



A Review on the Designing of Bushehr Port Commercial Center for Revitalization of its Past and History

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Abstract: *Coastal cities and harbors, through the high potential they have, can play a crucial role in economic prosperity as well as social activities of the countries. However, the lack of proper planning and initiatives for sustainable spatial development of these areas is a problem some harbors are facing with. In the current analytical-descriptive study, the Bushehr harbor as one of the most important harbors of Iran which has numerous potential capabilities and facilities, was evaluated and it was revealed that unfortunately, today, its historical role is not the same as before. Therefore, by studying the different parts of the shoreline, one area was chosen for designing a harbor for linking trade with social interactions. The aim of the resulting plan, besides consideration for economic improvement, has been the increase in the social interactions as well as optimal use of the shore's body.*

Keywords: *harbor designing, trade, historical identity, Bushehr.*

INTRODUCTION

Today, economic and cultural development as an effective lever in achieving sustainable security, is taken into consideration. In the meantime, coastal cities, for their part, have played an important role in regulating marine exchanges and economic prosperity and offer opportunities that by proper organization, can take the highest advantage from them.

Iran also, by having the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea in the south, and Caspian Sea in the north, amongst the most important countries that can have a proper economic improvement by the aid of its harbors. Undoubtedly, an important part of the historical and social developments in Iran revolves around the Persian Gulf. Many historical facts give a role to the Persian Gulf in Iranian civilization and culture that is undeniable and is particularly meaningful. Bushehr is one of the Iranian cities that due to the presence of Persian Gulf, has gained utmost credibility and power. The main feature of this city is its strong business hub that highly impacts on people's lives, and it also has been associated with their daily lives, as we can witness the daily business and commercial activities along the waterfront and on the docks. Meanwhile, the discovery and identification of the real nature of Bushehr City and achieving the necessary knowledge of this area is the objective achievable by proper organization of this harbor. Therefore, what is the main objective of the current analytical-descriptive study is a review of its current design and offering solutions for changing it into a strong trading hub as well as maximized usage of the important potentials of the area including the economic and cultural capabilities, for sustainable development.

1- A Review of the Related Literature

The sustainable development is the steps for maintaining the intact cities through the passage of time that maintains the healthiness of the ecosystem and local economy. The deep understanding of a place's history, the method the societies used a place, and the economic and functional issues of a place are among the bases for upgrading the comprehensive plans of the beaches. The coastal scenery is detected by the sea's dynamism that can encourage the perceived memory through the human senses.

People who live near the sea, in fact, have been absorbed into the cycle motion of the sea and the seashore (Hough, 1990). That is why, throughout history, many cities have been built near water. For example, fishing communities have developed their lives along the coast. In addition, with a look at the history, it becomes clear that trade through water has been affluent; such as the path from Europe to America through the Atlantic Ocean that from 1492, offered the commercial and trade opportunities for trading the goods and agricultural products to the Spain, Portugal, France, and England (Morris, 1993). Generally, it can be said that throughout the history of world, the coasts have created exceptional moments in the social life of the cities and besides their commercial aspects, they have been places mostly for leisure and joy. Therefore, generally it can be said that the coasts have had a strong tie with the societies economic, cultural, and social life, and in a simple classification, they can be classified into five classes: Commercial, fishing, recreational-tourism, military, and passenger resort.

2-1- Evolution of the Beaches Over the Passage of Time

The seashores are among the urban spaces that due to their functional nature and compliance with the city's advancement and development, have underwent numerous changes and changed from a fishing place to a military one, or from an industrial area to a public and recreational area. Also, during the decades, the seashores have been always among the main factors of economic boost and development of the societies. Looking at the history of the cities, it can be perceived that the early cities, in case of the presence of water, have been built near the coasts; and this coast can belong to river, pond, lake or a sea. Mostly, the people and the goods were transferred through the coasts and the travels and conquests were achieved through them (Ardaneh, 2012).

