

“The Role of Pedestrian Route in Reclamation of Historic Textures as a Factor for Sustainable Development of City” [Case Study: Imamzadeh Yahya Tehran]

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Abstract: *Due to geographic centrism, ease of access, acting as economic centroid, and historic- cultural features, the historic textures of cities with ancient backgrounds possess high potentials. On the other hand, the historic textures should be reclaimed along with paying attention to flexible bases of localism. In fact, the humans with wide requirements in recent time should feel sense of satisfaction with such spaces. The historic texture should meet the public values within cultural frameworks and aesthetic experience. Due to its specific potentials, the historic texture should be a reminiscent, symbolic, and praiseworthy setting because of its certain potentials and it should link awareness and knowledge from the surrounding environment with the given historic values based on the previous events and accidents.*

Upgrading the position for pedestrian people in urban space and their presence and participation in civil activities is a requisite noticed in line with improvement of human's relationship with urban setting and particularly with historic textures to remind of the people in the past in the issue of sustainable development that is aimed at providing the high quality of life for all city dwellers and on the other hand the overpressure of motorized vehicles on central and historic textures of cities including texture of Yahya Shrine may cause their economic attrition and formative and visual demolition and consequently it has converted the process of their reconstruction and preservation into an essential necessity and generally during three past decades a modern movement has emerged in the field of urbanism and urban sociology based on a group of urban problematic factors and considerations that mainly returned to expansion of the open pedestrian spaces and revision in design of network for routes and access based on organizing and improvement of pedestrian movement in historic textures and adjustment and control of vehicular motion. Thus for this purpose and in the course of improving quality of life it has been focused on renovation by taking strategies proposed as the guidance for decisions, practical tools for planning, and creating relationship among decision-making factors

Keywords: *Pedestrian route, Reclamation, Formative and visual values*

1. Introduction

Sustainable development as a major motivation for learning architecture provides new thinking "in the late twentieth century Architecture, ecology, architecture, and communication, and a foundation that shaped how life cycles and ecosystem research, and place the starting point and end point are designed to the come. On the one hand, the architecture with all the requirements to keep up and stay stable, it comes to the other side, all the knowledge that each one has its own way of dealing the natural world [4].

Revival of collective life spirit through providing the ground to form friendly settings by creation of pedestrian routes have prepared rich spaces around old places and historic urban texture to provide range of facilities for execution of activities including amusement, shopping, and playing up historic and cultural attractions [5].

The historic and primary cores of cities such as Imamzadeh Yahya (Shrine) Locality at Tehran city have followed the cultural and social schools in their platform through their emerging trend thus life of locality and its spaces has been continued according to aesthetics, legibility, function, and identity. Despite of including religious and historic building of this Shrine, Imamzadeh Yahya texture has been also placed in spatial relation with Pestehbak and Navab Bath (two prominent elements of this locality) and due to influence of market and change in its structure and function during recent decades, overlooking of historic-cultural valuable elements and buildings in adjacency and their demolition, leaving the locality by original inhabitants and replacement of them by immigrants and workers as well as the presence of ruined, insecure, and defenseless urban locations this trend has led to increase social and formative anomaly and damages in this texture. The main objective for reclamation of Imamzadeh Yahya (Shrine) texture is to emphasize on its historic and religious features and converting it into a historic sidewalk thereby to prevent from the rate of social-cultural and formative-spatial consequences of erosion.

2. Theoretical Approach

The analysis and assessment of principles of creating sidewalk in historic Imamzadeh Yahya texture is done based on rule of revival of this historic texture over this texture as the goals of the present research and in general the given objectives in proposing of this issue are as follows:

2.1. Respect for Pedestrian and Rising Presence of him/ her in Historic Space of City for Improvement of Social Interactions

If presence of wide public green spaces and equestrian routes with appropriate width were assumed as criterion for development and vitality of a city during past centuries, perfect urban pedestrian areas and networks are deemed as one of the foremost spaces for leisure time as a distinct sign of using urban design knowledge in process of development of cities at current century.

