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Developing a Conceptual Framework of Integrity in Urban Heritage Conservation

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Abstract: The concept of integrity, as a factor of sustaining values and significance of cultural heritage, is considered to be a key element in the process of urban heritage conservation. Review and analysis of documents, conventions and theories concerning the role of integrity in urban heritage conservation shows that in recent decades, the concept of integrity has attracted attention worldwide in the process of selection, assessment, and codification of the comprehensive conservation and management plan of urban heritage, particularly in the World Heritage sites. Currently, the UNESCO World Heritage Centre has a unique role among other scientific associations. In recent years, the World Heritage Center has put efforts into developing a conceptual framework in order to offer the criteria for evaluation, conservation and management of various types of heritage including the urban heritage. This research is carried with the aim of developing a conceptual framework for integrity in urban heritage conservation by determining the concepts related to integrity. The main question of this paper is that what are the dimensions, aspects, components and criteria of integrity within the domain of urban heritage conservation? Documents and related theories of integrity highlight the importance of conserving the integrity and stability of the cultural dimensions, besides natural dimensions, tangible and intangible aspects and intactness and wholeness components in the process of recognizing and conserving the integrity of place which are possible to be measured and evaluated by structural-historical integrity, functional-social integrity and visual-aesthetic integrity. The major contribution of this paper is to develop a conceptual framework for urban heritage conservation, applying all the above mentioned issues.

Keywords: Integrity, Urban Heritage Conservation, Wholeness, Intactness.

INTRODUCTION

"Integrity" is synonymous with "wholeness", "completeness", "honesty", "purity", and "uprightness". Descriptively, it refers to something that has no missing, broken or divided parts (Talebian, 2005, p. 55). Following the development and the qualitative and quantitative changes in communities, which made substantial changes in historic environments, the integrity concept attracted attention in order to strike a balance between conservation and development approaches. The more compatibility the new developments have with heritage integrity, the more balanced and integrated they will be with conservation, and as a consequence, the heritage property will better conserve In other words, the tangible and intangible heritage values will become stable, more cohesively over the passage of time and maintain their continuity.

The concept of integrity is the ability of each property to guarantee, maintain and continue its cultural significance over the passage of time. The process of heritage registration, in recent years, has expanded to wider areas, especially the historic spans of cities. The concept of integrity is considered to be a key reference in placing limitations for urban development in historic urban areas (Jokilehto, 2006). In recent years, the driving force of development behind the urban World Heritage Sites has become a growing concern for international

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regulatory bodies, in particular for UNESCO. UNESCO objective is the stability of authenticity and integrity based on the heritage Outstanding Universal Value (OUV). Although these concepts, in the context of urban development, are constantly changing to meet the requirements of contemporary life in recent years, UNESCO has made an attempt on balancing the concepts of conservation and development in historic urban centers, especially the World Heritage Cities (Pendelbury et al., 2009, p. 352).

On the other hand, in recent decades, the topic of conservation and improving the quality of urban heritage in developing programs and legislation in Iran has drawn undivided attention. Moreover, in recent years, the issue of registration and conservation of historic areas of cities is increasingly raising. Hence, urban planners and professionals face fundamental challenges related to identification and selection of urban heritage for being registered in the World Heritage List as well as being evaluated and managed in the dynamic setting of the urban environment. The concept of integrity has a significant role in conservation and management process of urban heritage. Some experts like Pearson et al. (2006) suggested that the integrity of historical places could be both measured and classified (Pearson et al., 2006 cited in Gullino & Larcher, 2012). Therefore, in order to approach a conceptual framework, this research aims to recognize the main aspects of integrity. The necessity to achieve this framework will become obvious in the urban heritage conservation and management and convergence of conservation and development approaches.

RESEARCH METHOD

Based on research questions and goals, the qualitative research methodology is chosen and with applying logical reasoning strategy as well as "content analysis" and "logical inference"; this paper aims to analyze the content by recognizing and categorizing international documents and theories. So, by determining dimensions, aspects, components and main criteria for recognition of the notion of integrity; the context for developing a conceptual framework for integrity in urban heritage conservation is provided. Moreover, reading and evidential observation based on books, papers and authentic documents are used as research tools (Fig. 1).

