

Analytical Statement of Specified Issue on Urban Facade

Strategies for management of urban facades

Seyed Amir Mansouri, Ph.D in Urban studies with landscape proficiency, Assistant Professor in Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Tehran, Iran
seyedamir.mansouri@gmail.com

مطالعات فرهنگی
علوم انسانی

Many factors including the five urban facade contests held in consecutive years, numerous conferences held on the responsibilities of urban management in urban facades, various acts ratified by Iran's City Council regarding improvement of urban facade and a huge bulk of complaints about visual chaos and disharmony in the facade of many of Tehran's buildings led to "Architecture and Urbanization Department of Tehran Municipality" publish this special edition, which is a practical study of the current issues and requirements of urban management in this regard.

Findings of the Study

Eleven papers as well as answers provided by six individuals to the questions asked by the journal constituted this study with the following results:

1. Visual attractiveness of urban facades does not depend on fixed characteristics of a city; rather, harmony between city life and its views creates visual attractiveness and desirability. Therefore, variety is an indispensable element in urban landscape management.
2. Efficient landscape management is possible only in areas in which visual contrast between façade of these areas and the rest of the city is deemed significant.
3. Urban renovation is a great opportunity to improve the view and the quality of the city.
4. The decorative approach, with whatever purpose, overshadows social context in facade and consequently undermines the city's identity.
5. Towers are the main symbols of a city. Their location and architecture cannot be overemphasized.
6. Large expanses of the city with variety in their civil life cannot be designed homogeneously.
7. Conceptual unity should exist between urban facades and their social and functional life flow.
8. Art can be used to create aesthetic symbols throughout the city and this can improve visual attractiveness and readability.
9. The night view of the city requires special planning with urban management in the forefront—this matter falls within the general area of landscape management.
10. Use of dynamic and media facade in urban spaces of the city can help improve vivacity.
11. Urban management should benefit from natural environments as much as possible within the capacities of the city.
12. In urban façade management, proprietors' control of their property is valid so far as no harm comes to others. Assessment of harm is a legal matter and it is not possible to strip proprietors of their rights and authorities by prioritization of public interests.
13. In areas assessed by experts as significant for the overall view of the city, it is possible to set regulations to encourage proprietors to cooperate in urban management. Expert assessment is crucial in this matter.
14. Desirable city view merits cultural maturation and healthy social and economic life flow. Any immorality immediately affects the city's view.
15. Any decision-making about the city facade requires that both urban management and citizens be educated so as to give up personal tastes and avoid being affected by transient daily issues.

