

# From Social Flourishing to Social Security by the Architecture of Iranian Traditional Bazaars<sup>1</sup>

Del florecimiento social a la seguridad social por la arquitectura de los bazares tradicionales iraníes

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## Resumen

La sensación de seguridad es una de las necesidades de la durabilidad de la vida urbana que es prominente en el contexto de los bazares tradicionales iraníes y, por lo tanto, se puede rastrear en correspondencia con algunos índices como la integración social, la aceptación, la justicia y, finalmente, el florecimiento. En cuanto al advenimiento de un cierto nivel de tal sentido en el bazar tradicional de Kermanshah, especialmente en términos de florecimiento social, el objetivo principal de esta investigación es estudiar cómo ha proporcionado un contexto físico que afecta el sentido de seguridad con la mediación del florecimiento social. Explicando que, en esta investigación, el florecimiento social se considera un ciclo creciente de acción-efecto de prosperidad y consentimiento resultante de la apertura social, la diversidad, la flexibilidad y la interacción. Si bien la exploración del sentido de la seguridad y el análisis del papel de sus factores físicos asociados en la mayoría de los estudios se ha especializado al Urbanismo, se la somete en este estudio dentro de la escala arquitectónica. Por lo tanto, esta investigación cualitativa se ha realizado mediante un método descriptivo-analítico que combina dos tipos de teoría fundamentada y estudio de casos con un enfoque mixto (social-físico). La investigación ha

## Abstract

The sense of security is one of the necessities of urban life durability that is prominent in the context of Iranian traditional bazaars, and so is traceable in correspondence with some indexes such as social integration, acceptance, justice, and finally, flourishing. Regarding the advent of a certain level of such a sense in the Kermanshah traditional bazaar, especially in terms of social flourishing, the main objective of this research is to study how it has provided a physical context affecting the sense of security with the mediate of the social flourishing. Explaining that, in this research, social flourishing is considered an increasingly dynamic action-effect cycle of prosperity and consent resulting from social openness, diversity, flexibility, and interaction. While exploring the sense of security and analyzing the role of its associated physical factors in most of the studies has been specialized to Urbanism, it is subjected in this study within the architectural scale. Thus, this qualitative research has been performed by a descriptive-analytical method mixing two types of grounded theory and case study with a blended (social-physical) approach. The research has led to the significance of features like spatial openness, deliberate and targeted complexity including ornamentation, formal-functional diversity and legibility, and physical-behavioral

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llevado a la importancia de características como la apertura espacial, la complejidad deliberada y dirigida, incluida la ornamentación, la diversidad y legibilidad formal-funcional, y la flexibilidad físico-conductual, como las principales características físicas que afectan el florecimiento social y, por lo tanto, la sensación de seguridad, que podría ser identificada en el cuerpo de los bazares tradicionales y se recrearía en las obras arquitectónicas regionales contemporáneas. Por lo tanto, la efectividad de la relación entre las características físicas de los espacios colectivos y su seguridad puede medirse considerando el índice de florecimiento social. Este asunto se ha concentrado en esta investigación sobre el bazar tradicional de Kermanshah y se ha concluido para utilizarlo en futuros diseños.

**Palabras Clave:**

sostenibilidad; seguridad social; florecimiento social; factores físicos; bazares tradicionales iraníes; Kermanshah

flexibility, as the main physical characteristics affecting social flourishing and thus the sense of security, which could be identified in the body of traditional bazaars and would be recreated in the contemporary regional architectural works. Therefore, the effectiveness of the relation between the physical features of collective spaces and their security can be measured by considering the index of social flourishing. This matter has been concentrated in this research concerning the Kermanshah traditional bazaar and concluded to use in future designs.

**Keywords:**

sustainability, social security; social flourishing; physical factors; iranian traditional bazaars; Kermanshah

## Introduction

Social sustainability, as the main area of the study at a macro scale, is a social goal that enhances the collaboration between individuals and institutions of a society. It is analyzed from both cognitive and structural dimensions. Social participation, trust, security, and flourishing are the four pivotal ones from social sustainability criteria that are more emphasized in connection to sustainable development. Meanwhile, the present research has dealt with the matter of security due to its importance. It is one of the most prominent and complicated concepts in many social and physical discussions because of its relation to the probability of threats in terms of human collective relations in society. In other words, social security is considered a criterion for sustainable development and as one of the most significant factors of social sustainability, affects other criteria of sustainable development. The sense of security is the result of a mental-social process that most of a society members fundamentally take part in its production or destruction, according to their needs, interests, wishes, personalities, and mental capabilities (Bayat, 2009). In the collective spaces, lack of security not only deters the community in those spaces from achieving some dimensions such as social integrity, acceptance, justice, and flourishing but also causes the decline of the social sustainability level and ultimately, their isolation. It should be mentioned that these indexes have interactions and interlocking with each other and are in connection with the subject of social security. Take, for instance, the resultant impacts of social integrity, acceptance, and contribution to society on social flourishing and consequently, the realization of security in a flourished society.

