



Analyzing Factors Affecting Formation of Cultural Landscape in Hormoz Island

Homa Zakeri ¹, Farah Habib ²

¹ Department of Urban Planning and Design, Kish International Campus, University of Tehran, Kish Island, Iran

² Department of Art and Architecture, Science and Research branch, Islamic Azad University, Tehran, Iran
Zakeri.homa@yahoo.com

Abstract: Long-term relation between human and his environment caused close cultural interaction between them which is called cultural landscape. To keep diversity of this interaction, it is very important to recognize and keep cultural landscapes. On this basis, Hormoz Island located in Persian Gulf which has long coastal strips and utilized cultural and historical heritage and environmental charismas causing interaction between human and environmental factors has been selected as case sample of this paper. In this regard, the present paper analyzed the most important factors affecting formation of cultural landscape of Hormoz Island and studied relation between physical factors of the landscape available in Hormoz Island and its human cultures. Findings of this paper which was performed with descriptive –analytical method show that climate, urban morphology of the island, historical record, the surrounding nature and dominant jobs of the island are the most important factors affecting formation of cultural landscape of Hormoz Island.

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1. Introduction

Human always has the language of landscape and this language has been recognized by other people. Today, human applies the language of landscape incompletely and has forgotten its major part. Most people sight landscape superficially (Spirn, 1998). Considering these interpretations, recognition of a kind of relationship between landscape and culture in rural habitats is an effective step in recognition of nature of landscape affected by culture and cultural landscape and consequently comprehensive recognition of large environment called the existence world.

On this basis, although Hormoz Island has saline lands as salt dome, ups and downs and highlands with rifts each marked with a color are found. Salt veins which have protruded from fissures of highlands make this island more attractive. Even poor vegetation of the island is considerable in these landscapes. In addition, the historical and cultural sources of Hormoz Island are Portuguese Fortress, Bell Tower, Soorat Castle, Bibigol Castle, Old Darolelm ruins, Saffron House, Tirandaz Tower, ruins of Hormoz Old City and the present residential tissue and Hazrat Khidr Shrine. Visiting Clay Mine located in this island is regarded as a memorable experience. The presence of more than 90 spectrums of colorful soil in this island and skillfulness of artists

for using these soils to create Soil Carpet in coast of the island are of the factors of cultural landscape of this island.

In this regard, the absence of research documents in this field is one of the most important research motivations of the writer on the one hand and destruction of cultural landscape of Hormoz Island due to thoughtless entrance of technology to its habitats on the other hand is one of the main threats which limit it. For this reason, effort to recognize fundamental characteristics of cultural landscape in this zone is an effective step in protection and revival of these landscapes as a part of cultural, human and natural heritage of the world.

This paper which has been performed with descriptive –analytical method based on library and field data tries to answer this question that what the factors affecting formation of cultural landscape in Hormoz Island are and this hypothesis was raised that some factors such as seashore, natural factors available in the island such as colorful soils, historical record, urban spaces type of living and climate are of the most important ones.

2. Cultural Landscapes

Since 1972, World Heritage Center has been involved in issue of cultural and natural heritage. After some years, nature of cultural landscape was

discussed. In the 16th session of World Heritage Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico in 1992, it accepted final and specified class and listed in the agenda. In this regard, this treaty is regarded as the first legal international tool for recognizing and protecting cultural landscapes. This new issue depended on such complex type of heritage that it focused on interaction between nature and culture and at the same time, it related to native lifestyle very closely which indicated advanced evidence and challenge to the second person of this treaty. For UNESCO and World Heritage Committee, this new approach indicated success in helping sustainable development and social issues and involvements. Considering recommendations of the committee and to analyze different types of cultural landscapes and evaluate them universally in terms of potential and capability so that they are included in applicable strategies and to enforce a treaty, a specialized session was organized by World Heritage Center in Petit Pierre, France in 1992 with cooperation of ICOMOS and IUCN and other participants. As a result of this session, cultural landscapes were defined as follows:

Considering the effective strategies presented in declaration of action in the world heritage, cultural landscapes are cultural zones in article 1 of the treaty (common work of human and nature) which indicate evolution of human societies and habitats in history. This evolution is affected by physical barriers or opportunities which are available in natural bed around them and are formed by social, economic and cultural forces (Smith & Jones, 2007).

According to holistic attitude, human and the surrounding environment are unified and create a whole with internal interrelated components and we

exchange information with help of perception and through behavior and reaction with our surrounding world which cause cultural landscapes (Bell, 2012).

Historical landscape of a geographical zone is designed or used by human, which has passed change and reform trend in an identifiable pattern. An unchanged site which depends on an important and distinctive historical event can be also regarded as historical landscapes and also a natural landscape with important cultural –traditional values. But there is a very important difference between historical landscape and cultural landscape that historical landscape with very high integrity recalls a historical period or the past event but cultural landscape includes distinguished places which leave the past traces despite all changes. In other words, necessary condition for a cultural landscape to be historical landscape is integrity and it means that:

Since 1980s, many countries knowing importance of relationship between manmade environment and natural environment have understood importance of supporting cultural landscape (Feilden & Jokilehto, 1993).

Cultural landscape is result of process building between nature and culture of human so that it is mixed with it in various proportions (Eckbo, 1969). Based on this theory, role of communication between nature and human and environment can be defined and studied in a time process while proportion and diversity have been regarded as characteristics of cultural landscape in this description and this is emphasis on concept of space over time.

Figure 1 shows process of formation of cultural landscape in urban environments and spaces.

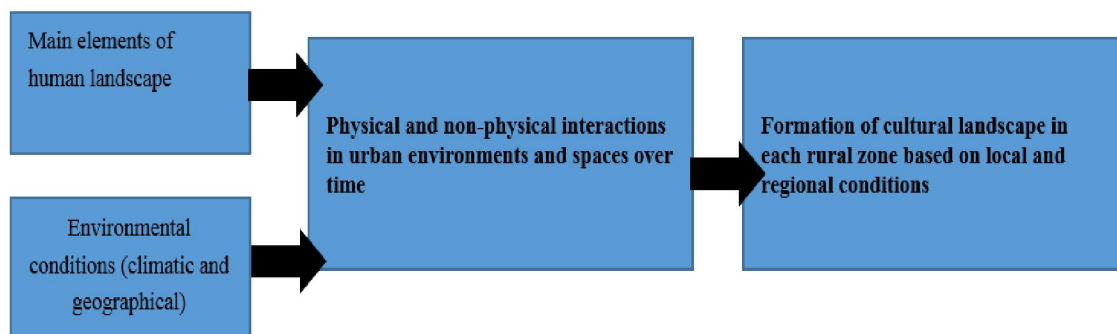


Figure 1: Process of formation of cultural landscape in urban environments and spaces (Rastandeh, 2009)

3. Classification of Cultural Landscapes

Table 1: Classification of Cultural Landscapes

	<p>Manmade landscapes This class includes gardens and parks which have been formed for aesthetic purposes. These landscapes usually (and not always) are beside religious complexes and buildings or other monuments. A view of Portuguese Fortress of Hormoz Island to linear park designed adjacent to it Source: Writers</p>
	<p>Organic landscapes These are result of primary social, economic, managerial and religious factors and their present condition has been formed gradually while interacting with natural environment and responding to it. These landscapes reflect evolution process in general form and its partial appearances. The second type is divided into two classes: Relict Landscape and Continuing Landscape A landscape of colorful soil diversity in Hormoz Island</p>
	<p>Relict Landscape Its evolution has been ended in the past whether suddenly or periodically and gradually. Of course, its distinctions are evident in the form. Portugese fortress of Hormoz Island Source: writer http://www.hormozisland.ir/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/hormoz_landscape_2.jpg</p>
	<p>Native (Continuing Landscape) This landscape indicates broad scope of materials and construction process during history. It plays active social role in modern society so that it is very close to native lifestyle and gradual evolution continues in this landscape. A landscape of primary core of hormoz island habitats adjacent to Portugese fortress Source : writer</p>
	<p>Cultural participatory landscapes Their location in list of global works is so considerable that it is due to interaction of powerful religious, artistic and cultural factors of dependent natural elements not physical evidence of materials because these evidences may not be clear or may be eliminated (Smith & Jones, 2007).</p>
<p>http://www.hormozisland.ir/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/hormoz_landscape_2.jpg</p>	

4. Importance of Cultural Landscapes

They (cultural landscapes) are bases of food production systems and are live sources of gene for the future food products. These zones are living place of native people and local societies and are filled with cultural diversity and intangible values which should be protected for a sustainable future (Rössler, 2002).

