



Fig. 4. Aerial photo Centre Georges Pompidou, Source: maps.google.com

Endnote

*This article describes the discovery-based learning based on research activities in Europe trip in 2015.

1. What is meant by regeneration of historic landscape and incompatible urban restoration is a method in which less attention is paid to the context, history and culture of the historic tissue in forming and structuring the regeneration plan.
2. Dr. Hossein Bashirieh quotes in his *Political Sociology* that: “In the feudal society, civil society was more or less limited. The dispersion of power, property rights, the immunity and privilege of the landowner aristocracy made a weak existence of autonomous city (Burgh) and civil society.” Page 330.
3. Bashirieh, 2004:145.
4. In fact, it can be said that in this style architecture the use of an entirely reliant approach to science, experience and experiment is sought in logical and verifiable frameworks. Any approach that leads to the non-academic architectural expression in the building is rejected; such as a religious or formal, decorative or non-functional approach.
5. This article has been prepared in order to reach an oriental readings of the western city.
6. It is suggested to look at the views of Karl Marx on history.
7. Considering the definition of landscape architecture, presented by Dr. Seyyed Amir Mansouri in the second issues of *Bagh-e Nazar* journal.

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Table 3. Valuation, correctness on incorrectness of selecting Beaubourg neighborhood for Centre George Pompidou, source: author.

valuations	Correct value	incorrect value
1st	1	0
2nd	1	0
3rd	0	1
4th	0	1
5th	0	1
6th	0	1
7th	0	1
8th	0	1
total	2	6

Conclusion

The evaluation results and the derived tables reveals that selection of Beaubourg neighborhood for the Centre Georges Pompidou was incorrect because it has led to two correct measures and 6 incorrect ones. Other results are as follows:

- The Centre Georges Pompidou, with all its architectural credibility and value, cannot be an appropriate model for regeneration of incompatible urban landscape in historic tissues.
- The incompatible restoration method and confining the territory of historic tissues regardless of the historic and cultural values of the tissue

will result in immense historical mistakes; alike the location of the Centre Pompidou in the Beaubourg historic tissue.

- Designing a contrasting building such as Center George Pompidou, is not in the potency of every architectural and urban design consultant, and not all employers are capable of understanding such a project despite their intellectual thoughts. Therefore, this mode of thinking should not simply be the source for decision making in historic tissues. Therefore, the mentioned hypotheses is confirmed.



Fig. 2. The type of tissue surrounding Centre George Pompidou. Photo: Reza Ganjalikhany, 2015.

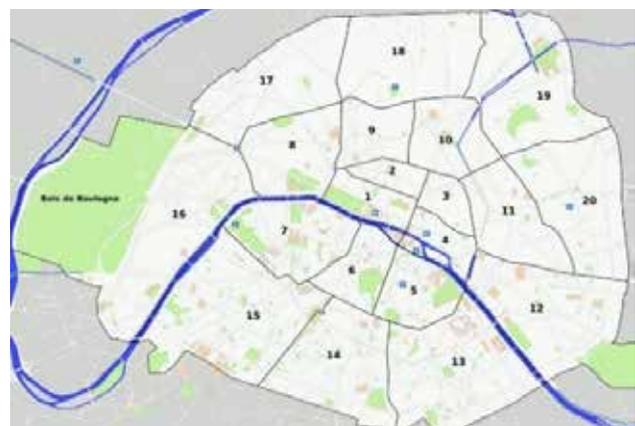


Fig. 3. Map of the historic city of Paris and the twenty regions of district 4, location of Centre Georges Pompidou, source: Wikipedia.com/en/paris.html

Putting a set of elements with valuable and impressive architecture in a dynamic context will not necessarily help any of them.

Having compared Centre Georges Pompidou to the aforementioned buildings, it is not necessary to construct such a building in a historic tissue. Therefore, the result of this measure is does not have a correct value.

• **The sixth valuation: restoration paradox**

The scientific approach in this building is non-formal, result-oriented, functionalistic and structuralistic. Restoration of the building in future will be a complicated challenge.

Having a futuristic view, a great paradox appears when the building needs to be restored after it has aged and the current concept of advanced technology has been transformed:

If modern technology is used for the restoration of buildings, the form and façade of the building will change.

If the past technology, which would be no longer up to date, is used in building restoration it will carry a different message from the initial objective. So, modern technology that was the design objective of this building will be no longer meaningful and the design will degrade to a formal aspect.

