

Language of Architecture The mystery of symbols

Golden dome. Neither is this image a figure, nor a symbol; it is a content. It is replete with messages and codes narrating stories for most of Iranians. Architectural lessons or semiotic lessons are not necessary for creating such a mysterious content.

The dome leads to a sacred "place". It stands on top of the central architectural element to manifest the identity, head, center and heart of the collection. The center of gravity in this semantic complex may not be located in the middle of its geographical location; however, the dome implies that this "place" is located in the center of the complex.

Afterwards, the minarets are used to announce an event in the place. Something takes place in "here". Two minarets show that the "place" is located in here and guide the passersby to the complex.

The golden color implies a holy event. Everything that is golden is worthy of honor and sincerity.

The placement of these three elements alongside the charity narrate a tradition in the Islamic culture of Iran that have been the source of large economic infrastructure as well as scientific and economic collections throughout history.

Today charity is believed to avoid the personal disasters; however, it used to be one of the most prominent ways of non-proprietary ownership to the public and social interest.

Waqf and charity used to define a type of ownership and social participation whose present definition does not fit into the philosophy and the hidden capacities of the time. These contents are ignored in the contemporary world of elites, so that their complex message cannot be interpreted by the anodized aluminum domes any more.

It is obvious that prevalent culture does not recognize Waqf tradition the same as the past. Nevertheless, its value is still respected though being manifested in public symbols to reveal its prominent truth, without revealing its meticulous and cognitive aspects. This manifestation of Persian landscape reveals that the ancient traditions still exist in socio-cultural life of Iranians, which has been narrated by architectural symbols and artistic heritage.

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