Industrial Revolution

With the initiative of the industrial revolution and with the increase in production of the goods and the consequent increase in goods exchange, the coastal cities became of great importance in terms of production facilities and goods transference, and the coasts were occupied with the factories and docks. The industrial coasts, in late 19th and early 20th, reached their pinnacle. In the late 20th, due to some advancements of technology, the need for the cities to be near the sea and coast was decreased and surely, the most eminent changes happened to the transportation industry and the reduction of use of the docks (Fisher, 2004). During the WWII, the industrial changes led to some changes in the type of activities and the land use on the coasts and paved the way for a new era of their redevelopment in the future. The coastal lands were gradually released and these changes happened when the wave of the industrial revolution was slowly getting laid off. The new system of transportation and motor vehicles using the highway became the most prominent shipping methods accordingly. Also, the invention of the airplane and the advent of jet engines, made major changes in international travelling (Rigby, 1994).

Besides the transportation, new types of social groups of specific levels, on the outskirts of the town, began to take shape and emerge. A portion of the society's people began the transition from crowded places with the uncomfortable conditions to the pleasant and delightful environment of the suburbs. On the other hand, with the industry leaving the coasts and release of the coastal areas and urban beaches, the way for construction of highways was paved. Initially, the designers, unfortunately due to premature financial benefits and lack of knowledge of its long-term disadvantages, began excessive construction of the highways on the coastal areas that led to the isolation of these spaces and they were somehow detached from the city center.

Gradually, the pollution resulted from the lack of attention to these areas shifted the look of the coasts. The city coasts which were once active and vibrant social areas, changed into unsuitable spaces for urban waste and residues. It was very unsafe social environment and due to being stranded, not much monitoring was applied to its actions. On the other hand, exhaustion of beach equipment and buildings, had changed these areas to unsightly and unpleasant atmosphere.

This was the time the urban policy-makers realized that major changes must be made to somehow solve this problem. So, they began to take measures for rehabilitation of these areas, to use and convert it again into valuable spaces for the city and citizens (Fisher, 2004).

The Modern Era

In the late 1960, cities such as San Francisco and Boston were pioneers of this movement initiative. In 1970, some governments, even for improving their cities' image, developed the beaches to lively and advanced areas on a regional scale. One of the effective factors on the rehabilitation process of the beaches was the formation of new movements and thoughts in regard to the protection and restoration of historic urban cores. The emergence of green groups and people's desire to preserve natural resources and thinking of respect for nature and the preservation of natural cycles and ecosystems as well as the sustainable development concepts led the urban policy-makers to consider and pay attention to the beaches as a desirable natural perspective besides using it as a place for trade, to the same extent they cared for the society's problems and economic boost and development (Ardaneh, 2012).

Modern Approach the Coast

Today, the cities all over the world, are trying to achieve the same goals, objectives and prospects in their urban beaches that mankind has long been looking for. It is tried to provide all the facilities for the citizens whether on the land or the sea. This should be accompanied by changes in the framework of coastal areas. The changes such as the single-purpose function of the ports being replace with multi-purpose purpose, allowing them to be used both residence and work as well as a place for recreation-leisure and generally, a place having all the qualities and features for living.

From what has been mentioned so far, it can be perceived that achieving the sustainable development depends on consideration for all the parts and sections. Urban designing and planning are also among the issues that should be scrutinized and pondered precisely. In this regard, the role of architects and urban planners is of utmost importance. In fact, in the background of any kinds of early development of coastal strips, there are usually larger and more important visions and purposes, such as "sustainable development". For this purpose, the approach of "development associated with mixed use" is among the approaches agreed on by many experts in the field of issues related to sustainable development, i.e. all the functions exploit and use their position (whether mixed or separated) and the tourism opportunities the seashores provide. This residential use on the edge of the beach is also encouraged in order to create a sense of vitality. (Ardaneh, 2012).

