RESEARCH PAPER

Gardens as a Parameter of Greenery Status of Kurdistan

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ABSTRACT:

Garden history in Kurdistan may go back to more than thousands of years before century (BC). In fact, most investigations reflect that almost all known gardens in the area (Middle East), in one way or another, are either some sort of modification or adaptation of the original Kurdish design, such as (Persian or Ottoman garden as examples). Kurdish garden is also a sort of greenery in the area, on which, it’s believed that the idea of hanging gardens of Babylon had depend on. In general, size and number of original Kurdish garden had continuously reduced because of many reasons throughout its history. Therefore, effect on greenery had become evident and obvious in this part of the world. The original shape, landscape design and composition of Kurdish garden could still be traced and might be found, in fact, investigations by using heritage, photos, leftover, even though tails and stories is quite possible to trace it and re-establish such garden particularly in country sides of upland and lowland parts of Kurdistan. The present work may be regarded as a first attempt to establish the status of Kurdish garden at present in contrast to the past. Its effect on greenery in the area will also be discussed.

KEY WORDS: Gardens, Greenery, Landscape, Kurdistan.

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1. INTRODUCTION:

Attempts towards the stability of nature have got humans interested long ago. However, sustaining the greener of planet and establishing such system still gets great attention. All such attempt had evolved and coincided with the developments of civil designs and urban establishment, until it become an important element in the planning of cities and towns all over the world throughout different periods of booming civilizations. Coordination and tracking of the evolutions of green areas, parks and public spaces. Parks, public gardens and greeneries have been, with certain characteristics, the base line of design which linked to the ideas of the philosophical background. All that led to the present design of the spots and its establishment (Kareem et al., 2017; Kareem et al., 2018; Kareem, 2018).

Nowadays, greenery has become one of the necessities of urban planning which main (most important steps in cities planning and modern life) for the population in order to improve their ways of life and enjoy the flavor and beauty of healthy nature spending their leisure between beautiful plants and wonderful art images to get entertainment. Gardens and parks which are going to be open to public through which dreams, hopes and the aims will be achieved which in fact, the goal of every one in life (Noah, 2011; Kareem et al., 2017).

Public parks in and outside the cities are becoming quite common nowadays, generally small parks are found within cities, whereas, the huge ones mostly exist in the outskirts in cities and towns. The obvious reason is to achieve quiet, calm yards and full of fresh air away from the crowded cities (Albatal and Awath, 2005; Abdullwahed, 2012).
Actually, within the cities, only limited green areas exist. Parks or public open spaces are very important for urban life. Citizens in towns and cities admire to go outside (especially green areas) whenever they have time to spare. They normally head to Botanical gardens, parks or public open spaces. Botanical garden or parks are designed in different types, sizes, and functions. Picnics within the greenery, to establish an environment for people to do lots of activities. (Bilgili and Gökyer, 2012).

At the urban level, the environment should be in such a way that it emboldens people to become involved and express themselves. Considering older cities in general, it is agreed by many authors that principle organizing elements of the cities may be the areas and the public domain, the greenery, the streets and the squares. However, this confession is in dissent to significant direction in contemporaneous city planning (Oktay, 2002).

Establishing such areas in Kurdistan which is known to have the most suitable environment for greenery in high and low land parts may well flourish the region and attract huge number of tourists in Middle East in near feature.

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The material used for the present investigation depends mainly on a number of visits and tours around the country. Looking for the heritages, leftovers, taking photos gathering knowledge and information from tails and stories about the existing and previous gardens which were found randomly in various parts of the region which did not confined to a specific and settling areas.

More than 25 trips took place since 2014 in order to cover most parts and regions across Kurdistan. The teams were of five persons or more for every survey for Kurdish flora that covered areas of Garmian up to high lands of Questan Mountains in Kurdistan of Iraq.

For the present investigation, only 5-10 trips had been concerned to cover expected areas where heritages or trace of Kurdish garden may be found throughout Kurdistan Region of Iraq. Photographs, illustrations and interviews had been performed.

