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A STUDY OF THE ORIGINAL AND CONTEMPORARY LAYOUT OF NAZAR GARDEN WITHIN THE CITY OF SHIRAZ, IRAN

STUDIA NAD ORYGINALNYM I WSPÓŁCZESNYM UKŁADEM OGRODÓW NAZAR W MIEŚCIE SHIRAZ W IRANIE

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ABSTRACT

Shiraz city was famous for its beautiful gardens that shaped its landscape. Nazar Garden, with its buildings was designed by Karim Khan in the 18th c. The aim of the research was to compare the size and layout of the Garden during the Zand Period with its contemporary shape. The research was based on literature sources, available plans and an on-site survey.

Key words: Nazar Garden, Zand dynasty, Shiraz, Pergola building.

STRESZCZENIE

Shiraz było miastem słynnym z pięknych ogrodów, które kształtowały jego obraz. Ogród Nazar ze swymi budowlami został zaprojektowany przez Karima Khana w XVIII wieku. Celem badań było porównanie rozmiarów i rozplanowania Ogrodu w czasach dynastii Zand z jego współczesną formą. W badaniu wykorzystano literaturę przedmiotu, dostępne plany i badania in situ.

Słowa kluczowe: Ogrody Nazar, dynastia Zand, Shiraz, budynek Pergoli.

1. INTRODUCTION

Shiraz is located in the southwest part of the Iran plateau and is an area with a temperate condition for human existence, agriculture and horticulture. Shiraz is a city surrounded by the mountains from the north, west and south. The Dry River¹ traverses the city from the west to the east and finally flows into the Maharloo Lake. The city was rich with extensive gardens and amazed travellers from the Middle Ages on. Collections of drawings, sketches and maps along with letters and descriptions in books left by writers stand testament to this. One of them is the record from Timur (Tamerlane 1370–1405) made after his second stay in Shiraz at the time of his conquests. He ordered for large and famed gardens to be built in Samarkand, following the Shiraz gardens example. [1, p. 64]

Nazar² Garden is one of the oldest gardens of Shiraz. It is located in the Darb Shahzade neighbourhood. Although the garden existed in this location before the Zand dynasty (Table 1), the arrangement, fencing, arboriculture, alley system and construction of different buildings was planned and supervised by Karim Khan³ and it had a status of a state garden. It used to be a residence of the rulers. In those days, Nazar Garden was an extensive open space, full of cypresses and sycamore trees. Karim Khan has also built the Citadel, Forum and Pergola buildings in different parts of the Garden. In the following centuries, new building complexes were erected within this space. Their layout followed the geometry of Garden sections, and a part of it still remains in its original form. Nowadays, the Citadel and the Forum are outside its borders and the contemporary Nazar Garden is famous for the original setting of Pergola Building⁴ with the tomb of Karim Khan who was buried there in 1779. Today, the Pergola is a Pars Museum. Nazar Garden cedars and orange trees were kept wherever possible and now they either line new streets, or were included into new yards. Some of them probably survived till today and are supposed to belong to the original layout from the Zand dynasty period. The research aims to reconstruct possible remains of the Garden layout and confirm possible locations of the greenery specimens and the other details from Karim Khan's Nazar Garden.

The author reviewed all accessible documents that include information on the Garden development and the subsequent dwindling of its range. In case of the texts, some of which are quoted below, information was repeated, as different authors confirmed the same facts of development and distortion of the original layout. In case of the maps analysed in this research, the picture is clearer, particularly when it comes to the massive development after the Zand dynasty, during the Qajar dynasty period (1789–1925), the Pahlavi period in the first half of the 20th century, and today.

2. REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE CONCERNING CHANGES IN NAZAR GARDEN LOCATION AND ITS BUILDINGS

The historical periods of Iran are shown in a table below (Table. 1). The sources from which descriptions of the changes in Nazar Garden were extracted are assembled in the at the end of this chapter in the Table. 2. They refer to the distortions that took place in time from the 18th century and now.

Literature concerning changes in Nazar Garden area is includes many accounts, some of which were made by visitors, by tourists or writers.

The first writer, Haj Ali Akbar Nawab Shirazi wrote about the Nazar courtyard garden in 1849. He describes its beautiful flowers and trees as follows:

¹ Name of a seasonal river that flows through Shiraz.

² Nazar means view, sight.

³ Karim Khan (1705-1779) was the founder of the Zand Dynasty, ruling from 1751 to 1779. His capital city was Shiraz. He refused to accept the title of king and instead named himself The Advocate of the People.

⁴ This Pergola is called Kolah Farangi.

“Because of location of this garden in city centre and its general view it is named Nazar Garden. This is one of the Shiraz gardens that are like a beautiful bride. It was designed by Karim Khan flawlessly, it is full of trees, colourful flowers and full of sounds of birds.”⁵

“Because of the location of this garden in city centre and its general appearance, it is called Nazar Garden. This is one of the Shiraz gardens that are like a beautiful bride. It was flawlessly designed by Karim Khan, it is full of trees, colourful flowers and brimming with sounds of birds.”⁶

He continues about the Garden buildings and sites:

“It is a garden full of freshness and purity that includes buildings high as the sky, long, and (contains) unique palaces in the north east and north west; there is an octagonal mansion in the middle.” [6, p. 82-84]

