Abstract:

This research studying on the only surviving garden of the historic gardens of Iran in Tabriz city (i.e. the garden of El-Goli) tries to take a step for preserving it as a historic treasure. Because of its unique beauty, El-Goli garden has been considered as an important place for visiting by foreign and local tourists in the city. However, in recent years this historic garden has become changed into a public promenade and park. The new restorations of the garden for turning into a park have added new functions which define and need new facilities for this palace. The purposes of this study are research about the importance of the garden architecture style and new functions on this historic garden.

Key Terms: Iranian Garden Art, Tabriz, 'El-Goli' Garden, Recreation Potential

Introduction:

The design and building of gardens has been considered as a kind of unique art related gardening and doing architecture in all around the world. In Iran, the art of gardening has a long history and was regarded as an important part of art in all the periods especially after Islam period (Gayoomi Bidhendi 1999).

Persian gardens were usually embodied the palaces and terraces that gradually ascend and connect to each other through steps. In addition, there were so many sculptures in the gardens of the Palace-Garden (Pouya 2012). Most of Iran towns such as Tabriz, Isfahan, Kazvin, Tehran, Shiraz, Kerman, and Yazd had been included with these artificial gardens at the time. A few number of these gardens is still existent (Samadi 2005).

Tabriz, after the Tehran as capital town, comes to be the second biggest city of Iran. The history of gardening of Tabriz goes back to the times when the first constructions of the city were made (Niknam and Zoghi 1995). According to what tourist and travelers had written and the available documents, this town was told to have been surrounded by gardens and farmlands (Mahmoudi 2010). These gardens were destroyed because of growing population and housing over time, although those names still remained in Tabriz (Samadi 2005). Tabriz has a vast diversity of plantal and floristic compositions and geographical shapes, so that need to more studies on its characteristics could have been felt all the time. Consequently, this research is considered as a necessity. Trying to make the special architecture of gardens known, the design models of the historical gardens of Tabriz are included in this research.

The Garden of El-Goli has its own geometrical characteristics in general terms and in addition, the similarity of the materials used in the building of the garden and a unique diversity of places are the other important qualities. Site of El-Goli garden and topography of land are principal factors which were considered in the original design. Pool is laid on the hillside and it is viewed the northwestern slopes from the pool palace to the hill traced. Other areas of the hill, which were connected together by stairs, had been also classified in recent decades, so the entire hill was turned into a park with an organic space (Soltanzade 1976).

In recent years, with the development of Tabriz, need for green spaces and recreational areas for fellow citizens are consequently increased and as a result, this historic garden became a public promenade and park. Because of its new restoration to the garden, new functions were added which have brought the garden into danger of more changes. The main purpose of this study is research about impacts of those activities on El-Goli Garden. In the other hand, search about the main structure of the garden that is the other main subject of the study.
Material and Methods:

In recent years, with the development of Tabriz, needs of green space and recreational areas have increased in El-Goli Garden and this historic garden has become a public promenade and park. The purpose of this study is search about the architecture style of ‘El-Goli’ garden as the only existent garden in Tabriz. In addition, research tries to hold forth ways for attracting more visitors to the garden. In this study, in order to correct understanding of the garden structure and its architecture, it is used old documents, explorers’ accounts and photos of the past with help of the analytical way. Then, today form of the garden be compared with the old from achieved through objective evidence and documents.

Study area:

Tabriz lying in the northwest of Iran is the greatest city of Azerbaijan (Khamachi 1991). The garden of ‘El-Goli’ was laid on vicinity of the city before it developed. With the development of the city, it is considered as one of the urban places and laid on the southeast of the city (Fig. 1).

History of the garden of ‘El-Goli’:

The 8th governor of Tabriz Abbas Mirza Qajar, as ruler, he trying to repair the central pool built a palace in the middle of the pool. He created a way from middle of the palace to Eastern side and its high hill with tracing and shaping more pavements and stairs. Furthermore; water ways and streams connected to each other over stairs which originated from the waterfall above the hill were built. Hero Mirza wanted to use the palace as a summer house (Etemad Al Saltane 1985) (Fig. 2). Until 1937, the mansion and gardens were deserted and over time and the Tabriz Municipality secured it with adding minimal restoration to the garden which changed it into park. In 1937, government Bager-Kazem repaired the palace again. Because of building’s wear and tear, it was destroyed in 1961, and a new one rebuilt at the same place in 1970 (Varaste 1991).
Structural elements of the garden; Pool (Lake):

The Garden of ‘El-Goli’ firstly used as a water stock. It was filling by Mehran river and used both watering the garden and drinking of the public’s. The width of pool is 200×317, 4 m. deep and it is also changing in some parts. The square meter of pool is 54,675 and 2000 cubic meter water capacity. The deep of pool is covered like normal surface and its depth is 9 meters. Approximately, the pool was surrounded with 16 meters of pavements and tall trees in further side of pavements as a fence (Fig. 3) (Saremi 2002).

The mansion of garden (Palace):

The mansion of garden is built on an isle. It was surrounded by water and built in the middle of the pool as center of isle. The mansion was stated at the end of pool and center of isle (Javadi 1971). The height of mansion is 12 meters from all sides and you can enter it only through one side. Actually, the dome was at the beginning which was damaged. The floor was bounded to second floor with the aim of stairs. The dome was built above second floor and the sun can enter the in (Wibler 1979). The environment of the mansion was decorated by flowers. The way which is in the middle decorated with waterfalls and plant flowers. According to weather of the Garden, the mansion has dense and rich plan. The outdoor of building made not to effect by cold and the cold air cannot go out of building. The door of the mansion looks at the south and it makes sunshine to be useful. In addition, because of the cold weather, the materials that used for building were chosen from harsh and severe materials (Fig.4).

