

An Analysis of Manifestation of First Pahlavi's Discourses in the Architecture of Public Buildings in Tabriz Using Michel Foucault's Theory*

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ABSTRACT

In different historical eras, architecture has illustrated some concepts based on their times through the space and content conveying political, cultural, and historical implications to the audience. According to Michel Foucault's theory, in pursuit of the political goals of government, the whole structure of society is transformed under the shadow of dominant discourses and integrated to achieve the political power of the rulers. The architecture has also been affected. Various political orientations appeared in architecture during the First Pahlavi era when Iran transited from tradition to modernity. It is essential to examine how architecture follows these changes and how to responses it by understanding the modern government in Iran. This study aims to investigate architecture as an apparatus for the government system and examine the effect of rationality and governmental techniques of First Pahlavi on Foucault's state anatomy. This is a qualitative study with a discourse approach and content analysis, and its findings are derived from library sources and field observations. In this research, the Pahlavi government was investigated based on Foucault's Theory, and then the manifestation of the First Pahlavi era's discourses was examined. The mentioned discourses included traditionalism, archaism, militarism, and modernism or modernity in the architecture of educational, administrative, and service uses in Tabriz remained from the first Pahlavi era. According to the results of this study, the discourses that appeared in the Pahlavi era have been a part of the regime's ideology to achieve its goals, such as dominance over the society, authoritarianism, identity, national integrity, and modernity. These discourses have appeared in the architecture inspired by the dictator neoclassic architecture, imitating the West, advent of new uses for modernization of work system, modern spatial organization, the façades inspired by the ancient architecture, placement of public building around the square emphasizing centralism and objectivism.

Keywords: Modern Government, First Pahlavi, Discourse, Michel Foucault's Theory, Public Buildings of Tabriz.

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1. STATEMENT OF PROBLEM

One of the different understandings of power has been expressed by Foucault (Foucault 1961; Dreyfus 2003). In the opinion of Foucault, the influence of power in current society has been deepened rather than past (Haghighi 2001, 197). He does not see the power function as a top-down function but considers power a wide network (Navabakhsh 2009). He introduces discourse as the link between power and knowledge (Foucault 1975) trying to describe the problem of the state from outside of it, and based on the problem of government. He presented concepts such as governmental rationality, governance techniques, and governmental systems as the elements of an analytical system of the state to suggest a useful framework to understand the problem of the state. According to him, the governance techniques take tangible form in the phenomenon of the system (Yahyavi 2015, 143-144). This is the solution used by the majority of governments to gain power in society. In this meaning, discourse acts as social power and subjugates the people of society. Besides, it preserves

something in each field and eliminates other things (Bashirieh 1999, 24).

In the Pahlavi, I Era, the evolutions raised from the domestic and transnational evolutions and the passage from tradition to modernity caused the formation of a new discourse array and affected the overall social structure. Under the light of new political ideologies, architecture as a cultural and spatial context for the reflection of thoughts of every government plays its role in a frame different from the past to now by following the discourses. Regarding the distinct definition of the force of power in the modern society presented by Foucault in his analysis of architecture during the Pahlavi I Era- that is the period of transition from tradition to modernity- Foucault's discourse theory, as a governmental apparatus, is a new approach based on which, new attitudes different from buildings can be created towards architecture. Hence, after presenting the method and literature, this study aims at achieving the way of manifestation of the dominant discourses of Pahlavi I in the architecture of public buildings of Tabriz.

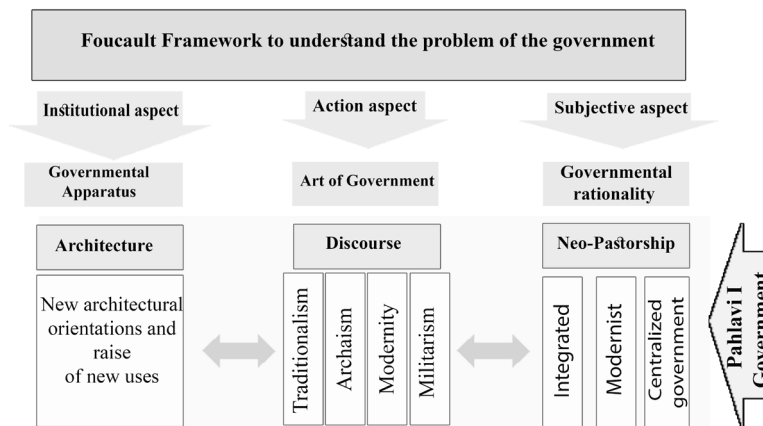


Fig. 1. Foucauldian Framework to Understand the Pahlavi I Government

2. RESEARCH QUESTION

How the dominant discourses of the Pahlavi I Era have been categorized regarding Michel Foucault's Theory of Power?

How have these dominant discourses affected the architecture of public buildings of the Pahlavi I Era in Tabriz?