Table 1. Time line of Iran history. By the author

Periods	Dynasties	Years
Ancient period BC		4000 – 616 BC
Imperial period		678 BC – 651AD
Medieval period		632 AD – 1508 AD
Early modern period	Safavid dynasty	1501–1736
	(Hotak dynasty)	1722–1729
	Afsharid dynasty	1736–1796
	Talysh Khanate	1747–1826
	Zand dynasty	1751–1794
Modern period	Qajar dynasty	1789–1925
	Pahlavi dynasty	1925–1979
	Interim Government of Iran	1979–1980
	History of the Islamic Republic of Iran	1980–present

The other author, Mirza Hasan Fasai Shirazi (1821-1898), wrote: “This garden was recognized as a state garden because it was the residence of the rulers. The Nazar Garden existed before the Zand era, but because of the great prosperity at the time of Karim Khan, it was developed and such elements as inside planting, a street system and buildings were added to it.” [13, p. 766]

The next text by Ali Sami⁷ reads: “This Garden is the famous Nazar Garden and the pergola is called Kolah Farani. It also acts as the Pars Museum. It dates back to the Zand dynasty and at the beginning it was twice the current size and some parts of it bordered two streets in the east and north. Out of the four pools on four sides, only three remain. The one located in the north, was demolished in about 1936 because it was run along Zand street. The Hafez⁸ tomb was built with its edge stones.” [9, p. 67]

In his book, Keramat Allah Afsar quotes Mohammad Hasan Shoa Al-Molk Shirazi,⁹ discussing designing a model of Nazar Garden: “Designers divided the garden geometrically, into squares, and by the order of the king, they planted cypress and sycamore trees around these sections. Also, they planted different and colourful flowers such as amaryllises, lilies, lotuses, violets and sunflowers between each tree and they planted boxwood around them. In the middle of this squares, fruit trees had been planted. So, they designed a garden like a romantic paradise”. [1, p. 185]

According to this description, the author has drawn Nazar Garden layout (Fig. 1), dividing it with different kinds of trees, described in the text. The drawing provides one of the possible layouts of the Garden and although it is possible to draw different versions of plants

⁵ All the translations were made by the author.

⁶ All translations by the author.

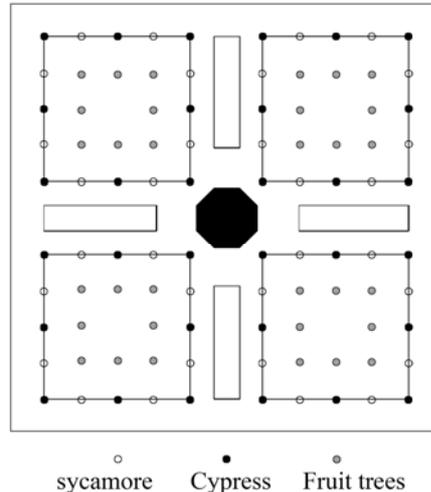
⁷ Ali Sami (born in 1910 in Shiraz, died in 1989) was an author, researcher and archaeology professor at the University, a head of Persepolis Institute of Archaeology in 1936.

⁸ Hafez (1315-1390) was a Persian poet from Shiraz. Ali Sami designed his tomb in 1936, during the Pahlavi era.

⁹ Scholar and author, poet from Shiraz, 1945. Wrote the Zand History book.

arrangement, some of the cypress and sycamores are still there, indicating the general idea of this design. They also support Mohammad Hasan Shoa Al-Molk Shirazi's description.

Fig. 1. Plan of Nazar Garden greenery during the Zand era (1751-1779), based on Mohammad Hasan Shoa Al-Molk Shirazi's descriptions. By the author.



Skot Wring was a 19th century tourist who came to Shiraz during the rule of Hossein Ali Mirzayee Farmanfarma¹⁰. He mentioned Nazar, Delgosha, Jahan Nama and Takht gardens and wrote the following words: "The best garden is the king's garden that is located in the city and designed by a variety of flowers and trees. The king's garden is Nazar Garden that in Qajar era was a residence of Qajar governors and princes". [2, p. 265]

The other author, Forsat al-Dawla¹¹ (1854-1920), describes this garden as a city garden and a garden of the state. "Karim Khan made a four seasons pergola in the middle of the Nazar Garden and he placed four large pools on its sides. This pergola was the venue for local government meetings. Hosein Ali Mirzayee Farmanfarma built¹² two high mansions or palaces at two sides of this garden. One of them, in the northwest of the Nazar Garden, was a high Mirror Palace which was decorated with mirrors. Another building was called Khorshid (Sun) Palace, and was on the northeast side of the garden. This Pergola was an accession place of the Fars rulers and many kinds of trees and plants grew in this garden."

"This garden has three gates; one of them is in the southwest, the second is in the north east and that leads to Artillery Square and there is a building on top of this and now it is a state tailor workshop, the third gate is in the northwest and it leads to Taville Square. There is a private place behind the Khorshid Palace". [10, p. 508-511]

More than half century ago, during building works and later during archaeological excavations around Nazar Garden, some carved stones were found, decorated with reliefs of athletic men. They were from Khorshid Palace, and dated back to the Qajar dynasty in the 19th century. Now they are exhibited in Nazar Garden (Fig. 2).

