

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

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 14.09.2017

Title: The role of art and architecture in the design of Iranian jewelry.

Speakers and panel members: Mr. S. Siroos, Mrs. M. Hooshvar, Mr. M. Qaffari and Mr. Y. Rezvani.

Mr. S. Siroos who was the first speaker began his speech saying that he would concentrate just on the jewels and particularly on the royal crowns in seven different eras of Iranian history , that includes the Assyrian, Elami, Achemenide, Sassanid, Teymourian , Qajar and modern era.

Mr. Siroos explained that in ancient times the royal crowns were not decorated by precious metals and jewels and they seemed to be more like special and high hats for kings, meanwhile the lower hats were used by lower ranks of the authority. He explained that other signs of decorating were more important than the crowns. Mr. Siroos explained that gradually the former and simple royal hats became royal crowns through different decorations having a specific duty, the crowns had to show and stress the power and authority of the king that was wearing it.

Mr. Siroos said that after the studies that he realized after the Sassanid era the use of metallic and precious crowns is gradually abandoned and a type of fabric hat that is well decorated was decorated. Only during the Qajar era the crown decorated by precious metals and jewels is reintroduced that we can see in the paintings that belong to that period.

Coming to the era of Pahlavi, Mr. Siroos explained that the crown that king Reza used was the reintroduction of the Sassanid crown.

The second speaker was Mrs. M. Hooshvar. She said that her study had focused not only on royal jewels but generally on its popular applications and uses. She explained the path that she had followed to find the interactions between art and architecture and the role that they have played in the production of jewelry production. Mrs. Hooshvar said that the use and applications of jewels differ in different geographical, cultural and historical situations, we can see them in human societies as in animal world, where each group has particular and specific rules to better and improve the life quality through the use of elements that we consider decorative like the jewels in their different forms and compositions. These elements, that can biological or artificial, ensure the evolution, completion and eternity of the societies that produce them, giving the possibility to tease the senses of the people that use them or assist to their public presentations, containing different messages.

Mrs. Hooshvar talked also about the way jewels are produce using art and architecture in the process of their material production. Of course before the material production there is mental step when the future product is created in a fictive world that is our imagination.

Mrs. Hooshvar explained how during different historical eras the people created its believes, religious and popular bases that gradually were reflected and expressed in the production of articles that served both as artistic, religious and social expressions(jewels), defining often the social position of its users. Mrs. Hosshvar presented samples of jewels produced in different historical eras, putting together some architectural forms to show how both of the products were influenced by the same historical, social and cultural sources, expressing the taste and preferences of the people that had the possibility to use their social wellness through the creation of material values like jewels or architectural constructions. Coming to the present era, Mrs. Hooshvar expressed the opinion that today many of the imaginary frames have been broken, cancelling physical and spiritual borders, that for many centuries had defined our way of life and being.

The third speaker was Mr. M. Qaffari. He began his speech talking about jewels and architecture in different eras. In his opinion architecture is a thinking way that can influence different fields of life.

Speaking from the very beginning of human civilization, Mr. Qaffari explained how our ancestors made tools that permitted them to make defensive and decorative tools and objects. One of the first samples that have been discovered are animal teeth.

Continuing his speech Mr. Qaffari explained how the discovery of fire permitted humans to make great achievements to produce goods and tools that revolutionized the human life.

Talking about Iranian jewels and decorative elements used in the military tools are fool of interesting details. In these details are visible the relationship with Iranian architecture and a deep comprehension of geometry. In Sassanid era the jewels are more elaborated showing the artistic and technical capacities of the masters that paid attention to the details on all of its aspects. In Islamic era colors have a more dominant role in the production of jewels. This is the period that that the interrelation between architecture and other artistic fields is visible.

Mr. Qaffari talked also about the contemporary art, referring to the works of architect Seyhoon, where is clear the focus on the geometry and its role in architecture and arts in general, as it happened in other historical eras. He said that unfortunately during the last decades we have lost the elements that decorated our cities, that happened also for the Iranian genuine and local Jewelry production.

Mr. Qaffari concluded his speech saying that the products don't show only the capacity of the designer, but show also the way they observe their surrounding world and the time that they live in.

The last speaker was Mr. Y. Rezvani who explained that in ancient times the people used not only gold and silver, but also and especially iron to create decorative jewels. Some of these jewels have been discovered in Iran, in Achemenian royal palace ruins, dating about 2600 years.

The statue that was discovered, presented one of the Egyptian gods, named Bas, that had many followers in the world of the time. In Iran also the people used to create decorative jewels to incorporate divine figures, expressing their religious and spiritual believes.

Studying our history we can understand that Iranians a very complicated and wonderful relationship with their past and the world that surrounded them. In this context the Iranian believe regarding the figure of the snack as a symbol of eternity is very interesting.

Mr. Rezvani talked about the believes of Iranians before Islam and how were their habits and ceremonies regarding religious celebrations, where the fire of course had a principal role and meaning in the ceremonies and everyday life of the Iranians.

Talking about the jewels that Iranians used, Mr. Rezvani said that some of them are 35000 years old and made of animal parts or natural minerals like stones. Following this period the Iranians began to make jewels using copper, gold, silver, glass and other metals.

Mr. Rezvani talked about the samples of ancient jewels discovered in various parts of the world, believing that some of them were of Iranian origin, because at that time some technics were just used and applied in Iran. He also presented the various technics that the Iranians used to produce jewels and some of them are still used by Iranian craftsman.

Mr. Rezvani explained how and why the Iranians used the jewels in their everyday life. Some of the reasons had religious purposes and some of them were a manner to express and show their social status in the society and also in political ranks.

Mr. Rezvani concluded his speech asserting that once we believed that the art of jewelry in Iran had a history of 2000-2500 years, but the last studies and discoveries showed that it had a history of at least 5000 years.