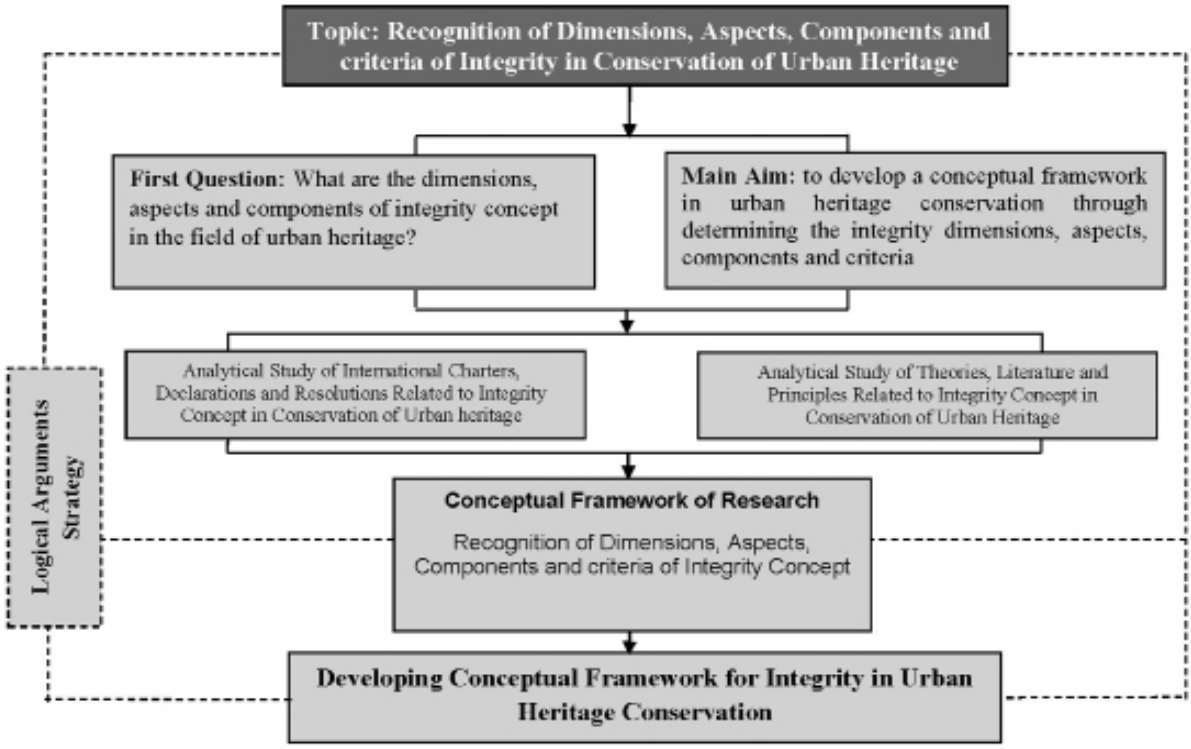

Fig.1. The Research Plan Introduces the Main Stages of the Study, Their Contents, as Well as the Relationship and Hierarchy of the Subject

ANALYTICAL REVIEW OF INTEGRITY CONCEPT IN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND DOCUMENTS

Content analysis of international documents represents a universal consensus on the importance of integrity in the conservation process of urban heritage. The ICOMOS Committee, in 1976, introduced the notion of integrity as a key criteria for heritage registration. Reviewing the content of international documents indicates that, at the beginning, the importance of integrity was introduced in relation to natural heritage. The Natural Settlement Conference, in 1996, can be mentioned as one of them, in which, by focusing on natural settlements, the importance of integrity was highlighted. Then, the concept of integrity was considered in correlation with cultural heritage, in particular the urban heritage. The foundations of historic city consideration were first built once the urban or rural spaces were accentuated in the Venice Charter in 1964. The Venice Charter, in paragraph fourteen, stated the notion of integrity as follows: "The sites of monuments must be the object of special care in order to safeguard their integrity and ensure that they are cleared and presented in a seemly manner". Therefore, based on the Venice Charter definition, the integration of urban heritage is not summarized in the integrity of buildings, monuments and historical structures; however, the focus of this Charter is on structural and visual integrity and does not highlight the other aspects of integrity.

