

Fath-Abad Garden

Persian Garden's Renovation and the Original Indicators of the Persian Garden

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Abstract | Fath-Abad Garden in Kerman, in the central desert of Iran, is one of the considerable examples of Persian garden in the Qajar period. The garden strictly responds to the original factors of the Persian garden, while represents some contradictions with classic structure of the Persian garden. After decades of neglect, this garden was renovated in 2015 and opened to the public. Today, when we visit this garden it is difficult to redefine it as a Persian garden.

By referring to the previous on the structural indicators of the Persian gardens, this paper compares Fath-Abad garden, before and after renovation, with original characters of Persian Garden as a unique identity. To achieve this goal, aerial photos as and general photos of the garden before and after renovation were the basic resources of this research.

Considering the garden's structure before and after renovation, this paper argues that the neglect of two main structural indicators of the Persian gardens, which has disturbed the perception of this garden as a Persian garden.

The results show that the ignorance of two important indicators of Persian garden including being enclosed with walls, the position of the main entrance and its relation with main axis and pavilion, have disturbed the perception of this garden as the Persian garden and as a complex of three detached garden.

Keywords | *Persian Garden, Qajar Gardens, Fath-Abad Garden, Garden Renovation.*

Introduction | Not so far from the city of Kerman, two gardens of Shazdeh and Fath-Abad been constructed in same period, the Qajar Period. The period is recognized as the last traditional stylist period in Iranian art and architecture. Visiting these two gardens reminds some recognizable differences with what we consider as a classic Persian garden. Contrary to the Shazdeh garden, Fath-Abad garden has been rarely considered in studies

the Persian garden in previous studies. Historically, Fath-Abad garden is considered as the reference for the Shazdeh garden. But today, the latter has been identified as an important example of the Persian garden the Fath-Abad garden is difficultly perceived as a Persian garden. By comparing Fath-Abad garden before and after renovation, this paper tries to find the answer for this paradox. The paper has two main parts. In first step, it tries to recount to the structural indicators that shape the Persian garden by referring the identity of the Persian

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garden in previous studies. In the second, it compares the case of Fath-Abad garden before and after reconstruction general indicators of the Persian garden.

Literature review

Among studies on Persian gardens, few researches have tried to examine their general description and have classified the structural attributes based related to Persian garden. Based on these studies we try to answer that “why we call a garden Persian?”. In general, these studies attempt to recount the series of elements which are repeated in Persian gardens, and try to decode the relationships between these elements and their relationships with the outside environs which identified the originality of Persian garden as a typology in the history of garden design.¹

In a global regard, studies in the field of Persian garden can be classified in different major groups. From the research works of Arthur Pope to Karim Pirnia, there were researches who have emphasized the pivotal role of two crossed axis and Chahar Bagh archetype in the identity of the Persian garden (See Pope, 1963; Stronach, 1989; Pirnia, 1994; Mirfendereski, 2004; Masoudi, 2009; Daneshdoust, 1990). While some have disapproved the concept of Chahar-bagh as an archetype of the Persian garden (See Heydar Nattaj & Mansouri, 2009; Shahcheraghi, 2014), others have tried to classify the structural elements and the general characteristics of the Persian gardens (See Mansouri, 2005; Masoudi, 2009; Rezazadeh & Heydar Nattaj, 2016), group of authors conducted a phenomenological on the one particular element of the Persian garden (See Mansouri & Arab Solghar, 2016; Motedayen & Motedayen, 2016; Soltanzadeh & Soltanzadeh, 2017; Masoudi, 2009). Besides, the vast amount of considering one or more case studies, tried to study the structure of these particular Persian gardens or their relationships with other domain of studies such as urban studies and morphologies, literatures or other visual or practical arts (See Alemi, 2012; Arab Solghar, 2016; Jeyhani & Mashhadi, 2017).

