

Report of the International seminar of

Martyrs' Representation and visibility in urban and architectural spaces in Muslim countries

Mises en scène, mises en visibilité des martyrs en monde musulman

IUST – 25, April, 2015

Through a collaboration between the laboratory of Engineering Analysis of Spatial Arrangement Factors (EASAF) and the Center of Excellence in Islamic Architecture, and with the presence of two professors from French universities, Mme. Agnes Devictor (Art and History Department, Pantheon-Sorbonne University, "Paris I") and Mme. Sepideh ParsaPajouh (researcher at the French National Centre for Scientific Research, "CNRS"), the international specialized conference of "Martyrs' visibility in urban and architectural spaces in Muslim countries" was held in Architecture and Environmental Studies faculty of Iran university of Science and Technology (IUST) on the 25th of April, 2015 graced with an audience of university professors, researchers and related authorities.



Figure 1: Dr. Ahmad Ekhlasi, Dean of the faculty of Architecture and Environmental Design, IUST

The seminar began with the speech of the dean of the faculty of Architecture and was then continued by the speech of Mr. Reza Kheyroddin (the scientific secretary of the seminar) elaborating on the content and aims of holding this international meeting. He introduced this seminar as part of a research project revolving around the role of the presence of the visage of martyrs in urban open spaces in Islamic countries. This project attempts to recognize and analyze the methods and arenas of the representation of the visage of martyrs, as determining elements in socio-cultural, spatial and physical evolution of Islamic societies. This research program is currently being pursued by Prof. Devictor in collaboration with the laboratory of Engineering Analysis of Spatial Arrangement Factors.



Fig. 2: Dr. Reza Kheyroddin, scientific secretary of the seminar, director of EASAF Laboratory

In first session Prof. Devictor introduced the project and different aspects of representation of martyrs in urban spaces through “official and unofficial paintings and graffiti” along with the theoretical and practical evolution of this subject. She then went on to present categorizations related to the concepts of “Martyr” and “Hero” in different societies and finally put forward some research trajectories in this field. The session continued by the presentation given by Prof. Majid Mofidi (Architecture and Environmental Studies faculty, IUST) titled: “Designing martyr cemeteries; Sarab case study”. He gave a brief review of the process of designing from initial design ideas to implementation and utilization which has been based on sanctity and reverence of the martyrs. The third speaker, Prof. Seyed Reza Mortazaei (Industrial Design faculty, IUST), presented an article regarding the “Semantic functions of cultural symbols in urban spaces” which explained the theoretical concepts and practice of designing urban symbols and memorials.



Fig. 3: The first session of the seminar

The session ended with the briefing of the scientific panel consisting of Prof. Mostafa Behzadfar (IUST), Prof. Seyed Amir Mansouri (Tehran University) and Prof. Shahab Esfandiari (Art University) and also questions and comments of the audience.



Fig. 4: 1st session speakers: Professors: Mofidi, Parsa Pazhouh, Devictor, Mortzaee

Fig. 5: 1st session panel: Professors: Esfandiari, Behzadfar, Mansouri

After a short break, the second session started with the presentation of Prof. Parsapajouh (CNRS) titled: “Martyr and city from the viewpoint of anthropology” and was continued by the presentation of Ms. Rasoulzadeh regarding the “Effects of different worldviews on the formation of war memorials”. The third article presented by Prof. Soleimani (Organization of Tehran Beautification) discussed the “Wall paintings in Tehran signifying martyrs and the values of Islamic revolution”. The last speaker of the session, Mr. Kharaghani, talked about the topic of “National honesty as a strategic need in Islamic countries in the arena of defending national security with the spirit of martyrdom”.



Fig. 6: The second session of the seminar

The scientific panel of the second session included Prof. Abdolhadi Daneshpour (IUST), Prof. Devictor (Paris I) and Prof. Raziye Rezazadeh (IUST). This session was also closed by spirited discussions and questions put forward by the audience.



Fig. 7: 2nd session speakers: Mr. Kharaghani, Professors: Soleimani, Parsa Pazhouh, Ms. Rasoulzadeh

Fig. 8: 2nd session panel: Professors: Rezazadeh, Daneshpour, Devictor

At the end of the second session the scientific secretary of the seminar, Prof. Reza Kheyroddin, delivered a brief conclusion about the topics, goals and the future trajectories of the subject of the seminar and pointed out the scientific opportunities accompanying these events such as determining research subjects, publishing the articles as an special issue in a journal and publishing of edited books. Lastly, the seminar came to a close through presenting the scientific guests and speakers with a certificate of appreciation.

Some Pictures of Closing Ceremony:



