Distribution, Function and Pattern Prevailing on Structure and Ornaments of Seljuq Monuments in Barkhar Province of Isfahan

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The main question of this article is: What is the pattern of distribution, structure and ornaments of monuments during Seljuq period? To answer this question, primary data have been collected and categorized in field observation and library research method, while cities, villages and architectural evidence of Barkhar from Seljuq period have been introduced. Elements of architecture and the function of monuments have been presented by studying their maps and the prevailing pattern of their structure and ornaments are explained based on comparative comparison. Then central and satellite habitation of Barkhar field have been identified and the process of interplay between these habitation centers in aforementioned period have been studied according to Cristaler's Central Place Theory. The most important accomplishments and results of this article is a specific pattern in building Seljuq caravansaries and mosques of Barkhar. It means that the structure pattern of caravansaries in Barkhar is based on a methodical, symmetrical and already determined map, formed on the axis which is opponent to the gust of Eastern, Northern and Western winds (bias axis), four iwan plan, locating rooms for travelers around the four side of the yard, using ballast as the main material, using mud and plaster as grout and coat, and the absence of ornaments in caravansaries. A common pattern for Seljuq mosques in Barkhar includes a completely identical and isometric vault, single iwan primary form, single specific minaret (spire) with brickwork ornaments of rhombus forms, enameled brick in vaults, simple and short inscription, decorating adobe with patterns of hexagonal star, roundel and medallion fretwork. Determination of central and satellite centers in Barkhar field is another result of this research.

Keywords: Seljuq Architecture, Isfahan, Barkhar, Seljuq Mosques, Seljuq Caravansaries.

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