

## Organizing the Texture by Approach of Preserving the Historical Identity of the City, Case Study: The Historical City, Region of Isfahan Province, Iran

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### ABSTRACT

*The historical and old texture of the cities of our country, which often makes the main and primary core of these cities, in one side, is the part of the cultural and historical heritage of those cities, which preserving, improving and also functional empowering of them are inevitable. And on the other side, most of these tissues after the time, due to no enough attention and also inadequate keeping, affected by exhaustion and physical and functional fractures.*

*In this research, after identifying the potential and identity factors of the historical texture of Gaz city which because of lack of attention and inappropriate maintenance, suffered by physical and functional burnout, so in this research it has suggested some solution to restore and organize this texture. This research uses a descriptive-analytical method, this study at first, in the context of library studies, collected some information sources and texts and then analyzed the results. The results of this research show that the frazzle texture of Gaz city, which contains the main historical identity part of the city, requires more attention and consideration for solving these problems. So presented some ways for improving of environmental qualities, promoting of spatial and physical attractiveness, preservation and revival of identity the historical identity of the city and finally presenting better service to the residents of the place.*

**Keywords:** Organizing, Worn Texture, Urban Identity, Gaz-Borkhar;

### INTRODUCTION

In cities, which at a time interval, the urbanization phenomenon is prior to urbanism and the process of the expanding urbanization is out of control, the existence of specific problems and issues of urban life, more than before, makes it necessary to take attention to useful strategies for optimizing the lives of city residents.

Among urban problems, the worn out texture problem has a wider effect on the quality and the level of lives of residents. That's what intensifies the polarization of the city and with

disturbing the physics, society and economy, is a threat to the cities. This is while a large part of the worn out urban texture is a manifestation of the history and civilization of that city, which neglects to that, in fact, is disregards to urban identity. The Gaz city, also with several thousand years' history is not exception and in its central part has a worn out texture which is primary core of the city and we can find some signs of historical urban identity in this area. Therefore, the problem of the worn-texture had been affected this part of city. This problem could be solved by the purposeful management to organize, empower and revitalize the worn-out

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tissue in order to enhance the quality life of residents, make them satisfied physically and psychologically.

Exhaustion is one of the most important issues in the urban spaces, which leads to disorganization, imbalance, disproportion and ugliness. Exhaustion is a factor that helps to eliminate collective memories, the decline of real urban life and the formation of everyday urban life.

This factor with decreases and accelerates cause to move to the end point. Also, worn-out urban texture which include urban heritage are some textures that include the signs has been left from past and also they aren't replaceable and they have this capacity to help their society for having the knowledge about their cultural and past values. (Habibi and Maghsoudi, 2009)

**Table 1:** Urban space exhaustion rate and type of intervention (Habibi, 2002)

Exhaustion rate	Type of Exhaustion	Type of activity	Duration of action	Scale
Relative Exhaustion	Activity	Improvement	Short term (5-10 years)	Under neighborhood
Relative Exhaustion	Body	Renovation	Mid-term (0-15 years)	Neighborhood
Complete Exhaustion	Activity and Body	Reconstruction	Long term (0-25 years)	City or a part of City

The term "organization" can be used desirable from existing facilities, while preserving the urban context. In urban planning on a neighborhood or district scale, it tries to advance the dysmorphic and problematic cases of the existing tissue with minimal cost and destruction. In the organization, the growth and development should be handled.

Initially, with knowing the issues, problems and facilities appropriate plan presented for needs of the time. Spatial organization for inefficient and worn-out tissues requires the arrangement and equipment; because people that living in such textures need sustainable environment as a settlement or as an urban space with attention to their needs and their activities in today society, and their life style should be without any difficulty.

The concept of comprehensive organization consists of all actions and themes for refurbishment, renovations, reconstructions and restoration (Pourahmad and Shamaee, 2006)

The city has an identity as a social, human, physical, cultural, political and economic phenomenon; in other words, identity is a feature that distinguishes a city from another

Generally, in order to study the general characteristics of the worn out tissues, must be considerate three factors such as the lifetime of the building, the grain size and type of materials

More than 80% of buildings in these kind of tissues, have more than 50 years old, or if they have been made in the last 50 years, are not in compliance with technical standards. Residential buildings located in these tissues are mostly fine-grained and their average area is less than 200 square meters. Materials used in these tissues are mainly of types of masonry, masonry - brick, brick, and wood, or brick and iron, regardless of horizontal and vertical fittings and lacking a system of instruments (Jamal, 2007)

Different types of innervations in worn out texture are shown in table 1.

city or a neighborhood and alley from another neighborhood and alley, and the same distinction causes people, city and identity show their pride. When we can know a city with identity and personality that has certain principles and rules of law, such as the hierarchy of the main and the secondary in the construction and organization of the city, and each person having a personality and individual identity, and also play their collective role well.

