

INTRODUCING BRITISH COLONIAL ARCHITECTURAL BUILDINGS IN SISTAN

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Abstract: The 19th century, during the Qajar period, was the birthplace of colonial powers, especially Russia and England, in Iran. The conflict and confrontation of the main actors of this colonialism led to the separation of vast parts of eastern Iran. Sistan was no exception to this rule. The British, in line with their policy of creating buffer states and protecting India, despite the insistence of Naser al-Din Shah, divided Sistan into Main Sistan and Outer Sistan. After these divisions, and to weaken the Russians in Sistan and keep them away from India, they established offices such as the consulate and the Bank of Iran and Britain. This article aims to understand the architectural features of these two buildings and the extent of their influence on the region's vernacular architecture. The research method is descriptive-analytical, relying on documentary and library studies, content analysis of historical texts, and data collection through documented and historical methods. Additionally, part of the data collection is done using observation and interviews. Studies show that in constructing these two buildings, the British, in addition to paying attention to the general architectural type of buildings built by themselves in other colonial areas, also considered the region's vernacular architecture and the climatic conditions of Sistan.

Keywords: Sistan, Architecture, Britain Consulate, Bank of Iran and Britain.

چکیده: قرن نوزدهم در دوره قاجار، مهد قدرت‌های استعماری، به‌ویژه روسیه و انگلیس در ایران بود. درگیری و تقابل بازیگران اصلی این استعمار منجر به جدایی بخش‌های وسیعی از شرق ایران شد. سیستان نیز از این قاعده مستثنی نبود. انگلیسی‌ها در راستای سیاست ایجاد دولت‌های حائل و حفاظت از هند، علیرغم اصرار ناصرالدین شاه، سیستان را به سیستان اصلی و سیستان بیرونی تقسیم کردند. پس از این تقسیمات و برای تضعیف روس‌ها در سیستان و دوری آن‌ها از هند، دفاتری مانند کنسولگری و بانک ایران و انگلیس را تأسیس کردند. هدف این مقاله شناخت ویژگی‌های معماری این دو بنا و میزان تأثیر آن‌ها بر معماری بومی منطقه است. روش تحقیق توصیفی - تحلیلی با تکیه بر مطالعات اسنادی و کتابخانه‌ای، تحلیل محتوای متون تاریخی و گردآوری داده‌ها به روش اسنادی و تاریخی است. علاوه‌براین، بخشی از جمع‌آوری داده‌ها با استفاده از مشاهده و مصاحبه انجام شده است. بررسی‌ها نشان می‌دهد که در ساخت این دو بنا، انگلیسی‌ها علاوه بر توجه به نوع معماری کلی بناهای ساخته‌شده توسط خود در سایر مناطق استعماری، به معماری بومی منطقه و شرایط اقلیمی سیستان نیز توجه داشته‌اند.

کلیدواژه: سیستان، معماری، سفارت بریتانیا، بانک ایران و بریتانیا.

I. Introduction

Present Sistan entered the Big Game of the last century with the arrival of the first official Russian agent and the establishment and purchase of land for the Russian consulate. One year after the arrival of this Russian-Iranian agent in Sistan, whose name appears in the sources as the agent of the Russians in Sistan, a person named Rahim Khan. Following this Russian agent, the Sistanis witnessed the arrival of British agents in Sistan and the establishment of a British consulate (Kazemzadeh, 1992). Percy Molesworth Sykes in his travelogue (Ten Thousand Miles in Iran) writes: "In (1898 AD), a person was appointed by the Russian government as the vice-consul of Sistan and sent there, and on the same date, the Author opened the consulate in that place of mission. Achieved" (Sykes, 1987; Riyazi Heravi, 1992).

The Russians were present in Sistan to reach the South Sea and monitor the ways to reach the Indian subcontinent with the slogan Sistan is the key to reaching India (Raeis Tosui, 2006; Mahboob Farimani, 2003). In line with this strategy, Russian forces went to Sistan via Mashhad, Torbat Jam, to identify the roads, monitor the population, and the needs of the people of

