



Urban Transformation in Isfahan City - Changing the Functional Role of Madies in City Context

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One of the unique features of urban fabric of Isfahan, which is known to be a part of cities identity, is water channels called "Madi ". "Madies" let Zayandehrood rivers water, flow over the whole Isfahan prairie, they are an essential part of a whole physical structure of city and by their ancient historical background and due to their functional role and their form, they have been considerable since.

Isfahan is as old as Persia. Social, economical and political occurrences during ages and in different eras had been important in development of the city. Through historical outcome, a large number of fabrics, Heritages, buildings and physical elements in different stages of time had been changed functionally and contextually. Following this transformation, some of their functions have not changed, and the rest have changed functionally but they are still in the fabric of the city, including "madies ". functional role of Madies , in past were used for agriculture and also for collecting surface waters of ancient Isfahan city , but nowadays their function have changed significantly and this natural- historical network mingled with Zayandehrood ,which used to be in suburb, is now situated in the city center. Therefore dedicating an appropriate function to it that is convenient for nowadays society and their requirement, sounds logical.

This paper except from reminding the value of such elements looks at two themes:

First, it investigates the change of functional role of Madies Following the transformation of Isfahan city in historic various eras.

Second, it studies the regeneration of Madies parallel to taking advantages of this historical-natural network, so that Madies passage as an organized variable pavement encourages city walks and decreases driving population from old fabric of Isfahan. In this research else than library studies and studying old maps, researches had been taken from local observations. The overall results of analysis and comparisons with current situation are presented in this article.

KEY WORDS: Urban transformation- Isfahan- function- Madie- city context.