The emphasis on sound social relations and the ways they are shaped in the context of the physical space is one of the entries of establishing social security. Thus, it can be expressed that the physical body influences social norms and subsequently, these norms also affect the way that the physical body is used. To support this notion, traditional markets should be addressed where a massive number of society individuals are hosted. These places are notably capable of inducing a high-level sense of social security. Though they have social complex systems and highly

connected internal components and therefore, they are potential places for the occurrence of social deviance. Then, it is essential to socially and physically explore the qualitative aspects of security in these spaces.

As mentioned, traditional markets play a critical role in the context of social, economic, and environmental sustainability (Blanco Luna and de la Fuente Suárez, 2022; Dominique-Ferreira, et al., 2022) in most historically-civilized countries, especially in terms of making patterns for the future. These markets, which are called traditional bazaars in Iran, have been also very important since the distant past until today. Iranian historical bazaars have been formed in the cities that have had a commercial boom since the Sasanian era (224-651). According to their bold role in the economic dynamism of society, the old Iranian bazaars have turned into examples of precious vernacular architecture and cultural heritage during the time. As the places for work and gathering of different individuals with various tastes from diverse subcultures, bazaars are also heeded as the underlying cause for recognition and reconsideration of crafts, cultures, and in other words, the sociology of the Iranian cities. About their general structures, most Iranian ancient bazaars have been linear and roofed with alleys dedicated to specific guilds. The primary core of them was established around the prominent gates of cities and extended along the main routes. Explaining that the structural coordination and interaction of physical elements of bazaars, from the main and subsidiary alleys to shops, caravansaries, Chahar-Souqs (the intersections of two main alleys), and Timchehs (small covered caravansaries which worked like today's malls) had and still have (in extant cases) a significant impact on bazaar's dynamism and flourishing.

One of the most successful examples of Iranian traditional bazaars is in Kermanshah. Kermanshah is one of the ancient cities in the Zagros area which has always had specific importance in Iranian history owing to its strategic and unique location. Desirable environmental conditions, its appropriate location on the connecting route between Iran and Mesopotamia, and also lying in a fertile region have begotten a privileged commercial position for this city (Irandoost, 1994). In this regard, the history of the traditional bazaar of Kermanshah dates back to the historical period of the Afsharid dynasty

(1736-1796). However, the construction of its present body commenced in the early Qajar period (1805). In its glory (the wane of the Qajar dynasty), it comprised some alleys, piazzas, and other major imaginable elements of an Iranian traditional bazaar in the form of a coherent and dynamic structure. As the economic and social center of the bazaar, the main plaza of the city was reputedly called as Sabze-Meydan or Toopkhaneh plaza, which the governmental palace, administrative buildings like telegraph and customs, commercial places like shops, and other religious, social, and cultural buildings like the central mosque, timpani place, old-fashion cafes and et cetera were located around it. Around this centrality, the bazaar is continuously and linearly extended from the west side of the city to its east. The very west end starts from an area entitled Toopkhaneh bazaar, which was an open-air alley used as a place for the stay and accommodation of pilgrims and passengers who were on their way to the holy cities. Hence, this section was mainly focused on satisfying the needs of passengers by providing service and commercial sections like caravansaries, mosques, public baths, and shops. The beginning of the main alley is called Seraj-ha bazaar and contains shops and booths that reach an open area which is called Allaf-Khaneh, a place for selling agricultural products in the region. In addition, some of its branches (crossed alleys) have formed the Bazzaz-ha and Mesgar-ha bazaars that sell clothes and copper dishes and tools respectively. It should be mentioned that the main passageway of the bazaar consists of several elements like Timcheh, Sarai (two-story office-workshops), mosques, shops-booths, and archways before reaching the Chahar-Souq, as the most exhaustive part of the bazaar in terms of spatial composition and organization (Irandoost, 1994). Its current remains can be seen in figure 1.

Formerly, how to approach social flourishing through the channel of social security and the realization of the sense of security has been seriously studied in social fields. Also, the relevancy of security and its importance in built environments as the context of individual and social life has always been a prominent and noteworthy research subject. The instance for such an assertion is the studies conducted concerning the analysis of security on an architectural or urban scale. However, there has been less attention to the concepts and semantics

of social sciences in physical aspects. With this citation to the existing study gap about the subject interdisciplinarily (social sciences and environmental designs), the principal question of the present research is about the way to obtain comprehensive dimensions of occurrence of the sense of security in contemporary architecture by utilizing the lessons learned from existing spatial organizations (formal-functional) of traditional bazaars in which it can meet physical and social needs of most citizens. In other words, regarding the case study, how the Kermanshah traditional bazaar has afforded a proper physical context to actualize a sense of security affecting social sustainability through social flourishing? Accordingly, the main objectives of the research would be as follows:

(1) The identification of social-physical impacts of the Kermanshah traditional bazaar on context security.