Among all the extensive studies on Persian gardens, the garden of Fath-Abad have been totally absent. Apart from some researches on Shazdeh garden which had pointed out this garden as its reference (See Masoudi, 2009), this garden after its reopening became a subject of an article and a book which was dedicated to its renewal (See Soltanzadeh & Ashraf Ganjooe, 2013; Soltanzadeh, Hashemi, Ashraf Ganjooe, Keshavarz, Golchin, 2014).

This research initiates based on that group of researches which proposed a general characteristics and structural elements in the Persian garden, and attempts to compare the structure of Fath-Abad garden before and after

renovation with these so-called fundamental elements and characteristics of the Persian garden.

Research methodology

This and benefits from the historical research method. The paper compares the case study of the Fath-Abad garden in its historical its new situation after recent renovation to analyze the specific issues which characterize this garden as a Persian garden. To identify the research criteria, the paper first conducts a systematic reviews on researches in the field of Persian garden, and extract the main components considered as common criteria

This research, historic documents, photos and aerial photos to redesign the garden structure before and after the renovation.

Persian garden: archetype, structure and components

In the field of Persian garden studies, researches can into major categories, none of them arrived to strong proposition for a general formal archetype for the Persian garden.

- The first group is limited to the geometrical patterns in the Persian garden, among which some emphasize the originality of Chahar-bagh archetype for the Persian garden (See Pope, 1963; Stronach, 1989; Pirnia, 1994; Mirfendereski, 2004; Masoudi, 2009; Daneshdoust, 1990), point out the distinctiveness of the one principal axis in the Persian gardens (See Mansouri, 2005; Heydar Nattaj & Mansouri, 2009; Shahcheraghi, 2014; Abolghasemi, 1995; Pirnia, 2008; Barati, Alehashemi & Minatour Sajjadi, 2018) (Table. 1);

- The second group is consisted of authors who has tried to define the original indicators of the Persian garden (Mansouri, 2005; Masoudi, 2009; Rezazadeh & Heydar Nattaj, 2016; Barati et al., 2018);

- Third group has on the phenomenological investigation of the structural aspects in the Persian gardens (e. g. The wall in the Persian garden) (Mansouri & Arab Solghar, 2016), water in the Persian garden (See Soltanzadeh & Soltanzadeh, 2017), pavilions in the Persian gardens (See Motedayen & Motedayen, 2016) and etc.

Beside these main groups, some articles highlighted the role and the integration between gardens and the urban structures in Iran (Sheybani & Esmaeldokht, 2016; Rezazadeh & Heydar Nattaj, 2016). However, high rang of articles review a case study without any general observation on the concept of the Persian Garden.

As we see in Table 1, among these authors who proposed criteria for the Persian garden, Pirnia and Mansouri highlight the characteristics which in their opinion provide the originality in the Persian garden. Rezazadeh

Table 1. The Persian garden's original indicators based on previous researches. Source: Author based on Pirnia, 1994; Mansouri, 2005; Masoudi, 2009; Rezazadeh & Heydar Nataj, 2015; Barati et al, 2017.

author	Persian garden's original indicators
Pirnia, 1994	Rectangular geometry
	Wild perspective in front of the main pavilion/ in the main axis
	Main pavilion and main entrance
	Presence of Water
	Presence of vegetation
Mansouri, 2005	Endless perspective/ long main axis
	Presence of water
	Spatial diversity & independent spaces
	Engagement with nature instead of naturalism or conflict with nature
	Sensational landscaping
	Rectangular geometry
	Introversion and being enclosed (by wall)
Masoudi, 2009	Mono-color garden monochrome garden
	Enclosing wall
	Detachment from Surrounding area
	Presence of water
	Presence of vegetation shadow
	Rectangular Geometry
Rezazadeh & Heydarnattaj, 2015	Spectator spaces
	Presence of water
	Presence of vegetation
	Pavilion (view point)
Barati et al, 2017	Iconic main entrance
	Main axis
	Main pavilion with direct connection with main axis and main entrance

and Heydar Nataj and Barati et al point out the components of the Persian gardens and explained their interaction which shape an entity named the Persian garden.

