

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

Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers

Date: 31.08.2017

Title: The mausoleum of Avicenna-Hamedan.

Speakers and panel members: Mr. P. Talaie, Mr. M. M. Mahmoudi and Mr. A. Sirous.

Mr. P. Talaie was the first speaker of the 86th session, who invited the participants to visit and know Iran, as an important duty especially for the students.

Mr. Talaie talked about the ceremony dedicated to the 60th anniversary of Avicenna's mausoleum, held in 2015. He explained that the monument was built in the historical city of Hamedan, very well known by the senior generation but less known by the young generation. He expressed satisfaction for the construction of monuments dedicated to Iranian celebrities like Sa'di, Hafez, Ferdowsi...

Mr. Talaie talked about the biography and scientific heritage of Avicenna, where the monument was built and which were its characteristics. He talked also the architect that designed the mausoleum, that was H. Seyhoon. He explained how the young architect designed a monument that during the years became one of Hamedan outstanding monuments, visited by most of the tourists that visited the city. He expressed the hope that as prizes are dedicated to medical and literature celebrities, similar actions will be taken for the architecture field.

Mr. Talaie talked about the process that the young architect Seyhoon completed in order to design the mausoleum and that he was inspired by older monuments, how the monument was introduced in the urban area and how the people accepted and appreciated the existence of such a monument in their city.

Mr. Talaie explained how the ideas used in this monument were used in other future projects by Seyhoon and how his students were inspired by design and spiritual guidelines of their teacher.

The second speaker was Mr. M. M. Mahmoudi who talked about the week dedicated to Avicenna, medicine and somehow to Seyhoon. He posed a question about an outstanding element that rises memories and how it is expressed in a city like Hamedan, having a huge natural and historical heritage. The mausoleum of Avicenna has all the characteristics to be an outstanding element for the city of Hamedan. He asked himself and to the presents how it would be possible to maintain an element as outstanding in the time, accepted not only by architects but also by common people, containing an architectural style, and also religious, political and cultural content and messages. In order to be so, the monument must have an identity, be visible, have a separated space and coordination with the cultural-social spirit of the place where it is located.

Mr. Mahmoudi talked about European cases like the Tour Eiffel in Paris, that after 140 years of its constructions, the conditions have been maintained to ensure its position as an outstanding

element. Showing different pictures regarding different monuments, Mr. Mahmoudi showed how an element like water fields were maintained during the changes and passing of the years.

Talking about outstanding elements he expressed the idea that talking about France most of the people remember the Tour Eiffel, talking about the U. S. A. the statue of Liberty is remembered, for Australia the Opera Hall, for India the Taj Mahal, for China the Great Wall, for Brazil and Japan the outstanding elements are the flags of the two countries with their particular colors, for England the Big Ben Tower. Mr. Mahmoudi mentioned how all of the countries that he talked about have many other outstanding elements that present them, but in each of them there is a monument that stands higher than others.

Continuing his speech Mr. Mahmoudi posed a question regarding the outstanding element of Iran. In his opinion for a nature lover the Damavand mountain can be such an element, for somebody else that is a lover of Iranian history and civilization it could be the Persepolis complex.

Mr. Mahmoudi believes that remembering elements can have positive or negative aspects, depending also on the age of the people that consider them. He said that if we go to Isfahan, the principal square of Naqshe Jahan is the focal element and all the others are somehow submitted to the square. He also talked about the city of Yazd and the Dowlatabad garden, Shiraz with its historical gate and Persepolis, Mashad with its religious role and monuments.

Ending his speech Mr. Mahmoudi focused on the city of Hamedan and the Mausoleum of Avicenna and the role that this monument plays as an urban and national attraction, being more visible and memorable for the people that live in or visit the city. Showing beautiful picture of the mausoleum Mr. Mahmoudi gave a short historical explanation of the monument.

The third speaker was Mr. S. Siroos who began his speech saying that first of all he had to focus on three arguments that were the initial points for the construction of the mausoleum of Avicenna, the first was the feeling and logic of Avicenna, the second was the culture and the identity of the Iranian architecture , formed during thousand years of history and the third was the existence of the architect and designer, that in a clever and creative way, putting together different physical and spiritual components created the monument dedicated to Avicenna.

After talking about the life and the biography of Avicenna, Mr. Siroos talks about the interview that he had with Mr. Seyhoon, about 45 years ago. He reported what said Seyhoon, saying that studying the Iranian history and architecture we realize that they are closely related. Seyhoon believed that the Iranian architecture is the sequence of different historical eras. In Seyhoon opinion the Islamic architecture is the continuation of Sassanid era, so the Islamic architecture is the completion of the Sassanid architecture. Mr. Siroos explained that the mausoleum of Avicenna was the result of studies and researches that seyhoon realized in different cities of Iran, creating a work in harmony with the elements that he used.

Mr. Siroos presented a historical passage about what happened before the construction of the monument. He remembered the engineers that cooperated with Seyhoon for the realization of the mausoleum. He explained that initially the mausoleum must have bigger dimensions, but because of different limitations Seyhoon had to reduce the dimensions of the monument. Mr. Siroos explained how Seyhoon succeeded to present the spirit and personality of Avicenna as a man of science through the use of architectural and geometrical forms, that still today are readable for the visitor that enjoy a successful architectural-cultural construction.