

Categorization of Various Pedestrians Bam-e-Tehran's as a Natural-Social Walking Trail*

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Abstract | Pathways as one of the striking elements of landscape perceptions play an important role in promoting social and cultural activities in society. Such a role helps the audience perceives the landscape and then saves the collective and individual memories. This way is not merely a route from point 1 to point 2 to go, it goes beyond the elemental role of the origin-destination. Pedestrian pathways present important images of the landscape. The goal of way isn't only having beginning and destination, but also perception happens on the path and the destination is meant by that. The location and development of the city of Tehran in the range of Alborz Mountains, the historical, natural and topographical potential of this establishment have made these landscape edges play an important role in the interactions of the people with this landscape and formation of its identity. for Tehran. Bam-e-Tehran's pedestrian pathway in the northern part of Tehran's area 1 is one of the most important pedestrian pathway outside the city in the mountainous pure nature that focuses on perception of the nature and the city. This path is a combination of natural and interactive features which has created a communal space that has inherited some parts of its identity from the city and the other parts from nature. in fact it made a connection among the audience's perception, nature and the city. The leading research first reviews the types of pedestrian pathways, its characteristics and perceptions of the users, and then analyzes the landscape layers of Bam-e-Tehran's walking way as a natural-social roadway.

Keywords | pedestrian, perception, nature, Bam-e-Tehran pedestrian pathway.

Introduction | The path is not only a source-destination path, but also its various quantitative and qualitative dimensions are always important. The audience of this route who pass through it every day, are no longer involved with initial elementary questions. After the formation of the path, new roles are going to appear because of many factors such as regular usage of the audience, the acquisition of experiences and personal memories. (Mansouri, 2016b). In these roles, the path serves as a framework through its different roles. the path is like a scenario that gives a role and meaning to its characters. These roles allow the audience to have the opportunity to observe nature and to comment on it, and to strengthen

the role of his role as an agent. Roles which ultimately make him watch the chosen landscape. The roads in Iran are of great importance due to the circumstances, climatic diversity, topography, interactions and communications between its audiences. The paths within natural corridors have served as the first shelter to protect humans from various dangers and threats. In the meantime, the pedestrian movement was one of the oldest and the most preliminary way which moving people walked through it. The directional way that human perception is shaped by organizing of this powerful axis. In fact, the path is here in order to connect nature, the city and audience's perception together. The leading research examines the types of pedestrian pathways in three stages:

1. Theoretical studies: This article is going to explain the types of pavements and then it expresses the goals, characters, and

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features of each landscapes.

2- Field studies: at this part it focuses on a study of the path of the Bam-e-Tehran as a case study of the pedestrian pathways and will analyze the perception of the audience from this path in various zonation.

3. As a Result: finally it will show us conclusion of the pavements, the roles of each in the creation of the audience' perception and readings from spaces.

Hypothesis

Walking on the Bam-e- Tehran is a quality that in the first stage has been influenced by the naturalist trend, and the audience have reached to a holistic perception of the city in the second stage.

Footpath as a perception of the landscape

The way is the most preliminary and central position for audience to read and understand the city (Mansouri, 2016b). The landscape path is a perception which is recognized and interpreted by elements and symbols of the road from nature or city. One of the most important functions of way is using the movement experience in order to get simultaneously understanding of the city's body and its memory (Lynch, 2016). One of the goals of the pathways is improvement of the image of the citizens by drawing their attentions to social-historical places (Tibbalds, 2007). One of the most important tasks of the road is its perceptual role. Walking provides us an initial form of perception of nature. This has the closest proximity to the environment and it allows the process of cognizant, perception and recollecting to become more coherent for audiences (Madanipour, 2013). Therefore, the role of the pedestrian pathways gets so important by understanding and recognizing of the audience from landscape, memories and historical events (Fig. 1). The way makes the important images of the people from the landscape and it is the most fundamental space for people to precept, actually perception happens on the path and the destination is meant by that. In this section, we will examine the types of pedestrians. In general, the pedestrian pathways can be divided into 3 categories: Footpath inside the city, Footpath in the suburbs, Footpath outside the city.