Iran and Afghanistan, and check the position of British goods in the regional markets. In one of these investigations, Hossein Abad (south of Zabol city) and Doost Mohammad Khan village (northeast of Zabol) found Sistan suitable for trade and meeting the needs of the region (Andreeva, 2009). On the other hand, to confront and monitor the efforts of Russians and other Europeans (i.e. Belgians...), the British in India had started an active strategy to create buffer countries between India and Iran years ago. After the Russians came to Sistan, they built consular offices, banks, telegraphs, roads and railways, clinics, etc. In this era, Khorasan and Sistan were known as one state in the Qajar political structure (Riyazi Heravi, 1992). In addition, the British believed that Sistan, on the north-south highway, was strategically located in a position that could supply the supplies needed by their forces (Dickson, 2012). Arnold Henry Savage Landor in November 1902, and at the same time Benn Visited Sistan, he notes about the Sistan consulate: "At that time, no one imagined that this small consulate would become one of the most important British consulates in Asia" (Ahmadi, 1999). At the beginning of the establishment of the British consulate building in Sistan,

the British, with the aim of supporting their military, political, commercial, and cultural efforts, established the Imperial Bank in this building. Later, the building of this bank was constructed separately and adjacent to the consulate.

The current research tries to investigate and recognize the buildings built by British forces and study different political, economic, and social dimensions caused by their presence in Sistan. It also aims to understand British architecture. Knowing the buildings used by the British forces during the colonization of Sistan during the Qajar period, including the Consulate and the British Bank of Iran (the Shahi Bank), constitute the main purpose of this research which focuses on the study and recognition of them in the 19th century. This study includes architectural, Analysis, and functional studies of buildings. In addition, this research is the first source to analyze British activities and constructions in Sistan, highlighting their importance. Understanding the Qajar period developments in Sistan can provide insights into the formation of modern Zabol and serve as a valuable resource for future researchers.

II. Methodology

This research was formed according to the documents and writings of the predecessors and it should be classified in the qualitative research system. According to the nature of the subject, a part of the research, which goes back to the knowledge of its historical background, was carried out using the historical-interpretive method, whose main source is the

early writings of travelogues and descriptions written in the 18th and 19th centuries of Sistan. The part of the research that deals with the use of field studies and the analysis of the information obtained from it, has been done in a descriptive-analytical way. The method of data collection in this research is documented and historical and a part of it is done by using observation and interview.

III. Research background

The historical presence of the British in Iran has been a subject of extensive scholarly research, particularly during the Qajar period. This section reviews key books and articles that explore the British influence in Iran and their travelogues, with a special emphasis on the region of Sistan. The following table examines books and articles that discuss the presence of the British in Iran and their travelogues to Iran, particularly focusing on Sistan. British travelogues from this era provide valuable insights into Iran's socio-political landscape and its people's daily lives. These accounts often reflect the travelers' perspectives on Iranian culture, politics, and geography. The details of these works are provided in the (Table 1). A review of the research background shows that none of the historical sources and books have comprehensively examined the architectural features of buildings constructed by the British in Iran. This article attempts to describe the features of the consulate and the Bank of Iran and Britain buildings in the Sistan region.

Table 1. Research background

Type	Name	Year	Title	Description
Book	Mohammad Ali Mohaimed	1982	Research in the History of Iranian Diplomacy	In this book, the Author examines the history of diplomacy in Iran from ancient times to modern times in the sections related to the developments of the 20th century and its time with the Qajar era, the Author of the secret and aligned relations between the British and Russian governments and the trip of the British ambassador to Russia and the offeror of expensive gifts informs
Book	Loeffler Jane	2009	Diplomatic Architecture	This book examines the embassy and consulate buildings built after the Cold War and points out their inefficiency.
Book	Safoura Boroumand	2002a	British Consulate General in Bushehr	In this book, in four parts, corners of the one hundred and eighty-two years of activity of the British Consulate General in Bushehr from the time of its establishment until the beginning of the First World War (1332 1177 AH/1914 1763 AD). It has been examined and described.
Book	Lambton	1984	A Journey Through the History of Iran after Islam	In relation to the competition between Russia and England in the matter of trade, he has discussed the background of the establishment of consulates and their relationship with the matter of trade.

