



Contextual design solutions with an Emphasis on Humanistic context; Case study: Historical Context of Langerud

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ABSTRACT

Designing in historical contexts has a special importance because of its value and coordination. These days we can see constructions in the historical contexts which have not desirable interaction with the context because of inattention to the relationship between building and its context and this is a destructive factor. The harm is visible visually and in dealing with nature and climate of the region. Langerud is not an exception. Some parts of the historic context of the city has been turned into ruins and the river which this valuable context has been formed around it has lost its potential. So the place attachment of citizens to the historical context of their city has been decreased. In this regard we decided to provide instructions for designing in historical context and river margin of Langerud to avoid more damages. Applying these factors, in addition to linking the new building to the valuable historical context with the visual aspect, also can meet the needs of the day and more citizens and tourists will be attracted to the complex by development of sense of place. In this study research's method has a descriptive analytical approach. At first, result of researches about humanistic contextualism and identity of place were discussed by using library research method and then more precise researches on contextualism in Langerud's historical context were done by using field method (observation and interviews). At the end the special designing provisions of this region was presented which can be named as this research's consequences.

Key words: contextualism, historical value, humanistic contextualism, sense of place, Langerud.

Received 11.09.2016

Revised 14.10.2016

Accepted 03.11.2016

INTRODUCTION

The city is like a living creature which continues its life by advent of new buildings. In fact, the city is product of multiple historical periods, and contemporary era with its new structures will be present in this process and today's architecture is a heritage for posterity. That's when the duty of designers and the responsibility to the generations past, present and future will arise (Shah teymouri, Mazaherian). If the study is not accompanied the advents of new buildings confuse the workings of the city in all aspects and the city will lose its identity and vitality. Contextualism is an approach which is chosen for resolving this crisis. The most important principle in this approach is respect for context which can be artificial or natural.

Langeroud's context has historical significance According to existence of historical building such as Darya Beygi and Monajam Bashi houses and religious places like monument of Agha Seyed Hassan. On the other side Langeroud's river which passes through the center of the historical context represent the natural attraction of this region.

The studied area is one of the most important parts of the historical sites in this region because it is located near the river, next to the old Town and is generally in historical context, they all show the importance of the studied area. This region has been disrupted due to nonconformity of construction rules and also the remains of old buildings have been destroyed due to non-use or become warehouses. This has caused citizens to gradually lose the sense of belonging to this place despite their interest in the river and historical context of the city. As a result, we decided to achieve principles for designing in this area by obtaining basic information and analyzing them.

METHODOLOGY

In this research the library method is used to examine the contextual and relevant theories and then a theory framework is proposed for contextualism. The research methodology is formed of four parts. In the first part it was focused on humanistic contextualism and documentation about research of place, identity of place, sense of place and its levels were browsed. In the second part a chart was made including the factors of formation sense of place and identity of place. In the third part the vernacular architecture was analyzed by existing documents and field visit. In the four and the last part appropriate principles for designing was given by using the identity of place chart.

CONTEXTUALISM

Contextualism factor is dependent on the context, it reconciles the two opposite factors together: the traditional city defines public spaces with their spirit [15].

Aspects of contextualism

Contextualism is a holistic point of view in urban planning that looks fields as evolutionary event. At first contextualism just contemplated physical aspects but in its development encompassed humanistic context too and the domain of its studies was expanded on cultural aspects. Contextualists believe, attitude to subjective and objective structure in the city (background) is like evolutionary event in the physical, historical and socio-cultural aspects, is cohesion factor in the city. In this view, ideas and forms of the past are in shaping the framework of contemporary cities. Contextual urban planner should be able to understand the characteristics of a place and make it a part of design process. The contextualism that knows frame as a coherence factor, is Seeking a pervasive patterns that provide the possibility of mutual relations between mass and space and to perform city's communicational structures and explain causal relationships. Contextual approach in urbanism in terms of ideas is a starting point to achieve coherent city [22].