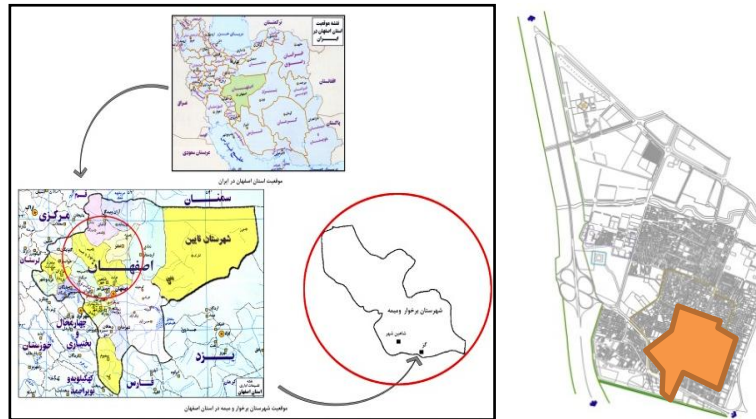
The identity of the modern city is the creation of spaces that, on the one hand, correspond to the needs and the new technology, and on the other hand, in this spaces, looking for that spirit that enriches the city of Ghana, reflects the increasing impacts of expressing various links between citizens and places and spaces. In such a space, you can feel the beauty and vitality of the city with identity (Police Station, 2011).

The location is studied with an area of about 84 hectares is located in the central part of the city. In fact, this area the part of the Haji and Agha-sharif neighborhoods, which were the primary nuclei of the city's formation. Due to the presence of religious centers in this area, including the shrine of Shah Nemat-allah, tomb of Abol-e-foghara, and most importantly

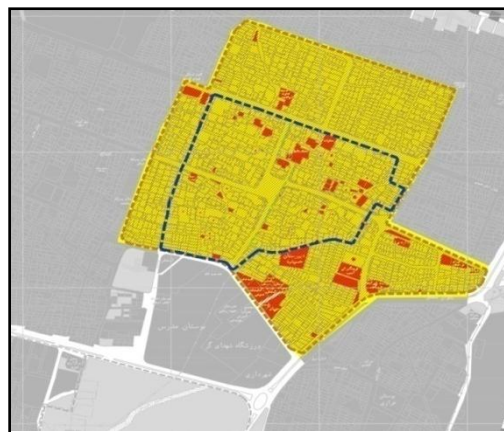
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Masjed-JameGaz, this area has a distinctive and special position in the old tissue of Ghaz, and due to the existence of this building to the

cultural richness and the sense of belonging inhabitants Added.



**Figure1.** The situation of the Gaz city in the province and the city and also the position of worn out texture in the Gaz city (reference: Gaz city master plan)



**Figure2.** Historical points in Gaz city

According to this fact that the texture of the Gaz city has been formed in different historical periods, so buildings and places with historical values are found in this area. On the other hand, as shown in Fig. 2, the presence of Abbasi Caravanserai and Shah Nemat's tomb in the immediate area of the worn texture has added to the importance of this texture.

In Figure 3, there are also pictures of the historical parts of Ghaz city.

Also, due to the fact that the city's major commercial, service and cultural centers are located in this area, this texture has so far maintained its importance.