Footpath in the city

Striking role of footpaths in promoting social life

The main purpose of walking is formation of community and social relations. According to this definition, urban landscape is conceptualized as our perception from the city by its symbols (Mansouri, 2010). Our understanding of the city depends on the many components that understanding of the streets and pedestrian way make up an important contribution of our perceptions. In fact, our understanding of the city is based on the pedestrian path and life. This pedestrian movement can improve the perception, identity and sense of

belonging to the city.

Urban life has always been defined by constructive interactions among people throughout history, and citizen relationships together have promoted social life in the city. The life by walking provides the right place to create these interactions. Meanwhile, the pedestrian pathways role plays an essential role in creating its own social interactions. Madanipour says, one of the characteristics of a good place is walking and stopping. A good city is a city that has a decent, cozy atmosphere and it is far from congested places for a walk (Madanipour, 2012). Establishing social interactions is one of the most important indicators of communal spaces, which is possible through these sidewalks. The construction of pedestrians can be effective in creation and promoting the city's civilian life. According to Alexander, the streets of the city are a social place to encounter, the streets improve interactions between different groups, which it brings us social order (Alexander, 2002). Since the street is the main place of social life in the city, historical memory creates independent identities in the pedestrian pathway. Therefore, social goals are one of the most important reasons for the formation of streets and roads.

Economic characteristic of Pedestrian pathways

Today, urban walking spots are one of the most important ur-

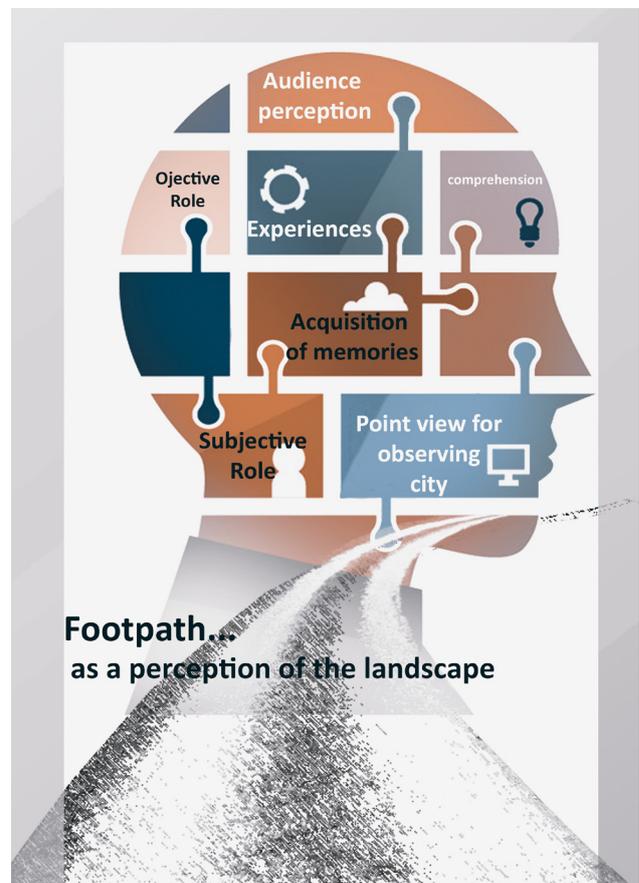


Fig. 1: Footpath as a way in order to percept landscape. Source: Author, 2018.

ban spaces and public areas in the city. Jacobs sees footpaths as the main public space of the city as well as the most vital element (Jacobs, 2005). One of the goals of the pedestrian as a mobile phenomenon is to have an effect on its environment in both social and physical way. This stimulus is an element that is formed by the city and then in turn, it forms the environment, where its purpose is a gradual and continuous reconstruction of urban textures. The important thing is that the stimulus is not the ultimate product; it is the element that will bring further developments (Lang, 2007).

One of these developments is the enlargement of commercially all-purpose spaces in the city, and pedestrians can provide a good platform for improvement, the attraction of audiences and economic prosperity for the city. Sellers, shops, cafes, restaurants and shops are an important part of the commercial edge of this type of pedestrian. In these spaces, watch-walking (windows shopping) is one of the most important activities that include walking, looking, and shopping; in practice, shopping is not only a need to get satisfied but also sometimes it goes beyond and gets a leisure time aspect. Part of the urban interactions of the people are unwittingly or wittingly related to economic interactions, and with the fact that the pedestrian pathways must create a place for social interactions, alongside it can be the basis for economic activities. The important thing about this role is that economic attraction has always been seen as one of the basic principles of the footpath in the city since the beginning (Fig. 2).