The pedestrian routes are some part of urban spaces that are totally closed against vehicular movement due to including some specific capacities during all or some hours during day and night and they are fully allocated to movement of pedestrians. The pedestrian routes are not only assumed as paramount urban public spaces, but basically necessary to continue urban life. For this reason, pedestrian routes are characterized as reminiscent and identity-creating elements in modern cities. Previously, cities may acquire their urban identity in high-rise buildings, domes, and edifices. But today they are recognized with their sidewalk routes [6].

2.2. Paying Attention to Cultural and Local Values and Persian Patterns for Renovation of Historic Texture

Culture creates behavioral patterns and also pattern determines way of using spaces by people. Therefore, way of using street is different in various cultures so that in some of western countries strolling and walking in street is deemed as unfavorable and suspicious and mainly they are influenced by two cultural and environmental factors where the rate of their impact is not identical to behavioral patterns [1].

Pedestrian movement is preferred to other forms of human displacement in environment in terms of history and importance. Similarly, sense of belonging (attachment) to environment and discovery of environmental qualities and its latent values and attractions are considered as the foremost possibility for perception of spatial identity. Civil life of city usually flows in a place through which the pedestrian has passed and the related measures are generally mentioned at pedestrian's scale. Biocanen assumes freedom for pedestrian movement through cities and urban spaces as a good sign for civilization at that city and presence of sidewalks as symbol of civilization, and civil culture and identity of the given city since the freedom of action is too high for human in sidewalks including stop, change in direction, pause, and direct contact to others and this may essentially impact on renovation of historic textures.

2.3. Analysis on Effect of Stability and Vitality Approach on Formation and Enrichment of Historic Texture

Stability means to meet the current needs without removal of potentials in next generations in fulfillment of their requirements. Today, term ‘Stable’ is widely used for international description in which human and natural systems are able together to continue their life until far point in the future. The stability paradigm is still perfectly new and perceiving of concepts and way of application of this term is still being formed. The other synonymous term to stability is vitality or survival. These two terms are completely related to each other since in both terms it is tried to develop such type of urbanism that can improve welfare level for citizens in long run. But, it has been only during some recent decades that term ‘stability’ with its current meaning has been employed that is ‘what it can be continued in the future [3].

The stable city will be able to survive in long term because of using optimal consumption of energy resources, avoidance from extravagance and production of wastes, recycle of wastes as possible, and execution of useful policies and plans. The stable city has lesser energy consumption and fewer wastes with controlled pollutions [11]. Prioritization for recycling of buildings, places, infrastructures, and network of historic textures and their alignment with the new conditions and requirements are especially confirmed.

Continuity of historic settings is deemed as main objective for any country and these urban textures are considered as most crucial points of the city that includes civilization and culture of any country and at the same time the subject of stability and stabilization and renovation are assumed as the prominent issues for these textures. What it deems as important, is that these textures are not conserved only in order to preserve culture and civilization and submersion into the culture and form of texture and these historic textures represent the lovely objective similar to a full-height mirror and introduce and assess the human in the past and grant sense of belonging to place to modern human.

2.4. Assuming Cultural- Historic Route as a Prominent Element in Subjective Imagination of Citizens

Urban design should be able to realize formative- spatial embodiment of solutions and requirements of communities in all cultural and social levels and fields and create significant space and form for cities. Form and matrix of city should create healthy, active, and meaningful environment based on cultural heritages of past time in order to realize the highest goal of city i.e. creating a human environment with high values [2] and convert it for seeing and being seen and extract culture and history out of the core of these social interactions.

2.5. Improvement and Upgrading Quality of life in line with Stability of Historic Environment

In fact, urban and public places may be provided by improving presentable choices to people to prepare a democratic environment for them. Such types of places are called responsive environments. Historic city textures are crucially important among urban places and they should be also responsive at present [10].

The favorable should be formatively a secured environment. Acquisition of security includes subjects such as water and air pollution, reduction in physical accidents, protection against abortive attempt, and prevention from flood and fire. The good habitat is a type of settlement in which there are no dangers, toxins, and diseases and or they are controlled and therefore the fear from exposure to them has been minimized. The social securitization and safety is the first condition for public presence in urban spaces and formation of social interactions [7].