In the 1968 UNESCO meeting in Paris, a recommendation on the protection of cultural property endangered by public and private measures was approved by which the historic city span was considered as the intervention scope for cultural property's conservation. By approving Nairobi Recommendation in 1976 on conservation and the contemporary role of historic areas, besides introducing the modern Urbanism as the reason of urban and rural historic center's destruction, UNESCO emphasized the revitalization of historic centers and presented a more comprehensive definition for historic city beyond historic buildings complex or historic centers. Following that, in 1987, the Washington Charter highlighted the relation between the city and its surrounding area and referred to cultural and natural dimensions of urban heritage. In addition, by indicating the physical and spiritual elements, it focused on tangible and intangible aspects which are significant in assessment of urban heritage integrity. It also directly examined the physical threat of urban development as a consequence of industrialization against the valuable urban areas. Moreover, the Declaration of San Antonio that specifically approved for American countries in 1996, referred to the concepts of wholeness and intactness.

Based on Nara Charter, conservation of heritage, especially the urban heritage in each cultural context varies and consequently requires a flexible framework. The Nara meeting, on Integrity and Development of Historic Cities (the expert meeting organized by the World Heritage Center in 1991, Nara. Japan), was held in search of how integrity can improve the management of historic cities; even though the achievements of this conference were not reflected in the Operational Guidelines of World Heritage Convention (Yang et al., 2000 cited in Stovel, 2007, p. 27). The paragraph 88 of UNESCO Operational Guidelines of World Heritage Convention, approved in 2005, defined integrity criterion as follows: "Integrity is a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and/or cultural heritage and its attributes". According to this document, reviewing the integrity condition requires evaluation of:

1. Includes all the elements and components necessary for expressing the Outstanding Universal Value;
2. Adequately indicates the features and processes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value. In other words, the property can adequately convey the features and significance of Place; and
3. How much it has been damaged by development, neglect and inattention (UNESCO -WHC, 2005: paragraph 88).

Paragraph one of these Guidelines refers to the essential elements and components for expressing the Outstanding Universal Value; however, these elements and components were not refined. Hence the need for clarification in order to assess the integrity of heritage sites, particularly the urban heritage due to their inherent complexities, is more evident than before. In addition, the first and second paragraph of this Guidelines highlight the importance of heritage wholeness and the third paragraph puts emphasis on intactness and states the importance of control and management of new developments of cities, as long as no damage is done to the significance continuity of heritage. Referring to "process" besides "feature" in the second paragraph, nevertheless, indicates a change of attitude in UNESCO that is considering the inherent dynamics of cultural heritage especially the urban heritage. Moreover, in paragraph three, control and management of these developments for intactness conservation are stressed.

The English Heritage (2008, p. 45) is one of those documents that proposed the concept of integrity as wholeness; "Integrity (literally "wholeness, honesty") can apply, for example, to a structural system, a design concept, the way materials or plants are used, the character of a place, artistic creation, or functionality. Decisions about recovering any aspect of integrity that has been compromised, must, like authenticity, depend upon a comprehensive understanding of the values of the place". The proposed definition by English Heritage also shows consideration of tangible and intangible aspects in recognition and conservation of heritage places. In recent years, some of the documents published by the Quebec ICOMOS (2008), by developing the concept of integrity in conservation process and emphasizing on the sense and significance of Place, have expanded the scope of heritage to "cultural routes". Emphasizing the concept of "spirit of place" in evaluating the concept of integrity implies attention to tangible aspect and significance of heritage. With respect to the definitions provided for "spirit of place"; it can be concluded that, in recent years, the concept of integrity has moved beyond the physical, objective and intangible aspects of heritage and has been proposed as social and mental structures. In other words, besides tangible aspects integration, the intangible aspects integration is emphasized as well.

Review and analysis of international documents and conventions represents the consideration of different aspects of integrity, including structural-historical integrity, socio-cultural integrity and integration of function of historic spaces and buildings over the passage of time. One of the other aspects considered for this concept, is the visual-aesthetic integrity which has been threatened due to new developments especially in urban areas. According to Assi[1] (2000), the Nara document, in 1994, officially recognized the importance of socio-cultural issues. Based on the World Heritage Meeting in 2002 on the topic of *Shared Legacy, Common Responsibility*; it was concluded that urban heritage is a human, social and cultural element and is defined beyond a group of buildings (Bandarin & Van Oers, 2005, p. 53).