(2) The exploration and analysis of the role of social flourishing as a mediator index in the studied process.

(3) The conclusion of the attained notions in the form of some guidelines to aimfully apply in future designs.

This requires an exact exploration of all social and physical dimensions of this bazaar's body about each other and their interaction in the mechanism of effect on the regional flourishing and consecutively sustainable security. Therefore, this would be an effort to present some architectural strategies to enhance the level of social sustainability specific to the regional community.

**Figure 1. Some Internal Views of the Kermanshah Traditional Bazaar (Bazzaz-ha Bazaar, Allaf-Khaneh, Seraj-ha Bazaar, and Mesgar-ha Bazaar)**



## Literature review

At the macro scale, this research is concerned with the field of social sustainability that focuses on the quality of life, related to the concepts of social justice, solidarity, participation, and security. The prerequisite for understanding each of them is recognition of social cues including social perception, penetration, attitude, and homophony. Describing that one of the most prominent aspects of social sustainability is the social perception that addresses the apprehension of the behaviors of others. The other item is social penetration which points out the level of the impressionability of beliefs, feelings, and subsequently, collective behaviors from others. The term attitude is used to name the evaluation of society's individuals from almost every aspect of society and social homophony is also shaped by the convergence of social attitudes. In this regard and since the focus of the present research is on the matter of security and its affecting physical factors under a social approach, the literature review has been performed in two separate categories of "social-physical security" and "social flourishing" as follows:

### *Social-Physical Security and its Contexts*

As one of the substantial environmental affordances determining spaces' effectiveness on architectural and urban scales, security possesses a special niche. Because if all principles of architectural and urban design are conformed but the matter of security is not properly attained, the success of the design of that space is seriously questioned. In Persian culture, security is described as freedom, peace, and the lack of others' invasion fear. In this regard, two contents are given in the field of behavioral science: (1) a situation in which all personal needs and demands of individuals are satisfied, and (2) a feeling of personal value, peace of mind, self-confidence, and acceptance which is finally conferred from the social class to an individual (Salehi, 2008). Moller (2000) defines the concept of social security as the ability of society to durable its fundamental characteristics by protecting cultural patterns, social traditions and bonds, national-religious identity, and other similar items against actual threats in the context of environmental changes. Moreover, Weaver describes social security as the

ability of a community for preserving archetypes and their resulting fundamental characteristics in the face of probable actual threats under changing conditions (Watson, 2005). Hence, social security is a type and level of peace of mind that society and groups play a prominent role in shaping it.

Regarding the presented descriptions, this significant matter can be perceived that besides the objective dimension of security, the realization of a sense of security, or in other words, its subjective aspect has a high level of importance. Individuals decide and behave by psychologically referring to their historical mentality. Hence, their evaluation and feeling from the place of action play an underlying role in their decision-making (FiroozAbadi and Azkia, 2004). Therefore, to create a sense of security, the reasons and required tools should be identified and this is realized only by analysis of behaviors that lead to the increase or decrease of security in society. In this regard, Buzan describes that a sense of social security is based on the preservation of all characteristics in which people consider themselves as a member of a social group (Navidnia, 2006). Thus, a major part of the sense of security regards its social aspect which has a close relationship with the mental comfort of humans and is one of the main cues of social sustainability. Meaning that the scarcity of this sense and fear of being a victim threatens the concept of territory in public spaces and consequently, the creation of successful urban spaces. To approach this, Jacobs (2008) in "The Death and Life of Great American Cities" has described influential criteria for affording urban spaces as clarification and separation of public and private places, diversity of use and mixing them, and effective utilization of pedestrian presence, for reducing the probability of crime occurrence. Moreover, Giordano (2008) in his research showed that street networks of neighborhoods are extremely important factors in forming crime patterns. His findings affirm that both street networks and land use participate in issues related to crimes in a neighborhood. Also, Foster et al., (2014) who have studied the effect of fear of a crime during people's walking in Australia, assert that it is possible to decrease the fear and increase the amount of walking in urban pathways by strategic decisions and subsequently physical interventions.