Geometry of the garden:

When Iran garden style was applied to the garden of ‘El-Goli’ it was pertinent to its geography. The most important role in it is that the garden has square plan and mansion is the same so that building can state in the center of square and axis junction point (Bani Mesoud 2011). Actually, it means that they used symmetric garden art. Symmetric style can be seen in both physical structure and plants body of gardens. In gardens geometric structure, the square and rectangle were used. The garden of ‘El-Goli’ has its own geometrical characteristics in general terms, and in addition, the similarity in the materials used in the building of the garden has a unique diversity of places (Fig. 5).

Fig. 3. Photo of the pool when it was empty (photo by municipality of Tabriz).

Fig. 4. The mansion of the garden of ‘El-Goli’

Fig. 5. Plan of the El-Goli’s garden
Garden planting system:

Climate is the most important element in the garden of ‘El-Goli’. Tabriz climate is cold with low damp and annual average raining 285 mm. Raining can mostly be seen in March and April of spring. In autumn season, it can be seen maximum raining in October and November. In summer, dominant raining can be seen July and August. In Tabriz, the damp is in low degree. In December, damp rate is mostly 75 degrees, and in July at least 33 degrees (Mahmoudi 2010). To make more shade, the narrow ways were planted by trees. Trees planted in main road were beautiful and get attraction, on contrary to the bad ones planted behind entry of cottage (Fig. 6).

Popular and sycamore trees planted next to the pool for making shade and in some places where trees were planted collateral with red wood. Sycamore has nice appearance, different colors and evergreen which is different with sycamore. Coniferous trees are less than broad-leaved trees. Because of falling leaves, the garden loses its beauty. Trees were planted without taking consideration in their distance which is clear to see. In time of ‘Qajar’, the ways were decorated next to pool and planted red wood, white popular and Sycamore.

The garden of ‘El-Goli’ in today:

In 1930, after the garden was used for the recreation practices, the garden became more crowded and it began to renovate itself and enlarge because facility functions increased. It was so large than today it is that covers 70 hectare. The other reason of its popularity is almost all trippers had focused on it. Today, it is the greatest entertaining park of city (Pouya 2012). The garden was out of the city before renovation of city. The garden is considered as places lay on southeastern today. Today’s garden has four entrances. The main entry is in Northwestern accommodations were in south of pool. Amusement park and restaurants are in west of pool. Sport facilities are in north. The managements are in east. The garden provides wide opportunities. Because of lakes deep, which is 9 meters, the swimming was banned in it. But pedal seal, marine engine, sea bus are used for some actions. Visitors mostly walk along pool. The flowers that planted around the mansion attract the photographers and photography is other activity. Tabriz is known for historical places and gets many tourists. Especially, in summer and New Year holidays, the tourists visit there. The garden of ‘El-Goli’ is more important and it is surely visited. Some visitors can stay in garden one night by setting up a tent. Other travelers for visiting their relatives and to celebrate the New Year holidays come to Tabriz. Tabriz populations hold a picnic to meet travelers kindly. The most travelers come to Tabriz native people. The park can be defined for each four parts which are young people, old people, families, and doubles. The old ones are men and women who were retired and like to live in green spaces. The activities made by old ones are smoking, playing chess, mentioning the memories and walking (Fig. 7).
El-Goli’ Historical Garden in Tabriz City

Fig. 7. The activities in the garden of the garden of ‘El-Goli’

Social and cultural activities:

The existing of this kind of entertaining facilities causes different kind of people to come with together. Getting together different people in the same time and place, makes various cultures interact and unit, and so intercultural dialogs between national unities be increased. Political system not only combines the people, but also strengthen the social values. In addition to this, recreation helps to social and culture. Religious ceremony and national celebration are hold in garden. This activities collect people at one point and it develops national unity (Asiaei, 2009). People in Tabriz give importance to national identity and their original culture of different special area at the same time in order to develop. In theatre holl of garden, some activities are hold in language of Azerbaijan province. Lightening of garden is important especially at night because picnic is more common in garden and the management of garden has to prosper about night security.

Conclusions:

The historic garden of Tabriz has played an important part in defining social and economic history. In addition, it has a symbolic role as an image of paradise (Javadi 1971). From seven historic gardens belonged to different periods in Tabriz, only two gardens survive now.

“Shah-Golgi” (also El-Goli) is a historic garden in Tabriz that is the only surviving garden of the historic gardens in Tabriz /Iran. Position, size and beauty of the garden that have caused this garden become a popular and important place. Moreover, the unique architecture of the garden, old trees, and diverse applications of water have added to the beauty of it. Now people not only visit historic gardens but also for entertaining and relaxing come to garden especially on holidays. Exercise and sport are such important activities in recent years and religious ceremonies and national celebrations are also hold in garden.

We must not forget that before El-Goli garden became a park and recreational area, it had a historical identity as a valuable green space which was a very important symbol of beauty in the city of Tabriz. With the increasing number of visitors to the park, crowding becomes a major problem. If the visit is uncontrolled or visitors use El-Goli garden excessively, it can degrade this historic garden. Crowding can also cause large amounts of stress, annoyance, anger and other attitudes that will decrease the peace and calm.

If the garden is filled up to its carrying capacity, many problems will arise in the garden because of the crowd. The important role of the government is to maintain the garden. Therefore, a specific policy and strategy must be developed for the management and conservation on the physical attributes of the garden.

Research on geometry and garden planning shows definite features of the El-Goli garden, which include:
• In the construction of the garden, organization and hierarchy are the fundamental things.
• There are square and rectangle geometry in the general design of the garden.
• There is the superiority to seeing lines and perceiving on the main roads
• Straight lines are used in the design of the garden.
• The dense and shadowy trees are used around the main paths.

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