*GazMasjed – Jamea*

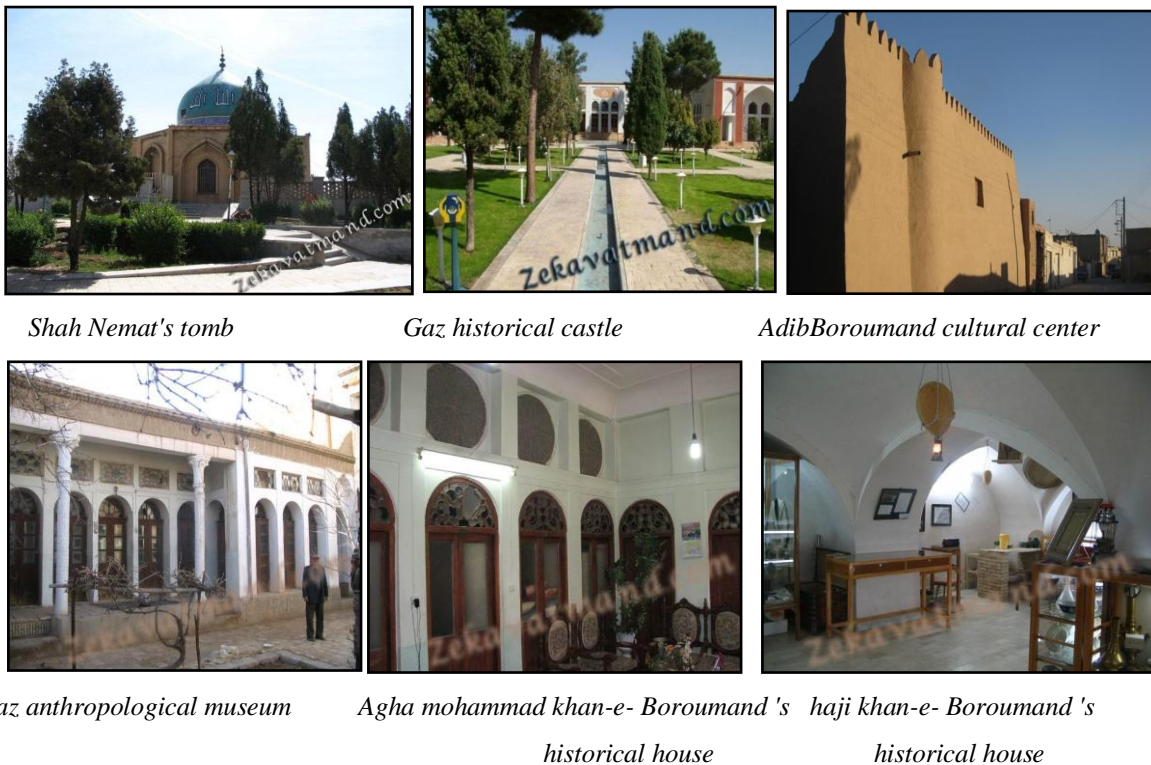


*Abbasi Caravanserai*



*Mamida Historical Bath*

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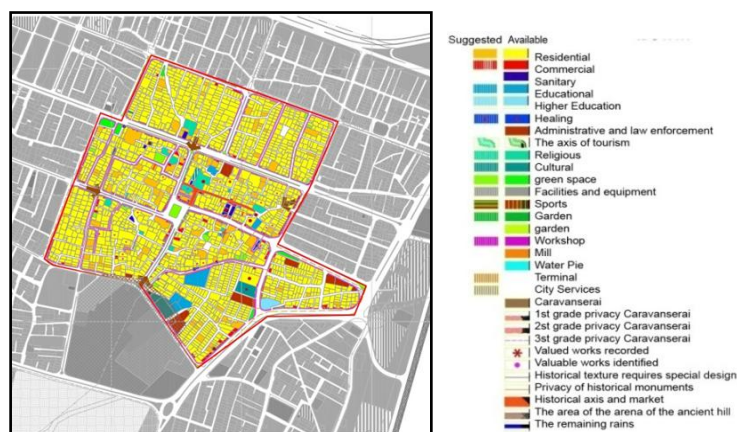


**Figure 3.** Historical points in Gaz city

**DATA ANALYSIS**

Physical studies in this texture show that the studied area in this research is about 84 hectares. The study about the different uses in this location expresses low level of having many uses such as green spaces, some places for

spending the free time and recreation and also urban installations and on the other side, because of the historical religious places in this area, the religious-cultural uses have better situation (Figure 4).



**Figure 4.** Uses of lands (reference: Gaz city master plan)

Usually the worn out texture has irregular and organic structure, with narrow passages and bends. According to Fig. 5, in the worn out texture of the city of Gaz, the width of the passages within residential neighborhoods is often 6 to 8 meters and less than 6 meters.