Dynamic characters of footpath inside the city

The street is one of the community living spaces and one the most striking elements of city for perception. This way is not only path that its body is known, but also this is defined by its historical and conceptual life for people. The street is a set of independent identities together, each of which contains historical origin and activity (Atashinbar, 2010). Since pedestrian pathways and streets are a subset of the road, the concept above can be extended to the pedestrian. For example, the identity and roles of Enghelab Street can be considered as one of the most important streets in Tehran, which has always had memories and meanings for people. These meanings are the product of its independent identities during different periods: 1- Qajar: Enghelab street as north Border of Tehran 2-first Pahlavi: Birth of the street, office center, commercial 3-Pahlavi II: Edge of Tehran, entertainment center, intellectual, 4- Islamic Revolution: political scene, Center for Intellectual and Social-Political Sociology 5. Recent Decade: it turns into textbooks and Media trading place (Ibid).

To summarize this section, we can say the streets and footpath in the city center are more impressed because those are in the center of social, political, cultural, historical and everyday life, and with considering the definition of a landscape as a dynamic phenomenon, street and the pedestrian life are constantly changing. Therefore recognition of its independ-

Active edges of city activities:



Talking



Shopping



Sitting



Walking



Interactions



Watching of store showcase



Invitation for buying

Fig. 2: Windows shopping in footpath inside city. Source: Author, 2018.

ent identities, their relationship with each other and recognition of symbols and the current life are imperative (Table 1).

Footpath in the suburbs

Since the expansion of cities and the growth of construction, the green and open spaces gradually turned into industrial and residential settlements in the suburbs, and later through these urban structures open and natural spaces were added in order to satisfy the people's intrinsic needs about nature. As mentioned above, pedestrians used to be more social in urban spaces (urban centers). In fact, those are social, political, historical and cultural places for interactions in the city that were the most important element with the highest social role. Fishman in the City Reader book analyzes how streets and pedestrians in the European and American cities appeared and also with considering its features and characteristics, classifies the countryside as a new type of city that creates a new metropolitan cities. These new urban species were formed around all urban centers that have become widespread in a vibrant unit along large corridors including shopping malls, industrial parks, campuses, administrative, university and hospital complexes (Fishman, 2011). In fact, according to this definition, one of the main features in such spaces is the prominent economic-industrial effect of suburban spaces alongside highways and green corridors. As a result, footpath in such spaces got an economic character. If we refer to the background of these centers, we can see the origins of their formation during the course of modernity. The countryside where the first shopping centers were formed and attracted citizens not only for shopping and recreation, but also for

housing (Lemarchand, 2017). In fact, walking in spaces is a quality that depends on the process in which cities and urban spaces are built. The process of formation of every space has an important impact on current lives. Accordingly, walking in the suburbs of the city is different from walking in downtown and outside of city (natural). As we said, footpath in the countryside with considering its background and spatial quality has a more natural-economic character, and as we move away from the city center, its social aspects are diminished and they are going to adjoin to the other aspects involved (Table 2).

Footpath outside the city (natural)

The city is a contradictory phenomenon to mankind. On the one hand, it is a factor for its separation and alienation from nature, and on the other hand is an environment for conjunction and socialization. As a result, the city acts between the two poles of nature and society. Since expansion and advancement, new cities are getting far from one factor (nature) and development another factors (cities). Today's problem is virtualized communication instead of its real. For this reason, humans feel more distant and alien to nature nowadays (Mansouri, 2016a). Advent of parks, green spaces, and natural pathways in the heart of pure environment, mountains, rivers, and etcetera ... are spaces that remind us of the meaningful landscape of the human's past life. Undoubtedly, the creation of natural and lively paths along with specific activities is necessary. In these ways, the sense of place and natural symbols of the city can be understood and the presence of the audience in these ways leads to the formation of collective memories and the continuity of identity of the city and nature.

Table 1: Landscape analysis of footpath inside the city. Source: Author.

Footpath inside the city	
Purpose of footpath	Social interactions, a place for social encounter.
Utilization time	Permanent, Civil life is based on integration of uses and activities, people's everyday life is related to this.
formative basis	Social, political, economic, historical trends.
Character	The main character is social, although character of footpath is changing because of various occurrence.

