

Spatial Organization of Gurgan city in Islamic Period (On the basis of Archaeological Findings and Documentary Sources)

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Abstract

Jurjanor Gurgan is a city that remains from the Islamic period have been located in 3 kilometers from the western current city of Gonbad-e-Qaboos. The foundation of the city as a fortress in the late Sassanid era was formed in the early centuries of Islamic rulers in the early development of local Samanids his vast experience and reach 300 hectares approximately. The second stage of urban development in this city that the final stage of development the city is considered in the Seljuk era succeeded and the extent to which more than 1200 hectares. This paper approaches utilizing methods common theoretical study of spatial organization in the city using the findings from archaeological research and written sources and historical geography. The results of this study indicate that residents in the establishment of two Sunni and Shiite, each with evidence of various urban spaces, to reflect a political and religious ideas in the form of the rulers and the has been expanding various parts. Place core and the central city, the changes left and semi-independent elements(total small) such as the mosque, citadel, market , square andJurjan urban structure have been developed from the military is an important part of its regular network of streets, including main and sub-parallel to that, they cut each other.Beautification of urban spaces with decorative brickwork floor carpets Street, effluent disposal by surface hub of waterways (channels) through which underground water pipe was driven by clay, including features in the form of spatial organization is Jurjan city. Form and analysis of two point spaces in city government when Seljuk Samanid and that facilities for residents of the civil disorder and has a logical layout with the city on the Silk Road , city's economic prosperity in the medieval period used the frequency of interest.

Keywords: Islamic city of Gurgan ,jurjan, Archaeological excavation ,Spatial organization , Samanid , Seljuq , Urban space

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1-Introduction

As a new approach of social archaeology are focuses in interaction of space and society in the past human culture. In this interaction, space is intricate complex political, economic, social and cultural evolutions that are considered to be come the close relationship between the people and political and economic power. Generally, Itwill rise in the form of governmentin the Islamicperiod, due to human settlement in the context of the Islamic city and existence of differentpower forms, have been more seriously itself. Thus,human and his behaviors be manifested in a more organized society as aCity. Spatial Archaeology seekslogical connections between the discovery of architectural spaces and features of form and functionthem. Scholars thatresearches in this field are emphasis that spatial analysis of architectural remains, created at first, based on request of society, and later reformed according to another requirements. Moreover, the aim of spatial archaeology is cognition ofspace structureand spatial relationship between components with together. Also, theimpact of political, economic and religious indicators have caused changes spaces in form and function. Wherever,in the Islamic era existed various forms of power in Iran and northern cities have sharedinoccurred substantial developments.thus, in this article tries to study focusing on spatial organization and the city during the Islamic Jurjan and theoretical analysis to be paid architectural spaces in two Macro-scaleand micro scale. In the large scale part, has been studied political and social conditions and progress of formation, development and destruction in urban society of Gorgan. On the other hand, the spatial analysis have paid micro scale and also have been considered complexity of formby the type of urban spaces and architectural elements.

2- Gorgan(Jurjan) in the Documentary Sources (Historical and Geographical Documents):

During the Parthian and Sassanid to providing of security in the northern borders of Iran was built military fortifications and defensive walls in the great plains of Gorgan.

These buildings more constructed asa defensive walls and Castles such as "Defensive Wall of Gorgan" and" Tamishehthateach one orderedby KhosrowAnushirvanand were constructed to the Firuz (Fig. 1) Tabariindicate that primitive bases of Jurjanbelongs to early Islamic period.