The Vienna Memorandum, in 2005, with a focus on World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture - Managing the Historic Urban Landscape , examined the integration of modern architecture in historical context and emphasized on the following principles:

- Concept of Historic Urban Landscape,
- Importance of understanding place,
- Avoid pseudo-historical design.,
- New development should minimize direct impacts on historic elements,
- Contemporary architecture should be complementary to the values of the historic urban landscape. And
- Cultural or Visual Impact Assessment (Pendelbury et al., 2009, p. 352).

This statement offers the new approach of "Historic Urban Landscape" that suggests expanding the scale of conservation from single historic buildings and monuments to conservation of historic towns. One year later, the International Declaration of Jerusalem directly dealt with Historic Urban Landscape approach; in which the conservation of cultural and natural dimensions are intertwined. In addition, this document put particular attention to intactness of urban heritage against developments. The result of considering Historic Urban Landscape approach in later documents is regarding the city as a closely intertwined web of cultural and natural dimensions that is identified and managed as a whole. This new approach led to preparation of the Draft of Historic Urban Landscape Recommendation by UNESCO in 2011. Jukilehto noted that, in the past thirty years, the definition of city in international conventions, charters and documents has turned to a static state, from being dynamic and from centralized to decentralized (Jukilehto, 2010). In other words, a more comprehensive definition for city has been obtained. At the end of this section, the most important international documents concerning the importance of integrity in the process of urban heritage conservation are presented in Table 1.

Table 1. The Most Important International Documents on the Importance of Integrity in the Conservation of Urban Heritage

No.	Title	Date	Fundamental Principals
1	International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter)	1964	- Expansion of the conservation scope from one monument to surrounding spaces in order to conserve their integrity (paragraph fourteen of the charter).
2	The ICOMOS Heritage Meeting	1976	- Integrity as a key criteria for registration of heritage properties.
3	Washington Charter	1987	- The importance of integration between the historic town with its surrounding both natural and built environment; and - Preserve historic and natural characteristics of the city and all tangible and intangible aspects of these features.
4	The Nara Document on Authenticity	1994	- Referring to the necessity of the flexible framework to assess the authenticity and integrity of heritage properties within the various cultural contexts.
5	Natural Settlement Conference	1996	- The importance of integrity in relation to natural heritage
6	The Declaration of San Antonio (special for American countries)	1996	- The Integrity is defined in this declaration as follow: Has historic places been fragmented? Which parts have been lost? Which parts have been added?
7	World Heritage Convention	2005	- Integrity is defined as a measure of the wholeness and intactness of the natural and cultural heritage; - Including all the required elements and components to indicate the Outstanding Universal Value (connotes the intactness components); - Adequately express the features and processes that convey the Outstanding Universal Value (connotes the wholeness components); and - To what extent it has been damaged by development or carelessness.
8	Vienna Memorandum on "World Heritage and Contemporary Architecture - Managing the Historic Urban Landscape"*	2005	- The importance of integrity to balance conservation and development approaches in managing Historic Urban Landscape.
19	The International Declaration of Jerusalem *	2006	- Expansion and widening of heritage concept into historic urban landscape; and - Integrity should be considered in new developments.
10	ICOMOS Charter on the Preservation of the Spirit of Place (Quebec Charter) *	2008	- The importance of integrity to determine and develop strategies and policies for controlling the effects of development.
11	UNESCO Draft Recommendation on Historic Urban Landscape*	2011	- The importance of integrity in conservation of urban heritage.
* Main Meetings			

ANALYTICAL REVIEW OF INTEGRITY CONCEPT IN URBAN HERITAGE CONSERVATION IN THE VIEWS OF EXPERTS

"The condition of integrity in relation to heritage places should be understood in the relevant historic context. Integrity can be referred to visual, structural and functional aspects of a place. It is particularly relevant in relation to cultural landscapes and historic areas, but even a ruin can have its historic integrity in its present state and its setting. The visual integrity of a building or an area indicates what is visually relevant to its historically evolved condition in relation its context " (ICCROM, 2007, pp. 55-56).