Also, the main roads are located in the Ferdowsi streets, Khajeh Nasir, Azadi and Sheikhbahee, which by connecting different parts of the city

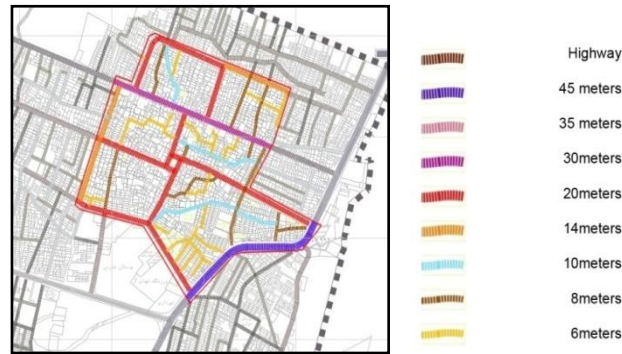
to the main square of the city (Tohid Square) make the importance of this texture have double.

In general, the building is divided into three categories of new, rest orated and destroyed in terms of quality. The study about the quality of existence buildings in the neighborhood according to Fig. 6 indicates that more than 70% of the buildings are destroyed and need

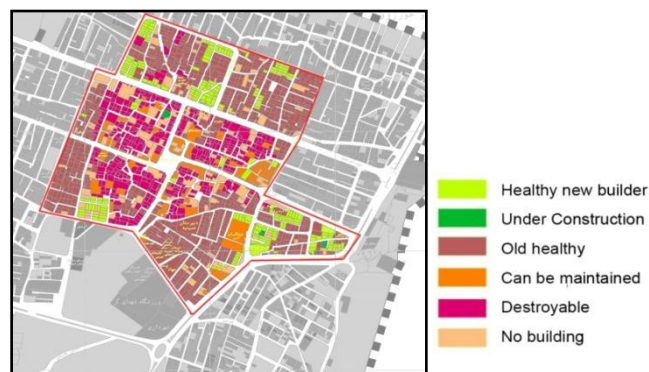
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renovation, and about 15% are within the area have value for restoration and need repairs that

can be used in case of restoration and finally about 15% of buildings are new builders.



**Figure5.** Transit width (reference: Gaz city master plan)

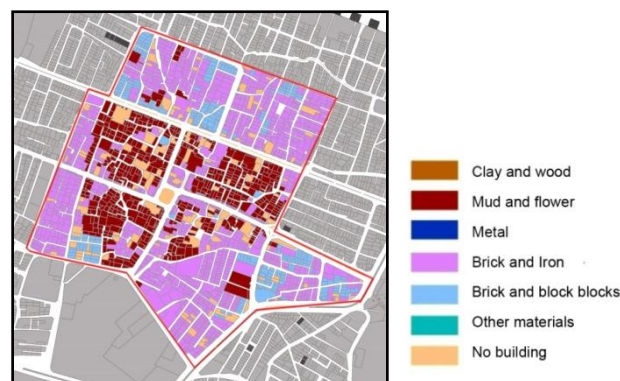


**Figure6.** Quality of the buildings (reference: Gaz city master plan)

Figure 7 shows that about 40 percent of the building materials of Clay and mud, about 50 percent are bricks and iron and the rest of the other materials.

A review of the present status of the study area suggests some problems that we will discuss about them below.

Among the items where the shortage is clearly visible in the area, there is a lack of public green space, which due to its multiple uses for all ages, we can feel its empty place, intensively. The lack of activity spaces for social interactions and behavioral hangouts within the communities is another issue that has created problems in this area.



**Figure7.** Building materials (reference : Gaz city master plan)

Another important problem in this texture is maze form passes with narrow and low width which, resulting in inadequate access to personal vehicles by the residents, as well as some

problems for urban transport services, that these problems will cause people to be dissatisfied. Other problems of passageways, texture, lack of proper carpet and poor lighting, which made

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lack of security. On the other side, the lack of a system for the disposal of surface water that becomes a puddle of rain in the roads with a few rainfalls has created some problems for the residents. The importance of this task is that it is easy to combine our subordinate into available transport patterns to present better assesses of flood enforced lags. By applying an onboard camera, it is feasible to find the open road area ahead of the ego-vehicle. The clue for sight-based road intuition is the capability to categorize picture pixels as depending or not to the road area. the hazard can be mitigated by appropriate geotechnical control. Therefore, an early alarm system with referral to rainfall and a series of area drainage lattice will relief in reducing the relics of the puddles.

Another notable problem in this study location is the existence of demolished lands and ruined buildings, which, in addition to reducing the physical quality of the tissue, causes distortion of the urban landscape and appearance. Also, these places provide a suitable place to create inappropriate behavioral hangouts and gatherings of offenders. Also, due to disturbance in the urban service system, these places can become waste disposal sites.