2- Methodology

The current analytical-descriptive study aimed at reviewing the Bushehr harbor and reviving its historical identity which has been to date, mostly eliminated. Therefore, by field observations, the harbor's problems were identified and then, through investigation of the seashore and measuring all the areas, the proper site for provision of the plan was chosen. Afterwards, from among the provided alternatives, the best one was chosen and offered for a plan based on the use of modern technology with maintaining the past identity and social vitality.

3- Case Study

Bushehr City is located in the Bushehr Province, southern Iran, with a population of 195K (the 2011 census), one of the coastal cities of Iran, which is confined to Persian Gulf from north, west, and south. In Iran's

climate classification, Bushehr is located in the warm and moist climate (Kasmaee, 2003). In this climate, the sea plays an important role. The table 1 indicates the climate characteristics of this city.

Table 1: the climatic features of Bushehr

Total average annual sunshine hours	The average annual mean daily temperature (° C)	The average total annual precipitation	Highest occurred tide (m)	lowest occurred reflow (m)
3021	24.7	268	2.4	1.19

The Historical Role of Bushehr Port

Bushehr proper coastal position and its placement in the way of India to Khuzestan and Iraq as well as its reasonable distance to the Persian Gulf's southern countries has made this port the center of attention of the traders and merchants from its very establishment in a way not only the local merchants, but also the foreign traders have always established their office and send their representatives to this port. Besides, the special geographical position of Bushehr has attracted the political attention and commercial interests of the foreign companies, especially those of British East India Company, France, and Netherlands. At the time of Naser Aldin Shah, Bushehr became somehow a free zone and according to his order, the customs duties on many agricultural products were removed. (Hamidi, 2005).

Bushehr's trading, at least until the late Qajar era, had such a power that even that time governments did not pass the commercial bills without its permission and consultation. Bushehr port, even from the Naser Aldin Shah era (1264-1313 Hجري), was recognized as a credited sea trade hub and in this regard, one of the relatives of Zel Al-Soltan, named Mirza Taqi Khan Hakim Bashi, who had visited the Iranian coasts of Persian Gulf according to the Isfahan and Southern Iran's governor, and he has submitted a detailed report in 1299 Hijri, to the Shah that included important notes on the Bushehr's merchants and their requests and complaints (Hamidi, 2005).

Some of the firms and companies, due to the security of trading and the proper and desirable coastal position, were active in Bushehr. The British, Russian, German, Armenian, Jewish, Iranian, Turkish, and Arab merchants established shops and businesses in the city. (Hamidi, 2005).



Figure 1: an image of old Bushehr

It is worth noting coastal front of the historic texture of Bushehr was registered in the national index under the number 2360.

coming closer to its historical nature in the past and revitalization of it identity and originality. These points are shown in the figure 4.