3. RESEARCH BACKGROUND

A general typology of papers about Persian architecture has been collected. This collection indicates that few studies have been conducted on the contemporary architecture of Iran influenced by the dominant discourses. On the other hand, reflection on such structures can open a new horizon in this context from the viewpoint of philosophers (Table 1).

Table 1. Typology of Papers about Persian Architecture

Paper	Author	Year
Archeology (Linear Course of Time)	Persian Architecture Arthur Pope	1976
Art of Iran	André Godard	1965

	Paper	Author	Year
Archeology (Linear Course of Time)	Iran: From the Earliest Times to the Islamic Conquest	Roman Ghirshman	1954
	Archaeological History of Iran	Ernst Herzfeld	1935
Architectural Analysis of Traditional Spaces and Constructions (Structural Continuity through Time)	Construction of cities and architecture in the arid climate of Iran	Mahmoud Tavassoli	2002
	Sustainable values in Iranian architecture	Aliakbar Saremi and Taghi Radmard	1997
	Iran architecture: construction with traditional materials	Hussein Zomorshidi	1995
	Construction of domed structures in the Islamic Architecture of Iran	Gholamhossein Memarian	1988
Symbolic View (Timelessness)	Sense of unity	Nader Ardalan	2012
Social-Political View (Periodic Course of Time)	The default factors of contemporary architectural evolutions of Iran in the Pahlavi II Era and comparing that with Turkey	Naser Hassanpour and Hussein Soltanzadeh	2016
	The impact of nationalism on the architecture of governmental buildings in the Pahlavi I Era	Ali Asghar Shirazi and Milad Yunesi	2011
	The effect of governmental systems in the emergence of nationalism movements in Iran and Turkey Architecture, 2010	Jamalodin Soheili and Darab Diba	2010
	The impact of nationalism discourse on social and cultural evolutions of the Pahlavi I Era	Mohammad Ali Alizadeh and Ali Mohammad Tarafdari	2010
	The architecture of the Pahlavi I Era: evolution of thoughts and advent of Iran's contemporary 20-year architecture	Mostafa Zamani	1920- 1940

4. RESEARCH METHOD

This study used a discourse analysis method through which, architectural space is studied instead of analyzing a text. This method examined the structures not only in text but also in the physical space (Kashi 2011). To determine the architectural relationship between studied monuments and considered variables (Foucauldian power), a preliminary study was

conducted by collecting upstream statistical society (public buildings in Pahlavi I Era) and selecting the downstream statistical society (educational, administrative, cultural, and factory uses). The Foucauldian discourse approach was then used to examine the Pahlavi I Era and evolutions raised from political and governmental issues of this period. These discourses were reviewed in studied samples using the content analysis technique in the next step.

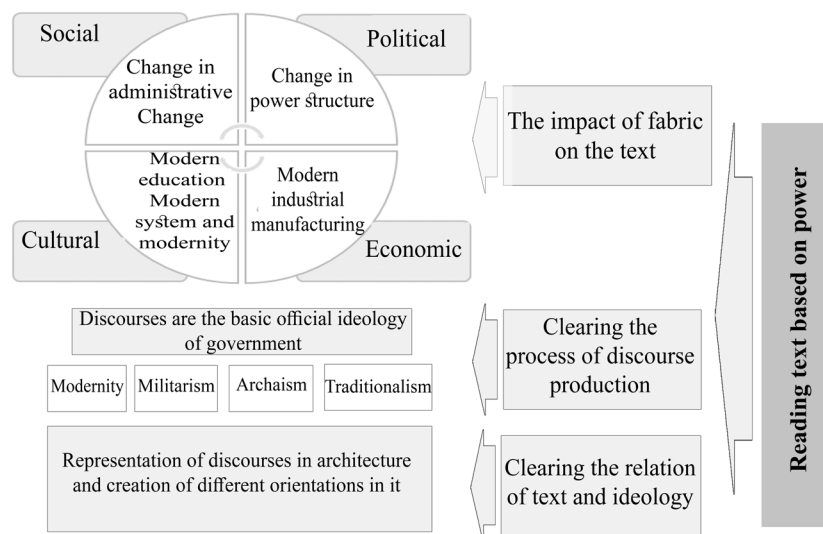


Fig. 2. Research Method Process

5. STATE FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF FOUCAULT

In the opinion of Foucault, there is nothing called a state, but some governance techniques exist that are formed by political rationalities. The government

indeed designs some discourses in which, power force becomes rationalized. Foucault completes the 3-dimensional analysis of the state (rationality, act, institution) by adding "governmental apparatus" as the institutional aspect of the state (Yahyavi 2015).