Table 2: Landscape analysis of footpath in the suburbs. Source: Author.

Footpath in the suburbs	
Purpose of footpath	Open spaces of footpath alongside industrial spaces in order to satisfy the human spiritual needs of nature, green corridors.
Utilization time	Temporal permanent according to flow of urban life in it
formative basis	Economic and industrial trends, formation of green corridors in the suburbs
Character	According to formative basis, Economic, industrial, natural, social character, almost constant character

Continuity of people perception and city identity

Nature is one of the elements that always acts as a developing force and makes an identity for cities. Natural infrastructure in a communal space, in addition giving an identity to the urban landscape on the city scale, it also has the ability to make a platform for the improvement of relationship between nature and society by creation of a dynamic communal space.

Nature is a habitat for humankind, and life is related to the presence of men. Nature in the city is not defined by getting far away from human's settlements, and urban nature doesn't have meaning without his interference through it (Kaplan, 1995). In the meantime, natural pedestrian pathways are one of the most important elements that can be linked to the perception of the audience and the identity of the city. These natural elements along with the way as the main factor in reading it, contain citizen's memories from the city, and preserve and sustain the concept of the city (Rossi, 1982). Footpath outside the city (natural) is combination of natural and interactive features on a context. This pathway created a natural communal space that has inherited part of the identity from the city and the greater part of its identity from nature (Table 3). As we said before, the formation of each space has an important impact on the current

landscape. Accordingly, the natural footpath has been shaped by a natural-cultural landscape as an expanding and making-identity force and also based on activities, events, uses and quality of space, this pathway has created a natural-social character that makes a connection between people's perception, the city and nature.

Bam-e-Tehran as a natural-social walkway

The location and development of Tehran in the range of Alborz Mountains and the historical, natural and topographical potential of this location have made these edges and natural views play an important role in recognizing, interacting, identifying, and finally it created an appropriate relationship between people and city of Tehran. In the meantime, the pedestrian can be a platform for watching nature and the city. Here, this footpath as a frame presents Tehran as a special and strategic point of landscape. The footpath of Bam-e Tehran is located in the northern part of Tehran's 1st district, at the highest point of Velenjak Main Street, which begins at 1830 meters high and reaches to 1910 height from the sea level at the number one station of Tochal Telecabin (Urban point view) (Fig. 3). This nature trail in the heart of the Alborz Mountain creates beautiful spaces and views

Table 3: Landscape analysis of footpath outside the city (natural). Source: Author.

Footpath outside the city	
Purpose of footpath	Return to nature, staying away from chaos in the city, The consistency of audience perception between nature and city.
Utilization time	Temporal because of moving away from urban life.
formative basis	Natural-cultural landscape as a developer force and identity maker trend.
Character	Natural as main character, character is almost constant over time, The more we move away from the center of the city, the degree of sociality of space decreases and increases to its natural level.



Fig. 3: Connection between the perception of the city and natural landscape. Photo: Frzan Hajirezaei, 2018.

along the path that presents readings and perceptions of the holistic landscape through nature and the city. In this section, we will look at the triple objectives of this pathway, the perceptions of the people, and the character and identity of this path.

Bam-e- Tehran's footpath as a natural tourism

Tourism and recreation in fact are a response to the inner needs of humans, which provides a platform for intellectual development, tranquility, and psychological relief. While human needs to nurture the body, he also requires a healthy recreation so that he can reach mental and spiritual relaxation (Ghazanfari & Javadi , 2009). Today, according to the purpose and motivation of trips, a wide range of tourism has been formed, such as historical, natural, pilgrimage, ritual tourism and- etcetera - .In this regard, the mountainous route of Bam-e Tehran in the range of Alborz Mountains as Tehran's landmarks is of great importance. In this pedestrian path, most activities focus on introducing untouched natural places and this path provides tourist programs for traveling to these places. Though recently, this footpath has been unaffordable and inaccessible because of problems such as; lack of considering, the establishment of utilizations and commercial spaces, sports equipment, and over-construction. One of the goals of Bam-e Tehran pedestrian route is to bring people back to natural life, provide comprehension of nature and keep them away from the city and machine life. Today, considering what has been said, tourism and spending leisure time are required in such spaces. Bam-e Tehran pathway as one of the most important footpaths outside the city, can satisfy this need. A natural pedestrian that fills leisure free time and saves audience's collective memories. This is a marvelous way along with signs and milestones as a place for reading a scenario of nature and city that makes connection between the perception of the city and nature.