Book	Anvari	2011	Persian Gulf	In this book, the Author has investigated the issues of the Persian Gulf in the first half of the 20th century by using the confidential documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Iran and England, the national documents of Iran and contemporary press.
Book	Wright	2006	The English amongst the Persians	In addition to examining how Britain's interest in Iran arose and the future political scene of this country, the relations between Britain and Iran and the influence of this country on all aspects of Iran's political and social life have been discussed.
Book	Racine	1977	In the Struggle of Political Events	In this book, Racine deals with the role of Britain in Iran and especially the relationship between that country and the political leaders of Iran during the Qajar period.
Travelogue	Sykes	1987	Travelogue of Percy Sykes	Sykes has carefully and obsessively studied the historical and geographical situation of each region with a special keenness, and while expressing his opinion, he has expressed the issues biased and hostile towards the social situation, like other English tourists. Although he takes the side of his government, he considers Iranians to be superior to all the people of Maghreb Asia in every way.
Travelogue	Curzon	1994	Iran and the Case of Iran	Curzon's work does not only include political topics, but also all aspects of public life in Iran, including: its inhabitants, customs, culture, religion, politics, resources and mines, reforms, economy, trade, roads, geography, history
Article	Safoura Boroumand	2002b	Bushehr consulate and Arms Trade in the Persian Gulf	The British Consulate in Bushehr, as the most important center and agency of its respective government in the Persian Gulf and Indian Ocean, has played an important role in monitoring the arms trade.
Book	Hassan Ahmadi Karviq	1999	Historical Geography of Sistan: Travelling with Travelogues]	In this book, the travelogues of European travelers who visited Sistan during the Qajar period are thoroughly examined.
Book	Tate, G. P.	1910	A Memoir of the History, Topography, Ruins, and People of the Country.	In this book, Tate not only refers to the architecture of Sistan but also describes a Kharkhona inspired by the native architecture of Sistan, which was constructed in the British consulate building and kept the consulate's space very cool."

IV. Entry of Britain into Iran

The British initially entered Iran as traders, not as political or military forces. The East India Company, established in 1600 by Ralph Fitch, set up business offices in Iran during Shah Abbas I's reign (Mora, 1987; Bahar, 1978). Bandar Abbas became the main business center (Mirahmadi, 2008). In the 19th century, geopolitical threats from Napoleon Bonaparte and Russia strengthened Britain's relations with Iran. Increased visits to Iran by British representatives followed (Malcolm, 1983; Sykes, 1984). Consulates, originally for business and national affairs, began to serve political purposes, expanding British influence and their colonial agenda in Iranian cities (Kazemi, 2015).

IV.1. The function of the British Consulate in Iran

In addition to their consular duties, the British engaged in other activities at their consulates to gain

satisfaction and increase the popularity among the people. Landor, who visited Sistan in 1903, mentioned in his book that the British established a mosque adjacent to the consulate and provided food to the people during special religious ceremonies. He also noted that the British consul in Sistan intervened in disputes between Iranians and Afghans, turning conflicts into peace. A summary of these activities is provided in Table 2.

V. History of Sistan

Sistan is a vast mythological land with mysterious stories and various historical periods and it has undergone many changes. The variety of works and periods in this geographical area, from pre-Islamic civilizations to the Islamic era, has caused great interest and study by architectural and archeological researchers from this region (Heidari and Davtalaab, 2022; Davtalaab et al., 2021, 2022).

Table 2. The function of the British Consulate in Iran

Function type	Description
Medical	When consuls went hunting, a doctor often accompanied them to provide medical services to remote inhabitants, winning their hearts. It was then suggested that a doctor be appointed and clinics established in all consulates to aid business development (Wright, 2006).
Settlement	The British consulate mediated local disputes and prevented disorder, often working with the Russian consulate. They sometimes refused refuge to constitutional petitioners but also supported constitutionalists with general amnesty. Sykes, a notable consul, used his influence to reconcile conflicts and maintain order, protecting British interests (Bashiri, 1984; Wright, 1985; Bashiri, 1983).
Supporting religious minorities	In 1909, the British consulates in Iran, supporting religious minorities like the Ismailis, intervened after an Ismaili Mosque was destroyed and two scholars were killed in Neishabur. The British consul general, Sykes, protected the Ismaili scholars and demanded justice (Bashiri, 1984). In 1882, the British government helped abolish the Zoroastrian tax (Khalesi, 1987). Support continued into the 20th century, as shown by a 1908 letter from Mr. Marling to Sir Edward Gray, which led the British ambassador to request Iranian officials to ensure the safety of Zoroastrians due to threats and killings (Bashiri, 1983).

