

nature and in Conciliazione is service kiosks, according to dividing axis into three parts, proper furniture and attention to nature. These elements in Conciliazione were for pedestrian's comfort and formation of a linear public space.

In the following some repairing actions are mentioned according to main goals of both axes:

1. Water, fountain and its sculptures are valuable and historical elements of these countries and are maintained in both axes.
2. When Europeans conquered Egypt, carried obelisks into Europe because of importance of ancient Egypt. Therefore obelisk is maintained in both axes due to its great historical value.
3. Nature is an element that can change the sense of the space and is seen in both axes.
4. Attention to shape and form of walls is significant and is seen in both axes as homogenous walls.

5. Humanism and pedestrian friendly principles are seen in both axes clearly and had been observed as a general principle.

6. Open range of human vision in middle of axes and not putting poles in there to value final elements of the axis and better perception of the space.

In first step of finding the best repairing actions for preservation and continuity of urban visual axes, a complete recognition of environment such as history, culture, society and policy should be achieved and select repairing actions according to them to be in line with all hidden values and memories of society. Therefore constant actions can't be considered for all of urban spaces because every space needs appropriate actions to their historical and cultural entity. That's how urban spaces can retain their originality and remain viable for next generations.

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Fig 7. Conciliazione axis to St. Peter's church.
Photo : Aliakbar Khamseashari, 2015.

authoritarianism and tyranny of the region. This axis could represent the sense of power, authoritarianism and fascism by using symmetry of furniture in the axis, wide opening of the axis near the square, using hard materials, using obelisk



Fig 8. St. Peter's square and preservation of obelisk and fountains. Photo : Aliakbar Khamseashari, 2015.

shaped columns as the base of lamps and attention to homogenous walls. All repairing actions are in line with identity and values of the square and cause continuity of identity and history of Vatican. They also turned this axis into a linear public space.

Conclusion

Urban visual axes can be studied from different points of view. This research attempts to answer the following questions Which factors are effective in selecting repairing actions for preservation and continuity of identity? Can some constant actions be considered in all urban axes? It is said that urban visual axes are elements with high capacity in preservation and continuity of urban identity. For continuity of identity some repairing actions are required and if they are true, the space turns into a linear public space that people can communicate and be active there. Also it causes closer relationship with space, sense of belonging and continuity of people's presence. Studying selected case studies shows that sometimes there are common goals in different urban spaces but differences in selecting approach and repairing actions to reach those goals. For this reason some actions are done according to common main goals such as continuity of axis identity, creating linear public space and vitality and

dynamism of space in both axes and are different according to entity of each space. It is mentioned below briefly:

1. In both axes some symbolic elements are used to emphasize on the final elements. Pruning trees, because of more proximity with environment history, in Avenue des Champs-Élysées and order in form and color of walls and using obelisks in Conciliazione emphasize the final element.
2. The goal of both axes was continuity of identity. The strategy in Champs-Élysées is to reach pedestrian friendly, intimate and calm environment because of its history and location but in Conciliazione the strategy is to reach a powerful and authoritarian axis and an environment in the service of the St. Peter's church.
3. Value the pedestrians and achieving a linear public space is one of these axes main goals but the strategy in Champs-Élysées is using wide pedestrian ways, cafes and restaurants in there, variety of uses, proper furniture and emphasis on

Conciliazione

Conciliazione Street in Rome, Italy was built between 1936 and 1950 by design of Mussolini in the axis of square and St. Peter’s church. The church in Vatican is one of the masterpieces of the Renaissance. The construction of this magnificent church lasted 110 years. It was designed by great artists like Bramante, Michael Angelo, Carlo Maderno and Bernini. This is one of the holiest sites of Catholic and the holding place of annual pilgrimages. St. Peter’s square was built in 17 century at the time of Alexander VII for

people to visit Pope easily. This square was designed by Bernini and in form of a colonnaded corridor around the square with Tuscan columns in four rows with large sculptures of saints above it.

A 4000-year-old Egyptian obelisk and two fountains are located at the center of the square. This region is the center of Vatican’s government and power. St. Peter’s church supervises all other churches in the world. Conciliazione Street has a maximum order such that by creating symmetry, order and axuality of axis represents the sense of

Table 3. Category of repairing actions in Conciliazione and their effects. source: Author.