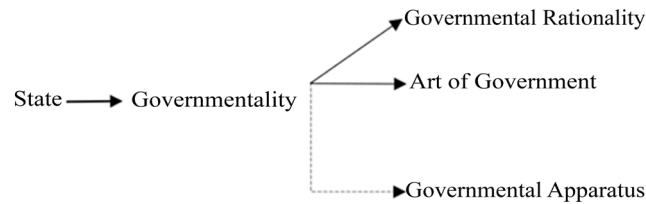


Fig. 3. An Analytical Model of the Government is based on Foucault's Theory
(Yahyavi 2015, 144)

According to Foucault, a specific discourse appears based on the dominant ideologies in each period of history. These discourses purposefully influence society to direct and subjugate people. In this view, discourses serve as regulations to shape world irregularities making them meaningful (Cramer 2009, 220). Foucault explains that apparatus is a set of architectural forms, discourses, institutions, rules, administrative and executive means, scientific regulations, philosophical-ethical subjects, and many other cases (Yahyavi 2015).

6. PAHLAVI I STATE: 1925-1961 THE IMPACT OF ITS DISCOURSES ON ARCHITECTURAL ORIENTATIONS

The formation of the Pahlavi dynasty in 1925 can be seen as the beginning of a modern authoritarian government with Iranian specifications and properties

(Akbari 1999). Pahlavism Discourse is the outcome of the mixed discourse of traditional Iranian absolute monarchy and modernity throughout of Constitutional era. The structure of quasi-modern absolute power was a wide network of bureaucracy that produced power impacts more effectively by hiding power will in regulations and structures. This structure also illustrated the latent performance of power, such as rational issues required for keeping social order and discipline (Rezaeepanah and Izadi 2013; Sadati, Najafi Abrandabadi, and Nobahar 2017).

In general, one can summarize the ideological bases of Pahlavi I state as follows:

- A) Westernism
- B) Iranianism with emphasis on the necessary modernization of ancient Iran's glory
- C) King-centeredness creates a charismatic face for Pahlavi King (Babaei and Khakzand 2018).

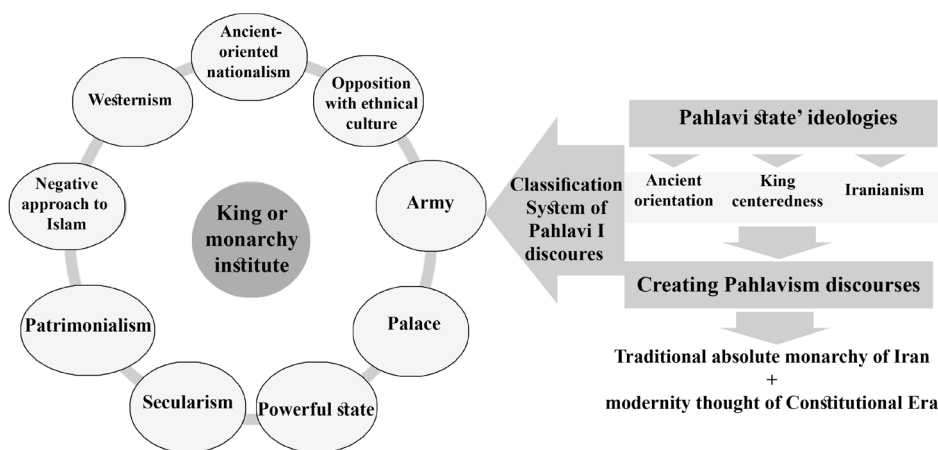


Fig. 4. Ideologies and Apparatus of Pahlavism Discourse
(Rezaeepanah and Izadi 2013)

Reforms and ideologies considered by Pahlavi I state led to underlying evolutions in the architecture

of that era in line with the dominant discourses of the Pahlavi I Era. The traditional discourse in the

Pahlavi I Era was changed under the influence of social, political, and cultural conditions of the society. This traditional discourse promoted by Pahlavi Regime to highlight its ideologies in Iran appeared as nationalism and traditionalism discourses (Faraji, Bayazidi, and Bayangani 2019). Some buildings with traditional and Islamic architectural properties (Isfahani technique) were constructed following the mentioned policies taken in the first decade of the Pahlavi I Era (Kiani 2004; Ghobadian 2013, 141). As another discourse of this era, nationalism was prescribed as the most fundamental part of political discourse regarding the specific autoreactive power structure called governmental ideology to legitimize the coup regime (Zakir Isfahani 2005; Bani Masoud 2010, 41). The requirement for the construction of buildings with new functions paved the way for ancient orientation in architecture (Kiani 2002; Mirmozzafari and Abdollahzadeh Taraf 2018). Ancient orientation brought another two contexts: de-religion and westernism. The policies of religion weakening and West orientation became more highlighted through time (Kiani 2001, 65). The de-

religion policy affected architecture by eliminating the specifications of traditional and Islamic architecture over time (Babaei and Khakzand 2018; Bani Masoud 2020, 63). Westernism and modernism were other prevailing discourses of the Pahlavi I Era, which led to the advent of modern orientations, such as European neoclassic and modern orientation (Arc Deco style and expressionism that are rooted in Art Nouveau movement in France) in Persian architecture (Faraji, Bayazidi, and Bayangani 2019). Army and bureaucracy were other factors that shaped the predominant thought and its manifestation in architecture during two decades of the Reza Shah Era (Bani Masoud 2010, 185). The two mentioned factors paved the way for subjugating the political, economic, and cultural institutions (Zakir Isfahani 2005). A new army was needed to create domestic discipline, national unity, and a centralized-authoritative state (Akbari 1999). The constructed buildings at the end of these 20 years indicated common definitions and identical specifications of army, architecture, city, and building (Kiani 2000).