Forsat al-Dawla continues his account of the Nazar Garden gates in Qajar era: Alireza Arian Poor, an author and researcher who described Iranian gardens including the gardens of Shiraz, wrote: "Duriung the Zand dynasty, the population of Shiraz numbered about ten thousand. Shiraz was divided into twelve neighbourhoods. The city walls had six large gates. The Karim Khan Citadel was in the middle of the city. This Citadel had a large yard, that housed some buildings, most of which served state functions. There was also a large garden with multiple pools. The Forum building which opened up to the Nazar Garden was on the other side of the Citadel".

¹⁰ Qajar dynasty prince and governor of Shiraz in about 1856.

¹¹ He was a poet, painter, musician, literary and author from Shiraz.

¹² These constructions were built under Qajar dynasty rule.



Fig. 2. Discovered stones from Khorshid Palace from 19th century in Nazar Garden area. Photo. By the author

Alireza Arian Poor wrote some more detailed and information repeated in Forsat al-Dawla's description and concerning the first gate of Nazar garden: "This gate is in the southwest, at the moment two columns remain in the Nazemieh School yard (Fig. 3)." [2, p. 261-264]

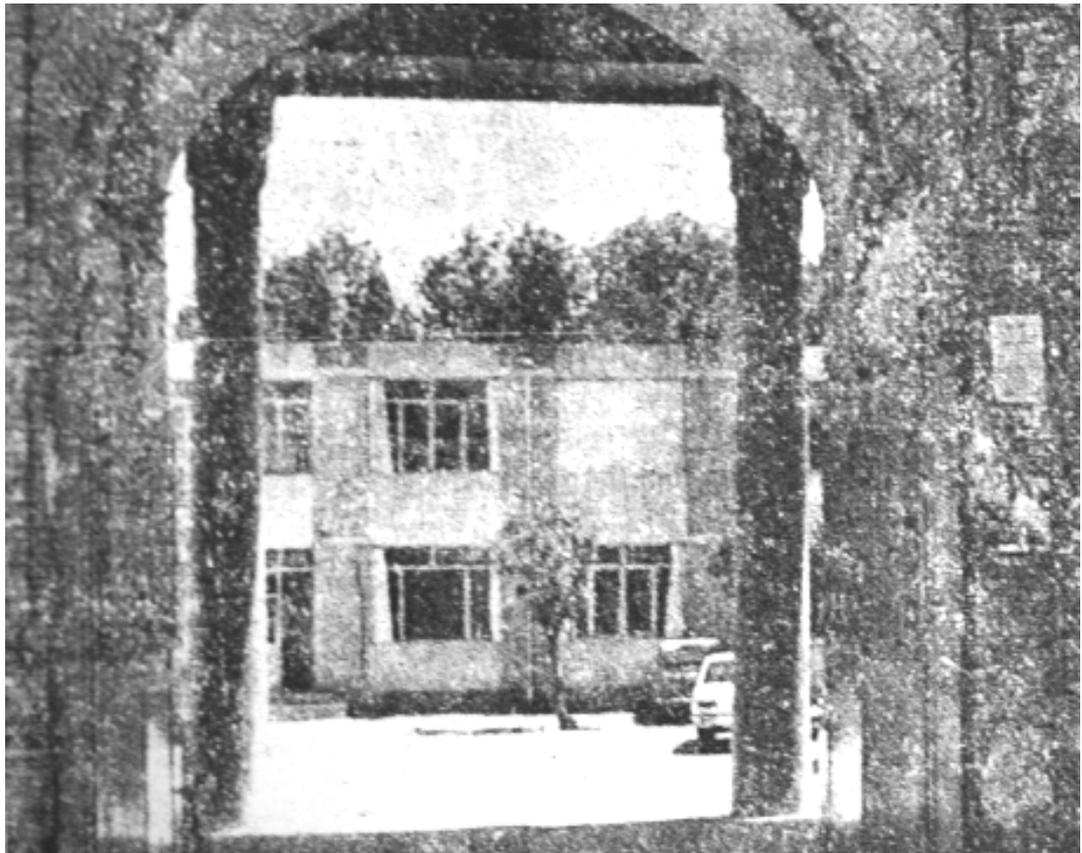


Fig. 3. Two stone columns from the south west of the garden (now in the entrance to Nazemieh School). Source: [2, p. 264]

The author has arranged a meeting with Mr. Khaksar¹³ concerning the Garden and the historical texts on it, and in particular the ancient columns mentioned before. According to Forsat al-Dawla and Arian Poor, they were part of the Garden gates. Mr. Khaksar didn't

¹³ The best contemporary specialist in restoration and conservation of historical monuments in the Fars Province and in the South of Iran. He is the oldest supervisor of Fars Historical and Cultural Ministry. He was responsible for some Nazar Garden and the adjacent area restoration projects.

agree with this part of the historical description of the Garden by Forsat al-Dawla and Arian Poor. In his opinion, the columns from the photograph (Fig. 3), were transported to the south porch of Karim Khan Citadel and they are still there. The columns in this photo were not the columns of Nazar Garden. He believes that originally, the Nazar Garden entrance was without columns.

