

Spatial Configuration of the Architecture of Shiraz City (Iran) In Two Periods of Zandieh and Contemporary

^{1*}Pedram Hessari, ² Fatemeh Haghbini

^{1*}Assistant Professor, Department of Architectural Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Ayatollah Boroujerdi University, Boroujerd, Iran.

² Department of Architectural Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Ayatollah Boroujerdi University, Boroujerd, Iran.

ABSTRACT: By examining the modern cities of Iran with a historical background, it is evident how the changes in city structure over the past few decades have impacted the lives of individuals in society. Among these Iranian cities, the city of Shiraz is notable. The historical background of the city of Shiraz dates back to the sixth century BC. Over time, due to natural and governmental factors, the city's structural patterns have undergone significant changes, each unique in its time, with specific positive and negative spatial effects resulting from its type of spatial organization. This research aims to examine the transformations in spatial configuration within urban spaces over time and to identify patterns and qualitative and quantitative characteristics that affect these transformations, with a particular focus on the reorganization of the general disorganization in the structure of Shiraz City. The methodology of this research is based on documenting the evolutionary process, incorporating logical reasoning.

Additionally, relevant materials and maps have been obtained through observation, field surveys, and library studies, which the authors have redrawn for clarity. Subsequently, the maps were analyzed and evaluated using UCL Depth Map, a specialized software for spatial syntax, and the results are presented. The findings and analyses conducted in this research indicate that the historical transformations of spatial configuration have deteriorated the historical context of Shiraz due to its physical expansion, reducing the quality of its urban environment.

KEYWORDS: Space Configuration, Space Syntax, Shiraz City, Urban Space Structure, UCL Depth map Software.

Corresponding author's email: P.Hessari@abru.ac.ir, 0000-0002-1666-4245

INTRODUCTION

The city is a connected and interconnected collection of urban spaces (including streets and squares) that encompasses fundamental elements and main activities (Bazi & Dolati, 2013). Cities have always played a pivotal role in human development, and as humanity has progressed, various factors have contributed to the evolution and transformation of city configurations over time. Understanding and recognizing these changes in the spatial-physical structure of urban environments and guiding them toward coherence and spatial balance across various physical, social, and economic dimensions is essential (Movahed et al., 2019). One of these factors is urban population growth, which has led to unequal access to essential infrastructure and created disparate spaces within the urban fabric (Figueiredo et al., 2021). Furthermore, the dynamics of urbanization have evolved in response to changes in the social and economic organization of cities worldwide (Korkmaz & Balaban, 2020). Urbanization appears to be an unstoppable phenomenon, and according to the United Nations, it is projected to result in 68% of the global population living in urban areas by 2050 (Mirzakhani et al., 2021). All of these factors lead to profound spatial-physical transformations, known as urban upgrading and renewal, or, in other words, urban modernization, resulting in both positive and negative changes in the construction, configuration, and fabric of Iranian cities. It appears that these changes have significantly impacted residents' perceptions of the city and its urban landscape (Soltanifard & Ghassemi, 2018), with one of the most crucial changes being the misalignment of historical urban areas with contemporary urban development plans (Sadeghi et al., 2012). The configuration of the city, as the form that shapes the urban skeleton and structure, significantly influences the way urban spaces are interconnected and arranged. Consequently, some of its parameters have played a more prominent role in shaping the urban structure over time, while others have not (Ghorbani et al., 2023). The physical expansion of Shiraz has undermined its historical context and reduced its urban environmental quality (Hanachi & Fadaeinezhad, 2010). This research examines the spatial configuration of Shiraz across two historical periods—the Zand Dynasty and the contemporary period—using space syntax theory. The main objective is to analyze the changes in urban planning and their impact on spatial logic, especially within the city's