The common original indicator of the Persian garden among these five main references is having a main axis (which provides a wide and profound perspective). Each research has indicated one characteristic of this fundamental element: Barati et al. (2017) emphasize the linear relationships between the main entrance, the main axis and the main pavilion as the fundamental factor which forms the perception of the Persian garden, They also consider the arrangement of water and trees alongside the main axis as supplementary evidence the importance of main axis and the direct

access between main entrance and main pavilion. Besides, Mansouri (2005) and Masoudi (2009) both consider the importance of rectangular geometry and the essential of being enclosed and surrounded by walls as fundamental characteristics of the Persian garden. The landscape characteristics such as being monochrome, having diversity and independency in the spaces, having a high contrast with its environs are also among the main Persian gardens which were highlighted by first authors. Three authors indicate the importance of the main pavilion and its position in association with other components. Therefore, based on these, we can consider main axis flanked by trees and water as fundamental element of the Persian garden which was highlighted by all the authors. Being enclosed by walls and detached from surrounding environs and also having the rectangular geometry were other indicators which emphasized by two of authors.

Fath-Abad Garden: structural analysis of the garden before rehabilitation

Fath-Abad garden has been located near Fath-Abad village in 16 km in the north-west of the city of Kerman, and has been nourished by the qanat named Fath-Abad. During the centuries, the garden has also been known as Fazalikhan garden, Biglarbeigi garden and sometimes Hossein Ali Khan Garden. This garden which is considered as a model for the famous Persian garden of Shazdeh in Mahan, was constructed during the 19th century (Soltanzadeh et al, 2014, 28-32). The garden has been changed over time, and finally was renovated and reopened the public in 2015 (Fig. 1).

The garden is rectangular with a dimension of 260*440 m and a linear boulevard which has been attached to the western edge.

The main boulevard, situated in the south of the main rectangular, is flanked by two small streams which carry



Fig. 1. Fath-Abad garden after renovation. Source: www.irna.ir.

the water of Fath-Abad qanat into the garden and is limited by the main pavilion in one end and the main entrance of the garden in another end. The main pavilion is the central core of the garden, consist of a main building and two wings which have provided a frontage in front of this main building. Before demolition, the L shape building was attached to the northern side of this pavilion and together they had made another U shape pavilion in the middle of the garden directed into the west and Nafar Fortress. This attached part serv as warehouse and also foreman’s residence and was attached to the main pavilion later (*ibid.*, 43).

Fath-Abad garden can be perceived as a unified series of three gardens with their original components:

1. The main axis strengthened from the main entrance into the main pavilion, flanked by a series of pines and cypresses and water streams. And it has been ornamented by a long linier basin in the middle. The view and perspective towards this boulevard was delicately considered in various ways. This part of the garden acted as the outer/ public garden like the public parts in some other famous Persian gardens (e. g. garden of Dowlat-Abad in Yazd and Garden of Jahan-Nama in Shiraz) (See Pirnia, 1994). Qanat and irrigation system had a pivotal role in the implantation of main axis, main entrance and pavilion at its two ends.
2. Although the main pavilion, represents innovations in the

form in compare with classic pavilions in the Persian gardens, it has been loyal to the 9 parts structures in the pavilions and to the importance of view and perspective of the main axis.

3. The inner garden is accessible from the main pavilion and its frontage. In the middle of this garden a pavilion (called four-season mansion). This pavilion which is a typical Persian garden’s extroverted 9-parts pavilion is linked to the main pavilion by a large axis flanked by trees. This axis which connects the pavilion to the particular room with 5 doors in the eastern wing of main pavilion acts as most structural part of this part of garden.

4. The second axis which had been added to the complex later and is called pistachio boulevard and also garden boulevard. This axis connected the main pavilion to Nafar Fortress in the west of the complex, and also serves as the pathway to convey the water of Rostam-Abad qanat.