Humanistic context

Human-oriented architecture in recent years has tried to move from sheer recognition of places to the recognition of the social forces which shaping the places or identify places where human culture forms. According to Peter Haggett, place is a special place on the Earth's surface and doesn't have a single abstract concept But it is limited to the identity with a certain special position and identifiable which has the special value. So anytime the position has got certain special data with identity, it turns to place [1].

According to Roger Trancik, in contemporary urban planning, buildings are not part of the context of streets and squares. The development of the city, takes place without considering three-dimensional relationship between buildings, spaces and real perception of human's behavior and has ignored the importance of spatial order in the "social function". Mobility and communication has dominated the public space and has denied cultural meaning and human purpose..

The natural conditions of a place are understood as being based on features in the topographical landscape, including a cosmological and temporal perspective that includes continual changes of light and vegetation in the annual cycle. These characteristic rhythmic fluctuations contrast with the stability of physical form. This is the *genius loci* as a place in nature that we have to interpret when we are changing our built environment. Norberg-Schulz's analyses range from visual impressions to the lived or experienced realm. His four methodological stages—'image', 'space', 'character' and '*genius loci*'—illustrate people's experience of the physical environment. His aim, however, is to achieve the atmosphere, light conditions and sense-related experiences of the *genius loci*. Nature, he feels, is the basis for people's interpretation and it is in relation to nature that places and objects take on meaning. He discusses the way in which morphological and cosmic connections are given physical expression in society's dwelling and living. He seeks meaning and symbolic function by understanding the systematic pattern of the settlement. In summary, Norberg-Schulz conceives of people's life world as a basis for orientation and identity [14].

Sense of place

Before talking about sense of place we need to know about its difference with spirit of place. The term '*spirit of place*' is a translation of the Latin *genius loci*. Spirit of place is both an inherent and an emergent property. This is to say that while it seems to lie within landforms and built forms, it also arises incrementally through the accumulation of physical changes and associations that come from somewhere being lived in for a long time. It is not immutable [13]. A place with a powerful spirit will create a powerful sense of place.

Sense of place is synaesthetic. It combines sight, hearing, smell, movement, touch, memory, imagination and anticipation. It is a faculty that varies widely between individuals. Sense of place can also be learned and developed through careful observation and openness to and appreciation of the differences between places. And it is a faculty that can be widely shared throughout a community, a shared sense of local

history and geography that manifests itself in a combination of pride and commitment to place improvement. Short of some yet-to-be discovered process of social engineering, sense of place cannot be designed [13].

Sense of place can be much more than one's own personal experience. Most likely it is developed among different generational groups. It means that the long-term relationship between place and people establishes identities and meanings with physical environments that create sense of place [17]. Shamai argued that Sense of place comprised of three levels. Belonging to a place is the first level, the second stage is attachment to a place, and the third is commitment to a place which also is the highest phase. Shamai also express that for having a better life individuals need to be connected emotionally and spiritually to their living places. They satisfy their needs through emotional relationships and identification with their living place. This remarkable emotional connection is called sense of place.

According to Norberg-Schulz, sense of place would be found in places with specific character and this character is made of tangible things with material, shape, color and texture.

In Norberg-Schulz's description of the genius loci, as well as in his own use of the concept, four thematic levels can be recognized:

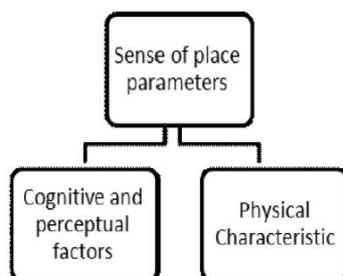
The topography of the earth's surface, the cosmological light conditions and the sky as natural conditions, Buildings, Symbolic and existential meanings in the cultural landscape.

Although this classification is related to the field of anthropological methodology, but also suggests the possibility of division "within" in one place.

Hummon differentiated between a numbers of different types of senses of place in a study on community sentiment. These included rootedness, alienation, relativity, and place lessness. Hummon noted people's satisfaction, identification, and attachment to communities caused different kinds of sense of place which vary among people.