During the Achaemenid era, Sistan was called "Zarnka" and "Zarangiana", which is derived from the words Zereh, Zah, Zab. In the Greek writings, "Drangiana" is mentioned. In the inscriptions of Bistun and Naqsh Rostam, Zarneka is among the lands that were in the territory of Darius Achaemenid (521-485 BC) (Spuler, 1990). Sistan has had a significant place in the Zoroastrian religion for a long time due to the sanctity of some of its natural formations, it was also important in the history of ancient and medieval Iran from a political and economic point of view. It is claimed that Sistan is the birthplace of Rostam, the great hero of Iran's national epic, and the headquarters of his clan (Levy, 1968). Zoroastrians believed that the future savior, Saoshyant, would one day emerge from the sacred waters of Lake Hamun, fed by the overflowing Hirmand River. It was in Sistan that the first Iranian dynasty emerged during the Islamic era to challenge the Arab caliphs, and it was also here that the first new Persian ode was written. Thus the splendid tradition of Persian poetry began (Yarshater, 1993). During the earlier era (550-708 BC), Sistan was considered one of the eastern states of the Media (Diakonov, 1978). During the time of Mehrdad I Parthian (138-171 BC), eastern states including Sistan came under the command of the Parthian state (Sotoudeh, 1971). Ardeshir Babakan, the first Sassanid king, conquered Sistan at the same time as opening other lands. Bahram II, the Sassanid king, appointed his son Bahram III to govern Sistan, and for this reason, he was called Sakan Shah (Sistan Shah) (Ghirshman, 1957).

In 1872 A.D., during the rule of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar, a part of Sistan was handed over to Afghanistan by Goldsmith and Mir Alam III (Hishmat al-Mulk), a British agent (Mukhber, 1945). The Sistan region does not have a clear natural border in the north and east, and in fact, its northern border with Afghanistan passes through the middle of the Hamun-e Sabori (it comes from the name of Shapur) based on a contract. In the

east and south-east, the boundaries are contractual and only in a part of the eastern edge of the Paryan Valley, it forms a natural border. The Hormak Valley and Malek Siah Mountain form the natural boundary of southern Sistan, and in the west are the foothills of the Forty Daughters Mountains and the Palang Mountain (Palank), which continues from around Zabol city to Bam district (Zomorodian and Pourkarmani, 1988).

VI. Geography of Sistan

Sistan is a large area, but only a tenth of this large state (15,197 km²) is located in the province of Sistan and Baluchistan, in the southeast of Iran, (In Figure 1, the location of Sistan is indicated). The rest is located in Afghanistan, with a small part of it located in Pakistan. In terms of geomorphology, this relatively uniform plain has characteristic uneven forms in some places. Of which we can refer to depressions and water-receiving holes under the name of Hamun, Kuh-e Khwaja, Chahnimeh, Sandhills, Pishtahishni, Lake Terraces, and an earthquake fault (Bik Mohammadi et al. 2005). The average annual temperature in this area is 21 degrees Celsius, the average yearly precipitation is 61.4 mm, and the average relative humidity of the air is calculated to be 38% (Davtalab et al., 2020).

The 120-day winds, mentioned as the region's most significant atmospheric phenomenon with the northwest-southeast direction, are among the most famous and effective local winds in Iran. Which rules over the eastern part of the country from 15 June to 15 September (Davtalab and Heidari, 2021; Heidari et al., 2017). Due to the fineness of the sediments in the region, these particles move with the gentle wind and impose dust and sandstorms on the region (Karimi et al., 2013; Heidari and Davtalab, 2024). The Sistan Plain has a dry and unfavorable climate, and sandstorms have been one of its threatening factors (Negarehsh and Latifi, 2008; Miri et al., 2022).



Figure 1. The location of the study area (Heidari et al., 2024).

VII. Buildings Constructed by the British in Sistan

To achieve their major political and military objectives in Sistan and use the region as a buffer zone between Russia and India, the British constructed two buildings in the city of Zabol, the center of Sistan: the consulate and the Bank of Iran and Britain. These two buildings are now located approximately 200 meters

apart in the administrative zone of Zabol. Access to the consulate building, now used as an anthropology museum, is from Ferdowsi Street, and access to the Bank of Iran and Britain building is from Rais al-Zakerin Street. In the last two decades, both buildings have been registered as valuable historical buildings and have undergone restoration and renovation (Fig. 2).