It should be kept in mind that the term "social" in the concept of social security describes that

security is created by society. For this, insecurity is heeded as a result of social issues (Hamalainen, 2005). Therefore, physical security also should be particularly noticed in connection with the spaces that are considered the context of social life. So this concept might be accounted as the comfort, peace, and sense of satisfaction that users obtain as the result of the good performance and desirability of the physical environment, which covered a set of factors divided into two main groups of functional spaces and spatial features (with functional or meta-functional origins, both are afforded by the architectural form at a macro scale)(Rezaei et al., 2018a; Khandan and Rezaei, 2021; 2022). Thus by supposing a wide range of physical factors in the form of three categories of functional spaces, spatial features, and consequently environmental affordances, in which the two first items affect the formation of the third one, it is possible to incite the motivation of users and observe their different behaviors (Rezaei et al., 2018b; Rezaei, 2020; Zohreh and Rezaei, 2020). In this way, it can be claimed that security is one of the environmental affordances resulting from different physical features, which influences feelings in various architectural spaces.

It is considered that defenseless places have several characteristics, which are dividable into two physical and social categories and leave spaces prone to crime. Accordingly, Zangiabadi and Rahimi (2010) in their research, conclude that there is a meaningful connection between committing crimes and the characteristics of the place such as darkness and vacancy. Moreover, the density of the population and an increase in immigration is considered as one effective factor for the incidence of crime. As Mohseni Tabrizi, et al., (2011) evaluated crimes occurred in twelve different public spaces of Tehran in their article entitled “Indefensible Urban Spaces and Violence (Study on Indefensible Urban Spaces of Tehran City)”, absence of light, lack of building density, concave walls, and et cetera affect the occurrence of different kinds of violence. Also, in the research entitled “The Role of Perceptual and Spatial Organization of Street in Security Feeling of Pedestrians (Case study: Tabriz City)” Rahimi and Pirbabaei (2014) claimed that there is a meaningful correlation between spatial organization and cognitive factors of place. Besides, the comprehensibility of street facades has the most significant role among cognitive factors in pedestrians’ sense of security.

In concluding this part, it can be said that the sense of security is a kind of cognition of environmental conditions, which is differentiated from a specific physical-cultural context to another one. In this regard, the attainment of a sense of security in a physical environment mostly covers semantic cognition and the desirability of space. Such an environment makes it possible for designers to study and directly assess and intervene in the relationship between man and space due to possessing the simultaneous characteristics of objectivity and subjectivity. Therefore, this explanation helps to understand the role of the physical body and especially its formal aspect in the formation of a sense of security (Matloch, 2000; Pakzad, 2006). Since the architectural form should be responsible for all functions and meta-functions of architecture (Rezaei et al., 2018a), the physical structure of a space, or in other words, the form of space has an undeniable role in creating safety and security. That is why the consideration of the formal quality of architectural space is important and visual comfort is known as a significant cue of secure environments (Salehi, 2008).

### ***Social Flourishing***

Social flourishing is a high level of potentiality and subsequently the evolutionary trajectory of society (Keyes, 1998). This concept should be accompanied by the perception of society’s individuals from the fact that they would benefit from social growth. Hence, the condition of people and present entities in society somehow keeps advancing which promises optimum social development (Keyes and Shapiro, 2004). Therefore, social flourishing as one of the prominent indexes of social security produces standalone energies for changes in social abilities and subsequently, in physical characteristics that are assessable through the evaluation of the development of society in an enhancing route of diverse fields. Regarding the existing theoretical conceptualizations in social health, Keyes and Shapiro (2004) presented a measurable five-dimensional model, including social correlation, coherence, acceptance, participation, and flourishing in an article entitled “Social Well-being in the United States: A Descriptive Epidemiology”, which are considered as the most common assessable aspects of social

sustainability in various levels. That is why the approach to social flourishing might be seen as the amount of people's optimum performance in their functions. In their research entitled "The Normalization of Well-Being Social Inventory", Heydari and Ghanaei (2008) also studied a norm-cognitive test of social welfare on students of Islamic Azad University in different branches of Markazi Province, Iran. Their findings illustrate the importance of the five factors of social flourishing, acceptance, adaptation, coherence, and participation, and especially, the higher importance of the first. In this regard, Samaram (2009) examined the relationship between social health and social security in his research. He concludes that the realization of social health is caused by providing social security as a basic need. This is because of the mediatory of social flourishing that leads to the development and expansion of social satisfaction in a community due to its emphasis on absorbing people under social frameworks and acceptance of social norms. It should be mentioned that paying attention to subcategories of social flourishing containing social adjustment, acceptance, and effectiveness, and have special importance in the quality and quantity of social satisfaction which is going to be discussed in the following.