In 2002, specialists in declaration of Ferrara, Italy noticed that it is necessary to recognize common values of landscapes and that part of landscape which relates to native people and importance of protecting different biological aspects besides cultural aspects should be considered. In this regard, achievements are as follows:

- Recognizing different manifestations of interaction between human and natural environment
- Including and utilizing concept of sustainability as operational strategies with special techniques of sustainable use of land
- Accepting live heritage belonging to native people
- Including and introducing native and traditional management methods as the operational strategies
- Identifying native methods of using land
- Protecting biodiversity besides cultural diversity
- Attention to spatial dependencies on nature (Rössler, 2002).

5. Studied Zone

Hormoz Island is located in opening of Hormoz Strait in entrance opening of Persian Gulf from Oman Sea between geographical coordinates of 56°25' 10" and 56°30' 8" as eastern longitude and 27°6' 25" as northern latitude. This island is called key of Persian Gulf due to its geographical position adjacent to Hormoz Strait. This position has made it strategically and commercially important.

Hormoz Island is limited from northwest to Bandar Abbas and from southwest to Qeshm and Lark islands. Distance between Hormoz Island (from port) and Bandar Abbas is 9.71 nautical miles (81 km) and the distance between Hormoz Island and Qeshm Island (Sarbandar) is 9.71 miles (81 km) and distance between it and Lark Island (quay) is 9.71 miles (18 km). In the shortest route, distance between this island and main coast of the country is 2.96 miles (5.5 km). Hormoz Island is elliptical. Its small diameter is 5.5 and its large diameter is between 7.5 and 9 km and its area is about 42 sq km. Hormoz Island has been recognized as one of the districts of Qeshm County based on the latest enactment of state divisions by Ministry of the Interior in 2002 (Wolf, 1959).

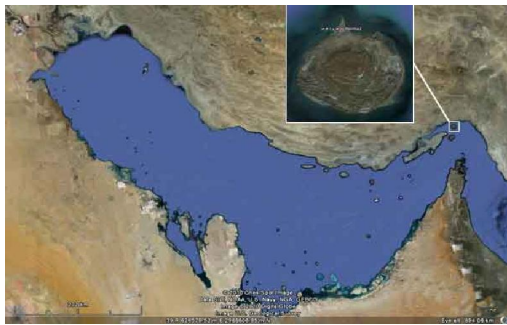


Figure 2: Position of Hormoz Island



Figure 3: Position of Hormoz Island in Hormozgan Province

6. Recognizing Historical Status of Hormoz Island

Invasion of the Mongols in 1301 included port city and commercial city of Hormoz. Mir Bahaoddin Ayaz who was the 16th kind of Hormoz dynasty and its emir decided to immigrate to another point along with people due to fear of plunder and destruction of city by the Mongols and he selected Jaroon Island in entrance of the strait with special strategic value on the way of caravan members and for carrying goods as their habitats among different regions. The old Hormoz city was deserted and new city was created in Jaroon Island which was later called Hormoz. Ruins of Old Hormoz have remained near Minab.

New Hormoz city rapidly grew and turned into one of the international commercial ports which were located on the way of large European commercial road to South and East Asia. Sailors,

tourists and geographers who visited new Hormoz have reminded its wealth and power.

Ebne Batooteh, a well-known western tourist says: Jaroon is a good and large city with good markets which is port of India and Indus and merchandises of India are carried from this city to Arab Iraq and Persian Iraq and Khorasan and Soltan Hormoz reside in this place.

Hormoz Island was known as Iran Golden Soil and was a center of delicate and beautiful products particularly hand-woven brocaded silk. Luis Vaz de Camoens, Portuguese poet and sailor showed Hormoz to the world due to its considerable wealth and, Miloten British poet showed off its jewelry and gems to the world. Marco Polo spread reputation of its wealth and its old city in the world and Alfonse Albuquerque, Portuguese invading admiral said: if the world is a ring, Hormoz is its gem.