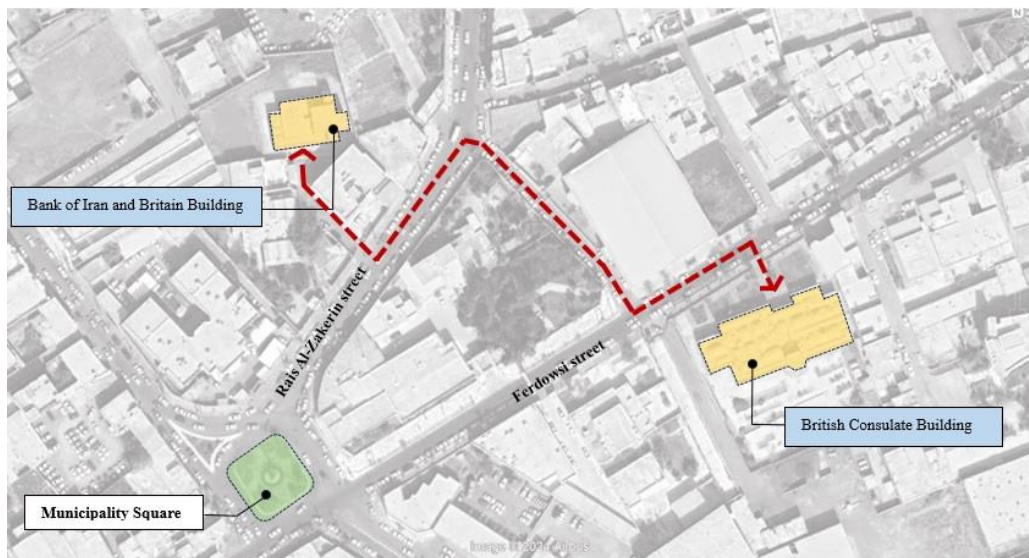


Figure 2. The location of Buildings Constructed by the British in Zabol.

VIII. Architectural study of the British Consulate in Sistan

Due to the strategic importance of the Sistan region, the British ruler of India appointed General J. Chunnix Trench to oversee British government affairs in Sistan. He arrived in Sistan on April 18, 1900 (1318 AH) and established the British consulate, constructing a building for it (Afshar Sistani, 1390). The British consulate, located at the geographical coordinates of

$31^{\circ}1'N$ and $61^{\circ}29'E$, is situated in the center of Zabol (Nasirabad), in the northern part of Sistan and Baluchestan province. Today, the location of the consulate is the bustling heart of Zabol, surrounded by important markets and administrative buildings, including the governor's office, civil registry, municipality, judiciary, and others. Description of the (Table 2) below, which details the activities of the consulate over different periods.


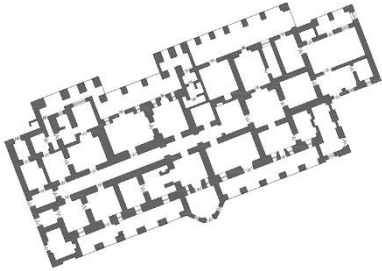
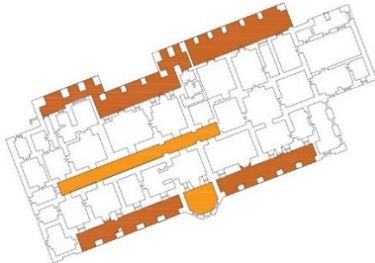
Table 2. The uses of the consulate building in different periods.


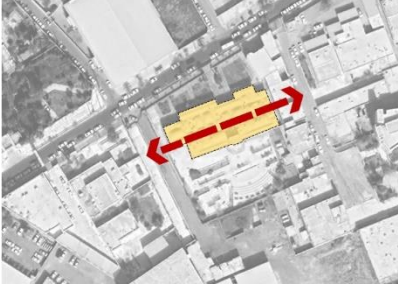
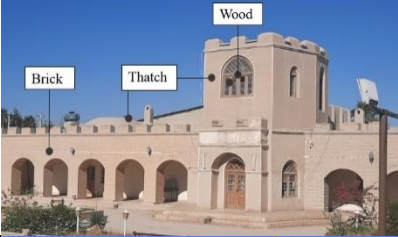
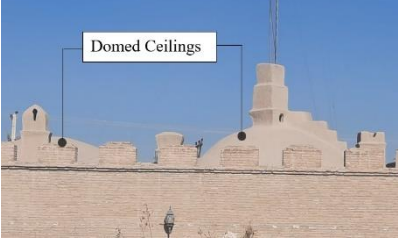

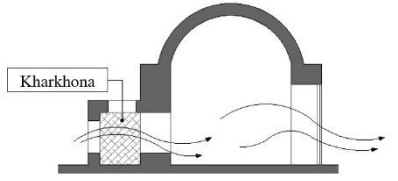

Period	Use of the British Consulate building
Qajar	Administrative-military, political, medical, and religious Post and Telegraph Office
Pahlavi	Treatment
Contemporary	Zabol Health Center, Anthropology Museum

