

## ARTICLE

# PRESENTATION OF POSTMODERN THEORIES AND PATTERNS IN CREATING THE REGIONAL IDENTITY AND CREATING RESIDENTIAL AREAS IN IRAN

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## ABSTRACT

In order for the city to be able to determine itself in the area and to find the ability of readability, it must merge the semiotic systems with the other systems of architecture and urban planning. Our current cities, despite the old identities of many of them which exist in their area and architecture, go toward a kind of formlessness for years and their outer expression face has been appeared in an identity-free but profitable architecture and urban planning. In this article, we try to investigate the postmodern theories in creating area in the architecture of Iran. Firstly we briefly express the postmodern theories and the way of their entrance to architecture, then according to the importance of using these theories in the process of designing and creating area, we briefly define each of the theories. We also know that architects use these theories in creating area consciously or unconsciously. According to the fact that the discussion of area is always one of the most important discussions in the field of architecture and based on the necessity of the entrance of its concepts from the domain of theory to action, it is one of the challenges facing the contemporary architecture. With conducting studies and adapting it with the current situations of the society of Iran, the way of representation of postmodern identities and its theories in the residential areas of the city is studied. Also we also study the investigation of the mutual effects between human and environment and how they appear in residential areas and lead to the formation of identities. The aim of this article is the fact that what effects the postmodern theories have on creating the architectural area in Iran and what their role is in the introduction and recognition of architectural area and identity.

## INTRODUCTION

The concept of area is one of the fundamental concepts in architecture. Architects have presented various perceptions about this concept from a long time ago. In some of these definitions, the human role in understanding the surrounding area is mentioned since there are some relationships between each two living creature and its surrounding environment whose adventitious aspect is considered more than its instinctive aspect. In this definition, human must learn the concept of things in relation to his environment. Through time and with the increase of experiences by the formation of a huge network of information in mind, we will be capable of recognizing many things and this recognition gives us the power to control our environment, even without the fact that in every moment everything faces our understanding directly. Thus it becomes clear that the role of environment in understanding architecture and its related areas is inevitable [1]. What here is more acceptable is the definition of area which contains both elements of human and his surrounding area. It means the definition which considers the area as a result of interaction between human and his surrounding environment. According to this definition, the discussion of understanding of human of area finds great importance which this issue in the contemporary ages has led the scientists to think about presenting patterns to promote the quality of design of architecture area. Today we can witness some differences between the theoretical basics in the work of the architects, in a way that each follows special fundamental principles and these theoretical basics are effective in the process of their work of design and elements which they use in creating architectural area. Humans create a continuous and mutual relationship with the area by living in it: He feeds from it and feeds it. He receives changes from it and changes it. He moves in that area and creates meaning in that area with his movement. He transforms the parts of area to meaningful signs for himself and or adds some signs to the area from the outside [2]. As a result, the local identity is a part of infrastructures of individual identity of human and the result of his general recognitions about the physical world in which humans live. And in this way they emphasize the importance of balanced relationship between the local identity of the individual and the features of external environment [3]. For this aim, it seems that the postmodern thoughts in the domain of identity study the urban life in particular. This is through architecture that we could organize the area consciously in this urban life and to form the concept of living in houses which expresses the creation of a meaningful connection between human and a supposed environment and to organize the area in some way that the wants of the individual and group is kept safe in the domain of private and public privacy for the appropriate living of human and society in this way through many years with the continuous presence in the land of Iran. The aim is to enter these theoretical basics which are presented in the frame of postmodern theories and are often presented in the theoretical domain to the operational and functional area of architecture.

### KEY WORDS

Postmodernism, Urban Architecture, House, Iran, the Identity of Creating Architectural Area

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## The Hypothesis of the Research

Different styles of architecture are effective in creation and building of residential and urban areas.

## Methodology of Research

In this article, the methodology of research is based on library studies which are collected based on collection of documents form websites, articles and books.