One of the tourists writes about grandeur of Hormoz:

More than 300 vessels from different lands sometimes gather in the harbor and 400 merchants reside in that city and pearl, silk, gemstones and spices).

This position empowered ruler of Hormoz to expand its ruling scope to Basra and occupy Kish and Bahrain. Due to the absence of powerful government in Iran as an independent government, he could continue living for two centuries (Wilson, 2012).

Hormoz Island which had become magnificent due to commercial value of important ports of Persian Gulf such as Basra, Siraf and Kish and had been spotlight of commercial activities and had valuable strategic and geopolitical position attracted attention of Alfonse Albuquerque, Portuguese admiral and wrote a letter to Portuguese king:

Your Majesty: if the world is a ring, Hormoz is its gem and it is necessary to dominate on three points to keep dominance on India and its marine ways:

- Hormoz Island in opening of Persian Gulf
- Conquering and occupying Eden for maintaining Bob Al Mandab Strait
- Malaya Strait in the farthest end of Singapore Archipelago

Due to his understating of the importance of Hormoz, he attacked Hormoz Island with its Fleet in 1506 and forced its young king who was 12 years old (Seifoddin) to surrender and imposed tax despite the presence of 3000 warriors in the Island. He prevented Albuquerque from destroying and firing it by paying 15000 Ashrafi as annual tax to Portuguese king. The reason for collapse of Hormoz was the absence of a powerful government in Iran in addition to internal factors such as lack of power for resistance against artillery of Portuguese invaders because this

action coincided with government of Shah Esmail Safavi and establishment of Safavid government in Iran and as a result, the king was not able to confront with the Portuguese considering involvement with internal issues. After the Portuguese sovereignty over the island was ended in 1622 by Shah Abbas military camp and British fleet, it was fall of Hormoz power and shah Abbas who lacked fleet to defend the island ordered to transfer commercial, economic and military role of Hormoz Island to northern coast of the strait in a place called Gambron which was named Bandar Abbas since that time and to destroy Hormoz barricades in order not to be used by the Portuguese or other marine powers because he was not able to protect it due to lack of marine force (Wilson, 2012).

Figure 4: Hormoz Island at time of prosperity as one



of the important commercial centers in the world

7. Natural Environment of Hormoz Island

Hormoz Island is like a salt dome with poor vegetation. Dispersion of plant species in different parts of the island depends on soil factors particularly tissue, building, land, material of source rock and chemical compound of soil to some extent. Plant species of the island are often seen in flat surfaces and floodways which discharge water of rainfall to sea. This island has special vegetation of the tropical zone like other islands of Persian Gulf due to its hot and humid climate and salinity of water and soil. The major tree species of this island include mimosa, acacia, date palm (in Hormoz city), lote, silk tree, parkinsonia aculeate and Terminalia catappa. In addition to the above trees, xerophilous and soil salinity resistant shrubs are found in the island which are mainly annual plants (SOLTANIPOUR, 2006; Yalgouz-Agaj, Ardebil, & Karimdoust, 2010) Hormoz is the island of colors. This island has many colorful soils which are put together to form broad spectrum of white, yellow, orange, red, brown, green and even golden colors. Hormoz has uncountable colors which include hot to cold color spectrum. One can dare to say that all colors which an artist need for painting are available in soils of this island. Total

colors of this island are result of a chemical composition, result of an event i.e. composition of different minerals for formation of stone, colors of Hormoz or as soil and lump or as solid stones. Of course, Hormoz has also metal rocks. Magnetite, hematite and oligiste are three metal rocks in which iron oxide and a golden metal rock called pyrite which is known as fool's gold or eye of Satan are found and they have a material called iron sulfide. Many artists paint a carpet of soil with different colors of the Island's soils in coast of this island in different occasions and some of the works are given in figure 5 and 6.



Figure 5: carpet created by artists with colorful soils of the island in coast of Hormoz Island

<http://www.hormozisland.ir/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/155672.jpg>



Figure 6: carpet created by artists with colorful soils of the island in coast of Hormoz Island by modeling native designs and local fictions

http://cdn.tabnak.ir/files/fa/news/1391/11/28/233042_454.jpg

8. Social Environment of Hormoz Island

Based on statistics of general census of population and house 2006, 2797 out of 5714 people were men and 2917 people were women. Population of this island is city dweller. The number of

households is 1144. Main religion of the residents is Islam and ratio of Shiite to Sunnite religion is approximately 70/30. Main accent of the residents in the island is Bandari but some of the residents speak Arabic.