The main pavilion acts as the connecting core between three detached gardens. In all three gardens, axis directed toward this main pavilion was the most important structural element in the garden. In public garden and boulevard garden the linkage between the entrances and the main pavilion was the subject, while in the inner garden the connection between main pavilion and the secondary pavilion.

The detachment between these three parts were guaranteed by inner walls, particularly the one between public and inner garden (Fig. 2).

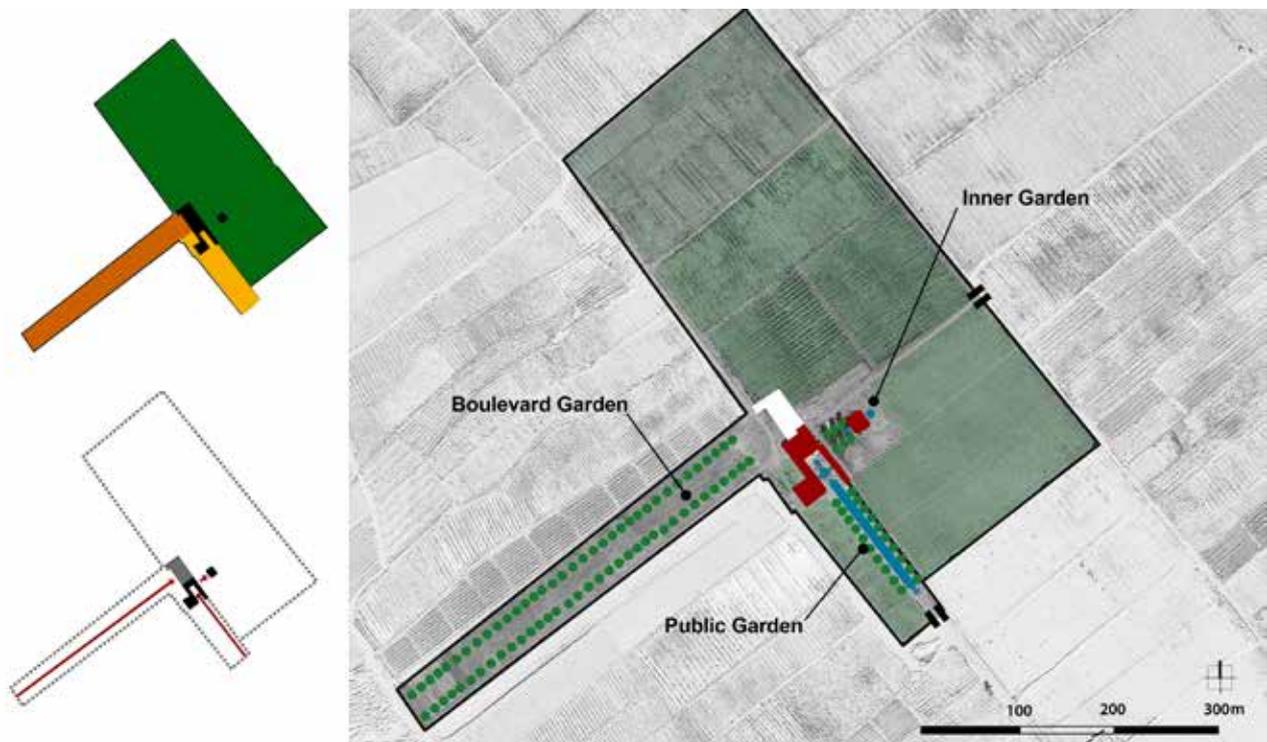


Fig. 2. Fath-Abad garden based on aerial photo in 2009 before the renovation. The structure shows the three detached gardens and the role of axis in each part in relation with the main pavilion. Source: author

Fath-Abad Garden: Garden's structure after renovation

Fath-Abad garden was reopened to the public after a complete renovation in 2015. During the renovation project, the main pavilion (without its secondary attachment), the four-season mansion and the axis in front of it, and two axis in the public garden and boulevard garden were reconstructed totally. The renovation was conducted based on the existing elements and did not the structural logic of the garden constructed over time. So some elements which did not exist anymore or barely existed did not reconstructed or renovated, among which the two elements which had an important role in the perception of the garden as the Persian garden (Fig. 3).

