M. mahmoudi, Mr. A. Saeed Samiee and Mr. A. Mohammad Karamat

Introducing the 141th session Mr. Mahmoudi presented Mr. Saed Samiee to whom the first session titled "Conversation with grandees of Art, architecture and Urban Planning " was dedicated to.

Talking about Mr. Samiee, he said that he was one of the most outstanding figures in Iranian architectural world, whom everybody knows. As a colleague and cooperator Mr. Mahmoudi said that this session was dedicated to focusing on educational and professional aspects of Mr. Samiee's activity, during his long professional life.

Thanking Mr. Mahmoudi, Mr. Samiee appreciated such cultural programs organized by Herampey Research Group. Mr. Samiee was surprised that his name was included as a figure in architecture, because he believed that he was just a graduate in architecture, active in the professional and educational field. In his opinion he didn't create outstanding work or proposed a new theory regarding his profession. He added that he could talk about 50 years of his educational experience.

Mr. Mahmoudi wanted to know which was the best period for Mr. Samiee that he experienced in Tehran Fine Arts faculty's educational system.

Going back in time Mr. Samiee said that once in Tehran Fine Arts faculty the ground was prosperous for the students and there were many people that had activities in different artistic fields, but during the last years the trend is decreasing and there is a lack of results. Answering to the question of Mr. Mahmoudi regarding the increase of universities quantity, Mr. Samiee said that the main problem was the quality of the educational system, capable of being updated and managed by a staff ready to react and make positive changes in the base of innovative current that try to improve the qualities of the educational system. Talking about the Iranian universities and educational past and present trend, Mr. Samiee asserted that unfortunately many teachers and professors have been employed in the universities without having passion and dedication for their job, thinking just about material income and social security. He added that this problem has become evident during the '70s and still continues in our days.

Talking about the professional "production" in the career of Mr. Samiee, Mr. Mahmoudi reminded what the professor always said. The student must always be ahead of his teacher, based on the knowledge of new techniques and innovative solutions. Mr. Samiee proudly mentioned his student Mr. Arfaiee has had a successful career in his university and professional life as an architect.

Trying to present his personal experience, Mr. Samiee talked about how the teaching staff in the university sphere should be chosen. He believed that it would be a long process in order to select the most valourous and capable candidates and the most important factor should be the activity in the professional-practical field. This is the way that a professor can transfer his practical and

theoretical knowledge and experience to a student that needs both aspects of the preparation, in order to find his space in the future professional life.

Talking about the difference between the past and present generations Mr. Samiee and other participants mentioned that once for the students there was a sense of belonging to architecture as a passion and profession. The reason was probably because their professors were successful professionals in their field of occupation, so they had a lot to transfer to the students and at the same time the students watched them as professional examples to be inspired for their path.

Continuing his talk, Mr. Samiee asserted the necessity of the creation of an independent council that should control the activity and achieved results of each student, in order to limit the unjustified freedom of many professors in many universities that don't carry any responsibility for the "production" that they release(the graduates) .

Posing a general question regarding the activities somehow related to each other like Urban Planning, Industrial Design, Theatre and Music, Mr. Mahmoudi wanted to know the opinion of Mr. Samiee, before the Islamic Revolution period and after. The answer was that in the pre revolution era the students were more active participating in various activities. He also mentioned how at the beginning of '60s Urban Planning wasn't welcomed by the students but than thanks to the efforts of Mr. Seyhoon, this field was well established in Tehran University.

Talking about one of the main problems that affected the activities of the universities, Mr. Samiee mentioned how large scale projects were trusted to students that were not prepared and able to handle such projects successfully

Continuing the session, other persons intervened. One of them was Mr. Diba, who expressed his gratitude to Mr. Samiee ,who helped him a lot to find his way , after returning to Iran. In his opinion Mr. Samiee introduced in the University the concepts of justice, humanity and education, concepts that today are often ignored.

Mr. Mahmoudi wanted to know about the parameters that a professor should have in order to teach in the university. To answer this question was Mr. Karamat. In his opinion there is a lack of love and a sense of belonging in many university professors. Fortunately Mr. Samiee is not one of that kind; people talk with respect and pride about his works and academic activities.

Another participant to the session was Mr. Eftekhari who agreed with the opinions that other participants had expressed before, adding that the problem of the Iranian society and in particular the academic sphere, is that people like Mr. Samiee can be considered a rarity. Many of the people that are active in some universities are there just to earn money and consolidate their social status.

Mr. Diba was another admirator of Mr. Samiee's academic behavior. He told how Mr. Samiee had a slogan, saying that when you enter the academic world, you must love it and if so the people and students will love and respect you too. This is the fundamental difference between past times and our days.

Mr. Arfaie was the next person who read a letter of appreciation for Mr. Samiee, ensuring him that he will remain in the memories of real academicians, because of his valorous job done during his fifty years of academic activity. Other two letters of appreciation were dedicated to Mr. Diba and Mr. Mahmoudi, regarding their professional activity and the moral path that they followed in their professional life.

Mr. Karamat asked Mr. Samiee if the process of founding the educational museum of university has been concluded successfully. Mr. Samiee answered that since five years ago the idea has been proposed, considering the huge amount of works that could be included in the museum-exhibition, but unfortunately the university management haven't cooperated properly.

At the end of the session Mr. Mahmoudi thanked the presents for the participation.