Criterion	Impact	Action	Pillars of repairing	Row
Attention to pedestrian and anthropocentrism, attention to different age and sex groups, attention to basic human needs such as mental calm, security, sense of belonging, attention to furniture and creating entertainment facilities in place	- Conciliazione street has a great potential for attracting tourists because of its connection with Tiber river and St. Peter’s square - Previous actions has caused formation of longitudinal public space where people gather together, sit or communicate	- Pedestrian Security - Attention to ground floor walls - Attention to pedestrian friendly principle - Attention to suitable furniture - Division of street into three parts: Tardy part, sidewalk and fast part - Tourist attraction by strong centrality of street from Tiber river to the church	Human	1
Preserving natural values, revitalizing defunct green spaces for continuity of identity, creating green spaces to change the sense of space	- Putting tree pots symmetrically on both sides of the axis causes vitality and sense of dependence on space	- Putting tree pots in pedestrian axis	Nature	2
Revitalization of historical-cultural signs, ceremonies and traditional rituals and public memories	- Celebrating ritual ceremonies, public attendance for visiting Pope and tourist attendance for visiting church leads to survival and preservation of regional identity. - Order and symmetry in furniture and elements of the axis leads to increasing the power of axis - Keeping fountain in the square and drinking fountains in sidewalks leads to maintain values.	- Celebrating ritual ceremonies in the square - Public attendance in the square for visiting Pope - Symmetry in the axis - Presence of water in the square and sidewalk - Attention to the authority of the St. Peter’s church - Connection of the church to the Tiber river by street	Culture	3
Repairing historical and valuable monuments of space, rehabilitation of region identity, maintaining valuable historical buildings	- Maintaining the obelisk and fountains causes continuity of identity. - Attention to the architectural style of walls and skyline causes more order in visual axis. - Small opening of axis near the square attract people to the church. - Pyramidal stone columns as lamp bases create a desirable visual corridor to the church. - Not putting elements in the axis makes it stronger.	- Preserving memorials such as obelisk and fountains - Preserving homogenous walls - Using hard materials - Attention to skyline of the walls - Attention to the historical aspects of the environment for furniture design - Decreasing width of axis near the square - Stone base of lamps - Not putting elements in the axis of street - Placement of visual axis in the axis of the church	History	4

adding furniture, plants, paving and kiosks. Now this street is a linear public space with wide pedestrian ways and more than being a shopping center is a place for gathering, walking and tourists destination (Fig 5-6).

Actions that have been done on this street are all in line with history and values of this street that leads to continuity of identity and formation of an intimate and pleasant space (Table 2).

Table 2. Category of repairing actions in Avenue des Champs-Élysées and their effects. source: Author.

Criterion	Impact	Actions	Pillars of repairing	Row
Attention to pedestrian and anthropocentrism, different age and sex groups, basic human needs such as mental calm, security, sense of belonging, furniture and creating entertainment facilities in place	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - These actions lead to a feeling of satisfaction and happiness from space for people - Suitable nightscape cause continuity of presence and more security in this axis - Metro stations are designed in a way that don't block human vision and don't disrupt the order of environment - Attention to transparency and diversity in ground floor walls leads to vitality and dynamism of space - Cafes and restaurants in pedestrian way cause more intimacy in space - All of these actions are in order to change Avenue des Champs-Élysées into a longitudinal public space where people spend more time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wide pedestrian way - Attention to anthropocentrism - Suitable design of metro stations that doesn't block human vision - Various uses of space - Attention to ground floor walls - appropriate furniture of space - Cafes and restaurants in open space 	Human	1
Preserving natural values, revitalizing defunct green spaces for continuity of identity, creating green spaces to change the sense of space and soulless space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining trees of gardens after Place de la Concorde cause continuity of identity of Élysées village - Pruning trees and their straight trunk mention the European culture in tree planting - Planting trees in straight axis, has caused order and arrangement in environment and a urban visual corridor with emphasis on the Arc de Triomphe and obelisk 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining trees and old gardens in the first part of Champs-Élysées - Centrality of trees in pedestrian way - Pruning trees in pedestrian way 	Nature	2
Revitalization of historical-cultural signs, ceremonies and traditional rituals and public memories	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Fountain is a valuable element in European culture which was always seen with sculptures in water. Water has been completed with water so maintaining the fountains leads to continuity of identity - Ritual ceremonies, feasts and marches always have been held in Avenue des Champs-Élysées in history which causes the vitality of space and indicates that it's a national axis - Arc de Triomphe and celebrating ceremonies for commemoration of warriors who have sacrificed their lives for France 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining water and fountain in Place de la Concorde - Celebrating ceremonies and feasts in Avenue des Champs-Élysées - Arc de Triomphe in memory of warriors who have sacrificed their lives for France - Celebrating ceremony for commemoration of unknown warriors under the Arc de Triomphe 	Culture	3
Repairing historical and valuable monuments of space, rehabilitation of region identity, maintaining valuable historical buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maintaining memorials such as Arc de Triomphe and obelisk and their location in one axis, identify the axis and make the elements more valuable - Attention to the style and height of walls cause order and harmony in the axis - Putting lamps in edges of the axis instead of its center, opens the range of vision in center of the axis that affects better interpretation of environment - Historical places in one axis mention the importance and historical process of this axis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - An axis in axis of Arc de Triomphe and Place de la Concorde - Maintaining the walls - Maintaining the memorials such as Arc de Triomphe and obelisk - Open range of vision in axis - Tuileries garden, Place de la Concorde, Avenue des Champs-Élysées and Arc de Triomphe lying in one axis 	History	4