Social adjustment is the result of a continuous process in which one changes behavior to create an appropriate and effective relationship with others and the environment. The basis of social adjustment is the creation of a balance between the individual demands and the expectancies of society that can influence all aspects of one's life (Dhingra, Manhas, and Nirmala, 2005). Thus, this is seen as a substantial criterion for gaining assurance in a fair distribution of comfort, social equality, and augment of social-cultural acceptance. Social acceptance is also a set of human mechanisms facing social and physical environments, which is propounded to achieve social flourishing. The third item is social effectiveness which is defined as a set of performed targeted attempts that sustainably causes the continuance of life and evolution of society (Robbins and DeCenzo, 2002). In this regard, the capability of enhancing effectiveness that directly affects social flourishing provides the possibility of social security development and will improve other criteria of social sustainability in this way. On the other side, the concept

of social satisfaction refers to each person's contentment with his life concerning others. In such a way that social satisfaction is the level of gratification and positive feeling of a person from social life which causes an increase in one's social activities and consequently, the increment of social correlation (Zaki, 2005). As an assessing criterion for social flourishing in connection with the physical environment, this concept is the result of achievements based on physical influences in improving the provision of individual and social needs and the level of its resulting satisfaction. Therefore, it connects with the concept of social-physical security in this way.

To emphasize the connection of these constructs, in the end, it should be said that the quality and quantity of the social concepts and semantics existing in a social environment are relevant to the architectural features of the physical environment of that society. The effectiveness of these relations can be studied by the evaluation of some of the social life indexes. In connection with the present research, the special generalization of this matter concentrates on the quality of social security as one of the origins of sustainability, indicated by the concept of social flourishing as an evaluation index. So that the corresponding architectural features not only pave the way for the realization of a sense of security but also trigger effective sociability in future spaces and cause the improvement of social flourishing. Thus, as the research theoretical proposition, it could be claimed that there are some architectural affordances in traditional bazaars that cause the formation of a high-level sense of security and it can be measured by the indicator of their resulting social flourishing in this context. So the research tracks systematically explore and organize them in the form of a theoretical framework to meet the security-based needs of future built environments in the region, as a guide for design.

### **Research methodology**

This research is exploratory and also applied, in terms of purpose, which has been carried out based on theories of former fundamental and developmental studies, and of course, a new separate field study to induce the sustainable patterns of an old famous architecture. Hereby, it was tried to propose the physical features of the future architecture for the region and

consequently, improve the society's feelings and behaviors. Describing that the research objective, at a macro scale, is the application of existing knowledge about social sustainability and its stimulating physical factors, extractable from the architecture of Iranian traditional bazaars to be reflected in the architecture of contemporary buildings. The research methodological strategy is a case study that has been implemented by a qualitative method of grounded theory, based on the gathering and analysis of data, to seek the why and the how of pivotal phenomena related to the subject. The heuristic mixed method was selected according to the relative similarity between the phases of the case study and grounded theory and also being complementary to each other. In this way, by expanded documentary studies and subsequent field efforts, the present research explored the latent patterns of social security in traditional bazaars and specifically the Kermanshah traditional bazaar as the case study. The reason for choosing this case, which continues its social and physical life, was that the Kermanshah traditional bazaar has been important as an influential place on historical evolutions in the social conditions of its own time and location. Hence, its role is perspicuous as a proper context for physically underlying the realization of a sense of social security. So the research has attempted to attain the basis of security in such a collective space and codification of its social-physical components. Explaining that the progress of the study was as follows: After a detailed review of the related literature, unstructured interviews were conducted with lots of the bazaar's tradesmen and customers. Then, it was made invisible observations concerning the responses to explore the subject-related data. The main purpose of these actions was to clarify aspects of the physical environment perceived by persons as enhancing the sense of security following social flourishing. It should be noted that the selection of these persons was of an available type. The data in the form of a sentence, phrase, or word expressing a significant sense of the interviewee was collected, classified, and coded as information units. In such a way, first, the classification was adjusted by the analytical findings of the literature review, and then, the information saturation (data repetition) in each category was considered as the validation and verification criteria. In this regard, the random and impromptu confrontations with people to

interview or observe and also being general of all the respondents enhances the generalizability of the results. This way deeply explored the mind of respondents about physical factors aligned with components of social flourishing and subsequently, social security. Finally, common sense and logical reasoning were used to interpret and elucidate the results, and the comparative-interpretive intervention of the researchers was performed to approach and precise the theoretical proposition.

Accordingly, after a content analysis of the related theoretical foundation, the theoretical framework and the subject system of variables were illustrated in the conceptual model of the research that encompasses the factors affecting social sustainability in contemporary architecture (borrowed from traditional bazaars). Eventually, it led to some suggestions for paving the way for social flourishing and consequently, the enhancement of the sense of security in the contemporary architecture of the region. Thus, not only this is an illustration of what exists in this bazaar but also the research determines and describes the reasons for how and why social security existed in its physical body and also, the reasons for the seclusion of these features in today's architecture of the region.