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Present Status

Greenery in its broad meaning includes forest, crops, horticulture and gardens which are the main concern of agriculture in general. Kurdistan which is used to be the paradise of the Middle East in respect to flora. It has most covering area of greenery and passing sufficient water with quite fertile and suitable soil ultimately has most dense forest both deciduous and evergreen with in a suitable climate, all these factors made people all over the region to head to such land for entertainment, holidays, tourism, ... etc. In addition, harvesting most tasty and delicious fruits throughout all season is also found in this part of the world. The political status of Kurdistan (Kurdish revolution from 1961 on word up to 1991) forced it to face and stand wars, troubles, bombarding even with huge weapons such as napalm, burning and destroying all sorts of life ultimately demolishing the existing forests. In fact, reports indicate reduction and destruction of more than 90% of forest in Kurdistan during years 1961 to 1990 (Maulood, 1996). Not only forests have been the target of such policies but it extends to cropland also as most villages in the country side have been shifted and demolished. They have been replaced in areas similar to concentrated camps in various parts of Kurdistan that lead to
reduction of production. Then the country has changed to a huge consumer whereas it was the soul of agriculture products for whole of Iraq and neighboring counters. Such policy had extended to include all aspects of life particularly agriculture policy that lead to reflect in its effect even in gardens which are the peak of beauty of greenery in Kurdistan or any other parts of the world. In fact, it had been completely demolished; the only trace left is the history and heritage. Gardens in this part of the world, where the idea and origin of Ottoman orchards and Persian gardens came from Kurdistan garden models. Moreover, some think that even the design of Hanging garden also come from this region. Whereas, here in Kurdistan, gardens have left nothing of their structure or design but stories, romans, remains, heritages and leftovers. However still, one can conduct investigations and look after such traces through different ways to get a clue for the unknown ideas and theories behind the Kurdish garden. The idea of Kurdish garden raised up by the authors as it was considered with the idea of Hawler botanical garden establishment. The gap in the knowledge of Kurdish gardens becomes more evident recently concurrently with the thesis project of such garden from Poznan University of Technology in Poland about the Kurdish garden (Kareem, 2018). It had reviewed the history and background knowledge on such garden and clearly pointed out the existing gap in the knowledge in this respect. The project in fact, may go back to ancient gardens in the world from church garden to hanging garden, mosques to Ottoman greenery, and Persian orchards and gardens up to palace (private and public) garden. All this lead to the fact that area in this part of the world in reference to topography, geology, hydrology, and climate had already encouraged people long ago to take care and give more attention to orchards and gardens in the area.

So, investigation on heritages, leftover, and following up the stories about such gardens in towns, villages, and countryside in Kurdistan. One may also take benefit from the existing gardens, many greenery areas still exist in almost all known cities such as centers parks called Baxi Shar in many Kurdish garden. Information about such gardens leads to point out specific distinctive characteristics of Kurdish gardens. In reference to fences, irrigation systems, the plantations, the design of the cottage, the gates, entrances, inside roads, sub roads and bridges. The only parameter in this project confined to fences only.

3.2. Kurdish Garden

When, reviewing the history of Kurdish gardens in the world one can easily approach to the reality that the origin and history of such garden may trace back to times before establishment of Ottoman, Persian, or even Indian gardens.

Quite many principle features of Kurdish garden do reflect its aim, reason of construction and even it shows how the target of building and designing been performed. One may, Note and observe all these in any original Kurdish garden. In fact, they have been established for beauty, entertainment, enjoiment and many more reasons in various parts of Kurdistan. However, it in fact encloses the geographical, culture, and customs of Kurdish people. They have not been built for protection but the fence was established just to keep wild animals out but not the people.

The fence of Kurdish garden is so unique and distinctive regardless of whether it was established in Garmain or Questan parts of Kurdistan. Few different shapes and structure of garden fences are illustrated in (Fig. 3.1 a,b,c,d). Even nowadays they are still constructed locally. It's obvious that they were built from local stones, tracts, and branches with a height never approaching 2 meters (Fig. 3.2 and Fig. 3.3). They were netted locally by specialists (local people) from existing element in the region by owners and farmers. (Fig. 3.4) illustrates the process of building fences around the garden. Not only the fence, but also the gates and door are built from elements found in the area. Reflecting and considering such structure and design, one may easily realize the safety, honesty, and relaxation of the people in this part of the world.
In the present paper, the attempt will focus on fences of Kurdish garden’s shape design, composition, geometrical, and construction used to build and perform such fences in various parts of Kurdistan. Other features and aspects of Kurdish gardens will be dealt with in future successive papers. Such as the landscape design, internal and external features, type and structure of the components of the gardens. The details of should be referred to is that the aim of garden fences and main reason behind establishing fence for gardens in Kurdistan was to prefect the garden from all sorts of wild life rather than locking door or huge keys to avoid and prevent visiting without permission. This can be contrasted with other gardens (Persian, Ottoman and Arab world) in which the fence is to protect from wild life and also to prevented visiting without permission, in contrast to European or even resent will developed and designed western ones (Pourjafar et al., 2012; Pour et al., 2012; Hobhouse et al., 2004; Farahani et al., 2016; Aksoy, 2012; Hessayon, 2002; Toman, 2005; Campbell, 2016).

However, the present paper is dealing with Kurdish garden in respect to the fence there are many different appearance designs and techniques to establish fences, some have been referred to still possibly more investigation will point many more different fence designs. The point that infrastructure, comparing and contrasting with gardens in other parts of the world will be the goal of future investigations and research.
Figure 3.1: Illustrate of various forms of fence in Kurdistan: A) Dry wood fence. B) Natural stones fence. C) Mixed fence of natural stones and dry woods. D) Fence constructed only from various vegetation.
Figure 3.2: A diagram illustration arrangement natural stones for fence in Kurdish garden (Front View)

Figure 3.3: A diagram shows the wooden fence in Kurdish garden (Front View)
4. CONCLUSIONS

The only parameter or part of gardens in the present study was the fence as a distinctive and unique in shape, structure, construction, size and height. Kurdish gardens have their specific properties not only in shape or structure of the fence but also in gate construction and more other principles of the garden that hopefully will be dealt with within successive coming papers. Quite many factors or other parameter may well be raised up in future investigation.

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