



Urban space designing for more vitality (Case study: Ferdosi. St in Zabol)

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Abstract .A healthy urban space should contain a wide range of various applications that can provide a business and vital entertainment environment. By providing different ambitions for people to stay in downtown during days, especially at sunset times, more people will be absorbed. City as the most complex social and artificial place needs to have a vital texture that includes lively spaces such as streets. In various discussions there are different definitions about vitality in urban spaces; in these definitions in order to determine this property we can find some basic criteria and our focus will be on urban spaces physical and functional effects. In this article we choose Ferdosi.st that is one of the oldest and most crowd streets in Zabol to determine its vitality. Currently because of lack of planning and attention, this street faced with functional and basic drop. This research has done to improve vitality in Ferdrosi. St and it's a kind of applied research and its methodology is analytical-descriptive. According to findings it seems that building shopping centers with high security will cause vitality in this street.

Keywords: Urban spaces, Ferdrosi. St, vitality, city, physical.

1. INTRODUCTION

Today urban passages (streets) considered as the most important area for urban design and planning, such that they play a privileged role in forming and structuring urban spaces. Urban passages while providing city evolution and physical development can be effective in inhabitants' security and comfort and also is determinant factor for having more vital and stimulus. In modern urban life streets are not only a junction for spaces and city activities but also they are symbol and mirror of living in town. Therefore by making connection between these parts and different activities in a city we can have alive and dynamic spaces like body arteries.

In urban spaces, streets have an important role in social relations between inhabitants and also providing correct culture and healthy urban society. Citizens' relations also can make more vitality and liveliness in cities.

In this research making more vitality in Ferdrosin, S.T in Zabol which is an important street in this city, by providing suitable conditions for citizens to come here day and night is our focus. In doing so we need to provide optimized qualities for more vitality and also induct dependency, relaxation and comfort between citizens. It will cause income and livelihood improvement.

2. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

Urban spaces have been considered as urban life cells since long ago and play a basic role in urbanization. In this space in not long ago different events such as sports, religious and entertainment had displayed but now because of urbanization improvement and cities development they lost their importance. This makes some problems such as environment pollution, problems in travelling, insecurity paths, degeneration of historic center and quality drop in urban spaces.

Urban space role or a place for social relations and also a place for providing social culture is dropping gradually in our country. Dominant conditions in cities offer a modern life style. For example shopping

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or even window- shopping are some attractive activities. Public spaces are sociability places; which mean some places for social relations (Madanipour, 2008: 142).

Automobiles are now dominant in urban spaces and building paths and urban spaces are now far away from walks' needs and determinants, so social and cultural values and attractions decreases. In such a progress content and application of urban factors such as neighborhood, street, square, and pass, dormitory and ... changed and lost its human content. According to physical and functional aspects of urban spaces and social and cultural features as well as social behaviors and relations and also evaluation of conceptual- behavioral features which are effected by physical aspects are some important cases that paying attention to them can affect on vitality of urban spaces.

Different views toward vitality criteria and its concept in urban designing since 1961 have been evaluated. Jean Jackobs in *Death and Life in American cities*, 1961, described vitality in streets as a chance for having good relations between people. Lang quoted Souzan and Hanrry opinion in his book *Architecture theory Creation*, 1987 and stated (a behavioral place such as a square in city can be divided to different sub- behavioral places) that alive places depend on which behaviors provide by each sub-behavioral place and what people's willing are. Social places provide comfortable and meeting setting with good lights. One of our problems in this research is to improve vitality in urban spaces, like Ferdosi S.T. Ferdosi Street is one of main streets in Zabol and placed in downtown. There are many shopping centers and governmental organization in this street. According to original and important needs in functional and physical contexts as vitality criteria and in urban design and social, quality and behavioral problems domain, we had tried to optimize vitality factors in this region.

3. THE NECESSITY OF RESEARCH

Civil vitality as a public content means identity, dynamics and flexibility in recognizing environment and matching implementation. Jahanshah Pakzad believes that environmental vitality can be determined in two views; one is from sustaining ecological and the second one is from design view. Vitality is one of important factors in urban designing in which good design will cause person presence in public and feel us instead of me! By using vitality solutions in forgotten places we can gather people together and respond to their needs.