### **Results and findings**

Iranian traditional bazaars host a huge number of society individuals that interact with each other. Meaning that bazaar security is one of the fundamental factors in providing effective social communications. This security has been physically reflected in the form of place unity and continuity, spatial hierarchy and discipline, diverse views of Sarais, and human scale and sizes, which are apparent examples of attempts to create sustainability in different periods of Iranian history. Hence, it can be asserted that the relationship between the physical environment and the process of social flourishing in these bazaars has been in a way that has exposed the objective side of the physical body under the level of social acceptance of most of society's individuals. So it is somehow met with the balance between physical features, cultural paradigms, and social abilities of people. Thus, it is possible to prepare sufficient conditions for the attainment of social adjustment, effectiveness, satisfaction, and consequently, social-physical flourishing and



security in man-made collective environments, by adapting solutions from the architecture of traditional bazaars. These solutions are visual attraction and diversity of activities as the inciting factor, appropriate placement of spaces in a complex based on an orderly geometry to make formal and functional senses rich, enhancing the quality of spatial features for continuing the presence of users, and also enhancing other environmental affordances affecting the satisfaction of increasing individual and collective needs. According to this, the relations between social and physical components were indirectly identified and analyzed as it was described in the methodology section. It could be said that perceivable components from the answers of interviewed individuals do not have any intrinsic meaning by themselves in connection with the matter of security, but become meaningful through the discovery of the links between social and physical dimensions in the social-physical structure of the Kermanshah traditional bazaar. Therefore, it seems that the physical body of the Kermanshah traditional bazaar aimfully bears some strategies that if architectural solutions for the future are undertaken in proportion to them, affect the ideal of social flourishing and subsequently, security.

### *Analytical Findings*

Since the role of social flourishing in reaching social security is imaginable from criteria of social adjustment, effectiveness, and satisfaction, it is essential to take heed of physical factors and architectural features relating to the stimulant of each of these social concepts.

### **Social Adjustment**

In the fields of architecture and Urbanism, the attainment of this concept is realized through the accurate allocation of physical features such as visual continuity and attraction of space as inciting factors, and also the harmony of scales in the architectural body about its users. Based on this, emphasis on the interactive connection of the physical body and society is a principle that its consideration can be seen as an approaching factor towards social flourishing and subsequently, a sense of security. On the other hand, the body of architecture can turn into one of the most

prominent factors for the underlying cause of abnormalities and consequently, a decline in the sense of security in the case of a lack of social adjustment.

### **Social Effectiveness**

In the discussed field of research about the physical environment, the important concept of “social effectiveness” is accounted for by utilizing responsive forms, spatial proportions, and human scale to establish the desired connection between man and environment, and also providing flexible spatial structures to prevent and control social crimes. Therefore, it should be claimed that social effectiveness has two sides; one includes society and social perception and the other is the physical environment and the way it is perceived. Both are in an interactive connection.

### **Social Satisfaction**

Concerning the matter of security, some of the most prominent physical features for the attainment of social satisfaction are formal and functional legibility and so, an appropriate spatial organization that deals with the way of determining accesses and spatial connections (patterns of movement, pause, and stop). Because the possibility of an invasion of individuals’ privacy decreases by clearly defining the boundaries, upgrading the sense of belonging to the place, adjusting pedestrian and vehicle moving networks, and increase in natural surveillance. Besides, it is possible to remark the respect for human value and dignity by adjusting the physical dimensions and details of space regarding the physical and moving abilities of the human. In this way, social satisfaction, flourishing and consequently, a sense of security can be obtained.

Therefore, getting rid of physical problems of the environment leads to the enhancement of social adjustment and the realization of social satisfaction that in addition to social effectiveness (as a positive approach towards the physical body of architecture), provides the basis for a social flourishing and a sense of security. Hence, the traditional bazaar can be introduced as a successful social-physical structure and an inspiring source for architectural programming in contemporary projects. Because the lessons

learned from the socially sustainable design of the bazaar can be applied with a strategic approach to accord with many of today’s life needs including security. Some of these tips and the source of their adaptation from the heart of the Kermanshah traditional bazaar are mentioned in “table 1”. Thus, the more future buildings would be proportionally equipped with different aspects of these items, the contribution of the physical environment augments in the creation and conveyance of a sense of security.

Based on the conducted analyzes, in the process of formation of a sense of security, it can be said that social cues (perception, penetration, attitude, and

harmony) and physical factors (spatial features and environmental affordances) have a synergic effect and led to a social flourishing and eventually, state of being socially-physically developed. Hence, it is necessary to accentuate spatial coherence and physical quality in the process of reaching a sense of social security from a social-physical point of view. Thus, there is a necessity to notice these components before preparing strategic planning for the actualization of an increase in the level of security in contemporary architecture. In the conceptual model of the research, these components and their relations are illustrated (Figure 2).

