

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

**Held in: Conference hall of Herampey Consulting Engineers**

**Date: 12.06.2015**

**Title: Tokyo from another point of view. Analysis of effective factors on the formation of Tokyo as a megalopolis**

**Speakers and panel members: Mr. M. M. Mahmoudi, Mr. M. Massoumi, Mr. D. Diba and Mr. A. Yari**

Mr. M. M. Mahmoudi began the speech talking about the similarities and differences that exist between Japan and Iran, like the territory that is five times smaller than Iran, but has a population nearly double of the Iranian population. In Japan exist more rivers that of course have a positive effect on the climatic conditions. Because of the limited area the Japanese have to build vertically in spaces that contain low stories buildings. Talking about the traditions of the two countries Mr. Mahmoudi talked about the mourning and popular feasts. In the Iranian traditional architecture bricks and sun-dried bricks are mostly used, meanwhile in the Japanese traditional architecture the dominant materials are the wood, the stone and the paper. The modern architecture in Iran is characterized by an unusual mixture of traditional and modern styles, but the Japanese architecture has a more coordinated nature, using mostly the concrete for the construction of the buildings.

Talking about the traditional handicrafts Mr. Mahmoudi explained that Japanese use the fabric and paper as material but in Iran they use the wood, the copper ... Mr. Mahmoudi talked about the painting, miniature and art of writing in the two countries and expressed the idea the political and geographical conditions and distances impose differences in the development of the mentioned fields.

Ending his speech Mr. Mahmoudi talked about the Iranian Damavand and the Japanese Fujiyama Mountains that are very similar, even though the Japanese mountain is just 3700 meters high in front of the Iranian mountain is nearly 5600 meters high and the Japanese mountain is more famous and better known. In Iran the cypress continues to be a symbol, but for the Japanese the symbol is the tree of cherry.

The second speaker was Mr. M. Massoumi who began his speech telling that he will present the process of the formation of Tokyo even though he doesn't want to judge the process. He said that in the formation of the cities climatic, social, political, cultural, and technological... factors are effective. From the mentioned factors the climatic factor had the most important effect on the formation of Tokyo, because of the adjacency to the sea, the earthquake danger, the population density, the transportation technologies, the rail way. Mr. Massoumi reported that Tokyo is divided in 22 districts, every one of them is administrated by a major under a unified general administration.

Mr. Massoumi explained that somehow Tokyo has similarities with Tehran because of the continuous need of the people for living in the city. After the reports the people working in Tokyo are about 30 millions, meanwhile the inhabitants are about eight millions. Another case are the borders of the two

cities, in Tehran the presence of the mountain chain challenge the development of the city and in Tokyo the presence of the sea imposes to find new solutions, ideas and strategies.

Mr. Massoumi about the cities' development system, where the presence of the rail way has an important role to define the development directions. In Tokyo the presence of the rail way is an important element to better understand the city. The continuous earthquakes and the following devastations and reconstructions that are part of the local tradition and spirit, have caused a repetitive process in the city's life; this is the reason that UNESCO has accepted to include the Japanese monuments in the world's heritage list, even though they are relatively new monuments, because they maintained the traditional forms and the historical forms.

Mr. Massoumi explained that because of continuous earthquakes, until the 1964 there was no building in Japan higher than 30 meters. After this year thanks to the technologic progress and improvement and the population growth, the Japanese began to build high rise buildings. In 1997 one of the interesting projects is the "Obonghi Hills".

Concluding his speech Mr. Massoumi explained that the government throw a clear policy encourage the people to enlarge the dimension of the building areas, to ease the administration of the structures. He also talked about the success of the "metabolic" school in the field of the construction. In Japan the habitable and trade areas are separated, and the small free spaces between the houses are used to create green spaces.

The third speaker was Mr. D. Diba who spoke about the lost spirit and sensations in architecture, and how it will be possible to find the desired values that will permit the creation of valuable works. Talking about the Japanese architecture he stressed on the flexibility and harmony that it has with the surrounding nature. The Japanese always consider the link that the architecture must have with the nature that make it unique and full of spiritual values. Mr. Diba added that the Japanese respecting the traditions make excellent use of the new technologies, so we can assist to an architecture that has both traditional and modern characteristics. Mr. Diba believes that the Japanese consider the smallest details that testify the existence of a big and rich mentality in the process of design.

Mentioning the other famous architects that have been inspired by the Japanese architecture, he gave the name of L. Khan, Le Corbusier, and F. L. Wright. They combined successfully the traditional and the modern elements, achieving extraordinary results.

The last speaker was A. Yari who talked about the reasons that made famous the Japanese architecture in the world. He believes that the Japanese architecture is inspired the metabolic design, that probably is the first modern movement out of the western sphere, a creative design that shows the peculiarities of the Japanese architecture, involving the public's participation that very well comprehends the national heritage coming from the ancient times. These are elements that caused the fast growth of the Japanese architecture. Concluding his speech Mr. Yari presented some Japanese examples, telling the Japanese architects combine the materials with technological solutions, that can interpreted as a combination of traditional and modern values and principles.