According to Sustainable Development Approach, form development and cultivation in past texture may be stable when it can meet economic and physical needs as well as social and cultural and mental requirements of people at present and in future. Accordingly, lands possess material, spatial- functional, aesthetic, and practical properties and features that should be basically taken into consideration in urban planning. According to this paradigm, it is believed that although formative, economic, social, and environmental reclamations are related

interactively together, economic renovation may be assumed as functional aspect and guarantee for formative and social reclamation but not in this way that is led to removal of historic- social identity in traditional cities.

This important measure should be planned within framework of the codified strategies and or realized within this form in order to preserve historic, cultural, social, and environmental aspects [9].

Theory of definition and protection from boundaries of an environment is one the defensible principles mentioned by Oscar Newman; in other words, by control of strangers and consequently by being secured from risk of crime. While this action may be efficient in prevention from crime, it may potentially increase social segregations and monopolies (exclusions) [8].

The economic factor is the paramount factor in creating types of uses and functions. Recognition of social interests and type of lands ownership may be efficient in our orientation toward reality. The main objective for execution of economic studies is the awareness of economic composition, assessment of economic life, and prediction of economic future status in site thereby one can predict growth and development backgrounds and imagine its spatial and formative embodiment in appropriate form [2].

3. Formative- Visual Analysis on Imamzadeh Yahya Route

Despite of the exerted change and development over the time in this area especially by widening of main textures around the limit of Imamzadeh Yahya path, the link among this path was disconnected to Chaleh Meidan Locality at south and Oudalajan Locality at east. In spite of negative points which were followed by widening and elongation of motorway streets and path for automobile motion in this old texture and undermining of role for some of subordinated localities, Imamzadeh Yahya Route and its surrounding area has been still secured from stresses of development and functions of Tehran Market (Bazar) and continued to survive and maintained its past role as a local- urban element.

According to Fig (1), we come to the following results by comparing aerial images (1956) and (2008) relating to Imamzadeh Yahya texture:

1. Preservation of local position for major and minor textures
2. Creation of new routs including Tahmasebi alley and Sepehr alley etc.
3. Maintenance of focal points of texture despite of some changes such as change in use, lands partitioning, and new constructions
4. Change in housing pattern at residential zones due to construction of new buildings (conversion of residential block with courtyard into newly-constructed flats)
5. Change in spatial organization (solid and hollow) in residential zones particularly at the edge of locality
6. Demolition of green space against Imamzadeh Yahya and converting it into marginal parking lot
7. Widening of some routes due to new construction regulations in this locality to retreat newly-constructed buildings
8. Transposition of connection joints and nodes among two maps

Based on conducted studies on features of buildings at both sides of Imamzadeh Yahya texture, 83.6% of the existing buildings need to renovation and reclamation, 13.5% of them are newly-constructed, 2.3% \were demolished, and 0.6% of them need to reconstruction. The demolished buildings are those constructions which are structurally considered as half-ruined and they lack visual and formative values. The level of this parameter varies of course.

52.8% of buildings with highest frequency are one-story, 38.7% are two-story, 7.4% with three-story, and 1.2% have four stories where these two unit are placed at the beginning and end of this texture and main zone of texture only includes one- or two-story buildings with harmonic perspectives that start from Abolghasem Shirazi alley and ended at the edge of Moradi alley.

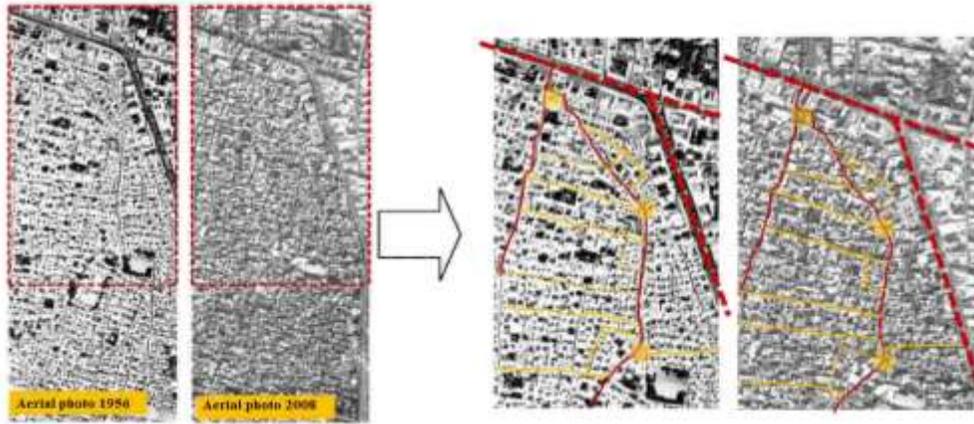


Fig 1: Comparative Analysis of Aerial Photo from Situation of Imamzadeh Yahya (Source: Author)

