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In Iran for fifty years architecture education was influenced by foreign doctrines and, especially, by the Beaux-Arts system of Paris. This education did not at all fit the cultural and economic needs of Iran. It had the following traits:

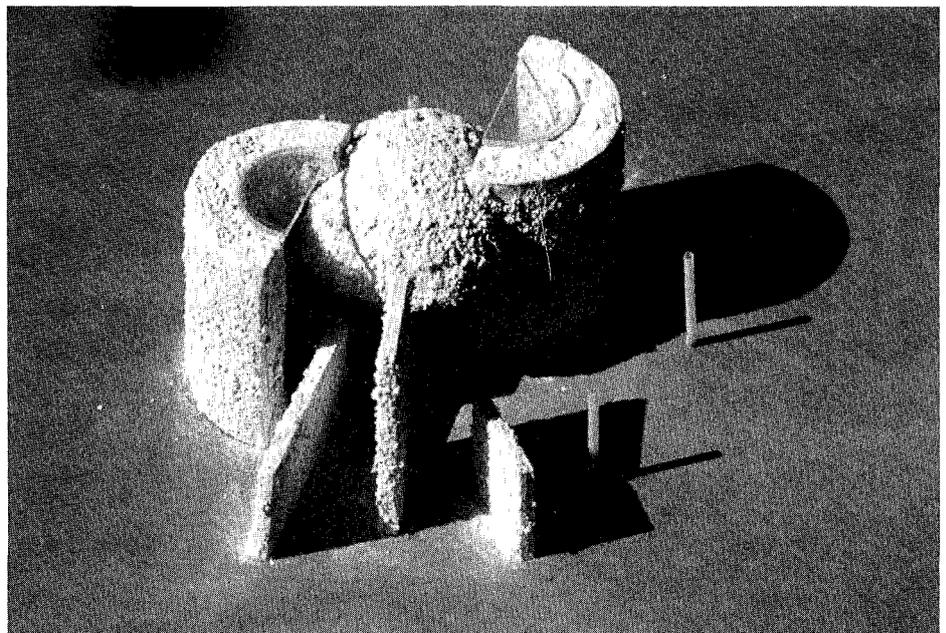
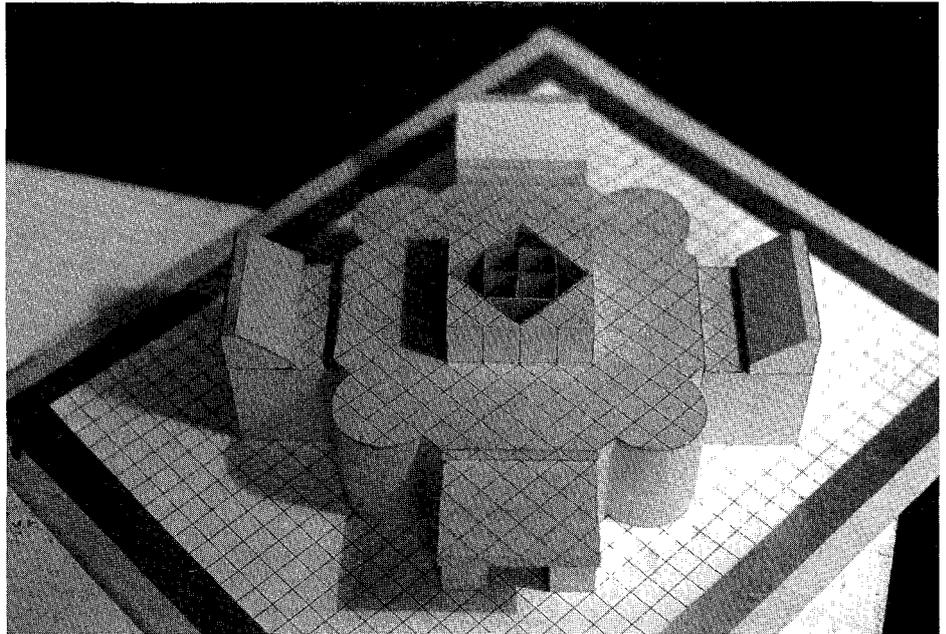
- 1) Total failure to adapt to Iran's culture, economy and climate.
- 2) An admiring stance *vis-à-vis* the Occident and the modern architecture movement (Gropius, Le Corbusier, Van der Rohe and Wright).
- 3) Education being directed to producing elite artists.
- 4) Elaboration of luxury projects far from Iranian social realities.

This was colonialism via the medium of cultural importation.

The new programmes are primarily centered on Iran and its problems. Both the physical and socio-economic parameters of the environment are analysed. Traditional and contemporary culture is defined. The history of Iranian art and civilisation is undertaken in conjunction with the general history of world art. Study is directed to the cultural patrimony via examination of fine traditional buildings and settings and cities that embody harmony with their environments.

Geometry, forms and composition are analysed visually, culturally and socially. Study trips to places of artistic and cultural interest are taken. Historians and social scientists contribute to the analysis of architecture and its spiritual, philosophical, religious and social significance. This is accompanied by the study of exact sciences, technical plans, technical design, design following models, descriptive and spatial geometry, modelling, photography, and others. Special importance is accorded to architectural space.

Iran needs an architecture that is faithful to its roots but also one that is adapted to modern needs and that offers a new and original expression suited to the Iranian milieu. This involves a transition from imported architecture to adapted architecture that must be reflected in education.



Student projects, Tehran University

Photos D Diba

Architecture Schools

The three schools of architecture are supervised by the Ministry of Sciences and Culture. To enter these schools an admission examination and high school diploma are required. Since 1979, after the Islamic Revolution, a committee composed of ten professors and graduates studies and elaborates the new programme of architecture teaching in Iran.

1 Tehran University Faculty of Fine Arts Department of Architecture

It is the oldest school of architecture in Iran. Its first dean was Mr. André Godard, who inaugurated architecture studies in Iran based on the Beaux-Arts model. Little attention was paid to the country and its cultural patrimony. The general trend in design was towards Modern Movement.

None of the Iranian architects of this period was able to present and express an appropriate architecture adapted to the culture and the physical environment of the country. In 1968, after the cultural changes that occurred in France and Europe, and after rejecting the Beaux-Arts model, new programmes were conceived, based on different trends and schools of thought in Europe and the U.S.A. The result was not satisfactory either, because these programmes were still not appropriate to the needs of the country.

In 1979 the Islamic government created the Committee of Architecture of the Cultural Revolution. Now the study cycle is six years leading to a master's degree. The new programme is essentially based on Islamic prescription and looks to international trends in architecture teaching. The study of the heritage (art and Islamic civilisation), physical and social environment (influence of climate upon architecture), and Islamic traditions are among the new courses in the design teaching process. This programme is elaborated at the Ministry of Sciences and Culture and sent to all schools of Architecture as an

official and obligatory programme. It is still too soon to evaluate the results of this new programme.

2 Beheshti University Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism

The Faculty of Architecture was created around 1960. The master's degree takes five years to study. The programmes are based on foreign curricula and are not appropriate to the social and physical environment of Iran.

After the Islamic Revolution of 1979, the new unified programme of architecture started in 1982, but it is too soon to estimate the results of this new programme.

3 University of Sciences and Technology Faculty of Architecture

The school was established around 1965. The course of study for a B.A. in architecture is four years. Initially this school aimed at the technical, scientific and constructive aspects of architecture. This aim was not achieved and the same deficiencies (in the social and cultural fields) of the two other schools were apparent. In 1982, the new unified architecture programme started.