## Theoretical Basics

### Architectural Area

The architectural area is defined based on Euclidean geometry, based on which architectural area is a qualitative area meaning that it pays attention to the special relation between them. This space is real and surrounds human and has a practical aspect, the area based on this includes the area itself and its siege. This area means the limited area between elements and the area of environment on them. The elements of area include place, path and axis and section. In the concept of area, there is also the subject of organizing the area and its meaning is the way of orientation of human against his surroundings. In the concept of area based on the area of the existence, structure has a place in creating the form as one of the effective parts [4].

### The definition of identity in architecture

The skill and art of architecture is one of the most important signs of culture of each nation and each historical period and is representative of biological area in any time. Architecture is always the subordinate of known principles and has a firm link with culture and values of the society. And for the same reason the architectural style of each period is considered as a reflection of the culture and art of that period. Thus can we search the architectural identity in the cultures and traditions of society which is formed in each historical period? The new style of architecture is sound on the past methods and principles and for the same reason there is a strong relation between various styles of architecture in the past among which ridging seems to be impossible. This closeness of methods and principles among the different styles comes from the culture and traditions of the people of society which with little change in the new ways of people's life, has led them to get familiar with the roots and culture of time and place of their society. And that all the styles of architecture which has caused the growth and development and evolution of architecture, because they changed the previous style or evolved it, they ruined the traditional culture and architectural identity of their time and generally people weren't responsible for spending their lives and efforts and start a innovation and they had to go after the past tendencies and traditions. This perspective is a biased perspective, even though with a little thought, we can challenge their tradition with the development of that same tradition, because it is possible that whatever is modern today will be tradition tomorrow. Thus we can say that if the architectural identity is defined in culture and tradition, the architecture which is based on tradition and culture and need of today but not the past is the architecture with identity and this identity will always be accompanied with us [5].

Today there are two perspectives about the identity in architecture:

- 1- The Traditional Identity: which some people believe that the factors like level, race, and religion and gender play part in creating a determined and coherent identity.
- 2- The Structural Identity: which focuses on the structure of identity and aims to form each identity in a determined and clear way and for studying it we must consider both psychological and sociological factors.

This point is important since today's identities are multi-sliced and multi-faceted, none of these theories can contain all the human experience about their and other's identity and it finally includes only some of the aspects [6].

## The postmodern theories and patterns in architecture

### Phenomenology

It's a philosophical theory whose reliance is on the method of research and study. This theory has a postmodern approach to site, place, view and building. "Phenomenology" in architecture has a deep attention to the way of constructing things and details related to it like the sensory qualities of materials, light, color, etc. Its effect on architecture is determined in the study of generating roots of architecture with the phenomenological perspective in a way that the thoughts that study the things themselves are replaced by formalism in architecture [7].

### Deconstruction

Deconstruction is a philosophical and linguistic action, which pays attention to foundations of thought in deconstructing and foundations of majors like architecture. Deconstruction shows that all issues are in fact structured issues. The context of architecture must be potentially unlimited, not in the way that is included in the traditional systems and species, but in the way that they will intersect and conflict with systematized limits [7].

### Structuralism

Structuralism is kind of study method in linguistics which generally believes that the essence and true gem of things is not in themselves, but is in the relation which we create among them and then we receive it. The structuralists emphasize the contracts and processes that lead to intelligibility of a work with codes, meaning the way of creation of an obtainable definition. Structuralists use linguistics like a method and try to create language grammars, meaning a list of systematic elements and the possibility of their composition and mixture which shapes the form and meaning of the architectural forms [7].

### The investigation of patterns of creation of architectural areas with reliance on postmodern theories

The constituent elements of area, are the same thing which creates the areas between their levels [8]. The constituent elements of area are considered in the form of two categories: structural elements and peripheral elements. Structural elements include: the horizontal elements (ceiling and floor), vertical (wall and column), communicational (stairs, ramp, hallway), openings (doors, window) and furniture (fixed and mobile) and the peripheral elements include: light, Fragrance, temperature, humidity, sound and all the cases which influences the way of human understanding from area. According to the art-patronizing essence of architecture and the fact that in art there is no way to finality and there is always some amount of relativity, we should consider that in this part it is possible that the projects contain the features of several parts at the same time.