Factors in Forming a Sense of Place

As mentioned above, sense of place is a subjective perception of people about their environment and their conscious feeling about places. So sense of place has both descriptive and emotional aspects of the environment experiences. It means that the concept of sense of place is both a psychological and physical concept. An environment is composed of a combination of physical and social parameters. Thus The relationship between people and place is mutual. People take different meanings (positive or negative) from the places and then convey some meaning to it. According to Steele, sense of place is the experience of all that things which people induce to places. Therefore, in literature review, it is clear that the factors which create a sense of place, are divided into two categories: cognitive and perceptual factors; physical characteristic Fig_1 [19].



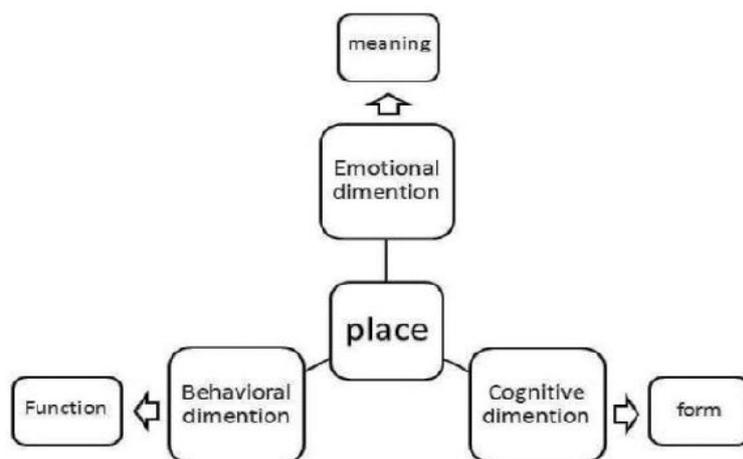
Fig_1: Sense of place factors [19]

In this regard, Cognitive factors include the meanings which people percept from a place. So we can't call sense of place just as an emotional sense about one place. It is a cognitive structure which one person can give a linkage to his/her meanings. So this definition that sense of place is an emotional connection between people and place, has been created based on this cognitive theory. As a result, it can be picked up that between different people, depending on their experiences, their motivations, their intellectual background, and physical characteristics of the environment, different senses have been created. In another research, Jorgensen (2001) in his studies on the theory of "attitude", defines three dimensions for place. People's feelings about place are sign of emotional dimension, their beliefs about place shape the cognitive dimension and their function in a place is a symbol of behavioral dimension of place (Jorgensen, 2001). So the creating elements of a place as form, function and meaning are corresponding to cognitive, behavioral and emotional dimension. Fig_2 (canter, 1977).

The literature review shows that physical characteristics of environment, not only are lead to differentiate between different places but also effect on the meaning which people percept from those. Steele explains the physical parameters which effect on sense of place as: Size, Scale, Components, Diversity, Texture, Decoration, Color, Odor, Noise and Temperature. He also explain that Identity, History,

Fun, Mysterious, Pleasant, Wonderful, Security, Vitality and memory also has an effect on the way people communicate with places [19].

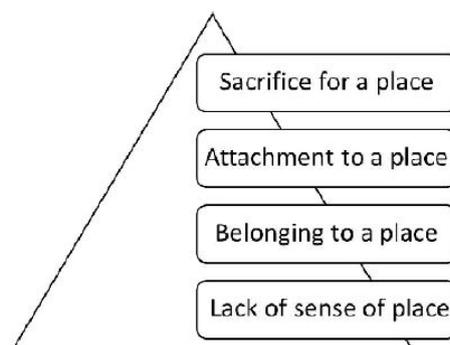
As mentioned in literature, physical parameters in addition to respond the existing functions in place, by creating meaning, cause the formation of sense of place. In this regard, legibility and people satisfaction of environmental elements are assumed as influential factors. By understanding the meanings, concepts, symbols and identity, a cognitive connection with place has been formed. Stedman believe that since the concept of sense of place is an ambiguous concept and it is very difficult to define and measure it, so suggests the concept of place attachment to measure it [7].