Table 2. Summary of information on Nazar Gardens retrieved from written sources. By the author

writers	Dating of the text	Dimensions of the Garden	Buildings within the Garden	Garden trees	Garden flowers	Garden fountains	Time of existence of the garden
Oujan Falandi	1840	it adjoined the Forum from the north	–	–	–	with multiple pools	–
Skot Wring	About 1856	–	–	Variety of trees	Variety of flowers	–	–
Haj Ali Akbar navab Shirazi	1886	–	Pergola, Mirror Palace, Khorshid Palace	–	–	–	–
Forsat al-Dawla	1910	–	Pergola, Mirror Palace, Khorshid Palace	–	–	four pools around the Pergola	–
Ali Sami	1968	double of current size	Pergola	–	–	four pools around the Pergola	–
Keramat Allah Afsar	1970	–	–	cypress sycamore	amaryllis, lily, lotus, violets, sunflower	–	–
Alireza Aryan Poor	1974	the Citadel and Forum constructed in the Garden	Pergola, Mirror Palace, Khorshid Palace	cedar, pine	–	–	before Zand era
Mohammad Hasan Shoa Al-Molk Shirazi	unknown	–	–	cedar, pine fruit trees, grass on the grand	amaryllis, iris, sunflower, violets, purple lotus	–	–

3 REVIEW OF SHIRAZ MAPS AND IMAGES

This part of the research is aimed at presenting the Shiraz urban development during the periods of subsequent governments, and the situation of Nazar Garden under the changing attitudes towards urban planning and heritage protection.

The first map of Shiraz is a reconstruction (Fig. 4), depicting the city during the Safavid era (1501 to 1722). Unfortunately, the documents and information from this period are not available and most Safavid structures in Shiraz have been destroyed during earthquakes and superseded by the new buildings throughout the city. This map has been prepared on the basis of relicts and excavations of monuments and also based on data from historical texts on this era. In the author's opinion, No. 2 on the map (Fig. 4) is a Safavid era government garden and this area will become Nazar in the subsequent Zand dynasty.

1. Charbagh¹⁴ or King Garden
2. Government Garden (future Nazar Garden)
3. Safavid Palace
4. Hospital
5. Safavid Square
6. Mosque
7. Bazar
8. Khan Seminary
9. Caravanseray
10. New Mosque
11. Shah Cheragh Shrine and Atigh Mosque

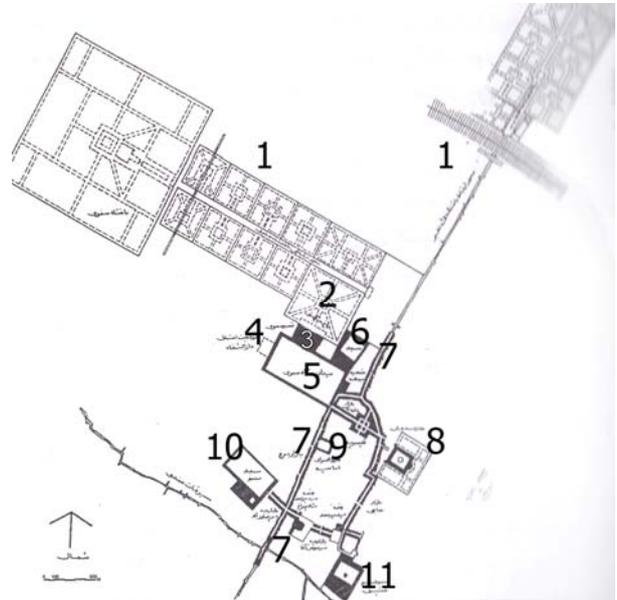


Fig. 4. Map of Shiraz during the Safavid era, (1501 to 1722). Source: Fars Historical and Cultural Ministry Archive, Arch No: 61/2-31

Map of Shiraz during the Zand era (1751 - 1794). The structures marked in black are from the Karim Khan period (Fig. 5). Some of them had been built or repaired by his order. According to this map Nazar Garden is larger than the Citadel, but nowadays their proportions are inverted and the reduced Nazar Garden is smaller than the Citadel.

1. Citadel
 2. Forum or Divankhane
 3. Nazar Garden
 4. Vakil bath
 5. Vakil mosque
 6. Caravansary
 7. Vakil bazar
- Structure from the Zand period
 Pre-Zand period structure
 Buildings that do not exist

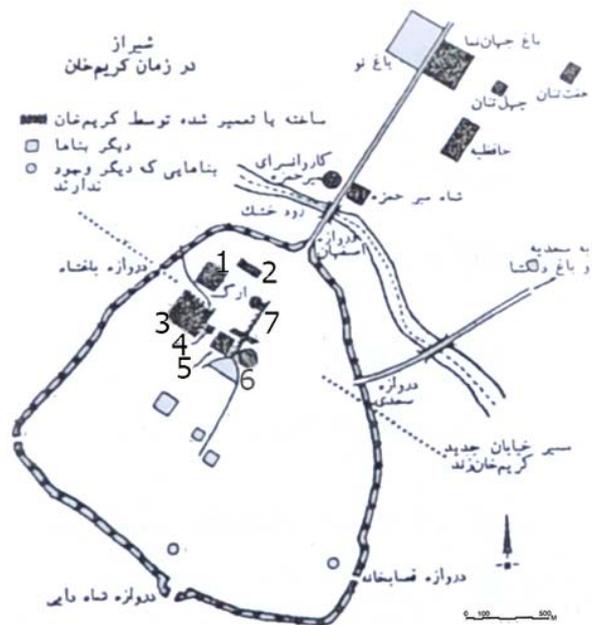


Fig. 5. Map of Shiraz during the Zand era (1751 - 1779). Source: [1, p.187]

A comparison of maps from Safavid and Zand dynasties shows some monuments located in the same places in both periods (Fig. 6). The Mosque (No. 4) and Bazar (No. 9) from the Safavid era are at the same spot as Vakil Mosque and Bazar from the Zand era. This means that Karim Khan built Vakil Mosque Bazar on the site of the Safavid Mosque and Bazar area. At the same time, the Government Garden is located on the same site as Nazar Garden. This means that Nazar Garden had existed before, under a different name and in a different shape, but the Pergola and geometrical layout are from the Zand era.

¹⁴ Kind of Persian design of garden which was popular in Safavid era.

- 1. Safavid Charbagh or King Garden
 - 2. Safavid Palace
 - 3. Safavid Square
 - 4. Initially Safavid Mosque and then Vakil Mosque during the Zand era
 - 5. Shah Cheragh Shrine and Atigh Mosque
 - 6. New Mosque
 - 7. Khan Seminary (from the Safavid period)
 - 8. Hafez Tomb
 - 9. Bazar
- Black – Safavid period plan
Coloured - Zand map

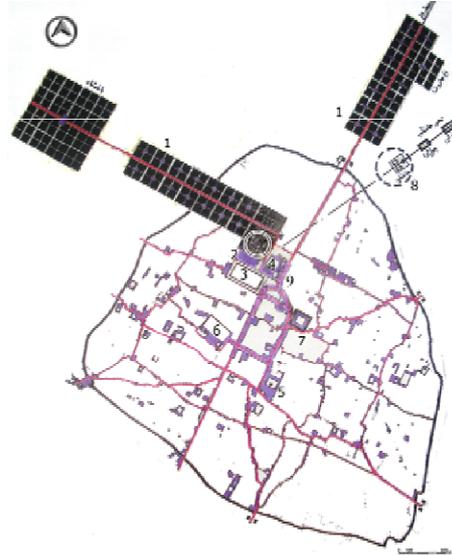


Fig. 6. A comparison of Shiraz maps from the Safavid era and from the Zand period. By the author.

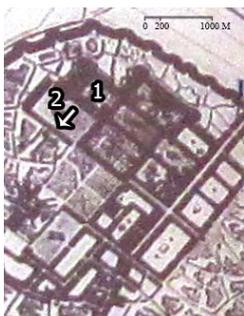
The Shiraz map from the Qajar era (1796-1925) is an original document (Fig. 7). Nazar Garden (No.1.) is visibly larger than the Citadel (No. 3.). The new urban spaces such as Taville Square (No.2.) and Artillery Square (No. 4.) have been built into this Garden, diminishing its spread.

- 1. Nazar Garden
- 2. Taville Square
- 3. The Citadel
- 4. Artillery Square
- 5. Forum
- 6. Barrack
- 7. Saray Square
- 8. Vakil Caravansary
- 9. Karim Khan Caravansary
- 10. Vakil Square
- 11. King Square



Fig. 7. A Shiraz map from Qajar era (1850) and a fragment of it, showing the city centre, source: [7, p.197]

Photos from Artillery and Taville Squares from the Qajar era show their exact size and surroundings. In Fig. 8 and 9 the Citadel forms the background for these photos. The squares and the buildings were constructed on the grounds of Nazar Garden.



The arrow indicates the view. The Citadel was behind photographer. No.1. The Citadel, No.2 Taville Square.

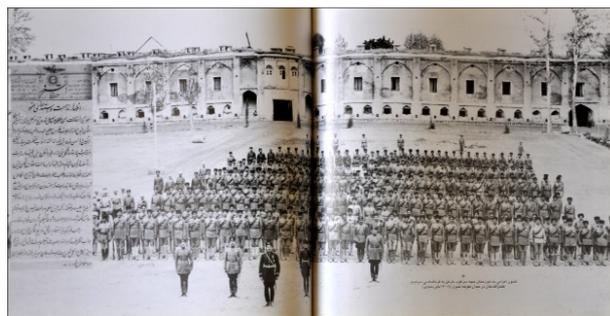
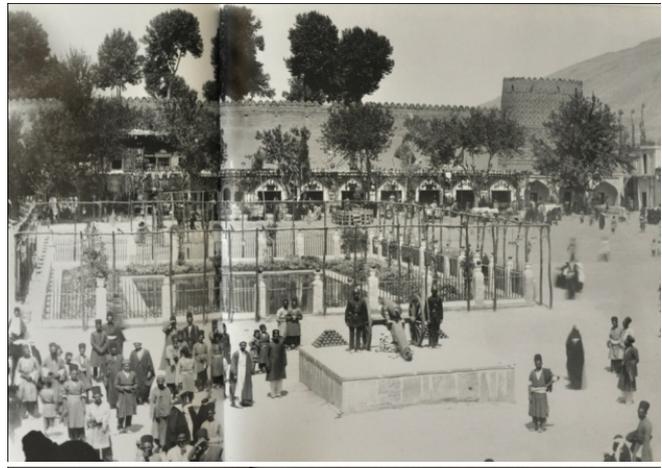


Fig. 8. Artillery Square and the Citadel in 1911-1916, source: [7, p. 32-34]



The arrow indicates the view. The Citadel south-east wall with the buildings. No.1. The Citadel, No.2. Artillery Square.