Therefore, in a project where such paradox is created in the restoration basics, and when futuristic aspects are disregarded, how can the design be competent to be implemented in a site with such historical-cultural value? Thus, the result of this valuation is also refuted.

• **The seventh valuation: The ideological comparison of the building and the contexts**

Putting two artistic entity that are not congruous in conceptual and symbolic aspects cannot be considered as a meaningful and aesthetic contrast. Contrast will be meaningful in an artistic approach when it is introduced in a dialect in which the thesis

and antithesis are integrated in a united synthesis and are set in an indissoluble context.

Having an intellectual, technologic, scientific approach and being transparent in the context adjacent to bourgeoisie, historic, solid buildings, Centre George Pompidou cannot operate in consistency to the context or create a meaningful contrast. This assessment shows that the choice of location for this type of architecture is not correct.

• **The eighth valuation: Landscape Analysis**

Concepts such as identity, memory and fluent reading create the meaning of city to a place.

In contrast to the defamiliarization of this building which is considered as a positive aspect, the heterogeneity of forms in the mind of the viewers which have resulted in depersonalization and undermining of the memories and the reading of the city as a historic and authentic city, the building will not be acknowledged as an accepted phenomenon⁷ (Fig.1). Therefore, this valuation is also the result of an incorrect value.



Fig.1. Centre Georges Pompidou. Photo: Reza Ganjalikhany, 2015.

familiar concept and an exciting unfamiliar form together. This approach was first proposed by Russian formalists.

The architecture of Centre Georges Pompidou shows that the technological elements of the design have turned into forms with a meaningful form.

This valuable defamiliarization turns the structural and facility elements of the building into functional ornamentation and “form follows function” will be revived with a new concept. This project can be recognized as the climax of modern architecture.

Selection of the site made Center Georges Pompidou to be manifested more powerfully and eloquently.

In studying the aesthetics of the Centre Pompidou, this valuation has the correct result value.

• **The third valuation: historical criticism**

It is experienced that time has reduced the value of buildings adjacent to historical building so that they would become worthless to people. Such problem was experienced in Les Halles market, next to Beaubourg neighborhood. The construction lasted from 1850 to 1970; but ultimately, lost its social-architecture and it was destined to be ruined.

When Centre Georges Pompidou begins to age and the future social paradigms are far from the present, the future will judge us differently and the philosophical socialism liberalism approaches will be nothing but a historic fairy tale. Therefore, the viewer will unprofessionally states: “walking in a historical city is more pleasant than walking in an old factory or a transportation terminal “, as the results of the questionnaire revealed.

Regarding the fact that the historic Centre Georges Pompidou might be destroyed by an influential politician or the majority of people, the results of this valuation is not correct.

• **The fourth valuation: Comparison of tissues**

The old tissues are experiencing many problems such as stagnancy, weak economy, and inefficiency, so that decision makers and decision takers of urban landscape proceed to select antithetic restoration and organization plan. However, they forget that the inefficiencies and difficulties in this tissue are not necessarily self-made problems, but resulted from many factors including major land use, comprehensive and detailed planning or even wrong policies. Many historic tissues and areas are continuing their life free of many problems since they are not interfered heterogeneously. Beaubourg and its adjacent regional neighborhoods are alive and dynamic in their historic tissue. Therefore, there is no need for such construction in order to vitalize these historic tissues.

As many tissues of France and Paris have continued to be alive and dynamic without disturbance of added building or an added function. All twenty districts in Paris have historic tissues and many of them have been subjected to incompatible landscape regeneration and they are still dynamic.

Comparing Beaubourg region to other historic regions, it is revealed that it was not crucial to build this center in this region and it is not recognized as a wise scientific decision. Hence, the results of this valuation do not have a correct value as well.

• **The fifth valuation: Comparison of the architectural typology**

There are numerous successful and accepted buildings with similar functions and forms that are not located in a historic tissues such as Cartier Foundation in Paris by Jean Nouvel, Louis Vuitton foundation by Frank Gehry, Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao by Frank Gehry, and The Jean-Marie Tjibaou Cultural Centre in Nouméa by Renzo Piano.

ed and evaluated. The necessary theoretical grounds for which the measures were derived are as follows:

Historical approach and the history-oriented and anti-history approaches (in the history-oriented; everything belonging history is appreciated and in the anti-history approach, history is considered as a compulsive disorder and escaping from history is recognized human preference against historical determinism⁶.)