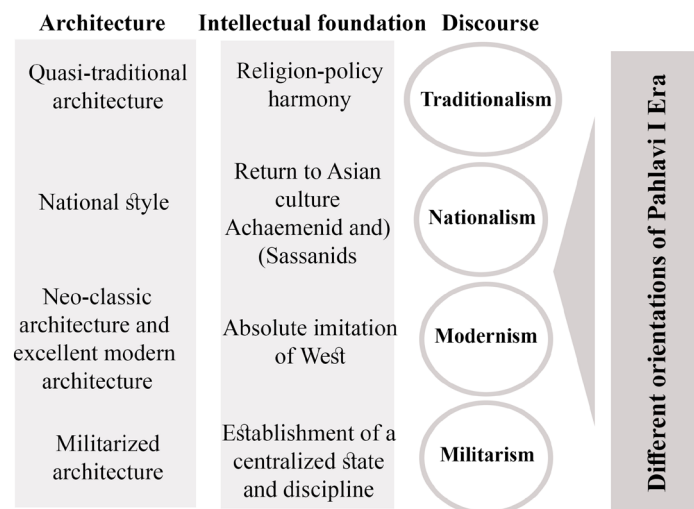


Fig. 5. Discourse, Intellectual Foundation, and Orientations of Architecture during the Pahlavi I Era
(Babaei and Khakzand 2018; Zakir Isfahani 2005; Bani Masoud 2020; Kiani 2000; Faraji, Bayazidi, and Bayangani 2019)

In this Era, public organizations enacted new plans to modernize the work system in different administrations of which, the municipality was one of the most important organizations that its old function, and the organizational system was reformed and became the municipality institution. The mentioned plans were designed to create modern social, intellectual, and cultural conditions against the old social establishments and traditions within a historical stage (Bavar 2009, 69-70). New construction techniques and thoughts entered Iran in this era. Moreover, new needs appeared, and new architecture called industrial

architecture was formed in Iran to meet these needs. The industrial architecture was highly different from traditional workshops (Nejad Ebrahimi, Farrokhi, and Shab Ahang 2019). In the schools of that age, the modern spatial organization was taken. The spatial organization used to be observed as a chain of classes on one or two sides of a corridor. Dr. Samiei Azar believes that such spatial organization is the most fundamental deformation of schools (compared to traditional schools). It could end centuries of introversion, central yard, and traditional hierarchy in an array of school rooms (Dehbashi Sharif 2000).

Table 2. Manifestation of Architecture Discourses in Pahlavi I Era

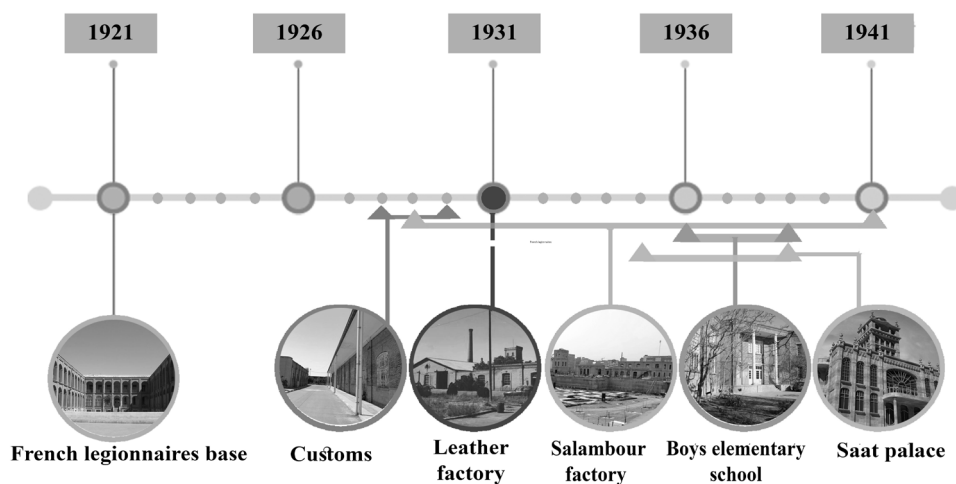
Discourse	Architecture	Architecture Components and Elements
Traditionalism	Isfahani Technique New Technology and Performance	Zigzag arches/façade railing/ the extroverted plan imitating the neo-classic and modern buildings in the West/implementation of building, arches, and façade using bricks/Muqarnas column capital/use of turquoise glazed tiles Slimi and Khatai design for decorations
Ancient-Orientation	Achaemenid and Sassanid	Imitating and using architectural elements of Achaemenid and Sassanid in the façade of buildings, including stairs, column capital, prominent motif, bottom of gates, use of entrance porch, congress in dome and roof, vaulted arches, middle door entrance.
Westernism	Neo-Classic and Excellent Modern Architecture	Simplicity and functional specifications, extroversion, curved lines, asymmetry, new materials of modern architecture/hierarchy, semi-circle and rectangular narrow-shaped and tall windows, symmetric façade, horizontal structure in the urban landscape, single independent building, mansard ceiling, Ionic, Doric, and Corinthian columns, balcony with Taremi or tall column, multiple rooms, long corridors, two-side wide interior stairs, Protruding in main façade, the general form with regular geometric lines (rectangle, L-shaped, U-shaped), three-part divisions in façade and plan, axial asymmetry based on neo-classic style, the advent of ART Deco style symbols, such as zigzag decorations, stair-shaped façade, construction of tower next to the building with diversity functions, using straight line and surfaces and streamline, metal fences with newly-emerged forms.
Militarism	Military Morale in Buildings	Connection with nazi Germany influencing the militarist architecture/advent of military buildings as a new performance/construction of non-military buildings with military properties, such as repeated elements in the façade, symmetry, hierarchy, row organization, uniformity, discipline, centralization, glory/resistance, rapid construction and continuous inspection of building construction.