The main features of the consulate and embassy buildings constructed by the British include the presence of an English garden, the consul's house, a playground (tennis court), wall heaters, a water pool, and pavilion-style architecture. The orientation and extension of the consulate's plan are from west to east. As mentioned, the British consulate was built in the form of a pavilion, with the southern half-octagon designed using straight and broken lines. The only curved lines visible in the building's facade are the circular columns of the arcades and the framing above them. The consulate building has two floors in the southern half-octagon section and one floor in the rest of the building, constructed on a plot of 3952 m². The northern porch of the building is one step higher than the yard, and the interior space is one step higher than the porch. However, in the southern part, the porch is two steps higher than the yard, and the building is one step higher than the porch, with the height difference between the building and the yard in the half-octagon section being resolved with two steps. Along the east and west entrances, there are relatively long and narrow porches on the northern and southern sides, covered

with a barrel vault on circular (Doric) columns, which in the past had pointed (Gothic) arches above them. The building includes ten arcades on the southern side and eighteen arcades on the northern side. The building consists of a collection of small and large rooms connected by doors or corridors. The consulate building has 32 rooms and 6 distribution spaces along with the half-octagon section. The building is symmetrical in both plan and elevation, with its connection to the outside through numerous windows and doors opening to the arcades and yard. It can be said that the presence of the porch ensures the hierarchy of entry from open space (yard) to semi-open space (porch) and closed space (rooms) is maintained. The arrangement of open and closed spaces in the consulate is such that open and closed spaces are aggregated. This results in two large courtyards with closed spaces located on some of their sides. The low density and presence of porches in the consulate building contribute to the visual lightness of the building's volume and increase the interweaving of open and closed spaces. Table 3 shows an Analysis of the Architectural Elements of this building.

Table 3. Analysis of the architectural elements of the consulate building.

Physical Component	Definition	Description	Image
Type of Structure	Koushki (building in the middle of the yard)	This building is situated in the middle of the land, surrounded by a yard. This type of structure was also commonly found among the buildings of the Khans of Sistan (Oveisi Keikha et al., 2020).	
Plan Form	Compact (Massive)	The plan form is compact, with all walls being load-bearing to transfer the load from the roof to the ground. The walls have a thickness of 100 centimeters, which also helps reduce energy loss.	
Relationships Between Rooms in the Plan	Division of Rooms in a Corridor Layout	The rooms of the consulate building are connected to each other through a covered corridor inside the building. This type of spatial relationship was common in houses from the Pahlavi era in Zabol.	

Number of Floors	<p>Two floors in the southern half-octagon section and one floor in the rest of the building</p>	<p>The consulate building has one floor with domed ceilings. However, above the entrance vestibule, similar to old Iranian buildings, there was a room believed to have been used for observation.</p>	
Building Orientation	<p>Oriented Northeast-Southwest with a 21-Degree Rotation Towards the Southwest</p>	<p>To take advantage of sunlight and wind energy, the building is oriented northeast-southwest with a 21-degree angle relative to the horizon. This orientation is commonly observed in most traditional dwellings in Sistan.</p>	
Materials Used	<p>Brick, Straw clay plaster, Wood</p>	<p>"The main material used in the construction of the consulate building is Brick, with a Straw clay plaster coating. The doors and windows were entirely made of wood. However, during subsequent renovations, bricks were also used in some parts of the building."</p>	
vernacular Elements Used in the Building	<p>Domed Ceilings</p>	<p>In the consulate building, we observe domed roofs of the cradle dome type, which were common in Sistan at that time. These roofs have a low rise and a skylight for lighting."</p>	
<p>Wind Catcher (Kolak)</p>	<p>Windcatchers facing the prevailing winds of Sistan, which blow from the north and northwest, can be seen on the roof. These one-sided windcatchers are a native element of Sistan and are used for thermal ventilation</p>		
<p>Kharkhona</p>	<p>In the northern front of the consulate, there is a recessed area that was filled with thorns. In the summer, by sprinkling water on the thorns, it helped to cool and refresh the interior space. This is a native element of the Sistan region.</p>		
<p>Dorchah</p>	<p>In Sistani houses, Dorchah were installed to receive wind and cool air. These vents were used for cooling and ventilation and are a completely native element of Sistan</p>		

portico

Porticos were circular, and English arches were constructed above them. Today, with the restoration of the building, the columns are square, and the arches no longer have their original shape."