He said that Jurjan constructed by Yazid-ibn-Mohalleb-commander of Arab troops in the conquest of Jarjan (Tabari, vol 9: 3937). Balazeritold us that Jurjan have been wall and fortsin whole of city (Balazeri, 1337: 473-471). The Abbasids to power up and extendingtheir territories in north of Iran. they were sent governors to this region to manage political and economic administrations in GurganProvince. Being lengthening Abbasid Caliphate, local rulers refusedfor Policy Center of the Caliphate in Baghdad, heavy social pressures resulting from land taxes and duties ,also stabilized against the Sunni minority, Shiite religious movements have considered main causes of political conflicts Alavian In Tabarestan and Gorgan. For example , can be indicate such as battles between Abo-al khozeyb andEspahboud(Ibn Isfandiar, 1366: 174), rebellion of Maziar-IbnQaran (Mojmal-al Tavarikh, 1318: 358-357) and Hassan Ibn ZaydAlavi (Tabari, vol 13: 9-6138). Thus, despite the insecure political atmosphere and mentality of local government Tabaristan and Gurgan against Arab (Zarrinkub, 1364: 465) was builtGarrisonsinTabaristan and Gurgan by Abol Abbas Toosi-Governor of the Abbasid Caliphate in the region- (141-143 AH.). (Ibn Isfandiar, 1366: 178; Amoli, 1348: 61; Marashi, 1345: 60). With Performance of this insight and controllingof political boundaries began the emergence of governance arrangements and local independent such as Al Ziar and Alavian. In Great Khorasan and Sistan,Samanid,Taherian and Safarian added to their territories and states,whereas Gurganwere riding and the new arena and their possessions (Narakhsy, 1363: 305-304; Tarikh-e- Sistan, 1366: 224 -223;Madelung,1381:180-179).

Indeed ,Most of our knowledge in historical geography fromJurjanCity is fromMuslim geographers of the fourth century AH. they give us very important information about culture, economic, policy and so on. Some geographers, have considered part of Qumis , Khorasan and Tabaristan.(Ibn Rosteh, 1365: 122-112; Ibn Khordadbeh, 1371: 59; Abolfada', 1349, 506; Ansari dameshghi, 1382: 32). Ibn Huoqelindicates that Jurjan isafter Ray and Iraq cities, most cities of Iran. It is divided to twomain Quarter: Shiite area called "Sharistan" and Sunni area calle "Bakrabad".These two parts respectively, were established inEast and West (Ibn Huoqel, 1366: 124). The core of city called, shahrستان (Ibn Faghiih, 1349: 180).

Based on written sources, the Jurjan ethnic mixturewas include people Qumis, Khorasan, Gurgan and Tabaristan. Religious population of the city was include with minority Shiite includingZeydiyeh and Ismailia and Sunni majority that they areHanafi, Hanbali, and ,Karramiyeh (Maghddasi, 1361: 539-524).

According to the Maghdassi, quarters of city has been consist of nine alley as following : "Soleyman", "Qumisian", "Rahian", kandeh", "Badenjan", "Khorasan", "Barghah", "Bakrabad" and "Shahristan".

Mosques and markets in "Bakrabad" quarter has been decorated with wall paintings. In the central city located Palace of governor. Cemetery was placed across the river in the city of Gurgan that goes by the wooden bridge and brick to connects city (Maghdassi 1361:524).

Geographic sources pointed that the Gurgan River called Gurgan rood. It originated from Deylam Mountains and traverse the long path to the City divided into two parts and also eventually has fallen to the Caspian Sea (Hodod-al-Alam, 1361: 143; Khazraji, 1354: 83; Abolfada', 1349, 506; Ansari Dameshghi, 1382: 168; Hafez abrow, 1375: 166). Also Jeyhani and Qazvini are considered Gurgan to this River has navigability (Jeyhani, 1368: 148. Qazvini, 1373: 411). Written sources memorized of high quality silk by products and other major cities such as rice and fish (Bartold, 1377: 39). Another products of Gurgan can indicate such as, figs, olives, melons, jujube and bergamot (Ibn Hougel, 1366: 124. Maghdassi, 1361: 520 .)

3- New Archaeological Excavations in Gurgan Old City

Firstly, extensive archaeological excavations in Islamic city of Jurjan headed by Professor. Mohammad Yousef Kiani by since 1350 to 1357. Consequently, led by Dr. Mohammad Morteza since 1380 to 1384. according to excavated parts discovered numerous architectural spaces including streets, administrative building, Bridges, Industrial Workshops, monumental buildings, residential quarters. (Figure 2). Studies show that the Jurjan has long brick wall with stone and mud mortar Sarouj. It has been enclosed and also has contained surrounding wide and deep moat. Unfortunately, there isn't any data about of the actual height of the wall thickness and fortification city. Due to most of moat and fort has been lost in development and use of agricultural land by residents (Kiani, 1365:231. Morteza, 1386:335).

There are historical and geographic references about of downtown Jurjan Citadel that was called "Shahristan" (Maghdassi 1361: 524). Fortunately, with doing archaeological Excavations was recognized the exact location of Arg (Citadel). it has hexagonal plan.