Residents of this island have been dominated by the Portuguese for 117 years and they were transferred to Bandar Abbas after escape of the Portuguese from the island and the island has been only a military zone for years. After extraction of clay in the past 200 years, some people immigrated to the island from Bandar Abbas and Minab as workers. In the past, residents of the island immigrated to Minab in summers due to drought and problem of water shortage in the island has been solved with submarine piping from Bandar Abbas. Electricity of the island is supplied from power substation, so, immigration of the resident has been limited compared to the past (Morgan, 1991).

Images of women and men with costumes in Hormoz Island (Figure 7 to 8).

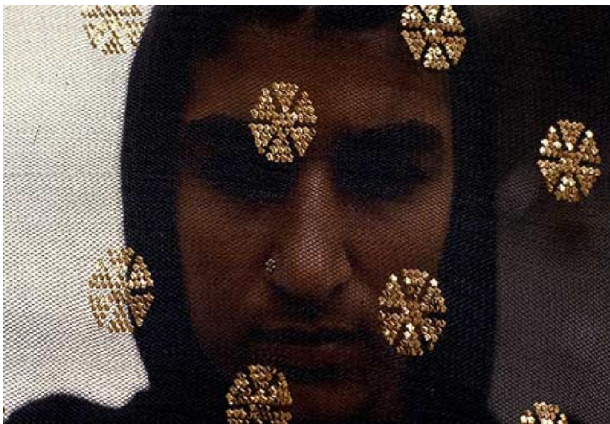


Figure 7: Veil of women in Hormoz Island with different colors

http://www.wwwebart.com/riverart/hormoz/local_culture/wedding_hormoz_5.jpg



Figure 8: Costumes of men in wedding ceremony

http://www.wwwebart.com/riverart/hormoz/local_culture/wedding_hormoz_1.jpg

9. Handicrafts of Hormoz Island

Pottery, matting, net weaving, production of all traditional weavings (khos weaving, silk weaving, silver thread weaving) are of the handicrafts which have been popularized by residents of Minab in Hormoz Island. At present, 50% of the women residing in the island are fully familiar with these weavings. In 1983-1984, Construction Organization started teaching carpet weaving in the island and could introduce some of the women in this island to this field of handicrafts with 10 frames. Net weaving and gargoor weaving are of the activities which were performed by women and men in the past. All kinds of lee (coarse net) and jol (fine net) are woven by the residents. In the past 30 years, small wooden boats called Manshooreh were produced using lote or acacia wood. In the past, simple and primitive pottery and matting were common in the island (Boucharlat & Salles, 1981).



Figure 9: A sample of weaving as handicraft of Hormoz Island

www.wwwebart.com/riverart/nadaljan/travels/girl_qeshm_persian_gulf.jpg

10. Job of Most People in the Island

Based on the conducted studies, waters around Hormoz Island were the richest fishery zones in Persian Gulf and supplies of its sea are more than that of other points. Hormoz Island is one of the important zones for fishing shrimp in Hormozgan Province. Although capacities of this activity have changed due to different factors, it has been regarded as one of the central activities in economy of Hormoz. Statistics of 1996 recorded the number of fishermen to be 252 and only 33.6% of the people in Hormoz had this job.

Shrimp, tuna and sardine are the most common fish in the zone and other aquatics which are fished in the zone include karut croaker, shirmahi, shark, sangsar, mtitaj, moosh dandan, halva, Redmouth grouper, whitefish, porgies, biti, sorkho

etc. generally, fishing is possible in Hormoz Island in all months of the year but most fishermen give up fishing in summer due to hot weather and low return of fishery and do other jobs such as transporting people, trade in Bandar Abbas and Qeshm.

Urban Environment of Hormoz Island

Urban zone of Hormoz Island is located in northern coastal strip adjacent to historical Portuguese fortress. In fact, development of dwelling place adjacent to the above building is shown in Picture 9.