Fig. 9. Artillery Square and the Citadel in 1911-1916, source: [7, p. 32-34]

View of Shiraz from the time of the end of the Qajar dynasty and the beginning of the first period of Pahlavi dynasty 1920-1925. Photograph (Fig. 10) shows the old buildings by Karim Khan and the new buildings placed within the reduced Nazar Garden. The photo also shows Nazar Garden trees and the scale of the whole area. Old and new elements are marked on the plan (Fig. 11).



1.Taville Square, 2. The Citadel, 3. Pergola and Nazar Garden, 4. Artillery Square, 5. Forum or Divankhane, 6. Karim Khan Square, 7. Vakil Mosque.

Fig. 10. General view of Shiraz towards the end of the Qajar era, about 1920-1925, source: [7, p. 34] Implemented by the author.

During the Pahlavi period, the situation of Nazar Garden changed due to the new developments: Edifices and new streets were introduced in this area (Fig. 11). A new street cut Vakil Bazar into two: North Bazar and South Bazar. The road investments resulted in the destruction of the north part of Nazar Garden (Fig. 12).

Since Pahlavi times, Garden borders have been permanent and without changes until today, due to registration of the Nazar garden with No. 244 into Iranian National Heritage Index in 1935. Since that time, the Garden has been safe and impervious to any changes and developments.

1. Contemporary Nazar Garden - Now: Pars Museum. (by Karim Khan about 1766)
2. Court of Justice (from the Pahlavi era. 1946)
3. Citadel (by Karim Khan about 1766)
4. Forum, called now Divankhane by (Karim Khan about 1766)
5. National Bank (from the Pahlavi era. 1966)
6. Vakil Bazar, Northern Part (by Karim Khan about 1766)
7. Vakil Bazar, Southern Part (by Karim Khan about 1766)
8. Fil Caravansary (by Karim Khan about 1766)
9. Vakil Mosque (by Karim Khan about 1766)
10. Vakil Bath (by Karim Khan about 1766)
11. Economic Affairs and Finance Office (from the Pahlavi era. 1970)



Fig. 11. Contemporary Shiraz map with important elements at different periods and dates, source: Google Earth, implemented by the author

-  Contemporary Nazar Garden location
-  Outline of Nazar Garden during the time of Karim Khan



Fig. 12. An aerial photo from 1956 (the Pahlavi era) with contemporary Nazar Garden highlighted. Source: Fars Historical and Cultural Ministry Archive. Arch No: 658/14

4. CURRENT SITUATION OF NAZAR GARDEN WITHIN THE CITY OF SHIRAZ

The Garden is now located in Karim Khan Zand Street, near to Shohada Square and opposite Karim Khan Citadel (Fig. 13). The Pergola - an octagonal brick building. (Fig. 14-15) is its characteristic feature.

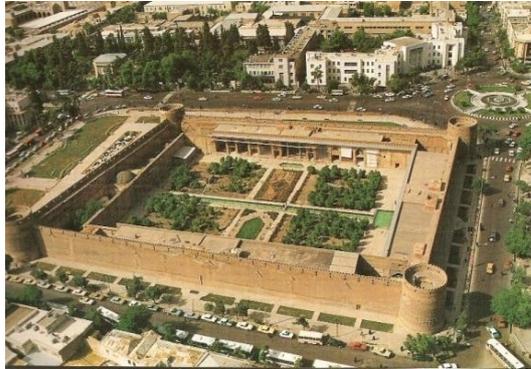


Fig. 13. Aerial photo of Karim Khan Citadel and Nazar Garden seen from the north-west; photograph from about 1971.
Source: [13]

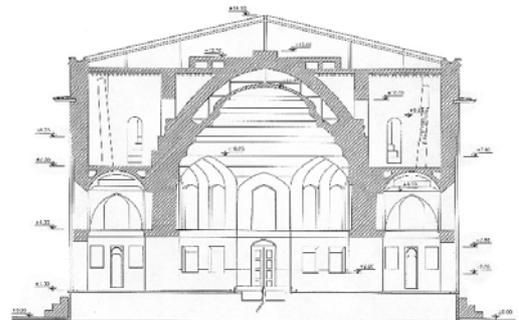
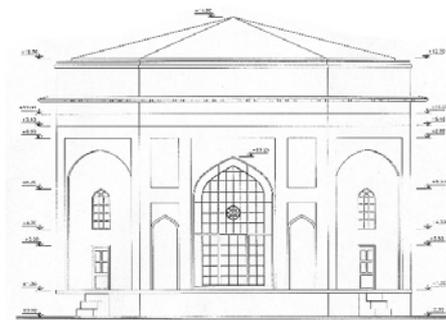


Fig. 14. View and section of the Nazar Garden Pergola. Source: Fars Historical and Cultural Ministry Archive. Arch No: 31/4-8

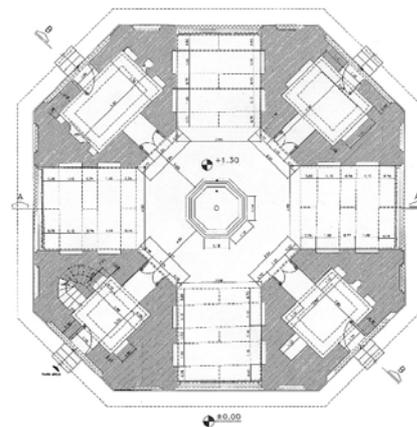
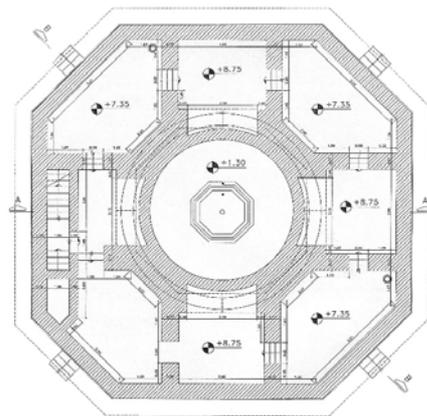


Fig. 15. Plans of the Nazar Garden Pergola. Source: Fars Historical and Cultural Ministry archive. Arch No: 31/4-8.