Fig 3. Linear public space in length of Avenue des Champs-Élysées. Photo : Aliakbar Khamseashari, 2015.



Fig 4. Linear public space in Conciliazione. Photo : Aliakbar Khamseashari, 2015.

as Louvre museum, Tuileries garden, Place de la Concorde and Arc de Triomphe. Louvre museum was built in 12 century and now is one of the most visited museums in the world with 35000 precious objects. After Louvre museum, there is Tuileries garden; a garden full of sculptures and historical buildings that was designed in 17 century in a new method by André Le Nôtre. The difference of this garden with the former French gardens is the presence of axis and water in main axis of the garden. Former gardens were designed with star axes.

Place de la Concorde was designed with an octagonal plan in 18 century because of the connection between Tuileries garden and Avenue des Champs-Élysées by Ange-Jacques Gabriel. One of the prominent features of this square is an Egyptian stone column called obelisk dating back 3,000 years and at an altitude of 23 meters which was carried by Napoleon to France after the conquest of Egypt. Avenue des Champs-Élysées starts from Place de la Concorde and ends at Arc de Triomphe. This street has two parts: the first part starts from Place de la Concorde and is in form of old gardens with a narrow sidewalk. The second starts from Mountain Street and ends at Arc de Triomphe; this part was designed in 18 century and turned into the center of brands, cafes and luxurious restaurants by



Fig 5. Trees in Avenue des Champs-Élysées in straight axis and creating pleasant space. Photo : Aliakbar Khamseashari, 2015.



Fig 6. First part of Avenue des Champs-Élysées that is preserved as old gardens. Photo : Aliakbar Khamseashari, 2015.

Table 1. Category of repairing actions in space. source: Author.

Appearance	Pillars of repairing	Row
Attention to human needs such as mental calm, various and flexible uses and identity of the environment to increase human interactions in space	Human	1
Attention to environment ecosystem for perpetual survival of animals and also topography potentials	Nature	2
Attention to environment ecosystem for perpetual survival of animals and also attention to topographic potentials. Attention to quantitative values to represent hidden quality of the region	Culture	3
Prevent erosion: first step of preserving a historical monument is to control its environment which means prevent erosive and harmful factors with continuous and regular surveys.	History	4
Preservation: Actions in preservation usually affects the work directly and that means preserving its current situation		
Strengthening: The basic goal of strengthening is to restore lost power of the work over time and due to various factors		
Repair: Repairing and reintegrating details and different aspects of work are achieved when historical evidences, materials, main plan and original documentations are respected.		
Revival: Appropriate use of historical buildings is the best option to preserve them. This happens naturally with fundamental changes in building		
Recreation: Regeneracy and recreation means rebuilding of the existing object model		
Rebuild: Reconstruction of historical buildings is not allowed basically unless when immediate disasters like war, earthquake, flood, etc. destroy them		

be ignored in this way and finally the urban man would be disappeared from the isolated past and public life in urban spaces. These types of space lead to sense of belonging between people and continuity of their presence. The selected cases of research could create linear public spaces by creating continuity of identity such that a calm sense that is needed for a memorial and tourist space, is created in Avenue des Champs-Élysées according to pedestrian friendly principles, wide pedestrian ways, emphasis on memorials at both ends of the axis, attention to ground floor walls, attention to proper furniture and green space. In Conciliazione axis due to St. Peter's church, the use of regular and symmetric furniture, attention to order of walls and dividing the street into three

parts, tardy part, sidewalk and fast part, could represent the sense of Vatican's power and formality of space (Fig. 3-4).