First, the main entrance of the garden which, based on the documents, was a simple entrance. Today the entrance was replaced by metal fence and had the most destructive impact on the perception of entering the garden and detaching the outer environs. The elimination of the entrance and its surrounding walls has made it impossible to understand when we are entering garden and start passing the axis toward the main pavilion. In the absence of the entrance, the main pavilion consider as the entrance of the garden, especially by its architectural form which reminds the entrance mansion of the Shazdeh Garden, not far from here. By arriving the main pavilion, we wait to discover the main axis of the garden while we have already passed it without recognizing.

Second, the inner wall which was dividing the public garden from the inner garden. The elimination of this element, has disturbed considering the gardens separated which is important in reading Fatah-abad garden as a Persian garden.

Beside these, the proposed circulation between gardens after the renovation, particularly entering the inner garden, disturbs perceiving the axis in the structure of the garden.

Results

To perceive Fath-Abad garden as a Persian garden, it is needed to consider it as an ensemble of three detached, but related, gardens. This division in three parts has an impact on perceiving Fath-Abad garden as a Persian garden in various ways:

- The geometry of the whole garden is not regular and consists of three different parts.
- The garden has two pavilions, one is the main pavilion situated at the end of the main axis of the public garden, the other is the small pavilion in the middle of the inner garden. In Kerman, we have another type of garden with two pavilion which is named Beyram-Abad Garden.
- The location of the main axis on the western edge of the garden, which must not consider as the main axis for whole garden but the main axis for the public garden that connected the main entrance of the garden to the main pavilion.
- The architecture of the main pavilion, which must consider as a shared pavilion between three gardens, face



Fig. 3. Aerial photos before and after renovation show two important elements (the main entrance and inner wall) which were eliminated during renovation process. Source: Author based on Google Earth's archives.

toward the main axis, related with secondary pavilion and looked into the second axis in boulevard garden via an extension which was destroyed.

The renovation project has disturbed the perception of this garden as a complex of three detached gardens and in general as a Persian garden:

- Considering main axis of the Persian garden composed water and vegetation, Fath-Abad garden one of the most sophisticated example (Fig. 4). But today, by destruction of main entrance, perceiving this axis is became difficult. the powerful existence of the pavilion at the end of this axis and the presence of water in both ornamental and irrigational way are still considerable.
- Considering the enclosure and separation from environs, Fath-Abad garden from surrounding walls which detached garden from its surrounding agricultural fields, as well as inner walls which broke up three detached gardens from each other. During renovation, the main parts of inner walls and also surrounding walls near the main entrance were destructed (Fig. 5).
- Considering the main pavilion and its relationship with the main axis and the summer pavilion, the deep relationship between main pavilion and main axis was totally adapted with the concept of integration between main axis and pavilion in the Persian garden. The connection between main pavilion and secondary one in inner garden was provided by a wide axis which the beginning of it was not defined properly. By the way, the role of irrigation system must be consider in the location of the main and secondary axis as well as main and secondary pavilions, like all Persian gardens (Fig. 6).

Conclusion

This paper highlighted how Fath-Abad garden had



Fig. 4. Oldest photo of Fath-Abad garden during the Qajar period, main axis with the long basin in the middle and main pavilion at the end are considerable. Source: Soltanzadeh & Ashraf Ganjooe, 2013, 45.

been compatible with the original components of the Persian garden before its renovation. Historic photos and documents reveal that despite innovations and changes in this garden from what we consider the classic Persian garden, the garden in general had the original characteristics of the Persian garden. However, comparing the structure of garden before and after the renovation shows that transformation and elimination in two pivotal elements in the garden have made it difficult to perceive the garden properly.