Stovel believes that "The push to introduce integrity within the evaluation of WH cultural heritage sites derives in particular from the 1998 WH expert meeting in Amsterdam." The World Heritage Committee, in recent years, has focused on the negative impacts on visual integrity of historic cities and regions due to proposed developments. "Is the integrity weakened by the intrusion of discordant and/or abundant elements or buildings that are unrelated to the significance and detract from the visual unity of the place?" (National Park Service, 2006 cited in Stovel, 2007, p. 29). Reviewing the recent years Operational Guidelines of World Heritage, indicates special attention to visual-aesthetic integrity in cities, in particular the large ones because of facing globalization. The other aspects of integrity, including historical-structural and social-functional integrity have been considered besides the visual integrity. Jokilehto (2007) has developed the integrity concept comprehensively in three categories of structural, functional and visual integrity. Therefore, integrity in historic environments, based on Jokilehto's opinion, which is also confirmed by Stovel (2007), can be measured by three main criteria (Jokilehto, 2007):

Social-Functional Integrity;
Visual-Aesthetic Integrity; and
Historical-Structural Integrity. (Table 2)

Stovel (2007), concerning the necessity of considering integrity and its explanatory components, believes that; notwithstanding all the efforts that Jokilehto and others have made, adequate attention has not been paid to this concept in the Operational Guidelines of World Heritage yet. He once again highlighted the Structural, Functional and Visual Integrity expressed by Jokilehto. Moreover, Stovel (2007) introduced the content approved in 2005 Operational Guidelines of World Heritage regarding integrity under two notions of wholeness and intactness. Wholeness[2] is the ability to convey the Outstanding Universal Value. Having considered the importance of continuity in explaining the integrity concept, it seems that the wholeness of property refers to its ability to continually convey the Outstanding Universal Value. In other words, conveying the value over the passage of time is expected. Intactness[3] focuses on the surrounding physical fabric of the property and considering the fact that the impact of deterioration processes should be controlled (UNESCO-WHC, 2005, Paragraph. 89 cited in Stovel, 2007, p. 25). Hence, the concept of intactness has a significant role in recognition and measurement of urban heritage integrity that is constantly threatened by new developments (Table 2).

Nowadays, lots of these threats have threatened the heritage sites, especially the World Heritage Sites, to be placed in *List of World Heritage in Danger*. Building Jahan-Nama Tower near Naghsh-e-Jahan Square in Isfahan is one of the visual treats in a World Heritage Site that finally led to decreasing the height of the tower to conserve the integrity of Naghsh-e-Jahan complex. The proposed plans in Vienna, London, Liverpool, Cologne, Dresden, St. Petersburg and other cities that have World Heritage Sites can be noted as other examples (Stovel, 2007).

The World Heritage Committee at its recent discussions, because of the importance of visual integrity; have discussed the negative impacts of proposed developments on the visual integrity of registered historic cities and regions. This Committee made some efforts for developing a clear framework or method to evaluate the negative impacts of new developments in historic cities. So, since 2005, integrity criterion has been introduced as an implicit quality for many cultural properties[4] (ICUN, 2010 cited in Gullino & Larcher, 2012, p. 2). However, no roadmap exists on how to evaluate the integrity in contrast to the concept of authenticity.

Rossler debated the integrity, particularly in cultural landscapes and stressed importance of the two criteria of integrity and authenticity simultaneously in the process of conservation and evaluation of cultural landscapes as examples for large-scale heritage. In addition, he referred to the Operational Guidelines of the World Cultural and Natural heritage approved 2005 and pointed the linkage between authenticity and integrity in expressing the Outstanding Universal Value (Table 2).