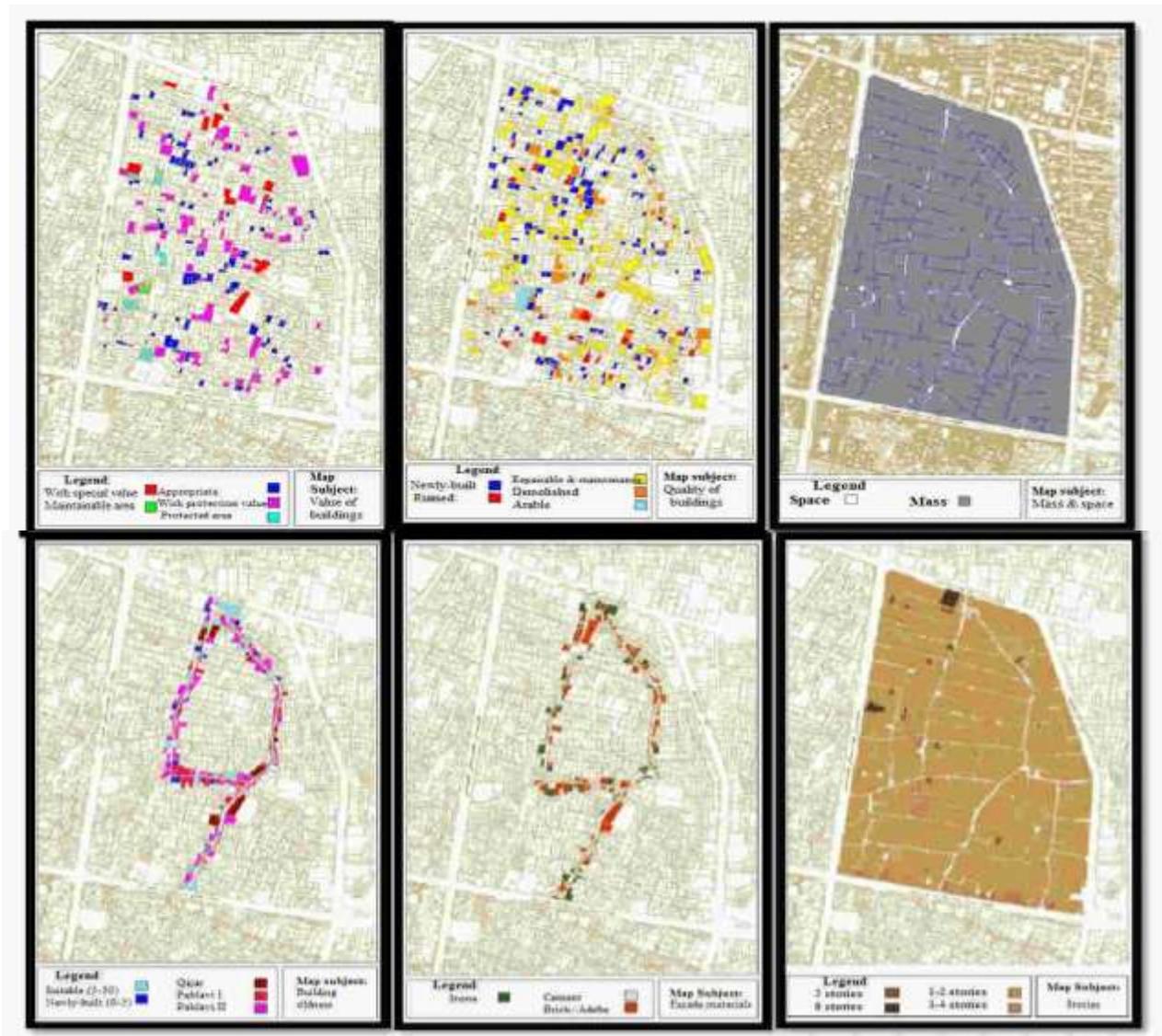


Fig 2: Comparative analysis formative features in Imamzadeh Yahya texture (Source: Author)