This Pergola has four halls and four rooms with the Karim Khan tomb located in the hall. The interior of the building is decorated with paintings and the exterior is covered with colourful tiles. Stuccos from the Zand period include the muqarnas¹⁵ and the Pergola's internal octagonal vault is intricately decorated. Flowers and birds are the main interior

¹⁵ Muqarnas (Arabic: مقرنص; Persian: مقرنس) is a form of architectural ornamented vaulting, known as stalactite vaulting. It is built by "geometric subdivision of a squinch, or cupola, or corbel, into a large number of miniature squinches, producing a sort of cellular structure", sometimes it is also called a "honeycomb" vault. Source: [12]

decorations motifs, characteristic for the Zand period. There is a small marble fountain and pool in the middle of the building that freshens the air in the interiors (Fig. 16-19).



Fig. 16. Pergola's tiles around of the building. Photo by the author



Fig. 17. Detail of Pergola's tiles on the outside walls. Photo by the author



Fig. 18. Muqarnas of the octagonal vault and interior decorations. Source: [11]



Fig. 19. Karim Khan tomb. Photo by the author

In the past, the Garden had four pools (mentioned [9], [10]) on four sides of the Pergola. The one to the north was demolished when Zand street construction started. Some movable elements of the Garden were transferred to other locations in the following years as the works were proceeding. Two pools, to the west and east of the building were shortened and only the south-east pool remained as long as it was in the past (Fig. 20-21). Currently the area of Nazar Garden averages about 7700 square meters and its buildings cover roughly 584 square meters.

Contemporarily the Pergola functions as the Pars Museum, which houses a selection of ancient books, particularly Quran editions from the different centuries.



Fig. 20. The east (shortened) and the Pergola. Photo by the author



Fig. 21. The south (unchanged) pools and the Pergola. Photo by the author

contain information from the descriptions available in historical texts and are based on older maps and sketches. The final result allows one to indicate the changes that took place in this area.

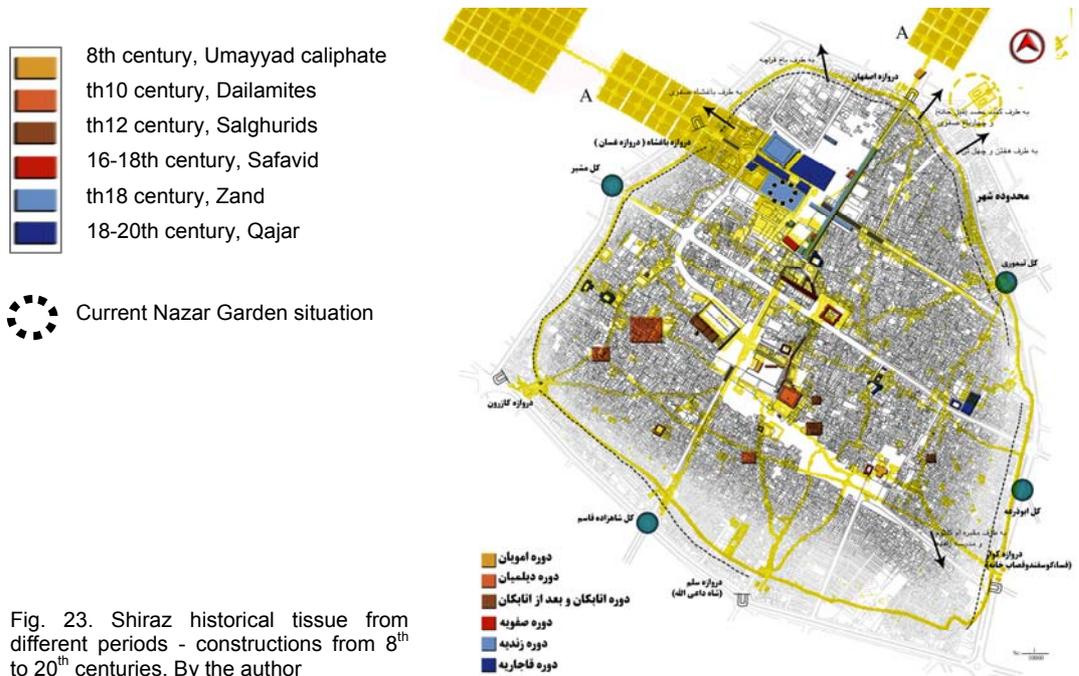


Fig. 23. Shiraz historical tissue from different periods - constructions from 8th to 20th centuries. By the author

This makes it possible to draw the outline of the Nazar Garden and its historical surroundings within the contemporary Shiraz city centre (Fig. 24). The developments (spaces and monuments) from the Qajar and Pahlavi era are marked and described (Fig. 25-26) on the aerial view of contemporary Shiraz city centre.