4. HYPOTHESES

- 4.1. It seems that by changing physical and functional space factures in Ferdosi. Street we can optimize life qualities.
- 4.2. Security and privacy can have effect on civil space

5. QUESTIONS

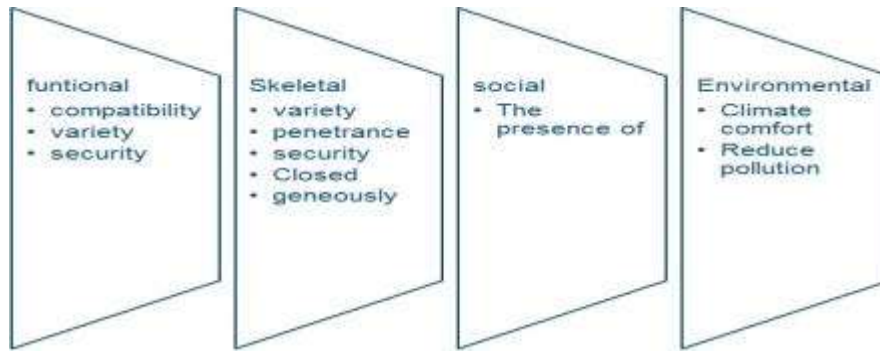
- 5.1. How we can use urban planning features to have lively environment?
- 5.2. How we can make Ferdosi Street livelier?

6. GOALS

- 6.1. Recognizing effective factors in providing lively environment
- 6.2. Improving vitality in Ferdosi Street, Zabol

7. RESEARCH DIMENSIONS

Vitality in urban spaces can be evaluated from different dimensions but because of wide contents and appropriate coverage in this research our focus will be just on functional and physical aspects.



Picture 1. Source: the author

8. METHODOLOGY

According to nature and method, we can divide scientific researches in to five groups:

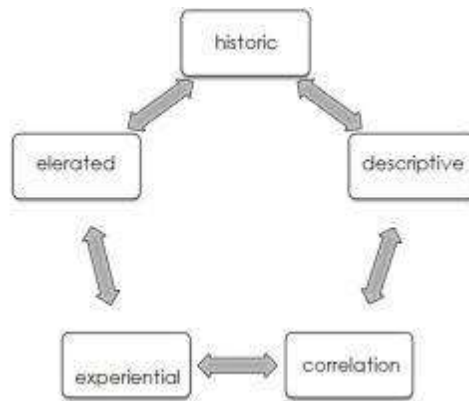


Chart 1: source: the author

9. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

There are two people in abroad countries who determined vitality, Jean Jickobz and Kewin Linch. They have a special view but there are different criticisms toward it (Jickobz, 2007: 160). There are four basic conditions in this theory to provide urban areas and streets lively: 1. the range has more than two basic applications. 2. Most of blocks are short. 3. The area includes some buildings with different conditions and ages. 4. Enough density of people despite of their presence reason.

On the first condition he focused on application diversity, in second and third on physical diversity and in fourth on activities diversity. In fact he believes that diversity follows with vitality. But it is users who provide activities and by more complex applications, more diversity will appear in activities. Therefore one of necessities for vitality in street is having complex application and as a result various people will come in different times to the street. In addition to this fact there are some other factors that are effective in providing lively urban area. For example in micro scale urban designing will be attractive and according to activities which can attract people and in macro scale there are social, cultural, environmental factors that can effect on area from outside. Kewin Linch in his book, town form theory (2002: 155), has been determined mobility in macro scale and believed that mobility and vitality along with 5 other factors such as; meaning, proportion, availability, supervision and performance authority consider as functional bases for a city. He divided vitality in to some parts: survival, enough water, air, food, energy and security of material, environmental toxicant restrictions and risks, compatibility, coordination between environment and health needs and genetic diversity between creatures used by human and at last biological stability. Linch in his categorization put his

focus on biological factors and according to this view analyzed vitality. Some factors such as social and cultural elements which are as important as ecological elements have been forgotten. Therefore in order to have a vital and dynamic environment we should have more complete view. Some people also determined urban area vitality: Pamir, *Creating a Mobile Downtown, 2007*, explained effective factors on a successful public place as follows: the place of a successful area should be such be respective to large sum of people and also be near to bazaars. This place should motivate walking. Its size must be large to include sum entertainment and events capacities but not too much that destroys centrality. Place planning: building an alive and attractive place is possible when its neighborhood includes stores, restaurants and coffees. He believes that one way to be successful in urban areas is providing business activities especially feeding services. Place design: place design should increase capacities for more activities. In this case we can refer to some examples like; suitable seat, flexible application, comfort, compatibility and high quality while simplicity. Inside country Koroush Glekar in a research about vitality in city (2007,1) described city vitality as Livability or Liveliness and considered it as a basic factor in urban design. In other words vitality along with 16 qualities make an event named urban designing quality; readability, visual character, time feeling, color senses, being informative, permeability and mobility, user disorder, form, comprehensive, public quality, climate comfort, security and privacy, flexibility and movement, energy- application disorder, environmental application and cleaning.

