

Guardians of beauty

By Hafez



We are the guardians of His beauty
We are the protectors of the Sun.

There is only one reason
We have followed God into this world:

To encourage laughter, freedom,
And love.

Let a noble cry inside of you speak to me
Saying,

"Hafez, don't just sit there on the moon
tonight
Doing nothing

Help unfurl my heart into the friend's
mind,
Help, old man, to heal my wounded
wings!"

We are the companions of His beauty
We are the guardians of truth.

Every man, plant and creature in
existence,
Every woman, child, vein and note
Is a servant of our beloved -

A harbinger of joy,
The harbinger of light.

Slave of love

I speak frankly and that makes me happy;
I am the slave of love, I am free of both
worlds.

I am a bird from heaven's garden. How do
I describe that separation,
My fall into this snare of accidents?

I was an angel and highest paradise was
my place.
Adam brought me to this monastery in the
city of ruin.

The hours' caress, the pool and shaded
trees of paradise
Were forgotten in the breeze from your
alleyway.

There is nothing on the tablet of my heart
but my love's first alphabet.
What can I do? My master taught me no
other.

No astrologer knew the constellations of
my fate,
O Lord, when I was born of mother earth,
which stars were rising?

Ever since I became a slave at the door of
love's tavern
sorrows come to me each moment with
congratulations.

The pupil of my eye drains the blood from
my heart.
I deserve it. Why did I give my heart to
the darling of others?

Wipe the tears from Hafez's face with soft
curls
Or else this endless torrent will erupt
me.

Love came

By Abu-Said Abul-Khayr

Love came, flowed like blood
Beneath skin, through veins
Emptied me of my self.
Filled me with the Beloved
Till every limb every organ was seized.
And occupied till only my name remains.
The rest is it.

Iranian wins int'l design award

Exclusive



Mohammad Mehdi Fakhimi

By Fatemeh Shokri & Shahrokh Saei

A' Design Award & Competition has announced the results of the 2014-15 design competition. This edition had 836 winners from 83 countries in 89 design disciplines. It is the world's largest annual juried competition that honors outstanding designers, architects and design-oriented companies worldwide.

The A' Design accolades are awarded internationally in a wide array of categories ranging from industrial design to architecture. Every year, projects marked with innovation, technology, design and creativity are awarded.

The winning entries will be exhibited at the World Design Hub 2015 in Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands, while the award ceremony will be held in Lake Como, Italy, on 18 April 2015.

Iranian architect Mohammad Mehdi Fakhimi has won the 2015 Silver A' Design Award at Interior Space and Exhibition Design Competition for a design titled "Face Top Clinic", a cosmetic surgery consultation clinic, which was completed in the summer of 2011.

Fakhimi, 35, has a master's degree in architectural engineering and is a faculty member of Shahid Modarres University.

Iran Daily interviewed Fakhimi, excerpts of which follow:

IRAN DAILY: You have managed to win the 2015 Silver A' Design Award. What was the driving force behind such a brilliant achievement?

FAKHIMI: After graduation, I implemented research projects and authored several books. I participated in Iran's Interior Design Award three years ago for the first time. I failed to win any title in the first year, but ranked fourth next year.

In the fall of 2014, I submitted my project to the international organization and in late March I was declared winner of Silver A' Design Award.

Even though you failed to win an award in Iran, your project brought you a prestigious global award. What's the difference in the criteria used by domestic and foreign competitions?

About 200 applicants submitted their works in the domestic competition last year, which were examined by a jury of three or four people.

However, 8,000 works were handed over to the international event in Italy and 70 experts were in charge of selecting the best ones.

It seems as if domestic competitions do not consider factors of efficiency in their judgment. In Iran, aesthetics overshadows other elements. However, international juries focus on about 10 major factors.

Efficiency, project feasibility, human factors and ergonomics, also known as comfort design, are among these factors.

Unfortunately, personal views overshadow a holistic approach in Iran.

Could you elaborate on your project?

My project was not theoretical because it became operational. The design, construction and execution contract of this project entitled "Face Top Clinic" was concluded in the summer of 2011 for a 70-square-meter cosmetic surgery consultation clinic.

After conducting field studies in the previous clinic, including the designing of questionnaire and interviewing patients, we realized that there was extensive anxiety and stress in waiting rooms. Hence, the design of this project sought to reduce stress and provide comfort to patients.

My colleagues and I used curved surfaces instead of sharp and angled lines to achieve our objectives. We also used mild cold color (blue, gray and white) as the main tone.

We also overhauled the air-conditioning by using canals to help circulate the air. The project was welcomed and I man-

aged to win the award.

Will you participate again in the competition?

I prefer to spend my time on research projects rather than participate in this competition.

I'm writing a book titled "Humans, Arts, Architecture and Wisdom", 80 percent of which have been completed. The book examines the Iranian architecture and its designing styles since ancient times.

I carried out thorough researches to review title-winning proposals. I realized that a large number of investors were dissatisfied with the results. That was because the proposals faced many drawbacks. A mismatch between the renovation techniques and structures often caused disharmony.

A glance at memorable monuments indicates that the builders managed to build them by using their wisdom. Hence, wisdom will etch such masterpieces on the memory of human beings and create a close bond with future generations.

What are the drawbacks of modern architecture?

Individualism has infiltrated modern architecture. Bedrooms have deprived family members of spending time together. Besides, the principles of ancient Iranian architecture have been ignored.

In addition, the disparity between efficiency of buildings and aesthetics is another drawback.

Apart from well-known Iranian historical buildings, what other monuments can be described as ever-lasting?

Undoubtedly, Azadi Tower of Tehran has integrated ancient Iranian architecture with modern architecture. Our group was tasked with identifying the monuments that have been constructed on the basis of Iranian and Islamic architecture. After months of research, we concluded that Azadi Tower is an ever-lasting monument.

6,200 manuscripts identified in Ahvaz

Iranica Desk

A total of 6,200 manuscripts were identified at the former site of the Faculty of Literature of Shahid Chamran University in Ahvaz in the southwestern province of Khuzestan last week.

Atefeh Rashnoei, the deputy head of Khuzestan Cultural Her-

itage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department, also told IRNA that the manuscripts are "very precious and unique".

"The experts of Khuzestan Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Department are to study the manuscripts," she said.

Rashnoei noted that details of their studies will be announced in a week.



US returns Iranian relics after 51 years

Iranica Desk

A total of 108 ancient pieces, belonging to the ancient Choghamish site located in present-day Dezful in Khuzestan province, have been returned by the US to Iran after 51 years.

They were transferred to the National Museum of Iran from Imam Khomeini International Airport on Wednesday.

Mohammad Hassan Talebian, the deputy head of Iran's Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism Organization, said close to 264 clay items had been sent to the Oriental Institute of Chicago University for conducting scientific studies in 1964.

"Although they were to be returned to Tehran after three years, it did not materialize," he added.

Talebian said the Presidential Office's Department for Legal Affairs and ICCHTO had filed complaints

against this breach of promise and pursued the issue for years.

"Finally, they managed to convince them to return the ancient relics last year," he said.

The official said the return of Choghamish pieces is the second legal victory for Iran after the return of Khorvin relics.

Talebian explained that Choghamish pieces, which date back to 6,000 years, include potteries, clay seals and clay tablets. Choghamish was a prosperous region in ancient times.

The International Legal Department of Iran's Presidential Office gained victory in the retrieval of the Median and Achaemenid relics of Khorvin historical site, which had been looted in the 1940s and smuggled out of the country in 1965.

Khorvin is located in present-day Savojbolagh in Alborz province.