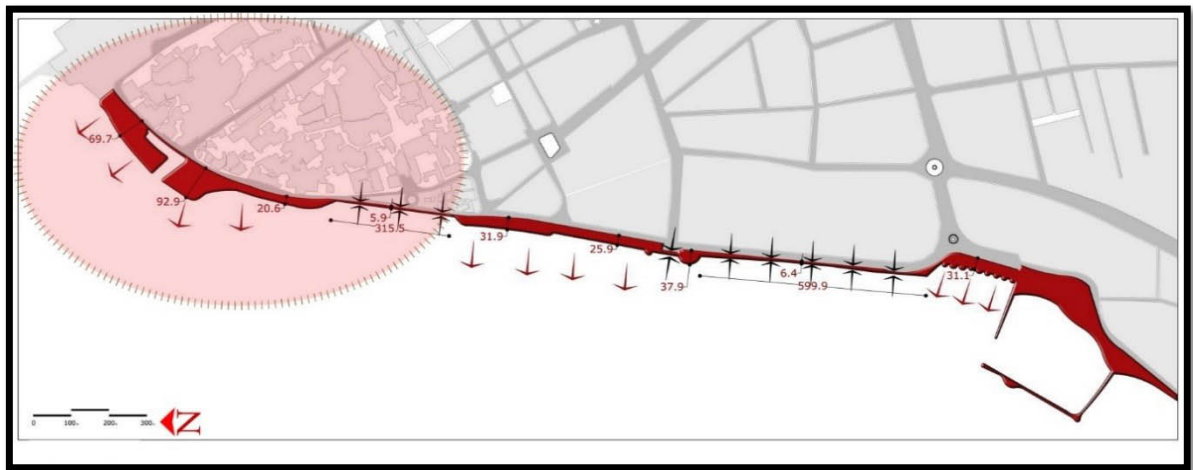


Figure 4: the usable edges in terms of width and optimal potential

According to the requirements of the design, the northern border (on the left side), due to proximity with the customs and city center, the residential and commercial area, and the main venter of economic activities (figure 5), is a proper and optimal choice for selection of the site and the design bed.



Figure 5: the application of the urban lands in the intended region

Therefore, all the notes in terms of access, the compatible applications, better use of land, more convenient access to the ship or the way they enter the docks, non-increasing the volume of dredging operations, and etc. were investigated and studied ad some options were offered. All of these options were valued and finally, one of them that obtained the highest value, was considered as a location for the project.

What was considered in choosing the right option was paying attention to the points whose shortage in the port was felt, according to the field studies. These points are:

- The creation of diverse and exciting spaces with regard to high working hours and the human need to spaces for recreational activities and creation such spaces in which several activities can be done.
- Designing a complex with a good vision to the sea, whether from outside of the site or inside the spaces.
- The visual and functional Integration of the areas.

- Creating a new location with multiple applications that connect residents to the waterfront and bring it alive.
- Using the features of texture, docks and old and new buildings as well as floating cranes and hoists and other port facilities combined with industrial characteristics of the Harbor and changing it into a unique place for the pedestrians to enjoy the water scenery as well as the changing scene of passage of the ships.

With consideration for these points, the final design was offered on the mentioned site (Figure 6). In this design, places such as trade stands, exhibitions, restaurants and cafes, and utilities and service sectors are planned and designed in the two floors. It should be noted that in provision of the intended design, the place users, the people working in the port, the ordinary people, the visitors, and the tourists were considered and all of the places required for them, were embedded in this design.



Figure 6: the plan, the plan's site, and the perspective of the plan offered for the harbor

Therefore, it was tried to, by changing the port to a social and dynamic place that can be the place for numerous commercial and cultural activities, transform it to a useful area of the city and a center for trading, culture, ad recreation and bring on the revitalization of the city and restoration of the historical and cultural heritage of the past, in the region, using the modern technology.

5- Conclusion

What is the center of attention in terms of sustainable development and its different aspects and components, is the use of local potentials for environmental designing and planning that can meet the human needs and also consider the future of the next generations? The coastal cities, due to a blessing such as water, have a great potential and can guarantee a county's well-being and economic boost. In spite of the development of the new technologies, the sea path is still among the goods transferring paths and every year, numerous goods and even passengers are being transferred through the water path. Therefore, what is deemed necessary in a harbor is a proper design in order to provide a healthy environment for people working in it and the visitors, as well as a good metal image.

The Bushehr port, in spite having an old historical identity, has witnessed the story of the people of this country and played an important role in promotion of its freedom. However, unfortunately it is not in the desirable status it deserves to be. Therefore, in the current study which aimed at moving this port close to its past vital identity, some criteria were considered. A harbor that in addition to transference of the goods, can meet the needs of the people working in it and the visitors and all of these groups, was designed, so by the principles used in designing, a proper environment for gathering of people and different groups is provided that both leads to economic boost and more social interactions and maximizes the use of the forever Persian Gulf Scenery. Definitely, this leads to establishment of special units for promotion of the investments by the private sector and planning for optimal exploitation of the dock and the ports facilities as well as management of provision of some of the public equipment of the beach.

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