### The pattern of creation of architectural area by the phenomenological theory and pattern

According to this theory, the architects create the building in the simplest form in a pure and distinct way. In addition to form, materials and colors are also selected very simple [9]. For example, using natural light with many openings toward free areas of huge stairs is for decreasing the closed area and adding to the half-open area in the creation of these buildings like Wright's works who has used huge glass stairs and areas for natural light and nature in the Falling water house.

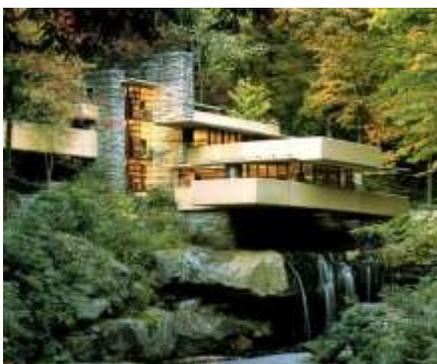


Fig. 1: Falling water house

Creation of area pattern and the theory of deconstruction

In new experiences, new geometrical definitions provide the possibility of creating areas with special features in which the line between the inside and outside is disappeared by the geometrical relations. This border-less situation in area which is somehow the carrier of the concept of spatial continuity can be used in architectural works like Zaha Hadid. Hadid observed that she can use the folding of areas and link them together [10].



Fig. 2: Border-less buildings

Creation of area in pattern and the structuralism theory

The architects who create their works in this domain often determine a distinct structure and base the basics of their design on that structure. For example Norman Foster and Richard Rogers always apply using technology and stable energies on their work. Calatrava always uses the structure of existing patterns in nature in the creation of his works. He believes that in nature there are thousands of inspiring and stable structures. He extracts many metaphors from the nature by observing the skeleton of plants and animals, including the optimized usage of materials and capabilities of the living creatures for transformation, growth and movement. He also uses order, rhythm and other natural patterns in addition to above cases [11].



Fig. 3: Buildings like skeleton of plants and animals



Fig. 4: Modern architecture

### The effect of postmodernism on the identity of architectural area

What is called the procedure of transformation to postmodern shapes and its effect on identity is fundamentally divided into three procedures:

1. Pre-modern Identity
2. Modern Identity
3. Postmodern Identity

In pre-modern societies, the identity has a social essence, but doubt or conflict doesn't influence it. The individual identity is stable, because the archaic myths and pre-determined systems of roles define and protect it. You are a part of archaic relative system. Your thought and behavior is confined in a limited worldview and your life path is somehow determined for you. Therefore you don't need to question your position in the world. Identity is not the issue [12]. According to this, in the pre-modern world, each individual is the heir of his ancestral identity and the identity is considered as an inheritable issue. The thought of human is located in a determined frame and the way and style of his life is pre-determined. The relationships among people are limited to cross-tribal relations and everyone plays a distinct role in society and human has an individual and distinct identity.

In the modern period which starts with the age of illustration, identity faces crisis for the first time. The individual identity still remains based on the relationships of the person with others like the pre-modern cultures.

This identity keeps its own stability to some extent, but its branches and effects starts to duplicate. In the pre-modern societies, you exactly knew where you are in the tribe, but in modern societies, a more vast collection of social roles is given to you. Instead of being born with your identity, you can eventually choose. In modernity this belief exists that putting the limitations of tradition aside accelerates the movement toward human freedom, but valuing the present and future and falsifying a past which is considered as the basics and activities of the individual, forces people to question the nature of their identity. To summarize the identity becomes an issue [12].

Social life compared to modern period is becoming faster and more complex and its requirements are becoming more and more. More possible identities are being displayed in front of our eyes and we must accept many roles which are developing very fast as the society is eventually tearing apart. Therefore in this approach, the emphasis is changed from the public social factor to the local and private citations of determined and tangible people. Therefore we have two spectrums: the spectrum which modernists make who believe in the public state of human idea and believe that writing a unitary prescription across the earth is important and appropriate and the spectrum which postmodernists make and only emphasize the divisive and controversial forces which are hidden in every apparently monolithic identity, which in this way the establishment of collective identity is destructed.