Scientific approach (positivism, functionalism and consequentialism)

Sociologist approach

Urban Landscape approach (identity-oriented, context-oriented and land-oriented)

Artistic approach (defamiliarization and avant-garde)

Futurism

Comparative approach

According to the mentioned bases, the following measures are introduced as theoretical, functional and responsive framework in order to refute or confirm the hypothesis and to criticize Center Georges Pompidou:

Comparison of political- social attitudes of decision makers in the construction of Centre Georges Pompidou and Beaubourg historic tissue. (Historic and sociological approach)

Defamiliarization in regeneration of Beaubourg incompatible urban landscape (Artistic and historic approach)

Historic criticism and judgment posterity. (Futurism and historical approach)

Adaptive comparison of Beaubourg historic tissue to other historical tissues that are not organized similarly. (Comparative approach)

Adaptive comparison of Centre Georges Pompidou to other similar buildings in the historic tissues (Comparative approach)

Paradox of future restoration of Centre Georges

Pompidou (Futurism and scientific approach)

Comparing the philosophical approach of Centre Georges Pompidou architecture to other buildings in Beaubourg historic tissue. (Sociological and historic approach)

Landscape analysis. (Landscape approach)

• The first valuation: comparison of political- social approaches

As it is clear from the history and etymology of the word Beaubourg, this area is one of the first European autonomous bourgeoisie cities which is named after a victory of bourgeoisie to the feudal system. In the next century, the bourgeoisie turned into a wealthy and influential force of society and benefited their class over the whole profit of the community. Therefore, the formation of this area is consistent to the ideals of the capitalist class. Advancing the society toward democracy, liberalism and socialism have been the objectives of the Fifth French Republic, and the evolution of the twentieth century have led the authoritarian governments to functionalist ones. (Authenticity of power is replaced by authenticity of function).

For achieving the objectives of modernity, it was a wise choice to select a site such as Beaubourg neighborhood for implementing a leading project that expressed most of the government objectives and demands of the French intellectual community

The outcome of this valuation will result in the correct value. In other words, it reveals a meaningful intellectual, valuable architecture, free of aristocratic ornamentation in Beaubourg neighborhood in contrast to the decorated buildings of the region with fine ornamentations and forms.

• The second valuation: Defamiliarization

Defamiliarization is a validated concept in the aesthetics. This concepts results from putting a

Table 1. Interview before explanation of the building, Source: author.

	subject	votes	subject	votes	subject	votes
1	Beauty of the building	6	ugliness of the building	15	Abstentions	9
2	Beauty of Beaubourg neighborhood	28	ugliness of Beaubourg neighborhood	-	Abstentions	2
3	Ordinariness of the building	11	strangeness of the building	13	Abstentions	6
4	Modernity and rationality of the building	19	imagination and irrationality of the building	5	Abstentions	6
5	Blatancy of the building	25	Sincerity irrationality of the building	2	Abstentions	3
6	Completeness of the building	4	incompleteness of the building	23	Abstentions	3
7	Preference of presence in the neighborhood	11	Preference of absence in the neighborhood	18	Abstentions	1
8	Acceptability of the building	19	Rejection of the building	8	Abstentions	3
9	Distinction of the building	28	mediocrity of the building	-	Abstentions	2
10	Prediction of building function	Commercial and recreational center 7 votes	Industrial 13 votes	Public Transportation Terminal 10 votes		

Table 2. Interview after explanation of the building, Source: author.

votes	subject	votes	subject	votes	subject	votes
4	Abstentions	12	ugliness of the building	13	Beauty of the building	1
2	Abstentions	-	ugliness of Beaubourg neighborhood	28	Beauty of Beaubourg neighborhood	2
6	Abstentions	15	strangeness of the building	9	Ordinariness of the building	3
4	Abstentions	-	imagination and irrationality of the building	26	Modernity and rationality of the building	4
-	Abstentions	20	Sincerity irrationality of the building	10	Blatancy of the building	5
1	Abstentions	10	incompleteness of the building	19	Completeness of the building	6
1	Abstentions	12	Preference of absence in the neighborhood	17	Preference of presence in the neighborhood	7
-	Abstentions	8	Rejection of the building	22	Acceptability of the building	8
-	Abstentions	-	mediocrity of the building	30	Distinction of the building	9

Overview of the political sociology and architectural landscape and its feedback

In every landscape research, investigating etymology and reading of identity have always been considered the key elements. Political sociology is one of the practical factors in landscape understanding and reading. Governments have undergone fundamental changes after the World War II and due to the alterations of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries in form of community, development and social sciences. This shift in approach can be summarized in the following:

Alteration from authoritarian governments to functionalist governments

Alterations of governments from having a formalism nature to having a structural nature

Alteration of governments from bourgeoisie, feudalism, aristocracy, capitalism, theocracy, and colonialist nature to social, liberal, and technocrat democracy

It is not within the scope of this article to define the aforementioned concepts. So, it is recommended to refer to the footnotes for further study and understanding. However, the architectural concepts and their distinction is provided exactly to offer a more profound understanding of political changes and their influence on architecture. There are different buildings in Beaubourg neighborhood including medieval and Gothic churches, palaces and buildings of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries and residential buildings from the twelfth century onwards. Each of these buildings represent the social and political paradigms of the time which are listed in the social and political -bourgeoisie, ..., colonialism- attitudes.

As indicated priory, Center Georges Pompidou has special features that makes it transparent, functional, structural, and logical with a technological approach. These profiles can be recognized as the characteristics of the French social-

ist government after World War II up to the time when Centre Georges Pompidou was built.

Recognition of the unprofessional overview to the Centre Georges Pompidou

In this part of the research, interviews were conducted with the help of questionnaires and the captured photos from the building and Beaubourg neighborhood in order to provide a consistent reading with the overall goal of the research⁵. The target population for this part of the research consists of 30 people from different age groups and equal combination of gender type. The groups were asked to firstly see the photos of the Centre and Beaubourg and express what they see without any given explanation from the author. Their individuals' unprofessional opinions are categorized in Table 1 as:

Beauty or ugliness of the building and Beaubourg neighborhood

Ordinariness or strangeness of the building construction,

Modernity and rationality or imagination and irrationality of the building

Blatancy or sincerity of the building

Completeness or incompleteness of the building
Preference of presence or absence of the buildings in Beaubourg neighborhood

Acceptability of the building in Beaubourg neighborhood concerning compatibility

Distinction or mediocrity of the building

Recognition of building function

Having explained the history and approach of the Centre Georges Pompidou and Beaubourg neighborhood, the interviewees were asked to fill out the questionnaires once more. The achieved results can be seen in Table 2.

Theoretical frameworks

For a detailed review, the measures which were derived from research approaches were exploit-

one of the preeminent examples of study in the world.

This section provides the basic studies required for the research in order to establish its applications, theoretical framework and conclusions.

History of Centre Georges Pompidou

Beaubourg is a neighborhood located in District 4 of Paris, adjacent to Les Halles neighborhood, Louvre palace museum, the Seine River and the famous church, Notre Dame. There are two churches and several historic buildings in this area which date back to the eleventh century and earlier to the nineteenth century. This place used to be a fancy place for the rich French to build their houses and palaces before the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. After heavy wreckage of the World War I in Paris, the current place of Centre Georges Pompidou was used as a public parking. According to Charles de Gaulle, the first president of the fifth French Republic, this place was selected for French National Library in Paris renewal plan; however, by the time of the next president this place was considered for the National Center for Arts and Culture of France. Having won a competition in 1970, Renzo piano and Richard Rogers design were the ones to implement their design in the site. The building inaugurated by the succeeding president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing with an area of 17,700 square meters in 1977.

Etymology of the word Beaubourg and the history of Beaubourg neighborhood

Beaubourg means beautiful city. The word is combined of two words; "beau" which means beautiful and "bourg" which means town or city. But a deeper scrutiny in the word bourg in French reveals that it is equivalent to burg in English which means autonomous bourgeois city or a town with markets. According to the his-

tory and meaning of the word Beaubourg, this region used to have feudal and bourgeois structure². In order to understand the value of this neighborhood it is better to review the political sociology professionally; "The historical origin of the bourgeoisie roots in the development of cities in Central and Eastern Europe in the Middle Age. Historically, the bourgeoisie in Europe of the eleventh century resulted from a dispute of merchants and craftsmen with landowners. As a result of this conflict, autonomous cities (burgh) and trade unions independent of aristocracy (burgher) were formed"³.

Beaubourg is the first and one of the most important examples of these types of cities whose history dates back to the 12th century AD. Therefore, the importance of this area in Paris today is historically evident and the neighborhood is considered a historic and historical territory.