**Table 1. Physical Factors Effective on the Sense of Security in the Kermanshah Traditional Bazaar and Proposing Attained Recommendations for Contemporary Architecture**



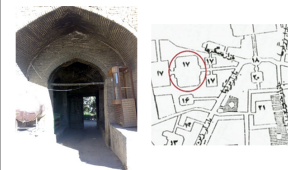


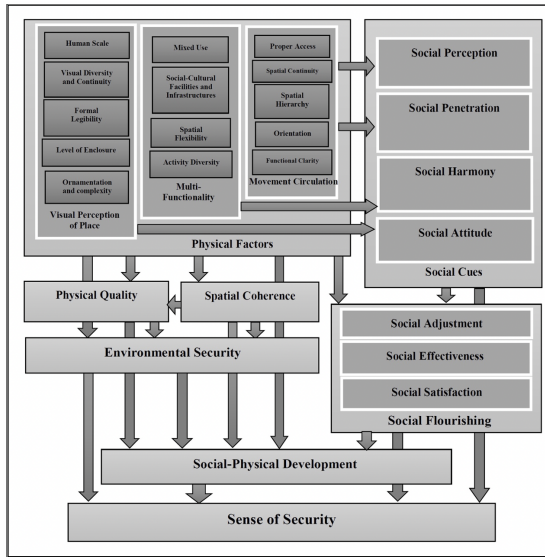
Theme	Sub-theme	Realization in the Bazaar	Recommendations	Mechanism of Effect
<b>Spatial Openness</b>	Existence of a micro-textural network in the dense areas of the bazaar with access to open-air spaces and topical form making in those parts for creating pause spaces.		Utilizing the design ideas for attaining the sense of spatial openness with different scales in the internal connecting network.	Creating a mentality of constant access to the outside environment for users and feeling secure as a result.
<b>Ornamentation and Spatial Complexity</b>	Stimulating the sense of sight and upgrading the visual quality of space by separating, dividing, and complicating it (creation of protrusion and concavity in the form of elements like vaults, arches, frames, Muqarnas, and other culture-familiar ornamentation.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilizing the forms with fracture, lack of monotony in their components, and shaping ornamental elements to guide and strengthen viewing axes.</li> <li>Widening and narrowing the passageways to create different spatial senses.</li> <li>Changes in scale and spatial transformation to intensify the space distinction for physical emphasis on the creation of special events.</li> </ul>	Creating a sense of belonging to the place and thus, a sense of security by using physical arrangements appropriate to the culture.
<b>Formal-Functional Legibility</b>	Appropriate spatial organization and existence of specific formal symbols in activity nodes to produce continuity and cohesion in views (by proper use of elements such as porticos, and harmonic diverse facades).		Creating ease of mind mapping the space and enhancing the compatibility of form and function in users' minds because of establishing physical discipline and the possibility of understanding the structural order as the main effective factor for increasing the legibility (For instance, designing unexpected full spaces and suddenly vacuities in the specific locations by applying the emphasis method).	Inducing mental composure due to environmental hierarchy and preventing the feeling of confusion that somehow affects the sense of security.
<b>Formal-Functional Diversity</b>	Affording diverse activity expectancies by various forms and mixed functions regarding the cultural and climatic conditions and using natural elements (light, water, tree, and plants).		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paving the way for a powerful connection between man and environment by adjusting harmonic physical body (formal and functional) to guild disciplines.</li> <li>Making spaces memorable by reinforcing environmental dynamism and enrichment, and also avoiding single-functional spaces.</li> </ul>	Increasing the present-ability of the place and subsequently existing public supervision on behaviors due to its acceptance by different tastes.
<b>Physical-Behavioral Flexibility</b>	Existence of flexibility for accepting diverse uses according to the capability of change during the time.		Applying flexible structures and elements to make dimensions, openings, enclosures, facilities, and equipment of space flexible to support the capability of acceptance of diverse functions and various activities.	The possibility of confronting changeable activities and the resulting dynamics to actualize a social flourishing and subsequently a sense of security.

Figure 2. The Conceptual Model of the Research



**Discussion and Argumentation**

In this research, the definition of the sense of social security and analysis of the role of its related physical factors in the Iranian traditional bazaars, and especially the Kermanshah’s was carried out by considering the mediator role of social flourishing as an index for evaluating security. As it was described in the previous section, the attained results of the case study demonstrate the direct connection between physical features (space openness, targeted spatial complexity, formal-functional diversity, and physical-behavioral flexibility) and the realization of a sense of security in individual and social scales. Therefore, the results of the research are in the same direction as the opinions of Jacobs and Weaver, who believed that the characteristics of a place could be effective in anticipation of its sense of security.