Statistics indicate that more than 30% of buildings placed in Imamzadeh Yahya Locality are older than 30 years so this indicates the eroded housing texture in this locality per se. Overall, it can be implied whereas Imamzadeh Yahya Locality is situated within the initial limit at period of Naserddin Shah (Qajar) it has old history and for this reason most of buildings around this texture have age older than 50 years.

In general according to statistics in 1996, compared to Tehran city the lifetime of buildings in municipal region No 12 is too older and the construction materials used for them are generally less durable than in Tehran city. Enhancement of visual- formative quality of public fields of cities has high position in urban design and repair and process of improving quality of environment. Thus, conscious design and protection from view axes toward values of visual parameter may play undeniable role in upgrading visual- formative quality of public fields.

The concept of term ‘view axis’ or ‘visual axis’ is synonymous to meaning of words ‘visual cone, view corridor, and front view’ in literature and theoretical bases of urban design. This concept is composed of two terms of view or landscape and axis in terms of lexical root [12] where urban landscape forms from visual-formative as well as non-visual aspects of environment (sounds, smells, textures etc.). Of available signs in historic Imamzadeh Yahya axis one can refer to the following items:

1. Old airholes because of height and form (e.g. airhole in Kazemi edifice and Memarbashi school)
2. Imamzadeh Yahya dome due to different forms and colors with background and the presence of an old plane tree of Tehran in its courtyard
3. Truss roof of Navab Mall because of the only available roof through the path of in the existing archway in one of route texture
4. The old front door because of the only valuable front door remained at the wall of this texture .

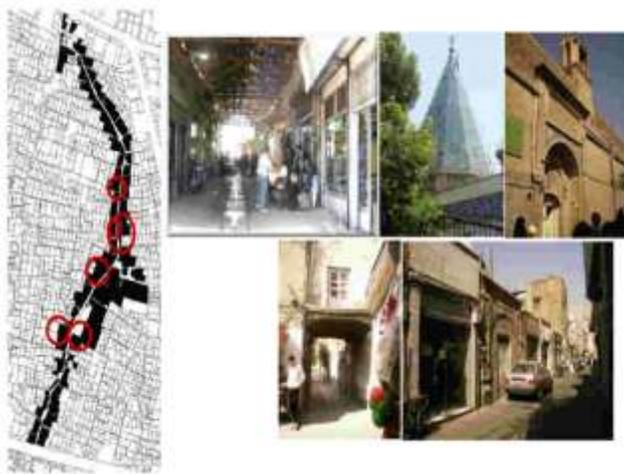


Fig 3: Situation of Visual Elements Placement in Imamzadeh Yahya Texture (Source: Author)

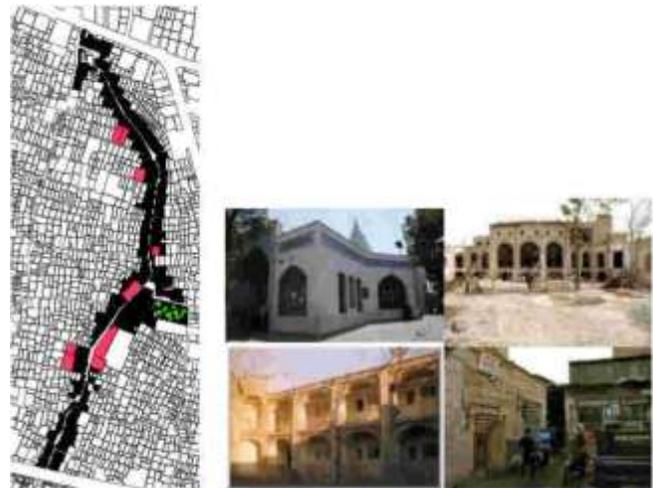


Fig 4: Position of Placement of Important Historic Elements in Imamzadeh Yahya texture (Source: Author)