(Dehbashi sharif 2000; Khojasteh Ghamari and Soltanzadeh 2020; Bavar 2009; Ghobadian 2013, 138)

7. STUDIED BUILDINGS

The city's physic has been reshaped from traditional to modern form in Tabriz like other cities. This change stems from the urban planning measures taken in

the years after the 1920s. The modern education system, service-trade activities, and new health and administrative services are the most important factors changing the city's shape (Sattarzadeh 2007).

**Fig. 6. Studied Samples**

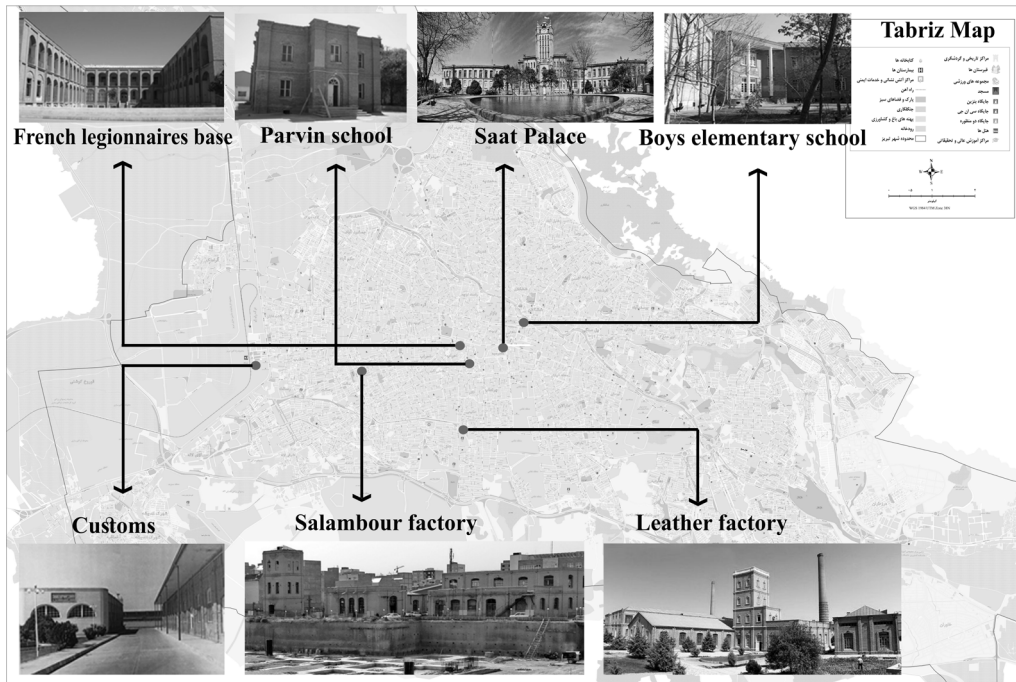


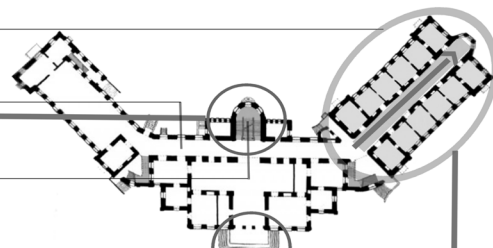



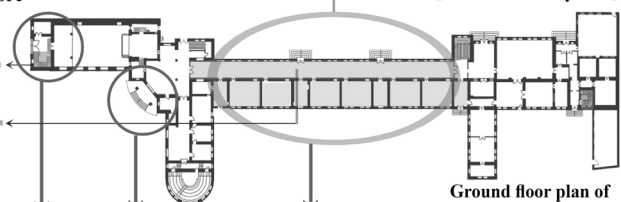



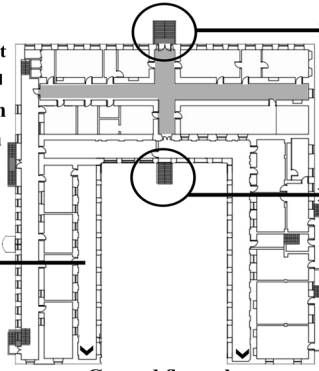


Fig. 7. Location of Case Studies on Map

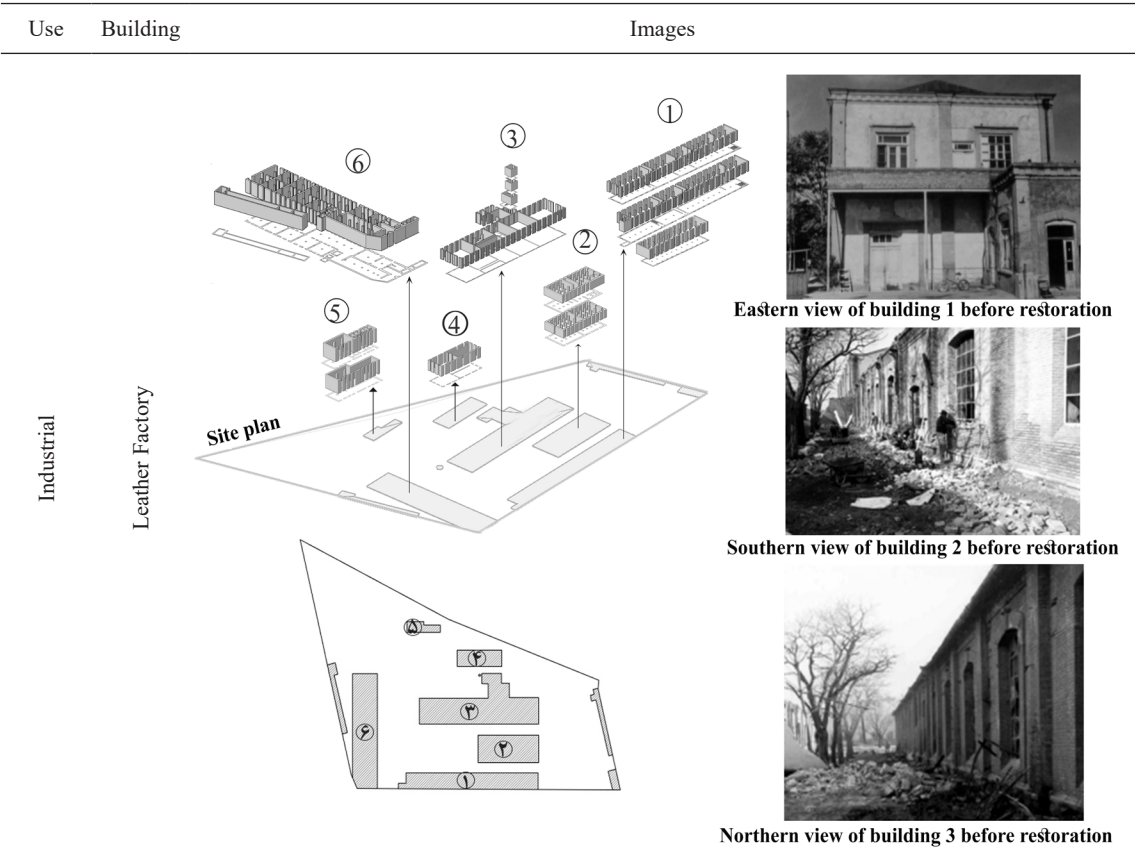
7.1. Analysis of Studied Samples

The studied buildings were analyzed based on the manifestation of discourses of the Pahlavi I Era. In the first step when the municipality palace is seen, the viewer finds the architecture of the German authoritarianism period and the beginning of the 20th century (neo-classism). This technique was used in the buildings that represented the government trying to highlight the spatial power of the state for the people. Neo-classism tended to present a special expression for governments and legalize them (Lampugnani 1980). The eagle-shaped form of the building from the top (symbol of the Hitler period in Germany), symbolization in the façade, wide use of stone, symmetry, horizontal structure of the building in form of single and independent building, long corridors and multiple rooms, three-part divisions in façade, pediment, ionic and unique column, semi-circle and rectangular narrow tall windows, stone-made frames of windows are physical elements of ancient-orientation. The tower next to the building with diverse functions has been constructed inspired by the Art Deco style. The main façade upward of the core of the building made of stone represents the hard ideology of the government doubling the glory of the building. Boys elementary school is another building constructed around the square emphasizing its extroversion and importance. The building has been organized linearly