However, the review of related studies shows that it has been mostly focused on social components or physical factors about the sense of security separately and seldom research has covered both of them simultaneously. Despite the acceptance of obtained results of previous studies, the present research had an attempt to achieve new findings to use in the programming of contemporary architecture of the region by taking a blended (social-physical) approach and contemplating latent layers of the subject. Thus, one of the most significant properties of this

effort, regarding the role of social flourishing and physical key factors affecting it in the realization of a sense of security, is concurrent consideration of them in reaching a sense of security. Moreover, it should be mentioned that the relationship between social security and social flourishing has been seen in an interactive state in which both play a substantial role in the realization of the other. This is contrary to what most researchers have claimed which solely introduced the provision of security as one of the factors for social flourishing and proposed a one-way relation between them.


Nonetheless, it should be cited that the fundamental distinction between the present research and other studies is its social-adaptive approach in preparing physical strategies and macro programming to open new horizons of solutions for reaching social sustainability by affording the hidden sense of security realized of social-physical flourishing. It would be feasible by a contextual adaptation of contemporary architecture based on an analysis of a successful historical case in the region. Both in the research methodology and the presentation type of results, this approach underlay the exploitation of some items as the reinforcing factors of the sense of environmental security that until now, might have not been proposed as effective factors in the matter of security with this level of importance. Take, for example, functional legibility and diversity, which have been introduced as physical features for attaining a sense of security in this research. Also, traits of spatial complexity, openness, and physical-behavioral flexibility can be added that have importance in providing the environmental affordance of security. Therefore, if there is an intention for urban macro-policy-making to support contemporary and future buildings as context for the realization of a sense of security, there should be an attempt to meet the social-physical needs of users. The method of meeting them in each region is inferable from the physical patterns of the traditional sustainable architecture of that region as was presented in this research.

**Conclusion**

Concerning the quality of social relations, sustainable development requires the existence of physical bodies as context for a social life in which security would be established, and individuals could try to expand their relations

and interactions with each other while enjoying peace. To achieve this goal, it has been an attempt in this research to present recommendations for designing future collective spaces by analyzing a specific type of Iranian traditional building named bazaar, especially a successful case of them (the Kermanshah traditional bazaar, which is a cultural heritage of the country due to its impressive features in terms of sustainability). It should be mentioned that this attempt has utilized a social-physical approach regarding its connection with social subjects and accordingly, concentrates on the concept of “social flourishing” and its evaluation criteria that were less noticed in similar studies in the field of architecture and Urbanism. Hence, its attained results underline less known dimensions of the issue, while the combination of these fields of knowledge and approach toward the results has been accompanied by many difficulties and obstructions. Despite the usage of the information saturation strategy to validate the collected data, particularly from the interviews and subsequent observations, it should be acknowledged that the orientation errors due to the method and also the generalizability of the results are limitations of this research. Explaining that it seems inevitable to some extent regarding the nature of the problem.

Since the physical body of the Kermanshah traditional bazaar continues its life with an economic boom that is still visible in it, a field study of that such as observation and interviews has been possible. Based on performed qualitative analyses of the gathered data, the results demonstrate that the social cues intervening in the process of realization of the sense of security are unconsciously perceivable through physical factors. Accordingly, it is obvious that the role of the physical body is significant in the interactive relationship of social flourishing and social security and the realization of each is not possible without the other. Thus, paying attention to physical factors and features relevant to the dimensions of social adjustment, effectiveness, and satisfaction, which are considered the major evaluating criteria of social flourishing, was introduced as the basis for the architectural programming of future collective spaces. So, the suggested solutions (extracted from the Kermanshah traditional bazaar) to afford features of the environmental architecture for responding to the above expectations were presented. Take,

for example, optimum visibility and consequently the significant level of natural supervision due to a decrease in hidden spots by utilizing proper geometry, ease of movement and accessibility, visual proportions and continuity, and growth of social interactions regarding the pattern of spatial organization. Thus, it can be asserted that the architecture of the Kermanshah traditional bazaar is considered an appropriate sample of physical structures for providing the goals of social sustainability like social flourishing, social-physical security, and subsequently the realization of a sense of security. Therefore, there is a high capability of utilizing its adapting tips in the contemporary architecture of the region. Expanding that it can be claimed the quality and quantity of social security in a collective space are directly correlated with the physical factors and architectural features of the environment. Notably, the effectiveness of these relationships and their resulting sensual richness in terms of social sustainability can be measured by evaluating the index of social flourishing which is existing in that social-physical space. 

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Hereby, it is confirmed that there is not any relationship or support that might be perceived as constituting a conflict of interest.

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