The environmental role of the Bam-e- Tehran footpath

A group tasks of this type of pedestrian pathway are to promote and improve the environmental situation. Tasks such as reducing the sources of air pollution and noise, security enhancement, green space development, open landscape development, reducing stress, avoiding congestion, and finally an appropriate environment will be created for users. In fact, by using of this natural way we can solve problems in the city of Tehran, also walking in this space leads to biodiversity and the improvement of the quality of people's life.

The steps of perception on the Bam-e-Tehran footpath

As we have already said, a large part of human perceptions and knowledge happen on the way. The way which makes the most important images from our landscape and it is also one of the most striking spaces for human's perception from the landscape. The road in this mountainous landscape is an orienting element in which human perception in this way is made by organizing of this powerful axis. The way is a connection to nature and human perception through it. In this section, we will examine audience's perception through of Bam-e- Tehran footpath on three steps.

Step 1: The boundary between nature and city

At the end of Velenjak Street, of Bam-e-Tehran footpath starts from parking sections. People from entrance to gateway of the Health Path reaches to a general perception of the space between the city and nature. This place is like a space between the city and nature. The audience gradually moves away from the city and goes to the realm of nature. In fact, the audience moves forward with a mental preparation. At this stage, perception contains factors such as achieving general knowledge

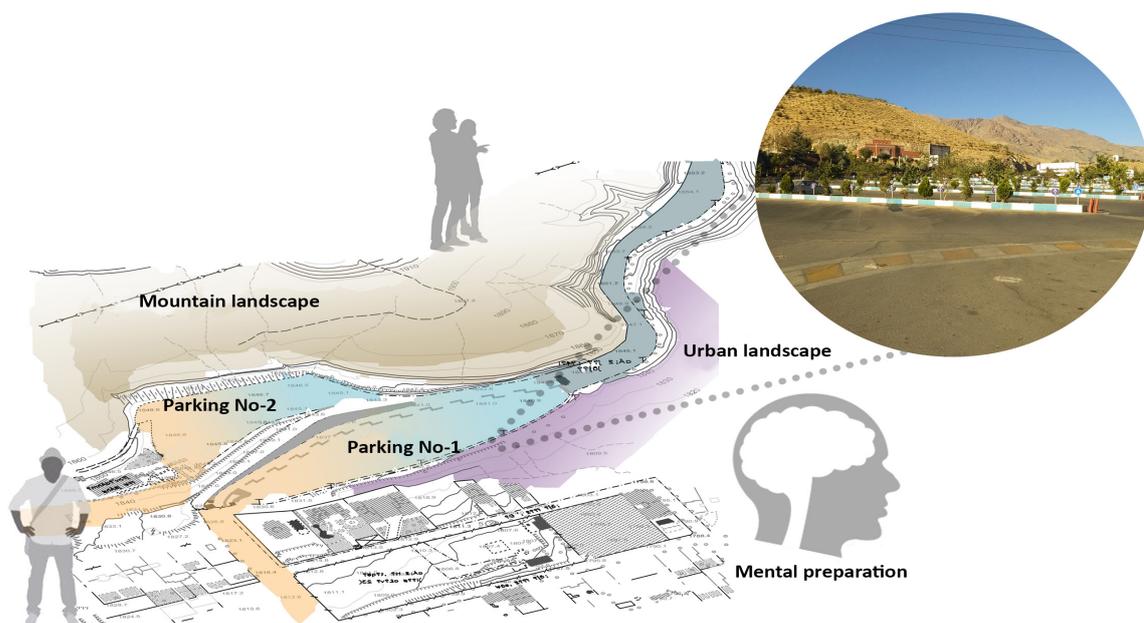


Fig. 4: Perception step 1, mental preparation. Source: Author, 2018.

of space and its geometry, and receiving generalities (Fig. 4).