Jickobs, Tibalds, Sai Paimer, Bentli and co-workers, William White, Kermona:

- Providing application disorder especially business and housing applications
- Providing supervision and security
- Providing facilities for sitting
- Physical and visional permeability
- Designing high quality walls.

Table 1:

Jickobs	Death and life in biggest American cities	Analytical description	Effective factors role in vitality
Tibalds	Humanists urbanism	Analytical description	Presenting vitality criteria
Pakzad	Theoretical foundation for urban design	Content analyze	Determination and presentation of vitality criteria in Iran
Sai Paimer	Downtown creation and recreation	Descriptive and analytic	Vitality criteria presentation
Bentli & Co-workers	Respondent environment	Analytic descriptive	Vitality criteria presentation

10. THEORETICAL- PUBLIC FOUNDATIONS

- Urban area concept
- Urban area features
- Urban area species
- Evaluation of street role

10.1. Urban area concept

Urban areas are some parts of public regions that reflex collective life nature; it means a place where citizens are there. Urban space is a scene that shows public life story. In this space it is possible to break some social barriers and unpredictable behaviors happen. People will connect with together in this new social environment (Linch, 1972). The basic condition to consider a public region as an urban space is social interaction in that environment.

10.2. Urban area features

10.2.1. Urban space- social interaction

Urban spaces are like daily life arteries in social center. These spaces are available easily for everybody and are restricted with cultural- business buildings and houses. They contain places in which most of inhabitants would go there for shopping or trip or pass as work way (Lenard, 1993).

10.2.2. Urban spaces as public arena for social- cultural protests:

Public urban spaces generally are considered as public arena in today cities. These spaces are suitable for face to face meetings, human relations and holding public and group citizens' activities because of some physical and local features (Habibi, 1999).

10.3. Urban areas species

10.3.1. Street definition:

Streets will form basic structure of city. In fact streets are parts of public spaces that make connection between different parts and activities in a city; they work like arteries in body and keep it alive and dynamic. In another word streets are junctions between spaces and urban actions. In streets we can find real sample of inhabitants' life whether public or private performances. These performances at last will reflect in city body along with inhabitants' values. (Art book of month journal, 2010, num. 142).

10.3.2. Evaluation of street role

Generally streets play three basic roles:

- transportation role, it means motor vehicles movement
- availability role, it means providing possibility for means of transportation to enter and leave from buildings on this way
- Social role, it means possibility for people to walk, watch, and shop easily.

Transportation and availability roles which are related to motor vehicle traffic considered as traffic role.

11. SPECIAL THEORETICAL FOUNDATION

11.1. Vitality

It means continuously and bold presence of people for doing optional activities. In fact, this feature is achievable when considerable numbers of citizens from different age and gender ranges in various times are active in city (Salehi and co- workers, 2011: 19).

11.2. Lively urban space

A lively urban space means an area in which there are considerable numbers of people which their presence and activities during time will reflect in optional or social form (Khasto & Rezvani, 2010: 66). In another word it means that space should be like that people come and stay.

11.3. Vitality

Aspects: functional- social

Functional: compatibility

- Compatibility in applications to attract more people

11.4. Functional: diversity

- Increasing walls' activities into urban spaces
- Placing different applications according to time such that it will be active day and night
- Controlling and restricting disabled and huge applications such as official ones
- Providing service applications such as parking, public phones and accessibility to public transportation
- Providing different applications according to leisure time
- Bodies are clear and permeable such that different activities inside each space will give observer diversity and dynamic sense
- Keeping and reinforcing of economic aspects of street according to stores
- Keeping diversity in business categorization base on different ages
- Possibility for vendors' activity in sidewalks
- Balanced distribution of different applications such that it causes diverse and continues events in civil streets during day and night

11.5. Functional- privacy:

- Compatibility between behavioral stations
- Keeping time diversity in current applications in body for more security
- Suitable distribution of active and bright points in urban spaces
- Using active facilities and applications for different people and groups in urban spaces
- Setting related activities to daily citizens' life in some parts of urban spaces

11.6. Social- participant of people in urban spaces:

- Not empty from population in different times of a day
- High presence of different gender and age categories of people
- Active and dynamic presence of different groups during all day and night
- Suitable background for public and individual activities