## Postmodernism and theories in architecture and urban planning

We can call the postmodernism a stream which is in fact a result of modernism and is an effort for finding answers for solving the modern conflicts and exiting the deadlock of Modernism. Even though today the post of modernism is accepted everywhere, there has not been an exact definition yet given of it. Therefore, most of the scientists call it a situation or a position. Postmodernism is fundamentally an eclectic mixture of any kind of tradition with the past traditions. It is both the resumption and continuation of Modernism and its excellence and integration. The primary feature of postmodernist works can be searched in multiple, ambiguous, ironic and satirical codes and passwords, various and widespread selections, contrast and lack of continuation or separation in traditions [13]. The primary motivation of the generation of postmodernism was the social failure of modern architecture and urban planning and the criticism of the perspective that modernism had conducted of itself. The modern town failed, because it was incapable of creating a relationship with the residents and the consumers, thus, postmodernism acts as a tool for creating a relationship between the town residents and its different parts in different levels.

Architects and urban planners which are called postmodernist do not believe in the universal definition, nor do they throw themselves in the trap of meaninglessness. Thus, we cannot call them postmodernist. This category of architects never erases the background and therefore, they speak of showing the architecture which is congruent on the opposite facts and they believe that we can make them more upright and more appropriate with minor changes. These have no common aspect with the thoughts based on meaninglessness and denial of postmodernists' truth and we must call them "The Transition from Modern". However, "deconstruction, phenomenology and structuralism are theories and patterns which are totally appeared in the architecture and urban planning that postmodernists have designed and we can regard these theories as exactly congruent on the achievements and thoughts of "postmodernism", which each of these patterns can transform the structural and contextual and conceptual aspect of area.

## Town, architecture and the quality of creating architectural area in the postmodern period

The postmodern period has been the period of fundamental changes in all the arena of human life including in the field of architecture: "In fact, we live in a period which its parts and elements take the distance from the humane center and any kind of rational and dependent destination toward humanity with much acceleration" and humans feel that they live in a purposeless, meaningless and without future society and in a city which the understanding and controlling its dominant rules is out of their responsibility. In fact, with the start of the postmodern period, a new season of self-alienation and irrationality and frustration has been occurred and people's feelings, tendencies and thought have been fundamentally changed. The architects and urban planners have entered a very ambiguous and unfamiliar domain in which nothing much can be seen. The postmodern architects and urban planners seek a multiple approach and regarding the results which are gained in other systems and for the postmodern architect anything can serve the idea of design. The postmodern architecture and urban planner is a mixture of different cultures and traditions. The primary feature of the postmodern residential area can be searched through the multiple, ambiguous, ironic and sarcastic codes and passwords, various, widespread and opposite selections, and in the lack of continuation, separation and lack of congruence or in simplicity and or complexity and border-less state. The common aspects of architects are their common style against modern and versatile and multi-meaning logic and rationality of town and residential areas. From the perspective of postmodernists, the residential areas in cities are like intertwined contexts of events inside it which appear and in them, different spatial areas, usages and activities are mixed together and as the result, the context and shape of the area is determined. In fact, the architecture of postmodern city is shaped by language games which are constantly developing. Each game has its own special rules, myths and special claims which all are counted as the representatives of the essence, character and the nature of postmodern urban life. And thus the postmodern architecture becomes the place for changes, and ability of mobility and movement of things and areas; a place of interference of humans, cultures and nature, without any one of them having excellence over the others. In this case, the responsibility of postmodern architects is to simplify the stream of activities, not to discipline and consolidate them [14].

The postmodern period is the age of invalidity and break of huge facts of metaphysics. This broke-inside existence with the use of Derida's metaphor has itself changed to the endless process of various interpretations and paraphrases. In the postmodern perspective, everyone is qualified to contemplate the different aspects of existence based on his mental values. "Distribution and extension of multiple identities have led to the fact that no culture and metanarrative would not be capable of responding the new issues facing humans". This is why postmodern urban planning seeks a multiple approach and

considers the achievements which are resulted in other noetic systems and for the postmodern urban planner anything can bring about the design idea. This strategy demands an area which is independent from “strict logic-orientation” and “style-orientation and emulation of pre-made symbols” of the recent modernists [15].