Step 2: Immediate perception in nature

After entering the pedestrian path, audiences encounter with a direct- general perception, and at this moment, senses are the most important factor for human communication with the landscape. In fact, human begins to understand the viewpoint of the mountain that is in front of him through the senses and he finally makes a mental judgment towards it. Bam-e-Tehran footpath at first contained objective layers, but gradually it will comprise semantic and subjective layers during the path and perception. Perception in the Tochal Mountains at this stage goes beyond the comprehension of the generalities and leads to an examination of the placements and relationships between the elements in this landscape (Fig. 5). Bam-e- Tehran footpath acts as a connecting element and makes these elements get perceived by our senses. Sensory experiences on the road along the trees, the mountains, the rocks, the water and the human space have been created continuously with qualitative observations. All of these improve audience's perception from the landscape of the road.

Step 3: Comprehension of Natural-Social Character (Tehran's Point View)

In this stage, perception goes further and includes recognition of details such as flooring, furniture, stairs, natural colors and lighting. The footpath such as the narrator route, has made natural motifs as living characters communicate

with audience. Architecture, natural rocks of the mountains make the human mind busy and provide a kind of interactions between the eyes and mind. After arriving at the end of the Bam-e- Tehran, the audience reaches to a comprehensive understanding of the path, which at first it was general and immediate (ontological), and then it went in detail, indirect and achieved by contemplation and thought (quiddity). The pedestrian route is here as a connecting factor and human by moving through this footpath can percept visual sequences as a coherent whole. This communal space, due to the fundamental identity of social interactions, leads to the formation of a social-natural character. This communal space, originally was designed based on the desire for nature and culture that is not only intended to be used for observing nature and enjoying fresh- air, but also it provides development of people's civilian life. The identity which is formed by natural space (mountains) and communal space (urban point view) leads to the formation of a natural-social character (Fig. 6). This is a communal space which has the highest social interactions along with the highest mutual interactions with nature (subjective-object). This place provides a spatial connection between these two types of pedestrian pathways, and it ultimately simplifies comprehension, improves the identity and connects audience's perception from the city and nature.

Conclusion

The nature trail in the mountainous landscape of Bam-e- Tehran is a conductive element that the perception of the audience in this footpath is formed by organizing this axis. This

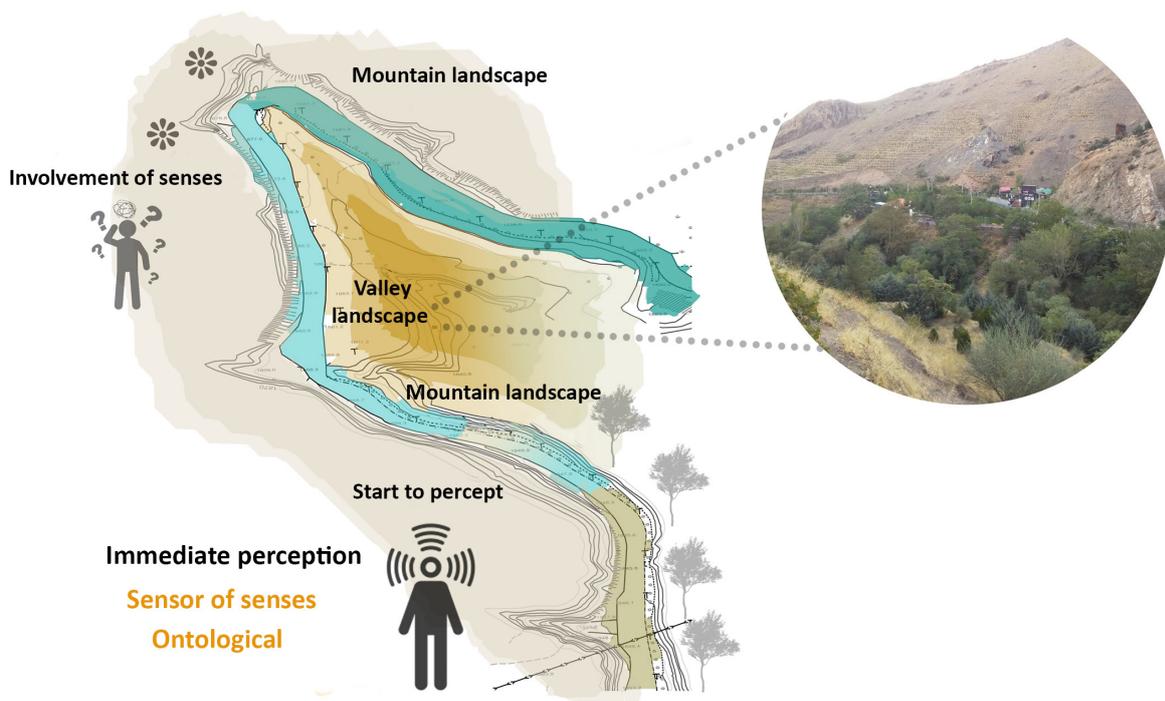


Fig. 5: Perception step 2, perception by encounter. Source: Author, 2018.