Interior decorations:
Cornice, Niche or shelf

All the rooms of the consulate building and the access corridors were equipped with large and small niches, which is justified given the building's administrative nature and the need for a place to store items and equipment. At the top of the wall, just below the ceiling, a protrusion called a cornice runs around and encompasses all the rooms and interior spaces of the building.



Exterior decorations: Roof edge crenellations

Given that the consulate had various functions, one of which was its military function, large and polygonal crenellations were installed on the roof edge of the consulate to make the building appear grand.



IX. Architectural study of the Bank of Iran and Britain (Royal Bank) in Sistan

The Shahan Shahi Bank, established in 1889 AD by the British, was formed as compensation for the cancellation of Reuter's privilege. The British aimed to compete with Russia and secure various concessions, such as constructing railway lines and establishing efficient communication and transportation for commercial and military purposes. The 1887 contract with Russia prohibited Iran from granting railway construction rights to foreign governments without Russian permission. The British established a central bank branch in Tehran and other branches in Iranian cities based on political priorities (Nadi, 2012). The Imperial Bank of Iran, managed by the British, played a significant role in Iran's political developments, including the constitutional process, the 1920 coup, and the 1919 agreement. The bank operated in Iran for about sixty years, establishing around thirty-five branches, including one in Sistan (Ibid). The Iran-English Bank was open in Sistan for 27 years until 1930


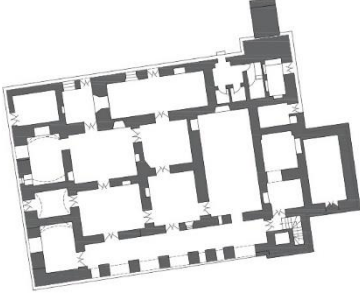

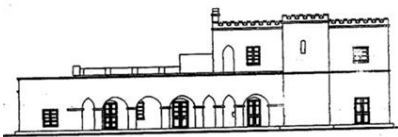

and ended its work in this year when the National Bank reopened (Rafiei, 2018).

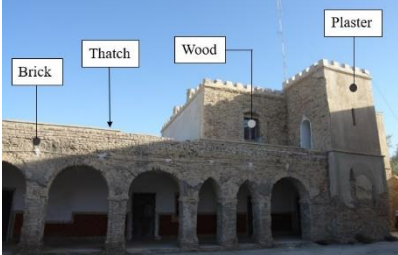





The Iran-Britain Bank building, located at the coordinates of 31°1'52.57"N and 61°29'51.03"E, is situated in the center of Zabol, less than 200 meters northwest of the British consulate building. The Iran-Britain Bank building is constructed on a flat plot and on a platform to counteract the groundwater level. The orientation and extension of the building are east-west, with the main entrance to the premises from the current Rais Al-Zakerin Street, located south of the building. Given the building's extension and the presence of a row of arcades on the southern side, it is clear that the residents received their main light from the sun. Likely, the main entrance of the building was also from the southern side in the past. Like the consulate building, this building also had entrances and openings on the northern side, which were probably used for ventilation and, considering the administrative nature of the building, for traffic, but these have been blocked today. The Iran-Britain Bank is a two-story building with an



area of 3186 m², consisting of the first floor with an area of 623 m² and the second floor with a built-up area of 160 m² and the building's use was administrative. Table

4 shows an Analysis of the Architectural Elements of this building.

Table 4. Analysis of the Architectural Elements of the Iran-Britain Bank.

Physical Component	Definition	Description	Image
Type of Structure	Koushki (building in the middle of the yard)	This building is situated in the middle of the land, surrounded by a yard. This type of structure was also commonly found among the buildings of the Khans of Sistan (Oveisi Keikha et al., 2020).	
Plan Form	Compact (Massive)	The plan form is compact, with all walls being load-bearing to transfer the load from the roof to the ground. The walls have a thickness of 100 centimeters, which also helps reduce energy loss.	
Relationships Between Rooms in the Plan	Interconnected rooms and the absence of a corridor to connect the rooms	The rooms of the Bank of Iran and Britain are arranged in an interconnected manner with various sizes, both small and large, and only one corridor is visible at the entrance of the building.	
Number of Floors	Two Floor	The Bank of Iran-Britain building has two floors, with access to the second floor provided by a staircase located on the eastern side of the building.	
Building Orientation	This building is located at coordinates 8 degrees northwest - southeast.	To take advantage of sunlight and wind energy, the building is oriented northwest – southeast with a 31-degree angle relative to the horizon. This orientation is commonly observed in most traditional dwellings in Sistan.	