### CONCLUSION

The texture of Gazcityis one of the oldest settlements. This texture, due passing time and new urban developments, has been neglected

and also has been have physical erosions. But due to the existence of the main square of the city (Tohid Square) and the main streets of it (streets of Azadi, Ferdowsi, Sheikh Baha'i and Khajeh Nasir) as the important vital arteries of the city, the economic and social activities are still ongoing.

But in the absence of a consideration of this historically valuable texture, following the extension of the physical erosion, breakdown of the economic, social and cultural structure will also take place. In order to overcome the existing studied problems, we propose some solutions that are presented below:

- Improving the quality of the passageways in terms of suitable flooring for hiking;
- Appropriate passage sections for surface water discharges;
- Organizing the lighting of passageways, especially the main accesses corresponding to the located area;
- Make the connection road to the valuable historical building like GazMasjed – Jame, Shah nemat-o-llah tomb and other historical houses, as a walk side passes, So these roads were designed appropriate with the valuable identity and personality of the texture. Figure 8 shows the routes that need to be designed and organized as tourism axes.



**Figure8.** *The map of proposal roads with hiking priority*



**Figure9.** *Map of determining the area of neighborhood center 1*



Figure10. Map of determining the area of neighborhood center 2

Injection of welfare activities and services to historic town houses such as restaurants, travelers' homes, coffee shops, etc., which can expand the city's tourism industry. This action, in addition to the city's economic prosperity, boosts vitality and social interactions and, consequently, increases security in texture.

Establishing a neighborhood center in addition to providing the material and spiritual needs of the residents of the neighborhood can act as a space for spending free time and promoting social interactions. Figures 9 and 10 show the suitable range for establishing the neighborhood

centers. Factors such as the destruction of the building in this area (shown in Figure 5), the presence of green space with the local scale, as well as the presence of the mosque and Hosseinieh in the selected area (as shown in figure 3), and also consideration to people behavior hangouts is effective in choosing this area as the center of the neighborhood.

The illustrations presented in Figure 11 are community center proposals that include the services needed by residents such as business, religious-cultural, educational, and green spaces.

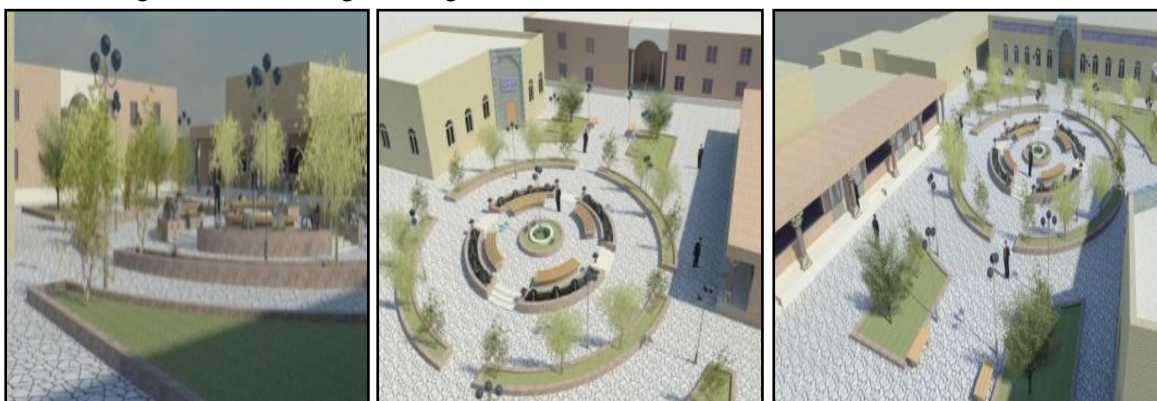


Figure11. Proposal plans for neighborhood center

- The provision of bank loans and facilities to residents of the neighborhood to renovate residential units in accordance with the materials and traditional and local architecture principles of the texture, in a way that is consistent with the historical identity of the texture.
- Also improvement the level of substructure related to access networks including parking. Development of habitat requirements for residents such as green spaces, recreation and

sports; to develop such spaces; can be used the detritus and inert fields within the studied area.

- By integrating some of the fine-grained tissues and transforming them into residential complexes (with low class density), in addition to creating spatial and physical contours, social interactions in shared spaces between these residential complexes will be enhanced. Figure12 shows the scope of the

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study and the eligible blocks for aggregation policy.



**Figure12.** Map of eligible blocks for aggregation

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