For perceiving Fath-Abad garden it's important to consider it as three different but related gardens. In this context, the main element which connected this garden to the Persian garden, original components we have exploited in the first part of the article, is the main axis of the garden strengthened from main entrance to the main pavilion. In perceiving the garden as a Persian garden the

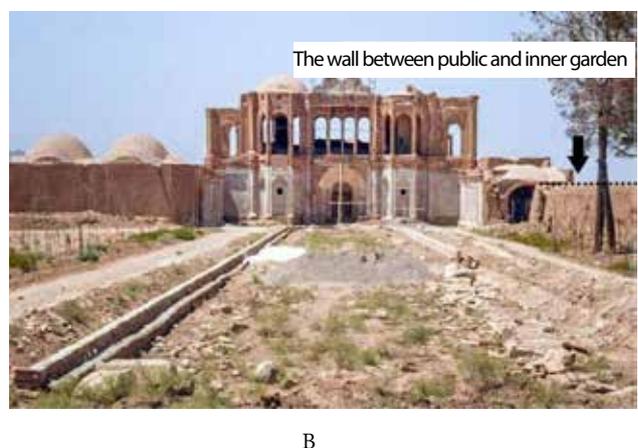
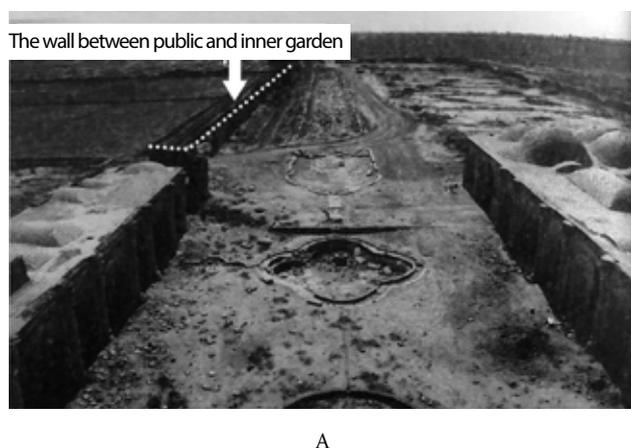


Fig. 5. Fath-Abad garden before the renovation, photos show the wall between first garden and inner garden. Sources: A) Soltanzadeh & Ashraf Ganjooe, 2013, 51; B) www. mehrnews. com



Fig. 6. The main pavilion at the end of the main axis in the Fath-Abad garden. Source: wikipedia. org.

walls also had an important role, in addition to detaching garden from its environs, they separate three inner gardens and made it possible to read them as separated gardens. Before renovation, the main entrance and its surrounding walls had important role to understanding the main axis of the garden. replacing the main entrance and its wall by metal fences has destroyed the sense of detaching from outer environs and entering into an enclosed garden. Therefore, the main pavilion is consider as the entrance of the garden and not the objective at the end of the main axis of garden. This conflict of the role of main pavilion, from the object of the axis to the beginning of axis, confuse us.

On the other hand, the elimination of wall between public garden and inner garden situated on the east side of the main axis of the garden reduce the possibility of reading the gardens separately and perceiving the main axis of the first garden. These two delicate interventions/ during renovation of Fath-Abad garden had a great impact on the perception of this garden as a Persian garden. Finally, this example highlights the importance of considering the original components and elements of the Persian garden in the renovation and rehabilitation projects that take place in gardens in Iran.

Endnotes

1. Although studies on the Persian garden are not limited to these references, only these particular studies have focused on the particular aspects and components of the Persian gardens. If not, Daneshdoust also introduced some general elements such as water, vegetation, architecture and land, but did not indicate particularity of these elements in the Persian garden (See Daneshdoust, 1990).

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