

## Comparative Study of Locating of Mosques in Cities (Case study: Contemporary Mosques in Tehran)

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### ABSTRACT

#### Research Problem:

Islam, with its worldview, has affected the physical-spatial structure of the Iranian city in addition to the transformation in the social, cultural, and ideological structure, therefore, the arrival of Islam in Iran is the beginning of a change in the structural relations in Iranian cities. This influence has redefined a new form of mutual relations in the overall structure of the city through the introduction of elements such as the Grand Mosque, the Husseinieh, and the Tekaya. One of the factors influencing the reason for the existence of uses is the way of thinking and contemplation of the city's residents and the worldview dominant in society. Urban development in Iran has brought about many changes in the spatial structure of cities. One of the most important of these is the transformation in the relationships between urban elements and their effects on the physical, spatial, and functional characteristics of the mosque. The main characteristic of the mosque is that it deals with all aspects of people's lives and gives them a divine and religious direction. Therefore, one cannot be indifferent to such a magnificent place. One of the important issues regarding the mosque is the location of the mosque in the urban context. In traditional urban planning, the mosque was always at the turning point of the environment and was considered part of the necessities of the city's current life in a system of diverse and familiar functions. The proximity of material and spiritual life provided the reason for the connection and attachment of the community to the spatial space of the mosque. The development of most Islamic cities and the hierarchy in them have been influenced by the main mosque of the city. As a result, the mosque has a special place in the structure of the Islamic city as the most important physical element of the city; therefore, it can be acknowledged that throughout the history of Islamic architecture and urban planning, the place of the mosque in the urban context has always been logical. Also, due to the role and function that the mosque had, it has always been known as a focal point in the Iranian city, and therefore, its location has been determined by these roles and functions. In this study, various dimensions of mosque location in the Iranian-Islamic city and the present era have been examined and classified, which is hoped to open a new window for urban managers and planners in locating mosques. Research and understanding Iranian architecture, especially the architecture of contemporary urban fabric, is accompanied by the recognition of physical and environmental values, which unfortunately have not been passed down to us from the past as they should be, and have alienated the current generation of designers from the achievements of contemporary Iranian art masters. Therefore, it is important to study the location of mosques in Iranian-Islamic cities in contemporary times.

**Research Question:**

What are the different dimensions of locating a mosque? Has the spatial dignity of the Vali Asr Mosque been respected in terms of proximity to the city theater?

**Research Method:**

The research method in this research is descriptive-analytical, and the information gathering method is field and library. For review, four contemporary mosques were selected in the city of Tehran (Shahrak-e-Waz Mosque, Hazrat Amir, Tehran University, and Vali Asr). Then, the indexes are analyzed, after analyzing the historical place of the mosques in the Iranian-Islamic city and the resolution of the High Council for Urban Planning and Architecture of the Mosques, and the various dimensions of the mosque's location are expressed.

**The Most Important Results and Conclusion:**

The Earth is a place of worship, and God Almighty created the Earth for worship, but to build a mosque, one must pay attention to the dignity and position of the mosque. Mosques are the holiest places on earth and one of the most spiritual subjects in architecture, which are defined not only as places of worship, but also as places to manage all matters related to the life of Muslims. Therefore, they have various functions, such as worship, social, cultural, etc., and are considered a refuge for believers at all times; therefore, they must also meet today's needs. Considering the role of mosques in urban life, ignoring the factors of location when building them causes a significant waste of material and natural resources, serious harm to people and urban management, and disrupts the role of this spiritual and sacred place. Therefore, it is imperative to consider the principles and criteria related to location in the construction of mosques. In this study, various dimensions of the location of mosques in the Iranian-Islamic city and the present era were examined, classified, analyzed, and analyzed. The results show that the developments in architecture and urban planning in the contemporary period have led to the achievement of a limited number of valuable criteria for locating mosques today, and in some cases, such as the location of the Vali Asr Mosque in terms of its proximity to the city theater, even the spatial dignity of the mosque has not been observed. Research and understanding of Iranian architecture, especially the architecture of contemporary urban fabric, is accompanied by the recognition of physical and environmental values, which, unfortunately, have not been passed down to us from the past as they should be, and have alienated the current generation of designers from the achievements of contemporary Iranian art masters. It is hoped that the above-mentioned cases will open a new window for managers and urban planners in the location of mosques.

**KEYWORDS**

Iranian-Islamic city, Locating, Architecture, Mosque.