with no asymmetry, unlike traditional buildings in Iran. the direct lines and surfaces and streamline used in the building plan and stair-shaped brickwork in the façade have been adopted from the ART Deco style. The tile works designed in the arch of main and secondary entrances and façade railing are the only designs indicating traditional effect in this building. A new type of spatial organization is shown in the linear organization of spaces, limited circulation, and various rooms around the linear corridors, which are seen in studied buildings. The Façade plan with brickwork, façade railing, arched openings, and protruding stairs in the entrance represent traditionalism and ancient orientation in facades, which are more observed in Parvin School and French Legionaries Base. Leather and Salambour factories provide unique specifications in terms of appearance and spatial organization. Simple cubic volumes with sloping covers, a tall tower, and chimney, pediment-shaped façades with arched windows and openings with brick-made frame decorations, and crone stone are some properties of these buildings. The façades with industrial European and traditional Iranian architectural specifications have fixed repetitive modules and brick-made decorations (Narangi and Biti, n.d.). Stairs and metal structures indicate the influence of western architecture on the building.

Table 3. Samples Selected from each Use

Use	Building	Images
Administrative	Municipality Palace	<p>Dividing the building into two or more parts based on the spatial function</p> <p>Long corridor with many rooms located around it</p> <p>Activities in corridors in linear form</p> <p>Using stairs in interior space</p> <p>Conference Hall → Entrance → Office</p> <p>Ground floor of Saat Palace</p>    
Educational	Boys Elementary School	<p>Long corridor with many rooms around it</p> <p>Dividing the building into two or more parts based on the spatial function</p> <p>Using stair in the space</p> <p>Activities by corridors in linear form</p> <p>Show and administrative unit → Classes → Laboratory</p> <p>Ground floor plan of Boys Elementary School</p>    
Cultural	French Legionnaires Base	<p>Middle corridor with rooms around it</p> <p>Stairs in plan</p> <p>Linear circulation symmetric, geometric, and cellular plan</p> <p>Ground floor plan</p>   



8. ANALYSIS AND RESULTS

This study examined the selected buildings comparing them with prevailing discourses of the Pahlavi I Era. Tables 4 and 5 reports the obtained results. According to analyses and Figure 8, traditionalism is less manifested rather than other discourses. Brick has been used in most samples, while other architectural elements, such as zigzag arches and traditional decorations have been less used. This case can be seen in the plan and construction of the Municipality Palace, which is one of the significant buildings of this Era and a governmental symbol. Archaism has influenced the façade of buildings; some elements,

such as stairs and columns, protruding entrances, and vaulted arches remind the ancient architecture. Westernism and militarism are more tangible in studied buildings, especially in Saat Palace and Boys Elementary School which are located around the square with a visible view. Regular use of similar elements, the glory of monuments, horizontal organizations, and hierarchy remind the discipline of the army and the military, while new uses with modern plan patterns, extroversion, and functionality are signs of modernism influence in the buildings. The neo-classic dictatorship style can be seen in the façade of buildings that transfers power and instills the discipline of a public building to citizens.

Table 4. Manifestation of Discourses in Studied Samples

Buildings	Discourses																
	Traditionalism							Archaism					Militarism				
	Zigzag Arches	Façade Railing	Brickwork in Façade	Turquoise Glazed Tiles	Slimi and Khatai Decorations	Congress in Dome and Roof	Vaulted Arches	Ancient Statues in the Space	Column and Stairs of the Entrance	Middle Protruded Entrance	Symmetry	Glory	Discipline	Repetition of Similar Elements	Hierarchy	Linear Organization	Centralization
Municipal Palace	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Customs	-	*	*	-	-	-	*	-	-	*	-	-	*	*	*	-	-

Buildings	Discourses															
	Traditionalism						Archaism						Militarism			
	Zigzag Arches	Façade Railing	Brickwork in Façade	Turquoise Glazed Tiles	Slimi and Khatai Decorations	Congress in Dome and Roof	Vaulted Arches	Ancient Statues in the Space	Column and Stairs of the Entrance	Middle Protruded Entrance	Symmetry	Glory	Discipline	Repetition of Similar Elements	Hierarchy	Linear Organization
French Legionnaires Base	-	*	*	-	-	-	*	-	*	*	*	-	*	*	*	*
Boys Elementary School	-	*	*	*	-	-	-	-	*	-	-	*	*	*	*	*
Parvin School	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	*	*	-	*	*	*	-
Salambour Factory	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	*	-	*	-
Leather Factory	-	*	*	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	*	-	*	-	*	-