Evidence determined that most Commercial, administrative and religious centers have been formed in the early Islamic period around the same building (Arg)(Kiani, Mortezaei, 1385: 113). Citadel located in the Shiite quarter. It has been the main core of the city.

In the center of Jurjan, there were a mosque-school (Masjed-Madreseh) that has four porch and was built on two floors. This building yard that belonged to the Seljuq period. It has been dimensions of rectangles 13.80 X 16.40M. Surrounding rooms were several dimensions such as 4 X 4 m and 3.25 X 4.50 meters. Yard was carpeted with a brick floor and the mosque entrance had been built in the northern side through a vestibule and hallway connected to the central courtyard (Kiani, 1365: 234). In the North side of the mosque, located construction of underground rooms with three floors that each of them had been carpeted with square and hexagonal bricks. In the southwestern side to exist spiral stairs (Fig. 3)

It probably make up base of the mosque minarets (Kiani, 1383: 91). Today, sections of the altar and fragments of stucco decorations, wall paintings and inscriptions of the mosque were protected in Yahya Ibn Zeyd shrine near the city of Jurjan (figure 4)

Constructed Bridges in Jurjan belong to Seljuq Period. Material used in this building consist of Brick with Sarouj Mortar.

Networking of streets in this city has been included four axes. For example, Avenue stretches from north to south and from East to West had been constructed. Network design scheme across the city revolving Street North West, South and East led to regular and quick connect different parts of the city. It is interesting that in side the main city streets work out walking spaces. Also, for transfer and disposal of sewage effluent work -out channels with pottery pipes. It called Tanbousheh. On both sides of the main street, there are some chambers probably usages as a place they traded. It probably has been displayed the kind of prototype of the market space (Bazaar).

In some parts of Jurjan can be seen industrial workshops. For example, in Gholam Ali Tepe -in west of city- discovered a workshop. The plan of building consist of perpendicular chamber and some of forge and pottery. They belong to the Seljuq era (Kiani, 1354: 122, 120).

Generally, Researches shows that the workshops constructed and developed along the main streets (Mortezaei, 1386: 304, 291). (Fig. 5).

City quarters and residential areas has been located around the shrine and near of the ruins fortifications. Archaeological Excavations show that this part belong to Samanid and Seljuq periods. Evidence determined One of these buildings that including a yard, rooms walls and streams. they have been made from bricks and plaster. (Kiani,1365:233).

Recent archaeological research that was conducted by MohammadMortezaie, confirms that residential areas and city quarters in Jurjan belong to three period:

1-Samanid, 2-Seljuq 3- Ilkhanid(Mortezaie, 1386: 256). Architectural characteristics in ilkhanid period, including the using of brick and torn thatch, re-use of pre-architectural, building and construction of the wall of the enclosure was followed without walls in residential units(Fig. 6)

4- Conclusion

nodoubt, According to written sources and archaeological evidences, urban planning of Jurjanwas formed as polygon angles thatwas developed in both directions East and West. Major elementshave been including the defensive walls, citadel, mosques, streets, main streets, markets, workshops , industrial and residential areas (Kiani, 1365: 235,231).

Basically, Islamic Urbanism inJurjanare divided to two periods: 1-Samanid era 2- Seljuqera. Though, during the ZiaridsDynasty ,Jurjan has been as capital in beside of Rayy(462-315 AH.) (Ehlers, 2001: 143; Bartold, 1377: 142). One of the Monumental masterpieces in this eracan be indicate to tower Gonbad-e-Qaboos (397 AH.) that constructed by order ofQaboos-Ibn-Voshmgir-Fourth governor ziarids(Kiani,1379:45-44).

The first stage of urban spaces development in Jurjan should be knew the time of lack in the coherent strategy urbanism. Because of the impermanent political and economic conditions hasmajor impress on the defecting structure and logical development of the city.

However, early physical extensions were accrued in Samanid period. Jurjan at this time, extended to 300 hectares, approximately. In Seljuq era, final stage completed and reaches to 1200 Hectares.