Figure 10: urban zone of Hormoz Island in north of the island

Historical places and spectacular centers of this island include Portuguese Fortress located in the city which was constructed in Hormoz Island after domination of Albuquerque, Portuguese admiral in 1507 at time of kingship of Shah Esmail Safavi and sovereignty of Seifoddin, a young king, Tolombeh Khaneh Park with area of 4000 sq meters and Marine Environment Research Center located in 8 km of southeast of Hormoz city, ruins of old school, ruin of old Hormoz city in north of the island near Portuguese Fortress, Bibigol Castle, Soorat Castle, Saffron House, Tirandaz Tower, Naghoos Tower, Hazrat Khidr Shrine and Tombstones.



Figure 11: urban tissue of Hormoz Island



Figure 12: Using wood craved doors in traditional houses

http://www.wwebart.com/riverart/hormoz/heritage/wood_door_hormoz.jpg

11. Hormoz Historical Fortress

The most important historical element of Hormoz is Portuguese Fortress which was constructed by Alfonso Albuquerque in 1507 and in style of European fortresses in the late Middle Age. This fortress includes arms warehouses, large cistern, barracks, prison, church, commandship center and hall. This fortress was conquered by commander of Shah Abbas, Imam Gholi Khan. The Portuguese Fortress is the most important historical monument in Hormoz Island. The Portuguese set foot in Hormoz Island in 1507 and constructed marine barricades. They first built fortress-like base in northern peak of the island and converted it to a real fortress gradually.

Military barricades of the Portuguese cover a zone with length of 260 m and width of 176 m. these barricades were constructed in 1507 as ordered by Alfonso Albuquerque, the Portuguese admiral

(conqueror of the island) as a European fortress in the late Middle Age. Total area of this building is 7200 sq. meters (80×90) (Bakhtiari, 1979).



Figure 13: internal façade of the Portuguese Fortress

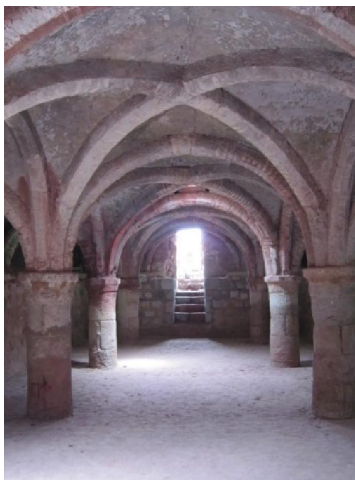


Figure 14: cistern of the Portuguese Fortress



Figure 15: the Portuguese Fortress

12. Conclusion

The above descriptions show that relationship between human and nature in Hormoz Island is based on specified criteria and culture plays important role in their formation, reinforcement and stabilization. These communications in different dimensions and forms which indicate lifestyle, earning a living, environment exploitation and occupation pattern, change and exploitation of land based on special cultural pattern form cultural landscape of Hormoz Island. It can be said that some factors such as seashore, colorful soils, historical record, urban spaces, type of living and climate are of the most important factors affecting formation of cultural landscape of Hormoz Island. For this reason, attempt should be made to protect these cultural landscapes because their source is culture of people of this zone. By protecting these monuments, not only monuments left from the past periods will be protected but also the world will be familiar with them.

As a conclusion and considering the mentioned cases, factors affecting formation of cultural landscape in Hormoz Island can be mentioned as follows:

Factors affecting formation of cultural landscape in Hormoz Island

Climate:

- Considering location of this island in hot and humid climate, climate has been effective in culture of these people.

Urban Morphology:

- Dense tissue toward sea for use of sea breeze for air stream
- Use of handicrafts such as wood-carved doors and straw mat as decorative factors of house

Historical records:

- The most important historical element (Portuguese Fortress) caused to form touristic axes for residents of the island.

Peripheral Nature

- Using colorful soils by the artists to create Soil Carpet in coast of the island considering different ceremonies
- The presence of intact nature in the island

Common jobs

- Fishery and jobs related to sea

Common traditions:

- Veil of the women
- Dying hand and foot of the women with natural colors
- Participation of all people in ceremonies such as wedding

Corresponding Author:

Homa Zakeri

Department of Urban Planning and Design, Kish International Campus, University of Tehran, Kish Island, Iran

Email: zakeri.homa@yahoo.com**References**

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