



**Politecnico
di Torino**

Honors Thesis

Master's Degree Architecture for Sustainability.

Abstract

Rethinking Iran's Rural School Buildings

During the late 19th century, Iran underwent substantial changes in its civil society, creating a need for an improved education system and the broad establishment of public schooling. Despite attempts to modernize, persistent political and cultural obstacles led to the manipulation of education for political purposes rather than fostering children's physical, emotional, and social development. These issues primarily influenced the educational framework and the physical infrastructure, causing school buildings to remain largely static for over a century, missing out on advances in teaching theories. Consequently, the absence of vital physical and spiritual components in the contemporary education system has significantly compromised its quality.



Ongoing challenges in the Iranian educational sector, such as the inequality in educational opportunities between urban areas and remote rural regions, persist due to inadequate public support and motivation. In response, individuals and philanthropists have attempted to tackle this disparity, initiating projects that have significantly improved educational access in isolated areas. However, despite these charitable endeavors, officials still report rising dropout rates and an increase in out-of-school children in rural communities.

To thoroughly investigate this issue, the study begins by examining the historical development of the Iranian modern education system to identify crucial events that have shaped the educational landscape and their influence on school architecture, education quality, and student outcomes.

Exploring the complexities that impact Iran's educational system, this study comprehensively addresses the architectural and pedagogical shortcomings of schools built by charities. Focusing on Sistan & Baluchestan province, where philanthropic efforts are most concentrated, the thesis proposes a new primary school building design tailored for the remote rural areas of the region. This design aims to enhance the learning experience for rural students and resolve common issues associated with charitable school constructions through close collaboration with philanthropists.



Once the design proposal is conceptualized, the researcher proceeds with a field study to delve deeper into its feasibility and adaptability. This involves examining the vernacular architecture, local construction techniques, and materials of the region. Through this investigation, the researcher evaluates and refines the school building design to align seamlessly with the unique characteristics of the area.



Finally, to execute the modified design at its designated site, the researcher convenes a multidisciplinary team to establish a non-profit association. The primary goal of this association is to actualize the design proposal as its first project and utilize the expertise gained to advance educational facilities in underserved regions in Iran and around the world.

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