### Appearance of postmodern perspectives, creation and regional identity of residential areas in Iran

Human will find himself when he has settled and as a result has proved his own existence in the world. The essence of this verbal debate is between the departure and return of an existence which is framed into the work by architecture [16]. Therefore we study the house which is considered as the mental symbol and also the objective manifestation of the private territory and investigate the inside and outside role of the house and the inside mobility of the private area. The inside of the house is regarded as a spatial-social arena in which the change of private mutual relationships and the somatogenic features of the house during different periods refers to the complexity of the subject of private privacy, as reflected in the change of family images and interior area [17]. The process of house changes in the time and place period is a subject which must be considered. The study of kinds of houses in different times and places emphasizes the fact that spatial concepts and visions located on Iranian houses is not exclusively belong to our country and they have been designed and experienced in many regions of the world from the past to today.

In the late Gothic period with the formation of individualistic thought and the manifestation of the inner world of the individual, the house became the spatial manifestation of individualistic thought and the architects were asked to do the views and living rooms more and finally the spatial concepts of the houses take a distance from the shapes which were prevalent previously and many various perspectives were found [18]. Rybczynski in his book named “House”, refers to the effect of dominance of rationalism over society and the appearance of technological developments on the house and he represents this effect in the frame of change of the concept of convenience and comfort and its evidences, a concept whose new evidences have played a major role in the spatial structure of the houses and have replaced the ritual-cultural various concepts, which previously influenced the way of construction of the houses. He introduces the obvious representation of this concept in paying attention to the concept of performance in the house. Furthermore, Rybczynski has referred to the change of pattern of family from big families to small families and following that, the change of houses from some big and crowded houses to small houses which provide comfort for the individual and that family [19].

Also this change of perspectives and views which has been influential on the architects, have also been influenced by culture and identity other than different styles and theories, as the modern and after-postmodern theories and patterns had influences on life and creation of biological areas, like using simple forms and or layered and complex shapes and also the merge of architecture of areas with nature and using codes and passwords in architecture which was the indexes of postmodern architecture and all of this have had an influence on the architecture of residential areas. In a way that with the update of architecture in Iran and usage of different styles of architecture for example postmodern, the making and creating residential areas has also changed and transformed in a way that in the past houses were built in the form of giant and luxurious buildings, but today and with the development of technology and the growth of science and increase of population, this type of lifestyle has decreased and the house is built in a simple way which this can be because of following the postmodern style and or in spite of simplicity and usage of simple forms of geometry, special and delicate complexities were being used in the designs so that residential areas could be easily created. Using stable energy was one of these cases which postmodern architects used. In spite of all these cases, identity has also had influence on creating residential areas in a way that the state of becoming without identity in Iran has occurred due to two essential reasons. The first one is due to the economic general crisis which has led to the irregular increase of urban population in the years of 1956 till today and has transferred Iran to a totally urban country with people who are mostly consumers. And naturally this event couldn't occur in the spatial domain and in a very short time without constructions which are without identity and just for affording house in the shortest time and lowest prices possible. This issue has caused people to live in similar and spiritless and meaningless areas in their daily life. The other reason which has caused this lack of identity is the increase of existing shapes in lifestyle which has occurred due to media and information revolution. Today people believe that they have the right and possibility to live in any shape or style that they want and transfer this to the surface of town and its areas [20]. In Iran, the contemporary houses from the 40s and after have faced the decrease of the role of area. The process of area removal and lack of attention to the creative organizing of area in contemporary residential apartments have been faster and have influenced the concept and evidence of house and settlement. Replacement instead of repairmen: what happened in our towns was the lack

of timely interference in historical contexts, not balancing these contexts against automobile and not repairing them. The result was that against the selection of automobile or historical context, the automobile was selected and against the generation of new urban aspects, the historical context got injured and this is one of the most important phenomena of change in way of life which replacement sat in the place of repairmen [18].