Recognition of High-Tech

The architecture style of Centre Georges Pompidou is recognized as the vanguard of High Tech architecture. The architecture praises technology so exaggeratingly and exposes it evidently. This type of architecture can be considered as the revamp of modern architecture. The following concepts are the intellectual foundations of this style of architecture:

Building transparency

Building readability and sincerity

The use of up to date technologies in building

Displaying and exposing of technological elements in building

Avoiding any non-functional and decorative element

Having a rational building plan

Having scientific approach in building design⁴ (positivism and pragmatism)

Having functional and structural architecture

Introduction

Many cities of Iran are rich in historical-cultural wealth and heritage which are mostly can be located in historic areas or dilapidated tissues. Today, this cultural heritage and wealth has turned into a big problem to tackle in many cities of Iran. In order to find a solution, many decision-takers and decision-makers of this field have straightly selected the solutions that follow the patterns of western paradigms without criticizing them. Determining the boundaries of urban restoration and historic tissues is a very complicated challenge, since different factors and criteria such as social sciences, culture, landscape, urban design,

and urban planning are involved in their organization.

According to the introduction, the questions that are queried in this research are as follows:

Is this type of selection correct and compatible to landscape regeneration, reorganization, restoration and renewal of any historic tissues?

Do these paradigms function properly in Western countries?

Is the incompatible urban regeneration and restoration¹ of historic tissue –disregarding of a specific time period- considered a correct proceeding?

Hypothesis

Not every interference and urban landscape regeneration, that is incompatible to the historic tissue, can be considered successful. Nevertheless, this type of selection and conduct is not devoid of criticism.

Improper valuation of historical tissues can cause major mistakes in decision making. (Historical valuation, urban - architectural valuation, social - cultural valuation of historical context)

The decision to build the Centre Georges Pompidou in the Beaubourg neighborhood cannot be considered a compatible pattern and therefore it cannot be considered a successful model in urban restoration and determination of historic tissues.

Research Methodology

This study is the result of field studies and close observation of the project based on documentations and statistical results obtained from the interviews and questionnaires. In this regard, some factors have been selected and scrutinized within the theoretical framework, so that the research hypothesis would be proved by their valuation.

It is noteworthy to indicate that this study is conducted according to the status quo of valuable historic tissue in Iran and the author's concerns.

The reasons for selection of Centre Georges Pompidou

There exist many examples for the urban landscape regeneration in the historic tissues and incompatible architectural or urban restoration. However, what differentiates Centre Georges Pompidou and the Beaubourg neighborhood from other examples are the following reasons:

The architecture of Centre Georges Pompidou is considered a fine and highly valuable historic architecture. No building can compete with Centre Georges Pompidou and its valuable historical Beaubourg neighborhood in demonstrating incompatible urban landscape regeneration. Having discussed the Beaubourg neighborhood and Centre Georges Pompidou, their being located near each other has raised a complex issue in landscape concept and incompatible restoration. Due to the high independence and importance of each of these two, this project has turned into

A Critical Analysis of an Incompatible Urban Landscape Regeneration in the Organization of Historic Urban Tissues

Case Study: Centre Georges Pompidou, Paris*

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Abstract

Urban landscape regeneration in historic tissues is an interdisciplinary field that simultaneously requires the knowledge of landscape, urban design, and urban restoration. In this regard, landscape science tries to seek practical answers to landscape design issues with a functional focus on identity. Moreover, one of the most important underlying issues in urban restoration is identifying the boundary of urban tissues and historic sites. This matter is one of the most complex issues in the field of urban studies and urban planning. Ambiguity in defining a country's wealth and cultural heritage, in which historical tissue is the most significant, can provoke the complexity of the situations. When this historic realm is neglected, the critics and advocates of historical tissues begin to question the organization project and investigate whether it will be beneficial in the future or not. On the one hand, factors such as dynamism, vitality, tourist attractions, and on the other hand social communication, the structure and historical landscape of the region, and on the other hand, social interactions, historical structure and landscape of the site as well as contextualism and identity are significant issues that have to be analyzed meticulously. Centre Georges Pompidou in Paris is an example of landscape and urban restoration which has been approved by many experts and critics as a successful project. Therefore, this building and its neighborhood is chosen and analyzed in this paper according to the study goal. Relying on scientific evidence and disregarding prejudice to history, this research tries to clarify that the project's location was selected unwisely for this type of architecture and it has led to an incompatible landscape that has disfigured the reading of urban historic tissues. Moreover, this article will review and criticize explicitly the approaches that approve or reject the confinement of historic tissues. The research was conducted based on field studies, documentations, interviews and questionnaires.

Keywords

Urban landscape, Incompatible urban restoration, Political sociology, Defamiliarization, High - Tech architecture