



## **Urban Physical and Social Transformation in Heritage Districts: Case Study of Iran**

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The heritage cores of Iranian cities encompass a large number of valuable buildings and fabrics. Revitalization of heritage buildings and districts in Isfahan and Shiraz cities are as the most successive experiences of urban transformation in Iran, which have influenced the quality of space and life for the people who lived in these districts.

The process of physical transformation in Iranian cities started from the beginning of the twentieth century (1925- 1941) by a vast program of road construction through the old fabric of old cities. There was an attempt to fundamentally alter the shape the country's social and spatial formation by an obligatory program combining "nationalism", "secularism" and "modernization".

During the second phase of transformation, between 1950 to 1960, the impact of modernization fuelled by economic factors. An immense growth of population and massive immigration contributed to the rapid and dramatic physical expansion of the cities. Urban sprawl intensified the problems of the heritage centre. The old cores became a small part of sprawling cities which dramatically transformed the social and spatial structures of the heritage environment

The third stage of transformation referred to the first two decades of the post revolutionary period (1979 - 1997). During the first decade after the revolution, the political and economic instability caused by the revolution and the war, which directly influenced the process of urban development in general and led to future decline of heritage centers, in particular.

During the second section reviewed a series of political, economic, administrative and physical reforms, which were accompanied by the evolution of conservation and regeneration policy and practices during the last decade. They produced a sense of connection and synergy between regeneration and conservation efforts. The projects for the revitalization of " Sang - e sia " is one of the heritage neighborhoods in the city centre of shiraz , is the prime example of this new trend which has been followed by other projects such as " joibare" in Isfahan.

This article briefly go on to argue the history of the urban transformation in national level, Iran, before Analyzing the outcomes of the physical and social transforming of the " sang - e sia " and " joibare "quarter which are located at the heart of heritage core of shiraz and Isfahan cities, respectively, they provided a heritage background of these areas, their social and spatial transformations and the problems generated by these transformations. At the same time, they briefly reviewed the strengths, opportunities and potentials of the areas. They were followed by a detailed investigation on the programs, the policies employed by the local urban authorities and outcomes of the projects on the social and spatial structure of the areas.

Finally, adopts an analysis using example to highlight experience, lessons, and map out the potential for further study.

**KEY WORDS:** Urban transformation, Shiraz; Isfahan, heritage districts, Iran.