Fig_2: Dimensions of creating places [11]

Different Scales of Sense of Place

Stedman described sense of place as a collection of symbolic meanings, attachment, and satisfaction with a spatial setting help by a group or individual. Reviewed literature reveal that sense of place has different levels [18]. Hummon differentiated between a numbers of different types of senses of place in a study on community sentiment. These included rootedness, alienation, relativity, and placelessness. Hummon noted people's satisfaction, identification, and attachment to communities cause different kinds of sense of place which vary among people [8]. In other study Cross defined sense of place as a combination of relationship with place and social activities. Cross clustered the relationships with place in biographical, spiritual, ideological, narrative, commoditized and dependent [6]. Shamai determined three major - belonging to a place, place attachment and commitment toward a place stages. Shamai further categorized it into seven levels. Fig_3 [17].



Fig_3: Different scales of sense of Place [17]

Knowledge of being located in a place: in this level people are familiar with the place; they identify the symbols of the place but they do not have any particular emotional connection to the place and its symbols. Therefore, they do not integrate themselves with the place.

Belonging to a place: in this phase, people not only are familiar with the place but they have an emotional connection with the place. In this stage, people distinguish the symbols of the place and in contrast to the previous stage those symbols are respected. Attachment to a place: people have a strong emotional relationship with the place. The place is meaningful and significant to people. In this regard, the place has unique identity and character to the users via its beloved symbols. Identifying with the place goals: in this level, people are integrated with the place; moreover the goals of the place are recognizable by the people. The users also are very satisfied with these goals; hence they have a deep attachment to the places.

Involvement in a place: in this level people have an active role in the place. They would like to invest their own resources such as money, time, or talent in the activities of the place. Therefore, as opposed to previous levels that were mostly based on attitude, this stage is probed mainly through the real manners of the people. Sacrifice for a place: this level is the last and also the highest point of Sense of place. Deepest commitment to a place is the main aspect of this phase. People would like to sacrifice of important attributes and values such as prosperity, freedom, or, life itself [7].

Place Attachment Affective Factors

A review of literatures about place attachment might classify factors which influenced on creation or promotion of place attachment that comes in follow:

Physical factors: Many researches performed in place attachment field that relied on physical place. These researches attempt to answer these question; which place is more important to people? Why? Results show that both physical and social features play the same roles in creation of place attachment. Stedman [18] studied physical place role on place attachment and pointed to direct role of it on satisfaction and its indirect role on place attachment, at the same time, it deviate from place symbolic meaning. Other features that have been indicated includes: place setting and bed, facility and services, place status in urban setting, and its relationship to environment and other features.

Social factors: Basically, environment psychology is not only related to physical place but also includes social dimensions too. Positive relationship between physical place and personal satisfaction related to social communications, so that in social experiments and interaction that took place facilitate meaningfulness that place given for individuals. Therefore, two important features are: place attachment related to home, common diary and time. Physical qualities which are formed just one dimension of it. Thus, social communication importance never must be ignored. So that some researchers believe that place attachment based on people participation, social network engagement and cultural interactions, there are equal or more importance than physical place. Place attachment develops with people positive interaction and social compatibility in place and place attachment power has direct relationship with these communication power and rate. Cultural factors: Groups, families and society members and similar cultures are common in place attachment. Place attachment related to those activities that people do in their cultural requirement setting.

Personal factors: Place attachment is different among people. People select and attach place due to their conscious tendencies that result from personal characteristics and factors. Individualism is more important factor in social orientation and how to develop intimacy of social communication that known as mental identities based on initial tendencies. "place reflect identities, differences and competitions in different groups based on gender, class, race, ethnic, and culture and indicate individual political tendencies, power, liberty, interest and social system and common interests in consumption motives".