1. Nazar Garden area in the Zand era
2. Forum, Divankhane - Zand era
3. Citadel- Zand era
4. Karim Khan Square - Zand era. Non-existent today
5. Vakil Mosque - Zand era
6. Vakil Bath - Zand era
7. Vakil Bazar - Zand era



Fig. 24. An aerial photo of contemporary Shiraz city centre of with Nazar Garden location during the Zand period (the dotted outline). The developments from the Zand period are marked and described. By the author

8. Nazar Garden in Qajar Period
9. Mirror Palace - Qajar Period
10. Tavile Square - Qajar Period
11. The Citadel - Zand Period
12. Khorshid Palace - Qajar Period
13. Artillery Square - Qajar Period
14. The Forum - Zand Period
15. Karim Khan Square - Zand Period
16. Vakil Bath - Zand Period
17. Vakil Mosque - Zand Period
18. Vakil Bazar - Zand Period
19. King Square (from the Safavid Period)
20. Barrack - Qajar Period
21. Caravansary - Zand Period
22. Vakil Saray - Zand Period



Fig. 25. Map of Qajar Dynasty developments within the area of Nazar Garden, based on the historical texts. Reconstruction of the former Garden layout. By the author

23. Nazar Garden area from the Pahlavi until today
24. The Citadel - Zand Period
25. The Forum - Zand Period
26. Vakil Bazar - Zand Period
27. Vakil Mosque - Zand Period
28. Vakil Bath - Zand Period
29. Economic Affairs and Finance Office - Pahlavi era
30. Court of Justice - Pahlavi era
31. Shohada Square - Pahlavi era
32. National Bank - Pahlavi era

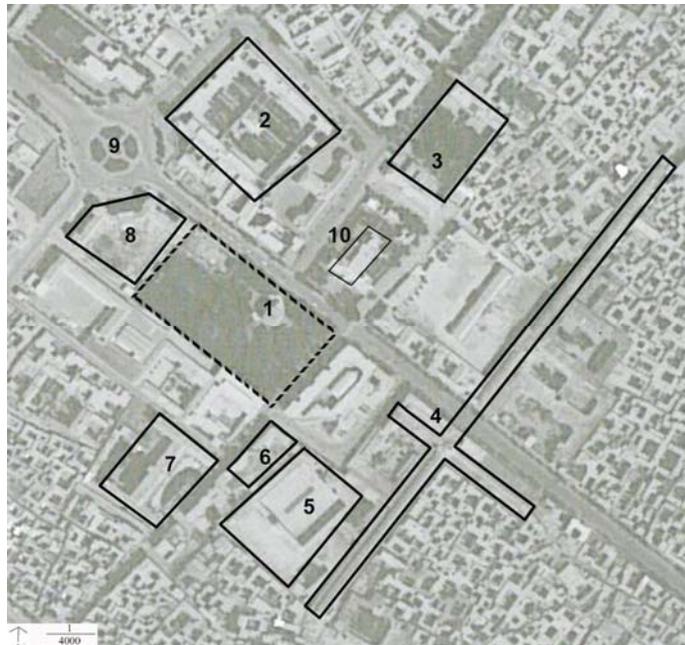


Fig. 26. An aerial photo of contemporary Shiraz city centre with Nazar Garden location (the dotted outline) and layouts of its elements built-up from the Pahlavi dynasty and until today. By the author

6- CONCLUSION

In the 18th century Nazar Garden was large enough to be connected to Safavi Charbagh (or King's Garden). In the Zand period, the Citadel and Forum were built within the Garden area. Comparison of the proportions of the trees in Nazar Garden and trees near the Forum and Citadel around Melli Bank, provides proof of their common origin. According

to some accounts, cedars and pines that line the streets in these areas are described as similar to the trees of Nazar Garden. It seems that their age, assessed by the trunk diameters confirm their similar age. (Fig. 27-28). So far, no detailed research was carried to assess their real age.



Fig. 27. A row of trees near Melli Bank is considered to be the remaining part of Nazar Garden greenery from the Zand Period, or even from the earlier times. Photo by the author

According to the presented studies, a probable layout of Nazar Garden during the Zand dynasty (1751-1779) was drawn (Fig. 24). It adjoins the Forum and the Citadel from the north, from the east it is bordered by Karim Khan Square and from the south it ends along Safavid Square. Unfortunately, all structures from the Safavid era are destroyed. Therefore, it is not clear whether the structures were being executed in the time of the Zand dynasty or not. But as the author's research shows, and due to Karim Khan descriptions of this area and records from the following Quajar and Pahlavi eras, the developments (Fig. 24-25-26) were bordering Nazar Garden in Zand dynasty and Quajar dynasty.



Fig. 28. A row of trees behind the Melli Bank that is also considered to be the remaining part of Nazar Gardens greenery from Zand era or from before that time. Photo by the author

This research, based on historic texts and maps, shows approximate ranges of the Garden in subsequent 19th and 20th century decades after its construction in the second half of the 18th century. Assessment of the size and detailed layout of the Garden in different phases of its development should be continued. This will facilitate a search for its elements on and under contemporary surfaces. The rows of trees, that either survived till

today or were superseded by new specimens, can indicate the shape of former garden sections and alleys. Specialized research carried out by a multidisciplinary team may unveil interesting information and uncover unexpected artefacts.

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AUTHOR'S NOTE

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