Vitality:

Physical: diversity- permeability- aesthetic elements- suitable restriction- security

Diversity:

- Preservation and strengthen of old and memorable buildings
- Using different and appropriate materials in body and floor according to situation
- Using different form of furniture
- Avoiding from uniform rhythm in body
- Providing different space scenes
- Using different and comprehensive details for walkers in body
- Visional continuity
- Making diversity in building details
- Highlighting body factors which cause public memories, local sense and mind image of citizens

Permeability:

- Accessibility from different points to urban spaces
- Providing visional relation between path and body
- Preservation and strengthen of memorable points

Aesthetic elements:

- Making permeable areas in observer level and bodies' height can be effective in providing an aesthetic environment

Suitable restriction:

- Sky role in urban spaces should continue (restriction should be such that we can see sky easily)

Security:

- Avoiding from building dark and hidden corners in urban spaces
- Visional and continues care in streets by means of body
- Suitable projection for intersections and active points in urban spaces
- Clear distinction between private and public places
- Suitable light according to walker movement

Environmental:

Diversity:

- Using diverse plants in urban space

Climate comfort:

- Using green space
- Making barrier for green space
- Using different materials
- Mass to edge position

Decreasing pollution:

- Application disorder
- Using catchy sound materials
- Walking promotion
- Terrific facility
- Using vegetation

11.7. Aesthetic elements:

- Using natural elements in urban spaces
- Water, tree and vegetation existence in urban areas

11.8. Case expectations from urban space and their relation with vitality:

A special urban space has specific value and concept in citizens' minds. Every street as basic structure of life should always be vital and on this way tries to include all these diversities in urban events during different times and days. Therefore flexibility also is so important in this case (Pakzad, 2006).

12. CASE STUDY

Ferdosi Street is one of basic and crowd streets in Zabol center. There are different business and governmental organizations on this street which according to basic necessities in physical and functional backgrounds considered as important vitality criteria. In this research neighborhood design and paying attention to social, quality and behavioral problems also would be our focus as vitality factors.

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Figure 1. Determination of physical and functional aspects in Ferdosi Street.

Access:

An option for people to go from one place to other and is effective in its utility. Because of inappropriate distribution of taxi and bus stops in this street and its small width, there is no direct access to this point, although this street will connect to main urban ways.



Picture 1 & 2. An example for access.

Diverse activities:

Two important qualities that cause vitality are diversity and permeability of space (Pakzad, 2007: 282). Having diversity in activities can attract different citizens with various needs; they will have relation together and at last provide vitality in that space.

Applications such as clothing stores, bag and shoes, banks and governmental centers that had been placed near together for many years can complete each other and cause interaction.

Existence of inactive usages in some hours a day

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Picture 1, 2, 3. Examples of activities.

Urban furniture:

Setting places can be chairs or benches that having diversity in their usage according to different demands can increase space utility. Lack of benches, recycle cans decrease place attraction and walking activity.

There is no beautiful light for brightness and more security.

Lack of newspaper kiosk

Inappropriate signs placement

Body and walls:

Bodies and walls provide discipline for walker and cause special sense toward place and increase utility.

Various building in this area and leave them incomplete injured form and walls on the way.

Installing decorations ruined body

Lack of suitable body design



Picture 1 and 2. And an example for body and wall.

Flooring

Mobility and dynamics in a space can cause vitality and transfer living spiritual to human:

Digging activities in sidewalks without repairing make some problems for walkers and decrease its quality.

No special way for blinds.

Materials do not transfer any motivation for mobility

Vegetation:

Vegetation and trees are the most effective factors in vitality and beauty

Planting of trees is considered as secure privacy for walkers to be hidden from sun.



Picture 1 & 2.: A case for vegetation.

13. FINDINGS IN FUNCTIONAL- BODY ASPECT

Observations showed that different applications in this area will cause improvement. Bus stations are not in good place and make some problems for walkers. Trees and other environmental elements can cause vitality. Incomplete decorative walls in some parts and destruction of floor material would decrease walkers' privacy.

Providing motivations for people to install advertisings in special places and avoiding from advertisings on walls.

Optimization of advertisement signs in stores to improve aesthetic elements

Providing suitable light for walkers and drivers

Prediction of special laws and regulations for construction, reconstruction and modernization in walls span in order to avoid from view destruction, visual heterogeneity and physical in space

Prediction of pause spaces and paying attention to static and dynamics features and also considering pause places in which person will feel security.

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