Table 5. Manifestation of Discourses in Studied Samples

Buildings	Westernism											
	Modern				Neo-Classic				Art Deco			
	Extroversion	Green Space Outdoor the Building	Interior Stairs	Symmetry	Narrow and Tall Windows	Single Building with a Horizontal Structure	Triple Divisions in Façade and Plan	Mansard Ceiling/Pediment	Ionic, Doric, and Corinthian Columns	Multiple Rooms, Long Corridors	Zigzag Decorations	Stair-Shapes Façade
Municipal Palace	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	-
Customs	-	-	*	-	-	*	-	*	-	*	-	-
French Legionnaires Base	*	-	*	*	-	-	-	*	-	*	-	-
Boys Elementary School	*	*	*	-	*	*	-	*	*	*	-	*
Parvin School	*	-	*	*	-	*	-	-	-	*	-	-
Salambour Factory	*	-	*	*	-	*	-	*	-	-	-	-
Leather Factory	*	-	*	*	-	*	-	*	-	-	-	-

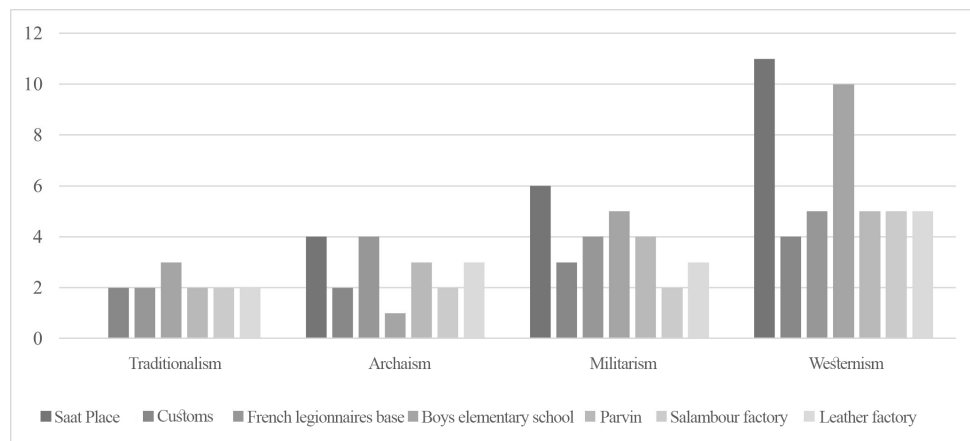


Fig. 8. Comparison between Manifestations of Discourses in Studied Samples

9. CONCLUSION

Architecture is a structure, which makes contact with audiences with a physical view from the outside and with spatial organization from the inside. In this study, architecture is considered a governmental apparatus. Under the effect of rationality and governmental techniques, the apparatus has gained space adapted to Pahlavi I State. The Pahlavi government affected the overall structure of the society based on Foucault's analytical model with the aim of centralism, authoritarianism, modernism,

and integration and with discourses of traditionalism, archaism, militarism, and modernism. Architecture is not an exception. In figure 9, the aim of discourses in architecture can be studied samples including educational uses (Boys elementary school, Parvin School), administrative uses (municipality building and customs), industrial uses (Khosravi leather factory and Salambor manufacturing company), and cultural uses (the base for French legionnaires) in Tabriz city in Pahlavi I Era.

Discourses	Manifestation in architecture	Political purpose
Traditionalism	Traditionalism was eliminated in the façade apparently and gradually	Showing political power and legitimacy of that through the glory of ancient buildings/ elimination of Islamic age through making connection with pre-Islam world/ induction of integration and replacement of national interests instead of racial interests
Archaism		
Militarism	In the façade and plan	Induction of order, authority, centralism, and national unity
Westernism	In the façade and plan	Westernization and modernization to prevent physical underdevelopment and meeting modern needs of the society

Fig. 9. The Aim of Manifestation of Discourses in Buildings

According to obtained results, the dominant discourses are tangible in the majority of studied samples. The policy of de-religion that began with religious orientation but ended with de-religion can be seen in the architecture of this era. Organization of modern space, different views, placement of new places, and architectural manifestations based on discourses of this age could be tangible in the majority of buildings. Construction of these buildings around the squares and in the street shows the effect of modern uses and emphasizes the principle of extroversion and centralism. The induction of the dominant order with the homogenous rhythm of the view of these buildings is tangible. The glory of these buildings can be tangible, particularly in the administrative-governmental use of Municipality buildings as a symbol of the glory of the king and the government. Pahlavi, I government gets archaism

to show the glory of the pre-Islam age and tries to imitate Europeans to make advancement in society. The manifestation of the two issues is tangible in the architecture of the buildings. Architecture is adjusted with dominant discourses of the Pahlavi I Era in terms of ancient physics from the outside and modern spatial organization from the inside. On the other hand, the army is the heart of the Pahlavi I Government, and architecture has followed the military features to reflect the order of the army and to show the power of the government. Linear spatial organization, observance of hierarchy, and specific circulation can show the functionality of the buildings. In general, the sense of order, power, and authority can be transferred by the physical form and the nature of the buildings. Architecture can be an instrument to show the political discourses of the government and power distribution in the structure of society.

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