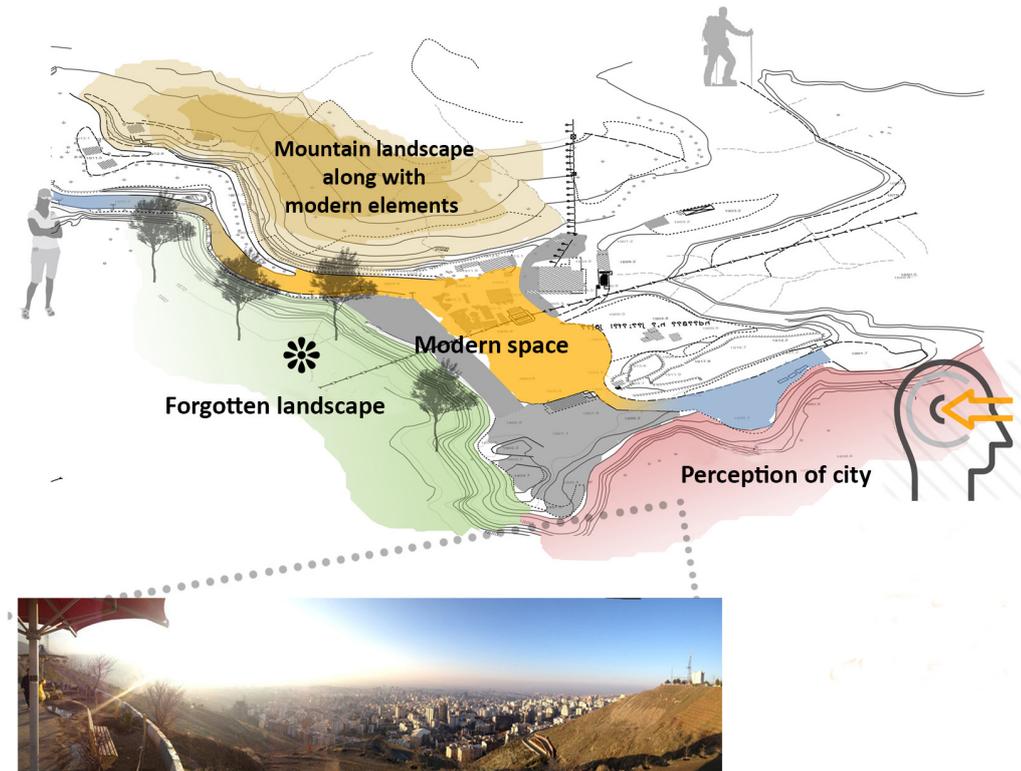


Fig. 6: Perception step 3, holistic perception of the footpath. Source: Author, 2018.

path is a place that connects us with nature and makes our perception through it. This perception is shaped through three steps. Step One: The audience from the entrance to the gate reaches a general perception from the landscape of the city and nature (Mental preparation). The audience is gradually moving away from the atmosphere of Tehran and approaching nature, in fact, this space is a borderline between the city and nature. Second step: After stepping onto the path a general direct perception will be shaped by encountering. The human perceives Bam-e-Tehran footpath which is in front of him through his senses, and he makes a mental judgment toward it. Step three: In this sequence of perceptions, after reaching the city's point-view (Terrace) audience achieved a holistic understanding. This perception was initially general and immediate (ontological), and later it was formed in partial and by contemplation (quiddity). Bam-e-Tehran footpath is combination of natural and social (interactive) features in a mountainous landscape. This path has created a dynamic public space which has inherited part of its identity from the city and its greater part from nature. The nature trail of Tochal, along with its aesthetic, functional and identity features plays an active

