

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

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 17.12.2015

Title: A narration of a birth... an oil city in Iran (A case study: the city of Masjed Soleiman)

Speakers and panel members: Mrs. S. Hanachi and Mrs. M. Shahani

The first speaker was Mrs. S. Hanachi who began her speech explaining the reason of the session regarding the role of the oil company, its potential and its goals inherent the development and the construction of the cities .She tried to know how the presents had information about the city of Masjed Soleiman and if anybody visited the city. The answers reported that the first oil well was discovered in the city of Masjed Soleiman, and that the British governors realized it as a camp for internees.

The first period of life:

The history of the city goes back to the millennium B.C., when the locals discovered the presence of gas sources. Because the Iranians' believes the fire was put on the centre of the temples, and for many centuries the city was considered the nicest city of the Iranian empire. During the centuries the city continued its life thank to the commerce of tobacco and other goods, but after the Arabs' invasion the city was destroyed, loosing the created values.

The second period of life: 1908 A.C.

The British politicians were interested by the presence of oil sources in Iran, they made a contract in 1901 to explore most of the Iranian territory. Finally in 1909 the first oil well in the Middle east was discovered in Iran and Masjed Soleiman becomes an important centre for the extraction of oil and related products. This is the period that the city is renamed MIS that means management information system.

The third period of life: 1912-1928

After the first world war and the increase of production and consequently the increase of construction many designers came to Iran bringing the influence of the western culture. This period is when the oil is nationalized and the city becomes part of the country as an urban area and not a place belonging to the oil company. During the last years the problem of pollution becomes urgent in the urban sphere.

Mrs. Shahani explained that for many activities Masjed Soleiman is considered the first, like the distribution of drinking water, the first club, the first railway....

She talked about the social and economic effects of the oil production in the city that has caused a large and variegated number of problems for the inhabitants, that still affect the life of the people.

The second speaker was Mrs. S. Hanachi who presented the position of the city, the characteristics and the probable solutions. In conclusion she expressed the idea that the discovery of the oil caused the growth of the city and when the production declined the life conditions were gradually affected negatively.