Memories and experiences: Totally, place attachment took place when people experienced powerful, long period of time in that place and in this process, place serve vast meaning. Tuan (1974) pointed to a factor like root in place that is correlation and integrity of person and place. Hidalgo and Hernandez (2001) in their study of place attachment found that, place attachment deviated from development period memories and communication took place in areas not just a simple mere place. He believes that we remember a place that we experience and favorite adventures and place is part of our experiences and might be a symbol of that experience. Amongst, Marcus (1992) studied place memoirs from students painting, adult remember their childhood and elders from their residential memoirs. Due to his view, people build sense of identity within themselves based on social communication experience and place of events and based on them, people form their dreams. Reflection of this feeling reflected in selected residence and memories about people and places they remember because feeling took place within place and in such emotional communication with place every one experienced differently. In fact, person-place relationship is an interaction process rather cause and effect. Childress (1994, 73) in his study of place attachment in children said "place attachment might have permanent effects on children life because it contributes in child's life quality". Also, he points in his studies that in place, assessment, children never point body or physical needs but pointed to qualities like appropriate mental image of place.

Place satisfaction: Emotional relationship person and place depends his place satisfaction and how it assess, and its rate depends on person perceptions of place and place satisfaction and quality and security (physical, social, emotional) that such a perception are conscious, unconscious, objective, subjective, personal or social and results in security and conservation and development of place. Attachment theory showed that not only urgently but probably it took place to meet people needs and expectations about place. Therefore, one most important dimension must be explained was place satisfaction, as place need expectation met, development probability more appropriate emotional relationship increase in fact, place satisfaction is place attachment. So that in some students, factors influenced on place attachment and place dependencies and satisfaction are equivalent, an example is Benito et al. work in 1999. Place

attachment theory indicate that people place attachment developed based on their place expectation due to previous experience and their cognitive process and place satisfaction depends on the cognition. Satisfaction factor depends on factors like facilities, place adaptation, with performance and setting sustainability, visual characteristics and management, place economic values, resident's image of similar unit and place social setting and architecture and urban planning features, social communication, background features.

Interaction and activity features: One important factor of place that play important role in promotion of place attachment are activities and interaction between human-place and human-human interactions. In fact, these cases rooted in individual interaction with social and physical place in form of meaning, behavioral and emotional and cognitive interactions result in place attachment, in turn, place activities results in place meaning and finally place meaning cause place attachment. Studies showed that place attachment promoted even with periodical celebration and events or permanent activities dominated on places, so that, in some intercultural studies, festivals, celebrations, story activity featured as more important factors in different cultures attraction to people.

Time factor: As mentioned before, time factor or residency in long time increase place attachment and many researchers supported this finding. Time factor is raised as deterministic features of place attachment among children and individuals and it was studied in both process and attachment rate [7].

CONCLUSION

Designing due to the humanistic context combines the field of architecture with the culture and history of the area. The local, historical and cultural factors of the region should be identified and considered. These factors are physical activity and semantic. To find this factors people's relationship with place, people's relationship with the inner activities of place, people's relationship with place, people's relationship with each other, personal characteristics and memories and experiences, cultural factors and the presence of people in places should be investigated. In this research personal characteristics and memories and experiences are the most important factors in sense of place and humanistic contextualism development due to the interviews. As we can say that memories and experiences can change a space to the place in a way that adroit architects can't do that even by using the newest guidelines. So to get to the necessary meaning we should refer to the culture and history of the area and see the city through the lens of the Citizen.

It's evident that as person cognition about that place features (physical, performance and meaning) increase, place sense of person get stronger and effective. But the significant point is person sense to that place, and in turn different factors like age, sex, knowledge degree, experiences, culture and tendencies play significant roles in forming this sense. Therefore, a set of these factors result in person different sense and reactions due to different places and in turn these senses might be positive or negative. When people feel positive sense to a place it means that he love that place and wanted to be there and communicate with it. Therefore destiny of place gets important for him and he feel responsible about that place. It is clear that, if person spent much time in that specific place and shape more communication, his emotional feeling toward that place increase too. In this case place attachment is created. Based on what mentioned above, place attachment is subdivision of place sense.

So we can make sense of place stronger by increasing knowledge of native people, in this way they will be more passionate about their context, they spend more time there and they make an attempt to avoid harming it because of place attachment.

According to the presented articles, sense of place is given to each person at the beginning, in the next phase identity of places is formed by unity of the sense of place. Now we can create suitable context for convert a space to place by using humanistic contextualism, history, culture, beliefs and various other parameters. So the identity of the context and affective factors on it must be evaluated for designing.