role in perceiving the city's landscape and nature through audience's mind. The identity of the natural environment and mutual interactions with nature on one hand and social identity which is coming from social interactions in communal space on the other hand, have led to the formation of a natural-social character. This eclectic identity on the end of the Bam-e-Tehran (the Terrace) along with the highest naturalistic interactions (objective-subjective) has created a communal space with the highest social interactions. In this space, audience base on a natural basis get a modern interpretation from Tehran. Recognition of the footpath landscape is formed by its identities and symbols. In fact, Bam-e-Tehran footpath acts as a connecting factor, and men by moving through this path, perceive visual and successive sequences as a whole. This natural-social footpath along with unique performance beside the city has somehow made the sense of natural places and symbols more understandable in the mountain landscape. This way is like a scenario that gives the role and meaning to its characters, and ultimately leads to a connection between the perception of the audience from Tehran and the nature through the Tochal Mountains (Fig. 7).

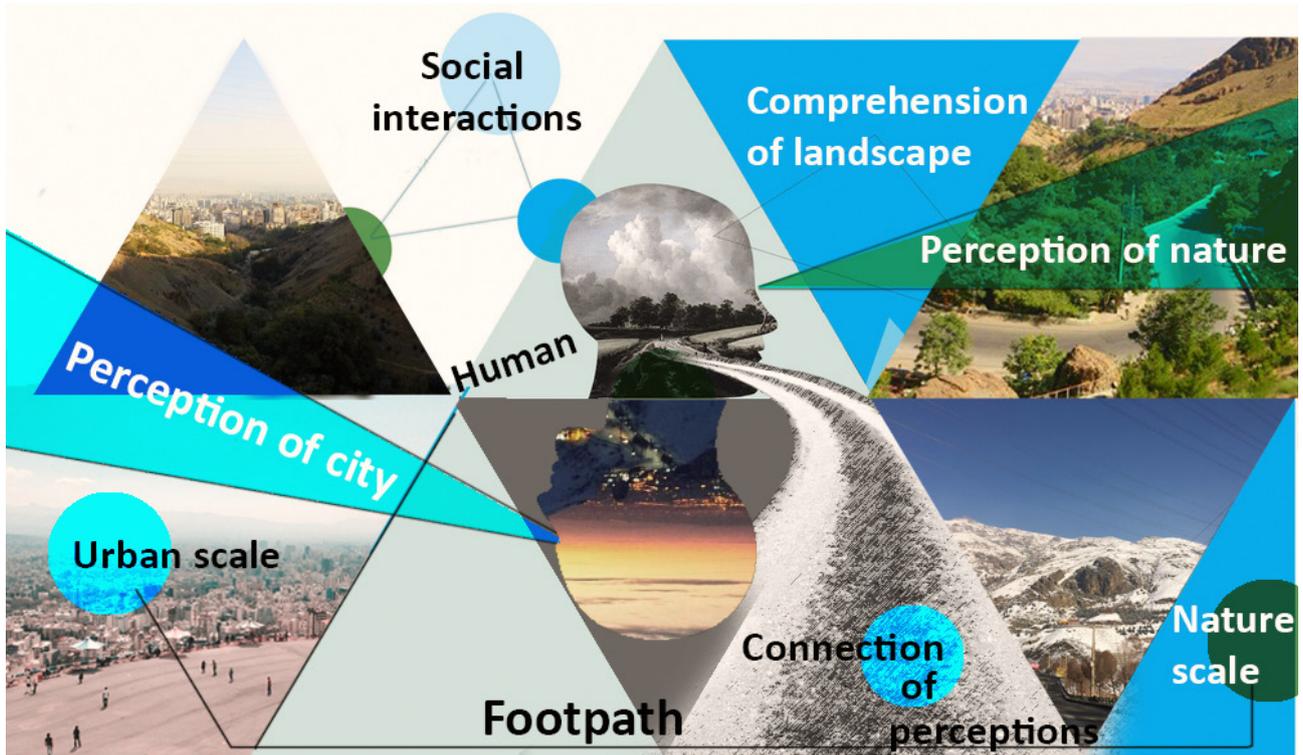


Fig. 7: The process of perception of Bam-e - Tehran footpath landscape through human mind and formation of characters of place. Source: Author, 2018.

Footnote

* This article is based on the author's master's thesis entitled "Redesign of Landscape of Bame-Tehran Pathway In Order To Create a Platform For Saving Individual and Collective Memories", which was defended under Supervisor Dr. "Ahmad Ali Farzin" at University of Tehran on February 19th, 2019.

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