Generally, the experts in the topic such as Jokilehto (2007), Stovel (2007) and Rossler (2008) have offered various definitions and classifications for effective dimensions, aspects and components in the process of recognition, assessments and conservation of integrity of

heritage places. Meanwhile, Jokilehto presented a new classification for defining, evaluating and managing the tangible and intangible aspects of heritage with an emphasis on the importance of Social-Functional Integrity, Visual-Aesthetic Integrity, and Historical-Structural Integrity. Jokilehto's classification has been more highlighted by Stovel (2007). Stovel also endorsed wholeness and intactness components based on the definitions of the Operational Guidelines of the World Heritage (2005). In addition, Rossler emphasized the concepts of authenticity and integrity and propounded the criteria of visual, functional and structural integrity for conservation and evaluation of large-scale heritage, in particular the cultural landscapes. Table 2 summarizes the review and classification of the experts' opinion on the notion of integrity in urban heritage.

Table 2. Experts' Opinion on Integrity in Urban Heritage

No.	The expert	Year	Main points of the theory
1	Jokilehto	2007	Integrity in cultural heritage → Historical-Structural Integrity: All remained components of the current situation of historic structures remain are documented. The amount and type of connections between components and historical structures form the meaningful totality. Integrity in cultural heritage → Social-Functional Integrity: Recognition of functions and processes that have gradually developed the Place. For instance, some place functions changed and developed due to social interactions, and being suitable for religious and spiritual issues as well as people's movements. Integrity in cultural heritage → Visual-Aesthetic Integrity: The more artistic quality, architectural features and aesthetic values of the property being conserved, the better condition the "visual integrity" would have. In past, the visual integrity of each region indicated its unique identity. Factors explaining the concept of integrity in cultural heritage based on the definition provided by Jokilehto (2007)
2	Stovel	2007	Integrity in cultural heritage → Wholeness: Wholeness, based on Operational Guidelines of the 2005 World Heritage Convention refers to securing and protecting the heritage significance and values. Integrity in cultural heritage → Intactness: Intactness, based on Operational Guidelines of the 2005 World Heritage Convention refers to securing and protecting the heritage significance and values. Factors explaining the concept of integrity in cultural heritage based on the definition provided by Stovel (2007)
3	Rossler	2008	Integrity in cultural landscapes → The importance of the two criteria of integrity and authenticity in cultural landscape simultaneously: Considering the visual, functional and structural integrity, besides authenticity criterion, to conserve and evaluate large-scale heritage especially the cultural landscapes Integrity in cultural landscapes → Integration of authenticity and integrity under the topic of Outstanding Universal Value: In 2005 Operational Guidelines of World Cultural and Natural Heritage, an important step was taken in order to strengthen the relationship between authenticity, integrity and value of the World Heritage Sites. Factors contributing to conservation of heritage in particular the cultural landscape based on the definition provided by Rossler (2008)

RESEARCH RESULTS

Related Documents and Theories Analysis

Documents, conventions and expert views analysis show the evolution of the concept of integrity in the field of cultural heritage and the introduction of intangible aspects that has gained superior importance toward tangible aspects. This attitude change has been sped up by registering historic cities, such as Bam and its Cultural Landscape, in World Heritage List owning to the landscape-based approach; that considers the historic city as the tangible aspects of interaction between human and nature intertwined with intangible ones over the passage of time. Jokilehto categorizes recognition and evaluation of heritage places in a continuous process and under three criteria of Historical-Structural Integrity, Social-Functional Integrity, and Visual-Aesthetic Integrity. The proposed criteria by Jokilehto refer to the intangible aspects of heritage besides its tangible ones.

Stovel (2007) not only endorsed Jokiopinion, but also introduced integrity as a criterion in order to secure, conserve and sustain the stability and explanatory aspects of value and the significance of heritage. According to Stovel's opinion, the concept of "Secure Significance" indicates the *intactness* component and the concept of "Sustain Significance" indicates the *wholeness* component. Intactness and wholeness have also been addressed in the Operational Guidelines of World Heritage Convention in 2005. Hence, integrity is considered as key criterion in assessment and conservation of urban heritage. Historic urban heritage conserved all of its explanatory parts to have enough intactness and wholeness. So, achieving full integrity in one property means having achieved intactness and wholeness in all of its components and measuring the intactness and wholeness of values and significance of heritage with a holistic view.