Author believes that ethnic and religious conflicts in the medieval cities such as Nishapur, Rayy and Jurjan have caused that strengthens the violence's between Sunnis and Shiite minorities. This matter were determined one of the reasons for lagging of cities. Also, it has been reflected in spatial organizations to different parts of Jurjan. Occurred Political evolutions in the Seljuq and Samanid dynasties has changed form of city completely. Central part (core) city was formed in Shiite area that called Shahrستان. It was 300 hectares approximately. While at the same time, in Bakrabad quarter (Sunni area), people suffered severe deprivation in western part of the city. With the establishment of the Seljuq Governors, Sunni area (Bakrabad quarter) developed and spread to 1200 hectares, approximately. So, Seljuq rulers were patronage good for Sunni areas. It has been caused that interference ethnic and religious affiliations. It has impacted on the formation and development in Jurjan. Hence, can be inferred that the city of haven't any peaceful coexistence and people have been political and religious tensions, constantly.

In other words, power control city in point of fourth century AH was under to rulers Samanid and Alavian and al Buyeh. In the fifth and sixth centuries AH has been by the Seljuq governors. Urban planning achievements and innovations of Jurjan in Seljuq and Kharazmshahids periods can be indicate that Creation waste disposal systems through waterways (channels) as well as organize and running by streets city with decorative designs brickwork. Urban Structure including to fourth Main Streets which limited to districts Yahya bin Zeyd shrine to the tomb Qaboos Ibn Voshmgir to Gurgan River and to the surrounding agricultural lands (Mortezaie, 1386:204-226). According to archaeological excavations, Jurjan has uniform Spatial organization patterns as another Islamic cities. It consist of Arg (Citadel), Sharistan (residential area) and Rabaz (Agricultural area). The core of city was included mosque, citadel and market structure of city composed of complex of passages main, sub-streets and Ninth quarters. Semi-Independent of elements in Jurjan were such as Mosque, market, citadel, bridges and industrial workshops.

City Territory includes two parts. Fortification and barrier. Forts has been functioned as artificial and the Gurgan river as a natural territory. Like other cities, Jurjan has separate cemetery outside the city. It located in western part. Indeed that chosen location of cemetery have been conducted for attention to health and to prevent spread of contagious and infectious diseases.

There are some factors in social life a society that were caused decline and collapse. For this matter, obvious examples are Political conflicts, famine and drought, disease and natural events. The social history of Jurjan, invasion of Mongols in 618 AH be considered as introducing points of the process of political and economic decline (Mostofi, 1362: 197). Due to large scale destruction and lack of adequate facilities was replaced Astarabad as center of province. Although, the Timurid tried to rebuild the city, but they never succeeded (Hartmann, 1991: 1141). Moreover, subsequent earthquakes added to declines in 834 AH, 874 AH and 903 AH. Consequently, earthquakes was caused people leave it for a long term. (Melville, 1370:154,150).

The results of researches show that urban spaces of Jurjan in destructed in qajar and Pahlavi era, completely. In this period, people used to local material of old city for their buildings

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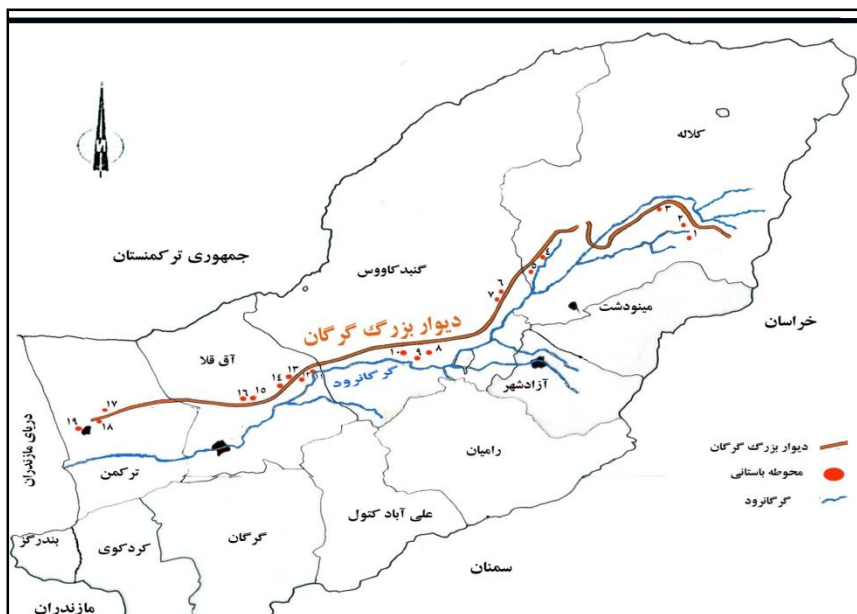