The dominance of things over the spatial structure of house and the role of area fading: our architects, who had generally achieved their architecture knowledge from abroad, represented newer spatial patterns which were highly welcomed because they were facilitated by piped water, electricity, telephone, etc. the dominance of things over architectural and residential areas in Iran has been due to new architecture majors and styles which has found prevalence in our country. For example, using the interior design major in which the usage of their things and furniture in the residential area is more important than the area itself for the residents and using postmodern style in the background. Using simple areas in this architecture is observed more in the residential areas in Iran and the main emphasis is on the interior design. The convenience of small houses against the hardships of old houses, the proximity of bathroom and WC and toilet to rooms, generation of things replacing areas like refrigerator and freezer, etc. in a very short time changed the transition of house and settlement to other alternatives [18]. What has happened in the last four decades in Iran is the inclusion of life concept in performance and decrease of the concept of performance to one of the biological needs like sleep and food. In this way, it is the role of things that has found importance. The importance of things and their decoration in the spatial organization of contemporary houses is fundamental. So fundamental that area finds identity with their movement and the true manifestation of performances depends on the existence and decoration of house things. In such a situation, the determination of the role of areas is put upon things [18].

## CONCLUSION

Generally, appropriate and correct deployment of the constituent elements of architectural area is technical which should be learned step by step. The creation of an appropriate architectural area is the result of such an ordered and exact thought and intellection and follows distinct principles and skills. The purpose of learning different patterns of creation of area is making a primary system for learning, configuration and the spatial messages. Knowing all these factors besides the recognition of the mechanism of discovering area helps the better understanding of spatial messages of architecture. According to the conducted investigations, we can say that today, some patterns are being used by the architects for the creation of area which most of them are orderly and none of them is gained accidentally, therefore the more these patterns and theories can be clarified, and challenged more exactly, the more the possibility of designing appropriate areas will be, because the recognition of influential criteria before creating it is one of the most important factors in a creative design. According to the conducted investigations about the way of deployment of somatogenic and environmental elements in each of the stated theories, what is observed more than comparative study among them is the fact that among them, the phenomenological theory has a totally different approach compared to other theories, because in this theory, more than any other, the emphasis is on the usage of philosophical concepts and the purity of environmental elements in creation of area to the point that these elements serve the somatogenic elements. In the modern and contemporary period, macro policies and plantings of government and municipalities about the architecture, house building and mass production, have had and have an influential role in the way of culture of contemporary house. In a way that using new and up-to-date architectural styles in designing residential areas is very eye-catching, including the postmodern style and its theories which for example, we can name phenomenology in which the attention of the builders is drawn more to simple forms in designing using simplicity and purity in design and people and residents use interior designs for the buildings' attraction of attention. Also in the situations of the pre-modern society, the governments have no role in the house building and house more than anything is considered a private case and issue. Today, house is a part of urban area and should be in concordance with local, regional and urban structures and also the macro national policies. In these situations, people are can only choose their own favor and style about the "insides of the house". Other theories are presented, like structuralism in the way of using dominant roles on the language structure, in post-structuralism in the way of breaking the prevalent conventions and creation of new way of relation between language structures and finally deconstruction in the way of ignoring all the existing presumptions, which in the building and creation of residential areas, each of these theories can be interfered into the design. As a result, what is referred to as the patterns of creation of area today, is mostly concluded form the stated theories. OF course this point must also be considered that in addition to these theories and patterns in the building and usage of these cases in the Iranian settlement, house is also a matter of culture. In other words, house is a kind of "biological

need” which “the house culture” is shaped for satisfying this need and is merged and matched in the generality of social system and human culture. The fact that which symbols and signs we should use in the house is responded by the “house culture in any society. The culture of house is a subset of the generality of culture of society. This is why any society has its own special culture, a culture appropriate to history and geography and experiences of a nation and people and with the changes of culture and social conditions, the culture of house is also changed. And thus the different periods create different cultures of the house and will continue to create them. Thus we can say that culture and identity have an outstanding importance in creating residential areas in Iran in addition to postmodern theories and in creation of such areas, both theories are used beside each other. The result of using these theories is that it can change the style of the house and even the relations inside the house and this is a point to which people pay less attention.

#### CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There is no conflict of interest

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None

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None

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