Recognition and evaluation the urban heritage integrity is more sensitive due to the complex and dynamic simultaneous combination of natural and cultural dimensions. Analysis of related documents and opinions of experts such as Jokilehto, Stovel, Rossler and others, on heritage integrity, shows that following the new developments, especially in large cities in recent years, the continuity and stability of values and significance of heritage have been paid attention to. Although considering this concept in an operational framework for assessment and conservation of integrity is highly complicated; some experts like Pearson et al (2006) believe that the integrity of historic place can be measured and classified (Pearson et al, 2006[5] cited in Gullino & Larcher, 2012). The result of reviewing main documents and theories regarding integrity indicates that all of the hidden issues in the notion of integrity and its proportion to whole have considerable importance in developing a conceptual framework for integrity which is the main goal of this research. If each of this issue ignored, some values, on which significance of place depends, would be missed. Therefore, having considered the previous sections of this paper, each conceptual framework concerning integrity in urban heritage should have the following points:

1. Cultural and natural dimensions;
2. Tangible and intangible aspects;
3. The wholeness and intactness components;
4. The three criteria of Historical-Structural Integrity, Social-Functional Integrity, and Visual-Aesthetic Integrity.

The proposed issues regarding integrity do not have same level and scale. As a result, this paper in accordance with its main goal, classifies them as main dimensions, aspects, components and criteria. Considering the interaction of all of them, stressed directly or indirectly in international documents and theories as well as "time" that is inherent in the concept of integrity; the integrity conceptual framework of this paper is presented in Fig. 2.

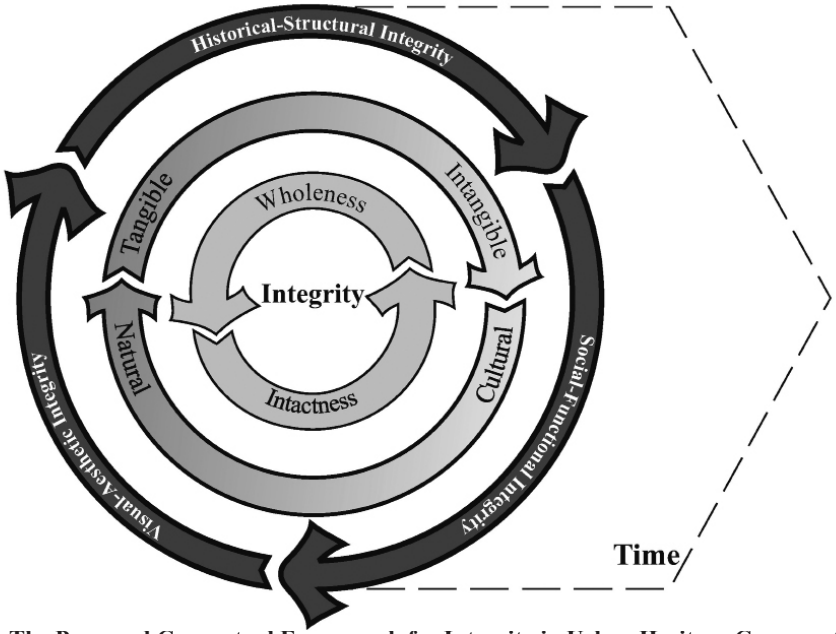

Fig. 2. The Proposed Conceptual Framework for Integrity in Urban Heritage Conservation

CONCLUSION

The goal of urban heritage conservation in present and future is to secure, conserve and sustain. Heritage integrity achieved through maintaining and sustaining values over the passage of time. Since values refer to both tangible and intangible aspects simultaneously, integrity also seeks for continuing the physical structure of heritage besides the residents' social and intellectual structures over the passage of time. In recent years, social structures of integrity have been more emphasized than its physical ones. Therefore, even if the physical structures of integrity, and the indicators of heritage significance continuity and stability over the passage of time, changed; the heritage significance would be manifested and continued through time in case of social structure's stability. The result of this paper expresses the importance of both tangible and intangible aspects simultaneously as well as natural and cultural dimensions of heritage and intactness and wholeness components in recognition and conservation of urban heritage integrity that can be measured and evaluated by the criteria of Historical-Structural Integrity, Social-Functional Integrity, and Visual-Aesthetic Integrity. The conceptual framework presented in this paper can provide a basis for developing an analytical framework for integrity assessment of urban heritage, and its possible strengths and shortcomings will be determined by being tested in multiple case studies and concurrent with the development of theoretical concepts.

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