Design patterns are used as guidelines in Langeroud have been obtained by a survey of this city's history and culture and also according to the criteria considered by theorists are presented in Table 2.

Row	Theorist	Year	Criteria related to creating sense of place and local identity	Presentation in Langerud
1	Relph	1976 & 2007	Individual and collective values, Primary expectations, experiences, human intentions, spirit of place, time, social interactions, place and human, stimulator(Stimulating sight, sound, smell, motion, touch, memory, thought and forecasts)	- Considering the public open spaces and amphitheaters for increased common activities and social interactions - Allocating green roofs in combination with sloped roofs for gatherings

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2	Norberg-Schulz	1981	Events and accidents, materials, shapes, colors and textures		- Using of materials which reminiscent of the natives such as brick, wood and clay
3	Kevin Lynch	1981	Recognizable, memorable and visible		- Sequences of Natural and synthetic signs and symptoms. - Using patterns in a way that can be deciphered after perceived. - Using the available signs in the city in a way that creates a memory in the mind of the observer.
4	Steele	1981	Size of the place, degree of closeness, contrast, scale, proportion, human scale, space, texture, color, smell, sound and visual variation		- The size of each space in proportion to the capitation required - Due to the climatic and cultural conditions in this region we need less closeness and more open spaces - Variety and changes in materials and form of the walls - Observance of human scale - pay attention to the identity element of the river and the sound of moving water
5	Punter	1991	Physical setting	Urban landscape, landscape, permeability, the construction and urban furniture	- pay attention to the river's landscape, monuments and southwest mountains - Using wood and brick in the construction of urban furniture for creating a close relationship between citizens and these materials - Taking advantages of local patterns with a new face
			activity	Usage of place, the amount of foot traffic, the amount of roadway traffic, behavioral patterns, the built environment and readability	- Considering the walkway due to great interest of the citizens to walk according to interviews - Pay attention to the importance of Saturday and Wednesday market. - The composition and distribution of the land uses
			meanings	Culturally appropriate cognitive functions and quality assessment	-
6	Shamai	1991	People's experience, attitudes, behavior and participation		- Considering participatory activities such as spaces for potting by citizens - Considering proper space to hold street performances, daily markets, public sports, competitions
7	Xu	1995	Semantic structures, attitudes, ideologies, individual features and links people with places, Readability, visual environment perception and coordination of behavioral setting with intuitive environment		- Suitable lighting for readability of the spaces - Variety and changes in decking for highlighting the desired topic
8	Montgomery	1998	Vitality and diversity		- Activity and using combinations for development of vitality
	Stefanovic	1998	Identify symbolic and emotional concepts by person		- Landeroud's special physical features such as sloped roofs, brick façade, combined with meaningful and sensory features like smell of rice and the sound of river's moving water will specialize space's sense to Langerud.
9	Cross	2001	Type of relationship with the place (biographical, spiritual, ideological, story, desirable and dependent)		- Strengthening memorable factors that will link people and context. - Allocate places to hangout, a place

				for gathering and communal activities. - Diversity of users in a way that brings different age groups together.
10	Bonaiuto	2002	Background and context, the presence of services and facilities, position location in urban areas, the relationship with the surrounding places	considering an appropriate space to play and exercise in the context.
11	Salvesen	2002	Location, point of view, the intertwining of personal, physical character, ownership, originality, residents, comforts, private and collective nature and Spaces	- Separate the roadway and walkways and combine with green space. - Presence natural elements in the context. - Considering spaces for sitting. - allocate spaces to see natural and historical context. - Repeating native vegetation of the region to coordinate with the bed and also the use of certain non-native plants for diversity and attractiveness - Green corridors which let people know the change of seasons.
12	Pretty	2003	Relations between people with places and people to people, scale and physical factors	- Considering pause spaces - allocate some parts of the sidewalk to the sitting space
13	Carmona	2007	Management and planning, time	- increase the knowledge of citizens - long term purposes for cleaning the river - training experts in contextualism and historical aspects of Langeroud

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