Case studies

Avenue des Champs-Élysées

Avenue des Champs-Élysées in Paris with two kilometers length is one of the most beautiful streets in the world that is the center of various brands, cafes and is a pedestrian friendly promenade. Champs-Élysées means farms of Élysées and it's the name of wheat farms in there. In 1616 there was a plain with bazaars which queen Marie de' Medici decided to expand the axis of Tuileries garden with a planted street. This street is located in parallel with valuable elements such

and using regular and symmetric furniture for regulation and cherishing the church are done in the best way in Conciliazione axis. Avenue des Champs-Élysées is planned due to anthropocentrism policy and attention to life of pedestrians. Also memorial elements like Arc de Triomphe and obelisk column have enhanced its value. Planting trees in a row in both sides of the axis, not putting lamp poles in the middle of it and its relatively low width make more emphasis on final elements (Fig. 1-2).

Repairing Actions

Repairing is a general word that means scientific- technical interventions to ensure duration of an art work. Repairing is a subset of preservation and will be realized by the use of new science and concepts and modern facilities. Repairing actions should be done according to cultural and social values of an urban space so that the final result represent the identity of that region. In other words, repairing of landscape follows the way of tracing past to understand present time and represent a human design to improve the quality of landscape. Repairing actions can be studied in category which showed in table 1.

Identity

The city is a dynamic phenomenon which is formed in people's mind as a special image and character over time. Also it's not made suddenly; it's a live creature that is emerged. Different factors such as culture, policy, history and religion are effective in distinguishing urban spaces from each other; in other words city finds meaning and identity by quantities from the values of each region. Identity means continuity and historic links to the past which lead to recognition and distinction of a place from the other. Identity is always focused on the human interpretation because it's human that form and realize the identity and the identity of a place without humans won't be a tangible reality (Teimouri, 2014). For continuity of identity in urban axes we should get help from quantitative components that have the most

historical capacity. They should be preserved in first step because the main effort is preserving them for different generations to make them same thoughts of urban spaces. Therefore public spaces are formed when continuity of identity happens in urban spaces. These are spaces which their mission is creating interactions and collective actions and all members of society with equal rights can use that space.

Mumford emphasizes social solidarity and face to face interoperability, the movement of thought and ideas and importance of aesthetic of urban spaces and denies unilateral connections and opportunistic selfishness because social values will



Fig. 1. Emphasis on final subject and creating axis according to color and form of the walls and obelisks. Photo : Aliakbar Khamseashari, 2015.



Fig. 2. Emphasis on subject and creating visual axis with pruning trees in one row. Photo : Aliakbar Khamseashari, 2015.

studies and programming and actions in accordance with history of space, they can become active urban axes and linear public spaces. In this research repairing actions in Avenue des Champs-Élysées and Conciliazione for preservation of regional identity and the reasons for their selection are considered. The results of research can help to make other urban axes into vital and dynamic urban spaces.

Research history

Urban axes were studied professionally since the Renaissance and discovery of perspective. Yet many researchers have speculated on this issue and the role of urban axes for preserving identity and make the axes into public spaces. Here, some of these samples are represented. For instance the article “Purposeful design principles for prominent urban visual axes” (Pourjafar & Sadeghi, 2008) mention the value, background and components of urban axes. Also the article “Interpretation of effects of organizing visual axes on improving environmental quality” (Ibid) studies the impacts of visual axes on quality of the city.

The article “Public spaces and effective factors on public life” that mentions the concept of public spaces and the article “Recognition and evaluation of the factors affecting social interactions” that speaks about public spaces and their variables are some studies in the field of public spaces. Also the article “Theory of landscape, an approach to continuity of identity in urban rehabilitation process”) that is about city and its identity and the article “Continuity of identity in urban landscape” in quiddity of identity and its main characteristics are in field of identity of urban spaces. Repairing is also a kind of subject that has been studied a lot; the book “Twelve lessons of repairing” about variety of repairing activities and the article “Criteria of landscape repairing in historical and natural areas with emphasis on Bistoon, Kermanshah” in landscape repairing and its categories are some examples.

Research method

The current study applies the mixed method. Research method in this study is descriptive-analytic. It is descriptive because of description and exact recognition of urban visual axes and studying repairing actions for preservation and continuity of identity and it is analytic because of study and recognition of effective factors in selecting repairing actions for visual axes. Data collection in this research is done by observation and presence in urban axes and library studies. Observations are done detailed and with targeted shots and library studies are done by studying books and relevant articles. Data and information in first step was studied by observations and presence in location of axes. After that, tables were set up to categorize the actions. At last the research resulted in new actions for continuity of identity, creating public space in axes and also common features like viewpoints to selecting repairing approach to reach the identity of the axis.

