

Emergent of New Julfa: emergency measures in the crisis architecture or socio-cultural resistance in the early modern urbanism of Iran

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Nearly two thousand years after becoming Isfahan the settlement of the Jewish people, another religious minority settled in the city. The Armenians of Julfa near Nakhichevan came to Persia due to the persecution of the Ottomans and, according to the orders of Shah Abbas I, they were transferred to Isfahan. The neighborhood of New Julfa was formed about 1606 AD in the southwest of Isfahan. The Armenians of New Julfa reconstructed their original homeland space, Julfa, in this neighborhood. During the years of the Safavid Dynasty, the neighborhood has been transformed and completed. Its eight regions, which included churches, schools, monasteries, etc. were built during the Safavid period. Architecture, form and the location of these structures are a combination of the architecture of the Caucasus region and the architecture of the desert cities of Iran. The city of Isfahan, as the capital of Iran during the Safavid period, has witnessed numerous attacks, wars, and famine, and the New Julfa neighborhood has been directly and indirectly affected by the Isfahan developments. One of the important aspects of the urban socio-cultural resistance is spatial spaces which leads to the survival of urban life and resists critical external and internal situations in the face of various changes in different circumstances. The New Julfa neighborhood of Isfahan, from the 17th century, has been the basis for many developments from the viewpoint of form and function of spaces and buildings, both in terms of nature and spatial values. The main question of this research is that what factors in terms of form and structure have made this minority area still survived. Another question that can also be raised is what factors have contributed to the resistance of the neighborhood and emergency measures in the crisis conditions? In this regard, this study tries to specifically address the cultural and social resistance of the New Julfa neighborhood. The research method is qualitative and based on case study using descriptive-analytical method and content analysis approach.

Keywords: urbanism, Isfahan, New Julfa, desert architecture, resistance, crisis architecture, early modern period

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