And of precious historical elements in this texture one can refer to the following items where their dispersion is visible in this figure as follows:

- Threshold of Imamzadeh Yahya Shrine
- Kazemi portico
- Memarbashi school
- Navab bath

It has been dealt with Strength and Weaknesses and expression of Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) in relation with historic Imamzadeh Yahya Path in the given table:

TABLE 1: SWOT table based on formative and visual features of Imamzadeh Yahya Locality

| Subject | Strength | Weakness | Opportunity | Threat |
|----------------------|--|--|--|---|
| Formative and visual | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -The presence of arable lands for construction of public spaces needed for locality such as green space and library etc. - Value of texture from perspective of presence of architectural style types since Qajar - The presence of Imamzadeh Yahya Shrine as strong religious-historic element in locality -Relatively suitable continuity of bodies to each other - Relatively continuity of locality skyline except in limited cases it has removed continuity of skyline by reconstruction - Mobility and visual continuity of locality texture | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Low percentage of using fine materials in the constructed buildings within time interval 30 to 5 year before in locality as well as low quality of standards of locality building compared to other localities of Tehran - Shortage of green and open spaces in locality -Weariness and lack of appropriate consolidation of locality buildings against earthquake and non-repairing of them - Inappropriate partition of lands - Shortage of suitable open space for presence of rescue centers upon occurrence of accident in dense texture of locality - illegibility of locality texture and blocking and restriction of visual corridors - lack of suitable covered channels for collection of wastewater and dissemination of them in open ditches - Lack of economic solvency of local persons for reconstruction and renovation of buildings - Inappropriate construction density of newly-constructed buildings to width of routes -unsuitable topology of buildings at ground level and disharmony in direction of buildings placement to each other - non-uniformity of newly-constructed buildings in terms of number of stories and height with former buildings and consequently creating of problems including pending level, privacy, and shading | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Potential for renovation and reconstruction of locality with respect to inclination of Cultural Heritage organization and experts - The presence of suitable number of ruined and demolished plots in adjacency to each other in locality that can be used for development of the needed spaces including green and open space - The possibility for design and organizing of recreational space in locality as main recreational center and collective diaries - projection of idea and paradigm for supporting and protection from valuable historic buildings and textures before experts and great care for this task at this time interval - Public tendency to reconstruction of worn textures - Possible integration of worn and unsuitable plots and - Rewarding policy of municipality for granting more density and stories to local people in the case of reconstruction of buildings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of codified and effective planning for addressing worn textures and execution of governmental approvals regarding support from worn textures - rising trend of erosion in locality texture - Lack of due attention to texture and some of valuable buildings - Ever-increasing influence of market activity in locality texture as ownership of buildings for warehouse use and thus contribution to rising weariness in these buildings |

4. Conclusion

Imamzadeh Yahya is one of the precious textures with historic textures and identity for some part of Tehran city and following to entry into modernism period and the developments caused by them this locality has been subject to several transformations and was exposed to many problems. Nevertheless, recognition of the existing potentials and opportunities makes it possible to take some measures to preserve its identity along with fulfillment of today requirements of local people in this area. Therefore, presentation of plan for organizing may be prioritized toward improvement of formative appearance, traffic, environmental conditions, and reducing density and concentration as well as enhancement and creation of visual values to give identity to this area. Alternately, whereas the middle core and texture is mainly of residential type in this texture while the edge points of this locality are mainly combined and jointly commercial so that it necessitates specifically for paying attention to social system at this locality and fulfillment of needs in design plan at local scale.

The intervening approaches to achieve the given outlook were designated as follows: creation of touristic role for this locality, reclamation of local center along with Imamzadeh Yahya Shrine and establishment of spatial continuity between distinct elements adjacent to Imamzadeh Yahya Path by preservation of cultural and formative and visual values so that prepare the ground for pivotal formation with reminiscent signs and spaces and memorial sites for people and finally to prepare for prosperity and development of historic Imamzadeh Yahya texture through creating the needed services and attractive for population, refinement of activities and making them cost-effective by reconstruction and renovation of environment, establishment of social securitization and safety with removal of defenseless spaces, social supervision, and prioritization of pedestrian movement and restriction of automotive movement.

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