Fig 1. Map of great defensive wall of Gurgan(Mortezaei,1386)

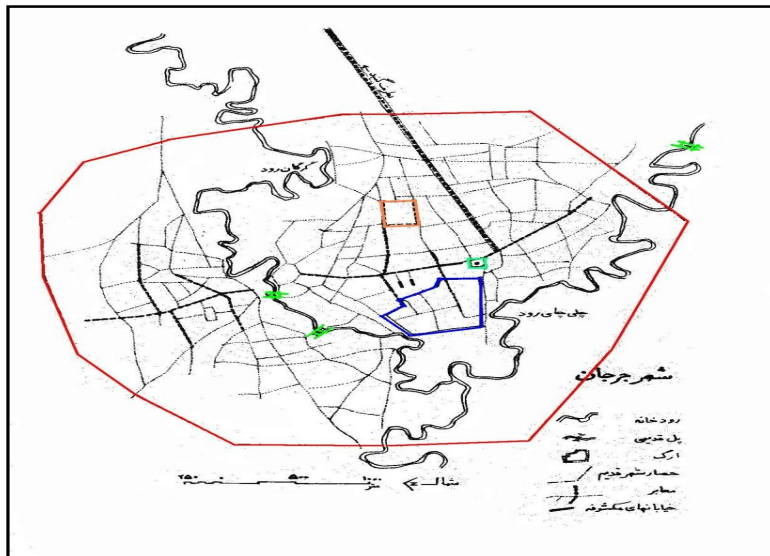


Fig 2. Urban Structure of Gurgan in Fifth and Sixth AH



Fig 3: Western view of Columns from Mosque and Minaret



Fig 4. Stucco Alter of Mosque

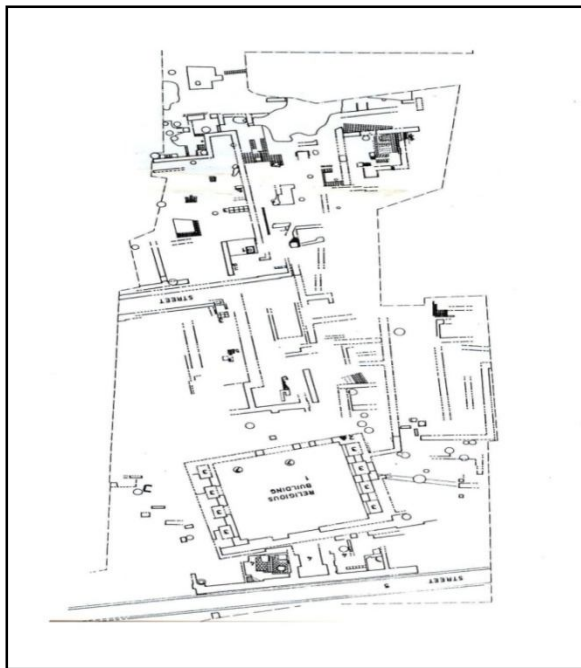


Fig 5: Pottery Workshop Plan in Jurjan City

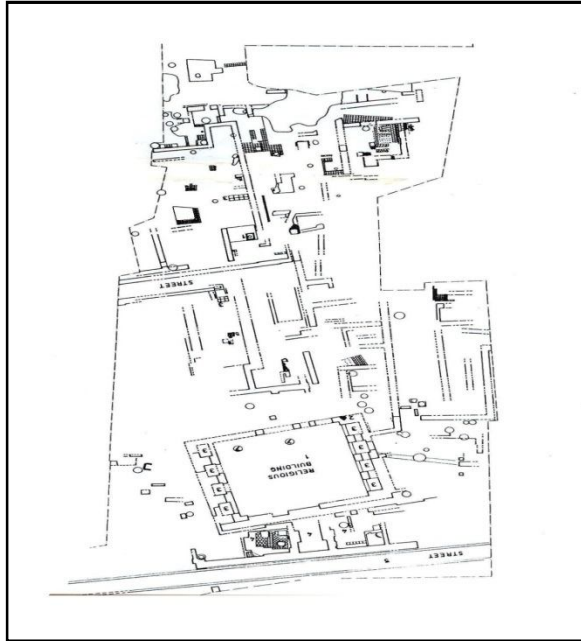


Fig 6 : Residential Area plan in Jurjan