Materials Used	<p>Brick, Straw clay plaster, Wood, Plaster, Iron</p>	<p>The main materials used in the construction of the consulate building are adobe and iron. The exterior walls are covered with a mixture of straw and mud, while the interior walls are plastered. The doors and windows were originally made entirely of wood, but during subsequent renovations, bricks were also used in some parts of the building.</p>	
vernacular Elements Used in the Building	<p>Flat roofs</p>	<p>Due to the use of iron in the ceilings, the roof of the building was flat and constructed using the vaulted ceiling method.</p>	
<p>Wind Catcher (Kolak)</p>	<p>Windcatchers facing the prevailing winds of Sistan, which blow from the north and northwest, can be seen on the roof. These one-sided windcatchers are a native element of Sistan and are used for thermal ventilation</p>		
<p>Mahtabi</p>	<p>A type of terrace common in the village of Qaleh Now in Sistan</p>		
Special architectural elements in the building	<p>Wall-mounted fireplace</p>	<p>Wall-mounted fireplaces were used to heat the rooms during the winter season, and the remnants of their chimneys were visible on the roof of the bank.</p>	
<p>portico</p>	<p>The entire southern facade of the building is surrounded by a portico. The columns of these porticos are square, and English arches were constructed above them. However, due to recent renovations, the arches no longer retain their original form.</p>		

Interior decorations: Cornice, Niche or shelf	All the rooms of the Bank of Iran and Britain building and the access corridors were equipped with large and small niches, which is justified given the building's administrative nature and the need for a place to store items and equipment. At the top of the wall, just below the ceiling, a protrusion called a cornice runs around and encompasses all the rooms and interior spaces of the building.	
Exterior decorations: Roof edge crenellations	Given that the bank needed protection and security, large and polygonal crowns were installed on the roof of the second floor and the rooftop structure to make the building appear grand.	

X. Conclusion

A summary of the functional, structural, and visual study of buildings constructed by the British (the consulate, the Iran-Britain Bank) in Sistan found that the British used the architectural patterns common in their region for the functional and structural aspects of the buildings. However, for the visual aspects, such as column facades, symmetrical facade composition, and numerous openings, they only incorporated some of their architectural features, considering the ease of using locally available materials. The vernacular architecture of Sistan is adapted to the climate and directly influenced by it. The residents of this region, due to years of living in the face of strong winds and proximity to Lake Hamun, have turned climatic threats into opportunities for comfort in their residential environment. The bowl-shaped plain of Sistan, with Kuh- E Khwaja as its only natural feature, limits access to stone. The lack of forests and wood resources in this area has inadvertently directed architects towards using mud bricks and bricks for construction. The abundant soil in Sistan, water from Lake Hamun, and the region's sunlight have provided architects with the cheapest building material (mud bricks) easily. The British, through regular observations and visits to the region even before settling in Sistan, tried to construct buildings somewhat in line with these conditions. In both buildings under review (the consulate, and the Iran-Britain Bank), mud bricks were the main construction element, and mud plaster (Straw clay plaster), was used as a protective and covering material.

All structural, partitioning, and decorative stages were carried out with mud bricks and bricks. The use of other materials like iron, wood, stone, plaster, and cement is rarely seen.

According to the remaining documents, the Europeans used “Kolak” (a type of one-sided, low-height windcatcher unique to Sistan architecture) for ventilation and air conditioning in summer in their buildings. Additionally, in the consulate building, a space on the northern side was dedicated to a “Kharkhona”, which is entirely local and used by the people of this region. The construction of “Mahtabi” (a type of terrace common in Sistan) in the Iran-Britain Bank building can be seen as an influence of local architecture on this building. The extension of the bank building and the extension of the consulate building is northeast to southwest, with the main entrances to the buildings usually on the northern and southern sides. This is because the people of Sistan in the past believed that the main entrances should not face the Qibla direction. Considering the constant and prevailing wind in Sistan, the northern-facing sides in the local architecture of this region are usually limited, with minimal openings in terms of number and size. In the bank and consulate buildings, the main facade and entrance are on the southern side. In the consulate, which is the first building constructed by the British among the reviewed buildings, the architect aimed to reduce the destructive effects of the wind by creating an English garden, planting large palm trees, a garden layout, and placing a “Kharkhona” on the northern side.

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