Theoretical Foundations

Urban visual axes

Axes, as factors of orientation, organization and division in urbanism, are considered as one of the main elements in forming the city since they connect various parts together (Pourjafar et al., 2008: 95- 107). While rating the final element, urban visual axes create memories and continuity of identity by creating visual corridors. Attention and use of identified components of space is a very important issue in formation of visual axes so that the more use of elements with more historical capacity results in continuity of urban identity.

The start point of urban visual axes dates back to the Renaissance in Europe, when perspective was invented. Selected case studies in this research are axes that have used space capabilities and identified components so that consecutive views with different visual values, attention to the walls of axis in terms of style and color, using ground slope to emphasize St. Peter’s church

Introduction

Urban visual axes have an important role in creating the sense of belonging and continuity of urban identity because they prepare a desirable and pleasant opportunity to see valuable and significant elements of the city. They also affect urban organization and grandeur of the city. In this research, repairing actions in preservation of two important visual axes of the world, Avenue des Champs-Élysées and Conciliazione of Rome are considered. Avenue des Champs-Élysées is a linear axis between two important urban elements, Place de la Concorde and Arc de Triomphe that is based on pedestrian friendly principles. Conciliazione Street is located in the axis of square and St. Peter's church, the location of Vatican's power in Rome. This axis is based on increasing value of the church. Each of these axes has a specific history and identity. Identity has emerged from human's relationship with history and is affected by cultural, social and physical components of a city. In other words, identity is a collection of signs, cultural and physical elements that distinguishes individuals, groups and different cultures from each other. These elements express an intersection in a society and are different according to requirements of any society.

The first step for continuity of identity in the city is some repairing actions such as preservation, repairing and revival. In this regard, every urban space contains values and criterions for repairing actions according to its history, culture and past. Therefore every space has its own actions to do that lead to continuity of identity if it's well performed. The impressive effect of preservation and continuity of identity on urban spaces is the sense of belonging and continuity of people's presence such that they know there as their own space and feel responsible for it. Also the sense of belonging makes people to spend more time there and the axis becomes a linear public space. These spaces due to their entity provide the right to enter and attend for every class, age and race of citizens without any limits. They also provide a space for citizen's gathering, communication and interaction. Accordingly Avenue des Champs-Élysées and Conciliazione of Rome are axes that chose repairing actions according to regional identity and this has made them into linear public space. In first step of this research theoretical foundations like urban visual axes, repairing actions, identity and public spaces are considered and in second step case studies and categories of actions are represented.

Research questions

- Which factors are effective for selecting repairing actions for preservation and continuity of identity?
- Are there any common and constant actions to preserve identity in all of urban spaces?

Hypothesis

Effective factors for preservation and continuity of identity in urban spaces are studied according to their historical background. In the first step for selecting repairing actions, culture and quantities that have more historical capacity than the others, should be considered to maintain region-

al identity. Also all of the actions in a region occur according to its historical past and constant actions can't be considered for all spaces.

Necessity and importance of research

Urban visual axes are important elements in preservation and continuity of urban identity. Therefore some repairing actions are needed for continuity of urban axes that results in continuity of culture and past of the region. Today unfortunately the value and importance of urban visual axes is not considered much such that most of identified urban axes are fatiguing without any recognition of their importance, but if there is

The Repairing Actions in Urban Visual Axis for Preservation and Continuity of Regional Identity

Case studies: Avenue des Champs-Élysées and Conciliazione

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Abstract

Visual axes are visual corridors that form along the linear openings like streets and are designed toward a significant element or strategic landscape. They also provide visual connection between two urban prominent areas. Urban walls, natural features and urban furniture can be used in designing urban axes. These axes have the main role in preservation and continuity of urban identity. Identity is a historical continuity which should be maintained by quantities that has been created in history. On the other hand , identity can't be shared with the others. This means that every place has specific quantities according to its own independent entities that make urban spaces characters different from each other. Some actions like preservation, reconstruction and revitalization are needed for preservation and continuity of identity in urban visual axes that can lead to continuity and strengthening identity and increasing the sense of belonging in these axes if they are proper and well performed. Continued presence of people and creating a linear public space are results of people's sense of belonging to an urban axis. Individuals and different social groups attend in this space and communicate to each other . In this regard, Avenue des Champs-Élysées and Conciliazione of Rome, as main urban axes with a specific history, are considered to survey their repairing actions according to maintain identity of the region. This research was conducted applying descriptive- analytic method and also by observation and library studies. It is hoped that the results of this study can help repairing actions to maintain the identity of urban visual axes.

Keywords

Urban visual axis, Public spaces, Conciliazione, Avenue des Champs-Élysées, Identity.